



# CHURCH CHAT



Butner Presbyterian Church

Pastors: Brian Stratton, Dewey Cassell

OCTOBER 2025



## A Message From Dewey

Welcome to the Season of Scary! October is the month of Halloween and it's all about the fright. Shops are already brimming with costumes of every spooky variety and yards will soon be adorned with decorations that appear to be designed to discourage the very trick or treaters we expect to receive in a few weeks.

On my way to work, I pass by one house that is already decorated in full regalia for the horror holiday, including not one but two giant 25-foot skeletons, plus giant spiders and ghosts and every manner of creepy creature, stretched out across their entire front yard. Their neighbors must be having nightmares!

I'm not usually a big fan of horror movies, except maybe the Final Destination ones 😊, but I do enjoy the Halloween decorations and costumes. But I suppose that is because I am not really afraid of them. After all, they're not real.

But there are some very real things I am afraid of these days. I am afraid of all the senseless violence going on all around us. It is on the news almost every day – sometimes politically motivated and other times simply random. And not just in faraway places, but in our own backyard.

Like the stabbing that occurred recently on the train in Charlotte.

I'm not so much afraid for my own safety as I am for my family and friends, and for our society as a whole. It seems that more and more people these days have little or no regard for their fellow human beings, especially if they don't look or act the same. As if all it takes for some people to become violent is for someone to be different – or think differently – than they do. What happened to mutual forbearance? What happened to grace?

It is for certain that if Christ were to return today, He would be disappointed and distraught at our present circumstances. As a society, we don't act like children of God. Fortunately for us, we have a patient and forgiving God. A God who has already made a great sacrifice to ensure our salvation. A God who has never given up on His creation and who will not give up on us now.

If we are to face down our fear and bring about genuine change in our society, it will be by turning to God as our strength and inspiration. It will be by setting an example based on the life and teachings of Christ and encouraging others to do the same. It will be by recognizing everyone we see, regardless of how they look or act or how different they may be from us, as fellow children of God.

So that together, we can bring about a world for us and our children where people may be afraid of ghosts and goblins at Halloween, but they don't need to fear their fellow human beings. That would be a truly happy Halloween.

~Dewey

# October Calendar

Sun, 10/5

**NO SERVICE!**

Sun, 10/12

11am Communion Worship Service

Brian Stratton, Michelle Osborne

Fellowship lunch at El Rio and trip to Cedar Creek Gallery

2pm Butner Church Council Meeting

@ Community Methodist Church

Wed, 10/15

**CHURCH  
Clean-up  
DAY**



Sun, 10/19

11am Worship Service

Brian Stratton, Erma Hudgins

Sun, 10/26

9am Session Meeting via zoom

11am Worship Service

Dewey Cassell, Cecil Hudgins

Sun, 11/2

ALL SAINTS DAY SERVICE

Brian Stratton, Michael McFadden



## FOR BETTER OR VERSE

A calendar of Bible verses, one for each day.

Compiled by Paul Lintern, Joyful Noiseletter

- 1 2 Corinthians 10:1
- 2 Luke 10:2
- 3 Proverbs 10:3
- 4 Proverbs 10:4
- 5 Proverbs 10:5
- 6 Proverbs 10:6
- 7 John 10:7
- 8 Proverbs 10:8
- 9 Romans 10:9
- 10 Romans 10:10
- 11 John 10:11
- 12 Romans 10:12
- 13 Proverbs 10:13
- 14 Mark 10:14
- 15 Acts 10:15
- 16 Matthew 10:16
- 17 I Corinthians 10:17
- 18 John 10:18
- 19 Matthew 10:19
- 20 Matthew 10:20
- 21 Luke 10:21
- 22 Proverbs 10:22
- 23 Proverbs 10:23
- 24 Proverbs 10:24
- 25 Mark 10:25
- 26 I Samuel 10:26
- 27 Mark 10:27
- 28 Acts 10:28
- 29 Proverbs 10:29
- 30 Proverbs 10:30
- 31 I Corinthians 10:31



## *Romping with the Pre-K*

The preschool is doing great! We have a month of classes complete and all our students are settling into their routines and enjoying the classroom. The 2-day class is full, and the 3-day class was full, but we had a student to withdraw this week due to her parents' schedule. We again have an opening in the 3-day class if anyone is interested.

October is a busy month for us. We will be doing assessments the last week of September into the first week of October. We have a volunteer each day helping Mrs. Heather in the classroom and I pull students into the fellowship hall to play some games and try and get a better sense of where they are one-on-one. Students will learn all about fall, fire safety, community helpers, and Halloween during the month of October. The week of 10/6 is Fire Safety, and we will have visits from Butner Public Safety and the fire trucks on Wednesday, 10/8 and Thursday, 10/9. We have a teacher workday scheduled for Friday, 10/17. We will have our annual field trip to the pumpkin patch on Thursday, 10/23 and Friday, 10/24. There will be no classroom time those days.

The PRTO has decided to have a 50/50 fundraiser beginning the end of October, and the drawing will be November 14th. Reach out if you are interested in purchasing a ticket, \$1 each.

Our Fall festival will be on Thursday, 10/30 and Friday, 10/31. We will set up for the festival on Monday, 10/27 starting at 6:30pm.

Thank you always for your support. The preschool holds a special place in our community and my heart. It is so exciting for me to be on Facebook and see so many of my former students being inducted into honor societies, preparing to graduate high school, and this is the first year I am seeing some of them begin their college careers!!!

Many Blessings,  
Susan Zink

## **Christians are like Pumpkins**

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be Christian?"

The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

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Joyful Noise Newsletter



# Church News

## **Worship at the Lake**

On Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, our congregation enjoyed worshipping on a beautiful Sunday morning at Lake Holt as Brian Stratton provided the sermon. Esther graced us with her beautiful voice as she sang a couple of songs during the service. The service concluded with a potluck fellowship.

## **Church Service Cancellation & ACIM**

Due to several church members being out of town on October 5th, we will not have church service that day and will not be going to ACIM.

## **Communion**

Our next Communion Sunday will be on October 12th.

## **October Fellowship**

Our fellowship for October will be held after church on October 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have lunch together at El

Rio. All are invited to come out to the fall festival at Cedar Creek Gallery after lunch.

## **Church Cleaning**

Our next Wednesday evening church cleaning will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. That is actually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in October but all church members should be back in town by then.

## **Session meeting moved to 10/26**

The October Session meeting will be held on the 4th Sunday, October 26th due to the unavailability of Dewey at our normal meeting time.

## **All Saints Day Service**

Brian will be providing a special All Saints Day service on Sunday, November 2nd. This promises to be a very beautiful time of worship.



# From the Editor

## The Season of Autumn



Ahhhh Autumn. Around here, we go from hot, humid, mostly miserable days in the summer to that oh-so-refreshing autumn.

Everything changes. The air is drier, my hair looks better, and the temperatures are cooler. Morning air is fresher and I just want to fill my lungs with it. It's so much more comfortable, so I like to spend more time outside either taking a walk, working in my flower garden or sitting on our deck. The smells of autumn are different. As the trees turn into their beautiful colors, I swear I can smell that. So many new refreshing, sweet smells. Autumn is a time to enjoy and savor.

It seems that our schedules slow down as well. We go from a hot summer full of outdoor activities from gardening and trying to keep those flowers alive, cookouts and parties, outdoor festivals and live music to a more slow-paced calendar. Time to slow down, rest and just breathe.

We begin to prepare for winter. We put away our shorts, flip flops, sandals and swimsuits and bring out the sweaters, fleece, boots, gloves and scarves. As winter approaches, we cut back our perennials in the garden and look forward to the beautiful flowers next spring.

I started thinking about how this parallels with our lives. All of us at BPC are somewhere near or in the "autumn of our lives". We persevered the hot and fast fury of raising a family while dealing with the demands of our careers. Then one day, the kids are grown and we are retired. Time to breathe, take in the fresh air, think and savor.

Our bodies start to slow down. So do our minds. Both can be frustrating. We start to think about what's behind us with all new wisdom. Wisdom to share with younger folks, whether they listen to it or not. In that

wisdom, I talk to God. I realize more and more of where I have failed or what I could have done or said better, or how much more I could have done if I had not been so selfish with my time. I ask for mercy and forgiveness. Hindsight is truly 20-20.

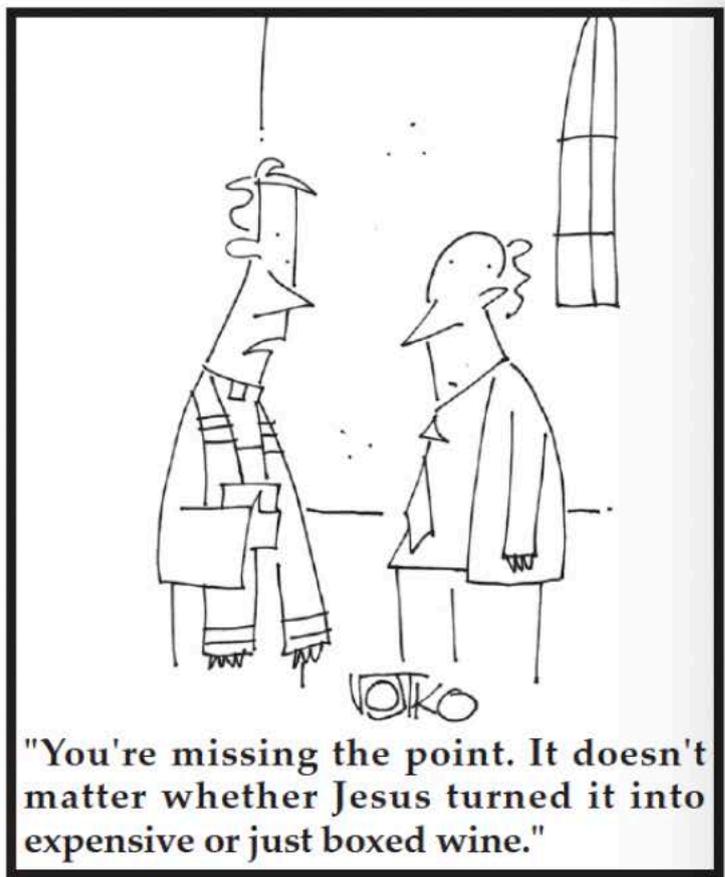
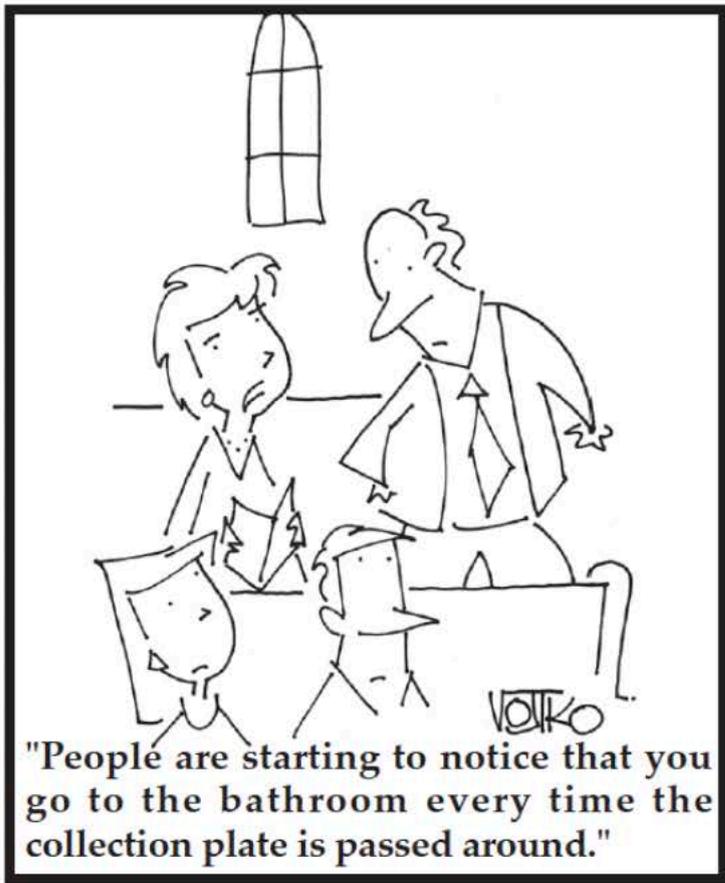
In our newly found wisdom we may begin show more love, patience and mercy toward others. It can be a time where we begin caring for our aging parents, which I surprisingly found to be an honor to do. It's a time of hoping for grandchildren and then helping with grandchildren as you witness your own children navigating the demands of career and family. Then your parents pass away, and you miss them more than you ever thought possible. You begin to watch declining health and mental health - in yourself, your spouse, your siblings, or among your friends.

It's a time to look to the heavens and spend more time with God and serve Him more while you still can. Autumn is a time to pare down and get rid of stuff in our houses. And get rid of stuff in our minds and hearts and replace it with peace. A time to put away grudges and differences, seek forgiveness and promote understanding.

Then winter comes. We can't believe it. It happened so fast. The grandchildren are now grown and our children are showing some age. We watch them enter into their "autumns". We sometimes experience the sadness of death of our siblings, friends or spouses. It's a time to be at peace with everyone and with God. We spent our lives working hard and doing the best we could with what we had, mentally and physically. We find that our children are starting to act like our parents and taking care of us. In our infirmities and humility, we let them as we must understand that they may actually feel honored to do so. Winter is a time of well-earned rest and to look toward the heavens and anticipate that glorious time in eternity.

So, take the time to savor the autumn. Take it all in. Enjoy all the people that surround you. Breathe the fresh air and find peace.

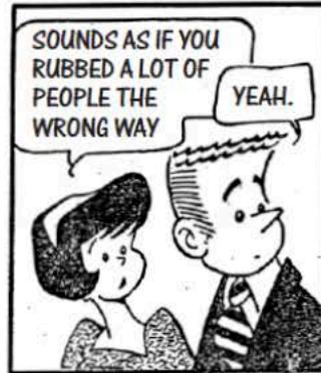
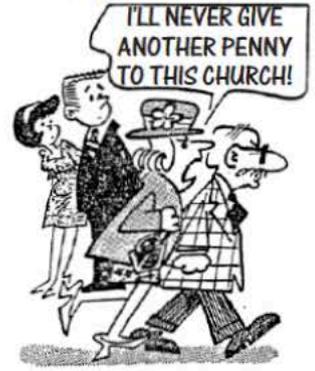
Peace, Erma



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## PHILLIP'S FLOCK

By Doc Goodwin



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## A CONVERSATION WITH GOD

**Me:** Hey God.

**God:** Hello.

**Me:** I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?

**God:** I would rather not.

**Me:** Why?

**God:** Because you aren't a puzzle.

**Me:** What about all of the pieces of my life that are falling down onto the ground?

**God:** Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.

**Me:** You don't understand! I'm breaking down!

**God:** No - *you* don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back. You aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax. Take some deep breaths and allow those things you don't need any more to fall off of you. Quit holding onto the pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

**Me:** Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

**God:** Only the very best pieces of you.

**Me:** I'm scared of changing.

**God:** You aren't changing. You are becoming!

**Me:** Becoming who?

**God:** Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light and love and charity and hope and courage and joy and mercy and grace and compassion. I made you for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off of you. I love you! Don't change! Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

**Me:** There goes another piece.

**God:** Yep. Let it be.

**Me:** So ... I'm not broken?

**God:** Of course Not! - but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!!!

~Author John Roedel

The deepest level  
of worship  
is praising God  
through the pain,  
thanking God  
through the trials,  
trusting Him when  
we're tempted  
to lose hope,  
and loving Him,  
even when  
He seems distant.

At my lowest,  
God is my hope.  
At my darkest,  
God is my light.  
At my weakest,  
God is my strength.  
At my saddest,  
God is my  
comforter.