

Family

Misunderstood, but faithful

As I continue my articles based on the Women of Grace bracelet, I want to write about a woman whose life has been misinterpreted, or at least misunderstood, Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene is the only woman mentioned in all four Gospels to be present at both Jesus' crucifixion and his resurrection. It would have made sense to write about her closer to Easter, but for many Christians Easter is one of the two times when they make their twice-a-year pilgrimages to worship. The other time is Christmas Eve.

They go to church on Easter, sing their "Alleluia," proclaim loudly that "Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!" and then it's back to business as usual.

But for Mary Magdalene, after she encountered Jesus, there was no longer business as usual. Her whole life was changed. We need to know that. We need to know that truly to experience Jesus is to be changed, to be made new — every day, not just on Easter.

Most of us have at least one demon. Psychologists may call this our "dark side," the part of a person's personality that we don't want others to know about, that we think might even be impossible to change. We try to keep our personal demon well hidden, but most people know it's there. Demons can be hard to hide.

Scripture says Mary Magdalene had seven demons. At that time demon possession was a way of explaining terrible human pain or bizarre behavior. Being possessed by seven different demons would mean that Mary was experiencing extreme personal suffering. We know nothing about her healing, but hear about it only after the fact.

In Luke 8:2-3 Mary is mentioned as one of the women who accompanied Jesus and provided for him and his disciples from her own resources. There it is mentioned Jesus had exorcised seven demons from her.

Immediately proceeding this short statement about the women with Jesus is a story in Luke 7:36-50 about a sinful woman who comes into a Pharisee's house and anoints Jesus' feet. Many assume from the description



Carol Rahn

• From the Pulpit

of the woman in this story that she is a prostitute. Because Mary Magdalene is mentioned shortly thereafter, they further assume Mary was the woman in the previous story and was therefore a prostitute.

Scripture makes no judgment about the woman who anoints Jesus' feet and Mary is never mentioned as that woman. When we judge Mary Magdalene to be a prostitute we are reading facts into the biblical story that just are not there.

What is in scripture is Mary's great loyalty to Jesus. Not only does she support his ministry, she is one of his closest followers. She journeys with him and the other disciples from Galilee to Jerusalem and stands at the foot of the cross when Jesus is crucified. He has saved her but she is powerless to save him. But she does what she can, honoring his death with her plans to anoint his body with the burial spices as soon as the Sabbath is over.

According to John's Gospel, she comes by herself to Jesus' tomb while it is still dark (John 20:1). When she discovers the stone rolled away, she runs to tell John and Peter. John is afraid to enter the empty tomb, but Peter finally does; John follows. They find only the linen wrappings, and "as yet they did not understand the scriptures" (John 20:9) so they go home.

But Mary, who is in tears, stays and looks into the tomb herself. She sees two angels who ask, "Why are you weeping?" She turns from the empty tomb to see a man she believes to be the gardener. She asks him where he has taken Jesus' body, and he repeats the question, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Mary asks the gardener to show her where he might have

taken the body.

Then he says her name — "Mary" and immediately she recognizes Jesus. Mary does not recognize Jesus by his appearance nor by his voice when he asks the question. Mary only recognizes Jesus when he calls her name.

When her name is called by the risen Christ, she knows the full truth of the resurrection. She runs to the other disciples, telling them what she has seen and becomes the first evangelist to announce the resurrection — that Jesus is no longer dead, but is truly alive. "I have seen the Lord," she announces to the others.

Mary's devotion is a model of faith. She was there at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and at the end. She was with him amid the cheering throngs and when they were jeering, shouting for crucifixion. She was with him when they were taking his life and when they carried him to the tomb. She was there to tend his grave and to proclaim his glory.

Mary knew Jesus changed her life and remained faithful to him throughout his ministry. She devotedly followed Jesus to the cross and grave and proudly announced his resurrection. Hers is not a faith of convenience, but one of lasting faithfulness.

Mary Magdalene shows us that to follow Jesus Christ is to live one's whole life faithfully following and living for him. Business as usual for Mary was to be always with and for her Savior. Should this not be business as usual for all who call themselves Christians?

Red is the traditional color for Mary Magdalene, so when we selected a bead to represent her on our Women of Grace bracelet we chose a red flower bead, to symbolize Mary's flowering of new life in Jesus Christ. May you flower with resurrection hope and life, just as did Mary Magdalene, this great woman of faith.

Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby. She may be reached at 462-6342.



Regina Heier and Trent Christenson

Colby couple's daughter plans to marry in June

Trent Christenson of Neosho Falls and Regina Heier of Colby plan to marry Saturday, June 11, 2011.

The bride is the daughter of Larry and Mary Heier of Colby. Her grandparents are Wilcid and Dorothy Racette of Oakley and Edna and the late Elmer Heier of Grainfield.

She is a 2010 graduate of Fort Hays State University with bachelor's degrees in communications and education. She is the speech

and drama teacher at Iola High School.

The groom is the son of Robert and Debora Christenson of Neosho Falls. His grandparents are Juanita and the late Charley Christenson of Neosho Falls and the late Marguerite Dennison of Iola. He is a 2009 graduate of Fort Hays with a Bachelor of Science in geology and is the owner of Phoenix Geology.

The couple plans to live in Neosho Falls after the wedding.

We want your local news! Call 462-3963

Deaths

Walter Gerald Daniel

Walter Gerald Daniel, 80, Colby, died Monday, May 30, 2011, at his home.

He was born July 9, 1930, at Bucklin in Ford County, the son of Walter Thurman and Lula F. (Claar) Daniel.

He was an Air Force veteran.

On Feb. 6, 1949, he married Velma Loraine Wiedmer in Cumberland. On May 25, 1963, he married Lois Vonceil Henderson in Weiser, Idaho. He married Alice Franco on April 24, 1966, in Reno, Nev. On April 18, 1975, he married Charlene Edna Hanson in Martinez, Calif.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a brother, Alvin Jay Daniel, a son, Jerrold Duane Daniel, and stepfather H. Earl Thieler.

Survivors include two daughters, Rhonda Baldrige, Emporia; and Sharon Decker, Topeka; three sons, Walter Glenn (Nancy) Daniel, Baker City, Ore.; Dennis Gerald Daniel, Antioch, Calif.; and Donald Gary Daniel, Walnut Creek, Calif.; two sisters, JoAnn Miller, Hays; and Marjorie Paddock, Rose Hill; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date, with inurnment to be at the Hawkeye Cemetery north of Rexford.

The family suggests donations in his name to be designated later, in care of Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Markets

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

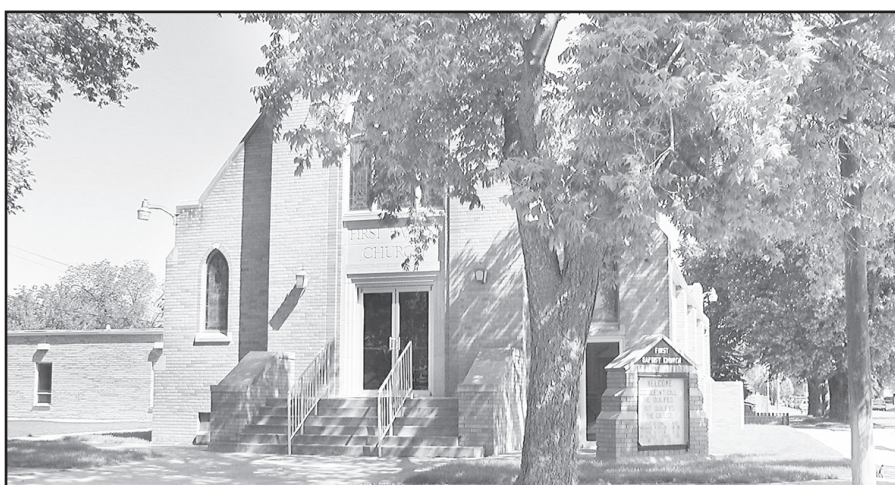
Wheat (bushel)	\$8.22
Corn (bushel)	\$7.24
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.16
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.85

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.

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



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.

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.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, 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. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

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.

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, YW/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.

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

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.

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.

This feature is sponsored by these business firms as a contribution to the religious life of the community.

Check out these Homes

620 N. MISSION
\$79,900
Approx 2900 sq. ft. w/full unfinished basement. Large corner lot. 2 bd on main floor. 4 on 2nd floor. 2 1/2 bath. Sellers in middle of improvements & remodeling.

915 BROOKSIDE
\$85,000
Split level w/3 bd, 1 1/2 bath, huge background w/2 story workshop, single-car garage. Priced for immediate sale

1085 Taylor Ave., Colby, KS
Linda Taylor - Broker
785-460-3721
www.colbysouthwindrealty.com

Wrap Your Home In Quality!

- Seamless Steel Siding
- Seamless Steel Gutters
- High Performance Windows & Doors
- Investment Grade Steel Roofing

abcseamless.net

1507 E. 27th • Hays, KS
785-625-2418 - 800-225-6259

To become a sponsor, call Andrea or Kathryn, today at 462-3963.

COLBY LUMBER
Bud Van Horn and Staff
1760 W. 4th 462-2181

155 W. 5th • Colby ~ 462-3963