

Baptist church near Studley to host creation conference

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, six miles south of Studley, will host a conference July 15-16 to celebrate the wonders of creation. Named after a nonprofit ministry that helps Christians understand and defend their faith, the "Answers in Genesis" conference is open to the public.

Conference schedule

Saturday, July 15

- Sessions at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
- Sandwich lunch at 12:30 p.m.
- Special Youth session, also open to adults, at 3 p.m. followed by an ice cream social at the church.

Sunday, July 16

- Session at 9:45 a.m.
- Worship at 11 a.m. with Dr. Mitchell speaking
- Fellowship Dinner at 12:30
- Sessions at 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church is located 17 miles southeast of Hoxie

doctor from Nashville, will use colorful illustrations to help present his dynamic talks, designed for children age 11 through adults, with

special sessions for children ages 5 through 10 and a nursery provided for ages 4 and under," Gwen Herder said.

"Dr. Mitchell will tackle many tough questions including, "Why does a loving God allow disease, suffering and death."

Herder, wife of Mount Pleasant pastor Leroy Herder, said in the spring of 2007, Answers in Genesis will open a \$25 million Creation Museum in the Cincinnati area. She

said the 50,000 square foot museum will be filled with life-sized dinosaur models, fossil and mineral collections, waterfalls, live exhibits and many other first-class exhibits all proclaiming the wonders of creation.

Herder said the public is invited to attend any or all of the conference sessions.

A free-will offering will be received.

"Registration is not required for

the conference," Herder said, "but to help us be prepared, we would appreciate information concerning how many children you might bring to the nursery and children's session, and how many adults and children will be attending the sandwich lunch on Saturday noon.

Information about Answers in Genesis at www.answersingenesis.org and about the conference at www.AnswersInGenesis.org/Studley or call (785) 754-2217

Now that's rural: Jacque Pregont - Amelia Earhart Festival

By Ron Wilson
Director of the Huck Boyd Institute

Dreams can take flight in Kansas. For proof of that statement, look no further than Atchison, Kansas, birthplace of the pioneering aviator Amelia Earhart. She dreamed of flying and going beyond the limits that society placed on women. Amelia Earhart became one of the world's most celebrated aviators and a symbol of female achievement worldwide. Her birthplace of Atchison is celebrating her pioneering legacy.

Jacque Pregont is the coordinator of the Amelia Earhart Festival in Atchison. Jacque explains that

Amelia Earhart was born there in 1897. Amelia spent many of her childhood years at her grandparent's beautiful home overlooking the Missouri River.

One interesting story from her childhood was the time she and friends built a homemade roller coaster in the backyard. The track consisted of a series of boards greased with lard, suspended from the top of a toolshed. Amelia made the trial run on this roller coaster in a wooden crate. Predictably, the crate crashed partway down. Amelia came up with a torn dress and split lip, but a big smile, proclaiming, "Oh! It's just like flying!"

That excitement of flying would

stay with her for life. While serving as a nurse and social worker, she pursued aviation as a hobby. Then she took her first flying lesson in 1921 and bought her first plane six months later.

Amelia went on to make history: She was first President of the Ninety-Nines, a women's aviation organization; the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic; first woman to fly solo coast-to-coast; and the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to the mainland. Through her husband, a publisher, she published several books and articles. She designed fashion clothing and had her own luggage line. She received many honors, including the

Distinguished Flying Cross from Congress, before disappearing on an ill-fated attempt to fly around the globe.

Atchison is quite proud of Amelia. The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum is in her grandparents' home. During the 1990s, community leaders in Atchison had a dream of their own: To put on a yearlong series of events in honor of Amelia's 100th birthday, culminating with a four-day festival in Atchison. These events were so successful that they decided to conduct a festival each year.

On July 14 and 15, 2006, the 10th annual Amelia Earhart Festival will be held in Atchison, with a range of

events for kids and families. On that Friday afternoon, the library will feature an Amelia reenactor named Ann Birney. An outdoor country music concert is Friday night. Saturday includes a fun run, book program, art exhibit, crafts fair, carnival, live entertainment, kids activities, free birthday cake, and an "All About Amelia" Trolley Tour. An independent filmmaker has produced a new Amelia Earhart docudrama which will make its debut during the 2006 festival.

From the very first year, this event has included a special honor called the Amelia Earhart Pioneering Achievement Award. Thanks to the Cloud L. Cray Foundation, a

\$10,000 women's scholarship is presented to the educational institution of the honoree's choice. Past honorees include Nancy Kassebaum Baker, Linda Daschle, and Mae Jameson, the first African American astronaut. This year's winner, Colonel Cathy Clothier, is a former Kansan and Air Force commander, now assigned to the Pentagon.

Saturday night features an aerobatics show with three stunt-flyers and even a wingwalker. The evening concludes with fireworks over the river, computerized and orchestrated with music. All told, some 50,000 people are expected to attend these events.

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