

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
May 2017

To Our Graduates: Be A Seeker

Jesus' well known words of wisdom from the Sermon on the Mount are very relevant for our graduating seniors. He told his disciples to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." To seek after something requires concerted effort. It is an active and intentional pursuit, with a clear goal. I can think of no better time to remind you of these words than the transition from high school to college (or for some of you, college to the work world). Jesus wants you to prioritize seeking his kingdom above all other things. What does this look like in practice? I think it includes at least four things.

- Seek a good church- Make a point to find and regularly attend a good church. The church is where the citizens of the Kingdom of God gather to hear about the King. It is the place where God promises to communicate his grace through gifted teachers, preachers, and leaders (Eph. 4:1-16). I am happy to help guide you to churches near your college.
- Seek godly friends- Pray that God would lead you to develop friendships with fellow believers. You will need Christian companions to encourage you in the faith. You will need their example, their prayers, and their counsel.
- Seek fellowship with God- Don't neglect daily prayer. Jesus saved you so that you could be in fellowship with Him. Never forget that. Life will get busy, but don't use that as an excuse for neglecting time with God. Even Jesus knew when to step away from the craziness of life to pray (Luke 5:15-16).
- Seek accountability- This ties in the seeking a good church and seeking godly friends. Find a community of people who will keep you focused on Kingdom Righteousness. The world is no friend of Jesus. The ways of the world are contrary to the ways of the Kingdom. We are told: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2). You need to be in a community that holds you accountable.

As you start this new season of life be a SEEKER.

Pastor Matocha

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES OF 2017



Douglas Glenn
Heritage Academy
Son of Robby and Frances Glenn



Reed Hairston
Heritage Academy
Daughter of Trip and Bethany Hairston



Jon Thomas Kilpatrick
Lamar County High School
Son of Ray and Amy Kilpatrick



Olivia Laws
Heritage Academy
Daughter of Bill and Jami Laws



Nick Brewer
Mississippi State University – Biochemistry
Will be attending
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Son of Allan and Kitty Brewer



Goodloe Chilcutt
Louisiana Tech University - Forestry
Son of Jack and Laurie Chilcutt



Rachel Russell
Mississippi State University – Communications
Daughter of Mike and Aven Russell



HAPPY HEARTS

On April 18, we met again on the third floor for lunch followed by a movie, this time it was actually a documentary which was produced to provide accurate information. Movies are produced for our entertainment and sometimes for enlightenment. I have personally enjoyed the movie and the documentary. We saw the movie, "The End of the Spear" last month followed by the documentary "Beyond the Gates" this month. Both tell the same story but in different ways. I was pleased that the movie was as accurate as it was, maybe not perfectly accurate, but very near to the true story. Young people would enjoy the movie more, but the documentary includes a series of interviews with the widows of the five martyred missionaries who gave their lives in 1956 in Ecuador. It was moving to hear them talk about their husbands who had lived very normal lives prior to going to Ecuador. They had all attended Wheaton College and were about the same ages. The group had known that Jim Elliott had thought he was called to celibacy. When he fell in love with Elizabeth, he struggled with the idea of love and marriage. He finally decided that she had been placed in his life and that God did not require him to be celibate. She has authored a book which includes many of his personal letters revealing how difficult the struggle really was for him. The women all shared stories about how their husbands had proposed to each of them. Then they related other stories about their lives on the mission field. They were

young people who were beginning their families, raising their children there in the jungles of Ecuador at a compound of a sort. One lady told that her husband loved to dance and to listen to The Hit Parade on the radio. He wanted to teach her to dance, she laughingly said her parents didn't approve of dancing or of The Hit Parade. She said she was not a good dancer, but I imagine her husband would have told it differently. I felt so much of what they talked about was their effort to state that they were normal Americans in a foreign land with a common mission to share the gospel.

We so often find ourselves asking God "why this or why that" though we rarely receive the answer. I try not to ask why. None of these women seemed to ask "why". It was as if they knew the answer without asking the question. There was no mention of a particular scripture or any explanation of how they coped with the situation. I can only imagine that these women must have held to Romans 8:28-29. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Please continue to read to the end of the chapter as it is needed in order to fully understand what Paul is writing. He certainly is not saying that only good things will happen to Christians. He is saying that even the most difficult situations can be used by God in his overall plan for good. The very best thing that can happen to us personally is to be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Verse 35 is particularly important as we contemplate the response of these five women to the brutal deaths of their husbands. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or

distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" No, Paul continues, "not death nor life,nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Mrs. Nate Saint, Mrs. Jim Elliott, Mrs. Pete Fleming, Mrs. Ed McCully, and Mrs. Roger Youderian know the truths taught in this passage in ways we cannot begin to comprehend. The Lord did not forsake them, He held them close and He saw them through this most difficult time in their lives. While our situations are very different from theirs, He will do and does do the same for us.

If you are interested in a thought provoking, awesome hour and a half, I would recommend you view one of this two productions. The documentary is more factual as it provides first-hand information from the people who were there, the people who lived the experience. It is narrated by Steve Saint, Nate Saint's son and Brent Drown's uncle. His voice is convincing, kind, and moving. Steve was a small boy when his father died in the jungle. He tells a story of love, forgiveness, trust, and the desire to spread the Word as we are commanded at the close of Matthew 28. I was equally inspired by the words of Brent's paternal grandfather, Frank Drown. He was involved in recovering the bodies of his dear friends and fellow missionaries. So, with much emotion he relates how traumatic his experience was. With tears falling from his eyes, he said it rained so hard that it became very dark as he and the other rescuers were burying their martyred friends. This I believe, if you view either of these productions, you will be stirred to emotion and to some soul searching of your own. I have been. We all appreciate Brent and Kimber-Leigh Drown's loaning us the documentary. We have purchased the movie and

will be ordering the documentary so that it will be available to our church family. The subject is not an easy one but it is valuable.

Happy Hearts enjoyed left over BBQ from our church luncheon, baked beans, corn salad, and potato salad for lunch. Nell baked delicious brownies for dessert. It was a good and an easy meal. The mood was set by a ceramic pig dressed as a chef for the table centerpiece. He was quite a conversation piece. Nandina branches in green glass vases, placed on teal burlap on top of white table cloths completed the decor. We had a good time sharing a meal and being together. Next month we will be back in the fellowship hall, and I hope each of you will be able to join us for a good time of fellowship and lunch.

Love in Christ,

Bess



Women in the Church



WIC at Night will have their last meeting on May 2 at 7:00 pm in Kathyryn Matocha's home. The Morning Circle will also have their last meeting at 10:45 on the same day in the fellowship hall. Then we will take our summer break until September. If you have not attended either of these meetings you are missing something special. It is so good to get to know the women personally and to share each other's lives. If you cannot attend for the entire meeting, consider coming just for the fellowship times. Both groups have Bible study first followed by a time of fellowship. The morning group has lunch together and maybe you can come eat a sandwich with us.

Laurie Flora has graciously invited WIC at Night to meet in her home for the past few months. She has also served as the Discussion Leader. WIC at Night meets twice each month in the homes of its members. Everyone has enjoyed Laurie's hospitality and her leading the study. Diann Carter and Karmel Crandall hosted the April meeting for the Morning Circle. It was beautiful and delicious. Alice Talley brought us another awesome study, this time in II John.

The WIC Handbooks are available and we want every woman who attends MSPC to have one. They have been placed on the marble top table in the sanctuary, please pick up your copy. You will find a Bible marker included with the handbook. Alice provides verses for meditation and memorization. Please join us in concentrating on these selected verses. Memorize if you can, but if not, meditation will be edifying. Hopefully these verses will bring us together as we study them.

In the Handbook, you probably noticed the Proposed Budget for 2017. We are still a little shy of meeting our budget at this time. Donations are voluntary and can be placed in the collection plate

on Sunday or given to the church secretary or to our Treasurer, Nell Fleming. Be sure you designate WIC on the memo line of your check.

We have a fun meeting planned for all the MSPC women on May 16 between 5:30 and 7:30 at Vitality Spa. Dr. Anna Woodson will speak to us concerning skin care and there will be two cosmetologists available to do makeovers. We will enjoy light refreshments and a brief devotional on inner beauty. I promise you will have a good time and you might be one of those selected for a makeover. Wouldn't that be cool? Make your plans to attend! It would be helpful if you can RSVP to the church office, but don't let failure to do so keep you away!

Bess

WIC Cleanup Day

On April 25 a group of us met to begin cleaning out some overstuffed storage areas. It was a fun time of fellowship as we rolled up our sleeves, breathed a lot of dust, and discarded items that were older than we were! We have more to do but we came a "long way baby"! The group consisted of Laurie Flora, Jean Yelverton, Nell Fleming, Beth Ensley, Crystal Coleman, Alice Talley, Lynda and Mike Meharg, Diann and Mike Carter. Diann was our secretary for a considerable portion of the day. The two Mike's, plus Craig Roseburgh and Brecek Redmond were the muscles behind the decisions and frequently included in making the decision "Yea or Nay", "Stay or Go!" Thank you to each of these people, the ladies were absolutely awesome, but we could not have done it without the four men!!! OH yes, I was there too, bossing everyone around! Somebody has to do it! We accomplished so much more than I had dreamed possible.

Bess

News from Main Street Christian School

The 2016-2017 school year is wrapping up here at Main Street Christian School. All I can say is "Time certainly does fly when you're having fun." Seems like it was yesterday that we were welcoming back students and meeting new friends.

We have made sure to pack as much fun as possible into the school year. I wish I had room to tell of all the great things going on here at Main Street Christian School. It has been amazing to watch the intellectual, social, and spiritual transformation of the children.

We are getting ready to bid Farewell to our Fours as we send them to "big school". My hope and prayer is that as they strive to do their best every day, they will remember that God has made them for His own glory.

Thank you to the parents for sharing your children with us. We've enjoyed them so much!

I want to say a great big "THANK YOU" to our wonderful teachers: Ms. Cathy, Ms. Kathryn, Ms. Kitty, Ms. Beth, and Ms. Gaines. These ladies are gifted with the ability to serve, teach, and love young children. They are exceptional and precious to the life of this ministry. We want to send all our love and warmest wishes to Ms. Kitty Brewer. She will finish up her 11th year in the 3 year-old class in May. We will miss her terribly, but we are grateful for her service in this ministry. God has BLESSED us with the BEST teachers.

As we finish up our year here at Main Street, we want to praise God for blessing our school so abundantly for so many years. We ask for your prayers over the summer as we gear up for another great school year!

In His Service,
Cindy

Faith Promise Pledges

Since February 2015, the Missions Committee has sought to reenergize support for our missions-related programs at Main Street. That year, the participation rate for *Faith Promise* giving doubled, yet the amount pledged, \$46,000, was far less than our previous budgets of \$63,000. The Missions Fund does not have any reserve, so each quarter when we mailed support payments, we were thankful that the amounts pledged were in the bank.

For 2017, we hope to receive 50 pledges totaling an amount of \$56,000, far below our past high budgets of \$63,000. Last year 27 pledges were made totaling \$44,075, but our receipts were less than that amount.

The Missions Committee meets June 19th to set the budget this year. **The current pledge amount means we will have to remove some more missionaries from our support list or reduce what we send each of them.** If you have comments or suggestions for the Missions Committee, especially support preferences, please share them with a committee member or Pastor Todd, or attend the June 19 meeting.

Please pray that the Lord will lead the hearts and minds of our Main Street congregation including the Missions Committee. Ask that we discern His will for us regarding our support of world missions. Seek His guidance as we pledge to work together as a church body to expand the spread of the Gospel. Pray for each of us to have deepened trust that He will continue to provide all we need, and more.



PRAYER WARRIOR UPDATE 77

EASTER always reminds us of NEW LIFE - Especially of that time when Christ became a Reality and began living His Life through us. Jack has written down when that happened to him...and how his life was changed, and how that change led to his desire to change a continent for Christ. I wanted to share that experience with you as many people often ask us, "Why are you still on the mission field after almost 50 years?" I think he gives the answer:

HAVING THE THRILL OF A LIFETIME RIDING THE MISSIONARY WAVE

It was on the beach at Waikiki that Nell and I caught this wave. It was on the rise, in its infancy, just beginning its roll. The date - March of 1957.

We were strolling the beach - drinking it all in. We had the world by the tail...In our early 30's, beautiful new home on one of our fruit orchards in what is now known as Silicon Valley, bumper crops, expanding bank accounts and a wonderful growing family.

There, lying on the beach, soaking in the Hawaiian sun was a familiar face - a face that had recently graced the cover of Time magazine - my former pastor, Bishop Gerald Kennedy, the youngest Bishop in the history of the Methodist denomination. "I'm preaching Sunday, why don't you two join me," he said. As great an orator as he was, it wasn't his message that enabled us to catch the wave - it was the little pamphlet, "Daily Bread", that we picked up on the way out of church. Right there on our hotel porch, overlooking the rolling waves of the Pacific Ocean, I began reading "Daily Bread" to my Nell.

She had recently been converted and, unknown to me, was praying fervently for my salvation. Emboldened by my desire to share "Daily Bread" with her, she gave me the greatest birthday gift of my life - a BIBLE! I was on a God-Given Roll. I now wanted to read that which I had rejected. My grandfather had given me a little blue servicemen's New Testament when I left home to become a Naval Officer during World War II. It was neatly stowed away at the bottom of my Duffle Bag - never to be opened.

Not so with my Birthday gift! The day I began reading this "gift of gifts" was the day I caught the MISSIONARY WAVE. Unknown to me, her gift of the Bible was wrapped with her persistent prayers. Yes, for my salvation but more than that -she wanted us to ride the MISSIONARY WAVE together! This you must know about my Nell - she has a special 'IN' with God, for when she prays, He acts!! As I read through the New Testament, I found myself falling in love with my Savior. How did I know? When I came to the account of His crucifixion, I cried - and I don't cry easily.

Some months later, while pruning and shaping newly planted pear trees on a beautiful early spring, California morning, God Called!! His message was as clear as crystal, "I don't want you in the orchards any more. I want you serving Me!" I dropped my pruning shears to the ground, ran to our beautiful home shouting, "God's Called me, God's Called me!" With a joy of one whose fondest wish had come true, my Nell threw her arms around me saying, "God has answered my prayers!" In less than two years, The MISSIONARY WAVE had swept us off the solid rock foundations of home, occupation, family, friends and all its security, and we gladly followed the flow convinced that riding the "MISSIONARY WAVE" was to be the "THRILL OF OUR LIFETIME". It is now 2017 - 60 years have passed us by - and we're still RIDING THE MISSIONARY WAVE...HAVING THE THRILL OF A LIFETIME!" ..by Jack Chinchon

Easter is over but the message is still the same. "Go into all the World ..and tell others that HE LIVES"!

On Easter Sunday, our son, Palmer's Church, THE GROVE in Chandler, AZ, shared that message with more than 5000 people. That church is on a MISSIONARY ROLL as they send out team after team to Liberia, to Malawi, to Uganda, to Haiti with that same message. And do you know what? They are having THE THRILL OF A LIFETIME!

Even as are we. And as long as you PRAYER WARRIORS stand with us, you, too, will share in the joy of that MISSIONARY WAVE!

Nell Chinchon

Larry Brown Guest Preaching

May 28

Larry Brown, together with his son Carey, will be returning to Main Street on May 28. Larry will preach the morning worship service. He teaches and leads evangelism outreach at African Bible College in Malawi.

On Home Assignment While Malawi Floods

The little African country of Malawi is beset with more devastation from nature. This time it is flooding. This follows two consecutive years of drought. Malawi was already facing poor harvests and hunger from lack of rain, now the rains have returned with a vengeance, causing homes to be destroyed and families with no roof over their heads to protect them from the continuing deluge. The country continues to be the site of a massive humanitarian crisis. Across the highway from African Bible College is the community known as Mziliza. A number of ABC staff members live here. I'm told that seventy-three homes have collapsed due to the rains. The houses here typically are built with mud bricks that don't stand up very well under the elements. African Bible College is involved with the rebuilding effort and is raising funds for needed materials.

Recently we had a bit of a health scare. Carey had to get a physical in order to play soccer for his school. I took him to one of those drug store clinics, having been advised to do so by one of the team's soccer moms. The nurse there said Carey had a seriously elevated blood pressure and needed to see his primary care physician immediately. Since we're missionaries on home assignment, Carey's primary care physician is in Malawi. I emailed missionary doctors in Malawi that know Carey and me. They didn't seem unduly worried; they said that maybe the problem was a blood pressure cup that was too tight, giving a false reading. I took Carey to a pediatrician at a large children's hospital here in Memphis. He thoroughly examined Carey and pronounced his blood pressure to be normal. He too mentioned the possibility that the blood pressure cup at the drug store clinic was too tight. I've made up my mind never to go to a drug store or grocery store clinic again! The good news is that Carey is now cleared to resume

sports at his school. More good news is that after a bit of a struggle, his grades are coming up.

Carey and I are still on home assignment (formerly "furlough"). We have had the opportunity to reconnect with supporting churches, families, and individuals.

I recently was privileged to attend a week-long missions conference at my late wife's home church in Largo, Florida. The people were as warm and open as I remembered, and I enjoyed telling the story of African Bible College to several small groups. I enjoy attending these missions conferences because they seem to do a wonderful job of communicating the realities of missions to the congregations.

We are looking forward to returning to Malawi probably in late June. I love teaching. I've been successful in changing textbooks both for my world history and my systematic theology courses. When you've been teaching as long as I have, you need to change things up a bit or it gets a bit tedious. By changing textbooks, lecture notes, etc., you stay fresh and engaging standing before the students.

As we approach Easter I hope all of you enjoy a blessed season of renewal of faith and fellowship with the Lord. Thank you once again for the years of encouragement, support, and prayer.

*Your brother in the Lord and partner for the Harvest,
Larry Brown*

*Bibb County Correctional Facility: We have just finished a new semester entering our 11th year teaching Comparative Religions at this prison. Some write and tell us of the change in their lives. Pray that God will be pleased to use this course another 11 years.

*Third Millennium Ministries: This is a ministry of free worldwide seminary education headed up by Dr. Richard Pratt. 3rd Mil interviews various professors at a large number of seminaries across the country and BTS is one of those. Last month was the third time I was privileged to be interviewed as part of their free curriculum. The topic was Church History, a very appropriate topic since we are celebrating the 500th birthday of the Protestant Reformation. One of the questions I chose to answer in the interview was "What is Simony"? The interviewer said I was the only one who had signed up for that one. Simony was a practice of buying and selling spiritual goods in the Catholic Church before and during the time of the Reformation. This not only had to do with the buying and selling of church positions, but the selling of indulgences, which upon payment of a price could lessen one's time in purgatory.

The first quarter of 2017 has been extremely busy at ARC and for me personally. My wife was very ill for six weeks with flu and pneumonia. Her 91 year-old mother, who lives with us, had the flu at the same time. My wife is now back at her job. Please pray for her continued health.

This came at a time when we are seriously low in support. Would you please consider a special donation? I am currently far behind in salary. Any amount would be very helpful and we would be eternally grateful.

God bless you for your faithfulness to ARC!

Clete Hux



NEW NEEDS:

VBS Volunteers

CONTINUING NEEDS:

Our Shut-Ins:

- Louise Armstrong
- Sadie Brewer
- George & Martha Clegg
- Verda Laws
- Fran Perkins
- Dot Pilcher
- Jamie Mills
- Emily Shull

- Jennifer Garner
- Phillip Goodwin
- Sue Lovegren
- Bubbie Yelverton
- Edna Mae McCoy
- John Mark Russell
- Faith Whitlock

-
- President Donald Trump
 - Officials in Washington
 - Governor Phil Bryant
 - Mayor Robert Smith
 - Police Chief Tony Carleton
 - Sheriff Mike Aldredge
 - State and City and County Officials

-
- Helping Hands
 - Life Choices Pregnancy Center
 - Palmer Home
 - All churches and pastors in Columbus

May Volunteers

Nursery

- May 7 Cathy Duncan, Roger & Joy Day
- May 14 Kimber-Leigh Drown,
Gee & Becca Allgood
- May 21 Sandra Pilkinton, Janie Williams
- May 28 Shirley Swoope, Karmel Crandall

Ushers

- May 7 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,
Matt White, Ben Woodson
- May 14 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,
Mike Meharg, Jay Nail,
Patrick Shipp
- May 21 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,
Brent Drown, Trip Hairston,
Henry Pilkinton
- May 28 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,
Richard Laws, Russ Russell,
Brad Talley



**MONEY
COUNTER**

Roger Day

Budget Report
April 2017

Offerings this Month
\$47,191



Gifts to the Church

In Memory of
Mary Ann Nickell

by

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Franks
Mr. & Mrs. Robin Weaver

In Memory of
Dot Norton

by

Dr. Susan A. Danahy
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Franks
Mr. & Mrs. Robin Weaver

In Memory of
William Lafayette (Billy) Shull
by

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Franks
Mr. & Mrs. Robin Weaver





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Trip Hairston	2 WIC 10:45 WIC at Night 6:30 Olivia Laws	3 Last Wednesday Service until fall Charles Glenn	4 Fran Perkins	5	6 Brinton Fisackerly Billy Swedenburg
7 Communion	8	9 Daniel Goodwin Taylor & Lindsay Bragan	10 Happy Hearts 10:30 Sammy Clemons Patrick Shipp	11	12 Meryl Fisackerly Jane Rogowski	13
14 <i>Mother's Day</i> No Evening Service Grover & Melissa Allgood	15	16 WIC 5:30-7:30 "A Night at the Spa" Thomas Glenn Mike & Lynda Meharg	17 Anna Woodson Jesse & Cathy Duncan	18 Evan Matocha	19	20
21 High School Senior Breakfast & Recognition Charles Swoope	22	23 Ellen Elizabeth Allgood	24 Chris & Melinda Howard	25	26 Matt White Brent & Kimber- Leigh Drown	27 Ann Marie Chilcutt
28 Larry Brown Visiting Minister No Evening Service	29 Bertram Jenkins	30	31			

Faith Expedition ~ God's Treasure Revealed

We're going on a **FAITH EXPEDITION** in Vacation Bible School!

Location: Main Street Presbyterian Church

Date: June 26-30 Time: 9:00 – 12:00

Ages: Children having completed K4 – 5th Grade

Pre-register at www.mainstreetpres.org or

Complete a registration form at the church office

For more information call 662-328-2523

Adults: Don't forget we need you also!

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the hall.





Clean Up Day at MSPC

April 25, 2017

Whatever you do, work heartily,
as for the Lord and not for men.

Colossians 3:23



**MAIN STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

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
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Thursday Schedule

Weekly Prayer Meeting at Noon