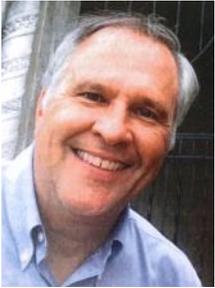




## Beacon

... guiding our walk

August 2021



After one month here, I am amazed at the amount of volunteering and ministry that goes on in this place. Many of you volunteer at the Thrift Store. Thank you for what you do in helping people in our community find things they need at affordable prices. The Christmas in July from the bays is such a cool idea. I noticed a lot of people at each of these ministries every time I was there.

Each Monday volunteers from our church and from others prepare meals that are distributed to those who need them. A lot of work goes into the planning, preparation and distributing of these meals. They make a difference in the lives of a lot of people.

Many of you were there to help out with the summer music camps. Megan did an excellent job planning and leading them. Several volunteers covered everything from Bible study to food to games and everything else that needed to be done. Thank you.

And Science camp as well. Many volunteers from our church made that possible for our community.

I can tell that this is a church that takes seriously our opportunity to minister to our community. I am looking forward to the day, when unhindered by COVID, we can continue to reach out to our community.

I know there are other ministries that go on that I failed to mention. But what you do is important. THANK YOU to every one of you who volunteer! You are appreciated.

Grace and Peace

Don



Just a note from Megan Mash

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

Do you like a great mystery novel or movie? I remember watching *Unsolved Mysteries* as a kid. I was glued to the television while trying to piece together the clues to solve the puzzle. *Clue* was also a favorite game of mine. It was much more challenging than *Sorry!* and therefore provided entertainment for as long as I could convince people to play. “How firm a foundation” is a hymnological mystery. It was first published in John Rippon’s *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors* in 1787. The author of the text was only identified as “K.” Each subsequent edition sheds more light on who the author could possibly be. The 1822 edition identifies the author as “Kn,” in 1835 as “Keen,” and in 1844 as “Kirkham.” Hymnologist William Reynolds suggest that the identity of the author could potentially be Richard Keen. Keen was the song leader at Carter Lane Church in London where Rippon served as pastor. However there are no hymns in earlier editions attributed to Keen.

“How firm a foundation” is a beloved hymn by many. This list includes Robert E. Lee who requested the hymn be sung at his funeral, Andrew Jackson who had is sung at his deathbed, Woodrow Wilson had it sung at his funeral, and it was a favorite of Theodore Roosevelt.

What is certain about the author of this hymn is that this Christian was steeped in scripture. 2 Peter 1:4 is quoted above the original text and reads, “Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” (NIV) The hymn then provides guidance from scripture to use along the sometimes turbulent path of life. The quotes in the text are written in the context of being delivered from Jesus but also reference passages of the Old Testament. The second stanza quotes from Isaiah 41:10 “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; year, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (KJV) The final stanza draws upon several sources but is especially influenced by Deuteronomy 31: 6, 8: “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee... he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” The author notes the end of the final stanza “I’ll (Jesus) never, no, never, no, never forsake” comes from Hebrews 13:5 which states, “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

When you experience the tribulation that life brings, remember the words of this hymn. Build a strong foundation of faith in the Word of God, who will never leave or forsake you, no matter what trials come your way. The waters cannot overtake us and God’s grace is sufficient. When we lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus, we will be assured of the promises God makes to walk through life with us.



- No Board of Trustee meeting in August
- SPRC will meet Monday August 16 at 2pm in the FH
- Choir resumes August 12
- All Bell Choirs resume
  - Joyful Ringers (beginning ringers) 3 pm Sanctuary
  - Bell Choir 7 pm Sanctuary
- Mary Lou's Small Group will resume study September 9 at 9:30 am in the Small Group Room

## Fellowship Café



Coffee hour after worship has been restructured to reflect the time spent together after worship. Changing the name to Fellowship Café has put the emphasis of “fellowship” (friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests) as our focus. Several members also said that they miss sandwich Sundays and other fun events. Others said the brunch meal every week was too much, and overwhelming.

Fellowship Café was born. A simple Sunday morning get together time after worship to visit with friends and have a cup of coffee and a sweet treat or a piece of fruit.

In the months that have a fifth Sunday, the Fellowship Café will have a more extensive brunch like format. This will be the time for you to bring something yummy for the table.

If your group would like to sponsor a fifth Sunday Brunch, just talk to Sharon Johnson.

Fellowship Café would like to be self supporting (not costing the church anything) and would be glad for donations of fruit or cookies or breakfast breads. See Sharon Johnson for what is needed in a certain week.

If you would like to help with Fellowship Café, there is always something to do. (even sanitizing tablecloths and folding them up for the next Sunday is a big help).

Looking forward to our new Fellowship Ministry and working with you  
Sharon

### **Fellowship Café August 29, fifth Sunday Brunch**

If you would like to participate in the brunch just bring your goodies to the kitchen before worship. If you are bringing something hot or that needs to be reheated let Sharon know.

After worship everyone is invited to join us in the fellowship hall for brunch.

Thanks for all you do!

Sharon Johnson, Email: [s.johnson@sebastianumc.com](mailto:s.johnson@sebastianumc.com)



Happy August

Mary's Circle (UMW) is planning a fun day lunch at Capt. Butchers on August 10. If you would like to go just let Sharon or Ann know. Some of the Roseland ladies might be joining us for this informal lunch to chat and touch base with each other and thank the Lord for the Grace He has given us.

Our next regular meeting is September 17 at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Peace

Let's spread a little light today!

Sharon Johnson & Ann McCullough  
 Co-Leaders, Mary's Circle  
 Sharon—johnsonunc@bellsouth.net  
 Ann— anncmccullough@gmail.com

*“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” – Edith Wharton*

*The CDC now recommends that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people mask indoors in areas where there could be community spread.*

*Please feel free to wear your mask at Sunday Worship service.*

## Happy Birthday

Dot Judah	August 9
Dave Barry	August 10
John Fox	August 16
Vic Grabis	August 18
Megan Mash	August 18
Peg Storey	August 19
Linda Grabis	August 21
Janice Ertel	August 25
Linda Ott	August 25
Peggy Dejonge	August 26
Janice Marx	August 26
Joyce Marr	August 29
Barbara Farrington	August 31

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, that means we don't have that information in our records. Just call the church office to add yours.*

## Happy Anniversary

Tom & Diann Flanigan	August 15
John & Margit Hollifield	August 21
George & Carol Decker	August 27
Wayne & Ann Marie Van House	August 29

Thrift Shop is open Monday, Friday and Saturday 10 am—2pm  
 Boutique in the Bays (storage bays behind church office) every Friday 10 am—2 pm

# August 2021

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

1 Worship 10 am 3 pm LOL	2 Soul Café FH Feeding 12—1 pm	3 UMM meet Roadside Restau- rant 12pm	4	5 Ben A Adult Bible Study 10 am ZOOM	6	7
8 Worship 10 am Welcome new members 3 pm LOL	9 Soul Café FH Feeding 12—1 pm	10 UMM meet Roadside Restau- rant 12pm	11 Ed Computer Circle Church Office 1 pm	12 Ben A Adult Bible Study 10 am ZOOM	13	14
15 Worship 10 am Fellowship Café 11 am FH 3 pm LOL	16 Soul Café FH Feeding 12—1 pm SPR 2 pm FH	17 UMM meet Roadside Restau- rant 12pm	18 Ed Computer Circle Church Office 1 pm	19 Ben A Adult Bible Study 10 am ZOOM	20	21
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**AUGUST 29  
FELLOWSHIP CAFE  
5TH SUNDAY  
BRUNCH**





July Music Camp





**Open**

*hearts.  
minds.  
doors.*

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