

# Celebrate Christ and have happy holidays, too

'Tis the season, I guess – the season when I receive e-mails and Facebook messages telling me to keep Christ in Christmas. Saying “Happy Holidays,” is a no-no, writing Xmas is verboten and heaven forbid (literally, it seems) if I were to decorate my house for the holiday season rather than for Christmas.

First, let me tell you about Christmas in our house this year. Because my whole family came for Thanksgiving this year the secular celebration is over – done – kaput. Presents were bought and wrapped, stockings were hung, but without a lot of care, and on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving all my family gathered together to disgorge stockings, open gifts, collect bows, toss discarded wrapping paper (there were kids there) and generally be



**Carol Rahn**

## • From the Pulpit

merry together. Now that’s done.

And about the tree. We do not have a Christmas tree in our house. We have a large, green cat climbing toy with lights. Because we are moving in a month we did not have any small shiny cat toys hanging from the LGCCTWL this year, but, nonetheless, two of them romp through the branches every night while the third becomes Calvin of the jungle, stalking his

prey under the tree. December around our house is always pretty much holiday mayhem, probably crazier than any Bethlehem stable.

Which takes me to my main point. What’s all the fuss about? The date for Christmas is based on the date of the Roman winter solstice holiday Saturnalia, celebrating the god Saturn. Most of our traditions have their basis in winter solstice pagan practices from Scandinavia, Germany and Celtic Britain. The “X” in Xmas comes from the Greek letter Chi, the first letter in the word Christ. It was an abbreviation that was used frequently in early Christianity. And I love to say “Happy Holidays,” because it includes all the holidays from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Day. If I were to wish any-

one any kind a Christmas, it would be “blessed.”

Don’t get me wrong. I want to keep Christ in Christmas, but the truth is there are two Christmases – the secular holiday that is surrounded by commercialism and good times for everyone and the religious holiday when Christians celebrate the birth of the Bethlehem baby whom we believe to be the Savior of all creation.

Isn’t life too short to get all heated up about what everyone else is saying or doing? Instead, mightn’t we (and everyone else) be better off if we focused on how each of us was keeping Christ in the Christmas of our faith by using Christ as a model for our own behavior?

Jesus spent a lot of time feeding people. He went around healing folks and offering

compassion for the outcasts of his day. He led a life of humility and sacrifice.

I’m thinking the real problem is that this time of the year we worry so much about keeping Christ in Christmas and then neglect to keep him around the rest of the time. Yes, please, please keep Christ in Christmas, but keep him in your life every day, not just in and around Dec. 25. Attend worship, practice what Jesus preached, let the world see Christ in you.

May you all have a blessed Christmas, a New Year of peace and goodwill, and a holiday season filled with happiness and joy.

*Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby. She may be reached at 462-6342.*

## Apple Butterscotch Scones

When I was hostess at the church’s Nativ-i-TEA, several ladies from another church asked me for a recipe for the scones. I didn’t have it with me and jokingly said this was the week for my newspaper article; maybe I could include the recipe. They took me seriously, so here it is. – Carol

### SCONES

2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup sugar  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon apple pie spice or ground cinnamon  
1/2 cup (8 tablespoons) cold butter  
3/4 cup fresh apple chopped in 1/2” pieces; can leave skin on  
1/2 cup butterscotch chips  
1/2 cup walnuts or pecans (optional)  
2 large eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 cup applesauce (unsweetened)

### TOPPING

3 tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large mixing bowl whisk together the flour, sugar, salt, baking powder and spice.
2. Work in the butter until the mixture is unevenly crumbly. It’s OK to let some larger chunks of butter remain unincorporated.
3. Stir in chopped apple, butterscotch chips and nuts.
4. In a small bowl whisk together the eggs, applesauce and vanilla.
5. Add liquid mixture to dry ingredients and stir until all is moistened and holds together.
6. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. (You can use an ungreased pan.) Sprinkle a bit of flour on top of paper or pan.
7. Scrape dough onto floured parchment and divide in thirds. Gently pat each into a round circle about 3/4 inch thick.
8. To make topping mix together sugar and cinnamon. Brush each circle with milk and sprinkle on the topping.

9. For best texture and highest rise place scones in freezer for about half an hour. During this time preheat oven to 425 degrees F.

10. After mixture has chilled cut each circle into eight wedges using a sharp knife that has been run under cold water.

11. Carefully pull the wedges away from each other and from the center. There should be at least 1/4 inch between each piece.

12. Bake scones for 18 to 22 minutes, or until they are golden brown. When you pull one wedge away from another both should look baked through. The edges should not look wet or unbaked.

13. Remove scones from pan and cool briefly. Scones are best served warm. They can be wrapped in plastic wrap and stored in the refrigerator for several days. They can easily be reheated by microwaving a wedge for about 15 seconds.

Makes 24 small scones. If larger scones are desired you can divide the dough in half and make only two larger circles. They can be cut into six or eight wedges.

## Student from Dresden inducted into national honor society

Jay Wessel, Dresden, is one of 34 Washburn University students recently inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

A graduate of Decatur Community High, Wessel is a senior and is majoring in criminal justice with a concentration in forensic chemistry. He is also a member of Sigma Lambda criminal justice national honor society. His parents are Bill

and Carol Wessel.

Those elected to membership in Phi Kappa Phi include juniors in the top 7.5 percent of their class and seniors in the top 10 percent of their class, along with outstanding graduate students, faculty, professional staff and alumni.

Phi Kappa Phi, founded in 1897, is the nation’s oldest all-discipline honor society. The mission of the

organization is to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and

to engage the community of scholars in service to others.

### Bill Keck

Bill Keck, 88, Colby, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012, at the Hays Medical Center.

He was born Feb. 23, 1924, to Elbert Teed and Iva (Elbidge) Keck in Enid, Okla.

He served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean conflict.

On Nov. 28, 1948, he married Billie Jean Railing in Dodge City.

A long-time Colby businessman, he owned the Gambles True Value Hardware store from 1971 to 1994 and continued working there until the age of 86. He served on the City Council in Colby and as president of the Colby Chamber of Commerce, as well as being a Rotary member. He was a member of the Colby United Methodist Church. Bill was an all around good guy.

Preceding him in death were his parents, several siblings and a son, Mike Keck.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; two sons, Alan (Linda) Keck, Emporia, and David (Terri) Keck, Colby; a daughter-in-law, Betty Keck, Salina; a sister-in-law, Melva Deane Turley, Dodge City; a brother-in-law, Larry (Carrol) Railing, Pollock Pines, Calif.; five grandchildren, Kari, Casey (Jessica), Colter, Kaylee and Stacy (Daniel) Gonzalez; and one great-grandson, Aidan.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 10, 2012, at the Colby United Methodist Church, with private burial later.

The family suggests memorials to the church, in care of Baalmann Mortuary, Box 391, Colby, Kan., 67701.

## Help available for farmers

The Kansas Department of Agriculture still has funds available in its Organic Certification Cost Share Program for farmers who received organic certification between Oct. 1, 2011, and Sept. 30.

The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reimburses producers for 75 per-

cent, or up to \$750, of their organic certification costs. The agency will accept applications until next Friday or all money is distributed.

Information, including the application form, is available at [www.ksda.gov/kansas\\_agriculture/content/153](http://www.ksda.gov/kansas_agriculture/content/153).

## Corrections

*The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.*

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day <b>Hi-Plains Co-op</b>	
Wheat (bushel)	\$8.52
Corn (bushel)	\$7.51
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.96
Soybeans (bushel)	\$14.01

# Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



First Baptist Church

**FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**, Pastor Dan Keel. 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 337-401-7207 (temp)

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby Community Building. Pastor Dave Funk. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. [www.celebratejesus.org](http://www.celebratejesus.org)

**GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children’s Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee’s building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid’s Church for Kindergarten- 5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. [cdag@st-tel.net](mailto:cdag@st-tel.net).

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, [www.colbyborean.com](http://www.colbyborean.com); Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

**To become a sponsor call Kathryn or Janene today at 462-3963.**

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday’s. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website [colbypres.org](http://colbypres.org).

**THE SHEPHERD’S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: [www.rlmregionalchurch.com](http://www.rlmregionalchurch.com).

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. [www.colbyumc.org](http://www.colbyumc.org)

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. [www.colbychurch.com](http://www.colbychurch.com)

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

*This feature is sponsored by these business firms as a contribution to the religious life of the community.*

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children’s Church at 10:00 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Beginning Sept. 2 - Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Visit us at [www.trinitycolby.com](http://www.trinitycolby.com).

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taft, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men’s Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children’s Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women’s Bible Study.

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