

In Nature at LCOC

Dear LCOC Family Member ~

If you've never spent time in any of the outside sanctuaries surrounding our church, you are missing an opportunity to feel God's awesome peace and His presence. Allow me to take you on a walk through some of the gardens as the beauty of fall surrounds us. As we begin our walk, the sun is shining and there is a chill in the air. Here's some of what we experienced:

- The Gum and Maple Trees are really showing off their brilliant colors as they continue to hang on to their leaves a little longer than usual.
- We pause to watch a black squirrel (yes A BLACK SQUIRREL) scurrying to find acorns to store away for winter.
- There is evidence that the Eager Beavers have been working in the landscape as the pond area and the woods are looking great.
- We feel sure that these great workers have been cleaning the meditation gardens as well!
- The Burning Bushes are slowly, but surely turning their beautiful red.
- Many of the perennial and annual gardens around the church have already been put to bed for the winter.
- The Heavenly Bamboo are producing their gorgeous berries and looking fantastic.
- Newly planted pansies and some lovely mums flank the entrance to the inner sanctuary.
- Sadly, our fun hummingbirds have left and the feeder has been stored away.
- Since the weather has turned colder, we are certain that the Monarchs and other butterflies, that we saw just last week, have left for their long trip south.
- Fall anemones are looking rather sad as they get ready to say good bye for the season.

You are encouraged to take a self-guided tour through our wonderful landscape here at LCOC. But be ready - you are going to experience God's peace and presence - so enjoy this special time with our Creator! Next month, we'll be approaching the beginning of colder, crisper weather and although there will still be lots to enjoy, many of the gardens will be heading into quiescence.

*"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still
and watch the leaves turn."* Elizabeth Lawrence