



Volume 7, Issue 6  
June 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,

Are you ready  
for a Pentecost birth-  
day bash? We enter  
the month of June with  
an SHFC birthday bash  
and a universal church  
"bash!" Pentecost day  
(Acts 2: 1-21) is cele-  
brated as the birthday  
of the Christian church  
because it is a  
"marker" day for the  
gift of the Spirit to the  
early church. In many  
churches, people wear  
RED! (the color red  
symbolizes joy and the

fire of the Holy Spir-  
it).

Why call it  
Pentecost? Pente-  
cost was an important  
Jewish festival be-  
fore it became a  
Christian festival. It  
was one of three  
"pilgrimage" festivals  
that were ideally  
spent in Jerusalem  
and it occurred fifty  
days after Passover--  
which was the cele-  
bration of Israel's  
liberation from Egypt.  
It recalled, not only  
the giving of the cov-  
enant to Israel at Mt.  
Sinai, but also the  
creation of a new kind  
of community, a radi-  
cally different way of  
living after days of  
slavery in Egypt.

Surely, the  
Spirit had always  
been present with the  
followers of Jesus  
and throughout histo-  
ry, but, on this day,  
the Spirit was re-  
ceived in a new,

transformative way.  
Biblical scholar Mar-  
cus Borg said it well:  
"The central affir-  
mation of Pentecost  
is that the Spirit  
promised by Jesus is  
now present among  
his followers and in  
the world. The Spirit  
is the Spirit of God,  
the Holy Spirit, the  
Spirit of Christ. This  
claim is foundational  
to the New Testa-  
ment and early  
Christianity."  
(Speaking Christian:  
Why Christian  
Words Have Lost  
Their Power-And  
How They Can Be  
Restored)

What does  
this have to do with  
us today? The Spir-  
it still calls us to a  
radically different  
kind of living. As we  
say in the United  
Church of Christ,  
"God is still speak-  
ing!" Yes, founda-  
tional to who we are  
at Safe Harbor is

our belief that the Spirit is present among us to nurture our growth, to sometimes change us and to keep us, always, immersed in the Pentecostal Spirit! Some of you who grew up in the Pentecostal Church tradition may teach us about the wondrous joining of the Spirit to the heart of our worship and life together.

I look forward this month to our June Birthday bash (June 4th), the beginning of the POPA study (Tuesday evenings), Vacation Bible School (June 4-7), Gospel Sing Event on June 10, a new book study on Wednesdays for Crossover, invigorating worship and conversations around faith journeys each time we meet! AND, do you know that on June 25th, our denomination, The United Church of Christ will turn "60."

So, here we are the church today! We come from many different church backgrounds or "no" background in organized religion, but we know that we belong together. With one voice, one heart and mind and one covenant, we prophesy and dream about the world God wants to shape. We try to be that inclusive, welcoming, community based on love.

I believe we can say, "Christianity is not about things we should or shouldn't do, or

about just being nice. It's reveling in the beauty of creation, about taking part in the wonderment of it all by living, loving, and being. It's about embracing the pain and suffering of the world and transforming it into new life. It's about harnessing the creative Spirit that is so much a part of what it means to be human.."

(David M. Felten and Jeff Proctor-Murphy, Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity)

Thank you for the ways you make this happen at Safe Harbor Family Church, UCC! I look forward to seeing you each time you can be present. Come and bring friend! Get involved and volunteer to help where you can.

We part with this prayer to take with us in this Season of Pentecost:

*Perplexing, Pentecostal God, you infuse us with your Spirit, urging us to vision and dream. May the gift of your presence find voice in our lives, that our babbling may be transformed into discernment and the flickering of many tongues light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice. Amen*

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Ann Michele

P.S. DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 4!

NOTE: If you need to reach me for a pastoral emergency, my cell no. is 662-998-2616 and email is amrogersbrigham@gmail.com. Rev. Glenn and Rev. Cindy are available to help you with emergencies (they live in the Jackson area), but I do want to be available by phone if you are needing to reach me. I am glad to arrange for appointments on Sunday or Wednesday afternoons when I'm at Safe Harbor if you need a private time to talk.

-Pastor Ann Michele

### **SHEPHERD'S TASK FORCE MEETINGS**

NO MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED IN JUNE OR JULY. THIS WILL BE OUR SUMMER BREAK! PLEASE MARK CALENDARS FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 6:30 P.M. FOR NEXT MEETING.

Note: For those on Shepherd's Task Force who can help with VBS on June 4, 6-8 p.m., please speak with Julia Everett.

# 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 an "inquiry" meeting? Please let Pastor Ann, Pastor Glenn or Pastor Cindy know so we may form a membership orientation meeting. Meetings are designed for sharing of our faith journeys, learning more about our denominational affiliation, The United Church of Christ, and learning about Safe Harbor Family Church. If you

do not know much about Safe Harbor, it is a good opportunity to become acquainted with SHFC history, covenant, budget, by laws and policy and procedures that guide our life together. (Yes, much goes on behind the scenes!)

When you are ready, we will find a good Sunday when we may welcome you into church membership in a 6 p.m. worship service. How do you join? You may join our church by affirmation of faith

(baptism and first time church membership), re-affirmation of faith (those who have been baptized and come from other denominations/faith traditions) or transfer of letter (from other UCC churches). Don't feel you have to know all the answers—just come and express your interest to join! And, remember, you have a welcome at Safe Harbor — whether a member, friend or visitor!

## 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!



**Donations are always appreciated and needed!**

*Looking for an easy way to donate to Safe Harbor?*

**Check out the "Donate" button on**



# CROSSOVER

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT CROSSOVER SERVICE BEGINS NEW BOOK**

The new book we'll be reading in June is *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.

We'll use these quotes for study/discussion in the coming months. It is not necessary to buy the book but may enjoy having a copy if you choose to purchase. I will provide the quotes we'll read each week, beginning June 14. Thank you for your support of our mid-week worship service, an opportunity for prayer, study, reflection and good discussion!

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.

## ***SHFC Share Wisdom for those who want to live the discipline of simplicity in the Christian life.***

In our recent May study on Wednesday evenings, we discussed some of the concepts from the book by Richard J. Foster entitled *Freedom of Simplicity*. Foster stressed the importance of rethinking our priorities of how we live the Christian life with its complexities and challenges. He offered wisdom around making our lives models of simplicity. I am glad to share what some of our participants offered for wisdom sayings from our study in May.

From Melanie Morrow...  
"Stay out of the dark. Live in the literal light of day and

stay home at night. Read your Bible daily. Go to church."

From another participant...  
"Actions speak louder than words. In your every action and conversation, act and speak with an attitude of love. Your actions completed with an attitude of love will help your heart remain in the right place and your actions completed with a loving attitude will help foster a peaceful world."

From Mac...  
"Remember to be quiet. Be at peace with yourself."

From Terry...  
"Ask the question—What would love do now?"

From another person...  
"Don't think about it, just go to church, any church. You've got to play to win."

Thank you Wednesday evening study group! We learn and grow in our spiritual lives as we listen to one another. I look forward to our future study opportunities!



# Safe Harbor FAMILY CHURCH

*presents*

## A Night of Old Time Singin'

It's a Gospel Singin', Auctionin', Dinner Eatin' event!

*Inspired by the music of Bill and Gloria Gaither*



## Saturday, June 10

Dinner starts at 6:00pm

Singin' starts at 7:00pm

Adults: \$10

Children 7-12: \$5

Little Bitty Kids: FREE!



Safe Harbor Family Church  
-A Shelter From the Storms of Life-  
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
1345 Flowood Drive  
Flowood, MS 39232-2702  
(601) 906-8934



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

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## Kidz:

Our Sunday School time is going great learning about all the people of the New Testament. Please join us at 5:15 p.m. 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 all!

Also, Vacation Bible School starts June 4th! There is a swim part kick-off at Mary and Terry's house at noon June 4th. VBS is June 4th to 7th at the church from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a special service during Wednesday night. We hope you guys come

play and learn how to get geared up with God.

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

Summer is here. No school and days full of all the things you love. 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

June 4th at Noon  
VBS Swim Party

June 4-7th  
VBS 6-8 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

# Birthday Bash

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SHFC Birthday Bash is June 4th 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

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Craft group will meet at the church on June 16th at 7:00 p.m. Craft to be determined.



# Progressive Christians at Millsaps

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It has been quite the academic year! We've wrapped up at Millsaps, with graduation ceremonies a few weeks ago. Safe Harbor's campus ministry with our student group, "Progressive Christians," has been vibrant this year.

Each week, we've been meeting for lunch in a private dining room in the Cafeteria. Usually, 4-5 students attend these informal times to catch up, build community, and think about what's going on in our group and the lives of its members/friends.

We also meet for discussions once a month. The topics of the discussions were chosen by the students themselves, and included: Faith and Academia, LGBTQ People in the Church, Christian Feminism, Steward-

ship and Climate Change, Race and the Church, and Animal Rights. I open the meetings with a characteristically UCC phrase: "Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Students then facilitate the discussions, so that the atmosphere is relaxed and students have a chance to discuss from their own starting points.

Our campus ministry with Progressive Christians also includes parties! We got together to celebrate the beginning of the year, the new year, and the end of the year. Since I live on the Reservoir, I invite students to my home for these occasions. They enjoy spending some time in the back yard, kayaking, playing cornhole, cuddling with my dogs, and so on. It's a great time to relax, talk

about what's going on in our lives, and be a supportive community.

If you'd like to keep up with our campus ministry at Millsaps, "Like" our Facebook page, where we post photos, articles, and announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/479887485528006/>. You can search for the page under the name, "Progressive Christians at Millsaps."

Please keep our graduating seniors in mind as they bring their college careers to a close and embark on the next stage of their lives. Millsaps students and I will be on hiatus for the summer, but we'll resume our campus ministry in the Fall!

-Shelli

## Congregational Meeting - Bylaws Amendment

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**Sunday, June 25th  
Congregational Meeting to  
vote on SHFC Bylaw  
Amendments**

Active Members of SHFC are encouraged to be present for the congregational meeting following our 6 p.m. worship service in order to

vote on the BYLAW amendments. The changes are posted on the website for review.

If you have a question, please speak to our BOD Moderator, Liz Foster. We thank our BOD members for their diligent work to make changes

and give us the proposal for our consideration and vote.

Much gratitude to Liz, Mike, Sally, Elizabeth and Kim!



# Safe Harbor Family Church

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

1345 Flowood Dr.













601-906-8934

## JUNE 2017

Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702

www.safeharborfamilychurch.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.	Sat., June 10th A Night of Old Time Singin' 6p- Dinner, 7p- Singin' <u>Admission:</u> Adults \$10 Children 7-12 \$5 Kids are Free	MAY 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	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	1	2	3
 <b>4 Day of Pentecost</b> 12n- VBS Kickoff at Mary & Terry's  <b>6p- Vacation Bible School</b> <b>6 PM - Praise Service</b> Birthday Bash after service Bring a dish to share	5	6	7 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - VBS service	8	9	10  6:00p - "A Night of Old Time Singin'" Fundraiser at SHFC Auction, Raffle, Bake Off
 <b>11 The Holy Trinity</b>  4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	12	13  <b>6:30p - PFLAG</b> Fondren Presbyterian 3220 Old Canton Rd.	14 Play Day  5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	15	16	17
 <b>18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>  4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	19	20  <b>6p - Card Ministry Meeting</b> (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	21  begins 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	22	23	24
<b>25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>  4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	26	27 <b>6:30p - POPA</b> (at the church)	28 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	29	30	<i>And He will turn the hearts of <u>fathers</u> to their children and the hearts of children to their <u>fathers</u>.</i> ~ Malachi 4:6