The Main Thing

A Publication of MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH June 2018

Are You Praying?

"Pray without Ceasing." "I will that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people." "I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without quarreling." Pray "at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray." These are just a few of the exhortations in Scripture on prayer. Prayer is a fundamental activity in the Christian life. Are you praying?

For most of us the answer is, not as consistently as I would like. Prayer is communication with our heavenly Father. The devil hates it. It strikes at the core of everything he despises. His main work is to disrupt our relationship with God. Prayer is the purest practical expression of our restored, redeemed relationship. The devil and our own weak flesh make prayer difficult. I think this is why the Bible so often encourages prayer. Our tendency is to neglect it.

What are the spiritual dangers of neglecting prayer? The old English preacher, Philip Henry (1631-1696), wrote: "Be sure you look to your secret duty; keep that up whatever you do. The soul cannot prosper in the neglect of it. Apostasy generally begins at the closet door...The best way to fight against sin is to fight it on our knees." William Wilberforce, famous for his role in abolishing slavery in England, wrote: "Of all things, guard against neglecting God in the prayer closet. There is nothing more fatal to the life and power of religion." Our neglect of prayer makes us vulnerable to the devil's attacks. It weakens our spiritual influence in our community. It takes our spiritual gaze off Christ. It has a negative influence on our personal spiritual development and the health of Main Street Presbyterian Church.

I want to encourage and challenge you to make an intentional effort to pray. Much like the physical discipline of regular exercise, it takes effort, commitment, and perseverance. If you have neglected prayer for a while you may need to start back slowly. Make a point to give 5 minutes in the morning (before looking at your phone or computer to check messages and emails). Open your day with God in prayer. Also, give 5 minutes in prayer before bed. Develop a habit.

If you are like me, you find your mind wandering while praying. Here is a simple guide to give direction and order to your prayer. It is called the ACTS model.

Adoration

Start your prayer off by praising (adoring) God for his greatness, for the beauty of his creation, for the mercy of his salvation.

Confession of sins

Make known to God the specific sins you have committed in neglecting things he has commanded you to do or doing things he has commanded you not to do.

Thanksgiving

Reflecting on God's goodness may be the most neglected activity in prayer. That's a shame. Instead of focusing on the bad things in your life, train yourself to think of ways that God is blessing you, your family, your church, etc.

Supplication

Last, make your requests to God. Pray for spiritual growth. Pray for a deeper love for Christ. Pray for victory over sin. Pray for your material needs. Go to your Father, as a needy child, and let your requests be made known.

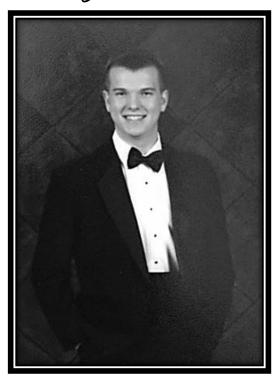
Let us make a commitment to pray. Encourage one another in this. It is one of our greatest privileges as the Children of God.

Pastor Matocha

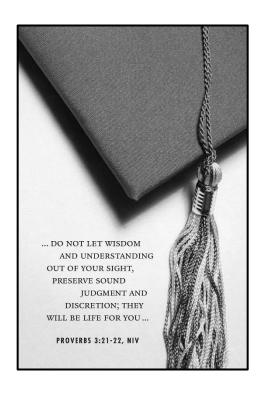
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Congratulations!



Jonathan Crandall
Oak Hill Academy
Son of
Richard and Karmel Crandall



A Message from the Elders

Thank you all for the overwhelming response to the call to migrate to the center of the church. Your Elders' goal is to engender a unity of the body in prayer, praise, and the receiving of the Word. Even so, some require quick exits, based on family or other needs which is exactly what we want to provide.

The goal is simple: encourage corporate worship, while being aware of those with need and purpose to be more discreet during worship. As an Elder with a five-year-old whom I love and have occasional need to take out of the service, I (we) want folks to feel free to sit where they need given their circumstances, but at the same time, challenge those who are freer to "move to the middle". All this to the Glory of God.

Thanks,

Brent Drown



Ladies,

We need to have a dusting party at our church building. So...bring your favorite dusting supplies on July 10 at 10:30 and we will chatter and enjoy the shiny, clean effects of our efforts.

Bring a sandwich and we will fellowship together during lunch also.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Many hands make light work!

Cathy Duncan



Women in the Church

WIC is officially taking a summer break but there are other activities which our women will accomplish during the summer months. On May 16, WIC hosted a bereavement meal for the family of Bubbie Yelverton which was absolutely perfect! Robin Tait led the committee in preparing and serving the meal. Poogie and Frances Laws, Shirley Swoope, Eleanor Hairston, Laurie Flora, Bethany Hairston, Ann Chilcutt, and Robin prepared the food. Nell and Richard Fleming and Rhonda White served as hostesses along with the others. Kitty Brewer, Debbie Jenkins, and Nell decorated the tables using an outdoor theme including red roses which were Bubbie's favorite. The family and friends were honored and humbled by your sweet ministry to us. Thank you is insufficient to express our gratitude.

Of all the things we do as WIC, bereavement meals are truly a time of coming together to serve people we love in a time of need. The ladies of our church volunteer and want to be involved in this ministry. It is encouraging to me and it was to Robin to have so many ladies call and offer to help in any way. Thank you for your servant's heart in wanting to make a difficult time somewhat easier to endure.

On May 20 WIC hosted our high school Senior Breakfast in the fellowship hall at 10:00. Laurie Chilcutt and Kathy Newton prepared and served the meal. Nell and I used magnolias, Queen Ann's lace, oak leaf hydrangea, and lots of fresh greenery to make the occasion festive. Black toppers over the white tablecloths made it all seem appropriate for graduation. Stephen Russell, Jonathan Crandall, and Aidan Dunkelburg were our seniors being honored.

WIC is so much more than our monthly meetings and Bible studies. While that is a major component, there are many other opportunities to serve the church family. If you are not involved in WIC, please consider participating in the future. If you would like to serve in a special way or on a certain committee, please let me know.

Bess

P s a 1 m 9 0 : 1 2

Happy Hearts

Happy Hearts met on May 8 in our fellowship hall for another great time of learning more about a church member and his life. Those of you who have had a conversation with Rich Crandall already know how intelligent he is and how much he enjoys talking to you! You also know that he works in Saudi Arabia training Saudis to fly their airplanes. Rich gave us a detailed report of his activities since retiring from the Air Force. He has worked for the United States Department of State, but now is actually employed by a Saudi Arabian Prince. Sounds exciting doesn't it!!! I'm sure that it is. but there is a down side always to almost everything. In my opinion the downside in this situation is Rich living in Saudi Arabia and only visiting his family in Aberdeen, MS. However, the technology of today enables the family to talk and skype frequently, sharing devotionals and many other daily activities. What a blessing! And another special blessing is that Karmel is an amazing woman, holding her family together and raising their children. Life is hard for all of us in one way or another, but God is always good!

At my request, Rich provided a summary of the interesting facts he shared with us and I would like to quote him:

"In 2010 President Obama converted all Civilian Contractor Simulator Instructors at all Undergraduate Pilot Training Bases from Civilian to the GS system - General Schedule Government Employees. Our pay was to be drastically cut though the cost to the Government actually rose. At that point I got hired to go to Iraq and teach Academics and run their Scheduling Shop for pilot training for the Iraqi Air Force - all under the control of the USAF. I worked there for 8 months then got hired to fly in Africa over the Congo and briefly over the great Sahara Desert in a Pilatus PC-12

doing ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) for the US State Department looking for bad guys. After a year and a half of doing that, I went to Afghanistan where I flew and trained Iraqi pilots for the Iraqi Air Force under contract to the US military to do this. After a year and a half of that I got a job as an adviser to Prince Turki bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (A Saudi Air Force General Officer and now Chief of Staff of the Royal Saudi Air Force). While doing this I learned a lot about the Islamic Faith - the history of Mecca and Medina - the two holiest sites to Islam and close to the Red Sea on the Western part of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Royal family claims the heritage of Salidan - the first to be "The Protector of the Two Holy Cities". Medina is where Mohammed is buried, and Mecca is his birthplace and where the Quran was "revealed" to him in a cave. Every Muslim is to travel to Mecca once during their life. In Mecca is the Kaaba - basically a cube with an asteroid inside that "Allah" gave to Abraham. The Kaaba is very similar to the Holy of Holies in the Temple. Almost everything in the Quran is taken from the Bible and Talmud - though changed to be, in essence, a salvation by works rather than a salvation by Grace that we as Christians have.

Saudi Arabia is undergoing dramatic changes. The Crown Prince Mohammed - a cousin to my boss and a grandson of the original King of Saudi Arabia, King Abdulaziz Al Saud, has recognized Israel's right to exist, called on the Palestinians to get back to the negotiating table, is allowing women to drive, has opened movie theatres in the Kingdom and is removing the requirement for women to dress from head to toe in black with only a slot for their eyes when in public. These are drastic changes and it will be interesting to see what happens there in the years to come.

Being a Christian in Saudi Arabia is not much different to me than being a Christian in

an increasingly secular and fallen nation of the United States - though the US is infinitely preferable to me. I treasure my time home with my family and have enjoyed the opportunity to pull the veil back a bit on a country that few have visited or know that much about. To God be the Glory!"

Rich was a most interesting speaker and it was wonderful to have his family come to Happy Hearts also. As members of our church family, each of us should be praying for the other. Let's be diligent in offering prayers for the Crandall family!

We were pleased to have some visitors with us for this month's meeting, Allie Morgan was with her grandparents, Poogie and Frances Laws, and Linda Harrelson and Elaine West were guests of Ann Barkley. Allie is a medical student of Ross University preparing for her last board exam. In August she hopes to be assigned a residency. Linda, Ann, and Jean Yelverton taught school together and have remained very close friends over the years. Linda lives in Calhoun City and hopefully will make the trip over to join Happy Hearts often. Elaine has visited several times with Ann and we are hoping she will become a regular attendee. While not exactly visitors, it was great to have Brad and Alice Talley and Rhonda White in attendance.

Our meal consisted of deli sandwiches, chips, pickles and olives, and a fruit salad, completed with Texas Snowball for dessert. Ann Chilcutt provided the dessert which was one many of us remembered. The recipe is found on page 320 of "A Grand Heritage" submitted by Mrs. Horace Villee. It provided a reason for us to reminisce about Dr. And Mrs. Villee. He was our pastor for 22 years and the building which houses our preschool and many classrooms for Sunday School is named in his honor. Nell made our fruit salad and the sweet tea for which she is famous! She also helped set and decorate the

tables. Her Knockout roses were the prettiest ever!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 19, at the usual 10:30 in our fellowship hall. We will be selecting our favorite hymns. Edna Mae McCoy will play the piano for us and we will love singing hymns from our church hymnal. Please plan to join us and bring your friends!







REKINDLE CHILDREN'S HOPE



PRAY FOR US!!

Challenges George and RCH Face

Some of the children's guardians do not want these children to progress and sometimes refuse to let them

go to school. One of the children was sick the other day, and when we went to take the child to the hospital, the guardian refused saying that she had a better plan for the child.

Some of the volunteers are not stable. When we build them up and are counting on them, they move out of the village.

The Tribal War in Cameroon

The socio-political atmosphere in the Anglophone part of Cameroon is getting out of hand. In certain areas, children are completely deprived of school. We are privileged that Maumu and Lysoka, where RCH is based, are not affected since Buea and Limbe schools are functioning. The children are going to school, but some of parents are still scared to send their children to school.

The situation has pushed some young men into satanic powers to fight against the military. The government has refused to heed the numerous calls for a meaningful dialogue. Instead, they have resolved to use the gun which has aggravated the matter. The young men fighting against the military have claimed so many lives of military people. The military mostly Francophones have burnt down some villages completely. Instead of fighting, the guys who are using demonic powers to attack them; they have landed mercilessly on

innocent civilians and lives have gone in hundreds.

The mortuaries in places like Kumba, Buea, Bamenda, etc. are full of military and civilian corpses. We even hear of mass graves in some areas. The worst is that many people have escaped into the bushes for refuge, and the military people are still following them up and killing. A colleague pastor called the other day and said he was hiding in the bush and that the level of gunshot was terrifying.

Some aged people have been burnt down in their homes while so many are hiding in bushes. Some have escaped to neighboring Nigeria in thousands to search for refuge.

What you see in Google is not a true picture of what is happening in Cameroon. We went for missions in Ekondo Titi and Bakassi (some areas in the South West Region where the situation is terrible) some weeks ago, and it was horrible. We passed through a village called Kwakwa and saw no soul, but all the houses burned down by the military. On our way back, we were trapped in Ekondo Titi because the guys were determined to burn any vehicle with the reason that, since the government had banned motorbikes, no car would also move. The irony is that the same military that is supposed to protect the people are the ones killing the people.

Some of these boys have resorted to kidnapping some government officials and demanding the release of secessionists' leaders who were arrested. In some areas many people have died for lack of medical attention following the government's curfew that no motorbike or car should move in the night. Some people term it genocide. Many people have lost their lives. Many more have

been arrested. Others are maimed, and some are missing. While travelling around Mamfe, one can see corpses in the bushes. The situation is really bad. I don't know whether I am able to describe it as it is. But one thing which is certain is that we need God's divine intervention in Cameroon, especially the Anglophone part.

Pray for

- Mbunwe George and Victorine and their children
- the children in all of Cameroon, especially those in Lysoka and Maumu
- God to provide more volunteers in the RCH facilities
- more contributors to Rekindle Children's Hope
- more sponsors for children as we are increasing in needs everyday

Pray for us. In God's love,

Mbunwe George

Tom Edwards

Dear Wonderful Prayer Team,

It has been awhile since I have sent you prayer requests, but we always need your prayers. Here are a few requests.

- 1. We are restructuring some of our staff responsibilities to make things more practical with the changing demands of our ministry and the ever-evolving world of healthcare. Change is often difficult even when it is for the better. So please be praying for our staff and volunteers, for flexibility and wisdom.
- 2. Connie and I won't be taking a medical team to Ivory Coast this summer. The Ivorian government refuses to give us authorization like they have for almost every July since 2009. They want us to register as a non-profit organization instead of coming under the Ivorian churches with whom we serve and who are already registered with the government. This is no simple request. The process would be laborious and expensive with no guarantee of success and with the

expectation of paying bribes throughout the process. Please pray for wisdom for us and the churches in Ivory Coast about how to respond to this.

- 3. You may recall that our dear friend Pastor Mamadou died suddenly last Sept. His widow, Sali and college age son Bilal are struggling. Please pray for their financial future as well as their emotional well-being as the Lord ministers them in their grief and loss.
- 4. We are having more opportunity at Hope Health to interact with students as they come to shadow Ben and me, volunteer, or work for us. Please pray that we will be intentional during their time with us; that God would direct us in word and deed to help them fall more in love with Jesus. Also, that God would use their time at Hope Health to show them practical ways to follow Him with all their heart as they look to their future professions.

As always, we cherish and thank God for your prayers. They are desperately needed and appreciated. We couldn't do what the Lord has called us to do without your prayers. We're all part of the body of Christ working together for His glory and the advancement of His Kingdom. "Thy Kingdom come," and it is!

Pray! Pray!! Pray!!

Tom, for all of us at Hope Health Center

Ministry to the Military and Internationals

Dear MM&I Friends.

"Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so." I imagine every person who is reading this letter knows this song. I also imagine that every person who is a parent that is reading this has taught this song to your children. When I was in high school, I came to realize this truth. Jesus loves me. We have the greatest truth of mankind—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Ministry to the Military and Internationals exists because we have a loving God who sent His Son to die for us. We exist to share the good news of salvation in Christ. We exist to serve our King in all areas of life. We have the greatest message of mankind—God loves us and has sent His

Son. I want to thank our supporters for praying for us and giving generously to our ministries. Here is a quick update on some of our ministries:

Okinawa Covenant Church. Pastor Mark Moore reports that this is a season of change in Okinawa. Nearly 70% of the congregation will be moving this "Our location is so far away from their summer. extended families back home that church really becomes family here — we do life together! It's an honor to equip and train these saints for service and then send them along to their next church family in the U.S. " -- Pray for OCC. The folks in Okinawa are on the front line of our defense in Asia. The ops tempo there is tremendous. Even when the troops are assigned there, they are often deployed, off on training missions, or being tasked for military operations. Families are often separated for weeks and months at a time. OCC has a tremendous ministry on that island. http://www.okinawacovenant.org/

Trinity Church of Guam. Pastor Time Beauchamp says, "Trinity continues to preach the Gospel on Guam. Our attendance varies, and we are about to lose 2 families to PCS in the Fall. On the positive side, we received two families into membership. Our relationship with Agana Heights Baptist Church continues to be thriving with families taking part of our evening services and Trinity families taking part of the morning services. Our Friday night bible study with both churches is faithfully being attended as we are going through a video series with Ray Vander Laan on "Walking with God in the Wilderness" every 2 and 4 Friday of the month." http://trinitychurchguam.org/

Beijing China. Pastor Michael Viera "We are looking to try to meet publicly a few times before the end of this academic year in order to start getting the word out about the plant in this area. Our biggest challenge is space . . . not many conference rooms available, so we are praying about that. Our other challenge is government approval. Trying to work with a local church for space is hindered by the requirement to receive approval through the religious affairs bureau. Not an easy thing to get, but we will continue to work through it. We need to do it eventually. but the process is а year action. The goal we have in mind (based on feedback from the current international church) is to

have a location and to begin to meet regularly as a church at the beginning of next semester. This will benefit everyone involved. So, a lot of excitement!! We are in need of prayer!!"

Christ Church of Wiesbaden. Pastor Phil Gelston http://www.christchurchwiesbaden.com/

- 1. Pray for our German Hauskreis (home bible study). We currently have about 20 German speaking adults in this group. Pray that these German speakers would grow in fellowship with one another and that God might use this group to start a German language worship service.
- 2. Pray for the many families who will be moving from Wiesbaden this Summer.
- 3. Pray also for our outreach to soldiers and defense employees who will be moving to Wiesbaden this Summer (our church experiences about 30% turnover every year). Pray also for God to raise up leaders in our church to take the places of those who are moving away.
- 4. Lastly pray for the health of marriages and families in our church. Married life in the military context in a foreign country with small children makes it easy for marriages to struggle.

Trinity Reformed Church (Landstuhl). Pastor Toby DuBose PCS season has begun at Trinity Reformed! http://www.trinityreformedpca.com/index.html

- -We have already seen a few new faces in the past 2 weeks and know of a few families on their way to us from CONUS and other parts of the world. We will only lose 2-3 families this season, so we should have a strong net gain in our numbers.
- -Sunday 13 May, we hosted the Genevans--the 45member choir from Geneva College. Because of space limitations, we met in the Statdkirche in Landstuhl. We publicized this as an outreach event for German friends and many others outside our fellowship.
- -In just over a month, we will have our annual retreat in Beatenberg, Switzerland. As of now, we have just over 90 people confirmed and reserved for the retreat, but there may be a few more on their way. Dr. Richard Gamble from Pittsburgh Theological

Seminary will be speaking to us about some of Calvin's views on scriptural topics (e.g. Calvin's view of the Sabbath, etc).

- -Our women's ministry just returned from their annual retreat at Burg Lichtenberg. 32 Ladies spent the weekend together in fellowship and study of four attributes of God: Holiness, Grace, Sovereignty, and Faithfulness.
- -We have 5-6 new officers which should be ordained and put into service at the beginning of June and one elder which is returning to us at the end of June.
- -Trinity has had a busy year so far in 2018 and has so many reasons to rejoice in the Lord's goodness!

Director of MM&I, Chester Replogle

We are going to be at the PCA General Assembly in Atlanta. Pastors Phil Gelston (Wiesbaden) and Steve Walton (Stuttgart) will also sit at our table some (although they are commissioners and will have GA obligations). We also will have Matt and Deborah Stanghelle, our newly received pastor who is slated to go to Stavanger, Norway. It is always good to see MM&I friends from around the world at GA. There are also outstanding opportunities to see other ministries that are serving our King. http://www.ministrytothemilitaryinternational.com/

I would be remiss if I didn't ask for your support. You can see from the above reports that we need prayer. We also need financial support. I can honestly say that every one of our ministries seeks to be as frugal as possible. We want to expand to new locations. The opportunity to minister in Norway, a potential opportunity in Grafenwoer/Vilseck, Germany, and desires to expand ministry to other locations in the US would only be possible with God providing. Please pray for your role.

In a few weeks, I will be providing updates on some of our other ministries. There is exciting news all around the globe!

Chester R. Replogle

Director, Ministry to the Military and Internationals





Most of the VBS staffing needs for teaching/ coordinating positions have already been filled. Thank you, volunteers!

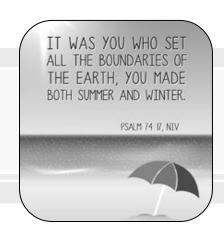
*Our remaining volunteer needs are as follows:

- 1) Assistant Teacher for 5K
- 2) Assistant Teacher for 1st/ 2nd Grade
- 3) Adult Helpers for Craft Room
- 4) Adult Helper for Recreation
- 5) Snacks for Adults/ Volunteers (These can be dropped off at the church anytime during VBS week. Chips, brownies, cookies...any snack foods would be appreciated!)

Please let us know if you can help!

Ivy Harris: ivybharris@hotmaill.com or 662.251.2868

Amy Kilpatrick: amynray@centurytel.net or 205.695.3751



June 2018

Sun.	Mo	n.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1	2
						Verda Laws Lucas White	Asher Bragan Robin & Betty Weaver
3 Meghan Matocha Vee & Beth Ferguson	4 John & B		5	6 Roger & Joy Day	7 Prayer Meeting Noon	8	9
10 Communion AM	11		12	13	14	15	16
				General Assembly			
					Prayer Meeting Noon Lydia Duncan Rhonda White Ed & Rhonda White		Robert Glenn Ron & Linda Simpson
17 Father's Day Kitty Brewer Gray Flora	18 Missions Committee Meeting 6 p.m.		19 Jonathan Crandall Richard & Nell Fleming	Allan Brewer Nicholas Hairston	Prayer Meeting Noon	22	23
24	25		26	27	28	29	30
		Vacation Bible School June 25-29 9:00 – 12:00 / RYM - Florida					
Phillip Goodwin					Prayer Meeting Noon	Trip & Bethany Hairston	

June 3 – Pulpit Guest – Rev. Mike McKelvey

June 10 - Communion during the morning worship service

June 12-15 - General Assembly

June 17 – Father's Day / Pulpit Guest – Rev. Bill Heard

June 18 – Missions Committee Meeting at 6 p.m.

June 25-29 - Vacation Bible School / RYM - Florida

June Volunteers

Nursery

Meryl Fisackerly June 3

Laurie Flora

Sandra Pilkinton June 10

Kitty Brewer

June 17 Mason & Emily Meier

Crystal Coleman

Volunteer Needed June 24

Justin & Ivy Harris

Ushers

Gray Flora, Bill Laws, June 3

Stephen Matocha, Ben Woodson

June 10 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,

Mike Meharq, Jay Nail,

Patrick Shipp

Gee Allgood, Roger Day, June 17

Brent Drown, Trip Hairston,

Henry Pilkinton

Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin, June 24

Russ Russell, Matt White

June Money Counter Matt White

> May Budget Report

Offerings this Month

\$24,614



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

The New Infants and their Parents

Russ Russell & Jon Watson – Mission Trip to Peru

VBS

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









MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Columbus, MS

Permit No. 10

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