

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

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

AGING FAITHFULLY

—a message from Pastor Jim

If you are an early riser and get out and about, you have probably noticed Paulyne Anderson, Maxine Nordstrom and Pauline Olsen out for their morning walk. The pace they keep would challenge most men and women who are much younger than they are. Their commitment to staying active, taking care of themselves and serving others has inspired me over the years I have been in Gowrie. It is not only their walking, however, that inspires me, but also how they care for their families, their faithfulness

in worship and their service to their church and community.

Paulyne, Maxine and Pauline are not the only people who inspire me. I am inspired by so many of the members of our congregations who are retired and yet remain active. Instead of settling into a chair in front of the television or spending the majority of their time drinking coffee – I do believe a certain amount of this is necessary to maintain one's emotional and spiritual health – and complaining about all the problems in the world, they offer their selves, time and possessions

(Continued on page 3a)

CROP WALK 2006

Join us for an opportunity to meet people who are committed to touching the lives of others in the name of Jesus, enjoy a pleasant stroll and make a difference in feeding hungry



people.

The Annual Webster County CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 8. Registration will be from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at Reynolds Park. The walk will start at 1:30 p.m.

Last year, more than 3,800 local food banks and pantries received checks totaling nearly \$4 million!

CROP WALK helps support the overall ministry of Church

(Continued on page 5a)

Countryside Ministry Council

Marie Bengston----- Trinity
Greg Carlson -----Zion
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Loretta Daisy----- Fulton
Marc Greenfield ----- Faith
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Countryside Ministry Executive Committee

Marie Bengston----- President
Greg Moe----- 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 Countryside office at 352-3645 so a visit can be scheduled.





The Duck & the Devil

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods, but he could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner. As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head, and killed it. He was shocked and grieved. In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the wood pile, only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen. Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck? So Johnny did the dishes. Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper."

Sally just smiled and said, "Well that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's... he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug, and said, "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

Thought for the day and every day thereafter? Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done... and the devil keeps throwing it up in your face (lying, cheating, debt, fear, bad habits, hatred, anger, bitterness, etc.), whatever it is... You need to know that God was standing at the window and He saw the whole thing..... He has seen your whole life. He

wants you to know that He loves you and that you are forgiven. He's just wondering how long you will let the devil make a slave of you.

The great thing about God is that when you ask for forgiveness, He not only forgives you, but He forgets..... It is by God's grace and mercy that we are saved. We must always remember that... God is at the window.

I can't remember who sent this to me but it really moved me, at least enough that I wanted to share it with you in my newsletter article this month. Sometimes in life we forget that God is always there and watching. He listens, He loves, He knows what is best for each of us.

I have been talking to many people about our Stephen Ministry class that will begin September 11th, I am certain they grow weary of my "bugging" them. There are many reasons why someone just doesn't feel it is a good time for them right now. I understand completely as I feel the same way when faced with a new decision.

I am so excited about this new group of Stephen Ministers about to begin their training. I ask you to please remember them and myself in your prayers. This is a big commitment on their part and we all need your prayers and encouragement. I have used the following prayer before in articles but it is one that a Stephen Minister uses a lot.

***Lord give me the courage
To ask for help when I am in need.
And assist me in helping
Others when I am able.
Let no one fall alone;
For if their need is too great
For me to provide for,
Then have me guide them
To someone who can. AMEN***

Cindy Youngquist, Countryside's Stephen Ministry
Leader

*"Bear one another's burdens...and so fulfill the law of
Christ." (Galatians 6:2).*



(Continued from page 1)

Ageing Faith

in service to others. While the contributions that we who

are younger make to our churches and communities makes a significant difference, the health and vitality of our churches and communities depends largely on the gifts of those over sixty.

This should come as no surprise to any of us. Abraham and Sarah were old when God called them to begin a journey to a land filled with promise. Elizabeth and Zechariah had given up hope of ever having a child when God blessed them with the gift of a

There are also incredible blessings that can come with age

son who would herald the coming of the Messiah. Simeon and Anna, an old man and old woman, are among the first witnesses to the redemption God was working through Jesus. There is a strong tradition in the Bible of God using older people to accomplish God's will.

While I am well aware that there are drawbacks of growing older – I am beginning to experience them – there are also incredible blessings that can come with age. Experience, wisdom, perspective, long-term relationships, skills, competence, time and resources are but a few of the benefits of ageing – at least when ageing is done well. These are marvelous gifts that, when shared with

families, congregations and communities, can produce tremendous results.

The psalmist reminds us that, "The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. ¹³They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, ¹⁵showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him." – Psalm 92:12-15

I know many of you in the older generations are concerned about what will happen to the churches, civic organizations and communities you cherish when you are gone. I share your concern. That is why it is so important for you to offer your gifts now so that our churches, civic organizations and communities can be as healthy and vital as possible. Not only will this strengthen and maintain these cherished institutions, but it may inspire those of us who are younger and help us to realize the importance of giving ourselves more fully to the work of strengthening and maintaining our churches and communities.

Thank you to all you older adults for your faithfulness in caring for your families, your faithfulness in worship and your service to our churches and communities. May you continue to inspire us to even greater faithfulness.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOD DOING?

All Countryside Junior High students in grades 6-8 are invited to attend Wartburg's fall Junior High event *What in the World is God Doing?* The event will take place on November 4, 2006.

The day will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and include a mix of large and small group activities, lunch, a college tour, Crazy Olympics, faith talk with Wartburg students, and a closing worship. The event will be completed no later than 4:45 p.m.

There is no cost except for travel to and from the event. If you would like to attend this event please let the Countryside office know by October 15 so we can

make arrangements for enough transportation.

Recipe For Love

- 1 Cup upward eyes
- 1 Cup foldin' of hands
- 1 Cup kneeled knees
- 1 Cup patience/waiting

Mix these items together with hands that are folding, preferred on the ground, anytime, anywhere, anybody, anyhow on one's knees. Allow it time to rise up and watch it become a blessing in someone's life and this includes yours. Continue this process over and over to see one's heart grow.

*Michael J. Smothers, FDCF
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The Damascus Road Flash*



HAVE YOU SEEN GOD LATELY? TELL ME ABOUT IT!

ON THE ROAD ON THE WAY

The fifth annual Junior High Youth Gathering for the Western Iowa Synod is just around the corner.

The theme of this year's gathering is "On the Road On the Way"



Last year we had 23 youth attending from the Countryside Ministry. Let's try to break this record and get

more of our youth to attend.

Last year after they returned we heard many positive comments from them and hope all of last year's seventh graders attend again this year.

This gathering is open to all Countryside Ministry students in 7th, 8th, & 9th grades. It will be held on November 10 & 11 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines.

If you are interested in attending please call the Countryside Ministry office today for a registration form, costs, and more information!

COUNTRYSIDE PICNIC PICTURES



WELCOME TO GOD'S TABLE



Holy Communion

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.

The class will be offered on Sunday, October 1 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 in the Countryside Ministry Churches; 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 Countryside Ministry Office.

If you are planning on attending the class, we would appreciate you signing up before September 24 so we can plan for lunch. Please sign up by calling the Countryside Ministry Office at 352-3645.

PRISON MINISTRY

The Countryside Ministry will be visiting the Church of the Damascus Road in Fort Dodge on Wednesday, September 13. Our three regular prison outreach evangelists (Pastor Wahlgren, Almeda Gordon, and Dorothy Carlon) would love to have some new faces join them. We have five spaces available for this visit. Anyone wishing to be included in this outreach ministry please call the Countryside Ministry office or Pastor Don Wahlgren to reserve a spot.

If you have not previously visited the correctional facility, the Countryside office will need your full name, birth date, phone

number,
and social
security
number.

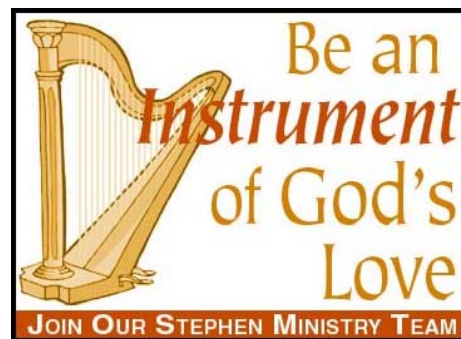
The correctional facility is required to do a background check on every new visitor as a precautionary measure. There is a dress code for visitors; please call the Countryside office for more details. We meet in the correctional facility parking lot at 6:15 p.m. The service starts at 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding this ministry, please call the Countryside Ministry office (352-3645) or Pastor Don Wahl-



Stephen Ministry Class to Begin

Our next Stephen Ministry class is scheduled to begin September 11, 2006. 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.



GRANT RECEIVED

The Church of the Damascus Road, A ministry in the Fort Dodge and Rockwell City prisons, is a recent recipient of the Compassion Iowa Grant whose purpose is to strengthen the capacity of Iowa's faith-based and community organizations to serve Iowans in need. The Church of the Damascus Road has been awarded \$10, 154 to enhance its aftercare program. Their goals include the development and training of several volunteer aftercare teams who will walk with ex-offenders as they strive to become essential, stable, and contributing members of their communities and families, to lower the recidivism rate, and to enhance collaboration with area service agencies such as Lutheran

Services in Iowa and Iowa State University who can meet ex-offenders' needs in the areas of family health, mental health, addiction control, and financial management.

The Church of the Damascus Road aftercare program is a vital offshoot of its ministry on the "inside" and needs our support and prayers. Anyone interested in learning more about the program or participating in an aftercare team is asked to contact Pastor Carroll Lang at damascus@damascusch@aol.com or 515-955-3579.

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(Continued from page 1)

Crop Walk

World Service, especially the grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts of partner agencies in more than 80 countries. CROP WALK helps provide tools of hope that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to nutrition-enhancing Moringa trees, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their strengths, needs and development priorities.

If you would like to join our group or receive more information, please contact the Cooperative office by October 2.



Gowrie, IA 50543
Box 63

Countryside Ministry

Countryside Phone Numbers:

Countryside Ministry Office352-3645
Rev. Jim Davis Office352-3932
Home352-5261
Rod Meyer Office846-6277
Home354-5224
Rev. Wahlgren Office352-3645
Home352-5245
Cindy Youngquist, Office352-3612
Stephen Ministry Home352-3798

Countryside E-mail Addresses:

Countryside Office: ziongowr@wccta.net
Rev. Jim Davis:..... elca506@wccta.net
Rod Meyer:..... rodmeyer@lvcta.com
Cindy Youngquist:..... stephencoop@hotmail.com

Countryside 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, Gowrie)
Connections 7:00 p.m.
(2nd Sunday of each month at **FUSION** bldg.)



**The 6th Annual
Countryside Ministry
Men's Golf
Tournament
will be held Sunday,
September 17, 2006 at
the Gowrie Golf and
Country Club**

**Shot Gun Start at 12:30 p.m.
No need to pre register
Cost is \$15 which includes lunch
For more information, contact
The Countryside Ministry Office
at 352-3645**

or

Paul Johnson at 548-3425

**Countryside Ministry website:
www.countrysidecoop.org**

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