The Main Thing

MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 2019

Missions Conference, Sat-Sun, Feb 23-24 For the Display of My Splendor



Missions Conference Keynote Speaker Rev. Bill Bradford

Bill is from Jackson, MS. In 1990, he graduated from the Univ. of Mississippi. He earned his M.Div. Missions from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson in 1996 and his Th.M. in New Testament in 1998. The most important event that happened at RTS, however, was that he met and married his wonderful wife, Allen! In early 1999, shortly after being ordained a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America, he and Allen moved to the north of

Peru where they served for over ten years with Peru Mission in partnership with the national denomination called the Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana del Perú. Together with their team, they engaged in a community-based, holistic church planting ministry which includes seminary training, mentoring of church planters, university ministry, medical and dental care, Christian education and various economic development projects.

In late 2009 Bill, sensing the need and desire to pastor a local church, accepted the call to become Senior Pastor of Lawndale Presbyterian Church in Tupelo, MS. He and his family are enjoying growing in Christ together with a local body, applying their foreign mission experience to stateside needs and engaging in world mission through the local church. Bill continues to be involved with Peru Mission by serving as president of the Board, helping to fundraise and making yearly trips to Peru. Bill and Allen have four children: Mollie, William, Hannah, and Andrew.

Guest Pastor: Clete Hux Faith Promise Sunday, Feb. 3

Rev. Clete Hux is Director of the Apologetics Resource Center (ARC) and Partners in Asian Missions, both headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. A Teaching Elder in the PCA, he has pastored churches in Alabama and South Carolina. He holds a M.Div. from Birmingham Theological Seminary (BTS) where he teaches Comparative and World Religions, Contemporary Cults and New Religious Movements, Apologetics and Personal Evangelism, Christianity and Competing Worldviews, and other related courses.



He has been a guest lecturer at over 1,400 churches throughout the US and overseas. Having authored numerous articles on comparative religions and new religious trends, he has appeared as an expert commentator for print, radio, television, and internet media, locally, nationally, and internationally. With a heart for missions, he has helped train international pastors working with missionaries and other agencies in India, Australia, Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Tanzania, Germany, Romania, and Hungary. Clete will be sharing a ministry presentation during the Sunday School time on Feb. 3.

FAITH PROMISE

Here at Main Street, the means used to fund numerous missionaries is called Faith Promise and consists of giving above the tithe. It should grow, not replace, our normal giving. Study booklets are available and pledge cards will be distributed beginning in February. We hope to receive the pledges by the end of March.

The amounts pledged will be used to set the Missions Budget for the coming year. While these pledges are non-binding and confidential (no one will come looking for you regarding your pledge and only the Missions Chairman sees them), they should be made prayerfully and seriously. The Missions Chairman, John (Russ) Russell, will total the pledged amounts and inform the Missions Committee what their total budget will be for the next year.

Missions needs grow each year. In addition to living support for missionaries, Main Street would like to offer more missions trip opportunities. So, please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you commit to give between this Missions Conference and the next.

2019 MISSIONS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 23
3:30-6:00pm Session I
CMMA and MMI
Ministry Presentations
Saturday Guests:
Christina Thomas
Chester Repogle

Followed by Keynote Message I Church-wide Supper

Sunday, February 24 9:30am-12:00pm Session II

9:30am

Ministry Presentation
10:40 am Morning Worship
Keynote Message 2

Church-wide Fellowship Luncheon

Evening Worship 6:00 pm Session III

PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

(An assignment for Christ's Church at Main Street)

The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16b)

When we approach the subject of "Prayer for Missions", we should first discern or decipher, "What is Prayer?" For most of us prayer is communing or speaking with God. And so, in its essence it is that. However, we often think in terms of how to get our prayers answered, do we not? That has some merit, but it should not be the first goal in prayer. The first goal should be to get ourselves, our minds, wills and emotions, in line with God's. Oswald Chambers puts it this way, "The idea of prayer is not in order to get answers from God; prayer is perfect and complete oneness with God." The Complete Works of Oswald Chambers, at page 809. That is a lofty statement, but this writer believes it is a true one. We must come more and more into alignment with God's will, before we can even know how to pray rightly to Him. Of course, He condescends to us greatly and often. However, with the condition of our oneness with God in mind, let us look at the verse from James, above, in helping us discern what we through God may be accomplished in prayer.

There are so many promises in the Bible about prayer -- and many often go unclaimed or not acted upon. Let us narrow our concentration to James 5:16b and let us look at it as translated in the original Greek, the language in which the New Testament was written. William D. Mounce translates that verse as follows: "The active prayer of a righteous person has great power." The Mounce Reverse-Interlinear™ New Testament (MOUNCE). Below, let us break down this translation a bit further.

In the Greek the word for "active" is *energeo*. One of the interpretations of *energeo* is "earnest". Another translation is "towards a result". The Greek word for "prayer" is *deesis*, which has been interpreted, "entreaty, prayer, supplication, petition". The next words are "a righteous person", which we shall deal with below. Next are the words "has great power", which in the Greek are *polys ischno*. The word *polys* means "much in magnitude or quantity, much, large." The word *ischno* is interpreted "to have power, avail, be valid" and sometimes "to prevail".

Now back to the words "righteous person". What does this mean? Might we look to another Bible reference for the answer? Il Corinthians 5:21 states, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become *the righteousness of God in Him*" (emphasis added). According to this verse each of us who has believed in His name and received Christ as our Lord, has Christ's righteousness by God's decree (John 1:12). So, if we are His, we have His righteousness, and there is no greater righteousness. To summarize the above, we could translate James 5:16b as follows: "The prayer and entreaty which is aimed towards a result (being aligned with God's will) and which is made by a person with Christ's righteousness (by an authentic Christian) has the power to prevail."

Of course, there are many other mind-boggling verses on prayer, but this one alone is enough for our consideration now. The admonition is clear. In our communication with God we should be aimed at a definite result. We must be sure of our righteous standing with God. That includes a heart sprinkled clean of a guilty conscience and in full assurance of faith (Hebrews 10:22); and we must bring our sins to the light as He is in the light, where the blood of Jesus cleanses us from that sin and all unrighteousness (1 John 1:7 & 9). If we do the above things from a sincere heart, we are told that our prayers, as feeble as they may seem, have great power.

When we seek God in prayer according to his will, we are assured he hears us. Even as Elijah was a man like us, yet he prayed in the manner set forth above and stopped the rain for three and one-half years. Yes, he was a man like us! Scripture and Christ say the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than the greatest prophet in the Old Testament (Matthew 11:11). So, we can prevail in prayer as well. How can we say this? It is because Scripture, the revealed word of God, authorizes and commends such prayer.

How can one employ the promise of James 5:16b regarding our Missions Conference 2019? In other words, what is its practical application? The first question in response might be, "What does God want from our Missions Conference 2019?" There are at least three things this writer believes of which we can be assured. Number one is that our church would come together in true worship and adoration of the Triune God, as we are commanded to love God with all our soul, heart, mind and strength (Deut. 6:15; Matthew 22:37). Another result which would be to please and honor God in that we would

be part of spreading the Gospel by encouraging and supporting those missionaries with whom our church is directly affiliated. Christ showed his concern for the lowly, lost, lonely and those having no direction in Matthew 9:36-38, asking for prayer for laborers. Also, he did the same in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19 & 20. The third thing He would surely ask us to pray for is that we would be a church who gives of our money in support of missions. Look at God's exhortations along these lines in I Timothy 6:17-19, concerning us who are rich, materially, and in II Corinthians 9:6-8, which includes all of us.

If each member at Main Street Presbyterian will commit by faith to pray according to His Word (Romans 10:17) and pursuant to the example in James 5:16b, we are promised that God hears and acts powerfully according to his will. Let us meditate on James 5:16b until faith rises in our hearts and the morning star (Jesus) appears (II Peter 1:19; Rev. 22:16), act upon the promises stated above, and rejoice as we work with our God and reap the answers to our prayers. Amen.

Newly installed Officers at Main Street



Elders: Russ Russell, Matt White, Trip Hairston, Justin Harris Deacon: Jon Zarandona



Нарру Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

Happy Hearts met on January 23 in the fellowship hall at our usually appointed time, 10:30. The group was a buzz with excitement because we were looking forward to hearing Mrs. Lee Ann Moore tell us about her grandmother's stitchery. I had made a rather egregious mistake, no one should be surprised at that. I said Lee Ann's grandmother was Grandma Moses, failing to include the words, "of stitchery". As most know there is another Grandma Moses who paints primitive art, our Grandma Moses stitched her primitive artwork. The two grandmas have some things in common, somewhat in reverse. painter tried her hand first at stitchery, the stitcher tried her hand first at painting. Indeed, both women were very talented, imaginative, and creative.

Our guest was sharing her grandmother's story and it was quite interesting. Lee Ann's grandmother's name is Ethel Wright Mohamed. She began her slide show with a beautiful picture of her grandmother at 15 years of age. Ethel Wright worked in a bakery. The man she married was a first generation American citizen from Lebanon who sold small goods from a suitcase, then from a wagon. One day he happened into the bakery and purchased a cookie. He continued to return each day for another cookie until Ethel told him, "You must really like these cookies". To which he promptly replied, "I like you!" Ethel Wright married this industrious, cookie eating, young man. They reared 8 children in the Mississippi delta and owned and operated their own clothing store. Theirs was obviously a wonderful life, full of excitement and good clean living! Her hand stitched wall hangings indicate so and tell the stories, from her wedding to the arrival of the stork, the store front with ladies' clothing on the right and men's clothing on the left, several church scenes of pews filled with church goers, dinner on the grounds, her children playing in the backyard, potty training, and her craft house where she made these works of art, just to list a few. She depicted everyday life, scenes we could all relate to as we gazed at them in Lee Ann's slide show. Our Grandma Moses of Stitchery had a story for each of her embroidered and appliquéd wall hangings, which were just as interesting as her stitches were beautiful and creative. personality shines brightly through each of the wall hangings of varying sizes, some as large as 5x4 feet but most of them were approximately 2x2 ft on Indian cloth. She drew her picture on paper before the stitching began. I can just imagine her jotting down an idea in pencil, drawing on a scrap piece of paper during a slack time at the store, then beginning to stitch her new idea that evening. Interestingly, she did not begin doing her handwork until after her husband passed away. She was 60 years old at the time and picked up needle and thread to return to an art form learned at her mother's knee. She was a huge success story, though that was never her goal. She was invited to display her artwork in many festivals and shows as well as in museums. She was asked to represent the state of Mississippi at The Smithsonian Institute in 1974 when our state was being highlighted because it was the anniversary of our statehood. Mrs. Mohamed also has a piece of her artwork displayed at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson. She stitched for about 26 years and completed 175 pieces of artwork. There is a museum in Belzonia, MS where many of her original pieces are displayed in her home.

Lee Ann's father, Ollie Mohamed, was elected to the Mississippi State Senate representing District 19. Naturally this was a source of much pride for his parents. Only in America could a second generation citizen become an influential lawmaker! Of course, Grandma Moses stitched a wall hanging to commemorate this special event. In another of her pieces she stitched each of her children, their mates, her grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. She proudly, and rightfully so, depicted Lee Ann's

husband in his Marine uniform. Lee Ann is married to General Thomas (Tango) Moore and they have one daughter, Malinda. The Moore's moved to Columbus to be near family after a 36 year career in the military. Sue (Mrs. Al) Hatcher is his sister. We were honored to have Tango accompany his wife as well as Sue and Al Hatcher, whom I had encouraged to come. It is a very special family and it was a very special occasion for Happy Hearts.

Lee Ann's grandmother would be so proud of her and her family. She represents the Grandma Moses of Stitchery with fond memories, interesting descriptions of her handwork, a beautiful slide show, lots of good information, and sweet affection. It was an awesome program and we truly appreciated all that went into it!

Lunch was wonderful also! Kitty Brewer volunteered to make gumbo and rice for our group. She even brought freshly chopped green onions for a topping. It was delicious on a cold day in January. Nell Fleming tossed a wonderful salad of chopped apples, fresh spinach, craisins, and other delicious fixins with a yummy dressing. Poogie and Frances Laws provided buttered French bread. Jean Yelverton and Ann Barkley made a scrumptious layered dessert and Charlotte Hunley brought warm, delicious brownies. Nell, once again, brought her sweet mint tea. It was all so good! Nell helped convert the fellowship hall into a winter wonderland of snowmen. And our awesome cleanup crew did their usual outstanding task! Ben and Ann Chilcutt, Bet Sanchez, Jean Yelverton, and Ann Barkley were at their best in the kitchen! Thanks to everyone who helped make it all happen!

Watch for your card in the mail for our February meeting reminder. We will be meeting February 13 on Wednesday at 10:30 to celebrate Valentine's Day. Hope to see you then!























Praying for Our Children

Colleen Meek

As Christian parents we play a crucial, God-ordained role to faithfully raise our children in the "instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Parental discipleship "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord," should center on the kinds of practices already outlined in Ephesians 4 -5. We often feel a tension about children and faith. The tension is between the responsibility as Christian parents to give our children what matters most, and the reality that apart from Christ, we have no power to ensure that our children ultimately embrace what matters most to them and to us. We cannot escape responsibility for nurturing the faith of our children, nor can we escape the reality that our children will only be saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). The most biblical vision, the best parenting strategies, and the most comprehensive Deuteronomy 6:7-9 instruction in the Christian faith does not guarantee that children will be born again and that as parents we will experience the joy of seeing them walk in the Truth. Saving faith for any child is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one – no parent, no grandparent, no Sunday school teacher, no pastor may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). We can be encouraged as parents with the hope-giving assurance that God rules over the hearts of our children, and that He is able to transform the most stubborn and spiritually resistant heart into a soul that pants for Christ "as a deer pants for flowing streams" (Psalm 42:1). We are challenged as parents to work out the salvation of our children "with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12), and at the same time, to hold fast to the assurance that God is at work in us and in our children "both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). God's unstoppable purposes for our children and our inescapable responsibility to raise them in the faith come together in prayer. At the beginning of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul assures us that every true child of God was chosen in Christ to be "holy and blameless," and this was "before the foundation of the world...predestined...for adoption...according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace" (Ephesians 1:4-6). And yet, having just affirmed this reality for every believer, Paul still prayed that their hearts would be enlightened, (Ephesians 1:18), and he bowed his knees so that (among other reasons) "Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith" (Ephesians 3:17).

So, let us continually go to God and beg Him for the Salvation and spiritual welfare of our covenant children. Prayer matters! It matters because God is pleased to accomplish His unstoppable purposes through the prayers of His people.

7 Things to Pray for our Children

- 1 That Jesus will call them, and no one will hinder them from coming. Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away. (Matthew 19:13–15)
- 2 That they will respond in faith to Jesus's faithful, persistent call. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)
- That they will experience sanctification through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit and will increasingly desire to fulfill the greatest commandments. And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37–39)
- That they will not be unequally yoked in intimate relationships, especially marriage. Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- That their thoughts will be pure. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

- That their hearts will be stirred to give generously to the Lord's work. All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord. (Exodus 35:29)
- 7 That when the time is right, they will GO! And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18–20)

Taken from Truth:78 http://www.childrendesiringgod.org/
The Prayers of this Generation Matter to the Next written by David Michael





We have had a great start to 2019! The 3's and 4's are continuing to work on their letters and have enjoyed fun units such as "Snow Days," "Rhyming," and "Let's Stay Healthy." They are learning so much! The 2's enjoyed reading the story of "The Gingerbread Man." Ms. Cathy even helped them bake one of their own! They were so excited to get him out of the oven but were surprised to discover he had escaped from the oven and was loose in the school! After following a few clues he had left for them, they found him hiding in their classroom! Lesson learned... You can never take your eye off a sneaky gingerbread man!

Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year starts February 1st! Enrollment packets are in the school office. We would love for your preschooler to join us next year! We are so grateful and honored for the trust placed in us with this ministry. We hope to be able to serve you and your child at MSCS.

It is hard to believe that I have been the director for half a year already! I feel so blessed to be able to serve the school in this way. I am truly thankful for this opportunity. I want to personally thank everyone for the support the school receives from the church. The teachers and the children feel so loved. This is a beautiful ministry, and to see how many lives it touches is truly amazing.





In His love, Ms. Anna Gaínes





Women

in the

Church

Bess Swedenburg

WIC is off to a good start in 2019! Our usual meetings are taking place and we are now moving into February. WIC in the Morning will meet February 5 at 10:00 for those who want to visit, at 11:00 for those coming just for the lesson. Alice Talley will be leading us in Chapter 4, Praying the Psalms.

WIC at Night will be meeting February 12 in HeBrews coffee room and on February 26 at Laurie Flora's home. The meeting time has been changed to 6:30. The group met at The Grill on January 29 for a fun night of fellowship. If you haven't participated in this Bible study, I want to encourage you to do so. It's a special group!

The two groups are working together to do communion preparation this year. provides a good opportunity to get to know each other much better and to serve our church family at the same time. For February Shirley Swoope and Kay Swoope volunteered to prepare communion. If you haven't signed up there are three dates needing one more volunteer. July 7, August 4, and October 6 have only one person designated. This is not difficult, it just requires a little time. Saturday prior to communion is when the volunteers set up. On Sunday after communion the volunteers cleanup and put everything away. All together it requires about 2 1/2 hours. Thank you for considering participating and thank you to those who have already volunteered.

Our M & M verse is Psalm 100:1. M & M stands for memorizing and meditating and it is very beneficial. We will be learning all of this Psalm in the coming months. Please join us!

CONGREGATIONAL "MISSIONS" LUNCHEON

Our January luncheon was so wonderful with lots of "soups and sides" to share with each other. Our numbers were around 80, but it didn't deter any from sampling so many varieties of dishes. I'm still amazed that out of 15 crock pots, no two were alike!!!

February brings an opportunity to learn more about our missions both in the USA and abroad. <u>February 23-24</u> is set aside as our annual Missions Conference. There will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning. The conference begins at 3:30 and ends at 6:00 with a wonderful supper provided by the Deacons.

<u>Missions Luncheon.</u> The church will provide pulled pork barb-que and rolls. We are asked to provide the sides.

If your last name begins with:

A-C Dessert

D-G Fruit or Fruit Salad

H-P Cold Vegetable or Salad

R-Z Hot Vegetable

Won't you join in the celebration of meeting our missionaries? Let's gather with them as we share our 4 F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

After a break in January the Men's Prayer Breakfast is cranking up for the spring semester.

The men will meet Saturday, February 23, at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This will coincide with Mission Conference weekend. As a bonus, this lets the guys with weekday conflicts be part of the fellowship. And the later time is a little easier on us late risers.

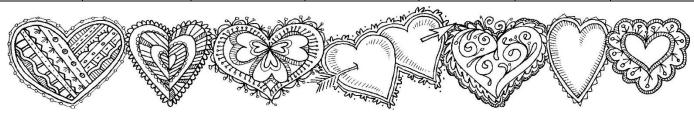
Please plan to attend and bring your sons and grandsons to share in the time of Fellowship on this important weekend for our church family.

Mike



February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Clete Hux Guest Minister	4	5 WIC in the Morning 10 am	6	7 Prayer Meeting at Noon	8	9
			Morgan Shipp		Jack Hairston	Caleb Drown
10 Communion	11	12 WIC at Night 6:30 HeBrews	13 Happy Hearts Leslee White	14 Valentine's Day Prayer Meeting at Noon	15	16 Warren & Jan Swoope
Joint Community Group Supper 5 pm	18 Warren Swoope	19	20 Melinda Howard	Prayer Meeting at Noon Martha Clegg	22	23 Missions Conference Jean Yelverton Richard & Karmel Crandall
24 Missions Conference	25	26 WIC at Night 6:30 Laurie Flora's	27 Eddie Estalote Frank Webb	Prayer Meeting at Noon		Gandun



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery

Feb. 3 Carson & Ann Marie Miller

Justin & Ivy Harris

Feb. 10 Sandra Pilkinton

Janie Williams

Feb. 17 Shirley Swoope

Karmel Crandall

Feb 24 Gee & Becca Allgood

Pat Russell

Ushers

Feb. 3 Ray Kilpatrick, Thomas Glenn,

Jay Nail, Russ Russell, Brent Drown,

Gray Flora, Phillip Goodwin

Feb. 10 Roger Day, Gee Allgood,

Allan Brewer, Trip Hairston,

Danny Williams

Feb. 17 Justin Harris, Henry Pilkinton,

Grover Allgood, Bill Laws,

Stephen Matocha, Ben Woodson

Feb. 24 Roger Day, Matt White,

John Hunter Allgood, Mike Meharg,

Patrick Shipp, Jon Watson

February

Money Counter

Roger Day

JANUARY BUDGET REPORT

OFFERINGS THIS MONTH

\$ 15,289



Praise: The birth of Leon White

Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong

Sadie Brewer

George & Martha Clegg

Verda Laws

Keith Cole

Phillip Goodwin

Debbie Jenkins Poogie Laws

Dan Matocha

John Mark Russell

Brad Talley

Faith Whitlock

Rick Wright

Moms to be:

Margo Allgood Bethany Baxter

Meryl Fisackerly

Ivy Harris

Wendy Herron

Lucy Lilly

President Donald Trump
Officials in Washington
Governor Phil Bryant
Mayor Robert Smith

Mayor Robert Smith

Police Chief Fred Shelton Sheriff Mike Aldredge

Sheriii Mike Aldreage

State, City, and County Officials

Bethany Christian Services

ethany Christian Service

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



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