

Good Samaritan Center

Picture in your mind gazing out the windows of Town Square, the sun glistening through the icicles hanging on the front porch. The landscape is blanketed with snowy grandeur, everything is still and silent. In the beauty of the moment one cannot help but think of our awesome God.

Then, turning to face those who have come to hear the morning devotion, you are struck by the mirror image of what is outdoors. You can see the Son, glistening in the eyes that meet yours. The dining room is blanketed with the grandeur of snowy white heads waiting with quiet anticipation to hear the Word of God.

These mature individuals have experienced His abundant blessings and are keenly aware how great His love is! How sweet it is to meet God every morning with them. Anita leads us in singing, praising and giving Him thanks through song.

Christmas decorations have come down, all but the tree and frozen pond in Town Square. We will be celebrating winter yet this month, all the activities culminating with a Jack Frost Party on Jan. 29.

It is a little humorous, when inviting residents to activities, to hear a very common response: "No, thanks, I don't want to go out in this weather." They just like to cozy up in their recliners with the TV or a good book. Just like home!

Monday in the Garden of Hope, the book "Snow Angel" by Debbie Boone was read. In the story the snow turns colors, as if confetti is floating from the sky, so Ruth Laidig, Dorothy Hunt, and Nadine Anderson made their own versions

of confetti snowmen using the pointillism technique with markers. They and Muriel Ready then made another snowman, this time using "ice cube" beads.

Table ball was a hit. Leo Mooty, Dorothy Hunt, Muriel Ready, Nadine Anderson, Ruth Laidig and Eleanor Demmer all took part.

Tuesday was New Year's Day. This is always a time of great reflection, looking back over the past year and looking forward to the new. Resolutions are still made, although they are not the same as they used to be. You don't hear the usual ones like, "I want to lose weight" or "I need to get my finances in order." You are much more likely to hear, "I want my children to know they are loved" or "I want to deepen my relationship with the Lord." Another good lesson for those of the younger generation!

The film "Flywheel" was shown. Seven residents went to "the movies."

Wednesday is the day we are especially blessed with many volunteers. For Bible study, Mert McEvoy; nail care, Dorothy Alstrom, Rosella Meitl and Penny Fringer; and bingo, Colleen Geisha and Marilyn Horn.

Other volunteers this week included current events, Carol Duncan; devotions, Dennis Brown; and computer works with Larry Smith. The 180 Boys played kick ball on Saturday morning.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

Thursday, Doris Marintzer, Helen Marintzer, Pooch Portschy, Loren Escher, Hubert Mumm and Bonnie Weskamp attended Catholic

services.

During Social Hour everyone ate special treats and played Concentration.

On Friday, Bible Study was enjoyed by Kathryn Post, Hazel Flaska, Lora Zwickle, Dorothy Pryor, Opal Bryan, Faye Miller and Eva Bryan. A new study has begun on knowing God through His name.

Another wonderful week has flown by, but another is just beginning. Remember to keep us in your prayers and on your calendars.

In Christ's Love, Everyone is Someone!

Visitors this week were: Ron and Dixie Snyder of Colby, Penny Fringer, Helen Brooks, Reva Marshall for **Dorothy Hunt**; Don and Joan Grafel of Herndon for **Thelma Spiers**; Alice Bobbitt of North Platte, Charolette Neff of Norton, Marvin and Sharon Slabaugh for **Opal Bryan**; Ken and Clem Mumm of Selden/Colby, Dennis and Eleanor Rogers of Selden, Delores Raile of Hoxie; Alberta Retter for **Hubert Mumm**; Daisy Rhein for **Jeanette Conway**; Rick, Elizabeth, Paige, Reilly and Reid Fahrenholtz of Juanita, Neb., Donna Kelley for **Eva Bryan**; Arian Arnold for **Edla Olson**; Shelby Hackney, Helen Brooks for **Ethel Nemeth**; Ralph Crim of Atwood, Mert McEvoy for **Lucy Schissler**; Charlotte Neff of Norton, Ron and Dixie Snyder of Colby, Alice Bobbitt of North Platte for **Lora Zwickle**.

Stop illness before it starts



Home Time

By Tranda Watts
Multi-county Extension Agent

home or in a public place.

Symptoms of Norovirus include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps that can begin suddenly and may last one to two days.

Food safety errors can occur during production, processing, transportation, food storage, and food preparation.

Anyone can be vulnerable to food-borne illness. But certain populations such as infants and children, whose immune systems are not yet fully developed; the elderly, whose immune systems may be compromised by aging, poor nutrition or chronic illness; pregnant women; and those undergoing medical treatment, such as chemotherapy, can face an increased risk.

Something as simple as washing hands before and after using the rest room can be effective in reducing the risk of any food-borne illness as well as respiratory illnesses.

In a study reported by the Department of Agriculture, students in six

classrooms who washed their hands on arrival, before lunch, after recess and before leaving each day had 24 percent fewer sick days due to respiratory illness. Those students also had 51 percent fewer days lost because of stomach upset.

The current recommendation is to wash hands with warm, soapy water for 20 seconds:

- Before and after handling food;
- After using the rest room or helping a child do the same;
- After changing a diaper (for the parent or care giver and the child);
- After handling pets;
- After tending to a sick person; and
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension

Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Christmas Day dinner guests of Martin and Evelyn May were Marvin May, Greg and Janice Cundiff, and Jack and Charles Fortin.

Dinner guests of Martin and Evelyn May on Friday evening, Dec. 28, to celebrate their May family Christmas were Ernest May, Tonganoxie; Stephen May, Lawrence; Brian and Sarah (May) Shaw; Andover, Marvin May, Greg and Janice Cundiff, Chris and Kasey May, Kaylee, Kelsey, and Hunter, Andy May, Kelley Black, and Kalen Townsend.

Wayne and Lois Larson accompanied Joanne Wendelin to Pratt on Dec. 29, where they attended the 65th wedding anniversary celebration of Mrs. Larson's sister and husband, Dorathe Eleanor and Ray Wiltshire. Also attending were Jay and Suzanne Cooper, Wichita, and Bill and Bonnie Condit, Winfield.

Jay and Suzanne Cooper, Wichita, were weekend guests of the Norman Wendelin family following the anniversary celebration. Additional Sunday guests at the Wendelin home for a late Christmas/New Year's dinner were Craig and Karen Larson.

Kelly Olson, Manhattan, and Dianne Bremer and Jessica attended the afternoon wedding of Rebekah Lynn Hasty and Benjamin Lee Hitzfeld on Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Oberlin United Methodist Church. The bride's parents are Pastor and Mrs. Doug Hasty of Oberlin.

Karl Wendelin was honored with a soup luncheon and card shower on Sunday, Dec. 30, for his 94th birthday, hosted by his four sons, Lawrence, Bruce, Norman, Patrick and their families.

Sunday evening dinner guests on Dec. 30 at the home of Roland

and Pam May, Zach and Hannah for their May family Christmas, were Walter and Betty May, Roger and Susan May, Ryan and Erin, Robert May and Cole, Rhonda May, Cameron and Hunter Nedland, Richard and Delayne May, Danica and Nolan, Lawrence; Brianna May and her fiancé, Shane Steckline, Lawrence; Dean Hillman, Cheney, and Ben Jorns, Preston.

Afternoon guests at the John Bremer home enjoying snacks, coffee, and Pond Butter Pudding on New Year's Day were Kristen Bremer, Colby; Arthur and Alice May, Edith Tate, Jay and Becky Tate, Dakota, Mollie, and Grace, Warren and Jan Bainter, and Rhonda May. Pond Butter Pudding is a dessert Alice May can remember her grandmother making each Christmas, and it has become a family holiday tradition each generation since.

Vince and Peggy Carswell, Lynn and Roberta Johnson, and John and Dianne Bremer were Thursday evening dinner guests of Ralph and Violet Shaw for their office Christmas party.

Ralph and Norma Unger returned home Saturday evening, Dec. 29, after enjoying an eight day trip to Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Also accompanying them on the trip were Bob and Rachelle Gorrell, Connor and Logan, Bland, Mo.; Ryan and Darci Unger and Ty, Brock, Drew, and Dillon Zweggard, St. Francis, and Colleen Rittmann, Christian and Reilly. While there, they enjoyed their family Christmas and also toured Epcot Center, MGM Studios, and the Disney Animal Kingdom. Butch Rittmann was unable to join them on the trip due to his work schedule.

Acts of kindness come from God

By Pastor Carrie Buhler,

Jennings and Dresden United Methodist churches

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man sitting in the park feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink when he noticed that the man looked hungry. So he offered him a Twinkie.

The man accepted and smiled. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again. So he offered him a root beer. Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave.

But before he had gone more than a few steps he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him the biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother saw the joy on his face.

She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God. You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God. You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Many years back, there was that whole "random acts of kindness" craze going on.

But once it was over-commercialized, it just sort of died out and left the collective consciousness of the public.

I always wondered, Why does it have to be random?

Why not go out each day with the intent of performing kindness that day?

Then all we need to do is to wait for the opportunity to present itself.

The opportunity may be random, but the intent isn't. In Colossians Paul wrote, "And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

We are the chosen of God, for we have chosen God. That's important, for the choosing goes both ways. God chooses us, each of His children, to follow Him but we have to choose to follow Him.

The power of free will is in our hands because God gave it to us. God knows the power within choice, so He gave us the hearts and minds and spirits to choose how we want to live our lives.

We get to choose to have the power of the Holy Spirit behind us, working within us, when we choose to follow the Lord.

We may never know if we make an impact on someone else's life. Think of it as planting a seed that will be harvested by someone else. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't make the choice to have a positive impact on someone else's life.

Jesus did not command the whole world to go to church. Jesus commanded His church to go to the whole world. So we should, each and every day.

We need to challenge ourselves in this new year to make the commitment each day to do some kindness that day. Talk to someone you don't know. Share yourself, your lunch, your faith.

So when you both go home that night, you will feel the peace and joy of God's presence in your life.

In the words of Paul, "Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Share a Twinkie with God.



Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

OBERLIN SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
785-475-3103
Fr. Henry Saw Lone,
MASS: 10:30 a.m., Sunday

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC, LEVILLE
Fr. Henry Saw Lone
MASS: 8 a.m., Sunday.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, SELDEN
Fr. Henry Saw Lone
MASS: 5:30 p.m., Saturday

OBERLIN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Mike Larson
120 South East, Oberlin
SATURDAY: Sabbath School, 9:15 a.m.; Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.

JENNINGS-DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JENNINGS
Carrie Buhler, pastor
SUNDAY: Church School, 10 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
DRESDEN
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.

PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
The Rev. Doug Hasty
SUNDAY: Church Services, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.

HERNDON IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor: Dennis Brown
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF OBERLIN
Pastor: Judi Stricker
109 North Griffith-American Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian USA
SUNDAY: Adult Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee: 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Choir practice every Sun. at 9:45 a.m. Holy Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays. United Church Women, 2nd Wed at 2 p.m. Parish Council, 2nd Sun. following Worship

OBERLIN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP (Southern Baptist)
Pastor: Fred Dycus
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m., AWANA Club 4-6 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Service, 7 p.m.

OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST
102 North Cass — 785-475-3067
The Rev. Doug Hasty
SUNDAY: Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m. (Nursery provided.) WEDNESDAY: Choir practice, 7:30 p.m.

CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST
Pastor: Ray Gilstrap
Almena
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.

OBERLIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
The Rev. Royce Leitner
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible study, 7 p.m. King's Kids, 6:30 p.m.; Youth, 8 p.m. Women's Group, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2 p.m.

OBERLIN CHURCH OF CHRIST
South Beaver Street - Oberlin
Bill Duncan — Phone 785-475-3259
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Hour, 10:45 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Ladies Home Bible Study, 9 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC, HERNDON
The Rev. Galen Long
Phone 785-322-5560
MASS: SUNDAY, 8 a.m.

HERNDON COVENANT CHURCH
Keith Reuther, Pastor
Phone 785-322-5316
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m. Youth Group, 4 p.m.

NORCATUR UNITED METHODIST
Pastor: Ray Gilstrap
Almena
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Church School, 10:30 a.m.

LYLE UNITED METHODIST
Carol Woodmanee, Almena
Lyle Lay Speaker
SUNDAY: Morning Worship 8 a.m.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF OBERLIN
The Rev. Heidi Wiebe
810 West Cedar, Oberlin
Office Phone 785-475-2769
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Time, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

LUND COVENANT CHURCH
Pastor: Doug Mason
10 miles south, 4 miles west of Oberlin
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; WEDNESDAY: Bible Study and prayer, 7:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 North Wilson
Pastor: Rev. Rick Langness
Secretary: Norma Unger
785-475-2333

SATURDAY: Worship, 7 p.m.; SUNDAY: Sunday School and Bible class, 9:15 a.m.; Divine Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays; KICK, 3:45-5:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Foundations Bible Class, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.

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