

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
November 2017



10 WAYS TO PRAY FOR OUR PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Pray that they will ...

1. Sense God's presence *(Heb. 13:5)*
2. Know the greater body of Christ is praying for them *(2 Tim. 1:3)*
3. Experience God's comfort when persecuted *(2 Thess. 2:16-17)*
4. See God open doors to evangelism *(Col. 4:3)*
5. Boldly share the gospel *(Acts 4:29)*
6. Forgive and love their persecutors *(Matt. 5:44)*
7. Be granted wisdom in covert ministry work *(Acts 9:23-25)*
8. Remain joyful amid suffering *(Acts 5:41)*
9. Mature in their faith *(Col. 1:28-29)*
10. Be rooted in God's Word *(2 Tim. 3:16-17)*



**Sunday Nov. 5
is the
International Day
of Prayer
for the
Persecuted
Church**



Happy Hearts

Protestants around the world celebrated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing his 95 Theses (theological propositions) to the Church door in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 2017. It is rather difficult for us to truly realize the courage it took to do what Luther did. He questioned the authority of the Catholic Church when in fact he was a Catholic monk. Martin Luther was a man of prayer and old records indicate that he prayed four hours each day. In the 1500's the Catholic Church taught that the "grace of God was dispensed only by the Roman Church through priests who were ordained in the succession of Peter. This teaching turned prayer into an institutionalized ritual, making a priest's prayer more valuable than the prayers of laymen. Rome believed that the high and holy God could not be approached directly by average sinners." (A Simple Way to Pray, Dr. Archie Parrish, page 18) Luther was a well-educated professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg. As he studied the scriptures he began to question some of the Roman teachings. It became apparent to him that his church was not scriptural. In Luther's interpretation the Holy Scripture taught salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, under the authority of Scripture alone, and to the glory of God alone. And so, Martin Luther became a very troubled monk! And because of his devotion to the Scripture, his courage, and his being led by the Holy Spirit, Martin Luther actually began the Reformation by which we believe those essential truths: by Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, under the Scripture alone, and all to the glory of God alone! God reveals Himself to us through His Word and teaches us how to be saved in His Word. "The Bible, --- not the church, not the Pope, not human reason, not religious experience --- is the final authority for faith and practice in the Christian life." (RTS Ministry and Leadership, Dr. Lingonberry Duncan, page 4).

Happy Hearts joined other Protestants in celebrating this very important anniversary in our church history. We actually met on October 31, 2017, on the third floor of the Villee Building. As suggested by my precious friend, Alice Talley, the group viewed the movie, Martin Luther, a study of his life. I love experiencing the way God continually provides programs for Happy Hearts. And how appropriate could this be! On the actual 500th anniversary!

Our menu consisted of white chili, cornbread, and a tossed salad. Milk shakes and cookies were served for desserts during the movie. Thanks to Jean Yelverton for providing the tossed salad and the cookies. Nell Fleming brought her mint tea. Diann Carter helped me with the table decoration. She made small posters of the Reformation truths mentioned above. Bibles and hymnals opened to "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" were also on display. Do you know why that hymn was selected? Our October meeting was both a serious and a fun time! We missed those of you who were unable to join us.

Our November meeting will be a Thanksgiving feast on Thursday, November 9 in the Fellowship Hall. You are encouraged to invite guests and join us for a really good time! Our program will be to fill Christmas Shoeboxes. We have made a tradition of this it seems. Please bring your items for stuffing the boxes... socks, stuffed animals, tooth brushes, soap, washcloths. If you would like, you may donate money to the cause. We have to pay the handling fee (\$9) for each shoebox. It is an easy project and a great opportunity to share with children in foreign countries who have so much less than our children. Christmas Shoeboxes remind us of our blessings and provide us a way to give a Christmas present to those less fortunate. If you have questions, feel free to call the church office.

Bess



Women in the Church

On the first Tuesday of the month, our morning group of WIC meets in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 for a time of fellowship, Bible study, and lunch. We would love to have anyone join us even if only for lunch. It is such a blessing to get to know the women in our church. Our nursery worker is no longer available, but if you have children and want to come, don't let that stop you! We have a plan and your children will be taken care of properly. Last month we were especially pleased to have Laurie Chilcutt join us for lunch and Rebecca Burg and her two youngest children, Mary Belle and Dottie, came from Tupelo to be with us. They were all a pleasant surprise and a delightful addition. We continue to study "A Simple Way to Pray" led by our faithful leader Alice Talley. The subtitle of the book is "The Wisdom of Martin Luther on Prayer". We will meet November 7 with Kitty Brewer and Pat Russell serving as our hostesses.

The WIC at Night group continues to meet in our new coffee room, He Brews, which is located on the second floor of the Villee Building. They also enjoy a sweet time of fellowship and Bible study. Laurie Flora and Kathyryn Matocha are leading their study which is a video, "Learning to Love the Psalms". Interestingly enough, Martin Luther loved the Psalms and Psalm 46 was especially meaningful to him. He like David was facing great risks and it seemed as though the end was very near. Luther knew that John Hus of Bohemia had been burned at the stake for striving to accomplish the same reforms Luther was advocating. May I suggest you read Psalm 46 with this in mind? Back to our ladies, the WIC at Night group would also like to have you join them, if you are not already participating. They will be meeting Tuesday, November 7 and Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 in He Brews.

If you aren't presently attending one of these groups, you are missing a special time of fellowship, prayer request sharing, and Bible study. The better we know each other, the better we can serve and love each other, and the more we all grow in our faith.



Bess



PRAYER WARRIOR UPDATE 80

THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA ... MALAWI ... IS GETTING WARMER ... and MORE CROWDED! The Christians are multiplying as well. When Jack and I first came to Malawi to start the second AFRICAN BIBLE COLLEGE, there were 600,000 Presbyterians...Today, that number has increased to a MILLION 600,000!

Little did David Livingston know when he brought the first missionaries here in the late 1850's that the seed he planted would grow to such proportions! As the Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 3:6:

I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. And even as our student body at the Bible College and the Academy grows we realize that the most important thing God is looking for is the Spiritual Growth.

This would be our most important PRAYER REQUEST FROM YOU, PRAYER WARRIORS, that our students, our graduates, our faculty would continue to **BE STRONG IN THE LORD...AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT!** That as our numbers increase, so would the Love and Knowledge of Christ and His Word increase.

Jack and I are back in Malawi after that whirlwind of doctors and tests and hospitals we experienced while in the states last summer. God, in His marvelous PROVIDENCE, made sure Jack was in the exactly right place to receive the best possible treatment for that unexpected bout with something totally unknown to him....a HEART OUT OF RHYTHM! It took a while for even the best doctors to get to the root of his problem, but when it was discovered that his MITRAL VALVE was leaking, and his age prevented open heart surgery, God opened the door for him to have the very best surgeon in the country perform a relatively new procedure that not only "fixed" the valve but gave Jack back renewed strength! My last prayer letter gave you all the details but once again we want to thank all of you who prayed for him during that time and to assure you that your prayers worked!

As I mention INCREASE, I must confess that the Chinchens are adding to those numbers. This may be a first, though I can't verify it; there are now 4 GENERATIONS OF CHINCHENS in Africa. Jon Jon Spencer, son of our daughter, Marion and her husband, Steve, just arrived with his wife, Lauren and baby CANAAN to teach at the college. You who are grandparent-and great grandparents...will marvel, as do we, that our God today is the same God who said in Psalms 128:6 to those who serve Him: *You will see your children's children...*

More and more we recognize how great His promises are to those who serve Him. And as you serve Him through your prayers, may you, too, claim those promises!

Faithfully yours,
Nell Chinchen
African Bible Colleges

Linda Wixon will be visiting Nov. 12

Linda Wixon will be here to share a ministry presentation with the combined adult Sunday School classes during the Sunday School time period on Nov. 12.

Linda has long served with Mission to the World in Japan. She has been on home assignment for the past year receiving some medical treatments and resting. She plans to return to Japan in February of 2018.

In Japan, she has served in various ministry roles, often alongside the Nisshin Christ Church plant in the city of Nagoya. She has taught English classes and led Bible studies in addition to one-on-one discipleship with the women in the church.

Her exact role when she returns is currently under advisement, but she may have concrete details to share with us when she visits.

She will be staying for the Fellowship Luncheon so if you miss greeting her during Sunday School you can visit with her then.

Apologetics Resource Center

Fall Update

Dear Friends,

It has been an extremely busy summer for us at ARC. We have to vacate the office space we've occupied for the last 9 years. This news came a couple of months ago and we're hoping to be at our new location in the *Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP)* building right off Valleydale Road in Birmingham, sometime this fall. It is very hard keeping up with ministry obligations and packing to move. I'm beginning to think we INVENTED boxes!

We treasure your partnership with us and are pleased to bring you a belated summer/fall update on some of ARC's ministry activities.

We need help with moving expenses. If you would like to help, please donate. ***Please pray for the transition to our new location.***

Another reality is that of having to come to grips with the digital world in which we are living. People no longer visit libraries, nor read hard copy books the way they once did. Everything people want to read can be gotten online from the palm of their hand.

This brings me to ARC's voluminous library, which has required a lot of space. We have decided to reduce the volume of it by donating certain portions to other ministries. Recently, we donated certain science and creation versus evolution materials to *Answers in Genesis*. There are others who are interested in other parts of our library materials. Ours is unique from others in that about 60-70% of it is original or primary source material in the area of philosophy, comparative religions, etc.

For instance, we have a Mormon library of their source materials. We have a Jehovah's Witnesses Watchtower Library in our library with bound Watchtower magazines that date back to the beginning of their organization. You might wonder why this is necessary. It is necessary for research so that when we speak or write on issues involving other religions we have credibility because we have access to their original material. Accordingly, we will keep most of this while donating some good portions of our Christian view area to responsible ministries for the advancement of the Great Commission.

Bibb County Correctional Facility: We just began a new semester of *Comparative Religions* for both the *Transformational Ministries/Prison Fellowship* group and the regular group. This means that around 80 inmates will hear the difference between Biblical Christianity and the various religions that have a presence at BCCF. This approach of comparing Christianity's beliefs and practices with the others has strengthened the Christians, but also allows the non-Christians to see a clear difference. Over the years, we've seen a number of them become Christians as a result. ***Pray the Lord continues to bless this ministry.*** Also, the supervisory chaplain at the **Federal Correctional Institute** in Talladega, Al. has asked me to teach a four-week series on Comparative Religions.

Birmingham Theological Seminary: During the summer I taught a course on *Apologetics and Personal Evangelism*. As a part of the course requirement, degree students are to interview an adherent of a different faith. One of my students, let's call him Dave, interviewed a couple of Mormon missionaries (LDS) with regard to the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. He asked the missionaries some very important questions about the BOM being given to Joseph Smith in Reformed Egyptian Hieroglyphics. The missionaries really did not have a satisfactory answer because the world has never known an example of Reformed Egyptian Hieroglyphics!

The BOM is supposed to be an account of Jesus visiting Native Americans (who, according to the BOM, are really Israelites) after his resurrection in Palestine. However, my student pointed out to the missionaries that there is no archaeological evidence whatsoever that any of the people mentioned in the BOM ever existed on the American continent. The interview is quite good. Let us know if you would like a copy. It will give you some ideas to share with LDS missionaries. BTW, here's a "Culture Alert": ***THE BOOK OF MORMON***, a Broadway musical comedy, is coming this fall to the *Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC)*. Because it is a comedy, it will result in more acceptance of the Mormon faith, which is their goal!

ARC, Continued Page 6



JERICHO PROJECT

We've been promising this, and it is now ready for Pastors and Youth Workers as an aid to equipping our young people. An apologetic 10-part series on today's topics with handouts and PowerPoint is available for \$100 on the ARC website.

There is a "Cultural Tsunami" taking place right before our eyes by a world that is growing more and more resistant to a Biblical Worldview. Most people, especially our youth, are ill-equipped to handle the strongholds their faith will encounter at our secular universities. For this reason, ARC has



developed the JERICHO PROJECT. It is designed to help students not only understand their own faith, but will equip them to give a credible answer to the challenges they will most certainly encounter. [Click here to see the Jericho Project on our website.](#)



Sincerely,
Rev. Clete Hux

MSPC has received 37 Faith Promise pledge cards totaling \$42,735. Please remember to mark your pledge donations MISSIONS FUND.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast was held on Wednesday, October 4. We had a good crowd in attendance. As always, the meal was great.

Allan's message, which was timely and well received, used excerpts from Romans 12 as the text.

The next Breakfast will be on Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there.

Mike



It is definitely autumn with crisp mornings, leaves falling, pumpkins galore, and sounds of football games. We've had 2 wonderful luncheons and now look forward to our next one in November.

So...o...o, let's pull up our calendars and set the date! It will be **Sunday, November 12**, following the morning worship service. Mary Ann Field has shared that our missionary, Linda Wixon, will be with us from Japan.

Here is what you need to bring. If your last name begins with:

- A-E Dessert
- F-L Meat or Chicken
- M-S Cold Vegetable/Fruit/Salads
- T-Z Hot Vegetable

Let's gather to welcome Linda Wixon and enjoy our 4 F's... Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda

MSCS News



It's been a busy, beautiful Fall so far at MSCS! We are thankful to be enjoying cooler temperatures and it's always fun to watch as the leaves begin to change color.

Fall offers the children many opportunities to learn about a variety of subjects. So far, the children have studied Fire Safety, Apples and Pumpkins, Nursery Rhymes, and Community Helpers, to name a few. We've had a visit from the local fire department (complete with a fire truck!), Mother Goose dropped in for stories and songs, and the fours have enjoyed field trips to the Fire Station and the Sunflower for grand tours!

Picture day was successful with (almost) all smiles from each of our two, three, and four year olds. As always, Kelly Hayes did an excellent job! Pastor Todd has done several chapel services where the children have heard about prayer and honoring our parents and being kind to one another. What a privilege it is for these children to hear God's Word read and explained to them so simply and clearly!

As we look forward to the thanksgiving season, we thank each of you for your prayers for our sweet school. We love what we do, and hope it brings glory to our God and blesses each of the precious children with whom we have been entrusted.

With love in Christ,
Kathryn




Upcoming Events

November 3 Upsurge Trampoline Park
Youth meet at MSPC at 4 p.m.


November 10 Skeet Shoot
Magowah Gun Club

November 12 Return Operation Christmas Child
Shoeboxes to MSPC

Our children/youth Sunday School classes would like to fill 10 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The shipping cost is \$9 per box, for a total of \$90. If you can donate towards this, please make your check out to MSPC, and write Operation Christmas Child in the memo line. Thank you!

November 23 Thanksgiving Day 

December 9 Chilcutt – Miller Wedding
MSPC 2 p.m.

 December 17 MSPC Christmas Program

December 24 No Sunday School
Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m.

December 25 Christmas Day 

December 31 No Sunday School
Dr. Guy Waters will be our guest.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack McGinty Chilcutt

Request the honor of your presence

At the marriage of their daughter

Ann Marie

To

Carson Ray Miller

Saturday, the ninth of December

Two Thousand Seventeen

At Two O'clock in the Afternoon

Main Street Presbyterian Church

Columbus, Mississippi

Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall



Shoebox Gift Suggestions



A "Wow" toy – a doll, soccer ball and pump, stuffed animal, etc.



Hygiene items – toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, soap, (no toothpaste)



School supplies



Age appropriate clothing



Other fun toys

No candy, liquids, war-like items, or breakable items



November Volunteers

Nursery

Nov. 5 Kimber-Leigh Drown
Kitty Brewer

Nov. 12 Sandra Pilkinton
Crystal Coleman

Nov. 19 Shirley Swoope
Roger & Joy Day

Nov. 26 Meryl Fisackerly
Justin & Ivy Harris

Ushers

Nov. 5 Gee Allgood, Roger Day, Brent Drown,
Trip Hairston, Henry Pilkinton

Nov. 12 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,
Richard Laws, Russ Russell, Brad Talley

Nov. 19 Gray Flora, Bill Laws, Stephen Matocha,
Matt White, Ben Woodson

Nov. 26 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,
Mike Meharg, Jay Nail, Patrick Shipp

November
Money Counter

Gee Allgood

October
Budget Report

Offerings this Month

\$25,025.38
(one week remaining)

NEW NEEDS:

CONTINUING NEEDS:

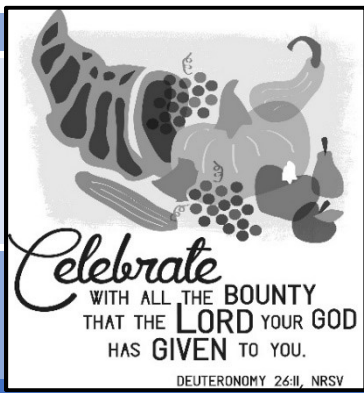
Our Shut-Ins:

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

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

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



November 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30 a.m. MOPs	2 Prayer Meeting Noon Gee Allgood	3 Youth - Upsurge Trampoline Park 4 p.m. Turner Kilpatrick	4 Bess Swedenburg
5 Communion AM	6 Bethany Hairston Russ Russell	7 WIC 10:45 a.m. WIC at Night 7 p.m.	8	9 Happy Hearts 10:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting Noon Grover Allgood	10 Skeet Shoot 6 p.m. Magowah Gun Club	11 Sadie Brewer Reed Williams
12 Linda Wixon will speak during Sunday School. Return OCC Shoebboxes	13 Diaconate Meeting	14 Bill Laws Mike Meharg Doug Yelverton	15 Edna Mae McCoy Ed White	16 Prayer Meeting Noon	17 Louise Armstrong	18 Chris Howard
19	20	21	22 Dot Pilcher Will Russell	23 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	24	25
26	27 Ann Chilcutt Shirley Swoope	28	29	30 Prayer Meeting Noon Rachel Brown Landon Kilpatrick		

Notes

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, November 1, at 6:30 a.m.
 The Lord's Supper will be observed during the morning service on November 5, 2017.
 WIC and WIC at Night will meet on November 7 at 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
 Happy Hearts will pack OCC shoeboxes and enjoy a Thanksgiving feast on Thursday, November 9, at 10:30 a.m.
 The Congregational luncheon will be Sunday, November 12.
 The Diaconate will meet on Monday, November 13.

“The bell has been already cast, judgement has been pronounced. Ah God, ah God, O You, my God. Stand by me; do this, You must do it, You alone! The matter is not mine, it is Yours. O God, do You not hear? My God, art Thou dead? No, You cannot die; You only hide Yourself. Stand by me. Lord, where do you tarry? Where art You, O my God? Come, come! I am ready, even to forsake my life for this, submissive as a lamb, for righteous is this cause which is Yours. And should my body perish for this cause, should it fall to the ground, yea, be broken to fragments, yet Your Word and Your Spirit are enough. And all this can happen only to the body; the soul is Yours and belongs to You and will remain forever with You.”

Martin Luther
1521

A Simple Way to Pray:
The Wisdom of Martin Luther on Prayer

Dr. Archie Parrish

MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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

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