

ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance Feb. 2015

Why be part of a COMMUNITY of faith

**Lory Herrick,
First Baptist Church
(president)**



**Celeste Lasich,
First Presbyterian
(vice president)**



**Steve Johnson,
United Methodist
(treasurer)**



**Scott Watford,
St. Nicholas
(secretary)**



**Jon Brudvig,
St. John Lutheran,
Ellis**



**Kevin Daniels,
Hays Christian Church**



**Steve Dinkel,
Liberty Foursquare Church**



**Ken Ediger,
North Oak Community Church**



**Kyle Ermoian,
Celebration Community Church**



**Karen Harvester,
HaysMed chaplain**



**David Kisner,
Via Christi**



**John Kreidler,
Trinity Lutheran**



**Jerre Nolte,
First United Methodist**



**Wes Oakley,
Westview Church**



**Lesley Radius,
Trinity Lutheran**



**Annie Ricke,
First United Methodist**



**Kenton Rohrberg,
Messiah Lutheran**



**Marie Sager,
St. John's Lutheran,
Ellis**



**Gary Simon,
Cornerstone Southern Baptist**



**Jerry Sprock,
First Baptist**



**Linda Mills,
First Call for Help**



**Brandon Nimz,
Unite Campus Ministries**

WELCOME

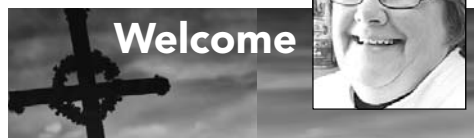
Now that we have made it through January and the start of a new year, we can settle in to 2015 like an old friend. Most of us are saying, "It's February already?" with the feeling time is passing much too quickly.

When I began working at First Call for Help almost a year and a half ago, one of the first things I did was to read the history of the organization.

I wanted to know how it started, who was involved and what its vision was for the organization.

I found the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance led the way, bringing community

Linda Mills



leaders together to form First Call for Help. This issue of ONE focuses on the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance and its work together and in the community.

It is truly ecumenical bringing pastors, churches and leaders of ministry together

to promote and host events for all faiths, to support ongoing ministries, and to be a support to one another in faith.

Diversity in the community of faith brings many different traditions, beliefs, doctrine and action.

Our differences should not keep us apart. Our love of God, our desire to give Him glory and honor — whatever the denomination or religion — is where the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance brings strength of community and faith together.

Linda Mills is executive director of First Call for Help.

SUBMISSIONS

ONE and the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance encourage submission from ECMA congregations. Photographs, stories, testimonies and other submissions should be directed toward your church leaders or sent via email to one@dailynews.net.

The ECMA advisory board will choose appropriate and timely submissions for publication.

The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

ADVISERS

Pastor Kevin Daniels
Hays Christian Church
rev.kevin.daniels@gmail.com

Pastor Steve Dinkel
Liberty Foursquare Church
lcfcscd@ruraltel.net

Steve Johnson
United Methodist Campus Ministry
umcmfhs@yahoo.com

Pastor Wes Oakley
Westview Church
wesleye@ruraltel.net

Pastora Lory Herrick
First Baptist Church
loryseparados@yahoo.com

Intern Pastor Jon Brudvig
St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis
sjcellis@gbta.net



ONE is the official publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance, which guides its mission, content and theme.

It is produced by The Hays Daily News.

Volume 8, Issue 2

Copyright 2015

one@dailynews.net

HOLY HUMOR

Two brothers are terrible trouble-makers. They are always breaking things, stealing things, lying, and making all kinds of general trouble.

The parents have tried everything to get the boys to change, to no avail. Finally, out of options, they ask their pastor if he can help.

He says he will talk to the boys, but only one at a time. The parents drop off the youngest brother and go home, promising to return to get

him soon. The boy sits in a chair across from the pastor's desk, and they just look at each other.

Finally, the pastor says, "Where is God?"

The boy just sits there and doesn't answer.

The pastor begins to look stern and loudly says, "Where is God?"

The little boy shifts in his seat, but still doesn't answer.

The pastor is starting to get angry at the

boy's refusal to converse and practically shouts, "Where is God?"

To the pastor's surprise, the little boy jumps up out of his chair and runs out of the office.

The boy leaves the church and runs all the way home, up the stairs and into his brother's room.

He shuts the door and pants, "We're in *big trouble*. God's missing, and they think we did it!"

RECIPE

Whether it's for youth group, a children's ministry or a church fundraiser, sometimes it is nice to find a recipe to make a lot of something for a big group. Here is one of the recipes we developed at United Methodist Campus Ministry for Chat-n-Chew, our free Tuesday evening supper for college students.

— *Steve Johnson, director
United Methodist campus ministry*

Homemade hamburger helper

1 gallon cheddar cheese sauce
10 pounds of hamburger
2 medium (29 ounces) cans of tomato sauce
4 pounds of elbow macaroni
1 teaspoon each of Italian seasoning, garlic powder and oregano to taste

Brown and drain the hamburger and heat in a large roaster at 250 degrees with the cheese sauce, the tomato sauce and seasonings for at least an hour. Cook the macaroni al dente, drain, and add it to the mixture and cook another 45 minutes. Serves 40 (25 college students).

PRAIRIE LAND FOOD

Prairie pak — \$28 (includes meats, fruits and veggies).

Meat only — \$15 (includes the meat that is in the regular Prairie Pak).

Fruit and veggie only — \$13 (includes the fruit and veggies in the regular Prairie Pak).

Specials — 4 different specials are offered each month plus a choice item.

Meat, fruit and veggie and Specials paks can be purchased with or without the Prairie Pak, giving you more flexibility when ordering; there is

no limit to the amount of packages ordered each month.

Order date: Feb. 9. Order locally and pay with check, cash or EBT food stamps. Or you can order online at june@prairielandfood.com and pay with your debit card or check.

Food pick up date: Feb. 20; Hays, The Mall, south hallway, 2918 Vine, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call Vickie Rohleder (785) 625-6291 or June Glasgow (800) 998-9436.

ON THE COVER



Members of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance community.

MESSAGE AT THE TOP: DON'T BELIEVE ME, JUST WATCH

It is true a dance song, especially a dance song that repeats words over and over often does not have much meaning when it comes to living well. Of course, that is not to say dancing itself is not a good thing. It is. Often it is the perfect way to relax and just as often, to show a deeper love between two people.

It is also true, however, that a dance song does not usually have many deep thoughts that can direct life. But every once in a while, some of the words — few as they are — of such a song say something from which Christians can learn. Such is Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' song "Uptown Funk." In words spoken to someone who is only observing the dancing, they sing in effect: Don't just believe or brag about something, do it.

"Come on, dance, jump on it; if you're sexy, flaunt it; if you're freaky then own it. Don't brag about it, come show me. Don't believe me, just watch."

Father
Mike Scully



Message at the Top

The man basically tells others they do not have to believe he can dance, but that they should watch him actually do it. Incidentally, the music video is an excellent dance video.

The idea can be expressed in Scriptural terms by saying sometimes we have to do more than believe. Sometimes we must look at the facts which will speak for themselves. So, Jesus tells John the Baptist's messengers in Matthew's Gospel to look and listen to what he is doing.

When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to

(Jesus) with the question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf here, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me" (Matthew 11:2-6).

The facts are not merely a "belief" that show he is the "one who is to come." His words and actions give him away. Jesus certainly wanted people to have faith, but he also knew one needed more than faith.

Christians are people rooted in a belief system, a vision that covers everything they say, do and even think. But part of that belief must include action. For example, if all we do is believe we should "love our neighbor," it will accomplish very little. But if we not only believe it, but show it at the same time in our words and actions and thoughts, then

and only then have we honestly captured the message of Jesus. In effect, Jesus is saying to his followers: "Don't just believe me, do it!" Only then will we discover the life Jesus wants.

Good and gracious God, your Son wanted us to believe in him, and certainly that is part of our spirituality, but he wanted us to follow him in our lives as well. We must learn from our belief in him, carrying out that belief in actions. Be with us, we pray.

The gospels in Father Mike's Top 5

1 — "Blank Space" / Taylor Swift John 21:15-17

2 — "Uptown Funk" / Mark Ronson f/ Bruno Mars Matthew 11:2-6

3 — "The Heart Wants What It Wants" / Selena Gomez Luke 22:47-48

4 — "Thinking Out Loud" / Ed Sheeran Matthew 5:33-37

5 — "Love Me Harder" / Ariana Grande Mark 10:17-22

KJIL
88.5^{FM}

Serving Hays and
Ft. Hays
State University.

Listen to the Rock Show Saturday
nights from 9-1.

Radio For Life

Casting Crowns

MercyMe

Im Yours

so take this space
between us and
fill it up
again

tobyMac



HAYSMED

2220 Canterbury Dr.
Hays, KS 67601
www.haysmed.com

855.429.7633

To Help People Be Healthy

- Ambulatory Surgicenter
- Breast Care Center
- Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery
- DeBakey Heart Institute
- Drelling/Schmidt Cancer Institute
- Eye Surgery
- Imaging Center
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Orthopedic Institute
- Psychiatric Associates
- Pulmonology
- Rehabilitation
- Sleep Neurodiagnostic Institute
- Spine, Joint & Hand Center
- Women, Infants & Pediatrics
- Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center

Reading plan continues with Psalms

Thank you for reading through the Bible with me this year. Have you been able to “keep the pace?” Both Old and New Testament readings are so engaging, it hopefully hasn’t been too much so far.

The Old Testament readings will continue through the book of Psalms. Psalms and Proverbs are probably the two most quoted and memorized books of the Bible. Theologians divide the book of Psalms into five books. The first two, (chapters 1 to 72) are worship songs written mostly by King David. Book three (73 to 89) starts asking questions that are asked often; why do the wicked prosper, why do bad things happen to good people, and when will my suffering end? Many believe these writings have to do with the suffering and injustice God’s people experienced during exile. Many of the Psalms really resonate with the emotions we often feel as we walk through life. Take time to soak them in, meditate on them and commit them to memory. There is great hope and comfort found in the book of Psalms.

The New Testament readings will start the second half of the Luke/Acts collection. The book of Acts is “our book.” Although the book journals the beginnings of the church, missions and the ups and downs of the First Century Church, it also gives us a model, and an assignment as the church continues through the ages. This book is still being written by you and by me. God is still moving on the earth through believers. He is still raising the dead, healing the sick, saving the lost and setting free those who are bound. Let the

Pastor Steve Dinkel



story of the book of Acts engage you, and motivate you to live a life of miracles. Jesus isn’t dead, he is alive.

Our focus for ONE this month is living in community. The book of Acts teaches us exactly how to do that. It teaches us Jesus is the head of the church, and we are all assigned to various tasks. My prayer is this month’s readings will empower you to “be the church,” and not just attend one. Keep reading!

February

- 1
- 2.....□ Psalms 48-49.....□ Luke 23
- 3.....□ Psalms 50-51.....□ Luke 24
- 4.....□ Psalms 52-54.....□ Acts 1
- 5.....□ Psalms 55-56.....□ Acts 2
- 6.....□ Psalms 57-59.....□ Acts 3
- 7 & 8.....Weekend Review
- 9.....□ Psalms 60-62.....□ Acts 4
- 10.....□ Psalms 63-65.....□ Acts 5
- 11.....□ Psalms 66-67.....□ Acts 6
- 12.....□ Psalms 68.....□ Acts 7
- 13.....□ Psalms 69.....□ Acts 8
- 14 & 15.....Weekend Review
- 16.....□ Psalms 70-72.....□ Acts 9
- 17.....□ Psalms 73-74.....□ Acts 10
- 18.....□ Psalms 75-77.....□ Acts 11
- 19.....□ Psalms 78.....□ Acts 12
- 20.....□ Psalms 79-80.....□ Acts 13
- 21 & 22.....Weekend Review
- 23.....□ Psalms 81-82.....□ Acts 14
- 24.....□ Psalms 83-84.....□ Acts 15
- 25.....□ Psalms 85-86.....□ Acts 16
- 26.....□ Psalms 87-88.....□ Acts 17
- 27.....□ Psalms 89.....□ Acts 18
- 28.....Weekend Review

FAITH BRIEFS

More than 2.5 million families have positively changed their financial future through Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University.

The nine-week course provides families and individuals with practical tools to gain control of their finances and set themselves up for long-term financial success.

The course meets once a week where a different lesson is taught by Ramsey on

DVD followed by a small-group discussion.

Lessons include budgeting, relationships and money, getting out of debt, saving for emergencies and investing.

FPU will be in Hays at Liberty Four-square Church, 120 W. Ninth. The classes will begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 3. For more information, contact Jean Sellers at (785)625-6245.

SHARE YOUR MESSAGE

Your goods and services are needed by members of the faith community.

Don’t miss this opportunity to share your message of what your business has to offer with the congregations of Ellis County.

Advertise in



Call Today

628-1081 or 800-657-6017



507 Main · P.O. Box 857 · Hays, KS 67601
 785-628-1081 · 800-657-6017 · Fax: 785-628-8186
 e-mail: advertising@dailynews.net

Youth
Spotlight

CrossCurrent in the flow at Celebration

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
one@dailynews.net

Just two years ago, August Phlieger wasn't nearly so busy as he is these days. He says he wouldn't trade his current hectic schedule for anything.

Phlieger is a senior at Natoma High School who finds himself on the road between his hometown and Hays three days a week.

On Sundays, he and his family participate in worship services at Celebration Community Church. Two days later, Phlieger jumps in his vehicle for a return trip to practice in the church's worship band.

The next evening, he's back at Celebration to participate in one of his favorite activities — Wednesday night's youth group, CrossCurrent.

Phlieger is one of several sixth-graders through seniors who help fill the gymnasium at Celebration every Wednesday night for a music-filled combined service — along with Encounter, the church's college-age ministry.

"It's just grown every week," Phlieger said of the Wednesday night service that includes a live band.

"It's a great experience," added Phlieger, who said he plans to join Encounter next year when he comes to college at Fort Hays State University.

"When I think of college students, I think of going out and partying," said Trystan Knapp, a senior at Hays High School. "So it's pretty awesome to see so many of them stepping into that church every single Wednesday."

That's the idea behind age-specific groups, said Kyle Ermoian, founding and senior pastor of Celebration.

"To provide a healthy environment as an alternative to what some of the things high schoolers could be doing is paramount," he said. "That's why we focus a lot of our attention on children, youth and college (students). We can tailor-make the experience for them."

"The younger we reach people, the more inclined they are to stay with the faith into adulthood."

While the college students are setting a good example for their high school-age counterparts, so too is CrossCurrent's leader, Phlieger said.

Nick Eiden, in his first year as youth pastor at Celebration, is the father of two young children ages 2 and 4.

"He's a great friend, just an awesome guy," Phlieger said. "He's a great role model, perfect for that job."

Kara Brooks, a Hays High sophomore who has attended Celebration for half of her life, agreed.

"I think he's doing a really good job with the ministry," said Brooks, who has two younger sisters.

Brooks has been a member of CrossCurrent since her sixth-grade year and was looking forward to the day when she would reach ninth grade, the time when CrossCurrent members are allowed to go on mission trips.



JOLIE GREEN, one@dailynews.net

Nick Eiden, youth pastor at Celebration Community Church, talks to a group of junior high students Jan. 21 at the church in Hays.

"Last year was the first year I could go on a mission trip," Brooks said. "And it was one of the best weeks of my life."

For the past several years, CrossCurrent members traveled to Baxter Springs in southeast Kansas for a mission trip.

Eiden can attest firsthand how rewarding serving as a missionary can be.

He and his wife, Sarah, spent nine months as missionaries in Uganda before he took over as youth pastor at Celebration in April.

"I felt specifically called to vocational ministry," said Eiden, a former police officer who enrolled online for seminary classes while still in Uganda. "Then, when it was time for us to come back from Uganda, there had been a few shifts in staff here, and they asked if I would take over as youth pastor. The timing was clearly God's timing."

The Eidens had attended Celebration since moving to Hays from Oklahoma in 2009.

They had served as volunteers for a few years in the church and were drawn to that age group when they helped with a youth conference one summer.

"That's when we got plugged in to this," said Eiden, who helps lead a group that cooks breakfast Friday mornings during the season for Hays High football players as one of

their many annual activities. "We thought, 'We really like these kids, and asked 'How do we get more involved?'"

Now, they are definitely involved.

"This is such a big time in students lives, their formative years," Eiden said. "They are finding who they are, who they are going to be. This is an important time for them to grow into who they are, and they yearn for other adults to speak into their lives. That's valuable."

Prior to the high school portion of CrossCurrent, middle school students meet for C2. With the help of several volunteers, youngsters in grades 6 through 8 play games, watch and discuss a lesson, break out into small groups and hang out.

"My job as youth pastor is to supervise, promote, create for a youth group," said Eiden, who also gets help from his assistant, Alicia Hunter. "But there are a lot of adults involved. It takes us all to make it work."

A job on the Hays Police Department is what brought Eiden to Hays in 2009, and he got more involved specifically with teenagers as a HPD resource officer for Hays USD 489.

"I had never dreamed of being a pastor; I was very content with what I was doing," Eiden said of his work with the police department. "But this is fantastic; it's exciting. I definitely have a heart for students."

ECMA standing test of time

By **DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN**
 dobrien@dailynews.net

Filling a need more than 25 years ago has created a strong bond among religious clergy in Ellis County that otherwise might not have occurred.

Now, the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance is flourishing as a vital cog to the communities, in more ways than one. In fact, the group and all its activities has become so familiar it's most recognizable by its acronym, ECMA.

"I believe there was some form of the ministerial alliance before we came," said Jerry Sprock, pastor at First Baptist Church who came to Hays in 1989. "But it's definitely blossomed during the past several years."

Sprock and Ken Ediger, pastor at North Oak Community Church who moved to Hays a few months before Sprock, agreed the organization "began to take on a lot more significance" when church personnel realized a need for managing that process of providing services through one central point.

Churches started pooling their resources for people in need, such as transients who were calling on several churches for help.

An organization called Helping Hands — and later renamed First Call for Help — was established in the

late 1980s and became a clearinghouse to manage those funds as well as a community information and referral center.

"The purpose was to connect people with resources," Ediger said. "The resources were there. We just needed a place to point people where to find them."

The late Bob Wichaël, then pastor at St. Michael Episcopal Church in Hays, called together representatives from various community groups and government in 1987 to "coordinate efforts to serve local poor and transients and to reduce duplication in distributing funds. They decided to call the organization "Helping Hands."

The Helping Hands name was changed to First Call for Help in the mid 1990s to avoid confusion when a program of the same "Helping Hands" name was instituted at Hays High School.

Also during that time, several prominent businessmen got together to start Festival of Faith, a yearly event where a featured speaker is brought in for a Sunday afternoon of ecumenical worship among people from all denominations of faith.

"Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that our Christian faith isn't just the church buildings," said Wes Oakley, pastor at Westview Church since 1981. "It's being out in the community, and commerce plays a strong

part in that, too. So involving business people has been a plus."

Sprock agreed.

"(The business people) were significant leaders of Ellis County, and had a lot of influence in the county because of their impact already," he said. "That gave us significance in the eyes of the county and the community, so we sort of came in on their coat tails."

"Out of all that, a greater need for collaboration was born," Ediger said.

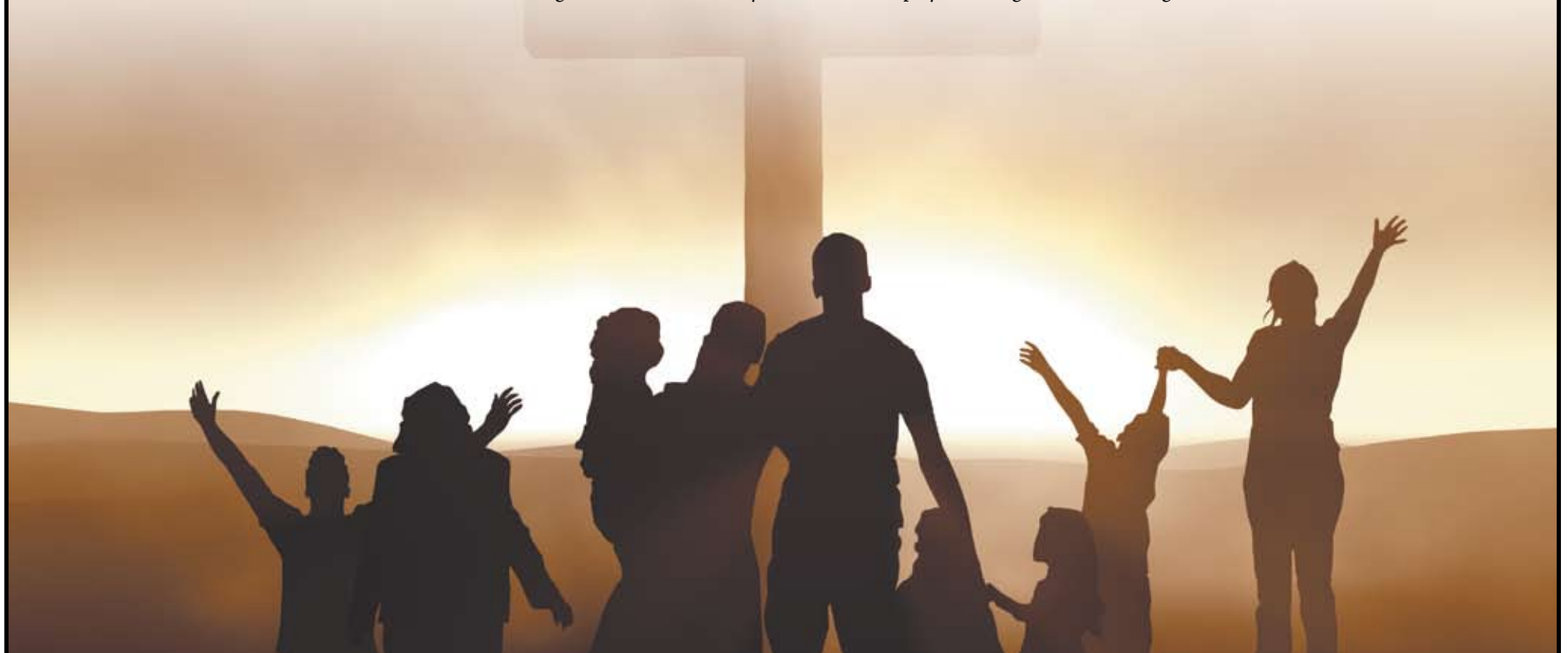
"We were embraced because we were a necessary part of the wheel," Oakley said. "But it developed into something much bigger."

Oakley said the "strength" of the ECMA has been keeping an open mind in growing, and changing, along the way.

Now, in addition to the monthly ECMA meetings, he said a group of pastors get together once a week to "brown bag it, just to talk."

"There are so many different traditions involved in all the churches, so we worked through a lot so we wouldn't step on each other's traditions," Oakley said.

"The one thing that we did that was very wise," he added, "was that we kept in mind our common belief and faith in Jesus Christ. That was the anchor in what we were doing, and still is."



ECMA has been a welcoming experience

My baptism into the family of God took place at St. Peter Catholic Cathedral in Marquette, Mich. My great-aunt Madge, also known as Sister Helena, was a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. I am a graduate of St. Catherine University, a Catholic institution. Mother was raised in the Covenanters Scots Presbyterian church in a community which was predominantly Eastern Orthodox. My maternal grandmother in her later life was Pentecostal Charismatic. I have been an active part of Episcopal churches through many seasons. My friends are part of dozens of denominations and faith traditions, as well as none, and live all over the

Celeste Lasich

First
Presbyterian



globe. I am a Presbyterian minister, and ecumenism really is in my blood.

That is one of the reasons why when I came to Hays, I was so grateful to find the ECMA. In every community I have served a church, one of the first things I do is connect with the local ecumenical ministerial

group. I came to Hays in early summer while the ECMA does not meet, and even so throughout the summer I received drop in visits, phone calls and emails of welcome as well as an invitation to be part of the ECMA July golf tournament. At the FHSU Fall picnic I was introduced to ministers and members from most of our ECMA churches and warmly welcomed into this community of faithful people.

One of the people in this community I have come to admire and respect is Verlin Pfannenstiel, a quiet man of deep faith who acts from his conviction that the unity we have been given in Christ connects us more deeply than our denominational

titles and practices may separate. Because of his leadership and example, I am happy to be a part of the ecumenical planning team for the Festival of Faith.

As members of ECMA we do not always agree even about matters that are significant, including the ordination of women as ministry leadership.

Even with our differences, by coming together in faith with Jesus Christ as our foundation, together with the churches we serve we are able to love and serve God and the people of this community. Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Celeste Lasich is pastor at First Presbyterian Church.

You Know You BELONG

Greetings One Readers! Last month, we started a fun project to write a continuing article this year gathering ideas on the phrase, "You know you belong to a good church when ..."

I invited your comments on this subject, and I received a few more ideas, via email, and through conversations. Thank you for your responses. Keep 'em coming.

So far, we decided that you know you belong to a good church when...

- All of your Tupperware has your name on it.
- You get expert help at church raising your kids.
- You can feel people praying for you when you find yourself in a tough situation.

This month, we will add, "You know you belong to a good church when ..."

- A teenager comes to youth group in a grumpy mood and leaves smiling.
- You've been praying for financial help and someone gives you money in church that Sunday.
- It takes longer to go through the grocery store because of visiting with other believers there.
- You are changed.

The first two comments probably don't need explanation, but I'd like to expound on the grocery idea first, and then about being changed.

You might say, "Ugh," at the thought of taking more time in the grocery store, because, admit it, you would rather *not* run into people and talk to them, because you are on a tight schedule. I understand that completely, but maybe you need to change grocery stores. Where I shop, I run across amazing people, like Carolyn Miller, wife of the late Rev. Bill Miller from

the First United Methodist Church in Hays. I had a pressing schedule that day, as always, but I'm glad I chose to stop and talk to Carolyn. We had a lovely chat, and I even got a hug from her as we said our good byes. I don't know about you, but I'm always hoping that a little bit of her sweetness will rub off on me and I'll start being sweet like her. I think that actually happened that day. I was nicer after I talked to her. Although Carolyn and I don't technically belong to the same church, we belong to a great church community here in western Kansas. You know you belong to a great church community when a

grocery store encounter changes your day for the better.

An encounter with God at church can change you, too. You know you belong to a good church when you are changed. I received this idea via email from one of our readers. Because of a prayer with his pastor, the Holy Spirit settled into this man's life and has remained as an abiding presence reminding

him of how much he is loved by God, and God's people too. That is the genuine essence of a good church — to connect us with God, through Jesus. Those encounters change us for the better, and they change us forever!

So let me hear from you about how you enjoy your church, or the church community around you. Meanwhile, someone might appreciate a short chat and a hug from you in the grocery store, or having you pray with them at church. It could change their day for the better, and also yours. That's when you know you belong.

You may contact Kathy by email at dinkelfam@ruraltel.net, by mail at P.O. Box 566, Hays, or on Facebook at Liberty Foursquare Church.

Kathy Dinkel

Liberty
Foursquare



CHURCH NEWS

First Presbyterian Church is grateful for the excellent leadership and service of Kevin Creech, who served as christian education director and later faith development director for three years. This is as Kevin put it, her "fourth and final retirement" at the end of 2014. Kevin's organizational skills, willingness to try new things and "can-do" spirit have been an amazing asset to the ministry of First Presbyterian. Thank you, Kevin.

With the start of the new year, we welcome Kara Bulmer as our new faith development director. Bulmer is a graduate student at Fort Hays State University majoring in health and human performance. She and her husband, Chance, are preparing to welcome their first child this spring. Welcome, Kara.

• • •

Kael Bloom is making a return to Celebration Community Church as its creative arts director. He formerly directed worship at the church prior to moving to Wichita. His wife, Sara, recently was named the new executive director of the Downtown Hays Development Corp. They have three children, Isaac, Judah and Kadance.

• • •

Do you have news going on in your congregation or church? Would you like to have it published in the next ONE magazine? Then send it to one@dailynews.net, with the subject line targeted as "ONE church news."

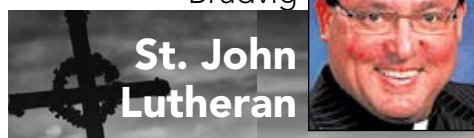
GROUP BECOMES AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

Shortly after arriving in Ellis to begin my pastoral internship at St. John Lutheran Church, I begrudgingly confessed, "I'm a city slicker."

The off-the-cuff quip, a blatant admission of my unfamiliarity with ministry in a rural setting, was intended as a plea for patience, understanding and a not-so-veiled request for help in learning how to jettison my own stereotypes in order to experience the unexpected gifts that were bound to come my way during the course of the internship year.

At the time, I could not have predicted the unexpected gift that would come my way as a result of my participation in the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance; an ecumenical organization comprised of pastors and lay leaders committed to working together as partners in ministry on behalf of the residents of Ellis County.

Pastor Jon
Brudvig



For those individuals who have been intimately involved in the establishment and ongoing work of the ECMA, this achievement might not seem like a big deal. But to a "city slicker" like me, one who has lived in several different communities, communities where religious turf wars are the norm, the mission and ministry of the ECMA deserves accolades — not only for the fruits of the labor that have been produced through the years, but also for the commitment and dedication of all those

who have demonstrated a commitment to the residents of Ellis County and beyond.

It is a group of women and men who set aside their own agendas, egos and doctrinal turf wars for the betterment of the community and for the building up of the one church — Christ's church. Indeed, the commitment and dedication of the pastors, lay leaders and participating congregations has yielded much fruit through the years: ongoing support for First Call for Help of Ellis County, the annual Festival of Faith, the community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner, the Art of Marriage Seminars, and the publication of ONE. In fact, the very act of coming together each month to share ideas and information has, in the opinion of this "city-slicker" from Iowa, made tremendous strides toward repairing the fractures and divisions that have separated

God's beloved children for far too long. Christian unity and co-operation deserving of emulation and celebration.

Although I will return to Wartburg Seminary following the completion of my pastoral internship in Ellis, I will leave here thankful for the wonderful opportunity to participate in the mission and ministry of the ECMA. Without question, the experience has profoundly influenced my own personal commitment to ecumenical cooperation, the importance of community partnerships, and a willingness to "walk the talk" — to get out from behind the pulpit and to actively participate in God's mission for the world.

And for that, this "city slicker" owes a debt of gratitude to the ECMA and to the wonderful people of Ellis County.

Jon Brudvig is intern pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis.



St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

2901 E. 13th, Hays, Kansas, Parish Offices:
(785) 628-1446

Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: www.heartlandparishes.org

Rev. Daryl Olmstead

Rectory: 656-0336

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass - Wednesday, and Friday at 7:30 AM

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:00 PM

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

CYO Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, February 15

Serving Times: 11 am - 2 pm
and 4 pm - 7 pm

All You Can Eat!

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Italian Sausage

Garlic Bread

Salad, Dessert, Drink

Little Theatre at IHM

\$6.00 — Adults
\$3.00 — 12-5 years of age
4 years & under Free

IHM Parish • CYO



Obedience can help you stay focused on God

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons Jack, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue about who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.’”

Jack turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”

Isn't it funny how quickly we want other people to act like Jesus? Though it's just a joke, it points to a real problem we have when it comes to obedience. We want everyone else to do what's right so that it turns out the best for us.

Daniel was a man who lived around 600 BC. He was a follower of God who was taken from his home as a teenager as part of Babylon's expansion. The king of Babylon had attacked Jerusalem and taken the best and the brightest young men into his royal service.

Daniel and his friends were placed into a royal academy of sorts — a three-year training school in order to indoctrinate the boys and teach them the laws, customs and culture of Babylon. As part of the privilege

Pastor
Kevin Daniels

Hays Christian
Church



of being in this royal school, the boys were being fed food from the king's table. It was the best of the best, as far as food and wine went. They should have been thrilled.

Daniel was not.

Daniel saw the food was not acceptable for him, as a follower of the Law of Moses, to eat. There are many theories as to what the actual reason was, but Scripture tells us it would have made Daniel unclean. It would have been a clear-cut sin for Daniel and his friends to eat the food.

So Daniel and his friends had a decision to make. They can either go with the flow and just eat the food — after all they didn't appear to have much choice — or they could take a stand for what they knew was right.

Daniel approached the official over him and asked to have a special diet of vegetables and water. The official was not initially open to the idea. He felt Daniel and his friends would then look weaker than the other boys and then he (the official) would get in trouble with the king for not taking care of his charges.

Daniel stood firm. He asked him to do a 10-day challenge. He told the official to give him and his friends the diet of fruits, vegetables and water for 10 days, and then compare them to the other boys. The official agreed to the test.

At this point in the story, Daniel and his three friends were being obedient to God despite the dangers present. At any point, the official could have punished them even for asking, kicked them out of the program, or even killed them for insubordination. But God stayed with Daniel, and the official went along with the test.

At the end of the 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked significantly healthier than their comrades, and the official agreed to give them clean foods for the duration.

Daniel had to take a bold step of obedi-

ence in this situation. He did not care about the possible fall-out for his decision, but rather boldly followed God's Law. Daniel and his friends at this point don't know the troubles they're going to face in the future, such as the fiery furnace and the lion's den. What they do know is God has called them to be obedient. I wonder if they would have had the guts to be obedient in those “big” tests that laid ahead of them if they had not been obedient and faithful in this initial test.

I wonder where you are in your walk with the Lord. Where is the Lord calling you to be obedient? At work? At home? In a relationship? What is God clearly calling you to do (or not do)? Whenever we come to a crossroads in life, we must choose obedience to God. And I think you'll find being obedient in the small things helps you make those tougher choices down the road.

Be like Daniel and choose to be obedient to God no matter the cost. God will be with you when you do.

Kevin Daniels is pastor of Hays Christian Church.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES



This sign at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2703 Fort, Hays, shows the work required to become a strong, devoted Christian.

Liberty Foursquare moving to new location

By **MAGGIE GEBHARDT**
one@dailynews.net

The former Church of the Nazarene building, 400 E. Seventh, Hays, is undergoing significant renovations as Liberty Foursquare Church prepares to call it home.

For approximately 10 years, Liberty Foursquare staff have been trying to upgrade to a more spacious, convenient facility, according to Senior Pastor Steve Dinkel.

"We have been thinking about this for a long time, but we wanted to be sure we found the right place," he said. "We have come across many opportunities, but they were never the right price or right circumstance."

The church began discussion with the Nazarenes regarding purchase of the building in November, and approximately one week ago, closed on it.

"This is an affordable option for us," Dinkel said. "We're not having to build something from scratch."

Since 1999, Liberty Foursquare Church has been operating from 120 W. Ninth.

Already located within the same building, Northwestern Printers will be taking over the soon-to-be empty space, as it plans expanding.

"We're very lucky to be so busy," said Marvin Rack, Northwestern Printers owner. "We need the room."

Dinkel said before the new facility will be put to use, renovations and updates will take place for roughly three months.

"We just got started on Monday," he said.

Church members and staff are excited for the much needed, extra space.



JOLIE GREEN, one@dailynews.net
Liberty Foursquare Church will be relocating in the former Church of the Nazarene building at 400 E. Seventh.

"We will have more ministry space, more sanctuary space and a yard, which we've never had before," Dinkel said.

Due to limited room at their current location, Liberty Foursquare Church typically meets every Wednesday for youth ministries at St. Michael Episcopal Church, Hays.

"We've really enjoyed it there," Dinkel said of St. Michael Episcopal Church. "They've been a blessing over the years."

The space inconvenience will be eliminated with the new facility upgrade.

With extra room inside also comes more room outside, as alterations will be made around the building to provide

a large, welcoming yard and additional parking areas.

"One of our challenges over the last 10 years was lack of parking space," the pastor said. "Downtown Hays has really filled up with businesses, and we had very limited parking throughout the week."

The neighborhood of the new facility was a huge selling point, according to the pastor.

"That is probably the biggest benefit," he said. "Having people around us that we can get to know will be great."

Liberty Foursquare staff are working with local contractors to complete updates and alterations. Replacing floors, painting, plumbing and wire installations are just a few of the tasks on the agenda.

The former Church of the Nazarene building "is really great," Dinkel said. "It's got a neat flavor to it."

"We want to take that traditional look and turn it into more of a lodge look," he said.

It is important to the staff to provide an informal, comfortable environment for church goers.

"We want to open this place up so there is more room for just hanging out," Dinkel said of the sanctuary. "It will be more like the church's living room."

Throughout the location transition, the pastor said he has been overwhelmed with support from the community.

"I like Hays because we complete each other, instead of compete with each other," he said. "We've had several pastors come by and pray for us, and they're excited for us."

The church plans to have all new building renovations complete by April.

"Our hope is to be here for Easter Sunday," Dinkel said.

ECMA IS A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

God loves unity in the church. "The group of believers were united in their hearts and spirit. ... In fact, they shared everything." Acts 4:32

Unity among believers is so important that the New Testament gives more attention to the unity of the church than to either heaven or hell. Unity is the heart of fellowship. Destroy it, and you rip the heart out of Christ's body. Without unity, there is no fellowship, and without fellowship there is no church.

The Trinity — God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit — is unified, and God sent His Holy Spirit to empower and unify His church.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Pastor
Kyle Ermoian



Ephesians 4:3

As a part of a church family, you need to think of yourself as an agent of unity, commissioned by Jesus Christ to promote and preserve the fellowship among believers. We need to be looking at ways for us to "keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"

Focus on what we share in common,

not our differences

As believers, the Bible says we share one Lord, one body, one purpose, one Father, one Spirit, one hope, one faith, one baptism and one love. We share the same salvation, the same life and the same future — factors far more important than any differences we could enumerate. We should concentrate on these things.

"Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." Romans 14:19

Of course, God made us all different, and we should value and enjoy those differences, not merely tolerate them. God wants unity, not uniformity. But for unity's sake, we must never let minor differences divide us. We must stay focused

on God's common purposes for us and his church. Conflict is usually a sign the focus has shifted to less important issues, things the Bible calls "disputable matters."

I teach this concept in our membership class, "In essentials we have unity, in non-essentials we have liberty (freedom) and in all things we show charity (love)

I echo for our congregation what the Apostle Paul wrote to his, the Corinthians.

"Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10

We're better together.

Kyle Ermoian is the founding and senior pastor of Celebration Community Church.



A Partnership of



Ellis County Ministerial Alliance

and



Can be picked up at the following locations:

Liberty Foursquare Church
Celebration Community Church
Westview Church
Messiah Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church
St. Fidelis Church

St. Nicholas of Myra Church
Hays Christian Church
Cornerstone Southern Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Thomas More Prep-Marian High School
Messenger
St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis

Eagle Communications
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
HMC Chapel
North Oak Community Church
First United Methodist Church
Trinity Lutheran Church

Sponsoring Churches of **ONE**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jerry Sprock
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
 Sun. Hispanic Services: 3 p.m.
 785-625-9454/639-6181
 12th & Fort 625-9454
 Nursery Available
 Iglesia Hispana Bautista
 Pastora Lory Herrick
 Sunday Domingos 2:00 p.m.
 785-625-9454/639-6181
 Nursery Available
 12th & Fort 625-9454



Pastor Kevin Daniels
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
 Nursery
 Children's Church Provided
 For additional
 services and information
 call the church or 625-0094
 22nd & Marshall 625-3100
www.hayschristianchurch.org

THE BASILICA OF ST. FIDELIS, VICTORIA

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.
 Eucharistic Adoration
 Thursdays:
 7:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 in St. Fidelis Church behind the main altar
 St. Ann, Walker
 Sat. Mass: 6:30 p.m. Nov thru April
 Sun. Mass: 7:30 a.m. May thru Oct
 St. Boniface, Vincent
 Sun. Mass: 8:45 a.m.
 Fr. John Schmeidler
 735-2777
fidelis@ruraltel.net
www.stfidelischurch.com

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Intern Jon Brudvig
 Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday Worship with Holy
 Communion: 10:30 a.m.
 394 St. John-St. Andrew Rd.
 Get off the Ellis exit on I-70,
 and go six miles North
 on the paved road
 726-3207

WESTVIEW CHURCH

Pastor Wes Oakley, D. Min.
 Assoc. Pastor Tim Nunnery
 Assoc. Pastor Brandon Prough
 Assoc. Pastor Jeremy McGuire
 Sunday Adult & Children's Church
 10:30 a.m.
 Tues. R3 Live College, 8:30 p.m.
 Wed. R3 Youth, 7:00 p.m.
 Wed. Elevate Kids & Midweek Adult
 Service, 7:00 p.m.
 3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359
www.westviewchurch.tv

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.
 Study Hour: 9:45 a.m.
 Contemporary Worship: 11:00 a.m.
 (Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)
 Lutheran Hour: Sunday 7:30 a.m.
 KHAZ FM 99.5
 e-mail: messiahsec@ruraltel.net
 2000 Main 625-2057
www.messiahlutheranhays.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Jerre Nolte, Senior Pastor
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Service: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
 10:45 a.m. Service Broadcast
 on KAYS 1400 AM
 Wed. Afternoon Kid's Club:
 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Service: 5:00 p.m.
 (Light Supper & Informal Worship)
 305 W. 7th 625-3408

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pastor Harvey Hillem
 Sunday Holy Eucharist
 9:30 a.m.
 2900 Canal Blvd. 628-8442
stmichaelsays@gmail.com

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

* Casual Dress
 * Friendly People
 * Contemporary Music
 * Multi-Media Worship
 * Loving Nursery Care
 * Dynamic Youth Groups
 * Fun Kid's Church
 * Weekly Communion
 * Gourmet Coffee Bar
www.celebratejesus.org
 I-70 @ 183 Bypass (Exit 157)

CORNERSTONE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Gary Simon
 Kids/Youth/Adult
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Adult Bible Study
 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday King's Kids 6:00 p.m.
 Wed. Devotion/Prayer 7:00 p.m.
 29th & Indian Trail 625-9500
www.hayscornerstonesbc.com

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Interim Pastor John Kreidler
 2703 Fort St. 785-625-2044
 Sunday 10:15 a.m.
 (Holy Communion
 is Celebrated Every Sunday)
 Fellowship Following Worship
www.trinityhays.org
tchays@eaglecom.net

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Celeste Lasich
 Nursery available
 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
 Adult Study Group: 11 a.m.
 Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
 Youth Group Sun. evenings
www.haysfpc.org
pastorceleste@ruraltel.net
 2900 Hall 625-2847

NORTH OAK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Ken Ediger
 Associate Pastor John Wiker
 Youth Pastor Jeff Neher
 Worship Service:
 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.
 Nursery &
 Children's Church Available
 Wed. K-12 programs
 3000 Oak 785-628-8887
www.northoak.net