

## *“Truck or Treat!”*

October 25, 2017

“Trick or treat. Smell my feet. Give me something good to eat!” I don’t know when I learned those memorable words, but just the logic of it all staggers my mind today. Let’s face it: associating the smell of feet with something good to eat would only make sense in the mind of a child awaiting his or her brain stem to full attach, which I suspects happens sometime after high school graduation.

As a child, I remember getting dressed up in a ghostly white sheet, or cowboy hat to hit the dark streets of my neighborhood in hopes of filling my paper grocery sack with candy gladly donated by our friends and neighbors. Frankly, as a child I never really thought much about the origins of the Halloween holiday, until rumors swept the country of razor blades found in apples in New Jersey in 1967 which ended homemade Halloween treats like hot ladles of steaming cream corn and caramel apples!

In 2016, according to Fortune Magazine, Americans spent \$8.4 billion on all the trappings of Halloween from elaborate costumes, decorations, and of course millions of individually wrapped pieces of candy. (By the way, if you are wondering, Snickers is my favorite. Of course, you probably already know I suspect chocolate will be a “food group” in heaven). I suspect the modern re-invention of Halloween can be traced back to the American Dental Association founded in 1859, which currently boast 155,000 dentists nationwide who would love to fill all the little cavities created by the overindulgence of sugary candy.

Of course, most who have dug into the origins of Halloween know that many of the practices date back to Europe when Pope Gregory III declared November 1<sup>st</sup> as “All Saints Day” when the holy Catholic church would remember and celebrate the lives and contributions of the saints. The night before became known as “All Hallows Eve” or “Halloween.” Some historians suggest that Halloween can trace its origin back to the

Celtic observance of “Sambain” celebrated by wearing of costumes and building of bonfires to ward off evil spirits and ghosts. During my lifetime, the whole observance of Halloween became a hot topic from debate among the faithful because of the dark overtones of this secular holiday.

How do people of faith let their lights shine at Halloween? Protest and separation are options, but let me suggest an alternative. Let’s let our lights shine. Did you know among those 18-49 the most popular television show was “The Walking Dead”? What is our fascination with zombies? Not to spiritualize it too much, but could it be that this generation raised on a steady diet of endless wars, mass killings from schools to concerts, and the threat of terrorism feel like the “walking death”? Has something tragic happened below the surface, and the life force within them dimmed. Okay, I may be sounding too much like a Baptist preacher now, but I convinced that love and light always have a lasting positive impact on young and old alike.

How do we let our lights shine during Halloween? Let me suggest a good place to start will be our “Truck or Treat” event on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The children of our county will show up all dressed up with mom and dad in tow hoping for candy and a night full of fun; let’s give them a whole lot more, like a night of light and love. Let’s show them how important they are to us with handfuls of candy and big smiles. Let’s introduce ourselves, and get to know their names and stories. Let’s invite them back on Sundays to experience life as it was meant to be. Let’s tell the story of Jesus. Did you know during the hayride, storytellers will be telling the story of Jesus to young and old alike as they ride around our property? We need storytellers; can we count on you? Let’s make our “Truck or Treat” event an all generations event whether you man the tailgate of your truck, cook and serve hot dogs, tell the story of Jesus, or simple welcome our guests with a big smile and handshake.

# **Prayer Concerns, Weekly Statistics, & Announcements**

## **Announcements:**

### **Fall Revival, A note from Pastor David:**

I would like to thank each and every one who participated in our Fall Revival. God moved among us in powerful and meaningful ways. We owe a debt of gratitude to our musicians and media team who helped create such a wonderful worship atmosphere! A special thanks to Candy Burden and our preschool workers who provided a welcoming place for our little ones; our administrative and custodial teams who worked behind the scenes to help the Revival come off without a hitch and our ushers who filled the gap. Revival means all hands on deck and is a total team effort. I am so honored to be your Pastor!

### **Truck or Treat: CANDY, CANDY, CANDY!**

Sunday, October 29th from 6-8pm. We need Lots and Lots of Candy! Please drop donations at the church office. We also need the following:

- 10 more vehicles
  - 2 more story tellers
  - Cupcakes for the cakewalk
- please contact Candy at [candy@firstdecatour.us](mailto:candy@firstdecatour.us).

### **No Choir Rehearsal for Wed 10.25**

### **Operation Christmas Child**

If you would like to help brighten a child's Christmas, please pick up a collection box (or boxes) in our Worship Foyer, follow the directions in the box and share the blessings of Christ around the world.

### **Ladies Luncheon, Thank you**

We had a wonderful group of ladies, over 100, from our fellowship as well as the surrounding communities for our Ladies Luncheon. Pastor David's Mom, Alice, brought an inspiring message to lift our hearts. Thank you to Marie, Chris, Donna, Jeannette, Jonnie and Jenna for providing a delicious lunch and Wanda and Janis for the decorations.

## **Financial Statistics for October 22**

### **Tithes and Offerings**

Received: **\$22,468**

Month-to-date Received: **\$96,705**

### **Building Fund**

Received: **\$4,835**

Month-to-date Received: **\$9,665**

## **Weekly Attendance Report**

Sunday School Attendance: **333**

Worship Attendance: : **483**

### **FBC Leadership Team**

Dr. David Lowrie, Pastor: [david@firstdecatour.us](mailto:david@firstdecatour.us)

Mike Stallsworth, Executive Pastor: [mike@firstdecatour.us](mailto:mike@firstdecatour.us)

Gerre Joiner, Senior Adult Pastor : [gerjoiner@gmail.com](mailto:gerjoiner@gmail.com)

Candy Burden, Children's Pastor: [candy@firstdecatour.us](mailto:candy@firstdecatour.us)

Ryan Cunniss, Interim Worship Leader: [ryan@firstdecatour.us](mailto:ryan@firstdecatour.us)

Clay Carter Student Pastor: [clay@firstdecatour.us](mailto:clay@firstdecatour.us)

Harold Mosley, Building & Grounds : [harold@firstdecatour.us](mailto:harold@firstdecatour.us)

Bree Kirkelie, Office Manager [bree@firstdecatour.us](mailto:bree@firstdecatour.us)

Miranda Boswell, MDO Director: [miranda@firstdecatour.us](mailto:miranda@firstdecatour.us)

Beth Addington, Preschool Director: [beth@firstdecatour.us](mailto:beth@firstdecatour.us)