

# The Main Thing

A Publication of  
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
August 2016

## VITAL SIGNS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

Medical doctors check the basic health of their patients by monitoring body temperature, pulse, breathing rate, and blood pressure. These are commonly referred to as vital signs. Irregularities in any of these signs may indicate a serious health problem. Similarly, the church has practices that indicate its health. Mark Dever, in his book *What Makes a Healthy Church*, provides nine marks of a healthy church. One of those is biblical church leadership.

As a general rule, a dying or declining church struggles to replenish its leaders. Thabiti Anyabwile wrote a book titled, *Finding Faithful Elders and Deacons*. In the introduction he says the following, "A church without leaders is an endangered church...Without godly, faithful, replicating leadership, churches suffer deeply." Over the summer we ordained one new elder and six new deacons. This is an encouraging sign. It is a sign of a healthy church. We should give thanks to God for equipping these men to serve.

My hope is that this will be a common occurrence at Main Street. If men are being disciplined faithfully and continue to grow spiritually, then we should see a replication of leaders. I encourage the men in our congregation to cultivate the spiritual disciplines of faithful church attendance, personal prayer and bible reading. These are foundational to church leaders. I pray that God will continue to supply our church with Spirit filled, Christ exalting men to humbly lead us.

### ***Pastor Matocha***



Back Row: Allan Brewer, Brent Drown, Rev. Todd Matocha, Frank Arnold, Gray Flora  
Front Row: Ron Simpson, Roger Day, Ray Kilpatrick, Jay Nail  
Not Pictured: Patrick Shipp



Gee Allgood with his daughters -  
Kate, Emiline, and Lilla.



## Happy Hearts

On the 8th of July, a Friday morning, Happy Hearts gathered to hear a patriotic speech presented by our good friend, Presley Hutchins. This was the third time Presley had provided our Happy Hearts program in the year 2016. That is a first for us - we have never had a speaker/performer entertain us three times in one year. This third program was a last minute accommodation and special favor. I had a patriotic speaker committed who had to cancel at the last minute. After several possible programs fell through, on Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 prior to our Friday meeting, I decided to call our friend, Presley, hoping he would do a patriotic program - any kind! He could sing, dance, or inspire us, all that mattered to me was that it be patriotic.

Deb Shelton, Nell Fleming's long time and very close friend, had told me at the May meeting that she had lots of 4th of July decorations we could use for our July meeting. So of course, our program had to be patriotic! Deb and Nell brought the decorations and helped arrange them appropriately. Edna McCoy added some of her patriotic pieces and I contributed several flags donated by Pat Wallace several 4th's ago when she did our program. It all went together perfectly. I am thrilled when it happens like this, because it is so much more fun doing it with a group. Naturally the decorations were all red, white, and blue and quite festive! And Presley was the providential answer to our patriotic program! As usual, he did a wonderful job and seemed to enjoy doing it for us. As we gathered, Edna Mae played a medley of patriotic songs on the piano. She set the stage for our program and the entire meeting.

First Presley reviewed our history of how we came into being as the United States of America. Most often, we think the 13 original

colonies were the beginning of this great country. But do you remember that Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492, landed on our shores, found our Native Americans, thought he had sailed to India, and thus named the native peoples of our country Indians! To the west, missions were established in what is now California, Texas, and New Mexico, and to the east, Florida, all before the Jamestown colony. Do you recall the "Articles of Confederation" which formed a Confederacy that lasted 13 years and had nine presidents who preceded our first President George Washington? Must admit, I didn't. And do you remember anything about the "Manifest Destiny"? Presley defined it as "a notion dreamed up by eastern politicians that God had destined the New England states to gain control over their portion of the continent from sea to sea bounded by Canada on the north and Mexico on the south." We do recall that President Andrew Jackson decided to move all the Indians to Oklahoma. Since that time most Native Americans, whose country this was, have lived on some form of reservation.

Summarizing, our speaker said, "We have the Dutch, the Amish, the Germans, the Italians, the Irish, the Caribbeans, the French, the Asians, the Africans, the Roman Catholics, the Baptists, the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Lutherans, the Episcopalians, the Jews, the Moslems, the Unitarians, and on and on. We have the rich, the poor, those who live in mansions, and the homeless. Only God in his mystery could bring together so many from so far and so diverse to this one place called America. Should we despise it or give thanks for it? I say what a wonderful place he has given us. We all call this home, even as there are those who reject it and us and hope to do violence to us. They do it because they know what we are and hate us for it. We are not perfect. But we have been the best in an imperfect world. Our grief and terrible histories have brought about a collective

Continued on Page 3, *Happy Hearts*

suffering that has molded us and shaped us in a way that few other nations can understand. In fact the shaping of America since its beginning has been a miracle, and at the heart of the miracle is faith in God and the four most profound works ever written - the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Holy Bible."

"I believe that America will always right itself regardless of how far off the mark we seem to be. The average American is still what Jefferson, Hancock, and all the founders believed them to be. Their faith was not in the Constitution, but in the average American in whom they believed was found an exceptional inspiration that would always be the keeper of the beacon on the hill for the entire world to see. Their faith in us was not unfounded or misguided. We are, and continue to be the people they believed us to be. Yes, there are those among us who are ignorant of the sacrifices of the many who have advanced the nobility of America and who have defeated despots and dictators whose self-interest was advanced on the deaths of the millions of innocents." Presley is totally optimistic in stating those who hate us cannot defeat us. Goodness will always prevail.

It was encouraging and uplifting to hear him assert his convictions. What is a patriot? According to our awesome speaker, "A patriot is one who, following the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, will lay down his life for his fellow man. One who will not hesitate to give his life for that which is greater than himself. One who believes that goodness will prevail and that all are created in the image of God and have God-given rights to liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness." Our friend is indeed optimistic and we truly want to embrace his thoughts. Will there be casualties? Yes, Patriots know this. Yet they also know, as General George Patton said,

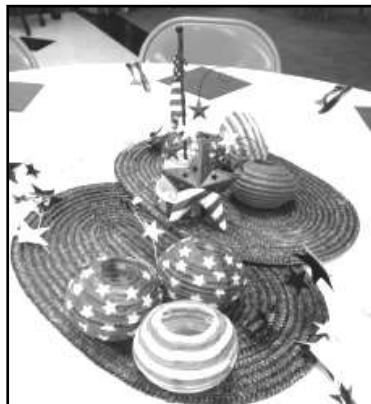
"Better to fight for something, than live for nothing." That something is the most perfect expression of the rights of man ever laid before humanity. Our country, its documents of freedom, and our citizens inspire people around the world! "Let us give thanks to Almighty God who has given us this good land for our heritage. In the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail." And that is only a brief summary! He had so much more to say and all of it was very interesting.

Our lunch was the usual July BLT luncheon and it was delicious. We had both the mayo and the miracle whip, the white bread and the wheat bread, the crisp bacon, the fresh lettuce, and the homegrown tomatoes! Then topped it off with watermelon and or cherry tarts (a pleasant surprise from Edna). It was a great celebration and we missed you if you were not there. We had an amazing crowd of 32 with several visitors whom we love having join us. Thank you to Pogie for baking our bacon, yes baking in the oven! While he baked, Frances peeled and sliced tomatoes for our sandwiches. The tomatoes came from Nick Hairston's and Billy's cousin's gardens. They were so good!!! And a special thank you to everyone who helped cook, decorate or cleanup afterwards.....Deb, Nell, Edna Mae, Jean, Ann Barkley, Johnice, Ben, Frances, and Pogie!!!

Our August meeting will be the annual dessert party on August 9 at 3:00 in the afternoon. We will meet in the fellowship hall, but we will not be having a program. It seemed everyone was so glad to be together in July and wanted to visit, so we will be enjoying each other's company while sampling many different sweets. This is a great time to bring your friends and to encourage someone in our church family to join us. I look forward to seeing you there and having time to talk.

*Bess*

# Happy Hearts Annual BLT Luncheon July 8, 2016





## Women in the Church

Last fall both WIC groups used *Hoping for Something Better* by Nancy Guthrie to study the book of Hebrews. We have found ourselves drawn closer to our God.

Each lesson opened our eyes to the superiority of Jesus over Old Testament pictures (such as Moses, the sacrifices, and the priesthood) and the excellencies of His purposes throughout time (seen in His covenants, His dealings with Israel and with us). The applications have been beneficial and intentional. Mrs. Guthrie wrote honestly about her own experiences without failing to exalt Christ as Sovereign and our sufficient Redeemer.

We are challenged by the writer of Hebrews and Nancy Guthrie to believe Jesus in a way that affects our actions and our attitudes. Jesus Christ is exceedingly worthy of our devotion and our allegiance.

“WIC at Night” completed their study, but on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the monthly group will continue. We are in Hebrews 11 - Lesson 8 in the book.

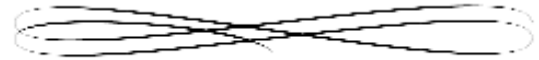
While two groups meet separately for study, the monthly luncheon is for all women in the church, even if you do not attend either study. Come and enjoy a simple meal with other women in Christ and be refreshed.

At each monthly meeting, I offer a Bible passage for “Meditation and Memorization” to encourage thinking more Biblically of our God. This summer’s passage is both a summary statement of this study and a prayer – Hebrews 13:20-21.

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will,

working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Alice Talley



We are coming to the end of summer and I hope it has been enjoyable for everyone. We will resume our monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45 in the fellowship hall. We will continue our study of *Hoping for Something Better* by Nancy Guthrie. Alice Talley will continue to teach and I know we are all very grateful for her willingness to serve in this capacity. Even if you cannot attend the Bible study, please join us for lunch at 12:00. The food is always delicious and the fellowship is sweet!

I want to encourage all that can to attend the 2016 PCA Women’s Conference on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham, Alabama. Nancy Guthrie will be the keynote speaker. The conference will be based on Romans 11:33-12:2 with the hope of the Spirit’s transformative work in the lives of all who attend. Please contact Kathyryn Matocha or Diann Carter for more information.

Hostesses for the September meeting are Lynda Meharg and Shannon Bardwell.

Serving Him,  
*Pat Russell*





We appreciate continued prayer for complete funding, our family transition back to Trujillo, and our ministries.

Dale and Susan



Dear friends,

Greetings from warm Pearl, MS, where we have been residing since this past January. We are so grateful to McLaurin Heights Baptist Church for the use of their mission house, and to God who provides for us and withholds from us no good thing. A few weeks ago Susan and I had our first vacation without children in over 20 years! We were blessed to visit San Francisco and Susan's childhood friend, who along with her husband, hosted us for several days in Yosemite National Park. It was an amazing experience to see the beauty of God's creation. Thanks Casey and Carol! We continue to be awed whenever we see wondrous parts of God's glorious world.

This summer Caleb and Jacob are working as camp counselors at Twin Lakes Camp in Florence, MS. Rebekah and Zachary are staying busy helping teach Child Evangelism Fellowship classes to various churches and daycare centers in the Jackson area, as Susan is planning to take this great ministry back to Peru and use it there.

We are also writing to ask for your continued prayers for our remaining support to be raised. In our last update we noted we needed to raise \$8000 in onetime giving and are pleased to report that we have received \$3000 in pledges for that! Also our need for \$1000 more in monthly giving has been reduced to \$800. God is again moving hearts and providing for us. Our time here is quickly drawing to a close as we return to Peru on September 6, Lord willing.

## New Series: What is Man?



In every culture throughout history, people have pondered humanity's existence and purpose on this earth. The Bible tells us that we are made in God's image, and we have been created to rule over creation on His behalf, but what does that mean in our daily lives?

Our much anticipated and newly-released series on the doctrine of humanity, titled

[What is Man?](#), seeks to address questions about our existence. Featuring professors and theologians who are experts in this subject matter, this series discusses humanity's origin, composition, and purpose. It also explains how the introduction of sin has complicated our work as God's image bearers, but how, by God's grace in Christ, we can be restored and our work completed.



## Open Doors

### Medical Missions News from the Smiths, serving with Grace Medical Outreach and Mission to the World



*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ — Colossians 4:3*

### Lions and Beavers and Ships, Oh My!

It's been over six months since we sent out a newsletter. So much has happened in the life of the Smith family. Earlier this year, we were quite busy helping daughter Deanna build play props for Operation Mobilization, to go to their ship Logos Hope for a theatrical adaptation of C.S. Lewis' classic *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. Chief among the props was a larger than life Aslan the lion. Aslan is five feet tall,



six feet long, and requires a team of three muscular guys to move around. His head, legs and mouth move.

Accompanying him are Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, who are also capable of moving and conversing. Aslan left for Durban, South Africa in a crate built by Wiley. Deanna, with four suitcases carrying the beavers and equipment, flew to meet him in April. Deanna spent a month with the crew of Logos Hope, getting Aslan and the beavers ready for shipboard life.

Since Deanna returned from South Africa, she's found a new assignment. She will be marrying Patrick Hall on August 27th. Patrick and Deanna met at and attend New City Fellowship East Lake church in Chattanooga. Patrick and Deanna got to know each other better when they went with our team to Southeast Asia this year. Welcome to the family, Patrick!

### Southeast Asia Revisited

In the last week of January and early February, Deanna, Patrick and I joined a team going to Southeast Asia. Our team this year was truly international, with a doctor and dentist from India joining us. Our team conducted medical clinics in four locations, caring for around 400 people, both among the Christian minority and Buddhist majority. We were also invited to preach at local churches.

Diabetes remains a big problem in our host country in Southeast Asia. We were able to show a diabetes education video in two local languages that was filmed by son Nathan Smith last year.

We are looking for team members to join us for our next trip, scheduled for January 27th - February 4, 2017. You don't need to be a medical person to



join us, but do expect your life to be changed. Contact me at [WSmithMD@aol.com](mailto:WSmithMD@aol.com)

### A Place to Rest in Haiti

Reformation Hope is building an orphanage next door to their medical clinic in La Plaine, Haiti. Our family has been helping with the project by



building the parts of 63 beds. The beds are built from pieces of lumber, a foam pad mattress, a decorative metalwork headboard,

and a screen enclosure to deter mosquitos. The bed kits arrived in Haiti a week ago. Reformation Hope is in need of donations to put the roof on the orphanage, and teams to help us put the beds together. Let me know if you can help.

I went with a medical team from Arden Presbyterian Church last month. We visited churches and schools in Gonaives and La Plaine and assisted at the clinic in La Plaine.



I'll be going back September 3-10. We're hoping to do a mobile clinic for a church outside of Port au Prince whose building has a dirt floor but whose members are rich in faith. I'm looking for team members for future trips to Haiti.

**ON THE HOME FRONT**

There's plenty for us to do in our home town of Dalton, Georgia. Grace Medical Outreach Ministry is our charitable outreach to provide house call medical visits to homebound and indigent patients. So far this year, we've enrolled 40 new patients. Thanks to nurses Donna Armes and Becky Odum, other volunteers and our board of directors who are co-laborers in the work. The purpose of doing house calls at no cost to our patients is to remove all barriers to both health care and to the gospel. **Please keep us in your prayers. If you're in the Dalton, Georgia area, consider volunteering with us.**

Our Web Page:  
<http://wsmithmd.wix.com/gracemedicaloutreach>

Karon and Wiley Smith serve in medical missions with Mission to the World. Wiley, a family physician, leads medical teams to diverse locations. In their home of Dalton, Georgia, Karon and Wiley visit needy patients in their homes along with other volunteers with Grace Medical Outreach Ministry.

You can help by praying and volunteering to go on an overseas team or to help in Dalton.

And now these three remain:  
**FAITH,** .....  
**& HOPE**  
*Love.*  
 ..... But the greatest  
 of these is love.  
 I Corinthians 13:13





*Remember in  
your thoughts  
and prayers...*



**NEW NEEDS:**

Melanie Crandall

**CONTINUING NEEDS:**

Our Shut-Ins:

- Dot Norton
- Louise Armstrong
- Sadie Brewer
- George & Martha Clegg
- Jamie Mills

- James Asher Bragan
- Elizabeth Wright Darby
- Cathy Duncan
- 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
- Jessica Talley
- Faith Whitlock - Christa Chapman's mother

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

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

## Gifts to the Church

In Memory of

Joan Buster  
by

- Jyl Barefield
- Mr. & Mrs. Chris Buster
- Mr. & Mrs. John Davis
- Mr. & Mrs. Gray Flora
- Patricia McEwen
- Mr. & Mrs. Billy Swedenburg

In Memory of

Libby Springer  
by

Mr. & Mrs. Billy Swedenburg

In Honor of

Clara Peterson  
by

Mr. & Mrs. Grover Allgood

## August Volunteers

### Nursery

- August 7 Frances Glenn  
Kitty Brewer, Olivia Laws
- August 14 Alice Talley  
Roger & Joy Day
- August 21 Cathy Duncan  
Patrick & Morgan Shipp
- August 28 Kimber-Leigh Drown  
Gee & Becca Allgood

### Ushers

- August 7 Ray Kilpatrick, Mike Meharg,  
Jay Nail, Patrick Shipp
- August 14 Grover Allgood, Taylor Bragan,  
Henry Pilkinton
- August 21 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,  
Brent Drown, Trip Hairston
- August 28 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,  
Richard Laws, Russ Russell,  
Brad Talley

## Upcoming Events

- August 9 Happy Hearts 
- August 26 MSCS Open House
- August 29 MSCS – First Day of School 
- September 6 WIC Bible Study & Luncheon
- September 7 Wednesday Night Activities Resume 
- September 9-10 PCA Women's Conference "Transformed"

### MONEY COUNTER

Henry Pilkinton

### BUDGET REPORT JULY

(One week remaining)



\$31,380



The Men's Prayer Breakfast will restart on Wednesday, September 7, 2016. More information to follow in the September Newsletter, the church bulletins, e-mail and "good ole boy network."

*Mike Meharg*

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  <i>Gray &amp; Laurie Flora</i>	2	3	4 Noon Prayer  Douglas Glenn Silas Zarandona	5  William Laws Ben Woodson	6  <i>Brad &amp; Alice Talley</i>
7 <b>Communion PM Service</b>  <i>Danny &amp; Janie Williams</i>	8  <i>Todd &amp; Kathyrn Matocha</i>	9 <b>Happy Hearts 3:00 p.m.</b>  <i>Dessert SOCIAL</i>	10  Pat Russell	11 Noon Prayer  Karen Livingston	12	13
14  Karmel Crandall	15	16  Caitlyn Lovegren	17  Nancy Franks Becky Livingston	18 Noon Prayer	19  Linda Simpson	20
21	22  Kathyrn Matocha	23	24  Kathy Newton	25 Noon Prayer	26 <b>MSCS Open House</b>  Laurie Chilcutt	27  <i>Henry &amp; Sandra Pilkinton</i>
28  <i>Ben &amp; Anna Woodson</i>	29 <b>MSCS First Day of School</b>  <i>Kimber-Leigh Drown Danny Williams</i>	30  Richard Laws  <i>Richard &amp; Frances Laws</i>	31  Stephen Matocha			

**MAIN STREET  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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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

**Thursday Schedule**

Weekly Prayer Meeting at Noon