

New Pastors fill local churches

By MARYLOU OLSON
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Several new pastors joined area churches over the last four years.

• Father Mark Berland moved to Oberlin in June 2008 to serve the Catholic churches in Oberlin, Leoville and Selden.

• Barbara Patterson became pastor of the Jennings and Dresden United Methodist churches in June 2009.

• Nancy Proffitt moved to Oberlin in June and took over as pastor of the Oberlin and Prairie Chapel United Methodist congregations on July 1.

• Serving as pastor of the Oberlin Community Fellowship since January 2008 is Pastor Gene Gee.

• The pastor of the Clayton and Norcatur United Methodist churches since September 2010 is Ed Woods. He also serves the United Methodist Church in Almena.

• Father Nick Parker became the priest of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Herndon, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Atwood and St. John's Catholic Church in rural Rawlins County in August 2010.

• Pastors Chris and Sharon Nelson have been serving the Evangelical Covenant Church in Oberlin since April 2009.

• New pastor at the Lund Covenant Church is Roy Matthewson, who moved to Oberlin from Colorado Springs in May.

• Brad Rick is serving St. John's Lutheran Church as interim pastor.

Oberlin lawyer named judge

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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An Oberlin lawyer became judge of the Kansas 17th Judicial District just one year ago this month.

Preston Pratt of the firm of Hirsch and Pratt was appointed by Gov. Sam Brownback in June of last year and went on the bench in July.

The position came open with the retirement of Judge Bill Elliott of Hill City in the middle of his term. Judge Pratt will stand for election in the primary and general balloting this fall.

Since 1993, Mr. Pratt has been in private practice in Oberlin and has also served as the Logan County attorney and assistant Oberlin city at-

torney and Decatur County attorney. He retired from the law firm and as the city and counties' attorney when he was selected for the bench.

NEW PARTNER

Lawyer Margaret Mahoney joined the Oberlin law firm of Hirsch and Pratt in September 2010, practicing in Oakley.

She became a partner in January 2011, but the name of the firm was not changed to Hirsch and Mahoney until partner Preston Pratt was appointed a district judge and left private practice.

Ms. Mahoney still works in Oakley most of the time but spends each Tuesday in Oberlin.



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