
COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

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Calvary, Barnum; Faith, Harcourt; Fulton, Roelyn; Trinity, Boxholm; UCC/Congregational, Moorland; Zion, Gowrie

NEW COOPERATIVE SECRETARY

Cheryl Rasmussen was recently hired for the position of Cooperative Secretary. She will be replacing Cindy Youngquist who will be the Coordinator for Countryside Cooperative Ministry's Stephen Ministry Program. Cheryl will assume here responsibilities on June 2.

Cheryl lives on a farm south of Harcourt. She is married to Dan Rasmussen, who farms and operates a tiling business. They have three children: Derek, Tyler and Crystal. Derek and Tyler

will be students at Iowa State University this fall. Crystal attends school at Prairie Valley.

Cheryl is a member of Zion Lutheran, Gowrie, where she has been involved in many different areas of ministry. Cheryl is also involved in coaching cheering at Prairie Valley.

We are excited to have Cheryl join our staff and look forward to the gifts she brings to the Cooperative Ministry.

Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

Byron Chalstrom, UCC/Cong.
Loretta Daisy, Fulton
Scott Engquist, Harcourt
Larry Fatka, Trinity
Marc Greenfield, Faith
Steve Julius, Calvary
Larry Krakau, Trinity
Steve Lane, Zion
Shannon Miller, Zion
Ned Palmer, Zion
Richard Silvey, UCC/Cong.
Everett Underwood, Fulton
Ron Walrod, Calvary

Countryside Cooperative Ministry Executive Committee

Byron Chalstrom, President
Larry Fatka, Vice-president
Loretta Daisy, Secretary
Steve Lane, Treasurer
Rev. Jim Davis, Administrative Pastor

COOPERATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Countryside Cooperative Executive Committee met May 14, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at Zion Lutheran in Gowrie. Present were Larry Fatka, Bryon Chalstrom, Loretta Daisy, and Pastor Davis. Bryon called the meeting to order and led us in prayer.

Pastor Davis reviewed a letter to Bishop Last concerning licensure for those lay ministry school students that serve our churches to lead communion.

The letter was approved and signed by those in attendance.

The committee reviewed the duties, wages, and benefits for the new Countryside Cooperative secretary. Two candidates were considered. After a review of the applications and a discussion Pastor Davis was asked to meet with the chosen candidate. If the candidate accepts, Pastor Davis will poll the other council members and a recommendation

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Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished.

— Nelson Mandela
President of South Africa

Faith is not a pill you take,
but a muscle you use.

— Author Unknown

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will be made to each member church council for approval.

Incorporation of the cooperative was discussed. Pastor Davis will seek someone to work on this and lead the council in the appropriate steps.

Pastor Davis reported on the Stephen Ministry training that he and Cindy Youngquist attended. Bryon adjourned the meeting.

I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my mind can comprehend it.

– Henry Emerson Fosdick



COOPERATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

You are invited to join the congregations of Countryside Cooperative Ministry for Cooperative worship on Sunday, July 27. Two services will be provided for your convenience.

There will be a service in the South Lodge at Dolliver Park. Worship will be at 11:00 a.m. A potluck dinner will follow

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A list of locations, dates and times for Vacation Bible School are listed below. Children of the Cooperative are invited to attend any of the Bible Schools. If you would like more information, contact the Cooperative office

- Zion – July 28-31 @ 9:00 a.m.
- Fulton – June 9-13 @ 8:30 a.m.
- Trinity – June 9-13 @ 9:00 a.m.



worship. Calvary Presbyterian Church will be providing homemade ice cream. It is really delicious. The park is a beautiful setting in which to offer God our thanks and praise. Please bring lawn chairs and quilts or blankets for seating. Also, please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

There will also be a service at Zion for those who do not want to join us at the park. Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. The sanctuary is air-conditioned. This will be a casual service

If you have questions about either service, contact the Cooperative Office.

Anyone can hit bottom –
But can you bounce back up?



On the day of Pentecost, a small group of Jesus' followers huddled behind locked doors wondering about what the future held. Their leader was gone and they were confused and afraid. They had no idea what to do or where to go.

Suddenly, God's Spirit swept through the room and filled them with confidence and power. They boldly ventured out of that room to proclaim the good news of God's love that was revealed in Jesus Christ – a love from which nothing, not even death, is able to separate us.

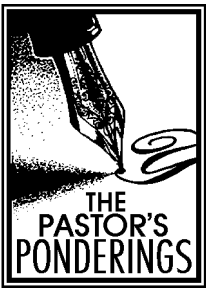
We are the result of that first Pentecost. Our faith is a result of their willingness to boldly proclaim the power of God's love.

Let us pray that God's Spirit would continue to move among us so that we may boldly proclaim the power of God's undying love.

HUNGRY?



Faith, Harcourt will be hosting a Pork Loin Dinner on Sunday, June 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



God, what do you want me to do?

C i n d y Youngquist and I recently attended a week long Stephen

Ministries Leadership Training Course in preparation for the Stephen Ministries program we will soon be initiating in our Cooperative Ministry. Approximately 500 people attended the Leadership Training Course, the vast majority being lay leaders of congregations who were there because they believed God wanted them to use their gifts in this life-changing ministry. It was inspiring to see the passion and commitment these people brought with them to St.

God, what do you want me to do?

Louis. God's spirit filled the conference rooms in which we met and overflowed into the hotels in which we stayed.

One of the people who really made an impression on me was Bill Face. Bill is a warm, open, intelligent man with whom I immediately felt comfortable. He is a retired electrical engineer who also owned a very successful high-tech company that he sold quite a number of years ago. Bill was obviously someone who had done well in life. I was surprised to meet someone like Bill at a Stephen Ministries training course.

When I asked Bill what he did, he told me he was Director of Congregational Care and Visitation at First United Methodist Church in Covington, Tennessee and had come to St.

Louis to receive training so he can start a Stephen Ministries program in his congregation. After visiting for a while, I was curious about how old Bill was. He only appeared to be in his early to mid-fifties; however, because of what he had done in his life, I was convinced he must be older. I was amazed when Bill told me he was sixty-nine.

I immediately responded, "So why don't you own a home on a golf course, play a couple rounds a day, have drinks at four and kick back and relax in the evening?"

Bill immediately replied, "Because I don't believe that's what God wants me to do. I really believe God has something else in mind for me."

Bill then shared a portion of his faith journey with me. He told me that when he sold his business he simply prayed, "God, what do you want me to do now?"

Through a series of conversations with his pastor, family and others, Bill came to believe that God wanted him to use his gifts to support the ministry of congregations. He began as a lay preacher. Later, he became concerned about the needs of older adults and became involved in congregational care and visitation. He is excited about what he is doing, but frustrated that he isn't able to do more to address the tremendous needs in his congregation. When he heard about the Stephen Ministry program, he told his pastor that he would be willing to build the program from the

ground up if his pastor would give the O.K.

Bill is profoundly grateful for the many ways in which God has blessed him and continues to be eager to use his gifts and experiences to build the body of Christ.

I asked Bill, "So, when are you going to retire?"

Bill replied, "How could I want to retire when there is so much exciting work God wants me to do? I just hope God gives me enough time to really make a difference."

Exciting things happen when we ask, "God, what do you want me to do?"

It has been exciting to see an increasing number of people take an even greater responsibility for the ministry that happens in and through Countryside Cooperative Ministry. God has blessed us with so many gifts and experiences and provides us with tremendous opportunities to use those in ministry.

I encourage you to take a moment, right now, and ask, "God, what do you want me to do?" Then take a few minutes to just sit and listen for how God wants you to use your gifts and experiences in ministry.

God has a lot of exciting work for us to do if we but take the time to ask.

NEED A VISIT?

If you or anyone you know of could use a pastoral visit, please contact the Cooperative office at 352-3645 so a visit can be scheduled.

Cooperative Phone Numbers:

Cooperative Office		352-3645
Rev. Jim Davis	Office	352-3932
	Home	352-5261
Rod Meyer	Office	846-6277
	Home	354-5224
Rev. Wahlgren	Office	352-3645
	Home	352-5245
Stephen Minstry	Office	352-3612

Cooperative Email Addresses:

Cooperative Office: ziongowr@wccta.net
Rev. Jim Davis: elca506@wccta.net
Rod Meyer: rodmeyer@mail.lvcta.com

Cooperative Worship Times

Calvary, Barnum	10:30 a.m.
Faith, Harcourt	10:30 a.m.
Fulton, Roelyn	9:15 a.m.
Trinity, Boxholm	9:00 a.m.
UCC/Cong., Moorland	8:00 a.m.
Zion, Gowrie	10:30 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturdays	5:00 p.m.

