

When something really special is in the box

As of today we are 18 days from Christmas. As I sit and write this I must confess I haven't done much shopping yet. Partly because I haven't time, partly because I haven't given it much thought, and partly because I find myself more amazed each year as I grow older at the wonder of Christmas and the coming of Christ.

It is the wonder of the worship of Christ, or Christ mass. Mainline retailers can call it holiday, but I will call it what it is Christmas!

I didn't grow up in church at least not consistently. We did go pretty much every Christmas and Easter like a lot of people. I can remember one kids program I was involved in was called "365 Days of Christmas Each Year." It is amazing that I can still hum the theme song! It is about 365 days of letting Christ love you, and you loving Him.

It sounds like a gift worth receiving and giving to me, how about you?

Often we hear a child's perspective



steve rains

• moments from calvary

of what Christmas is. In fact we can even read about it in newspapers.

But, here is a perspective from a school teacher. Listen to a story of one teacher and her experience with a student.

"Christmas is for love. It is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages. But mostly, Christmas is for love," the teacher said.

"I had not believed this until a small elf-like student with wide-eyed innocent eyes and soft rosy cheeks gave me a wondrous gift one Christmas. Mark was an 11 year old orphan who lived with his aunt, a bitter middle aged woman greatly annoyed with the burden

of caring for her dead sister's son. She never failed to remind young Mark, if it hadn't been for her generosity, he would be a vagrant, homeless and chilliness at home, he was a sweet and gentle child.

"I had not noticed Mark particularly until he began staying after class each day (at the risk of arousing his aunt's anger, I later found) to help me straighten up the room. We did this quietly and comfortably, not speaking much, but enjoying the solitude of that hour of the day. When we did talk, Mark spoke mostly of his mother. Though he was quite small when she died, he remembered a kind, gentle, loving woman, who always spent much time with him.

"As Christmas drew near however, Mark failed to stay after school

each day. I looked forward to his coming, and when the days passed and he continued to scamper hurriedly from the room after class, I stopped him one afternoon and asked why he no longer helped me in the room. I told him how I had missed him, and his large gray eyes lit up eagerly as he replied, 'Did you really miss me?'

"I explained how he had been my best helper. 'I was making you a surprise,' he whispered confidentially. 'It's for Christmas.'

"With that, he became embarrassed and dashed from the room. He didn't stay after school any more after that.

"Finally came the last school day before Christmas. Mark crept slowly into the room late that afternoon with his hands concealing something behind his back. 'I have your present,' he said timidly when I looked up. 'I hope you like it.' He held out his hands, and there lying in his small palms was a tiny

wooden box.

"It's beautiful, Mark. Is there something in it?" I asked opening the top to look inside."

"Oh you can't see what's in it," He replied, "and you can't touch it, or taste it or feel it, but mother always said it makes you feel good all the time, warm on cold nights, and safe when you're all alone."

"I gazed into the empty box. 'What is it Mark,' I asked gently, 'that will make me feel so good?'

"Its love," he whispered softly, "and mother always said its best when you give it away." And he turned and quietly left the room.

"So now I keep a small box crudely made of scraps of wood on the piano in my living room and only smile as inquiring friends raise quizzical eyebrows when I explain to them that there is love in it.

Yes, Christmas is for gaiety, mirth and song, for good and wondrous gifts.

But mostly, Christmas is for

love." A familiar passage of Scripture says it this way, "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" (Jn 3:16).

This Christmas may you give every gift out of love, and not out of duty or guilt or pleasure!

If you don't have a church home we at Calvary want to invite you to what we are calling the "Christmas Family Table" from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Student Union of the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Dinner is on us and entertainment is provided by singer/writer Tom Ewing. This is a come and go event, but please join us we would be honored to have you.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

matters of record

Marriage

The following marriage license has been issued in the Sherman County District Court: Douglas Gene Hilty and Vicki Lee Geeseka, both of Goodland.

Divorce

The following divorce has been granted by the Sherman County District Court: Anthony S. Duraso and Katrina J. Duraso, both of Goodland.

Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

Nov. 27 — 7:42 a.m., 200

Sycamore Rd., a 2006 Ford driven by Landon Brenner was going south on Sycamore when it hit a mailbox at 310 Sycamore. Brenner said the sun was in his eyes and did not see the mailbox.

Nov. 30 — 12:19 p.m., 100 W. 13th, a 2006 Chevrolet driven by Mary Butler was backing from an off street parking place and hit an unattended 2006 Ford owned by Jesse Chance Schilling, causing damage.

Gift & Craft Fair

SATURDAY, DEC. 8TH
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Quality Inn, Colby

Something for everyone on your gift list featuring hand crafted items, fresh made treats, and baked items, gift basket ideas, jewelry. Food concessions all day.

For more info., 785-460-3054.

The Goodland Star-News
SUBSCRIBER

Martha Gunderson
You receive two free passes to see

Fred Claus
(PG)

Clip and bring to the show.
Non Transferable

Sherman
1203 MAIN — Phone 899-5103

Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.
www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Norbert Diabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 12:30 pm



Word of Life
A Foursquare Church
10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Associate Pastor: Ben Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Life Groups - call for times and locations
www.wordoflifegoodland.org

Pleasant Home Church
Serving the rural community
for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Evening Service: 6 p.m.

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Morning Service: 10 a.m.
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Brewster:
Pastor: Dorine Chambers
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.
Evening Service: 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Kasey Crosby
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship: 6 p.m.
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Travis Blake
Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th
890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m. (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: Daily, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday
For emergencies 890-6969

Harvest Evangelical Free Church
104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth group meets at 7 p.m.
at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Mike Larson
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 p.m.

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking
Hwy. 24

Koons Funeral Chapel
North Main

Good Samaritan Center
208 W. 2nd

KLOEIKKQJIKWGB
3023 W. 31

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from Our Family to Your Family

To all our patients and friends - On behalf of all of us at VisionSource! of Goodland, we wish you God's richest blessings this Christmas season and peace, love & health in the new year.

Dr. Mark Wahlmeier, Amanda & Family

For your shopping convenience, Bill's Shootin' Shop will be open
Sundays, Dec. 9, 16 and 23
1 - 4:30 p.m.

Regular hours
Monday to Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
1901 Cherry, Goodland, Kan.
(785)890-6456 or (785) 821-0332