

Family

Our differences tend to separate us

You can talk to some people about all kinds of things, but if you bring up the subject of religion, the conversation slows down or comes to a screeching halt.



Jarrod Spencer

• From the Pulpit

I don't know why this idea came to me to write about, as I am not attempting to prove if one church group is right and another is wrong. However, when the idea did come, I thought it might develop into something interesting.

I have been in ministry a relatively short amount of time, having just entered my ninth year.

At my first position, I was not involved in the local ministerial alliance. I found a few ways to make my way into the community, but I kept hearing other minister's names mentioned with their involvement. Each one of them was a part of the alliance. I was seeing a degree of value regarding involvement in the group.

At my second job, I did get involved with the local ministerial alliance. I thoroughly enjoyed the involvement. It allowed me to be more a part of the community. It allowed our church to be visible in the community. So, when I moved here, it was natural for me to be involved with the alliance, along with other groups.

I say all that to arrive here. Almost all of my growing up, my family or church tended not to be involved with other denominations. You may have similar experiences during your years of growing up, in the church you attend.

You may have grown up knowing about spiritual and pastoral debates, trying to prove who has the handle on a scriptural topic or doctrine. Did any type of unity de-

velop from that, or just a greater knowledge of what makes you different?

Somewhere in your church's history, a dividing line was created to cause your church's name to be put on your building, which differentiates you from the church down the street.

To some on the extreme side of the spectrum, that means that one cannot be in fellowship with one who believes any differently. Possibly worse than that is when a church has split and now the groups are "mad," so they can't talk to each other.

Whatever the reason for the differentiating mark, does that mean we have to be like the Montagues and Capulets when it comes to a spiritual relationship? We might be able to pool our money to share seats at a sporting event while cheering on the same team, but if it comes to pooling our money for a spiritual event, put on the brakes!

What is the advantage of trying to stay on opposite lines when it comes to working together toward a common goal? One thing I've learned, being in the Ministerial Alliance, is that even when you may not agree on every theological point, you can still accomplish some great things!

The alliance is not about a

"show-and-tell" of who's right. We are about collaborating together, in the realm of faith, to bring Christ to the forefront.

The Montagues and the Capulets were bitter rivals. Imagine what might have been accomplished if they had been able to work together? When we act in this manner, we are creating a "civil war" of sorts.

You may have deep beliefs concerning your stance on certain theological issues. I don't mind if you do. I also hope that you would not let those issues be something that keeps you from being involved with efforts of the churches in our community.

After all, bitter rivals put out a lot of effort trying to avoid one another, and nothing much gets accomplished. Why not approach the differences in a way that recognizes there are differences, but that greater things can be accomplished working together rather than working against each other?

In November, the Thomas County Ministerial Alliance plans a Thanksgiving Service at the Frahm Theater on the Colby Community College campus. I think this will be an awesome time to come together, expressing our thanks to our Creator. We don't have to worry about who goes to what church. We have one thing in common, Jesus. Our focus that evening is about being thankful to Him.

I still do not know why we tend to be able to talk about so many things except religion. I am learning to talk about it more easily

with folks who I know differ and not having it come to a halt or move into a debate. I know I am not right on every point or interpretation of every Bible passage, so that causes me to listen more and talk less.

The concept of not being so separate may be a step for you. You aren't going to cross the bridge without taking one step at a time. Eventually, you'll make it.

Eventually, it will become more comfortable. Maybe, eventually, we'll all be able to live together, talk together, and work together, keeping Jesus in the middle.

We'll have to let any concept of "right" be something we reserve for appropriate settings and not allow it to keep us from working together or from being civil to one another.

We'll all find out, one day, who was "right" and who wasn't. For now, let's focus on what we have in common, Jesus, and allow that to help us work together, rather than letting differences separate us.

Jarrod Spencer is the minister at the Colby Church of Christ. You can reach him by e-mail at ichthus_man@hotmail.com.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$0.00
Corn (bushel)	\$0.00
Milo (hundredweight)	\$0.00
Soybeans (bushel)	\$0.00

Senior Progress Center

The center is having a Halloween party at 11 a.m. Friday. Come and party.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m., Wii bowling. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 11 a.m., bingo. **Wednesday:** 10:30 a.m., coffee hour. **Thursday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 10:30 a.m., pinocle. **Friday:** 11 a.m., Halloween party.

Menus for the week: **Monday:** chicken vegetable casserole, apricots, biscuit, cook's choice complement. **Tuesday:** chili, orange pineapple salad, crax, cinnamon roll. **Wednesday:** turkey dressing casserole, mashed potatoes/gr-

vy, California blend vegetables, tropical fruit. **Thursday:** sloppy joes, pork and beans, plums, bun, potato salad. **Friday:** chef salad, strawberries and bananas, bread sticks, fruit cobbler.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$2.75 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5 for others. For anyone under 60, home delivery is \$5.75.

Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Deaths

Clara M. Blakeway

Clara M. Blakeway, 77, Colby, died Friday, Oct. 23, 2009, at Hays Medical Center.

Services are pending with Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, (785) 462-7979.

General Public Transportation Van
Hours: 8 am to 4 pm
Days: Monday - Friday
Phone:
460-2901 (8 am-12:30 pm)
443-9208 (12:30 pm - 4 pm)

If possible call for Reservations by 11 am the previous business day. Provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a Portion of Oakley as needed.

"This Project Funded in Part by the KDOT Public Transit Program"

Benefit Fund Raiser for Zach Thompson & Family

October 26th
American Legion Post Colby

Supper 5-8 PM
 Suggested Donation of \$10.00

Silent Auctions, winners announced at 7 PM

Corrections

A story on Page 8 of the Thursday, Oct. 22, edition of the Colby Free Press previewing today's football game between the Colby High varsity football team and Smoky Valley incorrectly said that Colby defeated Concordia 22-14 last week. The score was

22-12. This was a reporting error. ☆☆☆☆☆ 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.

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

Schedule of church services

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. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday Nite Life at The Rock 5-6 p.m.. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 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.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

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

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

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 11:00 a.m.

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 Gary Slavens, 785-460-2656; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. 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 to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. 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.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Interpretation for the deaf, Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Don White and Rev. Tim Llewellyn, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.; Services, 11:00 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 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 Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

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

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, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

Some like it HOT, HOT, HOT... and some like to shop the COOL want ad way!!

The Colby Free Press - 462-3963

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