

Unknown God of Athens named following six centuries of mystery

In the sixth century before Christ, the city of Athens was hit by a severe plague. It was felt among the people that the only explanation for the plague was that some god must be angry at them.

Most believed the source of their trouble was the treachery of their former king, Megacles. Shortly before his death he has obtained the surrender of his enemies, the followers of Cylon, by promising them amnesty, but once they laid down their arms he had them all killed. His act was a scandal and so it was not hard for them to imagine that one of the gods was angry with them – but which one?

And so the Athenians began to offer sacrifices to every god they knew – and that amounted to a lot of sacrifices, because over the course of time the Athenians had erected shrines to hundreds or thousands of gods. These shrines literally lined both sides of the road from the harbor to the inner city, where more shrines were clustered on a rocky knoll known as the Acropolis.

Still, even after the people had offered sacrifices to every god, the plague continued to ravage the city. So in desperation, a councilman named Nicias was sent to the island of Crete to secure the services of a legendary prophet named Epimenides.

Some weeks later Nicias and Epimenides stepped off a ship in Piraeus, Athen's harbor town. As they wound their way up the road to Athens they could see signs of the plague all around. The scene was appalling. But the thing Epimenides found most surprising was the number of shrines to gods and goddesses along the way. He is reported to have quipped, "Never have I seen so many gods. In fact, it's probably easier to find a god here than a man."

Nicias laughed and agreed, but added that he could not figure out who this other god could



Mark Carlton

• **From the Pulpit**

be, since they were already worshipping every possible god they could imagine.

Epimenides offered that perhaps that was their problem.

Upon arriving in Athens, Epimenides ordered that a flock of sheep be kept from eating for the rest of the day and night so they would be hungry the next morning.

The next morning he stood before the council on Mars Hill, along with the flock of choice, hungry sheep. As he stood in front of the council, hundreds of ordinary Athenians also gathered, desperately hoping for some hope of relief.

Epimenides addressed them: "I'm going to offer a sacrifice based on three assumptions. The first one is that there is a God out there, whose name we don't know, but somehow he is connected to this plague. My second assumption is this; if we invoke the help of this God, he is great enough and good enough to come to our aid.

When someone protested that they could not evoke the name of a god whose name they didn't know, Epimenides answered, "That's my third assumption: that this God is so great and so good, that if we call upon his name he will smile on our ignorance – as long as we acknowledge that ignorance before him."

And so as they all looked to the sky, and Epimenides cried out, "Unknown God, look down upon this city. Forgive this city. Deliver

this city. And now, if you would choose the sheep you desire, if you would cause them to lie down upon the grass, we'll sacrifice them to you." With that they released the sheep.

Miraculously, instead of grazing with the rest, seven sheep laid down. Artisans immediately marked the spot and collected the sheep for a sacrifice. Epimenides instructed them to build altars on each place a sheep had lain, and inscribe it, "To Agnos Theo, the Unknown God." They did as he instructed and sacrificed the sacred sheep.

That very day the plague began to lift. Within a week the people of Athens were well again. They gloried and worshipped this new, unknown God, leaving garlands on his altars. Some even theorized that if he would just reveal himself they might be able to do away with the worship of all the others.

The city council ordered the preservation and maintenance of one of these altars for all posterity. A religious revival of the strangest sort gripped Athens. But time passed, memories faded, and soon the people returned to their old gods.

Over the years, the shrines were replaced with temples and the simple uncovered altar to the unknown God was dwarfed and all but forgotten; until a visitor to the city, a man we know as the apostle Paul, noticed the little altar and began to tell people about the God that had once saved Athens, the God who had revealed himself so that the worship of all other gods could now be done away with, the God who had offered proof to all men through the resurrection, the God they had forgotten, the unknown God.

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church. You can reach him at pastormark@colbyberean.com or 460-2763.

Deaths

Ramona J. Lyon

Ramona J. Lyon, 80, Colby, Services are pending with died today, Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, Kersensbrock Funeral Chapel in at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

World Day of Prayer to be observed March 1

"I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me" is the theme of the World Day of Prayer luncheon and worship service to be held at noon next Friday at the Colby United Methodist Church.

Women from several Colby churches will present the program, which looks for a Christian response to the struggles concerning immigration and a diverse society. French women chose the theme and wrote the worship service.

There will be offerings for the luncheon and for grants made by the World Day of Prayer USA for projects addressing issues identified in the program.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of

Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year on the first Friday in March. Each year women from a different country are the writers of the World Day of Prayer worship service.

This year the women of France based the worship service on Matthew 25 and Jesus' identification with "the least of these." The committee writing the program represented women from Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Anglican, Union of Protestant Churches, Salvation Army and Methodist churches.

Women from Egypt will be writing the 2014 service.

Fort Hays adds honors

Jordan Voss, a chemistry major from Colby, is among 22 students recently added to Fort Hays State University's fall 2012 Deans Honor Roll.

More than 1,000 Fort Hays students appeared on the honor roll

for the fall semester, according to Dr. Larry Gould, provost.

Those recognized were undergraduates enrolled in 12 or more credit hours and maintained a minimum grade average of 3.6 for the semester.

Markets

	Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.12
Corn (bushel)	\$6.96
Milo (hundredweight)	\$11.79
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.97

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.

University of Kansas announces fall honor roll

Seven students from Colby earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2012 semester at the University of Kansas.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the schools of allied health; architecture, design and planning; business; education; engineering; journalism; music;

nursing; pharmacy; and social welfare.

Area honorees are as follows.

Colby

Audra Fleming, sophomore, daughter of Brewster Kellogg of Colby and Terrilyn Fleming, Louisville, Ky.

Matthew Hull, senior, son of Andrew and Lynette Hull and Lynette Fry, all of Colby.

Tera Raymond, junior, daughter of Karen Raymond of Colby.

Rochelle Shoemaker, Prof I in the School of Pharmacy, daughter of Karen and Donal Shoemaker of Colby.

Corbin Stephens, sophomore, son of Jackie and Curt Stephens of Colby.

Paige Stephens, senior, daughter of Jackie and Curt Stephens of Colby.

Torey Taylor, junior, son of Kevin Taylor of Colby.

Atwood

Tessa Reuber, senior, daughter of David Reuber and Patricia Horinek, both of Atwood.

Hoxie

Jennifer Swenson, Prof I in the School of Pharmacy, daughter of Edward Heim of Hoxie.

Honor roll criteria vary. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade average, and others raise the minimum average for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkanas.com

Creighton names Dean's List

Trenton Powell of Colby, a fourth year School of Pharmacy and Health Professions student at Creighton University, was named to the fall Dean's List for the 2012-2013 academic year.

a 3.5 grade average or better on a 4.0 scale are eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll.

Creighton is a Catholic, Jesuit institution in Omaha, Neb. For information, go to www.creighton.edu.

The family of Thurman Cox wishes him a Big Happy 92nd Birthday on February 20th!

Birthday wishes can be sent to:
P.O. Box 464
Colby, KS 67701

LDI IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF BUSINESS

On Friday, March 1st, 2013 all ten LDI locations across Kansas would like to invite their customers to stop by and enjoy lunch.

LDI is proud to be Kansas' Ag Leader and is looking forward to serving customers for another 25 years. We understand that quality is very important and we are committed to doing what it takes to make your farming operation the best that it can be!

Stop and Take a Moment

Have you ever read an ad, only to find yourself laughing out loud? I think creativity is the key to most advertisements. Sometimes in trying to describe a property it becomes a challenge to say the right thing. Here are just a few real estate ads that I find funny...hope you do too.

Plumbing sold separately: This phrase was used to promote a vandalized home in an ad on Loopnet.com, noting that the home has been stripped of its plumbing.

Fixer-Upper: Generally meaning the previous occupants kicked in all the walls and smashed all the windows before vacating.

Cozy: Cozy is another word for so small that you have to shower while on the toilet, you can reach the refrigerator from the sofa in the living room.

Motivated Seller: I think the best example of this can be found in an ad where the forested hills of California are blazing behind the photograph of the house, with that subtitle.

Lakeview: This typically means that if you ascend to the rooftop and stand on your tip-toes you will catch a glimpse of the lake on the other side of the busy highway you have access to.

There are always funny real estate ads, and I am sure I have created a few in my thirty years. Hope you enjoyed these.

"an agent outselling"
Stock Realty & Auction Co. mollyo@stockrealtyauction.com (785)462-5203

Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

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

CELEBRATION 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.

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.colbyberean.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-DAY 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., 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.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Markdock, 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.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Beginning Sept. 2 - Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 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 Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

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.

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

155 W. Fifth St. 785-462-3963

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