

The Main Thing

A Publication of
MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 2020

Missions Conference, Sat-Sun, Feb 29-Mar 1
Does Mission Lead to Renewal, or Does Renewal Lead to Mission



Missions Conference Keynote Speaker **Rev. Ed Norton**

Ed is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Reformed Theological Seminary. He served on the staff of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi. Additionally, he was the church planter for Highlands Presbyterian Church, Madison, Mississippi. Currently, Ed is an Associate Minister with Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. He has been on the staff of IPC Memphis for twenty-four years. His

responsibilities are local and global church planting, as well as ministering in one of the age group demographics of IPC Memphis.

He has trained and been certified as a “Gospel Coach” with Church Multiplication Ministries.

His extra-curricular activities are that he is the Founder and Coordinator of The United Kingdom Partnership (UKP). The UKP seeks to connect U.S.A. funding resources with church planting opportunities in the U.K. He will be sharing a presentation about the UKP during the conference. He also serves on the boards of Third Millennium Ministries and the Thirdmill Seminary.

One of the joys of his life was serving in the Mississippi Air National Guard for twenty-four years. He honorably discharged and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Guest Pastor: Kent Bailey **Faith Promise Sunday, Feb. 2**

Kent and Jo met as students in college and have been married since 1985. They have served with Campus Outreach with CO-Birmingham (1986-1997), CO-Belo Horizonte, Brazil (1997-2010) and with CO International since 2010.

As the Director of Campus Outreach SERVE, Kent’s focus is on developing, facilitating and resourcing the next generations of healthy, global-minded, multiplying Kingdom leaders. CO SERVE currently has over 150 staff building laborers on campuses in 13 international locations on 5 continents. They have 3 adult children and 2 sons-in-law.



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 are already available. 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 involve our members in more mission trip opportunities. So, please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you commit to give between this Missions Conference and the next.

2020 MISSIONS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 29

**8:00am Men's Prayer
Breakfast**

3:30-6:00pm Session I
Ministry Presentations

Saturday Guests:
Clete Hux
Jim Kiel

Followed by
Keynote Message I
Church-wide Supper

Sunday, March 1

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

Keynote Message 3

A GOSPEL TREASURE

by Danny Williams

There is one of those “reality” shows on TV called “Gold Rush.” If you haven’t seen it, a group of people leave their homes, travel to the Alaskan wilderness and spend the summer season mining for gold. They work night and day, risking and spending millions of dollars, doing dangerous and often boring work, sifting through thousands of tons of dirt to discover just a few ounces of gold. Their equipment breaks, they get sick, they get hurt, they get tired and lonely. Often, they fight and argue over how to do the job or where to dig. Sometimes, they get discouraged and want to give up and go home. At the end of each show, the team gathers around their pile of gold to weigh it up and measure their success.

When we think about modern day church missions, in many ways it's a lot like “Gold Rush.” Our missionary leaves his home, travels to some far-off distant land for a season of time to discover new Believers. It's expensive, they work long hours and it's often dangerous and boring. They meet and sift through thousands of people so they can “discover” a few souls made for heaven.

Just like those gold miners, missionaries don't make anything. God made all the gold there will ever be when He created the world and He alone made every believer. Our missionary simply digs them out of this sinful, dirty world to show all creation God's glory and His grace. True gold that shines forever because God loves to see the beauty of what He has made, and He loves for his “miners” to see it too.

Those gold miners are a team. Bulldozer operators, mechanics, engineers, geologists, women and men all working together, each one important to the effort. If one fails or doesn't do their job well, the pile of gold is smaller when they weigh it up but the gold in the ground is still there waiting to be found.

Missions are a team effort too and we are part of that team. While we may think our missionary goes off alone, in reality, we are a vital part of his success and we have a job to do. If we forget that and do our job poorly, then our missionary will struggle, and his job will be harder, more difficult and with less success so it's vital that we know our job and do it well.

While there are many ways to be a part of the mission team, let's consider a few things that we must do. In so doing, consider your part of the effort and where you can best fit in.

First, where do we dig? Dozens of missionaries approach Main Street every year seeking support. There are missions to almost every part of the world. All are important but our abilities are limited, and we turn most of them away. Main Street has a committee that prayerfully considers every request, making the difficult decision of who and where our limited funds are applied. Doing that job well requires a serious commitment to research and study, a real desire to know missionaries and their work. If you are interested in missions, this committee needs you!

Secondly, it takes time and time is money! The median family income in our town is \$34,977 per year. Based on a forty-hour week, that is \$16.81 per hour. If a family making the median income worked just one hour per week for missions this year, they would give \$875 to missions. Using the same formula, if a family making \$100,000 per year gives \$1000, then they worked 24 minutes per week for missions. How much time will you spend this year spreading the Gospel? How much will you give?

Thirdly, but most importantly, it ain't gold mining! It's not a job or a business. This is a spiritual adventure, a great mystery that no man understands, and heaven takes part in. The Apostle Peter tells us in his first book (Ch. 1, vs 11), even the angels in heaven long to see salvation at work! The goal is NOT how many Christians we discover and it's NOT about how much we can give or how hard we work. You see, we are already rich because we were “discovered” when we trusted in Christ. When we participate in

missions and see God at work today in the here and now in this wicked, sinful, very sick world, we rediscover how amazing and wonderful Jesus Christ is. We rediscover that we are His gold, refined by His precious blood and the Holy Spirit. We rediscover that we are part of something far bigger and greater than a little church in backwoods Mississippi. We are not looking for a reward, just enjoying and sharing the riches we already have! When we do so, we shine with the glory of God. So, our most important job is rejoicing and realizing just how much God loves us and the amazing result of that love.

One last thing that we must consider. As a child of God, our Father has given us an order, a very specific job that every single one of us must do. We don't have a choice about this job. We may not understand how it works in the mission process and we may not get to see what it accomplishes. We only know that God has ordered it. Considered the greatest missionary of all time, the apostle Paul wrote these words to the Ephesians in chapter six (vs 11-17), telling them to pray, *“take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplications for all the saints and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”* If the Apostle Paul thought he needed prayer, don't you think our missionaries need it to?

So, pray and commit to praying this year on a regular basis for our missionaries, for your desire to understand more deeply the grace you enjoy and for those golden believers waiting to be discovered. Do it for the good of your own soul and enjoy the reward that you already have.

So, shine golden nugget, angels and heavenly creatures are looking at you!

From the Session of Main Street



The Great Commission

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. 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 28:16-20 ESV



Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

On January 15 Happy Hearts began a new year, but not really with a bang! We were a small group, but we enjoyed a hearty 15 beans and ham soup, Mexican cornbread, Cincinnati fried chicken, Nell's fresh green salad, and Jean and Bet's oh so good bread pudding and sauce! It was all delicious and those of us who were in attendance had a great time being together! You are probably wondering how Cincinnati fried chicken is different from good old Southern fried chicken. About the only thing they share in common is that both are fried!!! You know exactly what Southern fried chicken is and how wonderful it is! Most of our group can recall when we fried chicken in the big black iron skillet in our own kitchens. Not so much anymore! Back to Cincinnati fried chicken - it really isn't chicken at all! My mother soaked salted pork, sometimes called salt back or strickalean, overnight. She drained it and rolled it in cornmeal before frying it. Then she told Doug and me that we were having Cincinnati fried chicken for supper! It was scrumptious and we thought we were eating some really special delicacy! In the South we traditionally have turnip greens and salt pork, alongside black-eyed peas for New Year's Day lunch. It is all supposed to bring good luck in the coming new year, BUT we are Presbyterian and absolutely do not believe in luck! So, the traditional meal is prepared and eaten because it is a good menu, nothing more! Our Happy Hearts meal consisted of all the "lucky ingredients", but no hopes of good luck! Just full tummies and happy hearts.

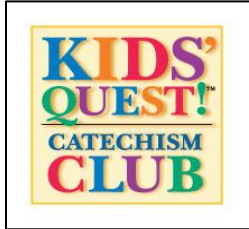
Because we have had so many gray and rainy days lately, our decorator ladies, planned something colorful for the inside. Deb Shelton, Nell Fleming, Kitty Brewer, and I had fun meeting the challenge of being frugal and creative. With Nell's greenery, Deb's colorful placemats, Kitty's creative touch, and the blend of ideas, we had a really good time setting tables with colorful plates and using brightly colored tin containers. It all came together, and the room seemed cheerful and welcoming.

Our program was a bit different also. Before eating lunch together, we toured the third floor of our church. Some of our group do not venture up into those spaces and I wanted everyone to see how charming it is up there! Colleen Meek has transformed the Sunday school rooms for our grade school children! She has had walls and furniture painted, added slip covers to old couches, carefully placed colorful rugs, and along with Shirley Swoope's expertise and willing hands hung plexiglass bulletin boards bearing scripture verses. It is very attractive, appealing to both young and old! On the entrance table Colleen had arranged adorable snowmen and snowballs in a very delightful scenario! In the hallway, she hung five large red banners, again the handiwork of Shirley Swoope, made for VBS several summers ago. And again, displaying Bible verses. Across the hall, we entered the large conference room which is very attractive also. It leads into the Frances Tumberlinson Historical Room. Our seniors had a fun time looking through the historical papers and pictures. Thanks to Kathy Newton, her mom, and several other generous donors the Historical Room is well decorated and a very interesting place. For those of you who don't know, Kathy is Mrs. Tumberlinson's only grandchild. From this area we moved on to the junior and high school Sunday school class area which is definitely multipurpose. It too is appropriately decorated and very appealing! Bethany Hairston, Amber Watson, Shirley Swoope and I'm not sure who else, put their talents and efforts together to create a very special space for our teens. This time Shirley put Bible verses onto the walls with Robin Tait's help in placing them perfectly straight! There are large flags, red folding chairs, game tables, and snack bins! In the same area there are two rooms. When the Morning WIC group outgrew its room, Amber was more than willing to swap spaces. In the WIC room there is a truly amazing and large painting of our church, painted for and given to the group by Ann Chilcutt. It is spectacular! If on the third floor, be sure to look in the WIC room and view the painting. And check out the entire floor, it looks better than ever, at least in my lifetime! But I forgot to show our group HeBrews on the second floor! Guess that will be another month's program!

Next month's program is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, at the usual 10:30 in our fellowship hall. I look forward to seeing all of you, consider bringing someone with you who hasn't been participating. We have a special Valentine's Day program planned and it's a surprise!



CHILDREN'S CLASSES THIS SEMESTER



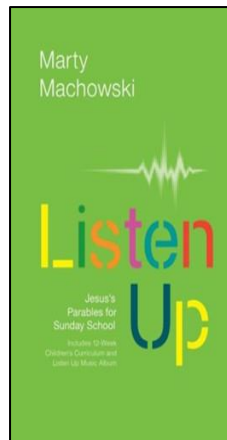
Catechism.

K 4-5

Using biblical accounts of God's work in the world to help children understand God's character and other abstract theological truths, **Beginning Kids' Quest Volume 2** covers questions 14-28 of *First*

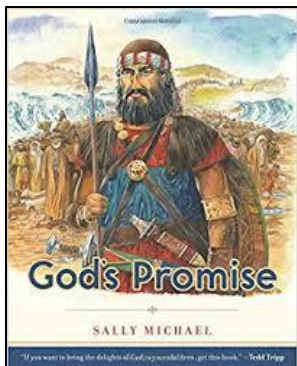
Grades 1-2

Listen Up: Jesus's Parables provides an opportunity for children to hear the gospel as Jesus himself shared it. Jesus told simple stories using everyday activities and objects that point to surprising spiritual truths about life in his kingdom. In the parables children will learn to treasure the gospel.



Grades 3-5

God's Promise – is a topical study with stories ordered in a logical progression. It identifies the recipients of God's promises-believers and unbelievers. An explanation of conditional and unconditional promises is presented to show children the difference between these two kinds of promises. Included are stories which assure children that God's promises are trustworthy because God, the Promise Giver, is trustworthy, thus showing the connection between God's character and His Word.



Women In the Church

Janie Williams

Happy New Year! First a backtrack to last year and many thanks to Kathryn Matocha for hosting the WIC at night Christmas party.

Welcome to Philip Obadiah Fondren as our newest baby of 2020. We are so glad Mom and baby are doing well. WIC has a meal train set up to take a meal to new moms, and this is a big help on busy nights.

Our church observes the Lord's Supper each month. Many volunteers make this happen each time. Preparing for communion is not hard, but it takes a little planning. Don't worry if you have never set out the bread and wine. We will pair you with someone that has experience! Perhaps you and your spouse or your family will want to be a part of this service to our church. Please let me or Tracy know if you want to help.

The morning WIC Bible study will meet February 4 at 10 for fellowship and 11 for the lesson. Child-care is provided. WIC at night has begun a new study this semester- "The Son of David" by Nancy Guthrie. You haven't missed out - next time is lesson one. This group meets on third floor at 6 pm on Wednesday nights.

I hope you will attend one of the great Bible studies.

**Philip Obadiah Fondren
January 15, 2020**

**Proud Parents
Armand & Jelaine Fondren**

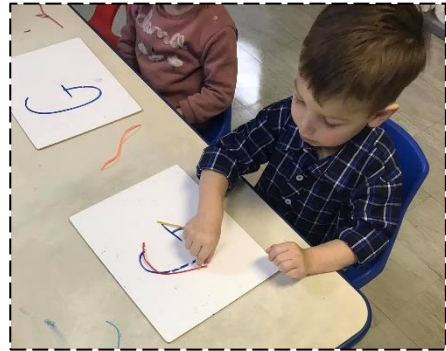


February is always fun at MSCS! The children will enjoy celebrating Valentine's day at school. They will make handmade valentines for their parents, exchange valentines with their friends, and enjoy a Valentine's Special Snack provided by our moms!

February also brings the start of enrollment for the upcoming school year! It is hard to believe I am already making preparations for next year. Time flies when you are having fun! Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year starts February 3rd. Enrollment packets are available in the school office. If you would like more information about our program, you can contact me at (662) 328-0240 or visit our school website mainstreetchristianschool.space. We would love for your preschool child to join us at MSCS!

In His Love,

Anna Gaines Johnson



CONGREGATIONAL "MISSIONS"
LUNCHEON

January's weather could not have been timed more perfect. There was a chill in the air, but lots of warm soups and chilies awaited us. I counted twice to be sure I could believe what I was seeing. There were 16 crock pots and our numbers were near 100! Lots of sides and desserts finished off a wonderful lunch. My thanks to everyone who came and shared the warmth.

As you know this is leap year, so our Missions Conference will be Feb.29-Mar.1.

Our Missions Luncheon will be Sunday, March 1 following the morning worship service. The church will enjoy John Gore's pulled pork bar-b-que and rolls. We are asked to provide the sides.

If your last name begins with:

A-D Fruit or Fruit Salad

E-L Cold Vegetable or Salad

M-S Dessert

T-Z Hot Vegetable

This will be a wonderful weekend to meet and listen to our missionaries as they share their work around the world. There will be a Men's Breakfast Saturday morning and the Deacons will provide a catfish supper Saturday evening.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of Feb. 29 – March 1 for our annual Missions Conference, and I'll see you **Sunday, March 1**, for a delicious lunch with our 4 F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda



The Men's Prayer Breakfast met on January 8, 2020. It was good to have the men back together after a little Christmas break.

Patrick and Jay whipped up a great meal of bacon, sausage and eggs with all the fixins. Russ presented a timely message using Proverbs 4: 20-27 as his text, followed by a period of prayer.

The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on **Saturday, February 29**, at 8 a.m. This is to coincide with the Mission Conference activities. Hopefully one or more of the visiting missionaries will be able to join us. This is a great time for the men and boys to get together during this special time for our church. Watch for more details forthcoming in announcements and emails. Make plans now to attend.

Mike



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

NURSERY

- Feb. 2 Camille Pittman, Laurie Flora
Pat Russell
- Feb. 9 Amber Henson
Gee & Becca Allgood
- Feb. 16 Meryl Fisackerly, Janie Williams
Kitty Brewer
- Feb. 23 Sandra Pilkinton, Marianne Field
Emily Krohn

SECURITY/USHER TEAM

- Feb. 2 Ray Kilpatrick, Carson Miller,
Grover Allgood, Bill Laws,
Ben Woodson, Stephen Matocha
- Feb. 9 Justin Harris, Henry Pilkinton,
Gray Flora, Phillip Goodwin,
Jay Nail, Russ Russell
- Feb. 16 Matt White, Thomas Glenn,
Allan Brewer, Dan Williams,
Trip Hairston
- Feb. 23 Roger Day, Gee Allgood,
Mike Meharg, Ed White,
Patrick Shipp, Jon Watson



Praise:

*Philip Obadiah Fondren
Born January 15, 2020*

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:

Anna Landon
Katie Singletary

FEBRUARY
Money Counter
Jon Zarandona

January
Budget Report
Offerings this Month
\$ 19,349.50

President Donald Trump
Officials in Washington
Governor Tate Reeves
Mayor Robert Smith
Police Chief Fred Shelton
Sheriff Eddie Hawkins
State, City, and County Officials

Helping Hands
Life Choices Pregnancy Center
Palmer Home
All Churches and Pastors in Columbus

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Guest Speaker Kent Bailey Faith Promise Sunday</i>	3 Lydia Elgersma	4 <i>Presbytery</i> <i>WIC 10:00 a.m.</i> Martha Fisackerly	5	6 Morgan Shipp	7	8 Jack Hairston
9 <i>Communion</i>	10	11	12 <i>Happy Hearts 10:30 a.m.</i> Eleanor Hairston	13 Leslee White	14	15
16 <i>Warren & Jan Swoope</i>	17	18 Colleen Meek Warren Swoope	19	20	21	22 Justin Harris
23 <i>Joint Meeting of Community Groups Pizza Supper at MSPC 5 p.m.</i> Jean Yelverton Richard & Karmel Crandall	24	25 Darin & Tracy Elgersma	26 Isaac Baxter Savannah Baxter	27 Frank Webb	28	29 <i>Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 a.m.</i> <i>Missions Conference Session 1 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.</i>



**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