

## Halloween and All Saints

*"Love the lord, all you his SAINTS! The lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.*

*Psalm 21:23*

Today, Monday October 31 is Halloween or to be historically correct today is ALL HALLOWS EVE, the day before ALL SAINTS which is celebrated on November 1. Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France. (I studied Celtic Spirituality after I completed my doctoral program at Columbia Seminary.) The Celts focused on the ordinariness of life and believed worship is all that we are and all that we do, both inside and outside the structures of the church. The Celts focused on nature which compliments what the students at CREECS study here in the village at our environmental charter school.

So, Halloween began as a festival that marked the end of the harvest season. Costumes, pumpkins, bats, all the things that make up today's Halloween celebrations, have special meaning and go back at least two centuries.

While Halloween is a widely popular 'holiday' in American culture, becoming more popular every year with the marketing of outdoor decorations, school carnivals, pumpkin patches etc., not everyone is as familiar with the celebration of All Saints. All Saints Day, sometimes called the 'feast of all saints,' is one of the major feast days of the Christian faith and has been celebrated by Christians for hundreds of years. It was used to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death. But in our reformed tradition, as Presbyterians, we see this day as an opportunity to celebrate and remember members of our families and community who have entered the kingdom of Heaven, those individuals who served the church and greater community as faithful disciples. We give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers of this and every age.

So tomorrow, take a moment to remember those who made an impact of New Wappetaw and on the village, who have now gone on to be with the Lord. May their lives inspire you to be the best Christian and Presbyterian you can be!

Its a joy to serve as your pastor.

Blessings,  
Mike