

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 12

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September 2004

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

CHOICES

Are you interested, concerned or do you have questions regarding the future direction of our Cooperative Ministry or what is happening in your congregation? If you are, you will want to attend "Choices."

"Choices" is a video-based presentation that examines some of the trends and shifts being modeled in a number of congregations who appear to be reinventing themselves for the future. The information shared

in this video is informed by research, the latest (almost) congregational growth literature, observation of growing congregations and the insights of congregational futuris, the Rev. Thomas Bandy, Jr., evangelism staff of the United Church of Canada.

Pastor Jim will be leading the workshop, which will be offered September 13, 20 and 27 at Zion



Women of Faith

It's two days, 10½ hours. It's refreshment, reality without reproach, and relationships. So what does that mean?

Refreshment – Imagine getting together with your closest girlfriends for a weekend. Think of the laughter you'd share, the tears you'd shed, the FUN you'd have. Now multiply that by 10,000 or so. You're starting to get the idea.

Reality without Reproach – We're not perfect. We don't expect you to be perfect, either. Our speakers are real women who share stories from their real lives. We're here to encourage women, not to condemn anyone.

Even those who have never set foot in a church feel comfortable at our conferences. You can check your mask at the door. You're welcome just as you are.

Relationships – Connecting with God and with each other. At *Women of Faith* we believe that God loves you – no matter what your situation in life may be. We also believe that He wants a personal relationship with you. Through our conferences, more than 150,000 women have indicated decisions to start or renew that relationship. Relationships with each other are important, too. At

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Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

Marie Bengston -----Trinity
Greg Carlson ----- Zion
Loretta Daisy ----- Fulton
Scott Engquist ----- Faith
Larry Fatka -----Trinity
Marc Greenfield ----- Faith
Steve Julius ----- Calvary
Steve Lane ----- Zion
Ned Palmer ----- Zion
Joyce Silvey -----UCC/Cong.
Richard Silvey -----UCC/Cong.
Everett Underwood ----- Fulton
Ron Walrod ----- Calvary

Countryside Cooperative Ministry Executive Committee

Ron Walrod ----- President
Larry Fatka -----Vice-president
Loretta Daisy ----- Secretary
Steve Lane ----- Treasurer
Rev. Jim Davis
----- Administrative Pastor



LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

STEPHEN MINISTRY



As followers of Jesus, we have been called to a way of life that involves caring for others in a distinctively Christian manner. Whether we are at work or at play, in the church or in our daily lives, with our families or with a group of total strangers, we are called by Christ to reflect his love and compassion in every aspect of our lives.

Do we do this perfectly all the of time or even part of the time? Of course not. But by God's mercy, the Holy Spirit is at work in us, enabling us each day in some small way to love more and more as Jesus loved. This is the Christian way of life that we hopefully all live and it is what enables us to reach out to others in this broken world and give to them the time, the love, and the care that every one of us needs.

How does a referral happen between a Stephen Minister and a Care Receiver?

- A person--either you, a relative, or a friend--is hurting and in need of Christian care. (You do not have to be a member of the church to receive care.)
- The Stephen Leader learns about this need for care--from the pastor, the person, or a friend, but only with the person's permission.
- The Stephen Leader meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry.
- With the person's permission, the Stephen Leader assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with the person.
- The Stephen Minister continues to provide Christian care for the person in strict confidentiality.

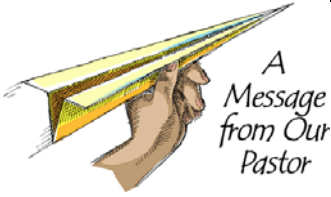
Whenever our Stephen Ministers are given an opportunity to practice what they have learned—whether formally or informally—I am sure they take advantage of that opportunity to share the hope they have been given. In this way the Stephen Minister grows in faith and love. In this way also those who are blessed by the caring way of life the Stephen Minister leads will come to know His saving power in their own lives as well.

Monday, September 13th we will begin classes to train the new 2005 Stephen Ministers. This is your class, this is your opportunity. I have spoken to you, I have asked you to pray about this calling and I have prayed for you. Now it is up to you—I must order supplies soon and I need your completed application and you to tell me, “I want to be in this next class. Jesus is calling me to serve and I can do this.” Come, now is the time.

Cindy Youngquist,

Countryside Cooperative Stephen Ministry Leader

“Bear one another’s burdens...and so fulfill the law of Christ.” GALATIANS 6:2



A
Message
from Our
Pastor

People of Faith

One of my favorite things to do during vacation is to worship at other churches. While in Niagara Falls, the boys and I worshipped at Drummond Hills Presbyterian Church.

Before entering the church, I told the boys that if they were not good, I would take them back to the camp and make them sit in the tent the entire afternoon with nothing to do – for boys, it doesn't get much worse than that. I imagine there were about eighty people in worship, with the average age being between the mid-sixties and mid-seventies. The only other child in

If we want our children to become people of faith, the most important thing we can do is to be people of faith.

worship was a girl who appeared to be about 7 years old. Worship was traditional, with a praise medley included after the announcements. The preacher was a lay minister who was a former member of the congregation. She did a fine job preaching.

In spite of the challenges of separating children who do not want to be touched by a sibling,

keeping two small boys from escaping or thwarting the desire of our children

to constantly change the seating arrangement, there are blessings that make the experience worthwhile. That morning was one of those blessings. Austin followed the liturgy, Max sat quietly on my lap and Myles was a real gentleman. It doesn't get much better than that. I even received a compliment on my sing-

ing – if you can imagine that.

A week later, we were again in worship together. I was surprised to hear Myles join the congregation in saying the Apostles' Creed. I looked at him, thinking to myself, "Wow! I can't believe he knows that!" I listened as he recited about 70% of it. Not bad for a boy who will only be entering kindergarten. Later in the service, he joined in praying the Lord's Prayer. He also responded to some of the liturgical formulas used.

Tami and I have never tried to teach any of our children the Lord's Prayer or Apostles' Creed. They have learned it simply because they have been raised attending worship on a regular basis. They are also expected to participate in worship, not simply put in their time. I don't know why I was surprised to hear Myles recit-

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Women of Faith

a *Women of Faith* conference you'll have the chance to connect with other women – even if you go there alone!

Over the course of the conference, you'll have the opportunity to:

♀ Renew your spirit with messages of hope and humor from the Women of Faith speaker team.

♀ Recharge your spiritual batteries with drama that tickles your funny bone and touches your heart (at the same time!)

Rejoice with music from top Christian music artists.

♀ Reconnect with God and each other as the *WOF* worship team leads an arena full of women in praise to God.

♀ Revitalize your life with resources that will help keep the conference experience alive all year.

♀ Relax in the comforting knowledge that God loves you – right where you are.

One attendee told us, "*I had never attended anything like this in my life and to be honest, I was not prepared for the enormous spiritual lift that I received in those two days.*" We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

We are still looking for someone to coordinate this event for 2005. The earlier we get someone to start the easier it will be to organize. If you are interested or just want more information, please call the Cooperative office (352-3645) for details.

COOPERATIVE OFFICE HOURS

I've had many people asking me lately what my office hours are. Generally, I am in the office from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. on Friday. You may find me in the office earlier and/or later depending on the work load. I also take an hour lunch between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.

Cindy and Pastor Jim's hours vary depending on visits and other meetings they need to attend. If you would like to meet with anyone of us at a particular time, please call the Cooperative office to set up an appointment. We will do our best to accommodate you.

—Cheryl Rasmussen
Cooperative Secretary

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Construction Zone

Introducing the launch of a new Senior High event like never before sponsored by Youth Encounter! Enter the **Construction Zone** with us as we dig deep into our faith by building disciples. Strengthen your servant heart by putting the love of Christ into practice. We will build disciples through spiritual development, on-site service projects, and praise and worship.

What is a Construction Zone?

A Construction Zone is an annual weekend retreat for youth in grades 9-12, designed around three things: praise and worship, spiritual growth and direction, and an opportunity for service.

Senior High Construction Zones allow youth to hear the Gospel, explore the spiritual gifts God has given them, and be introduced to possibilities for deeper service. Great bands, challenging speakers and gifted workshop leaders serve together to make this a retreat unlike any other for building disciples in a youth group. Looking to give high school youth an exciting event with deep, Christ-centered, Scriptural content? Enter the ZONE!

We will be taking a group to the Kansas City event the weekend of November 12-14. If you are interested or just want more details, contact the Cooperative office, or check out their website at <http://www.youthencounter.org/zones/>.

A WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Our lives are filled with small, mundane tasks and routines. We play them out on our tiny stages set on a planet of more than 6 billion other people. The planet swirls around in a universe so immense that light from its distant corners, traveling at a speed of more than 186,000 miles per second, still takes billions of years to reach us.

There is a plan. Out of such seeming insignificance, there is meaning and purpose for us. It is found in *Walk Thru the Old Testament* and *Walk Thru the New Testament* seminars. Please join fellow seekers from our conference on Sunday, Sept. 12, from 1:30 p.m. through early evening, at the Twin Lakes Christian Center and take a walk through the bible. Call the Cooperative office for reservations (352-3645).

Are You a Concerned Parent or Grandparent?

If you are 60 or older and are a parent or grandparent who is concerned about the challenge of passing on the faith to the next generations, I invite you to join me for an informal conversation about how we can grow in our effectiveness in passing on the faith.

We will meet at Zion on Sunday, September 19th from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Pie and drinks will be provided.

If you plan on attending, please contact the Cooperative office. This will help us plan for refreshments. --Pastor Jim

Sexuality Forum

You are invited to continue our conversation on the church and homosexuality by attending "Journey Together Faithfully."

"Journey Together Faithfully" will involve conversation based on part two of the ELCA's studies on sexuality.

We will meet on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. beginning October 4 and ending November 8.

Please contact the Cooperative office if you plan on attending so we can order resources for you.

Stephen Minister Class to Begin

Our next Stephen Minister class is scheduled to begin September 13th. If you would like to be a part of this next class, please call Cindy Youngquist at 352-3612. We need to have at least 12 people interested before we can start a class.

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.



LEGACY



Guard the Good Treasure

Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us (2nd Timothy 1:14).

There is a unique and powerful truth about the “good treasure” of the gospel. It is entrusted to us by God in order to be shared. Its purpose and power are no less than to liberate the oppressed. The gospel can heal. It can reconcile. It can transform people, institutions, and congregations. It gives life. It is the word of God’s love.

Being human, however, means

that guarding what is “good” may mean that we fail to trust God enough to risk, to sacrifice, and to endure suffering. Congregations effective in their ministries in the past can become protective, rigid, and unwilling to change. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit gives us precisely the hope and trust human beings need to be faithful stewards of the many “good treasures” God has given.



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Pastor’s Message

ing the Apostles’ Creed, praying the Lord’s Prayer or joining in the liturgy, it is what he is being raised to do. It was an incredible blessing, however, to see and hear it happening.

If we want our children to become people of faith, the most important thing we can do is to be people of faith. Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and confirmation are all good programs; however, none of them can hold a candle to having parents of faith who are involved in worship, prayer, learning and serving and who expect their children to do the same. The future of the faith depends on parents and grandparents being people of faith and modeling that for their children.

I encourage you to take seriously the foundational faith practices of worship, prayer, learning and serving and to involve your children and grandchildren in them. It is such an incredible blessing to see and hear the faith being passed on to the next generation. May you be blessed with a life filled with those experiences.

—Pastor Jim

COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

We still have Countryside Cooperative cookbooks for sale. If you or someone you know would like to purchase a cookbook, please call the Cooperative office (352-3645), Cheryl Meyer (354-5224), or Marsha Samuelson (354-5358) to make arrangements to pick up one or more.

PRISON MINISTRY

The Countryside Cooperative is starting a joint outreach ministry in conjunction with the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility.

Pastor Don Wahlgren is coordinating this ministry and has set September 8th as our first visit. Anyone wishing to be included in this first visit must call the Cooperative Office by September 1st to hold their spot. We only have 12 spaces available for our first visit, so if you would like to be included please call early.

We will meet in the parking lot of the correctional facility at 6:25 p.m. and the service starts at 6:30 p.m.

If this is your first visit to the correctional facility, the Coopera-

tive office will need your full name, birth date, and social security number. The correctional facility is required to do a background check on any new visitors as a precautionary measure. There is a dress code for visitors, call for more details.

If you have any questions regarding this ministry, please call the Cooperative office (352-3645) or Pastor Wahlgren (352-5245).



Countryside Cooperative Ministry
Box 63
Gowrie, IA 50543

Cooperative Phone Numbers:

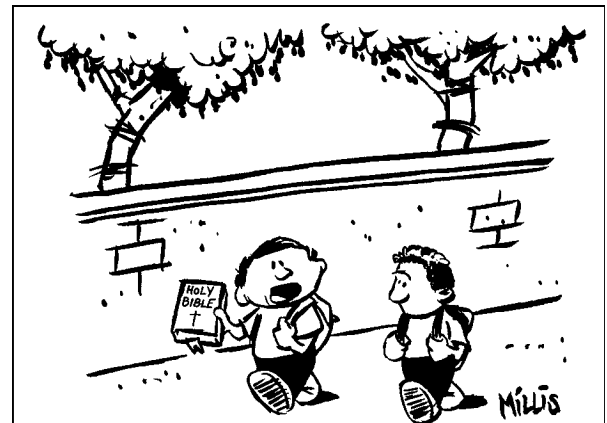
Cooperative Office..... 352-3645
Rev. Jim Davis Office..... 352-3932
Home 352-5261
Rod Meyer Office..... 846-6277
Home 354-5224
Rev. Wahlgren Office..... 352-3645
Home 352-5245
Stephen Ministry Office..... 352-3612
Home 352-3798

Cooperative E-mail Addresses:

Cooperative Office:..... ziongowr@wccta.net
Rev. Jim Davis: elca506@wccta.net
Rod Meyer: rodmeyer@lvcta.com
Stephen Ministry:..... stephencoop@hotmail.com

Cooperative Summer 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 9:30 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturdays @ Zion..... 5:00 p.m.
FUSION Wednesday Evenings..... 7:30 p.m.
(at 1107 Market Street)



*"Pastor says all the answers are in here.
I guess he never had to take one of
Miss Hathorne's geography exams."*

Cooperative Website Address:

www.wccta.net/gallery/coop/

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.