

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
August 2017

FAITH

EXPEDITION

GOD'S TREASURE REVEALED

If you had the opportunity to see our facility decked out for VBS, then you shared in the excitement each child felt the moment they walked in! Some of our ladies, gifted in creating scenery, did a phenomenal job setting the stage for each day's adventure, and transforming our facility to reflect the themes being explored. An incredible GIANT map made by Shirley Swoope served as the backdrop in our central meeting area. "X' marks the spot" is a phrase associated with expeditions and treasure hunts as adventurers set off to seek fame and fortune. As Christians, a cross marks the spot where the greatest treasure is found, redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As I prayed and asked myself the question: What is the purpose for providing VBS to the children of the church and the community? I was drawn to Question 86 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Question: What is faith in Jesus Christ? Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him

alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

My prayer was that through VBS, many covenant children would realize that their walk with Christ must be a very personal one, that they would be encouraged to dig deeply into the treasure God has given them, and that others would find and claim God's gracious treasure by giving their lives to the Lord and have assurance of their salvation. It was also exciting to reach out with the gospel message to children from our community who may have never heard it.

During the daily skits, children watched enamored as Jon and Lauren Zarandona, alias Chris and Kelly, dug out their backpacks and shovels, opened the treasure map, checked their routes and embarked on their exciting expedition to uncover the greatest treasure in the world!

Captivated by the Bible lessons taught by Alice Talley, our children studied man's need for God and the faith God has given us to follow His plan; to believe His promises; to obey Him; to repent and turn to Jesus; and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This was done by looking at the lives of Moses, David, Daniel, Matthew, and Paul and Silas,

who all made sacrifices, so that they could claim fully the grace of the Lord.

One of the most important parts of Bible school is scripture memorization and application. This is where the teachers came in. Children had the opportunity to hide God's Word in their hearts, so they may recall it in times of need. This year's verses focused on faith - the treasure God gives us when He calls us to be His children.

Our Craft Coordinator, Shirley Swoope, worked tirelessly to select crafts that would reinforce each day's lesson. At the end of the week the children took home a bag of great keepsakes they can have for time to come and remember the biblical truths they learned each day.

As our VBS missions project, we chose the Helping Hands Ministry. Director, Nancy Guerry, introduced the ministry to our children at the opening ceremony on Day 1 of VBS, and explained how we, "the Church", can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Nancy encouraged us to bring non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations.

At our closing ceremony on Friday, she was present to receive and thank our explorers for the food items numbering 336, and the financial donations of \$142.48. I was particularly moved by two young ladies in our church: one who made a financial donation earned by chores she completed at home and another who gave what she had earned by "babysitting" her siblings.

Through VBS God showed me again, as He continually does, that He is altogether sovereign and in control of our lives and the events that take place. As a church family, many of you are aware of the unforeseen circumstances that occurred during the weeks leading up to VBS. **BUT GOD** in His faithfulness brought everything together as only He could. I stood back in awe and wonder of Him as the week went on.

From the bottom of my heart, I'd like to thank again each person who volunteered and helped with VBS 2017! You made an investment of your time and gifts in the future of each child whom the Lord calls to be His own.

Colleen Meek





Happy Hearts

July 19 afforded us a long-awaited blessing at Happy Hearts. Busy people have busy schedules and we looked forward to hearing Kishan Patel's testimony for several months. But it was definitely worth the wait, he has a special story to share. As you would imagine Kishan is of Indian descent. His family moved to England in search of a better life. After being there several years, they decided to move to the United States for the same reason. First, they went to California because his uncle was there. But in time the family moved to Amory, Mississippi, because there was a motel for sale in the small town. What a blessing for us that this family settled in Amory and Kishan now lives in Columbus! Kishan graduated from high school in Amory in 2008 and he was a normal teenager searching for answers to deep questions. His questions were even more difficult because he was struggling with having been raised Hindu. He explained that Hinduism has many, many gods - one for almost everything! Kishan struggled with the religion of his family and had many unanswered questions about himself, his god, and his purpose in the world. Not finding meaningful answers, he strayed and became an outspoken atheist. He told us of his sins, his unbecoming language and behavior, his wandering years. While at MSU, Kishan told his friends of his spiritual discontentment. They invited him to visit some of the Christian activities on campus. He attended Campus Crusade, RUF, and Wesley Foundation. Still experiencing frustration and confusion, Kishan talked with a friend of several years. In high school, one of his best friends had been a Pentecostal minister's daughter. He talked to her and she suggested he talk to her father. This was a turning point in his life! Through this minister's evangelistic efforts, Kishan began to understand the gospel. In May 2010 Kishan Patel



committed his life to Christ and began his new life. Kishan said that one of the most noticeable differences in Christians was in relationships. That is as it should be, "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love." Hearing him share his spiritual journey was powerful, moving, and inspiring. It is a story of God's election, His effectual calling, and His wonderful grace in this young man's life. As a mother, I have thought about the problems for his parents in Kishan's decision. Hopefully, they will begin to see the difference in Kishan as he lives out his faith and in time will come to know our Lord and Savior. We will pray earnestly toward that end. How comforting it is to know that God is in control and that He will effectually call those whom He has predestined. Romans 8:29-30. We praise Him for Kishan and his Christian witness among us.

For those of you who have not had the privilege of meeting Kishan, he is presently employed at MSMS as a math teacher. There he met Lauren Zarandona who invited him to attend our church with her and her family. Kishan is an active member of Main Street Presbyterian Church. We, especially the children, enjoyed his involvement at VBS most recently.

We had an awesome crowd to hear Kishan and to enjoy our annual BLT feast. There were a number of visitors which was a huge encouragement. Thanks to Pogie and Frances for baking our bacon and filling the fellowship hall with that mouthwatering aroma. Nick and Billy provided delicious home-grown tomatoes. We, of course, had both mayonnaise and miracle whip, as well as wheat and white breads, and crisp curly and iceberg lettuce. A cool summer fruit cup, homemade pickles, and potato chips were served with the sandwiches. Pat Wallace provided the yummy dessert made of a cookie crust, vanilla ice cream and orange sherbet, topped off with cool whip. It was all enjoyed by each of our 41 attendees. But the meal could not compare with our awesome speaker. One of our Baptist members asked if Kishan would give his testimony at her

church. I assured her that he would love to. We were pleased to have our complete cleanup crew back together. Thanks to Ben, Nancy, Johnice, Jean and her sister Bet, Ann, and Pat. Laurie Flora and Janie Williams were pitching in to help also. It truly takes all of us working together to make it happen! And that is part of the fun! We would love for you to join us! Next month, Craig Roseburgh will be presenting a program of music and poems. We will meet on Wednesday, August 9, at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. I will look forward to seeing each of you and your guests.

Bess



There was a little bug tweaking the Happy Hearts article last month. It wasn't Diann and it wasn't Bess - can you guess who the little bug was? The bug took her name and little-known fact about herself out of the puzzle which inadvertently rearranged the answers listed at the conclusion of the article.

These are the correct answers:

- I love to entertain. - Fran Perkins
- I lived 6 weeks in Mexico City and 6 weeks in Paris. - Janie Williams
- I rode in a horse show. - Frances Laws
- I went to law school. - Robin Weaver
- I play the piano. - Dot Pilcher
- I like to smell magnolias. - Jerry Franks
- I was on the track team in high school.- Nell Fleming
- I fainted in front of the class on my first day of practice teaching.- Betty Weaver
- I like to ride horses. - Clara Peterson
- I rafted down the Mississippi River right after high school graduation. - Ben Chilcutt
- I enjoyed long distance water skiing. - Jean Yelverton
- I spent the night in a car in the parking lot at a motel in Pueblo, CO.- Eleanor Hairston
- I won a beauty contest when I was 7 years old. - Ann Chilcutt
- I placed second in a swimming race. - the Little Bug!





Women in the Church

The summer break has been enjoyable, but I have missed the fellowship and Bible study. We will all be ready to resume our regular activities - watch for the dates in our Sunday Bulletin announcements.

On July 15, we had another special time of fellowship for ladies of all ages. We gathered in the fellowship hall for our second flower arranging session. Alice Talley shared an awesome devotion from Hans Christian Anderson's, "The Loveliest Rose in the World". It was so very appropriate for the occasion. The identity of the most beautiful rose in the world may surprise you. Find the short story and read it. It won't take much of your time.

Website - <http://hca.gilead.org.il/lovelies.html>

Meryl Fisackerly created a beautiful arrangement right before our eyes! It was a large design for our sanctuary, and Meryl gave us pointers as she placed her carefully chosen flowers. We had opinions and were not hesitant to share them with Meryl. It takes a pro to be able to design and create a flower arrangement under these circumstances, but Meryl achieved the task exceptionally well! It was a learning experience and lots of fun to watch her design. Meryl has a flower business, *Rambling Rose*, from which you can order flowers for your special needs.

Following Meryl's arrangement, everyone was encouraged to do their own arrangement. Flowers, containers, and oasis foam were available for everyone. Thanks to everyone who brought fresh flowers! Nick Hairston, Sally Richardson, Nell Fleming, Jean Yelverton, and John Gore supplied lots of beautiful zinnias, lime light hydrangea, and assorted greenery. Thanks also to those who gathered - it was a hot and humid day when we were picking. Poogie and Frances Laws, Fran Laws, Nell, Jean, and I were out there gathering. The buckets of flowers were available to

everyone and it was fun seeing what the ladies created. There were some creative young girls arranging also.

Several people brought guests along. Rebecca Burg and two of her daughters came with Karmel and Elizabeth Crandall. It was so wonderful to see the Burgs! Alice Talley had Samantha with her, Nell Fleming brought Sherry Guyton, Wendy Herron, and Linda Bobbitt. We liked seeing what each other arranged and have some pictures for you to enjoy. The group was treated to a frozen fruit slush with ginger ale, cookies, savory saltines, toasted pecans, and Nell's mint tea.

The M&M Verse for August is, "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit." Psalm 147:5

Bess





**WIC
Presents
Flower Arranging 101
July 15, 2017**



The Schweitzers

Two Ordinations, Buildings, HMA

Manchester

It was a joy to be able to participate in the ordination of Chris Statter, church planter for Manchester. The ordination was timely. Two days after, and shortly after the core group met this past Monday, the terrorist attack you have heard about occurred. Satan may try to scare Christians in various ways but we know that the Lord will build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. **We trust that as this city is brought to the attention of the world, so it will call many Christians to pray for its people on the eve of this new work.**



Ordination of Chris Statter in Manchester

The Firstfruits of the Seminary

Two months ago, Bill preached at the ordination of Benjamin Wontrop. Many of you will know Benjamin as Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary's first student. Benjamin has been ordained to serve as the associate minister at the EPCEW church in Bury St Edmunds. He and Anna have been living there since September and have already had an encouraging impact upon the church. After two miscarriages, we rejoice with them as they anticipate the arrival of a little one in September.

Building

We are thankful for the Lobley Hill Community Centre which has served as our meeting place for most of the past eight years. For many reasons (say, lack of parking, hard-to-find location, lack of permanent signage, the fact that it is hideous) we

realize that this situation cannot go on forever. **Therefore, we are earnestly seeking the Lord for a suitable building**



for our church so that we might become a permanent presence in our community. The



result of the prayers for the church in Sheffield was seventeenth century Hilltop Chapel which officially became their own a few weeks ago.

Home Ministry Assignment (HMA)

As most will know, we are in a cycle of returning to the States for significant lengths every four years. After 8 years with MTW and 14 years in the UK, we are well due a whole year home, particularly for the sake of Bill's aging mother who cannot travel overseas to see us. Along with the usual work of visiting our churches, Bill will be serving as chaplain to the Marine Special Operations (MARSOC) school in Camp Lejeune, NC. **We are grateful for the many ways that we have seen the Lord supplying our needs as well as the needs of our church in order to make this possible. Please pray for all the many logistic details that lie ahead.**

We give great thanks to God for your tireless prayers and generous financial support. We look forward to seeing many of you in this coming year.

*With you in the work of the Great Commission,
Bill and Pam Schweitzer*

*Mark, Bethany, Mary, Anna, James, Rebecca, and Ruth
UK home: +44 191 488-5751*

bill.schweitzer@btinternet.com

Church website: www.gatesheadpres.org SermonAudio

Thank you from Brian Sorgenfrei

Thank You!

Well, I never thought an Ole Miss Grad like myself would ever cry about leaving Mississippi State, but at the end of the last large group this semester, it happened. I am so thankful the Lord called us to serve this campus 8 years ago. Being the RUF Campus Minister at Mississippi State has been one of the greatest privileges of my 36 year old life. It has been a special time working with interns and getting to know MSU students, becoming friends with them, seeing Jesus work in their life to both convert and grow them, watching them graduate, enter the workplace, join local churches and keep believing that Jesus and His grace are enough no matter where life finds them. Someone once told me that RUF is the best job to raise your family in, because your kids grow up around 18-22 year olds who love them, your family, and Jesus. And that has certainly been true. The Lord is at work and is continually faithful. Thank you for your prayerful and financial support over the years! Your support enabled us to be here serving Jesus and sharing the gospel with students. Thank you, thank you, thank you. It really has been a special 8 years.



Brian, Liza, Shelby (8), Annie (6) and Clark (4)

What's Next...

The Sorgenfrei family [loaded] up the moving vans in July for Oxford, MS and are excited about working with RUF at Ole Miss. For you supporters who are personally connected to my family, I would love for you to keep supporting us prayerfully and financially as we will continue to do the same work at RUF Ole Miss. And for those who are committed to RUF at Mississippi State, would you keep on supporting the work of RUF at MSU? Elliott Everett and his family [will] continue this

important work on campus. It would be so encouraging for Elliott and the students for the ministry to continue having a steady bedrock of financial and prayerful support.

Would you pray?

Would you pray for Elliott Everett and his family as they transition from RUF Mercer to RUF Mississippi State? I am very excited for the students here to be under



Elliott and Brian

Elliott's ministry. The gospel will continue to be preached, students will be loved and pursued, and the Kingdom of God will keep moving forward. Elliott, a die-hard Bulldog, [moved] to Starkville in June with his wife Carrie, a former RUF Intern, and their 4 kids.

Pray for Allie Harmon, who is returning for her second year as the female Intern and for Ward Evans, who is coming from the Univ. of Georgia to be the new male intern at Mississippi State. Allie has done a wonderful job loving students here and will be a big help to both Elliott and Ward as they transition to a new place.

Would you pray for my family? It really is a bittersweet time. It's been sad telling friends and students goodbye, but it has been such a wonderful reminder of how faithful Jesus has been through the years. We are very excited about RUF Ole Miss. Would you pray that our kids will transition well into a new school in the fall and make new friendships quickly? Would you pray for Liza as she gets acquainted with a new place and new people? And would you pray for me to love students well at Ole Miss, to love my family well as we transition, and to keep repenting of sin and keep trusting the love of Christ? Again, thank you for all of your support over the years. It is humbling and encouraging.

With gratefulness,
Brian

August Volunteers

Nursery

- August 6 Kimber-Leigh Drown
John & Beth Ensley
- August 13 Sandra Pilkinton
Jay & Hannah Nail
- August 20 Shirley Swoope
Laurie Flora
- August 27 Meryl Fisackerly
Kitty Brewer

Ushers

- August 6 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,
Mike Meharg, Jay Nail, Patrick Shipp
- August 13 Gee Allgood, Roger Day, Brent Drown,
Trip Hairston, Henry Pilkinton
- August 20 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,
Richard Laws, Russ Russell,
Brad Talley
- August 27 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,
Stephen Matocha, Matt White,
Ben Woodson

August
Money Counter
Henry Pilkinton

July
Budget Report
Offerings this Month
\$26,624
(one week remaining)



NEW NEEDS:

All students and teachers returning to school

CONTINUING NEEDS:

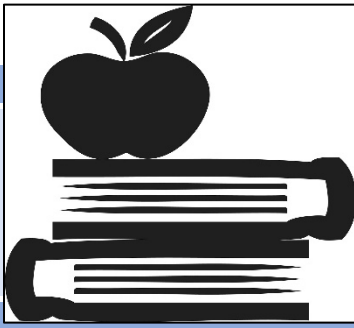
Our Shut-Ins:

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

Jennifer Garner
Phillip Goodwin
Barbara Harrell
Sue Lovegren
Dan Matocha
Edna Mae McCoy
Colleen Meek's mother
John Mark Russell
Alice Talley's great-nephew – Braxton – low risk
neuroblastoma
Faith Whitlock

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

Helping Hands
Life Choices Pregnancy Center
Palmer Home
All Churches and Pastors in Columbus



August 2017

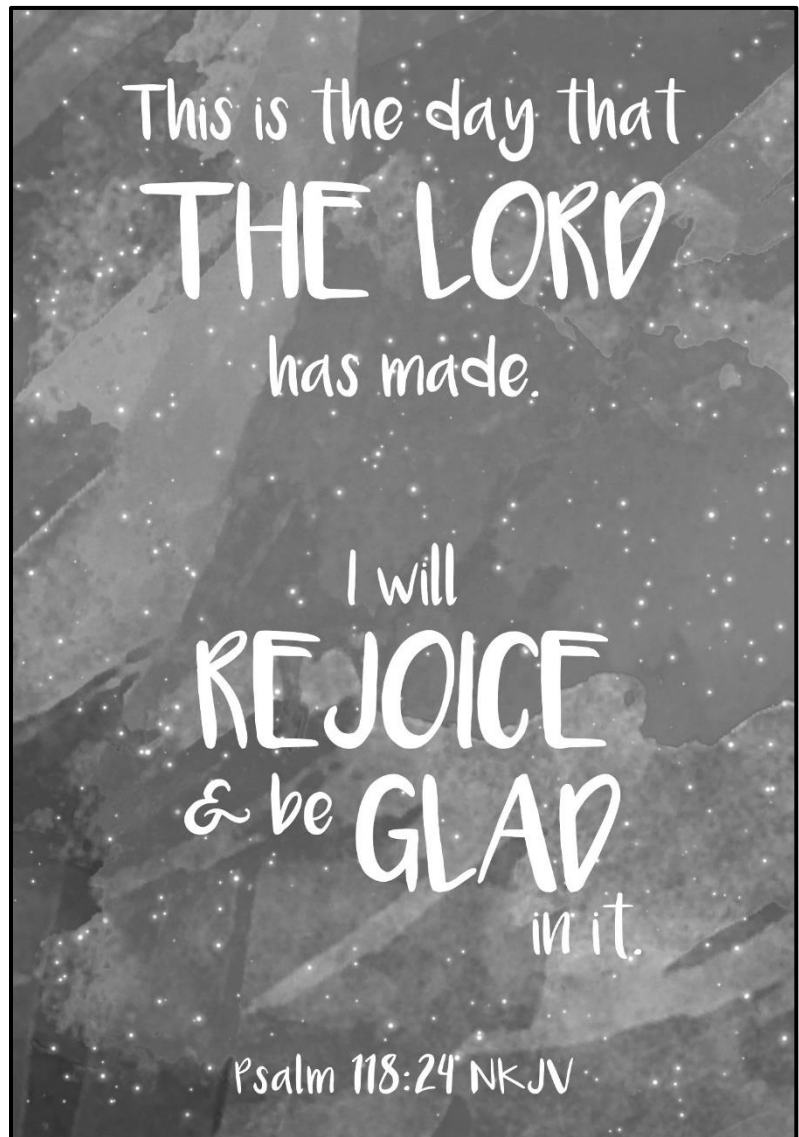
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Jack Woodson <i>Gray & Laurie Flora</i>	2	3	4 Douglas Glenn Silas Zarandona	5 William Laws Ben Woodson
6 Communion PM <i>Brad & Alice Talley</i>	7 Sheri Wright <i>Dan & Janie Williams</i>	8 <i>Todd & Kathryn Matocha</i>	9 Happy Hearts 10:30	10 Pat Russell	11 Karen Livingston	12
13	14 Karmel Crandall	15	16 Caitlyn Lovegren <i>James & Sheri Wright</i>	17 Nancy Franks	18	19 Linda Simpson
20	21	22 Kathryn Matocha	23	24 Kathy Newton	25	26 Laurie Chilcutt
27 <i>Henry & Sandra Pilkinton</i>	28 1 st Day of School for MSCS <i>Ben & Anna Woodson</i>	29 Kimber-Leigh Drown Dan Williams	30 Richard Laws <i>Richard & Frances Laws</i>	31 Stephen Matocha		

Notes

The Lord's Supper will be observed during the evening service on Sunday, August 6, 2017.
 Happy Hearts will meet on Wednesday, August 9, at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall.
 Main Street Christian School begins on August 28, 2017.
 Wednesday Night Activities will resume on September 6, 2017.



Fran Perkins
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210
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**MAIN STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Main Street Presbyterian Church
(A Presbyterian Church in America Congregation)

Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Church Officer Prayer Time
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:40 a.m. Morning Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Thursday Schedule

Weekly Prayer Meeting at Noon