

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
August 2018

2018 PCA GA Report

Each summer the Presbyterian Church of America holds its national meeting. This meeting is referred to as the General Assembly. Individual churches are represented by their teaching elders and a representation of ruling elders. The 2018 meeting was held in Atlanta, Ga from June 12-15. This year's theme was "Love God and Love Neighbor". Pastor Matocha represented MSPC. Below is a brief summary of the meeting.

Stated Clerks Report (statistics)

Churches 1,568 (increase of 23 from last year)
Ordained Ministers 4,882 (increase of 121)
Mission Churches 344 (decrease of 3)
Members 374,736 (increase of 575)
Professions of Faith 9,733 (increase of 4)

Noteworthy Decisions:

Moderator: This year's assembly was historic in that the first African American, Irwyn Ince, was elected as moderator. Irwyn did a very good job overseeing the proceedings of our meeting. According to our Stated Clerk, Rod Taylor, "Dr. Ince moderated the 2018 General Assembly with the efficiency of an engineer, the wisdom of a diplomat, and the grace of a humble Christian."

Racial Reconciliation Report: An overwhelming majority voted to receive the report from the Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation Committee. The purpose of the committee is described below:

"Our committee had a four-part mandate. First, the committee was charged to "assess the current situation in the PCA concerning racial and ethnic reconciliation." Next, we were to "identify specific problems the PCA needs to address to promote racial reconciliation and ethnic diversity." In addition, the committee was to "develop constructive guidelines and suggest concrete steps for the use of the PCA, including all presbyteries and sessions in order to make progress toward the work of racial reconciliation." Finally, the committee was to "report to the 45th General Assembly".

The report provides a thorough study of the biblical and confessional teaching on race relations. It also provides concrete recommendations for local churches, presbyteries, seminaries, and church committees and agencies. If you would like to read the report in full go to: www.pcaac.org/racial-and-ethnic-reconciliation-study-committee-report/

Strengthened Stance on Biblical Marriage: The church is in a cultural battle to protect biblical marriage between one man and one woman. With the constant pressure from LGBT activists it is important for Christians to make a stand. The PCA has done just that.

The Assembly voted to elevate a section of the Book of Church Order (59-3) on the solemnization of marriage to full constitutional status. This decision must be ratified by presbyteries. The Westminster Confession of Faith's chapter on marriage and divorce, which is constitutionally binding, already has language defining marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman. The addition of BCO 59-3 gives another layer of protection of our theological and ethical view of marriage. By making it constitutional all members and churches of the PCA are required to uphold the following teaching: *"Marriage is only to be between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25; Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 7:2), in accordance with the Word of God. Therefore, ministers in the Presbyterian Church in America who solemnize marriages shall only solemnize marriages between one man and one woman."*

Welcome, New Members!



New Member, Lauren Blalock,
with her fiancé, Thomas Glenn

Where are you from?

I was raised in Madison, Mississippi by my two loving parents Jason and Susanne. I also have a younger brother, Hunter, that just started his freshman year at state.

What brought you to Columbus?

I grew up coming to Columbus to visit my grandparents but started attending church in the area when I became a student at Mississippi State University.

What is your occupation?

I am currently in my first year of veterinary school at Mississippi State.

What is your church background?

I grew up going to a Baptist church in Madison with my family, where the youth group had a big impact on my biblical perspective and faith. In undergrad, I discovered my interest in theology and minored in religion, which really challenged my perspective and deepened my faith.

How did you hear about MSPC?

I heard about MSPC through my now fiancé, Thomas Glenn, when he invited me to go to church with him (so glad he did 😊).

What is your favorite book of the Bible or portion of Scripture?

It's hard to pin point my favorite section of scripture, but if I had to choose, it would be Ephesians 4:17-32.

What is your favorite Christian hymn/song?

I love a lot of hymns. How Great Thou Art, Sweet Hour of Prayer, Amazing Grace, and O Holy Night are some of my favorites.

Do you have any hobbies?

In my free time I enjoy walking my Bloodhound, Lucy, playing tennis, shopping, baking, and spending time with friends and family.



New member, Carson Miller,
with his wife, Ann Marie



Bill & Claudia Denham
Peter, Patrick, & Stuart

Where are you from?

West Point, MS

What brought you to Columbus?

Prior to marriage, I worked in Columbus; however, once Ann Marie and I got married we chose to reside in Ann Marie’s house which is in Columbus.

What is your occupation?

I work as a general contractor in the Golden Triangle area, majority being Columbus.

What is your church background?

I grew up attending First United Methodist Church in West Point, MS.

How did you hear about MSPC?

Once Ann Marie and I began dating, we decided that it would be best to attend a church together for our growth. I was at the time attending Fairview Baptist, but Ann Marie had spoken so highly of MSPC that I didn’t want to have us veer away from such sound and pure doctrine.

What is your favorite book of the Bible or portion of Scripture?

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

What is your favorite Christian hymn/song?

Be Thou My Vision

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy woodworking and any type of building project.

Where are you from?

Bill – Connecticut and Claudia – Virginia

What brought you to Columbus?

Bill is in the Air Force; this is how God brought us here.

What is your occupation?

Bill – Air Force

Claudia homeschools the boys.

What is your church background?

We both grew up Episcopal. We have attended many non-denominational churches but joined a PCA church while stationed in Montgomery.

What is your favorite book of the Bible or portion of Scripture?

Bill’s – John 15 and Claudia’s – Psalm 23

What is your favorite Christian hymn/song?

Some of our favorite hymns are *Be Thou My Vision*, *It Is Well with My Soul*, and *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*.

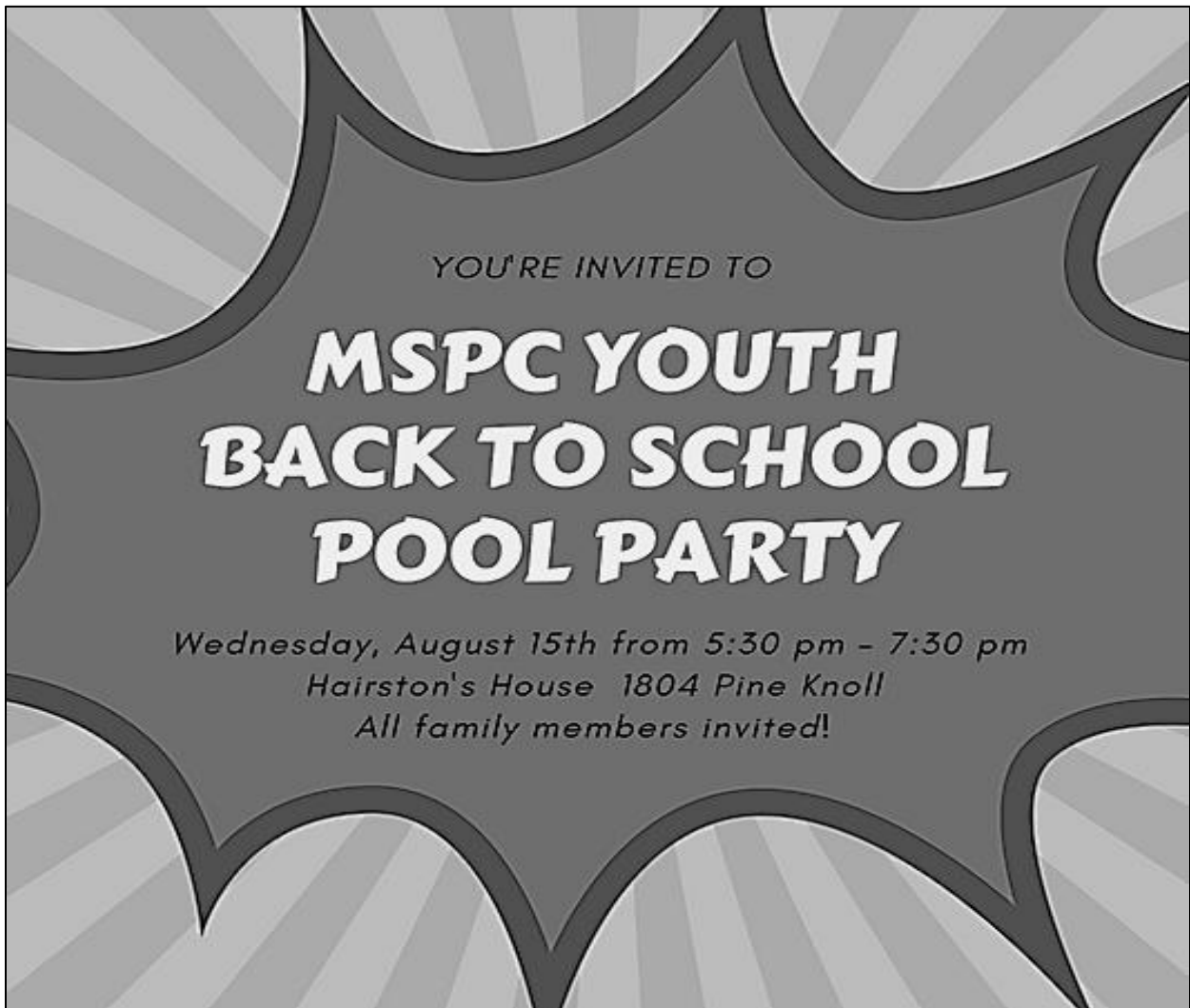
Do you have any hobbies?

Our hobbies are running, swimming, and biking. We love the outdoors and hiking as a family!

2018 RYM Report

Six middle school boys represented MSPC at RYM camp in Panama City Beach, Fl. If you are not familiar with RYM, it stands for Reformed Youth Ministries. The theme of this year's camp was "Scripture is Relevant". Our days consisted of breakfast, morning devotions, elective classes, lunch, recreation time, dinner, large group lecture, and evening games. The boys attended an elective class on Christian worldviews and walking with God when life hurts. The teaching was biblically sound and well adapted to a junior high audience. Below are some pictures from our week.





Our Main Street children will have the opportunity to be involved in a special Christmas musical program this year! We will be preparing for it on Wednesday nights beginning in September and hope to include all children ages K-5th grade and any interested junior high children. Look for more details to be coming soon!

WIC in the Morning will meet on Tuesday, September 4.

Wednesday evening activities will resume on September 5.

The first Congregational Luncheon for the fall will be on Sunday, September 9.



Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

Happy Hearts met for our annual BLT Lunch in the fellowship hall at 10:30 on July 17. Quite naturally it was a patriotic theme, both in table decorations and program. We were delighted to have Jane Posey and Elaine West entertain us with patriotic songs that we all love to sing. Jane brought her xylophone and played with her whole being! She is so much fun to watch because she is so into it, she is rhythmic, toes tapping, arms dancing over her instrument, playing by ear as she follows the piano, and best of all, she is smiling and enjoying every note! Elaine has begun attending Happy Hearts every month which really pleases us. She is a wonderful addition from Fairview Baptist where she was the pianist for many years. So of course, she is an accomplished pianist! She and Jane were a perfect team and we loved having them perform for us. They encouraged us to sing along and we obliged them! The songs they played were the familiar patriotic songs most of us had learned in grammar school back in the days of public school music. I think our smiles were as broad as Jane's. Edna Mae and I sat between the Chilcutts and the Weavers, so we enjoyed an impromptu concert! We had a great crowd for this meeting, we usually do in July - I'm not sure whether it is the BLT's or the patriotic program. Frank Webb told me he definitely came for the food! But I'm sure he enjoyed everything and we loved his being there. Most of our usual attendees were present, but those of you who weren't able to join us were certainly missed.

The decorations were more special than usual. Nell and her dear friend, Deb Shelton, brought things from their decorating closets and did most of the work! Kitty Brewer had spectacular Limelight hydrangea blooms which she gathered and delivered to the fellowship hall for me. Then she came to help, but our small group had so much fun displaying new items, we were almost finished when she arrived. We used lots of

flags, everything red, white, and blue, even battery operated lights on the tables. Deb has recently retired and will be participating in Happy Hearts, so I'm sure our decorations are going to step up a notch or two. She will be lots of fun also! Happy Hearts is a wonderful group of brothers and sisters in Christ enjoying each other and our Lord. You are encouraged to join us!

Poogie and Frances baked our bacon and boy did the fellowship hall smell good when we arrived! It not only smelled great, it tasted just as good, if not better. Garden fresh sliced tomatoes and crisp lettuce complimented the bacon. Ann Barkley, another of our Fairview regulars, brought the lettuce ready to place on the sandwiches. We had both brown wheat bread and white bread, as well as mayonnaise or Miracle Whip for our sandwiches. Chips, pickles, olives, and peppers were added to the entree. For dessert we enjoyed cold watermelon sliced perfectly by Nick and Richard. It was a beautiful tray of summer wedges arranged symmetrically. We were all glad to have Nancy Franks back in the kitchen along with Ben Chilcutt, Ann Barkley, Jean Yelverton, Bet Sanchez, Ann Chilcutt, Nell Fleming, Deb Shelton, and I'm not sure who else. They do such an awesome task of cleaning up the kitchen and the fellowship hall. Our goal is to leave it as clean as we found it or better.

Next month we will meet on Tuesday, August 21, at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. We will have a rather unusual and surprising program planned and presented by one of our favorites, Robin Weaver. You can "count on it" being interesting, entertaining, amusing, and always more than you expected. Guess you caught that! Robin is an accountant who has done more with numbers than all of us put together! Yet he has volunteered to do this program. Do I have your curiosity aroused and your anticipation at an all-time high? Come and have fun with us! We are going to have fried chicken and Ben Chilcutt is doing our dessert! So you will have two surprises, how 'bout that?





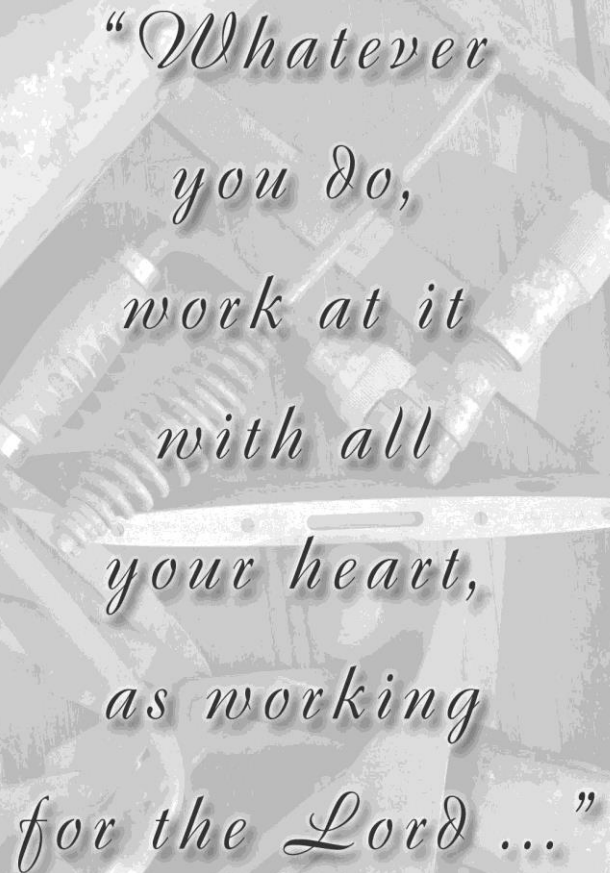
Women in the Church

Bess Swedenburg

July 10 was the designated Dust Day at Main St. Pres. We arrived around 10:00 and learned that Kitty Brewer had come the previous day and had dusted almost the whole sanctuary! That was a pleasant surprise, but there was plenty to do yet. Cathy Duncan had organized the group and we worked diligently throughout the morning and until a late lunch together. It was delightful to have some moms bring their children. Amy Kilpatrick brought her daughters, Olivia and Hope, along with their pole dusters. Those two have obviously dusted before! Bethany Baxter also brought her twins, Savannah and Isaac, who were amazing helpers too. Having the young people was such an encouragement to the rest of us! They were lots of fun and equally helpful. Robin Tait, Janie Williams, Nell Fleming, and I turned the pew cushions and dusted under them (it is very interesting what one can find under our cushions), vacuumed, dusted - even the spaces above the vestibule doors and cleaned the choir loft area. We worked in the parlor, the tv room next to the office, and up the stairs. We scrubbed the kitchen and cleaned the three ovens. Thank you Cathy for deciding to have a Dust Day and for getting us organized.

WIC at Night has enjoyed a wonderful summer of Bible studies at Bethany Hairston's home and completed the series by going to The Grill for a night out and dinner together! They will have a short break before reconvening in September with a new study. This is a fun and serious group of ladies who want to know more of God's Word. They meet every other Tuesday night at 7pm in HeBrews on second floor. If you can make it fit into your schedule, you will find it encouraging, enlightening, spiritual, and enjoyable; a great opportunity to get to know other ladies in our church.

WIC in the Morning will meet on September 4 at 10:30. There will be more information concerning our meeting forthcoming.



*“Whatever
you do,
work at it
with all
your heart,
as working
for the Lord ...”*

Colossians 3:23

N I V



REKINDLE CHILDREN'S HOPE

[If you read these missionary reports to your children, you might want to read this one privately first...The following is a reprint of the report made to the board of Rekindle Children's Hope.]

RCH General Report for June 2018

We thank God for the grace that he is giving us. In spite of the challenges God is sustaining us. The children went on a short vacation and started meeting twice a week as usual. Because of the crisis in the nation that is growing worse, the children in Maumu are meeting in Emmah Limunga's residence and those of Wokeka are meeting in the old structure they were using. We have been talking with the Baptist church in Maumu if we can use their structure for now. Some children are scared coming because of the tense atmosphere though we still encourage them.

The children in class six who are leaving the primary education wrote the First School Leaving Certificate in Buea because of the crisis. RCH transported them and thank God for helping them to write in a calm atmosphere.

Pastor Lamnda Wilfred the Baptist pastor who was assisting as one of the volunteers in Maumu is leaving Maumu for a different station. We pray that the new pastor will willingly work with us.

The crisis is not getting any better. The sound of guns gets so scary. The other day, while on the way to Maumu, we met with serious shootings and gunshots in Mile 16 in Buea. It was so bad that drivers were only turning around and escaping. We could not continue. The electricity company is ready now to install power in Lysoka but they are afraid of the crisis. They have promised that when the atmosphere will be calmed they will do the work.

We are grateful for your prayer support. It gives us joy when we know that in the face of these

challenges, where human beings are wasted like animals, you are praying for us.

Let me end with this story so that you can understand better the gravity of the situation. A man and his wife had escaped and were in the bush. While in the bush labor pains started for the pregnant wife. Since the military had blocked everywhere around the area, the man decided to brave the situation to take the wife to the hospital on a motorbike. As he came to surface the military saw him and started chasing him. When he saw that he was about to be caught, he abandoned the pregnant wife and the motorbike and escaped into the forest with the hope that the military would have pity for the pregnant wife. The military arrived at a time when labor became intense and the woman gave birth to twins by the roadside. While the husband was hiding in the forest, the abomination occurred. The military shot the wife and the two babes. Pray for us.

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
- safety for the children and their caretakers
- political stability for Cameroon

Pray for us.

In God's love,
Mbunwe George

If you would like to share a few words of encouragement or a prayer with Mbunwe George, RCH's director, or any of the staff that work with the children, you can easily do so by email.

George's email is: gmtamnjong@gmail.com

Give instruction to a wise man,
and he will be still wiser;
teach a righteous man, and he
will increase in learning.

Proverbs 9:9 (ESV)

August 2018

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

Notes

August 5 – Communion during the evening service
 August 15 – Youth Back to School Pool Party at the home of Trip & Bethany Hairston
 August 20 – MSCS Teachers return
 August 21 – Happy Hearts at 10:30
 August 27 – MSCS Students return



August Volunteers

Nursery

- Aug. 5 Marianne Field
Roger & Joy Day
- Aug. 12 Cathy Duncan
Carson & Ann Marie Miller
- Aug. 19 Lauren Zarandona
Laurie Flora
- Aug. 26 Meryl Fisackerly
Kitty Brewer

Ushers

- Aug. 5 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,
Mike Meharg, Jay Nail,
Patrick Shipp
- Aug. 12 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,
Brent Drown, Trip Hairston,
Henry Pilkinton
- Aug. 19 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,
Russ Russell, Matt White
- Aug. 26 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,
Stephen Matocha,
Ben Woodson

**August
Money Counter
Roger Day**

**July
Budget Report
Offerings this Month
\$30,749**



Our Shut-Ins:

- Louise Armstrong
 - Sadie Brewer
 - George & Martha Clegg
 - Verda Laws
 - Dot Pilcher
 - Emily Shull
 - Sammy Clemons
 - Keith Cole
 - David Croker
 - Jennifer Garner
 - Phillip Goodwin
 - Barbara Harrell
 - Debbie Jenkins
 - Poogie Laws
 - Sue Lovegren
 - Dan Matocha
 - John Mark Russell
 - Angela Sparks
 - 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 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

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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