

# The Main Thing

Main Street Presbyterian Church  
January 2020





## Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

Happy Hearts at Christmastime is always special! We enjoy eating at Lion Hills or some other special destination and it is lots of fun to be stepping out! This year we went to Lion Hills again, enjoyed the elaborate decorations and delicious food, and not one Happy Hearts member had to do anything other than Enjoy! So many of you do so much to help make Happy Hearts the experience that it is for all of us. To begin with, Diann always designs and mails our invitations which are attractive and appropriate. Nell, Kitty, and Deb all work on decorations and setting tables for us each month. Nell, Jean, Ann C, Ann B, Frances, and others of you are always willing to bring food! Richard and others of our members do a good job helping serve the meal. Ben and Ann C, Nancy, Allan and Kitty, Jean, Bet, Ann B, and others are always willing to clean up after our meal! No one has ever declined to do whatever I have asked or needed for Happy Hearts. What a sweet and amazing encouragement to me! Many of you donate money so that we can enjoy doing the things we like to do such as eating out at Christmas. And I am humbled by the way God provides for us such interesting, beneficial, encouraging, entertaining, and delightful programs each month! And so, December 2019 was no different.

Jerry Franks suggested that I contact Glenn Lautzenhiser about doing our December program. What a welcome and wonderful suggestion! Glenn was once an active member of our church and I was pleased to know he was doing a class at EMCC on Christmas carols. Glenn is so intelligent, versatile, and always willing to share with others. I called him and Glenn suggested he would like to give the background and history of the following carols: "Angels from the Realms of Glory", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "Joy to the World", "Silver Bells", "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer", and "Silent Night". I had never thought of "Silver Bells" and



"Rudolph" as being carols so that was an interesting list to me. And Glenn delivered well! We all enjoyed learning about the carols.

Glenn began his talk with a beautiful poem that I want to share with you.

*There's something about a fine old hymn  
That can stir the heart of a man  
That can reach to the goal of his inmost soul  
Such as no mere preaching can*

*It's more than the tune of the song he sings  
And it's more than the poet's rhyme  
It is the spirit of God working through these things  
That gives them their power sublime!*

*So, we thank the Lord for the fine old hymns  
May we use them again and again  
As we seek to save from a hopeless grave  
The souls of our fellow men!*

Author Unknown

The truths written resonate with me because over the years as I have visited elderly and dying precious people, I have been inspired by the way people who may not remember much of anything recall hymns and prayers. Singing is a wonderful way to learn and obviously retain spiritual truths. Our church family was blessed to hear special music presented by our children and by adults this Christmas. Thanks to each and every person involved. As I write, I think our children will never forget "Songs for a Savior" and of course our adult choir members are probably still singing those melodies and words.

I wish you had been with us on December 17 to learn from Glenn about the carols. Each story was extremely detailed and very informative. The most recorded carol is "Silent Night" and the most often sung in America is "Jingle Bells". My favorite story Glenn shared was "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer". This carol was written for a little girl whose mother was very sick at Christmas. She had told her father that she wished her mom could be like her friends' mothers, busy with all the preparations of Christmas. He was sad

knowing that his wife was extremely ill and probably would not recover. His heart was touched deeply by his young daughter's emotions and her ability to express them. So, he wrote this song in hopes of making his little girl smile and easing her sad feelings. Hopefully, it accomplished his purpose for his daughter, it has truly been a song that has brought many smiles to other children ever since. Bing Crosby declined the opportunity to record the song, but Gene Autry's wife encouraged her husband to do so! We know the rest of that story!

Each of the spiritual Christmas carols is special and we love singing them. Some have been sung for many years, some are new, but all tell the story of God's mercy in sending His Son to be born in a manger and to die on a cross for you and for me. As we begin 2020 may each of us strive to live lives that glorify Him and not ourselves. We so often forget and do as Adam and Eve did - we place ourselves in positions of authority and justify our sinful behavior. We should remember each day that we have been purchased by the blood of Jesus and are joint heirs with Him. By God's grace, we are His children. To quote Miss Sadie, "Live like a child of the King".

Watch for a card and announcement in our Sunday bulletin for our January meeting. Diann will be doing her usual good job of letting you know the plan! We would love to have any new people join our group. It is a blessing to participate and a great opportunity to know other members.



*Women  
In the  
Church*

*Bess Swedenburg*

2020 brings much excitement and new leadership to our Women in the Church group. Janie Williams has agreed to be Chairman and Tracy Elgersma will serve as Co-chairman. Both women have prayed diligently, thought about the involvement of the task, gotten the support of their husbands, and are ready to lead us! They will do an exceptional task. Our selection committee prayed and felt lead to these two women. It was very encouraging to have both of them agree to assume the responsibility. Please assist them as they strive to serve our church family. They will need volunteers to accomplish a number of tasks. It is a known fact that those who work in the church receive the greatest blessing. We will all need to work together to serve our Savior in this place at this time. And we will all be blessed! I have loved being involved in WIC and hope to continue to serve in whatever way Janie and Tracy need me. I look forward to their leadership and service!

WIC in the Morning will meet January 7 at 10:00 for fellowship with the lesson beginning at 11:00. A nursery will be provided with Gwen Troupe taking care of your children in the church nursery.





Reserve the Date:  
**February 29-March 1**  
For our Annual MSPC  
**2020 Missions Conference**

Each February, Main Street hosts her annual Missions Conference. The month of February is our Missions Month. We kick it all off with a guest pastor who focuses on the importance of giving to the advancement of God's kingdom. And later, on the last weekend of the month, we invite missionary guests to come join us in fellowship. They bring wonderful first-hand accounts of the ways the Gospel is giving new life to many. And a Keynote Speaker brings special teaching to focus on our mission.

Long-time members have participated in these conferences for many years. But we also have many new faces in our church family and the Missions Committee would like to allow everyone an opportunity to exercise their talents and interests. Our small group does not accomplish it all by ourselves! Each year we are grateful for those who step up beside us to make these events happen. For us, it is often a great way to better get to know more individuals in our church community with whom our paths don't often cross.

Whatever your talent or interest, there is likely something you'd enjoy doing. If you have an interest in being involved, please let Marianne Field, our Missions Committee Secretary, know or watch for the sign-up sheet that will be coming soon to the bulletin board outside the office.

There is a broad list of tasks we work through each year. We call these our *Critical Tasks*. We have descriptions of how each has been handled in the past, so any new volunteer does not have to start from scratch. If you just want to know what is involved with any task, please ask. Some take little time and others are a bit more involved. We are sharing this information now so that there is time to think and pray about whether you might wish to be more involved next February. We are always open to comments and suggestions.

Please plan to attend even if you are not led this year to help prepare for the conference.

Our physical presence during missionary presentations is unspoken evidence we care about the lost and those who answered God's call to go to them with the Gospel. Our guest missionaries consistently comment that the fellowship during Missions Conferences is one of their greatest encouragements. So, remember, no matter what your age or your abilities, your smile or hug is a gift that can have a lasting impact!

## 2020 Conference Task List

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- ✓ Faith Promise Campaign
- ✓ Hosting Visitors Overnight
- ✓ Nursery Volunteers
- ✓ Saturday Children's Programs
- ✓ Youth Group Programs
- ✓ Decoration and Floral
- ✓ Display Area
- ✓ Joint Fellowship Group Supper
- ✓ Saturday Refreshments Break
- ✓ Sunday Luncheon
- ✓ Special Music
- ✓ Saturday Offering Collectors
- ✓ Prayer Support
- ✓ Month of Prayer Coordinator
- ✓ Publicity
- ✓ Sound Recordings
- ✓ Video Presentation Setup
- ✓ Local Transportation

**Our Keynote Speaker**

**will be Rev. Ed Norton.**

**We hope to see you all there!**

# AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Elementary-aged girls gathered at Colleen's house for their second annual afternoon of Christmas Cheer. This year we were joined by Laurie Chilcutt, known for the cheer she adds to any event where she is present! We started out with cookie painting in the kitchen.

Next, we moved to the living room where Laurie led us in an interactive lesson of the story behind the song: *The 12 Days of Christmas*. To begin with, "The partridge is an ancient Christian symbol of Christ; a small but valiant bird known for its willingness to die to save its young. The pear tree represents the cross." Next come two turtledoves, a reminder of the sacrifice that Mary and Joseph offered when they dedicated Jesus at the Temple ([Luke 2:24](#)). French hens were costly in the sixteenth century; they represent the precious gifts of faith, hope, and love ([1 Cor. 13:13](#)), or perhaps the three gifts of the Wise Men. The four calling birds speak of the four Gospels-Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Five golden rings represent God's eternity. And so it goes: six geese for six days of creation; seven swans for seven gifts of the Holy Spirit; eight maids for eight Beatitudes; nine ladies for the fruit of the Spirit; ten lords for the Ten Commandments; eleven pipers for eleven faithful disciples; and twelve drummers for the dozen articles of the Apostles' Creed. We concluded this by

singing the song, then taking a couple of minutes to catch our breaths!

The rest of the afternoon was spent playing some fun games!

Reindeer Toss – Played in pairs where one person wears a pair of reindeer antlers, and the other tosses rings trying to engage the antlers! Harder than it looks!

Cookie Cutter Stacking – Played in pairs, given 3 minutes to see who could construct the tallest structure of cookie cutters without them collapsing!

Candy Cane Pick up – With the tip of the straight part of a candy cane in their mouths, and hands behind their backs, the girls were given two minutes to hook as many candy canes on the table as they possibly could, and then drop them onto a plate. Try it...you'll find it a challenge!

Snowball Toss – Also timed and played in pairs, individuals tried to empty their bucket of snowballs by tossing and landing them in their partner's bucket!

Just as this game was ending, our pastor, Todd, arrived to pick up his daughter Megan. All at once a snowball fight ensued! The girls relentlessly and unabashedly threw snowballs at Todd for quite some time until he took his leave. I must say...Todd appeared to enjoy this activity just as much as the girls did! In fact, this may even have been the highlight of the afternoon for some!





December has been a short month for us, but it has been packed full of fun!

The children have been very busy making crafts, Christmas gifts, and practicing for our annual Christmas program. We have also been talking about the true meaning of Christmas and learning about the birth of our Savior, Baby Jesus! All the classes have been working very hard on our Christmas program. We had a great program, and the children did a wonderful job! We are grateful for all the parents and family members who attended.

We have had a great year so far and are looking forward for 2020 when we return from the holidays! We are very thankful for all your continued love and support! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from MŠCŠ!

In His Love,  
Ms. Taylor



## MONTHLY CHURCH LUNCHEON

### "SOUP AND SIDES"

What a wonderful December we had with our children celebrating the Christmas story. The parents' involvement in the program made it even more special. The tables for "Mingle and Jingle" were beautiful and my thanks to Bess for sharing her gingerbread decorations during our time together.

It's time to plan for the church's favorite! Yes, it's January and "Soup and Sides" is once again here. HOORAY! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, following the worship service.**

Get your soup, stew, or chili recipes ready to go. You may want to try a new one or "dust off" an old favorite. For sides, think about what your dish will need. We average 15-19 crock pots each year and I know this year will be just as grand.

If you don't make soup, stew, or chili, that's fine. Just bring one or two sides to go with the main course. Think about sandwiches, cheese and crackers, cold salads, relish plate, fruit, or dessert.

There will be plenty of cords for your crock pots and plenty of room. I will again have cards, tape, and markers for you to "name" your dish and label tops.

Circle the date...**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** for bowls of Yum!...Yum!...GOOD!!! It's another great time for our four F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Happy New Year!

*Lynda*

SOUP'S  
ON!





# JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

## NURSERY

- Jan. 5 Margo Allgood, Janie Williams  
Karmel Crandall
- Jan. 12 Morgan Shipp  
Robin Tait & Katie Yeager
- Jan. 19 Jay & Hannah Nail  
Meryl Fisackerly
- Jan. 26 Frances Glenn, Shirley Swoope  
Joy Day

## SECURITY/USHER TEAM

- Jan. 5 Ray Kilpatrick, Carson Miller,  
Grover Allgood, Bill Laws,  
Ben Woodson, Stephen Matocha
- Jan. 12 Justin Harris, Henry Pilkinton,  
Gray Flora, Phillip Goodwin,  
Jay Nail, Russ Russell
- Jan. 19 Matt White, Thomas Glenn,  
Allan Brewer, Dan Williams,  
Trip Hairston
- Jan. 26 Roger Day, Gee Allgood,  
Mike Meharg, Ed White,  
Patrick Shipp, Jon Watson



*Praise:*

*Our Shut-Ins:*

Louise Armstrong  
George Clegg  
Betty Weaver

Keith Cole  
Cathy Duncan  
Phillip Goodwin  
Debbie Jenkins  
Poogie Laws  
Dan Matocha  
John Mark Russell  
Brad Talley  
Faith Whitlock

*Moms to be:*

Jelaine Fondren  
Anna Landon  
Katie Singletary

**JANUARY**  
**Money Counter**  
**Patrick Shipp**

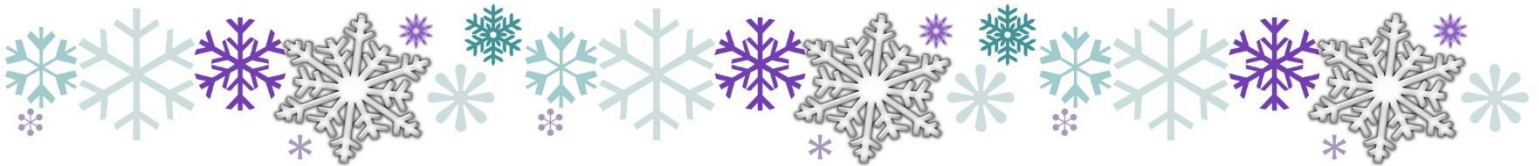
**December**  
**Budget Report**  
**Offerings this Month**  
**\$ 57,777**

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President Donald Trump  
Officials in Washington  
Governor Tate Reeves  
Mayor Robert Smith  
Police Chief Fred Shelton  
Sheriff Eddie Hawkins  
State, City, and County Officials  
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Helping Hands  
Life Choices Pregnancy Center  
Palmer Home  
All Churches and Pastors in Columbus

# January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed	2	3 <i>Jack &amp; Laurie Chilcutt</i>	4 Kimberly Duncan
5 Communion Corey Conner	6	7 <b>WIC</b> Jelaine Fondren John Mark Russell <i>John Hunter &amp; Margo Allgood</i>	8 Men's Prayer Breakfast  Shirley Blankenship Henry Pilkinton	9 Prayer Meeting Noon  Stephen Russell	10   Tracy Elgersma Chris Lovegren	11
12	13 Frances Laws	14	15	16 Prayer Meeting Noon	17	18
19 Congregational Luncheon Soup & Sides	20	21 Mamie Kate Fisackerly	22 Wednesday Activities Resume	23 Prayer Meeting Noon	24 <i>John &amp; Jane Rogowski</i>	25
26	27	28	29  Laurie Flora Isaac Zarandona	30 Prayer Meeting Noon	31	





SHOUT *for joy*  
*to the* LORD, *all the*  
*earth.*

PSALM 100:1, NIV

**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

