

# COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 1

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October 2003

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

## The Wave of the Future

As life changes, so does the way we communicate with each other.

When asking for volunteers in the church the answer we receive most often is, "I'm too busy to help with that." Everyone seems to be busier and busier with life these days. It is no different at the church. There are more things to get done, and it seems like fewer hours in the day to do them.

One problem everyone has is getting in touch with people. Some people are hard to catch at home when you call or they are screening their calls with caller

id. (Hopefully, they answer the church calls!) Other people have only one phone line into their home for both their phone and computer so while they're using the computer, they don't receive phone calls at all.

A solution for some people is e-mail. This can save time by sending one e-mail to several people at one time as opposed to several phone calls. For example, I sent one e-mail to 20 senior high youth which took approximately one minute to type and send as opposed to spending numerous minutes

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## Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

Byron Chalstrom, UCC/Cong.  
Loretta Daisy, Fulton  
Scott Engquist, Faith  
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

## FUSION:

### EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF BEING CONNECTED

**Fusion**, an alternative worship experience, will be offered by Countryside Cooperative Ministry beginning Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. at 1107 Market Street, Gowrie (formerly *The Three Ladies*). **Fusion** will combine both traditional and contemporary worship elements in creating experiences intended to focus on the power of God



### Informal Worship

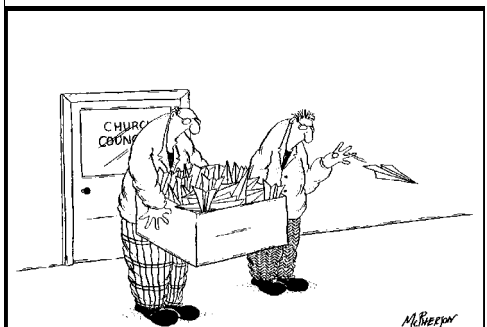
unleashed in our lives.

There is no dress code for

**Fusion**; it is expected that dress will be relaxed.

**Fusion** is being offered for everyone in our geographic area. It may be of

special interest for junior and senior high youth, young adults and those looking for an experience different from the usual Sunday morning worship service.



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."

# The Christian Alphabet Poem

Although things are not perfect,  
 Because of trial or pain,  
 Continue in thanksgiving.  
 Do not begin to blame.  
 Even when the times are hard,  
 Fierce winds are bound to blow,  
 God is forever able.  
 Hold on to what you know.  
 Imagine life without his love.  
 Joy would cease to be.  
 Keep thanking Him for all things  
 Love imparts to thee.  
 Move out of "Camp  
 Complaining."  
 No weapon that is known  
 On earth can yield the power

Praise can do alone.  
 Quit looking at the future.  
 Redeem the time at hand.  
 Start every day with worship.  
 To "thank" is a command.  
 Until we see Him coming,  
 Victorious in the sky,  
 We'll run the race with gratitude  
 eXalting God most high.  
 Yes, there will be good times and  
 yes, some will be bad, but . . .  
 Zion waits in glory . . . where  
 none is ever sad!  
 --Author Unknown

(Continued from page 1)

## Wave of the Future

making 20 phone calls. (which would have to be made at night, because while I'm at work the youth are in school.) You might say regular mail would work, but that can take 2 to 3 days where e-mail takes only seconds.

So, with all this in mind, I come to the point of my article. We are asking for any members of all the Cooperative congregations who have e-mail to send their addresses to the Cooperative Office. (our address is on the back of this newsletter.)

Of course, we will still use the telephone, e-mail just makes it easier to contact those of you who are hard to reach and have a very busy schedule.

—Cheryl Rasmussen  
 Cooperative Secretary

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



### Christian Caring

Stephen Ministers learn the "ABC's" of Christian Caring. A very special welcome to the following people who have agreed to take the training for The Countryside Cooperative's Stephen Ministry. These sessions will be held every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. When you see these people please thank them for being a part of this ministry and kindly remember them and their ministry in your prayers.

Kim Rolfes	Zion
Dorothy Carlon	Zion
Evan Telleen	Zion
Marjorie Wahlgren	Zion
Mary Orness	Zion
Leanne Keith	Zion
Ruth Sandeen	Zion
Monte Albert	Zion
Almeda Gordon	Zion
Mary Larson	Zion
Donna A. Moe	Fulton
Loretta Daisy	Fulton
Mary Krakau	Trinity
Ron Walrod	Calvary
Steve Julius	Calvary
Donna Brundage	Faith
Joan Peterson	Faith
Everett Underwood	Fulton
Byron Chalstrom	U.C.C.
Cheryl Meyer	Faith
Dorothy Anderson	Zion
Bud and Donita Johanson	Zion
Grace Bilstad	Fulton

"They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. . . And the Word of God increased; and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem. . ."

*ACTS 6:5-7*

"Bear one another's burdens. . . and so fulfill the law of Christ."

*Galatians 6:2*

Cindy Youngquist  
 Stephen Ministry Leader

## NEED A VISIT?

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



## WILL OUR FAITH HAVE CHILDREN?

Rollie Martinson, who is a professor at Luther Seminary, has done a great deal of work in how the faith is passed on from generation to generation. Rollie and others who work in this area have identified eight factors that are critical in passing on the faith from generation to generation. The first and--most critical--factor is **faith integrated into family identity and practice**. If faith is not integrated into family identity and practice, it is very unlikely that the family will produce children of faith.

What are your earliest

memories of faith practices in your family?

My earliest memories begin around age four. I remember my mother tucking us in bed and praying with us before going downstairs. The prayer was simple: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Amen." Sound familiar?

I say a similar prayer with my children when I tuck them in: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. Guide me through the starry night and wake me when the sun shines bright. Amen." Notice the difference? I just didn't like praying about death with small children.

I remember praying at meals: "Come, Lord, Jesus. Be our

guest. Let this day our food be blessed." After I went to college, I began to pray: "Come, Lord, Jesus. Be our guest and let this food to us be blessed." That slight alteration in the table prayer created quite a stir in my family. We had a number of lively debates over which version was the "right" one.

I remember staying overnight at Manson with Grandpa and Grandma Kenning. We always had devotions and prayers before going to bed. Furthermore, when I stayed over on a Saturday night, we always went to Sunday School and church at St. Paul the next morning.

I remember the comfort my Grandpa found in the 23rd psalm when my Grandma died.

I remember my parents and grandparents strategically separat-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## RURAL MINISTRY LEARNING LAB

Countryside Cooperative Ministry will be welcoming two students in January who will be participating in what we are calling a *Rural Ministry Learning Lab*.

### What, you may ask, is a *Rural Ministry Learning Lab*?

We are a *Rural Ministry Learning Lab*. Our Cooperative Ministry is a ministry in which we are continually asking, "How can we most effectively accomplish our mission in light of the changes we are experiencing in rural America?" As we engage in this mission, we continue to learn new ways to be about the work of Word, Sacrament and Service.

### Why are we doing this?

The most important reason for doing this is because it is an opportunity for us to be in mission with and to the wider church.

The majority of students in seminary today are from either cities or urban/suburban areas; very few are from rural areas. The first call that the majority of seminary students will receive, however, will be to rural congregations. The graduates' lack of understanding of rural culture can often cause friction with parishioners, resulting in a negative



experience for both pastors and the congregations they serve. A *Rural Ministry Learning Lab* will provide seminary students with a unique opportunity to experience rural ministry and to become acquainted with an emerging model for rural ministry – our form of cooperative ministry. Students will have the opportunity to:

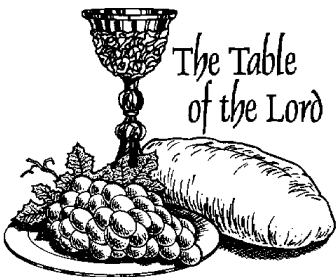
- Observe different aspects of rural ministry. They would attend each of the Cooperative congregations for worship, attend a council meeting, participate in confirmation and Christian education, attend various committee meetings, choir, etc.
- Meet with farmers, educators, business people,

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# WELCOME TO GOD'S

## The Lord's Supper

A class will be offered for anyone who is interested in learning more about communion. This class is a good refresher course for adults and children who already commune. It is also an opportunity for children who do not yet commune to learn more about communion and take an important



step toward receiving communion.

munion.

The class will be offered on Sunday, October 12 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. A light lunch will be served.

If you have children who do not commune and are interested in taking communion, they need to attend this class. Children of all ages are welcome to commune at Zion; however, children are expected to receive instruction at a level appropriate for their maturity before receiving communion.

If you have questions about First Communion for your children or about the class, please contact the Cooperative Office.

## How's Your Backbone??

Church membership is made up of four bones . . .

Wishbones—spend all their time wishing others would do the work.

Jawbones—do nothing but talk.

Knucklebones—knock everything that others have done.

Backbones—take on the load and get the job done.

Which kind of bone are you??

Submitted by Ruby Phillips

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ing us during church so we wouldn't fight. When that failed, Grandpa would pinch; if the pinch didn't work, it usually meant leaving church for a few minutes. The only thing worse than the spanking was having to go back in church knowing that everyone knew exactly what had taken place on the front step.

I remember Grandma gathering us in her living room on Easter Sunday evening to watch "The Ten Commandments." I still can't hear the name Moses without seeing Charlton Heston. Grandma also made us watch

Billy Graham's crusades. I can still hear the echoes of George Beverly Shea's performance of "Amazing Grace."

Memories of faith in our home and the homes of my extended family flood my mind: celebrations of baptisms and confirmations, funeral dinners, prayers, devotional books,

Bibles, Saturday evening rituals, getting dressed for church, praying hands and pictures of Jesus were constant reminders of the presence of God in our lives.

There was a time when I left the church. It is no surprise that I came back. I had no choice. Although we are a sinful, broken

***Although we are a sinful, broken family, we are steeped in the stuff of faith.***

family, we are steeped in the stuff of faith. It is simply part of who we are – for better and for worse.

I hope that someday my children will look back and say, "It is no surprise that we are people of faith. It is simply who we are – for better and for worse."

Worship, prayer, learning and serving. It is the stuff of faith. Fill your family with it so that your children may be filled with faith.

***Faith integrated into family identity and practice is the first of eight "Faith Factors" that will be the focus of this column for the next several months.***

# LEGACY



## Remember and rekindle our legacy from God, our holy calling.

Christianity has always lived the paradox that we “guard our good treasure” by spending it freely. In Luke’s parable of the successful farmer who needed to build another barn to hoard all his crops, the farmer finds that he can not preserve his life and that the crops will not benefit a dead man (Luke 12:16-20). When Paul says, “Guard the good treasure entrusted to you with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us,” the

paradox is clear. We can not hoard the Spirit for ourselves: it is a living Spirit. We can not guard it, in the sense that we protect or cling to or limit it. We guard the Spirit by living from it, rejoicing in it, serving God whose faith and love we see in Christ. We guard that treasure by not fearing it, by trusting the work of God, and by spending our lives freely for the gospel.

No man is a failure who is enjoying life.

—William Feather (1889-1981)

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## Learning Lab

community leaders, politicians, etc. This would provide the opportunity to get a very diverse range of perspectives on rural issues.

- Meet with members of the Cooperative. It is my hope that members of the Cooperative would invite the student for dinner and share their experience of rural life with the student.
- Read and reflect. The student would be required to read selected texts and write reflections regarding their experience.

It will be exciting to welcome students to Countryside Cooperative Ministry and to share our experiences with them.

If you have questions about the *Rural Ministry Learning Lab*, please contact the Cooperative office.

Pastor Jim

## Cooperative Youth Mission Trip

Cooperative Youth are planning a mission trip to Tecate, Mexico for July 23-30, 2004. Youth will be working and staying at an orphanage and doing simple construction, repair and maintenance, renovation, yard work, organizing storage, crafts, creative playtime, vacation Bible school, music, kitchen help and cooking classes, tutoring, pottery



and drama.

The trip will be arranged through *Third World Opportunities*. *Third World Opportunities* is a faith-based non-profit organization that arranges education awareness trips into Mexico. It provides experiential learning and servant events. This cross-cultural experience includes face-to-face encounters with Hispanic people and learning by doing.

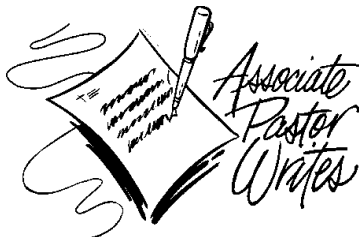
Youth will learn by interacting with boys at the orphanage, work projects and lending a hand, walking tour of a rural village, visitation to an immigration shelter, sharing a meal in a Mexican home, conversations with local

leaders and reflection and social analysis.

If you know of senior high youth who would be interested in this opportunity, contact the Cooperative office.

Many of life’s circumstances are created by three basic choices: the disciplines you choose to keep, the people you choose to be with, and the laws you choose to obey.

—Charles Millhuff



## EXTREME MAKEOVERS!

I remember being on one camping trip, when an older woman was struggling to apply all her make-up at a make-shift vanity beside the camper. Her granddaughter watched intensely as the process went on and on, and she finally asked the question that had been bothering her, “What happens if you go outside of the lines?”

I find the aging of America a

Nature isn't failing – it's coming to its culmination one more time!

fascinating process. I watch as different women (and increasingly, men) fight the process – dieting, exercise, plastic surgery, dyes, creams, nips, implants, cosmetics, plugs, tucks—so they can ‘stay young’. What an amazing *coup d'etat* the marketing folks have pulled off on us! There's only one way to ‘stay young’ – to quote James Dean, “Live fast. Die young. Leave a good-looking corpse.” While it was a solution that evidently worked for him, it's the one method of

‘staying young’ that doesn't seem to be catching on. Everything else has an info-mercial which is airing constantly on one television station or another, taking up perfectly good air time that could

be filled with reruns of “F Troop.”

Unfortunately, the results of these treatments seem to be as universally successful as low-fat mayonnaise or the on-going war on drugs. I tire of seeing 50, 60, 70+ year-old people on television whose artificially taut skin makes them appear as if they are smiling directly into a 110 mph straight-line wind. I can't help but stare at women in the grocery store whose skills at applying make-up would serve them equally well if they would transition into mudding dry-wall. Youth by definition is passing. Beauty is by definition natural; ‘artificial beauty’ is to real beauty what tofu substitutes are to real beef.

What a sad thing – to build so much of our society around that which is ultimately unattainable anyway – eternal youth. What a sad thing – to see so many people whose self-worth is based upon something as fleeting as appearances. Thank God that His standards are lower than our media-driven concept of what is acceptable and what is beautiful.

Autumn is my favorite time of the year. Others find it depressing – ‘everything is dying.’ No, it's not! The trees are going out in a blaze of color! Most of nature is coming into its own – the crops are ready, the fruit is ripe. Nature isn't failing – it's coming to its culmination one more time!

In the same way, I hold a special place in my heart for people who are comfortable in their own skin – who grow older, celebrating every birthday and every season. There is a special glow to people who feel they have earned the wrinkles across their foreheads and who

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## Cooperative Council Minutes

The Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council met Wednesday, September 10 at Zion Lutheran in Gowrie at 7:00 p.m. Present were Ned Palmer, Larry Krakau, Steve Julius, Ron Walrod, Shannon Miller, Marc Greenfield, Marie Bengtson, Byron Chalstrom, Dick Silvey, Everett Underwood, Scott Engquist, Pastor Jim Davis, and Loretta Daisy. Pastor Jim led us in devotions using a DVD and power point program similar to ones we hope to use with the youth service.

The secretary's report was read. Scott Engquist made a motion to

accept the secretary's report and Shannon Miller seconded it. The motion passed. The treasurer's report was read. Shannon Miller made a motion that the report be accepted, Dick Silvey seconded it, and the motion passed.

Old business:

Workman's comp: the Church Mutual representative failed to get back to us so this item was tabled until a later date.

A proposal for a Rural Ministry Learning Lab has been submitted to Wartburg Seminary and we are waiting for a reply. This will consist of having a seminary student spend a period of 3 weeks in our parishes in January.

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### Council Minutes

Stephen Ministry training will begin September 15<sup>th</sup>. There are 23 people interested in the training.

Shannon Miller reported on the Youth Ministry. They have had a couple of events and are in the process of working on a schedule and planning events. He now has a contact person in each of our member churches.

Pastor Davis reported on the progress of the alternative youth worship services. He is planning on November 5 as the first service.

New business:

The budget was discussed. It was decided to add the Rural Learning Lab expenses to the budget.

Line items were discussed and the budget was tabled until the next meeting as some changes needed to be made.

Pastor Jim asked for a volun-

teer to go to a Rural Ministry meeting in Pomeroy and Everett Underwood will go. Emanuel Lutheran of Dayton has asked for information on a possible relationship with the Cooperative. A motion was made by Ned Palmer to send a committee to their council meeting for a discussion. Everett Underwood seconded it and the motion passed unanimously. Ned Palmer, Ron Walrod, Larry Krakau, Scott Engquist, and Pastor Jim Davis will represent us.

Proceeds for the sale of the Cooperative Cookbook were discussed. Pastor Jim or Pastor Rod will discuss some possibilities with the cookbook committee and a decision will be made at a later date.

Everett Underwood made a motion to adjourn and Dick Silvey seconded it. The motion passed.

—Loretta Daisy, Secretary

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### Associate Pastor

have spent a lifetime creating laugh lines. God sets the stage for the finale of our lives, before we transition into the next one. It seems ludicrous to me to think we could improve on His plan for anything!

“Gray hair is a glorious crown worn by those who have lived right!”  
— Proverbs 16:31

—Rod

as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done, you turned on the TV. I don't know if you like TV or not, just about anything goes there and you spend a lot of time each day in front of it not thinking about anything, just enjoying the show. I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal, but again you didn't talk to me.

At bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay because you may not realize that I am always there for you. I've got patience, more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well. I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation. Well, you are getting up once again. And once again I will wait, with nothing but love for you. Hoping that today you will give me some time. Have a nice day!

Your friend,  
GOD

(Author Unknown)

## GOOD MORNING

As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But I noticed you were too busy, trying to find the right outfit to wear.

When you ran around the house getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy. At one point you had to wait fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to

your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip instead.

I watched patiently all day long. With all our activities I guess you were too busy to say anything To me.

I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't. That's okay. There is still more time left, and I hope that you will talk to me yet.

You went home and it seems

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Gowrie, IA 50543  
Box 63  
**Countryside Cooperative Ministry**

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**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 Ministry	Office	352-3612
	Home	352-3798

**Cooperative Email Addresses:**

Cooperative Office:	<a href="mailto:ziongowr@wccta.net">ziongowr@wccta.net</a>
Rev. Jim Davis:	<a href="mailto:elca506@wccta.net">elca506@wccta.net</a>
Rod Meyer:	<a href="mailto:rodmeyer@lvcta.com">rodmeyer@lvcta.com</a>
Stephen Ministry:	<a href="mailto:stephencoop@hotmail.com">stephencoop@hotmail.com</a>

**Cooperative Worship Times**

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



If you have an article or pictures that you would like to submit for the Cooperative newsletter, please send them to the Cooperative office and we will **try** to put them in as time and space permit.