

July 2023

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing

I cannot begin to tell you how welcomed my family and I have felt in our short time of being here at Main Street Presbyterian Church. Our first Lord's Day was filled with many blessings, including the opportunity to once again sit under the ministry and preaching of Rev. Dr. Guy Waters who was one of my seminary professors and mentors while at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS. A pastor's installation service is a special event, and I am grateful for all who came and participated as well as welcomed us to our new church home.

We know that you all have been praying for our arrival, and that has been much appreciated. The Lord has certainly cared for us through our time of moving and transition to this new ministry role. On top of that, you all have been extraordinarily gracious in providing goods, helping move furniture, playing with our children, and overall just being a friendly and welcoming church.

On behalf of my family, let me say how excited I am to engage in gospel ministry with you all. It is a humbling task for sure, but I am very excited to serve the Lord here alongside you at Main Street Presbyterian Church. May our time together be committed to fulfilling John's purpose of writing his gospel account according to John 20:31 **“but these (signs) are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”**

In Christ,

Pastor Aaron Suber



Aaron Suber

Russ Russel, Bebo Elkin, Dan Williams

Jim Shull, Trip Hairston, David Harrell, Guy Waters, David Irving, Jeremy Britt, Justin Harris

REPORT ON THE 50TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

By Jim Shull and Justin Harris

More than 2,200 Ruling Elders gathered at the Memphis Convention Center on June 13-15 for the annual meeting. Main Street was well-represented by Ruling Elders Justin Harris and Russ Russell, along with Teaching Elder Jim Shull. The Assembly began with a very large congregation, in excess of 3,000 attending the opening worship service. Rev. Randy Thompson, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Tusculumbia, AL, was the preacher for the service. Each of the next 2 evenings also had worship services, with Dr. Ligon Duncan and Rev. Les Newsom bringing messages from God's Word. The services were arranged by the GA Host Presbytery, which was our own Covenant Presbytery. The Host Committee did an outstanding job of making everything work well. After the opening worship service, the first business session began, with TE Fred Greco elected as Moderator for the meeting. [From its inception, the GA has had a practice of alternating between electing Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders.] Rev. Greco, a pastor from Houston, TX, was skilled and fair in leading the work of the Assembly. He was widely spoken of in appreciative comments made during and after work was concluded. Many of us believed he was the main reason we actually finished ahead of schedule. Read Acts 19:32 to find out what this Assembly was *not* like!

Another reason the Assembly finished early was the relatively short time that it took to debate matters that were brought to the floor for consideration [these are called "Overtures"]. The Assembly was, in the opinion of many observers, one of the best we have had in many years. Against the push to accommodate some of the cultural and moral pressures by compromising certain basic biblical teachings, as some denominations have done, the PCA reaffirmed her commitments to the Scriptures as our only rule for faith and practice. Those of us from Main Street that participated in the assembly are encouraged by what transpired in Memphis.

50th PCA General Assembly Overture Actions

There were several good overtures that were presented this most recent General Assembly, 29 new overtures as well as one carry over from last year's assembly. While many of the overtures were of a more administrative nature, there were several overtures of interest.

As predicted based on overtures presented and taken up last year, there were several items related to the human sexuality and sin identification issue that were brought forth. The seeming favorite of these was overture 23 which was presented by the Mississippi Valley Presbytery. This overture sought to "Amend BCO 8-2 and 9-3 to Require Officers' Conformity to Biblical Standards for Chastity and Sexual Purity in Self-description" by adding the following language to BCO (Book of Church Order) 8-2: "He should conform to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity in his descriptions of himself, his convictions, character, and conduct" for the office of elder, and by adding the following language to BCO 9-3: "conforming to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity in their descriptions of themselves, their convictions, character, and conduct" for the office of deacon. The congregation voted 1673-223 to pass this overture, so the support was

overwhelming. Not only did this overture pass by a resounding margin, but several related overtures were answered with reference to this overture, meaning that the overtures committee and the assembly felt that the passage of overture 23 provided an adequate answer to the issues presented in these other overtures.

There were other overtures that merit mention, such as overture 26, which sought to add the following language to BCO 7-3: “Furthermore, unordained people should not be referred to as, or given the titles connected to, the ecclesial offices of pastor, elder, or deacon.” This overture addresses giving unordained men, and particularly women, ordained titles (such as deacon). The overture passed in the assembly 1427-481.

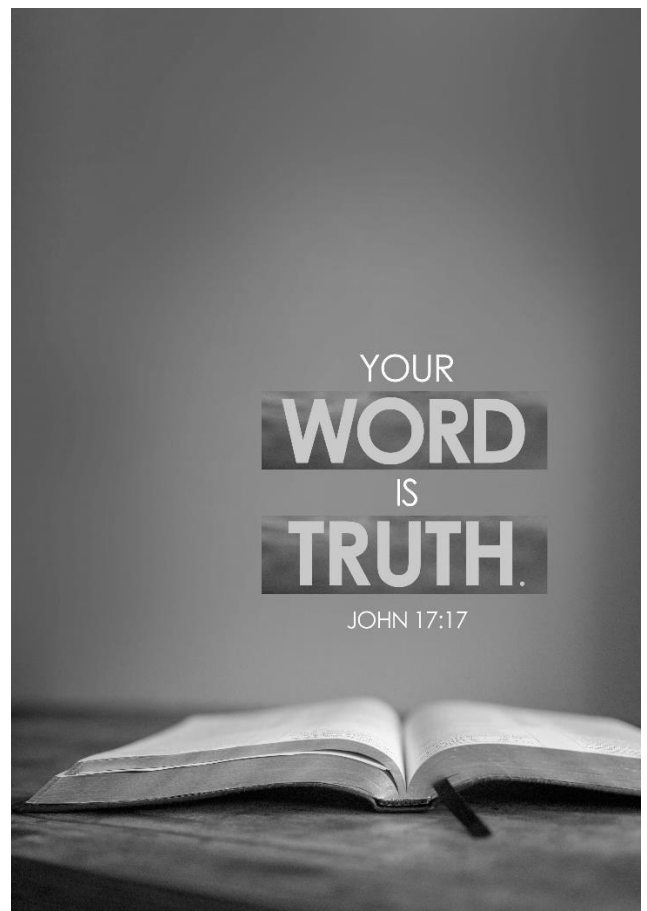
Overture 13 was voted down by the assembly 1091-751 which kept the BCO language as is requiring a “belief in the existence of God or a future state of rewards or punishments” in order to testify in the Church courts.

Lastly, Overture 12 also passed the assembly and requires that a statement condemning the practice of surgical and medical gender reassignment. This will put the PCA on record as taking a stance on this very tragic, but very pertinent issue.

This is by no means an exhaustive description of the actions taken on the overtures at this year’s assembly, but I would recommend that if you desire to learn more, please reach out to a member of the Session, or there are several good online sources that we can point you to.

“The time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats.”

-Charles H. Spurgeon, 19th century British preacher





Happy Hearts

Happy Hearts met on June 20th to enjoy a pizza luncheon and get better acquainted with Bobbie Couch, the new secretary at Main Street. Bobbie gave us the basics and then we were allowed to ask questions.

Bobbie is from the Valdosta, GA area. She met her husband, James, when he was stationed at Moody Air Force Base. When James was sent to Columbus Air Force Base, the family decided to make their home in Caledonia.

They have a daughter, Sawyer, who will be in the 3rd grade at Caledonia Elementary this fall, who loves all things cheerleading and tumbling. They attend Columbus Church of Christ, where they are involved with the youth and many other activities. Before becoming the secretary at Main Street, Bobbie was a teacher at Main Street Christian School. She is also a licensed cosmetologist.

As full as Bobbie's life is at this time, she shared that a vital part is missing. Her son, Hayden, died at the age of 10 on November 30, 2020. He was born with a neurodevelopmental disorder known as GRIN1. He had a smile that would light up a room and a contagious laugh that could get everyone giggling right along with him. He taught her, and everyone who knew him, to enjoy the little things in life.

This group is very grateful that Bobbie shared her personal journey of life, love, and loss with our group. We all look forward to getting to know her even better as she serves as secretary at Main Street.

Happy Hearts will meet on July 11 @ 11am for BLT's in the fellowship hall to celebrate the 4th of July!



Independence Day Challenge

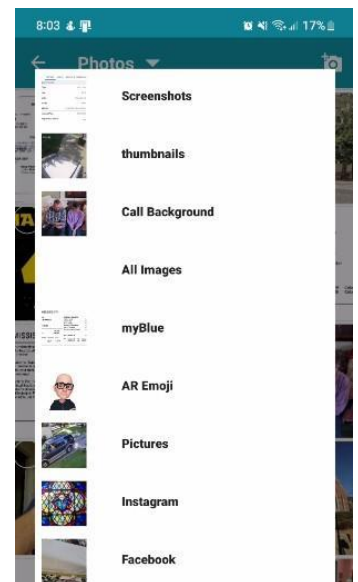
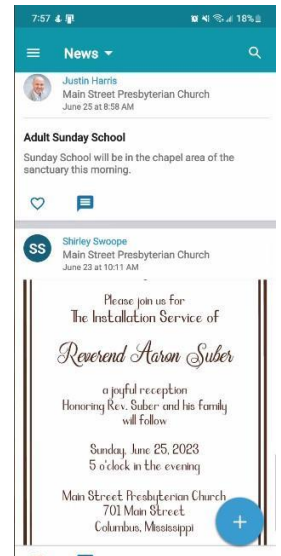
I don't do very well with keeping up with family and friends. I suppose I just get so caught up in my "here and now" and the flurry of life. I apologized one day to a friend from college for this hermit tendency and he shared a bit of advice. He said he had found something that he was using to preserve his connectivity to family and friends, and I should try it. I had heard of this tool but had been quite skeptical of its use. He assured me it was totally harmless and, if used only to keep up with past and peripheral associations, quite effective. So, following his advice, on November 5, 2008, I created my FaceBook account. Someday I may forgive him.

FaceBook is useful for keeping tabs on family and sharing with the world. But that is part of the problem, isn't it? Sometimes you just want to share with a specific group of people and the exposure to the rest of the world is unwanted. That is an advantage to posting with Realm. You can post pictures and comments to your church family without that rest of the world overflow. Only people in our church family have access to our REALM. You can even post to a specific group within our church family if you like.

I would like to propose a challenge to you. Independence Day is upon us. Most of you will gather with family and friends for the holiday. You may have a cookout, go to the movies, have a picnic, attend fireworks show, or take a day trip. Why not share your day with your church family? I am going to show you how you can post pictures of your Independence Day celebration with the rest of us on REALM.

First, open your Realm Connect app on your phone. I don't know what yours opens to first, but my app opens straight to the News Feed as you can see on the right. In the bottom right corner of the newsfeed there is a plus sign in a blue circle. When you click on it a menu expands revealing a calendar, a camera, and a pen icon. If you would like to post a picture from your phone, click on the camera icon (see illustration on left). Your list of groups unique to your profile will be revealed. The first group on your list will be "Main Street Presbyterian Church". Select that group. Next you will have the opportunity to select the picture you want to post. If you don't see the picture you want, then select the triangle next to the Photos heading. A list of picture folders will come up. You can choose the folder you want and look for the picture you want to post. It may take you some time to learn where your camera saves the photos you are looking for. After you choose the picture you want, you can then type a comment or message just like you would in FaceBook.

Enjoy your Independence Day celebration and consider sharing moments of your celebration with the rest of us on Realm.





Paige
Pilkinton Returns
to Slovakia July 11-
25 with
Josiah Venture

Dear Main Street Presbyterian Church,

Each summer I help lead a short-term mission trip to teens in Slovakia. During this trip we partner with a local church in the town of Rožňava, Slovakia to run a Christian summer camp. Through this summer camp we are able to minister to highschoolers that have often never heard the gospel. Students are then encouraged to join the youth group, and be ministered to throughout the year. We seek to model the example Christ has given us for how to make disciples. Over the last five years I have been able to witness students come to know Christ, and grow into Christian leaders for the camps. The Lord is moving in the youth of Eastern Europe!

This coming summer's camp theme will be Part of the Plan, and we will seek to show the students the freedom that comes with trusting in God's plan.

Many students we meet with during the summer are lost. They are spiritually lost, emotionally lost, and often have no idea where to turn.



Through your generous donations I am able to help the students know that God created them, longs to redeem them through grace by faith in Christ, and to enjoy an intimate relationship with him. I cannot thank you enough for the support you have shown me over the last 27 years of my life.

Please continue to pray for the Slovak leadership team, the American team, and the Slovak students. Please pray that students will sign up for camp and that the Lord will soften their hearts to Him. Pray that the leadership team will have wisdom, energy, and boldness. And please pray that the Lord will soften the students' hearts to hear his good news this summer!

Your Sister in Christ,

Paige Pilkinton

Dear Main Street,

"They jumped to their feet with tears of joy ..."

"Reverend M." works in some of the most dangerous places in the world for Christians — especially for those who dare to train pastors within Islamic and Hindi strongholds, where there are laws against converting to Christianity.

Because Reverend M. is on the front lines, trying to stay under the radar of hostile authorities and extremists who will do anything to stop the advance of the gospel, I asked him:

"What would YOU most like Thirdmill's praying friends and donors to know about what you are seeing in this spiritually dark part of the world?"

I thought he might say something about the ever-present reality of persecution, the crushing poverty, or how the pandemic is still crippling entire regions. Instead ...

He talked about the joy. He told me of a miraculous moment when a group of isolated, untrained pastors jumped to their feet, tears streaming down their faces, because they'd just learned that Thirdmill has biblical resources in their language ... and they can have them. For free.

This was one of Reverend M.'s best days. And I'm sure you're as moved as I was to hear about the joy your partnership makes possible. But he also shared how heartbreaking it is to tell other hungry Christians that there aren't resources translated into their first language. Not yet.

Picture This . . .

Picture yourself at one of Thirdmill's crowded training sessions in a rural village. All around you are dozens of believers who've traveled for hours or days—by bus or on foot—simply for the chance to be trained to serve as pastors and advance the gospel.

The atmosphere is electric because these Christians know our training session is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—a gift from God to receive true biblical training.

The man next to you tells you he's been called to serve God in the slum of a big city. He has a small church, but there's no parsonage, no pastoral stipend. To support his family, he works a second job, but it's hard to make ends meet, especially when he's also supporting the street children he's taken in because no one else will.

As the training session begins, you see the reverence with which the people handle the training materials. You realize many have never had biblical resources they can actually keep and study.

And they long to explain important questions accurately for their parishioners, like: "Why did Jesus die for me?" and "What does it mean to be forgiven?"

Can you picture it—the emotion and gratitude?

The seminary-quality training and resources you've given these Christians through your prayers and financial support are an answer to prayer—a prayer that many have been praying for a very long time.

I ask you to give again today because just \$25 equips another believer—one who has been called to lead—with the training to serve well. Whether you send \$25, \$50, or \$100, your generosity will be used by God to help pastors and other leaders effectively and accurately share the truth of God's Word with the world.

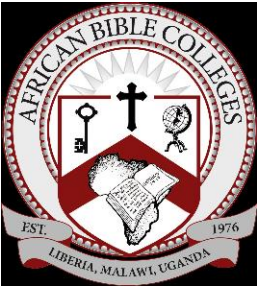
Thank you, Main Street Presbyterian, for supporting the building up of God's kingdom through the global church.

In Christ,



Eric Linares
Executive Director





Larry's Lilongwe Letter June/July 2023

Malawi is a poor country. How poor is it? It gets foreign aid from Iceland, which has fewer people than my home town of Memphis; it's that poor. Annual per capita income for Malawi is \$389. Doctors have an income of around \$4,000 per year, which is why they emigrate to the UK the first chance they get, and which is why there is a chronic shortage of doctors here. But even a poor country can produce great people, and the key to that is education. Around the world, one country after another has upgraded its level of development by focusing on education. That is why I have stayed here at African Bible College for over thirty years. Something very important is happening here. ABC's graduates include two members of the Malawi president's cabinet:

1. Monica Chanana'muno – Minister of Mines
2. Samuel Kawale – Minister of Agriculture (I predict he will be president of Malawi someday)

In addition there are several members of Parliament that are ABC grads (not all members of the same party!). ABC grads include pastors, evangelists, headmasters, teachers, and more. With ABC radio, the clinic, the Academy, etc., we are penetrating every level of Malawian society.

June 3 was an auspicious day in the life of ABC. We graduated 100 students in Biblical Studies, Education, Mass Communication, Business Administration, Community Development, Audiology, and a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership. I am including a photo of me standing with Rev. Tim Kay, the Vice President of African Bible Colleges. As you can see from other photos, it was quite a crowd, with families and friends of the graduates gathered for the happy occasion. The campus is eerily quiet now that the semester has ended and all my grades have been turned in. I participated in the process of interviewing new applicants who wish to enter this fall. That was an interesting first-time experience. They ranged in ages from 16 to 39! One of my prayers is that the Lord will lead just the right ones to enroll.



The Lord has been faithful in helping us, the faculty and student body of ABC, to carry on following the sudden death of our chancellor and president, Dr. Paul Chinchen, last year. The ABC Board of Directors has named Dr. Rob Futral as the new Executive Director. He has come on an extended visit to this campus, and displays genuine enthusiasm for his new role. Having spoken with him at length on several occasions, I am optimistic about the future of African Bible Colleges.

Also, we have new staff joining us when school starts back at the end of August. Please pray for the necessary adjustments to be made. I have met some of them and am looking forward to working with them.

One of the things I did besides teach this semester was visit Dzaleka refugee camp. With refugees from several African countries, it is seriously overcrowded, and life is hard. The provisions with which they are provided are sparse to say the least. Yet I attended a worship service there, and the spirit with which the people in attendance worshipped God was truly moving – and loud. I went with one of my students, Muzolendo, who came to us from this

camp. In fact several of our students come from there. Muzolendo is a good student and a Biblical Studies major. He aspires to be a pastor when he graduates.

My son Carey is with me now. After two years of studying at the university level in the United States, he has decided that college just isn't for him. It was, after all, quite a switch going from Malawi to studying in a very different culture. Right now, he is undecided as to what path to follow. Pray with us that the Lord will give him the direction and guidance he needs. Many of us take a while to find our niche.

Finally, thanks once again for your faithfulness in encouraging me as I serve the Lord in this special place. The past thirty years have been wonderful and I have been abundantly blessed by being here.

Larry's Lilongwe Letter Part Two

Yesterday I put out a newsletter that was the standard boring "I did this I did that newsletter." So I thought I would follow up by sharing thoughts and feelings about what my life is all about.

The American philosopher Henry David Thoreau said "the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." I know what that is like. When I quit my last secular job, I am sure I was one step ahead of receiving the pink slip. On my last day, they were delighted to see me go and I was relieved and overjoyed to go. Karen Carpenter sang "Rainy days and Mondays always get me down."

But Mondays here don't get me down. On Sunday I find myself actually looking forward to going to work on Monday. I love what I do, I really do. I will walk down the hill toward the classrooms feeling low, and after lecturing I feel a kind of high, the morning depression completely erased. They have me teaching history and theology, two subjects I love. As a layman I struggled to get up and give the announcements in Sunday school, here the Lord has given me the ability to teach four one-hour classes between 8 and 12 am. I couldn't feel more blessed doing this kind of work.

I find that I have become what they call a "Third Culture" person. I will never be a Malawian, but living here makes more sense than living in the United States. "Woke" culture doesn't exist here. Malawian boys know they are boys and Malawian girls are content to remain girls. I particularly enjoy those times when I have students over for pizza and we just chat. Malawians are an easygoing people, and the students are bright. I often run into an alumnus who tells me how much he/she enjoyed my classes.

I am now in what some people describe as the "twilight" years. But I don't see it that way. I see it more as the Preface to the Book of Eternal Life. More and more, I see myself living the rest of my life here. Why not? I have Permanent Resident status from the Republic of Malawi, and the thought of leaving the place that has been my home for more than thirty years is an uncomfortable one. I do not look forward to retirement. To me retirement means sitting in the check-out lounge watching TV and waiting for the end. I would rather drop dead in the classroom in front of the students. Actually my mother, an elementary schoolteacher, did something like that. I can see myself ascending up to heaven with a whiteboard marker in my hand.

Pray for my son Carey. He was the kid who won 67 swim medals and all kinds of ribbons and trophies in swimming, basketball, and soccer while in high school. His teachers commented on his natural leadership skills, and he graduated two years ago as valedictorian. Now, he is living with me, his college days are over, and he spends his days playing video games and spending Dad's money. Many of us had to go through some wilderness years before we finally found ourselves. Pray that his time in the wilderness is abbreviated.

Finally, I exhort you to support missions if you're not already doing so. Whether you support me or something else is between you and God, but I cite 2 Peter 3:12 – "waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God." Also there is Matthew 24:14 – "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all

nations, and then the end will come.” This verse appears on the African Bible College logo. Want to see Christ’s return? Support missions.

So that’s my appendix to yesterday’s boring newsletter. Thanks for reading, and thanks for your prayers.

Your brother in Christ,

Larry Brown

Larrybrown3658@gmail.com

[ABC Malawi — African Bible Colleges](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your support of my work with the ministry of ARC.

I have been asked by **World Reach** to teach a 56—hour course, “*Worldviews, Cults, and World Religions*” on Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, The Health and Wealth Gospels of the Word-Faith Movement, Hinduism and other groups.

WHERE: The Bible Institute in Muthetheni, Kenya.

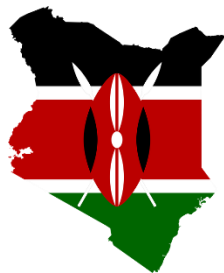
The course will be designed specifically for how Kenyans can respond biblically to false religions, cults, and teachings they encounter on a regular basis. =

Thank you so much for your support of the upcoming Kenya trip with World Reach. **We have meet our financial goal! Praise the Lord!** Please continue to pray for the planning and arrangements.

Blessings,

Clete

Clete Hux, Director



<https://arcapologetics.org/>

Usher Schedule For July

July 2: Grover Allgood, Jay Nail, Key Pittman, Johnny Sherrill, Jacob Wright, Chris Howard

July 9: Allen Brewer, Sammy Clemons, Danny Williams, Tom Tait, Larry Burleson

July 16: Brinton Fisackerly, Richard Crandall, Jon Zarandona, Mike Meharg, Phillip Goodwin

July 23: Trip Hairston, Bryant Bean, Russ Russell, Joseph Baxter, Jack Chilcutt, James Dyer

July 30: Bill Laws, Jesse Duncan, Carson Miller, Bertram Jenkins, Peter Fearing, Marcus Stone

July

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Communion	3	4	5 <i>Jay & Hannah Nail</i>	6	7 Ian Marble	8
9 Robin Tait	10 Joshua Crandall	11	12	13 John Thomas Kilpatrick	14 <i>Ben & Ann Chilcutt</i>	15
16	17	18 Fran Laws	19 Tanya Thompson	20 <i>Doug & Jean Yealverton</i>	21 Annabelle Yeager	22
23 Nathan Kilpatrick	24 <i>Jon & Lauren Zarandona</i>	25	26 Frances Glenn Dean Harris	27 <i>Ray & Amy Kilpatrick</i>	28 Lilla Allgood	29
30 <i>Matt & Jennifer White</i>	31					

JULY COUNTER
HENRY PILKINTON

Please be Praying for...

Budget Report
June
\$

Rev. Aaron Suber and Family
MSPC Elders and Deacons
Expectant Moms: Callie Baldrige, Ashlyn Marble and Savannah Harris
Louise Armstrong, Phillip Goodwin, Frances Laws, John Mark Russell, Faith Whitlock, Doug and Jean Yelverton, Karen Livingston, and Marilyn Blumbeks
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



Nursery Volunteers

July 2 Meryl Fisackerly, Karmel Crandall, Tara Kelly, Alice Talley
July 9 Frances Glenn, Li Ping Miller, Tara Kelly, Alice Talley
July 16 Hannah Nail, Linda Simpson, Leslee White, Tara Kelly, Alice Talley
July 23 Carson Miller, Yulia Fearing, Tara Kelly, Alice Talley
July 30 Pat Russell, Bethany Baxter, Savannah Baxter, Alice Talley

Main Street Presbyterian Church

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



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

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