

# *Building Blocks*

*October 26, 2005*

Coming Up:

**GOOSEPIMPLES:** Katie O'Brien's show is still playing at Café Theatre in Toms River. It's an interactive Rock & Roll fairy tale and includes lunch. For more info call 888-456-7469

**HALLOWEEN NIGHT:** Sunday, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. More info below. I'm still looking for some help with the Halloween night. I need help with some games and with the worship service.

**LOCK-IN:** Friday night November 11<sup>th</sup> we're teaming up with the crew from Fellowship Chapel to have one stickin' kickin' lock-in. (Say that 5 times fast) Make sure you put your name on the sign up sheet on the youth board.

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## *Katrina Benefit Concert*

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> (the day after the Lock-in) there's going to be a benefit concert held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Toms River from Noon until 11pm. There will be fifteen live bands including Nick Pole's band "The Fight Within!" Tickets are \$10. All proceeds from ticket and refreshment sales will go to the Red Cross. Monetary donations will also be accepted to help defray some of the expenses. For Ticket info, donations or any other questions call or email Kevin or Nick Pole.

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## *Family Halloween Night*

Remember the Family Halloween Party is this Sunday night at 6:00pm. Decorate the trunk of your car and bring candy to share for "Trunk or Treating" in the parking lot. Or come to check out the food and games. Or just come to see the cool costumes or o show off yours. Or come for the frightful worship service. Or just come for no particular reason. Just come! And invite your friends.

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# Halloween/October Fun Facts

- Everyone associates bats with Halloween but by October 31 most of the little creatures have disappeared into caves to hibernate for the winter.
  - horse races were the highlight of the first Oktoberfest held in Munich to honor the 1810 marriage of king Ludwig I. Now the day is celebrated worldwide with a feast of sausages and beer. (Other interesting note: Oktoberfest is celebrated in September)
  - Some say if you catch the first falling leaf you see this season you won't catch any winter colds. (You might already be too late for that one.)
  - The first jack-o'- lanterns appeared in Ireland crafted from hollowed- out turnips and potatoes
  - Traditionally oysters are eaten seasonally during months that include the letter r. this actually helps oysters by not disturbing them during their summer mating period.
  - In china pumpkins, the royalty of the garden, were once believed to bring good luck
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## Service Project

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school classes are asking for help. They'll be sending care packages to our church members away at college and they're looking for donations of these items (in no particular order): Bags of hard candy and mini candy bars, Microwaveable popcorn, gum, sunflower and pumpkin seeds, hot chocolate, Ramen noodles (in the bags, they're easier to pack.) They're also looking for non-food stuff like: Phone cards, best selling novels (no trashy stuff) Devotional books, Christian CDs, 06 calendars (pocket size), plain note cards, pens, and postage stamps. Donations can be put in regular sized shoeboxes and dropped off in the Sunday school office.

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## Fun[d]Raising News

We currently have 2 fundraisers going on. The Current order will end Nov. 9. Catalogs are in Kevin's office ready for you to pick up. The catalog has many wonderful gift items, wrapping paper, cards and kitchen items.

The other fundraiser is the Great American Gourmet Pie Sale, your mouth will water just looking at the catalog. This sale will run now until Nov. 22. Catalogs are also in the box in Kevin's office. The pies arrive frozen and will be delivered the week of Dec. 5.

Lori is looking for youth to work the sale table for the following Sundays, Oct 30, Nov, 6, 13,20. You are needed from 8:30am-9:30am and 10:30 amd- 11am. Please call Lori if you can work a time slot. You will earn profits from what you sell.!

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# Kevin's Korner

Is Halloween evil? The answer depends on who you ask. But you asked me, so I'll give you my take 'cause it's my corner and I can do what I want with it! Is Halloween evil? No. Are evil things done on Halloween? Yes. Does that make it okay? No.

Historically speaking, Halloween grew out of a Celtic festival that celebrated the end of the harvest season.

*That time of year was also thought to be a time when the barrier between the worlds of the living and dead broke and spirits walked the Earth. Going door to door, children collected wood for a sacred bonfire that provided light against the growing darkness. During this fiery festival, the Celts wore masks, often made of animal heads and skins, hoping to frighten off spirits. As the celebration ended, families carried home embers from the communal fire to relight their hearth fires. Getting the picture? Costumes, trick-or-treating and jack-o-lanterns all got their start more than 2,000 years at an Irish bonfire.<sup>1</sup>*

Today we still celebrate plenty of things that, at least as far as dates are concerned, are based on old mythical pagan festivals. (Christmas is December 25<sup>th</sup> because the early church wanted to snuff out a giant pagan festival centered on the winter solstice. Point is, Halloween is only as evil as the reasons people celebrate it. Personally, I celebrate free candy and the fact that trick-or-treaters inspire me to think about things like, "If all the power rangers combined their powers would they be able to beat up Spiderman?" (I don't think so.)

Still some people today do celebrate dark things on Halloween, things like witchcraft, other evil things or just mischief in general, thinking that Halloween gives them some excuse to do things that any other day would be morally wrong or just plain illegal. Some days are special. There's no school on Thanksgiving. Banks are closed on President's Day. But laws and good human decency shouldn't be affected by a calendar. (This also goes for April Fool's Day, of which I'm a huge fan!)

So some will ask, "Is it possible to have fun, even a little mischievous, on Halloween without breaking the law?" To them I say abso-stinkin'-lutely!!! And for proof remember that you and your friends are invited to the Family Halloween Night on Sunday at 6pm!

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This week's cell phone hours: All week 4-6pm (315) 529-3691

Until Next Week,

Kevin

**Bible Verse of the week:**

Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

-John 14:27b