



## Knox Presbyterian Church

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*"Christ caring for People  
through People"*

November 1, 2009

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
**the communion of saints,**  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN.

### Greetings and Blessings,

Here we are on the first Sunday of November, the day after Halloween, a day commonly referred to as "All Saints Day." It is a day when I always like to remind church members that they are indeed "saints." When I do there are often a few raised eyebrows and several who make comments or have thoughts like, "Oh, but I'm really not good enough to be called a saint." Herein is a common misunderstanding. While many Christian churches refer to Saints as those specially blessed persons now deceased who have been recognized by the church as having made super-human contributions to the faith, or those blessed by God with having the special gift of working miracles, this was not the biblical meaning of the term. While some denominations of Christians hold such persons in high honour many having particular days dedicated to them, and some even teach that we should pray through them, this is not the teaching of the majority of Protestant denominations. We believe that prayer is offered to God in the unity of the Trinity (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) directly without need of going through some other person, now deceased or otherwise.

What about the term "saint." You may have noticed that in some places I used a capital "S" and in others a lower case "s." Please note that in the Apostle's Creed as printed above the word is printed with a small "s." Paul in his letters to the Ephesians, and Philippians addresses them to all the saints in these particular communities. How can everyday Christians be called "saints?" The simplest understanding is that saints are really just "forgiven sinners." If you are a sinner, and we all are, and you have put your trust in Jesus for divine forgiveness, then you are indeed a "saint." Not perfect in this life to be sure but certainly and assuredly forgiven in Christ's love and by his sacrifice. Let's give thanks then today, together as His saints, for our security in Him, and seek to grow more like Him in humility and gratitude.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrian