

The Main Thing

Main Street Presbyterian Church
December 2019

The Holy Spirit and the Incarnation

Christmas is a time for the church to reflect on the glorious incarnation of the Son of God. Not surprisingly, much of the focus is on one member of the Trinity. Sermons and Christmas plays emphasize Jesus. However, in the gospel narratives of Jesus' birth the role of the Holy Spirit is equally prominent. The angel Gabriel informs Mary that "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God." This is also a point of emphasis in the ancient Creeds of the church. In the Apostles Creed we confess Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit", and in the Nicene Creed we confess Jesus was "incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary." My sermons this Christmas season will focus on the Holy Spirit's work in the incarnation. My hope is that we will see the mystery of the virgin birth as a work of the entire Trinity.

Pastor Matocha

"The Spirit is active at every stage of redemption, especially in the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph is informed that Mary's pregnancy is a result of the Spirit's work (Matt. 1:20). Gabriel tells Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you: therefore, the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). The angel compares the Spirit's involvement in Jesus's conception to his work in creation, where he brooded over the primeval waters (Gen. 1:2). Jesus is to be the author of a new creation, begun, as the first, through the overshadowing action of the Spirit of God. In turn, the holiness of the child is the result of his conception by the Holy Spirit.

In Luke's account, the Spirit surrounds the events at the nativity. The Russian theologian Boris Bobrinskoy writes of 'an exceptional convergence between the outpouring of the Spirit and the birth of Christ,' and describes the outpoured Spirit as 'the Spirit of the incarnation, the One in whom and through whom the Word of God breaks into history.'

Robert Letham, *Systematic Theology* pp. 86-87



Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

On November 19 as we entered the fellowship hall, Happy Hearts members were spellbound by the awesome Thanksgiving decorations! Kitty and Nell had done a wonderful job placing fall leaves, pumpkins of every description, Pilgrims, turkeys, and the beautiful fall arrangement that had been in the sanctuary on the prior Sunday. Jean had graciously given Kitty permission to use it for Happy Hearts. The flowers were the perfect colors to blend with Nell's collection of fall leaves and other decorations. It was truly beautiful!

The decorations were just the beginning of a very special occasion! One of our newest elders, Justin Harris, shared his heart and soul as he told his life story. It was a combination of his life before and after Christ and before and after Ivy Burris! His testimony was one of sin, repentance, thanksgiving, conviction of God's absolute sovereignty and grace...a new life in Jesus Christ. Ivy is a huge part of his spiritual walk which is not at all surprising. They began dating when she was a junior in high school and Justin was a senior. After graduation he attended East Mississippi Community College at Scooba. When Ivy graduated, she began her studies at MSU. Justin rather jokingly said that he knew right away he needed to be at MSU also or Ivy just might get away! Smart guy!! We know the rest of the story, they completed their educations, married and have been blessed with three precious children, Whitt, Dean, and Eliza Jaye! And we have been equally blessed by their decision to join Main Street Presbyterian Church! Both Justin and Ivy are very active leaders in our church. Their children are active participants and such a joy to teach.

Justin shared several verses with regards to Thanksgiving from a spiritual perspective and that have made a difference in his life and the way he strives to live it. Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:16-18 to rejoice always (evermore), to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances. Rejoicing is joy in Christ and is so much deeper than just being happy. True heartfelt rejoicing stems from prayer that

seeks to align our will with God's will. I John 5: 14-15 was his reference. Giving thanks is a natural outflow from joy and praying to align ourselves with God's will within our lives. It is a cycle: rejoice, prayer, thanks and over again and again. He quoted Charles Spurgeon as saying, "When joy and prayer are married, their firstborn child is gratitude". All well-made points and true, but it doesn't stop here! Justin encouraged us to study I Peter 3:15 where we are told to always be prepared to share our faith in Jesus Christ and to be able to express the reason for our hope. When we have Christ, we have joy in our hearts, and we should want to share our reason for hope with others. From there, Justin turned to Romans 5:1-5 which is somewhat of a summary of all that he had said. I encourage you to turn to this reference and give it some serious thought. We were blessed to hear Justin share the Word and boldly state his faith in Jesus Christ. It was also a blessing to have Ivy and their children join us. Young people like the Harris family are the future of our church and we are grateful for each and every one who worships at our church.

Happy Hearts enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving feast. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. Eleanor Hairston, Jean Yelverton, Charlotte Hunley, Ann Barkley, Edna Mae McCoy, Ann Chilcutt, and Nell Fleming brought delicious food! The Chilcutts, the Brewers, Nancy Franks, Jean and her sister, Bet, did the much-appreciated task of cleaning up the kitchen!

Our Christmas Happy Hearts will meet at Lion Hills on December 17 at 11:00. This year we have a reserved room. Our program will be Christmas carols and the stories behind them. Please join us and be sure to RSVP to the church office. Bring someone with you if you like. The meal will be paid for and the program will be interesting! Hope to see you there!







Children's Ministry News

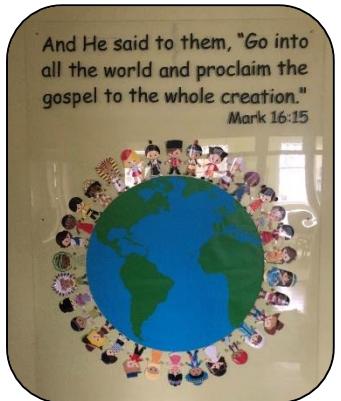
Puppeteering — At the beginning of the semester our children at Sunday School showed an interest in putting on a puppet show. Since several bags of puppets had been discovered in a dark abyss of the building, we've been thrilled to put these to effective use! When the need for a puppet theater was mentioned, Tristan Landon enthusiastically took on the task. In no time, he constructed a FABULOUS theater, even sewing the curtains for it! **THANK YOU, TRISTAN!** To date about half a dozen puppet shows have been presented.



The scripts we have been using are designed to teach important life lessons to children using Biblical references or have Bible stories woven into the scripts to relate modern day issues to stories from the Bible. The others reference Scripture to help teach children right from wrong. Scripts are light and humorous while addressing sensitive issues.

Our Sunday School Area — Over the course of 2019, our talented and creative "Miss" Shirley has waved her magic and given of her resources to beautify some of our wall space with Scripture along with graphics. If you haven't seen these, we invite you to pop up to 3rd floor and peek in to look. **THANK YOU, "MISS SHIRLEY!"**

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'
Mark 16:15



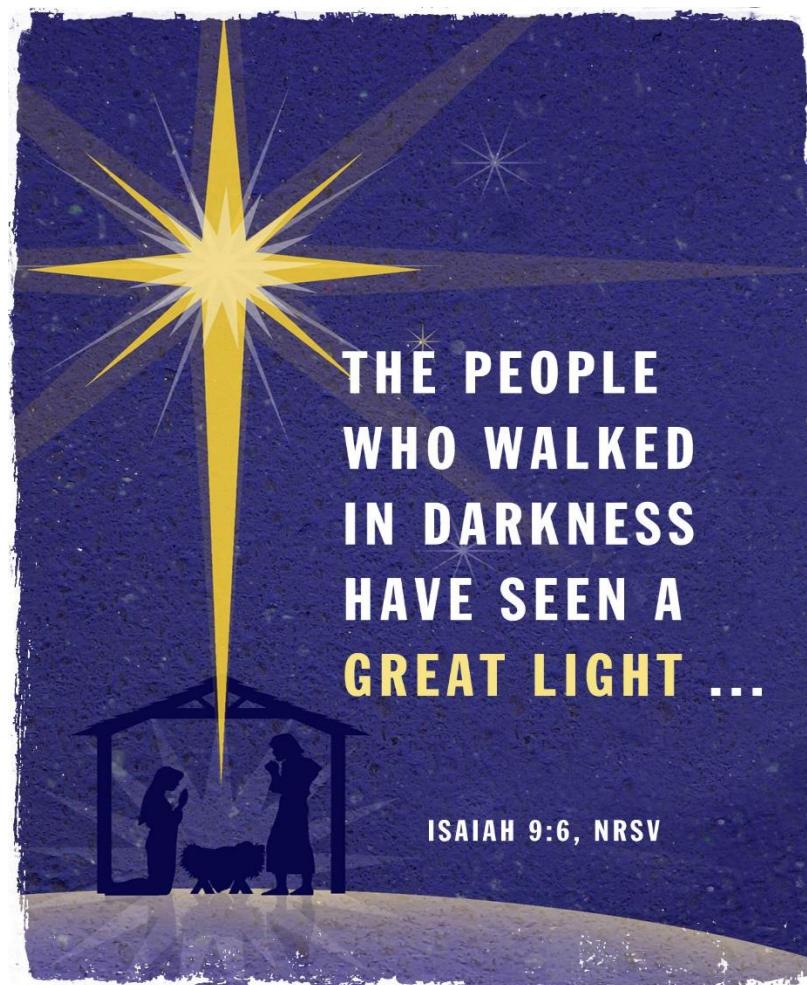
Our Gratitude Tree —

With Thanksgiving upon us, we took time during Sunday School to consider our many blessings and wrote some of these on leaves we then added to our Gratitude Tree (also made by "Miss" Shirley). Our children expressed thankfulness for a multitude of blessings! We also decorated Christmas cards for our missionaries and dear shut ins.



Songs for a Savior — On Wednesday evenings this fall our covenant children in grades 1-5 explored how the stories, lessons and lives of the people in the Bible point us to the redeeming work of Jesus. They've learned songs and memorized scripture from both the Old and New Testaments that point to not just the birth of Jesus, but the reasons why He was born. It has been a celebration of Christmas every week! The children have alternated weekly between choir and lessons on the lives of Hannah, David, Mary, Zachariah and the angels. By studying the prophecies, prayers and songs from the lives of these witnesses, our prayer has been that children would come to understand that as sinners we live in darkness, but in Christ the Word is fulfilled such that, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men". (John 1:4) On December 15, the children will help lead the worship service with a special program that shares these songs and scriptures. In Galatians 4:4-5, we read, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Christmas marks the "fullness of time." We cannot wait to celebrate this reality with our church family and others. -Lauren Zarandona

Let every heart prepare Him room...



FAITH PROMISE UPDATE

The total of the Faith Promise Pledges received for this year was \$38,951. Since February and through the month of November, we have received donations totaling \$30,643.30.

In each bulletin, there is a list of the missionaries and the ministries Main Street supports by these funds. Please remember to mark your gifts as Missions Fund or Faith Promise so they are accounted for properly.

We have between now and February 16, 2020 to meet our pledges for the current budgeted year. The 2020 Missions Conference will mark the beginning of the new pledge year. An end of the year gift is a great way to fulfill your pledge!

And might you consider a gift of funds outside a pledge? There are always ongoing needs and new opportunities for our missions partners to put our gifts to use for His Kingdom work.



The Men's Prayer Breakfast met on November 13. The crowd was down; no doubt due to the super cold morning. Those in attendance were treated to a really great meal prepared by Patrick, Jay and Bill. Danny Williams provided the message followed by a time of prayer.

We will not have a breakfast during December. The next scheduled breakfast will be January 8, 2020. There will be more information on that later.

Mike

December Events

- December 4 – Last Wednesday Activities for this semester
- December 7 – WIC Cookie Swap 2 p.m. at MSPC
- December 8 – Communion
- December 11 – Dress Rehearsal for the Christmas Program at 6 p.m.
- December 15 – “Songs for a Savior” Mingle and Jingle
- December 17 – Happy Hearts at Lion Hills 11 a.m.
- December 19 – MSCS Christmas Program
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5 p.m.
- December 25 – Christmas Office Closed
- December 26 – Office Closed





I'm so blessed to be back at MSCS this year! Thank you for sharing your precious children with me! I get to share the special 2s with Miss Cathy and Miss Amy! In this class we work a lot on learning to obey, share, sit still for a few minutes, and be kind with our words and hands. Each week we have a unit that helps us learn about different things. For Thanksgiving we made hand-print turkey t-shirts and we learned about Pilgrims and Indians. We made feather headbands and necklaces. We also enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast with all the other classes. Those are especially fun units that we all really enjoy!

We are excited about the Christmas season approaching! We love sharing the Christmas story! We will be having a birthday party for Jesus and practicing a lot on our special Christmas program for our parents and families.

It has been a great start to the year. It's hard to believe how fast this semester is going! Teachers and students alike will enjoy a week off celebrating thankfulness to God for His goodness to us with our friends and family. Happy Thanksgiving from MSCS!

Love,

Miss Judy





Women In the Church

Bess Swedenburg

WIC will be hosting the annual Cookie Swap on December 7 in our fellowship hall. We are expecting a larger group in attendance and decided the church would be a better location this year. The Children's Choir will be presenting our program which will be very special. Jack Hairston will be reading the Christmas story from Matthew and Luke. We have enjoyed so many wonderful programs over the years and this will be one of the Best! Rhonda White is always a major factor in our having a good program and she will be leading this one also. Lauren Zarandona will be instrumental also. Colleen Meek is preparing some activities for the children which will be entertaining and delightful. Thank you to these three ladies for their time and devotion to our children's ministries. Each of them is gifted and more than happy to share their gifts for our children's spiritual growth.

Some of you have not attended a Cookie Swap at Main Street Presbyterian. Let me assure you it is lots of fun, a great way to get to know others, an opportune time to bring guests, and a very laid-back event. If you would like to participate in the cookie swap, you bring six bags of cookies with six cookies in each bag. One bag will be used for refreshments, but you will actually "swap" the remaining five bags. There will be a huge variety of cookies and it is exciting to decide just which bags you want to take home. Don't worry if your recipe doesn't yield 36 cookies, if you bring four bags you take home three. One bag will still be used for refreshments. And if you don't have time to bake cookies, you come, have a good time, enjoy the refreshments and don't worry about not bringing cookies. There will be plenty!

We are meeting at 2 o'clock in the fellowship hall and plan to be finished by 3:30. Bring your children or grandchildren and your friends. This is a WIC event designed especially for our women to have a time of fellowship and enjoy the children of our church. It has been successful every year and will be again this year. Michele Watkins, wife of Chad Watkins who was one of our assistant pastors, suggested the Cookie Swap and we have truly enjoyed the activity year after year. We look forward to seeing each of you there!



**Cookie
Exchange**



December

"Mingle and Jingle"

November finally brought some cooler weather and with it came several chilis and soups to make us all feel warm. It was nice to see many friends and new visitors to gather at our tables. My thanks for the participation and help each month.

Let's now turn our attention to December's "Mingle and Jingle" celebration. It will be Sunday, December 15th, following the morning worship service. This service will include the Children's Christmas Program. Last year we welcomed many visitors and extended family members and look forward to that again this year.

Families will bring finger foods, appetizers, and desserts. I'm giving suggestions for each area, but as always, *use your imagination!*

If your last name begins with...

A-D Appetizers – Chips & Dip, Vegetables & Dip, Fruit Salads, Fresh Fruit

E-L Cold Finger Foods – Small Sandwiches, Wraps, Cheese and crackers, Cheese balls, Sausage Cheese Balls, 7 Layer Dip & Chips

M-S Hot Finger Foods – Chicken Wings, Meatballs, Hot Sandwiches, Cocktail Sausages, Pigs-in-a-Blanket, Chili con Queso & Chips

T-Z Dessert – Brownies, Cupcakes, Fudge, Christmas Cookies, Candy, Sweet Breads

Circle December 15th on your calendar for a Christmas celebration with our children. Following the service, come and share some wonderful treats as we enjoy our four F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Merry Christmas,

Lynda





December Volunteers

Nursery

Dec. 1	Camille Pittman Gee & Becca Allgood
Dec. 8	Meryl Fisackerly Cathy Duncan, Joy Day
Dec. 15	Hannah Nail Pat Russell, Kitty Brewer
Dec. 22	Shirley Swoope Margo Allgood, Laurie Flora
Dec. 29	Marianne Field Amber Henson, Meryl Fisackerly

Security/Usher Team

Dec. 1	Ray Kilpatrick, Carson Miller, Grover Allgood, Bill Laws, Ben Woodson, Stephen Matocha
Dec. 8	Justin Harris, Henry Pilkinton, Gray Flora, Phillip Goodwin, Jay Nail, Russ Russell
Dec. 15	Matt White, Thomas Glenn, Allan Brewer, Dan Williams, Trip Hairston
Dec. 22	Roger Day, Gee Allgood, Mike Meharg, Ed White, Patrick Shipp, Jon Watson
Dec. 29	Thomas Glenn, Roger Day, Grover Allgood, Bill Laws, Ben Woodson, Stephen Matocha

DECEMBER

Money Counter

Henry Pilkinton

November

Budget Report

Offerings this Month

\$ 18,105

Praise:

Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong
George Clegg
Betty Weaver

Keith Cole

Cathy Duncan

Phillip Goodwin

Debbie Jenkins

Poogie Laws

Dan Matocha

John Mark Russell

Brad Talley

Faith Whitlock

Moms to be:

Jelaine Fondren
Anna Landon
Katie Singletary

President Donald Trump

Officials in Washington

Governor Phil Bryant

Mayor Robert Smith

Police Chief Fred Shelton

Sheriff Mike Aldredge

State, City, and County Officials

Helping Hands

Life Choices Pregnancy Center

Palmer Home

All Churches and Pastors in Columbus

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Guest Minister Rev. Ben Gladd</i> <i>Russ & Pat Russell</i> <i>Cathy Duncan</i>	2 <i>Joy Day Kay Swoope</i>	3	4 <i>Last Wednesday activities for this semester</i> <i>Children's Choir Practice</i>	5 <i>John Hunter Allgood George Clegg Armand Fondren Katie Weber</i>	6	7 <i>Cookie Swap MSPC 2 p.m.</i> 
8 <i>Communion</i>	9 <i>Carson & Ann Marie Miller</i>	10	11 <i>Dress Rehearsal for the Christmas Program 6 p.m.</i> <i>Nick Brewer Jack Chilcutt</i>	12	13	14 <i>Margo Allgood Amy Kilpatrick</i> <i>Allan & Kitty Brewer</i>
15 <i>Christmas Program "Songs for a Savior"</i> <i>Mingle & Jingle</i> 	16	17 <i>Happy Hearts at Lion Hills 11:00 a.m.</i> <i>Bertram & Debbie Jenkins</i>	18	19 <i>MSCS Program Sanctuary</i>	20	21 <i>Nick Hairston</i> <i>Reed Hairston Elizabeth Woodson</i>
22 <i>Nell Fleming</i> <i>Nick & Eleanor Hairston</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service 5 p.m.</i>	25  <i>Melissa Allgood</i>	26 <i>Marianne Field</i>	27	28
29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>				





Merry Christmas!

**MAIN STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2019

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

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