

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
April 2016

Mission Minded

Support of Christian missions is a duty, a privilege, and a participation in gospel ministry. The apostle John warmly commends the support given to missionaries by a man named Gaius. John writes, "Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth." (3 John 5-8) Main Street Presbyterian Church has a long history of support for missions. In recent history there has been a sharp decline but that is changing, and we thank God for it.

A Look at the past three years

2014	15 Faith Promise Cards Submitted \$21,820 gifts given
2015	34 Faith Promise Cards Submitted \$44, 137 gifts given
2016	13 Faith Promise Cards Submitted \$27,280 gifts given

Our Goal

We are off to a good start for 2016! However, we have high goals. Currently we support 20 missionaries through Faith Promise [Bill & Bobbie Boggess, Larry Brown, Jack & Nell Chinchin, Tom & Connie Edwards, Ron Elkin, Dale &

Susan Ellison, Howard & Pam Eyrich, Doug Hudson, Clete Hux, Rafael Ku, Austin Lenox, Bob McPherson, Clark Norton, Richard Pratt, Wiley & Karen Smith, Brian Sorgenfrei, Bill Schweitzer, Rekindle Children's Hope, Christina Thomas, Linda Wixon].

Based on today's Faith Promise submissions we are able to contribute annually about \$1,360 per missionary. We have just started our season of giving and the response has been good. Thanks to all who have made a commitment. We have 77 family units or individual members in the church. **My challenge to the church is for every family unit to contribute to missions. I would also challenge you to prayerfully consider giving 1% of your income.** However, if you can't give 1% make sure you give something. If we meet this goal, we will see a sharp increase in missions giving which will allow us to support our missionaries "in a manner worthy of God", as the apostle John exhorts us. It would also give us freedom to take on new missionaries, RUF workers, and church planters.

MSPC has a solid track record of supporting missions. My prayer is that our Lord would continue to enlarge our heart for the growth of His Kingdom.

Pastor Matocha

HAPPY HEARTS



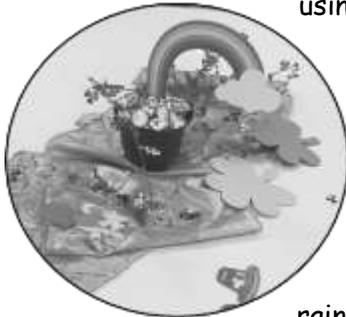
On March 23, 2016, our Happy Hearts convened in the fellowship hall for a gathering of our senior citizens. We were thrilled to have an opportunity to get to know another "new" family in our church. Chris and Marcia Lovegren along with their three precious children were our guest speakers. Chris spoke first, and might I add as quiet as he seems, he is a delightful speaker, very relaxed and confident. He was born and raised in Titusville, Florida. His father worked at NASA. His mom has a degree in theology and has worked as a Chaplain for a women's prison. Chris was privileged to be included and learned many life lessons following along with his mom reaching out to the prisoners. He admitted not all were success stories, some were, and in some cases they just prayed God would grow the seeds they had planted in the prisoners' lives. After college, Chris joined the Air Force and found his bride. He has been in the military for 18 1/2 years and he and Marcia have been married for 15 of those years. They were cute telling the story of their romance. Each had their own twist to the details involved. But that is very normal. At any rate, it seems within four weeks he was pretty sure he had found the right girl and all he had to do was convince her to wait for him. He was leaving to go to new locations with the USAF. That too is normal. The couple and their children have lived in many different places and traveled a large portion of the world. He has been deployed twice. Chris is a T-6 Pilot Instructor at the Columbus Air Force Base. All of us appreciate Chris and his family having served in our military and helping to keep our country safe. We are hoping they have planted their feet in our town and especially at Main Street Presbyterian. Chris was involved in a PCA church before coming to Columbus, so they began their search for a church home by visiting PCA congregations. They actually began in Starkville at Grace Presbyterian

but after a while decided the ride was a little too long for the family of five.



It was very interesting to hear Marcia tell her story after Chris. The two of them grew up in different locations but with similar backgrounds. Her father also worked for NASA, but in Huntsville, AL. Both were raised in Christian homes and their parents were dedicated and serious about sharing the gospel with others. Her parents were missionaries for 7 years in Swaziland, Africa, through Trans World Radio. During that time, Marcia was born. She shared a few episodes of God's miraculous protection for her family while in Africa. Though born in Africa, Marcia says she grew up in Huntsville. Both Marcia and Chris introduced their children to our group. The oldest child is Anthony who is 12 and plays the piano with much enthusiasm, next is Caitlyn or Caity who is 10 years old, the youngest is Makayla or Kayla who is 8 years old. Anthony played classical piano for us and the girls played their violins accompanied by their mother. Marcia also played her flute which she has been doing since she was only 5. In case you don't know this family, Marcia plays flute in our choir loft every Sunday. Chris also is musically inclined and enjoys playing keyboard and guitar. What an awesome gift for everyone in the family to be musical! It was special hearing everyone play and they all played quite well. Chris did not bring his guitar because he had taken a tumble the day before and his knuckles were not in good shape for playing. Happy Hearts members loved hearing them perform and, more importantly, having this time together with the Lovegrens.

Our decorations were St. Patrick's Day appropriate even though the holiday had passed. Shirley Swoope had given me some decorations she had made for another luncheon and I loved using them the second time.



She made pots of gold at the end of the rainbow. The gold was those delicious chocolate kisses with almond pieces wrapped in gold foil. The rainbows were made of paper, placed on a stick so that they came out of the pot of gold. Get the picture? I hope so. My words are not as good as actually seeing it, but they were really cute. On the food table we had green fabrics topped with a basket of shamrocks and other assorted plants. Our meal was easy (for me) and delicious.



We baked Irish potatoes, topped them with butter, sour cream, chili, chopped onions, grated cheese, and diced jalapeño peppers. Each person loaded their potato as they chose. Pogie and Frances were responsible for bringing the chili. In keeping with the holiday, we had a green congealed salad served on lettuce leaves. Jean brought buttered French bread and Nell brought her delectable fig cake for dessert. She also brought her mint tea which we look forward to every month. The food was good and the service was even better. I always appreciate everyone pitching in to help serve and cleanup afterwards. Ben Chilcutt is our main man when it comes to dishwashing. He is lots of fun and so doing the dishes becomes much more appealing to all of us. You know the kitchen is where it all happens anyway! Johnice Shumaker, Jean Yelverton, Pat Wallace, and I'm not sure who else, are always helping with the cleanup.

This month we had two visitors who were great help in the kitchen - Jean's daughter, Mary Grey and my daughter, Julie. They had more fun than anybody and what a difference they made! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and a special thank you to the Lofgren's.

Bess



Women
in the
Church



The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5th. The Bible study will be on Chapter 6 of Hoping for Something Better by Nancy Guthrie. Please bring a sandwich and join us for the study and fellowship luncheon.

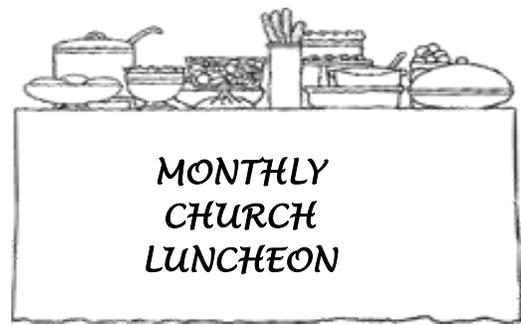
The last meeting for this semester will be May 3rd.



The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be Wednesday, April 6, at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last breakfast of the year. Please make plans to attend.

This has been a great ministry. We have enjoyed a great variety of breakfast foods. Bill's French toast was great and who can forget Nick's blueberry muffins for our Christmas treat. Patrick has done a fine job as the major domo. Allan's messages have been right on. Thanks to all for pitching in with cleanup, etc. Major kudos to Jack Hairston for keeping me straight and making sure the salsa and cheese were set out.

Mike



Our "Old Fashioned" Pot Luck/Covered Dish meal was a wonderful success. Thanks to all who shared their wonderful dishes with us. We enjoyed the gathering of at least 95 people who were patient waiting for food, as well as having their family photos taken for the directory. Mike and Victoria did a great job.

Our last meal of the year will be April 10th following the morning worship service. The meat will be provided once again. **Please note the division of sides: If your last name begins with A-F a vegetable, G-N a salad, and O-Z a dessert.**

I hope you have enjoyed these times together as much as I have in being a part of it. See you April 10th for Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda

Preschool News

Thank you so much to all of our parents who do so much for our school...we could not do this without you! We are grateful that you have chosen MSCS as the beginning of your child's education!

In His Service,
Beth Easterling

Spring is officially here! Along with new growth everywhere in nature, our children here at the preschool are showing many signs of growth as well! It is such a blessing to see each preschooler learn new concepts, gain new skills and become confident learners.

As always, March was packed with fun activities. Our Wild, Wild West unit was a definite favorite for the children and included singing cowboy songs by the fire, racing with stick horses, dressing up as cowboys and cowgirls, and playing horseshoes. Our Easter unit was a very meaningful one. We had a wonderful Easter party for each class, complete with an egg hunt on the playground, but we kept the focus on what Easter is really about...Jesus' death on the cross to pay for our sins and resurrection on the third day!



After Easter holidays, we will begin practicing for our "Farewell to Fours" program that will be Tuesday, May 3 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. It is a wonderful program of music, poems and Bible knowledge performed by our 4's and each child will receive a special certificate recognizing their accomplishments for the year. All church members are welcome to attend, and I promise that you will leave with a smile and a blessing!



Faith Promise Pledge:

Where Will It Come From?

A devotional by Paul Kooistra

Before we ask where money for a faith pledge will come from, we need to consider what a faith pledge is. It is not first and foremost faith in what God will give me, but **it is faith that God will enable me to give**. It is more important that you pray for a giving heart than that you pray for added income. Giving is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:8), and experience teaches us that the gift of giving is an uncommon gift.

Paul challenges the Corinthians, *just as you excel in everything— in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving* (II Corinthians 8:7). Increased giving starts, not with increased income, but with the grace of God enlarging our hearts with the joy of giving.

Some seem to argue that the money given in a faith promise pledge commitment can be expected from some unusual and unexpected source. God can provide for us any way He chooses, and often He delights in reminding us of that fact in dramatic ways.

Recently I met an energetic young couple who had gone to the mission field. As they prayed for funds, God began to provide, and eventually all they lacked was 700 dollars. One day a beautiful cockatoo landed in their backyard.

Amazed, they caged it and advertised for the owner. Receiving no response, they sold it to a pet store for exactly 700 dollars. *The last money we needed fell out of the sky!* they exclaimed, *literally*. Some might consider them *lucky*. Not so. God may astound some of us as we pray for

an increased gift of giving, but we should never sit back and enjoy the windfall.

Others have enjoyed generating creative sources of income. One man made an investment and dedicated all the proceeds to his faith promise. A woman with a special recipe made and sold Vidalia onion relish. A housewife did word processing, while some teenagers engaged in extra lawn work and babysitting. Possibly God will provide a second job for a few hours a week or an idea for making and marketing crafts or baked goods. We can ask the Creator for a little sanctified creativity. The results may be amazing.

No doubt, the greatest source of money for *faith promise* comes from what may be called *lifestyle giving*. Such giving is rooted in a resolution to make our stewardship a major priority in our lives. Lifestyle giving begins with better management of our finances. Think how much you might save if you put the brakes on impulse spending. Even shopping for groceries with a list and sticking to the list can save money for giving. Shopping at sales, watching the newspaper for coupons, or finding low-budget menus all can become adventures in depending on God. I know a family who was able to give several hundred dollars by halving the amount spent on Christmas presents one year.

Lifestyle giving can also grow out of living more simply. Taking a less expensive vacation, driving an older car, or wearing our clothes for several seasons can also be the source of substantial funds for giving. We can pray and ask God to show us things we can do without. Proverbs 8:12 in the old King James translation says, *I, wisdom, dwell with prudence and find out knowledge of witty inventions*. Prudence is not simply an old fashioned girl's name. It is a virtue of thrift and simplicity that will honor our

(MISSIONS)

Father and serve us well. God will use it to lead us to new insights in wise and joyful living.

Maybe the most challenging aspect of lifestyle giving involves what we are willing to give up. The Macedonians had graduated to the level of sacrificial giving. This kind of giving takes a great deal of faith and a great deal of prayer.

Finally, there is giving from abundance. God blesses His people. The people of Israel sang, *Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God will bless us* (Psalm 67:6). Have you not experienced this? God allows us to save money, earn interest, and succeed in our occupations, all so we can give. As our wealth grows, our giving ought to grow faster.

Prayer:

***Father,
You are the source of all that I have. As I consider my faith promise, I ask first, that you provide me with a giving heart. Begin to show me how much you want me to give and also where you want me to give from. Make me willing to work harder, to live more simply, and even to sacrifice. Amen.***

Questions:

1. How have you decided what to give in the past?
2. How would you like to change your giving priorities in the future?
3. How can you increase your giving through faith promise?

The Missions Committee would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to those who participated in MSPC Missions Conference in any way. It is a special time for our church family to get better acquainted with those we support in the "field". Much is involved in planning, transportation & lodging for our missionaries.

AND for those who may not have noticed, MSPC has been blessed with a "parcel" of children! Brent Drown did a wonderful job utilizing men in the congregation to keep the younger crowd aware of the importance of missions.

If anyone has positive feedback or helpful suggestions for the next conference, please drop a note or speak with Committee Leader, Russ Russell.

Again, thank you one and all. We know everyone was blessed through this conference.

Dear Main Street,

We wanted to let you all know we are back home with family and church. We really enjoyed being with you and sharing the word of God with God's people. Thanks for all the wonderful attention to us.

We were blessed as we hope you were also blessed through us. For us it was a time of refreshment, encouragement and learning. It also was an opportunity for Sagri and I to take a break away from home traveling together, meeting with friends, and for building new relationships. Thanks for blessing us with this trip.

May our gracious God continue to bestow his riches upon his church as we continue serving in his kingdom.

*For the sake of the gospel,
Rafael & Sagri Ku*

(MISSIONS)



1,000+ Families in Kasiya Malawi Receive Maize from ABC

When we arrived in Kasiya - some 70 km from the ABC campus in Lilongwe — there were well over 1,200 people sitting on the ground waiting for us — probably closer to 1,500 if you counted all the babies tied to their mother's backs! When I saw the size of the crowd I, too, was a bit concerned that we wouldn't be able to help everyone.



The pastor and the local school Principal — Often Gadabu, an ABC graduate (Class of 2002) — explained how bad things had become in Kasiya. The severe drought had delayed rains for months; most people ran out of maize weeks ago, and were forced to pick, cook and eat green leaves from unripened pumpkins and bean stalks. No meat, no maize, and not even enough money to buy salt to cook with the greens.

All of us from ABC — including our Vice Chancellor, Dr. Madimbo, and my son-in-law Brandon Cozzolino — had heard stories about how unruly the crowds had become at other maize distribution points, so we were a bit worried — I even brought two police officer buddies of mine in the van with me in case things went sideways — but the people in Kasiya could not have been more gracious, grateful and cooperative. They queued up in three long lines leading to the three large

trucks piled high with bags of maize — and then patiently waited their turn. It was the calmest and most orderly happening I have ever seen in my 27 years in Malawi.



I was surprised at how elderly many of the people were — very old — which meant they were completely unable to haul off the 100 lb. bags of maize on their head like the younger women did — with a baby strapped to their back! — so we would find a couple young men to carry the sack to a tree where the old people would redistribute the maize into smaller, more manageable-sized bags.

There was one very old gentlemen leaning on a cane near the big lorries, staring at all the activity, but he was not in line, so I told him that if he would stand in line he would be given a bag. Without looking away from the stacks of maize on the big trucks he said, “I’m not in line because I do not have a ticket ... but I am hungry.” Yes, we had extra bags, so we carried one over and placed it next to him. He was so happy — he couldn’t budge the 100 lb. sack — but was tremendously grateful!



The Pastor and Principal had handed out 990 tickets early in the week — keeping 10 bags of maize in case extra people showed up — but after all 990 people had collected their maize there were 30 bags left over ... BUT 150 people still in line! So our ABC staff gathered the remaining people into groups of 5, and gave each group a bag to divide. They were so thankful. Many of them who had come without a ticket brought a small bowl, and had been begging earlier, “Can we just have enough corn to cook a meal tonight.”

(MISSIONS)

So they were completely thrilled when they were able to take home enough maize to feed their family for a week!

We praise the Lord for your gifts that made it possible to help these warm and wonderful people in Kasiya. You cannot imagine how happy and grateful they were. Those of us here in Malawi feel so blessed to have been witness to your generosity. Thank you for listening to the suffering of these good and humble people.

I also want to say a big thank you to our African Bible College Vice Chancellor, Dr. Maggie Madimbo. Like Esther whom God placed in the king's palace at just the right time to help her people, God has surely placed Dr. Madimbo here at ABC at this time in order to respond to the needs of these people. And thank you to our ABC faculty who were brave enough to get involved — and work diligently with our graduates to access, transport and distribute the maize. Trust me, logistics in Africa is never easy. In fact one of our graduates — Macronix — had to go out to Kasiya and sleep with the trucks the night before the distribution to make all the maize was all still there in the morning!

Churches and people often want to help in a crisis like this, but don't know how, or with whom. ABC, its staff, and its graduates are “sitting on GO” in Malawi, Uganda, and Liberia, ready to help when there is a need. Thank you for partnering with us in this effort.

May God bless you just as you have been a blessing to my people in Malawi.



Paul Chinchon
President, African Bible Colleges

As of March 25, ABC hopes to make another distribution before the end of April.

The rainy season is ending and the corn harvest will begin in May. The crop this year looks promising so far. Any funds they use will need to be deposited before April 20, which means

if you would like to give more please do so before April 17.

If you give through Main Street, please mark your gift MALAWI.

Give online here:

<https://www.africanbiblecolleges.net/onlinegifts/?ministry=Malawi+>

[Food+Shortage](https://www.africanbiblecolleges.net/onlinegifts/?ministry=Malawi+)

(MISSIONS)

**Reflections on the
Past Seven Years of
Rekindle Children's Hope**



by Jim Kiel
Chairman, RCH Board of Directors

This year begins the seventh year of RCH's presence in Cameroon, and as I reflect on that, I am overwhelmed by what God has done in the lives of so many people in Cameroon and the United States. What began in one small house and spread to the front porch of another house in two villages is now housed in two concrete learning centers equipped with full kitchens, running water, and toilets. What began with three volunteers and 23 children now has 15 volunteers and cares for more than 90 orphans and abandoned children. I thank God for allowing all of us to be a small part of what He is doing to change lives there and here.

I have been fortunate to make several trips to Cameroon. All of them have enriched my life, strengthened my commitment to RCH, opened my eyes to additional opportunities to spread the Gospel, and continue to demonstrate how blessed those of us who live in the United States are. George Mbutwe never fails to thank us for our visits and to comment on how they are so encouraged and strengthened by them, when it is really the opposite. To see the living conditions, the struggles for basic needs, and all the other hardships in everyday life that they face, yet they continue to smile, give thanks to all RCH supporters, and praise God for all things is very, very humbling.

It makes some, no all, of my complaints pale in comparison and encourages and strengthens me in my very "comfortable" daily life.



George Mbutwe, In-Country Director

During our most recent trip to Cameroon, we were accompanied by a professional videographer, and he has produced a short movie about life of a child in Cameroon and RCH. Soon, this video will be sent to all partners, sponsors, and donors and will be available for viewing on our website

www.RCHAfrica.org. Several board members and close friends have viewed the first "cut" of the movie, and all believe that it not only is an accurate reflection of what is happening in the villages of Maumu and Lysoka but will inspire all who watch it.



As we look forward to the next several years with RCH, we pray that God will continue to equip the volunteers, sponsors, partners and board members to spread the Gospel in Cameroon through teaching, loving example, and the Holy Spirit. **Thank you for your continuing support of that work.**



(Missions)

Listed below are some highlights or milestones of the past six years:

- ❖ June 2010 work began on the ground in Cameroon
- ❖ Aug 2010 first trip by Board member
- ❖ Jan 2011 renovation of first wooden building completed
- ❖ Aug 2013 addition of George Mbunwe as In-Country Director
- ❖ Sept 2013 began construction of first Learning Center
- ❖ Jan 2014 first full meals cooked on site for children
- ❖ Sept 2014 more than fifty children with sponsors
- ❖ Sept 2015 five new volunteers added
- ❖ Oct 2015 first evangelism training course taught to volunteers
- ❖ Nov 2015 more than 90 children served by RCH
- ❖ Dec 2015 seventh trip by various Board members and friends
- ❖ Dec 2015 construction of second learning center completed



NEW NEEDS:

Upcoming Weddings:

Ross Moore and Hannah Russell

CONTINUING NEEDS:

Our Shut-Ins:

Dot Norton

Louise Armstrong

Joan Buster

Sadie Brewer

George & Martha Clegg

Jamie Mills

Jennifer Garner

Phillip Goodwin

Leah Woods (Brad & Alice Talley's daughter)

Rebekah Jacobs (Brad & Alice Talley's daughter)

Bubbie Yelverton

Verda Laws

Edna Mae McCoy

Jean Yelverton

Billy & Emily Shull

Fran Perkins

Dot Pilcher

John Mark Russell

Faith Whitlock - Christa Chapman's mother

President Barack Obama

Officials in Washington

Governor Phil Bryant

Mayor Robert Smith

Police Chief Oscar Lewis

Sheriff Mike Aldredge

State and City and County Officials

Helping Hands

Life Choices Pregnancy Center

Palmer Home

All churches and pastors in Columbus

April Volunteers

Nursery

- April 3 Lauren Zarandona
Janie Williams
- April 10 Marianne Field
Roger & Joy Day
- April 17 Pat Russell
Patrick & Morgan Shipp
- April 24 Jennifer White
Gee & Becca Allgood

Ushers

- April 3 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,
Brent Drown, Trip Hairston,
- April 10 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,
Richard Laws, Russ Russell,
Brad Talley
- April 17 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,
Matt White, Ben Woodson
- April 24 Ray Kilpatrick, Mike Meharg,
Jay Nail, Patrick Shipp

MONEY COUNTER
Henry Pilkinton

BUDGET REPORT
MARCH 2016

Offerings this Month

\$22,978.81



Gifts to the Church

In Memory of

Clarence Burg

by

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Laws
Mr. & Mrs. Robin Weaver

Jack Laws

by

Mr. & Mrs. Robin Weaver

William McGinty McBride, Jr.

by

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Laws

Sam Pilkinton

by

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Laws

In Honor of

The MSPC Missions Committee

by

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Meharg





2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion during the PM service <i>Bill & Jami Laws</i>	4	5 WIC 10:45 WIC at Night 7:00 Brandon Newton	6 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30a.m. Sandra Pilkinton Fried Chicken	7 Noon Prayer Meeting	8 Lindsay Bragan Beth Ferguson Harper Ferguson	9 Richard Fleming
10 Congregational Luncheon / Visit the Photo Booth	11 H.C. Pilkinton	12 WIC at Night 7:00 <i>Gee & Becca Allgood</i>	13 Let's Bounce at GT Lanes Pizza	14 Noon Prayer Meeting	15	16
17	18	19 WIC at Night 7:00	20 Deli Sandwiches	21 Noon Prayer Meeting	22	23 Paige Pilkinton
24 Brent Drown <i>Tom & Robin Tait</i>	25	26 WIC at Night 7:00 Jennifer White	27 Mark Livingston <i>Brinton & Meryl Fisackerly</i> Fried Chicken	28 Noon Prayer Meeting	29	30

Birthdays

Anniversaries



MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

701 Main Street
P. O. Box 26
Columbus, MS 39703-0026

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Columbus, MS

Permit No. 10



Main Street Presbyterian Church (A Presbyterian Church in America Congregation)

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Church Officer Prayer Time
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

5:30 p.m. Supper
6:00 p.m. Children and Youth Activities
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study and Prayer Time

Thursday Schedule

Weekly Prayer Meeting at Noon