

# Family

## Deaths

### Frank W. Howard Jr.

Frank W. Howard Jr, 90, Oakley farmer and rancher, died Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

He was born Nov. 8, 1919, in Thomas County, the son of Frank and Alice (Wood) Howard.

He was a farmer and rancher, and a graduate of Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

On Sept. 20, 1942, he married Betty Woodall at the Colby Methodist Church.

A World War II Army veteran, he served as a staff sergeant with the 128th Anti-Aircraft Battalion in the European theater.

A member and past president of the Oakley School Board, he also served on the administrative board of the Oakley United Methodist Church, the Thomas County Farm Bureau and the Thomas County Conservation District.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, David, and an in-

fant brother, Donald.

Survivors include his wife Betty, of Colby; a son, Frank III (Normi) of Peoria, Ill.; three daughters, Carolyn (Robert) Rice of Carmel, Calif.; Linda (Tom) West of Durango, Colo.; and Elaine (Alan) Adams of Salida, Colo.; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, at Oakley United Methodist Church. Burial will be in the Oakley Cemetery with military honors by the U.S. Army of Ft. Riley and the Oakley Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home in Oakley. The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to the Oakley United Methodist Church or a charity of the donor's choice, in care of the funeral home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

### Kristin Renae Rathbun

Plainville resident, Kristin Renae Rathbun, daughter of Fred and Marvia Miller of Colby, died Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010, at Hays Medical Center. She was 37 years old.

She was born Aug. 21, 1973, in Colby, the daughter of Fred and Marvia (Gumescheimer) Miller. She graduated from Colby High School and had a bachelor of science degree in biological science.

On July 17, 1993, she married Jason Rathbun in Colby.

She was a member of the Kansas Red Angus Association, the Plainville Cardinal Booster Club, and the Plainville Saddle Club. She was active in her church, involved in the community and a youth leader.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather Rubin Gumescheimer.

She is also survived by her

husband and five children of the home, Cassidy Danae, Marissa Joelle, Jaron Wyatt, Peyton Bryce, and Jada Samette; a brother, Justin (Jessica) Miller of La Junta, Colo.; and grandparents Rose Gumescheimer and Alfred and Ruth Miller.

Memorial services were Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, at the United Methodist Church of Plainville. Private inurnment services were planned.

The family suggests memorials to the Rathbun Scholarship Fund (for her children's education) or the Lakeview Christian Camp and may be sent in care of the Mosher-Kemp Family Funeral Home, 320 SW Second, Plainville, Kan., 67663.

Condolences may be sent to [www.mosher-kemp.com](http://www.mosher-kemp.com).

## Corrections

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.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.29
Corn (bushel)	\$5.22
Milo (hundredweight)	\$8.80
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.29

# Virtual abbey part of new church



## Carol Rahn

### • From the Pulpit

Recently I joined an abbey. I had known other Protestant pastors who had become oblates in monastic orders, but because of distance and time I never pursued it. Then I heard of a new abbey that seemed to suit my spiritual interests, time and geographic needs. I checked it out and about two weeks ago, while sitting in my dining room in my nightgown, with a couple of clicks on my computer, I joined The Virtual Abbey.

Every day I receive morning prayers and compline (evening prayers) via Twitter. My phone begins to tweet about 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. and I know it is time for prayer. I can then join in the prayers on my cell phone or computer, praying with a company of others around the globe.

If my schedule is such that I cannot be there at the exact time, the prayers are waiting and I can join in, perhaps late, but still linked to the community. The Virtual Abbey "believes spiritual life transcends boundaries of time and place." It has about 2,500 members. In addition to prayers there is a weekly blog that offers insights and resources for living as a modern monastic in the Benedictine tradition and a Facebook page.

This has been my first experience with virtual church of any kind, unless podcasting the First Presbyterian Church's worship services on our web site is considered part of the virtual world.

But I am discovering how digital worship has become part of the church. Last week I visited First Presbyterian Church of Second Life. This is an online Presbyterian church where the members are

all avatars (personas created to be online personalities). They meet for conversation and prayer, but aspire to eventually incorporate service, evangelism, education, and worship into their activities.

In the Presbyterian tradition, worship is a time to join with the community of faith to hear God's word, receive the sacraments and offer praise and prayers to God. But worship also equips us to share God's good news with others. Mission and outreach are a necessary part of being church.

The Second Life Presbyterian Church has an outreach program. They support a home for boys in Oklahoma and are assisting in relief in Haiti. The church does not practice the sacraments, but according to the web site, "We gather on a regular basis to pray... to engage in lively discussions about our faith and our denomination, and to spend time together in fellowship.... help and serve one another, and reach out in love to our virtual neighbors, whomever they may be." On the home page you can see several people (or, at least, their avatars) seated around a table with a cross and candles on it.

In addition to Presbyterians, I have found Second Life Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, and evangelicals. There may be more.

These groups are finding ways to be faith communities that are not limited by buildings or geography. They are joined through their faith and commitment to God. It is predicted these types of faith communities will become more common.

While I am still trying to expand my idea of community to encompass a virtual world, generations younger than I are immersed in this culture. It is easier for them to find a sense of belonging in cyberspace. Sadly, the hazards of such relationships are becoming familiar to us, but we are also beginning to learn what benefits might come from virtual communities.

I recently heard Dr. Rex Miller, a researcher in communication and change with degrees in theology and communications theory, talk about the future of the church.

He is certain it will not look like it does now. He says in his book, "The Millenium Matrix," the "Living churches will have new characteristics of leadership, worship, community, virtual community, message, growth and ar-

chitecture." (p. 199) The church is changing and I suspect gatherings such as second life churches will be more common.

The 16th century church thought the end would come with the invention of the printing press and putting the Bible into the hands of theologically uneducated lay people. We feared the collapse of Sunday morning worship when churches began broadcasting on radio and television. Why would folks come to church on Sunday morning when they can stay home and worship in their living rooms? Neither has happened.

I suspect God already knows how to use the new technologies in ways beyond our greatest imagining. After all, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is about doing new things. But in the meantime we, as Christians, are still called to continue in worship and prayer, sharing in ministry and mission, and living as people alive with God's grace and love. And I don't think that calling will ever change. The message might come in new ways, but its meaning is still eternal.

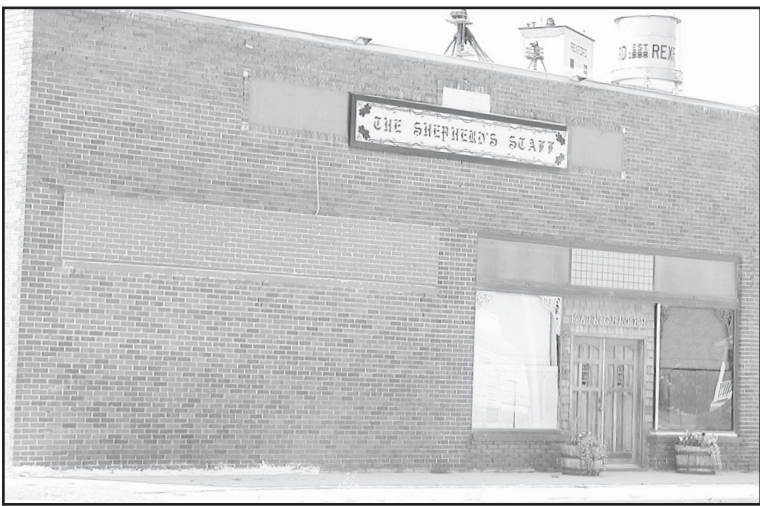
Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby.

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# SERVICES DIRECTORY

## Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



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

## 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 evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. [cdag@st-tel.net](mailto:cdag@st-tel.net).
- BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, [www.colbyborean.com](http://www.colbyborean.com); Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.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)
- MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.
- 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 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website [colbypres.org](http://colbypres.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.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6p.m. Shoponline at: [www.rlmregionalchurch.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.colbychurch.com)
- OASIS WORSHIP CENTER**, Colby, Pastor J. Curry, 785-462-0913. Sunday Service at 2 p.m.
- 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 at 8:00 a.m.
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at [www.trinitycolby.com](http://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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