

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
November 2018

Recovering the Art of Gratitude

Pastor Matocha

There is a lot of negativity in the world today. It hits us on all sides. One fertile breeding ground is politics. No one is happy with the state of affairs in America. The left blames the right and the right blames the left. Fox news and CNN are equally guilty of promoting the blame culture. A strong current of ingratitude seeks to sweep us into its flow. American culture conditions us to criticize. Paul warns us “not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). The spirit of ingratitude is an aspect of American culture that influences us in subtle, but damaging ways. We need to resist it.

How strong is this influence in your life? The answer to this is connected to the things in life that gain our attention. According to Christine Pohl “Gratitude and ingratitude are closely tied to what we notice, and once we start focusing on flaws in a community, they quickly dominate our attention.” So, what is dominating your attention? Are you only able to see the negatives in your political opponents? Are you only able to see the negatives in your work or financial situation? Are you only able to see the flaws in your spouse? What about your view of yourself; is it dominated by dissatisfaction?

So, what’s the big deal? We live in a fallen, sinful world. Isn’t it fitting that we focus on the negative? That is only part of the truth. We also live in a world ruled by God; a world redeemed by Jesus. Gratitude is a distinguishing mark between idolatry and true worship. In Romans 1:21 Paul describes the ungodly and unrighteous as those who “did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” When we get sucked into the cultural current of negativity, criticism, and ingratitude we dishonor God. We live as if God no longer has influence on our society, government, relationships, church, etc. We live as if God is dead. That is what Paul is saying.

What are you thankful about concerning your government leaders? Remember, God appointed them (Rom. 13:1-2). What are you grateful for when it comes to your job, that God sovereignly placed you in? In what ways do you rejoice in the spouse to whom God united you? How are you thankful for your church community? What about yourself? Do you not know that you are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:14), that you are a “new creation” in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Fight the culture of thanklessness and cultivate the art of gratitude.

“It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
To sing praises to your name, O Most High;
To declare your steadfast love in the morning,
And your faithfulness by night.”

Psalm 92:1-2

“Thou that has given so much to me,
Give one thing more- a grateful heart...
Not thankful when it pleases me,
As if Thy blessings had spare days;
But such a heart, whose pulse may be Thy praise.”

George Herbert, “Gratefulness”





WHY PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD...

Colleen Meek

Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl to experience the love of God in a tangible way and hear the Gospel. Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 157 million children affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, and other crises in more than 160 countries and territories. The Lord is working in children's hearts through this project. The Greatest Journey, Samaritan's Purse 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program is offered to millions of shoebox recipients each year. Here boys and girls learn to follow Christ and share Him with others. It all starts with a simple gift.

I encourage you to pack a shoebox. Boxes are available at the display table in the sanctuary or in the church office. Be part of the world's largest child evangelism effort!

Please deliver your completed boxes to the church by **Wednesday, November 14.**

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 it



What an incredible beginning to a year of luncheons! 110 plus gathered to have a great “potluck” affair. In keeping with the last 2 months, only empty dishes went home! I most definitely can get used to that!

It’s time to get ready for our next meal. Todd and the Session would like for it to coincide with communion. It will be **Sunday, November 4th, following the worship service.**

Our meal fare will be the same as October...potluck. Here is how it will be divided.

If your last name begins with:

A-E Meat or Chicken

F-K Cold Vegetable/Fruit/Fruit Salads

L-S Hot Vegetable

T-Z Dessert

As we prepare our hearts and minds for a meal at Christ’s table, won’t you stay and share one following the worship service on **November 4th**? It’s a time to enjoy our 4 F’s...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda

The men met on October 10th for the monthly prayer breakfast. We had a good turn out with about 20 men present and it was nice to see so many guys there. Mr. Pogie was able to come. Also, Brad stopped in for breakfast on his way to chemo treatment! He said it couldn’t hurt and who knows, it may be just the right combination. Brad’s quick wit and kind manner make him welcome at any table.

Russ gave a report on a conference he and Todd had attended. This was a meeting of British reformed churches and American churches who were partnering with the intention of planting and organizing churches in the UK. Russ pointed out that Britain was into the post-Christian era and that the US was moving into it. With Hurricane Michael churning in the Gulf he likened the situation to preparing for a hurricane.

The next Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be **Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. This is a good way to kick off the Holiday Season. Please plan to attend and bring a friend or work mate.

Mike



Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

As you might well imagine, I prefer the old hymns I have sung all of my life to the new contemporary songs. My mother taught me the words as we rode sixteen miles back and forth to Columbus. We didn't always have a radio in the car, which was a plus because I have this sweet memory of singing with my mother the "wonderful words of life"! However, I take the contemporary songs very seriously and try to learn the melodies so that I can join in the congregational singing. I'm glad I sit in front of Amy Kilpatrick who helps me follow along with her beautiful voice. All of this

said, recently we sang "Oh, How Good It Is" which is a song about dwelling together in spirit, in faith, and in unity. One of my favorite portions is the third verse, "Oh how good it is, to embrace His command, to prefer one another, forgive as He forgives. When we live as one we all share in the love of the Son with the Father and the Spirit." All this brings me to Happy Hearts and the unity we shared with the Denhams. It was a sweet time of fellowship and a wonderful time of getting to know this very special family. We were disappointed that Bill was unable to join us, but Claudia stood in well for him and did a great job. Colonel Bill Denham is the Vice-Wing Commander at the Columbus Air Force Base and his important position prevented his attending. Claudia and their three sons, Peter, Patrick, and Stuart were able to come and share their lives with the senior citizens of Happy Hearts. Claudia told us that she grew up in the Air Force so she has moved from place to place all of her life as her father and her husband have served our country. She calls Virginia home and Bill is from Connecticut. They met while volunteering at an Officers Christian Fellowship camp at Spring Canyon, Colorado. They had both



just graduated – Claudia from college and Bill from the Air Force Academy. They were married and began their trek around the world with Uncle Sam. She recalled 8 or 9 different assignments and added that there were brief training stints that would increase the number to 11 or 12. Peter, who is 15, was born in Oklahoma and was looking forward to a camping trip he had planned with his father for the weekend. The other two boys are anxiously awaiting their turn to camp with Dad. Patrick who has just turned 13 was born in Alaska. Stuart was born in California and is 10. Claudia home schools her sons and the boys attested to the advantages of having Mom as their teacher. They also pointed out that being at home provided them with the opportunity to

be with their Dad whenever he could be home. Stuart stated with a genuine spirit that maybe the best advantage of homeschooling is that their parents can teach them the truths of the scripture as they study their academic subjects.

These three young men were comfortable, warm, friendly, and appeared to enjoy being with us. They had a great time helping Ben Chilcutt and the cleanup crew in the kitchen. They cheerfully dried dishes and put them back in their proper places. It was so encouraging to have a young family, especially three boys, having fun with senior citizens! And that was what brought me to "Oh How Good It Is", it was very good! We should have the gift of unity in spirit as well as unity among all ages of our church family. It is special when young people enjoy and learn from the older people and vice versa. Young people have so much enthusiasm and energy to offer and we older people so need the exposure! While we were learning from Claudia about their lives, we meshed several generations of believers together just as it should always be. It was a delightful experience! Happy Hearts wishes to express appreciation to Claudia, Peter,

Patrick, and Stuart for coming to be with us and interacting with our group! Please come again!

We enjoyed white chicken chili, a beautiful orange citrus congealed salad made by Ann Chilcutt and Frances Laws, Mexican cornbread made by Jean Yelverton and her sister Bet, and Nell Fleming's famous fig cake for dessert. And again, "oh how good it was". We were especially pleased to have Todd, Colleen, and Diann join us for this meeting! We had 24 for lunch so we obviously missed some of our regulars! Maybe everyone will be able to join us next month!

Happy Hearts will meet on Wednesday, November 14, at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. This is our annual thanksgiving meal and we will again be packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Remember to gather items for the boxes and bring them with you. Colleen mentioned that we should not purchase toothpaste or candy for the boxes. A deflatable soccer ball is a favorite gift around the world. We are hoping to pack lots of boxes, so we will need lots of items. The display in our chapel area has more information concerning what to purchase. It is a fun event so make your plans to attend.



This dynamic duo opted to be anonymous. Can you guess their identities?





Women in the Church

Bess Swedenburg

WIC at Night enjoyed a night out at The Grill for a fun time of fellowship and food! Those who attended had a really good time and enjoyed the meal. This is a great opportunity for the two groups to meet together. Eleanor Hairston attended with her niece , Kaye Swoope. Maybe next time, more of both WIC groups will be able to participate. Thanks to Kimber-Leigh Drown for organizing the outing. The next visit to The Grill will be November 6 at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Kimber-Leigh by Monday, November 5.

WIC in the Morning met for the first time in our newly designated room. It was a nice improvement and we enjoyed the closeness of the space. Rhonda White provided delicious refreshments and the group enjoyed a time of visiting prior to our Bible study. Nell Fleming led our time of prayer requests and praises, followed by Alice Talley's lesson from Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray".

There are always things to do around a church as big as ours! Jean Yelverton and Shirley Swoope have recently refinished the large table in the kitchen on third floor of the Villee Building. Great job! Thank you so much for taking the initiative to make a difference .

Thanks also to Lynda and Mike Meharg for the Monthly Luncheons our church family continues to enjoy. This is another good opportunity for all age groups to comingle and get to know each other. It's a good practice to sit with someone you don't know very well.

WIC in the Morning will meet on November 6 on third floor of the Villee Building at 10:00 for light refreshments and fellowship. Bible Study will begin at 11:00 and be over by 12 noon. Our new blinds have been installed and we should all be comfortable. Our December meeting will be the annual Cookie Swap.

WIC at Night will meet on November 13 and 27, then on December 11 to close out the year. This group is meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Laurie Flora's house at 6:30 p.m.



Welcome, Ruth Cecelia Shipp!

October 18, 2018

Proud Parents:
Morgan
&
Patrick



Upcoming Events

- November 4 Congregational Luncheon
- November 14 Return OCC Shoeboxes 
- November 22  Thanksgiving Day
- December 15 Blalock – Glenn Wedding 
- December 16 MSPC Children’s Christmas Program Mingle & Jingle
- December 24  Christmas Eve Service
- December 25 Christmas Day 



The Messiah

*Tuesday, December 11, at 6 and 8 p.m.
at Annunciation Catholic Church
You are invited to join the singers
and rehearse at 7 p.m. on
Monday, December 10.*



We are EXCITED to make available to you a NEW resource for families! My CHURCH Notebook written by Sally Michael of TRUTH 78, formerly Children Desiring God, guides elementary aged children to participate in Church Worship. My Church Notebook: Come into His Presence teaches children to actively listen to the sermon, take notes, recognize key points and ask questions. In response to what they hear, children can determine what God wants them to think, be or do. With God's help, children can discover who He is, understand more of His Word, and grow in their love for the truth. *My Church Notebook* helps children to concentrate on God as they come into His presence.

My Church Notebook is designed for first through sixth-grade students to use during the church service and for application at home. Students are provided with seven prompts or questions to answer and are given additional space for further notes or drawings. A guide at the beginning of the notebook teaches children the value of being able to attend church with their parents, gives suggestions on what they can do to prepare for attending the service and instructions on how to use their *My Church Notebook* during the service. Parents are also given tips on how to encourage and guide their children during the service.

My Church Notebook is a wonderful tool for children that will help train them to listen to the service and process what they hear.

MSPC is making this resource available for the cost of \$5.

Notebooks are available in the Children's Sunday School area. Please see Colleen if you are interested.



MSCS NEWS

Thinking of my job as a preschool teacher, many words come to mind. My responsibilities are varied. These children need nurture and care as I take care of physical needs, including keeping them safe. They also need to learn to do things themselves to gain confidence.



In the twos' class, we have talked about the fall leaves and pumpkins. Pray for me as I need wisdom to point them to their Creator who made them and takes care of them.

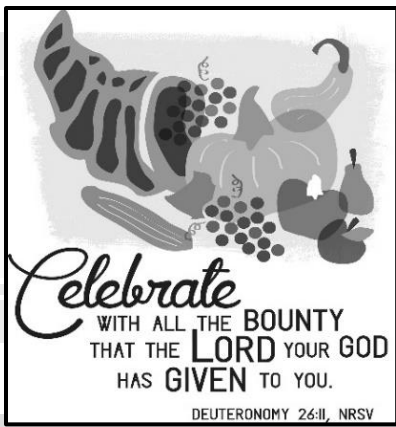
Our Tuesday class joined Miss Gaines' class on a trip to the Fire Station. The firemen were great! They strived to help the children not to be fearful of all the gear firemen wear and to know what to do if they are in a fire. We loved watching a fireman slide down the pole.

This semester we have been blessed to have Maggie Gardner serve as an assistant. She is wonderful help making herself invaluable to us. Please pray for her and her fiancé as they enter into marriage on December 8. We will miss her but are so happy and excited for her.



Thank you for your support and prayers for Main Street Christian School.

Love,
"Miss" Cathy





November 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Prayer Meeting Noon	2 Gee Allgood	3 Turner Kilpatrick
4  Fall Back Communion Congregational Luncheon Bess Swedenburg	5	6 <i>WIC in the Morning</i> Bethany Hairston Russ Russell	7	8 Prayer Meeting Noon	9 Grover Allgood	10
11 Community Groups Sadie Brewer Reed Williams	12	13 <i>WIC at Night</i>	14 <i>Men's Prayer Breakfast Happy Hearts</i> Bill Laws Mike Meharg Doug Yelverton	15 Prayer Meeting Noon Edna Mae McCoy Ed White	16	17 Louise Armstrong
18 Stuart Denham	19	20	21 No Services	22  <i>Thanksgiving</i> Church Office Closed Will Russell	23	24
25 Dr. Mike McKelvey Visiting Minister Community Groups	26	27 <i>WIC at Night</i> Ann Chilcutt Shirley Swoope	28	29 Prayer Meeting Noon	30 Landon Kilpatrick	



Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2 a.m. on November 4

- November 4 The Lord's Supper will be observed during the morning worship service.
- November 4 Congregational Luncheon
- November 6 WIC in the Morning - 10 a.m.
- November 11 Community Groups
- November 13 WIC at Night - 6:30 at the Flora Home
- November 14 Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 / Happy Hearts - 10:30 - Operation Christmas Child
- November 22 THANKSGIVING
- November 25 Community Groups
- November 27 WIC at Night - 6:30 at the Flora H

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Nursery

Nov. 4 Lauren Zarandona
Joy Day
Nov. 11 Meryl Fisackerly
Kitty Brewer
Nov. 18 Sandra Pilkinton
Crystal Coleman
Nov. 25 Crystal Coleman
Pat Russell

Ushers

Nov. 4 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,
Brent Drown, Trip Hairston,
Henry Pilkinton
Nov. 11 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,
Russ Russell, Matt White
Nov. 18 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,
Stephen Matocha,
Ben Woodson
Nov. 25 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,
Mike Meharg, Jay Nail,
Patrick Shipp

**November
Money Counter
Henry Pilkinton**

**OCTOBER
BUDGET REPORT**
OFFERINGS THIS MONTH
\$ 23,704



Praise: Ruth Cecelia Shipp

Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong
Sadie Brewer
George & Martha Clegg
Verda Laws

Keith Cole
David Croker
Jennifer Garner
Phillip Goodwin
Barbara Harrell
Debbie Jenkins
Poogie Laws
Dan Matocha
John Mark Russell
Brad Talley
Faith Whitlock
Rick Wright

Moms to be:

Margo Allgood
Meryl Fisackerly
Wendy Herron
Lucy Lilly
Jennifer White

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
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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