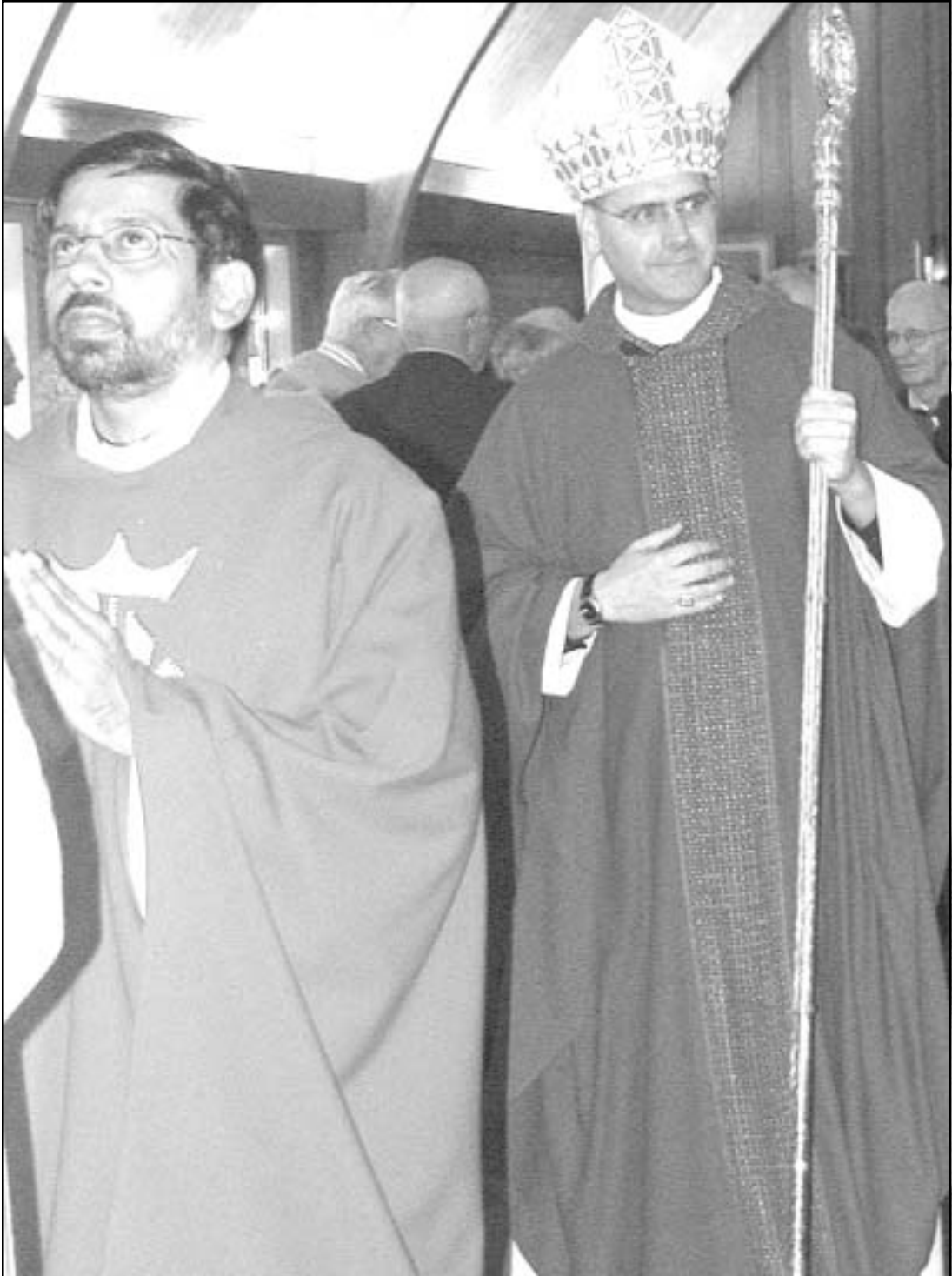


**Celebrating 50 years**



**LEAVING CHURCH AFTER MASS** on Sunday, the Rev. George Kochuvelikkam (left), pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin, and the Most Rev. Paul Coakley, bishop of Salina, took part in a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the church building. --Herald photo by Cynthia Haynes

**THE OBERLIN HERALD —**  
**People in Our Community**  
*Mary Lou Olson, society editor* mlolson@nwkansas.com

Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Bob and Kay Gaskill were Guy Gaskill, Winona; Lori Gaskill and husband, Ray Kriegbaum, Denver; Jody and Shad Metcalf, Bryson and Seanna, Colby; Sid and Cheryl Metcalf, Danbury; Eileene Grose, and Shannon Metcalf, Oberlin.

Jerald Leitner was hospitalized in Kearney, Neb., from Nov. 18 to Nov. 23.

Joy Votapka spent Thanksgiving week with her daughter, Nancy Ellis, and Nicole in Topeka. On Saturday they visited in Hutchinson with her sister and husband, Vera and Merrill Durr, and with her nephew and wife, Phil and Kathy Durr in McPherson. En route home, she visited Mary Anderson in Osborne.

**—Please join the Wheat Ridge family for an open house, Friday,**

**Dec. 9, from 3 to 6 p.m.**  
 Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Dorothy Moore, Henry Edgett, Veanna Carman and Floyd Edgett. Lows went to Wilma May, Aleen VanVleet, Dorothy Moore, Veanna Carman and Floyd Edgett. A commodity distribution will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 9 a.m. at the Golden Age Center.

Jerald and Elaine Leitner attended the wedding of their grandson, Dustin Sullivan, to Katrina Jones at Plainville on Nov. 26. He is the son of John and Karla Sullivan of Colby and Karla is the daughter of Terry and Darla Jones of Plainville.

**—Christmas Brunch Buffet Sunday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. LandMark Inn. Call 785-475-2340 for reservations.**

Gail and Kay Marcuson returned

Wednesday from Colorado where they spent Thanksgiving with their daughter and husband, Diane and Chuck Newcomb, in Denver. They visited on Monday and Tuesday in Greeley with Wally and Benny Marcuson.

Darrel Ferguson underwent surgery last week at Holdrege, Neb., and is recuperating at home. Mail will reach him at 201 N. Wilson in Oberlin.

Lyle and Leona Hilker returned to Oberlin Nov. 30 after spending Thanksgiving at their winter home in Weslaco, Texas. On Thanksgiving Day they were joined by Dr. Jerald and Maria Sanden of Oberlin, and Don and Linda Miller of McCook for a potluck dinner at the Rio Valley Estate Center. The Hilkers also visited Howard and Janette Votapka of Alamo, Texas.

**Ensemble to put on Christmas concert**

Chapter 6, a men's cappella ensemble from Decatur, Ill., will give a Christmas concert at Morgan Theater at The Gateway in Oberlin at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission has worked for three years to get this group to Oberlin.

Emerging from a college course, Chapter 6 became the premiere jazz cappella ensemble at Millikin University in Decatur. Making their professional debut in 2001, this group, all from the Chicago area, has received awards and recognition for their technique, performance and unique arrangements.

Three-time Chicago Regional Harmony Sweepstakes Grand Champions, their first title in 2000 distinguished them as the youngest group ever to qualify for the national finals. Chapter 6 went on to win the Grand Champion title at the 2004 National Harmony Sweepstakes.

Other honors have come from the Contemporary A Cappella Society, the National Association for Campus Activities, and the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities. In 2005, Chapter 6 was chosen "Best Performing Group of the Year" at the campus group's national convention. Most recently, the Chapter 6 received five 2005 awards: Favorite Jazz Group; Favorite Religious Group; Favorite Composer and Favorite Arranger, Mark Grizzard; and Favorite Male Vocalist Runner-up, Luke Menard.

Their albums "A Cappella 101," "Chapter 6: Live, Christmastime," and "Swing Shift" have sold over 20,000 copies worldwide. Their latest release, "Swing Shift," received three nominations for the 2005 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards and "The Wizard Of Oz" captured the award for best humor song. Their first DVD, recorded live

in January 2005, will soon be released.

The Chapter 6 touring schedule includes campuses and concert halls, and they have appeared with symphony orchestras in Indianapolis, Seattle, Detroit, Toronto, Nashville and Washington.

Their comedy-infused blend of pop, jazz, gospel and rock brings spontaneous bursts of laughter and applause throughout the show, and appeals to audiences of all ages. This is a season ticket event; or \$10 for adults, \$5 for students at the door. For information, call Ella Betts at (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel at (785) 475-3329.



**United Church gets new pastor**

Judith Stricker, the new pastor at the United Church of Oberlin, is a commissioned lay pastor with the Presbyterian Church USA.

Judi, as she is known, taught in public schools nearly 30 years before she studied to become a pastor in a program offered by the Presbytery of Northern Kansas.

With her husband Tom, a retired chemist, and their son Kerry, an entomologist, they operate a small greenhouse in Hill City, and Judi also teaches a preschool in the basement of the Presbyterian educational

complex there. They have three other children.

Karl, superintendent of schools in Concordia, who with wife Dee, a special education teacher, has three children, Brook, Braydon, and Bryson. Shelly and her husband Jeff, of Red Lodge, Mont., have two children, Jacob, 2, and Maddie, 16. Jeff is a fire supervisor with the Forest Service, and Shelly manages condos and soon will be starting her own business. Heidi is in veterinary school at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

For two years, Mrs. Stricker said,



J. Stricker

she was pastor of a church at Idana, five miles west of Clay Center. She said she is looking forward to leading the congregation in Oberlin.

**Hospice to decorate tree**

Is there an angel in your life? Is there someone whom you would like to honor or remember in a special way?

Now is your chance. Hospice Services Inc. will be decorating a tree for the holidays at United Northwest Federal Credit Union, 117 S. Penn in Oberlin, and they invite you to help decorate their Memorial Christmas Tree.

Here's how it works. Stop by the credit union and give a tax-deductible donation to Hospice. With your donation to the annual campaign, a special ornament with the name of

the person you want to honor is placed on the tree. The ornaments will be displayed throughout the holiday season.

By giving to the Memorial Christmas Tree, you honor the memories of loved ones. It is also a tradition of helping others in Decatur County to receive much needed care and comfort during a final illness. By giving to Hospice Services, you allow someone to share their gift of life with family and friends to the very end. For more information, call Carol Duncan at (785) 475-3259.

**Food drive set for Sunday**

On Sunday the Oberlin Teens For Christ will conduct a "Porch Light Food Drive" between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. The youth in TFC will be driving throughout the town collecting food donations.

Anyone wishing to donate to this effort, which is to help our local food pantry, should simply put their donations on their front porch in a box or bag and leave the front porch light on.

For safety reasons the teens will stay within city limits for this food drive but anyone interested in donat-

ing who lives outside the city limits can drop off their donation at the TFC building on South Rodehaver between 6 and 7:30 p.m. that evening.

According to TFC sponsor Pastor Doug Mason, the group is hoping to catch all homes but if some are missed he asks that those persons call 475-2599 and donations will be picked up. This food drive is to help Stanley Hardware in their efforts to meet the need of the food bank over the Christmas holiday season.

*The children of*  
**Edwin Black**  
*are hosting an Open House*  
*in honor of their father's*  
**90th Birthday**  
*at The Gateway on Sunday,*  
*December 11th, 3 to 5 p.m.*  
*Cards may reach him at:*  
 706 E. Adams, Oberlin, KS 67749

Come celebrate with us on the occasion of the **50th Wedding Anniversary** of our parents, **Dick & Donna Kelley**  
 Open House - Saturday December 17, 2005 2-5 p.m.  
 Gateway Civic Center Oberlin, KS  
 Kevin, Kirk & Sheldon Kelley  
 No gifts please  
 Photo by Jeanie

**Tuesday Senior Buffet**  
 (55 and over)  
**\$3.99**  
 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Pizza Hut of Oberlin, Kansas**  
 Located along U.S. Hwy. 36 - Phone 785-475-3638  
 Open 11 a.m. till 9 p.m. Sundays - Thursdays  
 Open 11 a.m. till 10 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays

**IF IT SNOWS IT'S FREE\***

**She's been hinting for a long time...**

**LONGNECKER JEWELRY**

Starting November 28th  
**HOLIDAY HOURS:**  
 Mon.-Sat: 10:00-6:30  
 Sunday 1:00-4:00

314 Norris Avenue McCook NE. bill@longnecker.com 345-1742 / 1-800-780-6801