

# Saints and sinners: Optimism keeps the spirit moving

Are we on the verge of going to war with Iraq? If so, should the public be alerted to the worst so that we are prepared when the inevitable comes to pass?

Some would say that is what most of the media is already doing, and is being responsible in doing so. Others would say we should be optimistic and put a happy face on events regarding that part of the world hoping that all bad news will go away.

Here is how the London Daily Express handled the crisis in Europe for its 4 million subscribers before the outbreak of war with Germany in 1938: It adopted the slogan, "There will be no war," and put it in big type each day on the front page.

"Our use of that slogan is still used to attack the Daily Express," wrote editor Arthur

Christiansen in his 1961 autobiography, "Headlines All My Life" (Harper & Row). But he still defended the paper's use of the "no war" slogan. He maintained that the British survived the war better than if their spirits had been depleted and drained by despairing talk of war before it came.

Optimism can work even when the things we hope for don't pan out as we wish. I once worked for a newspaper that was about to close. On the night the presses were due to roll for the last time, people were clearing out their desks and saying tearful goodbyes to one another.

But not everyone was gloomy. "I'm still optimistic," I said as I grabbed my hat and headed for the door. "Good night."

My thought was, let others say goodbye if they want to.



## george plagenz

• saints & sinners

Such optimists are considered incurable romantics. They throw coins in the wishing well and actually make a wish. They are the ones whose glasses are half-full while the rest of the world's is half-empty. They are believers in miracles.

E.B. White was both an optimist and a realist when he wrote this to a friend in the throes of despair:

"Sailors have an expression about the weather. They say, 'The weather is a great bluffer.' I guess the same is true of our human society. Things can look dark, then a break shows in the clouds and all is changed—sometimes rather suddenly. So hang your hat. Hang onto your hope. Tomorrow is another day."

Fellow optimist and author Marsha Sinetar also gives some sage advice on how to view your troubles in her book "Do What You Love, the Money Will Follow: Discovering Your Right Livelihood." She writes: "A person is many wonderful, strange things. We have a 'how did I ever get into this mess?' kind of feeling that seems like it will never go away. But, by some mysterious grace, it does!"

Unfortunately, the grim morning headlines and the somber evening news have made us

forget that the good life is still available to those who seek it with all their heart. We need to remember that the universe is friendly if we are; that although the sun may set on some of our hopes, the sun also rises; and that, if we do our best, in the words of Danny Kaye, "things will usually work out (but not always)."

Speaking of things not always working out, you may be wondering at this point whether I was right to be optimistic about the life of my paper. Well, yes and no. The 11th-hour sale to a prospective buyer that I was counting on never came off. The paper closed, as the pessimists had predicted.

But while midnight may have proved them right, I was optimistic to the end, and my happy world stayed standing several hours longer than theirs.

# Cathedral's textile laboratory faces its most daunting recovery task

NEW YORK (AP) — Inside the hushed Textile Conservation Laboratory at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, workers spend the day bending over centuries-old tapestries and carpets from collections nationwide, carefully analyzing fiber, cleaning and re-warping.

They never expected one of their greatest challenges to come from home.

"It was shocking," said Marlene Eidelheit, the lab director, recalling the electrical fire last Dec. 18 that started in the gift shop of St. John the Divine.

The blaze badly damaged two 17th century tapestries, "The Last Supper" and "The Resurrection," both products of the official papal Barberini looms of Italy.

The tapestries, which had been hanging on a wall, were scorched from the top down and lay in black, smoldering heaps on the floor of the Episcopal cathedral.

Both were 40 percent destroyed, the figures of Christ and the apostles all but

gone from "The Last Supper," a 16-by-17-foot work, and an image of Christ and the cross obliterated from the slightly smaller "The Resurrection."

Considered one of the nation's pre-eminent textile conservation laboratories, the shop handles works for such institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the J.P. Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Detroit Institute of Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

But its seven full- and part-time experts have shown a special commitment to restoring the two fire-damaged Barberinis so they again can grace the cathedral — a 19th century, neo-Gothic landmark on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Before the smoke cleared, Eidelheit had the tapestries removed to the nearby lab, where they were gently unrolled, hosed with de-ionized water and vacuumed by workers lying on a mobile platform that slides above the table.

A mesh screen below collected debris: pieces of stained glass and lead, plaster, buckets of dirt and tiny charred tapestry pieces.

In the ensuing months, the tapestries were reinforced with a nylon net backing, cleaned and vacuumed repeatedly, and their condition documented.

Even now, the restorers continue to test burned sections, including hundreds of fragments that range from an inch to several feet in diameter. Most are unrecognizable; many may never be reattached.

But two larger fragments — of the head of the Apostle John and the B emblem representing the Barberini family — will likely be sewn back onto the intact portion of "The Last Supper."

Eidelheit estimates the entire process — being done in consultation with historians, museum curators and Barberini scholars — will take two to three years.

Donated to the cathedral in 1891, the

tapestries are part of a set of 12 Barberini hangings woven in the mid-1600s, under the direction of Florentine Cardinal Maffeo Barberini, for the nephew of Pope Urban VIII. The other 10 were spared in the fire.

Eidelheit said the specialty of the lab, which she has headed since 1991, is conservation — protecting what exists — rather than restoring or replacing what is lost.

"We are not trying to make it look brand new or the way it was originally," she said. "We do a lot of documentation, a lot of nonintrusive treatment."

Since 1981, the textile lab has occupied the site of a former orphanage and museum in the quiet, 13-acre oasis amid the bustle of Morningside Heights. Narrow walkways, gardens and sculptures surround the building, connected to the cathedral by a long corridor.

Using traditional and innovative tech-

niques, the lab handles a wide range of textiles, including needlepoint, upholstery, carpets and costumes, 35 percent of which come from private owners.

The vital first steps of any such work are anything but glamorous. They involve vacuuming, wet cleaning and testing for color, pH, and fiber.

In a small sideroom, dyes are tested, made and archived. "We keep every recipe," Eidelheit said.

On a recent November day, Italian intern Sabrina DeVanna was testing ways to back a fragile, 1800-vintage American sampler. In addition to stabilizing it, cleaning was required to remove stains.

The same day, technicians gently cleaned a Belgian lace handkerchief, a family heirloom and wedding keepsake with hand-stitched dates 1875, 1915, 1941 and 1969.

Normally the conservators use a "tabby weaving" technique to stabilize

weak areas, which assistant director Valerie Soll described as "going from the strongest point outside the weak point with enough space between each row."

But in the case of the Barberini tapestries, the technique can be used in only a limited manner because of the extent of the damage.

"This piece will definitely need a different strategy because of the percentage that was lost," said Soll, referring to the "Last Supper" laid out on the floor with some sections, charred beyond recognition, on a table nearby.

"Will they hang again? It's still a big unknown," Eidelheit said. "They may need some kind of total support, like a slant board, instead of them literally hanging upright."

Whatever method is used, she said, the tapestries "won't be as they were. They are now immense archaeological artifacts and the fire is part of their history."

### **Bible Baptist Church**

**Pastor:** Don Crutcher

Fifth & Broadway

899-7368

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Evening Service: 6:30 pm

**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

### **Calvary Gospel Church**

**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Rains

Fourth & College • 899-3605

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Service: 10:30 am

Evening Service: 6:00 pm

**Wednesday:** Adult Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.

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### **Church of the Nazarene**

**Pastor:** Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 pm

### **First Baptist Church**

**Pastor:** Bud Chester

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

**Tuesday:** Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

**Thursday:** Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

### **Seventh Day Adventist Church**

1160 Cattletrail

**Pastor:** Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888

**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am



## First Baptist Church

### **First Christian Church**

(Disciples of Christ)

**Pastor:** Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 am

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**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups,

Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,

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1116 Sherman

899-3631

**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Hernandez

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

### **Sonrise Christian Church**

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

**Minister:** Tony Kafka

**Youth Minister:** Doug Bean

**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

**Wednesday:**

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

### **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm

### **Kanorado**

### **United Methodist Church**

**Pastor:** Leonard Cox

399-2468

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

### **Goodland Bible Church**

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

**Pastor:**

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

**Wednesday:** Call for location

### **Grace Fellowship Church**

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

**Pastor:** Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm

Adult Bible Study 6 pm

### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

**Priest:** Father Charles Schneider

**Deacon:** Gretchen Talitha

**Adult Forum:** Sunday : 8:30 am

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays

**Holy Eucharist:** 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30

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### **Church of Jesus Christ**

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1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (719) 346-7984

**Sacrament Meeting:** 9:30 am

**Sunday School:** 10:45 am

**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 11:30 am

### **Word of Life Foursquare Church**

223 E. 10th

899-5250

**Pastor:** John Coumerilh

**Weekend services**

**Sunday:** Worship Celebration

and Kids' Church: 10:30 am

### **United Methodist Church**

**Brewster:**

**Pastor:**

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

**Winona:**

**Minister:** Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

### **Iglesia Del Dios Vivo**

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

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**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

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**Mass Schedule:**

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**Sunday:** 10:30 am

**Spanish Mass:**

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