

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
September 2016

Wednesday Nights at Main Street

We are introducing some changes to our Wednesday night program. In the past we met weekly for a meal followed by teaching time for adults, children and youth. We will continue to do this, but will alternate weekly with our community groups. See the schedule below. Our community groups were introduced over the summer and serve an important role in the life of the church. The goals for the community groups are 1) to deepen relationships among members & visitors to the church; 2) to discuss recent ministry and encourage one another to apply the ministry in our daily lives; 3) to live out our faith by working together on service projects for those in need in the church and in the community of Columbus. If you are not a member of a community group call the church office and ask to be added to one of the groups.

During the Wednesday Night Program I will teach on homosexuality and the Christian. We will look at the Bible's teaching on homosexuality, and evaluate some of the arguments used by our culture to encourage the practice. This is an important subject because society is putting a great deal of pressure on Christians to conform. In addition, a number of denominations have publicly approved of homosexual marriage. How would God have us respond? Come on Wednesday nights to find out.

In addition we welcome Dr. David Foster back to Main Street in November. Many of us profited from Dr. Foster's series on marriage last year. On November 2 he will speak on the important topic of depression in the Christian life. On November 16 he will give us guidance on dealing with guilt and shame. Don't miss it.

We also welcome back our four RUF interns, Rachel Russell, Jacob McIlwain, Alexa Ray Heafner, and James Wilson. They will continue to meet with our Jr. & Sr. High Youth.

We are excited about the start of our fall semester and hope you can join us.

Pastor Matocha

Fall Semester 2016

September 7	Wednesday Night Program
September 14	Community Groups & Jr/Sr High Youth
September 21	Wednesday Night Program
September 28	Community Groups & Jr/Sr High Youth
October 5	Wednesday Night Program
October 12	Community Groups & Jr/Sr High Youth
October 19	Wednesday Night Program
October 26	Community Groups & Jr/Sr High Youth
November 2	Wednesday Night Program
November 9	Community Groups & Jr/Sr High Youth
November 16	Wednesday Night Program
December 7	Christmas Party

BREAK UNTIL January 25, 2017

Main Street Community Groups

- Cultivating Relationships
- Studying God's Word
- Serving the Church and the Community



Williams Group



Brewer Group Habitat House





Flora Group





Happy Hearts

On August 9, 2016, Happy Hearts gathered at a different time. We met in the same location but this month we met at 3:00 for a Dessert Party. Oh my, it was yummy! I love sweets and I've never had too many! We had a nice variety and plenty of calories. I wish I had made a list of the delicacies, but I failed to do that. I think I needed Lynne Estalote there to help me with that. So from memory, about 15 days later and a lot of water has gone under this bridge, here I go....Orange Sherbet and Vanilla ice cream Push Up Cake. Do you remember eating Push Ups as a kid? This cake is almost exactly like that - cold and delicious! Peanut Butter Oatmeal Skillet Cookies, a huge hit always at our house and very good! Pound Cake with strawberries and whipped cream! A definite must in the summertime! A fabulous Lemon Icebox Cake, another summertime favorite - the perfect combination of tart and sweet! Salty nuts and cheese straws complimented the desserts. We also had Boston Creme Tarts that were awesome. A Chocolate on Chocolate Cake and a Carrot Cake, Chocolate Chip Cookies, and powdered sugar Cocoon Cookies. Is your mouth watering yet? If not, you just don't like sweets, do you? I do apologize to our members who are having to monitor their sugar levels! I didn't think about that when I was making our plans. Next year we will have a dessert choice or two for you also! A special thank you to everyone who provided the sweets. You were sweet to do so! We enjoyed Nell's mint tea, ice water, and coffee with our desserts.

While the sweets were truly delectable, the time to just visit and enjoy fellowship was perfect! We usually have a program each

month. In July everyone was so happy to see each other, it dawned on me that we could just enjoy each other's company! So we did! It was lots of fun! We did have a surprise visitor - Janie Williams brought her granddaughter, Mamie Kate Fisackerly! We all had a great time with her and most of us wanted to have our picture taken with her. She was adorable and it was obvious Jean Yelverton was her favorite new friend. Mamie Kate has such a precious personality and she is so beautiful!!! Could I be partial? Definitely! I adore her parents, Meryl and Brinton Fisackerly, her grandparents, Janie and Danny Williams and Doris and Howard Fisackerly, and I was privileged to even know some of her great grandparents as well as her great, great, great aunt for whom she is named Mamie. Mrs. Mamie Fisackerly was a devout Presbyterian and a valuable member of this church for most of her life. As a child growing up, I sat on the pew behind the one she sat on. So little Mamie Kate is a well-founded Presbyterian!

Happy Hearts was also celebrating with Lori Myers Neely. Lori is about to make a huge life changing move to Florida. She will be near her son and his family there which is a good idea. Lori has been a member at Main Street for a very long time. She and her husband, Jack Myers, raised their children here. Then she helped her daughter, Debbie, raise her children at our church. We were pleased to get to know her second husband, Lefty. Lori has been widowed twice but has managed to keep her smile as beautiful as ever. I have loved knowing her and all of her family as have many of you. Our church family will have a vacancy when she moves. The date is not established, but her Florida home is ready as soon as her Columbus home sells.

Continued on Page 5, *Happy Hearts*

Happy Hearts, Continued from Page 4

We will surely miss "the delightful lady under the broad brimmed hat" on Sundays! She will definitely be a valuable addition to her new church, her new community, and to her family. I am hoping Lori will be able to attend our September meeting so that everyone will have another opportunity to tell her "goodbye". I did not make it clear to the group that we were honoring her at our Dessert Party for which I apologize. I don't always get everything said that I intend to say at these meetings. Think maybe age is slipping up on me too! It goes with the territory!

Our decorations were sunflowers and red roses, not in the same league with the gorgeous arrangement provided by Mike and Lynda Meharg for our sanctuary recently. I had a different plan, but the heavy rains came changing everything. So I ran to Kroger to see what was available in the flower department. There I found the sunflowers and roses on sale at a good price. I needed sunflowers because I had brought a sunflower printed fabric to use with the flowers. It is amazing how it all works out. God provides!

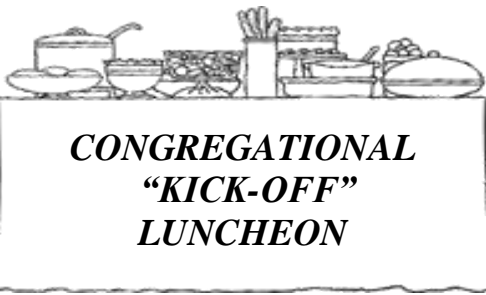
This precious group of people appreciate and love whatever the decorations are, whatever the food should happen to be, and whatever the program provided is! It is such a joy to be involved with our senior citizens. If you can visit, like Janie and Mamie Kate, we would love to have you join us. We are mostly older folks, but we truly enjoy people of all ages. We miss our regulars when they are unable to attend and there were several in August. We love to have newcomers and visitors and we are not concerned with how old or young you are.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 20, for Happy Hearts at 10:30. We will be having a very special program. Frank and Robyn Arnold along with their wonderful children, Hannah, Royce, William, and Amy, will be joining us and sharing their story. If you don't already know the Arnolds, you will love getting to know them. If you do already know them, this is your opportunity to know them better. They are an awesome family and one I pray retires in Columbus! Main Street Presbyterian Church will be blessed if they do.

Bess







**CONGREGATIONAL
"KICK-OFF"
LUNCHEON**

It's hard to imagine that we are once again looking forward to our monthly church luncheons. To visit with other families is fun, but to welcome new members and visitors make these luncheons even more enjoyable.

Now let's move on with details! Sunday, September 11th is our "Kick-Off". Bill Laws and his team will be grilling hamburgers for us. The condiments and the "fixins" will be provided. The rest of our meal will be divided as follows:

If your last name begins with...

- A-D** Hot Vegetables (i.e. Beans, Corn, Peas, etc.)
- F-L** Cold Vegetable Dishes/Salads
- M-S** Fruit or Fruit Salads
- T-Z** Dessert

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 11, and remember our 4 F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda



Women in the Church

The monthly meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 6th, at 10:45 in the fellowship hall at Main Street. We will continue our study of Hoping for Something Better by Nancy Guthrie. We will pick up in Hebrews 11 - Lesson 8. Even if you can't attend the Bible Study, please join us for lunch at 12:00.

The 2016 PCA Women's Conference "Transformed" will be held on September 9th and 10th in Birmingham, Alabama. Nancy Guthrie will be the keynote speaker.

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

Serving Him,
Pat Russell



Fellas, the first Men's Prayer Breakfast of the year will be Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. You will want to be part of a very good and pointed message, an opportunity for individual and corporate prayer, great fellowship and the "best breakfast in Columbus".

It will be re-e-ely huge. Trust me.

Mike

Does America still need to send out long term missionaries to foreign places?

Aren't the churches of Asia, Africa, and Latin America now mature enough to do without us? Shouldn't the church in America, which is losing ground, pay attention to lost people at home? I get asked these questions when I come home on furlough.

It's important to realize that the role of the long term American missionary has changed. We are no longer the church planters and evangelists. We are the support staff. We bring skills and qualifications that are in short supply overseas. We are no longer the in-charge people; colonialism has ended. We work in partnership with and often under the authority of the indigenous churches abroad.

I teach at a Bible college in Malawi, a country that is experiencing rapid church growth, but is desperately short of pastors. The people are sheep without a shepherd, and often have a bare minimal grasp of Christianity. Because of the grinding poverty there, they struggle to support pastors, much less Bible college professors. Another problem is "brain drain." The best and the brightest tend to find their way to developed nations where standards of living are higher, instead of staying home where their education and skills are needed. The church, like the nation as a whole, appears to be generations away from being self-reliant. Meanwhile the American church still has resources that are non-existent in the "Developing" nations. So, countries like Malawi continue to be dependent upon expatriate personnel – such as Bible teachers and doctors – and funding.

Over the years I've seen positive developments. I teach at African Bible College, and have in addition to teaching, been the faculty member responsible for outreach. Increasingly the students are taking my job away from me and are

taking more initiative in starting their own ministries. We – students and I – will go into a village and do evangelism for a weekend or a few days. We've even gone into largely Muslim areas, especially along the shores of Lake Malawi, where Islam is concentrated. It works because the students know the language and culture and there is an immediate connection between the students and the villagers. I provide things the students don't have – car, projection equipment, etc. Pastors allow me to work within their jurisdictions because I've been with ABC 20 years and they know me and ABC.

So that's why I stay in Malawi. In terms of both growth and need, that's where the action is. As God raises up more developing world churches, pastors, and evangelists, African Bible College and institutions like it around the world are training the leaders for this new movement of the Lord. And as long as these institutions suffer shortfalls in resources and teaching staff, American long term missionaries will continue to be needed.

When engaging in cross-cultural ministry, the key thing is building relationships – relationships of mutual trust, mutual respect, mutual understanding. This takes time. In Genesis 11, the story of the Tower of Babel, God confuses the languages of mankind. That's why there will always be a need for long term missionary personnel – men and women who have given their adult lives to learning languages and cultures so that they may transmit the gospel of Jesus Christ and work with indigenous churches in culturally appropriate ways.



(more from Larry Brown on the next page)

Recently, Larry also wrote:

Hi everybody,
 We're scheduled to arrive in Memphis on August 1. We're looking forward to seeing all of you! Meanwhile, if you have access to **YouTube**, **check out the video that explains my ministry in a brief clip. Type in Larry Brown Missionary.** Don't just type "Larry Brown" because there are enough Larry Browns to populate a few countries. This thing has gone viral; last time I checked, it got 64 views. So it probably won't displace "Finding Dory." Oh well, I'm learning. This is a new medium for me. Enjoy. Larry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y126MGbgqkA>

Larry Brown serves as Professor of church history, world history, hermeneutics and missions at the African Bible College in Lilongwe, Malawi



For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold, from those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84.11



Dear friends,
 We ask for your continued prayers. Our need for \$1000 more in monthly giving has been reduced to \$800. God is again moving hearts and providing for us. **We return to Peru on September 6, Lord willing. We appreciate continued prayer for complete funding, our family transition back to Trujillo, and our ministries.**

Dale and Susan Ellison
daleellison@perumission.org

That Others May Know Him

Dear Ministry Partners,

Violence at St. Clair Prison where I minister is greatly reduced. It all happened in a most unusual way.

Three or four inmates went out into an open area between the sixteen open population blocks which house approximately 800 inmates and prayed. The next day, there were 10, then 30, then 100, and then 200 gathered together to hold hands and pray. This began about 3 months ago and is still going on.

About a week after the prayer started, the Commissioner of Prisons for Alabama came to the prison to talk with the security personnel because moral was so low many officers had retired or quit. The result was they began to transfer out most of the inmates who were gang members or trouble makers. Security had requested this six months earlier, but nothing was done.

Currently the violence had dropped from sometimes 1 or 2 stabbings a day, down to only 12 in the last 3 months. This is remarkable. The Chaplain told me he thinks it is all a result of the spontaneous prayer that is still going on.

This truly is a God-thing. The inmates did the only thing they could to – pray. It was not planned or organized, it just happened. When God wants to do something, He sets His people to praying (Phil 4: 6-7).

Please join us and the inmates in prayer for lasting peace in this formerly troubled prison.

As always in Christ,

Bob and Becky McPherson



www.cru.org
 Campus Crusade for Christ
 In the United States

team FRANCE

Bonjour friends and family,

Since May 1st, our area has had record rainfall, the highest since records began in the 1890's. There has been massive flooding in France, but thankfully none at our home. We are starting to feel like Noah. The record low of sunshine was recorded as well! With rain and mild temps the grass looks great. But then there is a thick layer of moss on the roof...we are hoping to dry out and have some summer weather.

One Sunday I preached on Mark 13, the words of Jesus that He spoke on the Mount of Olives just before His crucifixion. He taught his disciples about the future, the coming time of trouble and the coming kingdom. The way this world is going, Jesus' return is the only hope for this planet. I keep praying, Thy Kingdom come.

Last March I recruited for TEAM France at Dallas Theological Seminary's missions week. This fall we have 2 DTS Students coming to see our work and to preach at our church here in Guyancourt. We would love to see God call these couples to work in this needy country!

The Guyancourt church continues to struggle. We meet in a hotel conference room but the hotel can take away the use of the room at any time; sometimes with very short notice. Many weddings this summer took away our meeting room. We have had to find alternate sites, worship with other churches, even cancel worship altogether. It is hard to keep things going being shifted from pillar to post constantly.

Since we are thinking of retiring in Mid 2018, our church council met and defined our church's needs. Since she cannot pay a pastor, she will need a lay or missionary pastor by the end of 2017. I will invite a number of speakers from the seminary at Vauz sur Siene or the Nogent Bible School to perhaps attract someone. We seriously need a stable place to meet. And we need a director for Sunday School. Please continue to bring these requests before the Lord.

Please pray for:

- ❖ *Bobbie's friend Annick to see the truth of the Gospel. She has come to church for the 1st time!*
- ❖ *France to open up to God as terrorist activity continues two policemen killed not far from us.*
- ❖ *Growth for the church in quality, but also in numbers up to 'critical mass' size.*
- ❖ *Results from the recent recruiting trip in Dallas. We need more missionaries in France.*
- ❖ *Spiritual growth for a former Muslim family in our church.*
- ❖ *Marc to move toward discipleship starting with a very clear confession of faith and then baptism.*
- ❖ *Wisdom concerning our retirement within 2 years.*
- ❖ *Health, strength and perseverance to work for the King.*
- ❖ *Salvation for our Moroccan family, Habiba, Farouk, and Imane. Also, for them to receive immigration papers.*
- ❖ *A more suitable meeting place for our church: more stable, additional rooms for Sunday School, possibility to have meals, place to store the piano, etc.*
- ❖ *A long-term solution for the leader of the church.*

We are very thankful for you, our partners in ministry, who pray and give so we can bring the Good News to Guyancourt, France.

Yours for the King and His Kingdom,

Bill and Bobbie

Bill and Bobbie Boggess, www.team.org

Ben-Hur, a Review

by Ron Simpson

Finding a family friendly movie is hard. Then, when you finally find one, it seems Hollywood has done its best to turn out something destined to let us down. Ben-Hur is a textbook example of movie makers seeking to reach a Christian audience, but missing the mark because they don't know anything about their target consumers or their beliefs.

If you are familiar with the novel or the 1959 movie starring Charlton Heston, then you are aware of the epic quality of the story of the fictional characters, Judah Ben-Hur and Messala. In the novel and preceding film adaptations, Judah Ben-Hur is a Jewish prince, and Messala is the son of a Roman tax collector. These characters are childhood companions and best of friends living in the time of Roman occupation of Jerusalem and the era of the ministry of Christ. In a nutshell, the story is about the struggles between these two friends turned enemies by their two antagonistically different worlds of origin. The backdrop of the story is the ministry of Christ taking place in the hostile environment created by the clash of the world of Roman oppression and Jewish defiance. In the end, reconciliation of these worlds and the family of Judah can only be found in the message and power of the blood of Jesus Christ. While the three and a half hour 1959 film cut out much of the content of the original novel, it did wonderful service to the story. For decades it has stood as one of the greatest American films and one of the most outstanding films to carry a Christian theme.

The first evidence the viewer has that the 120 minutes long 2016 film falls far short of the '59 comes in the opening narration by Morgan Freeman. I am a fan of Mr. Freeman's work and find his voice-over work to be exceptional. There was just something very wrong about the voice of Easy Reader in his flat American documentary style delivery setting the stage for the story. Personally, I found Freeman's portrayal of the Nubian Sheik, Ilderim disappointing and not up to his usual performance. This movie version of Ilderim was far more pivotal than in the novel in which he was more comic relief than the source of great wisdom. Messala, the friend of Judah and son of a Roman tax collector in this movie, has been transformed into the adopted brother of Judah. A Roman by birth, he is carrying around a mysterious unnamed dishonor brought upon his family by his grandfather.

Upon hearing of the production of this movie I was encouraged to hear that Christ would be a visible role in this film whereas his face was never shown in the 1959 version. Even with my familiarity with the story, and the presence of the character of Jesus within the story, it took me by surprise when a wood shaving sprinkled carpenter working on a nearby project rudely interjected himself into the private conversations of Judah giving him unsolicited advice and commentary. The further infusions of Christ into the story were near embarrassing and caused me to long for the more ethereal and more convincing portrayal the missing physiognomy provided. As could be expected, the Gospel message is completely white washed and virtually nonexistent. The followers of Christ use the phrase, "Keep the faith," but no one ever

Continued on Page 12, *Ben - Hur*

Ben – Hur, Continued from Page 11

establishes to whom or to what their faith should be placed. For its use in the movie, the phrase carries less weight than, “May the force be with you.” In all fairness, the crucifixion scene was well done and was the saving grace of the movie. Uh, no pun intended there.

In summary, the movie was an entertaining, well-executed modern production and a weak attempt at a “Cliff Note” rendering of the novel. The chariot race was, of course, the strongest action sequence that pulled the audience in and left them exhausted at the end. The CGI does provide some pretty shocking and violent chariot accidents and may be too intense for young children. My bigger concern would be the lack of presence and power in the film’s portrayal of Jesus, who in my opinion does not come across as the long awaited Messiah. A family viewing of this movie followed by a discussion of the deity and humanity of Christ would definitely be in order.



Greetings from MSCS! We are about to begin our 48th school year and we are so excited!

Transformations are taking place inside and out. The men are finishing up the last bit of work on the new parking lot by the playground and it looks GREAT!

Teachers are putting finishing touches on their rooms and getting ready for new and old friends. Speaking of new, we are overjoyed to share that Kathyryn Matocha (Pastor Todd’s wife) will be joining us in the two year old room. We feel so blessed that she decided to join us!

Our beloved Miss Judy Woolbright decided to go into semi-retirement, but promises that she will be a frequent helper this year. Also, we welcome back Miss Kitty in the 3’s and Miss Gaines and Miss Beth in the 4’s. God has blessed this preschool immensely with talented and loving teachers over the last 48 years. We are so grateful for each one. Please pray for them and their students as we kick off another fantastic year!

In His Service,

Miss Cindy

September Volunteers

Nursery

- Sept. 4 Sandra Pilkinton
Karmel Crandall*
- Sept. 11 Ann Marie Chilcutt
John Hunter & Margo Allgood*
- Sept. 18 Shirley Swoope
Laurie Flora*
- Sept. 25 Melissa Duncan
Jay & Hannah Nail*

Ushers

- Sept. 4 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,
Mike Meharg, Jay Nail, Patrick Shipp*
- Sept. 11 Gee Allgood, Roger Day, Brent Drown,
Trip Hairston, Henry Pilkinton*
- Sept. 18 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,
Richard Laws, Russ Russell, Brad Talley*
- Sept. 25 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,
Matt White, Ben Woodson*

MONEY COUNTER
Bill Laws

BUDGET REPORT
AUGUST
\$23,269



NEW NEEDS:

Josh 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

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 Oscar Lewis
Sheriff Mike Aldredge
State and City and County Officials

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Prayer Meeting Noon <i>Billy & Bess Swedenburg</i>	2	3 Ernest Livingston Wade Woodson
4 Communion during the Morning Service	5 Labor Day Olivia Grace Kilpatrick	6 Women in the Church 10:45 a.m. James Wright	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast resumes/ Wed. night activities resume Deli Sandwiches	8 Prayer Meeting Noon	9 PCA Conference "Transformed" Birmingham, AL	10 "Transformed" Makayla Lovegren
11 Congregational "Kickoff" Luncheon Robyn Arnold John Laws Ferguson <i>Jerry & Nancy Franks</i>	12	13	14 Alice Talley	15 Prayer Meeting Noon	16	17
18	19	20 Happy Hearts 10:30 a.m. MSPC Hope Kilpatrick Jami Laws	21 Richard Crandall	22 Prayer Meeting Noon Royce Arnold	23	24 Tom Tait <i>David & Marianne Field</i>
25	26	27	28 Robby Glenn Ray Kilpatrick	29 Prayer Meeting Noon	30	

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

**MAIN STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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2016

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U. S. Postage Paid

Columbus, MS

Permit No. 10

Main Street Presbyterian Church

(A Presbyterian Church in America Congregation)

www.mainstreetpres.org

662-328-2523

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