

## *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. Today is mid-August, still summer, yet signs of Fall are all around.

- Our walk begins at the patio and we immediately stand quiet and motionless as we watch two Hummingbirds vie for the fresh nectar in their feeder. We remain completely still as a Garter Snake slithers across the sidewalk and scurries into the same garden where the Hummingbirds feed!
- Another sign of the change of seasons is the Fall Anemones and the Liriope blooming near the seating area of the courtyard.
- As we round the corner, we also pause to watch Swallowtails and Monarch Butterflies flitting from flower to flower on the lovely butterfly bush.
- The leaves of the Maples that adorn the parking area are showing signs of fall colors.
- The Crepe Myrtles continue to display large beautiful showy blooms.
- High atop one of the lights in the parking area is a Crow calling to his friends and family to join him on this glorious sunny morning.
- The Portulacas that have enhanced the main entrance to the inner sanctuary seem to say "I have enjoyed providing you so much pleasure this summer, but it's almost time for us to say goodbye and let the Pansies take over".
- As we continue our stroll, we startle a myriad of Goldfinches, Monarchs and other Butterflies, and Bees who are feeding on the Zinnias in the gardens by the sidewalks.
- In the Memorial Garden we find that the Coneflowers and Black-Eyed Susans are going to seed and have an abundance of the same creatures we saw earlier eating away.
- We find the bird feeder full of activity with grey and black squirrels sitting underneath to catch any seeds that may drop on the ground.
- Our stroll takes us by the storm water management pond where the Stihl Cadets are hard at work as usual tending to the wonderful landscape at our church.

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! We will be looking for you as summer turns to autumn, the days get a little shorter, and the air becomes crisp.

*"HELLO SEPTEMBER ~ Thanks for the reminder  
that CHANGE can be beautiful".*