

From Jenn Warnock, Lay Minister

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!

“ From ghoulies and ghosties

And long-legged beasties

And things that go bump in the night,

Good Lord, deliver us!

(traditional Scottish prayer)

October is here, a bright, beautiful month! Bringing with it change, and harvest and cool winds and golden leaves and pumpkins and the excitement of fun for the kids, and activities and candy! And then---ghosts!? When I was a child and old enough to hear about ghosts, I was very frightened of them. Until my Granny, a very spunky gal, told me that she did not believe in any ghost except the Holy Ghost! She explained to me that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, the Comforter who is always with us, who always loves us, who always protects us....even from “things that go bump in the night”!

The more I learn about the Holy Spirit the more I want to learn, and the more I learn that there is more to learn! I always thought it would be fun to host an October Bible Study called “Haunted by the Holy Spirit”! The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Counselor. The third Person of the Trinity, who is always with us and as the Spirit of Truth is guiding us into all truth. He was present at creation with the Father and the Son according to Genesis 1: 20, (let Us make man/human according to Our own image) According to St. Paul, the Spirit gives spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith and self control...the Fruits of the Spirit! The Holy Spirit helps us to love God, each other, and the world, and to use our gifts to the glory of God!

The Holy Spirit is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14) and is not the Spirit of Fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind! (2 Timothy 1:7) The Spirit brings nothing but good to those of us in the family of God, continual grace upon grace upon grace. As requested by the Old Scottish prayer, we are protected by the presence of the Spirit. In the Spirit is healing, fulfillment, and love. Enjoy the good gifts of autumn, that God, the Father of Lights, the Lord of the Harvest has given us, beloved church!

In Christ Alone,

Jenn