

We're the Pumpkin Church!



**Pumpkins arrive
September 27th
All hands on deck at
2:00pm to unload!**

The Pumpkin Patch officially opens Saturday, September 30 through Halloween from noon to dusk. The Patch is managed by our volunteer Sharon Wilson, Pumpkin Festival Coordinator. (You can help Sharon set up the patch on Thursday and Friday after delivery!)

We're known city-wide as the "pumpkin church" of Rapid City because our patch offers not only pumpkins for sale but also pumpkin facts, a maze, and pumpkin train rides to over 1,000 children by appointment in the mornings. "We're taking pumpkins to main Street Square for the Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival on Sept. 30, offering a pumpkin patch and free pumpkin train rides.



"We've been doing this so long that Head Start, day cares and school classes just call church to set their appointment," Sharon says. "Teachers will see me somewhere and say 'You're the pumpkin lady. We'll be there!' I love doing this."

Proceeds from the sale support various ministry programs at the church and community organizations including Scout troops, Black Hills Hockey Association, Rushmore Lions and Altrusa. On Nov. 1, all sales added together, our supplier is paid expenses and taxes are subtracted, and the remainder is divided by total hours worked and each group receives their volunteers' earned." "Clear as mud? Actually, it works quite well," say Sharon.

Sharon has been involved with the patch since 1998 and says CLUMC ran a patch starting in 1995. "We invite you to stop by to select your special pumpkin. We'd love to have your business advertise on our train and we love every volunteer. Just call me."



How can we help with the Pumpkin Patch?

- ◆ Advertise your business on our pumpkin train. Call Sharon to get a 14x20" ad for \$50- tons of coverage!
- ◆ Sign up to help at the Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival on Sept. 30 at Main Street Square.
- ◆ Volunteer to help Sharon during preschool visits.
- ◆ Buy your pumpkins and fall décor at CLUMC's Pumpkin Patch.

Where do our pumpkins come from? In 1974 Richard Hamby, a farmer in north Carolina, met a minister with a need to raise funds for his church. Today, the Pumpkin Patch organization leases the land and pays for seed, cultivation, fertilizer, irrigation, labor and trucking in order to provide a risk-free fundraising opportunity for more than 1,300 churches of 30 denominations in 48 states.