



Liberty
Church of Christ

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

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We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We'd love to see you soon. We've saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org





Frankly Speaking –

Is Your Halloween Spook a Holy or Evil Spirit?

by Frank Jordan

Is Halloween a spiritual religious holiday? Yes – sort of! But, why do we bob for apples, wear masks and “trick or treat” on the night of spooks and goblins?

The word “Samhain” was the name of the Octo-

ber 31st celebration by the Celts about 2,000 years ago in the United Kingdom and northern France. The Celts believed “Samhain,” the ghosts of the dead, returned to earth, causing trouble and damaging crops. Bond fires were burned with animal sacrifices made to appease the evil ghosts.

To keep from being recognized by the unfriendly ghosts, people wore masks when they left their homes after sundown, hoping the evil creatures would think them other similar bad actors, rather than lowly humans to be punished. The costumes of today range from ghouls to scary clowns to popular stars and vampires, but originally hollowed out dead animal heads were the rage! Yuck.

In A.D. 43, the Romans conquered the Celts, while combining two Roman holidays with “Samhain.” The holiday “Feralia” commemorated the passing of the dead, while “Pomona” was honored as the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. Pomona’s symbol was the apple, with the practice of “bobbing” for apples today originating long ago to honor this pagan goddess.

Fast forward to the 800’s when Christianity spread to the Celtic lands and the pagan holidays were frowned upon by Pope Boniface IV. Pope Boniface IV designated

November 1 as “All Saint’s Day,” a time to honor departed saints and martyrs. The celebration was called “All-hallowmas,” or “Hallow Mass” from middle-English meaning “All Saints’ Day.” The celebration came to be held from October 31st to November 2nd and known as a briefer “Hallowmas,” meaning “Saints’ Mass.”

Immigrants to America from Europe brought the celebration to the Colonies with a pronunciation transition to “Halloween,” but the holiday, with ghost stories a popular part, was limited to only a few areas. In the enormous influx of immigrants about 1846, due to Ireland’s potato famine, “Halloween” became popular as a national U.S. holiday devoid of any further relationship to a religious purpose.

The Irish also had, by tradition, a character named Stingy Jack who played mean tricks. On Halloween, they hollowed out turnips and placed a candle inside to ward off Stingy Jack and evil spirits. Thus, the original Jack-O-Lanterns came into being. Soon Americans began to use the ever-popular pumpkins that are much easier to carve out and light than a turnip!

Because of tough economic times, Americans, about 1920, would dress up in costumes on Halloween and go house to

house asking for food or money. From these solicitations evolved the “trick or treat” tradition. The “trick” originated from those displeased if food or money was not forthcoming.

Today, brightly costumed children descend on homes to demand candies or cookies if tricks are to be avoided. Would you be surprised to know Halloween has grown to be the second largest commercial holiday in America, second only to Christmas, with current expenditures projected to be in the billions?

Frankly speaking, irony abounds as many Halloween festivals are again held in local churches to assure children are safe from the evil tricks of modern ghouls involving poisons and needles in the fruits and candy treats. Who would ever have thought that Christmas derived from “Christ Mass” and Halloween derived from “Hallow Mass,” would have the common characteristic of both having evolved from a religious observance? Let us all say a prayer for a safe and happy, if not holy, Halloween!

LIBERTY GAZETTE

936-336-6416

Dayton Movie Night sponsored by Dayton Police Officers

DAYTON - The Dayton Police Officers Association (DPOA) will host its first-ever Dayton Movie Night on Sat., Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center. The feature film will be Toy Story 5. Watch as Buzz, Woody, Jessie, and the rest of the toys face a new challenge when they find themselves competing with modern technology for attention.

The event will bring the community together for a fun-filled evening of movies, food, like free popcorn, and fellowship. Additional food vendors will be on-site ready to serve you and local vendors will have plenty of goods and services to offer. It’ll be a great night of family fun and community spirit.

An event like this wouldn’t be possible without the incredible support of the following sponsors: Luxe Prints and Cuts, Muraca Fiber, Magnolia Roots, Mike Wolf

Constructions, and Lone-Star Luxury Bathrooms.

So, spread the word, invite your friends, load

up the car and bring the whole family. The Dayton Community Center is located at 801 S. Cleveland.

Chili cook-off at Lights in Liberty, Nov. 21

LIBERTY - Lights in Liberty will bring the holiday season to downtown Liberty on Sat., November 21, with a chili cook-off on the courthouse grounds. The contest is open to youth and adults. This festive event will include food, music, family fun and more. The competition gets underway at 10 a.m. when the cooks set up and the competition gets underway.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place finishers in multiple categories. Youth will turn in their best efforts at 3:30 p.m. Adults will follow at 4:30 p.m. Judging will take place at 5 p.m. with the awards presentation at 6 p.m.

Start a new family tra-

dition. To enter contact, Toby Wilburn at 281-212-7020 or Joshua Burk at 936-346-7959.



LIBERTY - Liberty and Dayton seniors – are you 60 or older in need of a hot meal? GRACE Initiative Meals On Wheels provides home-delivered meals to eligible seniors who have difficulty preparing meals on their own. Sign up for Meals on Wheels by calling 936-641-2846.

Drivers are needed for all routes in the Liberty and Dayton areas. It only takes approximately 1.5 hours to deliver hot meals. Sign up anytime by calling 936-641-2846 or email holly@libertymeals.com.

Coach Bankhead speaks to Dayton Rotarians

DAYTON - The Dayton Rotary Club conducted its weekly meeting with Past President Dr. Luke Chachere presiding in the absence of President Elizabeth Robertson. Rotarian Geoff McCracken introduced the guest speaker, Coach Bankhead.

Coach Bankhead presented his program titled, “Teach One Tuesday’s – Life Skills That Go Beyond the Court.” The basketball program emphasizes five core values: discipline, communication, problem-solving, responsibility, and preparation. To develop these traits, the head coach has designed six activities that link basketball habits to everyday life.

The first activity is teaching the young men how to tie a tie. This activity connects with the game through presentation, preparation, and confi-

dence. The second activity is learning how to wash clothes. This teaches responsibility, routines, and independence.

Next up is changing a tire. This teaches problem-solving skills, patience, and safety. Activity four reminds students to check the oil and fluids in their cars as maintenance today can prevent bigger problems tomorrow. Taking care of what you depend on is key.

Filling out a job application is the fifth activity. He reminds the team that clear communication is really important. Be accurate and honest while highlighting your strengths.

The last activity is the boys’ favorite, called “balling on a budget.” This activity has the students choose life’s expenses, reflect on their choices, draw unexpected surprises from a hat, and discuss some im-

portant questions.

A lively conversation among the Rotarians and some questions wrapped up Coach Bankhead’s insightful talk.

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DVFD BLOOD DRIVE
DAYTON - Dayton VFD is sponsoring a blood drive Sat., November 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The mobile collection bus will be on site at The Crossroads at 111 N. Church. T-shirtswill be available for donors, while supplies last. Please bring a picture ID. Make sure you are feeling well on the day of your donation and have plenty to eat and drink before and after you donate. Appointments are strongly encouraged to efficiently coordinate your donation. Schedule your appointment at mdanderson.org/blood-bank or call 713-792-7777.



LIBERTY MASONS TAKE AWARDS IN MONT BELVIEU
Members of the Liberty Masonic Lodge #48 participated at the chili cook-off held by Old River Masonic Lodge #1442 on October 17 in Mt. Belvieu. The team of Chris Williamson, Jake Hargroue and Trevor Limmer, under the direction of Lindsay Delaney, Worshipful Master, took third place chili and first place presentation. Congratulations to these brethren.



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