



*Snow Creek
Christian Church*

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September 2020

Reflections
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Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and on the hand they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone..”

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Matthew 4:5-7

This past month, as I have been working my way through seminary, I have been enrolled in a class on social ethics. My assignment the last two weeks was interesting and a bit ironic. I had to provide an ethical basis for churches to reopen for in-person worship while another member of my group provided the counterpoint. I can give you all kinds of well-documented, legitimate reasons for why churches should be carrying on regular worship services under the appropriate safety guidelines. Throughout my time-working on this project though this scripture has stayed stuck in the back of my mind.

It comes from the passage on the temptations of Christ that immediately precede the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In this, the second temptation, the devil puts Jesus in a bit of a pickle. Either jump off the Temple and prove that God will catch him or admit his lack of faith. Jesus does not take the bait. God knows our faith. We do not have to prove it to anyone else. More importantly though, it is not our place to put God to the test. Really, it is the other way around. The temptations of life are there to put us to the test.

God has given us some understanding of this virus that is causing so much heartache right now. We know that large groups of people in enclosed spaces for extended periods of time significantly

raise the risk of transmission. Our faith in God gives us the ability to face risk and illness and death with reassurance that God will catch us. But Jesus' conversation with the devil is a reminder that this fearless faith must also be tempered with humility. God will inevitably put us in positions where we must choose to simply have faith and trust in God's judgment, but we do not need to force God's hand.

Our current situation leaves a lot to be desired. There are essential aspects of worship that we are missing out on and many legitimate reasons to reconvene in-person worship. But as the upcoming month brings a return of children to schools and students to colleges there are also a lot of uncertainties and unknown risks. I hope that the combination of an online service and drive-in service each Sunday have been at least serviceable for you all. As always your feedback on the situation is welcome and your patience throughout has been greatly appreciated. As we continue to navigate through the circumstances though I have caught myself many times wanting to simply throw up my hands and just trust that God will take care of the situation. This project helped to remind me that God works with us and not for us. It is important for us to remain steadfast in that faith even as the world around us continues to put it to the test.

God be with you.

Scott

September Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic in *italics*

September 6 (14th Sunday after Pentecost)

- *Exodus 12:1-14*
- Psalm 149
- Romans 13:8-14
- Matthew 18:15-20

September 20 (16th Sunday after Pentecost)

- Exodus 16:2-15
- Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
- Philippians 1:21-30
- *Matthew 20:1-16*

September 13 (15th Sunday after Pentecost)

- Exodus 14:19-31
- Psalm 114 OR Exodus 15 1b-11, 20-21
- Romans 14:1-12
- *Matthew 18:21-35*

September 27 (17th Sunday after Pentecost)

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
- *Philippians 2:1-13*
- Matthew 21:23-32



SCENES FROM THE CHURCH DRIVE IN WORSHIP SERVICE





Snow Creek Community Church faithfully partners
with not-for-profits in our community.
This month we highlight the **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

BACKPACK PROGRAM

SNOW CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4970 Snow Creek Rd
Martinsville, VA 24112-8517



For many of us, one of our fondest childhood memories is rushing home from school and being met by a smiling caregiver (usually mom) who set out a quick snack and refreshing drink and then patiently listened to our day's joys or grumblings. Later, as we went about our after-school activities, the delicious aroma of food in the oven let us know that supper would soon be ready.

Unfortunately, many children don't get to experience such a scene; instead, food insecurity is their daily reality. For some children, their parents are unable to secure steady employment or are struggling with high housing or medical costs and consequently the child's daily access to healthy food is irregular, at best. Their hunger is real.

Fortunately, schools have been able to alleviate some of that hunger with free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch on school days but each weekend and every school break some children don't know when or where they will get their next meal, if at all.

Note: Studies show that food-insecure children are at greater risk of chronic health conditions; lower academic performance; school truancy and tardiness; and increased behavioral problems (anxiety, depression, bullying, etc.).

Enter the Backpack Program.

For nearly 15 years, Snow Creek Christian Church has partnered with Snow Creek Elementary School to help feed these at-risk children. Because of your generous donations, food-insecure children are sent home each week with enough child-friendly food to carry them through the weekend and through the school breaks.

Some years have been difficult; up to 55 children were served one year.

Last year, 38 children experienced food-insecurity and received weekly assistance from the Backpack Program. As you can imagine, 2020 is still somewhat unknown; the pandemic is already presenting additional challenges.

The Backpack Program could not exist without your generosity or without the dedicated efforts of Debbie Haynes, who has continued all these years as the enthusiastic liaison with the school and as the tireless purchaser and organizer of food supplies for the program. Most Sundays, the church youth, along with some adults, assist with bagging the assembled food supplies. Our own Ruby Mae Oakes lovingly created a beautiful quilt that she then donated to be auctioned off to benefit the Backpack Program last year. Area organizations and businesses, such as the Masons and Homestead Dairy, also generously contribute to the Backpack program. Yes, the children receiving the “backpack” bags are blessed and, we too, are all truly blessed beyond measure.

BY OUTREACH CHAIR LINDA HIPPISEY

GLIMPSES OF THE YOUTH AND CHURCH FAMILY PREPARING THE BACKPACK BAGS FOR SNOW CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





YOUTH NEWS

PRAYERS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, INSTRUCTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, PARENTS, AND ALL OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCHOOLS OR COLLEGES.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Prior to the worship service on Sunday, Minister Scott has Bible study for the kids in the covered church picnic area. Also, the parents do a follow up craft with the kids. They join their family for the worship service and are given treats and a fun game to keep them content during the service.



YOUTH SUNDAY

THE KIDS OF THE CHURCH HAD ANOTHER AMAZING YOUTH SUNDAY. THE KIDS HELPED WITH THE SERVICE WITH MUSIC, PRAYER, AND SCRIPTURE READING. ALSO, A SKIT WAS PERFORMED WITH CURRENT SCHOOL ISSUES FOR STUDENTS.







KIDS HARD AT WORK PRACTICING FOR YOUTH SUNDAY PRIOR TO THE SERVICE





LET'S CELEBRATE



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Jimmy Doyle, Susan Norton
8 Nancy Plybon
9 Betty Lou Mitchell,
Susan Doyle,
William Stowe
10 Jimmy Martin
12 Kevin Doyle
14 Phillip Coppins
17 Michele Turner
19 Howard Mitchell
22 Bernice Oakes
24 Morgan Washburn
25 Leon Washburn
26 Jacob Washburn,
Bill Oliver
27 Andrew "Drew" Oliver
29 Diane Arrington,
Roxie Belcher

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

13 Donald & Roxie Belcher
14 Terry & Tressi Mitchell
19 Lee & Molly Mitchell
23 Dean & Jane Arrington
27 Eddie & Jennifer Brown

If you have information for the newsletter on our church family please email me at barb-smith@b2xonline.com or call me at 540 352 4535 or relay in person.

