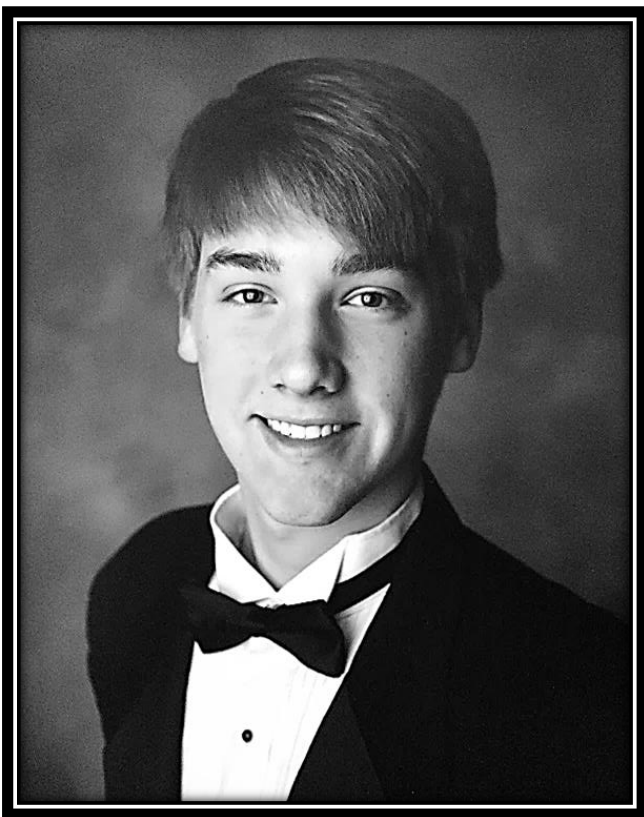


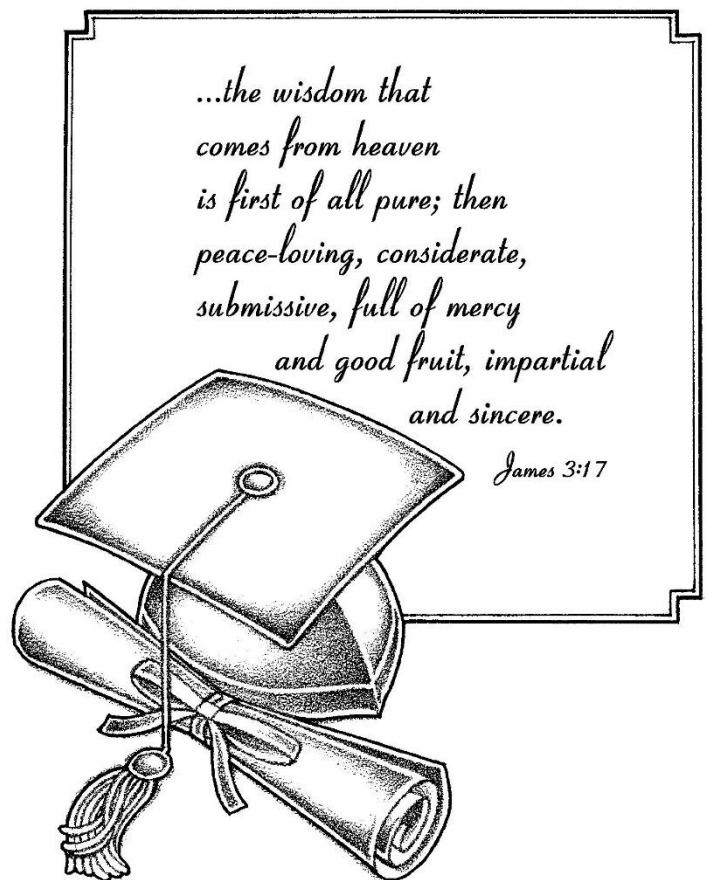
The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
May 2018

Congratulations to Our 2018 Graduates



Stephen Olson Russell
Columbus Christian Academy
Son of
Russ and Pat Russell



Jonathan Crandall, son of Richard and Karmel Crandall, will graduate from Oak Hill Academy.
(Jonathan's picture will be featured in the June newsletter.)

Preschool News

It is hard to believe the end of the school year is already here! Time sure flies when you're having fun, and pre-k is all about having FUN! All of the children enjoyed Easter celebrations. We had parties, Easter egg hunts, and most importantly learned all about the amazing sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The 3's have been busy lately learning about their "Feelings", "Dinosaurs", and "Outer Space"! With all of that comes a parade of feelings, dino hunts, and a trip to the moon! Told you pre-k was fun! They have also finished learning the numbers 1-10 and the WHOLE alphabet! They are super proud about making it to the end of the alphabet, and so am I!

My first year teaching at MSCS has been such a joy and I have loved every minute! It's hard to have a bad day when you get LOTS of tiny hugs from precious kiddos every day! I am so thankful to be a part of such a sweet and loving school with encouraging and caring teachers! MSCS has created a safe, fun, nurturing, and inspiring learning environment for children for the past 49 years! I consider it a privilege to not only have gone to pre-school here myself, but to now be a teacher in this amazing school. We are all sad to see this year come to an end but will be excited for a new one in August! Enjoy your summer!

In His Love,

Ms. Anna Gaines



"A Wonderful Year"

Can this actually be the end of a year's worth of luncheons? Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday we were planning for the September "Kick Off".

April's luncheon was great! We enjoyed having our missionary Bill Schweitzer and his family along with at least 120 in attendance. The chicken, as always, was great and the dishes prepared by you were delicious. For the second time, we ran out of chairs...keep 'em comin!!!

In wrapping up the year, special thanks go out to Linda Simpson for her Sunday help and commitment. Also, thanks to Diann for "getting the word out" and Craig for setting up the tables and chairs each month. Most of all, THANK YOU, the families, for the wonderful and varied dishes throughout the year. It's by your participation that our ministry has increased.

We now will take a break until September to catch our breath. So, now's the time to practice on some new recipes or bring back out one of your favorites.

Enjoy your summer and let's gather again in SEPTEMBER for our FOUR F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda



Mission Control is seeking dedicated volunteers to serve on the 2018 Space Probe during June 25-29 daily from 9-12 a.m. Squadron Leaders are needed for 4K/5K, 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, and 5th/6th Grades. These leaders will need devoted assistants to help

with the tasks of this worthwhile mission. If your gift is not teaching, you will be indispensable in other areas: decorating, skits, listening to memory work, preparing and/or serving snacks, recreation, crafts, nursery, etc.

Your talents are vital to this mission!

Please call Mission Control (328-2523) to sign up or stop by the exhibit at MSPC.



Women in the Church

Both groups of WIC will meet at their regular times on May 1 prior to taking a summer break. The morning group will meet on the third floor of the Villee Building because the preschool will be having Farewell to Fours at the same hour. WIC at Night will meet in Hebrews at 7:00 p.m. They will be completing their study this month. The group hopes to have a fun summer get together, so watch for announcements in the bulletin or newsletter when plans are finalized.

WIC in the morning has been studying the prayers of Martin Luther which has been very stirring and enlightening. We will resume the study in the fall, but for now our teacher, Alice Talley, has suggested that as we "close our study on prayer, we will look at how hymns can help us to pray. Some hymns are statements of facts or dedication, but there are those which are prayers to our One True God. Our homework is to consider and choose one such prayer hymn, perhaps a favorite or one that has been your particular prayer. Search the Scriptures to find its Biblical basis and we will share our findings in May. This should enhance our congregational singing as we understand we are engaged in congregational praying." While this is a WIC suggestion, I thought it would be an appropriate activity for our entire church family. So I encourage every reader to select a hymn, study it's Scriptural basis, and use it to enhance your prayers.

Bess





Happy Hearts

Happy Hearts was especially special in April, following our Resurrection Day Celebration on Easter Sunday! Every Sunday is a designated day to be thankful for Christ's life of total obedience, His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the tomb! Every breath we draw is truly a celebration if we are children of God! We are often remiss in recognizing how awesome it is to be Christians and how blessed we are to be covered by the blood of Jesus.

We often take even this for granted! On April 13 all of these thoughts crossed my mind as I listened to Turner Kilpatrick speak! Turner is a college senior at Samford University in Birmingham. He is the eldest of Ray and Amy Kilpatrick's children. Turner had planned to go on a cruise (every young person's dream vacation) during his spring break but ironically changed his mind and decided to go on a mission trip to Haiti! What an unselfish and beneficial decision. Turner travelled to Haiti with a group known as Filters of Hope. As their name indicates, they distributed water filtering systems to the people who were using contaminated water for drinking water.

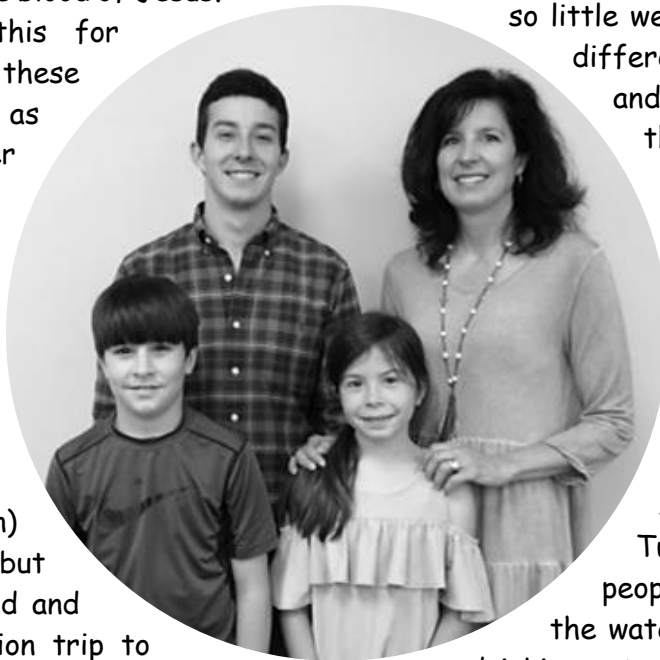
Turner agreed to come to Happy Hearts and share his mission experience with us. He is quite a capable speaker, though he is seemingly a quiet young man and rather reserved. As he spoke from his heart with no obvious notes, he was captivating. He spoke honestly and realistically with clarity and conviction. First, he thanked our church family for financial and

prayer support. He was blessed to receive more financial support than he needed, so he anonymously gave this excess to someone he did not know. Turner's excess was exactly the amount this person needed, so God provided for both of them to go on the trip. Turner told of the extreme poverty, the naked little children, the drinking of contaminated water, and the women who spoke more often than their husbands. There had to be translators, but the language barrier did not prevent their kindnesses, their distributing of water pumps, and their sharing the love of Jesus! Turner observed that the poor little children who had

so little were smiling. He noticed the difference in the Haitian children

and our children who have more than they can ever want! He even had an opportunity to share the shirt on his back with a man who had no shirt. We are hoping that this man knew that Turner had the love of Jesus in his heart and that this love motivated him to help someone less fortunate.

Turner and his friends taught people how to use and to clean the water filters which made their drinking water clean enough to be safe for drinking. The group took every opportunity to share the gospel in simple terms to these people. When asked if he would return to Haiti, Turner affirmed that he would if given such an opportunity. He was not naive enough to think that he and his friends had changed the Haitian situation, but he was hopeful enough to trust God to use their acts of kindness and their sharing the gospel to change lives. One thing I believe, Turner and his family are praying for the Haitians with a new zeal! We, as his church family, should also. Prayers are more likely to be life changing than water filters! So often the person praying experiences a change in their own



life as God answers their prayers for others. Our God accomplishes His will! Indeed, His will was definitely for Turner to go to Haiti.

It is so encouraging for older people to hear a young person tell of his spiritual experience. We appreciate Turner's coming to share with us this unique experience and what it has meant to him. It was a life changing experience for Turner. As older people in our church family, we should be dedicated to praying for our younger people.

Happy Hearts, and the Kilpatricks who were able to join us, enjoyed an Italian lunch. We ate lasagna, tossed salad, bread, and finished with tiramisu. Ann Barkley provided a delicious tossed salad of greens, strawberries, nuts, feta cheese, and a delicious dressing. Ann is a member of Fairview Baptist and a precious member of our Happy Hearts group. Eleanor Hairston provided the good, good bread. She had buttered it to perfection and served it warm. Nell brought her mint tea, even though she was busy with tax returns. The cleanup crew was Ben Chilcutt, Nancy Franks, Jean Yelverton, Bet Sanchez (Jean's sister), and Ann Barkley. It's always fun in the kitchen! Thank you to everyone who made our day fun and especially to Turner for sharing his time and his heart with us!

We are planning to meet on Tuesday, May 8, at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. Rich Crandall will be telling us about his work and life in Saudi Arabia. I promise it will be an interesting program. Please bring your friends and come. We miss you when you aren't present! Hopefully we will all be together on the eighth!

Bess



FAITH PROMISE

Please be in faithful prayer concerning Faith Promise giving for Main Street's missions programs. Faith Promise is the tool we use to support our missionaries, above the tithe, not as a part of it. The total of pledges made is calculated and that total is then shared with the Missions Committee. They in turn use it to set a budget for the payments to support our missionaries for the coming year. There is a list of those we support in the bulletin each week. In addition, there are a few more who work in sensitive areas and their information is not made public. If you wish to know more about them, see a member of the Missions Committee.

There are pledge cards and envelopes to hold them in the pew pockets.

The pledges are confidential, and no one will come to press you for payment. That said, these pledges enable Main Street to give as a body to spread the Gospel. They enable us to share with our missionaries an amount that we plan to share with them, helping them to know when they have a reasonable amount of support. They have family budgets too.

If you would like to better understand Faith Promise, let Pastor Todd or one of the Missions Committee know and we will have someone contact you. Russ Russell is our committee Chairman, and this year our primary Faith Promise contact is Taylor Bragan. If you would like to read more, 7-day devotional booklets are available in the back of the Chapel.

These are the funding goals set by the Missions Committee this past February:

2018 Faith Promise Pledge Goals:

\$50,000 Operational Goal:

This amount would give us a solid base for continuing to support those on our current support list at current budgeted levels. Our pledges were \$42,735 for last year. We just met our obligations. This is also down from an historical high of over \$60,000.

An extra \$5000 would provide a small cushion for unexpected opportunities. In the past we have helped by:

- ❖ Sending a missionary an extra check for an unexpected evangelistic opportunity when it requires travel – even travel to visit us
- ❖ Sending a missionary an extra check for a family emergency such as illness or travel expenses for a family funeral
- ❖ Sponsoring someone from Main Street on a trip – we were blessed to be a part of sending Turner Kilpatrick on his recent trip to Haiti
- ❖ Providing funding for one of our Main Street members to be part of a future international missions' trip

\$55,000 Praise Goal

We could provide a small 'raise' for our missionaries (not happened in a decade), perhaps add someone to our support list, or perhaps send a church member or two on a missions trip...

\$65,000 Halleluiah Goal

We could do all of the above...and perhaps even something we do not at present know that the Lord has planned for Main Street!

The Missions Committee will be meeting in June to set the budget, so all pledges need to be made on or before Sunday, June 10, please.





LARRY BROWN REACHED MILESTONE

Larry writes:

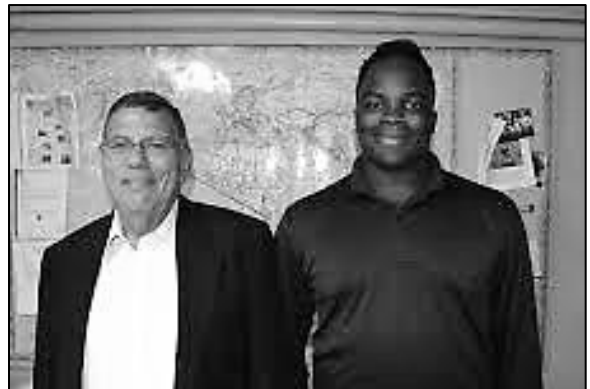
On February 27, 2018, I reached a milestone; it was the twenty-fifth anniversary of my arrival in Malawi! The Lord has blessed me with a quarter century of service at African Bible College! It has truly been an odyssey of challenge, growth, and achievement. I feel very blessed. And you, my friends and supporters, have made it possible, through your prayers, encouragement, and financial donations.

When I arrived here I was a bachelor. ABC had just opened; it had a freshman and sophomore class, with about forty students each. Shortly afterward the chapel was finished. In 1995, our Christian radio station was completed. We were then the only broadcasting operation in the country besides the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC). A few years later, the ABC Community Clinic and the ABC Christian Academy opened. Australians came and started an audiology department and are now largely staffed with personnel from our college. A few years ago we started a Master of Arts Degree in Christian Leadership (MACL). Just a few months ago the African Business Institute opened here, a graduate program for raising up Malawian Christian entrepreneurs. We also maintain a witness to the Muslim community; Muslim students may be admitted at our Academy, our clinic treats people of all religions, and our radio and TV ministries can be tuned in by all, Muslim and Christian. This is a busy place!

Today we have 300+ students at the undergraduate level and about 30 in the MACL program. I am currently teaching world history, systematic theology, and hermeneutics (interpretation of the Bible) to undergraduates, and hermeneutics in a night course to graduate students. I am also involved in prison ministry, at the big Maula Prison here in Lilongwe. So, when school is in session I stay busy.



My son Carey is now fifteen-years-old, stands right at six feet (he towers over me) and weighs 200+ lbs. Formerly a swimmer, he now devotes his energy and attention to basketball, and was picked to be team captain at his school. This year he is enrolled in the ninth grade at the ABC Academy. A typical teenage boy, he says he likes the Cleveland Cavaliers, and because of him I now know who LeBron James is.



In the twenty-five years that I've been here, I've seen much change and growth in the city of Lilongwe. When I arrived in 1993 it was definitely a "Third World" location. Since then I've seen a middle class develop. Now many own a car and we have traffic jams. We have many more shopping centers and restaurants. All my students own cell phones; just as I tell them to put theirs away in class, mine is liable to ring. I'm seeing more students in class with lap tops.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Our graduates have been placed in strategic places, penetrating every level of Malawian society. We currently have three graduates serving in the Malawi Parliament. Others serve as headmasters and pastors. Recently I ran into a graduate who is serving as the assistant head of a large denomination.

The nation of Malawi continues to face daunting challenges. It remains a rain-dependent agricultural economy that vacillates between drought and flood. Tobacco is still its principle export. Every year the population grows but the price of tobacco drops. The political landscape is not overwhelmingly stable, and next year is a presidential election year! Corruption is ubiquitous, and crime is a problem. At African Bible College and other institutions like it, we aim to raise up a new generation of African leaders.

Prayer needs for ABC: more teaching staff for the Academy for next year, and more doctors at the Community Clinic. Pray for wisdom for me, a widower and single dad, as I have a teenager who will be looking to go to college in just a few short years. Again, thank you for your interest and support for this ministry.

Larry Brown, D.Th.
African Bible College, Lilongwe, Malawi

Also From Larry:

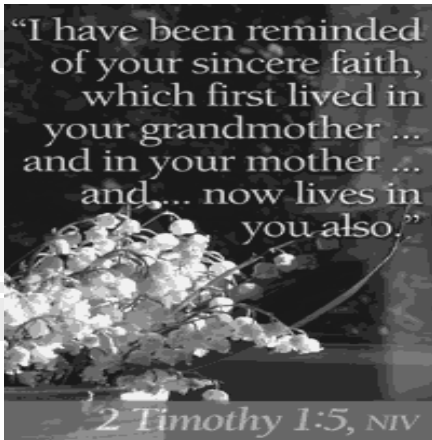
I'm passing this on because it is written by a former student of mine at African Bible College, Malawi, Mr. Phenious Chuma, who now lives in Arizona. I thought you'd be interested in the African perspective of missionaries:

Sharing a podium with a progressive missions professor last year at one Christian university, I categorically rejected his negativity against missions and missionaries in Africa. He said Africa could have been better if Western missionaries kept away from it, in his words he said: "missionaries brought more damage and misery to the African continent" basing most of his arguments on negative historical events. Now, I told his class that as Christians, we should face the reality of our negative history, the history of the church and the history of our great commission. yes, it is true that those who took the

gospel to other places outside America and Europe made mistakes. It is true that some missionaries had personal interests than the preaching of the gospel. Some used the gospel as a tool of subjugation and an arm of imperialism. It is true that for instance in Malawi and other parts of Africa, missionaries contributed greatly to the partition of Africa, stealing land and resources from indigenous population in exchange for heaven. But it is myopic to conclude that all missionaries were wrong and that all they did was rubbish.

I told the class that the primary school I went to was founded by Catholic missionaries, the secondary school I went to was started by Dutch missionaries. The university I went to was founded by missionaries, the hospital where my son was born was founded by Korean missionaries. The organization that I first worked for was founded by missionaries. The best schools in Malawi are either run or founded by missionaries; the best hospitals are either run or founded by missionaries. Missionaries made some mistakes, but they have contributed enormously to the development of Africa and judging them based on some rogue missionaries' activities is a careless generalization not befitting an academic. I concluded by asking the prof this question, "you have taught missions for over thirty years, what have yourself done for Africa? he responded with red eyes, he said "Nothing".

I might add that I teach history at African Bible College. I am aware that missionaries fought foot binding in China, "suttee" (widow burning) in India, "female circumcision" in East Africa, and of course they were at the forefront in the struggle against slavery. Today, as a 25-year missionary in Malawi, I work WITH - not over - Malawians. I report to Malawian administrators. Together, today we fight against such things as forcing 13-year-old girls to marry. And the church is growing fastest in those "developing world" countries that received Western missionaries. Finally, these churches tend to be resistant to the dominant liberalism in the West today.



May 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 <i>MSCS Farewell to Fours 10:00 WIC – 10:30 3rd Floor Youth Suite WIC at Night 7p.m. Trip Hairston</i>	2 <i>Last Wednesday Service End of Year Parties Olivia Laws</i>	3 <i>MSPC Anniversary Charles Glenn</i>	4	5
6 <i>Communion during the morning service Brinton Fisackerly Billy Swedenburg</i>	7	8 <i>Happy Hearts 10:30</i>	9 <i>Daniel Goodwin Taylor & Lindsay Bragan</i>	10 <i>Sammy Clemons Patrick Shipp</i>	11	12 <i>Meryl Fisackerly Jane Rogowski</i>
13 	14 <i>Grover & Melissa Allgood</i>	15	16 <i>Thomas Glenn Mike & Lynda Mehara</i>	17 <i>Anna Woodson Jesse & Cathy Duncan</i>	18 <i>Evan Matocha</i>	19
20	21 <i>Charles Swoope</i>	22	23 <i>Ellen Elizabeth Allgood</i>	24 <i>Chris & Melinda Howard</i>	25	26 <i>Matt White Brent & Kimber-Leigh Drown</i>
27 <i>Ann Marie Miller</i>	28	29 <i>Bertram Jenkins</i>	30	31		

Notes

Tuesday, May 1—MSCS “Farewell to Fours”
 Women in the Church – 10:30 – 3rd Floor Youth Suite / WIC at Night – 7 p.m. in HeBrews
 Wednesday, May 2—End of Year Parties/ Youth at the home of Trip & Bethany Hairston/ All others at the Church
 Thursday, May 3—The 189th Anniversary of MSPC
 Sunday, May 6—Communion during the Morning Worship Service
 Tuesday, May 8—Happy Hearts
 Sunday, May 13—Mother’s Day

May Volunteers

Nursery

- May 6 Jennifer White
Janie Williams
- May 13 Marianne Field
Karmel Crandall
- May 20 Cathy Duncan
Roger & Joy Day
- May 27 Lauren Zarandona
Carson & Ann Marie Miller

Ushers

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

May
Money Counter
Patrick Shipp

April
Budget Report
Offerings this Month

\$ 30,621
(one week remaining)



Our Shut-Ins:

- Louise Armstrong
 - Sadie Brewer
 - George & Martha Clegg
 - Verda Laws
 - Dot Pilcher
 - Emily Shull
 - Sammy Clemons
 - Jennifer Garner
 - Phillip Goodwin
 - Barbara Harrell
 - Poogie Laws
 - Sue Lovegren
 - Dan Matocha
 - Edna Mae McCoy and Mark
 - Colleen Meek's mother
 - John Mark Russell
 - Alice Talley's great-nephew – Braxton
 - Brad Talley
 - Faith Whitlock
 - Rick Wright
 - Bubbe Yelverton
 - The New Infants and their Parents
-
- President Donald Trump
 - Officials in Washington
 - Governor Phil Bryant
 - Mayor Robert Smith
 - Police Chief Fred Shelton
 - Sheriff Mike Aldredge
 - State, City, and County Officials
-
- Helping Hands
 - Life Choices Pregnancy Center
 - Palmer Home
 - All Churches and Pastors in Columbus



Joshua Robert Ensley

March 28, 2018

Parents: John & Beth Ensley

Knox Robert Meier

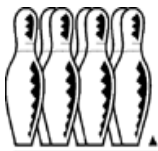
April 6, 2018

Parents: Mason & Emily Meier

Margaret Phillips Nail

April 12, 2018

Parents: Jay & Hannah Nail



GT Lanes

Fun for kids of all ages!



The children and youth traveled to GT Lanes on Wednesday, April 18, after enjoying pizza and ice cream at Main Street. They enjoyed bowling, bouncing, and barreling down the slides!

Thank you to all who planned this event and the chaperones who made it possible!



**MAIN STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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Columbus, MS

Permit No. 10



2018

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