

# Announcements!

**Weekly Bible Study** We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study, held upstairs each Tuesday evening beginning at 6 pm. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

**Children's Church** Children's Church is available upstairs on the 2nd-5th Sundays starting at 11:00 am. Ages 2-10 are welcome to attend. Please sign your children in and out. A snack is served. Please pick up your children promptly after services. ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED. If you are interested in serving in Children's Church, please see Sarita Agee.

**Blankets for the Homeless** Don't forget to purchase items for our Homeless Blanket drive! We're going to need all of the following items by November 10: Baby wipes (travel packs), lip balm, lotion (travel size), sunscreen, apple sauce (squeeze packs), trail mix, beef jerky, travel coffee mugs, socks, and band-aids.

## Words of Wisdom: A New School Prayer...

Now I sit me down in school Where praying is against the rule.  
For this great nation under God Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow Becomes a federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green, That's no offense, it's the freedom scene.  
The law is specific, the law is precise, Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall Might offend someone with no faith at all.  
In silence alone we must meditate, God's name is prohibited by the State.

We're allowed to cuss & dress like freaks, And pierce our noses, tongues & cheeks.  
They've outlawed guns; but FIRST the Bible  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen, And the unwed daddy, our Senior King.  
It's "inappropriate" to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such "judgments" do not belong.

We can get our condoms, & birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires & totem poles.  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No Word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess, When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make: Should I be shot, My soul please take.

Author Unknown





Welcome to the  
**Everlasting Covenant Church**



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Follow Us:  "The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL  
 "THE\_ECC2015"

**Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor**

October 28, 2018

### Vision Statement:



*Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ,  
Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and  
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.*

# Order of Services

*Fellowship | Refreshments – 9:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*

*Morning Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.*

*Announcements & Recognition of Visitors*

*Call to Worship: Scripture Reading & Prayer*

*Tithes and Offerings; Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*Praise and Worship Selections*

*Sermon*

*Invitation to Christ*

*Benediction*

## *What Is Halloween?*

Taken from <https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>

Halloween is an annual holiday celebrated each year on October 31, and Halloween 2018 occurs on Wednesday, October 31. It originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints; soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating sweet treats.

Ancient Origins of Halloween - Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.

This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes.

When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By 43 A.D., the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple, and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

All Saints Day - On May 13, 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in honor of all Christian martyrs, and the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day was established in the Western church. Pope Gregory III later expanded the festival to include all saints as well as all martyrs, and moved the observance from May 13 to November 1.

*(Read the Rest Online!)*

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# Sermon Notes

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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