

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of December 13, 2015**

***When the World Seems to be Spinning Out of Control***

*The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.*

***This week’s topic reflects the rising concern among many people following the terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, and other events that bring anything but the hope and light that should be our focus at this season.***

**READ:** The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness. The world and those who dwell therein. *Psalm 24:1*

**REFLECT:** The world according to the morning paper fills me with a sense of doom. It is spinning out of control. *Lord, where is the hope?* [Remember, this was published in 2009, not this week!]

Across my long porch, a male finch perches on the edge of a hanging fern. Grabbing my binoculars, I look inside the fern at the tiny nest cradling three pale blue eggs that have somehow survived cat-stalking, storms and a bird of prey. I watch the plain, brown female pecking at the eggs. *They’re hatching!*

I wait awhile, then climb on a railing. The hatchlings are twined together, the size of a nickel. Their parents are hovering nearby to nurture their brood, so they can grow up and fly and sing their song.

Here, in this little backyard miracle, I see the hand that holds the world. An event too ordinary to make the morning paper. But, light as a feather, soft as a whisper, its good news lands in my soul. God is in control.

*Shari Smith*

**PRAY:** *Creator God, thank You for the works of Your hand that give me hope for all the world.*

**DO:** Share with someone this week the eternal hope found in the message of Christmas.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. The full version used on Wednesday evenings is on the table in the lobby and on the website (see Archives).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service, the third Advent candle lighting, the music, Scriptures, Pastor Dave’s mediation “For Unto Us . . . Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas, Part 2” (Luke 2:4-5)\* and the choir presentation “A Noel Celebration.” Pray that the Lord will lead you to ways to apply the lessons learned in your own walk with Christ, as you connect with different people this week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services—especially with a number of special Christmas events in the coming weeks—and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.

*\* A podcast of the sermon and other materials will be posted on the website by Monday.*

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”*