



# THE MIDTOWN HERALD



Volume: 42

December 2011

Editor: Sandra Justus

## *Pastor's Comments*

My friends, as we begin this New Year, I want to share the following from the Spirit of Prophecy: "In this age antichrist will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God will be fully made void in the nations of our world. Rebellion against God's holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God, and deify him. But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her."

"Disguised as an angel of light, he [Satan] will walk the earth as a wonder-worker. In beautiful language he will present lofty sentiments. Good words will be spoken by him, and good deeds performed. Christ will be personified, but on one point there will be a marked distinction. Satan will turn the people from the law of God.

"He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week: and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him.

"It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect.

God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living word: "It is written." This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely" {Mar 205}.

I hope we will all take to heart the above information and so surrender to the Holy Spirit, in this New Year, that we will not fall for Satan's trap. (Pastor Fry)

## *Happy Birthday!*

Barry Nicks.....January 17

Joe Fry.....January 30

## *A Letter From The Zearfoss'*

Dear Midtown Folks,

We heard the good news that you finally have a PERMANENT address. Hurrah!! We wish we were there to celebrate this with you all!

We are settling into Macon, and have found a nice SDA church here in town. (Not as nice as Midtown, of course!) We really miss Midtown, and hope to visit sometime soon. I want to personally give a big "THANK YOU" to Mertis Butler. Her sweet potato souffle' helped me get through a long lonely week when I was here in Macon, all by myself. We also hope you recognize what a treasure you have in Pastor Fry. With a loving heart, he does his best to guide us through this fallen world, steering us towards God's word.

May the Midtown SDA Church prosper and grow at its Maple Street location!

Love, Ken, Ronelin, and little John Zearfoss

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### *Columbia Midtown Bible Institute*

The Bible Institute continues to grow because of the many members who are actively working to make it a viable part of our church. For the past three years, Doris Sheriff did a wonderful work of developing the Institute and leaving a format and outline that anyone could follow.

Karen Covington worked with Doris to get the lessons graded and back into the hands of the students. She became Director after Doris retired. Karen worked hard to organize the student lessons before she retired.

Doug Leonhardt, with the help of Bob Sitko has been giving Bible lessons by mail even before Doris helped to develop the Institute. They have been placing enrollment cards in books and distributing them at the bus and train station, also at the airport on occasions. He has always been our "mailman" bringing enrollment cards and delivering returned lessons.

Anh Pham, Midtown's Bible Worker, works directly with the Bible Institute. He brings enrollment cards to the Director when he receives them following home and prison visitation. He also gives Bible studies as needed.

Helen Koon and Rose Sheroian are faithful in passing out enrollment cards at the Thrift Shop and giving a Bible lesson when requested.

Pastor Fry has continuously passed out enrollment cards and given Bible studies to students since the church began.

Then there are all the members who have passed out enrollment cards to family, friends and acquaintances.

All are a vital part of the Midtown Bible Institute, and have helped it to become a success. My duty is to "carry on" and continue what has become a success.

Since the last newsletter, four new students have enrolled. Two students, Wally Fry and Linda Ranner, had their graduation ceremony on Sabbath, December 31, 2011.

May God bless you and the work that is being done

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to help spread His truths to as many as possible through the Midtown Bible Institute

Have a Blessed NEW YEAR!  
Mertis Butler, Director

### *Bits of Wisdom*

A child's "wise" definition: "A double-minded man is one who tries to save both his faces."

You can't be kind too soon, for soon it may be too late.

Our service to others is the rent we pay for our room on earth.

Holding a grudge is letting someone live rent free in your heart and mind.  
(Mary Ann Fry)

### *Church Board Activity*

Church Purchase - DISCUSSED the Maple Street congregation's acceptance of our offer to purchase the church property.

Brotherhood Assistance - DISCUSSED a letter of thanks received from a member for funds from the Brotherhood Assistance Fund.

Brotherhood Assistance Fund Guidelines - VOTED to ask Pastor Fry to prepare suggested guidelines for next meeting, to include limits on yearly amount per family, funds disbursed only to businesses and not individuals, and procedure for dire emergencies.

Brotherhood Assistance Fund Disbursement - VOTED to give assistance from the Brotherhood Assistance Fund to a member for car repairs; this was voted upon earlier by emails from Board members.

2012 Budget - DISCUSSED and developed a proposed budget for 2012. This budget is to be formalized by Doug Leonhardt and emailed to all board members for review and email vote.

Bob Sitko

*Health and Temperance*

The Promise of Healing

The Bible assures us time and time again that God wants His children to walk in health. His healing power is affirmed throughout the scriptures as the following promises of healing declare.

“If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

“For I will restore health to you, and heal you of your wounds” (Jer. 30:17).

“And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up” (James 5:15)

God’s promises are for healing your whole body, soul, and spirit. Did you notice how faith is such an integral part of the healing process? The scriptures show us that the promise of healing is connected to our faith. Faith is imparted to us through the Holy Scriptures. Paul wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom 10:17). It is so important for you to stay in the Word because the Word of God is: “...living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edge sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb 4:12). The Psalmist tells us that God’s Word is directly related to our healing. “He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction” (Ps 107:20). The statutes, principles, and commandments of God are clearly delineated in His Word. The more you immerse yourself in the Word the more you will understand what God expects of you and how you may please Him in every area of your life. It’s a wonderful process of spiritual growth and discovery. (Healing Prayers p. 17.18 )

Lauren Simms

*Church Activity*

We have begun what is hoped will be a seasonal tradition here at the Midtown Church. On December 23rd, about 15 or so members met to sing Christmas Carols around the block of the church.

Lonna and Skylar met folks at the door with literature and bread, while the group sang along with pre-recorded music. The people made mention of hearing the church bells on Sabbath morning, and another of knowing we were from the Maple Street Church. Children were seen listening from their upstairs apartment.

Afterward, delicious hot carob drink and finger foods were served at the church house. The mood and closeness of the fellowship during that time was such that many seemed reluctant to leave. What a blessing the evening proved to be!

It is hoped that if all goes according to plans, that on February 29, 2012, the Maple Street Church will officially become the *Columbia Midtown Seventh-day Adventist Church!* Let us continue to lift up our praises to our God for His goodness to us. We thank thee, O God our Father for thy bountiful goodness toward us in giving us a place to meet with Thee.

By God's grace one year has closed out and a new one begun. We were blessed to gain many new members: Olivia (nee Smith) Washington, Wally Fry, and Cristy Yeargin joined by baptism. Donald, Pat and Lauren Simms, and Blake Johnson joined by profession of faith. Anh and Vanessa Pham transferred in while Anh serves as Bible Worker.

The year 2011 was oft-times a sad one for Midtown. We note with sadness the passing of Ken Barnett, Vera Hill, Elwillie Taylor, Janet Beason and Pat Simms.

We celebrated the joining in marriage of Olivia Smith and Narcissus Washington and their baptism together.

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*Church Activities...continued*

In all these things, our church has weathered it all with sweet fellowship and communion together. We thank our Father for His goodness to us.  
(Sandra Justus)

*WBAJ Radio News*

You're probably aware that WBAJ Radio has been off the air since January 1. A fire at the transmission tower on Monticello Road damaged some equipment that is being replaced, but this may take several more days to complete. Fortunately, the damage was limited to some overheated electronic equipment, and the building itself sustained only minor smoke damage.

We are so grateful to the Lord for protecting our facilities from what could have been a major catastrophe. Please continue your prayers and financial support to get WBAJ back on the air as soon as possible. Meanwhile, you can listen to WBAJ programming 24 hours a day on our website, [www.WBAJ.net](http://www.WBAJ.net). If you haven't obtained a copy of January's broadcast schedule yet, you can print this from our website too.

*Fellowship Meals*

On the second Sabbath of each month, we have a Full Lunch and on the fourth Sabbath of each month we have a Light Lunch consisting of salads, soups, sandwiches and light desserts. Please come and enjoy the fellowship of eating together and getting to know others better.

*Community Service*

**"For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord,...grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word."**  
Acts 4:28 – 29 (Taken from *The Believers' Prayer*)

God has richly blessed the ministry of ACTS throughout the past year and our faith holds strong that His blessings will continue during the 2012 year, whatever it may hold. He has called us to speak His word in boldness and in His strength and power we will do all that He has asked.

Linda Rahner and Helen Koon will be attending Conference sponsored classes in crisis management, which will be held at Columbia First Church during February. Upon completion of the classes, they will obtain a certification. Our prayer is that ACTS will be able to expand its ministry, possibly from our new church facility or as the Lord brings people to us, by counseling in this capacity.

We covet your prayers for this ministry as we begin the New Year. We will be placing more emphasis on programs in our planning and budget. As you pray, please pray for a young couple who were recently married (two months) and have found out that the wife has a cervical tumor. The young man, whose name is Bryce, is devastated and has asked for our prayers.

Thank you, and may God bless our church family.

*Tuesday Night Prayer Meetings*

We want to invite everyone out to Tuesday evening Prayer Meeting at 6:30 PM. The **Total Transformation** video series by Pastor Walter Veith are continuing. There remains approximately 8 more sessions of this series. A new series by Professor Veith on Creation, will begin around the first of March. (Sandra Justus)

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*From Offering Drugs to Taking Bible Studies..Part 2*

With the paperwork complete, the used-car dealer returned and wished me a good day.

"I'll give you a call," he said, expressing a desire for Bible study. I wasn't sure if he was saying that to be friendly or if he meant it. To my pleasant surprise he called me two mornings later. "I'd like to hear some of the Word," he said. "Share with me some scripture."

We talked about Phillipians Chapter 4 and agreed to meet Thursday night for Bible study.

"I want to bring my sons and have them study too," he said. "They live next door and I want my family to hear this."

I remembered meeting one of the dealer's son on the same day I met the dealer: a 21-year-old emerging from the back of their home. He needed to smoke after waking up in the afternoon.

As the young man lit his cigarette I introduced myself. He was friendly and we made pleasant conversation. I handed him my business card. "I'm a Bible teacher," I said. "If you'd ever like prayer or Bible study give me a call." "Thanks man," he said.

Now days later I was at their door for our first Bible study. I was still skeptical, wondering whether they would find an excuse to extricate themselves from study. Again I was delighted when I found them waiting for me, gathering around a small table with Bibles open.

The dealer shared with me his experience of growing up in the Catholic church and not being able to reconcile it's teachings that differed from Bible doctrine. "We've never heard any of this before," they said. "I know that this world is coming to an end," the girlfriend said. "You can see the signs all around us."

Over the next few weeks our study grew from two to four with the dealer, his girlfriend, and his two sons in their early 20's intently studying Bible prophecy in Daniel and Matthew Chapter 24 and asking questions.

We have studied the Bible for over six weeks now. I see exciting changes in them. Although the 21-year-old son often works late at night, he asked us to wake him up from his naps so he can join us for study. The dealer's other son, a 23-year-old security guard always has his lessons complete. Although we have taken a break for the Christmas and New Year holiday the dealer called me to remind me that he is looking forward to our prophecy studies resuming in early January. "My family and I need to hear this," he said.

I am humbled as I think back to how I first met them at their used car lot in front of their house. I was so impatient to get back to my missionary work that I nearly missed the mission field in front of me. I was reminded that every waitress that serves my meal, every mechanic that changes my oil, and every cashier that rings up my grocery purchases needs an invitation to know Christ

*Anh Pham is the Bible Worker for the Midtown Seventh-day Adventist Church. If you are interested in receiving Bible studies or interested in participating in personal evangelism contact Anh at 803-216-1271 or [anhpham1844@gmail.com](mailto:anhpham1844@gmail.com).*

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### *Prophetic Counsel*

#### *We Should Pray Earnestly for the Descent of the Holy Spirit*

We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the Day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today.--5T 158 (1882).

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future, but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it.--Ev 701 (1895).

The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be proportioned to the measure of our desire and the faith exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us.--RH May 5, 1896.

We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord with our petitions, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to trouble Him in this matter. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne.--FE 537 (1909).

#### *Keep the Vessel Clean and Right Side Up*

We need not worry about the latter rain. All we have to do is to keep the vessel clean and right side up and prepared for the reception of the heavenly rain, and keep praying, "Let the latter rain come into my vessel. Let the light of the glorious angel which unites with the third angel shine upon me; give me a part in the work; let me sound the proclamation; let me be a colaborer with Jesus Christ." Thus seeking God, let me tell you, He is fitting you up all the time, giving you His grace.--UL 283 (1891).

The answer may come with sudden velocity and overpowering might, or it may be delayed for days and weeks, and our faith receive a trial. But God knows how and when to answer our prayer. It is our part of the work to put ourselves in connection with the divine channel. God is responsible for His part of the work.

He is faithful who hath promised. The great and important matter with us is to be of one heart and mind, putting aside all envy and malice and, as humble supplicants, to watch and wait. Jesus, our Representative and Head, is ready to do for us what He did for the praying, watching ones on the Day of Pentecost.--3SP 272 (1878).

I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place--when the mighty angel will come down from heaven and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world. My message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning.--1SM 192 (1892).

### *Church Location*

Midtown Church meets at the Maple Street Methodist Church, located at the corner of Maple St. and Preston St. in Columbia, SC Sabbath (Saturday) morning at 10:00 AM for Sabbath School and 11:00 AM for Worship Hour. Please come and join us for worship and fellowship.

Ph. 803-834-9115 (8:30am-8:30pm daily.)

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

**Treasurer's report.....December, 2011**

**Offerings received:**

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Church budget  | \$4,952.52  |
| Sabbath school | \$107.00    |
| Missions       | \$127.37    |
| Building fund  | \$13,306.46 |

**Expenditures:**

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Church budget  | \$2,500.00 |
| Sabbath school | \$143.75   |
| Evangelism     | \$0.00     |
| Miscellaneous  | \$0.00     |

**Literature distribution:**

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
|               | <b>Bus Station:</b> |
| Defending God | 40                  |

**Attendance:**

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| December 03 | 54 |
| December 10 | 58 |
| December 17 | 53 |
| December 24 | 57 |
| December 31 | 55 |

>Don't forget to check our web site frequently for updates and current events. [Www.midtownchurch.net](http://www.midtownchurch.net)

>Our Sabbath school expenses continue to overshadow donations. Donations to this account are needed and will be greatly appreciated.

>Donations of unexpected and found money are up to \$22,066.87 in our quest to receive the final \$5,000.00 of the \$25,000.00 matching grant. Only \$2,933.13 to go!

Doug Leonhardt