

# New Beginnings

Then the crowd asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"  
Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."  
John 6:28-29 N.I.V.

Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish

February 2017



## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen  
pastormel1@hotmail.com  
cell: 1-815-922-9161

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"  
"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

- John 20:11-16 (N.I.V.)

Do you recall the look on the mean old Mr. Grinch's face when he realized he hadn't stopped Christmas from coming? There was such an evil, gleeful look about him as he went around under the cover of dark doing his anti-Christmas business. Then the Who's awoke to begin their Christmas morning with singing. The Grinch couldn't believe he hadn't stopped Christmas, "*It came without ribbons, it came without tags, it came without packages, boxes or bags, somehow or other it came all the same.*"

That's right my friends, 'somehow' or other Christmas comes every year despite our plans or preparations, even by some who attempt to stop it. Some believe they can stop God's plans. The Lord often allows us to think we have complete control in our plan making, because some of us can only learn by suffering personal or professional losses. However, God is good all the time and never leaves us lost and alone.

A group or individual attempted to play the part of the Grinch this Christmas around Bonfield. Sometime

prior to the Christmas Eve Services at Bonfield First Church thieves made off with Baby Jesus from the Nativity scene in front of the church. Not stopping there, they also took Baby Jesus from the Nativity scene in front of the Bonfield Evangelical Church. Other nativity figures were taken as well.

Long after Christmas Mary was distraught upon not finding Jesus at the tomb and wanted to know where He had been taken so she could go get Him. The words Jesus spoke before His death had not yet fully blossomed in her heart or in the hearts of the disciples, their sadness and shock was understandable. What is missing from our church's is nothing more than a plastic remembrance of Jesus. Stealing has become so common that nobody is shocked, but maybe a little saddened that it happened to a church.

Just like the Grinch discovered how much more there is to Christmas than earthly trappings, I pray now for those thieves who tried to dampen our Christmas. I pray they know they also did not stop Christmas from coming. I pray they come to know that you do not need to steal Jesus, His love and grace are free. I pray they know that they are forgiven of their sin of theft, if they ask, due to that free grace.

'Somehow' or other Christmas came all the same. Sure, like Mary, we would like to know where our Lord has been taken, but if those who took Him decide to never return Him, we will purchase replacements.

The offer I made on our parish website stands, if those who took the Nativity characters will leave them at either church, no questions will be asked. No police report has been filed, none will be. One parishioner said, "*If they need Jesus that bad, let them keep Him.*" The plastic Jesus was ours, the real Jesus is for everyone who calls upon His name.

My prayer is that those who took Him don't continue to steal. Not only is it a sin, but it can be a rough road to live. Thieves more often than not get caught by the authorities, because they eventually steal something that someone wants bad enough they will come looking. I wouldn't want you to live with guilt

**PLEASE SEE "PASTOR" ON PAGE 9**

## Sunshine Circle Report

Members of the Sunshine Circle spent a wonderful evening at the home of Donna Diefenbach on Thurs., Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. Ten members and three guests enjoyed a delicious meal by the hostess, Donna and her husband, Jim.

Following the dinner, Donna gave devotion on the meaning of Christmas. Helping her were, Debbie Nielsen and Rita Overacker.

Business meeting followed and President Jan Green thanked everyone who helped her in the past two years as she served the group as president. Two poinsettia's were purchased and will be given to two shut-ins. A sign-up sheet was passed around for 2017 hostesses. Mystery pals were drawn for the new year. Ladies brought ten health kits which will be delivered to the Gift of God Street Church.

A special meeting will be held on March 16 at the Evangelical Church's new Upper Room at 7 p.m. Invited to this meeting will be the Martha Circle and Evangelical United Methodist Women. Pastor Mel will the program on poverty. Meeting adjourned.

Everyone wore an ugly sweater. Two judges picked the 'ugliest' Christmas sweater; the winner was Pastor Mel. What a fun evening the ladies had. A Christmas Scattergories was played and each winner was awarded with a prize. Mystery pals were revealed and desserts were served. No meetings in Jan., 2017. Feb., 2017 hostesses are Lorraine Wildman and Carol Buenete.

<b>Dec. 2016 Attendance</b>				
	<u>12/4</u>	<u>12/11</u>	<u>12/18</u>	<u>12/25</u>
Evangelical	46	38	26	39
First	18	15	16	15
Grand Prairie	28	31	27	31
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>85</b>

Please don't forget that when church is canceled due to bad weather the bills still come due. Faithful giving is needed every Sunday to help your church maintain it's ministry and mission.

## Financial Donations Needed For These High Priority Items

Both Little Grassy and East Bay Camps have subsisted for a number of years with very old and often obsolete vehicles and equipment that burden the camping ministry with added labor, cost and frustration. Donations to CRM Program and Improvement accounts will enable the camps to address needs such as those listed below, as well as other needs.

### EAST BAY

- 3-Door Commercial Refrigerator
- 15-Passenger Van
- Equipment Trailer
- Gators or Rangers

### LITTLE GRASSY

- New Mattresses
- Deep Freeze
- Commercial Vacuum Cleaners
- ZTR Riding Lawn Mower in Good Condition

### Advance Special Giving to Camp Program and Improvement

- East Bay - #6840
- Little Grassy - #6820
- Camp Scholarships - #6910

## Thank You

For all the prayers, cards and words of comfort given to our family. We are so grateful to all of you for your thoughtfulness during this difficult time. We will miss our brave, beautiful sister, Sondra. It's hard to understand why people are taken from us but we are lucky to have our memories. So, thank you again for all your support, we so deeply appreciate all of you.

God Bless  
Kaern Batdorf and Jean Dunn

## ***Fellowship Breakfast***

The next Fellowship Breakfast has been scheduled for Tue., Feb. 7, 2017, 8:30 at IHOP in Bourbonnais. Come enjoy a great breakfast and even better fellowship with other church members and friends. This is a good way to get to know other people who worship God in the Bonfield area. You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is invited to attend.

## ***Firefighter's Breakfast***

The next Salina Twp. Firefighter's will be held Sun., Feb. 5, 2017, 8 a.m. until Noon. Come and visit with your neighbors, get a great breakfast and help support the local fire station. The firefighters may be volunteer but the bills they need to pay are mandatory, so the whole community needs to help support their local fire fighters by attending this great community

## **Time For Church**



### **Bonfield Evangelical**

348 Smith Street, Bonfield

8:00 a.m. Sunday Services

9:15 Adult and Youth Sunday School

### **Grand Prairie**

Rt. 17 Bonfield

9:15 a.m Sunday Services

8:00 a.m Adult and Youth Sunday School

### **Bonfield First**

172 Church Street

10:30 a.m. Sunday Services

9:15 Adult and Youth Sunday School

## ***Upcoming Worship Schedule***

*The following is a tentative schedule for  
February 2017 worship.*

**(Readings & message may change without notice.)**

### **February 5**

5th Sunday after Epiphany

“We have the mind of Christ”

Altar Color - White

OT: None

NT: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

### **February 12**

6th Sunday after Epiphany

“Spiritual Milk”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: None

NT: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-30

### **February 19**

7th Sunday after Epiphany

“Is it raining in your life?”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: None

NT: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 & 16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

### **February 26**

Transfiguration Sunday

“I’ll Believe it when I see it”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: None

NT: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

### **March 5**

1st Sunday in Lent

“Who is Jesus?”

Altar Color - Purple

OT: None

NT: None

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-16



## There is POWER in PRAYER

Pastor Mel invites you to join in praying  
for the following names and causes.

### **Friends and Family Close to Home**

#### Nursing Home:

Heritage Village:.....Vi Morse

Manteno Veterans:.....Bob Grob, Byron Warren

#### Assisted Living:

Butterfield:....Bernice Schultz, Mel Brinkman family

Harvest View:.....Warren Cochran, Roscella Piper,  
Randy Riegel, Betty Wenzelman

River North.....Ruth Ohrt

Westwood Oaks:.....Fostine Schwark, Don Mau

At Home:.....Jan May, Jackie Wagner

### **From Our Church Bulletin**

Kurt Beghouse, Kurt Boesen, Shirley Brunner, Dennis  
Bushman, Joann Coffman, Tyler Coffman, Jean Dunn,  
Dennis Hertz, Butch Lambert, Janice Logsdon, Allen  
Messer, Sheila Neuby, Merle Penrod, Rob Reiniche,  
Randy Riegel, Richard Wildman, Pam Wilking, James  
Vilt., Sr.

### **Compassion International Kids**

Latif Korogo.....Burkina Faso

Maria Clara Maciel Da Silva "Clara".....Brazil

Dayava Sanchez.....Columbia

Witney Juarez.....Guatemala

Shan Toppo.....India

Junior Okwii Barasa .....Kenya

Genesi Marisol Martinez Vasquez.....Honduras

Samuel Juda Lopez Miranda.....Mexico

Mohini Ahirwar.....India

Cinthia Yolany Carranza Aguila.....Honduras

Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh

Yeferson David Ortiz Cortez.....Colombia

Nevada Eric.....Rwanda

Anielka Carolina Garcia Roque.....Nicaragua

Schekinah Jean Louis.....Haiti

Salome Vicente Melo.....Mexico

Benjamin Sewu.....Ghana

Lucky Hubiagbe.....Ghana

Rebeca Callapa.....Bolivia

### **Other requests**

Bishop Frank Beard, D.S. Leah Pogemiller, Nueva  
Jerusalem, Inner City Violence, State Budget,  
President Trump and his new cabinet, First  
Responders, Missionaries, Military.

## *Book Club Schedule*

The first book club was a success. The group read the book "Slender Reeds" by Texie Susan Gregory. This was a story surrounding the life of Jochebed, the mother of Moses. It was very thought provoking and they enjoyed a wonderful discussion and good fellowship.

The next meeting will be Tues, Mar. 21, 6:30 pm at the parsonage. The book they will be discussing is "Redeeming Love" by Francine Rivers. It is a historical romance novel set in the 1850s Gold Rush in California. The story is inspired by the Book of Hosea. Its central theme is the redeeming love of God towards sinners.

The Book Club will be meeting every other month so you will have plenty of time to read the books. Please let Debbie Nielsen or Tricia Coffman know if you would like us to get you a copy of the book, or you can obtain it in your own if you prefer. They would love to you join us! Happy Reading!!

## *First Church UMW Report*

Although the threat of dangerous weather postponed the UMW's annual Christmas Potluck in December, the Christmas spirit was very much present Jan. 8 at the rescheduled dinner. Many appetizing entrees, scrumptious side dishes, and delicious desserts completed the buffet. NO ONE left hungry!

A short program that focused on random acts of kindness during the holiday season was shared by Dianne Wells. Pastor Mel and Debbie treated the group to a couple very entertaining games that had those in attendance laughing heartily. Quite simply, the enjoyable evening was one of great food, friends, and fun!

First UMW resumes meeting in March at 7:00 at the church. All women members of the church and any friends of the church are invited to join the group the third Thursday of the month (not August) at the church. Call Jill @ 815.351.5455 for details regarding our mission-oriented group.

"The irony is that while God doesn't need us but still wants us, we desperately need God but don't really want Him most of the time."

Francis Chan

## *Bible Quiz*

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.

See answer below

## *February Memory Verse*

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my  
right hand, I will not be shaken.  
Psalm 16:8

## + *Christian Symbols* +



### Aureole

From the Latin for “gold,” an aureole is a golden image symbolizing divinity and supreme power. It’s used sometimes in medieval art to surround Mary and the Christ Child, or Jesus alone. The elongated or almond-shaped form of an aureole is called a mandorla.

## *Quote Of The Month*

“Love is taking a few steps backward, maybe even  
more ... to give way to the happiness  
of the person you love.”  
—A.A. Milne

“We cannot pray in love and live in hate and still think  
we are worshiping God.”  
—A.W. Tozer

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching  
down and lifting people up.”  
—John Holmes

“Patience with others is love, patience with self is hope,  
patience with God is faith.”  
—Adel Bestavros

Answer: A (See Judges 3:12-26.)

## Lemon-Rosemary Chicken with Roasted Broccolini

reprinted from [countryliving.com](http://countryliving.com)

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 1/2 tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 large garlic clove, chopped
- 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lemon, cut into thin slices, divided
- 4 small bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts  
(about 2 1/2 lbs. total)
- 2 bunches Broccolini (about 1 lb.)
- 1 red onion, cut into 1/2” wedges
- 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper, plus more  
for serving

### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1.) Preheat oven to 425 degrees F.
- 2.) Combine parsley, rosemary, garlic, Dijon, and 1 tablespoon oil in a bowl. Season with salt and black pepper. Place 8 lemon slices and half of rosemary mixture underneath skin of chicken, dividing evenly. Rub remaining rosemary mixture over chicken, dividing evenly. Roast, on a rimmed baking sheet, 20 to 22 minutes.
- 3.) Meanwhile, toss Broccolini, onion, red pepper, remaining lemon slices, and remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a bowl. Season with salt and black pepper. Remove baking sheet from oven and arrange vegetables around chicken. Bake until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest portion of the chicken reaches 165 degrees F, 12 to 14 minutes.
- 4.) Serve with red pepper for sprinkling.

Makes: 4 servings

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 55 minutes

**PER SERVING:** protein: 30 g; fat: 14 g;  
carbohydrate: 12 g; fiber: 4 g; sodium: 173  
mg; cholesterol: 73 mg; calories: 289.

## *February Birthdays*

February 1.....Mark Osenga  
Nicole Swaite  
Rhonda (Orwig) Smith  
Elizabeth (Buente-Larson) Bergunder  
Randy Riegel

February 2.....Brianna Dayton  
Robyn Howard  
Leslie Diefenbach  
Fostine (Milton-Dahn) Schwark  
Lindsay VanVoorst

February 3.....Haley Ireland  
Caitlyn Diefenbach

February 4.....Rev. Andrew Noxon  
Lauren Meyer  
Austin Schwark

February 5.....Lara Evans

February 6.....Alice (Bradley) Lambert

February 7.....Brian Heath  
Todd Hertz  
Drew Emmerson Wenzelman  
Alyssa (VanVoorst-Miller) Durbin

February 8.....Jonathan Wood  
Gina (Bolatto) Phillips  
David Hansen  
Marcia (Meyer) Svenkson  
Ronda (Foltz) Davis  
Marion (Diefenbach) Panozzo  
Alex Charles Higginbothan

February 9.....Dennis Duchene  
Esther (Walter) Marcotte  
Dennis Schwark  
Lucas Wood

February 10.....Tyler St. Germaine  
Brad Williamson  
Catherine Schwark  
Raleigh Turro

February 12.....Donna Voigt  
Jeffrey Hertz  
Kaleena Vaughn

February 13.....Ronald Cordes  
Linda (Rieke) Willibey  
Christopher Sikes  
Carolyn Brinkman  
Dayle Seitz

February 14.....Brandon Bauer  
Joy (Fecke) Ruckman  
Pam (Bennett) Wood

Chelsea Kingsland  
Charles Brinkman

February 15.....Albert Brunner  
Bruce Wilson

February 16.....Leigh Marcotte  
Sarah Rice

February 17.....Logan Meyer  
Joseph Sikes  
Michaela Sikes  
Diane Boyer  
Ruth (Buente) Wheeler  
Carolyn Schwark

February 18.....Lauren Berghouse  
Richard Wildman

February 19.....Heidi Nottke Williams  
Jennine (Tooper) Wulff  
Brandon Brinkman  
Andrew Osenga

February 20.....Samuel Wilson  
Matthew Wilson  
Mark Schwark  
Cheyenne Overacker  
Oliver Miller

February 21.....Noah Sackett  
Allen Orwig  
Jane (McCleary-Spaulling) Lehnus

February 23.....Bartlett (Bart) Durbin  
Debby (Mau) Bitner  
Josh Wenzelman  
Alan Krieg

February 24.....Elliott Svenkson  
Sandi (Grumish) Schultz  
Amber Riegel  
Trent Wilking

February 25.....Milton Brunner  
Karen (Rice) Adams  
Kay Ellen Meyer  
Connor Overacker

February 26.....Rachel Heath  
Diane (Prater) Kuipers  
Adam Riegel  
Anita (Jensen) Wendling

February 27.....Rebecca Coffman

February 28.....Keith Bauer  
Jill (Berghouse) Grant

Please notify the church office of any names and birthdays which need to be added, removed or corrected. Office number 1-815-802-9805.

# F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 7

	Wed., Feb. 1	Thurs., Feb. 2	Fri., Feb. 3	Sat., Feb. 4
	Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m.			
<b>Sun., Feb. 5</b>	<b>Mon., Feb. 6</b>	<b>Tue., Feb. 7</b>	<b>Wed., Feb. 8</b>	<b>Thurs., Feb. 9</b>
Fireman's Breakfast @ Fire Station 8 a.m. - Noon	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.	I-HOP Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m. Pastor gone to Coal City in the morning Parsonage Meeting @ Parsonage, 6:30 p.m.	
<b>Sun., Feb. 12</b>	<b>Mon., Feb. 13</b>	<b>Tue., Feb. 14</b>	<b>Wed., Feb. 15</b>	<b>Thurs., Feb. 16</b>
Luncheon for Jonna & Barry Cruse @ Grand Prairie 10:30 a.m.	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.	NOW Committee @ Evan, 7:00 p.m.	Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m. Bonfield Youth Group @ Evan, 6:30 p.m.	Sunshine Circle @ Bonfield Evangelical, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Sun., Feb. 19</b>	<b>Mon., Feb. 20</b>	<b>Tue., Feb. 21</b>	<b>Wed., Feb. 22</b>	<b>Thurs., Feb. 23</b>
	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.		Men's Prayer @ Evan, 6:30 a.m.	
	<b>PASTOR ON VACATION</b>	<b>PASTOR ON VACATION</b>	<b>PASTOR ON VACATION</b>	<b>PASTOR ON VACATION</b>
<b>Sun., Feb. 26</b>	<b>Mon., Feb. 27</b>	<b>Tue., Feb. 28</b>		
	Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.	Fold Newsletters @ Evan, 8:30 a.m.		
<b>PASTOR ON VACATION</b>	<b>PASTOR ON VACATION</b>			
			March 2017 Newsletter Deadline	
				<b>Sat., Feb. 25</b>
				<b>PASTOR ON VACATION</b>

# Christmas 2016



The Bonfield Evangelical Sunday School Youth performed their Christmas Program on Jan. 8 due to the inclement weather.

Photo by Pastor Mel

The Grand Prairie Sunday School Christmas Program featured a Cantata.



Photo by Nicole Cruse



The Bonfield First Christmas program was held on Christmas Eve.

Photo by Pastor Mel



## *Multicultural Night Held*

The Bonfield Grand Prairie NOW Committee in conjunction with Pastor Angel Rosalez of Nueva Jerusalem held a multicultural night on Jan. 22, 2017 at 2 p.m. at St. Mark's UMC in Kankakee.

25 members of the Bonfield churches traveled to Kankakee for an afternoon of worship, fellowship and supper. Pastor Mel Nielsen provided a message on keeping inner peace in a world that only wants to take it. Pastor Angel Rosales told a little of his mission trip to Honduras. The Grand Prairie Praise Team helped lead worship with music and singing.

A delicious meal of home-made soups and sandwiches was prepared by the Bonfield parish, while desserts were offered by Nueva Jerusalem. Those desserts included rice milk and a milk based Jello dish. All the leftovers were donated to the Gift of God Street Church.

The Now Committee wants to thank everyone who helped organize, cook, serve or helped in any way with this wonderful event.



**Pictured above is the Grand Prairie Praise Team leading worship at the multicultural worship service on Jan. 22 at St. Mark's UMC in Kankakee. Below is the crowd which gathered for the service.**



Photos by Pastor Mel

## *Remodeling Project*



Photo by Pastor Mel

**Pictured above is part of the ongoing remodeling project at Bonfield First Church. The upstairs education room shows the new carpet and bookshelves. The new carpeting extends to the other two education rooms.**

## **PASTOR**

**(Continued from page 1)**

casting a shadow on your life. In fact, that is one of the very reasons Jesus went missing in the Gospel story, to take away the guilt of our sinning.

Jesus also died so that we may know that we all belong to God and may find a home in Heaven someday. The motivations behind the Grinch's actions reveals more than a hatred of Christmas, but more a resentment of being isolated, of being hurt by the world . . . of being alone. The reasons behind stealing reveal much about a person. Some are lashing out and wanting to hurt others much as they have been hurt.

So allow me to go one better, I will try to model my Savior. If you are the one who stole and want to return Him to me personally, I will not condemn, but I will ask some questions. Then I will share with you my reasons for why I stole when I was young and tell you I understand about hurting and suffering and pain. I will share with you about how I know too well the reasons people like to hurt other people.

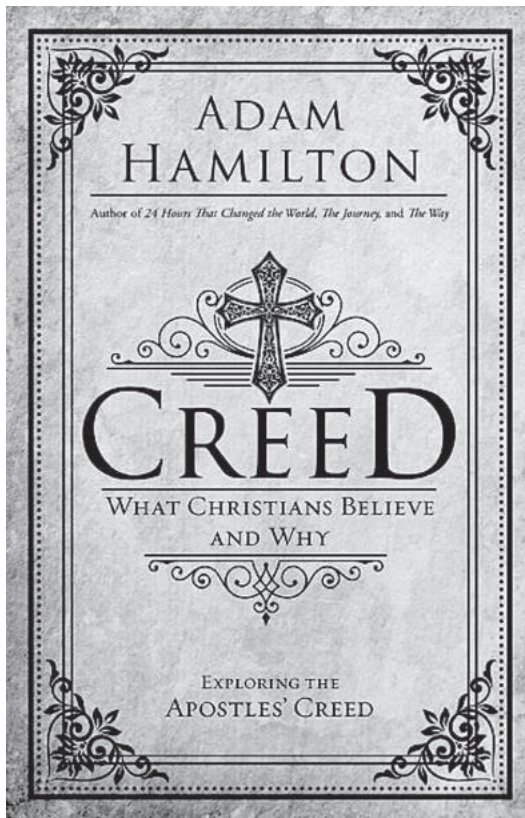
I would like to introduce you to the Jesus who forgave me of my sins and asked me to forgive you as well. Give me a call at 815-922-9161. You should have seen the look on my face when I realized I hadn't stopped salvation from coming, 'somehow' or other it came to me all the same.

Pastor Mel

# What Christians Believe and Why

It's important to know as much  
as we can about what we believe.

Too many Christians make proclamations about their faith  
without accurate Bible Study or fact checking.



## Lenten Bible Study

Adam Hamilton's

# Creed

6-week study beginning  
Monday, March 6  
1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

*This study will be held in the Upper Room at  
the Bonfield Evangelical Church  
348 E. Smith Street, Bonfield*

Chapters include:

1 God 2 Jesus Christ 3 The Holy Spirit 4 The Church at the Communion  
of Saints 5 The Forgiveness of Sins 6 The Resurrection of the Body

Current participant book price if ordered by the Parish office through  
Cokesbury is \$13.39. This price may change slightly before we order in  
February.

If you would like the church office to order a book for you, please let Pastor  
Mel or Phyllis know and a book will be ordered for you.

**Payment will be due at the first meeting.**

**ORDER DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

## *Pastor: 'In the midst of evil, there was peace'*

By Kay Panovec

Jan. 7, 2017 | UMNS

The Rev. John Schlicher lay on the ground praying, thinking he and his family would die at the hands of a gunman who killed five people around him at the Fort Lauderdale, Florida airport.

“Even in the midst of evil, there was peace — a peace I can only attribute to God,” the United Methodist pastor said, his voice shaking. “Only by the grace of God, I am still here. Michelle is still here. Jane is still here. We are so grateful but so heartbroken.”

The pastor of St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Beavercreek, Ohio, had flown to Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 6 with his wife, Michelle, and his mother-in-law, Jane. The three were headed for a long-awaited cruise.

Schlicher told the West Ohio Conference that the family was in the baggage claim area at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport when he heard a shot and heard people screaming, “Get down, get down.”

Schlicher hit the ground and called 911. Separated from his family, he started to pray.

“We thought we were going to die,” he said, as he watched the gunman fire on people around him. He said the gunman even reloaded.

When the shooting stopped, five were dead and six wounded. The gunman was identified as 26-year-

old Esteban Santiago of Anchorage, Alaska, who served in Iraq with the National Guard but was demoted and discharged last year for unsatisfactory performance.

Schlicher’s wife, Michelle, wrapped her mother’s sweater around an injured man’s head as survivors tried to help the wounded.

“We checked on the people around us, but they were gone,” Schlicher said.

West Ohio Area Bishop Gregory Palmer, who spoke with Schlicher at about 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6 while the family was still at the airport with other passengers, spoke of his gratitude for the actions of the pastor amid the tragedy.

“We grieve for the loss of life in the Ft. Lauderdale Airport shooting. Our hearts go out to all of those who have been wounded and traumatized physically, spiritually and emotionally,” he said. “We applaud the pastoral presence of the Reverend Schlicher and his family who in the face of the crisis extended themselves to help others.”

As Schlicher and his family begin the healing process, he asks for prayers for everyone affected by this tragedy.

“Reprinted with permission from [www.igrc.org](http://www.igrc.org) the website of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church”.

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin:

~~Our visitor center has an updated beverage~~

~~Stop by for some coffee or sweat tea.~~

~~We look forward to meeting you!~~

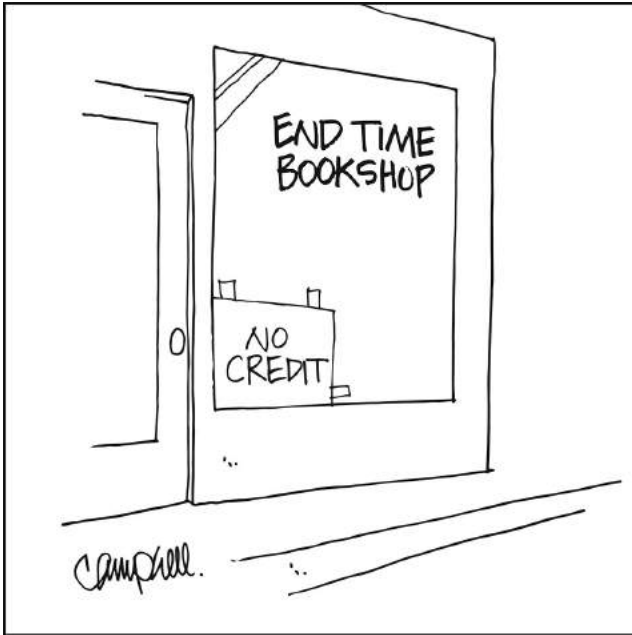
This doesn't sound like a very *sweet* offer!

Send your own bloopers to [service@NewsletterNewsletter.com](mailto:service@NewsletterNewsletter.com).

Bonfield / Grand Prairie Parish  
prayerful Box 66  
Bonfield, IL 60913

Non Profit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Bonfield, IL  
Permit #2

Return Service Requested



**Bonfield Box Holder**  
**Bonfield, IL 60913**

February 2017

# This is the year to get involved!

Our world, nation and community need more caring people to step up and be part of a better tomorrow!

## **Members and friends of this parish spend time . . .**

**Getting involved** in mission trips around the country helping others in need. No special training is required, everyone's help is appreciated.

**Getting involved** in the lives of their neighbors who are sick, disabled or no longer in a position to help themselves.

**Getting involved** in the lives of children so they may have the opportunity to accept salvation for themselves someday.

**Getting involved** in community projects that benefit people of all denominations.

I would like to see **YOU** get involved in the many areas of service we already participate in **OR** hear your new ideas that will help lead **US** into new directions!



**Pastor Mel Nielsen**  
**815-922-9161**