



Faith Harbor
A beacon of hope, anchored in Christ, sharing God's love through joyful service.
14201 Hwy 50/120 P.O. Box 2713 Surf City, NC 28445 (910) 328-4422 www.faithharborumc.org



This is a message that was received by Ann Cassler.
I wanted to share it with you all...

Born a Catholic, married to a Lutheran, and now a Methodist! What other surprises do you have for me, God? Bruce and I were married by a Lutheran minister who was a coworker at the V.A. in Brooklyn, NY. Within a year we were transferred to Albany, NY V.A. and settled down to suburban life. I had everything I hoped for, a husband, a child and a lovely home. Life was great but Bruce had a restlessness about him concerning God and church. Within a year or so he joined the local Lutheran church, and I became an associate member. Life was wonderful and I daringly asked

God silently why He was so good to me even though I had left him behind for so long. I immediately heard the answer in my mind, a gentle, loving voice that said: because I never left you. I was stunned and shaken and grateful all at the same time. And I was determined to never leave God again! I became a real member of our church and began attending all the classes I could find to support my new found faith. I was a new person, a person who couldn't learn enough, experience enough through bible studies and retreats to satisfy my longing to come closer to God.

A few years after joining, while our daughter Nicole was in first grade, Bruce said I think God is calling you to ministry! What??! Are you kidding? No! He let me rant and then just said, Talk to pastor. And I thought, yeah right! He's going to laugh! So, I went to see our pastor and laughingly said: Bruce thinks God is calling me to ministry, hahaha. He looked at me without blinking an eye and said, you have to talk to the bishop. To make a long story short, I was in seminary in Philadelphia by the next September. Our family moved bag and baggage from a 4-bedroom colonial house to a two-bedroom student housing unit. And our daughter transferred to a new school. After 4 years of seminary in Philadelphia and in Blue Bell, a northern suburb, I was kind of liking this city and thought of staying in the area. I mentioned that to my bishop on one of his visits to seminary and he became serious and said, no, you're coming back to NY. I have a church picked out for you. And so began my ministry to God's people in Victor, NY. After eight years I was called to another church in New York where I stayed until I retired, and we moved to Maryland to be closer to our daughter who was in medical school in Bethesda. We found a church to worship in and were enjoying retirement when Nicole asked us to help her find housing in North Carolina because she was being stationed at LeJeune. As we drove around and took a look at the beach, I felt like I was back home in Coney Island. This is where I want to spend the rest of my life. Two years ago, on Valentine's Day, Bruce died after a long and slow physical demise. He was 92. I did his memorial service in our backyard with only close family since the Pandemic was in full swing. It was the second Sunday of the Resurrection. When I gave my homily, I was uplifted by the thought that Bruce was resurrected with Jesus and is truly in God's presence, out of pain and I imagine him beaming as he heard God say, Well done, good and faithful servant. I was so happy for him, I walked on air for months and then it began to sink in. Happy for him but what about me? I joined a widow's group and met some lovely people, one of whom invited me to Faith Harbor to join a short-term grief group and then she casually asked if I wanted to come to church on Sunday. And so I went, not expecting anything special to happen. But was I wrong! My world went from black and white to glorious technicolor. The people, the music, and most importantly the vibrant Word of God being preached with joy and power turned on the lights in my soul that had been dim for so long! I felt like I was being born again! Born into a new way of living! Everything old was new again! After a few new member classes I was welcomed by all of you into membership in Faith Harbor. What a treasure to work in God's vineyards with such enthusiastic fellow members! Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow!

A Letter from your Lay Leader...

DIGGING A DITCH part 2 (Why can't I do something else besides digging a ditch?)



So, you say you don't want to dig a ditch. Why me Lord? I don't want to be out there clearing out and digging a ditch. I am a really good weed puller, I am also really good at painting, but this ditch digging is just not for me. Do you get what I'm saying? Anything but what God has called you to do. Excuses come up, like "I'm not a good ditch digger. I don't want to get dirty. The roots are too hard I don't have the right tools." Excuses after excuses after excuses but you know, digging and cleaning out the ditch is where the Lord needs me, so I will be the best ditchdigger ever. Am I going to be perfect, no. But it doesn't matter where God sends us or what He's called us to do. We are to be the best we can be and reflect Christ to this lost and dying world. And when our time is through someone else will take over, they may do it a little differently but they're still going to be out keeping the ditch clean because at the end once that ditch is dug and it helps drain the water off the land, it will be ready for the purpose God has for it.

We all have been blessed with spiritual gifts that the Lord intends for us to use for His glory. Don't let blessings slip away because you do not like what the Lord has called you to do. Or are too frightened to do what He has called you to do. He has given you what you need to fulfill His calling in your life. We never know if we're going to live long enough to see the fruits of our labor, but as long as we do what we are called to do our labor will not be in vain. And whether you're being called to dig a ditch, to pull weeds, or to pick up sticks, it's all for the bigger picture. You may think it's hard. God will always give you the tools that you will need to complete the job.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24 esv

"And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." Ephesian 4:11-16 esv

I'm looking forward to the glorious heavenly feast that I will get to share with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings to you all your sister in Christ,
Jessica Blackburn, your lay leader



I • M • P • O • R • T • A • N • T

Announcements

WELCOME TABLE:

May 7th: Jeanette Mason & Carrie Olmstead

Please join us in the Sanctuary for prayer service every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 7:30a.m.

All are invited!

COMMUNION SERVERS~

May 7: **Steve & Carrie Olmstead; Laura Alexander & Kathy Winfield (Sandy Wise – Gluten Free)**



Please join us on Tuesday mornings for our weekly workday from 8:00-12:00. *We would love to see you!*

FYI: The Monday Afternoon Bible Study is taking a break for summer~ will resume in the Fall. (Date TBA)

Stephen Ministry will start meeting the second Tuesday of each month beginning May 9th at 6:30p.m.



The Faith Harbor Homecoming will take place May 21, 2023. There will be a catered meal provided. In order to get an accurate food count, please sign up with the number of those attending/eating. There is a sign-up sheet on bulletin board near kitchen. **The deadline to sign-up will be Wednesday, May 17th.** Thank you!



The men of the church are gathering on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Please join us as we venture forth in establishing a permanent and sustainable ministry for all men in the church.

For more information contact Dave Davila at davila21@bellsouth.net or Tom Jackson at tsjaction@yahoo.com

The Quilting Mission meets on Monday and Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Please join us...no experience necessary. Any questions, feel free to call Alma at (540) 588-0738



The Thrift Store is in need of gently used children's clothes for spring & summer.

Reminder: Donations for the thrift store should always come through the Harbor Warehouse. *Thank you for your support!*

Jean Hawley: (910) 330-0760
Beth Walker: (252) 213-2240

Gloria Richardson: (704) 804-4909
Sylvia Bowman: (910) 284-3131

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS...



Please join us every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for Children's Story Time!
Tell a friend, bring a friend!

Jr. Basic is in need of parent volunteers to help with preparing and cleaning up for lunch time. Please let me know if you can help with one of the dates listed below.

May

May 7th: Parent's Potluck/Jr. Basic

May 14th: Happy Mother's Day!

May 21st: Jr. Basic/End of school year party!

A look ahead: Vacation Bible School June 26th-29th. 5:30 - 8:30pm. Dinner will be served!

Vacation Bible School Volunteer sign-up sheet is in the narthex. It takes many hands to make VBS possible! Even if you cannot commit to all four days, please consider signing up to help one evening or for decorating and cleaning up. Thank you for your support!



***Sun., May 7th~** Regular MS & HS youth group from 5-6:30pm in The Reef. *We will be having a Clean-up Day in the Reef and Pizza Party! Please let me know if your youth will attend (so I can order enough pizza) and have youth wear old clothes and be ready to lend a hand cleaning up our area.

***Mon., May 8th~** Youth Council to meet at 5:15pm in the Library. Any parent or youth are welcome to attend.

***Sun., May 14th~** No Regular youth group meetings due to Mother's Day holiday. Enjoy some Family time!

***Fri., May 19th~** Coastal Duck Derby Race at Jungle Rapids at 5:30pm. Youth encouraged to attend to represent our team T.I. Ducks in MOcean & volunteer at the event as a group. Please let me know if your youth would like to go, I can drive the Van. We would need to leave by 4ish that afternoon due to traffic on a Friday.

***Sun., May 21st~** Senior Recognition & Youth Sunday at the 9:30am Service. Please let me know how your youth would like to serve. We will need Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Doorman, Children's helpers. This is also Homecoming Sunday!

MS & HS youth to meet at regular time from 5-6:30pm in The Reef/Library. End of School Year celebration & activities!

***Sun., May 28th~** No Regular youth group meetings due to the Memorial Day Holiday Weekend.

SAVE THE DATES FOR SUMMER:

1) Sun., June 4th~ Summer Youth Kickoff Event from 5-8pm at the church. We will have a huge waterslide, games, cornhole, etc. All Youth (including rising 6th graders) & families are welcomed to join us. Dinner is being provided, Come join the fun! Jewels Swain & Deanne Chryst are the contacts.

2) MS Summer Breakfast & Bible study & games~ June 6th- July 11th (includes Rising 6th- Rising 9th Graders). Transportation can be provided. Deanne Chryst is the contact person.

3) VBS at Faith Harbor UMC~ June 25-29th. All MS & HS youth are encouraged to serve in the different areas. Melissa Schleinkofer is the contact person.

4) MS youth local missions~ July 19-23rd, VBS at Maple Hill Presbyterian Church. Pastor Philip is the contact person.

5) HS Summer Mission trip~ July 17-21st through Camp Generate in Asheville, NC. Deposits have already been paid. More info. soon. If your youth has NOT signed up & they are interested- please contact Jewels Swain ASAP.

Feel free to contact me should you need further information about anything listed here. We thank you for your faithful support and prayers for our youth and this ministry. Peace be with you.

Blessings,
Jewels Swain, Youth Coordinator
910-232-9844

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

My actions and words can lead someone closer to Christ.

God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years."

~Genesis 1:14 (NRSV)



Members: Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Nancy Buckman, Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Janet Hughes; Martha Marlow; Hank & Jan Maser; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Sean Mooney, Wendy Mooney and family; Judy Pratt

Military: Joe Fraley, Alex Harris, Andy Harrison, Ryan Hermance; Greg Holmes; Sgt. Joey Horne; John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, David Ritz, Michael Roberson.

Family and Friends: *David Boyd; Scott Carlson (Gail Ace's nephew); Gerry Cook (Kim McCluskey's Mother); Eileen Eifert (John Pratt's sister); Parker Fox; the Hoopes family; Tim Maser; Wendy Mooney's mother Shirley; Virginia (and Jimmy Platts); Johnny Paliotti and his mother Donna; Connie Paschall; Ted Penny (Vance's Father); Barbara & Neil Schilling; Mary Sloan; Stephen Smith; Nancy Sproull*

Website Prayer Requests: *Adrian Capps; Lorraine Chavez; Betty Parrish, Mylinda Paschal & Tetsuo Nakatsu*

And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort, and healing. Heavenly Father, I am praying for complete healing and good health. Please take away my worries & grant me inner peace and strength. AMEN

SCRIPTURE CARD- Week of May 8th

Centering Prayer: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Psalm 33

M Acts 14.5-18, John 14.21-28

Tu Acts 14.19-28, John 14.27-31

W Acts 15.1-6, John 15.1-8

Th Acts 15.7-21, John 15.9-11

F Acts 15.22-31, John 15.12-17

Sa Acts 16.1-10, John 15.18-21

Su Acts 8.5-17, I Peter 3.15-18, John 14.15-21

Key scripture: I Peter 3.15: "In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord."



MAY

2nd: Isaac Henry

4th: Michael Alexander; Kevin Woolard

7th: Gail Ace

8th: Linda Wells

9th: Jessica Matthews; Tamara Jones

11th: Hunt Tayloe

13th: David Cosner

17th: Caroline Shepard; Sandy Sly

18th: Oscar Phillips; Austin Hengst

20th: Doug Medlin; DeAnne Chryst

27th: Emma Chryst

31st: Chris Campbell

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

Sunday, 5/07

8:00 Beach Service
9:30 Communion Service
10:30 Adult Bible Study, Rm. 6
11:00 JR Basic & Parents Potluck
5:00p.m. MS/HS Youth Group

Monday, 5/08

7:30 Open Prayer
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
5:15p.m. Youth Council Meeting, Rm. 6
6:30p.m. Cub Scouts, Rm. 1-4

Tuesday, 5/09 (Workday)

7:30 Open Prayer
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
10:00 Children's Storytime
6:30p.m. Spiritual Gifts Class
6:30p.m. Stephen's Ministry meeting
7:00p.m. Women's AA Group/Reef
9 – 4:00p.m. St. James UMC Retreat (Here)

Wednesday, 5/10

9:30 Communion
10:00 Rainbow Circle, Rm. 6
12:00 Spiritual Gifts Class, Rm. 6
7:00p.m. Choir practice
7:00p.m. Boy Scouts/Reef

Thursday, 5/11

7:30 Open Prayer
12:00 AA Group, Rm. 6

Friday, 5/12

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group

Sunday, 5/14 ~ Mother's Day

8:00 Beach Service
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 Adult Bible Study, Rm. 6