

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 we explore what is happening as fall is in the air:

- The bloom of the Crepe Myrtles are quickly becoming a recent memory as are the pretty petals of our roses.
- We enjoy the beauty of the anemones as they and the liriopse are now in full bloom.
- It is so exciting to see the Monarchs continuing to visit the butterfly bush as do other species preparing for migration.
- As we walk just a short distance further, we see a Praying Mantis that is camouflaged to look like the dried leaves he is hiding in.
- The maples, gum, honey locusts, and other trees are starting to really show off their beautiful colors.
- We stopped to take in the golden splendor of the autumn crocuses; and the little buds of the mums which are about to burst open.
- Many of the dogwoods have their berries and they and their leaves are beginning to turn red.
- The sturdy zinnias are hanging in, but the blossoms of the Joe Pye Weed, coneflowers, and black-eyed Susans have finished blooming and providing sustenance to the Gold Finches and other birds and insects. However, three Black-eyed Susans peek out as if to say, "look at us, we are still very pretty".
- Our LCOC eager beavers have been sloshing around in the pond and doing what they do best, "God's Work, Our Hands". They can be seen pruning and enjoying being in the outer sanctuary as well.
- What a blessing to be able to see all the beauty that surrounds us. As we pause for a few moments, we hear a cardinal calling for his mate; we see a squirrel scampering across the lawn; and we hear a flock of crows squawking as they fly overhead.

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 well into the fall season with its shorter days and longer nights.

*"Autumn shows us how beautiful
it is to let things go".*