



A Message from the Pastor

October already? Trunk-or-Treat is just around the corner. Along with Thanksgiving and Advent season and then the BIG one, Christmas! Time really flies. So much to prepare for it can be mind boggling. We're fast approaching the time of year when everything and everyone seems to be rushed to get things done before the next event. Let us take a minute before we get caught up in activities and think about OUTREACH. October is a great time to start focusing on Out-reach and the key to outreach is building relationships. We build relationships by simply being good neighbors.

Trunk-or-Treat gives us an opportunity to connect with our community and can be a great time to hand out children's books focused on Jesus and something in that order for the parents as well. Thanksgiving would be a great time to have a Thursday dinner with all the trimmings with some sort of special program that gets everyone thinking about being thankful for Jesus. Advent gives us three weeks to bring to the community through special events, again perhaps during the Thursday dinners, to get people thinking about the reality, not just a children's story, of the birth of Jesus. And then there is Christmas Day, the one day that is truly about the Savior's birth but has been so commercialized in our culture that Jesus has been almost all but forgotten. We can get the people that have to work that day—EMS crews, law enforcement, fire fighters, military on duty—thinking about Jesus' birth by providing a little Christmas cheer of food and drink in Jesus' name. What are some ways you thought of to reach OUT to your neighbors, friends, and family?

October already! Great things truly are just around the corner!

**Blessings,
Pastor Melody A. Duncan**

