

## *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. Join me as I stroll through nature at LCOC on an unusually warm day in February. Many of my experiences tell me that it looks and feels like spring, but it is still winter.

- Daffodils, hyacinths (some are blooming) and other spring bloomers are excitedly jumping out of their beds.
- Buds are popping on many of the deciduous trees throughout the property. Leaves that have been holding on fast to the immature trees are starting to let go and get caught up in the balmy breeze.
- It is exciting to see the miniature daffodils that are blooming in the Children's Garden.
- Lilies (both daylilies and lilioms) are cautiously peeking out of their homes to determine if it really is spring.
- As we near the feeder, we see a menagerie of beautiful birds. We encounter a bevy of Juncos (snowbirds) and are now assured that Old Man Winter is still here.
- The Black and Grey Squirrels are eating at a slower pace today as they bask in the warmth of the sun.
- The Hellebores (Lenten Roses) in the Meditation Garden, are almost fully awake - right on time for this special season.
- When we approach the open space of the parking area, we look to our right and notice that the gardeners must have been here as the liriopse has had their annual haircut.
- Our sense of sound is heightened and we look overhead to see that our resident pair of Hawks have two visitors (that look very similar to them) and they are not happy. The feisty pair rather quickly defend their territory and the unwanted guests soon depart.
- We approach the neighboring woods and hear and see the Stihl Cadets (aka Eager Beavers) hard at work cutting and loading branches. They share that they also had a visitor (a garter snake) that decided to enjoy the warm winter day. We could almost see the cadets salivating as a trip to the 7-11 was nearing.

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 will welcome spring to the LCOC gardens and look forward to her putting on a beautiful show.

*"The day the Lord created hope was probably the  
same day He created spring".*

Bern Williams