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DARRELL EVANS | Page 13

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STARTS ON PAGE 8



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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Grace Community Church - Overbrook

See inside back cover!

Fourth Annual Easter Parade and Fun Fest moves to N. Kansas Avenue, Garfield Park



The Topeka Easter Parade & Fun Fest will be back for the fourth consecutive year on Saturday, April 15, 2017, but instead of Gage Park, the festivities will move to Garfield Park in North Topeka. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. in the NOTO Arts District and proceed north past Garfield Park before dispersing.

The big Egg Hunt will take place immediately after the parade in the playground area of Garfield Park

Kids Games, vendor booths, bands and more will be on hand in the Garfield Park area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., along with Food Trucks.

In previous years the event has attracted thousands of people who came to watch the parade, visit the Fun Fair, listen to live music, visit over 70 vendor booths and take part in the egg hunt or other activities.

Every year, dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit organizations take part in the parade, and dozens more set up vendor booths

■ Please see **EASTER** page 3



by **Kayla Rinker**

After escaping a violent mob, crossing the Ugandan border and spending time in a refugee camp, the 55 participants of the Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association's (BRKC) first refugee simulation experience were awarded the chance to be resettled in another country.

"Two hours of life in the refugee camp was enough to give them a taste of the conditions, and the thought of ten years there was too much for participants to handle," said Andrew Huesing, leader of BRKC's People Teams ministry. "I believe that it struck a nerve and gave participants an unforgettable experience that will leave a lasting lesson in their minds.

Those who used their imagination the best got the most out of it, but the make-believe carried even those who coasted through it at first into a world far from Liberty, Mo."

The simulation was based on the real story of a Congolese family who was chased from their home and eventually resettled in Kansas City four months ago.

"The People Teams ministry of BRKC is focused on mobilizing the church to minister to internationals in Kansas City with the Gospel and love of Jesus through personal relationships," Huesing said.

The purpose of the simulation experience was to raise awareness about the plight of refugees and prepare churches to minister to interna-

tional people through the education of an unforgettable experience.

"I started realizing that the believers who were reaching out to refugees were struggling to connect," Huesing said. "For one, our experience growing up in America and the journey that many refugees walk is so different that it's hard to overcome that gap between us."

He believes the simulation will give participants an experience they can pull from as they seek to build friendships with refugees in their communities.

Huesing said God alone orchestrated the November event that brought together 50 volunteers and experts who worked to make the simulation

■ Please see **REFUGEES** page 3

A 'high-tech and high-touch' way to share the gospel

Brian Koonce | The Pathway

Every Christian has a story to tell, and now there is one more way to spread that story far and wide.

Steve Barnes, a minister on staff at Lenexa Baptist Church, is the brains behind 1millionstories.org, a website that helps people share the story of how Christ changed their lives. The site is free, available to churches and individuals, and is quick and easy to use for both the Christian and those seeking to learn more.

"It's high-tech and high-touch," Barnes said. "The purpose is to simplify sharing the Gospel. You have everything you need if you know Christ."

1millionstories.org lets users upload their story in written or video format, then Barnes

■ Please see **SHARE** page 3



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Hatred, racism didn't deter this scientist

Pioneering researcher grew up in Missouri and Kansas

George Washington Carver was born a slave during the Civil War, possibly in 1865, but there are no records. Within a few weeks, his father, who belonged to the next farm over, was killed in a log hauling accident.

Shortly after the Civil War, bushwhackers kidnapped infant George with his mother and sister.



Moses Carver sent friends to track down the thieves and trade his best horse to retrieve them. The thieves only left baby George, lying on the ground, sick with the whooping cough. George never saw his mother and sister again. Illness claimed the lives of his two other sisters and they were buried on the Carver farm.

George and his older brother, Jim, were raised in Diamond Grove, Mo., by "Uncle" Moses and "Aunt" Sue Carver, a childless German immigrant couple. In poor health as a child, George stayed near the house helping with chores, learning to

■ Please see **CARVER** page 20

K-12 & College Expo March 4

The 19th annual Christian K-12 Education and College Expo will be held Saturday, March 4 at Colonial Presbyterian Church from 10-2 p.m. The free expo attracts families looking at all levels of education including high school juniors and seniors considering Christian college, plus families looking at K-12 and homeschooling options.

Popular mini-seminars include such topics as college financial aid, a K-12 panel discussion and homeschooling.

Over 40 Christian colleges and private K-12 schools will participate.

For more info call 816-524-4522 or visit metrovoicenews.com.

New ADF pres. sees 'light' for religious liberty

New Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) President Michael Farris says he wants to make ADF larger than the American Civil Liberties Union and secure religious liberty in America for generations to come.

Farris, a founder of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and Patrick Henry College, began his duties with ADF Jan. 10. He also serves as CEO and general counsel at ADF, a legal organization specializing in the defense of religious freedom.

"I hope that Alliance Defending Freedom grows and prospers and becomes bigger and better in a lot of ways," Farris said in a video on ADF's website. But "my real goal is to win. I want to see religious freedom robustly protected from the doubt and the cloud that's hanging over that issue right now."

Co-chairman of a coalition that successfully lobbied Congress for passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in the early 1990s, Farris has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, eight federal circuit courts of appeals and the highest courts in 13 states, according to an ADF news release.

He holds a juris doctor degree from Gonzaga University, a master of laws from the University of London and a bachelor's degree in political science from Western Washington State College.

Farris drew praise from Ethics &

"My real goal is to win. I want to see religious freedom robustly protected from the doubt and the cloud that's hanging over that issue right now."

Religious Liberty President Russell Moore.

"Michael Farris has earned a reputation of high caliber leadership and godly wisdom," Moore told Baptist Press in written comments. "No one knows the issues better than he does, and few articulate a Christian viewpoint with as much skill and conviction."

"I am thrilled," Moore said, "that ADF will continue to have the strength of leadership that we have seen in the amazing Alan Sears," who founded ADF and led it for 23 years. "I look forward to working with Michael Farris on these important issues of life and family and religious freedom."

Farris co-founded HSLDA in 1983 with J. Michael Smith and served as the organization's full-time president from 1986-2000. His legal victories with HSLDA, according to the group's website, include reversing the 1985 conviction of a Michigan couple for homeschooling their children without being certified teachers. He also successfully defended a North Carolina family's right to refuse a social worker's demand to enter their home and

interview each child alone without the mother.

More recently, Farris represented the German Romeike family, which requested asylum in the U.S. and claimed persecution by the German government for homeschooling. The Romeikes lost their court battle, but in 2014 the Department of Homeland Security granted them "indefinite deferred action status," allowing them to remain in the U.S.

Patrick Henry College was founded in 2000, with Farris as president, on the "twin pillars" of "commitment to biblical truth" and "the classic liberal arts," ADF reported. He continues to serve as chancellor emeritus.

Mike Whitehead, a Kansas City attorney who has served on the staffs of two Southern Baptist Convention entities, says the skills Farris developed through his leadership of Patrick Henry will serve him well at ADF.

Farris "has done fund-raising and friend-raising to accelerate [the college's] success," Whitehead said in written comments. "ADF's educational initiatives among law students and other collegians will benefit from these skills, as will ADF's religious liberty defense efforts which require consistent financial support, especially for the volunteer attorneys in the field."

Farris said he hopes his success defending families' right to educate their children according to biblical values translates to success in defending religious liberty more broadly.



Farris

Faith and football: 18th annual NFL Superbowl Gospel Celebration

EEW Magazine News —

The NFL Super Bowl Gospel Celebration, the only multicultural event sanctioned by the National Football League, will kick off Super Bowl 51 on Feb. 3 with its 18th annual star-studded concert at Lakewood Church in Houston.

Thousands will uplift the name of Jesus ahead of Super Bowl XXXIII, infusing faith into the biggest sporting event of the year.

The annual event joins key NFL players, top gospel, contemporary Christian

and mainstream Grammy Award-winning artists and special guests on one stage to bring audiences an evening of uplifting music and inspirational messages.

The Super Bowl Gospel Celebration was launched in Miami in 1999 during Super Bowl XXXIII weekend.

"We founded this event to bring even more inspiration and celebration to one of the biggest events of the year — the Super Bowl," said Melanie Few-Harrison, creator and executive producer of the

event.

She continued, "Each year we aim to touch lives in a meaningful way and make the Super Bowl Gospel Celebration bigger than the last with artists and special guests. We look forward to kicking off Super Bowl 51 in Houston and making our mark as the best, most uplifting event we've had."

One highlight of the Super Bowl Gospel Celebration is the Players Choir, which features current and former NFL players.

The choir made its debut at the 2008 show with more than 40 members.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the first African-American players to enter the professional football league, Kenny Washington and Woody Strode. Both were hired by the Los Angeles Rams in 1946 when the city informed the Rams that it could not lease their newly built home stadium to a segregated team.

The law required that because public funds were used to build the new facility, the Rams had to have at least one African-American player on its roster.

On the recommendation of the stadium commission, the Rams subsequently signed the two former students from the UCLA Bruins football team — Mr. Washington in March 1946, and Mr. Strode two months later.

Coincidentally, Mr. Washington and Mr. Strode were not the only Bruins to break the color barrier in professional sports. Another member of the team's backfield, Jackie Robinson, became the first African-American to play with a professional baseball team when he signed a year later with the Brooklyn Dodgers in April 1947.

Stained glass window a sight to see



by Dwight Widaman

Church of the Resurrection's new stained glass window is drawing attention minus a few facts. Local media continues to report that the large and impressive stained glass window at the new \$90 million Church of the Resurrection Leawood Campus expansion project is, as one headline on Fox4 TV's website stated, "The Largest Stained Glass in the World". The assertion has been picked up by other TV news but a simple internet search of previous stories by the Kansas City Star and the church website (which lists it as one of the largest in the Midwest) would have provided the easily accessible facts.

The *Kansas City Star* reported in 2014 that it is "one of the largest" in the country (not the world) and that the size of the glass is actually 37 by 93 feet for a total of 3441 square feet of window.

The TV news hyperbole may not be welcome by the church which faced early criticism for the size and cost of the building effort.

An Internet search finds numerous stained glass windows, even here in the Midwest, dwarf that of Resurrection. The record holder for largest stained glass in the world actually belongs to Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Ill. That window uses over 22,000 square feet of faceted glass.

That's six-and-a-half times the size of Resurrection's new window.

While not the largest, the new Resurrection wall of glass is still impressive and a beautiful work of art that is a great addition to Kansas City's spiritual and artistic community. The window features scenes from Creation to 20th Century images of famous civil rights leaders and a depiction of Jesus that is closer to reality than the northern European fair-skinned renditions found in most Christian historical art. Here Jesus has a more anthropologically correct middle-eastern dark-toned skin.

Adam Hamilton, Resurrection's Pastor also advocated for an Afro-centric quality of Adam and Eve stating that, "Scientists say the first homo sapiens emerged from Africa."

Other meaningful, and for church families emotional, depictions include church members who have died at the hand of violence and medical complications that then inspired new ministries of service in the church.

The glass wall is scheduled for completion in March and church volunteers are being trained as tour guides for an expected boon of visitors who will be awed by the spectacular images.

To view an interactive image of the window with zoom qualities, visit future.cor.org/window/



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Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and approved adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children's Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

Major General Julie A. Bentz to speak at 2017 Kansas Prayer Breakfast

This time every year, no matter the weather, about a thousand people show up for a very early breakfast at the Ramada Inn in downtown Topeka.

The occasion is the annual Kansas Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by Topeka Fellowship, Inc. Statewide leaders in government, business, education and industry will be on hand as the program begins at about 6:45 a.m. on March 15th, for the 56th celebration of the annual event. As several buffet lines open for serving at 6:00 a.m., the banquet hall will be filled with Kansans from all walks of life.

This year's featured speaker will be Major General Julie A. Bentz. Major General Bentz is the Vice Director of the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Organization responsible for providing quick reaction capabilities to counter improvised explosive devices and other threats encountered by our warfighters in



Iraq and Afghanistan. Prior to her current assignment, MG Bentz served as the director, Strategic Capabilities Policy on the National

Security Council under President Obama and as the director, Nuclear Defense Policy on the Homeland Security Council under President Bush.

Major General Bentz was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1986 upon graduation from Oregon State University and has served in a variety of active, reserve and National Guard assignments in nuclear defense, homeland security, health physics, environmental science, and as a traditional nuclear, biologi-

cal and chemical officer. She holds a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Columbia, Missouri.

In addition to Bentz, the audience will hear from a wide array of Kansas leaders, as always. Festivities will wrap up by 8 a.m., just in time for most folks to get to work on time.

The Kansas Prayer Breakfast is held in March each year, and is patterned after the National Prayer Breakfast, which began in 1953 in Washington, D.C., under the leadership of Kansas Senator Frank Carlson and President Dwight Eisenhower. The Kansas version began in 1962 with the aid and encouragement of Governor John Anderson. Carlson was the first keynote speaker.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$18.00 per person or \$180.00 for a reserved table of ten. For reservations call 785-380-2901 or email info@kansaprayerbkfast.net.

C5Alive Luncheon to Feature "Matchmaker" Marketing

The monthly C5Alive "POWER Luncheon" will be held February 9 at Ramada West, 605 SW Fairlawn Rd. from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The format will be a "Matchmaker" speed marketing event.

The cost to attend the luncheon is \$10 for C5Alive members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$12 at the door. Non-members and other guests pay \$15. C5 luncheons are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend, organizers said. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

C5Alive is an organization founded in 2009, dedicated to developing and uniting Christian

Leadership in the community, involving businesses, non-profits and churches.

In addition to monthly "POWER" luncheons held on the second Thursday of each month, C5 also hosts periodic business fairs and other events, including the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fest, held on the day before Easter.

The luncheons are held in different locations around the Capital City each month. C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations. For more information about C5, go to C5Alive.org, facebook.com/C5Alive, or call 785-640-6399.

EASTER

continued from page 1

and kids' games as part of the family fun fair. The parade has attracted lots of floats with a variety of themes, and all shapes and sizes of other vehicles, as well as walking entries such as schools, military groups, marching bands and more.

The event is coordinated by C5Alive, a Christian leadership offshoot of the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5).

"We've had a great response and new entries each year," said Drew



Walker, Parade & Entertainment Coordinator. "I expect it to just keep growing every year."

This year, even more churches, non-profit organizations, schools and local businesses are expected to enter floats and marching bands, etc., in the parade, as well as set up activity booths at the fun fair.

The Family Fun Fair will consist of activities geared toward children and families, as well as health & wellness vendor booths, vendor exhibits, exercise & martial arts demos, gymnastics and more. Live performers will be on hand all day, such as jazz bands, dance performances, praise bands, solo artists, street entertainers and more.

Bounce houses, facepainting, pony rides and food trucks are always among the most popular attractions, and new activities are planned for this year, organizers said.

For more information, email info@C5Alive.org or call 640-6399.

SHARE

continued from page 1

mails out physical cards with the site's web address and a space for that person's specific story number. The cards then point anyone to that specific story.

"You can point them to the site whether you have 30 minutes to talk or 5 seconds at the drive-through," Barnes said. "Even if both people are in a rush, the evangelistic effort doesn't end at the conversation."

For the nonbeliever, 1MillionStories.org is a safe place they can visit privately to see how Jesus Christ transforms the lives of people from

diverse backgrounds and circumstances. The goal is for them to discover how they too can have a personal relationship with the Savior of the world.

Visitors can browse other users' stories, and each one is tagged by certain categories. This searches testimonies pertaining to 50 or so specific topics, such as abortion, divorce, financial woes, trust and fear.

"If there's a history of alcoholism, a lost loved one or any other issue, they can search and find all the stories that deal with it," Barnes said. "The common denominator is that they all point to Christ as the only one that can truly help you with those challenges in your life."

Each story has a social media share

REFUGEES

continued from page 1

as "real" as possible. Volunteers acted as thieves, smugglers, aid workers and other roles to simulate the real situations Kansas City refugees have encountered.

He credits Erik Odegard, the director of the International Mission Board's FUSION training project, Rodney Hammer, Director of Missions for BRKC, Scott Brawner, CEO of Concilium, Inc., a missionary security company that often uses role-play training, Caitlin Schrader, who led much of the training, New Directions Church, and Becca Simmons, Worlds of Fun make-up artist, as key players in making the simulation a success.

"God opened many crucial doors for this event," Huesing said. "We needed at least ten acres in the country where no one would mind if we chased people with AK's, set off explosions, erected a cluttered refugee camp and had dozens of vehicles parking in their front yard. That same day, Scott Brawner asked me if I wanted to use their land. I want God to get the focus

and the glory because He really did bring some high quality pieces and just what we needed for such an endeavor."

After the event, Huesing heard from participants who had no initial interest in the global refugee crisis about how they now saw it through fresh eyes.

"As a result of the day, one couple is



Volunteers acted as security, thieves, smugglers, etc.

now using their place of employment to host evening English classes for Swahili-speaking women," Huesing said. "Time will only tell what will come from the training, but I am convinced God was leading us to do it and He will use it how He wants to."

The BRKC People Teams plans to host another Refugee Simulation in September 2017 or earlier, Huesing said, if the demand is there.

For more information on future simulation events or current refugee ministry contact Andrew Huesing at kpeopleteams@gmail.com

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Metro Voice attends Inauguration and finds itself in middle of protests

KC METRO VOICE PUBLISHER GOES TO DC



by **Dwight Widaman**

Exiting the Washington D.C Metro subway on our way to the Inaugural parade we found ourselves in a parade of a different sort. Well, really not a parade but rather a group of protesters heading in the same direction.

Slightly startled, I nervously laughed and thought that this was our Ferris Bueller moment. You know, the scene in the movie where Ferris crashes the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade and is suddenly on top of a float lip-syncing Wayne Newton's classic Danke Shoen—"How you tore your dress, what a mess..."

The protesters were attempting to block the numerous security checkpoints



Top, president Trump takes the oath of office. Above, Mike Pence is sworn in by Justice Clarence Thomas. Photos: Dwight Widaman

for entrance to the parade route. Though CNN and other news outlets made the size of the riot much bigger than reality (someone noted there were more reporters chasing protesters than protest-

ers) the protests gained half the Television screens at times as the Parade got second billing.

Before the parade Anita and I had the great honor of attending what is the world's oldest democratic transfer of power. Whether Democrat or Republican, the ceremony is something to be celebrated and revered—not protested and boycotted. Along with our friends



Bill and Elaine Mayor, we were there to be witness to it.

The inauguration itself was solemn except when shots of Bill and Hillary Clinton filled the large screens and the crowd laughed. The crowd in standing room only was the most boisterous especially at numerous points in Trump's inaugural address.

Trump's words echoed his campaign and while at first I thought it would have been more eloquent, I realized his audience wasn't the Nobel Peace Prize committee, academics or the media. Trump's message was directed at the American people, both supporters and detractors, as he touched on themes of unity. He stressed giving power back to the people and he chided those in power, from both parties and seated all around him, for betraying the trust of the American people. Those lines drew the most enthusiastic applause, along with the appearance of Franklin Graham.

The crowd responded enthusiastically, even emotionally. From where we were sitting towards the middle in the reserved seating area, the crowd was respectful – acknowledging President and Mrs. Obama and, yes—even Hillary Clinton, with applause. I applauded too. Regardless of how much I disagree with her on policy issues, I don't envy the life of any politician but I'm thankful individuals make that choice and sacrifice.

Political commentators described the speech as dark and foreboding. I don't see it and neither did those in attendance. The news media, pundits, Hollywood and others still don't get it. This election, perhaps more so than even 2008, was about real change. In



reality, Trump is a new political animal—part Democrat and part Republican. More populist than anything. He has slipped through the greasy grasp of media tentacles that have their own agenda. Trump doesn't back down under media pressure. He doubles down. That appealed to voters.

If his first week is any indication, those that voted for him wholeheartedly and even those who held their nose and put a check in the box next to his name must find comfort in what has been done so far. And also that the media was wrong. The world didn't end.

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Annette's Tip
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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Get Yourself Out of It

Dear Dave,

I make \$2,100 a month after taxes, and I have accumulated \$46,000 in credit card debt. My husband makes more than I do, but he won't help me. He says I got myself into this mess, so it's my job to stop being irresponsible and fix it on my own. Do you have any advice?

Peggy

Dear Peggy,

You've got a load of debt hanging over your head right now, but I think you've got bigger problems than that. You told me you're married, yet it sounds to me like you two are living entirely different and separate lives. This seems more like a roommate situation than a healthy, loving marriage.

I don't like your husband's attitude, but he does have a valid point in one respect. You were irresponsible with money, and now you've got a pile of debt on your hands. My big question is this: Where was he while all this was going on? Were you hiding it from him? And where was the communication and decision making, financial and otherwise, couples should engage in? Married people can't live this way and win in their relationship or with money.

The two of you desperately need

to seek marriage counseling together.

This relationship is on the rocks. You and your husband obviously have no trust or respect for each other, and there's a definite lack of communication, unity and shared goals. I don't know what happened to bring things to this point, but the preacher didn't pronounce you guys a joint venture when you got married; he said you were now one.

A little maturity, extra work, and living on a simple budget will go a long way toward fixing most personal finance issues. But your marriage is in big trouble, Peggy. Please seek help!

— Dave

Why save before paying off the mortgage?

Dear Dave,

I just read The Total Money Makeover, but I'm still unclear as to why you recommend saving for an emergency fund and retirement before paying off your home. Shouldn't a house be paid off as quickly as possible, since it's a liability?

Mark



DAVE RAMSEY
Financial author, radio host, television personality, and motivational speaker

davesays

Dear Mark,

I appreciate the fact that you're asking questions and thinking things through. But please don't fall into the trap of thinking of your home as a liability. That mindset is way off base, in my opinion.

Your house is definitely an asset; it's the mortgage that's a liability. Some folks may try to position a house as a liability simply because it costs you money.

But the truth is your home will make you more money than it will cost you over time. Therefore, it is an asset.

Some of the saddest situations I've seen in all my years of teaching are seniors who have paid-for

homes and nothing saved or invested. Money isn't the most important thing on earth, but it is a fact of life. That's why I encourage people to build an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses and begin saving for retirement before they tackle paying off their homes.

Then, after all that is addressed, take every dollar you can scrape together and put it toward paying off your mortgage as fast as possible. Good question, Mark!

— Dave

have to make lots of adjustments and get used to the new schedules and habits, likes and dislikes, that go along with marriage. You need to spend that first year getting to know each other even better, and exploring and developing your relationship as husband and wife. Running out and buying stuff like curtains and furniture — or making major life decisions like buying a house — can wait.

Devote the first year to deeper, more important things. In the process, make sure you're on the same page emotionally and financially. Develop a plan to make your hopes and dreams come true, and start piling up a bunch of cash for the future. Then, a year or two down the road, you can start the house-hunting process. There will still be great homes at good prices, plus you'll both have a better idea of what you want for the future!

— Dave

Newlyweds buy house the first year?

Dear Dave,

Why do you recommend that newlyweds not buy a house during the first year of marriage?

Laura

Dear Laura,

Believe it or not, the first year of marriage is pretty tough. You'll both

Correctly Claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit

By Peggy Beasterfield

Owner, Peggy's Tax and Accounting Service

The Internal Revenue Service wants taxpayers living in rural communities to be aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and correctly claim it if they qualify.



Whether living in the big city or a small town, EITC can help. The EITC is a federal income tax credit for working people who don't earn a lot (\$53,505 or less for 2016) and meet certain eligibility requirements. Because it's a refundable credit, those who qualify and claim the credit could pay less federal tax, pay no tax or even get a tax refund. EITC can mean up to a \$6,269 refund for working families with qualifying children. Workers without a qualifying child could be eligible for a smaller credit up to \$506. On average, EITC adds \$2,400 to refunds.

Even though household income in many rural areas is below the national average, many of these taxpayers are often not aware that they may qualify for EITC. An eligible taxpayer must have earned income from employment or running or owning a business or farm and meet basic rules. Eligibility also depends on family size, but single workers without a qualifying child who earn under \$20,430 may qualify for a

smaller credit. Also, certain disability payments may qualify as earned income for EITC purposes. The IRS recommends using the EITC Assistant, on IRS.gov, to determine eligibility, estimate the amount of credit and more.

To get the credit, Taxpayers must file a tax return, even if they do not owe any tax or are not required to file. Qualified taxpayers should consider claiming the EITC by filing electronically: through a qualified professional like Peggy's Tax and Accounting; using free community tax help sites; or doing it themselves with IRS Free File.

Many EITC filers will get their refunds later this year than in past years. That's because a new law requires the IRS to hold refunds claiming the EITC and the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) until mid-February. The IRS cautions taxpayers that these refunds likely will not start arriving in bank accounts or on debit cards until the week of Feb. 27. Taxpayers claiming the EITC or ACTC should file as soon as they have all of the necessary documentation together to prepare an accurate return. In other words, file as they normally would.

Let Peggy's Tax and Accounting see if you can qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit or any other credits that you deserve. Call the professionals at Peggy's Tax at (785) 286-7899 or stop by their office at 300 SE 29th Street to see how they can help you today.

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opinion

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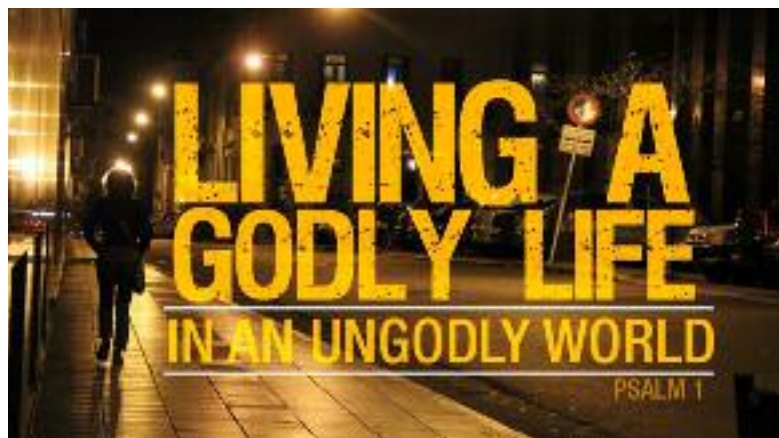


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DR. CHARLES STANLEY

Founder, president of In Touch Ministries and New York Times best-selling author

viewpoint

Our Founding Fathers created a governing framework based upon biblical principles. Slowly, we have changed from “one nation under God” to a group of people who no longer want Him to be involved.

Tragically, we’ve become, in numerous ways, an ungodly nation: many are driven by materialism and power; immorality and rebellion are prevalent; empty philosophy and false doctrine are widely acceptable. Underlying it all is a vocal decision to take God out of the nation’s “official business.”

Yet even in an unbelieving society, people can, as individuals, follow Jesus. But the world will continually

disseminate faulty teachings, so believers must be discerning. Otherwise, erroneous messages can lead Christians to compromise their convictions. Then affections and priorities may change. Don’t let the world’s clamor make the Spirit’s voice less audible. Without His guidance, our minds become vulnerable to lies.

The Word of God is a compass that keeps us headed in the right direction—even in the midst of confusing messages all around. We need to be consistently filled with truth by reading, believing, meditating upon, and applying Scripture. God also tells us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). If our minds are focused upon Him, unholy beliefs will not be able to take root.

The Word is our guidebook. We will still face difficulty as we live in this imperfect world—it is a confusing, dark place that entices us but never fulfills our true longings. Yet God’s truth will bring confidence and boldness, and His Spirit will direct and strengthen, enabling us to live victoriously.

“God’s truth will bring confidence and boldness”

PRAYING FOR OUR NEW PRESIDENT



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

I believe in the importance and power of prayer. Very few times in my life have I had someone refuse it. Mostly, whether they were religious or not they seemed to welcome prayer. Elected officials are among those. I have heard of some who were extremely grateful that people were praying for them. During President Obama’s administration I was one of probably hundreds of thousands that regularly prayed for him. I plan to do the same for President Trump as well.

While reading my Bible I came across a story that highlighted the value of

prayer at the highest levels of government. It took place in the transition of power from David, King of Israel, to his son Solomon who would succeed him. In the midst of this, King David offered a public prayer for his country.

He prayed for his people saying to God, “. . . direct their hearts toward you” (1 Chronicles 29:18). The old, wise King knew who was really over the affairs of his country—God. Therefore, he prayed that the affections of the people would first and foremost be toward Him. This is something we can learn from. If our hearts are bent chiefly toward a political party or ideology then we are on a crooked path to an eventual downfall. However, if we fix our eyes straight ahead and walk according to God’s purposes, the foundation of our nation will be made secure.

He also prayed for the new King saying to God, “. . . may he keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all” (1 Chronicles

Three ways white pastors can address race, reconciliation

myopinion

by Anugrah Kumar

What should a white pastor do to talk to their congregation about race, justice and reconciliation? At least three things, says David Bailey, who leads a ministry that equips churches and organizations to engage in reconciliation.

Since missionaries “cross a culture,” they take time to understand the sociology and anthropology of the people they engage with, but pastors working domestically “don’t often engage this same practice, so generally they don’t lead their church with strong cross-cultural intelli-

versations about racial reconciliation without a firm foundation of cultural understanding,” argues Bailey, also executive producer of the Urban Doxology Project, a Richmond, Virginia-based ministry that promotes racial reconciliation and urban community development through worship and developing new music resources for churches that connect people across classes, cultures and races.

Bailey recommends three things to white pastors to prepare and mature their congregation to be ministers of reconciliation.

One, he says, “be committed and intentional.”

“Nothing gets done right without



gence,” says Bailey, founder and executive director of the Arrabon ministry, in an interview with Barna Group, a California-based research and resource company.

According to Barna’s 2017 report, “The State of Pastors,” 98 percent of U.S. pastors believe churches play an important role in racial reconciliation, yet only half say racial reconciliation is among their own church’s top 10 priorities.

“Too many Christians jump into con-

investing time and money, and in relationships. Too often pastors try to get this work done without a cost. If a pastor is not willing to invest, it would be better for them not to start. After hearing just one sermon or even a sermon series, people revert to the status quo,” Bailey warns. Two, “go on your own journey,” he adds.

Bailey shares that his grandmother has a saying: “You can’t come from where

continued on next page



29:19). Again, the experienced King knew who was the author of blessing and cursing on his nation—God. And He knew how to remain in a healthy relationship with Him and how to follow His counsel in governing. He knew all these answers were found in the Scriptures and prayed the next King, his son, would give himself to knowing and following God through His Word.

As the seasoned King prayed, he was aware of the price of neglect. He knew that each person, his son and the entire nation, could choose to do as they wished. As a result, he warned them not

to abandon God and go their own way. For the price would be great for his country if they did.

Join me in praying for our new President. As we do, let us also commit ourselves afresh toward God. May our hearts be fixed on Him. Additionally, let us pray that President Trump will know God personally and walk in accordance with His holy Word for the welfare of his own soul and our nation.

Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. cdecker@greatawakenings.org

Prosperity, heresy & Trump: Inauguration pastor Paula White answers critics

By Emily McFarlan Miller | RNS

Paula White has been called the president-elect's "God whisperer" and the closest thing Donald Trump has to a spiritual guide.

The televangelist also has been called a "Trinity-denying heretic" by Erick Erickson, conservative author of the popular blog, *The Resurgent*. And Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called her a "charlatan" in response to reports she personally led Trump to faith in Christ.

"I've been labeled a lot of different things," said White, pastor of New Destiny Christian Center in Apopka, Fla., and host of the TV show "Paula Today."

Before White's name appeared alongside Trump's in the headlines — chairing his evangelical advisory board, praying at the Republican National Convention and bearing the brunt of the pushback against the lineup of clergy scheduled to speak at his inauguration as president — Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley had conducted a three-year probe into spending by six major televangelism ministries, including Without Walls International Church, the Tampa, Fla., megachurch she co-founded with her second husband Randy White.

The Tampa Tribune reported on lawsuits and liens against the Whites, on their million-dollar business jet and condo in New York's Trump Tower. Then there was the divorce from Randy White and the subsequent rumors of affairs. (She since has remarried for a third time to Journey keyboardist Jonathan Cain.)

She was also called out in a song titled "Fal\$e Teacher\$" by Christian rapper Shai Linne for preaching the prosperity gospel, the controversial teaching that God will reward faith — and faithful giving — with wealth, health and happiness. Many Christians consider the prosperity gospel heretical.

In a written statement earlier this month responding to some of the labels that have been applied to her since it was announced she would give the invocation at the inauguration on Jan. 20, White said she rejected "any theology that doesn't affirm or acknowledge the entirety of scriptural teaching about God's presence and blessing in suffering as much as in times of prosperity."

And while reports have noted her appeals for money, both at church services and in emails, she defined prosperity in her 2007 book "You're All That: Understand God's Design for your Life," not "in terms of money or material objects" but as "a life that is fruitful physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually."

It's not the personal attacks that bother White, she told RNS. The accusations of heresy, though, are a different story: "That's my Lord, and that's my Savior, and that is 32 years of my life."

She spoke with RNS for nearly 90 min-



Paula White speaks at her church, New Destiny Christian Center, on Jan. 1, 2017, in Apopka, Fla. RNS photo by Sarah M. Brown

way deny him or the Trinity, there is absolutely no way. I would just go, "Stop, no, I'm sorry." I would never come in agreement or alignment with that whatsoever, 100 percent, nor do I believe that my producers or the people who booked guests would ever have anyone on that denied the Trinity. Ultimately, though, I take responsibility for everything under Paula White Ministries.

Doctrine is so important to me. It is what separates Christianity from everything else. If you mess up on Jesus, you mess up on everything.

Lost in the controversy over your theology is the fact you're only the second woman ever to pray at a presidential inauguration and the first female clergy member to do so. Is that something you've

thought about? Do you get the sense there is more openness to women in ministry, or do you think that's part of the reason for the pushback you've received?

I would love to go, "There's equality, and everything's good." I've done this for 32 years, and I've been told all the reasons I'm not supposed to, and the biggest reason is because I'm a woman.

All I'm going to say is: I'm not going to stop hearing God. I'm not going to stop praying. I'm not going to stop pressing in. I'm not going to stop preaching. I'll let everyone sit over there and fight over it and try to figure it out while I continue to go forward. And if my life can make a difference ... if, in my life, there's a little girl that can look up on that stage that day and say, "Maybe I can be — because I'm a girl — maybe I can pray for the president one day. Maybe I can preach the gospel," my life matters. It says something. It says, yes, because you're a woman, God doesn't make mistakes, you can preach the gospel. You can serve God. You can do what God has called you to do.

You've been characterized as Trump's "God whisperer" and the closest thing he has to a spiritual guide. Do you think that's an accurate picture of your relationship with the president-elect? What does your relationship look like?

Mr. Trump called me up out of the blue. He had been watching three sermons on television, and he quoted them back verbatim. He began to tell me his story — how he was confirmed in a Presbyterian church, grew up (attending Marble Collegiate Church, pastored by) Norman Vincent Peale — and we began to converse about the things of God.

A relationship developed, and if I was in town, he would invite me into his office and say, "Hey, come sit." I would sit like a fly on the wall and be there all day if I had a free day or several hours. I would pray for him, pray for his family, pray for his staff, just talk God, talk life. Little did I know 15 years ago Donald Trump would now

become President-elect Trump. My assignment was always to pray for him and show him who God is.

If somebody wants to characterize that as I'm the "God whisperer" ... I'm a person that prays over him every day and the person that goes into prayer for him, a person that can walk into his office pretty openly and freely and pray over him before every rally if I'm there. ... That's not unusual, and if God inspires me to share something with him, I do.

What do you imagine that will look like in the context of the White House? How you discussed this with him?

I've been asked to help, just like in the beginning of the campaign: "Would you invite some of your friends who are pastors?" He just wanted them to pray over him. They would bombard him and ask him questions. I would say it like this — this is my perception: 90 percent of people probably went in skeptical, maybe even disdaining or disliking him, and 80 percent would leave really liking him, and it wasn't because of his charisma or something. It was because in those settings they got to know the Mr. Trump that I've known for all these years.

Who is the Mr. Trump you've known all these years, and what made you an early supporter of his bid for president? A lot of other Christian leaders were supporting candidates like Sen. Ted Cruz and Dr. Ben Carson who wear their faith on their sleeve, while the president-elect stumbles a bit talking about his faith.

First off, if you go back to the very start of how he contacted me, there's always been a hunger in his heart for God and the things of God. I can take you through so many — he would say, "I was at this church and heard this sermon. What do you think?" Over the years, I've watched so many people reach out to him and ask for finances and ask for this or that, and he was such a charitable, giving man.

When he was in business, he would talk more openly about faith in some ways, but it wasn't ever anything anybody wrote about. I heard him many times. But when he got into the political, my observation was every word was judged, obviously.

It was a preacher that told him right before he got up (to speak at Liberty University) — and Donald at the time didn't work off a teleprompter — he said, "Say, 'Two Corinthians: For where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.'" I was just like, these are the things people don't see.

He understands, he knows what he is doing when he takes communion: You ask for forgiveness.

He's not a pastor. He doesn't walk with people who every day use our unique language. It'd be like thrusting me into the business arena. I don't know that language.

There were reports this summer when there was talk about Trump being a "baby Christian" that you had prayed with him and led him to Jesus. Is that true?

Do I know he confesses Jesus Christ as

Lord? One hundred percent. Can I say to you that I directly went, "Here's the Romans Road map (to salvation)?" I have directly shared the gospel with Mr. Trump. (But) he was confirmed as a little boy. They went to Sunday School and church every single Sunday ... so to say he's a baby Christian is to discount all of that foundation that is precious.

Look at the inauguration: He's chosen six (clergy members), and that's not symbolism, it's people. It's people to pray over him and pray for our country because he recognizes there is division and there has to be some reconciliation and healing. He's called upon — look at it — a white evangelical, Franklin Graham; a female; a Hispanic, Dr. Samuel Rodriguez; Cardinal Dolan, Catholic; Jewish Rabbi Hier; and also an African-American, Bishop Wayne Jackson. That's not symbol, that's substance. That, to me, sums up so much.

PAULA WHITE'S INAUGURAL PRAYER

We come to you, heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus with grateful hearts, thanking you for this great country that you have decreed to your people. We acknowledge we are a blessed nation with a rich history of faith and fortitude, with a future that is filled with promise and purpose.

We recognize that every good and every perfect gift comes from you and the United States of America is your gift, for which we proclaim our gratitude.

As a nation, we now pray for our president, Donald John Trump, vice president, Michael Richard Pence, and their families. We ask that you would bestow upon our president the wisdom necessary to lead this great nation, the grace to unify us, and the strength to stand for what is honorable and right in your sight.

In Proverbs 21:1, you instruct us that our leader's heart is in your hands. Gracious God, reveal unto our president the ability to know the will, your will, the confidence to lead us in justice and righteousness, and the compassion to yield to our better angels.

While we know there are many challenges before us, in every generation you have provided the strength and power to become that blessed nation. Guide us in discernment, Lord, and give us that strength to persevere and thrive.

Now bind and heal our wounds and divisions, and join our nation to your purpose. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, the psalmists declared.

Let your favor be upon this one nation under God. Let these United States of America be that beacon of hope to all people and nations under your dominion, a true hope for humankind.

Glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

■ **CONTINUED from previous page** you've never been." White pastors should, therefore, commit themselves to be in a "space of displacement indefinitely."

"Join some type of ethnic minority social club or gathering and don't ask your friend to do it with you. Go by yourself and be a part of that community for

nine months to a year so you can know what it is like to be a minority in a community," he suggests.

Three, a white pastor should get organizational consulting and training from experts.

"Too often, predominantly white organizations ask the minorities who are

already part of the organization to help them reform. This is a bad idea," Bailey underlines, explaining that the person who is a minority in an organization already has two jobs - whatever their job description is as well as representing their race or ethnicity.

"If that person is a woman, she has a third job representing

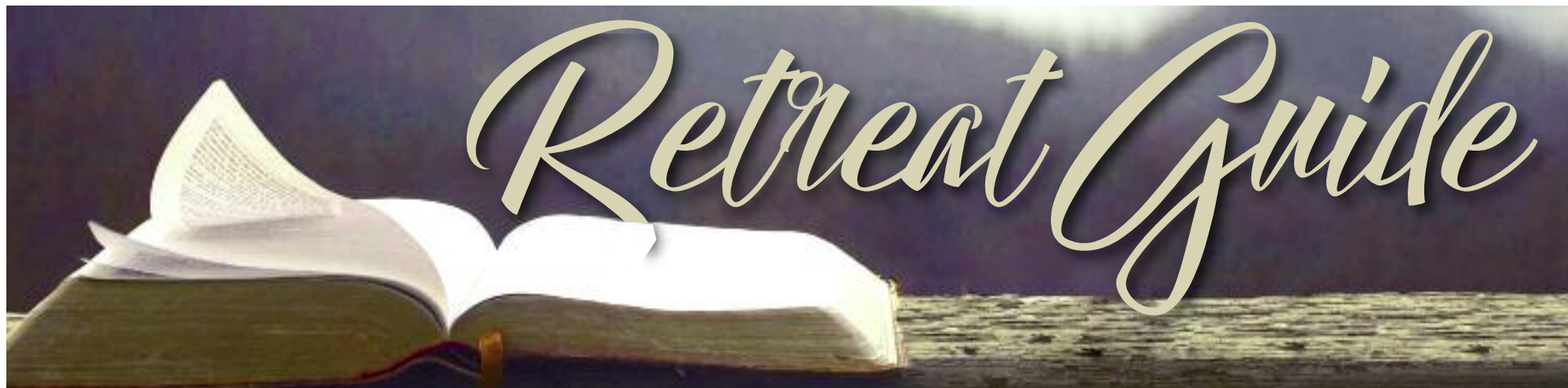
her gender," he adds. Therefore, it's best to "invite a qualified person to help you through the process."

At the Presbyterian Church in America's General Assembly in Mobile, Alabama, in June 2016, delegates voted overwhelmingly in favor of an overture that offered an apology for past and pres-

ent actions of racism.

The Southern Baptist Convention has also devoted efforts to pursuing racial reconciliation.

While there is much work to be done on a denominational level, the fact remains, the actual work will only be done in the local church.



Planning great retreats

by **J. Ann Craig**

Retreats help build healthy spiritual lives and are a necessary part of putting our faith, hope and love into action.

One of the ways we feed ourselves is through retreats. Planners of retreats at all levels know how important these soul-nurturing events are. At a United Methodist workshop on retreat planning I gathered people around a table to find out the best ideas for retreat planning. Here's what I learned.

Location

Workshop participants talked about their best and worst retreat experiences and what contributed to those experiences. Overwhelmingly, people identified two key elements—location and leadership—as crucial components of a successful retreat.

If we are physically uncomfortable, it is difficult to go deep into a spiritual reality. Scripture that comes to mind is James 2:15-17: "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat

your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

There is nothing inherently spiritual about physical suffering. We can make the most of difficult circumstances, but when your body is comfortable and safe you can move beyond survival instincts to communion with God's creation and enjoyment of time with your neighbor.

Your retreat participants' well-being and comfort is a part of creating a space where they can take in the love of God and hear God's call to service.

Where will your retreat participants feel it is worth their time and money to be? The retreat location could be by a lake or in the mountains. Soul-inspiring aesthetics can also be found in an urban retreat center where Catholic sisters surround you with simplicity, beauty, hospitality and great food. The range of possibilities is enormous. Be sure to find or create a sense of place that participants will treasure.

When choosing a venue, accessibility is vital. Think of both physical and financial accessibility. Ask about the physical acces-



sibility. Are there stairs? Is the staff accustomed to providing food for those with allergies? How close is the nearest medical facility? Can wheelchairs be easily accommodated or hearing devices provided? Are there long distances to walk?

Expenses for participants are always an accessibility concern. Travel and registration fees can be obstacles for some people. Be creative: charge more for basic fees so you can create a scholarship fund.

Encourage local units to raise funds through events that also serve to announce the retreat.

Leadership

The best retreats, no matter what location, have a leader who is on a spiritual journey, who cares about what happens at the event and who has the ability to engage the women who attend. Your retreat leader may or may not have exten-

sive experience facilitating retreats, but it is important that someone on your team or in your network has a sense of who the prospective retreat leader is and what she or he brings to the table. Some retreat leaders come with an extensive track record of leading retreats, and others may bring their journey and enthusiasm but may not have a lot of experience.

You and your team will have to determine what will work best for your retreat participants.

Give the leader as much information as possible—photos of previous retreats, of the rooms, dining hall and outside environment—so your retreat leader can get a sense of the space and possibilities. Let the leader know the formula for the schedule and how open the group might be to surprises and creativity. Provide previous schedules and topics and work together to come up with a theme for the retreat.

Plan to be surprised

I led my retreat workshop two days in a row. The second day, I went back to the same room to lead the workshop again. I set up my guitar, notes and PowerPoint, and a few people trickled in. I thought, "Hmm. Either everyone came the first day or word got around that it wasn't such a great workshop." Then (with help from the others) I realized I was in the wrong room—panic!

I was now late. I packed my things and ran down the hall to the correct room and found an overflow crowd getting restless. I decided to make it a teachable moment.

"What do you do when things don't go as expected when you are planning a retreat?" I asked.

Isn't that the way of planning? Half the battle is planning and organizing and making sure the food, location, leadership and travel instructions are in place. The other half is dealing with the unexpected, whether during the planning or in the middle of your event.

Plan everything and then be ready for surprises. Surprises will happen because of error or unforetold events—storms, equipment failure or a traffic delay that makes half the group late. Or a surprise can come in the form of a young person who brought an instrument and graces the participants with music. Stay open to positive surprises as well. Allow for flexibility in your schedule and keep your heart open for the movement of the Holy Spirit (who is always ready to surprise us).

Let the surprises come! When they happen, just say to yourself, "Here is one of those surprises."

Do have a plan

Openness to the Holy Spirit does not mean that we do not take the time to

■ Please see **PLANNING** on next page

TRY THESE GREAT YOUTH RETREAT THEMES!

Year after year, youth camps are being organized in many parts of the U.S. While we have the Bible as a reference for our ideas, we know how difficult it is to come up with themes for your youth camp. With various themes that you can simply choose from, we put together a list of the most popular ones through the years and some that deserve more recognition.

15 Epic Youth Camp Themes:

- 1) EQ: The Emotional Quest (Proverbs 25:28) – EQ is more important than IQ. Controlling their emotions is vital to their success in school and prepares them well for adulthood.
- 2) Friendships: Bonds that Last (Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 17:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Hebrews 10:24) – Valuing friendships will go a long way into helping our youth obey the second greatest commandment.
- 3) Family Feud: (Genesis 37; 50:20; John 7:1-8) – Our youth need to know that they can make or break their family with their decision to hate their family members or to love them unconditionally.
- 4) Under Pressure: The Truth about Peer Pressure (Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33) – There's bad peer pressure and there's good peer pressure.



Our youth need to know how to determine which is which.

5) The Born Identity (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 12:2) Knowing their identity in Christ will develop their self-confidence and God-confidence. You may also refer to http://www.openbible.info/topics/our_identity_in_christ for a more thorough list of verses on our identity in Christ.

6) Inside Out: Being Pure Starts from Within (Matthew 15:17-20; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20) – Being pure on the inside paves the way for purity in all their relationships.

7) The Flipside: Dealing with Acceptance and Rejection (Isaiah 53:3) – The road to maturity goes through learning how to deal with acceptance and rejection among peer groups.

8) Crossroads: What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do (Proverbs 3:5-7) – When confused and unsure, the wisest thing to do is to lean on the Lord.

9) Preparing for the Future (Jeremiah 29:11; James 4:13-15) – The youth need to know how to prepare and plan for a great future.

10) Trust Issues: Who Can You Trust?

(John 14:1) – Learning who to trust and when to trust will be one of the most important lessons a young man or woman can learn.

11) Frenemies: Defining Your Relationships from God's Viewpoint (Ecclesiastes 4:12; Romans 12:14-21) –When friends and enemies change faces in middle school and high school, it's important to know who's who and how to love them both unconditionally.

12) The Survivor: Overcoming Your Fears and Challenges (1 John 5:1-5; Joshua 1:1-9; Isaiah 41:10; 2 Timothy 1:7) – The youth face many fears and challenges that we often ignore. They need to know that they are over comers in Christ and what to do about it.

13) Love Dare: Waiting on True Love (Song of Songs 8:4) – True love isn't just something to aspire for but something to prepare for.

14) Engage Your Culture (Matthew 9:9-13) – As Jesus engaged the culture and society that He was born into, our youth are called to be engagers of culture and not condemners.

15) Living for God (Galatians 2:20) – If everything we do should be pleasing to God then we need to encourage our youth to live for the audience of one.

Examples of church retreats

A Christian retreat involving your church and its members provides a number of benefits to those partaking in the events. Church retreats create a bonding and a community with those people that you are closest to spiritually, as well as support-

ing those people and the church itself. Additionally, a church retreat can come in all shapes and sizes and target different groups of people. The following is a list of four different types of church retreats that can be held for each group's spiritual

benefit.

1) Men's or Women's Retreats – These are probably the most common forms of retreats that the various churches hold. Typically, they are gender-specific and target aspects of the man's or woman's life wherein

they can improve spiritually and be a better person individually, in the family setting, as a marital partner, or with fellow employees. Normally, the retreat takes place over a week-end from a Friday evening until a Sunday afternoon and focuses on a topic relative to one of the environments of a person's life. Part of the purpose of these types of retreats is refreshment and renewal—being able

to share the key elements of a person's "spiritual walk" and coming away from it recharged and invigorated are normally the goals of a Christian retreat. The various relationships in a person's life often benefit from these retreats.

2) Couple's Retreats – All too often marriages get sidetracked,

■ Please see EXAMPLES on page 10



PLANNING

continued from page 8

thoroughly plan our retreat. It means we take care of every detail we can think of and go forward knowing that we are in God's hands and that in every glitch or success God is with us.

Create a team to plan your retreat. Plan

your retreat as a team, and you will nurture future leadership.

Finally, do not feel like you have to reinvent the wheel. United Methodist Women has a retreat planning booklet available on the downloads section of the United Methodist Women Mission Resources e-store at www.umw-mission-resources.org.

For additional resources and to read

the outline for the retreats workshop at Assembly, visit Assembly2014.org/workshops/what-makes-a-great-spiritual.

Use resources from the Reading Program, the Program Book, response and online materials. Use them for ideas about themes and bring them to the retreat to share. Always bring membership information and be ready to tell the story of United Methodist Women in

mission to participants.

We have a story to tell about Jesus and what it means to follow him. We have a story to tell about the women who have gone before us who were faithful in mission. We have a story to tell about how our lives have been changed by Jesus who first modeled what it meant to reach out to women, children and youth and all those who were ever treated as someone

unimportant to God.

Retreats give us rest, and they inspire us to keep moving forward so we can continue to "Make It Happen!"

— J. Ann Craig is founder of *Craig Media Strategy* and works with regional, national and international groups on social justice to utilize traditional and cutting-edge media to create impact.

Nearby Retreat Options

FOREST PARK

Forest Park Conference and Retreat Center, is your business, office, church, activity group, friends or family looking for a great place to hold a special event, training day, meeting, concert or retreat? Open year round, weekdays and weekends, it offers handicap-accessible meeting areas of various sizes, both indoor and out, for groups of 3 to 260.

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ation. Experienced staff are available to help meet your programming needs. Forest Park's mission is to serve God's people through Christian hospitality in a nature setting.

TIMBER LAKES

Randall Lipson, resident manager at Timber Lakes Camp & Retreat Center just NE of Williamsburg, KS; says that even when times are tough, people still need to get away from everyday life and its stresses. Timber Lakes' vision is that "everybody needs beauty as well as bread. Places to play in and pray in, where God may heal body, mind, and soul."

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about 30 min. S of Lawrence, and 1 hour SE of Topeka. It offers fishing ponds, streams and rock cliffs. Deer, turkey and other wildlife are most certainly to be seen as one strolls along miles of hiking trails, winding through tall trees and deep ravines.

"We have 300 beds in a variety of configurations," Lipson said. "From motel style rooms with linens provided, to dorm style rooms...we are proud of our high quality facility where children, youth, adults, singles and families can enjoy the wonders of nature while re-establishing their relationships with God and one another."

"It is not the practical activities that are the strength of Timber Lakes – its entire strength lies in the fact that here you can seek the truths of God, to soak in them before Him."

17-room Country Estate, where the beauty and wonder of the Kansas Flint Hills blend with 21st Century charm, provides a unique setting. Retreat from the chaos of daily life and indulge in a quiet, calm setting to focus on the important business at hand. The colonial estate appeals also as a traditional, classic setting for weddings and other

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www.forestparkretreat.com

EXAMPLES

continued from page 9

stuck in a rut, or begin to fall apart. Attending a couple's retreat has the tendency to bring the focus back to the relationship and re-establish that bond and it's foundation in spirituality. This type of retreat gives a husband and wife an opportunity to discuss and solve problems that may have developed by the relationship growing apart.

Unfortunately, the main reason that couples

attend retreats of this nature is to reignite that spark that was there in the beginning of the relationship but has, over time, gotten dimmer as certain aspects of a person's life tends to disconnect the inner workings of the relationship.

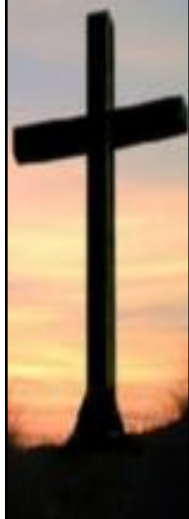
3) Youth Retreats – Youth retreats can be an opportunity for younger church members to be introduced to deeper spiritual teachings and start them out early understanding the importance of this in their lives. Depending on the age group, the benefits will vary. With youth (pre-teens), fun events and games can be incorporated into the retreat so that they have their recreation time along with the spiritual teachings. Once they're in their teens and at that dating age that parents tend to dread, teen retreats play an important part in helping them understand the sexuality issue and how to handle that critical time in their lives.

Away from church and home, older teens are more apt to open up about their fears and dreams and can soak in the teaching provided by church staff.

4) Pastoral Retreats – Any church fellowship knows that pastors and other church leaders need their revitalization time. Maybe they have just been through an intense period of ministry that has drained them or maybe completion of a major construction project has them zapped

for that energy they need at church services. One way or the other, pastoral retreats are just as necessary as the ones listed above. It allows them to step away from the rat race (so to speak) and get their energy levels back to normal, and they come back refreshed and spiritually re-energized. It is a great way to show your pastor and staff some love and concern for their own spiritual and emotional well-being.

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."
Mark 6:31



For more great Retreat Planning info visit metrovoicenews.com Just look under Special Sections on the home page or Retreat Planning in Categories



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Are you ready to make your love's heart leap on Valentine's Day? Our guide to a great Valentine's Day will provide you with ideas and tips that will make your Valentine's Day a success.

Tips for a smooth Valentine's Day:

- Tell your special someone how much you care about them
- Be thankful – it's always appreciated
- Plan ahead – babysitters, reservations, and other things that need done
- Turn off your cell phones – enjoy this time together

Gift Ideas:

Candy and Flowers and Jewelry:

- Visit Hazel Hill Chocolate for a unique chocolate treat
- Surprise your special someone with a bouquet of favorite flowers or balloons
- Dazzle him/her with a piece of jewelry from David's Jewelers
- Make a list of all the things you love about him/her

Gift basket for her:

- Get a gift certificate for a massage or trip to Avenue Hair Styling & Spa.
- Pick up a candle for a candle-lit bath.
- Find her favorite book at one of Topeka's bookshops for her to enjoy during her quiet time
- Buy her a personalized gift from Elk Creek Engraving.

Gift basket for him:

- Buy his favorite candy bars and personalize it with "Udaman" wrappers
- Include miniature bottles or cans of his favorite drink and personalize them with valentine's day labels

- Create a ticket book with tickets for him to use at his leisure
- Include a new favorite movie, C.D., or video game he's been wanting

Dinner:

- Avoid the Valentine's Day rush - create a romantic meal at home
- Go to a restaurant where you share



special memories

- Get dinner and a room at Ramada West, and enjoy the indoor pool

Dates:

- Laugh together at a comedy show.
- Enjoy a romantic movie at home from Netflix, RedBox, or one you already own. While watching share your favorite treat and glass of wine or sparkling cider. Include a massage.
- Enjoy a night of music before or after dinner at one of Topeka's nightspots.
- Spend uninterrupted time together with a romantic getaway at one of the retreats listed in Metro Voice's Retreat Guide.



Order a ValentineGram for your Sweetheart

Want to do something out of the ordinary for someone in your life? Why not enlist a Harmony Chorus or Barbershop



Quartet to make someone's day extra special with an extra special gift? For \$40

or less you can have your sweetheart serenaded with song, a rose and chocolates!

Love N Harmony quartet is part of Sunflower Harmony Chorus and Sweet Adelines International. Call 478-4650 to book your ValentineGram with them.

The Capital City Chorus is once again offering you a chance to give that someone special in your life a unique Valentine this year from a Barbershop Quartet. This package is offered only on Feb. 14th, and includes 2 songs, a red rose and box of chocolates.

Heart-Health Valentine's Day Tips

Your sweetheart may have the key to your heart, but eating healthy and being physically active can be the key to a healthier heart. This Valentine's Day, indulge your sweetheart with a heart-healthy gift or date.

Rather than tempting your beloved with sweets, consider a gift that has more permanence. Search for a poem that describes your feelings and write it on beautiful paper for a handmade Valentine. Or visit www.ShopHeart.org for gift ideas that benefit the American Heart Association.

Quality time is one of the most meaningful gifts. Bundle up and plan an active outing such as sledding, ice skating, gathering wood for a fire, or if you're feeling adventurous, visit an indoor rock wall.

If your kids are having a Valentine's Day party at their school or day care, instead of sending candies, consider raisins, grapes, whole-grain pretzels, colored pencils or stickers as tokens of their friendly affection.

Cooking at home is an excellent way to control what and how much you eat. Take a date to a local cooking class to practice your skills or learn a new technique.

Prepare a romantic candlelit dinner at home using one of our heart-healthy recipes.

Give to one another by giving back. Ask a date to volunteer with you at a local organization. Giving back is a healthy habit that can boost your mood and help beat stress.

Use this day as an opportunity to tell your loved one how important they are to you, and share ways that you can support each other's health and wellness. Get started by taking the My Life Check Assessment.

Craving something sweet? Gift a beautiful fresh fruit basket to your loved one instead of giving sweets with added sugars.

Sharing is caring – if you go out for a romantic dinner date, order one entrée to share. Many restaurant servings are enough for two – splitting will keep you from overdoing it.

Don't forget to love Fido, too! Give your pet a Valentine and remember to walk or exercise them daily – getting active with your pet will benefit your health and your bond with your pets.

Take it slow – if you receive a luxurious box of chocolates from your sweetie, stick it in the freezer and enjoy in moderation over the next several weeks.

Take a long, romantic walk with your beloved – and try to make it a regular

You can reach them at 273-9514.

The Madrigals from Cair Paravel Latin School will also be doing Singing Valentines February 14th, which includes a song, a card and a heart-shaped cookie or brownie. Call 232-3878 or email markcongdon@cpls.org for more information.

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or a few weeks!" Driggers said.

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The Computer Store now also repairs all mobile devices like cell phones, tablets and iPads, including damaged screens. Driggers said the new service is available at a very reasonable price, and has been very well received.

The Computer Store has been in business since 1999, and is located at 21st and Gage in Seabrook Center. You

can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at www.thecomputerstoreks.com.

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1. Try to add value: this will help to justify price raises in the consumer's eyes



2. Raise prices gradually: buyers can tolerate 50c or a dollar, but if you do bigger price hikes you will lose sales.

3. Make sure the items are popular items, so that customers will still feel compelled to buy despite the rise in price.

Frequency of purchase: Frequency of purchase is necessary for your business

survival. In order to make this happen you will need to do 2 things.

1. Retain customers and keep them purchasing from you.
2. Have a flow of new customers.

Quantity of purchase: This is the principle that will determine not only survival but also the growth of your company. In order for your business to keep on growing, quantity of purchase must increase.

When you pay attention to these 3 principles, you will be able to take your company to new heights. So remember the 3 principles – raising prices, frequency of purchase and quantity of purchase – and your company will not stay stagnant.

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The Area's Most Complete guide to the Events and Concerts You Want to See!

the events calendar

FREE LISTINGS! E-mail your events to: Voice@cox.net; mail to Metro Voice, P.O. 5724, Topeka, KS 66605; or fax to 785-235-3340

CONCERTS

TOPEKA ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM - First Sat. of ea. month, 3-5pm, Potwin Presbyterian Church (enter south door), 400 S.W. Washburn. Information: 286-0227 or hagen1525@gmail.com.

THE BERRYTON PICKERS - First Sat. of ea. month, 7-9pm, Berryton Baptist Church. Bring snacks, have fun!

THE WRIGHTS - Jan. 22, 9:30am, Oakland UMC, 801 NE Chester. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

PIANIST STEPHEN SPOONER - Jan. 29, 3pm. Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 701 SW 8th. Program titled 'Winter in Russia' is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, and free for children under 12. For info: greatspaces.org

THE WRIGHTS - Jan. 29, 1:30pm, Heritage Baptist, 801 NE Poplar. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

2017 WINTER JAM/JAM NATION - Jan. 29, 6pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., KCMO. Crowder, Britt Nicole, Tenth Avenue North, Andy Mineo, Colton Dixon, Thousand Foot Krutch and NewSong. A pre-jam party will feature artists OBB, Sarah Reeves and Steve Malcolm. Sadie Robertson, from "Duck Dynasty," and Tony Nolan also will make appearances. Cost is \$10 at the door, no advance tickets. For info: (816) 949-7100 or www.sprintcenter.com or www.jamtour.com.

THE WRIGHTS - Feb. 3, 6:30pm, Topeka Baptist, 4500 SW Gage. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

LOVE SONGS & SWEETS BUFFET - Feb. 12, 3-4pm. Morganville School. Music by the Community Chamber

Orchestra and a dessert buffet. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 1st. For info: Anne Clark 926-4725 or bclark@diodecom.net

THE WRIGHTS - Feb. 12, 6pm, Family of God, 1231 NW Eugene. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

SKILLET - Feb. 16, 6:30pm. Midland Theatre, 1228 Main St, KCMO. 816-283-9900.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - every second Sat., takes place at Christian Lord Ministries, 2421 SE California. Call 266-4979.

FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET - First Saturday of every month, 7:30-10am. Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church. Free will offering.

FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Sundays at 10am sharp, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 900 block of NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor John Menkvelde - which is in turn followed at noon by The Hope House FREE Community Food & Clothing Banks.

BINGO AT FAIRLAWN HEIGHTS ASSISTED LIVING - 3pm, 1st Sat. of ea. month. Facilitator: Pastor Carole

SPIRITUAL PAUSE - Every Wed., 12-12:30pm, Carole Chapel at Washburn Univ. Informal worship service. 785-233-1844

LIFEFEET - First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Seniors

ministering to seniors - celebrating with fellowship, fun, food, learning & entertainment. Potluck lunch at noon. If transportation is needed, call 354-4994 or 478-1729

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or office@rhctoepka.org

BSA TROOP 59 PANCAKE FEED - Jan. 28, 7am-noon, Faith Lutheran Church, 1716 SW Gage. \$5 all you can eat: pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - Jan. 29, 4-6pm. First Presbyterian Church, 817 Harrison. Bouncy house, pizza, fellowship.

HAM & BEAN LUNCH - Jan. 29. Highland Park United Methodist Church, 2914 SW Michigan. Freewill donations will benefit the church's Emergency Outreach Fund.

HAM & BEAN/VEGETABLE SOUP DINNER - Feb. 1, 4-6:30pm. Oakland UMC, 801 NE Chester. \$8 adults, \$3 children. Includes Cole slaw, cornbread & cake or pie. For info: 785-246-6375 or 785-235-1010

FIRST WEDNESDAY WESLEY CAFE - Feb. 1, 5:30-7pm. Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 SW 29th St. Pasta Buffet -- Pasta, Two Sauces, Salad, & Breadsticks. Cost: \$6 adult, \$3 child. Mission Opportunity: We will continue "A Souper Idea." Bring canned soup and crackers to benefit Fellowship & Faith and the Topeka Rescue Mission. with worship service to follow. For info: 478-3697 or swumc@swumc.org

IF: GATHERING 2017 - Feb. 2-3, 2/3-2/4 (5:30-10 PM Fri., 2/3; 9 AM-5 PM Sat., 2/4), College Avenue Building, Topeka Bible Church, 1135 SW College. IF: exists to gather, equip and unleash the next generation of women (of any age) to live out their purpose. Study, worship and connect with women from all over Topeka. Dinner & lunch provided. Cost: \$10. Register at register.ifgathering.com/event/iftopeka or email ifgathering-topeka@gmail.com

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA OPTIMIST CHILI SUPPER - Feb. 3, 5-7pm. Christ the King Catholic Church. \$7.

LADIES PRAYER BREAKFAST - Feb. 4, 9-12. Great commission Baptist Church, 1319 SW Huntoon.

GROUND HOG BREAKFAST - Feb. 4, 7-10am. Grantville UMC, 3724 South St., Grantville. Freewill donation.

A BITE OF CHOCOLATE - Feb. 11, 10am-2pm. Central Congregational United Church of Christ, 1248 SW Buchanan. \$5 per box.

KING OF INSTRUMENTS: THE PIPE ORGAN - Feb. 12, 2pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8th & Harrison. Free. Includes hands-on time at the organs, two brief performances displaying all the sounds of the organ--along with a narrator, a time for creating pipework, and snacks! For info: 233-9601 or Sharon.hettinger.923@gmail.com

BISHOP APPRECIATION - Feb. 12, 3:30pm. Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln. Honoring Bishop R. K. Lassiter, Sr. Special speakers. Everyone welcome! Free. For info 785-235-1834.

DARRELL EVANS - Feb. 19, 10:30am, Community Church, 1819 SW 21st St. Special music and ministry

WOMEN'S RETREAT: SWEET LIFE CAFE - Feb. 25, 9-4:30, Northland Christian Church. Get away from the busyness of life, relax, share laughter and spend time with God. Lunch served. Cost \$20. Register at northland.cc or 286-1204.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 10 PANCAKE FEED - Feb. 25, 7am-1pm, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. All-you-can-eat pancakes just \$5.00 with bottomless juice or coffee. Children under 5 eat free

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST - Mar. 4, 9am. First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. \$5. For info: 228-2126

PASSION TO PURPOSE BRUNCH - Mar. 4, 1pm. New Mount Zion, 2801 SE Indiana Ave. For info: 256-0784 or we.topeka@gmail.com

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

MEDICARE MONDAYS - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging and Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nnonl@tsopl.org

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES DINNER WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN - Jan. 31, 6:30-7:30pm. Topeka & Shawnee Co. Public Library, Anton Room 202. RSVP by Jan. 27. For info and to RSVP: 580-8478 or julianne.meiertinoco@thrivent.com

DUCK DYNASTY'S ALAN ROBERTSON'S UNCONVENTIONAL BUSINESS - Feb. 2, 6:30pm, OP Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS. Robertson

will share 25 years of practical insight on how to use time tested principles from the Bible to successfully lead in the business world. (913) 645-3320

2016 TAX CHANGES AND EFFECTS OF PATH ACT - Feb. 8, 7pm. Topeka Public Library Menninger Rm, The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) will affect low income tax payers. H&R Block tax professionals will discuss new laws & issues regarding 2016 tax returns.

19th ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO - Mar. 4, 10am-2pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Metro Voice. 25 K-12 Schools, Homeschool 50 Colleges from 15 States, plus, Free Seminars! 816-524-4522.

TOPEKA LITERACY COUNCIL VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP - Mar. 25 & Apr. 1, 9am-4:45pm. Doorstep Building, 1119 SW 10th. \$25 for class & materials. For info: 234-2806 or topekaliteray@juno.com

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SHEPHERDS CENTER PICKLEBALL GROUP

plays Mondays & Wednesdays. Mondays at Countryside UMC, 32nd & Burlingame, from 3-5. Park on the NORTH side & use the furthest WEST door. Follow the hallway to gym. On Wednesdays at First Baptist, 30th & MacVicar, from 1-3. Park on the WEST side. Gym is right inside the doors. Group Coordinator is Judy Hartegan.

WOW - WORKIN' OUT ON WEDNESDAYS - 5:30 pm every Wed., south steps of the Capitol building. Free, fun and family-friendly. A combination of aerobic & strength training exercises, coupled with a fun line dance to end each experience. www.makin-moves.com

SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING - First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm. Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or jwilson@safestreets.org

COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING - Thursdays 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760.

SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE

DANCING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4 at First UMC, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side & use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left & walk the ramp to the library, then left to the elevator. Push [B] for the fellowship hall.

SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Parking & entrance for walkers is on the WEST side. Walking is done on an inside track. People who would like to walk a shelter dog must have completed an animal handling class that is given periodically at HHHS - for arrangements call Kelsey Scrinopskie, 233-7325.

NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS - NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market items.

SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH - Every Sat., 11am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker. Some Sat. adoption booths are held at PetSmart, 2020 SW Westport Dr. Updates at savingdeathrowdogs.com

TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES - Sundays, 2-4pm, 2637 SE 41st St. Dances from 20 countries. No partners

Family of God Church
1231 NW Eugene • Topeka, KS
JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL TIME OF WORSHIP
SUN. FEB. 12th • 6:00PM
A Free-Will Offering Will Be Received
All Are Welcome - Bring Your Friends & Family
Worship with us in English, Spanish, and German. We are a diverse and multicultural church.

Community Church
1819 SW 21st Street
Sunday, February 19th
10:30 AM
Come join us for a time of special music and ministry

Darrell Evans

C5 Alive Developing and Uniting Christian Leadership
• Business • Non-profits • Churches

Membership open to all Christian businesses, non-profits, churches & individuals!
Luncheons & Tradeshows & some other events open to the general public!

C5Alive POWER Luncheons are held 2nd Thur. each mo.

"Matchmaker Marketing Luncheon"
Feb. 9, 11:30-1, at Ramada West, 605 SW Fairlawn
Make new connections at our Speed Marketing event
RSVP to info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

- Mar. 9, 11:30-1, Power Luncheon, Details TBA
- Apr. 13, 11:30-1, Power Luncheon, Details TBA
- Apr. 15 - Easter Parade on N. Kansas Avenue & Easter Fest at Garfield Park, 10am-3pm

Save the Dates!

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/C5Alive](https://www.facebook.com/C5Alive)
For info: www.C5Alive.org or info@C5Alive.org

Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2017
Constitution Hall State Historic Site in Historic Lecompton
2 p.m. Sundays • Suggested donation \$3 adults

A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent territorial and civil war history of Kansas, 1854-1865.

Jan. 29	"Kansas on Appeal: Highlights from 156 years of Sunflower State Advocacy in the Supreme Court of the United States" by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, with remarks by Kansas State Archivist Matt Veatch	
Feb. 5	"Bride with the Devil: Hollywood and the Border Wars" by Dr. Carl Graves, historian and educator	
Feb. 12	"Lee and Grant at Appomattox" reenactment by historical performers Randy Durbin as General Grant and Lane Smith as General Lee	
Feb. 19	"Gettysburg, the Spark that Touched Lawrence" by Dr. Charles E. Heller, retired colonel, historian, author	
Feb. 26	"Guns of Bleeding Kansas" by Pat Drumhauz, gunsmith, gun historian	
Mar. 5	"Border Agitator, David B. Atchison" by Chris W. Taylor, executive director, Atchison County, Kansas, Historical Society (special appearance by "Senator Atchison")	

Big 10 books: William Clark Gussell, Between 1861-1865, David B. Atchison, 1853, Lawrence Missouri, 1861, Slaves' 1861-1865, Alan Atchison Company advertising 1861, 1862.

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PATENT RELOADING AND SELF-PROTECTING
BOLT ACTION RIFLE AND PISTOL
FOR MILITARY AND SPORTSMEN

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Historical Society
Constitution Hall State Historic Site
319 Elmore • Lecompton
785-887-6520
consthal@kshs.org • kshs.org

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

or experience necessary. No fee. 215-0968.

PUBLIC SKATING AT EXPOCENTRE— various dates and times. \$7 admission, \$3 for skates. Check www.ksexpo.com/events for details.

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OPEN HOUSE — Jan. 27, 11am-2pm, Great Overland Station, Free admission, birthday cupcakes, refreshments, prize drawings.

MONSTER BUCK CLASSIC - Jan. 27-29. Kansas Expocentre. For info: 235-1986

94.5 COUNTRY BRIDAL FAIR — Jan. 28-29, 10am-5pm & noon-4pm. Downtown Topeka Ramada. For info and tickets: bridalfair.94country.com

HEALTHY SOLES - Every Saturday from Jan. 28 through Feb. 25. West Ridge Mall, lower level center court near Tradehome Shoes. Makin' Moves & Chris "The Health-Hippie" Omni hosts a FREE planned and progressive walking experience designed to help you move more, live better, laugh a lot and enjoy life. Text "TheHealthHippie" to 25328

CONNECT MEETING FOR ALL CPLS FAMILIES — Jan. 28, 9-10am. Cair Paravel Latin School. Childcare provided.

LAKE DABINAWA GRINDER — Jan. 29, Lawrence, KS - Part of the Guru's Gravel Grinders Series. gravelgrinders.blogspot.com

BLEEDING KANSAS 2017 - Sundays from Jan. 29-Mar. 5, 2pm, Constitution Hall Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Leocompton. A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent territorial and civil war history of Kansas 1854-1865. Actors will portray Kansans from this turbulent era. Adm: \$3 adults, \$1 students. Children five & younger free. On tap for Jan. 29: "Kansas on Appeal: Highlights from 156 years of Sunflower State Advocacy in the Supreme Court of the United States" by Kansas Attorney General, Derek Schmidt, with remarks by Kansas State Archivist, Matt Veatch. For info: 785-887-6520, www.lecomptonkansas.com

ZUMBA FOR BOOKS - Feb. 1, 6-7pm. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 312 NE Freeman. \$5 donation.

WAKE UP WITH WASHBURN BREAKFAST LECTURE - Feb. 2, 7:30-8:30am. Washburn University, Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. Breakfast served in Convocation Hall. Speaker: Rob Reilly, vice president of the south region at BNSF Railway in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Members \$10, non-members \$13. For info:

670-1641

GRAND OPENING - Feb. 3, 5-8pm. Creations of Hope Gallery, 909 N. Kansas Ave. Music by Top City Bluegrass. For info: cweeks@valeotopekaorg or 783-7558

HEARTSTRINGS PERFORMING AT THE CAROUSEL-RENDEZVOUS DANCE PARTY - Feb. 3, 7-10pm. 6th Avenue Ballroom, 117 SW 6th. Music ranges from 1940's big band swing classics to 1980's soft rock ballads. Dance styles include swing, waltz, foxtrot, latin and polka. 233-7084

ADVENTURE'S IN LEARNING — Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 9am-11:30am, Shepherd's Center of Topeka, hosted at 4101 SW 15th St. For those over 55. First time guests may attend ONE FRIDAY in an Adventures in Learning session for FREE. For info: 249-3258

TOPEKA BOAT AND OUTDOOR SHOW — Feb. 3-5. Kansas Expocentre. For info: 235-1986

HHHS VALENTINE'S PHOTO FUNDRAISER - Feb. 4, 11:30-3. Helping Hands Humane Society, 5720 SW 21st. Come get photographed with your pet and get a digital copy for \$10 or \$20 for digital copy plus one 5x7 and 4 wallet size photos. Micro chipping will be \$25 and nail trims for \$10.

DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT — Feb. 4, 6-8pm. Big Gage Shelter House, 635 SW Gage. For info: 251-2600

POLAR PLUNGE & STRUT — Feb. 6, 9:30-Noon. Swim Beach, 3300 SE 29th St. Registration at 9:30am, 5k at 11am, Polar Plunge at 12pm. Save some time at pre-registration and packet pick-up: Feb. 3 - Noon-7pm at Gary Gribbles, 2130 SW Wanamaker Rd. For info: 620-408-4450

HY-VEE SIMPLE FIX - Feb. 9 & 23, 5-7pm. Register by Feb. 5th for the 9th, and by Feb. 19 for the 23rd. For only \$115 and one hour of your time, you can have SEVEN meals ready to serve your family any night of the week. Save time & money because there's no shopping & no cleaning! Each meal serves 4. Choose 5 meals for \$85, 6 meals for \$100, or 7 meals for \$115.

CUPID FOR A CAUSE — Feb. 10, 6-10pm. 3615 SW 29th St. Bachelor and bachelorette charity auction, raffle, and silent auction. Sponsored by Military Veteran Project. For info: 409-1310 or contact@militaryveteranproject.org

SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS SHOW — Feb. 10-12.

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Colorful and exhilarating performance of classical Chinese dance and music. 913-701-7469.

KANSAS GARDEN SHOW — Feb. 10-11, 10-7 & Feb. 12, 11-5, Kansas Expocentre. Adm. \$8. Children 12 & under free. Free parking. Friday is Senior Citizens Day: 55 & older buy one, get one free. For info: 235-1986

VETERANS VALENTINES DANCE - Feb. 11, 7-11. Philip Billard VFW Post #1650, 3110 SW Huntoon.

VFW POST #1650 BISCUITS & GRAVY BREAKFAST — Feb. 11, 7-10am. Philip Billard VFW POST #1650, 3110 SW Huntoon.

VALENTINES PARENT NIGHT OUT - Feb. 11, 7-11pm. Evolution Gymnastics, Tumbling, and Cheer, 3335 SE 21st St. Open gym time, games, and snacks. \$25 per athlete, \$5 off for siblings and friends. For info: 438-2055

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY MURDER MYSTERY — Feb. 12, 5:30-9pm. North Star Steakhouse. Show and three course meal \$40. For info and reservations: 354-8880

ARAB SHRINE CIRCUS — Feb. 17-19, Kansas Expocentre. For info: 235-1986

RV & SPORT SHOW — Feb. 17-19, Kansas Expocentre. For info: 235-1986

2017 CAPITAL CITY MOTORCYCLE SHOW — Feb. 17-19, Ag Hall. 33rd Annual Show with World Famous Participants' Party! Trophies for best paint, best display, best in show and people's choice will be awarded in all classes.

play, best in show and people's choice will be awarded in all classes.

KANSAS SILENT FILM FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENT— Feb. 24-25, White Concert Hall, Washburn University. Free. Cinema dinner available on Sat. For details: Kssilentfilmfest.org.

EQUIFEST 2017 - Feb. 24-26. Kansas Expocentre. All-breed horse fair and exposition. Rodeo, mounted shooting, etc. Friday Night, followed by a dance featuring Dustin Evans and Good Times. Kansas State Swingin' Spurs will entertain and teach dance lessons throughout the weekend. For info: 776-0662

TOPEKA RESTAURANT WEEK - Feb. 28 to Mar. 7. A portion of all meals support Harvesters BackSnack Program. For info: (785) 234-1030

COMMUNITY HARVEY HOUSE LUNCHEON & TOUR - Mar. 9, Great Overland Station. For info: 785-232-5533 or greatoverlandstation.com

56TH ANNUAL KANSAS PRAYER BREAKFAST — Mar. 15, 6am, Ramada Inn downtown. Guest speaker: Major General Julie A. Bentz, Vice Director of the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Organization, with leaders in government, business, education and industry. \$18 each or tables of 10 for \$180. For info and RSVP: info@kansasprayerbreakfast.net or 380-2901

CPLS KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP — Mar 17, Cair Paravel Latin School, 635 SW Clay. Info & registration: 232-3878 or www.cpls.org

MENARDS NHRA HEARTLAND NATIONALS — Mar 19-21. Heartland Park Topeka. For info and tickets: 800-884-6472 or nhra.com/tickets

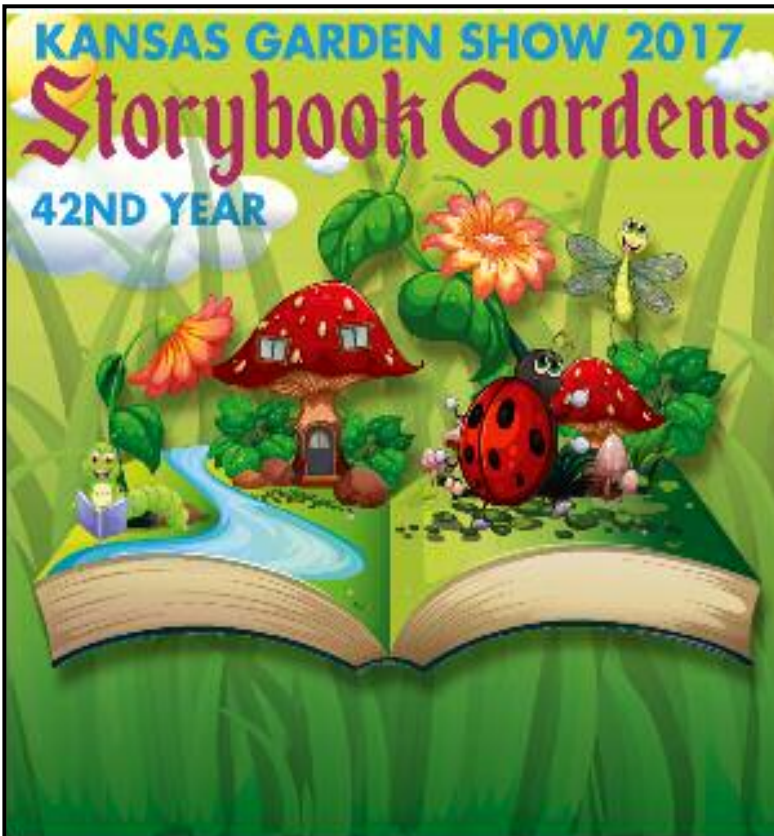
4th ANNUAL TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR — Apr. 15, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's fourth annual Easter parade will begin at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue to Garfield Park at 10am. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair will be 10-3 at Garfield Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, and more. Bands and other entertainment will perform nearby. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

MEETINGS & CLASSES

C5Alive "MATCHMAKER" LUNCHEON — Feb. 9, 11:30-1, C5Alive "Matchmaker" Networking Luncheon at Ramada West, 605 SW Fairlawn. Make new connections at our speed networking event!

- Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door
- \$15 for non-members & repeat guests.
- Please RSVP to info@C5Alive.org, so we know how much food is needed!

Open to the public — Put POWER in your life with great food, great speakers and great company! Invite a



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February 10-11-12

Friday & Saturday 10 am - 7 pm

Sunday 11 am - 5 pm

Admission
\$8.00

Children 12 and Under FREE

INCLUDES
FREE PARKING!

Friday is
Senior Citizens Day!
55 & Older -
Buy One,
Get One FREE

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WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

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— Kenn Wells, former lead dancer of the English National Ballet

"Out of the world...
The greatest of the great!
It must be experienced."
— Christine Walevska,
"Goddess of the cello", saw Shen Yun 5 times

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Shen Yun is a stunning visual and emotional experience like no other. It takes you on a magical journey to the lost world of Chinese civilization—a divine land, full of ancient wisdom, and exquisite beauty from the heavens. The performance's richly expressive dance, groundbreaking music, and breathtaking backdrops will leave you in awe!

friend to join you!

SAVE THE DATE: Mar. 9, 11:30-1, C5Alive "POWER" Luncheon. Details to be announced.

DADDY'S GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS - Weekly at various times & locations. Daddy's Girls*Inc. is a faith based non-profit organization that encourages young ladies to make wise choices by providing biblically based education & mentoring. Enjoy hanging out with other young ladies striving to reach their highest potential through the power of Jesus Christ! Remember: Modest is still the hottest and Virgin is still His standard! Call to find a meeting location near you: 785-969-0491, daddysgirlsinc.com; daddysgirlsinc@gmail.com

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING - Join other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee County and our Nation. For info about monthly meetings: 785-260-5659 or go to ks.cwfa.org.

THE HEAT - Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Sun. - 4-5pm Yoga; Mon. - 12-12:45pm Zumba; 5:30-6:15pm Kickboxing; 6:15-7pm Pilates Fusion; Tue. - 12-12:45pm Yoga; 5:30-6:15pm Zumba; 6:15-7pm Cardio Interval; Wed. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Thu. - 12-12:45pm Pilates; 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Interval - Low intensity; 6:15-7:00pm Cardio Interval - Moderate intensity; Fri. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Sat. - 8-8:45am Kickboxing

TOPEKA TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB - 3rd Sun. of each month, 7pm, Papan's Landing Senior Center, 618 NW Paramore St. Family Memberships include children & grandchildren up to 18 yrs. A place to meet friends to discuss all aspects of Metal Detecting, club business, plus socializing & entertainment.

STEP UP - BUILDING THE SMART STEP-FAMILY - Every Sun. 11am, Northland Christian Church, Room 4, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Focusing on the challenges facing step-families and blended families. Contact Thomas Munker at 249-3054 for info.

BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPE - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-

18. Register at cornerstonetopeka.com. 478-2929.

INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. www.INGTopeka.com - go to Event page to see times, locations & register

TIBA NETWORKING GROUP - 2nd Tues, 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. MUST RSVP: taradimick@gmail.com. Lunch is \$10. www.topekatiba.org

DEAF WORSHIP SERVICE - 3rd Sun., 3pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. Also, every Sun. 9:30am service is interpreted.

FAMILY EXPERIENCE (FX) - Every Sun., 6:01pm, Fairlawn Church of Nazarene, 730 Fairlawn Rd. A time of high intensity, action packed, skit mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 minutes. A free family worship event. For info: Emily Moore, 272-6322 or fxtelawn@gmail.com.

LADIES' SMALL GROUP - Every Sun., 6pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Studying the book of Esther, using the DVD series "It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All welcome. 286-0467.

THE FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH PROGRAM - Mon., 6:30pm or Sat., 8am, Topeka First Assembly, 500 SW 27th St. This program points members to God's strength & creates a compassionate support group that helps members stay accountable in a positive environment & delivers faith-based health & weight management instruction. To join or start a new group, contact Jan Norris, 972-0582 or norris.jan@sbcglobal.net or visit firstplace4health.com.

THE FORCE (Students Taking Action) - 1st Mon. & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, Safe Streets, 2209 SW 29th St. Committed to being alcohol & drug free. Associate with like-minded peers, plan activities & get involved in the community. Youth 12-18 invited. 266-4606.

HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS - 2nd Mon., 11:45am-1pm. Promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas & resources. 233-1365.

TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB - 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

KC TRAUMA AND PTSD SUPPORT GROUP - Every Tue. 10am and Thu. 6:30pm. Call Denise at 816-885-9530.

OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL - Every 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or ourladyofthefaithful@gmail.com. Facebook: "Our Lady of the Faithful."

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB - Every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. 246-1291.

MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES - Tuesdays Noon -1pm. Amerus Room, YWCA, 225 West 12th. A new study group for Year One of Flo Menninger's course on Four Years through the Bible. Read and discuss Genesis through First Kings. Nominal charge for materials. For info call the YWCA at 233-1750 or Clara Gamache at 785-408-5433.

O.W.L.S. (Older Wise Loving Saints) - meets the second Tuesday of the month. Location varies and can be found at www.faithfamilylife.com

S.W.A.G. (Spiritual Warriors Anointed by God) youth group - Wed at 7:00 p.m. 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 272-0443.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6:30pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 286-0467.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6:30-8pm, Auburn Christian Church. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 256-2515.

MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB - 1st Wed., 9am-3pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (east door). Anyone with an Embroidery machine is invited to attend, there are no dues or formal meeting agenda. Lunch is on your own. Teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call 379-5159.

SAFE STREETS MEETING - 1st Wed., 11:45am, Golf Park Blvd, 2 blocks west of Adams. 266-4606.

STUDENT IMPACT - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Youth games, teaching, worship, small groups. For info: 272-0443.

CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE - Every Thurs. 7-9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for college students.

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - 3rd Thurs., 6pm meal, 7pm meeting, Coyote Canyon, Huntoon & Wanamaker. Kirk Nystrom, 235-6977.

iMOM - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Fellowship Hall, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping them to be intentional! Info: 234-5545.

LIFE FEST - 1st Thurs., 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Celebrate Senior Life. For info: 273-2811.

OPERATION BACKPACK - 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

SINGLES BIBLE STUDY - 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7pm, Heartland Worship Center Church of God, 1401 NW Harrison. For info: 232-5503.

TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 4th Thurs., 7pm, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. No program in Nov. or Dec. Promotes & stimulates the education, knowledge & interest of the membership & the public in family history, genealogical records & research. For info: 233-5762 or tgstopeka.org.

KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP - 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 357-6278 x19.

TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB - Every Fri., noon, Top of the Tower. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. For info: 272-1099 or fostern60@yahoo.com.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) - Every Fri. 8:30 to 10:00 am at 3221 SW Burlingame Road. 800-932-8677. Support for your weight loss journey. tops.org

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS - Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free blood pressure checks the last Friday of every month, and birthday celebrations the 4th Friday. For Info: 286-1370.

A GOOD YARN CLUB - 2nd & 4th Sat., 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Info: Anne, 272-9249 or kittens812@att.net

BIBLE QUIZZING - 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun with area Christian youth age 9-19. YFC/YEA style quizzing & rules. 913-593-6427 or biblequizzing.org.

MONTHLY SCORE MEETING - 1st Sat., 8-9:30am, Washburn Tech, 5724 SW Huntoon (enter east doors facing Huntoon). No RSVP or fee is required. Small business owners are invited to a Breakfast Roundtable discussion with members of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Info: 234-3049.

TOPEKA LOVE AGLOW - Once a month on Sat. morning. A time of worship, prayer and encountering God. Call Tawny Barton at 785-409-0232 or Linda Williams at 785-267-0600 for details.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES - Every Sat. 9-10:30am, Central Congregational Church, 1248 SW Buchanan.

For info: 235-2376.

RUSSIAN HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Sat., 4pm, Williamstown Assembly of God, 1225 Oak St., Perry/Williamstown. For info: 597-5228.

SINGLES PLAY CARDS SR. - 1st Sat., 6-9pm, St. Peter's UMC, NW 35th & Hwy 75

SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION & EDUCATION - every Sat. 11am-2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker.

UPPER ROOM COMMUNITY - second Sat., 10 am, Capitol Building

SUPPORT GROUPS

MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle

Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss

1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm—Ongoing Adult Group

1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age)

For All Groups: Call for start dates and info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. For info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT - Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome...we can help mend a broken heart! For info: Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS - for friends & families of alcoholics. For info: 785-409-3072 or topekaanon.org

PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY - Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: 249-9509. All inquiries confidential.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS - Monthly support group meetings for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. For info: Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, 271-1844 or email cindy.miller@alz.org.

"HEALING HEARTS" support group/Bible study - For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addictions or have had affairs. Videos & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing. For info: Jane Goble, 249-0983.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE - NE Kansas Chapter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

FRIENDS WITH M.S. - 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. (Enter East door). A Multiple Sclerosis support group. Donna, 266-7383.

BOUNCE BACK SELF-HELP - 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. For those living with multiple sclerosis. For info: 273-0799.

INCARCERATED PERSONS & FAMILIES - 1st Mon., 6:30-7:30pm, YMCA, 421 Van Buren. 286-2329.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS/BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP - Meets 4th Mon. in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts 7pm; fellowship & refreshments 8:30. 272-4895

GRIEF SUPPORT - Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss:

1st Mon., 5:30-7:30pm, Individual appointments; other times are available. Call Terry Frizzell at (785)230-6730.

3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., Dutch treat luncheon to meet new friends who have sat where you are sitting. For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS:

MON., 7pm - Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

WED., 7pm - St. Francis Hospital meeting room 6, 2nd floor; 234-8020.

SAT. - 9am - St. Francis Hospital meeting room 8, 2nd floor; 862-2326.

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.aa.org.

NAMI TOPEKA - Every 2nd Tue., 6:45pm, lower level of Valeo, 330 SW Oakley. If door is locked, call 608-1317 to get in. The 1st hour is often a discussion of an important topic or video. The 2nd hour is usually a support talk time, w/ separate consumer & family groups. 608-1317.

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP - First Tue. each month at St. Francis Health, 1700 SW 7th St, Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 6-7:30pm. Anyone with an ostomy may attend. The goal is to provide education and ongoing support for individuals with an ostomy. Contact Teresa Kellerman at 785-295-5555 for info.



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Hidden figures of America's space race come out of the shadows

entertainment

Rockets just don't get to the moon by themselves. No, it takes men! Men to build them, men to fly them, men to plot the complicated trajectories! White men! Men with ties, preferably skinny ones! (The ties, not the men.)

Or so the thinking went back in 1961, back when America's Mercury space program was just getting off the ground.

Sure, there were folks besides men hard at work within the bowels of NASA's brain trust, located at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. And when the car carrying three NASA employees breaks down along the side of the road—black, female employees—they set right the Virginia policeman who stops to help them.

"I had no idea they hired ..."

"There are quite a few women working in the space program," says Dorothy Vaughan, giving him an ever-so-veiled stink eye.

But even though NASA seems to be building a new, rocket-powered future, its nuts-and-bolts operations are still a product of 1961.

Langley's still in a Southern, segregated state. Dorothy and her fellow black, female carpoolers, Mary Jackson and Katherine Goble, work at Langley's West Campus, where the "colored people" are kept. They and others do

film411

HIDDEN FIGURES

STARRING: Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe
DIRECTOR: Theodore Melfi
RATED: PG

important work: They're the computers before the computer age, women who calculate and crunch the numbers that are so critical to the space program's future. But these computers are kept apart from the rest. They have their own bathrooms, their own cafeterias, their own coffee machines. Integration is not, it would seem, part of NASA's future any more than it is Virginia's.

Sometimes, however, talent and determination have a way of making their own futures. America's fledgling space program—which is locked in a battle with the U.S.S.R. that its surely losing—can use all the brilliant minds it can find. And some of those minds might just be working out of the West Campus, using the bathrooms labeled "Colored Women Only."

We've seen all manner of dramas addressing America's long history of racial inequity, from 2014's underrated *Selma* to 2016's controversial and bloody *Birth of a Nation*. *Hidden Figures* tackles the same



themes. But these women—whose characters as depicted here are based on three very real NASA employees—don't take up arms or march in protests. Instead, they fight the status quo within the very system that's pressing them down, pushing back with their skill, talent and flat-out determination.

Hidden Figures is, perhaps, Katherine's story most of all. She's called to work in Langley's formidable nerve center because of her prodigious talent for math. But even though she can outthink most—if not all—of the men in this NASA think tank, she still finds herself sprinting a half a mile to the West Campus in order to use

the designated bathroom and making her own coffee in a pot labeled "Colored."

As she works through these conditions with grace and spirit, though, things begin to change. People see her work and marvel at it. She presses for recognition and, in slow steps, begins to receive it. It's gratifying to know that that real Katherine—still living and a spry 98, by the way—was an integral part of NASA until her retirement in 1986, working on everything from the Apollo program to the space shuttle. A building at Langley, the Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility, was named in her honor just last year.

Hidden Figures is an inspirational exer-

cise in understated activism. The women here do not ignore the racism that colors their lives. But they resist it not with violence or protest but with skill and persistence. Yes, they ask for the rights that are rightfully theirs. But they do so with a sense of grace, humility and patience. They don't trust the system. But they find a way to work within it to achieve their goals. And they change a lot of minds.

Hidden Figures inspires as it entertains. It acknowledges racial divisions while insisting that there's more than one way to fix them. And while it can be crass, its heart is good.

■ EVENT CALENDER CONTINUED

GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 2nd floor meeting room, St. Francis Hosp., 1700 SW 7th. For info: Sharla, 286-2329; Jennie (English/Spanish) 231-0763.

THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA — 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. & Gage Blvd. Open to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information, & friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE" ("HEAL") — or Survivors of Suicide (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Pozez Education Center of Stormont Vail Hospital, 1505 SW 8th St. Serving anyone who has lost a loved one by suicide.

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY — Every Tue., 7-9pm, Topeka Women's Prison, 815 Rice Rd. Reaching out to those who can't come in, finding freedom behind bars, inspiring inmates to seek salvation during a difficult time. Providing support & guidance through the Holy Spirit to offer strength. Director: Don Garner, 286-0489 or faithfamilylifeministries@gmail.com.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS — Every Wed, 7pm, St. Francis Hospital, meeting room #8.

JAYHAWK AREA AGENCY ON AGING — 4th Wed., 1pm, Rosehill Place Clubhouse. Monthly support group for caregivers of seniors. For info: 235-1367 ext.30.

MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP — Every Wed., 2:30-3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School. Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

DIVORCECARE PROGRAMS — (For updates check www.divorcecare.org) locations and times:

WED. — 6:30pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane. Cost: \$15. Child care provided. For info: 379-0505 or www.divorcecare.org.

WED. — 6:45 — 8:45pm, Walnut View Christian Church, 3634 SE 37th St. (just East of 37th & Croco). Cost: \$10 registration (scholarships available). The video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on divorce and recovery topics, combined with support group discussion of the materials. Complimentary child care children up to the fifth grade. Info: 266-7550 or walnutviewcc@att.net. Contact: Pastor Thornton.

WED. — 6:30pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. No Cost. 286-1204, www.northland.cc

NAMI WASHBURN — 4th Thurs., 6-8pm, Spirit Building Room, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW

College Ave. NAMI is a student-run, student-led organization that provides mental health support, education, & advocacy in the Washburn Univ. setting. A support group is also available during this time.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — 1st Thurs., 7pm, Saint Francis Hospital 2nd floor conf. room of the cancer unit. For info: 266-9533.

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS — Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country Christian Church Renaissance Room, 4925 SW 29th St., use west door cross red foot bridge. A fellowship of men & women helping each other to live free of nicotine. No fees. 402-321-486; Laboomaha@att.net.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — Every Fri., 6pm, 1912 Gage Blvd. A Christ-centered program, based on 8 principles found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Applying these Biblical principles, become free from addictive & dysfunctional behaviors. 220-0017 or crtopeka.org.

TOPEKA NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUP — For families & friends who are affected by someone else's narcotic addiction. Every Sat. — 1005 SW 10th, next to Oxford House, noon-1:15 pm. www.naranonmidwest.org

COVENANT KEEPERS — 3rd Sat. Group for people who want to see their marriage saved when their spouse

wants out. For info: 816-453-0884 or 816-966-0927.

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REBA RETURNS TO GOSPEL ROOTS IN NEW ALBUM

Country legend Reba McEntire has released a double disc gospel album, featuring both classic traditional songs of faith and new songs of hope. Reba reportedly returned to her roots, as 'Jesus Loves Me' was the first song she got paid to sing in front of an audience. Disc 1 will include traditional songs Reba grew up singing with her family. Disc 2 will be a collection of original songs, penned by Reba and friends and family.

The double album will also have special guests singing with Reba, including her mother and two sisters, Trisha Yearwood, Kelly Clarkson, while it was co-produced by Jay DeMarcus (of Rascal Flatts)

"There's a lot of people in the country music business who are very spiritual," she said in a recent interview, "[they] love country music and love gospel music because a lot of us grew up in churches."

She noted it was a difficult task picking from the wide range of Gospel songs, but eventually decided to focus on ones most dear to her. Many friends (from co-stars to family) contributed to her decisions, too, with actress Melissa Peterman requesting 'Oh, Happy Day,' Jay DeMarcus suggesting 'Wonderful Peace' and 'In the Garden' as a medley, and her sister Susie and Kix Brooks both asking her to perform 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot.'

"I just felt the Holy Spirit all over me when I was singing ['How Great Thou Art']. And then listening back to it, I just sit there and sob. It's so reverent. He's in tune with me, and I'm right connected with God. The song is just me praising God. I don't know what the connection is



yet, but it's overwhelming to me."

The second disc is filled with contemporary songs designed to inspire hope. "Sing It Now," the album's title song, drives home the idea that if we sang old hymns as children, we can still turn to those songs and the Lord who inspired them in our times of trouble as adults. As Reba said, "If I could sing them then, I can sing them now with even more enthusi-



asm in my voice."

"God and My Girlfriends" was another of Reba's favorite tracks. "After what I've gone through in the last two years, I've had God with me all the time, and I've always had my girlfriends to encourage

me, so that's a special song." Another track is titled, "There is a God." Reba stated, "Really? How much more proof do you need? Just walk outside and see all the great things he's made."

Reba wrote the song, "I Got the Lord on my Side," however her mother, Jackie McEntire, also received a writing credit after listening to Reba in the recording studio. She made the suggestion to change the line on the last verse from "I'm so happy" to "If you're happy." Yet when asked for a favorite track on the second album, the first song that came to Reba was "Back to God," a track originally recorded (and co-written) by Randy Houser. "The message of the song is to take one's pain and give it to God, turn over the bad to Him and ask Him to turn it into good."

"It's just an eclectic group of songs that touches my heart in different ways every time I listen to it," Reba said. "So I'm very proud of this album. I hope everybody likes it."

Another first for Reba will be a concert at the legendary Ryman Auditorium in Nashville on February 15. Throughout her entire career, she has never done a whole concert in the storied venue before, and attendees of this show will not only see the legend perform but also will receive a copy of the new album. It promises to be a special evening for both the concert goers and the performer.

Reba is looking forward to 2017 as a chance to "travel and sing and act. I want to live each day one day at a time and enjoy each day as the Lord has given me and not rush through anything. To savor it. To savor this year. I've gotten to do so

many things in my life and a lot of things I don't remember because I breezed past them. The advice I give to young entertainers is to keep a journal and write down your thoughts, your moments that you were down, the moments that you were up, the events, where were you when this happened. It will fly by you; you've got to stop. I know it's a funny cliché, but you really do need to stop and smell the roses."

Even with such a full plate, Reba is mindful to never neglect her spiritual health or her relationship with God, no matter how busy her schedule is. "I think you've got to make time," she said firmly. "That's very important. The more time you give to God, the more time He'll give you in a day. I learned that the hard way, when you kind of push Him to the back burner, you get a little stressed and can't fit in everything in the day. When you set aside a special time, make an appointment with him, it just seems as if everything runs smoother throughout the day."

"Sing It Now: Songs of Faith & Hope, set to be released on Feb. 3.

The album will be a two-disc offering containing 20 songs, both classic and original. Disc 1 will feature classic gospel songs like "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art, and "I'll Fly Away," while Disc 2 will be filled with original cuts such as "God and My Girlfriends," "Sing It Now," and "I Got The Lord On My Side."

One of the standout tracks on Disc 1 is the classic tune "I'll Fly Away"—a song Reba grew up singing. For the version on the album, Reba waited to record the song until her mother, Jackie, and sisters, Susie

and Alice, were in Nashville and could lend their harmonies.

"[It was] too much fun," Reba tells Nash Country Daily about the recording session. "We were just silly as we could be. We all got around the microphone and Susie and I—we were up there just singing our little hearts out and Mama and Alice just kept backing up," she laughs. "They're not used to it, saying, 'Oh, we don't want to be on tape, we can't sing.' I'd say, 'Oh, get up here.' It was so fun."

But that's not the extent of Mama McEntire's talent in the studio. While recording the song "I Got the Lord on My Side"—the only song on the album written by Reba—the McEntire matriarch made a suggestion to her daughter that would, as Reba puts it, "enhance" the song.

"She enhanced the song tremendously," said Reba. "[The song] was 'I Got the Lord on My Side' because I had written it. We got in to record it and Mama said, 'Could I make a suggestion?' I said, 'Sure, what is it?' She said, 'Instead of saying I got the Lord on my side or I'm so happy, why don't you say you got the Lord on your side and you're so happy. And I said, 'Well, that's a great idea,' so we went back in and recorded it again like she wanted us to do and I gave her a writer's credit. So now I can say, Mama and I wrote this song!"

If you're happy / You got the Lord on your side / If you're happy / You got the Lord on your side / If I see that big ol' happy printed smile on your face / I know you're happy / You got the Lord on your side.

This excellent and funny film seeks to break through Hollywood barrier

by **CHRISTINE THOMASOS**

In "The Resurrection of Gavin Stone," Hollywood alcoholic bad boy Gavin Stone turns to a lifestyle of partying after the spotlights have dimmed on his fleeting childhood superstardom.

When some reckless behavior results in his arrest, Stone has to leave Hollywood to do community service at a megachurch in his home state of Illinois.

While there, Stone lies to Pastor Allen Richardson in an attempt to resurrect his career as Jesus in the church's stage play while winning over the preacher's daughter in the process.

Though Christian films have catered to churchgoers with movies like the "God's Not Dead" franchise, "The Resurrection of Gavin Stone" is offering audiences something different.

The film's director Dallas Jenkins ("What If") said that instead of trying to preach to audiences, the film showcases humor through the perspective of a main character who's considered a church outsider.

"You can laugh, have a good time and not feel like you're being preached to," Jenkins, the son of author Jerry Jenkins (The Left Behind series), said. "The church outsider sees the movie from the eyes of the main character, an outsider. We made sure to make the main character realistic and relatable so people could see the movie through his eyes."

D.B. Sweeney ("The Cutting Edge," "Major Crimes"), the actor who plays Pastor Allen Richardson in the film, says that the movie reminds him of the family friendly options Hollywood once gravitated toward.

"The great thing for me about 'The Resurrection of Gavin Stone' is it's a throwback to the old-fashioned Hollywood movie that you can watch with your family, has a message, and is funny and entertaining. They didn't call them faith-based movies, they just called them good movies," he said. "'It's a Wonderful Life' was a mainstream Hollywood movie about faith, redemption, religion, and it was rated G. It didn't have any heads blowing up, sex scenes or any controversial points of view about all of the issues that Hollywood jams into our heads all of the time."

Even though he was raised as Catholic, Sweeney admitted that he was initially



hesitant to join the cast of Jenkins' movie after being presented with the opportunity by his director friend. However, everything changed when the actor got his hands on the script.

"I was a little nervous at first because I often find that 'Christian movies' tend to be preachy and hit you over the head with the Bible. While I agree with the message, I don't

think it's the right way to make a movie sometimes," he said. "But when I read the script I was like, 'Oh, it's really funny, it's touching.' I was just so excited that the script was funny because any time that a movie tries to impose a message on the audience, you're halfway down the drain already."

While faith is the foundation of the film, Jenkins made sure not to skimp when presenting a healthy dose of comedy. Aside from having a faith-based script wrapped in comedy, romance and drama,

Jenkins chose an all-star cast of actors who brought the characters to life.

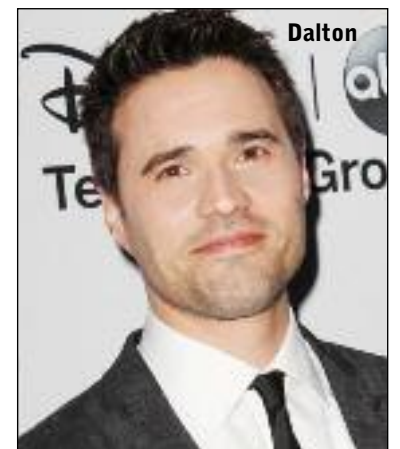
Aside from Sweeney, Brett Dalton ("Agents Of Shield"), stand-up comedian Anjelah Johnson-Reyes (MADtv), Neil Flynn ("The Middle") and WWE Hall-of-Famer Shawn Michaels round out a cast that both Christians and nonbelievers are sure to be familiar with.

Although Johnson-Reyes and Michaels are Christians, Jenkins welcomed church outsider Dalton into the fold at the request of his son, who is a fan of the hit Marvel television series "Agents Of Shield."

Much to Jenkins' surprise, Dalton loved the script and appreciated the humor in it. However, the director was even more astounded when Michaels, the wrestling superstar known to many as The Heartbreak Kid, joined the cast.

"He'd never done movies before and he's said no to us in the past. I wanted to at least try because I know he's a believer, and the next day they called me up and said he's into it," Jenkins revealed. "We've already seen the impact of working with someone like Shawn. It brings the movie to someone who might not have seen a faith-based movie before."

Jenkins, who left Hollywood after working there for 10 years, decided to move to Chicago and fuse his passion for film and his Christian faith. While he teamed up with Hollywood production studios to bring "The Resurrection of Gavin Stone" to theaters, he has already



seen the positive impact that it's had on people.

"We've had test screenings around the country and people have downright said, 'I haven't been to church in years, this movie makes me want to come back,'" Jenkins said. "That's obviously one of the main reasons we made it."

Even if people don't leave the movie with a renewed sense of faith, Sweeney believes that audiences will enjoy it.

"It's a movie you can watch with your kids, or your grandmother, and you wouldn't have to be embarrassed. And it's not boring, it's funny," he said. "I think that's really great news for everybody — Christians and movie fans. I think it could really have value for a wide audience."

"The Resurrection of Gavin Stone" hit theaters nationwide on Jan. 20.



Stay Young at Heart (and in Body and Mind)

(Family Features) When joints ache and you don't move as fast as you used to, it may seem that growing old is anything but graceful. While you can't stop the hands of time, there are ways you can keep your physical and mental well-being in tip-top shape for years to come.

Even if you've spent a lifetime practicing healthy habits, your senior years are no time to allow those practices to fall to the wayside. On the other hand, if you put off quality self-care for later in life, rely on your experience and maturity to know that taking care of yourself is as important as, well, life itself.

Eat balanced meals. It's never too late to begin paying more attention to what you eat. Seniors may be prone to poor eating

habits for the sake of convenience or because it's not as much fun cooking for one or two when you once had a full house to feed. Actually, as you age, keeping your weight in check and continuing to fuel your body with essential nutrients is more important than ever.

Keep moving. It's true that aches and pains may keep you from being as spry as you once were, but limiting your movement can actually create a snowball effect that results in even less mobility over time. Muscles that aren't used regularly can weaken and restrict your movement even more, so work with your physician to determine an appropriate amount of activity for your condition.

Mind your mind. When you're in the workforce, or while you're

tending to the needs of a growing family, you rely on your brain to power through, probably without even thinking about it. Yet over time, most people experience some degree of cognitive deterioration, partially from basic biology and partially from lack of "exercising" that vital muscle. Keep your mind sharp by communicating regularly with your family and friends, and seek out activities that put your brain to use, such as crossword puzzles or word games.

Be a social butterfly. A common lament of middle-age is the lack of time to nurture friendships. With an empty nest and an open calendar, there's no time like the present to strengthen long-term bonds or seek out new companions who share life experiences and a desire to age with grace. Close connections with friends



and family members will not only boost your emotional well-being, they can ensure there are others watching out for you on a regular basis.

Do as you're told. When you're younger, skipping an annual checkup here and there seems like no big deal. As you age, those regular assessments are more important. They serve an important role

in identifying potential issues and introducing treatments before big problems arise. Honor your regular medical appointments and heed the advice you're given - including taking any medicines as prescribed.

Find more tips for living healthy as you age at elivingtoday.com.

3 Ways Seniors Can Control Prescription Costs

For 55 million Americans enrolled in Medicare, the New Year means any new Medicare Advantage or prescription drug plans, or any changes to your existing plans, take effect. If you signed up for coverage, it's important to understand how your prescription drug costs may be affected.

Even if you did nothing to alter your coverage, some features of your plan may have changed for 2017.

A survey by Walgreens shows that even though prescription drug costs are among the top

concerns for Medicare beneficiaries, approximately one out of every five beneficiaries lacks a good understanding of their insurance plan. Roughly the same percentage falsely believes that all pharmacies charge the same copay and one-third of respondents didn't know they can switch pharmacies at any time, including outside of the annual enrollment period. To make the most of your benefits and find potential cost savings for your prescription medications under your Part D coverage, here are three easy steps to get started:

Use a less expensive brand or generic. The brand-name drug your doctor prescribed can do wonders for your symptoms but be worrisome for your budget. Many brand-name drugs have generic or other brand substitutes. First, make sure your doctor considers generic options. If those options aren't available, there may be lower-cost brand-name drugs used to treat the same condition. Ask your pharmacist if you have that option then talk with your doctor to see if switching brands makes sense in your situation.

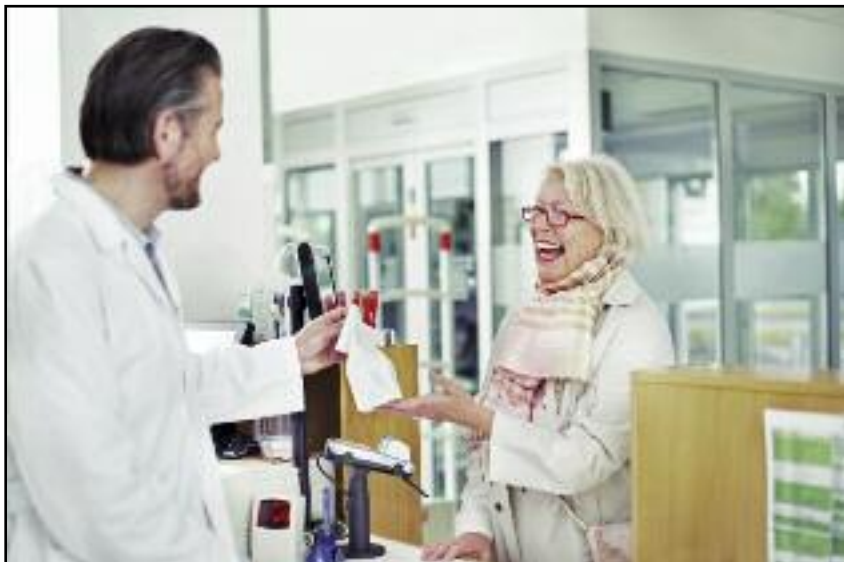
Verify whether your plan has a preferred pharmacy network. Many prescription drug plans have a preferred pharmacy (preferred cost share) network where you can pay a lower out-of-pocket copay for the exact same drug. Walgreens is in the preferred pharmacy network for many of the largest Medicare sponsors and, effective January 2017, offers copays as low as \$0 on generic medications for select plans. Filling a generic medication at a non-preferred pharmacy could cost you \$3, \$5 or even \$10 for

the same drug.

Seek Medicare's Extra Help program and other ways to save. Medicare offers an Extra Help program to help people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug program costs, like premiums, deductibles and coinsurance. Make sure you're taking full advantage of your insurance cov-

erage, which may cover non-prescription items, like vaccinations and certain over-the-counter medications.

Medicare beneficiaries seeking help navigating prescription drug costs can find additional resources and a list of Medicare plan sponsors at walgreens.com/medicare.



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SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How much will the COLA amount be for 2017 and when will I receive it?

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for over 65 million Americans will increase 0.3 percent in 2017. The Social Security Act ties the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The increase will begin with benefits that Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2017. Increased SSI payments will begin on December 30, 2016.

How do I apply for a new or replacement Social Security number card?

You can get an original Social Security card or a replacement card if



yours is lost or stolen. There is no charge for a Social Security card. This service is free.

You can use a *my Social Security* account to request a replacement Social Security card online if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen age 18 years or older with a U.S. mailing address;
- Are not requesting a name change or any other change to your card; and
- Have a valid driver's license or a

state-issued identification card from one of the states listed.

If you cannot apply for a card online, you will need to show the required documents. We need to see different documents depending on your citizenship and the type of card you are requesting. See *Learn What Documents You Need* to find out what documents you will have to show. Fill out and print an *Application for a Social Security Card*, and take or mail your application and documents to your local Social Security office.

How do I change or correct my name on my Social Security number card?

If you legally change your name because of marriage, divorce, court order or any other reason, you must tell Social Security so you can get a corrected card. You cannot apply for a card online. There is no charge for a Social Security card. This service is free.

To get a corrected Social Security card, you will need to:

- Show the required documents. You will need proof of your identity. Sometimes you also may need to prove your current U.S. citizenship or lawful noncitizen status. See *Learn What Documents You Need* for more information. Under the heading, "Type of Card," select "Corrected" for a list of the documents you need;

- Fill out and print an *Application for a Social Security Card*; and

- Take or mail your application and documents to your local Social Security office.

What happens if I work and get Social

Security retirement benefits?

You can get Social Security retirement benefits and work at the same time. However, if you are younger than full retirement age and make more than the yearly earnings limit, we will reduce your benefit. Starting with the month you reach full retirement age, we will not reduce your benefits no matter how much you earn.

- We use the following earnings limits to reduce your benefits: If you are under full retirement age for the entire year, we deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit.

For 2016 that limit is \$15,720.

- In the year you reach full retirement age, we deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, but we only count earnings before the month you reach your full retirement age.

If you will reach full retirement age in 2016, the limit on your earnings for the months before full retirement age is \$41,880.

Starting with the month you reach full retirement age, you can get your benefits with no limit on your earnings.

Use our *Retirement Age Calculator* to find your full retirement age based on your date of birth.

Use our *Retirement Earnings Test Calculator* to find out how much your benefits will be reduced.

What counts as earnings:

When we figure out how much to deduct from your benefits, we count only the wages you make from your job or your net earnings if you're self-employed. We include bonuses, commissions and vacation pay. We don't count pensions, annuities, investment income, interest, veterans or other gov-

ernment or military retirement benefits.

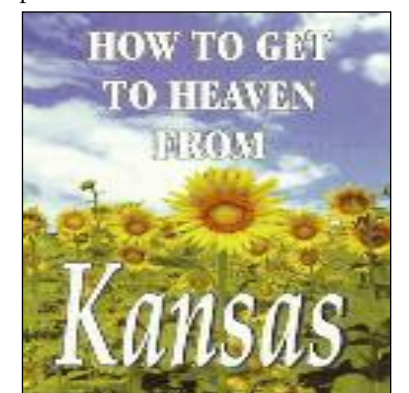
Your benefits may increase when you work:

As long as you continue to work, even if you are receiving benefits, you will continue to pay Social Security taxes on your earnings. However, we will check your record every year to see whether the additional earnings you had will increase your monthly benefit. If there is an increase, we will send you a letter telling you of your new benefit amount.

When you're ready to apply for retirement benefits, use our online retirement application, the quickest, easiest, and most convenient way to apply.

If you need to report a change in your earnings after you begin receiving benefits:

If you receive benefits and are under full retirement age and you think your earnings will be different than what you originally told us, let us know right away. Contact your local Social Security office (www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). In Topeka, it is at 600 SW Commerce Pl., Topeka, KS 66615. The local office phone number is 1-888-327-1271.



More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven and He gave these directions on getting there.

1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Sin brings both physical & spiritual death. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14).

2. Realize Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided a way for you to go to heaven and restore your relationship with God. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). Since Jesus, God's Son, was the only One who could pay for our sin, He is the only Way to Heaven.

3. Repent of your sin and receive Jesus as your Savior. In order to go to Heaven from KANSAS, or anywhere else, you must accept Christ by calling on Him in prayer. He tells us in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Use the following prayer, or one similar to it, to receive Him now:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you died and rose again for me. Please forgive me of my sin, become Lord of my life, and take me to heaven when I die. I am trusting you completely, and in nothing I can do. Thank you Jesus! Amen.

senior news/events briefs

HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - every second Saturday, at Christian Lord Ministries, 2421 SE California. Call 266-4979.

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS - Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. For Info: 286-1370.

MEDICARE MONDAYS - First Monday of every month, 1-3pm. Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (Menninger Room 206), 1515 SW 10th. Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nhonl@tscpl.org

LIFEFEST - First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Notice: Seniors ministering to seniors - celebrating with fellowship, fun, food, learning & entertainment. Potluck lunch at noon. If transportation is needed, call 354-4994 or 478-1729

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or office@rhcc.topeka.org

SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4:00 at First United Methodist, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side and use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left and walk the ramp to the library, then left to the elevator. Push [B] to go to the fellowship hall

SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Parking & entrance for walkers is on the WEST side. Walking is done on an inside track. People who would like to walk a shelter dog must have completed an animal handling class that is given periodically at HHHS—for arrangements call Kelsey Scrinopskie, 233-7325.

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sports

NBA's Jeff Green: 'God Took Care of Me'

by **CHRISTINE THOMASOS**

Five years after putting his NBA career on hold to undergo an open heart surgery stemming from an aortic aneurysm, Jeff Green is counting his blessings and glorifying God for the opportunity to play professional basketball once again.

After a routine physical examination in 2011, it was discovered that the then power forward for the Boston Celtics was dealing with a serious condition. Although he returned to play in 2012, Green was traded to the Memphis Grizzlies and Los Angeles Clippers before finding a home with his current team, the Orlando Magic.

Instead of complaining about his constant movement around the league, the 30-year-old insists he is blessed to be playing five years after undergoing a serious heart operation.

"It's been five years and it's totally a blessing," said Green in an NBA.com report. "To be able to sit here and say that, to still be here in the NBA after heart surgery, it's a real blessing.

Green insists God had a hand in his health after his heart had to be stopped for



over an hour to perform the surgery.

"After the surgery, the doctors told me that the tissue (around the heart) had started to tear a little bit. So it was great timing and God took care of me," he said. "With what I've gone through, that's why I try to not let a lot of stuff stress me out."

While Green has a positive mindset about it all now and spends time working with the American Heart Association, he admits that the experience was not an easy one for him to endure.

"The hardest part was four days after the surgery – my heart rate was very high, I was choking, I couldn't cough, and I started crying. And it was seeing the way my chest looked, definitely deformed," he said

people from degradation, poverty and waste to full manhood."

George W. Carver responded to Booker T. Washington: "My dear Sir, I am just in receipt of yours of the 13th inst., and hasten to reply. I am looking forward to a very busy, pleasant and profitable time at your college and shall be glad to cooperate with you in doing all I can through Christ who strengtheneth me to better the condition of our people. Some months ago I read your stirring address delivered at Chicago and I said amen to all you said, furthermore you have the correct solution to the 'race problem.'"

"Human need is really a great spiritual vacuum which God seeks to fill ... With one hand in the hand of a fellow man in need and the other in the hand of Christ, He could get across the vacuum."

— **GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER**

duced very poorly.

During this time, an insect called the boll weevil swept through the South, destroying cotton crops and leaving farmers devastated. George showed the farmers the benefits of crop rotation and planting legumes, such as peanuts, which replenish the soil with nitrogen.

Farmers heeded Carver's advice but soon had more peanuts than the market wanted, as peanuts were primarily used as

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by **Rob Mooney**

When I first heard the news, it had popped up on my news feed when I logged into my account. Of course, with the way rumors are spread nowadays, I thought it was a cruel joke. I checked out a couple of sites on the internet and found nothing to give this so-called scam credibility. Then, I started receiving notifications on my phone. First, it was Sports Illustrated. Then CBS Sports. ESPN followed. Finally, The Kansas City Royals had announced that their star pitcher, Yordano Ventura, had, in fact, died in an automobile accident in the Dominican Republic.

How do you react when you hear something like this? I felt bad for his family and friends and I felt bad for baseball. What a tragedy to lose someone so young who was just about to recognize his ability in a sport that is very difficult to play.

Sure, he was cocky when he was on the

mound. But that's why he was loved in Kansas City. He was brash and confident. He was aggressive and he didn't back down. Just like the team that he played for. He gave it all he had every time he stepped on the field. He was fun to watch and he was one of the leaders of the pitching staff. He was on the cusp of figuring it out, he was on the cusp of greatness.

Forget the game of baseball for a minute. This tragedy reminds me of how precious life is. It's a reminder of how none of us are guaranteed anything and life can slip away in an instance. I just hope that Ventura knew Jesus Christ and that he had put his trust in him before he died.

Five years later, the basketball star refuses to take his career for granted.

"I understand what a blessing it is to play this game, knowing the circumstances that I had to go through. A lot of us take the game for granted, but that's not the case for me," he said. "I'm truly humbled by the game and when I say it, I mean it. I'm very blessed to still be able to put on this NBA uniform and do something that I love."

Even though he has a large scar that extends from his chest to his sternum,

You see, God is not a respecter of persons. It doesn't matter that he was a professional baseball player any more than I'm a part time writer. We all have an appointment to stand before our Lord and it's not enough to know who Jesus is, but rather what we did with Jesus while we're here is what really matters.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." That means there is no other way into heaven except by accepting Jesus



Christ. Believing, repenting of your sins and asking Jesus into your heart is the only way!

On a more personal note, my grandfather passed away in January and I am rejoicing in the fact that he was saved and I know that he resides in heaven at this very moment. He led me to Christ when I was fourteen and I look forward to seeing him again someday, because I know that I'm saved. How about you?

Green insists that it reminds him of how blessed he is.

"Every morning waking up and every night going to bed, I look at my scar. And I tell the Lord, 'Thank you for the blessing that He's given me to keep living, to keep playing, just to continue to breathe every-day,'" Green told NBA Player's Association. "I'm very fortunate and thankful everyday to the man up above. Because without Him, and my friends and family, I wouldn't be here."

Green insists that it reminds him of how blessed he is.

CARVER

continued from page 1

cook, clean, sew, mend and wash laundry, skills that he would later use to support himself. His recreation was to spend time in the woods.

He left home at eleven and attended school in Neosho, Mo., paying his own tuition by doing odd jobs. George Carver drifted from Kansas to Iowa, working as a cook and doing laundry. He studied at Simpson College, then received a bachelor's and master's degree from Iowa State, where he was hired as a teacher.

In the spring of 1896, Booker T. Washington invited George Washington Carver to teach at Tuskegee, as he had just received his master's degree from Iowa State Agricultural Institute: "Tuskegee Institute seeks to provide education – a means for survival to those who attend. Our students are poor, often starving. They travel miles of torn roads, across years of poverty. We teach them to read and write, but words cannot fill stomachs. They need to learn how to plant and harvest crops. ... I cannot offer you money, position or fame. The first two you have. The last, from the place you now occupy, you will no doubt achieve. These things I now ask you to give up. I offer you in their place – work – hard, hard work – the challenge of bringing

animal feed. George determined to find more uses for the peanut to increase the market for them. Carver is credited with discovering and/or popularizing hundreds of uses for the peanut, soybean, sweet potato, pecan, cowpea, wild plum, and okra revolutionizing the South's economy.

A partial list of items derived from peanuts was compiled by the Carver Museum at Tuskegee:

- Peanut butter, salted peanuts, peanut flour, peanut flakes, peanut meal, cream from peanut milk, butter from peanut milk, egg yolk, breakfast food, bisque powder, cheese, cream cheese, cheese pimento, cheese sandwich, cheese tutti frutti, cocoa, crystallized peanuts, curds, granulated potatoes, potato nibs, golden nuts, mock coconut, pancake flour, peanut hearts, peanut surprise, peanut wafers, pickle, sweet pickle, shredded peanuts, substitute asparagus, dry coffee, instant coffee, 32 different kinds of milk, dehydrated milk flakes, buttermilk.

In the summer of 1920, Carver spoke to the Young Men's Christian Association of Blue Ridge, North Carolina: "Years ago I went into my laboratory and said, 'Dear Mr. Creator, please tell me what the universe was made for?' The Great Creator answered, 'You want to know too much for that little mind of yours. Ask for something more your size, little man.' Then I asked, 'Please, Mr. Creator, tell me what man was made for.' Again the Great Creator replied, 'You are still asking too much. Cut down on the extent and improve the intent.' So then I asked, 'Please, Mr. Creator, will you tell me why the peanut was made?' 'That's better, but even then it's infinite. What do you want

to know about the peanut?' 'Mr. Creator, can I make milk out of the peanut?' 'What kind of milk do you want? Good Jersey milk or just plain boarding house milk?' 'Good Jersey milk.' And then the Great Creator taught me to take the peanut apart and put it together again. And out of the process have come forth all these products!"

On Nov. 19, 1924, Carver spoke to over 500 people at the Women's Board of Domestic Missions: "God is going to



which God seeks to fill ... With one hand in the hand of a fellow man in need and the other in the hand of Christ, He could get across the vacuum. ... Then the passage, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me,' came to have real meaning."

Though from a disadvantaged background, George did not let this pull him down into harboring self-pity and bitterness, or yielding to a hateful victimhood mentality.

On March 1, 1927, George W. Carver wrote to Jack Boyd, a YMCA official in Denver, Colorado: "My beloved friend, keep your hand in that of the Master, walk daily by His side, so that you may lead others into the realms of true happiness, where a religion of hate, (which poisons both body and soul) will be unknown, having in its place the 'Golden Rule' way, which is the 'Jesus Way' of life, will reign supreme. ... Then, we can walk and talk with Jesus momentarily, because we will be attuned to His will and wishes. ... God, my beloved friend is infinite the highest embodiment of love. We are finite, surrounded and often filled with hate. We can only understand the infinite as we loose the finite and take on the infinite."

On July 10, 1924, George Washington Carver wrote to James Hardwick: "God cannot use you as He wishes until you come into the fullness of His Glory. Do not get alarmed, my friend, when doubts creep in. That is old Satan. Pray, pray, pray. Oh, my friend, I am praying that God will come in and rid you entirely of self so you can go out after souls right, or rather have souls seek the Christ in you. This is my prayer for you always."

— *by AmericanMinute.com.*



Save Time with a Dream Closet

(Family Features)

If you're one of the 57 percent of women who believes having an organized closet would make finding what you want easier and faster, there's no time like the present to stop dreaming about having a beautiful and organized closet. Take charge and start the project now.

Having a disorganized closet is a problem for at least one in four women, according to a recent ClosetMaid survey. Some women (1 in 10) are even depressed when they open their closet doors. What's more, some research suggests the average American wastes as much as 55 minutes a day (roughly 12 days a year) searching for things they can't find.

Introducing some organization is a simple way to alleviate these worries. Whether you reside in an apartment in the city or a home in



the suburbs, your best starting point is to create a plan of attack. Professional organizer Barbara Reich of Resourceful Consultants offers these tips for getting started:

Assess your needs. Ask questions like: Do you have a walk-in

closet or a reach-in? Need to create one within a room? Do you prefer more shelves over hanging space? Is shoe storage important? Do you prefer a flexible system, like wire, that can adapt to your changing needs or do you prefer something with a designer look? Are you a DIYer or do you require professional assistance?

Define your taste and style. Do you prefer modern or traditional? Or are you more eclectic?

Identify the product that works



best for your needs and your budget. One option to consider is ClosetMaid SpaceCreations, a designer-inspired, DIY-acquired option that provides customizable storage inside and outside of closets. Available in Classic White or Premier Dark Java, it's easy to install and is extremely versatile with different accessories and options like shoe shelves, drawers and acrylic dividers to provide a completely personalized look. As an added bonus, this storage option can be adapted for a nursery, mudroom or pantry. A handy online design tool or a complimentary professional designer can assist you with the layout and design.

Let the organizing fun begin. Before you restock your new closet, scrutinize your wardrobe and accessories, and get rid of items you won't ever wear or use again. Once you've got everything neatly in place, enjoy your new-

found organization, but be vigilant about keeping your closet in order. Dedicate 15 minutes each week to keep it looking as good as new.

Find more creative closet solutions at ClosetMaid.com.



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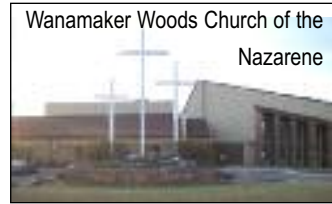
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785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org
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- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka
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www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
286-1204
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- 5. FAIRLAWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**
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- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
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- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**
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- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**
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- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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- 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**
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- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**
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Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavelly 760-3513
- 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**
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Shawn O'Trimble, Pastor
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Children's worship time 10:30am
Hear us on WREN Radio Sun. 10-11am
Like us on Facebook!
All are welcome - Come and see us!
- 16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH**
A Spirit-filled, Word-centered church
2531 SE Wittenberg Rd., Topeka
Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm
Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm
785-266-LOVE (5683)
J. Michael Borjon, Pastor

- 17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933.
Sunday Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm
AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.
See our website for info on our
Student Ministries & Kid City
www.esbcks.org
- 18. CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Voted 2015 Best Church in Topeka!
5973 SW 25th St.
Topeka, KS 66614 • 273-0710
Reconciliation: Sat 3-4pm
Weekend Masses: Sat 4:30pm
Sunday 7:30, 9, 11am, 6pm
www.cktopeka.org
Fr. Mitchel Zimmerman, Pastor
Fr. Jaime Zarse, Associate Pastor
- 19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS
354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm
- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
1937 NE Madison St,
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594
Pastor Dale Stockburger
Sunday Worship: 10 am and 6pm
Junior Church for kids: Sun 10am
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm
- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**
Meets at 522 SW Polk
785-220-5418
Pastor Rey Rodriguez
Sun. Worship 10 am
www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com
- 22. NEW CITY LIFE CHURCH**
5221 SW West Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66606
Sunday Services - 10:00 am
Pastor Kathy Crofford
- 23. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** 785-379-5642
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM
Jars of Clay Children's Center now open
Taking registrations: 785-379-9098
2930 SE Tecumseh Road
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542

classified

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Email your ads to Voice@cox.net. Payment in advance required: \$12 for the first 25 words; 25 cents for each add'l word. (classified ads also go immediately online)

ELDER CARE – seeking dependable, experienced caregiver/housekeeper to be part of a 24-hour home care team for a 102-year-old lady. Full or part-time. Call Sharon at 785-231-4445

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION'S CHILDREN'S PALACE – needs qualified ministry staff to minister to homeless children and their families. Must be ministry-minded with a strong passion for Jesus and children, and have previous experience working in the field of early childhood education. For a list of positions & qualifications needed, visit trmonline.org. Resumes and/or inquires can be sent to jhosman@trmonline.org

or directed to 785-730-8802.

HOUSE FOR SALE – Owner occupant of 57 yrs selling well-maintained & neat 2 (potentially 3) bdrm, 1 ba for \$63,500. Full bsmt & floored attic add much space, along w/detached garage on deep 2-lot grass property. Move in ready w/many upgrades. 2240 SE Maryland Ave in Highland Park, Topeka, KS (785)832-9289

WANTED: EMPORIA DELIVERY PERSON – Metro Voice needs someone to take 2 bundles of papers to Emporia each month. If you're going that way, we'll give you \$20 for gas and your trouble. Baldwin City and Ottawa also possible.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS - Caring Pregnancy Options has openings for volunteers. Call 785-249-6130 for info or stop by 2041 SW McAlister

Ave, Mon - Thur 10-5. Ask for Kathy Hart.

WANTED: VOLUNTEER WRITERS - Metro Voice needs volunteer writers or interns who can serve as area correspondents for church and community news around the metro area. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net. Some perks.

WANTED: DELIVERY PERSON - Metro Voice needs someone to help distribute papers to churches and other locations in Topeka for gas money and some other perks involved. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net.

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH SERVICES - Free space available for a small or growing church to use for services on Sunday mornings, with other small rooms available for breakouts or small groups. For info call Will at 430-1657.

TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH
1101 SW Mulvane, Topeka, KS 66604
1135 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS 66604
234-5545 www.discovertbc.com

First Service: 8:00 - 9:10am
Second Service & Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:40am
Third Service & Sunday School: 11am - 12:10pm
Senior Pastor: Jim Congdon

NOW HIRING

Focus Workforces is currently seeking to interview candidates for warehouse positions in Topeka, KS.

Shifts: 1st / 2nd / 3rd
Pay = up to \$9.00/hr.

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Apply online at www.workatfocus.com, or call 785-228-1555.

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Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net

Welcome...

TO NORTH TOPEKA!

North 75 Barbershop  **Ron & Lacy**
 Tue-Fri 8-5:30
 Sat 8-1
 1904 N Central Avenue 233-4281



CREATIONS OF HOPE GALLERY TO RE-OPEN IN NEW LOCATION

The Creations of Hope Gallery will celebrate the grand opening of the new gallery space at 909 N. Kansas Avenue on Friday Feb. 3rd with a ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m. The evening will include live music by Top City Bluegrass.

bringing people to the area in record numbers. Besides the Art Walk in NOTO, other North Topeka businesses have begun joining in and coordinating complementary events. Many are making plans to make 2017 better than ever in NOTO and the entire North Topeka area.

The mission of the Creations of Hope Gallery is to raise awareness of mental health by celebrating art as a voice of resilience and hope. The Creations of Hope Gallery is sponsored by the Expressive Therapy program at Valeo Behavioral Health Care and welcomes all artists who would like to contribute to our mission.

Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down the Avenue.

The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have also become favorite art walk destinations.

It's timed to co-incide with First Friday, which is quite the celebration in North Topeka these days,

Here are a few more scheduled events in the North Topeka area:

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY MURDER MYSTERY – Feb. 12, 5:30-9pm. North Star Steakhouse. Show and three course meal \$40. For info and reservations: 354-8880

THE WRIGHTS – Feb. 12, 6pm, Family of God, 1231 NW Eugene. For information call 785-289-8905 or visit thewrightsministries.com


WOMENS RETREAT: SWEET LIFE CAFE – Feb. 25, 9-4:30, Northland Christian Church. Get away from the busyness of life, relax, share laughter and spend time with God. Lunch served. Cost \$20. Register at northland.cc or 286-1204.

COMMUNITY HARVEY HOUSE LUNCHEON & TOUR - Mar. 9, Great Overland Station. For info: 785-232-5533 or greatoverlandstation.com

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB – Meets every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. For info: Gary, 246-1291.

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785286-060 or office@rhctoepka.or

THE PAD RESTAURANT  
 Every Monday, 3 pm - closing:
35% OFF Burgers!
 234-3596
 1730 N. Topeka Blvd.

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"Faith with its sleeves Rolled Up"
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 Non-cash Donations: 785-357-4285
 Volunteers, Tours: 785-354-1744 ext. 393
 Finances: 785-354-1744 ext. 316
 Policies, Speakers: 785-354-1744 ext. 315
 Thrift Store (1312 N. Kansas): 785-235-9094
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 Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Sunday Service 10:45 AM
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM
All are welcome, casual dress ok!

NOTO

 NORTH TOPEKA ARTS DISTRICT
 NOTO Community Arts Center
 935 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS
 Register for classes at notoartsdistrict.com
 For information: 785.608.6738 or email
 NOTOartscenter@gmail.com

Free to the public!

Parade starts at 10:00!

FAMILY FUN FEST + easter parade

Police vehicles • K9 units
Firetrucks • Antique vehicles

Food Trucks will
be there!



**Sat., Apr. 15,
10 am - 3 pm, N. Kansas
Avenue & Garfield Park**

Fun Fair open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Garfield Park! Bands at Garfield Park 11:00 am - 3:00 pm!

Parade starts at 10:00 am! (From NOTO to Garfield Park) • Food Trucks located near Garfield Shelter!

Easter Egg Hunt following parade at Garfield Park playground! • Vendor Market open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm!

Dance troupes, martial arts, gymnastics & more! Craft stations, Facepainting, Easter Photos, Games & more!



For booth and parade entry information:
info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

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Topeka Easter Parade & Family Fun Fair

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