

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 3 Issue 1

A Publication of Countryside Cooperative Ministry

October 2004

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

COOPERATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council met Monday, August 30 at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church. Present were Steve Lane, Greg Carlson, Scott Engquist, Joyce and Richard Silvey, Ned Palmer, Steve Julius, Everett Underwood, Ron Walrod, Marie Bengston, Larry Fatka, Loretta Daisy and Pastor Jim Davis. President Walrod opened the meeting with prayer. Pastor Davis led us in devotions

using Jeremiah 18. Scott Engquist made a motion to approve the secretary's minutes as written; Steve Julius seconded the motion and the motion passed. Steve Lane gave the treasurer's report; Ned Palmer made a motion to approve the report, Everett Underwood seconded and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Articles of Incorporation were discussed. Steve Julius

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Connections

Do you long to deepen your connection with God and others? Are you looking for a more intimate worship experience? Do you enjoy the combination of ancient worship elements with modern technology? Would you be willing to be part of an experiment in developing alternative worship forms?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please join us for *Connections*. *Connections* is a worship experience designed especially for adults who are looking for any of the above.

Connections will begin on November 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the *FUSION* building at 1107

Market Street. We will be meeting the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m. This worship experience is for adults only.

If you have questions about *Connections*, contact the Cooperative office.

Plan on joining us and growing deeper in your connection with God and others.



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

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.



Stephen Ministry Class of 2004-2005

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. Linda Carlson | Zion |
| 2. Dolores Gronemeyer | Zion |
| 3. Andrea Kuhn | Zion |
| 4. Robert Gordon | Zion |
| 5. Leon Skoglund | Zion |
| 6. Tami Davis | Zion |
| 7. Alyce Lizer | UMC |
| 8. Dorothy Tilger | UMC |
| 9. Ginger Marques | UMC |
| 10. Lavola Lizer | UMC |
| 11. Sonja Searcy | OSLC |
| 12. Doris Stanek | OSLC |
| 13. Linda Peterson | OSLC |
| 14. James Hanson | OSLC |
| 15. Diane Fiala | OSLC |
| 16. Barb Miller | Pointe |

Churches are: Zion Lutheran Church of Gowrie, United Methodist Church of Gowrie and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Callender and The Pointe of Fort Dodge.

Stephen Ministry Training Benediction

Based on the Caregiver's Compass

We have gathered
as God's **faith-filled** people,
trusting in God
and one another,
to nurture our **skills**
as **compassionate**
caregivers.

Through **Christ**, with **Christ**
in **Christ**, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we offer ourselves as a
living sacrifice
in this transforming
ministry of grace.
Amen.

*--By Dr. John W. Miller and Rev. Sally Brown,
Northpark Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX*

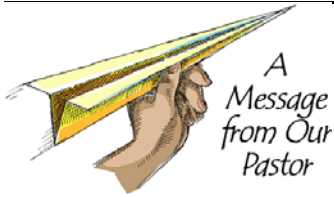
One of the many times Pastor Davis and I were talking about the Stephen Ministry he said, "You know, you really need to put together another class to begin this fall." I mentioned that we had talked about skipping a year and he reminded me that quite a few people had talked to both him and me about the Stephen Ministry program and how they would like to take the class. So I agreed, if there were enough people who were willing to participate, we needed to have another class.

The first time around Pastor said, "If you can get 12 in your class I will be happy." (I am sure you will remember we had 24 in that first class.) This time he said, "Try getting 12 again." Last evening was the first class for this fall and we had **16 people in class!** I was delighted to find so many people interested in the ministry. All summer our Stephen Ministers traveled to area churches with their skit; "Church Family Face-off" and they did an excellent job telling the story of what it is to be a Stephen Minister. Many people commented last evening that seeing the skit helped them make up their mind that they too could be a Stephen Minister. I am also pleased we have people from other churches that are in this class, so if someone you know whose name is listed here, tell them how proud you are of them and that you will remember them in your prayers.

In the first training class, "The person of the Caregiver," everyone learned a little about each other. They became familiar with *The Care Giver's Compass* at the top of this article and they all were assigned a prayer partner. The training schedule is very full with many guest lecturers coming who will be sharing about the vast resources that are available to everyone. Bear in mind that you, the reader, are also a resource as you support this ministry with your prayers.

Cindy Youngquist, Countryside Cooperative's Stephen Ministry Leader

"Bear one another's burdens...and so fulfill the law of Christ." GALATIANS 6:2



His master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly.
— Luke 16:8

Quite a number of years ago a Swede went to his banker and asked for a loan of \$10 at 6%, which was the going rate, and he offered as collateral a government bond for \$1000. When the deal was completed, the banker commented that it seemed ridiculous to him to put up a thousand dollars as security on a \$10 loan.

“Not at all,” said the Swede. “A safe deposit box costs me \$8 a year and this way you have to hold my bond for me; I pay you sixty cents in interest and keep

the other \$7.40 I would ordinarily have paid on a box.”

Now that was a shrewd Swede and if I were the banker, I’d keep an eye on him in the future!

Today, more than ever, we, as a church, need to be shrewd, like the shrewd Swede or the dishonest manager in Luke 16.

We live in a time when our numbers, as a percentage of the general population, are decreasing and our resources are becoming more limited. Increasing numbers of people are unchurched and those who remain in the church are often less active and less generous than members of past generations. If we hope to expand the kingdom of God and to be faithful to the mission to which we have been called, we need to be as shrewd as the shrewd Swede or the dishonest manager. We need to

make the best possible use of our time, energy, money and opportunities to effectively fulfill our mission.

It has been fascinating and disturbing to watch what has happened in these rural areas over the past two generations. Farms and businesses, schools and churches have either radically changed the way they do business, consolidated or simply not survived. Only the shrewd or lucky will continue to thrive in an environment that seems to grow increasingly hostile to small farms, businesses, schools, churches and communities. When playing golf or cards I usually operate with the adage, “I would rather be lucky than good.” When it comes to the future of our church, however, I am not willing to entrust it to luck; I would much rather develop the skills it takes to be shrewd. Shrewd people see what needs to be done and follow through with decisive actions that create new possibilities for the future.

What the church needs today are shrewd people who quickly see what needs to be done and who follow through with decisive actions that create new possibilities for the future. It is increasingly obvious that our former way of being church will probably not survive. We need visionary leaders who will work with us to develop different forms for accomplishing the same mission: proclaiming the good news of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ through words and deeds.

I believe Countryside Cooperative Ministry is one of those emerging forms of proclaiming the good news of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ through words and

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Minutes

made a motion to accept the Articles as written; Everett Underwood seconded and the motion passed. Not all cookbooks have been sold yet. Pastor Davis reminded the Council that we had voted to continue the Rural Learning Lab and that plans needed to be made for this year’s students.

NEW BUSINESS:

FUSION was discussed. A copy of the grant money they received and their budget was passed out. The grant money will help with the costs through the month of May 2005. Pastor Davis will be writing and applying for new grants for next year. Attendance has held steady throughout the summer with

about 70+ people of all ages attending. They have been very active in the community by participating in local area parades with a float, going to the Sunshine Festival, hosting the teen dance for Gowrie Appreciation Days, sponsoring 5 Alive, and sponsoring a girl through Compassion International. The council then discussed ways they can help *FUSION* and the need to look to the future if they outgrow their present meeting site. Everett Underwood made a motion that Pastor Davis be reimbursed for his personal funds he used to start *FUSION*, Steve Julius seconded and the motion passed.

The offering taken at the summer picnic was discussed. Everett Underwood made a motion that the summer offering

SENIOR & JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Construction Zone

We are taking a group of Senior High youth 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/>. Registration deadline is September 28th

Wartburg College

Saturday, November 6, Wartburg College is hosting a Junior High Day. For more information on this fun-filled weekend for Junior High Students please con-

tact Pastor Jim.

Junior High Youth Gathering

The third annual junior high youth gathering of the Western Iowa Synod will be held November 19-20 at the Plaza Hotel in Sioux City. The theme for this year's gathering is "Yes...for you!"

Cost is \$60.00 per person which includes lodging, the gathering, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, t-shirt, a dance, and lots of workshops and other exciting things to do.

For more information contact the Cooperative office. Registration deadline is October 23.

GLOBAL MISSION EVENT

"Empowered to Witness – Near and Far!" will be the theme for the 2004 Twin River Valley Conference Global Mission Event. The event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Webster City, on Sunday, October 24 from 1:30 – 6:40 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

In addition to worship and food, there will be presentations on mission trips taken by conference youth (some of our youth will be talking about their trip to Mexico), dialogs with visiting international students, Millennium Ministries, Church of the Damascus Road and other ways in which we can be involved in mission.

The keynote speaker will

be Rev. Y. Franklin Ishida, Director for Leadership Development and Mission Personnel Recruitment for the ELCA Division for Global Mission.

Come, join us in a global experience showing our oneness with our brothers and sisters around the world. Childcare is provided.

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.

be given to support *FUSION*, Greg Carlson seconded the motion and it passed. Ned Palmer made a motion that whichever church hosted a cooperative worship service be responsible to hold the money until the next council meeting for the council to then decide where the money would be given, Steve Lane seconded and the motion passed.

It was decided that the executive council would meet and draw up a proposed budget on October 7 that will be sent to each council member. The council will consider ways they can help *FUSION* in the new budget.

The Stephen Ministry class of 2005 will begin in September. Steve Julius proposed a motion that those attending from congregations not in the Cooperative would be asked to pay for their training materials with the cost of the training itself to be paid by the Cooperative. Scott Engquist seconded and the motion passed.

There has been some interest in the development of a Christ Care/Parish Nurse system. Pastor Davis talked about some grant money that was available for establishing this program. Scott Engquist made a motion that the Cooperative move forward in developing this program and writing for the grants, Richard Silvey seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Some interest was expressed in having more Cooperative worship services. The members were asked to take this back to their own councils and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

There being no other business, President Walrod asked Everett Underwood to close our meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Daisy, Secretary

LEGACY



Remember, Rekindle

I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you (2 Timothy 1:6).

Remember! This is one of the keys to the life of faith.

Then rekindle! When we gather for worship we take time out from busy and fractured days to be reminded of the presence of God in our lives. We gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The scriptures, the hymns, the prayers, and the sharing of bread and wine remind us of the eternal promises.

However, human beings are forgetful. The care and stewardship of our calling requires a discipline of remembering and recalling. When we serve in the mission of the church we are helping to “bring to mind” (and bring to life) the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is the priceless legacy we can share for the faith of the world’s children and for all people.



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Pastor’s Message

deeds. Cooperative ministry makes it possible for us to more shrewdly use the limited resources we have to touch the lives of individuals, congregations and communities in the name of Jesus.

The church and our cooperative ministry need business people who are adept at analyzing markets and trends and adapting practices in order to put the church in a strong position—not just today, but a generation from now. We need educators who understand the most effective ways to teach using the incredible diversity of resources available to us. We need people who understand marketing and promotion and who can help package the most incredible message the world has ever known in forms that connect with people in exciting, meaningful ways. We need courageous leaders who are willing to see quickly what needs to be done and follow through with decisive actions that create new hope for the future.

If you have any of these gifts and are not currently using them through your congregation or Cooperative ministry, we need you to offer them in service to the God who has blessed you with them. If we are willing to be shrewd in how we use our resources, we will touch the lives of countless people and shape society in ways we can hardly imagine.

May God bless the church by filling it with people who are as shrewd as serpents and who are willing to use their shrewdness to expand the Kingdom of God.

—Pastor Jim

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. Our next visit will be October 20th. Anyone wishing to be included in this outreach ministry please call the Cooperative Office by October 13th to reserve a spot. We only have 12 spaces available for our visit, so if you would like to be included, please call early.

If this is your first visit to the correctional facility, the Cooperative office will need your full name, birth date, phone number, 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. We will meet in the correctional facility parking lot at 6:15 p.m. The service starts at 6:30 p.m.

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



Gowrie, IA 50543
Box 63
Countryside Cooperative Ministry

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)



October is
Pastor Appreciation Month

Cooperative Website Address:
www.countrysidecoop.org

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.