

DHS  
Audubon

Churches - Presbyterians -  
Midway Presbyterians  
Audubon

Audubon  
file

First Church was composed of members  
from churches in Augusta, Decatur, &  
Indian Wells Community. Mr. George W.  
Lyons was founder of the church & its  
ruling elder. He was born in 1822 & died  
in 1895. Midway Union Sunday School  
was organized on May 17, 1874. "An  
early member of the Sunday School  
thinks that the organization was named

Churches - Presbyterians -  
Midway Presbyterians  
Church

DHS  
Audubon

\* written  
by Elmer Ford  
Audubon  
Oct. 1, 1950  
for DHS.

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likely that it acquired the name because  
it is nearly midway between the other  
Churches. "John Cooper Austin was elected first  
superintendent. He had come to De Kalb Co.  
from S. C. where De Kalb was first opened  
to settlement. De Kalb County was then strongly  
Presbyterian. On July 29, 1876, Midway Presbyterians  
Church came into being & the Union Sunday  
School passed into oblivion.

DHS  
Delaware

Churches - Presbyterians -  
Midway Presbyterians  
Churches

First Church was located on what is now  
Midway Road just off Livingston Road. Then  
a roadway went on past the Church to  
the east. This road has been abandoned &  
closed. For the first structure, the material  
was a mixture of concrete, sand, & shells,  
similar to telly. In 1898, it was replaced  
& the present structure erected on the site.  
The Rev. Donald Frazer was the first  
pastor at Midway. Midway is the mother

Churches - Presbyterians  
Midway Presbyterians  
Churches

DHS  
Delaware

Church of the Single-side Presbyterians  
Church: In 1900, a group went out  
from Midway to form this organization.

## MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHYARD

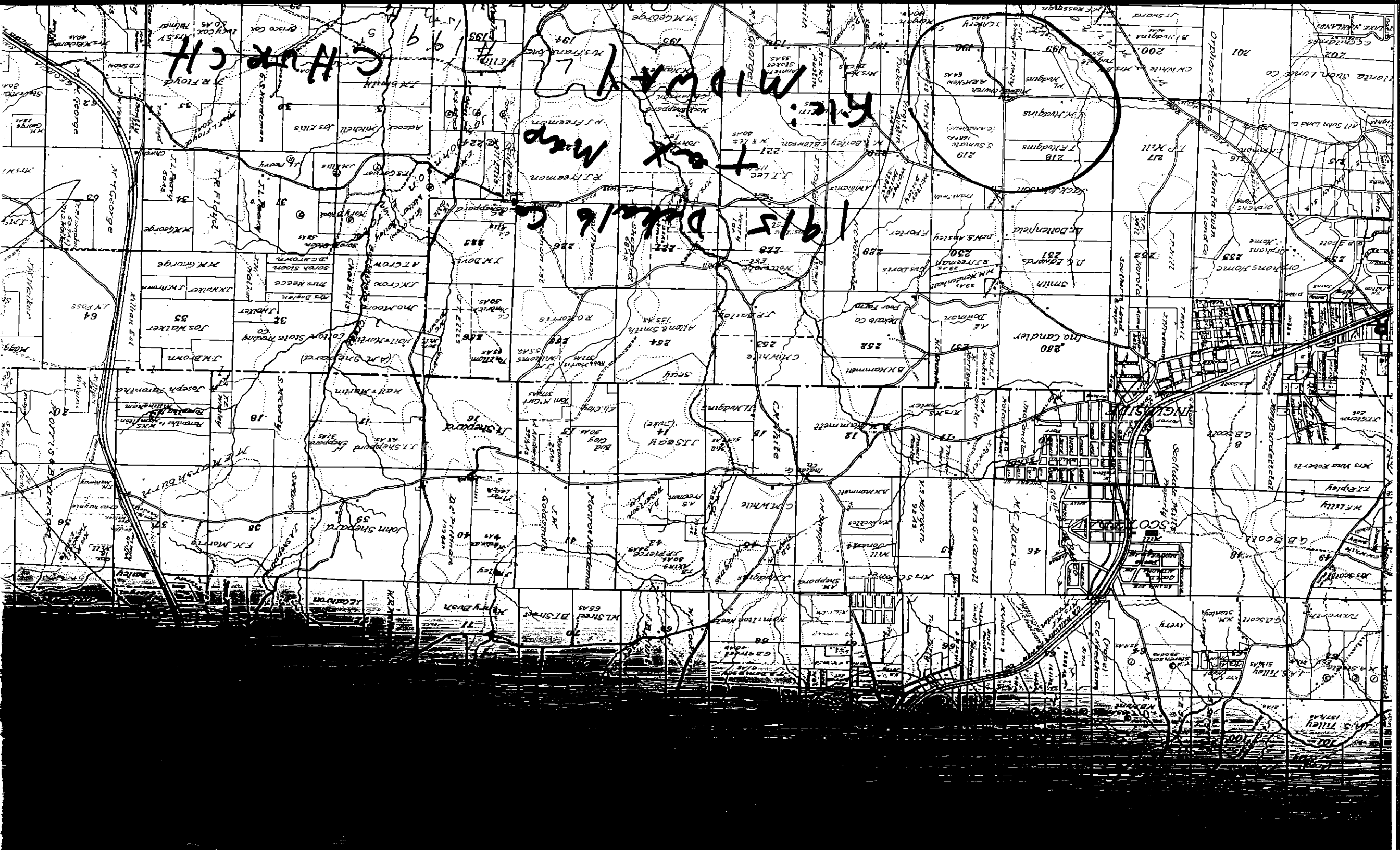
Location - Midway Church Road, about one mile south-  
east of Avondale Estates. Land Lot # 199,  
15th District DeKalb County, Decatur District

Recorded April 28, 1931

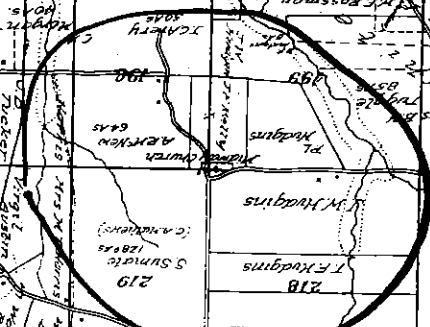
Betts	Josie L. Owens	Sept. 17, 1869 - Sept. 14, 1915	Wife of G. A. Betts.
Billard	Robert E.	1900 - 1921	
Birbanks,	Emma S.	May 22, 1848 - June 19, 1891.	
Gordon	Cornelia	Feb 13, 1858 - June 12, 1905.	
Gordon	JD	Jan. 1, 1861 - April 10, 1918.	
Gordon,	Mary Cover.	May 12, 1869 -	
		Wife of JD Gordon.	
Hill	Pattie K.	1887 - 1921	
Holcomb,	Bessie M. Hudgins.	Feb 15, 1880 - Dec 11, 1902.	
Hudgins,	Add Estelle	Wife of Ross Hudgins	
Hudgins,	Carl Joe	Sept. 19, 1881 - May 28, 1897.	
Hudgins,	Esther Mrs.	Daughter of B. F. & L. E. Hudgins.	
Hudgins,	Fred E.	1887 - 1926.	
Hudgins,	Leroy	Over seas World War veteran	
Hudgins,	Mary A. Ball.	Oct. 18, 1856 - Sept. 15, 1904.	
Hudgins,	Olive	Jan. 17, 1876 - June 27, 1927.	
Hudgins,	Ralph.	Jan. 5, 1823 - Aug. 11, 1916.	
Hudgins,	Thomas F.	Sept. 20, 1831 - Oct. 11, 1908.	
Hude,	Mary P. Mrs.	Wife of Leroy Hudgins.	
Hitchell,	Joseph H.	Feb. 27, 1874 - Aug. 2, 1930.	
		Wife of Thomas F. Hudgins.	
		Dec. 23, 1877 - Oct. 20, 1889.	
		Son of J. W. & M. A. Hudgins.	
		Nov. 8, 1860 - Sept. 21, 1923.	
		July 19, 1849 - May 25, 1894.	
		Dec. 3, 1858 - July 11, 1905.	

## Midway Presbyterian Churchyard (con't)

Mitchell.	Nancy J. Webb.	April 14, 1856 - Feb. 20, 1902. Wife of Joseph H. Mitchell.
Morgan.	Leam Denversy	Oct. 16, 1888 - Nov. 1, 1913.
Shumate.	C. F.	March 8, 1854 - Aug. 5, 1923
Shumate.	Elizabeth G. Mrs.	Feb. 14, 1859 - Aug. 15, 1905
Shumate.	Remembrance C.	No inscribed marker.
		Died Dec. 2, 1912.
		(Date from DeKalb Co. Records).
Sullivan.	Maud	April 6, 1896 - July 6, 1923.
Sullivan.	Uldine.	Sept. 9, 1880 - Sept. 15, 1922
Thornton	William Jackson	Dec. 4, 1853 - Jan. 23, 1929
West.	Daisy Hudgins	Aug. 14, 1884 - March 6, 1910 Wife of W. B. West
		Dau. of B. F. & Esther Hudgins
Wood	W. Allen.	Aug. 4, 1885 - Oct. 22, 1918.



**1915 Detail**  
**Map**  
**File: Midway**



**Parcel Owners and Lot Numbers:**

- Lot 219: J.W. Higgins
- Lot 218: J.W. Higgins
- Lot 217: J.W. Higgins
- Lot 230: Geo. Candler
- Lot 231: Smith
- Lot 232: D.S. Edwards
- Lot 233: D.S. Edwards
- Lot 234: D.S. Edwards
- Lot 235: D.S. Edwards
- Lot 236: D.S. Edwards
- Lot 237: D.S. Edwards
- Lot 238: D.S. Edwards
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- Lot 240: D.S. Edwards
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- Lot 299: D.S. Edwards
- Lot 300: D.S. Edwards

**Street Names:**

- CHURCH
- MIDWAY
- ST. GEORGE
- ST. JOHN
- ST. PAUL
- ST. PETER
- ST. MARY
- ST. MICHAEL
- ST. ANTHONY
- ST. JOSEPH
- ST. CHARLES
- ST. FRANCIS
- ST. MARTIN
- ST. BERNARD
- ST. VINCENT
- ST. AUGUSTINE
- ST. COLUMBINE
- ST. TERESA
- ST. ANNE
- ST. MARGARET
- ST. CECILIA
- ST. EUGENIA
- ST. CATHERINE
- ST. AGNES
- ST. BARBARA
- ST. KATE
- ST. ELIZABETH
- ST. ANN
- ST. JOYCE
- ST. PATRICK
- ST. BRIDGET
- ST. LUCY
- ST. RITA
- ST. ROSA
- ST. JOSE
- ST. JACOB
- ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
- ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR
- ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
- ST. PETER THE APOSTLE
- ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
- ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE
- ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE
- ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
- ST. ANNE THE VIRGIN
- ST. JOSEPH THE WORKMAN
- ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
- ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR
- ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
- ST. PETER THE APOSTLE
- ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE
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# Midway Presbyterian To Celebrate Centennial

It has been 100 years since the Rev. D. Fraser preached the first sermon at Midway Presbyterian Church in Decatur.

This week, beginning Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., the church will celebrate its Centennial. The highlight of the celebration will be a brush arbor service on Sunday, reminiscent of services 100 years ago.

The guest ministers who will conduct the three evening worship services and the Sunday morning worship service are Dr. Eugene Wilson, Wednesday night; Dr. Boneau Dickson, Thursday night; Dr. J. McDowell Richards, Friday night; and the Rev. Wade Bell, Sunday morning. Evening services will be at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday morning service at 11 a.m.

Dinner on the grounds will follow the Sunday morning service. After the dinner, the Rev. Charles A. Sheldon,

present pastor of Midway, and the Rev. William W. Satterwhite, pastor of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church of Lilburn, will conduct the brush arbor service.

Held outside, the brush arbor service will be the setting for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, a reaffirmation of marriage vows, a baptism and other observances reminiscent of services 100 years ago.

Members, former members and others attending the Sunday services are encouraged to dress appropriate to the year 1876. Men with beards are especially welcome.

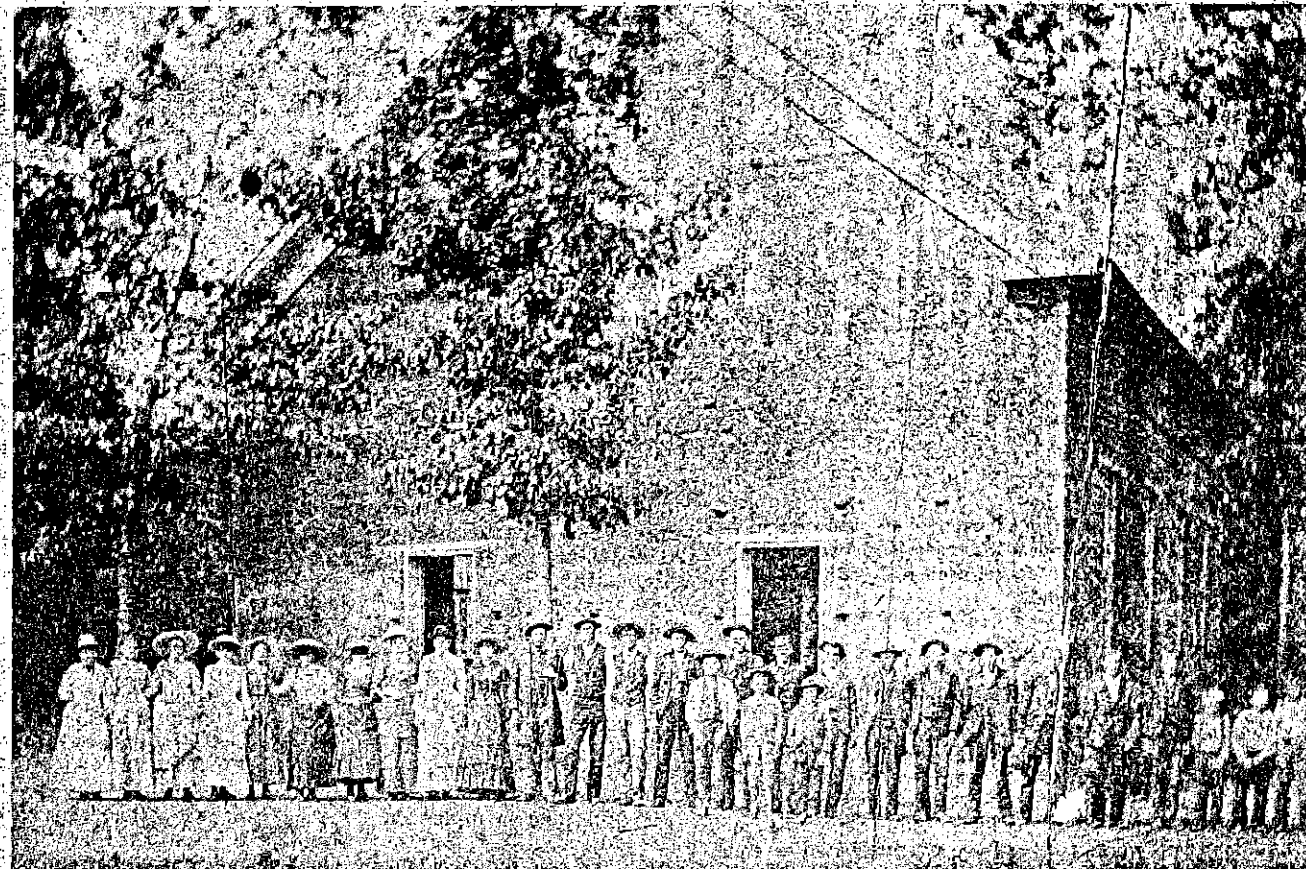
The centennial celebration joins many landmarks in the long history of Midway. The first church was composed of members from churches in Augusta, Decatur and the Indian Creek community.

It was a decade before a

pastor's salary was paid. Members were canvassed in order to have a pastor "for divine services twice a month, if not oftener." This notation in the minutes of the session was followed by a notation a year later stating that the salary actually paid was \$25. The monument fund exceeded this figure by 25 cents.

The church has grown substantially since that date, having occupied four buildings and listened to sermons from many different pastors, most of them better paid than that first one.

A listing at the end of the first book of minutes shows that the only alternative to being an active member of Midway was either to have died or gone to the Baptists. Those of the latter category, as well as former members and guests, are invited to Midway 100th homecoming.



MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S

First Congregation Is Pictured In Front Of An Early Meeting Place, The Local "Writing School"

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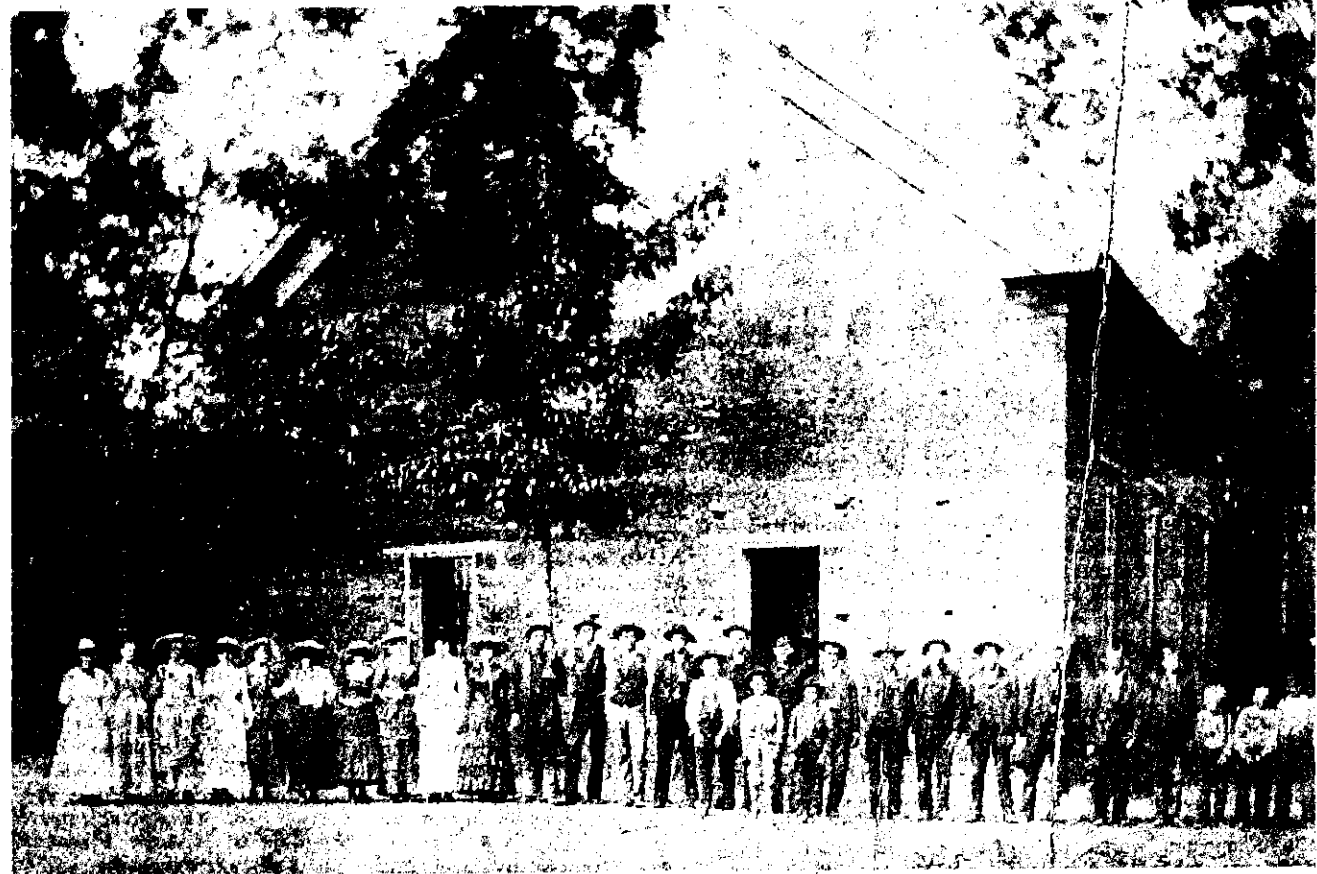
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MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S

First Congregation Is Pictured In Front Of An Early Meeting Place, The Local "Writing School"



DeKalb New Era

DeKalb  
5-15-1958

## 84th Anniversary To Be Observed by Midway Church

Midway Presbyterian church next Sunday, May 18, will commemorate its 84th year as a Sunday school and its 82nd year as a Presbyterian church. It was first organized on May 17, 1874, as a union Sunday school outpost, according to the pastor, the Rev. Wade H. Bell, Jr.

The Presbytery of Atlanta formally organized the Sunday school into a church on July 29, 1876.

At the anniversary service next Sunday a guest minister, the Rev. Dr. Bonneau H. Dickson, executive secretary of the Committee of Church Extension of Atlanta Presbytery, will preach at the morning services.

Dinner on the grounds will follow, and at 2 p.m. another worship service will be held under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Bell, who invited members and friends to the church to join in the anniversary services.

The church is located at 4139 Midway road.

Subject

File

Churches

Midway

Presbyterian

Church



Decatur News/Sun  
10/25/89

## Midway Church To Install Pastor

The Rev. Woody McKay will be installed as pastor of Midway Presbyterian Church, 3363 Midway Road in Decatur, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5.

Dr. Robert Ramey of the Columbia Theological Seminary faculty will bring the message with representatives from other congregations taking various parts in the service.

The Rev. McKay brings a diverse experience to the Midway Church. He has served pastorates in North Carolina and northwest Florida, and as a campus minister at Florida State University in Tallahassee and, most recently, at Georgia Tech.

For the past six years, he has done interim pastorates with four Georgia congregations reaching from West Point to Roswell.

"I skim books on 'leisure' for comic relief," he says. "My wife and I have nine children (three in college) and nine grandchildren to fill any 'idle' time in our lives." His wife, Linda, has a full-time job with the counseling office at Stone Mountain High School.

The community is invited to share in the worship and installation service on Nov. 5. A time of reception and refreshments will follow the service.



The Rev. Woody McKay

## Midway Church Lays Plans to Honor Founder

Window to be unveiled September 23, Honoring  
G. W. Lyon and Wife.

Midway Presbyterian Church, one of the county's older religious institutions, has set aside Sunday, September 23, as "Lyon Day", and at the 11 o'clock service in the morning will unveil a beautiful window, perpetuating the memory of its founder and his wife - Mr. and Mrs. George W. Lyons.

Rev. Eli Thomas, pastor of the church, said this week the window was a gift of two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. E. J. Reagan of McDonough, and Mrs. J. A. George of Atlanta. These two daughters will be in charge of the unveiling ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon, members of two of DeKalb's earliest families, were for many years two of the county's outstanding citizens, and both took prominent parts in the early history of Midway Church.

Mr. Lyon was the founder of the church and its ruling elder.

He was born in 1822 and died in 1895.

Mrs. Lyon, who before her marriage was Miss Helen Gathright, was born in 1833, and died in 1925.

The program for the service on September 23 will be given principally by descendants of the esteemed couple.

Judge Frank Reagan, of Macon, and Edward L. Reagan of McDonough, former state senator, will speak.

Edward Lyon, a grandson, and George Lyon III, and Helen Crumbley, great grand children, will be on the program, also.

Among the descendants of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Lyon were Wallace Lyon and Joseph Lyon, both deceased, and L. P. Lyon, who is living in New Mexico, Miss Kate Reagan, a sister of Judge Frank Reagan, is a teacher in the Atlanta schools, and Dr. Roy George, another descendant, is a well known Georgian.

George Lyon still lives in the original homestead on South river.

Additional details of the unveiling ceremony will be given next week.

Ref.: Front page of The DeKalb New Era, September 13, 1934.

Churches.

Ford, Elizabeth Austin,

Church, Midway Presbyterian.

Midway Presbyterian Church  
written for (and at the request of)  
The De Kalb County Historical Society  
by Elizabeth Austin Ford  
October, 1950

In 1874, in that wide area of De Kalb County, east of Decatur toward Lithonia, there were a number of people having to travel long distances to obtain the benefits of Church service. They might go to the Decatur Presbyterian Church, to Wesley Chapel Methodist, or to Indian Creek Baptist, but in the days of the horse and buggy, this meant a long and tiresome journey, oftentimes cold and sometimes wet. So, Midway Union Sunday School was organized on May 17, 1874.

An early member of the Sunday School thinks that the organization was named for Old Midway on the coast. It is more likely that it acquired the name because it is nearly midway between the other Churches.

There was, in the community, a one-room school house. In this tiny building, those interested persons met and organized. A partial list of those present at the organization follows. I say a partial list because no one now knows, exactly, who were the first members. This list was given me by one of those present in 1874:

John Cooper Austin  
Mrs. Lawrence Sterne Morgan  
Miss Mahaley Seay  
Mrs. Eliza White  
Daniel Morgan  
Bob Webb  
Thomas Austin & Family  
Mrs. Lydia Smith  
Sam Corley & Family  
Leroy Hudgins & Family  
Joseph Smith & Family  
James Lee  
Judge Brice and Family  
~~John~~ M. L. Brown & Family  
Tom Weaver

Joseph Morgan  
Mrs. L. Hawkins  
Mrs. Katharine Shumate  
Frank Shumate  
John Hawkins  
Geo. Webb & Family  
John R. Austin  
Joe Corley  
John D. Williams & Family  
Dr. Collier & Family  
John C. Mahaley  
The Shumate Family  
Hill Vaughn & Family  
Henry Morgan & Family  
Joe Weaver.

Some of those present came as guests to help give the new Sunday School a good beginning. They were members of other Churches and would, therefore, attend where they were members. The Austins, Morgans, Shumates, Browns, Hudgins, Whites, and others attended Midway regularly.

John Cooper Austin was elected first superintendent. He had come to DeKalb County from South Carolina when De Kalb was first opened to settlement. His plantation reached almost to the very doors of the ~~the~~ little school where services were to be held. His son, Thomas, was the first chorister and his grandson, John Russel Austin, was instrumental in acquiring material for the first building. The Austins were Episcopalians, and they had hopes of having an Episcopal Church there as well as a Sunday School. These hopes were not to be realized.

De Kalb County was then strongly Presbyterian. The Episcopal Church was still somewhat in disfavor. On July 29, 1876, the Commission of the Atlanta Presbytery met at Midway to organize a Presbyterian Church. Members were received; Midway Presbyterian Church came into being and the Union Sunday School passed into oblivion.

Members coming from Decatur Presbyterian were:

C. W. McGinnis	T. E. Collier
S. O. Hood	F. F. Shumate
Joseph Morgan	Mrs. H. B. Morgan
Miss M. Seay	Mrs. C. B. Vaughn
W. L. Shumate	Daniel Morgan
Mrs. P. A. Collier	Miss C. C. Collier
Mrs. M. A. Hood	Mrs. Susie Brown
R. M. Brown, Jr.	

Mrs. M. V. Brown came from the Augusta Church; Mrs. H. C. Shumate came from Mountain Creek; Mrs. Martha Chase from the M. E. Church.

The Austins and others, who had found no church of their denomination, joined the Midway Church and became Presbyterians.

The first elders were: Joseph Morgan, W.L. Shumate, T.E. Collier

The first deacons were: David Morgan And C. W. McGinnis.

An acre of land adjoining the tiny schoolhouse plot was acquired for the site of the Church. Members began working toward the construction of a building. This was just eleven years after Sherman went through the section burning his path to the sea. The people had not even begun to recover from the destructive hands of the yankees and carpetbaggers. To build a church was then quite an undertaking. The children brought eggs to be sold for the fund; there were suppers and gifts; in numerous ways the money was acquired and the building erected.

For the first structure, the material was a mixture of concrete, sand, and rocks, similar to tabby. This old building was just to the rear of the present Church and situated in a grove of splendid oaks on a gentle rise, and on what is now Midway Road just off the Covington Road. Then a roadway went on past the Church to the east. This road has been abandoned and closed. There is still there, the road leading southward. This first building was no crude structure but was of church-like proportions with thick walls and high ceilings. Ivy cling to the clay-coloured walls in the shade of great oaks, and the Church took on beauty and dignity.

It became necessary to reinforce the walls within because of a flaw in construction. The members soon felt the building to be unsafe. In 1898, it was razed and the present structure erected on the site.

The present Midway is a perfect gem of a church with its white clapboard and velvet cushions. It stands serenely on the old site beneath the same great oaks.

Always, the Decatur Presbyterian Church has been a help to this small organization. Columbia Seminary, too, situated nearby, has aided greatly. There have been times in the history of the organization when it might have been impossible to carry on without this outside aid. The Rev. Donald Frazer, of

the Decatur Church, was the first pastor at Midway.

Though small, Midway is the Mother Church of the Ingleside Presbyterian Church. In 1900, a group went out from Midway to form this organization.

The future is bright at this old Church. It is now in a Favoured location and much is expected of it within the next few years. No longer is the section rural; great plantations have been replaced by houses all about it.



Midway Presbyterian Church

written for (and at the request of)  
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by Elizabeth Austin Ford  
October, 1950

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DE KALB COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Always, the Decatur Presbyterian Church has been a help to this small organization. Columbia Seminary, too, situated nearby, has aided greatly. There have been times in the history of the organization when it might have been impossible to carry on without this outside aid. The Rev. Donald Frazer, of the Decatur Church, was the first pastor at Midway.

Though small, Midway is the Mother Church of the Ingleside Presbyterian Church. In 1900, a group went out from Midway to form this organization.

The future is bright at this old Church. It is now in a favoured location and much is expected of it within the next few years. No longer is the section rural; great plantations have been replaced by houses all about it.

Midway Presbyterian Church  
Written for (and at the request of) The DeKalb  
County Historical Society  
By Elizabeth Austin Ford  
October, 1950

In 1874, in that wide area of DeKalb County, east of Decatur toward Lithonia, there were a number of people having to travel long distances to obtain the benefits of Church service. They might go to the Decatur Presbyterian Church, to Wesley Chapel Methodist, or to Indian Creek Baptist, but in the days of the horse and buggy, this meant a long and tiresome journey, oftentimes cold and sometimes wet. So, Midway Union Sunday School was organized on May 17, 1874.

An early member of the Sunday School thinks that the organization was named for Old Midway on the coast. It is more likely that it acquired the name because it is nearly midway between the other Churches.

There was, in the community, a one-room school house. In this tiny building, those interested persons met and organized. A partial list of those present at the organization follows. I say a partial list because no one now knows, exactly, who were the first members. This list was given me by one of those present in 1874:

John Cooper Austin  
Mrs. Lawrence Sterne Morgan  
Miss Mahaley Seay  
Mrs. Eliza White  
Daniel Morgan  
Bob Webb  
Thomas Austin & Family  
Mrs. Lydia Smith  
Sam Corley & Family  
Leroy Hudgins & Family  
Joseph Smith & Family  
James Lee  
Judge Brice and Family  
M. L. Brown & Family  
Tom Weaver

Joseph Morgan  
Mrs. L. Hawkins  
Mrs. Katharine Shumate  
Frank Shumate  
John Hawkins  
Geo. Webb & Family  
John R. Austin  
Joe Corley  
John D. Williams & Family  
Dr. Collier & Family  
John C. Mahaley  
The Shumate Family  
Hill Vaughn & Family  
Henry Morgan & Family  
Joe Weaver

Some of those present came as guests to help give the new Sunday School a good beginning. They were members of other Churches and would, therefore, attend where they were members. The Austins, Morgans, Shumates, Browns, Hudgins, Whites and others attended Midway regularly.

John Cooper Austin was elected first superintendent. He had come to DeKalb County from South Carolina when DeKalb was first opened to settlement. His plantation reached almost to the very doors of the little school where services were to be held. His son, Thomas, was the first chorister and his grandson, John Russel Austin, was instrumental in acquiring material for the first building. The Austins were Episcopalians, and they had hopes of having an Episcopal Church there as well as a Sunday School. These hopes were not to be realized.

DeKalb County was then strongly Presbyterian. The Episcopal Church was still somewhat in disfavor. On July 29, 1876, the Commission of the Atlanta Presbytery met at Midway to organize a Presbyterian Church. Members were received; Midway Presbyterian Church came into being and the Union Sunday School passed into oblivion.

Members coming from Decatur Presbyterian were:

O. W. McGinnis  
S. O. Hood  
Joseph Morgan  
Miss M. Seay  
W. L. Shumate  
Mrs. F. A. Collier  
Mrs. M. A. Hood  
R. M. Brown, Jr.

T. E. Collier  
F. F. Shumate  
Mrs. H. B. Morgan  
Mrs. C. B. Vaughn  
Daniel Morgan  
Miss S. E. Collier  
Mrs. Susie Brown

Mrs. M. V. Brown came from the Augusta Church; Mrs. H. O. Shumate came from Mountain Creek; Mrs. Martha Chase from the M. E. Church.

The Austins and others, who had found no church of their denomination, joined the Midway Church and became Presbyterians.

The first elders were: Joseph Morgan, W. L. Shumate, T. E. Collier.

The first deacons were: David Morgan and O. W. McGinnis.

An acre of land adjoining the tiny schoolhouse plot was acquired for the site of the Church. Members began working toward the construction of a building. This was just eleven years after Sherman went through the section burning his path to the sea. The people had not even begun to recover from the destructive hands of the yankees and carpetbaggers. To build a church was then quite an undertaking. The children brought eggs to be sold for the fund; there were suppers and gifts; in numerous ways the money was acquired and the building erected.

For the first structure, the material was a mixture of concrete, sand, and rocks, similar to tabby. This old building was just to the rear of the present Church and situated in a grove of splendid oaks on a gentle rise, and, on what is now Midway Road just off the Covington Road. Then a roadway went on past the Church to the east. This road has been abandoned and closed. There is still there, the road leading southward. This first building was no crude structure but was of church-like proportions with thick walls and high ceilings. Ivy clung to the clay-coloured walls in the shade of great oaks, and the Church took on beauty and dignity.

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[www.midwaychurch.net](http://www.midwaychurch.net)

**Mailing Address:** 3363 Midway  
Road

**Fax:** 404-289-3559

Decatur, GA

30032-2447

**Staff - Volunteer Positions:**

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**Fisher, Joy** - Stated Supply  
**McDaniel, W. T.** - Clerk of Session - Stewardship  
**Jackson, Ann** - Christian Education  
**Prather, Robert** - Treasurer  
**Pace, Ann** - Worship  
**Phillips, Claude** - Evangelism/Church Growth - Mission  
**Manning, Linda** - Music Staff  
**Oden, Sue** - Communications/Newsletter

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