

Family

Lincoln's life led to thankfulness

As a Civil War buff, I find the spiritual journey of our 16th president interesting.

As you may know, the observance of Thanksgiving began on the fourth Thursday of November as a result of a proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. This might have surprised those who knew him as a young man, because in his early years Lincoln was anything but religious.

In fact, as a youth Lincoln made fun of the sermons he was forced to hear. He delighted friends by imitating a preacher fighting off a lizard which crawled up his leg during a sermon.

His skeptical attitude continued and was a problem for his political career. When he ran for the Illinois legislature in 1836, he was attacked for disbelief.

It became an issue again when he ran for Congress in 1843. His opponent called him a deist. When he ran again in 1846 he was opposed by evangelist Peter Cartwright, who called him an infidel. In response, Lincoln insisted he had "never denied the truth of the Scriptures." However, this falls short of saying that he affirmed the truth of Scripture, which at this point he did not.

By the time he ran for President in 1860 Lincoln, still an unbeliever, had learned to use the Bible. In fact, his use of the 12th chapter of Matthew - "A house divided against itself cannot stand" - helped secure the nomination.

Lincoln became president with skepticism, but also with self-confidence. Soon he found himself embroiled in a war, the size and scope of which he had never imagined. At this point he began to think more seriously about God.

Lincoln's spiritual journey can be followed in his writings. The year 1863 seems to have been key, with four documents in particular that map his spiritual thinking.



Mark Carlton

• **From the Pulpit**

The first is a proclamation issued March 30, 1863. The second is his handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address, in which he inserted the words, "under God." The third is his Thanksgiving Proclamation, issued Oct. 3, 1863. The final document is his second inaugural address - more theological musing than political speech.

In times like these when our nation is facing new challenges and dangers, Lincoln's wisdom, gained in the crucible of his own trials, is well worth remembering. And so as we prepare for Thanksgiving 2009, I encourage you to reflect on the wisdom in the following proclamation, issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1863:

"Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has ... requested the President to designate ... a day for National prayer and humiliation.

"And whereas it is the duty of nations ... to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins ... with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize ... that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, insomuch as we know that ... nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war ... may be but a punishment ... to the needful end of our national reformation as

a whole People?

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten ... the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and ... vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. ... We have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming ... grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

"It behooves us then, to humble ourselves ... to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

"Now, therefore, in compliance ... and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do ... designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863.... And I do hereby request all the People to abstain ... from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite ... in keeping the day holy to the Lord....

"All this being done ... let us then rest humble in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace."

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church.

Deaths

Frances D. Zoberst

Frances D. Zoberst, 94, a retired farm wife and farmer from Colby, died Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009, at the Logan County Hospital in Oakley.

She was born March 17, 1915. Mrs. Zoberst was preceded in death by her husband Floyd in

1991. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, with the Rev. Carol Rahn officiating and burial in Beulah Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

The family suggests memorials in her name, in care of the funeral home, 745 S. Country Club, Colby, Kan., 67701.

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Many Thanks to You

American Youth Soccer Organization wishes to thank all those who helped to make their first Haunted House a SUCCESS. Thank you to everyone who visited the Haunted House, to those who worked so hard to build the house, and to the actors for adding to the effect. Without all your support and participation this would not have been possible.

Special thanks to those who helped to sponsor the AYSO Haunted House through their donations of material for building, staging, props, and food:

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"Western Hospitality"

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Tom Peyton. 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.

Schedule of church services

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ASCENSION-ON-THE-RAIRIE 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)</p>	<p>MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Tom Peyton. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cellgroups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingworth, Director, 785-687-2565.</p> <p>REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p>
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