

Pumpkins! A Month in Review

When the truck pulled up to St John in the sprinkling rain on Saturday, October 7th, there was a crowd of people in the parking lot cheering a welcome! Our truck driver, Manuel, had left the pumpkin farm in Farmington, NM on Tuesday with a truck full of pumpkins. After a stop at a church in Rhode Island, we were ready to clean that truck out. In less than an hour, we unloaded over 2000 pumpkins and gourds! Once we moved the hay that was used to cushion the pumpkins for their trip, from the truck to the middle of our Pumpkin Patch, we took pictures with Manuel and waved goodbye.

The next day our St John Pumpkin Patch would open for business! For 24 days, members of St John worked in our Pumpkin Patch keeping the Patch eye-catching and selling lots and lots of pumpkins!

But we didn't just sell our favorite fall decorations. We also met so many of our neighbors and members of our surrounding community! We had story times in the Patch on Thursday mornings. Pastor Eric served up fresh-made grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup on one chilly Saturday afternoon. We brightened folks' days dressed in a pumpkin costume waving a sign that invited folks to HONK! If they loved pumpkins! We got a lot of honks!

Our Pumpkin Patch gave us a chance to connect with so many folks who had previously just driven right on by.

We took photos in the Patch. On one miserably rainy afternoon, we invited folks indoors for our Pumpkin Fair to play 10 different games designed by Dave Van Cleave's neighbor, Matt Calder. And, finally, we hosted over 200 kids and adults from our community for our second annual Trunk or Treat—in conjunction with the Sudbury Family Network! Trunk or Treat was such a smashing success that there was not a parking spot to be found on the pavement or the grass!

And through it all, we sold pumpkins and gourds! Right around 2000 of them! We estimate that we connected with more than 700 members of our community. And because we sold over \$7000 in pumpkins, we raised more

than \$2000 earmarked for youth programs here at St John and in our local community!

Thank you to each and every one of you who unloaded the truck; worked in sales; ensured that we had lighting, power, & the ability to process credit card transactions; beautified our St John grounds and building; spread the word of our Pumpkin Sale and accompanying activities with friends and family; participated in Photos in the Patch; led a game at the Pumpkin Fair; sponsored a car or table at Trunk or Treat; and bought pumpkins! And thank you to the Bascom family for taking our leftover pumpkins to share with the animals at Codman and Drumlin Farms!

We all worked together to make our first St John's Pumpkin Sale a success!

