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Lory Herrick

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## Chicken nuggets and stewardship

hicken nuggets. Some, including my granddaughter, consider these morsels tasty. I have to admit I am not a fan. I can do without the nuggets. I'm not writing to criticize nugget lovers or to pass judgment on nugget producers; I just haven't found a nugget I enjoy.

Through internet research, I discovered that chicken nuggets are made with something called meat slurry. This slurry is produced by

page 2

grinding and combining bits of chicken byproducts with other ingredients into a paste. This paste, or slurry, is extruded, shaped, breaded, and deep fried.

Sometimes people talk about the church as if it were like that slurry. Words like love and kindness are used. The church starts to sound like an amorphous amalgamation of love and kindness. Love and kindness are good sentiments, but they don't say anything definite about church members.

Perhaps a better image is the one St. Paul provides in First Corinthians. That image is not a mish mash of emotion. It isn't an image of extruded, uniformly shaped products. The image St. Paul uses is the image of a body with its distinct parts. The parts function to make up the whole. He calls this the Body of Christ.

In talking about the Body of Christ, St. Paul says the many distinct members are equal in dignity, though they are not equal in function. The many parts are distinguished from each other



by their functions in the Body. The differently functioning members are united in one mission.

The first point to be made is that

the many distinct members of the Body of Christ are equal in dignity. This equality is brought about by the fact that Jesus is present in each by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus everyone is deserving of respect. Everyone is important.

However, the many distinct members of the Body of Christ are not equal in function. There is a variety of gifts with a variety of functions. No matter how small some gifts may seem to some givers, every gift is valuable. The variety of functions resulting from the diverse gifts contribute to the good of the Body.

Though the ismage of the Body of Christ is one of diversity, there is

## BRIEF

Wondering what to do to keep those plants you received for Christmas alive?

Holly Dickman with the Ellis County Extension Office will have the answers when she speaks to the Hays After 5 Christian women's group at 7 p.m. Jan. 9, 2017, at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2250 E. 8th St. in Hays.

Cost of the dinner program is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Jan. 5, 2017, by calling (785) 202-1036 or by emailing nocheartnurse@yahoo.com/.

Also on the program is Dana Bowman of Lindsborg, who will share her "Journey to Sobriety." Bowman, a former adjunct professor at Bethany College, says she made the same New Year's resolution many times. The mom of two young children will talk about recovery, humor and parenting.

Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft ministry of Overland Park. unity. The many distinct members of the Body of Christ are united in one ministry. That is the ministry of Jesus Christ, who St. Paul describes as the Head of the Body. Each member of the Body of Christ is called to participate in Jesus' ongoing ministry of edifying the church and transforming the world. The gifts of each member of the Body of Christ are needed for this ministry.

In conclusion, a Christian is a member of the Body of Christ with its many gifts and functions. Members are equal in dignity, distinct in function, and united in mission. This speaks of stewardship. Stewardship may be described as receiving God's gifts gratefully, developing them joyfully, and using them freely in service to the church and the world. This issue of ONE is dedicated to the theme of stewardship in the hope of fostering reflection on, and excitement about, this essential quality of the Christian life.

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Order date: Jan. 16. Order locally and pay with check, cash or EBT food stamps. Or you can order on-line at june@prairielandfood.com and pay with your debit card or check.

Food pick up date: Jan. 28; Hays, Big Creek Crossing, 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 ONE January 2017 SUBMISSIONS

ONE and the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance encourage submissions 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.

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

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## ONE January 2017 page 3 God has blessed us with what we have

s we begin the new year, it's important that we take stock L of all the God has blessed us with. Even if 2016 was a tough year for you, there are always things to be thankful for. When it comes to material things, it's easy to think about what you don't have. Instead, we need to be grateful for what we do have.

Part of being grateful for what we do have, is recognizing that God has blessed us with what we have. No matter what we have, it is to be considered a gift from God. Even those things that you may not see as a blessing from God, really are. God has given you the ability to earn the money, for example, which gave you the means to purchase the items in question.

As we recognize that everything that we have comes from God, it is only appropriate that we also talk about giving back to the Lord and his work. The Bible

speaks in many places about a tithe; giving back to the Lord 10 percent of what he blessed you with. In addition, the Apostle Paul encourages us

to give generously and with a joyful heart. It may be very difficult to do both!

I know that early in my life I did not tithe. It just seemed too hard, and after all, I reasoned, I wouldn't be giving joyfully! But as I studied and grew

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www.haysmed.com To help people be healthy. in my maturity in the faith. I came to recognize that tithing was a key part of my spiritual growth. Until I could give at least 10 percent of my income to my local church, back to the Lord's work, I was not really trusting God to make ends meet on the other 90

> percent. Since committing

**Pastor Kevin Daniels** to tithing, things Hays Christian Church have not always been ev.kevin.daniels@gmail.com rosy – after all, it's not a magic formula

> for financial freedom and blessings! But I can tell you with confidence that it's much better than not trusting God for his provisions. Knowing that we are obedient in tithing and giving allows us to have confidence that God is going to take care of us. We are doing what he

has called us to do, and he will reward that obedience.

If you've never tithed to your local church, I would encourage you to do a 90 day tithing challenge. For the next 90 days, give 10 percent of your income to your local church. I'm confident that God will reward your obedience with blessings and provision to meet your needs. Yes, there will be sacrifices, but in the end you will have the confidence of knowing that you are being obedient to God, even when it's not easy or popular.

I'd love to hear your stories of God being faithful to your needs as you have been faithful to give back to the Lord. Email me your stories or comments: kevin@hayschristianchurch. org.



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## ONE January 2017

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# On a mission to feed the hungry

#### By ABBIE BENNETT Tribune News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. — Donna Rincon once needed the help of Angels On A Mission, the food closet at Lighthouse Christian Fellowship. Little did she know that she'd find herself leading the food ministry before too long.

But that's how God works, said John Jernigan, who founded 17-year-old Lighthouse Christian Fellowship to save souls and help the less fortunate.

"We were giving out sandwiches and other things before," said Jernigan, who was once homeless. "But it was her idea to give them the blessing of a hot meal, something to look forward to. She really made that happen."

"She's an amazing cook," added Al Taylor, head of Heaven's Gate Ministry, a branch of Lighthouse Christian Fellowship that offers food, clothes and furniture to the needy.

Rincon, whose menu includes fried chicken, ribs, beef stew, homemade soups and other hot offerings, works out of a kitchen in converted house on N.C. 210 about three miles east of McGee's Crossroads. The landowner allows Lighthouse to use the property at no charge. Two sheds near the house hold refrigerators, freezers and shelves of food.

Rincon, who joined the ministry about three years ago, prepares hot meals every Friday to give away to needy residents of Johnston and surrounding counties. In addition to serving them a hot meal, she and other volunteers hand out boxes of food, anywhere from 30 to 45 every Friday. The ministry also delivers meals to people who are confined to their homes, and it has a mobile food kitchen.

All the ministry expects of people receiving food is for them to listen to a 15-minute message, and it's not always a religious message, Jernigan said. He sometimes talks about how to sign up for health insurance, or find a job or get an education.

"We're here to feed their souls, then their bodies," Jernigan said.

The clients, as the ministry calls them, are also expected to give back. Everyone who volunteers with the church or one of its ministries was a client at one point.

"It's one big family," Jernigan said. "We have a devotion to community development and spirit uplifting. It's a hand up, not a handout, and you're not just clients, you're family."

The food ministry gets rolling every Friday morning when Rincon and other volunteers start packing boxes of food donated by Food Lion, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Johnston farmers and other groups. By 11 a.m. or noon, people start to arrive.

They're all ages, races and backgrounds. Children race around, getting underfoot, but everyone is smiling, hugging each other and making small talk. They're cracking jokes with Jernigan or wandering into the kitchen to see Rincon's latest culinary creation.

Jernigan calls it "the misfit church." He's had homeless



ABBIE BENNETT, Tribune News Service

Volunteers and clients of Angels On A Mission food ministry carry boxes of food, bags of sweet potatoes and other items to cars parked outside Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Raleigh, N.C.

people, drug addicts, alcoholics and those with criminal records walk through his doors. But they're all family.

"Everyone is family; even if they start out as clients, they could end up as director," Jernigan said, nodding toward Taylor and laughing. "We want you to move up the ranks and help."

"And we need the help," Rincon said.

While the food, clothing and furniture ministries count themselves as successful, they could use more room. Rincon said she has access to so much food she doesn't have room to store it all.

"Sometimes we have to bring some of it to our homes so it doesn't spoil and then bring it back to put it in the boxes," she said.

Jernigan stores furniture at his house, and clothes are stuffed into a trailer people can dig through, but he said that's not ideal.

The ministries could also use more volunteers – just a few hours a week to pack boxes or pick up donations.

On a recent Friday, Rincon pulled a few able-bodied young men from the parking lot full of client cars to help

carry boxes of food for the less able. "But they were willing to help," she said, smiling.

Though sometimes short on volunteers and always short on cash, the ministries rack up impressive numbers. Last year, the ministries prepared 62 Thanksgiving dinners, served 400 takeout meals from the Four Oaks Fire Department, hosted 200 children on Halloween, donated 100 backpacks to children and fed 200 homeless people in Fayetteville on Thanksgiving.

But the ministries want to do even more.

"There's so much we have to say 'no' to because of lack of space and people," Rincon said. "It's not that the help isn't available. We could get more food for more people. We could get more of everything."

"We're just not capable of housing it all right now," Jernigan said, adding that he hoped someone would be willing to donate land or lease the church space for next to nothing.

"It's not about filling churches or pockets," Jernigan said. "It's a ministry. ... We want to feed and bless you, because it's all about God, and we can't do it without God."

# January 2017 ONE Gamma ONE 'Angels in the Bible Storybook' offers array of help

#### By SUZETTE MARTINEZ STANDRING More Content Now

Christmas lights, twinkling windows, and starry skies make me think of angels. Busier than workshop elves, angels do God's bidding, sometimes in disguise. Have you ever been saved from near calamity? Or unexpectedly received help from a stranger? Lucky coincidence to some, but others like me, believe angels were at play.

A juvenile non-fiction book, "Angels in the Bible Storybook," written by Allia Zobel Nolan, is chock full of illustrations by Alida Massari. The book shares biblical episodes when angels appeared to do a wide range of jobs. They announce great news. They warn of danger. They lead the way. Ego and resistance are wrestled to the ground. Disguised as regular folks, angels eat with people and bestow blessings. They comfort or advise. They rescue against all odds. Angels celebrate and sing. They come in dreams with future visions, and they save us from ourselves.

"Angels in the Bible Storybook" offers an array of help given through divine messengers.

Zobel Nolan's book, based on Bible stories, made me wonder how often I may have encountered angelic aid, but tossed it away as coincidental?

There is still a personal encounter I cannot explain. In 1996, I relocated from San Francisco to Connecticut with a layover in Chicago. I was going to marry David who already was living in Connecticut. The January snow and freezing temps in Chicago threatened the last leg of the journey. My dog, Kelly, was in the cargo hold and any delay would add to her stressful separation.

O'Hare Airport was crowded and noisy with non-stop announcements. At the gate I fretted, "Did they leave Kelly's crate on the runway between plane changes?"

It was the last flight to Connecticut.

With 15 minutes to boarding time, an older Indian woman wearing a sari and sandals sat down next to me. I stared at her feet and thought, "Who in the heck wears sandals when it's 10 degrees outside?"

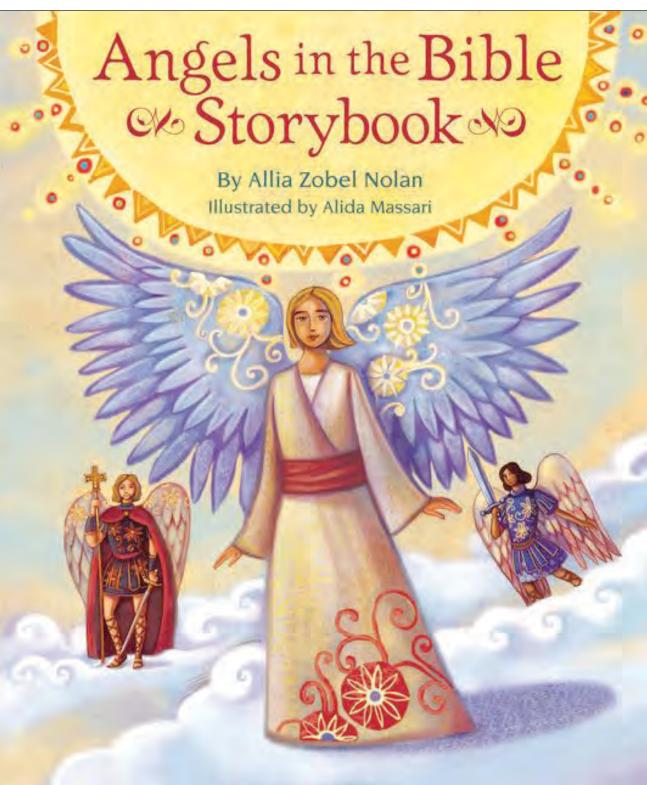
All of a sudden, she turned to me and said, "You are sitting at the wrong gate."

What? I hadn't said a peep to her or anyone and I wasn't holding anything that would indicate my destination. She repeated, "You are in the wrong place."

I ran to the desk to discover the Connecticut flight had been changed to a different gate.

I sprinted to another terminal and was the last person to board as they were closing the plane.

Without her warning, my dog would have arrived ahead without me, and I would have been stranded in Chicago for another day. In 1996, cell phones were



not prevalent, and poor David would have been waiting, clueless in Connecticut.

I still wonder at that inexplicable rescue. Reading "Angels in the Bible Storybook" is a great children's primer about help through God's messengers. The stories sparked my own memory of angelic intervention, and maybe you have one or two of your own?

**ONE** January 2017

From left to right are helpers at Hays Christian Church who filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Tracy Seirer, Yani Arnberger and Logan Daniels.







Marci Lisman, right, and Kamryn Daniels work to fill a box at Hays Christian Church for Operation Christmas Child.

## Operation Christmas Child delivers

#### By MIKE KESSINGER mkessinger@dailynews.net

he boxes are filled with love. Millions of them each year. Sent from all corners of the United States to more than 150 countries. The boxes are done through the Operation Christmas Child. Every year during the third week of November, the project — a shoebox filled with clothing, toys, school supplies, hygiene products and other things a family can pack — are dropped off at a local church. It's part of the organization's annual shoebox collection week.

The collection of boxes in Hays is taken at the Messiah Lutheran Church, which is the relay center for the area. From there boxes go to the processing center in Denver, where the packages are then sent across the world for children in need.

"We don't actually know all the countries that the shoeboxes went to," area coordinator for northwest Kansas Rachel Albin said. "When I did attend the Denver processing center some boxes did go to Niger and Mexico. There's also, I believe nine other processing centers across the U.S."

## January 2017 ONE



The assembly line at Hays Christian Church.

A volunteer in Operation Christmas Child for six years, Albin took over the area coordinator position this year. In the time she has been a part of the organization, Albin has seen a continual interest and rise in participation through the 10 drop-offs in the northwest part of the state for the program each year.

Adults and children are welcome to take part in filling the boxes either individually or in a group or organization setting.

In the Hays area alone this year, 3,128 boxes were collected. The rest of the area Albin coordinates, all total, with Hays included, 5,838 boxes were taken to the processing center in Denver.

"It has grown almost every year," Albin said in the participation. "I think for northwest Kansas we grew just a very little bit, but it has been growing across the United States."

Since the program started in 1993, the shoebox collection has reached more than 135 million.

In the countries where boxes are delivered, children have the opportunity to go through a 12-week discipleship program. There have been more than 3 million children who have taken part in the program.

"I think that's a really great number also for the program, and what it's doing," Albin said. "It's not just about giving that gift of items, but it's much more."



Amy Hockersmith assembles a box.

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ONE January 2017

# It's a way of life

S tewardship. When many people in the church hear the word stewardship, they want to turn and run the other way. They want to run the other way because they immediately think of money, and that the church wants more money from them. But what if I told you stewardship is more than just money? Stewardship is a about a way of life. Stewardship is about love.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a resource tool was written by Grace Duddy called, "Stewards of God's Love: A year-round

guide to stewardship in your congregation." This tool focuses on four major emphases: DOWN, IN, OUT, and Annual Financial Response. In this article I want to look at the first three.

DOWN. To begin with, God makes the first move. God makes the vertical line down. JStewardship begins at creation. Genesis 1:28 (NRSV) says, "God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." A steward is someone who cares for another's property, and as you can see from the very beginning, we were created to care for the things God has given us. As the resource says, "We are first receivers, not givers!" (6).

IN. Second, we follow God by moving in towards the center. †As we move in, we think about all that God has given us. If we really think about it, each of us has an abundance. God has entrusted us with many varying resources – some may call this "time, talents, and treasures." God has given us these things to benefit ourselves, but also others. Our resources are usually best used when they are shared with others. God has given us "time, talents, and treasures," but have you recently reflected on how you manage your time? Or where you spend your money? Or how you can use your unique gifts to love God and your neighbor?

OUT. Finally we move out. We move out to our neighbor on either side,



both near and far.↔ The relationship we have with others, our neighbor, is so important. God calls us to share God's love with all

that we meet, and in doing that we are being stewards. We are stewards, care takers, of the love God abundantly gives us. So therefore, to be good stewards, we need to love everyone we meet! Micah 6:8 (CEB) says, "He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God." So when we do these things, we are going out into the world.

To conclude, these three ways at looking at stewardship form a cross. **†** God coming down, us coming in towards the center, and all of us going back out. We "form a cross with our lives and through our faith, we are marked with the cross of Christ forever" (6). So I invite you ONE reader, remember the cross when you think of stewardship.

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# January 2017 ONE ONE Market Contract of the new year comes a new reading plan

Happy New Year! Welcome to the One Magazine Bible reading plan. This year's plan is organized in a pattern established by several factors; chronology and author. If you've never read through the

never read through Bible chronologically, this will be a new experience for you. If you have read through with me before, this will be a somewhat similar plan.

The Old Testament readings will be a chronological arrangement of the prophetic books. This arrangement makes the story flow so much better. We begin with Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah. These prophets ministered as the empire of Assyria was growing stronger, and ultimately conquered the northern kingdom of Israel. Unfortunately the people didn't respond to the proph-

ETDE Reading Plan These books always chal-

Pastor Steve Dinkel Liberty Poursquare Church Icfcsd@ruraltel.net always challenge me to examine my response to the Holy

ing quickly and quietly?

The New Testament readings are arranged by author and then by

Spirit's call.

Am I obev-

January	
1	17□ Amos 7□ Matthew 12   18□ Amos 8□ Matthew 13   19□ Amos 9□ Matthew 14   20□ Matthew 15
5 Jonah 4 Matthew 4 6 Matthew 4 7&8Weekend Review	20 Watthew 13 21&22 Weekend Review 23 □ Hosea 1 □ Matthew 16 24 □ Hosea 2 □ Matthew 17
9 🗅 Amos 1 Datthew 6 10 Amos 2 Matthew 7 11 Amos 3 Matthew 8	25 □ Hosea 3 □ Matthew 18 26 □ Hosea 4 □ Matthew 19 27 □ Hosea 5 □ Matthew 20
12 Amos 4 Matthew 9 13 Amos 5 Matthew 10 14&15 Weekend Review 16 Amos 6 Matthew 11	28&29Weekend Review 30 □ Hosea 6 □ Matthew 21 31 □ Hosea 7 □ Matthew 22

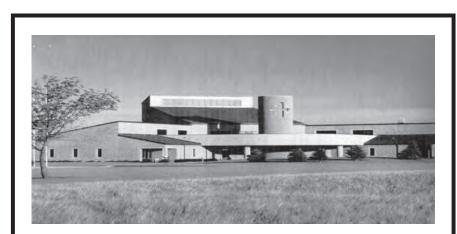
chronology. We begin with Matthew and the subsequent letters written to a more Jewish Christian audience. Covenant language is very pronounced in these books.

Enjoy these rich texts, and let the story of Jesus challenge and direct you as you launch out into the New

#### Year.

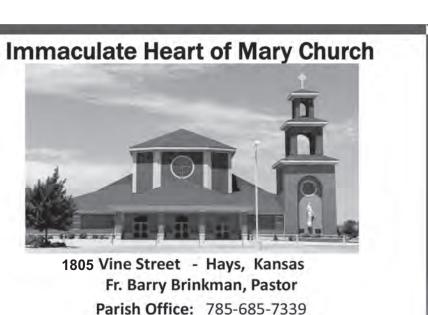
Again, welcome to the Bible reading plan. If you have a question, comment, or suggestion, please send me a note at lcfcsd@ruraltel.net.

I'm looking forward to reading through the Bible with you this year! Happy New Year!



**St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church** 2901 E. 13th, Hays, Kansas, Parish Offices: (785) 628-1446 Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: www.heartlandparishes.org Fr. Jarett Konrade

> Mass Schedule: Saturday at 5 PM Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM Daily Mass - Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 AM Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:00 PM



Website: www.ihm-church.com

Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday 5 PM - Sunday 8 AM - 10 AM - 6 PM Sunday Spanish Mass - 12 PM

## Weekday Mass Schedule:

MWF 6:45 AM - TTh 8 AM Wednesday Spanish 6:30 PM Reconciliation: Saturday 4 PM and Thursday 5 PM

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## Message at the Top: Giving of ourselves

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11).

Giving, as the Magi did to Jesus, is an excellent message for any time of the year, but especially at Christmas.

One of the songs during this season that expresses "giving" best is "The Little Drummer Boy."

"Come, they told me. A new born King is here. Our finest gifts we bring to lay before our king when we come. I am a poor boy too. I have no gift to bring that's good to give our king. Only my drums."

Thinking of what giving means perhaps will lead us to think of Mother Teresa's thoughts of "giving," and especially her "plan for life."

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

*If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies. Succeed anyway.* 

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway.

> What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight. Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

But give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in final analysis, it is all between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

#### THE GOSPELS IN FR. MIKE'S TOP 5 [as of 12/18/16]

1 – "Closer" / The Chainsmokers f/ Halsey Luke 1:46-56

2 -- "Don't Wanna Know / Maroon 5 f/ Kendrick Lamer Mark 12:38-40

3 - "Heathens" / Twenty One Pilots John 2:23-25

4 – "24K Magic" / Bruno Mars Luke 19:36-38

5 – "Treat You Better" / Shawn Mendes John 13:14-17

[see www.frmikescully.com]

That is to say, learn to give to others and to our world the very best you have.

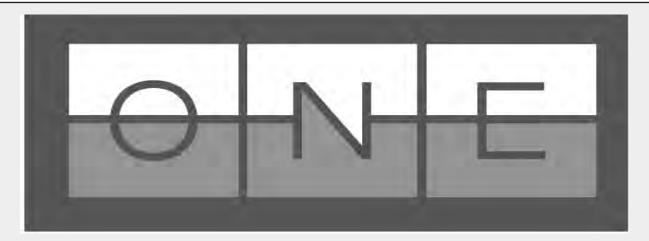
We give much during this time of year, and what it should do for us as we think of Christmas is move us to keep on giving of ourselves to others throughout the whole year.

Good and gracious God, often the only gifts that we have to give you are very personal. Give us the grace to believe in you so totally that we are willing to give ourselves to you. Be with us, we pray.

## SIGN OF THE TIMES











**Ellis County Ministerial Alliance** 

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St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis View it online at ourecma.com Eagle Communications St. Michael's Episcopal Church HMC Chapel North Oak Community Church First United Methodist Church Trinity Lutheran Church

