



## Snow Creek Christian Church

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October 2023

# Reflections

This month at Snow Creek Christian Church will feature ghosts, the undead, and hauntings. But don't be afraid. In fact, we should rejoice.

First of all, because that means that Halloween is here again. The whole community is invited on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 to join us for an evening of costumes and candy at our annual Trunk or Treat. Trick out your cars and even yourselves and bring plenty of treats to share with all of the local children as we have fun and fellowship ahead of All Halloween Even.

But the costumed ghosts that show up that night should not be the only spirits that haunt us this month. The church is a place where we are called to pay attention to the Holy Ghost, the spirit of God that is active throughout our world. It is that Holy Spirit that empowers us to continue the work of Christ here in our communities and to the ends of the earth.

We need not be afraid of that Spirit, but it should haunt us. It should be persistently in

our minds. It should at times disturb us, interrupt our settled lives, even cause unease over our own situations or that of our communities. We should feel its presence prompting us into action, prayer, conviction.

But the hauntings of the Holy Ghost should not be seen as the devilish deeds of the undead. It should be understood as the ever-present love that gives us life, even in death. It is the working of God that brought Christ back from the tomb showing us both the power and the mercy of the one who breathed life into us in the beginning. It is this same Spirit then that should guide us – even haunt us – in our daily lives and that will lead us one day to rise above the grave. It is what delivers us from the evils of the world, helps us conquer our own demons, and leads us away from the devilry of our more wicked desires. It teaches us the ways of God, shows us how to walk in the path of Christ, and inspires us to lead the rest of the world in ministry and care. We should not wait until the day of the dead to be looking for that Spirit. Come join us then at Snow Creek Christian

Church this month as we seek to find both trunks full of treats a couple of days before Halloween and the Holy Ghost in our lives each and every day in between.

God (and the Holy Ghost) be with you.

Scott

## October Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic in *italics*

### **October 1** (18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

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

### **October 8** (19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

- Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
- Psalm 19
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- *Matthew 21:33-46*

### **October 15** (20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

- Exodus 32:1-14
- Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
- *Philippians 4:1-9*
- Matthew 22:1-14

### **October 22** (21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

- Exodus 33:12-23
- Psalm 99
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- *Matthew 22:15-22*

### **October 29** (22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

- Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- *Matthew 22:34-46*

# *Board Minutes*

**June 11, 2023**

G.B. Washburn called the meeting to order. Pastor Scott Oliver had our opening prayer. Minutes were reviewed. Vivian Doyle made a motion to approve the minutes and Kay Boyd seconded, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Bud Hippisley was unable to attend the meeting and sent the Treasurer's report to G.B. G.B. presented the treasurer's report. There were four offerings in May with \$4,896 donated and \$25.00 donated for the Backpack Program. Expenses for the month were \$13,559. Beyond normal expenses were \$8,259 for the AC repair and \$1,049 for food and clothing for the Backpack Program. \$571 was collected and distributed for the Pentecost offering. Total expenses were \$14,608. The final figure from the yard sale is not available yet, but it's estimated to be about \$700.00. Kay made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Joyce Ingram seconded, the motion carried.

## **Pastor Report –**

- Pastor Scott will be here Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup> and will be gone June 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, taking classes at Lexington Theological Seminary in KY. He will be back in the office on Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Bob Mooty will be the guest preacher on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled for Sunday July 9- Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help with the program
- Homecoming is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Scott is expecting to have the invitations out by the end of this week. Cleanup day will be scheduled on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Question was raised, do we hold a Board meeting in July since it would be on the same Sunday as Homecoming? After discussion, Joyce made a motion to cancel the July Board meeting, and Kay seconded, the motion carried.

## **Committee Reports**

- No reports this month

## **Old business**

- Mark Woody's offer to put up crosses on the church property. This possibility was discussed at the recent Elder's meeting. The Elder's agreed that there is not a location on the church property that will offer good visibility of the crosses without interfering with visibility of church features. Joyce made a motion to decline Mark Woodie's offer to install crosses at the church and Kay seconded, the motion carried.

## **New Business**

- Father's Day –We will have candy favors for Father's Day.
- Homecoming – See Pastor's Report. We need arrange for the meal for after the homecoming service
- VBS – See Pastor's Report
- Question was raised, what is the status of the graveyard situation? – No one has contacted GB since last November about transferring ownership of the graveyard. He is waiting to hear from the Prillaman family or their attorney. GB's concern is the upkeep of the graveyard; right now, it's being mowed only twice a month.

Pastor Scott had a closing prayer, Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Damon, Secretary



# *Board Minutes*

**August 13, 2023**

G.B. Washburn called the meeting to order. Pastor Scott Oliver had our opening prayer. Minutes were reviewed and amended to correct the misspelling of the Prillaman name. Joyce Ingram made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Vivian Doyle seconded, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Bud Hippisley reported for June and July. The expenses for both months were normal. The electric bill for the Church is way down from the past few months. Typically, about \$160 of the utility bill is for phone and internet. The electric bill in June and July was under \$200 and had been running about \$450 in April and May. The monthly allotment for insurance increased from \$326 to \$381 in July; this is a 17% increase. With recent natural disasters, we can expect insurance to continue to increase. Question was asked about the increase in Backpack Program expenses. These are due to additional students in the program and school supplies purchased in preparation for back to school. Vivian made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Barbara Smith second, the motion carried.

## **Pastor Report –**

- Thank you for allowing my attendance at the General Assembly. I attended workshops and meetings on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. Major newsworthy events that occurred:
  - The General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens, was reelected for a second and final eight-year term.
  - The Covenant Project, an initiative begun in 2019 undertaken by the Governance Board aimed at seeing how we can live in covenant within our congregation and other Disciple Churches was discussed.
  - A resolution was adopted in association with the Covenant Project, which will result in several administrative changes, most notable: 1) a change in structure and focus of the General Board, 2) a move to using technology to facilitate more frequent and increased communication between local churches and the board, and 3) scheduling the General Assembly on a three-year instead of a two-year cycle.
- In accordance with this, I am trying to gauge interest in an adult Sunday School class focused on some of the theological underpinnings of the Disciples of Christ.
- I have been named Moderator-elect/Vice Moderator to the District. After a pause in District meetings due to Covid, Marilyn Whittaker, the current Moderator, and I are working to revamp and restructure the District to adapt to the changing situations in the churches in the area.

- We need to pay our dues to the District

### **Committee Reports**

- Property: Joyce Ingram reported that we need to purchase a leaf blower for the Church; one was needed during the Church clean up. There was discussion of whether or not we should purchase gas or electric? Since a battery operated electric one can be stored inside the Church, this was the favored option. Vivian asked if we need a weed eater? If so, it should be the same brand as the leaf blower so the same battery can be used. GB will look into pricing a battery-operated leaf blower.

### **Old business**

- Homecoming: GB said Homecoming went really well. We didn't have a lot of meat for the meal, but there were plenty of sides. Joyce said the Church needs to consider purchasing chicken when we host a pot luck.
- VBS: Pastor Scott said VBS went really well. It's our turn to host next year. Since we will have a lot of guests attending VBS, we take care of some maintenance items around the Church, like the door downstairs near the nursery that sticks.

### **New Business**

- Pump House: Someone ran into the old pump house and destroyed the building. A plumber came and installed a new pressure tank for \$1,300. The State Police are investigating and have a possible lead. We don't know if charges will be made or if the person has insurance. We need to determine if both the well and the well house are on the Church property or if the well house is on the Lodge property. If the well house is on the Lodge property, they will split insurance cost with us. The Lodge is considering putting the pressure tank inside the basement of the Lodge rather than restoring the pump house, possibly because they consider it an eye sore or to prevent another accident. This raised concerns about water pressure to the Church and led to discussion of possibly putting a pressure tank in the Church basement with controls in the lodge. Additionally, the Lodge wants to put a manhole cover over the well. Since the well is under the parking lot, this will require digging up the asphalt. The Lodge thinks they have people that can do much of the work to put a manhole cover in for the well.
- Custodial Services – Kay Boyd is resigning as Custodian of the Church. Options are to have a list of volunteers rotating to clean or to hire another person. Consensus was to advertise to the congregation to see who may be interested in the position. GB will compose an email and send to Pastor Scott to send out.
- October Breakfast – Debbie Haynes announced a breakfast to be held on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> with proceeds to go to the Backpack program. Del Smith prepared a brochure to advertise for the breakfast.

- The Finance Committee met the last couple of weeks to discuss the low rate of interest we are drawing on CDs at the bank. We have approximately \$65K in CDs at the bank maturing in 2026, earning 0.4% interest. The Disciples of Christ Foundation have socially conscious mutual funds available at rates of 5% or 6% interest and have been at that level or higher over the past few years. Administrative cost of these mutual funds is 0.5%. In all our funds we have about \$150K. The Finance Committee would like to take all but \$25K to invest in mutual funds to yield as much return on the Church's investment as possible with low risk. We request the Board give the Finance Committee permission to invest the funds to earn more. Curtis Washburn made a motion to allow the Finance Committee to invest the finances of the Church in Disciples of Christ mutual funds, retaining \$25K as liquid funds for emergency use, and to report back to the Church semi-annually, Joyce Ingram seconded, the motion carried.
- Snow Creek Times Sept – Nov: Barbara Smith is preparing items for the next issue and needs them by Tuesday, August 15. So far, she has: the October Breakfast, Trunk or Treat, and highlights from Homecoming.

Vivian made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned.

Pastor Scott said a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Damon, Secretary

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 7:30 a.m.**

October 5 Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m.

October 7 Country Breakfast at the Church. More details below

October 16 Board Meeting 12:00

October 29 Trunk or Treat (More information below)

### **Psalms 19:7-10**

**The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
The testimony of the Lord is sure,  
Making wise the simple;  
The precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart'  
the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;  
The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever,  
The ordinances of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb**

[marielee-goldenhorizon.blogspot.com](http://marielee-goldenhorizon.blogspot.com)



# Country Breakfast Buffet



Snow Creek

Christian Church

4970 Snow Creek Rd

Martinsville, VA

**Saturday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**

from 7:00 - 10:00 AM



Adults \$10.00

Children 6 and under \$5.00

All proceeds will go to support the Back-Pack program at Snow Creek Elementary. Additional assistance is needed due to increase in enrollment

This will be a great opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win one of *Ruby Mae Oakes* hand-made quilts

**Raffle tickets for the quilt are \$1.00**

**Drawing for the quilt will be held at 10:00 am Oct 7**

**All Kids Welcome**

**The Church will host a trunk or treat at the Church parking lot on Oct 29 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**





## **LET'S CELEBRATE**



### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Trey Washburn
- 4 Donald Belcher
- 5 Kia Beall
- 10 Ruth Davidson

- 10 Lucas Perdue
- 13 Ricky Doyle
- 16 Brian Doyle
- 17 Ken Beall
- 18 Jeannie Plybon
- 22 Jennifer Brown
- 25 Mike Doyle
- 25 Max Mitchell
- 28 Janet Perdue
- 29 Taylor Biggs

### **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 24 Jimmie & Vivian Doyle
- 28 Ryan & Melissa Haynes

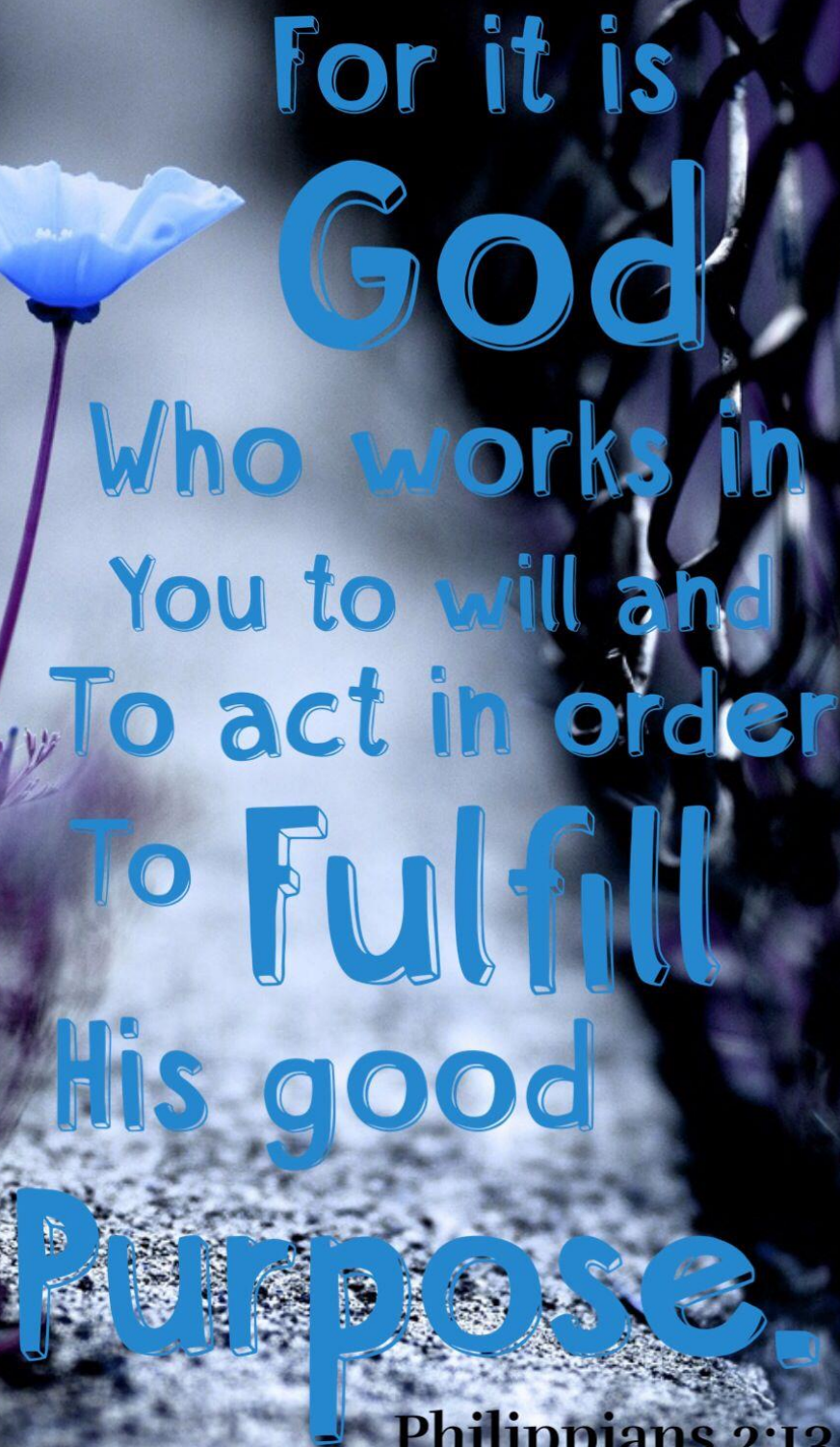
### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Debbie Haynes
- 3 Landon Mitchell
- 5 Kay Boyd
- 7 Melody Martin
- 10 Abbey Shepherd
- 14 Josh Gardner
- 17 Walker Amos
- 19 Keri-Jean Pruett
- 19 Barbara Smith
- 26 George Martin
- 28 Terry Davidson

### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 6 Sammy & Kay Boyd
- 15 Taylor & Heather Amos
- 15 Edward & Joyce Ingram
- 30 George & Susan Martin

If you have information for the newsletter or our church family, please email me at [barb-smith@b2xonline.com](mailto:barb-smith@b2xonline.com) or call me at 540 352 4535 or relay in person. Notify me if you Want to receive a newsletter by email.



For it is  
**God**  
Who works in  
You to will and  
To act in order  
To **Fulfill**  
His good  
**Purpose.**

Philippians 2:13