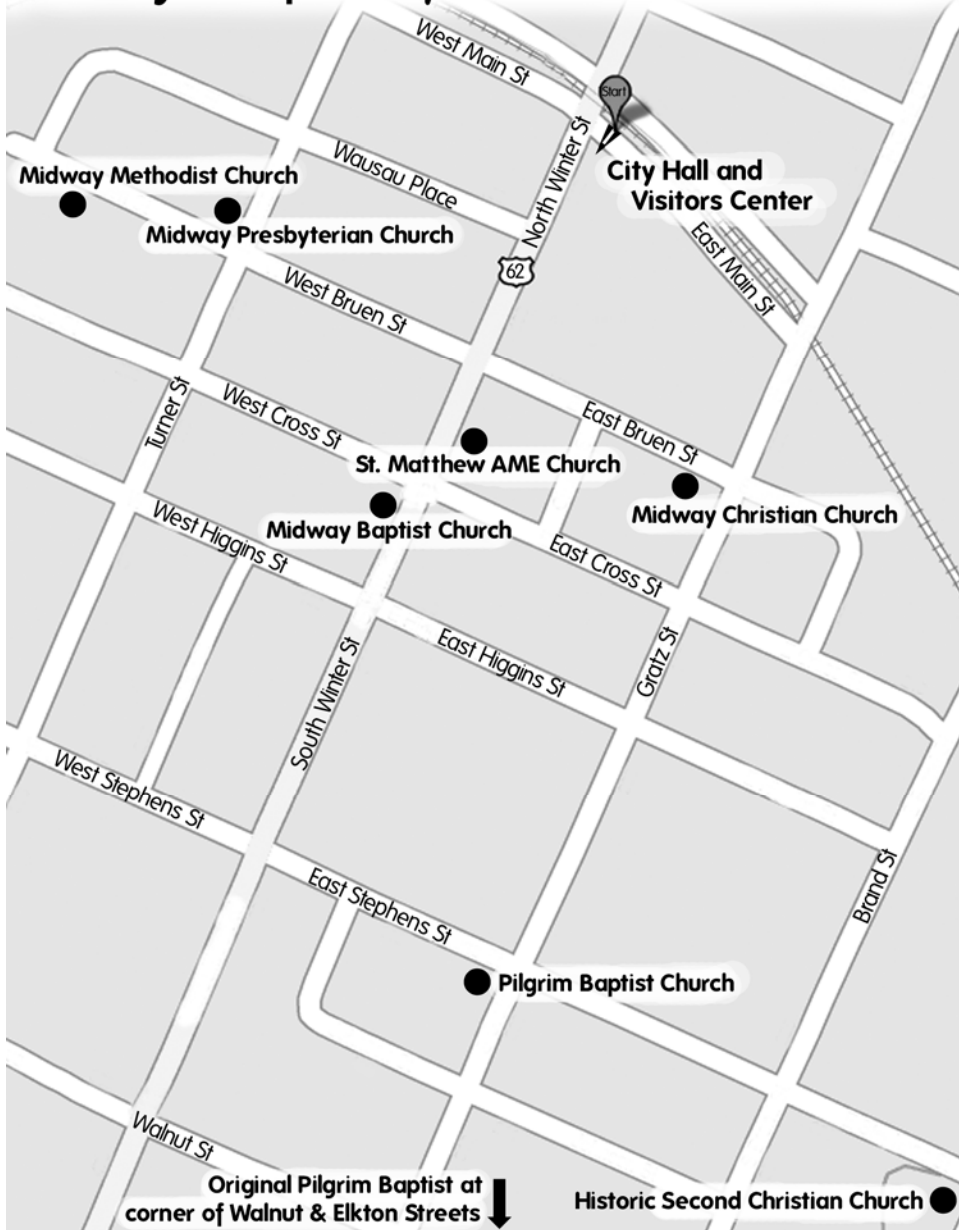


# Walking Tour of Midway's Historic Church Sanctuaries



Bluegrass Trust Historic Plaques have recently been installed at Historic Second Christian, Pilgrim Baptist, and St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal, and at the original Pilgrim Baptist Church – the current residence of Mrs. Molly Bradley.

*You are invited to attend a special reception from 12 to 4pm, with refreshments, to celebrate this honor at Historic Second Christian Church.*

# MIDWAY LIVING HISTORY DAY

October 30, 2010

12 to 4:30pm

## Tour of Midway's Historic Church Sanctuaries

**Special Reception, with refreshments, at Historic Second Christian Church to celebrate the Bluegrass Trust plaques received by St. Matthew AME Church, Historic Second Christian Church, Pilgrim Baptist Church, and the residence of Molly Bradley**

**Presentation of the third annual Midway Living History Award to Steele Davis at 1:30pm - Midway Presbyterian Church**

## Community History Displays at Midway City Hall



Presented by  
the Midway Living History Committee  
of Midway Renaissance, Inc.  
Midway's Main Street Program certified by  
the Kentucky Heritage Council

### **Midway Presbyterian Church - 103 North Turner**

The finest Gothic Revival building in Midway, the church was erected in the 1870's. Constructed of stuccoed brick, it features a gabled bell tower with corner pinnacles at the south of the main façade. This is connected by an arcaded porch to an entrance tower on the north. Many of the pointed arch windows are filled with stained glass of bold geometric designs. The church was damaged by fire in 1909 and rebuilt. During remodeling, the original church bell was removed and recast to eliminate a crack. The bell is said to contain coins collected by Sunday School children during the initial construction.

### **Midway United Methodist Church - 220 West Bruen**

What is now the Midway Methodist Church was constructed in the 1860's as the Midway School, with classrooms on the first floor and living quarters for the teacher on the second floor. The city school closed in 1909. Following a tent meeting in 1920, a small group of dedicated people met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Green to organize a Methodist Church. They purchased the school building for \$3,000 in 1921, using the first floor for worship services and the second floor for the pastor's living quarters. In the 1950's a vestibule was added to the front of the building and a fellowship hall and kitchen addition were constructed on the back. The Church later purchased the adjoining lots and added beautiful stained glass windows to the sanctuary area.

### **St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church - 110 South Winter**

The congregation purchased this lot for the location of their church as early as 1854, with Reverend Moses Burks as their first pastor. They originally met in a frame building on this site, then in 1886 built a brick church and moved the frame structure behind it. Both were destroyed by fire in 1892. The present brick building, constructed by David Lehman, was erected that same year. During the Civil War, when 'colored troops' were authorized by the federal government, the church served as an office of underground recruitment for Union troops at Camp Nelson. On May 10, 1877 Rev. Burks and other citizens formed the Sons and Daughter of Relief, a charitable organization that purchased a cemetery ground behind Midway Presbyterian Church. In 1917, when the north side of Main Street included many African American businesses, the Sons and Daughters of Relief purchased the old Central Saloon at 124 East Main Street (now the Midway Museum Store). They operated a restaurant on the first floor and held meetings upstairs.

### **Midway Baptist Church - 121 South Winter**

A meeting for the purpose of constituting a Baptist Church in Midway was held in June of 1872, and on July 13, 1872, Brother J.W. Bow, a student at Georgetown College, was elected the first pastor. A major addition was made to the building in 1925, providing what is referred to as the "overflow" to the sanctuary, a second story and a classroom wing. This addition was financed by the sale of \$5,000 in bonds and donations from church members at \$1 per month for a year, and with donations from members of the community. The addition, built by R.W. Lacefield, cost \$6,354.70. In 1950 an education wing was dedicated. With the assistance of Carpenters for Christ, the addition was remodeled in 2004 to provide classrooms and the Ministry Center.

### **Midway Christian Church - 123 East Bruen**

Founded in 1844 by 32 charter members, the Christians at Midway were incorporated by the Kentucky Legislature on March 2, 1844. Their first services were held in an unfinished woolen mill at 206 Main Street. On Christmas Day of that same year, Dr. L. L. Pinkerton (minister from 1844 to 1860) preached the dedicatory sermon for the congregation's new, one-story rectangular building on the present site. The congregation eventually outgrew the small church. It was razed and the present structure was erected on the original site and dedicated in 1896. The construction is of brick with both smooth-faced and rusticated stone trim. Originally, the rounded tower on the west had a conical dome resting on an open arcade. Tasteful additions in keeping with the architectural style occurred in 1969.

### **Pilgrim Baptist Church - 133 East Stephens**

The church is a highly noticeable brick edifice that eloquently occupies the southwest corner of East Stephens and Gratz Streets. An accolade of stone above the entrance testifies that the church was completed in 1892. The building is of irregular massing, with a tower combining Saracenic, Romanesque, and other stylistic flavors. The tower is set at an angle to face the corner, permitting this element to attract attention from several approaches. The church, constructed by David Lehman, once had over 900 members. The original site of Pilgrim Baptist Church is at the corner of Walnut & Elkton Streets.

### **Original site of Pilgrim Baptist Church – corner of Walnut & Elkton Streets - current Residence of Mrs. Mollie M. Bradley**

This 1872 structure was the first church building for the Pilgrim Baptist Church, formed by Dr. James Knox Polk and 16 charter members. Dr. Polk, who was born into slavery, served as the Church's pastor until his death in 1918. When the membership outgrew the old frame church, a new brick church was built in 1892 on the corner of Stephens and Gratz Streets.

In 1911 the Woodford County Board of Education purchased this property to be used as the Midway Elementary School for African Americans. The school lasted for 43 years, closing at the end of the school year in 1954. In 1959, Walter T. and Mollie M. Bradley bought the property for their residence. Mr. Bradley (1925-2004) was the first African American elected to the Midway City Council.

### **Historic Second Christian Church - 309 Smith Street**

The church possesses a high level of significance in African American history. Organized in 1832, it is the oldest African American congregation in Kentucky, and perhaps in the US. Alexander Campbell, a former slave, was the first minister. By the 1840's a log building on the property of the Kentucky Female Orphan School (now Midway College) served the congregation. In 1872 the congregation purchased a frame structure formerly used by the Midway Presbyterian Church on Wassau Street and moved it to the current site. The present brick church was completed in 1906. Entrance to the gable-roofed sanctuary is through a corner tower surmounted by a pyramidal roof. In the tower's upper level is a louvered window arrangement that somewhat repeats the Palladian window of the main facade.