



Volume 7, Issue 8
August 2017

The Beacon

God is still speaking, **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



***Spiritually
Speaking***
Rev. Dr. Ann Michele
Rogers-Brigham

Dear Members
and Friends of Safe
Harbor Family Church,

Greetings to
each of you! I hope
that my August letter
finds you well. I know
that every day, week,
month, changes are go-
ing on as we journey
through our days. I'm
so glad we have oppor-
tunity to be the church
and share the journey.

Recently, I re-
ceived news from my
cousin in Arizona that
my dear aunt died. She
was ninety five years

old; I'm glad to say
that she lived a long,
happy life. The per-
son I now think of is
my precious uncle,
about the same age,
who is adjusting to
life without his dear
Sarah. Their lives
were knit together
since their early
twenties in a continu-
ous love story, so I
know he must be
missing her. As I
think about their
lives and my relation-
ship to them through
the years, I am
grateful that I can
recall happy memories
of visits with them
and their children, my
cousins.

The "cousins"
are "old folks" now, so
we do that remem-
bering "when" often
as we visit on occa-
sion. I think I want
to write about the
"remembering when"
because it reminds
me that it matters
what we do "now," in

the present so that
we can remember
and be glad, when
the time comes to
look back at our
lives.

Summer days
often afford those
opportunities for
reflection on the
Journey. The Psalm-
ist wrote:

"Giver of
Life, we praise You!
Bestower of all
gifts, we give You
thanks for your
steadfast love en-
dures forever! Who
can tell of your gen-
erosity in all genera-
tions, the rich varie-
ty of the living cos-
mos? Blessed are
they who recognize
the Gift, and who
follow the precepts
of your Word at all
times. Remember
us, O Beloved, as we
make the Journey;
help us to live the
Mystery, that we
may fulfill our divine

destiny, that we may co-create with You, that we may glory in your rich heritage."

These first few verses of Psalm 106 are a prayer that helps us put into words our thanks for God's loving care for us on the journey and our desire to fulfill our divine destiny. What is your "journey?" What is your divine destiny? Do you talk to God about that journey, that destiny? Yes, answers to those questions matter so that when we reflect on our lives, we have no regrets. We glory in the rich heritage of being children of God and co-creators of this good earth.

Matthew Fox, Episcopal priest and theologian, wrote much about co-creating, the good earth and the heritage we are leaving for future generations. I like his approach because it always begins with "me" and not pointing the finger at others. "If you don't work on yourself, then much of your politics is merely projections. We have to walk our talk and do the inner work that allows the outer work to be authentic and also effective." (Matthew Fox, *Occupy Spirituality: A Radical Vision for a New Generation*)

We have our "work" to do at Safe Harbor and I'm grateful that we "journey" together and learn from one an-

other. As we come together each week for worship and wonderful community sharing, let us be thankful for present days for creating future remembering. May we live the Mystery and be all God is calling us to be, fulfilling our divine destiny.

Grace and peace for your journey,

Pastor Ann

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

FOR SERVICE: Sign Up to read in worship and assist our pastors with leadership. Contact Alan or Melanie if you'd like to offer special music. Yes, it is a joy to serve and we hope that you'll sign up for a Sunday to offer your gifts of leadership. Thank you!

REV. CINDY CROCKER will lead Crossover service on Wed., August 2nd!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 6 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Shelli Poe will lead worship at Safe Harbor. We are delighted that Shelli is a SHFC member and part of our church staff. We recognize and honor the 4-way covenant we share with Shelli (SHFC, UCC, Shelli and her Millsaps setting where she is a professor) and hope we may know more about her ministry with students.

SHEPHERD'S TASK FORCE MEETING IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 6:30 P.M.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

On August 27th we will receive new members in our Sunday worship service. If you would like to be received as a new member, please see Pastor Ann about your interest and desire to know more (amrogersbrigham@gmail.com). (NOTE: We have changed the date from Aug. 20th to Aug. 27th)

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

'All Church' Retreat! Shepherd's Task Force has begun planning our "all church" retreat. We hope you'll plan to be with us for this special day of fun, learning and spiritual renewal.

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There will be a special election on Aug. 6 for a vacant position on the Board. Tricia Opdyke is the nominated candidate. So why do I have to vote if there is one position and one candidate? You the church, decides who represents you on the board. The congregation chooses to accept or not accept the candidate to be your voice in the church. A big thank you to Tricia for stepping up and offering to serve.

"Thank You" and Recognition

I give thanks that in a July meeting with the Commission on Ministry of the Southeast Conference United Church of Christ, I was granted a transfer of my UCC ministerial standing from Northern California/Nevada Conference to the Southeast Conference, UCC. I feel "officially" accepted into our SE Conference life and work. Thank you for your support of our covenant and my calling to serve you. -Pastor Ann Michele

Gratitude to Kim C. for serving on our SHFC Board! We are grateful for her service to us and offer our prayers for her and her family. -Pastor Ann

Terry and Mary gave us copies of the Bible translation/paraphrase THE MESSAGE. We are grateful that we may have access to this Bible for use at SHFC for study and worship. They also gave our Music Leader, Alan, an accompanist version of the New Century Hymnal (our UCC Hymnal) for music selections from this source. Much gratitude for their thoughtfulness! Pastor Ann

Thank you, Safe Harbor Family, for vacation and study time this summer! AND, many thanks to Mary, Shelli, Glenn, Alan, Cindy, Stan, Liz and others

for covering for me on Sundays and Wednesdays while on break from my duties! -Pastor Ann

Many thanks to everyone who donated school supplies! These supplies will be very helpful to many families. -Cindy Crocker

I would like to thank all of those who sing special music each week; your willingness to share your gifts bring joy to our congregants. Thank you, Melanie, for all of your hard work in making sure that we have special music each week; and a final thank you to Carolyn-Your drums add so much to our worship experience. -Alan

Birthday Bash

SHFC Birthday Bash is August 6th this month! We will celebrate all birthdays for the month during our Birthday Bash! Please bring your favorite dish or two to share.



Sweets are already provided by Sugar Magnolia Takery!

Birthday Bash is immediately following church service.

Craft Group

The Craft Group will meet August 25th at Terry and Mary's house.

Craft will be announced later. Join us!



CROSSOVER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CROSSOVER SERVICE

Can you be on a Supper Team?

We are grateful for the opportunity to gather mid-week for delicious food, conversation, worship and discussion. Lately, our supper teams have needed some help so please think about joining a "team." You can speak to any of our staff and they'll sign you up!

We thank our supper teams for the wonderful food we enjoy each week and we are glad for the "break" mid week for prayer and conversation about important topics that guide our lives as Christians. As we use the ecumenical prayer calendar "In God's Hands" from the World Council of Churches, we hope that we may be aware of neighbors in different parts of our world

who need our support for advocacy and awareness.

Thank you to all who serve delicious meals when it is your turn and for the opportunity to gather for prayer and study each week. We welcome children, youth, adults to our mid-week services. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and Service is at 7:00 p.m.. We conclude by 8:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class/Youth Membership

Do you have a young person in your family or know a young person interested in preparing to be a church member? September is a great month to invite youth interested in becoming a member of the church to begin confirmation study! Youth (normally 7th-12th) study together for the academic year and prepare for Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. They cover

a variety of subjects which include learning about the Bible and how to read the Bible, church history, our UCC, world religions and how the local church is organized. Youth will talk about their faith journey and what it means to express faith from their unique perspective. Also, youth take "field trips" to learn about other church-

es/places of worship. Sometimes youth are involved in the worship service, depending on their interests. It is not about having all the answers; it is mostly how to ask the questions! Please speak to Pastor Ann about beginning study this year. We'd love to have a Confirmation Class at SHFC. Let's start encouraging our youth to commit to a wonderful class just for them!

Food Pantry

Safe Harbor Food Pantry Ministry is always in need of can goods to help persons that struggle to make ends meet.

If you can help, please bring your cans of food to the church anytime that the church is open.

Any of your pastoral staff can help you find space to shelve the food.

Progressive Christians at Millsaps

By Dr. Shelli Poe
Campus Minister

In the academic world, summer is a time for relaxation and doing what we didn't have time for during the year. Many of the students in our campus ministry are now around the country, doing internships, making a little money, and spending time with family and friends. I'm always pleased to keep up with them through Facebook and email as we scatter to the four winds.

Our ministry is housed at Millsaps College, and as its campus minister, I am in a covenant with Safe Harbor, the wider United Church of Christ, and Millsaps. But that doesn't mean that other college students aren't invited to be part of our community! If you're a college student from Belhaven, Mississippi College, or a community college in the area and you're looking for a progressive group of friends, join us! Once the school year begins, we will likely continue to meet each week for

lunch in the cafeteria and once a month for discussion. We also typically have a party at the beginning of the year and end of the year as well. Please spread the word to any interested college students you know!

If you'd like to see what's going on with our ministry, please "Like" our facebook page. Just search for Progressive Christians at Millsaps or click here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/479887485528006/>.

	<p>Donations are always appreciated and needed!</p> <p><i>Looking for an easy way to donate to Safe Harbor?</i></p> <p>Check out the "Donate" button on the right side of our website at: safeharborfamilychurch.org</p>	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Card Ministry

The Card Ministry group is in need of Postcard Stamps. This group meets at 6:00 p.m. every first Tuesday of the month at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland. There are five or six of us that meet regularly.



Join this Ministry!

If you would like to come and be a part of reaching out to others, come - we will see you there!

Kidz Harbor and Y.A.C.H.T. Club

Kidz Harbor:

Summer is winding down so the lazy days of summer are coming to an end. It has been a fun summer full of adventures together. I am so thankful for you guys and all you have taught me this summer about fellowship and being the hands and heart of Jesus. I pray

that you guys take these memories and lessons with you always. As school starts, remember how much God loves you and wants the best for you. Remember to love others and show them your Jesus heart. I love you all!!!

Y.A.C.H.T. Club:

Summer is coming to an end and so are tge lazy days of summer. I pray each of you have had amazing summers filled with sweet memories. We miss each of you and hope you guys find your way back to us.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays 5:15 - 5:45
Sunday School in Kidz Harbor (drop off begins at 5:10)

Sundays @ 6 for kidz 6 & younger-Kidz Harbor

Wednesdays after dinner - Kidz Harbor

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to all Kidz Harbor volunteers who make all of this possible!

Kidz and Youth Back-to-School Bash!

August 12th, 1:00—4:00 p.m.

Terry & Mary's





Safe Harbor Family Church

An Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ

1345 Flowood Dr.

AUGUST 2017

Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702

601-906-8934

www.safeharborfamilychurch.org



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 AUGUST 6 9th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service <i>Birthday Bash after service</i> <i>Bring a dish to share</i>	 7	1 6:30p - POPA (at the church)	2 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	3	4	5
13 10th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	14	15 6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	16 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	17	18	19
20 11th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	21	22	23 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	24	25 12th Annual LGBT & Episcopal Spiritual Renewal Retreat begins (at Gray Center, Canton) 7p - Craft Group (at Mary & Terry's)	26 12th Annual LGBT & Episcopal Spiritual Renewal Retreat cont. "Telling Our Stories" w/ Rev. Gwen Fry (at Gray Center, Canton)
27 12th Sunday after Pentecost Episcopal Spiritual Renewal Retreat ends 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	28	29	30 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	<div style="text-align: center;">  Back to School </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 </div> </div>		