

# JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER

Guests at the farm home of Mary and Tom Votopka over the Christmas holidays were Ann and Rex Rowh, Cimarron; Jodi Inguanza, Samantha, Meagan and Christopher of Kalvesta; Kip and Steph Rowh, Tim and Luke of Hasting, Minn.; Jean and Rollie Hallagin and Ashley of Goodland; Angie and Jay Dee Brumhaugh and Brenann, Owasso, Okla.; Josh and Michele Ivans, Great Bend; Byron and Lori Schiefelin and Katlyn, Overland Park; Jason Rowh, Drake and Brecken; Sue Long (and three dogs).

Vendla Tacha was a Christmas weekend house guest of her daughter, Cheryl Roberts, Norton. Additional Christmas dinner guests were Trever Roberts and children, Auburn, Neb.; Ryan Roberts, Gardner; Aaron Roberts, Hays; Warren and Lynn Tacha, Jennings and Don McClelland, Norton.

Christmas celebration for the William Crer family began with Christmas Eve services at the church followed by supper at the Ken and Julie Carter home. It was great fun watching the little ones, Clayton and Anna Carter, Abby and Madi DuBois, open their gifts. Their parents Jess and Megan Carter and Wes and Ann DuBois were present too. On

Christmas Day this group was joined by Max and Norma Ward; Dave Ward and Terry; Lori and Kelly Wycoff for brunch at the Ken and Julie Carter home. In the afternoon William and Rachel joined Naomi Carter's family for their celebration. On Monday Dick and Ann Graner of Missouri; Jane Wahlmeier and Amanda, Phillipsburg came to the William Carters and the family got together for supper.

Christmas weekend guests at the home of Stan and Ramona Shaw included Chris Gillespie, Elliott and Aaron; Tom Neff of Marion; Kevin and Colleen Waggoner and Lisa of Sharon Springs; Brandon Wagoner, Joplin, Mo.; Nikki Brown, Salina; Mark and Shelley Shaw, Ethan and Erin, Logan; Cindy Black, Logan and Bowen; Katie Wahlmeier and Zach Golemboski of Colby; Jeff and Mary Wahlmeier, Nick and Adam, Clayton.

Enjoying New Year's Eve soup and other goodies at the Senior Center were William and Rachel Carter, Larry and Alice Mizer, Arch Harman, Vendla Tacha, Bob and Neoma Tacha, June Vavroch, Jay Kump, Mary Votopka, Agnes Wahlmeier, Kenny Krizek, Dorothy Doescher and Louise Cressler. Some played cards and some visited afterwards.

## Learn the facts on making funeral arrangements

By Lynn Anderson  
Kansas Senior Press Service

Making funeral arrangements is an emotional and difficult task under the best of circumstances. Sometimes funeral decisions also include financial and legal implications. Here are some answers to commonly asked questions.

**Q: Is it possible to prefinance my funeral?**

A: Yes, prefinanced funerals can be arranged through a funeral trust or through life insurance products.

Once established, funeral trusts protect consumers 100 percent in Kansas. A revocable funeral trust (which is refundable) is usually in the form of a savings account or certificate of deposit. You, the consumer, control the money and interest earned. You may withdraw the money any time before death, but you automatically cancel the agreement by doing so. With irrevocable trusts, which are not refundable, your money becomes locked in as payment for your funeral. Irrevocable trusts can be advantageous if you are receiving financial assistance or if the funeral provider will agree to guarantee prices based on accumulating interest.

Another method used in prefinancing funeral agreements in Kansas is insurance. Funeral homes, cemeteries, and third-party sellers employing licensed insurance agents may use approved life insurance products to prefinance a funeral agreement. But many kinds of policies are available, so beware. Some are nonrefundable or only partially refundable. The good news about insurance-funded agreements is that they generally guarantee the funeral for a set price and you are not normally taxed on interest earned.

In any case, be extremely careful before signing any kind of prefinanced funeral agreement. Ask whether funeral costs are guaranteed, whether you must pay tax on any interest earned, whether the agreement is revocable or irrevocable, and what kind of financial penalty you will face if you

request a refund before death (in cases of moving, financial hardship, etc.).

**Q: What should one do when a death occurs?**

A: The normal sequence of events for handling a death is:

Contact the funeral home of your choice.

Death will then be verified by a coroner, medical examiner, or last attending physician.

Contact relatives. Locate the deceased's letter of direction, prepaid funeral contract, insurance policies, and will.

If death occurs out of state or country, immediately contact a Kansas funeral director of your choice. The director will know the requirements that must be met and will assist you.

**Q: How do people select a funeral director?**

A: People usually choose a funeral director by reputation, availability, services, or cost. Funeral directors' reputations for serving families generally are readily known in most communities. If you need a funeral director and do not know of one, the reference of a relative or friend is one wise way to make a decision. If you have time in advance, you might want to visit several funeral homes, examine their facilities, ask about prices, and understand the ways in which they will serve your needs.

**Q: What must I know before making funeral arrangements?**

A: You will need this information about the deceased: full name; occupation; date of birth; place of birth; Social Security number; residence address; spouse's name, including maiden name if a woman; father's name; mother's maiden name; place of burial or disposition; discharge paper, if a veteran; and level of education completed.

For further information, contact the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts; phone 785-296-3980, e-mail boma1@ksbma.state.ks.us, or visit www.accesskansas.org/ksbma.

# Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

**"White As Snow", By Cody Shepherd, Youth Minister at Norton Christian Church**

I like snow. I'm not a huge fan of the cold, but I like snow. I like to have it for a few days a year just for sledding and snowball fighting purposes.

Snow is beautiful when it starts out. It creates a white wonderland that is great to look at. The trees and phone lines become covered

and take on a new look. The ground becomes concealed underneath the snow and that huge patch of yard that was torn up gets blanketed. It's fun to look at. I used to hate to go outside and scoop, not just because of the work but because it would disturb the tranquil dreamland that was created by the snow. Of course, I thought those things as I looked out of the window from the warmth of my house. Eventually, I would trudge outside and scoop, followed by a snow angel or two. Then, when my sisters came out, I would pelt them with snowballs.

Maybe you don't share my enjoyment with snow, but most people have a picture or two of a winter wonderland. What is it about snow that we enjoy so much? Is it the new activities brought on by the snow, such as building a snowman? That could be part of it, but I still see older people who don't make snowmen and don't go sledding who enjoy the snow. I think one reason we enjoy the snow is because of the pu-

riety of it. We like to see what not long ago was a brown and dry land become full once again with a white beauty. We enjoy seeing all the imperfections of the earth (and our lawn) covered.

Some people don't see what is so attractive about Jesus, but part of His attraction is much like snow. We live in a world that is brown

and decrepit. We have spots all over the place in our lives (like my yard); dark spots of bad decisions and misguided attempts in life; bare spots of neglecting things that are important. We look at these and wish they would change. And then Christ comes along and makes them white as snow. We no longer see those things, all we see is the beauty of Christ.

The great thing is that is what God also sees. Instead of sin, He sees that Christ has covered you and you become pure like the snow. However, there is one major difference between the illustration of a snowfall and of Christ. Christ doesn't cover you, He totally changes your complexion. You become pure, white, and beautiful.

So even though the snow outside your window may not be near as white as it once was, look at it and remember what it was like when it first came down. It was spotless and pure. If we are in Christ, we are also like that. Even if we do decide to have a snowball fight once in awhile.

## Clearing the Clutter

SUNDAY

Acts 6:1-15

MONDAY

Acts 7:1-22

TUESDAY

Acts 7:23-43

WEDNESDAY

Acts 7:44 - 8:1

THURSDAY

Acts 8:2-25

FRIDAY

Acts 8:26-40

SATURDAY

Colossians 1:1-14

**Y**es, the ringing in of a brand new year is at hand; and with it the resolutions. Perhaps you have collected too much clutter. You have resolved to rid yourself of that unsettled feeling you experience when you enter your home. What will you do with the excess...throw it away...give it away...have a yard sale?

You may be feeling the same confusion in your life. Today's world is a barrage of input that seems to clutter our very souls. How will you decide what is worth retaining?

Ben Jonson, renowned seventeenth century dramatist, poet, and wit, advised, "Weigh the meaning and look not at the words." We must prioritize this information. What is most important to know in order to live a useful, peaceful, and joyous life?

God's Word should be of utmost consideration when we establish these priorities, for our understanding of God's Word sets the stage for our life. When we follow His advice, everything else falls into place. We know what is important and what is not. The result is a sense of peace and joy, even amid the confusion of life. In Romans 14: 19 we read, "Let us then pursue what makes for peace..."

Won't you begin this year with worship in God's House? It is the best resolution of them all.

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society

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