

# The Main Thing

December 2024

MSPC



## Christ Presbyterian Church Plant Q&A

After announcing the intention of planting a church in Vernon, AL, a few weeks ago, I have received several questions from various members of our church wanting to know more information. I thought that since this is such a wonderful and new opportunity for us as a church, I would try to answer some of the most frequently asked questions and provide some clarity on the church plant. To do this, I contacted Ed White to provide me with some history about the church plant. Below is some of the conversation we had formatted as a question and answer:

**FROM OUR  
PASTOR**

**Why is there interest in planting a church in Vernon, AL?** The main reason for a Presbyterian Church in Lamar County is, of course, to spread the Gospel. This is not to say that other churches here are not spreading the Gospel, but the Presbyterian message is different than almost all other churches. Even other Calvinistic churches here will not present the Gospel in a Reformed way. Presbyterian concepts concerning theology, government, the family, education, and society are quite different than any of the other messages being presented here.

**1. Where is the current property located?** The church building is located at 1589 Hwy 18 Sulligent, AL 35586

**2. What time does the church meet, and what is the format of the service?** The service currently begins at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday evenings. The service is a traditional liturgical service, much like what you would see at Main Street on any given Sunday morning.

**3. What is the current theological makeup of Lamar County?** I would think the two primary groups in Lamar County would be Southern Baptist and Church of Christ, perhaps with the influence shifting from time to time. There are no mainline denominations in Lamar County. Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal, or Catholic. A few charismatic churches that are smaller, some Methodist and some Freewill Baptists.

**4. When was the last known Presbyterian church service in Lamar County?** The last known church service in Lamar County took place around 120 years ago.

**5. When did the conversations begin about potentially planting a church?** The conversation for a PCA church in Lamar County basically began when our family (Ed White) showed up at MSPC, which was about 25 years ago. A few years later, the conversation intensified when the Kilpatrick's came to MSPC, along with David Strain. We all together thought of a plant in Caledonia, MS...but that did not come about. The Covid Pandemic shutdown intensified the conversation again, along with movement left within the PCA. Just over two years ago, the desire to see a church in Lamar County led me (Ed White) to begin building a meeting house, trusting that the Lord would either use it for a church or would make it clear that His desire was elsewhere. This building was completed at the start of the fall of this year and is the current location of the church plant.

**6. What is currently happening with the church plant?** The core group began meeting on Sunday nights in November to get a feel for worshipping together. We have worked on a church calendar and plan on announcing to the community a “Lessons and Carols” Christmas service on December 22 at 5 P.M. From there, we will be welcoming community members and interested families to our worship services. Because the church building is across the state line, it falls in the boundary of Evangel Presbytery, which is centered in Birmingham, AL. We have been in close contact with the Mission to North America Church Planting network within this presbytery and are being guided by their leadership. Spiritually speaking, the session of Main Street has the directional oversight of the church plant. In the future, we hope to become a Mission Church, which will allow us to hold our own membership and apply for nonprofit status. This will also allow us to be listed on the PCA’s church list. At a point in the future, yet to be determined, we will move our services to the mornings, and when we feel the Lord has fully prepared us, we will seek to become a particular church. We cannot do this on our own, and so we are fully trusting in the Lord to build His church. Evangel Presbytery has committed to sending qualified ministers to serve in our pulpit along with Pastor Suber and Dr. Shull when available.



**7. (Final question from Aaron Suber to Ed White) Is there anything else you would like the congregation of Main Street to know about the church plant?** The main thing I

personally would like MSPC to know is that a new church such as this is not a separation...it

is a continuation. The Presbyterian Church is a connectional entity, as Christ’s Church should be. We are not a church here or there but a church bound by a common point.....that the Holy Trinity has made us, saved us, and continues to guide us regardless of where we are. This message is not presented, in my opinion, in a lot of churches today anywhere, but perhaps especially not in Lamar County.

We, as a session, are very excited about this opportunity and ask you to continue to pray for its success. We are not capable of planting a church, only the Lord is. There will be many opportunities in the coming weeks and months for you to get involved in the efforts to see a church raised in Lamar County. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. My prayer (Aaron) is that the Lord would build a church up in Lamar County that will be there not just for the next 20 years but the next 200, and by taking on the task of this church plant, the Lord might reveal to us where else we could look to plant a church which proclaims the biblical truths we all love and hold dear.

In Christ,  
Pastor Aaron Suber

2024-2025	MISSIONS PARTNERS
Partners	Ministry Information
<b>Church Planters</b>	
Chester Replogle	Director of Ministry to the Military and Internationals
Rev. Andy Young	Pastor, UK Partnership Church, Oxford, England
Dale and Susan Ellison	Peru Mission USA; established/runs Medical Clinics; oversees visiting missions teams
Clarke and Khrystya Norton	Mission to the World L'viv, Ukraine church plant; leads Bible studies and outreach programs
<b>Reformed Univ. Ministries</b>	
Rev. Joe Johnson	RUF Campus Minister, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
<b>African Bible Colleges</b>	
Nell (Mrs. Jack) Chinchen	Co-Founder and Director of Communications of ABC
Rev. Dr. Larry Brown	Malawi – ABC Professor & directs outreach to villages and Jesus film
<b>Worldwide Free Seminary</b>	
Rev. Dr. Richard Pratt	Co-founder and President of Third Millennium Ministries
Rev. Bill Boggess	The Evangelical Alliance Mission, <i>Teaching pastors in Africa</i>
<b>MTW International Medical Missions</b>	
Dr. Wiley and Mrs. Karon Smith	Mission to the World Medical Missions Trip Team Leader
<b>Evangelism &amp; Outreach</b>	
Rev. Mbunwe George	In-Country Director of Rekindle Children's Hope, Cameroon, Africa
Rev. Clete Hux	Birmingham, AL –Director, Apologetics Resource Center
Bob McPherson	Birmingham, AL - Campus Crusade for Christ Intl., Prison Ministry
Christina Thomas	Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama, Women's Coordinator
Paige Pilkinton	Josiah Venture Ladies' Camp Leader, Slovakia
<b>Other Places</b>	
	Names and locations are confidential



*Each of our missions partners has expressed their gratitude for our prayers and support and wish to extend their Christmas greetings to the Main Street church family!*

**A year-end gift to the Missions Fund is a great way to say Merry Christmas to our Missionaries.**

**The next Missions Committee meeting will be  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6 pm in the parlor.**

**2025 Missions Month**

**Feb. 2: Faith Promise Sunday**  
**Guest Preacher: Bob McPherson**

**Feb. 22-23: Missions Conference**  
**Keynote Speaker: Kirk Schimke,**  
**African Bible College Aviation Program**  
**Director and Chief Pilot**  
**Guest Speakers:**  
**Jim Kiel, Rekindle Children's Hope**  
**Dale Ellison, Peru Mission**

**Feb. 22 Conference Saturday Children's Program: Susan Ellison**

# MSCS News



We are all busy getting ready for all the special Christmas festivities this month!

I would love to invite you to our Christmas program on December 13 at 10:00am, in the sanctuary! The children are so excited and have been working really hard on all their songs and poems. Obviously, this is a fun and busy month, but we try very hard to focus on the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

All of the classes have been reading and discussing the story of Jesus' birth. They are full of wonder and questions about our savior and his humble beginnings.



We have had such a wonderful first semester at MSCS and will be looking forward to the next one when we return in January.

We are wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In His Love,

Anna Gaines Johnson, Director





## Happy Hearts

Due to my lack of technical knowledge I have failed to send my articles to our church **office**. I'm not sure why because I have enjoyed sending them for several years but oh well, I'm trying again! So you will be reading reports of three months!.

In September we were blessed to have Major Andy Vaughn share his testimony, his life, his wisdom, and most of all his love for **our** Lord and Savior. He serves the U.S. Army as a chaplain in Colorado Springs, CO. Having grown up in Lowndes County it was exciting to have a hometown boy speak to **us**. He is married and has a one-year-old daughter. His family supports his endeavors wholeheartedly. As we know and witness with our military church families, being in the military is definitely a family commitment. We were pleased his mom and sister were able to join us and hear Andy speak. He began by sharing a quote from Oswald Chambers, "Faith must be tested, because it can only become your intimate possession through conflict. It is a true and an appropriate statement for anyone serving in our military and certainly for a military chaplain. Andy shared some of the many trying experiences he struggles to get "his men" through safely. His men number about 1800. He goes to the front lines of battle, he provides hope to the hurt and dying, he comforts the bereaved families, he often has to attempt to save a soldier from suicide. He counsels with the men constantly, all the while sharing his faith gently. Andy is 50 years old, very enthusiastic, deeply spiritual, ready to share the gospel -careful with his words, and always available to anyone in need of help. Like all military, Andy moves around and changes jobs. He is presently chaplain of a very large hospital. He ministers to the 2700 employees as well as the patients. His is a very demanding task but a great opportunity to share. His talk was inspiring, encouraging, and exceptionally well presented. A second quote was especially meaningful to me but I'm not sure who made the statement originally. "Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the presence of God". I am sure Andy knows very little of the absence of conflict but he definitely knows peace in the presence of God.

In October we were blessed to have our own Anna Gaines Gaskin Johnson who not only grew up in Columbus but in our church. She is presently the Director of our preschool and does a fabulous job. She gave us some good information about the activities and the history of our school. We enjoy a good reputation in Columbus and she and her mom have contributed much to **our** success. We have no vacancies and it is now time to think about next year. Church members qualify for a discount. Anna Gaines has begun a prayer buddy list for church members to select a preschool student or teacher for whom we commit to pray. In essence we become a prayer support group for individuals at Main Street Christian School. Danny Williams spoke concerning the list in our church announcements and placed the list in the back of our sanctuary. Please consider participating.

In November, once again we stuffed boxes for Operation Christmas Child. And again our very own Yulia Fearing and her family joined in the fun. Yulia has made a huge difference in the number of boxes we stuff! When we first stuffed boxes about **6** years ago we did about 50 boxes and were so excited. This year Happy Hearts stuffed 123 boxes and our church total reached over 400. Hearing Yulia tell of her shoebox experiences as an orphan in Russia had a wonderful impact on our congregation! The shoeboxes are our efforts to help children who have so much less than we have and **to** share the gospel with them. We always stuff at Thanksgiving and then count our many blessings as we enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.



In December Happy Hearts will be going to visit our church plant, Christ Presbyterian Church in Lamar County AL. We have been invited to have lunch with them in their fellowship hall.

***We will gather at our church at 10:00 Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and then travel to the beautiful little church in the wildwood!***

## Christmas Festival

On December 7 we will host our second Christmas Festival in the Fellowship Hall. The event will begin at 10:00 and brunch will be served. First things **first!** Food then fun!

Back by popular request will be our Christmas Carolers led by Dr. Shull. There will be crafts for children of all ages, indoor and outdoor, weather permitting. We will again have exhibits such as garland making, bow tying, woodworking, several adult crafts, and a Photo Booth for family pictures. The theme this year is snowmen and we hope the children will dress in snow people costumes.

We are having a Snowman Costume Competition with prizes for the top three best dressed snowmen. Put your thinking caps on and create a fun costume.

Make your plans now to attend this fun family event!



Come One, Come All  
**A Christmas Festival**  
MSPC FELLOWSHIP HALL  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 10 A.M.

❄️ ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES INCLUDING  
❄️ SNOWMAN COSTUME COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN. ❄️ PHOTO OP.  
❄️ BRUNCH. ❄️ BOW MAKING  
(BRING YOUR OWN RIBBON)



**Dear all,**

***I wanted to send a quick note thanking you for the wonderful time at Main St Pres last Saturday evening. It was such a blessing to back with you and to give an update on what God is doing at Oxford Pres. Thank you for arranging the food and inviting the church. It was all such a blessing to me.***

***I very much hope I can visit again sometime in the near future. Until then, please be assured of my love and prayers for you all.***

***Yours in Christ,  
Andy Young  
Oxford Presbyterian Church***



## CHRISTMAS PARADE AND HOT CHOCOLATE

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 7:00**

WE CAN'T BELIEVE IT IS ALREADY DECEMBER, BUT WE ARE VERY EXCITED FOR ALL OF THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SPREAD THE BEST NEWS EVER—THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN!

THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, OUR SALT AND LIGHT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS HAS HOSTED SERVING HOT CHOCOLATE TO PARADE GOERS AT THE COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS PARADE ON THE CORNER OF MAIN ST.

AND 7<sup>TH</sup>. IT HAS PROVEN TO BE A PHENOMENAL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY AS WELL AS A GREAT CHANCE TO MEETING AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

**WE WILL BE SERVING AGAIN THIS YEAR ON DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>. THE PARADE STARTS AT 7PM.**

**WE WILL NEED OUR CHURCH FAMILY'S HELP TO PULL THIS OFF AND MAKE IT A SUCCESS AGAIN.**

THE FOLLOWING ARE WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP:

1. **SET UP/CLEAN UP HELPERS:** WE WILL PRE-MAKE THE HOT CHOCOLATE AND NEED TO TAKE TABLES AND SOME CHAIRS UP TO THE CORNER WELL BEFORE THE START TIME OF PARADE.
2. **BAKERS!** HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES TO HAND OUT. WE NEED 2 COOKIES PUT IN A ZIPLOC BAG TO EASILY HAND OUT.
3. **OUTREACH TEAM:** PEOPLE TO WELCOME PARADE GOERS, INVITE THEM FOR REFRESHMENTS, GIVE A MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FLYER TO, AND BE WILLING TO ASK IF THEY HAVE A CHURCH HOME AND INVITE THEM TO OUR SERVICES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.
4. **MAIN STREET PARADE CREW:** AS MANY OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AS POSSIBLE TO COME AND ENJOY THE PARADE WITH US TO FELLOWSHIP
- 5.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP OR COME AND NEED DIRECTION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE TEXT/CALL LAURIE CHILCUTT AT 662-251-8254 OR ANN MARIE MILLER AT 662-312-5459

THIS IS A REALLY FUN WAY TO SERVE AND MEET OUR COMMUNITY AND HAVE A GREAT TIME OF CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER WHILE ENJOYING THE PARADE! WE HOPE YOU ALL WILL JOIN AND HELP US SERVE!





*“The manger is empty.*

*The cross is empty.*

*The tomb is empty.*

*The throne is occupied for eternity.”*

*Dustin Bengé*

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*USHER Line Up for December:*

Dec 1: Grover Allgood, Jay Nail, Key Pittman, Johnny Sherrill, Jacob Wright, Chris Howard

Dec 8: Allen Brewer, Sammy Clemons, Danny Williams, Tom Tait, Larry Burleson

Dec 15: Brinton Fisackerly, Joseph Crandall, Jon Zarandona, Mike Meharg, Phillip Goodwin

Dec 22: Trip Hairston, Bryant Bean, Russ Russell, Joseph Baxter, Jack Chilcutt, JB Dyer

Dec 29: Bill Laws, Jesse Duncan, Carson Miller, Bertram Jenkins, Petere Fearing, Marcus Stone



# December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 COMMUNION</b> Cathy Duncan <i>Russ &amp; Pat Russell</i>	2	<b>3 WIC 10:00</b>  <b>Christmas Parade and Hot Chocolate 7:00</b>	4  <b>Pork Tenderloin</b>	5 John Hunter Allgood Katie Weber	6  Jesse Duncan, Jr.	<b>7 Christmas Festival 10:00</b>
8	9 Hixon Miller  <i>Carson &amp; Ann Marie Miller</i>	10  Briar Herb	11  Jack Chilcutt  <b>Happy Hearts 10:00</b> <b>Fried Chicken</b>	12  <b>Ladies Christmas Party 6:00</b> <b>Janie Williams home</b>	13  Margo Allgood Amy Kilpatrick  <b>MSCS Children's Program 10:00</b>	14  <i>Allan &amp; Kitty Brewer</i>
15  <b>Children's Program 5:00</b>	16	17  <i>Bertram &amp; Debbie Jenkins</i>	18  <b>*NO Supper or Activities</b>	19	20  Nick Hairston	21  Reed Hairston
22  Nell Fleming	23	<b>24 Christmas Eve Service 5pm</b>  	25 Melissa Allgood  	26  Marianne Field	27	28  Wyatt Thompson
29	30	31				



# Nursery Volunteers



December	12/1/2024	12/8/2024	12/15/2024	12/22/24	12/29/2024
<b>Coordinator</b>	Lisa Suber	Hannah Nail	Pat Russell	Ann Marie Miller	Janie Williams
<b>Nursery worker</b>	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	OFF	OFF	OFF
<b>Nursery Worker</b>	Lillie Grayer	Lillie Grayer	Lillie Grayer	Lillie Grayer	Lillie Grayer
<b>Nursery Volunteer</b>	Emilee Senn Audrey Wright	Ashlyn Marble Li Ping Miller	Bethany Baxter Savanah Baxter Camille Pittman	Leslee White Jennifer White Frances Glenn	Robin or Katie Tait Sarah Bean
<b>Toddler Sunday School</b>	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley
<b>Sunday School Monitor</b>	Brinton Fisackerly	Jay Nail	Dan Williams	Brinton Fisackerly	Jay Nail

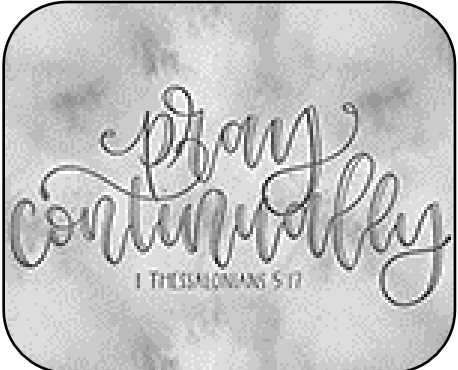


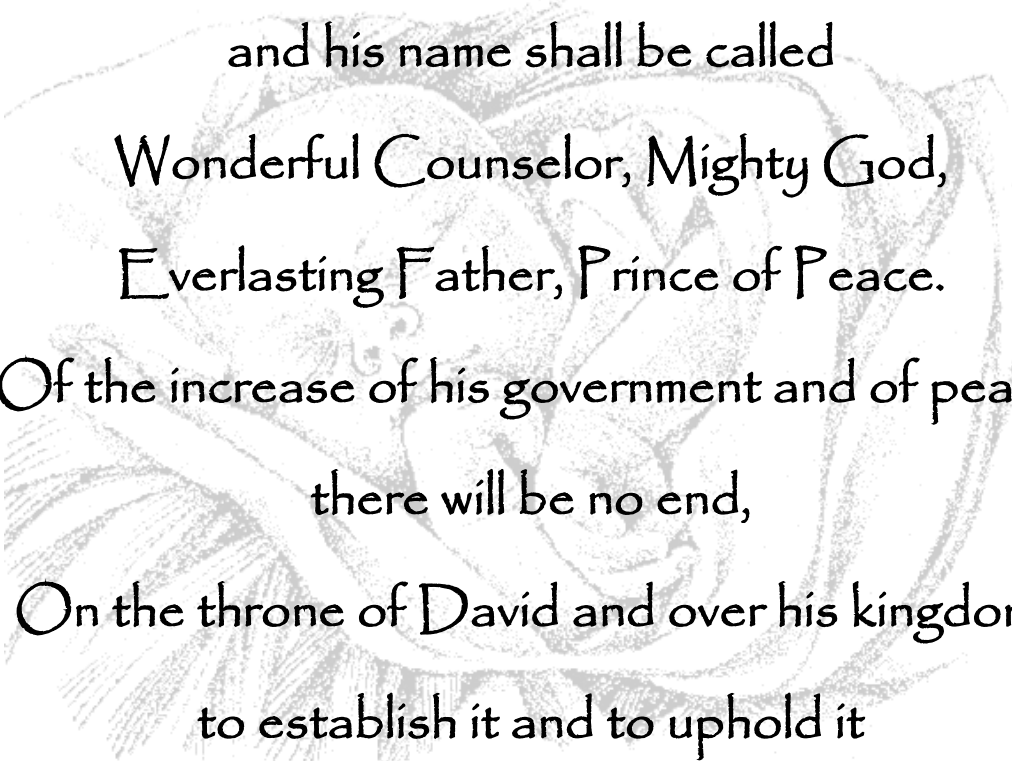
**December  
Counter  
JB Dyer**

**Budget Report  
October 2024**  
(All tithing including online)  
**\$ 34,421.00**



- ❖ MSPC Elders and Deacons, Rev. Suber and family
- ❖ Expectant Moms: Meryl Fisackerly, Sierra Kilpatrick, and Ivy Harris
- ❖ Louise Armstrong, Karen Livingston, Nicki Leggett, Stanley Rogowski, John Mark Russell, Mark Denison, Faith Whitlock, Gaines Gaskin, Lynda Meharg and Christ Presbyterian Church Plant
- ❖ Washington Officials, President Joe Biden and President elect Trump
- ❖ State, City, and County Officials
- ❖ Governor Tate Reeves, Mayor Keith Gaskin, Sheriff Eddie Hawkins, Police Chief Joseph Daughtry
- ❖ Helping Hands, Life Choices Pregnancy Center, Palmer Home, all Columbus Churches, and Pastors





For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

ESV

## 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  
5:00 Evening Study

### **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