



Wherever it comes from, evil also lurks near by

If anything, the shootings Friday in Aurora, Colo., show the existence of evil.

And evil is hard to understand.

Science might give us a multitude of answers, none of them precise or comforting – or ultimately, satisfying.

Evil acts can be explained by mental disease, by physical problems such as a brain tumor, by various sorts of intoxication and resulting brain damage, by the environmental influence of a violence-prone society, media exposure, gun worship, video games, you name it.

The church, on the other hand, teaches that evil exists, both in the hearts of men and in the person of the Evil One, the antithesis of all that is good. The church teaches that, given the doctrine of original sin, evil lurks within us all, and that we are only as good as we are successful at resisting its temptations, from racism to assault to murder.

But what makes an apparently normal young man plan quietly to kill and maim his neighbors in a solid, working-class, ethnically diverse neighborhood?

The Evil One, or a bad case of the evil within us all?

Perhaps it makes no difference. Once we recognize and admit that evil exists, do we need to know what sets it free? Or is it enough to recognize evil for what it is?

Both President Barack Obama and his challenger, Gov. Mitt Romney, acknowledged the reality of evil in the senseless violence Friday. But only the vast number of victims in this case elevates it above the ordinary, everyday violence of our world.

Killing and maiming, stealing and lying, abuse and neglect, are so common that we seldom re-

mark on their evil nature. Man's inhumanity to man is legion. It's only when the victim count starts to add up that we seem to recognize it.

We all might be able to agree on the evil nature of the likes of Adolf Hitler, Pol Pot, Josef Stalin and their ilk. Mass murderers and serial killers we recognize as evil.

But what about the prison guard who helped keep the Jews from escaping, or the police officer who looks the other way while his friends beat some prisoner senseless? The soldiers who, freed from restraint in the heat of battle, kill civilians or even their own comrades?

And how could our loving God, however you look at Him, allow evil to exist at all?

Does evil have to exist?

The answer should be apparent, theology aside. Evil does exist. And seldom is it seen more starkly than it appeared Friday.

But that was only the tip of the iceberg. It'd be easy to forget that humans are, mostly, noble creatures more likely to help their fellow man than to kill or maim him.

Still, we're reminded again and again that it may take only one small thing to release the evil within any one of us. Happens all the time.

And that should be cause for both prayer and watchfulness, repentance and celebration. For despite the presence of evil, that's not what we were intended for. We're better, far better, than that. Every evil event brings out the best, the very best in us; witness the woman who stayed behind to save her best friend from bleeding to death.

Evil is not in control; we are. But we cannot afford to let down our guard, because evil could be, probably is, right around the corner.

— Steve Haynes



Reader endorses representative

In the spring of 2010, long-time St. Francis teacher, coach, counselor and administrator Ward Cassidy made the difficult decision to run for the Kansas House of Representatives representing the 120th district. He was handily elected over a strong incumbent and went on to serve as our representative for the last two years.

He immediately went about establishing himself as a committed representative and worked hard for the people in those five counties in northwest Kansas. However, through re-districting, Mr. Cassidy finds himself in a tough fight to continue the work he began as a freshman representative.

I would like to endorse Mr. Cassidy as a representative of the 120th district in the Kansas House

Letters to the Editor

of Representatives.

Over the last two years, Mr. Cassidy has been busy. He was the only freshman member to have a bill carried. He saved school districts thousands of dollars by challenging citation practices by the State Fire Marshall office. He fought to get the head of the Board of Healing Arts to come to his district to help area hospital administrators deal with the concerns of a declining population and was committed the fight to preserve home-owned carnivals. His votes reflect a commitment to public education in northwest Kansas on all levels and specifically battled on behalf of Vocational-Technical schools in Kansas.

Ward worked hard in his first term to position himself for future success as well. He is a member of the all important Appropriations Committee which funds virtually everything the Kansas Legislature does. His work on the Education Committee is well noted and the schools of northwest Kansas will continue to benefit from his voice on this committee.

The primary for this, and other, positions is Aug. 7. Please vote. In summary, northwest Kansas NEEDS a strong voice in the legislature and I believe Ward Cassidy provides that.

Steve Jenkins
Cheyenne County Republican
Vice-Chairman

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com



Last week I wrote about the tower at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City that honors the soldiers of World War I. An interesting story goes along with the place.

Housed in one of the stone halls there is a portion of Le Pantheon de la Guerre. What the painting is and how it arrived in the American mid-west deserves a moment.

The word panorama comes from the Greek "pan" meaning all and "horama" view. Before the advent of motion pictures panoramas were used to tell a story to the viewer. While Paris was being bombed in October 1914, 130 French artists began work on the Pantheon de la Guerre. It would not be completed until after the Armistice four years later.

The final work was 45 feet tall with a length of 402 feet. It represented the Allied nations, 28 in all, and depicted over 6,000 individual leaders, heroes, martyrs and common soldiers. The original cost was said to have been \$500,000 in early 20th century dollars.

A special round building was constructed in Paris to display the pantheon until American individuals purchased it. After first being displayed in New York City, the painting hung at the Chicago Worlds Fair in 1933 to 1934.

But interest in the Great War waned and the giant panorama was rolled up and stored in the outdoors of a warehouse in Baltimore, seemingly forgotten until 1953.

Eventually it was purchased by

William Haussner, a Baltimore restaurateur. He was contacted by a Kansas City artist, Daniel MacMorris, who convinced him that the Pantheon should be donated to the Liberty Memorial.

For better or worse, MacMorris cut and pasted the art work to condense it from a primarily French piece to one that featured the American war effort.

That explains how the Pantheon de la Guerre made it from battle ravaged France to modern day K.C. It is just one of the unique objects that makes the National World War I Museum a must see location.

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz
margeb@cityofstfrancis.net



New Recipe

I used to like to cook and with a large family I always had to, but my favorite thing to do is try out new recipes. Not always did my family appreciate some of the things they had to eat but they didn't really complain about it to much.

The other day I was in a store and a lady told me that she liked to take a can of cherry pie filling and an angel food cake mix and just stir them together and bake it. I questioned her about whether you stirred up the cake mix with the usually water or if you just added the cherry pie filling. She told me "no just add the pie filling. It is so easy and my husband just loved it."

This morning as I was cleaning house I decided I would surprise Kurt and mix that cake up. (I don't really know if it was Kurt I was thinking about or me.)

I got out the cake mix and the pie filling and stirred it up and put it in the oven. When the buzzer went off I got it out of the oven and put the cake, pan and all upside down over a bottle. That was how my mother did it and her mother and all down the line.

I went on cleaning and finally I walked into the kitchen to get something and happened to look over at my cake. There it was, about 3/4th of it was all over the counter. It was in pieces and part of it was hanging

out of the pan and still stuck to part of it in the pan.

I didn't know what else to do but get the rest of it out of the pan and pile it with the heap that was already there.

The sad news was that by the time Kurt made it in the house for lunch it was still laying on the plate but the heap was gone. Believe me I wasn't to hungry at lunchtime and all that angel food cake and cherries have made me a little sick to my stomach.

I just call it "cleaning up a mess" rather than "I ate the whole cake."

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STAFF
Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Nathan Fiala Sports Editor
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District court judge candidate officially withdraws from race

Dear Voters:

Please accept this as my withdrawal as a candidate for district court judge. Because the deadline to officially withdraw passed more than a month ago, my name will still appear on the ballot. Nevertheless, I ask that you instead support Glenn Schiffner for re-election. He has served this district for twenty years and deserves to continue for another term.

Furthermore, I deeply care about my clients and advocating for their causes. After much prayer and seeking God's guidance, I have recently determined that this is simply not the right time to walk away from their cases.

Your support for my election

was truly overwhelming, and I cannot express how appreciative I am. Although I may consider seeking that position upon Judge Schiffner's retirement, that will be a decision I will have to consider at that time and will be based on

what is best for my clients and on what is best for my family.

Until then, I look forward to continuing to serve you as an advocate.

Todd R. Stramel
Colby

GOD SAYS
Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that
backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth
evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up
reproach against his neighbour.
Psalms 15:1, 4

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Warren Cico
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor James McCurdy
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Randy Nelson
Church 332-2928
Parsonage 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

Praise the Lord