

ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance March 2015

Forget the Past

THE good SINNER

A Child Will Lead Them

INSIDE:

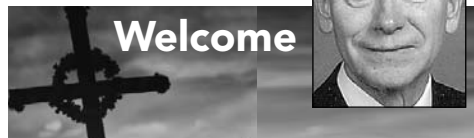
- + Christian author finds calling
- + Coloring contest
- + Spring break reading suggestions

WELCOME

This will be my final welcome article for the "ONE" publication as I am retiring from the pastoral ministry and moving in August to be near one of our daughters who lives in Missouri. My family and I came to Ellis County in May 1989 when I accepted the pastoral position of First Baptist Church of Hays.

During these 26 years, my family and I have been richly blessed by the Christian community of Ellis County. These years of involvement with the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance have been extremely rewarding. During my 43 years of pastoral ministry, the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance has been the strongest ministerial alliance I have known or heard of. As I have talked with pastors from other places about our alliance, they are amazed at

Jerry Sprock



the things we do and the involvement we have together. I've seen people who have criticized the church for being divided, become dumbfounded as I share about the churches of Ellis County.

This alliance has been a powerful witness that the unity of the church is our one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The church and its unity survive because of Jesus and this is what the Holy Spirit

is demonstrating through the Christian churches of Ellis County. What an awesome witness, and I have been so privileged to have been a part of it. I know I will continue to share this county's witness with others wherever I go.

Spring break will soon be upon us. This publication will encourage you to give some time to the reading of good Christian materials. It is my honor on behalf of the ECMA to welcome you to read this publication that has a theme of devotionals or books to read during spring break. God bless you (Dios te bendiga) and may the witness of the oneness in Jesus, the churches of Ellis County, continue and grow stronger until our Lord comes again.

Jerry Sprock
First Baptist Church

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 3
Copyright 2015

one@dailynews.net

HOLY HUMOR

By

The Realtor's Hymn — I've Got A Mansion Just Over The Hilltop

The Pilot's Hymn — I'll Fly Away

The Paramedic's Hymn — Revive Us Again

The Judge's Hymn — Almost Persuaded

The Psychiatrist's Hymn — Just A Little Talk

With Jesus

The Architect's Hymn — How Firm A Foundation

The Credit Card Telemarketer's Hymn — A Charge To Keep I Have

The Zoo Keeper's Hymn — All Creatures Of

Our God And King

The Postal Worker's Hymn — So Send I You

The Waiter's Hymn — Fill My Cup, Lord

The Gardener's Hymn — Lo, How A Rose

E'er Blooming

The Lifeguard's Hymn — Rescue The Perishing

The Criminal's Hymn — Search Me, O God

The Baker's Hymn — When The Roll Is

Called Up Yonder

The Shoe Repairer's Hymn — It Is Well With My Soul

The Travel Agent's Hymn — Anywhere With

Jesus

The Geologist's Hymn — Rock Of Ages

The Hematologist's Hymn — Are You Washed In The Blood?

The Men's Wear Clerk's Hymn — Blest Be

The Tie

The Umpire's Hymn — I Need No Other Argument

The Librarian's Hymn — Whispering Hope

Source: Makeitclear.org

Favorite Hymns of Different Professions

The Dentist's Hymn — Crown Him With Many Crowns

The Weatherman's Hymn — There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing

The Contractor's Hymn — The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn — Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's Hymn — There Is A Green Hill

Far Away

The Politician's Hymn — Standing On The Promises

The Optometrist's Hymn — Open My Eyes

That I May See

The IRS Agent's Hymn — I Surrender All

The Gossip's Hymn — Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn — Send The Light

The Shopper's Hymn — In The Sweet By and

RECIPE

This is a recipe we discovered while on vacation in Branson, Mo. We ate at Andy Williams Restaurant, and the sauce on their meatloaf was delicious. My husband asked our waiter about the sauce, and he told us it was Mr. Williams' mother's recipe.

— Trish Vopat,
Cornerstone Southern
Baptist Church

Secret sauce

2 cups of ketchup

2 cups of sugar

1 cup of olive oil

1 cup of apple cider vinegar

1 teaspoon of paprika

1 medium finely diced onion

1 tablespoon of horseradish

Stir ingredients together until well blended and pour over prepared meatloaf before baking.

Tastes wonderful on other meat entrees as well.

PRAIRIE LAND

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: March 16. Order locally and pay with check, cash or EBT food stamps.

Food pick up date: March 28; Hays, The Mall, south hallway, 2918 Vine, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, call Vickie Rohleder (785) 625-6291.

MESSAGE AT THE TOP: LOVE EVERY SINGLE DAY

The words about controlling our behavior that Jesus gives are always challenging. When he was speaking of the spiritual life, for example, that is, denying ourselves, taking up his cross, and following him, it demands a truly difficult commitment.

Then (Jesus) said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?" (Luke 9:23-25).

Denying ourselves of things we like, taking up the difficult crosses of life and following his words rather than our own is a directive that takes years to accomplish. Achieving the spiritual life is never easy.

Added to the difficulty is the word Jesus uses to describe how often we must work at accomplishing these things, namely "daily."

Father
Mike Scully



Message at
the Top

Even if we could bring about what Jesus sets up as a standard at some point in time, Jesus tells us we cannot just do it once, and then forget about it. We must commit ourselves to do it every single day. In effect, Jesus is telling us in order to carry out a commitment to him and our spiritual lives, we must continue the effort it takes — daily. Deep commitments are never easy either.

It is the reason why Ed Sheeran's love song, "Thinking Out Loud," is such a beautiful love song. Not only has the commitment occurred at one particular time, but he says he will "fall

in love every single day."

"When your legs don't work like they used to before, and I can't sweep you off of your feet, will your mouth still remember the taste of my love? I will be loving you 'til we're 70 and my heart could still fall as hard as 23. And I'm thinking 'bout how people fall in love in mysterious ways. Well, me — I fall in love with you every single day, and I just wanna tell you I am. I'm thinking out loud that we found love right where we are."

There is no time limit when it comes to love. If we love someone, we will love them "right where they are" — that is, every moment, every day.

The song is an excellent statement of the way husband and wife must give to each other and likewise the way friends must behave in a true friendship. Love might begin with an initial "yes, I will," but it implies the statement will be made in all ways, daily. It is also the way the love of God works toward us, and the

way we must show our love for God.

The way of love implies difficulty because it means giving up things in order to love someone else every day. Sheeran makes it clear for the romantic commitment. It is the way of the spiritual lives as we love our God.

Good and gracious God, your Son has given us the way to pursue our spiritual lives — denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following him daily. It is never easy. Help us learn from him so we can be better spiritually, and in the process, learn the meaning of love itself. 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 – "Thinking Out Loud" / Ed Sheeran Matthew 5:33-37
- 4 – "Jealous" / Nick Jonas Matthew 20:20-24
- 5 – "Take Me to Church" / Hozier Luke 22:47-48



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
- Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute
- Eye Surgery
- Imaging Center
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Orthopedic Institute
- Psychiatric Associates
- Pulmonology
- Rehabilitation
- Skilled Care
- Sleep Neurodiagnostic Institute
- Spine, Joint & Hand Center
- Urology
- Women, Infants & Pediatrics
- Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center

EASTER WAS
JUST THE BEGINNING...

A.D.

AS SEEN ON



JOIN US FOR THE ENTIRE 12-WEEK SERIES!

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 & 10:45 AM

BEACH/SCHMIDT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Reading of Psalms continues this month

Greetings Bible reading plan reader. We have some great Bible readings coming this month.

For our Old Testament readings, we will finish the book of Psalms. It has been a great joy to read the lyrics of these inspiring songs. We will read Book Four (90-104), and Book Five (107-150) this month. Book Four's collection of Psalms center around the Kingship of our God. Most of these Psalms were used during Israel's exile. Book Five contains more victorious Psalms, written as they had returned to their homeland. These Psalms are a reminder God is worthy of our Praise. He is good.

Our New Testament readings will conclude our journey through Acts and into Paul's Epistles (letters) to the churches of the day. I really enjoy this arrangement of the New Testament readings. Many believe Paul's earliest writing was 1 Thesalonians. Take note as you read through Paul's letters, they develop as Paul's life and ministry develop. Consider this: The Apostle Paul grew and matured as he ministered. You and I should be doing the same. Make that your Lenten goal — grow in your relationship with Jesus. It's the best action to take. Read on.

Pastor Steve Dinkel



Bible Reading Plan

March

1.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 89.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 19
2.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 90-91.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20
3.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 92-94.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 21
4.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 95-97.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 22
5.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 98-100.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 23
6.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 101-102.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24
7 & 8.....	Weekend Review	
9.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 103-104.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 25
10.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 105-106.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 26
11.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 107-108.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 27
12.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 109-111.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 28
13.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 112-115.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes. 1
14 & 15.....	Weekend Review	
16.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 116-118.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes. 2
17.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 119.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes. 3
18.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 120-126.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes. 4
19.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 127-132.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thes. 5
20.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 133-136.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thes. 1
21 & 22.....	Weekend Review	
23.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 137-139.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thes. 2
24.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 140-141.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thes. 3
25.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 142-144.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 1
26.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 145-150.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 2
27.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 1.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 3
28 & 29.....	Weekend Review	
30.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 2.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 4
31.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 2.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 4

FAITH BRIEFS

Steve Wescott of Needle2Square will speak March 4 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2000 Main, Hays. Wescott is walking across America from the Space Needle in Seattle to Times Square in New York City to raise money for an orphanage his best friend started in Nairobi Kenya. Uzima Outreach cares for, houses and schools 35 kids almost completely on donations.

Uzima Outreach is a two-fold ministry reaching not only addicted adults, but the neglected and orphaned children of the addicted. Its mission is to reach the lost and dying drug community with the help of the gospel of Jesus Christ, disciple them to Christ-like maturity and help them integrate back into society to also go and make disciples.

For more information, visit www.needle2square.com

• • •

The ECMA Palm Sunday Processional March will be at 3 p.m. March 29. All church and community members are invited to participate to celebrate and commemorate Palm Sunday, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem a week before his crucifixion.

We will meet on "Gospel Hill," beginning in front of St. Joseph Catholic Church, 210 W. 13th. There will be a short introduction and blessing of the palms, then we will participate in a march and return to the front of the church for closing remarks and a benediction. This is an ecumenical Holy Week service, sponsored by the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance.

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

A book that reads between my life's lines

"Prayer is not asking for what you think you want, but asking to be changed in ways you can't imagine."

Kathleen Norris

Sometimes books and authors find us just when we need them. Kathleen Norris and "Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith" entered my life in my early 30s just when I needed it. While I was attending church every Sunday, was active on committees and service, I had a growing sense God intended something more; challenging and life changing. But I did not yet have a vocabulary for this new and deepening faith experience. Enter the book "Amazing Grace" with lines like, "This is a God who is not identified with the help of a dictionary but through a relationship."

And "At its Greek root, 'to believe' simply means 'to give one's heart to.' Thus, if we can determine what it is we give our

Celeste Lasich

**First
Presbyterian**



heart to, then we will know what it is we believe." That should sound familiar to the congregation I serve. What we truly believe — Credo — ultimately determines where we are willing to give our energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

My copy of that first book is long gone. "Amazing Grace" passed through many hands, even been replaced a few times. Kathleen Norris' work has followed me and guided me through a significant part of my journey serving different congregations in

Illinois, Michigan, California and Minnesota. In her book "Cloister Walk," she wrote, "Only Christ could have brought us all together, in this place, doing such absurd but necessary things." Amen to that.

When I found myself disoriented in a move from a fast-paced Californian city of 75,000 to the wide-open farmlands and tall grass prairie of southwest Minnesota, I was grateful to find Norris proceeded me with wisdom and perspective I needed to find. Norris had left the energy and fast pace of New York City to care for her mother in the desert Dakota Great Plains. "Dakota: A Spiritual Geography" is part weather report, part book of stories, part prayer book: all worth reading as meditation and reflection on how geography shapes us, and reveals God's presence. My new geography felt unsettling and upside down, so I had a sense of recognition and reassurance reading, "For me, walking

in a hard Dakota wind can be like staring at the ocean: humbled before its immensity, I also have a sense of being at home on this planet, my blood so like the sea in chemical composition, my every cell partaking of air. I live about as far from the sea as is possible in North America, yet I walk in a turbulent ocean. Maybe that child was right when he told me that the world is upside-down here, and this is where angels drown."

Borrowing Norris' vision, I developed an appreciation for the lessons taught by still desert places. "Maybe the desert wisdom of the Dakotas can teach us to love anyway, to love what is dying, in the face of death, and not pretend that things are other than they are. The irony and wonder of all of this is that it is the desert's grimness, its stillness and isolation, that brings us back to love."

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



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

Heartland Parish Lenten Mission

Join us along with

Fr. Meinrad Miller, OSB

as he presents

**The Gospel: Believe what you read,
Teach what you believe &
Practice what you teach.**



March 8th — 11th

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Sunday session at 7:15 pm

Monday-Wednesday Sessions at 7 pm

**Fr. Meinrad Miller, OSB, is a Benedictine Monk
from St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS.**

For more information contact:

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

1805 Vine St. - Hays, Ks - 785-625-7339

AUTHOR'S LIFE STORY NOW AN OPEN BOOK

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

She stepped off her treadmill to start writing her first book and awoke in the middle of the night with ideas for her third novel.

Answering God's call at the moment, no matter what she's doing at the time, is what drives Elizabeth Schmeidler, a Hays author of Christian fiction.

From her first novel, "Forget Me Not," that she published in 2011, to her latest, "Forever Love," set to appear on the shelves later this year, they all "have an underlying plot, and that's to give people hope."

"They are meant to entertain, but they are also meant to help," Schmeidler said. "I want them to be entertaining with the message of hope and faith. I want that to be the central theme of everything I do."

Schmeidler actually started writing her first book nearly 20 years ago but never published it because "there were no publishers of Catholic fiction, and I was busy raising my boys."

Then a few years ago, she learned she could publish the books on her own. So she got to editing, and re-editing and looking for someone to do the books' accompanying artwork.

Schmeidler — also a song writer, a poet, an inspirational speaker and No. 1, she says, a wife and mother — said every one of her novels have "a little bit of romance, a little bit of mystery and a lot of God's message in them."

"I'm passionate about what I write," she said, "and I want to share that."

Though she is a Catholic, her books are for all Christians. "We all love and serve the same God."

Her other two novels are "A Child Will Lead Them," and "The Good Sinner," and are available for purchase at The Messenger, 2512 Vine, or online at Amazon or any other book outlet. They also can be ordered through Schmeidler's website, www.willyoubemyvoice.com.

Schmeidler is as passionate as can be about — well, about everything she does. But don't think this came easily to the eighth born child in a Catholic family of nine children.

"I felt I was being called, but I was being



JOLIE GREEN, one@dailynews.net

Christian author Elizabeth Schmeidler, Hays, works on a book at her home in Hays.

asked to do things out of my comfort zone," said Schmeidler, who started her writing with poems for unwed mothers at the Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home in Hays and getting some short stories published in *Guidepost* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

She also has published a children's book, "The Box."

Now in her early 50s, Schmeidler said she still is in awe at her ability to step out of her box, trying to wrap her mind about where "answering God's call" has taken her.

"I wanted to just get by and not have anyone look at me," said Schmeidler, who said she was anything but outgoing while growing up. "I was my mother's chicken, scared of my own shadow."

"When I first got called out of the pew

to sing at Mass, I had never sung a solo note in public. I was a Mass and in-the-shower-only singer," said Schmeidler, who was in her mid-30s at the time.

Once that talent was unleashed, Schmeidler said she just kept answering God's call, although that wasn't always easy at times.

"Believing He will speak to you is one thing; listening is another," she said. "But that's the beauty of how God takes the least likely to do a certain thing and works through them."

Schmeidler believes her own insecurities she felt as a child help her in her writing.

"Things are never as they seem; you just need to trust Him ... hold on and let Him

work things out," she said.

One of people's favorites, she says, is one of her songs, "If I Could Phone Home," which tells of someone who has died and is now talking to their loved ones back home.

"If you can picture someone in Heaven, it can lessen your suffering, and help you to move on," Schmeidler said. "The greatest reward is hearing someone say they have found peace."

Whether it be through her songs or books, Schmeidler said her goal is the same.

"My heart is to help people, little by little," she said. "I want to help people to have some hope, to see that it's always in God's hands, no matter how it might look at the time."

Book review: 'Praying for Your Elephant'

How's your prayer life?

No. Now don't skip this article.

Most people don't want to talk about their prayer life because their prayer life is not what they had hoped. In the book "Praying for Your Elephant: Boldly Approaching Jesus with Radical and Audacious Prayer" by Adam Stadtmiller, he takes you on a journey through his prayer life and provides some practical steps to help you on your own journey.

Paul E. Billheimer is quoted as saying in Chapter 1, "Satan does not care how many people read about prayer, if only he can keep them from prayer."

That statement was a convicting statement to me, as I look on my bookshelf and see many books on prayer. The point of Stadtmiller's work, then, is not to teach you more on the theology of prayer — though he covers that well — it is rather to teach us significant steps we can take to learn the habit of praying. Particularly, he asks the reader to create a list of 100 prayer requests or needs. Yes, 100.

Pastor
Kevin Daniels

Hays Christian
Church



He asks us to list 10 general areas of our life — it could be family, work, friends, the world, the church, and yes, the elephants. Then inside of each of those 10, dig deeper into 10 specific prayer requests you are going to commit to praying for.

He challenges us to go deeper into each request, imagining and dreaming what could be in each circumstance. He dares us to go beyond the basic "heal him" prayers and enter into the world of bolder prayers: "let him dance with his wife again." He says by imagining the prayers, we join with God's purpose and love, and the prayers become more meaningful for us.

Stadtmiller says "the boundaries of our

personal prayer lives often have less to do with biblical restrictions and more to do with the limitations we place on them." In that, he means often we are afraid to pray for what we really want. We feel guilty about asking for things. We compare our needs to others and don't feel like we should even bother God with our little desires and wants. The problem, he argues, is God wants to have communication with us about all parts of life — not just the ones we feel are "good enough" or "worthy enough" to bring to God. In recognizing God accepts all of us, including our deepest held desires and needs, we are free from the guilt we often put on ourselves. If we want something, we need to be honest with God about it. Tell him what we want, and go ahead and ask him for it. Then rest in the fact he is God, the all-knowing, and will give according to his good and perfect will.

So what's the deal with the elephants, you might ask. The elephants are those prayers that are so risky, so big they would be game-changers for your life. Those are

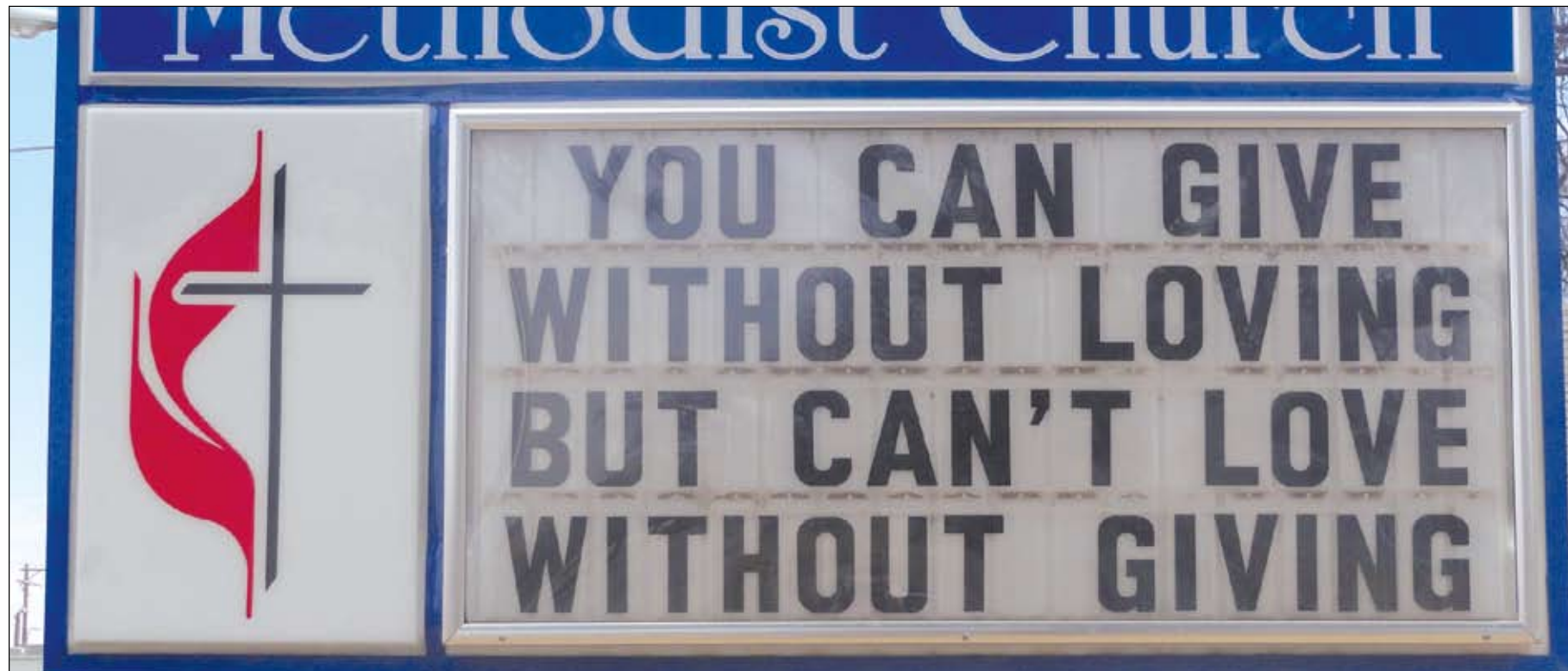
the prayers you often desire the most, but are sometimes afraid to ask for or dream about. Stadtmiller says we need to examine those elephants and bring them to the Lord. We might not get our prayers answered in the way we want, but God does promise to answer our prayers. Part of praying is to communicate with God and have time set aside to be with him and him alone.

Stadtmiller does a great job of laying out principles and practices that can be followed in our everyday life. And he strikes a good balance between praying and acting. He says prayer is the intersection of faith and action. We need to see we might be the answer to our own prayer or the prayer of someone else.

I encourage you to pick up a copy of Praying for Your Elephant and start discovering what your prayer life could be if you'll allow God's Spirit to guide you through the process.

Kevin Daniels is pastor of Hays Christian Church.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES



The sign for March comes from First United Methodist Church, Hays.

Youth Spotlight

Youth size small but mighty at church

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

This is not your ordinary high school youth group. But the group, which actually is a duo, is a vital part of the lay ministry at First Baptist Church in Hays.

Trey and Rachele Lumpkins are the only teenagers in the congregation. But don't think that means the siblings can fade into the woodwork.

Quite the contrary.

From the time he was 15 years old, 18-year-old Trey has been attending the church's men's group — and taken on responsibilities that go along with it.

"One day, Matt just told me I was going to men's group with him," Trey said of longtime church member Matt Massaglia. "And that's how it all got started."

Rachele liked what she saw her older brother doing and began getting involved a month later.

Both now are entrenched in nearly every facet with the congregation of approximately 50.

"We don't have the number of adults as some churches," said Jerry Sprock, pastor at First Baptist. "So we give (the Lumpkins siblings) responsibilities more-so like the adults."

It was a perfect situation for a single mother, said Vicki Needham, who got remarried a year ago but raised Trey and Rachele herself from the time they were preschool age.

"I think it's drawn them closer to the congregation," Needham said of her children's early participation in adult activities. "... made them take on a lot of responsibilities early."

Needham said her son "was not an organized kid," and Trey agreed being given a lot of responsibilities has helped him with time management.

"It means a lot," Rachele added, "because being the only children for a while, it got boring."

The Lumpkins siblings are no longer bored.

Fifteen-year-old Rachele serves as the church's song leader and for a time was in charge of the bell ringers and candle lighters as well. She also helps with door greeting, offering collection and babysitting in the nursery.

Oh, and she also is a substitute teacher for Sunday school for the young children.

Trey is just as busy.

Besides helping with cooking breakfast for the congregation every third Saturday of the month, Trey is the sound-board director for the congregation's liturgy that is

"I'm kind of a normal person, a semi-leader and get to be a kid, too."

TREY LUMPKIN



JOLIE GREEN, one@dailynews.net

Trey Lumpkins, 18, and his younger sister, Rachele, 15, serve many roles of lay ministry at First Baptist Church in Hays.

run by PowerPoint and collects offering. He helps with "honey-do" projects and even has been known to help clean the church.

The Lumpkins said they have the best of both worlds. They also are part of a traditional youth group, attending Wednesday night youth group activities at CrossPoint-Hays.

"They still get to be teenagers, too," Needham said

of her children, who also are involved in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

"I'm kind of a normal person, a semi-leader and get to be a kid, too," said Trey, who said he enjoys hanging out with the adults.

"Oh, we still have a lot of fun," he added. "I like to challenge the adults to a game of pool."

The pool table in the church's basement, he said, is warped.

"I practice all the time," Trey said with a grin. "I know how to get the ball just right, into the warp, and then into the hole. I win a lot."

Kyle's Top 10 list of most read Christian books

10. Gary Chapman's "The 5 Love Languages" — In this you'll discover the secret that has transformed millions of relationships worldwide. Whether your relationship is flourishing or failing, Chapman's proven approach to giving and receiving love will help you experience deeper and richer levels of intimacy with your partner. We teach this yearly as a class in our church, and I use this with every couple I counsel.

9. Charles Swindoll's "Improving Your Serve" — In one of the first books I read on being a servant, Swindoll uniquely shows the important aspects of authentic giving and challenges you to realize the rich rewards promised in a life of authentic Christian servant hood.

8. Lee Stroebel's "The Case for Faith" — This sequel to his best-selling "The Case for Christ" finds the author inves-



Kyle Ermoian

Celebration Community Church

tigating the difficult issues and doubts of the heart that threaten faith. Eight major topics are addressed, including doubt, the problem of suffering and the existence of evil.

7. Lee Stroebel's "The Case for Christ" — Using the dramatic scenario of an investigative journalist pursuing his story and leads, Stroebel uses his experience as a reporter for the Chicago Tribune to interview experts about the evidence for Christ from the fields of science, philoso-

phy and history.

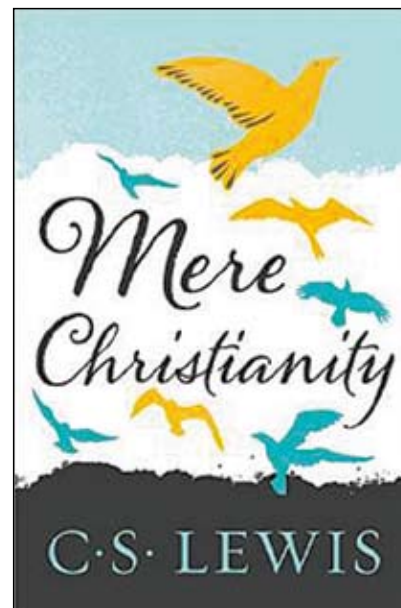
6. Bill Hybels' "Courageous Leadership" — I have read just about everything from Hybels since 1990. This is his finest work. There is no one who speaks to church leadership with more skill, ability and insight than this Chicago-land mega church pastor.

5. Jamers Emery White's "Rethinking the Church" — A collection of essays that helps pastors and lay leaders work through questions that must be answered if a church is to rethink the way we reach an ever-changing culture with the never changing gospel.

4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "The Cost of Discipleship" — This is the classic work on living with others in the context of Christian community while understanding anything worth anything comes at a cost and the gift of grace from God is free but it isn't cheap.

3. C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters" — A masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from

the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to the devil, "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters" is the most engaging account of temptation — and triumph over it — ever written.



2. Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life" — The second best-selling non-fiction book of all time. (Guess what No. 1 is? The Bible of course). I shaped my life and ministry around the God-given purposes in this 40-day devotional I read over and over again.

1. C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity" — It provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful apologetic for the

Christian faith. Lewis, the most important writer of the 20th century, explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together.

Kyle Ermoian is founding and senior pastor at Celebration Community Church

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

I'm Yours

tobyMac

CHURCH EVENTS

Ellis United Methodist Church, 1201 Washington, will offer the following Lenten services:
7 p.m. Monday evening Lenten Study
Until March 30th

Palm Sunday
11 a.m. Worship / Parade of Palms

Holy Week:
7 p.m. Worship Holy Thursday / Holy Communion
7 p.m. Worship Good Friday

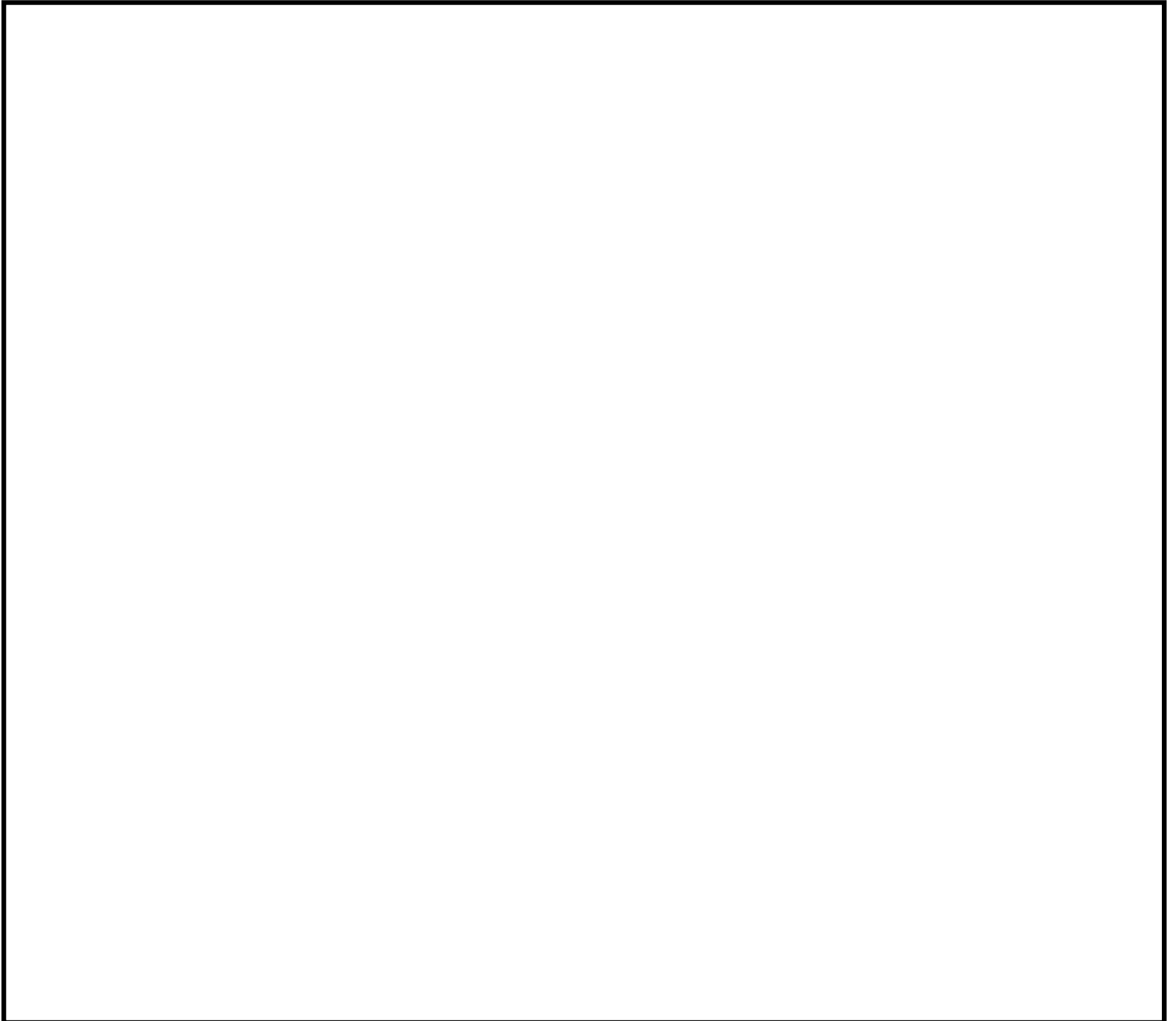
Easter Sunday
11 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion

CORRECTION

Annie Ricker was misidentified on the cover of the February ONE issue. The photo was of Becky Saddler. We apologize for the error.

COLORING CONTEST

THE THEME IS "VICTORY." THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 11.
WINNERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF ONE.



An unconventional pastor's memoir

Reading *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint* by Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber (Jerico, 2013) is an eye-opening look at what it's like to rediscover one's Christian faith. Bolz-Weber's confessional stories and uninhibited opinions leave one thinking sarcastically, "Well, tell me how you really feel." Her snarky, cynical rants and profanity-laden truths are in stark juxtaposition to her raw vulnerability.

It might be hard for some to believe this foul-mouthed, tattooed, recovering alcoholic is a happily married mother of two, and an ELCA Lutheran pastor of the church she started in Denver. The House for All Sinners and Saints is where she is a shepherd to black sheep, those who've felt the sting of being ostracized from other churches, many recovering from past hurts — and even the un-churched.

Reading this book can feel like a slap in the face followed by a hug, where one is confronted with the uncomfortableness of facing one's own shortcomings, but reminded that God accepts all, no matter how broken. Bolz-Weber tells the reader, "Any identity other than child of God is spiritually meaningless" (page 142). She reminds us that through baptism, we are accepted as God's own, not because we are good or perfect, but because "God loves the world too much to let your sin define you and be the final word. 'I am God who makes all things new'" (page 50).

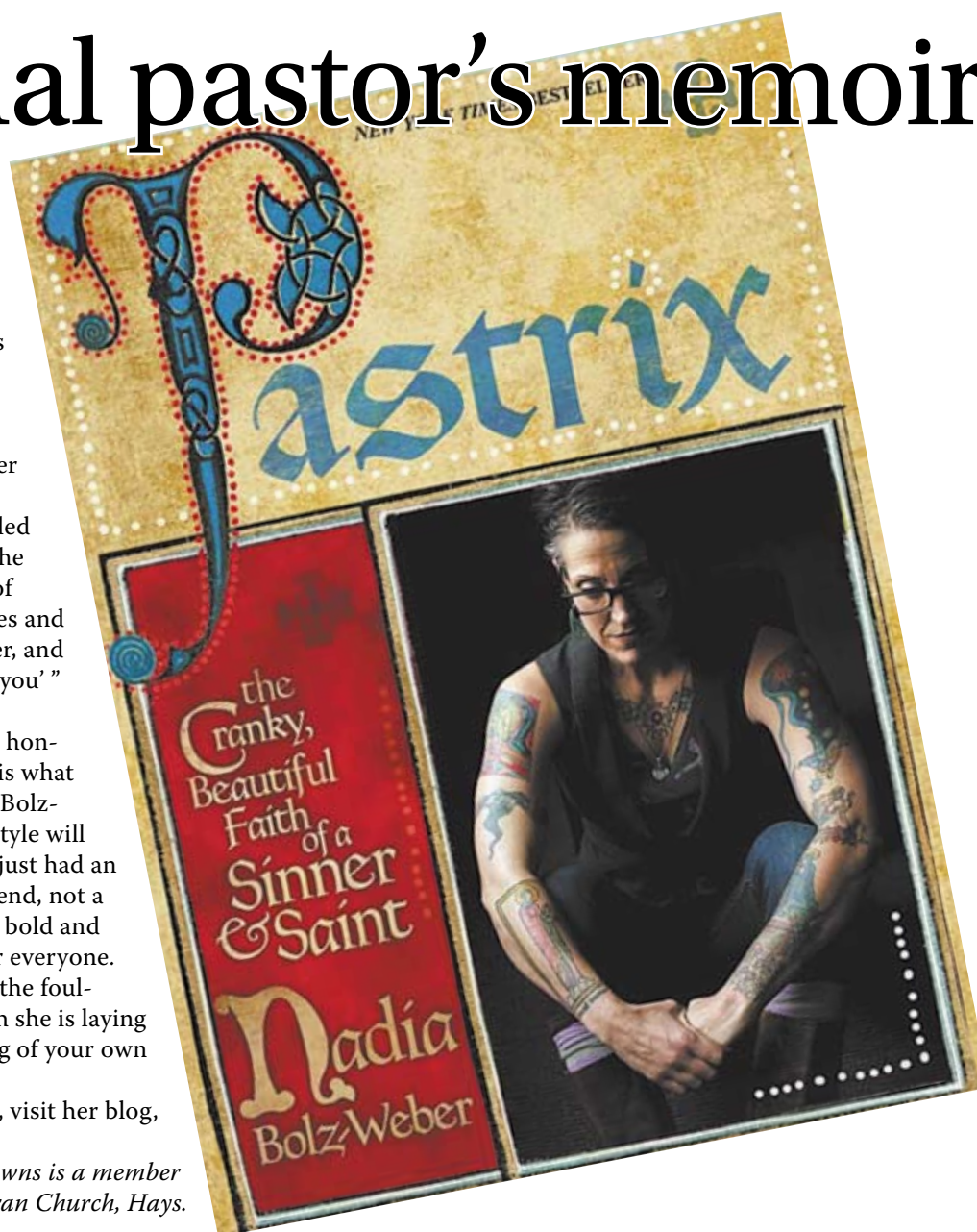
Bolz-Weber relays her own personal struggles, intertwined with God's message of renewal. She reminds us every day we die to something, in order to be made new. Sins of our past, thoughts

of the present, and fears for the future do not define us. "God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over" (page 174). She also discusses the idea of being called by God and unable to ignore the constant nagging in the back of your mind because "God comes and gets us, taps us on the shoulder, and says, 'Pay attention, this is for you'" (page 57).

This narrative might be too honest for some readers, but that is what makes it so real and relatable. Bolz-Weber's free-flowing writing style will leave readers feeling like they just had an emotional talk with a close friend, not a lecture from their pastor. This bold and colorful book might not be for everyone. However, if you can look past the foul-mouthed bits and see the truth she is laying out, it can spark a reawakening of your own personal faith journey.

For more from Bolz-Weber, visit her blog, www.sarcasticlutheran.com.

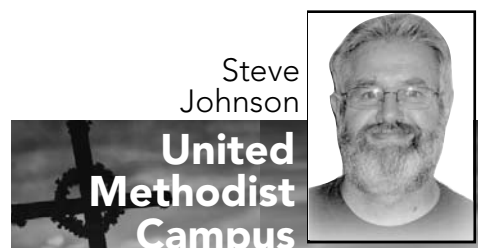
Anna Towns is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hays.



Books come to us in amazing ways

Last summer, while sitting in a waiting room, I leafed through a news magazine. I ran across an article about a new book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor. I had not heard of the author, but the title fascinated me.

You see, I love to sleep in the dark. I love to sleep in a room that is so dark no light at all is visible. Sometimes when I do, I can wake up and not immediately know up from down or left from right. Some people I have described this feeling to think the experience would be frightening, but I always find it strangely



comforting.

I learned Taylor considers darkness as the setting for many of God's revealings to humans. God appeared to Abraham at night. The exodus happened at night.

God met Moses at the top of a mountain shrouded in dark clouds. Jesus was resurrected in a dark tomb.

By the end of the article, I was hooked, and I ordered the book locally. It came in time to be my summer reading.

In it, I learned of how there are many treasures in the dark. I also learned how light pollution affects our well being. I read of how historical builders of the faith explored the darkness as a source of God. We each need darkness as much as we need light.

Then, at a summer workshop, the pri-

mary presenter talked about her favorite author. You guessed it — Barbara Brown Taylor. And I still had her newest book with me.

For your spring break reading, I highly recommend this book. The days are getting longer and warmer, but for most of us, they are not yet quite long or warm enough.

Learning the value of darkness in our lives might just help us realize we need winter to appreciate summer.

Steve Johnson is director of the United Methodist Campus Ministry.

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