# Blessing offers strength in trial

An inscription in a Serbian church reads:

*Where faith – there's love. Where love – there's peace. Where peace – there's blessing.* Where blessing – there's God. Where God – there's no need.

The Presbyterian women heard that blessing in a devotion written face the premature deaths of her parents, her in-laws and her husband, and during the Balkan wars after the break-up of the Soviet Union, was beaten, tortured and tied to a chair in her apartment until she was rescued by family members 15 hours later.

During the time she was tied up, she said later, she prayed and life and it had helped her endure much sadness and suffering.

The women in our group where larly struck by the final blessing from her church. I have lived with the blessing for several weeks now and wanted to move more deeply tivity in and around us. into its meaning.



• From the Pulpit

by a Serbian woman who had to in those parts of Europe that have known hardship, suffering and oppression.

One can get the impression with a first, quick read that one's own faith can somehow, eventually stir God into our presence. I don't believe that is true. I believe that God is present with us always; we just sometimes forget or be unwilling to acknowledge God's sang hymns in order to endure the presence. This blessing brings us pain and the fear. Her faith was the more into an awareness of God foundation and stronghold of her with us as we live and respond to others around us.

The beginning of the blessing is faith. This past week I came moved by her story, and particu- across two definitions of faith that I really appreciated. The first is that she offered, the inscription that faith is keeping up with the redemptive activity of God. Faith keeps us alert to God's saving ac-

The second definition comes The blessing is not unique to from religious historian Karen Serbia. It is also well known in Armstrong. She writes, "Faith is Romania, Hungary and Germany. not about belief ... but about do-It seems to have strong meaning ing things that change you." Faith

then, is about both God's redemptive activity in our lives and about how we respond in ways, that I think, bring us closer to God.

Where faith, there's love. When we begin to see how God is acting in the world, and,

particularly how God is acting in us, we respond with love. Jesus said, "I have loved you in order that you love one another" (John 13:34). And where there's love, there's peace.

Have you ever noticed that when you reach out in a loving way toward another, that divisions, animosities and things that might keep you apart seem to disappear? There is more peace between you.

The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, means more than the absence of violence, hurt or anxiety. It means wholeness or completeness. When there's love, there is a wholeness in that relationship, there is peace. And where peace, there's blessing.

The word blessing has so many definitions, but basically it means to be made holy or sacred or to have God's favor or protection. When we know peace, we know we have been blessed by God, we have shared in that "peace that

passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). To live in peace is to experience a sense of holiness or wholeness that can come only from the Divine. Where blessing, there's God.

And where God, there's no need. What more can we need if we have love, peace and blessing, all gifts from God?

Material things have so little meaning and significance once we experience the abiding, transforming, redemptive presence of God, in, with and through us at all times. The trappings of success and the preeminence of "me, myself and I" are insignificant when one can know love, peace and blessing, when one can know God, especially as revealed fully in Jesus.

Pain, fear, and loss lose their power when confronted with God's power to make all things new in love and peace. Where God, there's no need. How simple. How beautiful. How filled with

May you know the presence of faith, love, peace and blessing in your life. May God surround you, filling all your needs with divine grace and life.

Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby.

# Shakespeare Club

seven members and one guest. Acting President Sheila Frahm called the meeting to order and lead the group in the Flag Salute and Club Collect.

The meeting began with introduction of Mike Baughn, co-chair of the Thomas County 125th Celebration Committee, along with committee members and club members Kathy Calliham and Frahm. He told of the events planned for the anniversary, with the Grand Celebration to be Saturday, Oct. 9. Thomas County's official birth date is Oct. 8, he noted.

Baughn told the club about early settlers, their challenges and successes. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the "His Story, Her Story, Our Story" project by writing their family, business or club history and contribution to Thomas County. Families that have come to the county in recent years are encouraged to note why they chose to live here. Following questions and answers, Baughn showed the club 125th memora-

The Shakespeare Club met on bilia available and encouraged April 23 at the home of Verna everyone to participate in as many Wiens in Fairview Estates with events and activities as possible.

During the business meeting, Treasurer Wiens noted the club has money in the checking account and she collected 2010-2011 dues from those attending. Dues are \$20. It was agreed that the club will continue joining the Three of Clubs for one meeting of the month and will hold a regular

Joyce Hansen will prepare a draft history of Shakespeare Club for review at the May meeting. Plans were made for the year. Calliham will meet with the Three of Clubs program planning committee and Hansen will prepare the yearbook. It was agreed the cover page would include the Thomas County 125th logo.

monthly meeting also.

The afternoon concluded with members enjoying conversation and pie prepared and served by Wiens and her co-hostess, Lois VanHorn.

The next meeting will be at 11:30 a.m., Friday, May 14, at El Dos de Oros Restaurant.

- Sheila Frahm, secretary

# Thomas County Jail

ty jail:

- Kirt Alan Dugger, 18, Colby, April 22, giving a worthless check (four counts), Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day on probation.
- Gary Eugene Eisman, 26, Oakley, April 22, giving a worthless check, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day for payment of fines and court costs.
- Christian George Hildebrand, 33, Colby, April 22, failure to appear (two counts), released same day for payment of fines and court
- released same day on probation.
- Megan Renae Pope, 22, Col-

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EXECUTIVE MATERIAL

Booked into the Thomas Coun- by, April 22, giving a worthless check, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day on probation.

- Dustin Blake Rumback, 38, Colby, April 24, aggravated battery, Colby Police Department, released April 28 on \$15,000 bond.
- Charles Wayne Glidewell, 43, Shawnee, Okla., April 26, driving without a license, failure to provide insurance, failure to secure load, failure to register motor vehicle, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released same day on notice to appear.
- Vernon Avery Swenson, 46, • Angela Perez, 31, Goodland, Oakley, April 29, criminal damage April 22, giving a worthless check, to property, Colby Police Depart-Thomas County Sheriff's Office, ment, released same day on notice to appear.

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The Colby Free Press is looking for

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### On the Beat

### **COLBY POLICE** Wednesday

8:23 a.m. – Accident at College and Range intersection.

4:12 p.m. – Juveniles fighting on W. Sixth St. not found.

5:18 p.m. – Vehicle leaking fuel on north side of courthouse.

11:14 p.m. – Ambulance crew advised that High Plains Mental

Health wanted patient taken to Law Enforcement Center under supervision. Three officers responded.

#### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Wednesday

5 p.m. - Call that vehicle hit subject on bicycle at 517 Main St., Brewster.

# oring Fling

Saturday, May 8

William Carpenter Building • Scott City 9 - 4 PM • Power Hour: 3-4 PM

Shop over 30 different home based business and craft booths!

## Hourly door prizes!

Grand Prize: Patio furniture given away at 3:30 p.m. (must be present to win) Concession Stand will be provided!

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA)Rev. Graig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.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-

**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 evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.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)

To become a sponsor, call Andrea or Heather

today at 462-3963.

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.

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. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypress.org.

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 Andy Rose, 785-460-6807; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counselor, 785-953-1043. 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, 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.MTraining 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., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www. colbychurch.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

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

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 Charles Taff, 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, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.



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