

# The Main Thing

## A Publication of MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH January 2017

As we begin a new year I want to encourage you to re-commit to reading your Bible regularly. I don't want you to do it out of guilt or shame. I don't want you to do it because you know it's the right thing to do, although it certainly is. I want you to commit to reading your Bible because it is the means God uses to draw you closer in relationship with Him. I want you to read your Bible because you love your Heavenly Father and want to learn what pleases Him. I want you to read your Bible because you love Jesus Christ and want to know more of His saving grace. I want you to read your Bible because you love the Holy Spirit and desire His leading.

Ligonier Ministries has a helpful guide to 2017 Bible reading plans on their web site. Not all of us are at the same stage in life or spiritual development. The plans listed will appeal to someone attempting to read more consistently for the first time or someone who has read through the entire Bible multiple times. Choose a plan that you think will work best for you. The important thing is to make a start. Don't get frustrated if you get off track. Just keep at it. You can find the plans at this link: <http://www.ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans/>

“All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” John 5:39

***Pastor Matocha***



“WOW”—The “Mingle and Jingle” is becoming a wonderful Christmas time of gathering. We had over 90 people present and everyone decided to sit and visit with others. I was so happy to see a number wear Christmas colors. My thanks to all who came and “pitched in” and to Linda Simpson, my right-hand person and co-leader.

You guessed it! It’s now January and time for our “Soups and Sides” luncheon. It will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> following the morning worship service. This is one of our favorites! Get the crock pots out and sharpen up those recipes for soup, stew, or chili. For sides, think sandwiches cut in quarters, cheese and crackers, cold salads, relish plate, fruit, desserts.

You may say to yourself, “I don’t do soups”. That’s fine. Just bring one or two “sides” to go with the main course.

Looking forward to January 15<sup>th</sup> after the morning service. We’ll “chase away the winter blues” with our 4 F’s...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

*Lynda*



The Men’s Prayer Breakfast was December 7. Though the attendance was off the men who were there enjoyed the fellowship and a great breakfast.

Allan chose as his text Ephesians 2:8-10 using verse 10 as the main theme. Paul explains that we can be confident in God’s work in us. Allan used the example of Ruth Bell Graham whose epitaph reads “End of Construction. Thank You for Your Patience.”

All the men were concerned about Danny. Henry and Mr. Laws led us in prayer for Danny, his family and his physicians.

We will not have a breakfast in January. The first Wednesday comes right on the heels of New Year’s Day and the end of the holidays. The next Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be on Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Reminders will be sent throughout the month.

Happy New Year!

*Mike*



## *Women in the Church*

The annual Cookie Swap was held on December 3rd at the Swedenburgs' Honey House. Ladies of all ages enjoyed the time of fellowship and a delicious meal of Italian Wedding Soup, Mandarin-Pomegranate-Spinach Salad, and Cheesecake prepared by Hannah Nail's team of hostesses.

Pat Wallace portrayed Mary and presented a narrative on the life of her son, Jesus. It was quite moving, and a great reminder of how much God loves us.

Cookies were everywhere! So many varieties and cute packaging made choosing what to take home a difficult task!

We all would like to say "Thank You!" to Bess for sharing the Honey House once again with the ladies of Main Street and their friends. Sweet memories are made each year at the Cookie Swap. Join us next year to make memories of your own!



# News from Main Street Christian School

We just finished a whirlwind of activities at our sweet, little preschool. The children were definitely taught the Reason for the Season.

Each class sang songs about the birth of our Savior during the Christmas program. You can ask them, "What is the most important thing about Christmas?", and they will tell you. Help them to focus on Jesus while they are young and they will have an anchor for their souls, steadfast and sure.

These children love to give. They enjoyed helping their parents shop for the presents to put in the shoe boxes for Samaritan's purse. They were so happy to know that they were helping to make Christmas special for a child in another country who doesn't have toys.

Our fours took a trip to our public library to see the Christmas trees on display and to hear Mother Goose read a story. They bundled up and walked over in the cold, each holding on to our rope to help us stay together.

In class, we had fun making many crafts and I for one love glitter and got carried away with the glue and the glitter shaker. We will be finding remnants of the stuff for many days to come.

As we go about the last few days of 2016 and look forward to 2017 let us meditate on Philippians 4:8.

**Finally, brothers,  
whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence,  
if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.**

Stay safe in His loving care,

*Miss Cathy*





## HAPPY HEARTS

On December 9 Happy Hearts enjoyed lunch at Lion Hills Center. We were pleased to have 32 people in attendance and we certainly missed those of you who were unable to join us. It was great having Todd and his mother join us. The entrance was draped in beautiful garland and bows which set the tone for the inside of the center. There were spectacular Christmas trees everywhere! So tall I would hesitate to say how tall! Probably 12 or more feet! They were all different, one was flocked, which always brings back memories of the days when we made the snow for flocking by mixing Ivory Snowflakes with water. When our babies were babies, Ivory Snowflakes was the most popular detergent! The tables were donned with poinsettias. It was all very pretty and festive. Santa sacks filled with homemade jelly were placed at each place setting. I received a beautiful Peters Pottery angel from the group. It is one I will always treasure knowing the "angels" who gave it to me. And if that wasn't enough, I was also presented a beautiful red poinsettia. I had the perfect spot in my home for the Christmas flower and placed it in a special Santa bag container given to me by my niece, Mary Grey Yelverton Fletcher years ago. I always buy a poinsettia for this container, but not this year, I received one as a gift. I appreciate so much the thoughtfulness and the gifts, but as I have said many times, Happy Hearts is one of the most special gifts of my life. Each of you is

indeed a "gift" to me and I thank you for being so.

Our program was secular in nature, but quite delightful! Hoot and Ann Wilder sang so many familiar Christmas songs for us. It was fun watching a husband and wife team perform the songs we remember from our youth. Dr. James Allen accompanied the vocalists. The three of them are from First Methodist, exceptionally gifted and musically talented. I think it would be so neat to be able to perform and share your talents with your entire community, which is exactly what these people do frequently, especially at Christmas. We were the happy listeners and recipients of their sharing their talents. They gave to us a very special Christmas gift, and we loved and appreciated it.

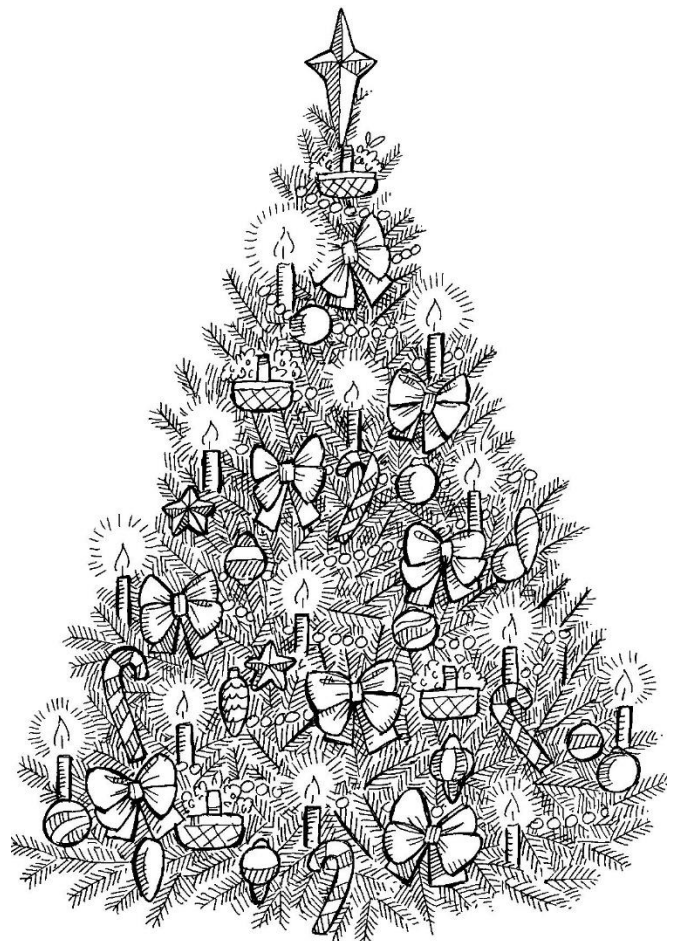
At the same time Happy Hearts was listening to these jolly, light, and fun songs, one of our beloved Elders was struggling for his life. Thursday night had been a severe struggle for Danny Williams and his precious family. Many of us had prayed at every waking moment and continually throughout the days since Tuesday. By Friday morning, I was somewhat overcome with concern and a bit tearful. I asked my sweet little friend, Olivia Kilpatrick, who had been crying over a puppy that had died at her house, to please pray that I could gather myself and have a good time with this awesome group of Happy Hearts. She did and God granted our requests. But the greater request was for Danny to improve, so that he could be placed on the organ transplant

list. By God's grace that did happen, and Friday night he was at the top of the list for a liver transplant. We have witnessed so many miracles throughout this illness with Danny. His transplant took place on Sunday and was seemingly very successful. We are so thankful and praising God for this "gift", not like the gift of the Baby Jesus, yet still a very special gift to our Main Street Presbyterian family and to many others who love Danny. Yesterday his blood work was good and he was taken off blood pressure meds, today he is to be taken off the ventilator, miracle by miracle his body is repairing. Thank you, Dear Lord! This will be a Christmas that will be forever in the memories of Danny's family and loved ones. Prayers are still needed, and he has a long way to go, but we BELIEVE God will provide what is needed. Can you imagine coping with what the Williams' family has without knowledge of our Lord and Savior? My verse is Romans 8:28 and it has helped me cope with many issues. So I texted to Janie, knowing that she would be familiar with this verse, as an encouragement that God is in control at all times and all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord. The Williams do indeed love the Lord and the promise holds true for them. Janie texted me back that she was holding to Isaiah 40:31 "Those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength". It was the perfect verse for her and for their children. Their hope remains in the Lord and He is continually renewing Danny's strength and theirs. Please pray for Janie, Ross, Meryl, Callie, and Reed, as well as for Danny, and for the family of the liver donor. What an amazing gift that person has given to

Danny and to all of us. If you are healthy, please consider becoming an organ donor! We have witnessed how vital this program is to those in need of a transplant.

May your Christmas be filled with the love of our Savior and genuine appreciation and praise for all that He has provided for His children. In the Children's Catechism in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, we learn that when we request "Give us this day our daily bread" we are praying that God would give us all things needful for our bodies and souls. God is so abundantly giving all things needful. Amen.

*Bess*





## Christina Thomas

### Sunday Jan 15

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Join us for her ministry presentation during Sunday School on Jan 15.

Christina's ministry has changed and she will be visiting to tell us about the new ministry focus so we can decide whether to support her in this new endeavor.

She writes:

Dear Main Street church,  
*It's hard to imagine that I first left for the mission field eight years ago. **I can't thank you enough for your partnership with me over these years.** As you know, two years ago the Lord moved me from Cambodia back to the US to serve with the Mission to the World (MTW) home **office in order to mobilize young people and medical professionals to the mission field.** I've enjoyed this work and can see how God has used my experience to help others with their journey towards missions.*

*During this time, I was also volunteering for Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama (CMMA) **which is a ministry that focuses on working with University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) graduate students who are studying medicine, dentistry, optometry, and physical/occupational therapy.** (website is [www.cmmauab.org](http://www.cmmauab.org))*

*With its emphasis on discipleship, CMMA helps young future medical professionals grow in their faith and stay focused on Jesus in the midst of all the challenges of graduate school. While volunteering with them, I've had the privilege of walking alongside several women who are studying at UAB, helping them grow in their walk with God. **This has been a very rewarding experience and has provided some confirmation on what God seems to have next for me.** Through much prayer and counsel, I have decided to leave MTW and accept the position as **CMMA's Women's Ministry Coordinator.** My responsibilities are to continue discipling women, lead small groups, as well as find other female medical professionals to walk alongside these female students as mentors.*

***This new position is support based, so I am still in need of both your prayers and financial support.*** While it has been my honor to partner with you in God's work for the last eight years, I would love for that partnership to continue. Would you please consider remaining part of my support team?

*I look forward to meeting with you to talk about this more and to answer any questions you may have.*

*Although I never know where the Lord will lead me next, I'm so thankful that He has provided me with such an amazing and faithful support team for the last eight years. **I pray that our partnership will continue** as I continue to say, Here I am, send me. --Isaiah 6:8b*

Many Blessings,

Christina Thomas

**Credo ut Intelligam**

## Ministry to the Military, International

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Dear Saints,

Do others see the fragrance of Christ in us? Are we spreading the fragrance of Christ? Ministry to the Military & International takes the truth of the text before us with great seriousness. We are not content to be in a holding pattern. We do not want to be silent when the message of the Gospel has been entrusted to us and it is the only message that will bring light, and eternal life, and transformation to some in this very dark world. The Psalmist writes, "let me tell you what the Lord is doing." He is doing some wonderful things in this ministry.

- Our three churches in Germany are growing both in numbers and in the knowledge and love for Jesus and one another. They were planted to primarily reach the American military community. We see that God is adding a growing international presence in these three congregations. The churches are located in Ramstein/Landstuhl, Wiesbaden, and Stuttgart. We are currently in need of a church planter for the Vilseck/Grafenwoehr, Germany. There are approximately 35,000 Americans in that footprint. Pray that God might raise up a man for the task!

- Our church planter for Aviano Air Force Base in Italy should arrive on the scene in early 2017. He is fund raising. Pray for TE John Orlando to meet the financial goal established so he can move to the field.

- Our church on Okinawa continues to grow. They are in the process of adding a "cry room" due to growth.

- Our church on Guam is also advancing. They've established a close relationship with a Baptist

congregation that provides space for them. Therefore, they have been able to move from meeting in the Beauchamp's basement to the new meeting place. It is a great location!

- MM&I has sent TE Michael Viera to the Far East to plant the first of what we hope will be many English-speaking Presbyterian and Reformed Churches worldwide. These churches are not associated with the military. We are targeting areas where there are a large number of "Expatriates" and people who write and speak English as a second language. It is estimated that between 1 to 1.5 billion people fall within the latter category. To our knowledge there has been very little effort by the P&R community to reach these two groups. Pray that God would bless our efforts to reach these groups.

- MM&I has initiated an effort to develop this ministry even more. We've become more of a sending agency. We are now sending men out from other presbyteries. It is not just Southeast Alabama Presbytery carrying the weight of this

ministry. We've contracted with a CPA firm to handle all our international requirements as well as our stateside financial needs. These two changes have really helped us.

### • Pray for the following needs:

(1) We need men willing and ready to go. We have soldiers in the military who are willing to go wherever they are sent and who are willing to lay down their life for the nation. The Church, except in certain locations, seems stagnant. We keep trying new ways of missions. The great missions movement of the past appear relegated to the past. In regards to missions we seem to always be reinventing various means of outreach. The results are less than stellar. The zeal that once characterized the church has been dampened a bit. We have become too comfortable in this world. So, join me in praying for the revitalization of the Church so we can begin afresh sending men full of the Spirit of God, full of knowledge and wisdom, and love out into this world with the Gospel. We need those who are willing to deny themselves, take up the cross, and follow Jesus. We need those who have a fire in their belly to bear testimony to the truth wherever God calls.

(2) Pray for our financial needs. I want to be very honest with you in this matter. We appreciate any amount you can send and we are most thankful for your gifts. However, if we are to get men to the field sooner, we need significant contributions. And except for a small amount that goes to operating expenses, almost the entirety of monies given are placed in our General Fund to advance the timetable of sending men to the field. MMI senses urgency in this matter! Would you consider a generous gift to help us move forward around the world? Today is the day of salvation!!

In Christ,

*Doug Hudson*

*[Rev. Hudson will be the keynote speaker at our February 2017 conference.]*



# January VOLUNTEERS

## NURSERIES

- January 1 Lauren Zarandona  
Gee & Becca Allgood
- January 8 Marianne Field  
Karmel Crandall
- January 15 Pat Russell  
Jay & Hannah Nail
- January 22 Jennifer White  
Laurie Flora
- January 29 Frances Glenn  
Kitty Brewer, Olivia Laws

## USHERS

- January 1 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,  
Brent Drown, Henry Pilkinton,  
Trip Hairston
- January 8 Allan Brewer, Phillip Goodwin,  
Richard Laws, Russ Russell,  
Brad Talley
- January 15 Gray Flora, Bill Laws,  
Matt White, Ben Woodson
- January 22 Grover Allgood, Ray Kilpatrick,  
Mike Meharg, Jay Nail,  
Patrick Shipp
- January 29 Gee Allgood, Roger Day,  
Brent Drown, Henry Pilkinton,  
Trip Hairston

### MONEY COUNTER

Jay Nail

### BUDGET REPORT DECEMBER 2016

**\$42,932.34**

## Gifts to the Church

In Memory of

Mrs. Carolyn Russell

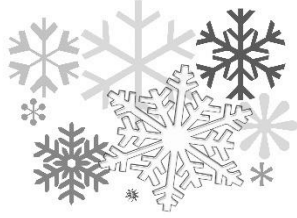
by

Mr. & Mrs. Gray Flora

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Franks

Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Jenkins





# January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Morning Service Only	2  Hannah Moore	3 <b>WIC 10:45</b>  <i>Jack &amp; Laurie Chilcutt</i>	4  Kimberly Duncan	5 <b>Prayer Meeting Noon</b>  Corey Conner	6	7 John Mark Russell <i>John Hunter &amp; Margo Allgood</i>
8 <b>Communion AM Life Choices</b> Shirley Blankenship Henry Pilkinton	9  Stephen Russell	10  Lori Neely Chris Lovegren	11	12 <b>Prayer Meeting Noon</b>	13  Frances Laws Kelly Van Gundy	14
15  <b>Christina Thomas</b>	16  Ashley Van Gundy	17	18  McGinty Chilcutt	19 <b>Prayer Meeting Noon</b> Mamie Kate Fisackerly	20	21  Kennedy Flora
22	23	24  <i>John &amp; Jane Rogowski</i>	25 <b>Wednesday Night Activities Resume Fried Chicken</b>	26 <b>Prayer Meeting Noon</b>	27	28
29 <b>Drake Bassett</b> Laurie Flora Isaac Zarandona	30	31				





## Upcoming Events at Main Street

### Sunday, Jan. 1

Morning Worship Service only

### Sunday, Jan. 8

Jeanna Frye from Life Choices will be our guest during Sunday School.

### Sunday, Jan. 15

Christina Thomas will share with us concerning her new position.

### Sunday, Jan. 22

Drake Bassett from Palmer Home will be our guest during Sunday School.

### Wednesday, Jan. 25

Wednesday night activities resume

### NEW NEEDS:

Mission Trip to Louisiana – January 12-15

### CONTINUING NEEDS:

Our Shut-Ins:

Dot Norton  
Louise Armstrong  
Sadie Brewer  
George & Martha Clegg  
Jamie Mills

Margo Allgood  
Jennifer Garner  
Phillip Goodwin  
Bubbie Yelverton  
Verda Laws  
Sue Lovegren  
Edna Mae McCoy  
Billy & Emily Shull  
Fran Perkins  
Dot Pilcher  
John Mark Russell  
Faith Whitlock - Christa Chapman's mother  
Danny Williams

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Helping Hands  
Life Choices Pregnancy Center  
Palmer Home  
All churches and pastors in Columbus

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President Barack Obama  
President-Elect Donald Trump  
Officials in Washington  
Governor Phil Bryant  
Mayor Robert Smith  
Police Chief Oscar Lewis  
Sheriff Mike Aldredge  
State and City and County Officials



# MAIN STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

701 Main Street  
P. O. Box 26  
Columbus, MS 39703-0026

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Columbus, MS

Permit No. 10

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

[www.mainstreetpres.org](http://www.mainstreetpres.org)

662-328-2523

### Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Church Officer Prayer Time  
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