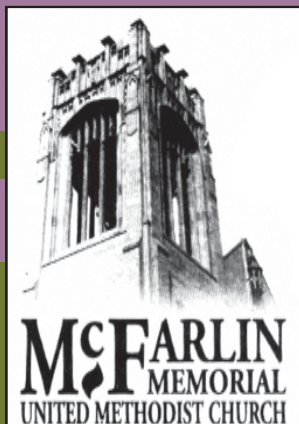


McFarlin Alive



VOLUME 156 ISSUE 20

October 9, 2009



**McFARLIN
CHURCH
INVITES
YOU TO A**

FALL FESTIVAL

**OF
ALL
SAINTS**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

5:30 - 7:30 PM

COSTUMES ARE WELCOME!



GAMES!

**TREATS!
HAYRIDE!**
(weather permitting)

FREE FOOD!
(donations accepted)



*Responding
to God's call,
we seek to
live lives
shaped by
Christ,
to reach
people for
Christ,
and to
develop
deeply
committed
Christians.*

*Family Camp 2009
Weekend of November 20 - 22!*

Join us at **Canyon Camp** for a relaxing and enjoyable weekend of hiking, crafts, games and more! Brochures are located around the church.

United Methodist Women Unit Meeting

McFarlin United Methodist Women Unit Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20 at 10:30 AM in Fenn Hall. Reverend Jim Gragg, former District Superintendent of the South Oklahoma City District and president of the Neighborhood Service Organization's board will be the speaker. World Thank Offering contributions will be collected at this meeting.

Circle 11 is hostess for the lunch which will be catered at \$7 per person. Call the church at 321-3484 by Friday, October 16 for child care and lunch reservations.

P.O. Box 6390, 73070
419 S. University at Apache
Norman, Okla. 73069
PH 405-321-3484
www.mcfarlinumc.org



Volume 156,
Issue 20

Ministry Updates

From My House to Your House



This Sunday will be a special Sunday at McFarlin. We will be celebrating our heritage as United Methodists. In the Sanctuary services we will be singing three great Charles Wesley hymns, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," and "Ye Servants of God." The anthem in the second service will be from the words of Wesley, "Christ From Whom All Blessings Flow."

In keeping with the occasion, we will have a special speaker this Sunday. His name is Rev. Kevin Watson and he will be preaching on Mark 17:17-31. His sermon is entitled, "Our Precious Heritage." His sermon will be simulcast over in LifeLine. Kevin is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and is a PhD candidate in Wesley studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He is also an author.

He recently wrote a book entitled, A Blueprint for Discipleship. We intend to have this book available for those who would like to purchase it. In the evening Kevin will further explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and a deeply committed Christian, particularly in the Methodist tradition. The evening session will be in room 209 at 7 PM.

Kevin is an outstanding young man, and some of you may already know him. Before going to seminary, and before he was ordained to serve the church in the Oklahoma, he was active in McFarlin while he attended OU. He is married to Melissa Gore, and the son-in-law of Denise and David Gore. Kevin and Melissa have an 18-month-old daughter named Bethany. We are delighted to have Kevin speaking to us this Sunday. I hope you will be with us.

For our rich heritage,

D. House

Life Line



Two pieces of news:

1. All Saints' Sunday is coming up quickly (November 1 to be exact). The way we celebrate All Saints' Sunday in LifeLine is very powerful, but also requires your participation. Each year we remember those who have gone before us with pictures and music. The music part we take care of, but the pictures must come from you. So we need the pictures of those who have been a blessing to you and are now home with God. Details of exactly how this works will be available in LifeLine and future McFarlin news outlets, but for now be thinking about and finding those pictures you'd like to have included.

2. I'm sad to announce that Erick Taylor, who has served as our worship leader and coordinator for the past 16 months, will be leaving us at the end of October. He's done a wonderful job for us and we're sorry to see him go, but we rejoice in the ministry opportunity that he has been given in Texas - they need the help. Our desire is to worship God in a way that honors him (first) and blesses people (second), so please pray that the people who can guide us into true worship will be made clear as we seek Erick's successor.

Grace, Peace & Joy,
Randy Wade

New Church Members Since our Last Newsletter

Jim and Pat Givens come from First United Methodist Church in Rogers, Arkansas. Jim is retired from Mobil Oil, and Pat was Director of the Chamber of Commerce in Anadarko. They have grown children.

Candace Hawkins comes from Crossbridge Community Church in San Antonio, Texas. She is an OU graduate assistant, and is working on a masters in Piano Pedagogy and Performance.

Katelyn Kruger comes from A & M United Methodist Church in College Station, Texas. She is a junior at the University of Oklahoma majoring in Early Childhood Development.

Ministry Updates

Youth Works...

I received word last week that the school we built in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico is up and running (imagine me doing a little happy dance as you read this!). When I heard the school was open and 40 children were attending class it took all my might to not click on Southwest Airlines for a ticket to go see it for myself. I am so thankful for the efforts of many at McFarlin: for the people who spent two spring breaks and time during **Juners** working on the school and for the many people who contributed funds. Just because the school is up and running doesn't mean our relationship with them has ended - stay tuned for more ways we can help.

Thanks to a very generous donation that will help underwrite our ski trip, we will be able to sponsor one this coming February. The dates are Friday evening, February 12 through Tuesday morning, February 16, 2010. Details are still being worked out. There are some who question the validity of a ski trip but often it is a seemingly "fun" event like this that opens a student to McFarlin for the first time.

October and November are busy months for us. October 24 we are off to Six Flags; October 29 & 30 is our **FISH** (high school leadership team) retreat; November 1 we will help with the Children's Ministry Fall Festival; November 6 - 8 is our **BAM** (middle school) retreat; and November 20 - 22 is our high school senior surprise trip.

Thanks to everyone who ate at Boomerang a couple of Sundays ago. We raised just over \$200. Watch for another McFarlin Day @ Boomerang in the near future.

Did you know we are presently receiving about \$100 per month recycling old cell phones and printer ink cartridges of all kinds and sizes? That is awesome! Bring yours to the box outside the Student Ministries office, room 216 and help us increase this amount.

Scott Meier

Single Snippets

Fall has arrived and with it, OU watch parties! Join us every Saturday as the group gathers to watch OU play football. Everyone is welcome! The OU/Texas watch party is at Shirley Elms' house (1335 Regent, 329-4049).

Come celebrate October birthdays (cake will be provided) at the Rib Crib on Thursday night, October 22 at 6 PM instead of at the Mont. Speaking of the Mont, October is the last month of our evenings on the patio at the Mont (but only because they close the patio). We will meet at the Service Station at 5:30 PM on Thursdays for the month of November. How about a trip to Affair of the Heart Craft Fair on Friday, October 23? We will leave the church at 10 AM for fun day at the OKC fairgrounds.

Matthew 25 tells us to visit the sick, feed the poor, clothe the homeless; it is how we treat our fellow man that matters to Christ. There is a volunteer opening to visit those in the hospital. Contact me at 245-9874 or hrleigh@cox.net. Romans 12:1 (MSG) "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life - and place it before God as an offering." You think about that!

Grace and Peace,
Harriette Leigh Kemp

Music Notes

Can you imagine your favorite movie without music? What about Superman without the theme, The Ten Commandments with no music? Music is around us all the time and has always been a part of Methodism. Whether you go to LifeLine or the Sanctuary to worship on Sunday mornings, music plays a central role. One of my good friends told me recently that if the sermon is bad and the music excellent, he feels he has worshiped; however, if the sermon is good and the music bad he leaves somewhat empty. We work with the ministers and the professional staff of musicians to ensure we are in sync with the message of the day or season - whether an anthem, hymn, praise song or instrumental piece - much like a movie score. In both services we continue to strive for excellence in what we do and we have hundreds of volunteers that help us toward that goal, in the choirs, handbells, children's music and the congregations. Music for children and youth is especially important because it locks in messages about our faith by teaching through both words and melodies. I encourage everyone to consider music at McFarlin for your children as another way to learn our faith.

I appreciate each and every person that contributes to music at McFarlin. Without them we would be like a favorite movie without a score.

Boyd Hamilton,
Interim Coordinator of Music

New Church Members

Continued from Page 2

Scott Stegmann comes from Messiah Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City. He is married to Kendall, who is a member. He is an Environmental Project Manager with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation; she works for the Department of Environmental Quality. They have two children, Chloe (4), and Sofia (2).

Jim and Jeanine Rickards come from First United Methodist Church in Springdale, Arkansas. He is general manager of Embassy Suites; she is a homemaker. They have two children, Maggie, a 6th grader at Irving Middle School, and Matthew, a 3rd grader at Washington Elementary.

Ministry Updates

Senior Adult

Fall has arrived and a traveling we will go! We all had a great time on our Northern Oklahoma trip. Our next trip is on Tuesday, October 20 when we will tour Bricktown in a church bus. We will go to the Bronze Park, Banjo Museum, Memorial Museum, Botanical Gardens, take a canal ride and eat at Toby Keith's. Cost is \$25 plus your lunch (that is the cost into all the museums and canal ride). Each church bus holds 14 passengers, so how many buses should I reserve? Call now for your reservation. We will leave the church parking lot at 9 AM and return around 5 PM.

The Branson trip in November has been replaced by a fall foliage trip to the Wichita Mountains. It's Tuesday, November 17. We will go to the Ft. Sill Museum and to Medicine Park for lunch, then have a Wildlife Refuge Park Ranger take us on a guided tour all over the Wichita Mountain and Reserve. He will take us to some places where most tourists don't go. We should see lots of bison, elk, deer, turkeys and prairie dogs! The fall foliage and wild flowers will be in full glory. We will be back home between 5:30-6 PM. This is by chartered bus so sign up soon!

McFarlin sponsors one of the few Alzheimer's support groups in Oklahoma. If you know of anyone who is caring for a family member who has dementia or Alzheimer's, please tell him or her about our group. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM in room 209. We have a light lunch and a lot of sharing and caring.

Keep smiling,
Carol Dean Schreiner

McFarlin Alive
Page 4

Care Ministries

One of the more difficult notes for me to write is to someone who has recently lost a loved one. I do my best to avoid meaningless platitudes and empty phrases and make a conscious effort to replace them with meaningful words. Recently, I came across examples of what not to write a new widow or widower and thought I'd share some of them with you:

1. "I know how you feel." (Unless you've lost your own spouse, you don't know how it feels.)

2. "If there's anything I can do, just let me know." (Offer specific assistance, not vague platitudes. "Can I bring over dinner next Tuesday? Would you like to try my chicken pot pie or would you prefer lasagna?")

3. "How are you?" (Be specific. "I'm sure this is a very difficult time for you. How are your coping each day?")

4. "Call me anytime." (It's better for you to say, "I'll give you a call sometime." Again, be specific, and call when you say you will. "I'll call you next week so that we can plan something for the weekend.")

5. "Bless your heart, you poor dear." (Offer empathy, not pity. "I'm glad you shared this with me so that I can be praying for you." And be sure to follow through with prayers.)

6. "You'll forget in time. Time heals all wounds." (Who wants to forget a spouse, no matter how long? Better to say, "I know the memories of your 45 years with Bill are very precious to you.")

I don't think anyone finds it easy to come up with the right words to say to someone who is mourning, but think what you would want to hear. It will help you to be a blessing to someone who needs your care and support.

Serving with you,
Jane Cook, Congregational
Care Coordinator

CHILDREN'S CHURCH-HOUSE

"Be still, and know that I am God..."
~Psalm 46:10

This week during Discovery Time, we took the children outside. It was a perfect day! Often the elementary group stays inside on Wednesday afternoons so we can use the computer and big screen in the Lighthouse, but I know that the children love to be outdoors. The verse above was our message for the week, so we sat in a circle on the grass, and for part of the time, we just sat in silence. The sun shined. The wind blew through the trees. We just enjoyed God and His creation.

I expected this exercise to be difficult for the second and third graders, but when we finished, they said it wasn't long enough. The fourth and fifth grade group asked if they could do it again, so when I gave them free time after finishing a game, they spread out to different shady spots and sat in silence - all of them!

Do you ever feel as though there is no quiet time in your house? If you're alone, do you need a television or radio on? I challenge you this week to find some quiet time. Turn off the radio in your car. Take a run without the iPod. Turn off the television for a few hours. The children talked about their favorite quiet spots. Find yours, be still and know that He is God, and help your children to recognize the value in quiet - in stillness.

Beth Carter,
Elementary Children's Director

Volunteers Needed for Habitat Apostle's Build

You may have seen the recent article in the Norman Transcript about the Baker family who will be moving into the house being built by Norman churches at 620 Apache. There has been a great deal of progress the last few weeks. Several McFarlinites have worked on the house but the efforts of many more are needed. Workdays are usually Fridays and Saturdays. Times may vary on game days. Sign-up sheets are outside worship services. The scheduled work for the rest of this month is sheetrock work, fiber cement

Continued on Page 5

Ministry Updates

1 Perspective

I suspect many who read this have been watching the Ken Burns documentary on the National Parks. I heard an interesting interview of Burns on the radio the other day. He pointed out that the initial impetus for creating the parks was spiritual, not so much out of ecological concerns. The opening segment of the series bore that out.

At about the same time as the shows began to air, some of the church staff started gathering weekly for a spiritual growth study. One of the spiritual exercises had to do with appreciating nature. Since I grew up working in the nature area at Scout camp and hiking and gardening are some of my favorite activities, I really do see "communing with nature" as a spiritual venture.

I think it is renewing for most people to step away from the hectic pace of their lives to experience the serenity and exuberance of God's creation. It certainly doesn't have to be at a national park. It can be a few minutes in the back yard or at a park or a simple walk around one's neighborhood or around campus. The important thing is to be sensitive to the many ways God has blessed us through nature, to develop an awareness of the intricacies of creation, and a sense of wonder.

For letting God minister to us through nature,
George Shepherd

Volunteers Needed for Habitat Apostle's Build

Continued from Page 4

installation and siding. Updated photos of the project are posted on the large bulletin board outside the Sanctuary. Please call Karen at 640-4353 for more details.

Christmas Store Donations

Once again McFarlin will help with the household goods section of the Cleveland County Christmas Store. Dorinda Harvey is coordinating this for us and she serves on the Board of Christmas Store along with Betsy Penn who has been treasurer for the non-profit for several years.

Donations being collected by McFarlin should be only **NEW** items. The following are needed: bedding of all sizes - sheets, pillows, blankets; bathroom rugs, vanity sets, towels, kitchen towels sets, small appliances, pots, pans, bakeware, dishes, flatware and housewares of all kinds. Donations are now being accepted in the hallway outside the church offices on the second floor. In past years some have given really nice bed in a bag sets, but the more needed items would be simple sets of sheets which are much less expensive.

Giving Tree Serves the Less Fortunate

Did you know that the Norman Women's Resource Center lost 46% of it's funding due to changes by the United Way and because of a decrease in donations? The agency, which provides rape crisis response and a shelter for women and minor children, has laid off many staff members and cut salaries 30-50% for those who remain. WRC is one of the agencies McFarlin supports through our "Outside the Walls" ministry. The Giving Tree in the McFarlin Atrium is making it possible for our church members to provide all manner of in-kind donations for WRC and other people-helping agencies. The Giving Tree makes it easier for our members to know about and respond to needs in our community. Every week, several items are left under the tree, which is always present in the Atrium.

The whole idea is "reaching out with promise of assistance and service." "Leaves" on the tree describe items to donate or needs for volunteers for many of the ministries and agencies supported by McFarlin. Some list items for rooms at East Main Place, diapers for the Center for Children and Families (CCFI), and donors for the Blood Drive. Others are for Child SHARE, the Food Pantry, Bridges and Women's Resource Center.

Brochures about the Giving Tree can be found around the building including at the tree. To get involved, simply drop by the tree, look over the leaves and choose one or more to respond to. Follow the instructions on the leaf; tape the leaf on the item you are donating when you leave it below the tree so we can correctly match up the items with the agencies. The Giving Tree is a great way to help our neighbors in Norman who can use a boost. Thanks to the hundreds of people who continue to donate items and to Sally Smith, the current coordinator of the effort. You may reach her at 329-0354 if you have questions.

Have something big to donate? There is also a flyer under the tree listing the agencies served by McFarlin through the Church & Society Ministry Team with the team liaison and phone number. Please call the liaison if you have questions about an agency or if you have something to donate that won't fit under the tree.

Hospital Visitors Needed

The Hospital Lay Visitor Program is in need of 2 volunteers to visit Norman Regional Hospital 2 times per month (or more if you wish) Training is provided, and the rewards are great, both here and eternally! Think about what you are doing to honor God, and give me a call. Harriette Leigh Kemp, 245-9874.

McFarlin News

All Saints' Banners

It is time for All Saints' Banners to be made and hung. We need information from family members who want a banner made for their loved one to be turned in as quickly as possible so that we can get the banner made and ready for hanging on October 29. Remember, we cannot make a banner unless the family agrees to have it made. If you would like to have a banner made, please contact twilliams@mcfarlinumc.org or call 321-3484, ext. 112 with your information. You will need to give the name as you want it to appear on the banner, and things you want represented on the banner (job, hobbies, special interests, etc). **We must receive all information no later than October 15 to have time to get your banner made.**



I Wonder If They Will Be Able To Help Me Today?

That is what many families wonder each week during Thursday's Utility Assistance.

Each week, we have an average of twenty families show up at McFarlin praying that we will be able not only to see them one on one but also to be able to help them with a utility that is about to be shut off or has already been turned off.

The hardest part for the three of us who assist in this program is walking into the room where they are all sitting and telling them how sorry we are that we are out of money for that day and that we hope and pray that they will be able to come back to see us the next Thursday. The best part is knowing that on an average we help four to six families each week.

We give thanks that we are able to assist with a few families each week but it does break our hearts that we can't do more. During the third quarter of this year we were able to help sixty-nine families and it is always a reminder to us that we are doing God's work when we see the tears of joy and relief in their eyes.

It is such a blessing that our church has a program in place that does so much for our great community.

In His loving name,
Tim Stewart, Teresa Williams and Herb Hamburger

McFarlin Church has an Immediate Opening for the Director of Children's Music and Handbells

McFarlin has a vibrant music ministry with numerous children's choirs and 10 handbell choirs with more than 80 participants. The position is full time and includes a benefit package. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. Please send resumes to McFarlin UMC, PO Box 6390, Norman, OK 73070-6390, attn. Boyd Hamilton or bhamilton@mcfarlinumc.org.

Class Officer's Gatherings

Next Sunday, October 11, adult class officers should choose to attend one of two Class Officers' Gatherings. Times are from 8:30-9:30 AM and from 11:00-noon. Sessions will be in room 224. Officers will discuss:

1. Strategies for staying in touch with members who are not attending
2. Ways to build attendance
3. Developing care structures for classes

Several classes always have good ideas on their best practices so all groups can benefit from sharing. For additional information, please contact George Shepherd at the church: 321-3484, ext. 109 or gshepherd@mcfarlinumc.org.

McFarlin Family

Welcome McFarlin New Members: Jim and Pat Givens; Katelyn Kruger; Candace Hawkins; Scott Stegmann; Jim and Jeanine Rickards.

Entered the Church Triumphant: Maria Hernandez, daughter of Glenn and Susan Curren; father of Kerby Snider; George Arthur Hurley Sr.

Baptized Into the Family of Faith: Evelyn Rose Bylden, daughter of Joshua and Jessica Blyden.

Meetings & Activities

October 11th - 17th

Sunday, October 11

8:00AM	Men 2 Pray 4 Pastors	Room 200
8:30AM	Early Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
8:30AM	Class Officer's Gathering	Room 224
9:35AM	Communion After Worship*	Martin Chapel
9:40AM	Sunday School*	Various
10:55AM	Sanctuary Worship*	Sanctuary
10:55AM	LifeLine Worship*	Fenn Hall
11:00AM	Class Officer's Gathering	Room 224
12:05PM	Communion after Worship	Martin Chapel
12:30PM	Miriam Handbell Choir	Bell Room
2:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Room 401
4:00PM	Wesley II Bell Choir	Meyer Hall
4:00PM	Wesley III Bell Choir	Bell Room
4:30PM	Advent Preparation	Room 401
4:30PM	Chapel Choir	Choir Room
4:30PM	Chapel Choir Parent Meeting	Room 209
5:00PM	Wesley Choir	Meyer Hall
5:30PM	Singles Bible Study/Dinner	615 E. Boyd
6:00PM	Agape Handbell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Youth Fellowship Dinner	Fenn Hall
6:30PM	The Gathering	Fenn Hall
7:00PM	Wesley Seminar	Room 209

Monday, October 12

9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Room 102, 104
10:00AM	UMW #11	Offsite
4:00PM	Wesley I Bell Choir	Bell Room
6:00PM	Program Council	Room 209
6:30PM	Care Team Meeting	Room 227
7:00PM	Boy Scout Patrol Meeting	Room 329, 403
7:00PM	Boy Scouts	Meyer Hall
7:00PM	UMW #8	Offsite
8:00PM	HS Bible & Basketball	Fenn Hall

Tuesday, October 13

9:15AM	UMW #6	Room 226
11:30AM	Prayers for Our Church	Church Offices
6:30PM	Celebrate Recovery	Meyer Hall
6:30PM	Priscilla Shirer Bible Study	Room 227
7:00PM	Disciple Bible Study III*	Room 226
7:00PM	Trustees Meeting	Room 209
8:00PM	Men's Basketball	Fenn Hall

Wednesday, October 14

6:00AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Fenn Hall
9:00AM	Children's Day Out	Room 102, 104
9:30AM	UMW Circle # 5	Room 320
10:30AM	With-God Group	Room 404
2:00PM	Care Ministry Visitors	Room 210
3:00PM	Children's Choir / Discovery Time	Various
6:30PM	Emmaus Reunion*	Room 227
7:00PM	Academy	Various
7:00PM	With-God Group	Room 404
7:00PM	Divorce Adjustment	Room 307

7:10PM	Women's Bible Study	Room 407
7:30PM	Wednesday Bible Study*	Room 328
7:30PM	Chancel Choir*	Choir Room
7:30PM	B.A.S.I.C.	Room 321
7:30PM	FISH Opening Worship	Sanctuary
8:00PM	Al-Anon	Room 227

Thursday, October 15

8:30AM	Utilities Assistance	Room 209
9:00AM	Disciple Bible Study III*	Room 222
6:00PM	Thimbles & Thistles	Room 328
7:00PM	Financial Peace University	Room 209
7:00PM	Sooner Toastmasters	Room 401
7:00PM	Eden Diet Support Group*	Room 222

Friday, October 16

7:15AM	S.I.C.	Offsite
12:00PM	High School Pizza Friday	Room 320

Saturday, October 17

8:30AM	Seniors Breakfast	Prairie Kitchen
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**Child care Available*

Arbeka Mission

McFarlin volunteers have traveled to Arbeka Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference church near Okemah seven different days to work on the open air shelter for that small Creek congregation. At least 15 different



McFarlin volunteers have worked a total of over 140 hours not including travel time. Three members of the Arbeka congregation have also assisted. Many rafters and a healthy percentage of the roof decking have been replaced. By the time you receive this newsletter the project will probably be completed. Recent photos of the work are posted on the Missions bulletin board in the office area. Thanks to all those who went and volunteered but also to those who purchase the missions fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate. Some money from that fundraiser has helped purchase supplies for the mission. Thanks for making service to others in the name of Christ possible.

McFarlin News

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church



P.O. Box 6390
Norman, OK 73070
405.321.3484
www.mcfarlinumc.org

Non-Profit Organization
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Norman, OK
Permit No. 278

8:30 & 10:55
AM
Sanctuary
Traditional
Worship

10:55 AM
LifeLine
Contemporary
Worship

Park & Ride!

Please consider using Park & Ride to make room for our guests who attend the 10:55 worship services. The McFarlin vans run from McFarlin to the Boyd House lot and back again every Sunday. Times are: 9:30-9:55 AM, 10:40-11:05 AM and 12:00-12:25 PM. If you attend Sunday school and the 10:55 services, please consider using Park & Ride. If you would like to volunteer to help drive the vans, please contact Mike Hawley, mike@mikehawley.com.



Pumpkin Patch Hours



Monday - Saturday
9:30 AM to Dark
Sundays, Noon - Dark

*Thank you to all who helped
unload the pumpkins this past
Sunday!*