

The Main Thing

Main Street Presbyterian Church

August 2019

2019 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 2019 meeting was held in Dallas, TX from June 25-28. This year's theme was "Press on for God's Glory". Pastor Matocha represented MSPC. Below is a brief summary of the meeting.

Stated Clerks Report (statistics)

Churches 1,572 (increase of 4 from last year)

Ordained Ministers 4,951 (increase of 69)

Mission Churches 355 (decrease of 11)

Members 384,793 (increase of 10,057)

Noteworthy Decisions:

Moderator: Howard "Howie" Donahoe, a ruling elder from the Pacific Northwest Presbytery, was elected as moderator. Donahoe served in the US Airforce and now works for American Airlines. He has a reputation for getting opposing groups in the PCA to sit down and talk about differences. Donahoe did an excellent job leading the assembly.

Assembly Preachers:

- Wednesday Communion Service- Dr. Irwyn Ince Jr. "Grind on for Glory" 2 Cor. 4:3-6
- Thursday Service- Rev. David Cassidy "A Brief History of the Future" Psalm 145:1-3
- Friday Service- Rev. Ryan Anderson "Delusions, Meet Grace" Rev. 3:14-22

Strengthened Stance on Biblical Marriage: The church is in a cultural battle to protect biblical marriage between one man and one woman.

Clarity on PCA's position on Biblical Sexuality: The church is faced with new challenges in every generation. Currently there are intense pressures from our culture to redefine the church's view of human sexuality. Sadly, some churches are caving to this pressure. Three key decisions were made this year to clarify and strengthen our position on sexual ethics.

- The PCA publicly declared the **Nashville Statement** on biblical sexuality to be a biblically faithful declaration that reflects the position of the PCA.
- The PCA commended a document produced by a sister denomination, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA). The title of the document is "Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation."
- The PCA formed a study committee to deal with the topic of human sexuality with particular attention to the issues of homosexuality, same-sex attraction, and transgenderism.

A NOTE FROM YOUR ELDERS

In agreement with the recent decision of the General Assembly, the elders of MSPC affirm the **Nashville Statement** as a biblically faithful declaration on sexual ethics. We commend it to the congregation as a guide in this time of cultural confusion. You can find the Nashville Statement at <https://cbmw.org/nashville-statement>.



Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

July brings with it hot days in Mississippi, the spectacular Fourth that we all love to celebrate, and the BLT lunch for Happy Hearts! We so enjoy Poogie's baked bacon, some crispy and some soft, some a little burned the way Poogie likes it. Usually we have homegrown tomatoes from the gardens of our members but this year the rains have limited the numbers of tomatoes on our vines. So, we enjoyed "homegrown" tomatoes from the grocery store, and I truly believe they were homegrown because they were so delicious! Frances washed the lettuce leaves for us, while Poogie was busy baking bacon. If you don't have his recipe, you should ask him to tell you how he does this! It is really good, the drippings are perfect, and the pan is clean when he finishes. That's the bacon, lettuce, and the tomatoes! Now we have to put the sandwiches together...some like Miracle Whip, some like mayo, some like wheat bread, and some like white! It's a fun exercise every July, none of us change. At our age, habits are almost impossible to break! Sweet Anne Barkley brought a delicious fresh fruit salad. We had pickles and Jean brought chips. For dessert we enjoyed ice cream with the peach cobbler prepared by Clara Peterson. It was a really good meal and we had a great time enjoying the sandwiches and the fellowship!

The decorations were festive red, white, and blue along with white daisies. Thanks to Kitty Brewer for all her help with the decorations and setting tables. We all enjoy the fellowship hall being decorated. It makes our meeting so much more special! And the food is always a blessing, it is good, many volunteers make it happen, and we enjoy the fellowship around our tables! Our cleanup crew is the BEST known to man! They do such a great job and they have a great time doing it! What a willing spirit of serving others!

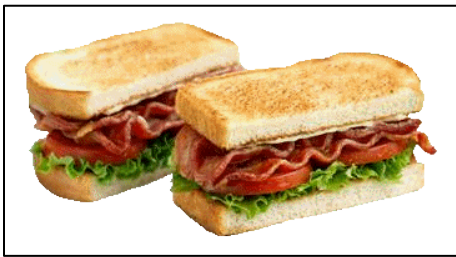
Our program was top notch also! Our organist and lead musician, Edna Mae McCoy, played the piano for us as we gathered and visited prior to the official program. I love hearing her play the piano and so does everyone else! She selected patriotic songs which lifted our spirits. We are of the generation that was taught patriotism, we sang these songs in public school music, we said the pledge every day, WWII was ever present in our minds, it was so real to us! We love this blessed country with deep passion. We see many problems in

our society today, but we have hope in Christ Jesus. We are so proud of our military and appreciate the service of our military families, especially those who worship with us! Mark Denison, a brand-new member of MSPC and a first timer at Happy Hearts, was willing to lead the singing of some of the patriotic songs! How neat! To be willing to stand up, tell us a little about himself, and lead us in singing. My hat is off to him! One advantage he had is that he had been a radio host on a Christian talk show, but that's radio and you don't see your audience. He had a room full of eyes gazing at him on this day! He brought with him a friend, Susan, from Trinity who has been a positive influence in his life since arriving at Trinity. She is adorable and brought a happy heart and sweet disposition to our group, she is very attractive and has a beautiful smile, dimples included! She is responsible for Mark's singing...he has only been singing a few months! They both sing with Pat Wallace's Trinity Choir. Mark led us in singing, "America the Beautiful", "God Bless America", "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", "The Star-Spangled Banner", and "God of our Fathers". I wonder if our elementary school students are learning these songs today. I hope and pray so! We certainly sounded really great for a bunch of older folks; our leader brought out the best in all of us! Mark and Susan concluded our program by singing a beautiful duet. It was a nice opportunity for us to establish two new friendships in Christ. What a special Happy Hearts program! Thank you again, Mark! And we look forward to having you and Susan join us in August!

One last feature of our July meeting! We had a number of special guests join us and that always makes us happier!!! Jean brought with her two guests, her daughter, Mary Grey Fletcher, and her daughter-in-law, Patti Yelverton. The Laws brought their daughter, Fran Laws, who is an occasional summer attendee. Jane Rogowski was able to join the group after a long illness. Miss Diann also attended which is unusual, but we were so pleased to have her not in a rush to get back to the office. She does so much for Happy Hearts: announcements, invitation cards, song sheets, and just whatever we ask! Our Fairview Baptist secretaries have been awesome blessings to Happy Hearts and to our church family over the years! I hope I haven't missed someone but let me hasten to say - it is always wonderful to have visitors, and it is equally wonderful to have our regular attenders!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 14, at 2:30 in the afternoon. Note the time change! This will

be our annual Dessert Party! Anyone who would like is encouraged to bring your favorite dessert. This is definitely not a requirement, just an opportunity if you would like to bring something! Come whether you bring a dessert or not!!! If you plan to bring a dessert, I would appreciate your letting me know, so that we can be sure there is a good assortment. See you then!





It is hard to believe that it is already August, and MSCS will be starting its 51st year! The teachers will be busy this month getting ready for the first day of school, which is August 26th! We are so ready for our classrooms to be filled with the sounds of little voices and laughter again!

MSCS has decided to have a Chick-fil-A spirit night on August 29th from 5:00-7:00pm! We think it will be a fun way to kick off the school year and raise money for our sweet school. The teachers are selling packs of Chick-fil-A chocolate chunk cookies for the spirit night. It is 20\$ for an 18 pack of cookies. If you would like to support MSCS, you can either buy a pack of cookies, eat at Chick-fil-A during the spirit night, or BOTH! If you would like to buy a pack of cookies you can contact the school (662) 328-0240 or Cathy Duncan. You can also see Mrs. Diann in the church office! Cookie sales end on August 22nd. MSCS is so grateful for the support we receive from the church. Thank you for helping us love and minister to the children and families that come through our doors. We hope you join us for the spirit night!

In His love,
Anna Gaines Johnson



YUMMY!!!



Women

In the

Church

Tracy Elgersma

WIC at Night has been bustling this summer! Every Tuesday night "Women in the Church" have been meeting in the home of Bethany Hairston, who is graciously hosting the group for the summer. The Bible Study has been working through Susan Hunt's excellent book: "Spiritual Mothering: The Titus 2 Model for Women Mentoring Women". Several ladies have been taking turns leading the study, which covers a chapter of the book each week. These gatherings have been extremely encouraging to me, and a delight to attend. We have a great generational mix, and the study sparks deep conversation amongst the participants. The hope of the study is that we, as women in the church, learn how to better encourage, teach, and lift each other up in order to bring glory to God. The next study will be on July 30th at 6:30pm. We'll be meeting at an alternate location: the Flora residence.

In addition, the women of Main Street also continue to meet for dinner at the Grill once a month. I treasure these meetings, as I continue to get to know the Main Street women on a deeper level while enjoying good food and fellowship. The next dinner will be at the Grill on August 22nd at 7pm.

WIC in the Morning will be having a luncheon on the second Tuesday, August 13, at 11:30 in the fellowship hall to start our new study. You don't have to bring anything to eat - lunch will be provided. Alice will introduce our new study books and we will enjoy a time of fellowship. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bess

MISSIONS NEWS

MAIN STREET MISSIONS PARTNERS 2019-2020

Support payments for the following missions partners are made only from the Faith Promise funds we receive at Main Street. Since space in the bulletin does not permit a description of their ministries, this list may prove informative and helpful. They are not listed in any particular order. There are also a few others who will remain anonymous.

Bill Boggess is a Pastoral trainer for French speaking pastors with Equipping Leaders International. Bill went to work with ELI in February of 2019. He came to Christ with the RUF group from our church as a college student.

<https://equippingleadersinternational.org/>

Bob and Becky McPherson: Bob works in prison ministry and evangelizes door to door with small churches with CRU, Life Builders. CRU is the new name for Campus Crusade for Christ. He oversees Bible studies at St. Clair Prison in Alabama.

Mississippi State RUF / Elliott Everitt is the current Reformed University Campus Minister serving at Mississippi State.

<http://www.ruf.org/ministry/mississippi-state-university>

Christina Thomas: is the Women's Coordinator for Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama and makes several medical ministry missions trips every year. She's a former MTW Missionary.

<http://cmmauab.org/>

Clarke Norton: and his wife Khrystyia, serve with the Mission to the World Holy Trinity Church plant in L'viv, Ukraine. They disciple and mentor tweens, teens, and their parents in Christian living and work to build community in the truth of God's world through special events and projects.

<http://www.teamlviv.org/ministries.html>

Clete Hux is the Director of and Comparative Religions Apologist for Apologetics Resource Center.

<https://arcaoletics.org/>

Dale & Susan Ellison serve at Peru Mission. They are both active in church planting and Dale oversees the clinics and visiting teams.

www.perumission.org

Nell Chinchon, along with her husband, Jack, founded African Bible Colleges. She is Director of Communications including ABC Radio.

www.africanbiblecolleges.net

Larry Brown is a professor at African Bible College, Malawi.

www.africanbiblecolleges.net

Linda Wixon is a Mission to the World Missionary, serving with the church planting teams in Nagoya, Japan.

<https://www.mtw.org/>

Wiley and Karon Smith are career Missionaries with Mission to the World. Wiley is a team leader for international medical trips.

<https://www.mtw.org/>

Andy Young is the Pastor of Oxford Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a United Kingdom Partnership Church plant (founded Jan 6, 2019).

andy@oxfordpres.co.uk

Third Millennium Ministries/Richard Pratt is the co-founder of Third Millennium Ministries. He travels extensively to teach and preach.

<https://thirdmill.org/>

Rekindle Children's Hope: a ministry for orphans in the villages of Lysoka and Maumu in Cameroon, Africa through after school programs and discipleship Bible studies

<http://rchafrica.org/>

Ministry to the Military & International: An English-speaking Presbyterian Reformed Church Planting Ministry near and on U.S. Military installations overseas

<http://www.ministrytothemilitaryinternational.com>

Chasing Dreams for the Right Reasons

Colleen Meek

Genesis 1:27a states “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him...” All of us have the mark of God’s thumb upon us. Dreams are a part of that divine thumbprint. In many cases, we don’t choose our dreams; God chooses them for us. He places them in our souls from the beginning.

As parents how do we encourage our children to pursue who God made them to be while also empowering them to be successful in life? There are good reasons for our children to chase their dreams, but there are also some not-so-good reasons.

To gain our approval

Most of our children want us, their parents to be proud of them. But if that becomes the filter through which children identify their dreams, they will chase things that bring parental approval rather than God’s approval, which is what really matters. If you notice this tendency in a child, try telling your child regularly, “You are not here to make us proud of you; you are here to be who God made you to be.”

To become rich

While many of us have a vested interest in our children doing well in their careers, their success in life is not dependent on wealth, which is so contrary to what the world is screaming at them. Making money is necessary to live, but a child’s sole focus should not be on the money itself. We need to help our children see that success as a Christ-follower comes from practicing our God-given passions in a way that the image of God is seen in us.

Instead of asking our kids what they want to do with their lives or careers, we can ask them why they want to pursue these areas. And if their answer is only to get rich (with a focus on the money alone), let’s help them find a better motive, such as joy, passion, sacrifice, kindness

or creativity. We can use this question to help them awaken their divine DNA.

To be famous

Today many young people are increasingly chasing fame as their dream. To challenge the allure of being a celebrity, ask your child this simple question: “What would you want to do with your life, even if it got zero views on YouTube?” Make a list of the ordinary, everyday things your child would want to do, even if no one noticed. This is a list of dreams worth chasing.

To earn God’s favor

Our children need to know through the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives that they have been bought with a price, and that by using the unique personality, talents and skills God has given them, God is able to bless the world through them.

Ask your child, “What do you think God made you to do? What are some things you like about yourself?” Use that list as a starting point for a conversation about dreams worth chasing. For example, the characteristic of compassion could fit in the medical field, a counseling role or vocational ministry.

Dreams Worth Chasing

Chasing dreams for the right reasons can be a complicated idea to communicate to our kids. Rather than trying to express it in words, try communicating it through your actions. As parents, we can take inventory of the things we do to make people proud and find a better motive. We can forfeit a financial opportunity and fame to do the things we truly love, balanced with doing what we need to do. And we can stay focused on the fact that we are servants — not saviors — to those around us.

Adapted from the *Dream Chasers* Series
by Dr. Kelly Flanagan

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAIN STREET KIDS



August 11 **Promotion Sunday**

(I will be contacting families who have children who will be advancing.)

August 16

Back to school pool party and cookout at 5:00

(To be held at the home of Russ and Pat Russell.
Details to follow soon.)



September 4

Wednesday evening activities resume
(Plans to be shared shortly.)



New Classes Begin



October 23

Wednesday evening Church wide Fellowship
(To be held at Lake Norris Fishing Club.)

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

NURSERY

- August 4 Jay & Hannah Nail
Joy Day
- August 11 Frances Glenn & Shirley Swoope
Cathy Duncan
- August 18 Carson & Ann Marie Miller
Meryl Fisackerly
- August 25 Sandra Pilkinton
Robin Tait & Katie Yeager

SECURITY/USHER TEAM

- August 4 Ray Kilpatrick, Carson Miller,
Allan Brewer, Danny Williams,
Trip Hairston
- August 11 Justin Harris, Henry Pilkinton,
Grover Allgood, Bill Laws,
Ben Woodson, Stephen Matocha
- August 18 Roger Day, Gee Allgood,
Ed White, Mike Meharg,
Patrick Shipp, Jon Watson
- August 25 Thomas Glenn, Matt White,
Gray Flora, Phillip Goodwin,
Jay Nail, Russ Russell

AUGUST
Money Counter
Gee Allgood

July
Budget Report
Offerings this Month
\$ 23,678



Praise:

Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong
George Clegg

Keith Cole
Phillip Goodwin
Debbie Jenkins
Poogie Laws
Dan Matocha
John Mark Russell
Brad Talley
Faith Whitlock
The Rick Wright Family

Moms to be:

Jessica Inman
Ann Marie Miller

Students and Teachers

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



August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Prayer Meeting Noon Jack Woodson Gray & Laurie Flora	2	3
4 Communion Douglas Glenn Silas Zarandona	5 William Laws Ben Woodson	6 <i>Brad & Alice Talley</i>	7 <i>Dan & Janie Williams</i>	8 Prayer Meeting Noon <i>Todd & Kathyryn Matocha</i>	9	10 Pat Russell
11 Promotion Sunday Mark Denison Karen Livingston	12	13 WIC in the Morning Luncheon 11:30am	14 Happy Hearts 2:30 Dessert Party Karmel Crandall	15 Prayer Meeting Noon	16  5:00 p.m.	17 Nancy Franks
18	19 MSCS Teachers Return Linda Simpson	20	21	22 Prayer Meeting Noon WIC at The Grill at 7pm Kathyryn Matocha	23	24 Ivy Harris Kathy Newton
25	26 MSCS Students Return  Laurie Chilcutt	27 <i>Henry & Sandra Pilkinton</i>	28 <i>Ben & Anna Woodson</i>	29 Prayer Meeting Noon <i>Spirit Night for MSCS at Chick-fil&</i> Dan Williams	30 Becca Elgersma Richard Laws <i>Richard & Frances Laws</i>	31 Stephen Matocha

“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



**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

Thursday Schedule

Weekly Prayer Meeting at Noon