

Those Church Bloopers

From time to time, this space has recorded some bloopers in church bulletins. Typographical errors or misplacement of modifiers can completely change the meaning of a thought or sentence – often making it hilarious; and once in a while, horrible in its impact.



Nobody understands that better than I. After 26 years in the newspaper business, I've had more than my share. Here are some that made their way into print and circulation:

- The spring retreat will be hell May 10 and 11.
- The pastor spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.
- This afternoon, there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- The third verse will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early, and listen to our choir practice.
- The class on prophecy has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.
- The young couple requests your presents at their wedding.
- There is a sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to be baptized on the table in the foyer.
- A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.

I know, I know: This motivates you to search for some of your own. And for me, it makes me a little more cautious about what I write.

Perhaps these gaffes bring a little humor to the middle of your week, along with recognition that mistakes can happen to any of us, anytime, anywhere – even in church.

– Beecher Hunter