

“...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b

Winter in Iowa is a great time for indoor activities. Many members of Pella II utilize the opportunity for meeting together in different groups and taking time to study. This issue highlights some of these groups and reading material.

## Men’s Bible Study

By Robert Rus

The Men’s Bible Study has evolved from a long history of Junior and Senior Men’s Societies at Pella Second CRC. Ray Klyn has provided very capable leadership for over 25 years.

Our main focus is to study scripture and discover how it is still relevant to us today. We are currently studying Genesis chapters one through eleven, with a study guide written by Rev. Mark

Vander Hart. We feel it is a blessing to share in a time of learning and fellowship.

Men’s Bible Study meets on alternating Wednesday nights at 7:00pm in the Council Room. We invite all men to join us. Please watch the bulletin for meeting details.

## Cadets/GEMS Pinewood Derby Car Races

By Shane Tukker

This Wednesday, March 8, the Cadets will be holding our annual pinewood car races at

the Pella Christian Grade School Gymnasium. Even if you don’t have any kids or family in Cadets or GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior), you are still welcome to participate. We have a special open class of races for anyone who brings in a pinewood car! This will be the last year that we allow old, heavier, cars to race. So be sure to bring in those antique cars from years past to give them one last run down memory lane.

Even if you don’t have a car in the race, this is a great way to spend the evening with

friends and family while encouraging all of the participants. Last year we introduced a new computerized timing and scoring system to keep the night flowing smoothly. Don’t worry if you have to sneak out early, I’m sure we can find someone to deliver you that trophy you’re bound to win!

Please keep an eye on the bulletin for exact race times!



## Christian Fellowship Hour

By Kathleen De Haan

The Christian Fellowship Hour ladies’ Bible study has been in existence for over 75 years. We not only meet for Bible study, we also collect funds for various causes and serve at funerals and times of fellowship. This year we are studying Genesis using a guide written by Woodrow Kroll. Laura Branderhorst is leading us this year and

going through the book of Genesis has been very interesting. Seeing how God is in control is encouraging to us too.

Each time we meet we pass the offering basket. At the end of the season (April), we discuss where the money should go and we disburse the funds to three or four ministries, either locally or elsewhere. In the fall, near Thanksgiving, we take a special offering which usually goes to a local ministry.

Social times include a Christmas Tea at our last meeting before Christmas, and a luncheon the last time we meet in April. In the past few years, we've gone to Central College where they prepare a tasty lunch for us. When many of us were younger, we would often take a day trip to some interesting place for our last meeting, but that seems to be a thing of the past.

God has blessed us as a group of women and we thank Him for the freedom we have to study His Word.

## A Little History About Goodfellas

By Jim Gosselink

Goodfellas is a men's group that has been meeting for the past 10 (plus) years. The group began when several young men from Pella 2, including myself began meeting in the church basement on Sunday mornings from 6-7:30. We met to watch CDs of Rick Warren going through his book *The Purpose Driven Life*, followed by discussion

questions based off that week's video. We enjoyed the time together, and got to know each other better. We enjoyed it so much that we decided we should meet on a regular basis, and involve all the men in our church, and also invite men we work with, or know outside of church who would be interested in being a part of the group.



Our original intention was to have "manly" outings with group activities such as golfing, hunting, fishing, paintballing, going to the Knoxville races, etc. We would also meet weekly to participate in a Bible Study or discussion of some kind. As a group we did do several rounds of paintball at various locations, along with

shooting clay pigeons at the Boot family farms on several occasions. We also for a period of time delivered "goodies" boxes to seniors in our church around Christmas time. In addition we have helped families move, worked at Bibles for Missions, and I am sure a few other causes, that have slipped my mind.

How'd we get our name? At the time we were starting, a group of ladies were also starting a noon time Bible study and called themselves "Out To Lunch." We thought for a while about a good name for ourselves, but could not come up with anything we liked. One Sunday morning we got together to finalize the invitations that would go out in everyone's mailboxes the following week inviting men in the church to join our group – and we needed a name. I had just watched my favorite movie the night before – *Goodfellas*. I think many people think of us as good fellas, which is great. However, the movie *Goodfellas* is a gangster movie. There

is a line in the movie where one of the characters says, if you are a “Wiseguy,” you are one of us, you’re a Goodfella, you belong to a group, you are a member, and everyone knows it. I figured that was a good description of us, a group of men, working for good, not evil, while enjoying the company of others, at least as Pella 2 should know it.

Over the past few years we have slowed down, and this year we have not met at all. If any of you would like to again revive the group, I am sure you would have followers.

## Re-set

By Glenda Van Woerkom

Small groups are an integral part of the extended church family. One summer afternoon in 2016 this group idea was developed following a casual conversation that led to an agreement that connections need to be made for the “middle aged spread” at Pella II. Just a friendly “hello” or “how are you” following a Sunday service doesn’t always keep people connected and engaged. When I started counting just how many people fell into this category, it was obvious that if others felt the same way, we could make connections!

First we had to introduce this new idea to our target audience. We also wanted *anyone* who felt a need to connect to feel invited. We published the explanation and invitation in the church bulletin, following up with church mailboxes. This is what it said:



**Re-set.** To set the value to what it was. To start again.

Have you ever hit the **Re-set** button to get something to work better? You hit **Re-set** and expect things to be right. Pella II wants to give you the chance to **Re-set**.

Do you relate to one of these: near or have become empty nesters, been working for quite a while, have encountered a life changing event, been through a few changes in our church? We might be wondering; am I doing it right? Could I do it better? Could I possibly just “**Re-set**”? Maybe all you need is the chance to socialize with folks like you, maybe you're looking for an opportunity to participate in a Bible Study, maybe you want to do a long or short termed mission trip, or you want to be a more active member of Pella II. Whatever your reasons for wanting a little **Re-set**, let's do it together!

Our first engagement was a casual potluck at the home of Gary & Sandi Vander Molen in early September. We were kissing summer good-bye, and Sandi’s love and passion for gardening and flowers were on display for our enjoyment! We enjoyed food & fellowship and it was quickly confirmed that we should keep it up. Most guests were more than content to come savor the relaxed atmosphere and delightful food samplings that Pella II potlucks are known for! In discussion it was confirmed that beginning with no assignments and gathering around food was a hit.

In October, we enjoyed a short road trip to the Countryside Kitchen near Albia. We were served an Amish family style

“thrasher’s dinner” that consisted of two meats, homemade dinner rolls & apple butter, real mashed potatoes & gravy, homemade noodles, hot buttered vegetables, tossed salad and a choice of pies. Are you hungry yet? It was delicious! She had an assortment of cinnamon rolls, canned beets, apple butter and other delights packaged and available for purchase. We followed up with a fun competition of attempting to open a gift with oven mitts on our hands. Following this fun and laughter, we were blessed by the unexpected sharing of the hosts “story”.

With the typical busyness the holidays bring, we decided to take the months of November and December off, but were already planning an event for January. During this time frame, the discussion began of the church merge, so the suggestion was made to extend the invitation to Grace and First to attend our January activity on the 6<sup>th</sup> and held the activity at Grace’s Church. “Breaking the ice” is naturally uncomfortable, so we weren’t setting our expectations too high on attendance. We made plans to provide smoked ribs or ham balls, and once again lured our friends with the good ole potluck. Dennis De Vries

smoked several racks of ribs which was by far the most desired meat of choice. Over 60 people attended and we felt very blessed with this turn out. Since the Amish story and how God moves was so interesting, we asked Pastor Tom and Erin if they would

consider sharing their story which they agreed to do. We enjoyed it so much! It’s a reminder to look within our own lives and tell “our story” when given the opportunity.

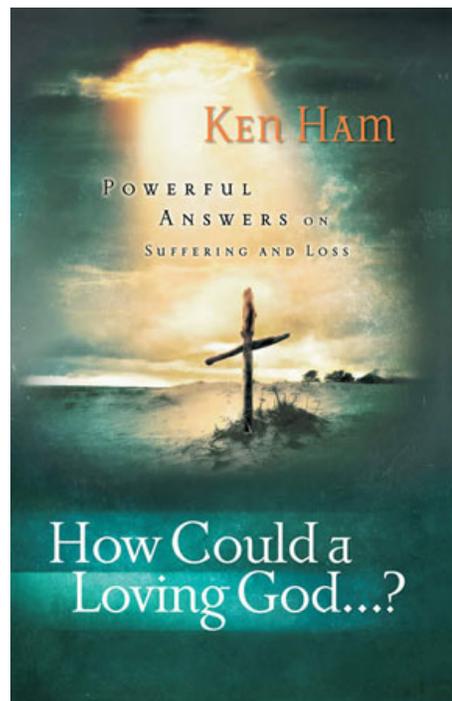
We haven’t set the next date or activity yet – ideas welcome!

## How Could a Loving God...?

By Ken Ham

Review by Joel Vander Molen

Ken Ham’s younger brother, Robert Ham, was a pastor in his home country of Australia. Rob’s sermons were based solidly on God’s Word and his church was growing with people coming to Christ.



A few short years later, his sermons began to change and not make sense. After several months, Rob was diagnosed with a rare progressive brain disease that slowly robbed him of speech, and soon the ability to interact with the world. Ken and his family were also Christians that trusted God and his Word, but still had the questions of how this could happen.

The Ham family knew that as a result of sin, suffering exists in this world. From a big picture perspective, it is why we all must experience our own death at some point. However, why the prolonged suffering for a man that loved God so much and worked for His kingdom?

That answer came from one of Rob’s own sermons that was recorded before his body, and mind, started to decay. In part of the

message, he told how pain and suffering are now a “normal” part of this world cursed by sin. Those affected by this kind of torment often have people praying for restoration, as they should, but it doesn’t always come.

Rob reminded his congregation that Paul was a great man of Christ, healing the sick and even raising people from the dead. In 2 Corinthians 12:6-9 Paul talks about having a thorn in his side to torment him and after three times of prayer, God’s answer was that His grace was sufficient.

In the same way Job, though a man of God, was allowed to suffer greatly and endure the loss of his entire family and possessions. At the end of the book God questions Job about his knowledge of God’s creation, and his answer is to repent in dust and ashes.

During the last few weeks of Robert’s life, his family remained at his side even though he no longer knew them. The sermon he had recorded compared our time on earth as healed, but not yet. Those who are in Christ have been sanctified through Him and wait our time until we go to Him and will be perfectly healed. What may seem to be a long time of torment is nothing when compared to eternity. If someone is not in the Lord, their suffering in this life is nothing compared to what is to come.

This is a book I highly recommend for everyone to read. It helps to answer questions about times of pain and suffering for ourselves, and how to best help people around us. It is a good reminder for all of us no matter what stage of life God has put us in. Being rooted in God’s Word can help us through everything we endure in this life and the next.

## Bulletin Bloopers

Further evidence we can be thankful for our carefully constructed bulletin each week.

1. Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30p.m. Please use the back door.
2. The 1991 Spring Council Retreat will be held May 10 and 11.
3. The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
4. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
5. 22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.
6. The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
7. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell?”. Come early and listen to our choir practice.
8. The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
9. The music for today’s service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.
10. A song fest was held at the Methodist church Wednesday.
11. Today’s Sermon: How Much Can a Man Drink? with hymns from a full choir.
12. Hymn: “I Love Thee My Ford.”
13. Miss Charlene Mason sang “I will not pass this way again” giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
14. Women’s Luncheon: Each member bring a sandwich. Polly Phillips will give the medication.

## *Welcome*

Jayden James Boender  
born December 27, 2016 to Kurt and Emily Boender

## *In Remembrance*

Henry Van Kooten



October 24, 1926 – January 20, 2017

Laura Slings



February 6, 1925 – February 18, 2017

*Pella II Newsletter invites your contribution. Drop a note in the "Newsletter" box in the church library or contact one of our editors.*

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