

The Main Thing

Main Street Presbyterian Church

September 2019

The Lord's Supper - A Reminder to Love One Another

Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, in part, to address the problem of disunity among the congregation. Several difficulties evidence this lack of unity. There was a party spirit among the people. Some identified themselves with Paul, some with Apollos, others with Peter or Christ (1 Cor. 1:10-17). This led to divisions within the church. There was an inability to work through problems which resulted in frivolous lawsuits (1 Cor. 6:1-11). Religious liberty was being practiced with no concern for the spiritual condition of others (1 Cor. 8). Spiritual gifts were sought after for personal gain rather than the edification of others (1 Cor. 12-14). These were the pastoral issues confronting the apostle Paul in Corinth.

To combat these problems Paul appealed to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the nature of Christian love. The Lord's Supper was instituted as a sign and seal of our oneness with Christ. Our union with Christ is the basis for our union with one another. Paul makes this clear when he taught, "The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread." The divisiveness and rugged individualism that permeated the Corinthian church was inconsistent with the Divine purpose for the Lord's Supper. When the church gathers for the Supper it is a reminder of our unity in Christ. Paul sharply rebukes the Corinthians for their ignorance of this fact. In the very practice of the Lord's Supper a deep selfishness was revealed, "for in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry, and another is drunk."

The Lord's Supper is a reminder that we exist with and for others. Self-interest must bow the knee to the interest of the body as a whole. Something has gone tragically wrong when the Christian community becomes a me, me, me oriented community. The root of all the problems in Corinth was selfishness and the apostolic remedy was love. The Biblical doctrine of love is emphatically selfless. It originates from the self-sacrificial love of Jesus. Paul's characterization of love bears this out: "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7) Each time we "come together" for the Lord's Supper we are reminded that we are part of a body, the body of Christ. If we are to function as a body, we must exercise sacrificial, selfless love.

This emphasis upon the corporate over the individual is needed in our age. We live in a culture that values the promotion of self. American culture teaches us that goals in life are to be self-oriented rather than oriented around the wellbeing of others (whether the church, family or community). D. A. Carson, in his book *The Gagging of God*, observed, "Individualistic self-fulfillment becomes the prime good...It has taken the end of the twentieth century to make self-centeredness a virtue; to interpret egotism as a strength."¹ Paul's teaching on selfless love is countercultural. It exposes and attacks the idol of the self.

The Lord's Supper serves as a safeguard against the contemporary call to selfish individualism. When we come together as God's people, we are reminded that we are one body. We are also reminded that we function as one body through the exercise of love. As your pastor I rejoice that you love one another. I also encourage you to press on. Continue to resist the teaching of the world in this area and grow in love one for another.

¹ Carson, *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*, (Grand Rapids: Michigan, Zondervan, 1996) pages 48-49 & 205.



Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

August is always hot in Mississippi and Happy Hearts took a break from the regular menu. Actually, we do this once every year, old folks love sweets and so do we! Notice there were two categories!! Recently a church member said to me that he really just couldn't bring himself to the realization that he was old enough to participate in a senior citizen ministry. HA! Happy Hearts is a fun group of people who enjoy being together. It really isn't a bunch of old folks complaining about their age, aches, and pains! The only requirement for membership is a happy heart! And the precious church member who doesn't want to think he is old enough has a radiantly happy heart....so please do give us a try. We would love having some younger folks join us. I think originally, we set 50 as a minimum age and we don't even hold to that! Again, a happy heart is all that is needed, and if your heart isn't happy maybe we can help you with that!

Now that all that has been clarified, back to the sweets! Our group enjoyed a variety of desserts and each delicacy was yummy indeed. So many people brought their choice recipe, I hope I can remember them all. Ann Chilcutt brought pineapple upside down cake, Frances Laws brought perfect tea cakes, Jean Yelverton brought cinnamon bars, Kitty Brewer brought peanut butter fudge, Eleanor Hairston brought Poor Man's Millionaires, Nell Fleming brought chess pies, Diann Carter brought individual chocolate puddings, Bet Sanchez brought a chocolate chip pie, and I brought a strawberry and custard trifle. We also had a lemon and angel food cake trifle, fresh fruit, assorted salty crackers, cheese straws, and nuts. That's all I can recall; I hope I haven't forgotten someone. Bringing a dessert was not required or expected, but the variety made our Dessert Party lots more scrumptious! Nell brought her mint tea, and water and coffee were also available. Obviously, we had plenty of sugar and delicious sweets...a nice change from a regular meal.

We did not have a program, but just enjoyed visiting and laughing. It was a great crowd and we were especially pleased to have IdaBelle and Slick Ables, Clara Peterson (who will be moving sooner than we want), as well as Betty and Robin Weaver join us. Our regulars were there in full force (even though they aren't really old enough to participate). Just kidding, age isn't the issue! Loving the Lord and rejoicing in His goodness is all that it takes to be a Happy Heart!

Last month I failed to list my own visitors and it is like having pie in my face!!! I was so excited to have surprise visitors - Kaye Jordan and her daughter Anna Kate Pankey! Billy and I were thrilled to have them visiting and staying in our Honey House. The lagniappe was that they would get to see so many of our church members at Happy Hearts. Kaye is Darwin Jordan's wife and the two of them served our church back in the late 80's and into the mid 90's. Darwin was our preacher and Kaye is the person who got me involved in teaching Catechism. Both had a very special ministry in Billy's and my life, and we adore the two of them and their entire family, as do so many of our Happy Hearts group. It was wonderful having them join us for this time of fellowship and I do apologize for admitting them among our visitors. We had a larger than usual group of visitors and we are hoping they will return when they can.

You might want to consider bringing guests for our September meeting. We will have a guest speaker and a slide show! Eleanor Hairston toured the Holy Land with a group from Shaeffer's Chapel which is an old Methodist church located in the prairie. This little church has quite an amazing ministry and is packed full on Sunday's. The pastor, Rev. Curtis Bray led the tour and will be our guest speaker. I am confident he will present an exceptional program for us and we will be blessed. As you can tell, I'm looking forward to this special program. We will meet Tuesday, September 17, at 10:30 in our fellowship hall. I hope to see you there. If you are bringing a guest, please let Diann know (328-2523), so that we have sufficient food!



MISSIONS NEWS

Clarke Norton will visit Sept. 15

Clarke Norton will be visiting us on Sept. 15. He will be sharing a ministry presentation during Sunday School. Clarke and his wife, Khrystya, serve with a Mission to the World church plant in L'viv, Ukraine called *Team L'viv*. They are presently on home leave.



Their church describes herself this way: ***MTW Team L'viv is a cross-cultural church planting community seeking to plant a church planting church in L'viv, Ukraine and to provide a training environment for future missionaries.***



WHY L'VIV? *L'viv – Львів (Ukrainian) is the largest and most influential city in Western Ukraine. Most consider it the patriotic capital of Ukraine and one of the most important political cities in the country. With a metro population of over 1 million people, it is the strategic center of the western region which they hope can serve as the hub of planting churches throughout L'viv and all Western Ukraine.*

COMPASS

A Ministry to tweens, teens & their parents

Clarke and Khrystya have served in many ways. Presently, they are the leaders of Compass, a new ministry for teens and tweens. They lead Sunday School classes that focus on teaching the truths of the Bible and how to follow Christ in today's culture. They also meet with parents to help them guide their children through the complex issues they are facing every day.

They are also involved in special community projects and have been part of many English Camps.

LEOPOLIS UNIVERSITY YOUTH

When Clarke initially went to Ukraine, as a single man with Mission to the World, he became part of this ministry. It is the longest running ministry of the church and continues today.



MOUNTAIN ENGLISH CAMP

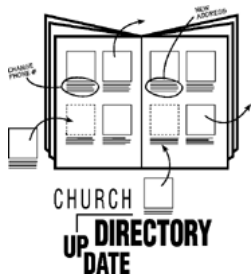
English Camps were started to facilitate building relationship while teaching English.

Usually about 60 Ukrainians attend. For most of them, it is the first time they read a Bible or hear the Gospel. Through strategic discipleship, the camp leadership and planning team now usually includes 8-10 Ukrainians.

The Nortons will be returning to L'viv this fall.

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





ONLINE CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PART II

Thanks to the assistance of Mrs. Shirley Swoope we have completed the initial set-up work on the online church pictorial directory. At this point every resident family should be represented in the directory unless we have inadvertently missed someone. The primary purpose of the directory is to provide photos and contact information of resident members, and active participants. Obviously, we are not excluding non-resident members. If you know of a non-resident member who is not listed, let us know and we will be glad to include them. Also, sometimes it was tricky deciding how to list adult children. If your family information is not posted the way you want and you are unsure with how to change it, just email me or Shirley and we will do our best to fix it.

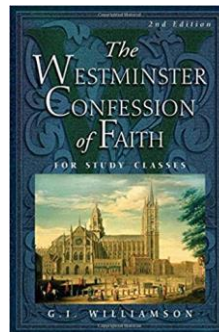
If you have not downloaded the directory app onto your phone or tablet, you are missing out on a lot of the benefits of having the directory. On your phone, when you bring up a member's profile there will be a text and phone button next to a cell phone number on their profile. By pushing that button, you can call or text right from the directory. We are also able to send alerts to your phone. We can send a group or churchwide announcement directly to everyone who has the app and it shows up on your phone as an alert just like a weather alert. If for some reason you do not wish to receive those alerts you can make that change on your member profile. Having the directory on your phone or tablet also makes it easier to learn the names and faces of members. Let's face it. We all have seen someone at church we were once introduced to, but now we cannot remember the name. I must confess, I will be using the app a lot for that sort of thing, especially when it comes to new faces. The link to download the app was included in the introductory email you should have received when your family information was set up. If you no longer have that email the link is posted at the top of the directory along with instructions for entering our church identity code.

Lastly, I do encourage you to update your family photos and information. If you are a new family and have not yet posted your photos, please do. We really do want to get to know you. Long time members, please check that your information is up to date, and consider a more recent photo if you are still sporting the 2016 photo. Let us know if we can be of any service.

FALL STUDIES

Adult Sunday School (Beginning September 22nd in the Fellowship Hall)

A rotating group of Elders will lead a multi-week study on the Westminster Confession of Faith using the book The Westminster Confession of Faith: For Study Classes.



"This exposition, a standard in the field, was written to aid the church in recovering with certainty the rich heritage of the Reformation faith."

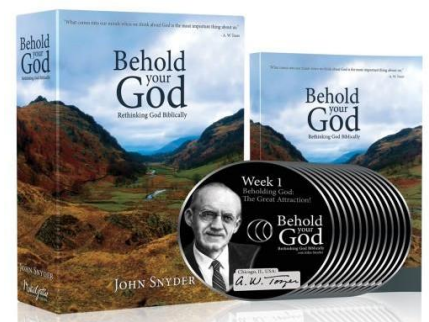
MSPC will provide several copies of the book, but please feel free to purchase your own as you are able.

Adult Wednesday Night (Beginning September 11th)

Adult Wednesday nights will be divided between women and men.

The Women in the Church (WIC) night group will be moving their meetings in the fall from Tuesday night to Wednesday night. All women in the church are encouraged to participate in this study time. Study materials are being decided upon for the fall semester.

The men of the church will be taking part in a several week study entitled Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically. This series includes DVD lessons as well as a weekly workbook.





MSCS has officially started its 2019-2020 school year! We have had some exciting events such as our visit day, first day of school, and the Chick-fil-a spirit night! We are having so much fun already, and we have only been in school for a week!

We welcomed back Gaines Gaskin, Cathy Duncan, and Taylor Cabiness this year. We also added Amy Sumrall, Holly Hardy, and Judy Woolbright to our staff. Judy taught previously at MSCS for 10 years. We are very excited to have her back co-teaching the 2's with Cathy. They make a great team! Amy Sumrall will be our 2-year-old assistant this year. Amy has had 3 daughters attend MSCS, and we know she will be a great addition to our staff! Holly has taken the 3-year-old teacher position. Holly has jumped right in and is doing a great job! Taylor will continue assisting in all of the classrooms and will lead the 3's play day! She keeps us all together! Gaines will continue teaching the 4's. She has created an outstanding 4-year-old program over her years at MSCS. Due to an increase in enrollment we opened a second 2-year-old class. I will be teaching this class as well as continuing my role as director.

I could not have asked for a better teaching staff. They all work so hard to teach and shape the minds and hearts of their students. They give so much of their love, time, and energy to ALL of the children that come through our doors. If you pass them in the hallways or see them on the playground, stop and thank them for all they do. "To teach is to touch a life forever." They have touched so many little lives...

We are anticipating a great year, but as always, we ask that you keep us and our students in your prayers. We are so thankful for the support we receive from all of you!

In His love,
Ms. Anna Gaines



Back Row: Taylor Cabiness, Cathy Duncan, Holly Hardy
Front Row: Amy Sumrall, Anna Gaines Johnson,
Gaines Gaskin, Judy Woolbright



Women In the Church

Once again WIC had a sweet opportunity to serve a bereavement meal, this time for the family of Rick Wright. He served our church family in many different capacities, on search committees for pastors, missions committee, and as an elder to name a few. Susan was equally active as President of WIC for two terms, missions committee, and helping wherever help was needed. Precious and very active members who have been missed ever since they moved to Texas. Thank you to our WIC ladies who helped make this meal very special. Susan and her family were most appreciative. She wrote thank you notes to each who participated. In her words, " you've shown your love for us in such a tangible way and we all appreciate it greatly."

WIC in the Morning will meet on Tuesday, September 3, at 10:00 for fellowship and light refreshments and our Bible study beginning at 11:00. We will be studying "God's Grace in your Suffering" by David Powlison.

Bess Swedenburg



Our summer Bible study wraps up on August 27th. The book, "Spiritual Mentoring," has provided some rich discussions, fellowship, and encouragement and we are all sad to see it come to a close. That being said, we will be announcing the topic for our fall study soon and I am looking forward to a new season with this great group of ladies.

The Ladies of Main Street had another social gathering at The Grill recently for the month of August. These outings are open to any of the ladies that attend the church...and their neighbors. It is always wonderful to see the different generations gathering together, sharing a meal, and getting to know some of the new faces around the Church. We would love for you to join us next time!

Tracy Elgersma

CONGREGATIONAL "KICK-OFF" LUNCHEON



It has been a wonderful summer and a well-earned respite from our luncheons, but now it's time to look at our recipes for another year.

Our meal will start with a favorite for many of us and something new for our "first timers"! John Gore will prepare his delicious Bar-B-Que Chicken. My thanks to Pogie Laws for making the arrangements. We will also share this meal with our missionary friend Clarke Norton who makes this a special time.

So, let's get started...the date is **Sunday, September 15**, following the worship service. The congregation will provide the side dishes.

Last year we averaged over 100 people each month! I can't wait to see our numbers this year! Mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 15**, when we will share our 4 F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun, without the Fuss!

Lynda



Attention Men: After a break for the summer the Men's Prayer Breakfast is ready to crank back up. The first breakfast will be Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy a great meal and a time of prayer and male fellowship.

There will be reminders in the Bulletins and an Email or two but mark your calendars now. Also plan to bring your sons and a friend or co-worker.

Hope to see you on September 11.

Mike



Just a Few Housekeeping Items

During the summer months as children are out of school, college students are home, and families are on vacations, we tend to get out of some of our regular habits. My wife and I have raised three boys, and she is a high school teacher. So, yes, we are well acquainted with how drastic and even shocking the shift in the two schedules can be. No matter how many times we have done the fall shift, it sometimes looks like it is the first time it ever happened to us. Sleep schedule, meal planning, grocery shopping, all change. As our homes experience the Summer – vs – school year shift, so does our church. Education space unused or unneeded during the summer months is suddenly in use every week. Airconditioning, plumbing, and equipment that has had minimal use for nearly three months is suddenly working at capacity. Programs and activities that have been dormant taking a summer siesta now gear up. It is an exciting and challenging time for our church and for church leadership.

As we have housekeeping issues at home, we deal with to make the shift into the school year routine, so we have housekeeping issues at church. I have a few housekeeping related issues to remind you of as we move into the new school year and the increased activity we will be taking part in, here at MSPC following the Labor Day weekend.

To leaders of programs. As you make plans and are scheduling special events, we would like to help you promote your event. The earlier you can let us know of your plan and let us place it on the calendar, the quicker we can begin promoting your event. We have an online calendar at www.mainstreetpres.org where we do our best to keep your events accurately listed with any information you would like to include. Posting events there provides you with an UpToDate calendar to assist you in planning your event so you can avoid scheduling conflicts. Likewise, we take your event information and post in in the bulletin, our newsletter, Facebook and Twitter. The most efficient method of providing us with this information is by using the Online Event Form located on our website under the events tab. The information you provide on this form goes straight to me and I forward it to the church office to Diann. That way, she and I are working from the same set of information and you only need communicate it once. The online form is also laid out in such a way it should help you in thinking through the details of your event.

To parents. You all do a wonderful job with your kids and we are so proud to be part of your family life. A few things you can help us with will help increase safety for your children and greatly assist the volunteers who work with them every week. If you have a young child in Sunday School who should be picked up before you go to worship,

please be mindful of our teachers and pick your child up in a timely fashion. I am sure the teachers would like the chance to set their room in order and perhaps freshen up before going to worship themselves. Likewise, if you have a child in the nursery, following worship please pick your child up and then visit and socialize as much as you would like. We truly appreciate our nursery volunteers and we don't want to be guilty of abusing their time and energies. We also ask you to remind your children that there are two groups of people here at the church that are especially vulnerable to bumps and falls; younger children, and the elderly. Our stair wells can become crowded between Sunday School and worship time. The pews and furnishings in our sanctuary have sharp corners. Running, playing, and rough housing belongs outside, not in these areas. A fall or trip can be detrimental to anyone, but especially to the very young and to older adults. We appreciate your help in maintaining a safe environment for everyone.

To everyone. This place of worship is an extension of your home. You help pay for the lighting and maintenance of the facility. You share and take part in the ministry that goes on here. You and your family benefit from the comfort and security it provides. Help us to be good stewards of what God has given us. As you would at home, if you are finished in a room and are the last one out, then please turn out the lights, or make sure the water is not still running in a sink or toilet. If you are leaving through an exterior door that should lock behind you, **do a test pull** to see if it has latched properly. While there are plans to repair, replace and upgrade, the doors of our buildings are old and sometimes they don't catch and latch properly on the first try. It is unnerving for our ladies who operate the preschool to come in early in the morning and discover a door didn't latch properly the night before. Following all services, I go through and turn off, shut down, and lock up. During the week when I spot check, I often find lights left on, doors unlocked (or unlatched), and water flowing. If you see a potential problem with some part of the facility or its equipment, please let me know. I and the deacons do our best to keep an eye on things and keep up with the repairs. Your help in spotting something we may not have seen or have overlooked is appreciated. This is a large facility, and there is plenty that can go wrong with it at any given time. Lastly, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the Lord in this role. It is a privilege and responsibility I do not take lightly. I assure you it is with great respect for you, your family, and the work you all do for the Lord that I make these requests in the hopes that we will have a full, safe, and productive time of ministry and service together to the Lord in the coming months.

Ron

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

NURSERY

- Sept. 1 Amber Henson & Margo Allgood
Karmel Crandall
- Sept. 8 Camille Pittman & Marianne Field
Janie Williams
- Sept. 15 Meryl Fisackerly & Cathy Duncan
Jelaine Fondren
- Sept. 22 Hannah Nail & Joy Day
Pat Russell
- Sept. 29 Shirley Swoope & Laurie Flora
Kitty Brewer

SECURITY/USHER TEAM

- Sept. 1 Ray Kilpatrick, Carson Miller,
Allan Brewer, Danny Williams,
Trip Hairston
- Sept. 8 Justin Harris, Henry Pilkinton,
Grover Allgood, Bill Laws,
Ben Woodson, Stephen Matocha
- Sept. 15 Roger Day, Gee Allgood,
Mike Meharg, Patrick Shipp,
Jon Watson
- Sept. 22 Thomas Glenn, Matt White,
Gray Flora, Phillip Goodwin,
Jay Nail, Russ Russell
- Sept. 29 Roger Day, Ed White,
Allan Brewer, Danny Williams,
Trip Hairston

SEPTEMBER

Money Counter

Roger Day

August

Budget Report
Offerings this Month
\$ 30,605



Praise:

Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong

George Clegg

Keith Cole

Cathy Duncan

David Field (recovering from shoulder surgery)

Phillip Goodwin

Debbie Jenkins

Poogie Laws

Dan Matocha

John Mark Russell

Brad Talley

Faith Whitlock

Moms to be:

Jelaine Fondren

Jessica Inman

Ann Marie Miller

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

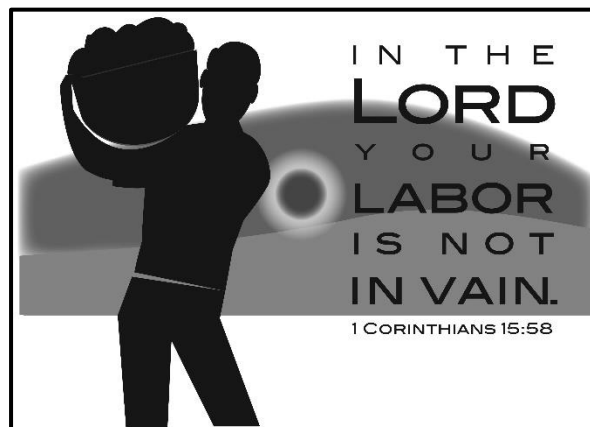
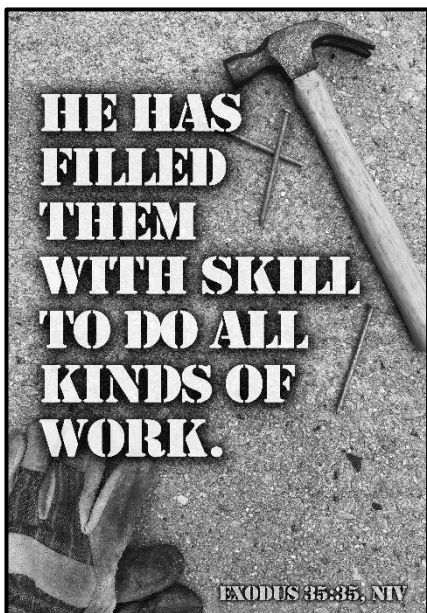
Life Choices Pregnancy Center

Palmer Home

All Churches and Pastors in Columbus

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Trey Fondren Billy & Bess Swedenburg David & Marianne Field	2 	3 WIC in the Morning 10:00 Wade Woodson	4 Wednesday Activities Resume Justin & Ivy Harris	5 Prayer Meeting Noon Olivia Kilpatrick	6 Micah Elgersma	7
8 Communion Kate Allgood	9 Amber Henson	10 Makayla Lovegren	11 John Laws Ferguson Jerry & Nancy Franks	12 Prayer Meeting Noon Callie Williams	13 Hope Kilpatrick Jami Laws	14 Penny Fondren Alice Talley
15 Special Guest – Clarke Norton Congregational Luncheon	16	17	18	19 Prayer Meeting Noon Callie Williams	20	21
22	23	24 Tom Tait	25	26 Prayer Meeting Noon	27	28 Williams- Baldrige Wedding Robby Glenn Ray Kilpatrick
29 Pulpit Guest Kevin Jones Richard Crandall	30					



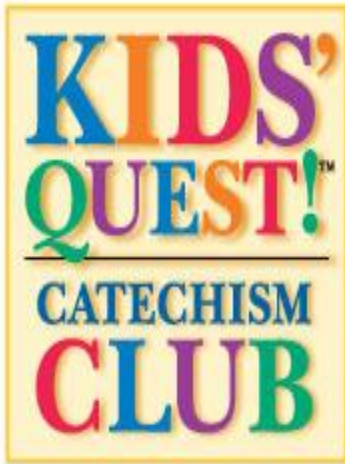

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord ...

1 Corinthians 15:58

GET READY KIDS!!

Come Out And Be A Part Of What's Happening At
Main Street This Fall!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ARE ABOUT TO KICK OFF...



K4 – K5 CLASS

Beginning Kids' Quest Catechism Club uses accounts from the Bible of God's work in the world to help children understand God's character and abstract theological truths, this volume covers the first 13 questions of *First Catechism*. Music, games, art, written activities and lots of repetition reinforce the teaching and help the children memorize the answers to the catechism questions.

Teachers – Kitty Brewer & Anna Woodson



Songs for A Savior Grades 1-5



During Vacation Bible School each summer, teachers and participants explore how the stories, lessons, and lives of the people in the Bible point us to the redeeming work of Jesus. This fall, we will extend this idea as children in grades 1-5 learn songs and memorize scripture from both the Old and New Testament that point to not just the birth of Jesus, but the reasons why he was born. It will be a celebration of Christmas every week! The children will alternate weekly between choir and lessons on the lives of Hannah, David, Mary, Zechariah, and the angels. By studying the prophecies, prayers, and songs from the lives of these witnesses, we pray that students will come to understand that as sinners we live in darkness but in Christ the Word is fulfilled such that, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:4) At the end of the semester, on December 14, the children will help lead the worship service with a special program that shares songs and scripture. In Galatians 4:4-5, we read, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Christmas marks the "fullness of time" and we cannot wait to celebrate this reality with our covenant children all semester long. - Lauren Zarandona

**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

