

# Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Keith and Helen Muirhead family members spending the Christmas holiday with them were: Mignon Barry, from Wellfleet, Maine (on Cape Cod); Tamala Schulze and Kolten from Manhattan; Michelle Zodrow and Austin from Grapevine, Texas; Tefani Zadeh, Natalia and Dylan from Chicago; and Kallista and Blake Isernhagen from Edmond, Okla.

Paul and Kathy Nauer have returned home from Colorado after spending four days at the home of Roy and Julie Kidder in Mead. Paul and Kathy then spent five days at Breckenridge, Colo., with her son and daughter-in-law, Marc and Roxanne Groff and grandchildren, Jaden, Jake and Jordan skiing and celebrating New Year's.

Scott and Denise Taylor are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Vincent Scott born Jan. 8 at the Norton County Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Four sisters and one brother are welcoming him home. Grandparents are Dave and Diane Carte, Jennings, and Charles and Vicki Taylor, Oberlin. Great-grandmother is Eleanor Morel.

The United Methodist Women met Jan. 4, opening the meeting with the reciting of the Purpose. Helen

Rhodes gave a history of the "Day of Prayer and Self Denial". A special offering for this program will be taken at the February meeting. Rachel Carter gave the devotions and Ruth Chance served snacks.

The Jennings City Council will hold its meeting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 16 instead of Jan. 12.

The January meeting of the Czech Museum was held Jan. 5 at 2 p.m. Neoma Tacha presided with directors Bob Tacha, Mary Wahlmeier, Dean Gawith, and Lila Jennings present. Minutes and treasurer's report of Decemer were approved. Appreciation was extended to Bill and Karen Mizell of Arkansas and Bob Jones for the items donated to the museum.

The Christmas wreaths will be picked up at the Jennings and Big Timber cemeteries on Friday, Jan. 6. Helpers are asked to meet at the Jennings Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. A Kansas Day program will be presented for the public at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Jennings Senior Center. Guest speakers are Joy Russell and Arian Arnold. The subject will be "The Last Indian Raid in Kansas."

Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb 2.

# Good Samaritan Center

By Lisa Paulson

For those of us who live and work at the Good Sam, death is a frequent reminder of how fleeting our lives are. Death always seems to come too soon...even to one who is well into their 90s. Even though we know it is inevitable and even though we think we are prepared, it always takes us by surprise.

Death has once again come to our home. Two of our family members, Alan Addleman and Ben Jorns, passed away recently. As I was visiting with a family member, she made the comment with tears streaming down her face, "I could never work here". My response was, "Oh, but then you would miss out on knowing so many wonderful people. It once again drives home our purpose and mission of being a Christian community of care.

Pastor John Paulson once asked the Residents a very direct question, "Did you come here to die?" He followed up his question with a verse from John 1:4 that says "In him was life, and that life was the light of all people." and then encouraged them to live...to take the gift of time that God has given them to invest it in others and in His kingdom's work through prayer, Bible Study and sharing His love and message with others. In the Literary Club, Elden Haas, Amy Rehm, Dorothy Pryor and Betty May listened to another chapter of the "Heaven Is For Real" book written by Todd Burpo and read by Anita Hirsch.

During Bible Study this week, we too are learning about heaven. Alice Bobbitt, Eva Bryan, Olive Arnold, Betty and Walter May, Leone Porsch, Myrtle Ross, Lucy Schissler

and Amy Rehm were all gathered in the Quiet Room exploring questions they have about heaven.

While we were talking we saw a little hand raised to ask a question. One of the housekeeper's second grade grandson was standing at the door and asked if he could join us. What a delight! He was a First Hand Friend reader last year. When I used a couple of "big" words, I stopped to explain them to him, he replied "You can use big words; I'm a very good reader so I can keep up". He said he would be back this week!

The discussions that arise out of these studies are so timely and pertinent to what the residents are facing in this season of their lives. What a wonderful opportunity to present the gospel again, to help them understand that we don't have to hope we get to heaven, but to assure them that if they have placed their faith in Jesus that they can know they will be in heaven one day. Sometimes we mistakenly assume someone knows the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, so we don't bother asking them questions about death or eternal life. But, what I have found is they think a lot about death and dying, especially after saying good-bye to friends during our memorial services. They want to know, they need to know... for they perceive their time on earth will soon be over and the next memorial service could be their own. How wise they are!

Regardless of our age, not one of us knows how much more time we have to get our house in order before we are called to our eternal

resting place. Some phrases I often hear are, "Well, it's too late for me now, I've lived my life and what is done is done, can't go back to change anything" or "I've gotten by all these years without God. He wouldn't have anything to do with me now." How sad and how exciting it is to hear those words. Sad because they have missed out on so many blessings, they have endured life's hardship alone. Exciting, because we have the opportunity to share the Good News again, and more often than not, the words fall upon ears that are eager to hear and accept it.

The promise of heaven is only given to those who put their faith in Jesus. Being a good person will not get you there. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6.

We celebrated the life of Alan Addleman with his family Friday afternoon. Alan was a master storyteller. So we shared that love of stories with him by singing "I Love to Tell the Story." I shared the great-

est story, the one of God's love and redemption in the message. Dennis Brown sang "Take My Hand Precious Lord" and Loren Schrock played "God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again." We will miss Alan very much, but the sweet memories of him will linger.

Recent visitors were: Mert McEvoy, Renee McEvoy (Odessa, Texas) and Elda Youngs (McCook) to see Lucy Schissler. Marvin and Sharon Slabaugh to visit Opal Bryan. Reva Marshall for Dorothy Hunt. Max Carman for Myrtle Waldo. Bob and Jan Baer (Topeka) for Evelyn Olson. Rhonda May for Walt and Betty May. Galen Olson and Arian Arnold for Edla Olson. Ralph and Norma Unger for Lucy Schissler and Earl Brown. John and Edie Tate for Lois Carlson. Cheryl Miller and Keith Schrock for Loren Schrock. Bud and Vicki Mumm (Gem) for Doris Marintzer. Von Johnson for Crystal Moore. Jody Betts, Ella Betts and Dorothy Avery (Norton) for Mary Waldo.

## FREE Bible Courses

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## 'We must always forgive'

The Rev. Barbara Patterson,

United Methodist Church, Jennings and Dresden

Matthew 18:21-25

In this passage, Peter asks the question, "Lord how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Must I always forgive? That was Peter's true question.

Must I always be the one to turn the other cheek?

Must I always be forgiving even when it's the other person who has wronged me?

What about the thief who comes in unannounced during the night and makes off with my personal treasures?

Peter's question echoes the question we ask about forgiving others. It's a good question! You see, Peter knew the answer. According to the Jewish law, one only had to forgive three times but Peter was being generous. He goes beyond the letter of the law and indicates that he would forgive seven times. Peter is feeling very righteous.

Jesus answers this question by saying, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." Peter is probably mumbling to himself, "He's has to be kidding."

Forgiveness and reconciliation are the business of Christians. But forgiveness is not something that comes naturally for most of us. Forgiveness is difficult because we seek fairness: "it's just not fair!" What we really want is more like revenge!

There is a story of a little boy who was sitting on a park bench. You can tell by the look on his face that he was obviously in pain. A man walking by asked him what was wrong. The boy answered, "I'm sitting on a bumble bee." The man asked, "Then why don't you get up?" The boy replied, "Because I figure I'm hurting him more than he is hurting me!"

We may chuckle at the boy's reply, but isn't that typical of our human nature? We want to get even.

We want the person who wronged us to get a taste of how it feels to be hurt.

The principle of Jesus' parable is not hard to miss. Real forgiveness comes from the heart.

One reason we are to forgive is because it is healthy for our own mind, body and spirit to forgive. It's hard to keep hating and despising someone without it taking a toll on us. Psychologists tell us that if we harbor unforgiveness it will not go away by itself. The anger that we feel does not dissolve but remains buried deep within. That anger will begin to eat away at you, and eventually surface looking like a green eyes monster. It may appear as jealousy, bitterness, or even depression.

Another important reason to forgive is because "we have been forgiven." You and I have been forgiven by God for every sin, every indiscretion, for every stupid thing we have ever done. Can we not find it in our hearts to forgive others? God is always ready to forgive; however, I wonder if God can enter an unforgiving heart?

Must I Always Forgive? Christianity teaches us that following Jesus is supposed to make a difference in how we live, not just in what happens when we die. Jesus, through the parable, teaches us that forgiveness is to be a lifestyle for his followers. All God's children have been repeated receivers of God's mercy and compassion for our weaker moments, and yet, God has lavished his love upon each of us.

We must strive always to become more like Christ in our thinking and in our actions. We are to be excessive in mercy. We are to be extravagant in compassion.

How many times shall we forgive? That depends. Ask yourself this question: Do you need to forgive for your own peace of mind? Usually the answer will be a resounding "YES."

Peace and Grace



## Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

**OBERLIN SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
785-475-3103  
Fr. Mark Berland,  
MASS: 10:30 a.m., Sunday

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC, LEOVILLE**  
Fr. Mark Berland,  
MASS: 8 a.m., Sunday.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, SELDEN**  
Fr. Mark Berland,  
MASS: 5:30 p.m. Saturday

**JENNINGS-DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor: Barbara Patterson  
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. Linda Willey  
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.

**OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST**  
102 North Cass — 785-475-3067  
The Rev. Linda Willey  
SUNDAY: Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m. (Nursery provided.) WEDNESDAY: Praise team practice, 8 p.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.

**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: Gene Gee  
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m., WEDNESDAY: Service, 7 p.m.,

**CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST**  
Pastor: Ed Woods  
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.

**OBERLIN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
South Beaver Street - Oberlin  
Bill Duncan — Phone 785-475-3259  
SUNDAY: Fellowship and coffee time; 10:00 a.m. The "no sermon" worship hour with the Lord's Supper and Adventures With God, open Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; TUESDAY: Ladies Bible Study, 9 a.m.

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC, HERNDON**  
Fr. Nick Parker  
Phone 785-322-5560  
MASS: SUNDAY and THURSDAY 8:30 a.m.

**HERNDON COVENANT CHURCH**  
Pastor: Keith Reuther  
Phone 785-322-5316  
SUNDAY: 9:45 a.m. Morning worship, 11 a.m. Youth group, 4 p.m.

**NORCATUR UNITED METHODIST**  
Pastor: Ed Woods  
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Church School, 10:30 a.m.

**LYLE UNITED METHODIST**  
Guest Speakers every Sunday  
SUNDAY: Morning Worship 9 a.m.

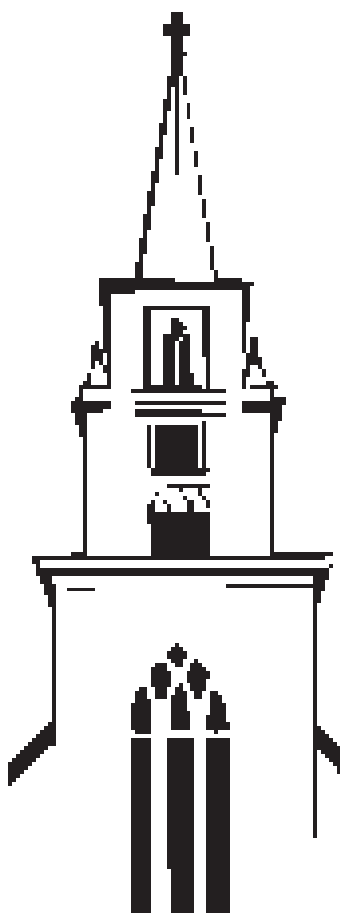
**EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF OBERLIN**  
Pastors: Chris and Sharon Nelson  
810 West Cedar, Oberlin  
Office Phone 785-475-2769  
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Time, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

**LUND COVENANT CHURCH**  
Chairman Brad Marcuson  
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  
Interim Pastor: Brad Rick  
SUNDAY: Sunday School and Bible class, 9:45 a.m.; Divine Worship Service, 8:30 a.m.; Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays..

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404 North York Avenue  
Oberlin, Kansas  
The Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler  
Church Office Phone: 785-475-2053  
SUNDAY: Worship, 10:00 a.m.; Fellowship and Educational Hour, 11:15 a.m. Holy Communion first and third Sundays.  
THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study second Thursday at 9:30 a.m.



## Attend the 67th Annual DECATUR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARDS MEETING

Monday, February 6

Gateway Civic Center  
Oberlin, Kansas

Supper - 6:30 p.m.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please call the Decatur County Conservation District Office at (785) 475-3131 Extension 101

The supper meal is courtesy of the Decatur County Banker's Association. & Western Kansas Farm Credit

Please make your reservations by Friday, January 27, 2012.