

# Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### Resolve to Be Holy — By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church, Norton

Be Holy: We have just entered into the year 2006. God clearly gives instructions to His children about what they are to focus on this coming year. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Peter to write to God's elect — those who are chosen by God through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:1-2). The goal God has set before Christians is high, yet attainable. "Prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given when Jesus is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: (Be holy, because I am holy)." (1 Peter 1:13-15)

The writer of the Book of Hebrews, while warning against falling away from the faith, rebuked his readers for still being spiritual infants. Many Christians continually need someone to remind them of the elementary truths of God's Word. Messages on forgiveness and salvation are most certainly Biblical, however they alone won't mature a believer in Christ. Christians must find teaching that will take them from milk on up to the meat of God's Word. Solid food is for those who want to mature and diligently train themselves to distin-

guish what is truly worthwhile spiritually from what is only a lethargic form of godliness.

The purpose of the church is not to make people feel good about themselves but to give God's children an opportunity to become increasingly holy. In our day of social Christianity, the newest fads and latest programs have produced carnal Christians. If the apostle Paul were alive, his letters to

many churches today would mirror his epistle rebuking the first century worldly Corinthian church.

"Holy", "saint", "sanctification" — all three of these words have been translated from one Greek word that is difficult to translate into English. Its gist, however, is easy to grasp — it means to be separated, set apart or different from. Morally, it means to be striving heartily after God's

purity and righteousness instead of seeking after the ways of the world and the things in it. A Christian who is set apart for the Lord lives his life in a way that pleases God. He uses his talents and the things that God has given him to glorify Jesus Christ, not himself or the church he attends.

People are often guilty of perceiving "church" to be just another club in town competing for numbers or a building where lots of programs are held. Rather, they should come to know that "church" is people who have received Christ into their hearts and who are being changed into His image through the illumination of the Holy Spirit and the written Word of God. Jesus is the Head, the church is His Body.

The Bible instructs Christians to always conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel (Php. 1:27). Paul wrote, "Count yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Sin is not to be your master." (Rom. 6:11,14)

As a Christian, you are purchased by the very blood of Christ and your New Year Resolution for 2006 is a mandate from God, "Be holy." The Bible teaches that if you love the Lord, then you will obey His commands (1 John 5:3). And, you have God's promise, He will faithfully empower you to live out what He calls you to — an abundant life of holiness.

## Winter's Silent Majesty



The snow falls softly and quietly from the gray winter sky. It coats the ground and trees with a mantle of pure white. How beautiful is the first snowfall, how peaceful is the winter season!

Some days we are well in need of a restful break from the busy pace of our lives. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us "For every thing there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." Our Father provides us with the changing seasons.

As we gather at our house of worship this week, let us thank Him for winter's silent majesty, and for the panoramic kaleidoscope of all the seasons as each one passes before us and presents us with beauty beyond compare.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mark 1:1-20	Mark 1:21-45	Mark 2:1-17	Mark 3:1-19	Mark 3:20-35	Matthew 2:1-15	Mark 4:1-20

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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## NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

Judy VanDerVeen took her mother, Marie Delimont, to the Christmas Cantata.

This is a little late, but The Manor had beautifully decorated tables for the Manor dinner. It was hosted by Laci and Chris Frack. The Jay Singers entertained with Christmas carols.

The Manor welcomes Vergie Moser. She is from Aurora, Colo.

Mildred Schwab went with Wayne and Norma McCallister to Holcumb for Christmas weekend, with Rob and Dodie McCallister and Matthew. Mike McCallister of Hays joined them Saturday. They had a good time and lots of good food.

Stacie DeBoer, rural Edmond, and Alyssa and Gage took her grandmother, Marie Delimont, with them to the Luctor Church to attend the Christmas program.

Dec. 23 Orval, Myla Cogdill and daughter Shania of Conway, Ark., stopped in Norton on their way to Goodland and visited his aunt, Marie Engelhardt. They were on their way to get his mother, Opal Cogdill, to spend Christmas with them. They took Opal back to Goodland Dec. 31 where she lives in the Good Sa-

maritan Home.

Doris Mizell hosted her family to Christmas dinner at the Community room at the Manor. Those present were Dennis and Roberta McAllister, Clayton; Roger and Carolyn Linsenmeyer, Beatrice, Neb.; Connie and Marlin Lillch, Atwood; Patty and Jerry Foster, Jennings; Peggy and Jared Foster, Jordan Mizell, Manhattan; Aaron and Priscilla Mizell, Salina; Lester Mizell, Ray and Ruth Mizell, Stephen, David and Jacob, Carlynn Kent and Brian Volgamore, Norton. The family exchanged gifts and played "Dirty Santa".

Marie Delimont's daughter, Judy VanDerVeen, of rural Prairie View spent Monday afternoon with her mother. They attended the funeral of Dorothy Hawks.

Jim and Barbara Johnson of Aurora, Neb., were Thursday afternoon visitors of his aunt, Marie Engelhardt.

Doris Mizell and her son, Lester Mizell, were guests of the Ray Mizell family for lunch on Saturday. That evening they were all guests of Lester at the Hidden Dragon Chinese restaurant in Norton.

## JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER

Galen and Meme Carper went to Bazine for their family's Christmas held on New Year's Day. Les and Teresa Hopson, Matthew and Rebecca were hosts. It was held at the schoolhouse where Teresa works. Other family members attending were Dan and Charlene Mangus, Mike, Steve, Devin and Dani, Kanarado; Annette Bailey and Katie, Tribune; John and Carol Topliff and Josh, Goodland; Chris and Joslin McGuiness, Evergreen, Colo.; Jason and Allie Topliff and Joel, Lawrence.

Christmas week guests of Doyle and Kay Brown were Kent and Robin Brown, Jordan and McKencie, Estes Park, Colo.; John R. Tacha, Gordon and Kara Kuntz, Zachary and Katherine, Hays; Kurt and Valerie Brown and Millecent, Quinter; Phil and Keli Kleidosty, Wichita; Mildred Kleidosty, Herndon; Chad and Kim Kuntz and Madison, Olathe; John and Deanell Tacha, Lawrence; and Leah Tacha, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mildred Tacha is in the Decatur County Hospital recuperating from shoulder surgery.

Stan and Ramona Shaw at-

tended the wedding of Andrea Seibert and Billy Unruh in Sharon Springs New Years Eve. They were overnight guests of Kevin and Colleen Wagoner and returned home Sunday.

Tom Votapka won the giant Christmas Stocking stuffed with toys and games in the drawing at Mom's 'Lil Market.

Christmas light winners were: first place Richard and Nikki Rowilson; second place Mike and Vicki Bailey; and third place Imogene Keenan.

Wayne and Louise Cressler spent Christmas Day with their son Russell and Theresa Cressler's in Bison.

Megan Faris of Manhattan came Monday for a week's visit with her grandparents, Wayne and Louise Cressler.

United Methodist Women met Jan. 4. After the business meeting, members took down the decorations at the church.

Jennings City Council met Jan. 5 in the Sunflower Senior Center.

Jan. 10 the Sunflower Seniors potluck supper will be held at 6 p.m. Bingo will be played after the meal. Please bring a \$3 bingo prize and join the fun.

## ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Christmas holiday family with Rita Bieber of Calvert were Jennifer Bieber of Valley Center; Brandon Cook, Manhattan; John and Chris Bieber, Wichita; Sharon Clvey, Park City; Suzann Wassinger, Hays; Eddie and Barbara Wassinger, Ness City; and Tyler and Meghan Rupp of Fort Carson, Colo. Rita's brother, Don Moody of Norton, was also a Christmas Day dinner guest. They all left for their respective homes Christmas afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hardy and family spent Christmas weekend with his mother, Carol Hrabe. Christmas Day they spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hardy and family. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hardy and family were there Christmas morning.

Christmas was special for Alice Kuiper as she spent several days in

Lenora with Dick and Janet Porter, Sara and Clint Hawkins, Clare and Gus, Stuart and Angie Porter, Jacob and Abbie. They all went to church on Christmas Eve before unwrapping their presents. Monday, they attended the wedding of Alice's granddaughter, Dr. Malani Kuiper and Dr. Matthew Carey at Lindsborg. They returned home late that night.

Sunday dinner guests of Esther Marble were Brant Marble, Roxie Melia, Carisa and Emily of Rozel, Blaine and Susie Marble, Chance and Bryce and Harold Marble. Roxie and girls and Brant left Monday afternoon for their homes. Bill Godfrey visited at the Marble home Sunday afternoon.

Esther Marble received word Sunday afternoon that her brother-in-law, Lee White of Lexington, Neb., had died and the funeral would be Wednesday morning.

## NEW ALMELO

By BETTY OTTER

Raymond and Bonita Slipke and family celebrated Thanksgiving Dec. 3 at their home in New Almelo with her mother, Vicki Kendall and her husband, Glenn of Phillipsburg; her father, Frank McClurg, and Mr. and Mrs. Dustin McClurg and family, Logan.

On Dec. 7, burial services were held at St. Joseph Cemetery, New Almelo, for Agnes Mindrup, 92, of McCook, Neb. Father Kerry Ninemire officiated. She was born and raised in the New Almelo area before moving to McCook. She is

survived by a sister-in-law, Anna Mindrup, Salina, nieces and nephews, one being Donald Mindrup, Clayton.

Alisha, Anna and Marshall Otter, Ulysses, spent the weekend with their grandparents, Larry and Lorena Taylor, Lenora, and Alfred and Betty Otter. Alfred and Betty took them to Oakley on Sunday to meet their dad for the return trip home. Alfred and Betty visited her brother and his wife, Rod and Cheryl Bates in Oakley on Sunday afternoon.

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