

## ABOUT OUR FAMILY...

**OUR SICK** Bill Johnson and Gayle Hardcastle have both been able to return to worship services. They are doing well following surgeries. Leslie Potts, Phyllis White's daughter, was injured in a vehicle accident on Tuesday. She has lots of cuts and bruises but nothing broken. Bob and Sharrolyn Reed are in Houston where Sharrolyn will have routine tests. Prayers have been requested for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James Dawdy of the US Army, Kelci Taylor, Bryan Selvidge's friend and Mickiel and Patty Martinez, who are having health problems.

**LADIES RETREAT** is this Friday and Saturday at The Stone Castle Hotel, 3050 Green Mountain Drive in Branson. Meet at Florentina's, 2690 Green Mountain Drive, at 6 p.m. for dinner together.

**THE 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION**, this Sunday, will benefit victims of hurricane Irene and the Mexico, Mo church building fund.

**THIS SUNDAY EVENING** is the *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Devo, Singing and Fellowship*. Bring snacks, finger foods, desserts, drinks, etc.

**NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6**, we will have as our guest speaker Chuck Northrop from the Bible Institute of Missouri.

**K.I.C.K.** meets next Sunday, November 6, at 4:30 p.m.

**THANKS** Colleen Hearon would like to thank the church for helping to purchase items for making quilts. Also, we would like to thank some of those responsible for sending quilts, blankets etc.: Betty Chumbley of Rantoul, IL, who had material shipped to Colleen, Anne Barker, chairwoman of Town & Country Quilters Guild of Joplin, Jeanne Flesch, Church Quilters Guild, Salem, OR, who sent them to her niece, Leslie Haight of Edgeton, KS, who then delivered them to the church here, and 17 year old Breann Crouse of Burlington, CO, who was responsible for organizing several who bought items and made fleece blankets. So far 90 quilts and blankets have been given to tornado victims. If you know of anyone that was a victim of the tornado and could use a quilt please let Colleen know. Thank you, to Colleen, for her work in making and distributing the quilts and blankets.

***Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas; this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds WHICH SHE DID! Acts 9:36*** (this would apply to many since 5/22/11)

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**TEEN DEVO** ~ Thursdays (see Graylon for details)

**LADIES RETREAT** ~ Oct. 28-29

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP** ~ Oct. 30

**K.I.C.K.** ~ Sunday, Nov. 6

## Richard's Remark's –What About Halloween?

Should Christians have any involvement with Halloween? Some of our brethren would answer this question very quickly and firmly – some in the affirmative, some in the negative. So, which is it? Well...that depends.

Out of curiosity, I did an online search for the phrase, "Christians and Halloween." As a result, of course, I was provided with numerous links to articles addressing the subject. Some of those articles were quite stern in expressing the opinion that Christians should absolutely avoid the holiday and any festivities involved with it. Their reasoning for such was almost always based upon the so-called "roots" of Halloween – pagan ways in pagan days of old. Has Halloween been approached in such a way in days gone by? Yes. Are there still some today who might choose to approach the holiday in the same manner? Yes. Would it be wrong to do so? Yes. So does that mean that Halloween should be avoided by Christians? Not necessarily. We do find a precedent established in the scriptures for these types of situations – Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8.

In Romans 14, Paul addresses the topic of eating meat. Was it ok to eat meat? Yes. But, if a person didn't understand that it was ok and therefore chose to be a vegetarian, was that also ok? Yes. So, whether one wanted to eat meat or not was a matter of personal preference. And, each personal preference was to be respected. "One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him" (Rom. 14:2-3).

In 1 Corinthians 8, we find Paul addressing the topic of eating meat that had been offered to idols. (It is my opinion that this passage is probably closest to our considerations regarding the Halloween holiday and possible objections.) Corinth, like so many other locations, was a sinful city that contained pagan practices. Therefore, animals were being sacrificed to false gods and the meat was then utilized in feasts or sold in the market. Since this meat had been involved in a pagan practice, were Christians to abstain? The key to the issue is knowledge/understanding. In verses 4-6, Paul says, "Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'there is no God but one.' For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as indeed there are many 'gods' and many 'lords' – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord,

Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." With the understanding that there was no significance in the fact that it had been offered to an idol (i.e. meat was meat), a Christian could eat it. Paul went on to say, "However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled" (vs 7).

So, back to the original question: Should Christians have any involvement with Halloween? That depends on your understanding and therefore your conscience. If your understanding of the holiday is that of merely fun, imaginative costumes and candy, then go ahead, participate and do so in good conscience. You would be like the Christian in Corinth who understood that they could eat meat offered to idols in good conscience. If you have concerns because of past, pagan practices of others and therefore can't participate in good conscience, don't. You would be like the Christians in Corinth who couldn't eat meat offered to idols in good conscience. It is made clear in 1 Corinthians 8 that we are not to violate our consciences in such cases. Doing so would be wrong.

Whether you participate or not, be respectful of each approach. But, here's another good question: Since some can't participate in good conscience because of their own understanding, should all Christians then avoid the holiday? Let's go back to 1 Corinthians 8 and the eating of meat offered to idols. Paul states, "Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak" (vs 8-9). The context (vs 10-13) clearly bears out this idea: Don't try to influence the abstaining brother to conform to your approach. Because, if he did and violated his conscience, it would be wrong. Paul was not telling the understanding Christians to never eat meat. He was simply telling them to exercise caution in their interactions with those of a differing approach. For example: We would not try to influence those who abstain from Halloween to come to our Autumn party and hand out candy to the kids. Neither should they try to influence us to avoid such activities. It is a matter of preference and *each* preference should be allowed and respected. If we know a brother doesn't participate in Halloween, don't purposefully trick-or-treat at his house. Yet, the brother should not try to stop us from trick-or-treating at other houses.

So, should Christians have any involvement with Halloween? That is a matter of understanding and preference. Make your own choice and be respectful of the choices of others.

## PRAYER LIST

The Hearons  
Ellen Reddell  
Mark Schow  
Sharrolyn and Bob Reed  
Grace Anderson  
Quinton Anderson  
Chrystal Ross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James Dawdy  
Kelci Taylor

Gayle Hardcastle  
Bill Johnson  
John Hornback  
Virginia Frisbie  
Our homebound members:  
Oba Ensley, Effie Lane, Jo Barnes, Daphne Dreher, A. V. Hearon

## MILITARY

Andy Reynolds (Iraq)  
Jason Jones (Ft. Bragg, NC)  
Paul Haverfield (Italy)  
Justin Barnes (Afghanistan)  
Ryan Kimbel (Iraq, Carrie Kimbel's brother-in-law)

If you want someone on the prayer list or taken off;  
**please let Martha or Kristy know.**

## FOR THE RECORD

Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011	
Bible Class	89
Morning Worship	141
Contribution	\$2602
Budget	\$2520
Evening Worship	88
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011	65
<b>Daily Bible Readers</b>	26
<b>Fair Haven</b>	JUICE
	SALAD DRESSINGS

## THOSE TO SERVE

### MORNING

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Prayer  
Lord's Supper  
& Contribution

Prayer

Greeters

Clipboards

Communion

Open Building, Oct.

### EVENING

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Prayer  
Lord's Supper & Contrib.  
Prayer

### WED. EVENING

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Prayer  
Devotional  
Prayer

### OCT 30

Richard White  
Doug Douthitt  
R. Chambers  
Q. Anderson  
Gregg Adamson  
John Freeman  
Ernie Trumbly  
Ryan Harris  
Jerry Howell  
Breck Skidmore  
Bryan Patrick  
Leon Johnson

R. Chambers  
Amy Chambers

L. Thogmartin  
Fred Roesel

M/M Claxton

Richard White

Drew Douthitt  
Doug Douthitt  
Bryan Patrick  
Fred Roesel  
Ronny Reddell

### NOV 2

David Coffee  
Doug Douthitt  
Graylon Miller  
Dale Hoggatt  
Joe May

### NOV 6

Q. Anderson  
Mike Lawson  
Doug Claxton  
Doug Douthitt  
Josh Esquibel  
Ed Hardcastle  
Leon Johnson  
Addison Kendall  
Steve Johnson  
Richard White  
Sean Parks  
Mark Macfee

David Coffee  
Sharon Coffee

Brian Alumbaugh  
Brice Alumbaugh

M/M Howell

Ernie Trumbly

Dale Hoggatt  
Graylon Miller  
E. Robertson  
Ernie Trumbly  
Bob Reed

### NOV 9

Doug Douthitt  
Dale Hoggatt  
Bryan Patrick  
Graylon Miller  
Robert Reaves

# 26th & CONNECTICUT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**RICHARD'S REMARKS**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**

**LADIES RETREAT**

**TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Doug Douthitt	Dwain Addington	Richard
Jerry Howell	Dale Hoggatt	Chambers
Richard White	Steve Johnson	
	Fred Roesel	

## MEETING TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class	9:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b> Bible Class (Sept. - May)	10:00 AM
<b>Wednesday</b> Devo. & Bible Class	7:00 PM

**October 30, 2011**