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## Area pastors say students take interest in Christmas

By Laurie Moses

Christmas comes but once a year and thoughts of winter break go with it. But what do students think of the religious holiday called Christmas?

Pastors at churches on and near the UNL campus said that many students take an active interest in religious Christmas activities.

"We have a very wholesome attitude towards Christmas. The students are very creative," said Gale Baldrige, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, 1340 K St.

"Christmas is one of the highest celebrations of the year," said Dan Gangler, Associate Minister at St. Paul United Methodist, 1144 M St. "It is a family oriented holiday. We try to involve the family in our church."

"It is meaningful to a lot of people, students turn out for many things," Father Don Hanway, St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal. "It's not to say that commercialism hasn't affected them though."

The students are involved here as we have programs for many different things,"

Baldrige said. "We have good interest overall by the students."

The holiday is treated as both a religious time and also a chance to take a break between semesters, Gangler said. Time can be set aside for both he said.

"The college holiday schedule precludes a lot of things which would go on. With finals coming up, a lot of students aren't thinking about Christmas yet," Hanway said.

Even with finals and the rush of last-minute activities, students still seem to have some time for Christmas celebrations.

"There is good interest overall for Christmas activities," Baldrige said. "They haven't forsaken Christmas."

Baldrige said student's attitudes toward the holiday season also depend on their family background.

Many of the churches are planning upcoming Christmas activities.

St. Marks will decorate a Christmas tree on Dec. 19 and will hold its traditional Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m.

St. Paul United Methodist will have a choir presentation tomorrow and will hold two Christmas Eve services.

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## Holiday cuisine . . .

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Nette Nelson, chairman of the Government Liaison Committee, said her family really enjoys food and cooking.

"My mom was informally known as the 'Julia Child of Portland' in Oregon, especially for her crown roasts," Nelson said. Daughter Meri Blaylock, also a UNL student, won the 1981 and 1982 Nebraska State Fair sweepstakes award for cookies, and a special Archway Homestyle Cookie Award, Nelson said.

Nelson said one of her favorite dishes is Terrific Tuna.

### TERRIFIC TUNA

- 1 6-1/2 oz. can chunk tuna, drained
- 1 lg. raw carrot, finely shredded
- 2 med. dill pickles, shredded
- 1 sm. sweet pickle, shredded (optional)
- 1 T. finely chopped celery
- 1 T. finely chopped onion
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 1/4 c. mayonnaise

Mix ingredients well, adding mayonnaise as necessary to hold the mixture together. Terrific Tuna makes a great sandwich spread. With addition (if desired) of 1/2 c. canned peas and 1/2 c. sliced waterchestnuts, it makes

a delicious fresh tomato stuffing, or a green salad topping. And, it is a delicious party snack, either as a cracker spread or as stuffing for fresh mushroom caps or cherry tomatoes.

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Dave Hoppen, starting center on the UNL varsity basketball team, likes Coconut Meringue Pie, his mother Marge Hoppen said.

### COCONUT MERINGUE PIE

- 2/3 c. sugar
- 3 T. cornstarch
- 1/2 t. salt
- 3 c. milk
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 T. butter
- 1 1/2 t. vanilla
- 3/4 c. coconut

Mix sugar, cornstarch and salt in saucepan. Gradually stir in 3 cups milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mix thickens and boils. Boil for one minute, then remove from heat. Gradually stir at least half of the hot mixture into 3 slightly beaten egg yolks. Blend into hot mixture in saucepan. Boil for one minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, blend in butter, vanilla and coconut. Pour into a pie shell and top with meringue.

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