

November 2021

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing

A Realm of Possibilities

by Ron Simpson

Several months ago, I was approached by various church leadership regarding discussions and work going on in our nursery and children's committees. I was not part of those initial discussions. I understand the need to register and record nursery "drop-off" and "pick-up," parent contact information, allergies, and existing medical conditions of children was a significant concern. Also under discussion was the need to maintain other pertinent information for the safety and security of our children and communication with their families. These discussions led committee members to research various methods available for such data management. The practicality of upgrading our existing system from ACS to Realm eventually became the dominant avenue of consideration. When asked for my input, I will be honest: *I tried desperately to dodge the subject.*

I investigated ways to justify not making this move. I agreed that there was a need to move into the 21st-Century with how we handle information. I also believed that Realm was the most cost-effective and practical solution to meet the various needs under discussion. However, I had lots of trepidation about moving forward. My reluctance was *not because I was opposed to the move, but because of the immensity of the task.* A complete data management system is pretty much, as the description implies, an all-or-nothing decision. Either we pay for Realm and use it in all phases of information management and communication, or we don't. It is one thing to decide, "Yes, this is what we need to do." It is quite another thing to make it happen and make it work. Since we have decided to make Realm the central information management tool, we all need to learn to use it. If you have not caught on yet, let me assure you, this is an enormous elephant. As they say, "The only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time!"

This month, I want to share so much with you about our new ACS software, *Realm*, that I don't know where to begin. We are learning much about this software every day. Personally, the more I learn about it, the more overwhelmed I am with the possibilities it offers. Keep in mind; **we may not use this software for all the possible options.** I am going to share some of what is available beyond the obvious financial management applications. Whether we use it for all these or not remains to be seen.

Let's begin with classroom management and attendance. With Realm, you can set up the membership of a Sunday school class or weekday Bible study or fellowship group. The Realm Connect app for your phone lets teachers mark off attendance right on their phones. The app can alert you of class members that have missed a certain number of class meetings. Then, you can use the same app to drop an email to those class members and let them know you missed them and are just checking to see they are okay. In the case of children's classes, any email communications go to the parents automatically. If you plan an event for a children's group, the event information goes to the parents. The process for keeping attendance for an adult Sunday School class can serve as a device for nursery check-in. Volunteers can use a laptop and printer to check in a child and create a name tag. All contact information for reaching the parents is in one place. There is even a place for parents to report any allergies the child may have.

Most of us wear multiple hats. You teach this class, volunteer on this team, are a member of these two committees, etc. Currently, you may communicate differently with each of these groups. You may email with your class, group text with your volunteer team, and call committee members. Realm and the Realm app let you communicate with

all those groups through the same app. Scheduled events, group chat or email, volunteer schedules, even uploaded resources for class or committee are possible, all organized in the same place. Since Realm is cloud-based, you can access all the features, resources, and options from anywhere.

What I have shared above is only the beginning of what is possible with Realm. The things mentioned here are the most basic of Realm functions. Now, here is the challenge. Almost all of the management functions on Realm are dependent upon its church directory profile database. Realm will help you keep classroom attendance, communicate with committee members, help manage the training for the workers in your program, create and maintain the rotation schedule for volunteers, or serve as a private social network for our church family. But Realm is only as valuable as the accuracy of the individual and family profiles, and ***unless members have activated their log-in to Realm, it is useless.*** If accurate member information is not in place and individual members willing to help keep their data current, there is no way to build the group rolls and use the other features.

Many of you helped out last month. You logged into your old CRT directory account and updated email addresses, phone numbers, and other essential information. We are still using that information to update Realm. As we go, we are issuing invitations via email for you to be a part of the Realm community. Some of you have responded and updated your Realm profiles. A few we had to come back and tweak a little from this side. I have probably issued forty to 50 invitations to Realm. At the time of this article, **there are thirty unanswered invitations.** For Realm to do its job, I need you to accept the invitation, log in to Realm, and update the information we don't have available to us. (Don't worry about messing anything up. We can come back and help you fix it if there is a problem.) I also need you to upload a current profile picture of you and your family members. Recent photographs and correct information will help us and new members get to know each other as they join and participate in church activities.

After you have accepted your Realm invitation and set up your account, it will be time to download the Realm Connect app on your cell phone. The app is available in your phone's app store. Search for Realm Connect, download, install, and use the log-in information you just set up through the Realm invitation link. You will have access to the directory, calendar, group chat, news posts, online giving, etc.

To help you out with all this, I will send Realm reminders each week to those who have not set up your Realm account. If you need help with your Realm account, email me at ronsimpson64@gmail.com. I will do my best to assist you. If you are the group leader and have questions about how Realm might help your group, please drop me an email. I would love to help you get started using Realm for your group or team of volunteers.

If you have not yet received a Realm invite, I promise it is coming. We want everyone to be part of Realm. Trust me when I say, "This is an enormous elephant, and it is going to take lots of bites!"



I am so happy to report that my Realm training went well and was quite eye opening. As Ron has stated, the possibilities are mind boggling. I am on overload! My primary areas of focus are, of course, contributions and accounting, but I received information on all aspects of the program. Please understand for this program to be as beneficial as it can be, we need your assistance.

It will take a while to get comfortable with the new system, but I have been constantly reassured that help is just a phone call away. You also need to know that we are here for you. Please don't hesitate to ask. If we don't know the answer, Realm Support will.

Grateful for the opportunity to serve,
Diann

MSCS NEWS

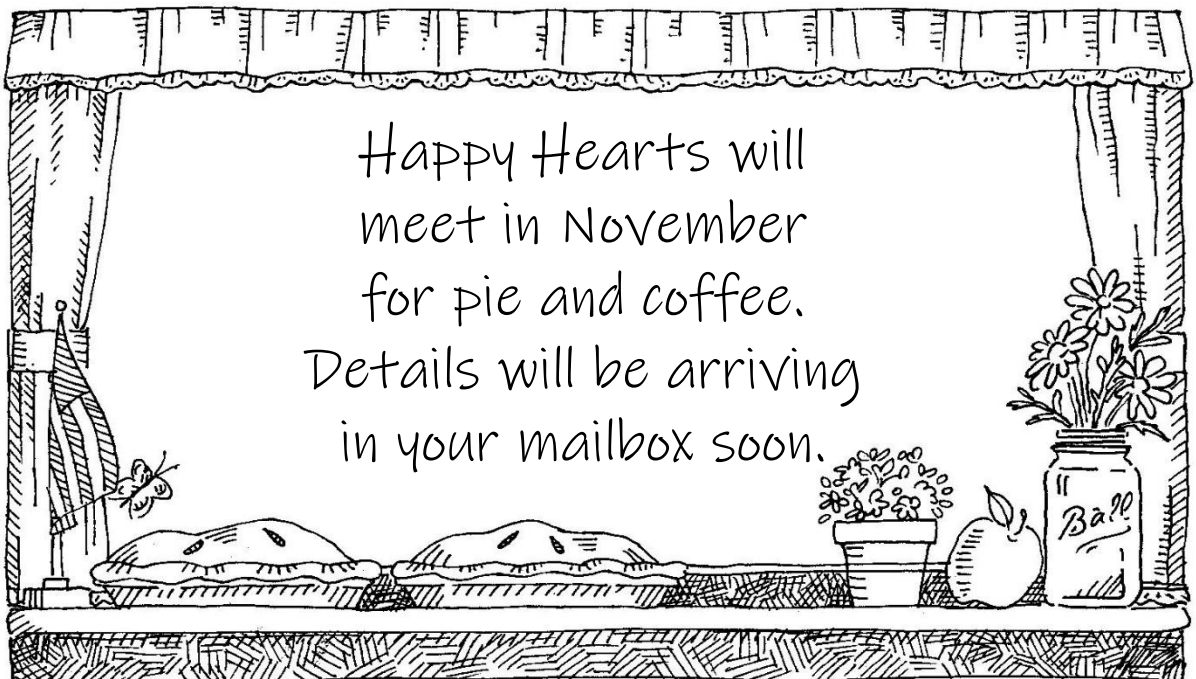


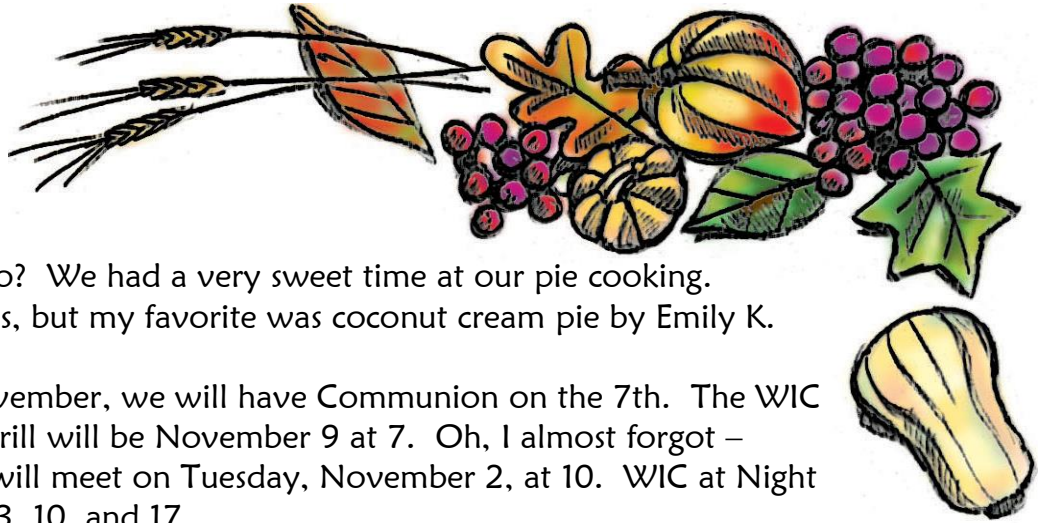
It has been a busy month so far at MSCS! Fall is in the air, and we are loving the nice weather and watching the leaves starting to change colors! We love this time of year and have been enjoying the cooler temperatures on the playground.

We have been very busy with a lot of fun units during October! So far, some of our classes have studied Fall, Community Helpers, and Pumpkins to name a few. October is also Fire safety month, and we had a special visit from the Columbus Fire Department. The children were so excited to see a Fire Truck up close and get to listen to the firefighters talk all about fire safety!

As we come to the end of October, we look forward to November and talking about all the things we are thankful for. We are very thankful for our school and all of our sweet students. We love what we do and pray we can be a blessing to these precious children! Thank you for your continued support and prayers for MSCS!

In His Love,
Taylor Cabiness





Dear Ladies,

Where did October go? We had a very sweet time at our pie cooking. We sampled great pies, but my favorite was coconut cream pie by Emily K.

For the month of November, we will have Communion on the 7th. The WIC Ladies' Night at the Grill will be November 9 at 7. Oh, I almost forgot – WIC in the Morning will meet on Tuesday, November 2, at 10. WIC at Night will meet November 3, 10, and 17.

Enjoy this nice fall weather.

In His Service,
Janie

Online Giving Update!!!

We are ready to begin implementing our new giving platform. For the last few years, we have been using an online giving service called EasyTithe. Our new Realm software allows for integrated online giving through a company called Vanco. We are going to transition slowly from EasyTithe to Vanco. As long as we need to, we will make both available to you. You will still find the EasyTithe link you have been using at the bottom right hand of every page of our website. Just click on the Give Online button to use EasyTithe. If you are ready to begin using the new giving platform, the link should soon be available in the **red announcement banner** at the top of the home page of the church website.



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 WIC 10:00 Gee Allgood	3 WIC at Night 7pm Turner Kilpatrick	4 Men's Bible Study 6pm Bess Swedenburg	5	6 Bethany Hairston Russ Russell
7 Communion Gray & Tanya Thompson	8	9 The Grill 7pm Grover Allgood	10 WIC at Night 7pm	11 Men's Bible Study 6pm Reed Williams	12	13
14 Bill Laws Mike Meharg Doug Yelverton	15	16	17 WIC at Night 7pm Louise Armstrong	18 Men's Bible Study 6pm	19	20 Men's Breakfast and Study
21	22	23	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Ann Chilcutt Oliver Fondren Shirley Swoope
28	29 Clarity Fondren	30 Landon Kilpatrick				

**Counter for
November
Bill Laws**

**Budget
Report
October**

\$ 21, 985.00
(one week remaining)

November Volunteers

- 11-7-21 Amber Henson, Pat Russell, Sandra Pilkinton
- 11-14-21 Ann Marie Miller, Carson Miller, Jelaine Fondren
- 11-21-21 Dustin & Callie Baldrige, Jennifer White, Linda Simpson
- 11-28-21 Frances Glenn, Alice Talley, Ivy Harris



Please remember in prayer:

MSPC Elders and Deacons and The Pastoral Search Committee
 Louise Armstrong, Phillip Goodwin, Nick Hairston and Family,
 Edna Mae McCoy, John Mark Russell, Faith Whitlock, Macy Williams
 Washington Officials, President Joe Biden
 State, City, and County Officials
 Governor Tate Reeves, Mayor Keith Gaskin, Police Chief Fred Shelton, Sheriff Eddie Hawkins
 Helping Hands, Life Choices Pregnancy Center, Palmer Home, all Columbus Churches and Pastors



Main Street Presbyterian Church

701 Main Street
P. O. Box 26
Columbus, MS 39703



November 2021

Main Street Presbyterian Church (A Presbyterian Church in America Congregation)

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship