

# *New Beginnings*

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."  
J Matthew 19:26 N.I.V.

May 2018



## **Pastor's Corner**

Pastor Mel Nielsen  
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*34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*- Matthew 25:34-36 (N.I.V.)*

In the March Parish Newsletter I ran an advertisement on the back page. I was shocked when an individual spoke to me about the ad and asked how they could help. At first I couldn't even recall what ad the person was inquiring about. I went back to check over that issue trying to remember what I wrote. I felt better when I realized they were not words I wrote. That's why they didn't sound familiar.

That ad, and others I have published in the past, come to me from the United Methodist Church Communications Office in Nashville. Since their was a verbal inquiry I decided to run the ad again. If one person mentioned it that means others saw it and had questions too. So let me try to help answer the question, "How can I be a sheep instead of a goat, how can I help feed the hungry."

This parish has many opportunities to help provide food assistance to those in need. We have a couple hands on ministries with the homeless. Every month a small group of volunteers cooks, delivers and sometimes helps serve a full meal to the Gift of God Street Church on Fifth Street in Kankakee. These meals are currently being provided by The Martha Circle United Methodist Women Unit of Grand Prairie, The Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Women and the Sunshine Circle.

They rotate between each group every month and feed around 20 people in need of a good meal. Even if you don't cook you can help deliver the meals. Most months you are also welcome to dine with the individuals who are being served. What a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus than to break bread with a stranger.

Another opportunity is the newest ministry to this parish. The Bonfield Youth Group have begun helping at the food pantry at Bradley Wesley United Methodist Church in Bradley. This is also a once per month ministry. Each month 3-4 volunteers are needed on Sunday afternoons to help individual and families shop for donated food items. Even though this is a ministry of the youth group, adults are needed to help fulfill the purpose of the mission.

These last two are 'hands on.' If you are not able to physically travel to work or you cannot prepare meals then I have other opportunities for you to help. One way is to make a financial donation to the Salvation Army. Send your personal check to: The Salvation Army, 148 N. Harrison Avenue, Kankakee, Illinois 60901. The Gift of God Street Church is supported completely by donations, if you want to make a cash donation, please send your checks to: 660 N 5th Ave, Kankakee, IL 60901.

If you are really wanting to make a big step, contact me and we will discuss your gifts. Perhaps you would like to sit on on on the United Methodist Church & Society Board. Maybe you and you're family and friends would like to begin a new parish mission team and travel around the country or world to serve. Contact me and I will get you started in the right direction.

I've also had an idea the past few years while enjoying an abundance of donated fresh garden produce. I appreciate the gift, but am also in a place where I can purchase these items myself. I thought, "Wouldn't it be great if someone shared my passion of connecting all this extra produce with people in the Bonfield area who struggle to afford it at the grocery store." I have an idea of how this can work but I am looking for a volunteer to take charge. Call me if you are interested in going further in any of these areas.

- Pastor Mel

## *Evan UMW Report*

The Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Women (met at the home of Esther Marcotte on Apr., 5, 2018. Carol Buente gave the timely lesson from Matthew 27, Mark 15 and Luke 23. Each Gospel tells of the loyalty of the women who followed Jesus, especially in the time between his crucifixion and His resurrection. She closed the lesson with the words from the hymn, "My Hope Is Built." *"On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand."* She suggested each member keep a hope journal to record inspirational scriptures as they touch the reader.

Buente called the business meeting to order with 6 members answering roll call with 20 sick calls having been made. The minutes were read and approved and the treasurer report was given. The Prayer and Self Denial Offering will also be taken today.

The Sunshine Circle invited the UMW to a joint potluck supper meeting to plan our annual garage sale on Apr. 11 at 6:30 p.m. The circles use the proceeds to fund the many projects.

It was mentioned that Apr., 13 and 14 is the Cunningham Children's Home Festival of Quilts. The date for the Vermilion UMW meeting is Apr. 19 at Wesley Methodist in Bloomington. The group collected shampoo and deodorant for Lessie Bates and pump style soap for Cunningham.

Joyce Riegel gave the report from Response Magazine titled *"Limitless in Cuba,"* by Kimberly Burton. She told of the great faith of the Christians she met on her mission trip. *"When something went wrong they prayed and believed. When something went right they prayed and believed."* She emphasized how important it is for UMW members to know that they are about much more than meetings and local charity. It is service and growth, it is spiritual growth, it is leadership growth and transformative education.

It is not too early to start collecting school supplies for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. The ladies will travel for a hands on mission trip on Aug. 8.

The next meeting is May 3 at 9:30 in the Upper Room of Bonfield Evangelical. This will be the May Breakfast with Joyce Goodwin, the group's shepherdess as well as Carol Desch, the Vermilion River District Representative, as guest. Contact Christine Meyer if you are planning on attending.

## *Sunshine Circle Report*

Members of the Sunshine Circle United Methodist Women enjoyed a potluck in the Upper Room on April 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Kim Metzka was hostess and decorated the tables with a spring theme. Each place setting received a bundle containing a trowel, garden gloves and a box of wildflower blend seed.

Following dinner the business was opened. Roll call was answered by naming a favorite Spring flower. Minute's and Treasurer's Report were given and approved. Reports on old business focused on the meal served at the Gift of God Street Church on Mar. 14. Metzka reported on flowers she purchased for Easter. She reported that she not be in charge in the future.

New business included a discussion on whether members would like to donate funds to help children go to church camp. A motion was made and seconded that the group donate \$100.00 towards a youth camp fund. The remainder of the business meeting was focused on the upcoming garage sales. The sales will be held June 1 & 2. The ladies will once again be serving breakfast & lunch. A bake sale will be featured on both days. Menus are: Breakfast; Biscuits and gravy, Egg McMuffin, donuts, orange juice, milk and coffee. Lunch: Pork patties, hot dogs, chips and water and pop.

You may begin dropping off your items starting May 12. Bring items to the church. The ladies are once again asking for volunteers to help with set up, sales, serving, clean up. Lots of help is required to pull off this annual event. If you are able to help for as little as 2 hours, that would be a tremendous help. Please call Donna Diefenbach, 815-932-6108 or Ardis Messer 815-932-0180. The meeting was adjourned.

Metzka gave devotions on the promise of spring. S - sow seeds; P - practice peace; R - receive refreshments; I - invite Immanuel; N - nurture the nest; G - grow in gratitude. The next meeting will be May 9, 6:30 p.m. with Rita Overacker serving as hostess.

## ***Mission Trip To Little Grassy Planned***

The annual Bonfield/Grand Prairie Youth Group Mission Trip will be Sun., June 17 through Fri., June 22. The group will be heading to Little Grassy United Methodist Camp in Makanda, IL. Everyone is invited to join the group on this trip. A variety of skill levels are helpful so don't count yourself out. If you would like more information, please contact Tricia Coffman, 815-236-3319 or Debbie Nielsen, 309-397-9121. If you would like to help send the youth on their 5th annual mission trip, please make your checks payable to the Bonfield/Grand Prairie Youth Group with the word 'mission' on the memo line. You can give your check to Pastor Mel or mail it to Bonfield Grand Prairie Youth Group, Box 66, Bonfield, IL 60913.

### **Time For Church**



#### **Bonfield First**

172 Church Street

8:00 a.m. Sunday Services

9:15 Adult and Youth Sunday School

#### **Bonfield Evangelical**

348 Smith Street, Bonfield

9:15 a.m. Sunday Services

10:15 Adult and Youth Sunday School

#### **Grand Prairie**

Rt. 17 Bonfield

10:30 a.m Sunday Services

9:15 a.m Adult and Youth Sunday School

## ***Upcoming Worship Schedule***

*The following is a tentative schedule for  
May 2018 worship.*

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

### **May 6**

6th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communionß

“A Conquering Faith”

Altar Color - White

OT: Psalm 98

NT: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 15:9-17

### **May 13**

Ascension Sunday / Mother's Day

“A Mother's Prayer”

Altar Color - White

OT: Psalm 1

NT: 1 John 5:9-15

Gospel: John 17:6-19

### **May 20**

Pentecost

“Can You Hear Me Groaning”

Altar Color - Red

OT: Psalm 104:24-35

NT: Romans 8:22-27

Gospel: John 15:26-27

### **May 27**

Trinity Sunday / Memorial Day Sunday

“Same Yet Different”

Altar Color - White

OT: Isaiah 6:1-8

NT: Romans 8:12-17

Gospel: John 3:1-17

### **June 3**

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

“Clay Jars”

Altar Color - White

OT: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

NT: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Gospel: Mark 2:23-3:6



# 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

### Heritage Village

Vi Morse  
Mary Krieg

### Manteno Veterans

Bob Grob  
Byron Warren

### Butterfield

Mel Brinkman family  
Don Mau  
Bernice Schultz

### Riverside Senior Living

Jackie Wagner

### Harvest View

Warren Cochran  
Roscella Piper  
Randy Riegel

## From Our Church Bulletin

Kurt and Carl Boesen, Shirley Brunner, Sue Coons, Ron Cordes, Jean Dunn, Dennis Hertz, Linda Johnson, Krieg family, Kuipers family, Janice Logsdon, Melhorn & Hiedel families, Allen Messer, Dorene O'Connor, Marion Panozzo, Kevin Reiniche, Rob Reiniche, Phyllis Riegel, Randy Riegel, Jackie Wagner, Richard Wildman, Pam Wilking.

## 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
Saray Morales.....	Columbia



The Bonfield Grand Prairie Youth Group volunteered at the Bradley Wesley Food Pantry in Bradley, IL on Sun., Apr. 15. They performed a variety of tasks, including stocking shelves and helping visitors find the products they need. This trip was organized by the group's adult volunteer leader, Jonna Cruse. This mission trip was in response to the youth's suggestion that they find a local mission they could work on. Pictured above, L-R, are: Nikki Meyer, Kylie Lockwood, Becca Coffman and Cruse.

## Thank You

To our friends of the Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish

We would like to thank each of you for all the kindness shown to us over the last 6 months. Spring is here, so Shirley decided to come home for a visit. We pray that it will be a long visit.

For you who visited her at Riverside or Miller, those who sent cards, those who dropped off food, and all who prayed for her recovery, we thank you very much.

A big thank you to Pastor Mel who kept in touch and visited when he could find her in her room.

It is great to know that we have a Christian family to strengthen us.

Thank you so much  
Ivan and Shirley

## *A Greeting From 1906*

The following is a reprint of a New Year greeting from Pastor G. Everett Young.

Presbyterian Manse, Herscher, Ill., Jan 1, 1906

TO THE PARISHES AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

A Happy New Year to you, accompanied with all possible blessings.

The Church represents the spiritual side of life and believes that it is wise for people to give heed to this. As a help to the development of the clean and pure, which always makes life strong, we recommend a few things for consideration:

1. Each day read a portion of the Bible carefully and pray to God.

2. Be a constant attendant at church during the preaching service, Sabbath school, C. E. meeting and prayer meeting.

3. Be faithful and untiring in the use of your abilities in the different services of the church.

4. Constantly study to promote peace and welfare of the church and community.

5. Bring someone with you every time you come to a church service and try to lead at least one person to Christ each year.

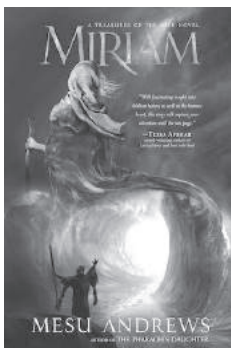
6. Do not neglect religion in the home for therein lies the power and life of the church and individual.

If faithful in these things, the year 1906 will have many pleasure and joys for you.

Most cordially,  
G. EVERETT YOUNG, Pastor.

### *Next Ladies' Book Club Meeting Announced*

*Miriam* by Mesu Andrews



Each lady is responsible to get their own copy of the book then come to the Parsonage, 225 Country Lane, Bonfield on Tues., May 15 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss. All ladies invited.

## *Bible Quiz*

In John 10, what metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself?

- A. "I am the gate ..."
- B. "I am the good shepherd ..."
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B

See answer below

## *May Memory Verse*

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.  
– Galatians 5:25

## *+ Christian Symbols +*

### **Phoenix**



According to ancient legend, the phoenix lived for 500 to 1,400 years (depending on the version of the myth), at which time it would set its nest ablaze and be consumed in the flames. After three days the bird would be reborn and was said to repeat this cycle, "rising from the ashes" again and again. Early Christians saw in the phoenix a symbol of Jesus' resurrection and of eternal life.

## *Thank You*

I want to thank everyone for coming to my retirement party. Words cannot express how grateful I am for your good wishes. Thank you for the plaque, gift cards, flowers and everything. Also, I want to thank the committee for organizing the party. Thank you for your prayers during my surgery and recovery. My only regret in retirement will be not seeing everyone as often. Special thanks to Pastor Mel for his words and support.

Phyllis Riegel

## May Birthdays

May 1.....Craig Brinkman  
 May 3.....Michelle Kuipers  
                   Cheryl Bauer  
 May 4.....Nancy Wagner  
                   Jennifer Pangle  
                   Sharlene Nottke  
                   Jennifer (Pangle) Yahyapour  
 May 5.....Vi Morse  
                   Victoria (Skinner) Rice  
 May 6.....Dawson Pastorel  
                   Cynthia (Morse) Clemans  
                   Laine Elizabeth Gagnon  
                   Erika Svenkeson  
 May 7.....Jamie (Fecke) Sikes  
                   Kerri (Scholl) Robinson  
 May 8.....Jackie (Hertz) Wagner  
                   Harold Pfeiffer  
 May 9.....Jennifer (Trumble) Werner  
                   Aiden Shannon  
 May 10.....Mary (Kirchner) Schroder  
 May 11.....Traci Davis  
                   Jonah Vaughn  
 May 12.....Cade Fecke  
                   Delores Ohrt  
 May 13.....Meagan Peters  
                   Christopher Wells  
                   Paiton Cordes  
                   Sandy Jackson  
 May 14.....Myron Riegel  
                   Cody Lemenager  
                   Mark Adams  
                   Gwendolyn Meyer  
                   Allen Pfeiffer  
                   Kim (Sinks) Meztka  
 May 15.....Zoe Tapp  
                   Marty Alrandi  
                   Kimberly Metzka  
 May 16.....Sandra (Rice) LaMore  
                   Samuel Shimmin  
                   Kenny Mitchell  
 May 17.....Aimee (Meyer) Simbeck  
                   Denise (St. Germaine) Schlenz  
 May 19.....Joe Ohrt  
                   Dennis Hertz  
                   Martha (Scott) Bouk  
 May 20.....Johnny A. Schultz  
                   Katherine (Buckman) Mecklenburg  
 May 21.....Garret Kohl  
                   Mary Ann (Foltz) Jensen  
                   Heather (Kirchner) Thurston  
 May 22.....Jeremy Bauer  
                   Roan Shannon

                  Jason Sauer  
                   Walter Pieszka  
                   Gretchen Brinkman  
                   Danielle (Frye) Dahn  
 May 24.....Angela (Kuipers) Kohl  
                   Aidan Gagnon  
                   Rodney Graf  
                   Kristina (Eggenberger) Brunner  
 May 25.....Ryan Howard  
 May 27.....Larry Wood  
                   Esther (Riegel) Kirchner  
                   Ruth (Wildman) Kingsland  
 May 28.....Scott Vaughn  
                   Carol (Ziemer) Buente  
 May 29.....Brian Norton  
                   Jeffrey Morse  
                   Meri Bauer  
                   Kelly (Donovan) Buente  
 May 30.....Clair Dau  
 May 31.....Shila Kingsland  
                   Eric Dahn  
                   Joshua Friese

### Mar. 2018 Attendance

	<u>2/04</u>	<u>2/11</u>	<u>2/18</u>	<u>2/25</u>
Evangelical	43	32	31	43
First	16	13	16	24
Grand Prairie	30	28	28	40
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>107</b>

### Card of Thanks

The family of Duane Krieg wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to family, friends, and neighbors for the cards, flowers, food, memorials, prayers and other acts of kindness shown to our family at this time of our loss. A special thank you to Pastor Mel Nielsen for the kindness and service you provided. Thank you also to the ladies of Grand Prairie United Methodist Church for the delicious lunch following the service. The support and love shown to us will always be remembered.

The Duane Krieg Family

# M A Y 2 0 1 8

	<b>Tues., May 1</b>	<b>Wed., May 2</b>	<b>Thurs., May 3</b>	<b>Fri., Apr. 4</b>	<b>Sat., May 5</b>
	Fellowship Breakfast @ IHOP, 8:30 a.m. 100th Evan Anniversary Mtg., 6:30 p.m. @ Evan	Parsonage Meeting 7 p.m. @ Parsonage	Evan UMW @ Evan's Upper Room 8 a.m. - Breakfast 9:30 a.m. - Program		
<b>Sun., May 6</b>	<b>Mon., May 7</b> Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.	<b>Wed., May 9</b>	<b>Thurs., May 10</b> UMW District Mtg. @ Evan, 8 a.m.	<b>Fri., May 11</b>	<b>Sat., May 12</b>
Holy Communion	Ad Board Meeting @ Grand Prairie 7 p.m.				
<b>Sun., May 13</b>	<b>Mon., May 14</b> Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.	<b>Wed., May 16</b> Community Lunch @ Lion's Hall, Noon	<b>Thurs., May 17</b> First UMW @ First Church, 7 p.m.	<b>Fri., May 18</b>	<b>Sat., May 19</b> Pastor Teaching Prayer Meeting in Dwight all day
<b>Sun., May 20</b>	<b>Mon., May 21</b> Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.	<b>Wed., May 23</b>	<b>Thurs., May 24</b>	<b>Fri., May 25</b>	<b>Sat., May 26</b>
Pastor Teaching Prayer Meeting in Dwight all afternoon					
<b>Sun., May 27</b>	<b>Mon., May 28</b> Memorial Day Journey Prayer Group @ Evan UMC, 10 a.m.	<b>Wed., May 30</b>	<b>Thurs., May 31</b>		
Peace w/Justice Sunday					

## *Sunrise Service At Bonfield Evangelical Features Youth*



The Bonfield Youth Group enlightened the early morning risers with a drama about a large group of cousins meeting at Grandma and Grandpas house. As they grumble and discuss they come to realize the great blessings of God and grandparents. Pictured in left photo are the older cousins, L-R, are: Nicole Meyer, Jonna Cruse (Youth Group Co-Leader), Kylie Lockwood and Becca Coffman. Pictured in right photo are the younger cousins, L-R: Belle Lowey, Kamden Lockwood, Pastor Mel and Justin Ruckman.

Photos courtesy of Debbie Nielsen

## *Good Friday Drama Highlights Holy Week*



Photo courtesy of Mike Bland

Pictured above is Debbie Nielsen and Pastor Mel who were part of the Good Friday drama written and narrated by Carol Erazmus.



Photos courtesy of Christine Meyer

No Sunrise Service would be complete without a delicious breakfast. Top photo shows the kitchen help, L-R: Jim Diefenbach, Herb Foltz, Scott Bland, Mike Bland and Marty Kuipers. Bottom Photo show the Cochran family, L-R: Kevin, Jenny, Rich and Joyce, getting ready to enjoy the efforts of the kitchen crew.



## *100th Anniversary Update For Bonfield Evangelical*

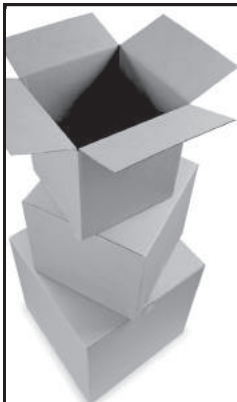
Save the dates! Aug. 25 and 26, 2018. The Anniversary Committee is hoping you are looking forward to lots of Old Hymn Singing, good music, memory moments, skit, food and fellowship.

Aug. 26 will feature special musical guest Jake's Boys with special speaker, Vermilion River District Superintendent, The Rev. James Barnett will be here on Aug. 26.

The next meeting of the 100th Anniversary Committee will be on Tues., May 1 at Bonfield Evangelical, 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to come hear updates or to volunteer to help.

## *Bonfield Lion's Chicken Dinner Scheduled*

The Bonfield Lion's Club will hold it's annual Chicken Supper on April 28, 4 - 7 p.m. Carry-outs will be available. \$9.00 for 1/2 dinner and \$7.00 for 1/4 dinner. The dinner will be held at the Bonfield Community Center. All are welcome.



### *61 Boxes Delivered*

The Bonfield/Grand Prairie Parish came through with a total of 61 boxes for the Redbird Mission. Thanks to Cindy Eerdman of the Grand Prairie UMC who drove a trailer full to Dwight. Thanks to all who donated.

## *Fellowship Breakfast*

Come enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship with other church members and friends at IHOP in Bourbonnais on Tue., May 1, 2018, 8:30. 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. Each person pays for their own breakfast. The group orders from the regular menu.

## *Phyllis Riegel Honored With Open House*

The Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish came together on Sun., Apr. 15 to honor Phyllis Riegel who retired earlier in the year after 12 years of service as Parish Secretary.

The event was held in the Fellowship Hall of Bonfield Evangelical with around 50 people coming to wish her well. A plaque was presented to her by the NOW Committee on behalf of the parish. She was also gifted with gift cards for a few of her favorite restaurants.



Photos courtesy of Debbie Nielsen

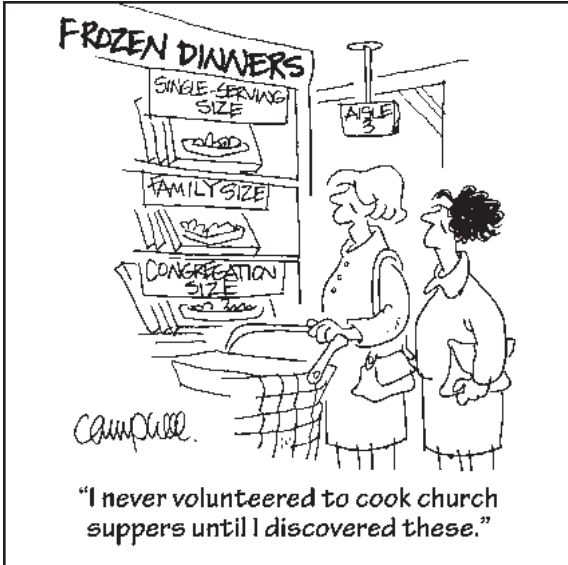
Pictured above, L-R, are: Pastor Mel Nielsen and retired Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish Secretary, Phyllis Riegel. The parish recently held an open house to honor Riegel's service to the parish, Pictured below is one of the cakes featured at the open house celebration



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

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

May 2018

**There's a point**

where you can no longer ignore the eyes of the  
homeless. You can't watch the nightly news  
without asking, what can I do to  
change this?

That hollow place inside you  
keeps getting bigger, and the  
things you used to fill it with -  
a job, a glass of wine -  
they don't work anymore.

I couldn't just... believe.

I had to do something.

**I have multiple ways for you to help serve the homeless, please call 815-922-9161 - Pastor Mel**