

# The Springfield Redeemer



Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.  
1 Corinthians 15:58

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## A Halloween Story    By Roberta D'Amico

It is Autumn, and that is a beautiful time of the year, but undeniably, the garden is dying, flowers are fading, leaves falling, even as the apples are ripening. So, it is happy and sad at the same time. It makes many of us think



about our lives here on earth.

It is also the season for pumpkins – big, round, bright orange pumpkins. In keeping with the season, I saw this little story and thought, what a story this

picture tells! So here it is: someone posted a cute picture of a large orange pumpkin which had been opened and hollowed out. A baby had climbed inside the pumpkin and sat down, cute as anything! As the Christian studied the picture, he saw in it a representation of the physical life versus the spiritual life.

Here we have an adorable baby boy who will soon grow up to be an active child, then a young man, tall and strong, and finally an adult in the prime of his life, a leader in his home and community, possibly a deacon in his church, a father, or a teacher, doctor, lawyer, or president of a company or a nation. The possibilities are endless.

But what is happening to the pumpkin? Within days it begins to decay and shrivel up. As the baby grows, the pumpkin dies! It

is a perfect analogy of life on planet earth! The baby represents our new life in Christ (1 Peter 2:2); the pumpkin, a picture of our earthly body. The Bible says “we have this treasure (our life) in earthen vessels (our body), 2 Corinthians 4:7. Even as our bodies age (technically we start aging at birth) the *you* who lives in this body grows in faith, grace, and wisdom, becoming stronger right to the end of our time on this earth.

Therefore, we do not lose heart; though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16) even to the end of our days! It is amazing how God uses everything to speak to our hearts and encourage us to be faithful and keep focused on the goal – His Kingdom coming!

## Don't forget, Election Day is Tuesday, November 6

Please don't forget to VOTE! It is the mid-term election and it is extremely important that you vote for people who will lead our country in the right direction. What is the “right direction?” Well, the right direction for Christians is the one that believes that all life is created by God, born and not-yet-born! The right direction is for honesty and integrity, and putting the good of the citizens first, not the big

corporations, not the government, not lining their pockets. The right direction is supporting families, and finally the right direction is following the Constitution of the United States!

One last point, and that is the Ballot Questions. Don't forget to turn to the Ballot Questions and vote NO! There are 3 Ballot Questions and the best way to vote, the right direction, is no on all three.

## A Word From God for the Students

The Student Ministry at Holy Grounds Coffee House requires getting up early! The students start to come in at 6:45



a.m. It was Denise O'Connor's turn to serve and by 7, the coffee was brewed and the muffins and other snacks were put out. It was a warm and inviting place to meet friends before school. There were a dozen students from Commerce High School at Holy

Grounds sitting around enjoying their coffee, tea, hot chocolate and snacks chatting with each other.

Christian music was playing in the background and Denise was busy behind the counter. Monday is her day to work at the Coffee House with the students in the morning, so she called on one young man who was willing to open in prayer for the day.

By 7:15 a.m. Denise got the attention of all the students and read a verse from the Bible, choosing Jeremiah 29:11-12. It was about how God has good plans for our lives and our futures, and will respond to us when we cry out to Him. Then Denise explained how only Jesus can take our sins away and get us to heaven. "We know when we sin," she said, "and we have to ask forgiveness." At that point it was time to close in prayer, asking God's protection for the day, then shoo the kids out the door to get to school on time, hoping to see them again the next day!

## Home-going For A Clown

One of our dear friends, Bruce Bittlingmeier, a special member of our "family" of believers at Holy Grounds Coffee House, passed on to Glory September 26th, at the age of 60 years. His Memorial Service was held at Our Father's House in Chicopee on October 16, 2018, at 6 p.m. Many family members showed up and quite a few from the Coffee House.



It was a lovely service, and many spoke of the years of service Bruce did with Redemption Gate Mission Society. Bruce's ministry was as a professional clown, which he was very good at, and also making balloon animals. The children all loved him. He participated in Family Days, Marches For Jesus, Open Mics, and other events at Redemption Gate Mission Society.

At the service, Pastor Cooley spoke, Pastor Renzo Ventrice, and Pastor Bob Olmstead, along with Bruce's his wife, Julie, daughter Gabby, son Matt, and several others of the ministry. All spoke of happy memories of him and of serving the Lord with him. It was evident what a beloved man he was, and although he struggled with many challenges, through Christ and His power in our lives, He overcame them. We all rejoice that now the battle is over and Bruce is enjoying his rest and reward.

After the Service refreshments were served in the basement fellowship hall of Our Father's House, where we gathered and enjoyed the time to have something to eat and talk about our memories of Bruce.

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## Don't forget to vote!

### Ongoing Events

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim; 1 p.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene;

**MONDAY -- FRIDAY:** Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.

**WED** – Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY:** Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.; FIAT 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY:** Pat and Barbara are back bringing lunch 2 to 4! **1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY:** Nov. 3, "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY NIGHT:** November 24, 7 p.m. Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.