



Volume 7, Issue 7
July 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,

I hope the summer is going well for each of you! Some of you are working but some of you are taking advantage of school breaks and getting some little vacations. Others of you are recuperating from illness or injuries or other losses and just letting time, prayer and support of friends and family bring you healing. In Mississippi, I think most of us are trying to stay cool

and survive days of intense heat and humidity.

Whatever your summer is bringing, we all want to be aware of the importance of balance in our life of work, play, prayer, and self care. Since my birthday is in August, I have always wanted to take my summer break in August and make time to be with my family. One summer when I was a pastor in Massachusetts, we rented a small cabin in Maine near Bar Harbor. It was a cabin with no running water and no in door toilet (yes, we were a family on a budget!). I think it was my children's favorite vacation as we look back.

We caught fish and actually ate what we caught! Our cabin "in the woods"

was on a big pond (Molasses Pond) so we watched the loons, went out little excursions around the lake in our tiny row boat, swam in the cold pond water, did a little fishing and we played lots of family games.

Yes, it was important for our family to find rest, renewal and time for one another.

The same is true for us at we nurture life with God. Jesus took time to rest in his ministry and to retreat for prayer and renewal. In The Message we read "As often as possible Jesus withdrew to out-of-the-way places for prayer (Luke 5:16) Again, from The Message (Matthew 11: 28-29), Jesus emphasizes renewal.

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

What does it mean to keep company with Jesus? What are those "unforced rhythms of grace" we want to learn about? How do we "recover our lives?" For me, prayer in those "away" days is key. Paying attention to my relationship with God reminds me of the reality and presence of God in the course of my day and days. Prayer helps me to be more centered, more present, more appreciative. Prayer helps me be a better person with others. Prayer brings healing and

new perspectives on life. Yes, balance must be part of God's plan, don't you think?

Let's encourage one another these summer days, these days in the Pentecost season, to seek and find refreshment in God's goodness and grace. May we also be attentive and appreciative of one another and the gifts we share in service to our church.

Thank you for being part of Safe Harbor and supporting life together. May God be with you and work with you to know peace, healing and God's Spirit of love. I look forward to seeing you this summer for worship and fellowship. Please let me or one of our other pastors know how we may support you on the spiritual journey.

Peace and blessing,
Pastor Ann Michele

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

FOR SERVICE: *Sign Up to read in worship, usher, be a communion server! Yes, it is a joy to serve and we hope that you'll sign up for a Sunday to help out. Thank you!*

HYMN SING SUNDAY IS COMING UP! *On July 30, we'll have the 5th Sunday hymn sing instead during the sermon time. Don't miss this wonderful time to sing favorites, your choices!*

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.

Church Membership

Are you interested in formally joining Safe Harbor Family Church? Or, perhaps you just need more information about the church and would like to attend an "inquiry" meeting? On July 16 and July 23 at 4:45 p.m., I'll be leading Church

Membership orientation meetings. Each meeting will be about 50 minutes. It is best to attend both (they are different) but, if you want to become a member, please plan to attend at least one of the evenings.

We'll plan for membership Sunday in August, hoping August 20th will be the Sunday to receive new members. Please contact Pastor Ann about your interest and desire to know more (amrogersbrigham@gmail.com).

Thank Yous and Recognition

GRATITUDE TO JON, ALAN, KAREN, JANET, TERESA (GOOCH) AND SHFC MEMBERS/FRIENDS for support of the annual Gospel Sing/Dinner/Auction held on Saturday, June 10. All the support/contributions for the day were greatly appreciated.

BIG THANK YOU to JULIA EVERETT and HER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEAM!

We are grateful to Julia and her many Vacation Bible school helpers for providing our SHFC children with an excellent VBS program. From the pool kick-off to the Wednesday evening program presentation, we felt the children's joy and enthusiasm for Bible stories, and songs.

A CELEBRATION of BAPTISM at SAFE HARBOR On June 25, 2017 we celebrated the sacra-

ment of baptism for Anna-Lynn Grace Varnell Bishop. We were so happy that Anna-Lynn, her moms, Sally and Cassie and her extended family and friends were able to be present for this special service. Thank you to Rev. Julia for being her Church Sponsor, to Terry and Mary for the lovely baptism candle and to all who were present to pledge to walk the way of Christ with Anna-Lynn.

A SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO OUR BOARD AT SHFC for their leadership in revising By Laws and presenting for the affirmative vote of the document on Sunday, June 25. We are grateful for work on Policies and Procedures as well that compliments the By Laws, giving detailed guidance for harmony in our life together. We pray, as a church, these words will be lived out in a spirit of love and cooperation.

THANK YOU TO JIMMY WILSON FOR THE SHFC GIFT CANDLES TO GIVE TO OUR VISITORS/NEW MEMBERS! Jimmy designed (with our logo) a lovely candle to go with our new member welcome packet. The idea came up at our Shepherd's Task Force meeting and Jimmy helped us make this happen.

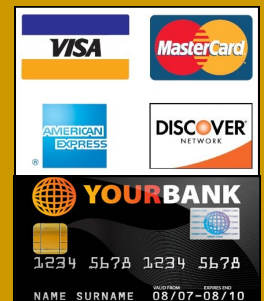
THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE who serve as volunteers each week to sing, to lead children, adult study (Mary!), serve/prepare food, support pastors in their duties, serve as Moderator (Liz), Board Members, prepare bulletins (Clay), care for sound board/tech duties (Mike), clean the church, and do "many" other things! Thank you to Karen (way down on the Coast!) who prepares our Newsletter!



Donations are always appreciated and needed!

Looking for an easy way to donate to Safe Harbor?

Check out the "Donate" button on the right side of our website at:
safeharborfamilychurch.org



CROSSOVER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CROSSOVER SERVICE

We grateful for the opportunity to gather mid-week for delicious food, conversation, worship and discussion. We thank our supper teams for the wonderful food we enjoy each week. I thank you, too, for gathering to pray and converse about important topics that guide our lives as Christians. Hope you'll come and bring a

friend! In July we continue to read from the book *Credo* by William Sloane Coffin. This book contains brief quotations and excerpts from Dr. Coffin's preaching on issues ranging from charity and justice, politics, economic issues, the environment, nuclear disarmament, and mortality to the meaning of faith. Let us know for future what you'd like to study, what may feed your spirit!

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.

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

Kidz:

We had a blast at VBS. A fun week was kicked off with swimming and led to lots of fun stories, songs, crafts, and games to learn how to get geared up for God! Thank you to all the parents and kids and to all the volunteers who made it happen! In Sunday School, we are

still learning about some stories from the New Testament. Its so good to learn about Jesus and His love for us. Please join us at 5:15 on Sundays for Sunday School with your Bibles! We are also still taking offering during prayer time in Kidz Harbor as well! Look forward to worshipping and learning with you.

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

Summer is in full swing! Hope you are each enjoying your carefree days and nights! I pray that you each have a blessed and safe summer. 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!



Good Sam School Supplies

Safe Harbor Family Church will be collecting school supplies for Good Sam starting July 9th through July 23rd.

There are many students to be helped. Thank you in advance for your generosity.












Safe Harbor Family Church
An Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ
1345 Flowood Dr.

601-906-8934

www.safeharborfamilychurch.org

JULY 2017

Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 2 4th Sunday after Pentecost 6 PM - Praise Service <i>Birthday Bash after service</i> <i>Bring a dish to share</i>	"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves" ~ Abraham Lincoln	 4 Independence Day	 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	"And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men (& women) who died, who gave that right to me." ~ Lee Greenwood	1	
 9 5th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	10	 6:30p - PFLAG Fondren Presbyterian 3220 Old Canton Rd.	12 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	13 14	15	8 6:30p-8:30p 15th Annual Pool Party "Very Merry Unbirthday Party" (at Clinton YMCA)
16 6th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	17	 6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	19 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	20 21	22	
23 7th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	24	6:30 - POPA (at the church)	26 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	27 28	29	
30 8th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	31	<i>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.</i>				AUGUST 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