



OUR SECOND CENTURY TOGETHER

One pastor's observation.....

'Halloween is a comin'!, the day on which normally well-behaved boys and girls become zombies and scream queens. And it is not just a children's holiday anymore: Adults currently spend an average of \$79.56 per person on their Halloween costumes. The holiday has expanded to include a month of lawn decorations, plus weekend parties for adults and children. The National Retail Federation estimated that 68.6 percent of Americans celebrated Halloween last year, spending \$7.16 billion.

As Americans, we clearly like to be scared by horror movies. We also enjoy dressing up on Halloween and letting out our inner witch, vampire or zombie. What's going on with this? Should Christians be concerned that a pagan holiday has become big business in the United States, involving almost 70 percent of the population?

The name Halloween has Christian origin -- it means "All Hallows' Eve," the night before All Hallows' Day, more commonly called All Saints' Day. But even though it has a Christian name, Halloween has pagan roots that go deep into the Celtic festival of Samhain, which means "summer's end." Samhain was a time of transition, in which farmers prepared for the cold winter months that were coming; it was also a time when the physical and supernatural worlds were believed to be very close to one another. Magical things could happen, according to the Celts.

Once Christianity became the dominant religion of Europe, these ancient beliefs took on a Christian flavor. The souls of the dead were believed to wander the earth until All Saints' Day, and Halloween was the last chance for angry ghosts to gain vengeance on their enemies. So what did Christians do? Put on masks and costumes to disguise themselves. The tradition continues when we dress up as witches, vampires and zombies.

Halloween clearly contains some problems for Christians today, rooted in its traditions of magical occurrences and wandering ghosts. Not that any of us builds bonfires to ward off evil spirits, as the Celts did, or dresses up in costumes to

hide from angry ghosts, as European Christians did. But still, problems can arise for Christians who believe that the holiday breaks down the barrier between the physical and the supernatural worlds.

Just maybe, Halloween can help us remember that we are flesh and blood, skeletons with skin. As the traditional commendation at a Christian burial reminds us, "*We are mortal, formed of the*

earth, and to Earth shall we return." As mortals, we are formed from the earth. None of us is God; none of us is immortal. We have limited time on Earth, as creatures of flesh and blood and bone, to take the path of service to God. Horror movies can be scary, but there's really nothing more terrifying than the path of evil that leads to death and condemnation.

More importantly, Halloween points us to All Saints' Day. It is, after all, All Hallows' Eve. Halloween reminds us that "*we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses*" (Hebrews 12:1), a heavenly congregation of faithful servants of God who have gone before us. On Halloween, we should remember that the barrier between the physical and spiritual is really quite thin -- thin in the sense that we can easily see the examples of the graceful and loving relatives, friends, colleagues and fellow church members who have entered everlasting life with God.

On All Hallows' Eve, let's not focus so much on *the living dead*. Let's remember the dead who are still living as saints of God, and as inspirations to us.



Meagan's Memos

Hey All!

We are getting back into the groove of a new school year and having a great time at youth group! We just finished up a Sunday School series on Prayer and now we are focusing on "Back to the Bible." For the next few months, we will be progressing through the Bible and talking about key stories. We will consider how the stories of the Bible help us learn about God and our Christian Heritage.

Peace,
Meagan



October Youth Schedule



October 4
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. YSN

October 11
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. YSN

October 18
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. YSN-Dinner Out

October 25
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. Halloween Party

Beginning In October, Buy Your Coffee at Church!

When: Sunday, October 4

What: Sampling of Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate

Why: Equal Exchange Coffee Buying Club

Beginning in October, we will be taking orders for Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, and Chocolates and will plan to take orders about every two months. This provides you an opportunity to participate in a mission to help struggling families in underdeveloped areas as well as contribute to a fundraiser for our local church and the General Church through Week of Compassion and the Women's Empowerment Fund. (See below for more information on these programs)

We will be able to purchase the coffee from Equal Exchange Coop at wholesale prices, but will sell the coffee for the retail price suggested by Equal Exchange. The difference in the cost will be a contribution to LFCC. We will make about \$1 to \$2 on each item sold. You also have the option to take order forms to your break rooms at work or to groups that you participate in outside of church to see if friends or neighbors would like to purchase coffee. This is a simple way for us to help others while also fundraising for our own church.

We are also part of a larger mission through **Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program** which is a vibrant network of thousands of faith communities working to make a difference, together. Through the Interfaith Program, we partner with faith-based relief, development and human rights organizations and work with communities of faith as they learn about and promote Fair Trade. People of faith are living out their values through their consumer choices, and farming communities are providing for their families, greening our planet and building a better future.



It's Apple-Picking Time!

Join our retirees group when they make their annual drive to the Jaemor Farms in the north Georgia mountains on Thursday, October 22nd. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to ride together and have lunch at Micki Pig's.



CWF/ Disciples Women



Looking ahead to **November, Saturday the 7th is the annual Harvest Meal.** This year (as we did last year) it will be a pot luck and we will have a basket for donations. All are invited to attend for good food and good fellowship. Bring your favorite dish to share. The CWF/Disciple Women will provide the drinks and bread.



Harvest Dinner

Deadline for the November Newsletter is Thursday, October 22

October Birthdays

- 1 Bill Nielsen
- 3 Craig Richardson
- 7 Larry Roberts
- 8 Maggie Joy Westbrook
- 12 Jim McCollough
- 19 Sandy White
- 23 Rod Baker
- 24 Clayton Moss
- 25 Eva Krahwinkel
- 30 Meredith McElhanon Bell



October Anniversaries

- 3 Clayton & Nancy Moss



FRF/We Are Eating Around the World

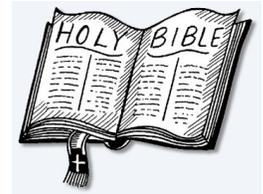
Join us on Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. for our next Featured Restaurant Fellowship at Eagles Landing Café and Grill. They feature an Italian Buffet on Tuesdays for \$10.



Their address is 3001 River Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044.

Youth Responsive Readers - October

- October 4: Rafael Evatt-Machado
October 11: Rebecca Thompson
October 18: Elizabeth Clackum
October 25: Annie Ballew



Worship Helpers

- October 4: **10:50 Reader** - Marilyn Parks
Communion Meditation - Libby Ballew
- October 11: **10:50 Reader** - Mabel Simmons
Communion Meditation - Pamela Evatt-Machado
- October 18: **10:50 Reader** - Jimmy Peeples
Communion Meditation - Joey Baker
- October 25: **10:50 Reader** - Meagan Smith
Communion Meditation - Jay White

SHARING OUR SPACE

Welcome to Living the Word Church

LFCC is allowing a start up church to utilize space in our building. Led by Pastor Duncan, the Living the Word Church began holding a Sunday Service at 8:00 a.m. and a Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:00 p.m. There will be more to come as we develop a relationship with Pastor Duncan and the Living the Word Church. Please welcome these fellow Christians into our midst.

Shenanigans Coming

Possible coming in the near future we may be allowing space for a program for Autistic teens. Shenanigans holds classes throughout the metro area around the year. These are weekly 1-hr groups that use improv to work on social communication challenges of youths through adults on the higher end of the autism spectrum. They anticipate the Lawrenceville group will be teens and young adults.

Disciples of Christ has been very welcoming to their programs, they have been hosted by the Chestnut Ridge CC and have held another of our programs at the Sandy Springs CC.

For more information on this program go to <http://www.shenanigansimprov.com/>

October Elders/Deacons

Serving at the Table

Elders: Jimmy Peeples & Bruce Johnson
Deacons: Brian Ballew, Karla Johnson, Libby Ballew
Deacon-in-Training: Rebecca Thompson
Lead Server: Libby Ballew, lead server, can be reached at 404-538-2863. If you can't be present on any Sunday, please call her as soon as you know.

Servant-Leaders

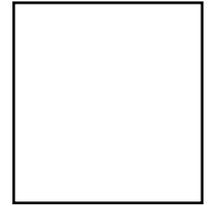
Lead Server: Libby Ballew
Greeter/Bulletins: Brian Ballew (4th), Eva Krahwinkel (11th & 25th), Libby Ballew (18th)
Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord, Nettie Patterson, & Gen Ashby



First Family News

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LFCC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jay White
Music Director: Kim Peeples
Youth Director: Meagan Smith
Office Manager: Linda Rowe

The Disciples of Christ Coffee Project

Started in 2008, the **Disciples of Christ Coffee Project** is a collaboration between Equal Exchange, Disciples Home Missions, and Week of Compassion to involve more Disciples in supporting small farmers around the world. For each pound of fairly traded coffee, chocolate, tea, and foods Disciples purchase through the Coffee Project, 15 cents per pound goes to the Project's Small Farmer Fund. That Fund amounted to \$1,635.21 in 2014 alone!

The Women's Empowerment Fund was launched by the Week of Compassion at the 2010 Quadrennial. Rooted in the knowledge that economic and social development around the world, including in North America, depends on how we support and empower women, this fund supports the work of Week of Compassion partners to support the educational, entrepreneurial, and other aspirations of women all over the world.



Joys and Concerns

We never cease in praying for the needs of: ... Eileen Mc; Nancy W; Mildred P; Barbara & Bill P; Reba T; Chris K; Ray E; Kris J; Barbara T; Lynn B-P; Jan T's friend; Dorrie T; Terressa A; Jimmy's co-worker's son; Chris K's friend, Hailey; Nancy G's cousin, Linda; Nancy G's brother-in-law, Ken; Gen A; Mary Jo A; Alma F; Nettie P; Lenora L; Rod's uncle passed away; Patricia T's daughter, Jan; Noah R; Nancy G's friend; Reba T; Doug C; Bessie K; Jim M's friend's father, Roger; Jim M's friends, Lois and Bill; Linda R's cousin, Emmalee; Ann K; pray for persecuted Christians around the world; those suffering from depression.

We give thanks and praise to God for... Next phase of New Beginnings.