

Grace Tidings

A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

September - October 2024

OUR WORK MATTERS TO GOD

As the summer crawls to an end, and just before the beautiful autumn season begins, we look forward to Labor Day – always observed on the first Monday in September. It's a day set aside to commemorate America's work force and pay honor to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Labor Day was created by trade and labor organizations in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Today, Labor Day is largely seen as the official end of the summer season, a day to relax at a leisurely pace or share a backyard cookout with family and friends.

Of course, most people look forward to a long, three-day weekend, yet not everyone enjoys work; in fact, some people dread the thought of it. Others go to great lengths in avoiding work or procrastinate in getting it started. Some people love to work, enjoy what they do, and eagerly look forward to Monday mornings, while there are others who want to

work yet find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own. Many people are faced with an unexpected lay-off. Others struggle with disappointment and discouragement over and over again in their search for a meaningful position. Many people – young and old – find it hard work just to establish a career in spite of a great college education, work experience, or an impressive professional resume.

For the believer in Jesus Christ, our work and how we perform it, reflects God.

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” - Genesis 2:2-3 KJV

(continued on Page 2)



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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
(Newsletter Editor Kathleen Smith)

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
(Sunday messages available on website)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Currently Suspended

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: . . .” - Ephesians 3:9

OUR WORK MATTERS TO GOD continued

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” - Colossians 1:16-17

Being made in the “Image of God” means that we are creators and sustainers ourselves, we demonstrate that truth by working:

“And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.” - Psalm 90:17

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.” - Proverbs 22:29

Celebrating Labor Day invites us to remember that it is God who makes possible the creative and productive work we do in all fields of human endeavor. Every time we work, no matter what form that work might be, we are reflecting our Creator. As a janitor or teacher, a mechanic or book keeper, a cook or coach or a nurse or waitress you are reflecting your Creator. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, *“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”*

Through our work God enables us to serve others. Through work we earn money to provide for our children and give to others and through our work we love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves: *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30–31*

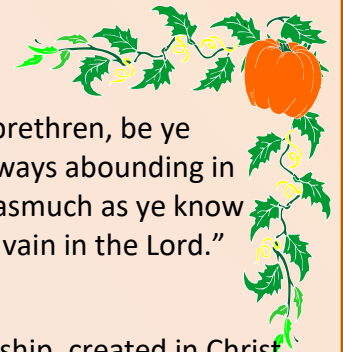
Reflecting God's image is vital to a biblical and healthy view of our work. Paul applies this principle to tasks as commonplace as eating and drinking (*1 Corinthians 10:31: “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*) while in *Colossians 3:23* he exhorts us to do all work as to the Lord: *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”*

As we celebrate Labor Day this year, let's thank God for

the useful work He has given us to do while praying for and encouraging one another who may be without work.

We bring glory to God by working conscientiously, faithfully, and productively and as we do, we demonstrate to the world God's goodness and faithfulness to us. We serve others by cheerfully cooperating with God to meet their needs. In serving others, we serve and honor God *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.” -2 Peter 3:18*

Have a blessed Labor Day in Him,
Pastor Phil



“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” – 1 Corinthians 15:58

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works; which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:10

“I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” – Acts 20:35

Working for the Lord
doesn't pay much;
but the
retirement plan is
OUT OF THIS WORLD!



SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER REFLECTIONS . . .

The Many Different Seasons

(author unknown)

There are many different seasons
In life that we go through,
Times of God's blessing and peace
And times of hardship too.

No matter what the season,
We find that we are in,
God is there to lead us on
And give us hope within.

And when the season of hardship
Have come into our lives,
We can be encouraged by God's Word
For our hope is placed in Christ.

For we know it's only temporary,
Summer, winter, spring, and fall
Seasons come and fly by quickly
But God's majesty shines through all.

God's rivers of grace and mercy
Flow down from heaven above
To bring to us refreshment
And to touch us with His love.

Thank you Jesus, for the seasons,
As different as they are,
And for the splendor of Your creation
Bringing praise to You within our hearts.



For the Wise and Young at Heart:

"He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."
- Daniel 2:21

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, know suffering, know struggle, know loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, sensitivity and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen." - Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

"A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving." - *Albert Einstein*

"Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, some done,
Has earned a night's repose."
- *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

"My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition." - *Indira Gandhi*

"Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns."
- Exodus 20: 9-10

GRANDPARENTS

By Ron Brown, Intelli-Tunes

A story time
 A nurse rhyme
 The time you spend with me
 Fills me up with happiness
 You're everything to me!

A heart so full of love and care
 I thank the world that your are here
 To always be the one for me
 That fills my heart with memories.

My grand mom and grandpop
 They are the greatest people in my world
 Near or far, wherever you are
 Always be my shining stars.

A smiling face
 A warm embrace hand to hold, when
 I am cold
 Two arms that hold me oh so tight
 And wish sweet dreams, good night!

A heart so full of love and care
 I thank Jesus that you are there
 To always be the one for me
 That fills my heart with memories.

My grand mom and grandpop
 They are the greatest people in my world
 Near or far, wherever you are
 You'll always be my shining stars!



In the 23 years since September 11, 2001, an entire new generation has been born. Many young Americans today cannot relate to the horror and sadness of 911; similar to baby boomers being born after the atrocities of Pearl Harbor.



As it was in 1963 when JFK was assassinated, and again in 1986 when the space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after lifting off from Kennedy Space Center, September 11, 2001 is a day in history that most people will remember where they were and what they were doing when they first heard the shocking and tragic news of that day.

Embedded in the memories of everyone who lived through it, Patriot Day is observed on September 11th in memory of the 2,993 people who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist's attacks on the United States.

In the wake of the World Trade Center collisions, many brave men and women from emergency services risked their lives to try to help rescue victims of the attacks, and of them 411 lost their own lives attempting to fight fires and rescue people.

On December 18, 2001, President George W. Bush signed into law this discretionary day of remembrance. The American flag should be flown at half-staff at home and at all U.S. government buildings to honor and commemorate those lives lost.

While the events took place within the USA, the shock and grief experienced in response to the attacks was shared across the globe, and for this reason **Patriot Day** will be observed not only in America, but all over the world.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .



Each year, Avalon Grace Church supports and participates in Samaritan's Purse worldwide ministry, "Operation Christmas Child." It is wonderful to know that our small fellowship is a part of a greater worldwide ministry in bringing joy to children at Christmas with the good news of Jesus Christ! National Collection Week is November 18 - 25.

With every shoebox that is filled with toys and practical gifts, we include the gospel message. We never know how God will use His Word to reach a young child's heart - or even their parent's heart - but we do know that God's Word will never return void. (Isaiah 55:11). God is surely working in the lives of these little ones and we want to collect small toys to fill shoeboxes for children needing hope by bringing the good news of Jesus and His love for them; and that He died for them and rose again to bring them to heaven one day. Thank you for participating in this wonderful ministry with your monetary gifts and little toys, stuffed animals, coloring books, and more to gladden a young child's heart. Please see Janet McClellan with any questions you may have.

Stay tuned for more information in January 2025 about Operation Christmas Child ministry and how many shoeboxes we as a church body sent off to little children throughout the world. Thank you! Pastor Phil



Tuesday, November 5th is just around the corner and we will again elect one of the most powerful leaders in the free world. The next President of the United States will help shape the economic, foreign, domestic, and military policy of our nation. He will execute laws passed by Congress and, most critical for our generation and our children's future, appoint federal and supreme court judges to follow our Constitution and uphold justice.

In Matthew 5:13-16 (KJV), Jesus tells us, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

In biblical times, salt had two purposes. It was used to preserve food – especially meat and it was used as a flavor enhancer – much like we today. As followers of Jesus Christ we are instruments of the preservation of Biblical values through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives in this dispensation of God's grace. We influence society and the world for Jesus Christ as we pray, share the gospel and scatter salt to promote righteousness in our homes, in the work place, in our local communities, and in the voting booth.

The apostle Paul challenges Timothy to pray for our leaders: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." I Timothy 2:2^a-3. While in Paul's day, there were no voting booths, but if there were he would encourage the church to go out and vote!

Edmund Burke, born in Dublin, Ireland (1729-1797) got it right when he said, 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing'.

God has placed us in a free country to do 'good' and He has given us the privilege of voting and supporting issues that honor The Lord Jesus Christ. Believers are the salt and light on this earth until we are taken out of this world to meet Our Lord in the clouds! As ambassadors for Christ, we honor God by voting. We honor our Redeemer by sprinkling salt and shining His light by casting our vote in this sinful and needy world. In Christ, Pastor Phil





Nathan Bullock, who has served on the Things To Come Mission (TCM) board since 2018, was appointed as TCM's Development Director in December 2023. His primary responsibilities are to represent TCM in the USA, promote awareness and support for TCM Team missionaries in many parts of the world and recruit missionaries from the USA. Nathan is a retired firefighter and has been actively involved in teaching ministries in Grace churches in GA. He and his wife, Lisa, will be visiting with Avalon Grace Church on Sunday, November 10th to share new and amazing things God is doing through TCM for reaching the unsaved and unreached. There will be a light luncheon immediately following the worship service in Fellowship Hall.



Mark Your Calendar!

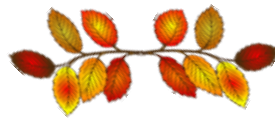
Please join Avalon Grace Church for it's annual Pot Luck Thanksgiving Dinner for everyone to enjoy a delicious FEAST on Thursday, November 28th in Fellowship Hall. Come - take a seat, eat, chatter with family and friends we hold so dear and lets share our bounty and thanks together this year!

Menu and more details to follow as Thanksgiving Day draws near!

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." - Psalm 100:4

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Thessalonians 5: 16-18

"Give thanks to the Lord, he is good; his love endures forever." I Chronicles 16:34



"In a world that might say one vote doesn't matter . . . It does matter because each person is of infinite worth and value to God . . . Your vote is a declaration of importance as a person and as a citizen."

- Billy Graham

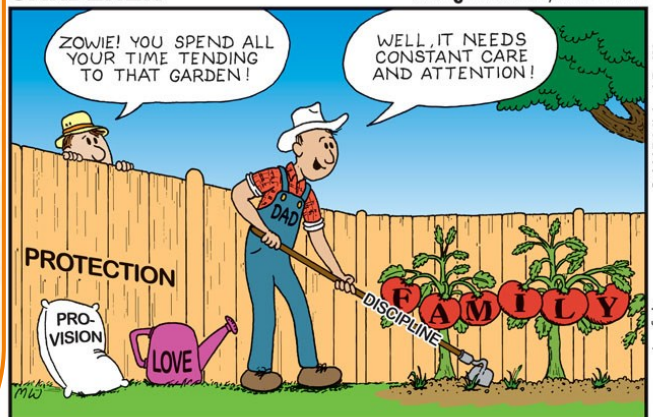


An early reminder! Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 2, 2024



GARDENER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

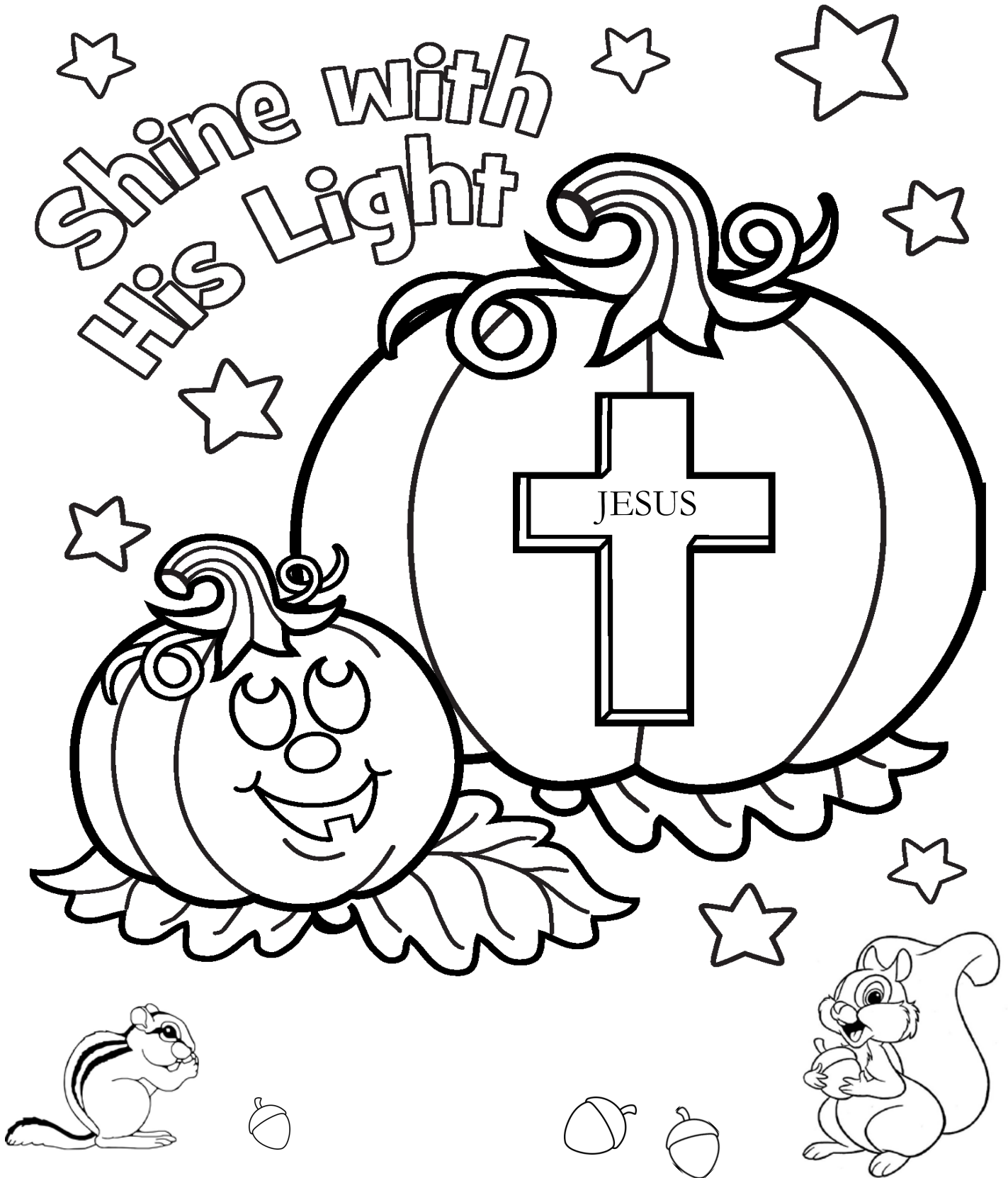


And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. - GENESIS 2:15 KJV

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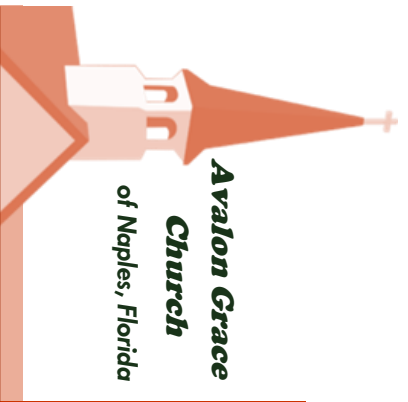
Coloring for Jesus

Shine with
His Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto to my feet and a light unto my path."


- Psalm 19:105



Avalon Grace
Church
of Naples, Florida

September 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:45 Sunday Breakfast 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School	 LABOR DAY					




- 8th **Patty Hisler**
- 15th **John Lombard**
- 20th **Rylan Stevens**
- 23rd **Joshua McClellan**
- 27th **Victor Ramirez**

COMING IN OCTOBER
6th **9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast**

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School GRANDPARENT'S DAY			 Patriot Day September 11th PATRIOT DAY			

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 AM Sunday Worship The LORD's Supper Observed 10:45 AM Children's						

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School AUTUMN BEGINS						

29 30



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida

October 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4 5

Rosh
Hashanah

6 7 8 9 10 11 12



5th Sharon Riedel

18th Lynn Bean

19th Marcine Cooney

Yom Kippur

13 14 15 16 17 18 19



Columbus Day

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
The LORD's Supper
Observed
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

27 28 29 30 31



Halloween

COMING IN NOVEMBER

3rd 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast