

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 2016 Missions Month

Missions Conference

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Rafael Ku



We welcome Rev. Rafael Ku to Main Street as our Keynote Speaker this year. *A Heart for the Harvest* will be the theme of his messages. He will share presentations with us about Bethany Presbyterian Church

and the Belize Theological Seminary during the Sunday School time period on conference Sunday. We are delighted to also welcome Sagri Ku, his wife, to be here in fellowship with us.

Rafael is one of five native Belizean pastors in the Presbyterian Church in Belize. He began pursuit of his Bible degree in Guatemala and then continued in Michigan at the Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids. From there, Rafael continued his studies at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS. As a graduate of RTS Jackson, his focus became establishing churches from a Reformed Presbyterian perspective in his home country.

Continued on Page 2, Rev. Rafael Ku

**A Heart for the Harvest
Conference Schedule: Page 3**

Guest Pastor

Rev. Hunter Brewer

**The Gift,
The Giver,
The Glory**

**Faith Promise
Sunday, Feb. 21**



We will welcome the Rev. Hunter Townsend Brewer to the pulpit on Feb. 21. He is the Ministry Coordinator for the Mid-South PCA Church Planting Network. Hunter will be focusing on the importance of missions giving. Faith Promise will also be addressed, in case you may be unfamiliar with the concept. He will also be sharing a presentation about the Mid-South Church Planting Network during Sunday School that day. (See page 5 for more information.)

Rev. Brewer helped found the Mid-South PCA Church Planting Network in 2013 and serves as their Ministry Coordinator. He is also the founding minister of Madison Heights Church PCA (Madison, MS) and was their senior minister for eight years.

Continued on page 2, Rev. Hunter Brewer

Saturday Visiting Speakers: page 4

Rev. Rafael Ku, *continued from page 1*

From 1987 - 1993, Rafael served as pastor of two Spanish speaking congregations in northern Belize. Then the Ku family moved to the Cayo District of western Belize to plant a church.

Bethany Presbyterian Church began by Rafael's family making friends in the community, and then building relationships with their new friends. A children's ministry and Hope Preschool was (and is) a primary means of outreach. Through the children's ministry, the Lord has brought several to faith. From those few, Bethany began to take shape. Today, Rafael and his family still work to grow that church plant. A major emphasis in their church has been and continues to be the promotion of healthy marriages and stable families.

While Bethany Church does not have a formal Session just yet, they do have most of the other elements of a fruitful church and seek to address the evangelical needs of the community. There are approximately 50 participating in the ministry overall, of which 27 are Communicant members. There are 3 men laboring alongside Rafael in church leadership. Pray the Lord will raise up more Christians to share in their discipleship work of the couples, men, ladies, teenagers and children at Bethany Church! A hope of Rafael's heart is to see Bethany Church grow with a vision to plant other churches in the area.

At one time, Rafael served as the General Manager for the Presbyterian Church Schools in Belize. Now, he serves as local manager of Hope Preschool. Presently they have 45 children enrolled. He hopes the preschool will continue to be a means to see the church grow.

Rafael also teaches at the Seminary. In July 2007, he was appointed as **President of the**

Belize Presbyterian Theological Seminary. They train not only candidates to the ministry, but also other potential leaders for the churches. The Seminary partners with Third Millennium Ministries, using their video lessons for training.

Please pray for perseverance and strength for for Rafael, his family and their ministry work.

Also please pray:

- ❖ That the lost will be reached and many come to faith through their ministry.
- ❖ For God to raise up and equip other men for leadership roles in Bethany Church. For solid Reformed Theological training to be available to native pastors.
- ❖ For the Preschool to serve to win others for the church.
- ❖ For an 8-10 seater vehicle to facilitate transportation within the different ministries.
- ❖ For a new laptop and a new cell phone. The ones Rafael has are very old.

Rev. Hunter Brewer, *continued from page 1*

Before pastoring at Madison Heights Church, he was the assistant minister at Lakeland Presbyterian Church in Flowood, MS.

Hunter is from Gadsden, Alabama and graduated from Samford University and Reformed Theological Seminary Orlando. He is working toward his Doctor of Ministry degree at Reformed Theological Seminary Jackson.

Rev. Brewer is married to Vicki Klauser of Tupelo, Mississippi. They have two children (Avery 8 and John Hunter 5) and live in Oxford, Mississippi.

2015 Conference Guide

A Heart for the Harvest is the theme of our 2016 Missions Conference. Our Keynote Speaker, Rev. Rafael Ku, will be preaching during each of the two sessions on Saturday as well as the Sunday morning Worship service. During each session on Saturday and during the Sunday School time period on Sunday, our missionary guest speakers will share presentations about their ministries.

We ask you to join with us in faithful prayer as we approach the Missions Conference. To support MSPC's prayer efforts, a prayer schedule will be posted outside the church office. There will be ample time slots to sign up for on the schedule, the goal being to have someone praying for missions for as many hours of the day as possible leading into the conference. Displays for each missions partner Main Street supports will be set up in the chapel. Copies of their recent prayer requests and newsletters will be available for you there.

The Junior and Senior High Youth group will gather Friday evening for supper. Our RUF Interns and the Dale Ellison family will be their guests.

The Deacons welcome you to stay Saturday for supper as they host their annual fish fry. Our February Fellowship Luncheon is planned for Sunday following the worship service. These meals are always a time of great food and fellowship with our guests.

Infant and toddler childcare will be available during all sessions in the nurseries. Children's programs are also planned.

If you need transportation, please contact Diann in the Church office; we will see that you have it.

On Saturday, during Session II, we will collect a special offering for the missions fund. Of course, you can give any time!

Faith Promise pledges are the means through which we collect Missions funds. The pledge total is used to set the annual budget. If you are unfamiliar with the program, free materials are available through the church. On Feb. 21, Rev. Hunter Brewer has been invited to preach, specifically addressing *Faith Promise* giving.

Please make plans to join us for the Missions Conference weekend. This very special occasion at Main Street is the time each year when we renew our personal and our congregational commitment to the Great Commission.

2016 MISSIONS CONFERENCE WEEKEND

Friday, February 26

6:00 p.m. Jr.-Sr. High Supper

Saturday, February 27

1:30-3:30 pm Session I

3:30 Comfort break/refreshments

4:00-6:00 pm Session II

6:00 pm Please join us for a Church-wide Supper

Sunday, Feb. 28

9:30 am Sunday School

With Guest Speaker

**10:40 am Morning Worship Service
Session III**

Please join us for a Church-wide Luncheon following the service

**6:00 pm Evening Worship Service
With Pastor Todd Matocha**

Presentations by the missionaries and the keynote messages challenge and inspire us. Each year we are blessed to enjoy especially rich times of fellowship over meals with each other and our guests. If you've missed it before, why not make plans now to come be a part of it?

Guest Speaker Dale Ellison



We are happy to welcome the Ellisons back to Main Street. They are currently on HMA, so they don't have to travel all the way from Peru to be here! At one time, Dale and Susan were members here at Main Street. They will be guests at the Friday pizza supper with the Youth Group and Dale will speak at the Men's Prayer Breakfast and then during the conference on Saturday.

Dale and Susan are from Jackson, MS and are members of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Dale is a medical technologist and Susan has a degree in communication. They have served previously in Slovakia with Mission to the World on a church planting team.

Dale oversees management of medical staff, plans for future growth, oversees maintenance of facilities, develops the health network in Trujillo, and plans medical campaigns and outreach. Susan homeschools four of their five children (their eldest is at school in the U.S.) and keeps their home open in hospitality to their community.

<http://www.perumission.org>



Guest Speaker Christina Thomas



We also welcome Christina Thomas to come and update us about her recent ministry change.

Christina became a Christian while in college. Two months after receiving Christ, she felt God calling her to the mission field. At that point, she purposed her life to follow the will of God. She became a registered nurse and spent six years working in a hospital in order to gain more medical expertise. She went on numerous short-term mission trips with MTW as she was discerning which country the Lord was calling her to serve. After seven years of searching and praying, her heart was drawn to Cambodia.

In Cambodia from 2008-2015, Christina participated in medical outreach, taught English classes, and was the site leader for a church plant. Now, God has given her the unique opportunity to use her background to mobilize others called to go. Christina serves as a medical recruiter for MTW, working with medical professionals to explore their call to longer-term missions and helping them as they transition to the mission field. She also promotes missions among young professionals and college students. She is committed to serving Jesus wherever He leads, and is excited to be encouraging others to do the same.

<https://www.mtw.org>





Reaching, Growing, & Glorifying

Currently, the Mid-South PCA Church Planting Network supports four church plants. They are: Christ Fellowship in Horn Lake, MS; Christ Community in Fayetteville, AR; Hope Church PCA in Bryant, AR (suburb of Little Rock); Lafayette, LA Church Plant.

What's Brewing?

Rev. Hunter Townsend Brewer is the Ministry Coordinator (see page 1). He writes:

Although the Mid-South PCA Church Planting Network is relatively young, the Lord has blessed our efforts to be a resource and catalyst for church planting in our region.

We presently support four new works and hope to assist Grace Presbytery with a plant on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi this year. This includes \$90,000 in support over a three year period for each planter as well as meeting their coaching needs. Beginning in 2017, we anticipate that we will be able to assist 4 to 5 church plants a year moving forward.

I am excited about the direction of the Mid-South Network. If you would like to know more about what we are doing, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Rev. Hunter Brewer, Ministry Coordinator
Contact Information:
(601) 624.2282
midsouthnetworkpca@gmail.com

Come hear his presentation during Sunday School on February 21.

Please pray:

- ✧ That we would be able to identify a church planter for the MS Gulf Coast in 2016
- ✧ That additional partner churches would join us in 2016.
- ✧ For God's blessings on the plants we support in Fayetteville (AR), Horn Lake (MS), Little Rock (AR), and Lafayette (LA).
- ✧ And for traveling mercies for Hunter Brewer as he travels throughout the Mid-South.

Peru Mission Cookbooks



HELP SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY AT PERU MISSION

The Peruvian women do not have local fundraising possibilities. These cookbooks were printed to supply specific funds for women's programs. Each recipe is printed in both Spanish and English and uses readily available ingredients.

Last October they held their 1st Women's Conference, so the women could fellowship and be discipled in their own country and in their own language! Guest speakers were Fanny de Gomez, who was discipled by Susan Hunt (President of the Women in the Church of the PCA) and Patricia de Saladin, who is the voice of Nancy Leigh DeMoss (Revive Our Hearts Ministry).

Multiples of 2 are \$20 each; Individual copies: \$25. See Marianne Field or contact the church office to purchase a copy; partner with a friend to receive the discount! We still have several copies.



Focus on Missions

February is missions month at MSPC. Over the next four weeks we will refocus and recommit spiritually and financially to aid the spread of the gospel in our own community and throughout the world. A number of guest missionaries and church planters will join us to share how the Lord is working through their ministries. Our annual missions conference will be held on February 27th and 28th. Please put this date on your calendar and make every effort to attend. In the following article I want to discuss two responsibilities we have to our missionaries.

Commit to Pray

The first responsibility we have to our missionaries is to pray. You have probably heard that a thousand times. Yet, how few of us are intentional and consistent about prayer. If you are anything like me the commitment is high for a week or two after the missions conference, then it tapers off considerably. It is a case of “out of sight, out of mind”. I am aware of my own failure to pray for our missionaries when I lead public worship. I encourage you, as I encourage myself, to be more committed to pray.

Why is prayer so important? The work of missions is difficult and often discouraging. Proclaiming a message about sin, judgment and the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as the only Savior is often met with hostility and resistance. For the Apostle Paul it was often met with violence, imprisonment and rejection. His case is extreme. However, it is not uncommon for those seeking to bear witness to the risen Christ to find the world uninterested. I am convinced that the success or failure of the mission work of the church depends more on prayer that we could ever imagine. Paul sees prayer as the power house behind his evangelistic work. He

asks the Ephesians to pray for him “that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.” He asks the Thessalonians to “pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men.”

I suspect that all the missionaries we support would echo Paul’s request for prayer. They need it. If we are going to pray intentionally then we need to plan to pray. I would encourage you to develop a prayer calendar. This is something we have started doing during our lunchtime prayer meeting on Thursdays. Currently we support 20 missionaries through faith promise giving. Consider focusing on one missionary each week. By the end of the year you will have prayed for all our missionaries several times.

Commit to Support

In addition to prayer we are responsible to contribute financially to the work of missions. Again, you have probably heard that a thousand times. I was encouraged by the response of MSPC to missions giving last year. We nearly doubled our financial support. That is great and we should give thanks to God for it.

Why give to missions? At the end of the book of Philippians Paul speaks of a gospel partnership he shared with the church. This was a financial partnership. He says: “And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.” (Phil. 4:15) Many of you have seen the show “Shark Tank”. One thing you will notice in that show is that the “Sharks” (the financial backers) are not throwing money to entrepreneurs indiscriminately.

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They are more than cash cows; they are partners in the business. They have a vested interest in the success of the company. The same is true for the church. We are not just throwing money at missionaries. We are partners in the gospel with them. We have a joint interest in their work. We join with them in building the kingdom of God.

In the same letter Paul describes the financial support of missionaries as “a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.” The gifts we give act as signs of thanksgiving to God. Your support is a way of expressing gratitude to God for the grace and mercy He extended to you in the gospel. In this way missions giving is elevated to an act of worship. It is a form of praise and thanksgiving. It is pleasing to God.

A Challenge

Last year we almost doubled our missions giving. Let’s keep the momentum going. This year I challenge all members or family units to commit 1% of your annual income to missions. If you earn \$30,000 then consider giving \$300 annually. That works out to \$5.77 a week. If you earn \$50,000 consider giving \$500 each year. That amounts to about \$9.72 each week. If you earn \$100,000 consider giving \$1,000, which works out to about \$20 per week.

Pastor Matocha

Some Thoughts on Faith Promise 2016

By Frank Webb

February is upon us and we will soon be having our 2016 Mission Conference. Once again we will be entering into the Faith Promise program, as well. For you who do not know what that is, or may need a little reminding, well here it is. First we need to define “faith”. In Hebrews 11:1 faith is defined as the “substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.” In other words, it is the act of believing God for things we do not see at present to be manifested at a time in the future, because God has promised them. Next we should look at the Bible’s definition of where faith comes from or how it is produced. In Romans 10:15 we find that “faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God”. So as we read, study, and ponder the Bible, faith should begin to rise up in our spirits and minds.

So what does that have to do with the Faith Promise program, which we have implemented at MSP to fund and send forth missionaries for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission. And remember, the Great Commission is each of our work as commanded by Christ in the last words he spoke before ascending to heaven. “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” Matthew 28:18-20.

Well in order to be obedient, we must do one or more of these things concerning missions. We must either go ourselves as commanded in the Great Commission, which many of us cannot do. Next we can pray for missions and missionaries, which we can do so by faith, because we will be praying in accordance to the word Jesus spoke in Matthew 9: 37-38. “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” We all can pray, as commanded. The third thing we can and must do is to give toward missions, which all of us can do – whether little or much.

Faith Promise has to do with the giving part. What each of us is challenged to do is to go to the Word of God and look at the promises there. If we do not base our subsequent actions on what is written in his word, we will not be acting by faith. (And remember that “whatever is not from faith is sin.” Romans 14:23.)

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Faith is not a “hope so”, it is a “know so” in accordance with His “exceedingly great and precious promises” which He gave to us, “that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature”. 2 Peter 1:4-5 We also know that “all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” 2 Corinthians 1:20 And note the promises of God are “Yes” in Him (Christ), but they are “through us”.

This is similar to that absolutely incredible verse in Ephesians 3:20 as follows: “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above ALL that we ask or think, according to the power **that works in us**.” (emphasis added) He does it, but it is **through us**. Yes, His promises and His power are worked through us, but lest we be tempted to be prideful, always remember: “we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7. The power will be manifested in and through us that the excellence of the power may be of God.

Now the next thing we need to do is to go to the Word and dig out some promises about giving and allow the Holy Spirit to make them alive to us. The Bible is replete with these promises. Here are a few, and I challenge you to do a little digging on your own and mine a few more gems. One of the favorite, well known verses is, “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38 That is God the Son speaking. Can you believe Him? (God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He should repent, has He not said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken and will He not make it good? Numbers 23:19)

These next verses are as good. They are found in 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 as follows:

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written:

“He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the

sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

Can we really take Him at His Word? Do you believe that if you sow bountifully, that *He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, [will indeed] supply and multiply the seed you have sown?* Or is He a liar, simply trying to trick you into giving into His Kingdom? Yes, with such promises as these, we should be cheerful givers!!! The Greek word for cheerful is *hilaros*. It means, “cheerful, without grudging, with an implication of a gracious attitude.”

Now lest one should think that the amount of the gift is the utmost importance, we should not forget the widow's mite as recounted in the Gospels. She gave only two pennies, and Jesus said it was more than the Pharisee's thousands. Also note Paul's admonition in 2 Corinthians 8:12 as follows: “For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.”

Now lastly, we should remember that the **motive** for giving is never to get back; it should be love of God. At the same time, we can trust the Lord to keep His Word, and He promises indeed to give back. Faith in his Word pleases Him. In fact it is the only way to please Him, for “without faith it is impossible to please” God. Hebrews 11:6 He takes pleasure in His children giving **with the right heart attitude**, expecting Him to keep His Word to “supply and multiply the seed you have sown.” Remember also, He may not give back in kind; but if not, He will give you something even better. To reiterate what was said above, we should never give with the wrong motive of personal gain. As God gives back to us, it is for the purpose of furthering his kingdom, as well as rewarding our faithfulness. Motive is a critical and foremost factor here.

CONCLUSION

So, in conclusion, let each of you go to God in prayer, using the above promises or one of the many others about giving in the Bible. Then earnestly seek an amount God would have you give to missions. Stay before Him until you have a peace in your heart about the amount. Then give, believing His Word. And remember that James says that faith without works is dead faith. Let us therefore have a living faith, give in accordance with that faith, and wait expectantly for God to keep His Word, which He shall surely do. In doing so you will be an obedient servant sending laborers into the fields which are white for harvest. If this is done in faith and obedience to God's Word and Spirit, the giver will receive a greater blessing than he could ever have given.



HAPPY HEARTS

On January 13, our senior citizens gathered in the fellowship hall for our monthly meeting. We enjoyed a very special guest, Presley Hutchens, who did an awesome portrayal of General Robert E. Lee. You might wonder why we would want to review again the sadness associated with the Civil War fought on our own soil. We were focused on the man and his view of life, war, surrender, and his spirituality. Presley was dressed in a perfect replica of Lee's uniform. His hair is graying; he sports a well-groomed gray beard, and actually looks very much like the image in your mind of Gen. Lee. His voice is Southern and becomes more Virginian as he talks. He is a showman and acts the part of the Confederate leader with authenticity. His speech involved many of Lee's quotes. Presley added connecting thoughts expressed in appropriate style and in keeping with the quotes to give his presentation a more conversational appeal. I want to share some of the quotes with you.

General Robert E. Lee's words:

"My chief concern is to be a humble and sincere Christian."

"What a glorious world Almighty God has given us. How thankless and ungrateful we are and how we labor to mar His gifts."

"Practice self-denial and self-control, as well as the strictest economy in all financial matters."

"The trite saying that honesty is the best policy has met with the just criticism that honesty is not a policy. The real honest man is

honest from conviction of what is right, not from policy."

"It is only the ignorant that suppose themselves omniscient."

"The education of a man or woman is never completed until they die."

"It is well that war is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it."

"Our country demands all our strength, all our energies. To resist the powerful combination now forming against us will require every man at his place. If victorious, we have everything to hope for in the future. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for. My whole trust is in God, and I am ready for whatever He may ordain."

"All I am and all I have is at the service of my country."

"I prefer annihilation to submission. They may destroy, but I trust never conquer us."

"I do not wish they were all dead. I merely wish that they would return to their homes and leave us in peace."

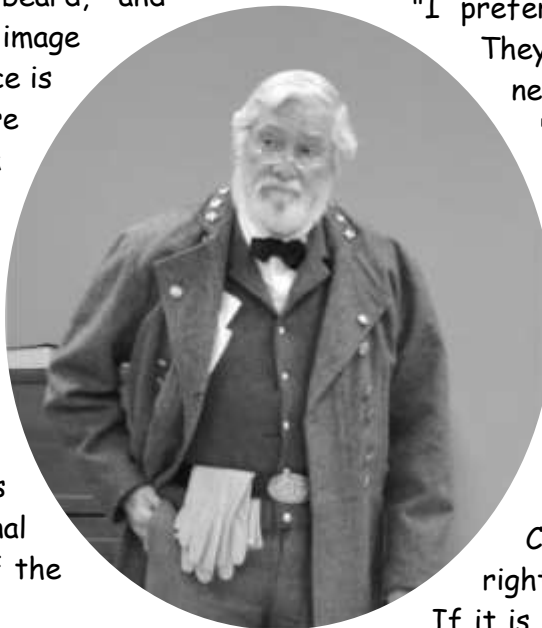
"Yes, I know they will say hard things of us; they will understand how we were overwhelmed by numbers. But that is not the question, Colonel; the question is, "is it right to surrender this army?"

If it is right, then I will take all the responsibility."

"There is nothing left for me but to go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

"We had, I was satisfied, sacred principles to maintain and rights to defend, for which we were duty bound to do our best, even if we perished in the endeavor."

"We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom and prudence,



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to call forth greater energies, and to prevent our falling into greater disasters."



General Lee was an Episcopalian and actively served as a member of the Vestry. After the war was over, he became President of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. While there, he dutifully attended a Vestry

meeting at his parish church. It was cold and damp and the meeting lasted longer than usual. Shortly thereafter, Lee contracted pneumonia and died. He was buried on the grounds of Washington and Lee College in the chapel that he had raised funds to build during his time as the college President. His faithful horse, Traveller, is also buried there.

It was an interesting and thought provoking portrayal of Lee and the impersonator was a delightful person. We enjoyed his company before and following his presentation. We



were pleased he joined us for our soup and cornbread lunch. Frances Laws and Nell Fleming made the four layered desserts we all love; one was chocolate and the other pistachio. Nell provided that delicious sweet tea. It was a hearty meal for January. Mike Carter and Pogie Laws led the cleanup committee of Johnice Shumaker, Lynne Estalote, and Diann Carter. Thanks to each of you who helped, and especially to our speaker.

I failed to have our group sing, "Happy Birthday" to Frances Laws who was celebrating her 80th birthday. And to boot, I had asked her to bring a dessert which she was more than

happy to do! It was a fun gathering and we enjoyed our time together, as always!

Our decorations were blue and white. I used snowflake tablecloths Shirley Swoope made for me years ago and vases of white tulips and snowflake chrysanthemums. I had a white cymbidium orchid from Christmas which graced our front table. We so enjoy the round tables in our fellowship hall. We were pleased to have several people present who are not always able to attend. We missed you if you were not there!

In February we will have our Valentine's Party on Friday the 12th, which will be Eleanor's birthday. Our program will be a special musical rendition of love songs. I will look forward to your being there! Bring a friend if you would like, I plan to, but if you are bringing someone, please let me know.

In Christ,
Bess Swedenburg





Women in the Church

A big thank you to the January hostesses, Ann Chilcutt and Frances Laws. Our meeting was here before we knew it! Their theme was "boots and birds". Displayed were beautiful red birds and cut glass boots accented with poinsettias. We enjoyed a delicious lunch of tossed salad, sandwiches, chips, and lemon chiffon for dessert. Hostesses for February are Nell Fleming and Clara Peterson.

Although WIC will not have an active role in the Missions Conference, I want to encourage everyone to attend. The keynote speaker will be Rafael Ku from Belize. Our church has supported Rafael for many years. We look forward to hearing from him and the work that he is doing in Belize. So mark your calendars for February 27-28.

Our next meeting will be February 2 at 10:45 in the fellowship hall.

*Serving Him,
Pat Russell*

A "SOUPER" CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON

The January Soup and Sides was fantastic! There were at least 95 in attendance with 15 different soups/chilies from which to select. We even had to move the sides to a large round table to accommodate the number brought. Several people shared with me that this particular luncheon was their favorite of the year.

We now will look forward to February and how we will address the luncheon to coincide with Mission Conference on February 27-28. It's my hope and prayer that you will take time to attend the sessions and hear what our missionaries want to share with us about their work.

The men will have a breakfast Saturday morning and the Deacons will provide a supper Saturday night. On Sunday, February 28, following the worship service, we will have our luncheon. The Missions Committee will provide pulled pork and the rolls. They have asked members to provide the sides. The division will be as follows: if your last name begins with A-F bring a dessert, G-N a vegetable, and O-Z a salad.

Won't you join us for this annual celebration with our missionaries? Let's welcome them and demonstrate to them our 4 F's: Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda



Opportunities for Growth and Service

by Ron Simpson

I am encouraged by the participation we had in the January Congregational Luncheon. It was one of the most successful luncheon events we have had. While this article will reflect on that success, I don't want to be guilty of stealing any of Lynda Meharg's thunder regarding the details of the luncheon. I encourage you to read her article in this edition of *The Main Thing* for the details.

I believe the success of this particular event is indicative of the growth, development, and change I have been observing within our congregation in the area of fellowship. We have more people showing up for fellowship events. We are holding more fellowship events. I have seen more and more members before and after church visiting in the hallways, outside classrooms, and even on the sidewalk. All of these are healthy signs and evidence that our congregation is becoming more involved in each other's lives, and are spending more time getting to know each other. Today is an exciting time here at MSPC.

There is another change going on we don't like to think about that much, because it is a change that affects us all. We are all getting older as well. That is not a pleasant thought in a society that places high value on youth. MSPC is growing in number, fellowship, and age. That means a lot of the people who for years have been our primary teachers, organizers, leaders, singers, and dependable helpers are not as available to serve as they once were. It is time for others of us to step forward and shoulder some of the responsibility for the work of our church. It is also time to show honor, respect, and courtesy to God's servants who have been serving Him for many decades. You all know I tend to meddle. It is both in part my nature, and my job to do so. Here are a few logistic issues I feel we need to address as individuals to maintain the growth, excitement, and fellowship that is occurring at our church.

We could use some help cleaning up after our events. I know everyone cannot always stay

and clean. You may have visitors in town, or a sick child at home, or other issues that may hinder you at times. But when it is possible, we need more people to stay and help. We could use help especially from some of our younger people. Cleaning up is an area of service where our youth can be of assistance. A team of only three volunteers stayed after our last fellowship luncheon and was here until about 2:30 p.m. cleaning. Parents, if you can clean up the spills from your little ones that helps a lot. We have a combination of tile and carpet in our dining area. The tile becomes a slip hazard when spills are not addressed immediately, and carpet becomes stained. Crumbs left on tables, in chairs, and on the floor attract bugs and rodents. Whether it is Wednesday night supper, a prayer breakfast, or luncheon, we need your help to keep things decent and in order.

When I was growing up, it was not unusual to have a grandparent living in the house or, at least, living nearby. We live in a day and age now where this is highly unusual. I remember being chastised often and greatly as a young child for moving too quickly through the house. My father would often have to remind me to stay mindful of the fact my grandmother could easily take a fall because of my movements and my carelessness. If they have not spent much time around older adults, your child or children may not be aware of just how dangerous a slip or a fall can be to our seniors. As a parent, I know I often made the mistake of assuming my children knew what I knew at their age. They, however, grew up in a different world than I did. Please consider discussing with your little ones the importance of guaranteeing the safety of our seniors, and that this is just one way we show respect for our elders. Help them understand we let our elders go first through food lines as a sign of respect, and so as not to crowd those with mobility issues.

One final issue I could use your help with revolves around church safety and security. Events in the news in the last year have made us

Continued on Page 13, *Opportunities for Growth*

realize there is a need to “tighten up” safety and security at the church. In the coming months, you will see some of these projects come to fruition. Please understand that from time to time we will have to address new procedures and new policies related to security and safety of our members and visitors. We are working hard to keep these measures from being as obtrusive as possible. Unfortunately, someone has to be the ranter about these things and that role falls to me. One simple way you can help involves the stairwell door on the second floor by the nursery. Well-meaning persons often prop this door open to make access easier for parents carrying baby bags and carriers. Unfortunately, this can be a potential hazard for a small toddler should he slip away for a moment. Don’t look at me religious. Yours got away from you, too, before. A tumble down that stairwell would not be good for anyone, especially a little one. Please help me keep that door closed for the safety of our toddlers.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as an administrator. I appreciate the help, patience and assistance all of you have given to my efforts in the last year, as I have tried to take on this role and figure out how best to make our work more efficient and more productive. May God bless us all as we grow in His grace through this year.

MEN’S



The New Year started off in a good way with the first MPB of the year. The early morning sky held a special treat: the Moon was a horns-up crescent with Venus shining silver just below and to the left; Saturn was a little lower and bright yellow. To the right about even with Saturn was Antares. God’s order of the universe is magnificent. It was great to see the men and share hunting tales, bowl victories (or in my case, losses!), holiday memories and in some cases, huge uninvited guests in your work place. Allan’s message was insightful and timely as always. We enjoyed Bill Laws’ French toast along with scrambled eggs, bacon/sausage and grits.

On Wednesday, February 3, we will enjoy the regularly scheduled MPB. The starting time will be 6:30 AM. The menu will be eggs, bacon/sausage, grits, English muffins and fruit. Please come and join your brothers in this time of fellowship. On your way in look up to the northeastern sky. You may be able to see Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, Venus and Mercury lined up from upper left to lower right. That in itself is worth getting up for.

February is a special time for MSPC. During the weekend of February 27-28 we will have the annual Mission Conference. **In observance of this there will be a Men’s Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 27. This will begin at 8:00 AM.** Many of you are hampered by work schedules, travel and just getting the kids to school. This will be a great time to attend this wonderful fellowship. There will be more information via email and notices in the bulletins. Plan to attend. This will replace the March 2 Breakfast.

Hope to see you for these two events.

Mike

Mamie Kate Fisackerly
January 21, 2016



6 pounds,
15 ounces

20 inches

Proud Parents
Brinton & Meryl Fisackerly

Preschool News

Second semester arrived as our four year old friends welcomed Annabelle Hall. She is the daughter of Justin and Elizabeth Ann Hall. We are looking forward to getting to know Annabelle and her family.

January was filled with many fun units. We read The Mitten and acted out the story many times. The children pretended to be the animal characters that found the mitten in the snow. They all snuggled in the mitten to keep warm. "Penguins, Polar Bears, and Pajamas" was their favorite winter unit. This was also tied in with our "P" letter of the week. They learned fun facts about these animals. We wrapped it all up by eating delicious pancakes in our pajamas.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on February 12th. We will be busy evaluating our students on their pre-readiness skills needed for kindergarten. We are looking forward to meeting with our very supportive parents!

Also, enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year will begin February 1st. Make sure and get a spot for next year and tell a friend about all the fun things going on at Main Street Christian School! Thank you so much for all your prayers.


Sincerely,
Miss Gaines Gaskin



February



2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Christianity Explored 7:30 p.m. YMCA Patti Yelverton	2 WIC 10:45 a.m. MSPC Fellowship Hall	3 <i>Pizza</i>	4 Noon Prayer Meeting Billy Shull	5	6 Morgan Shipp
7 Communion during the evening service	8 Christianity Explored Jack Hairston <i>Don & Penny Cassell</i>	9	10 <i>Tacos</i>	11 Noon Prayer Meeting Hannah Arnold	12 Happy Hearts 10:30 @MSPC	13 Leslee White
14 	15 Christianity Explored Presidents' Day	16 <i>Warren & Jan Swoope</i>	17 Frank Arnold <i>Fried Chicken</i>	18 Noon Prayer Meeting Warren (Oop) Swoope	19	20 Melinda Howard Robert Steigerwald
21 Martha Clegg	22 Christianity Explored <i>Richard & Karmel Crandall</i>	23 Jean Yelverton	24 Deli Sandwiches	25 Noon Prayer Meeting	26 Missions Conference Jr.-Sr. High Supper 6:00 p.m. Don Cassell	27 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Missions Conference 1:30 & 4:00 p.m. Church-wide supper 6:00 p.m. Marcia Lovegren Frank Webb
28 Missions Conference 9:30 & 10:40 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon following the service	29 Christianity Explored					

Birthdays

Anniversaries



February Volunteers

NEW NEED:

Upcoming Weddings:
Hannah Russell and Ross Moore

PRAISE:

Mamie Kate Fisackerly

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
Billy & Emily Shull
Fran Perkins
Dot Pilcher
John Mark Russell
Faith Whitlock - Christa Chapman's mother

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

President Barack Obama
Officials in Washington
Governor Phil Bryant
Mayor Robert Smith
Police Chief
Sheriff Mike Aldredge
State and City and County Officials

NURSERIES

February 7 Alice Talley
Patrick & Morgan Shipp
February 14 Cathy Duncan
Gee & Becca Allgood
February 21 Kimber-Leigh Drown
Karmel & Joshua Crandall
February 28 Lindsay Bragan
Jay & Hannah Nail

USHERS

February 7 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,
Matt White, Ben Woodson
February 14 Tim Chapman, Ray Kilpatrick,
Mike Meharg, Patrick Shipp
February 21 Grover Allgood, Taylor Bragan,
Bayard Grillis, Henry Pilkinton
February 28 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,
Brent Drown, Trip Hairston

Money Counter
Tim Chapman

BUDGET REPORT

JANUARY 2016

Offerings this Month
\$23,528

Gifts to the Church

In Memory of
Elizabeth Swoope Wiseman
by
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Laws
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Shull

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:16-20 ESV*

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Bill & Bobbie Boggess
Jack & Nell Chinchin
Ron Elkin
Howard & Pam Eyrich
Clete Hux
Austin Lenox
Clarke Norton
Wiley & Karon Smith
Bill Schweitzer
Christina Thomas
Mission to North America

Larry Brown
Tom & Connie Edwards
Dale & Susan Ellison
Doug Hudson
Rafael Ku
Bob McPherson
Richard Pratt
Brain Sorgenfrei
Rekindle Children's Hope
Linda Wixon
Mission to the World



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FEBRUARY 2016

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