



Volume 7, Issue 11
Holiday 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 Har-
bor,

November and December is tradition-ally a time in the life of the church when we talk about stewardship. Yes, giving of our time, talents, money and re-sources to the life of our church is celebrat-ed! November is a month for counting our blessings and being thankful. December is a month when we focus on giving and receiving in the spirit of the Christ.

As we begin to plan for next year's budget, it is a good time to ask about how we use the "talents" God has given to us to

support our church. There are many plac-es we visit (grocery stores, retail shops, etc.) and are asked to make donations for worthwhile causes. Our church asks for donations and we also ask for your involve-ment.

We know the "way of Jesus" is the way of giving, not only our money, but our leadership and in-volvement to our faith family.

On behalf of Safe Harbor Family Church, I want to, first, say THANK YOU for all your gifts through the year. I say this because without you, Safe Harbor could not con-tinue to fund the budget we have for worship, outreach, church space and week to week life to-gether.

And, second, THANK YOU for an-swering the call to journey together. The UCC Stewardship theme is "Journey to Generosity: the Way of Jesus." Matthew 9:35-38 is the pas-sage selected to read. "Then Jesus made a circuit of all

the towns and villag-es. He taught in their meeting places, re-ported kingdom news, and healed their dis-eased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"

Safe Harbor Family church needs your "harvest hands" to continue to carry out a wonderful mis-sion to share God's all-inclusive love. This year we pray we will cherish the oppor-tunity to support our church in regular week to week giving and in special fund raisers that are part of our church life. I hope you may want to think about how you can offer your "talent" participa-tion, singing, praying, reading, or advocacy for justice issues) to our church family. The smallest gift is always appreciated! I'm talking about

more than just "money;" I'm talking about your smiles, your hugs, your "happy to see you" attitude each time we gather.

Thirdly, THANK YOU for present and future generous "harvest hands." There are people who need us and depend on a comforting word at a difficult time in life. Perhaps Woody Allen is right in saying that "Eighty percent of life is showing up."

Your ministry of presence is a blessing to Safe Harbor and depended upon for "life together" to be all God intended. Our delicious Wednesday night suppers, our enthusiastic Voices of Mississippi singing, our volunteer work with our children are just a few ways we let those "lights" shine.

Surely, God is the source of who we are and what we have, and is our model for being generous and faithful. We pray we may be good stewards of all the good gifts we have received. We pray we may continue to be God's harvest hands in a world that needs God's love, generosity and support of a "safe" place to call our spiritual home.

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas blessings be upon each of you,

Pastor Ann Michele

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CROSS-OVER SERVICES AT SAFE HARBOR

6:30-8 p.m. Good food, fellowship, conversation, prayer, singing, study!

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; if you would like to join a Supper Team, please let one of our

Staff know! We will continue to use the ecumenical prayer calendar "In God's

Hands" from the World Council of Churches to raise awareness of neighbors in different

parts of our world who need our prayers and advocacy. Our next book to

study is the Epistle of 1 Thesalonians in the New Testament.

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. We are very glad that our children and youth are participating

in reading and leading in worship. Thank you, everyone!

Services AHEAD! 6 p.m.,

Safe Harbor Family, UCC—

The Place to be on Sunday nights! AND, on Wednesdays!

Wed. November 15—Grace House Thanksgiving Gathering at Safe Harbor

Sun. November 19 Thanksgiving Sunday

Wed. November 22—**NO WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

Sun. November 26 Rev. Cindy will lead Worship for Reign of Christ Sunday

Wed. November 27 Service for World AIDS Day, Dec. 1

Sun. December 3 First Sunday of Advent—hanging of the greens and Jesse Tree

stories

Wed. December 6 SHFC Crossover Service—Mid-Week Advent Meditation

Sun. December 10 Second Sunday of Advent—Jesse Tree stories

Wed. December 13 SHFC AT GRACE HOUSE

Sun. December 17 Third Sunday of Advent—Jesse Tree stories

Wed.-December 20 Blue Christmas Service, 7 p.m.

Sun. December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

Wed.- December 27 **NO WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

Sun. December 31 New Years Eve Worship with Singing Communion



Thanks!

Jon Wenberg and Mary Hauck for creating the craft for the "blessing prayers" from congregation to our children at Safe Harbor on Children's Sabbath, October 22.

Our newly elected Board Members: Liz . Elizabeth and Terry! We are excited for their leadership on our Board of Directors

Thank you to generous donations to UCC Disaster Relief Ministries and Neighbors in Need in October.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Association Meeting of the "western" part of our Southeast Conference, UCC. Rev. Glenn, Rev. Cindy and Rev. Ann attended the meeting on October 13-14 held at the Pleasant Hill Community

Church, UC, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. (see report from Pastor Ann)

Thank you to Alan and Johann for organizing our Voices of Mississippi beginning evening on Sunday, October 22! What a great rehearsal—we felt like "we are the world we are the people"—more to come! LOOK for new rehearsal dates.

Thank you to all those who provide our delicious food every Wednesday evening; such a treat to have food and fellowship before we join for prayer/study.

Thank you to all our children for leading out in the Children Sabbath Program in worship on October 22. Special thanks to Julia for the lovely Kidz Mes-

sage with photos of children from around the world.

Thank you to Angela and Melanie for their work in organizing and leading our Church Retreat day; we are especially grateful that they were willing to host us at their home! Thank you to all who contributed leadership of our crafts (Jon, Mary and Terry) and brought the delicious food we shared! We look forward to a church cookbook from recipes shared.

Thank you to Jimmy for teaching everyone to make beautiful candles on November 10 at Safe Harbor craft night. We continue to be grateful for the candles he makes to give to our visitors at Safe Harbor services.

Prayers

Thanksgiving Prayer — Thanks, and Forgive Us

Loving and generous God, you are the font of every blessing, the source of all we have. Your breath gives us life, your love gives us courage and strength, healing and compassion. You care for us like a loving parent and feed our spirits, our minds, and our bodies. We thank you for your abundance given freely to all.

But God, forgive us for wanting more, even when we have more than we need.

Create in us new hearts to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Help

us to know that our abundance is for others' needs. Great Teacher, write your law

on our hearts: God's abundance is enough for all if we share. AMEN.

Advent Prayer

God of exiles, reveal to us the part of ourselves in exile, the part that is wandering

and needs to come home. As we experience this Advent, we trust that you will

guide us to our true self where you dwell. Amen.

Christmas and New Year Prayer

God of this new year, we are walking into mystery. We face the future, not knowing

what the days and months will bring to us or how we will re-

spond. Be

Christmas love in us as we journey. Let us treasure the gift of faith and know the

assurance of your blessings every day as we journey with you. We praise you and

ask that you fill us with hope. Amen.



NEWS FROM OUR JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRY OF THE UCC

The Find a Better Bank Toolkit

When members of Northshore UCC discovered that their church's bank helped finance the Dakota Access Pipeline, they decided it was time to move the church's money elsewhere. The church became the first religious institution in the country to join a boycott of 64 banks that finance tar sands pipelines. Northshore UCC created a step-by-step guide for other churches who want to move their money.

Racial Justice Update

The FBI targets black human rights leaders as "Black Identity Extremists." This is a newly created term used to target groups like Black Lives Matter as a separatist

movement. This false assertion threatens innocent black activists, supporters, marchers,

and protestors, and puts African American citizens at risk. Listen to the Foreign Policy Podcast released October 24, 2017 with interviews detailing the dangerous and erroneous designation. Questions? Contact Rev. Velda Love, UCC Minister for Racial Justice.

Peace in the Eye of the Storm - Live from Puerto Rico

Last month, Rev. Morales Castro, General Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico, shared updates on the impact of Hurricane Maria on the island, and the ongoing recovery efforts. Through Global Ministries, the UCC has provided disaster relief support and will continue to support our partners through the long-term recovery process in the coming years. Watch the recording from our conversation with Rev. Castro.

Alternative Christmas

During the Caribbean Initiative, Global Ministries invites all to Embrace the Spirit throughout the Christmas season by giving Alternative Christmas Gifts for House of Hope in Haiti. This year, Global Ministries is extending the Alternative Christmas Giving Season until Three Kings Day on January 6, 2018! Global Ministries partner, House of Hope provides a space for healing, learning, and self-expression for children living as "restaveks", a form of child domestic servitude unique to Haiti. Learn more.

Witness for Justice

Looking for up-to-date social justice commentary? Check out Witness for Justice, a weekly editorial opinion column written by the staff of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Thanks to Habitat Volunteers

Thanks to our volunteers on October 21, who assisted in putting in windows, roofing and adding trim. There are two little boys who with their parents will be moving into a new house this December.



Al-Tn-Ms Association Meeting

On Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14, representatives from 30 churches in the "western" part of our Southeast Conference were invited to our fall meeting. There were about 12 churches who actually could make it with representatives and we were one of those churches! Yes, Rev. Glenn, Rev. Cindy (our driver) and I drove to Pleasant Hill, TN, where we joined UCC friends in a program titled "A Time to Connect." The meetings was held at the Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC, near the beautiful Knoxville, TN area.

For me, it was a great opportunity to meet many new

folks who are part of our UCC family in our Association and become connected to the ministries that are unique to our settings. Our time together was spent in worship, sharing and reports from our Conference leadership staff. We welcomed our Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Marie Bachiocchi and were glad to have her share her thoughts about the Association, Conference and wider UCC.

Thank you, Safe Harbor, for providing this opportunity for us to attend the meeting by covering our registration and travel cost! Let us know if you have questions.

We hope you'll want to attend with us in the future. All are welcome to be involved with Association and Conference life.

- Rev Ann



World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is on Friday, December 1st. It is an important occasion for building awareness and stepping-up our responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in our own communities and around the world. At Safe Harbor we will talk about World AIDS day on Wednesday, November 29 in our Crossover Service. Come join the conversation

Decorating the Jesse Tree

Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas Tradition and first started in medieval times.

They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story.

The name comes from Jesse who was the Father of the great Jewish King David. Our Safe Harbor Craft group has prepared Jesse Tree ornaments for us to hang on our tree this year beginning the 1st

Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3. Come and hang an ornament and be inspired by the stories of our faith.



Calling All The Messengers

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO COULD
ATTEND

Safe Harbor Family Church Retreat, "Calling
all the Messengers" held on

Saturday, November 04, 2017

SPECIAL THANKS TO ANGELA AND MELANIE
FOR HOSTING OUR

RETREAT AT THEIR HOME.



Blue Christmas Service

Blue Christmas - A Move
from Darkness to Light

Wednesday, December 20, 7PM

The Advent and Christmas seasons hold so much meaning for us. Some people find 'great joy!' Others struggle with the holidays. For these persons, there is sorrow. There is always sorrow. We feel a loss, especially at this time of year. And, these feelings make it hard to celebrate Advent and Christmas.

For many of us, the Advent and Christmas seasons seem almost impossible to celebrate. It just feels wrong to celebrate when our deepest, inner-most parts are sad and may still mourn the loss of someone dear. Even though the loss itself is natural and normal, there remains a great sadness and, many times, pain is also present. These times are when we need to acknowledge our loss so we can stand to be around other persons, who are so excited about the Christmas season.

On Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm, we will mark our losses this Christmas. We will

come together to 'Move from Darkness to Light' in a Service for a Blue Christmas.

I don't know what all we have lost this past year or what lingers in the midst of our pain. Maybe you have a parent, sibling, child, aunt or uncle, or another person you consider family, who is no longer with us. Maybe you have a friend, a job, a home, or something else of importance to you that has slipped from our grasp. Maybe you have been deeply touched by the bigger tragic events leaving death and destruction behind caused by a crazy gunman or a massive hurricane or a powerful earthquake. For me, this year I will mark the 12th anniversary of being unable to physically share Christmas with my daughter.

But, Christmas is a time of 'great joy!' How can we stop and grieve any loss during this time? Consider that mourning has always been a part of the Season of Christmas. The Gospel of Matthew tells of King Herod's anger and fear when he

ordered all boys two-years-old and younger to be killed in the hopes of getting rid of his rival - Jesus. Every child killed was mourned by a parent.

Later in his life, Jesus experienced so much pain during Holy Week. So did his mother and countless others throughout time. No one has the monopoly on pain and suffering - we all participate in feeling or in causing sadness, sorrow, pain...

Artist Jan Richardson said that, scripture tells us that "God comes to us in the dark". The question for us is, "How do we honor our longing for light while also opening ourselves to the God who comes to us in the darkness?"

Come to the Service for a Blue Christmas and begin to participate in the Move from Darkness to Light. May this service provide an opportunity for us to open ourselves to the power of Christmas!

God Bless, Glenn

Grace House Christmas

The Grace House Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 12th at Grace House (236 Millsaps Ave.) Please help us by purchasing a gift for a resident, and come and join us at Grace House for dinner starting at 7:00pm.





Voices Of Mississippi is officially a not for profit organization in the state of Mississippi! So many exciting, wonderful things have been occurring quickly, and I want to share some of those things with you:

Native Mississippian Tena Clark has graciously offered support for Voices Of Mississippi by providing songs that she has written and is currently writing a new song that Voices of Mississippi will have the honor of being the first to perform it. She is a songwriter, activist, and music producer. She has written "I'll Be Okay," "You Deserve a Break Today," "That's The Beat of a Heart." She co-wrote a song with Patty LaBelle that was sung at memorial service for the Columbia astronauts at National Cathedral, music for NASA and Air Force One by her company Disc Marketing. She composed an original song for the Desperate Housewives soundtrack which was recorded by LeAnn Rimes. She also produced Dionne Warwick's first holiday CD, "My Favorite Time of the Year" as well as "Church: Songs of Soul & Inspiration," a dual music CD and CD-ROM box set featuring Maya Angelou and Toni Morrison along with top African-American female artists such as Patti LaBelle and Chaka Khan performing a collection of favorite R&B, pop, and gospel songs. Clark wrote and produced the single "Way Up There," recorded by Patti LaBelle for the "Church" CD, which was nominated for a GRAMMY® Award. We are truly blessed to

have Tena excited about Voices of Mississippi.

Dr. Tim Seelig, artistic director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, along with the chorus itself, has offered any support that we need. To see a group such as Voices Of Mississippi form in the deep South has brought much excitement to them, and they have are now our Big Brother Chorus. In addition to Artistic Director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Dr. Seelig continues a busy guest-conducting schedule throughout the U.S. and across the globe. He is Conductor Emeritus of the Turtle Creek Chorale, which he conducted for 20 years, co-founded The Women's Chorus of Dallas and taught on the faculty at Southern Methodist University. His recordings have been on Billboard Top Ten and iTunes Top Ten classical charts. The PBS documentary about the TCC received the national Emmy award for best documentary. Dr. Seelig has conducted around the world and regularly at Carnegie Hall for the last 25 years, as well as Lincoln Center and the Southbank Centre in London. His groups have commissioned choral works for a variety of amazing organizations. Some of those are amfAR (The American Foundation for AIDS Research), the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation featuring Dr. Maya Angelou, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital featuring

Marlo Thomas. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus came to the South to bring support, hope, and love to all of us who have been marginalized. Having these men support us and having them encourage us as we begin our journey is truly inspiring.

Voices Of Mississippi promises to be a groundbreaking group for our state and our region. I encourage anyone who is interested in being part of a chorus that will promote unity through diversity and bring hope to a divided nation to join us. December rehearsals are Tuesday, 5 December 2017 at 7 PM and Sunday 17 December 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Alan Black, Founder, President, Artistic Director of Voices of Mississippi



Safe Harbor Family Church Christmas Party

When: Dec. 9, 2017

Where: Safe Harbor Family Church

Pick an ornament from the tree for your admission donation

Teeny, tiny kids: free!

**Food, Music, and General
Silliness!**

Come join us for this and that at the Annual SHFC Christmas party!

Dinner starts at 7, fun to follow!



1345 Flowood Dr

Flowood, MS 39232

(601) 906-8934

Progressive Christians at Millsaps

By Dr. Shelli Poe
Campus Minister

Our Campus Ministry is going strong into the end of the Fall semester! Last month, we met to discuss Muslim-Christian dialogue, and welcomed students from the Muslim Student Association to our meeting. This month, we invited leaders from the Mississippi Immigrants'

Rights Alliance to talk with us about immigration policy. Our own Mike Knezevich participated in the discussion, introducing Millsaps students to the work MIRA has done throughout the years. We were also joined by Patricia Ice and Bill Chandler, who offered much needed information about the state of immigration policy today and what individuals can do to support im-

migrants' rights. See yourmira.org for more information! Please continue to hold us in your thoughts as we gather weekly and monthly during this busy time of the semester. Like "Progressive Christians at Millsaps" on Facebook to see more announcements and photos of our ministry with college students.



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

I am so excited that the holidays are coming up! There is so much to be thankful for and to look forward to during this season. I know I love the big Thanksgiving dinners, spending time with family, decorating, and cold weather. But most of all, I love the joy and hope of the season while we look forward to the birth of Christ.

I challenge you parents, kids, and youth to find something to be thankful for every day this holiday season and take one moment to think about how awesome it is that we are getting ready to celebrate the biggest birthday in history!

We have been learning lots of parables in Sunday school and

doing fun projects on Wednesday night. It is so fun watching you guys grow in the word of God and in His character. Always remember those lessons as you go to school and to play with your friends. As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, we will do lessons preparing us for those things.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, November 18th:

Kidz & Youth Thanksgiving Dinner @ 3:00

December Event: Christmas caroling

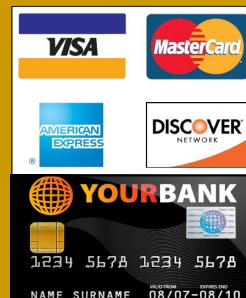
**Sundays 5:15 - 5:45
Sunday School in Kidz Harbor
(drop off begins at 5:10)**



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



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.

If you would like to come and be a part of reaching out to



Join this Ministry!

others, come - we will see you there!

<div><div></div><div><div>Safe Harbor Family Church An Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ 1345 Flowood Dr. Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702</div><div><div>601-906-8934 www.safeharborfamilychurch.org</div></div></div></div>						
OCTOBER 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 17th Sunday after Pentecost Board Apps. due 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>	2	3	4  5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	5	6	7
8 18th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	9 Columbus Day 	10 6:30p -  PFLAG Fondren Presbyterian 3220 Old Canton Rd.	11 National "Coming Out" Day 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	12 Canton Flea Market	13	14
15 19th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service 7:20p-Board Election	16	17 6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	18 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	19	20	21
22 20th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	23	24	25 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	26	27 7p - Craft Group (at Terry & Mary's)	28
29 Reformation Day  4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	30	31 Halloween 	October 11th is National "Coming Out" Day. There are many ways & degrees of "coming out", so do whatever is possible for you - to help breakdown the barriers of ignorance and hostility.			
All Church Retreat Saturday, Nov. 4th from 1p to 7p at Angela & Melanine's 2880 Seven Springs Rd. Raymond, MS				SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 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		
				NOVEMBER 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		