

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 on a spring-like day in mid-late January. Something special is happening today. As I walk I encounter two gardeners cleaning up some of the beds that appear to be asleep for the winter. However . . . :

- As the debris is pulled away, there are sprouts coming up everywhere in the area behind the inner sanctuary ~ daffodils, hyacinths, and even the irises are showing green. They are protected as they are near the church building and the brick holds in the warm sun.
- Across the parking lot, we see Bluebirds flitting back and forth and we enjoy watching a pair land on a sign, take a break, and look for any worms that the gardeners may have turned up from digging in the soil.
- Even though today is warm, the winter has been exceptionally cold and evidence of that is seen on the Holly Trees as they have damage from the frosty air.
- Lots of birds seem to be enjoying this very warm day and we see and/or hear Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Finches, Sparrows, Catbirds, and the resident Hawk.
- Walking in this awesome place is not always beautiful and peace-filled. As I rounded the corner and headed toward the bird feeder, I noticed that there were Crows pulling leftovers from the open trash can (the one without a cover) by the street. They had paper plates, cups, napkins, and everything imaginable strewn on the ground where they were having their own Chili-tasting experience (and dessert)!! Their high-pitched enthusiasm was almost too much for my ears. I scared them away, but I know they will be back!
- As I paused to watch the bird feeder, I saw one of our Black Squirrels having lunch on the ground. He/she is much smaller than his Grey cousins.
- Evidence of the extreme weather that we've been having this winter is seen in many of the gardens as the earth has been freezing and thawing ~ confusing!!

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 look forward to what or who we'll find on a walk around these beautiful gardens.

“I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure in the landscape ~ the loneliness of it ~ the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it ~ the whole story doesn't show.”

Andrew Wyeth