

Hallowing Halloween

In an article in Christianity Today, I remember liking the following:

It is now popular in some Christian circles to repudiate any celebration of All Hallows Eve—Halloween. I have always considered Halloween a day to celebrate the imagination, to become for a short time something wonderful and strange, smelling of grease paint, to taste sweets that are permissible only once a year. How wonderful to be with other children dressed up as what they might grow up to be, what they wished they could be, or even what they secretly feared. All of us, dreams and nightmares, were brought together on equal footing, going from door to door to be given treats and admired for our creativity. How delightful to go to parties with doughnuts, apples, brown cider, and pumpkin cakes—and to hear spine-tingling ghost stories and feel our hearts skip a beat when the teller grabbed for us.

Some Christians shun make-believe. Such believers feel that a young Christian's mind should never long to be in lands where little men have fuzzy feet, dragons breathe fire, and horses have wings. Instead, they maintain that a Christian should be caught up in the here and now of the "real" world. Defending the reality of fiction and the value of fantasy requires an entirely different essay. Christians certainly may be leery of sharing anything with modern pagans and Satanists who claim Halloween as theirs. But who gave these individuals the right to claim the holiday? Satanists calendar is a perversion of Christian seasons—there would be no Satanists if there were no Christians. Let them claim all they want. I give them nothing.

Laughing away our fears and foes

What would a reclaimed Halloween express? In our culture, Halloween traditionally has allowed us to look at what frightens us—to experience it, to laugh at it, and to come through it. So at the end of October, we are visited by cute Caspers, laughing pumpkin heads, and goofy ghouls.

Should the forces of evil be mocked? Should Satan be laughed at? He most certainly should be. At the beginning of *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis includes two telling quotations, the first from Martin Luther: "The best way to drive out the devil, if he will not yield to texts of Scripture, is to jeer and flout him, for he cannot bear scorn." The second comes from Thomas More: "The devil ... the proud spirit cannot endure to be mocked." The one thing Satan cannot bear is to be a source of laughter. His pride is undermined by his own knowledge that his infernal rebellion against God is in reality an absurd farce. Hating laughter, he demands to be taken seriously. Indeed, I would say that those Christians who spend the night of October 31 filled with concern over what evils might be (and sometimes are) taking place are doing the very thing Lucifer wants them to do. By giving him this respect, such believers are giving his authority credence.

In any event, I doubt the anti-Halloween party will prevail. This tactic was tried before—with Christmas. In the 17th century, because of its pagan ancestry and because it was a Roman Catholic holiday (Christ-mass!), many Protestants decided that true believers should not recognize Christmas. In 1620 our pilgrim forefathers purposely started unloading the Mayflower on Christmas Day to make the point to the crew that they were not going to observe such an evil day.

I'm glad those believers—however well-intended—failed. How bleak and desolate would a winter's December be without Christmas! We could have lost our chance to celebrate Christ's first coming and a chance to witness to the world, as I fear those pilgrims lost a chance to witness to those sailors.

If we give up All Hallows Eve, we lose the delight of God's gift of imagination and we condemn the rest of society to a darker Halloween because our laughter will not be there to make the devil run.

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*So enjoy the gift of laughter and imagination and remember that in Christ, we fear nothing.
Lovingly, Pastor Katie*

Christian Halloween Poem on page 6!



Children's Corner By Betty McFarland

October is a busy month!

On October 14th, the FPC of Monticello will be hosting the Kairos School families. This is a special day for the church. The day is called "Kairos Day at Church." Many families will visit our church to bring their children to sing during the 10:00 church service. This is a day that all members and their families can welcome all the Kairos families. Immediately following the worship service, there will be lunch for everyone. Please bring several dishes to share with the Kairos families. Try to think of food that children would eat. Everyone is invited to welcome and share your church with new friends.

Also on October 14th, the Children's Choir will be singing during the worship service. The Children's Choir will sing the second Sunday of each month. Please mark your calendars!

Ten excited children joined me for the first day of Sunday School. Our new unit starts with Moses. The new material is called "*One Room Sunday School, Grow, Proclaim and Serve.*" The children made a special craft to give to someone who takes care of them. The lesson talked about who cared for Moses. The children will start a rewards program in Sunday School. Each time the children come to S.S., bring a friend, or bring their Bible they will receive a GOD dollar. The dollars will be kept at church and later the children will be able to purchase a gift to give to someone who they care about.

Kairos School By Betty McFarland

Fall has arrived! October at Kairos is very exciting for all the children. Starting October 4 & 5, our fall fundraiser will begin which is called "Believe Kids." Please help us raise money for classroom equipment and supplies.

October 11 & 12, Kairos will be taking a field trip to the Wagon Wheel Pumpkin Patch near Clinton. This field trip is lots of fun so if anyone from the church would like to go along, please come. Kairos will be leaving from the building around 9:15 a.m. and returning at 1:15 p.m.

October is Fire Safety month.

A date to remember: October 14th = Kairos Day at Church. The children will sing during the 10:00 a.m. worship service and have lunch following service.

At the end of the month, we will have our annual Halloween Parade and Parties. The party dates are October 30 & 31. The children will parade around the Monticello square.



Clown Report (Jesters for Jesus)

In October, the clowns think of cooler temperatures, turning leaves, and pumpkins. This year, we are thinking of our church's 170 birthday. The "Jesters" are trying to think of a "fun" way we can celebrate!

On Sunday, October 7th, "J 4 J" will meet immediately following our morning worship service. We'll be rehearsing for two upcoming dates.

The clown troupe will present a skit for the children's sermon on Sunday, October 21st.

Then, the clowns plan a trip to Danville, where we will entertain for an evening worship service for the First Presbyterian Church. The service will be at Danville's "The Java House", at 7:00 p.m.

Until Next Time, "Butterfly" the clown

Save Lives by Giving Your Shoes the Boot in October!

Bring your used or new shoes to the First Presbyterian Church and the Shoeman Water Projects will turn your shoes into clean drinking water. To participate, give your shoes the boot by placing your used or new shoes, tied or rubber-banded into pairs in our drop off bin beside the food pantry bin at the entrance to the First Presbyterian Church. This is our second drive for the project.

Shoeman Water Projects picks up used and new shoes year round from businesses, churches, schools, and shoe drives. Once collected, The Shoeman gives a second life to the shoes, selling them to exporters.

The money from the sale of the shoes is used to purchase well drilling rigs, water purification systems, and other supplies to bring clean, fresh water to those in need. The shoes stay out of landfills and become much needed affordable shoes. For more information, visit www.shoeman.org.



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE "PENNY SUPPER"

The Penny Suppers began in 1910 and ended in 1957, when the last regular Penny Supper was served. One was also served on May 9, 1992 at our 150th anniversary of our church and on October 28, 2007 for our 165th. Throughout the early years, money was charged for each food item selected and the funds were then given as fundraising events for various organizations within the church.

A recipe book was made for each of the items in the Penny Supper and is now owned by Madolyn Walden, given to her by Lula Mae Giese. Each person who cooked a dish would put their recipe in the Penny Supper cookbook, along with the author of the recipe.

Example of an Early Menu Items and cost:

Annie Dilathush's	Chicken Pie	7 cents
Elsie Hetishee's	Cold Slaw	3 cents
Bess Bushee's	Millionaire Salad	6 cents
Nellie Tatman's	Date Sandwiches	2 cents
Mrs. Dale Kelly's	Apple Dumplings	12 cents
Lola Phillip's	Rhubarb Pie	13 cents
Mrs. C. M. Miller's	Pickles	1 cent
Mrs. F. M. Shonkwiler's	Peach Pudding	9 cents
Olive T. Dighton's	Savory Cheese Sandwiches	2 cents
Lucy Kaiser's	Rolls	2 cents

(This is just a few examples of the list of food items made in the "Penny Suppers")

On November 4th, 2012, our church will have a Penny Supper/Lunch event after our 10:00 am worship service, to continue our 170th celebration activities for the year. A clipboard of food items to sign up for this event will be passed around the congregation beginning in October.

We ask that you sign up to bring at least one or two dishes to the lunch, one possibly being of the older Penny Supper variety. Madolyn Walden will have the Penny Supper recipe book if you would like to try an original food recipe from years past. Come join the fun and have a great lunch at the church.

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is always the Sunday we celebrate communion with the whole Christian world. Pastor Katie will be bringing her doll collection that her Air Force father brought her from all over the world. We will even try out some different languages in worship, maybe Jesus Loves Me in Spanish. Come and make this day a special part of your life in Christ.

Fall Women's Retreat

The first Friday night and Saturday of November our Presbyterian Women will be joining the Danville Presbyterian women in a joint retreat. It will start on Friday evening and end on Saturday afternoon. It will include Bible study, crafts, good food, fellowship, and a massage. Please make reservations and pay \$20 dollars each to the office to reserve your spot. We will have an enriching time together. More details will follow in the bulletin.

Stephen Ministers, the "After People"

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?"

One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the "After People."

Stephen Ministers are there:

- after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- after the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

To see about having a Stephen Minister care for you contact Barb Lintner, Virginia Ingersoll, or Pastor Katie.

Here is a poem for a Christian Halloween

Jack O' Lantern

I am a Jack O' Lantern
My lights will shine so bright
For I'm a Christian Pumpkin
My symbols tell what's right

My nose is like the cross
On which our Savior died
To set us free from sin
We need no longer hide

My mouth is like a fish
The whole wide world to show
That Christians live in this house
And love the Savior so!

The story starts at Christmas
My eyes are like the star
That shone on Baby Jesus
And wise men saw from far

My color, it is orange
Just like the big bright sun
That rose on Easter Day
Along with God's own Son

And so on Halloween
Let's set our pumpkins out
And tell the trick or treaters
What God's love is all about!