

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
MIDWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH



1844 – 1998

The history of Kentucky in the 1700's points to a people rugged, hard-working and beset with problems that included Indians and crop failure. Life in the land of Kentucky was indeed difficult.

By 1800, the Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists and Catholics had already established associations in Kentucky.

In August of 1801, a significant event took place in Cane Ridge near Paris, Kentucky. A great revival was held and attended by thousands who found emotional and spiritual relief through expressing the "revival of the spirit." It was out of this beginning that a union of Alexander Campbell's Disciples and Barton Stone's Christians took place in 1832. The growth of the Christian Church was beginning.

Between 1840 and 1850, great leaders and missionaries emerged in the Christian Church. Among them were men like John T. Johnson, James Ware Parrish, and L. L. Pinkerton.

Although they met before it was formalized, the Christians at Midway were incorporated by the Kentucky Legislature on March 2, 1844, and the church was officially chartered on July 20, 1944. On Christmas Day that same year, Dr. L. L. Pinkerton preached the dedicatory sermon for the Congregation's new, one-story rectangular building. The title of his sermon was "The Name Christian - Why It Should Be Used In Preference To Any Other Name."

The Christians at Midway were beginning on a road that would relate them historically to Kentucky and spiritually to their beginnings at the great revival of 1801.

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FORMATION OF THE MIDWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1833	The town of Midway was laid out and incorporated.														
1833 – 1844	The Reformers meet in an unfinished building erected by James Martin and Henry Lewis, serving as a woolen factory (part of the building probably still stands.)														
1833 – 1844	The churches at New Union, ,Grassy Springs, Georgetown, and Great Crossings were very active.														
1833 – 1844	John T. Johnson, Alexander Campbell, Barton Stone, L. L. Pinkerton all become involved in the Reform movement.														
Saturday, July 18, 1840	L. L. Pinkerton preaches at New Union Church. James Ware Parrish and his sister, Susan, come forward to confess their faith. The beginning of a deep friendship.														
December, 1844	The new "Church of Christ" building at Midway was dedicated with a sermon by Dr. L. L. .Pinkerton entitled "The name 'Christian' - why it should be used in preference to any other name." Pinkerton becomes co-minister of the church with Curtis J. Smith.														
April 6, 1845	The Baconian Institute opens for girls in the new church building. Pinkerton builds a new home of the southwest corner of Winter and Stephens Streets and moves the students there. This structure still stands; it is the home of Honeywood Rouse.														
Feb. 23, 1847	Kentucky Female Orphan School is chartered.														
Oct. 3, 1849	K.F.O.S. opens with John Dawson as Superintendent and his wife, Mary, as Matron. There have been fourteen Heads of the school: <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px; width: 80%;"> <tr> <td>John Dawson</td> <td>Ella Mountjoy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robert Broadhurst</td> <td>Lucy Peterson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belle Bellew</td> <td>Edgar Riley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cornelia Oldham</td> <td>Louis Piper</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belle Fitzpatrick</td> <td>Albert Cox</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Samuel Lucy</td> <td>Nelson Hoffman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liccie Corbin</td> <td>Robert Botkin</td> </tr> </table>	John Dawson	Ella Mountjoy	Robert Broadhurst	Lucy Peterson	Belle Bellew	Edgar Riley	Cornelia Oldham	Louis Piper	Belle Fitzpatrick	Albert Cox	Samuel Lucy	Nelson Hoffman	Liccie Corbin	Robert Botkin
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January 8, 1850	Alexander Campbell preaches at the Midway Church and visits the Kentucky Female Orphan School														

**IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FORMATION OF THE
MIDWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
(cont'd)

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| February, 1850 | Alexander Campbell preaches again at Midway Church. |
| 1852 | "Second Christian Church" is organized out of the Midway Church and becomes the oldest black church organized in the nation. |
| 1844 – 1860 | Revivals held, great growth in the Midway Church. |
| 1859 | Pinkerton introduces the use of a melodeon in worship. He did so, he said, because the singing was so bad that it would "scare even the rats from worship." |
| 1859 – 1860 | The famous "organ incident." Adam Hibler and his servant, Reuben, steal instrument from church. This marks the beginning of the Church of Christ. |
| Aug. 1860 | L. L. Pinkerton leaves the Midway Church. The civil war controversies make him unwelcome to return to Midway. |
| 1895 | The new church building is erected. |



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FIRST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT USED IN CHRISTIAN CHURCH, MELODEON SPIRITED AWAY TO END DISCORD, IS NOW AT MIDWAY COLLEGE

By Mrs. A. P. BRYAN

THE LEXINGTON HERALD,
APRIL 10, 1938

The first musical instrument ever played in any church of The Disciples of Christ -- an antique melodeon which almost caused a rift in the Christian Church ranks when it was introduced at the services of the Midway house of worship almost 115 years ago -- occupies a position of honor at Midway College today.

The melodeon, according to Woodford County historians, was placed in the old Midway Christian Church by Dr. L. L. Pinkerton, one of the founders of the school, about 1860, at the time when churches questioned the use of musical instruments in worship. A spirited controversy resulted among members of the church, and Dr. Pinkerton's act was denounced in an article published in a Cincinnati newspaper in 1860.

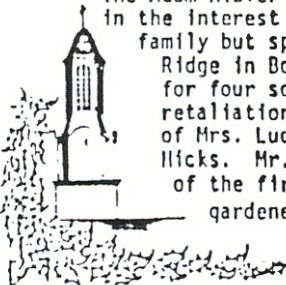
Dr. Pinkerton, the pastor of the Midway church had Thompson Parrish, son of James Ware Parrish, one of the co-founders of the girls' school, play the melodeon at his service.

Early history of the instrument was recalled when the business director of the orphan school found a reference to it in some old files. The Reverend Mark Collis, pastor emeritus of the Broadway Christian Church in Lexington and a trustee of the school for almost 50 years, recollected a story of the melodeon told to him by John S. Shouse, former trustee and the father of Jouett Shouse of Washington.

According to the story, the melodeon caused so much trouble in the Midway Church that Adam Hibler, an elder of the church, removed the "instrument of Satan" from the church late one night with the assistance of a Negro servant, Rueben, who passed it out to his master through a window. History of the melodeon for the ensuing period is obscure but it was located comparatively recently by John Rogers, a Midway historian. He found it in the possession of Misses Mary and Elizabeth Nugent, who lived at the Versailles-Midway Pike and Old Frankfort Pike intersection at Nugent's Crossroads. They inherited the old instrument from their father, James Nugent, who had been a friend of Mr. Hibler's. Whether the melodeon was given to him or he purchased the melodeon at a sale for \$1.65, as reported by some members of his family, is not known.

School authorities, however, were satisfied that the melodeon in the Nugent home was the original "instrument of Satan" removed from the old Midway Church in the middle of the night, and James Ware Parrish II, Midway capitalist and horseman, became interested in the melodeon and its history. Mr. Parrish was the son of the Thompson Parrish who played the instrument at the first church services, and donated the money necessary for the purchase of the antique instrument for the orphan school.

Since its discovery and acquisition by Midway College, the melodeon has been exhibited and played at five Christian Church conventions, four of them State gatherings and the international assembly. The instrument has attracted interest wherever it has been exhibited.



The Adam Hibler who was reported to have removed the melodeon from the church in the interest of congregational harmony was the descendant of a Mason County family but spent much of his life near Midway in Woodford County and Cane Ridge in Bourbon County. It was Mr. Hibler who conducted funeral rites for four southern soldiers in Midway on the orders of General Burbidge in retaliation for the slaying of a Union man by guerillas. He was the father of Mrs. Lucy Hibler Starks of Midway and the grandfather of Mrs. Edna Starks Hicks. Mr. Hibler was a close friend of Robert Alexander, the first president of the first bank in Kentucky, who then employed James Nugent as a landscape gardener. This close association gives credence to the belief of Midway School authorities that James Nugent received the historic melodeon either from Mr. Hibler or Mr. Alexander.

MINISTERS OF THE MIDWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Curtis J. Smith	1844-1845
Lewis Letig Pinkerton	1844-1860
Richard C. Ricketts Sr.	(Dates Unknown)
Phillip Sydney Fall	(Assisted L.L. Pinkerton)
Dr. Carroll Kendrick	(Assisted L.L. Pinkerton)
Enos Campbell	(Dates Unknown)
Henry Tompkins Anderson	1860-1861
James Slater Fall	(Dates Unknown)
Harrison Turner	(Dates Unknown)
John Samuel Shouse	1868-1876, 1979-1881
Thomas N. Arnold	1877
James Henry Hammond	1878
Mark Collis	1882-1885
Jesse James Haley	1886-1888
William Allen Broadhurst	1888-1892
William Ross Lloyd	1882-1893
Merrell Dare Clubb	1883-1896
Walter Madison White	1896-1899
George Whitefield Kemper	1990-1910
George C. Waggoner	1910-1911
Thaddeus S. Tinsley Jr.	1912-1915
Robert Swan Wilson	1915-1918
Robert Logan Riddell	1919-1922
Ezra Burdette Kemm	1922-1923
Alvin Lamar Wills	1923-1925
William P. Walden	1926-1932
Thomas M. Giltner	1932-1936
Clinton B. Meininger	1936-1942
Ronald Coulter Lorimer	1941-1945
Wayne B. Testerman	1945-1947
Frazer A. Thomason	1947-1951
Charles A. Bare	1951-1953
C. Richard Taylor	1953-1959
William Fred Taylor	1959-1965
Roy Wayne Roberson	1965-1970
William H. McDonald	1970-1983
Roy Wayne Roberson	1984-1990
Marie Vimont Palmer	1991-1993
Wayne H. Bell	1994-1995
Steven C. Barton	1995-1997
Charles Wickizer	1997-

STUDENT ASSOCIATES OF THE MIDWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Stephen and Sharon Ginn	(late 50's)
David Scott	1965-1966
William H.McDonald	1966-1970
Raymond McLaren	1964-1965
Michael Ray Moore	1970-1973
Marian Velma Yage1	1976
Thomas Russell Zeigler	1978-1984
Molly Correll	1993

**SOME IMPORTANT LEADERS
"SENT OUT" FROM THE MIDWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

DR. L. L. PINKERTON

Born, 1812; died 1875.

Responsible for much growth, Midway Christian Church.
Co-founder of Kentucky Female Orphan School.
Helped establish Second Christian Church.
A leader in the new Reform movement.

WILLIAM A. BROADHURST

Born, 1842; died, 1892.

A timothy of Midway.
Became pastor of Floyd and Chestnut Church of Louisville.
His vision helped establish the Louisville Widows and Orphans Home in 1883;
today it operates under "The Christian Church Home of Kentucky."

FRANK CHRISTOPHER BUTTON

Born, 1863; died 1932.

Was baptized into the Midway Christian Church in March of 1881.
Traveled to Morehead in 1887 on a missionary venture, after a violent feud had
taken place.
Established Morehead Normal School in August of 1887.
Was instrumental in the founding of the First Christian Church of Morehead,
about 1890.
Was instrumental in the establishment of Morehead Teachers College in 1927 and
became its first President.

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