

Remember best Christmas gift

Ask any child what part of the Christmas season he likes best, and nine out of 10 will probably say getting presents.

Ask an adult if she is ready for Christmas, and most will say they've "still got a few gifts to buy" or "got all my gifts ready." You didn't ask about gifts, but the notion of Christmas is inextricably tied up with gift-giving.

If it weren't for gift giving at Christmas, many stores would go broke. I read that many businesses rely on the Christmas rush to make their profit for the year.

No one denies enjoying the gift exchange. Whether you prefer giving or getting isn't important — everyone enjoys the fun, surprises and love wrapped in bright paper and bows.

And there is nothing wrong about exchanging gifts at Christmas. Don't let people tell you that Christmas isn't a time of joy and giving — it is.

Our only concern is to be sure to remember the right motive for giving.

• The true motive for the Christmas gift is simple. It is unselfishly sharing — not because you have to, but because of love.

I remember the Christmas Eve I got my first bicycle; I think I was 8. Mom and Dad didn't have much money — there were four of us kids. But Dad set aside enough to buy me a bike — red and silver and shiny. He wheeled it in after everyone else was done unwrapping their gifts, and just stood there until I noticed what he had and let out a war whoop that must have been heard in the next county.

Dad didn't need to do that — I could have lived without a bike — but he loved me. That's the right motive behind the gift giving.

Understanding the right mean-



Eugene Rothfuss

• From the Pulpit

ing for gift-giving is just as important.

• The true meaning is this: we give gifts to one another because God gave the best gift to us. 2 Corinthians 9:15 says "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift." John 3:16-17 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Paul described God's gift as precious beyond telling, unspeakable, indescribable and free. God gave us his only son, born a baby in a manger. But he gave more than that.

Do you recall the advertising slogan "The gift that keeps on giving"? That slogan fits perfectly the gift God gave to us.

Have you ever received a gift that kept on giving? Not a camera, but a box that you opened to find a nice gift and another brightly wrapped box, which had in it another gift and another box, and so on? God's gift at Christmas is like that. The more we learn about God and his gift, the more gifts we discover, out of sight, tucked in corners of the box.

The first gift was Jesus, God's only son, the most precious thing he had to give.

What is the most precious thing or person you have in this world? Now, picture yourself giving that

most precious possession to someone who has rejected you. And realize that your gift is going to be abused, misused and destroyed.

Would you give it anyway? God did.

But wait. Wrapped up in Jesus Christ, the child, is another "most precious"

gift.

Jesus Christ gave his life, the most important thing a man can give for a friend. What gift is more costly?

The Bible records that Jesus did this for us — Romans 5:8: "But God commended his love to us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." What an amazing gift.

But don't stop. There's another gift in this package God gave at Christmas.

Christ's death on the cross gives us salvation now, the gift of rebirth, a changed life, an abundant life. Jesus said, "I am come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly," in John 10:10.

There is a power for exciting daily living in Christ that is available nowhere else. It helps you cope with everyday frustrations. It overcomes the fear of dying. It's the power to smile when everything goes wrong all at once. It's the power to forget hurts and wrongs and look forward to a better tomorrow with Christ. It makes life worth living.

What a precious gift.

But wait — there's more to come, an unopened gift awaiting us.

By accepting Christ as Savior and Lord now we have — eternal life in heaven.

John 3:36: "Whoever believes

in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

What an indescribable, precious, never-ending gift God gave when he gave his only son. He gave us his son, his son gave his life, his life brought us salvation and abundant life, salvation brings us heaven — and who knows what gifts lay yet undiscovered.

Gene Rothfuss is pastor of the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. You can reach him at (785) 462-8391 or (785) 443-1448.

Holiday traffic noted

The Kansas Highway Patrol worked two fatal crashes, with two fatalities, during the Thanksgiving weekend holiday reporting period, which ran from 6 p.m. Nov. 21 through midnight Sunday.

One of the fatal crashes was alcohol-related. In the same reporting period last year, there were no fatalities.

Here are other figures collected by the Patrol, compared to last year.

• Driving under the influence-related crashes: 5 vs. 3.
• Driving under the influence-related fatalities: 1 vs. 0.
• Driving under the influence

arrests: 25 vs. 24.

• Speed citations: 1,568 vs. 1,400.
• Speed warnings: 1,352 vs. 1,245.
• Adult seatbelt citations: 349 vs. 342.
• Adult seatbelt warnings: 58 vs. 118.
• Teen seatbelt citations: 12 vs. 9.
• Teen seatbelt warnings: 1 vs. 2.
• Child restraint citations: 39 vs. 39.
• Child restraint warnings: 4 vs. 7.
• Motorists assisted: 1,307 vs. 1,426.

Viola Icolone Lambert Jones

Viola Icolone Lambert was born on November 22, 1918 in a farm home south of Bogue, Kansas in Graham County to James Harrison Lambert and Lulu Louisa Boatman Lambert. Viola was the second child of the 6 children that came to bless this family, all being born and raised in Graham County Kansas. On Saturday evening, November 10, 2012 Viola peacefully slipped away from us and into God's hands at the age of 93 years, 11 months and 18 days.

Viola attended a one room country school graduating from 8th grade. Later she attended the Hill City Memorial High School graduating with the class of 1940. She attended the Salt Lake Business College in Hutchinson, Kansas, returning to Hill City after graduation and working for a short time before moving to Kansas City, Kansas in 1942. She worked in the welfare department there and later in the county doctor's office.

Viola met her future husband in March 1936 at her sister Enid's wedding dance. She later became engaged to William (Bill) Jones before he entered the United States Army. She was working in the county doctor's office when she went to Camp Grant Illinois and married William Jones on July 25, 1942. After Bill was transferred to Camp Bowie in Texas, she resigned from her job and moved to Texas. She and Bill lived in a duplex with a very special couple, Marvin and Dorothy Stueve and their 3 daughters. They all remained lifelong friends. After Bill was sent overseas, she remained in Texas for a time working at the Camp Laundry. Later Viola returned to Kansas City, Kansas and the family she had lived with, during her previous stay. This time she went to work in the Bomber Plant and remained there until Bill was discharged from the service in November of 1945. They returned to Hill City, Kansas, bought their home and settled into a happily married life. Viola worked in a dry cleaners and Bill held several jobs before getting a permanent one with the gas company. In 1947, Bill's mother moved in with them, and in 1949 they all moved to Colby, Kansas so Bill's sister and family could help care for their mother until her passing in 1951. In 1953, Viola started working at the St. Thomas Hospital in Colby and remained there until she retired in 1978. After her retirement, they moved to Littleton, Colorado to care for Viola's mother. In November 1979, Viola and Bill were severely injured in a terrible car accident and she remained in the hospital until mid-January 1980. In January 1989, Viola, Bill and Viola's mother moved back to Colby and they cared for mother until her death in April, 1990.

Viola's husband William (Bill) died in August 1995 and Viola was able to remain in their home until her death. She spent many cold, snowy months with her sister Mary Lou and family in Centennial, Colorado and enjoyed helping prepare many wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with them until the last few years when it became too much for her to go up and down stair steps.

Viola had a great mind for her age and was able to tell us the dates of many family members births, anniversaries and deaths. Viola was a very loving wife, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. She spread her love wide to everyone. She was always willing to help anyone in any way that she could.

Viola loved to cook, sew, crochet, shuttle tat and paint. She has made many booties for the RSVP to give to the hospital for new born babies, but she never thought to keep track of how many pairs she made. We are sure there are several babies around Colby who wore Viola's crocheted booties home from the hospital. Viola also shuttle tatted many cross book marks that she gave to the special people she knew to enjoy.

Viola has loved to sew since she was a young girl and some of her favorite memories was of making dresses for her little sister Mary Lou. Viola wrote in Mary Lou and Verlan's 50th wedding anniversary book that "as Mary Lou out grew her clothes, I'd find pieces of material, even if they were chicken feed sacks and make Mary Lou little dresses that she always named. Back then there were no slacks, shorts or even sun dresses, and a pattern to go by was something I didn't know about." In 1953 Viola made the pattern for Mary Lou's wedding dress out of newspapers. Viola was extremely talented and enjoyed her life to the fullest. She said "I have lived almost 94 years and I have no regrets." How many people can say that now?

Viola was preceded in death by her husband William (Bill) Jones, her parents James H. and Lulu Lambert, her brother James Ivan Lambert, sisters Enid McKenna, Wilma Brinkmeyer, Geneva Bell, brother-in-laws Alex McKenna and Willard Bell. Left to morn her passing but with many wonderful memories to recall are her sister Mary Lou and husband Verlan L. Bell of Centennial Colorado, brother-in-law David Brinkmeyer of Parker, Colorado, and lots of special nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Viola's sister Mary Lou and family had requested a Get Well / Birthday card shower for Viola to celebrate her 94th birthday. Viola enjoyed reading every card she received as well as all the pictures that were included clear up to the day she left us.

Services for Viola were held Friday, November 16, 2012 at 10:30 AM in the Kersbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, Kansas. Officiating was Rev. Carol Rahn. Viola was laid to rest next to her husband in the Beulah Cemetery in Colby, Kansas. Serving as pallbearers were nephews James Bell, Centennial, Colorado, Kjell Snemyr, Littleton, Colorado, Raymond Jones, Lincoln, Nebraska, Robert Best, Bushton, Kansas, Rusty Bunch and Lyle Fleming of Kanopolis, Kansas. Honorary pallbearer, Dr. Darrell P. Williams of Minot, North Dakota. Organist was Mrs. Pat Ziegelmier and soloist was Mrs. Monica Bugbee-Miller of Colby, Kansas.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$8.57
Corn (bushel)	\$7.56
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.96
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.58

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.

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American Red Cross

Stop and Take a Moment

A Christmas Challenge.... This is the time of the year where most of us get in touch with our compassion and desire to help others. I know I certainly think of the many out there in our own community or neighborhood that have less than myself and need so much.

It is easy to stay on life's merry-go-round and never step off long enough to act upon a thought or desire to give to another, because there is so much to do in our daily lives to take care of our own. I would like to challenge you, and please know I will be taking this challenge as well. Here is the challenge: "Before the Christmas Holiday, experience the gift of giving without the person or recipient knowing".

I know there are many of you reading this that do this all the time and even when it is not Christmas and I thank you for that. However, for those of you who have never tried giving without telling it is such an amazing gift to your own heart and soul. It doesn't matter how big the gift is, it can be the act of scooping a neighbors sidewalk, or leaving fresh baked cookies on a door step, it is simply the act of giving.

I hope you will accept this challenge and I promise you will receive the best gift of all in return...the warmth that will fill your heart. Now, remember it has to be done prior to Christmas and do not tell anyone what you have done. Lets be a Silent Santa in someones life this year.

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Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



Winona Methodist Church

FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, Pastor Dan Keel. 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 337-401-7207 (temp)

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby Community Building. Pastor Dave Funk. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

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. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten- 5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 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 and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. 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.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 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)

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.

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

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-DAYS SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. 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 by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345N. 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., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

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

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