

# COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 2

A Publication of Countryside Ministry

November 2006

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

## THE NEXT STEP?

—a message from Pastor Jim

Emma and I recently ran the Des Moines Marathon. It was Emma's second marathon and my fifth. It was amazing to watch Emma run; she was far stronger and more confident than last year. She almost made running 26.2 miles look easy, cutting thirty minutes from last year's time.



...let us run with patience the race that is set before us...  
Hebrews 12:1

My experience was quite

different from Emma's. The last two or three miles were excruciating. I tried to remember if there was always that much pain at that point in the marathon. I had doubts about whether I would be able to run another. I felt like quitting.

Another year had made Emma stronger and more confident, but had left me weaker and less confident. It was hard to remember that the important thing was not my strength and confidence, but keeping my eyes fixed on the goal and taking the next step.

This past month members of

*(Continued on page 3a)*

## Countryside Ministry Council

Marie Bengston----- Trinity  
Greg Carlson -----Zion  
Roberta Clausen ----- Trinity  
Loretta Daisy----- Fulton  
Marc Greenfield ----- Faith  
Steve Julius-----Calvary  
Steve Lane-----Zion  
Greg Moe----- Fulton  
Dorothy Nahnsen----- Faith  
Ned Palmer-----Zion  
Joyce Silvey----- UCC/Cong.  
Richard Silvey ----- UCC/Cong.  
Amy Walrod -----Calvary

## Countryside Ministry Executive Committee

Marie Bengston----- President  
Greg Moe----- Vice-president  
Loretta Daisy----- Secretary  
Steve Lane----- Treasurer  
Rev. Jim Davis  
----- Administrative Pastor

## Countryside Council Minutes

The Countryside Ministry Council met at 7:30 on October 2, 2006, at Zion Lutheran in Gowrie.

Present were Richard and Joyce Silvey, Dorothy Nahnsen, Roberta Clausen, Marc Greenfield, Amy Walrod, Steve Julius, Greg Moe, Marie Bengston, Ned Palmer, Loretta Daisy, and Pastor Jim Davis.

President Marie Bengston called the meeting to order. Pastor Davis led devotions

reading from Luke, chapter 19 and People of Purpose by Robert Driver-Bishop.

The secretary's report was read and approved. In the absence of Steve Lane, Treasurer, Pastor Davis handed out a financial report for the month of August. Ned Palmer asked if the churches outside of the Countryside Ministry paid for their Stephen Ministry training. Pastor Davis said it was our

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## 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.



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# STEPHEN MINISTRY



## Jesus Loves Me!

At a hymn sing one Sunday the adults chose the children's hymn *Jesus Loves Me* (for the children of course) but I noticed it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best.

This classic children's hymn was written by Anna Bartlett Warner in collaboration with her sister Susan as a part of one of the best-selling novels of their day, a novel written by Susan entitled *Say and Seal*. The plot of the novel stirred the hearts of many readers, as it was a simple poem spoken by one of the characters, Mr. Linden, as he comforts Johnny Fax, a dying child. As his ultimate fate grew nearer, Mr. Linden looked into the child's eyes and slowly recited a poem that began, "*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.*" It still remains the favorite hymn of children around the world to this day.

Someone has probably shared this new version with you, but if you haven't seen it I thought I would share it with you. It is a new version just for those of us who have white hair, or no hair at all. For us over forty (or even those almost there) and all you others....It is just for FUN. It is quite cute, easy to read, sing and enjoy:

### Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him

(CHORUS)

Yes, Jesus Loves Me... Yes, Jesus Loves Me...  
Yes, Jesus Loves Me For The Bible Tells Me So.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go.  
On through life, let come what may,

He'll be there to lead the way.  
(CHORUS)

Though I am no longer young,  
I have much which he's begun  
Let me serve Christ with a smile,  
Go with others the extra mile.  
(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."  
(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.  
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

Our Stephen Ministers have just completed Parts 1 and 2 on Distinctively Christian Caring. They have been learning about our Distinctive Christian Tools, which not only includes the Bible and devotionals, but also old favorite hymns. This is a great class and I ask you to please remember to keep them in your prayers as they are going to be great care givers. If you know of someone that needs the care of a Stephen Minister please call me.

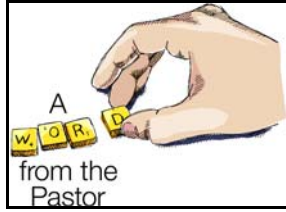
We don't want someone to get lost or be forgotten about, especially when we have Stephen Ministers willing to listen, pray and care. Call my office 352-3612, call the church office 352-3645 or talk with Pastor Jim. May you have a bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving and may no one be alone.

Cindy Youngquist,  
Countryside's Stephen Ministry Leader

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

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**Next Step**



Countryside Ministry and I met with congregations in three different areas of the synod who are considering cooperative ministry. They remind me a lot of myself in the late miles of the marathon – weak and filled with doubt, wondering whether they will be able to continue. I would imagine that some of you understand what they feel like.

*God empowers us to keep our eyes on the goal and to take the next step even in the midst of our fear and anxiety.*

The Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA is comprised of 165 congregations. Since 1998, the average worship attendance of these congregations has declined an average of 18%. Sixty-four congregations (39%) have experienced declines ranging from 25 – 58%. Only nine congregations in our synod have experienced significant increases in their average worship attendance; two-thirds of these are in communities with a population greater than 5,000. In addition to the declines in worship attendance, mission support has decreased 27%, according to Rev. Russ McDowell, Assistant to the Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod. We talk about “Discovering Hope” but it is difficult to see hope for our rural congregations, isn’t it? Where is the hope for congregations and

communities that have played such an important part in our lives?

Next Sunday we will celebrate Reformation Sunday. It’s hard for me to believe that when Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the church at Wittenberg he could have imagined the incredible changes that would soon follow. Luther’s desire for a theological debate would fuel some of the most significant social, political and

theological changes the world has ever experienced. While we fondly look back on those days, they must have been incredibly difficult for those who lived

through them. Everything was changing. I can only begin to imagine how anxious and afraid many of those early reformers must have felt. It must have been hard for them to keep their eyes on the goal and take the next step, but they did.

My experience in the marathon, what is happening in our churches and communities, and the celebration of the Reformation, leave me wondering: “What does this mean?” It was a question that Luther asked incessantly. It is a question many of us live with. What does all of this mean?

We buried Wyman Walrod a week ago. He was 95. Wyman saw incredible changes during his life – changes that must have often made him feel anxious and afraid. However, empowered by God’s grace, Wyman kept his

eyes focused on the goal and faithfully took the next step.

Last fall, Wyman sat in a cornfield, surrounded by family and friends, watching a host of family and neighbors bring in the harvest. This fall, Wyman was gathered into that great harvest that someday awaits us; a harvest that includes a host of people who have faithfully kept their eyes on the goal and taken the next step even in the midst of anxiety and fear.

There are many days when we are weak and filled with doubt, yet God empowers us to keep our eyes on the goal and to take the next step even in the midst of our fear and anxiety. May you faithfully follow God by taking whatever the next step is for you.

—Pastor Jim



**HAVE YOU SEEN GOD LATELY? TELL ME ABOUT IT!**

*God Sightings* is a column written about people, places and experiences that have provided people with an experience of the power of God at work in their lives. We invite members of the Countryside Ministry to submit their *God Sightings* in order to help all of us be aware of the wonderful things God is doing in our lives. Please drop off your “sightings” at the Countryside office or e-mail them to [ziongowr@wccta.net](mailto:ziongowr@wccta.net). All “sightings” are welcome!

# HALLOWEEN FACTS AND FIGURES

If you pass out Halloween treats, consider these numbers:

**\$16.5 billion:** The amount Americans spent on candy in 2004, which amounts to **24 pounds** or **\$60** of candy per person.

**\$48 per person:** The amount Americans planned to spend on candy, decorations and costumes for Halloween 2005.

**\$3.50:** The average amount that ELCA members gave per person

to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in 2005.

**\$1.67:** The average amount that PCUSA members give per person to the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Sorry. I couldn't find statistics for the UCC.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, National Retail Federation, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Presbyterian Hunger Program

## ANGEL TREE



The *FUSION* Team is once again sponsoring Angel Trees as part of their outreach ministry. Starting the week of Thanksgiving through the 14th of December there will be Angel Trees at Security Savings bank in Gowrie and Farnhamville and at Jamboree Foods in Gowrie.

You can stop at any location, take an angel off the tree, shop for the angel, and return the gift wrapped to the place you picked it up from or the church office. The *FUSION* Team will pick up the gifts on the 15th and see that they are delivered to the angels.

Please help us make it a Very Merry Christmas for these angels.

## CROP WALK

The Countryside Ministry was represented by a group of approximately 20 youth and adults at the Annual Webster County CROP WALK – I believe ours was the largest group there. Members of Countryside Ministry joined with Christians from Webster County to raise funds to help alleviate world hunger. This year's CROP WALK was held on October 8. It was a beautiful afternoon for the four-mile walk. We have not received a final total of how much money was raised, but the event was expected to raise over \$5,000.

CROP walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially the grass-roots, hunger-fighting development efforts of partner

agencies in more than 80 countries. CROP walks help to 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 and their needs and their development priorities.

This is a fun, inspiring event for youth and adults. It is an excellent way to spend time with your family, get some exercise and make a difference in the lives of some of the poorest people in the world. It's hard to beat that, isn't it? We hope that you will consider joining us next year for a fun and rewarding experience.

## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOD DOING?

Seven seventh and eighth graders from Countryside Ministry are registered to attend Wartburg's fall Junior High event, *What in the World is God Doing?* The event will be 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 for the event except for food on the way home. If you would like to attend this event please call the Countryside office to see if there is still room for you to go.

# MY KIND OF CREDIT CARD



There are some things money can't buy,  
for everything else there's Master card.

I'm sure you've all received their applications in  
the mail.

However, I'm here to advertise a different card.  
You see, my life is a product for others to see.

I'm a card carrying representative for  
The Master's Card.

That's right, The MASTER'S CARD.

Let me tell you about it.

There are no finance charges, no payments due.

My bill has already been covered...  
it's a prepaid deal..

I couldn't afford the price,  
so Jesus stepped in and paid it for me.

My Name is written on the card for all to see.

It is accessible twenty-four hours a day from  
anywhere in the world.

The MASTER'S CARD

has so many benefits it's hard to list them all.

Let me share some of them with you...  
you might want to apply for a personal  
card yourself.

Just for starters there is UNLIMITED GRACE.

That's right, there is no preset limit to the amount  
of grace you receive from  
The MASTER'S CARD.

Have you been looking for love in  
all the wrong places?

Then, look no farther than The MASTER'S CARD.

It offers the greatest rate on love that has ever  
been offered.

The MASTER'S CARD  
gives you access to many "members only"  
benefits.

Want real joy despite the difficulties of life?  
Apply for The MASTER'S CARD.

Want a lasting peace? Apply for  
The MASTER'S CARD.

Looking for something you can  
always rely on in a jam?  
The MASTER'S CARD is perfect for you.

Another great thing about  
The MASTER'S CARD  
is that it never expires and will never be canceled.  
Once you're a member, you're a member for life...  
eternal life, that is.

Membership has its privileges, you know.

So why not apply today?  
It's only a prayer away.....



In this money spending, credit card charging  
time of year, remember the **MASTER'S CARD**.  
Remember what **HE** paid for and did for us. Stop  
and think about what **YOU** are willing to do for oth-  
ers.

Maybe instead of buying that extra something  
for yourself or members of your family, who already  
probably have more than they need, you could spon-  
sor a child through Compassion International, buy a  
heifer, pig, or chicken through Heifer International,  
take an angel from **FUSION's** angel tree and buy  
something for them, donate your time at a soup  
kitchen, organize a Thanksgiving/Christmas basket  
committee, donate your time or money to any num-  
ber of other well-deserving charities or help a  
neighbor in need. If you can't decide what charity to  
help, stop in the church office and we will be glad to  
help you decide.

When you make your donation to any charity  
stop by the church office and pick up a **MASTER'S  
CARD** with your name personalized on it to carry in  
your wallet. Remember the **MASTER'S CARD**  
is the only card you need to carry. **Don't leave home  
without one!**

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### Council Minutes

policy that they paid for their own materials, but we provide the training. If they want to become a Stephen Ministry Church they must pay a fee much like a franchise and can pay Cindy Youngquist an hourly salary for supervising their program.

Marie Bengston also asked that the financial report be printed in the newsletter. Pastor Davis replied that she could share any of the reports with whomever asked for them. There was a request from the council to have the budget done and to the member's councils before the first of the year, so plans could be made. The executive council will meet and have a budget ready for the November 13<sup>th</sup> Countryside Ministry Council's meeting.

The recommendation for the Future Direction of Countryside Ministry was presented by Pastor

Davis. The recommendation had been drafted by Pastor Davis and Rod Meyer. After a discussion, Ned Palmer moved that we adopt the recommendation as written, Roberta Clausen seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

The recommendation was as follows:

1. Congregations of Countryside Ministry seek to support each other and continue to develop relationships that lead to a greater effectiveness in fulfilling our mission to proclaim the good news of God's love for us in word and deed.
2. Rod will continue to provide primary pastoral care and leadership for Trinity and Faith.
3. Jim will continue to provide primary pastoral care and leadership for Zion, Calvary, Fulton, and UCC / Congregational.
4. Cooperative worship services

- will be held biannually.
5. Staff provides coverage for each other during vacation, continuing education events, etc.
6. Cooperative Congregations strive to develop and share programming where feasible.

Evaluations had been tabulated. Each council member had received a copy. Discussion followed. Most comments were positive.

We have not used the grant money given to Calvary and the Countryside Ministry. Pastor Davis and Steve Julius will look into some possible ways to use this money.

Since there was no other business, President Marie adjourned the meeting and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Loretta Daisy,  
Secretary

## ON THE ROAD ON THE WAY



corner.

The theme of this year's gathering is "On the Road On the Way" This year we have 18 youth of the Countryside Ministry planning to attend.

Last year the kids had a great time in Christian activities, and we hope this year will be just as rewarding.

The gathering will be held November 10 & 11 in Des Moines.



## FALL BAZAAR

*Fulton Lutheran Church  
Roelyn, Iowa*

*November 11, 2006  
9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.*

*Luncheon Served  
Carry-out Available*

*Crafts Rugs  
Baked Goods Greeting Cards  
White Elephant table  
Something for everyone!*

*Matching Funds by Thrivent*

## A Thanksgiving Prayer

O Bountiful Lord, you have enriched us with more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Let this Thanksgiving feast spread before us be a testament to what you have done and are doing in our lives. Grace us with a new appreciation for your many gifts to us. Fill all around this table with a sense of your lavish love and care for us. Shower your power and presence among us. Open your floodgates of goodness to us and let your salvation be made known, through the name of Jesus, who gave us his life that we might have life and have it more abundantly.  
Amen.

# PRISON MINISTRY

Once a month a group of people from our Countryside Ministry churches go to a worship service at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. Jesus tells us to go and visit those in prison as well as the sick. (Matthew 25:39)

The service has been an inspiration to me and others who have attended. Please join us! Our regularly scheduled visit is the second Wednesday of the month. (November 8) We leave from Zion at 5:45 p.m. but will make arrangements to pick people up in Moorland or meet in the prison parking lot.

Anyone wishing to be included in this outreach ministry

please call the Countryside Ministry office by the first Thursday of the month (November 2) to reserve a spot.

If you have not previously visited the correctional facility, the Countryside office will need some information. The correctional facility is required to do a background check on each new visitor as a precautionary measure.

Please make plans to join us soon.

—Pastor Wahlgren



## Press Release

Medicare Part D a prescription Drug plan will be announcing changes for 2007.

These changes will be something you will want to find out more about so the local Stephen Ministry is once again hosting an event that will enable you to hear about these changes.

The SHIP Coordinator Shelly Kopp at Trinity Regional Hospital and her staff will be here to answer questions and share with you these changes.

**Tuesday  
November 14  
Zion Lutheran Church  
7:00 P.M.**

If you have questions call: 515-352-3645 or 515-352-3612

Hosted by the local area Stephen Ministers. Refreshments will be provided following the program.

**Reminder to all Stephen Ministers: You are asked to help with this event by greeting, hosting, giving rides, serving, furnishing bars, set up, clean up and any way you can. Please give Cindy a call at 352-3612 and let her know how you will be able to help.**

# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



## Christmas Concert

The Gowrie Area Community Chorus, a function of the Gowrie Area Arts Council, will present its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, again in Zion Lutheran Church's beautiful, acoustically marvelous sanctuary.

Come sing with us! Our first rehearsal will be Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:30 p.m. at Zion. Please note, singers, that we are starting one week later than traditionally, so it's very important that everyone come to that first rehearsal. The earlier

starting hour will allow us to add half an hour to each practice to make up for the later starting date. Rehearsals will continue on the following 3 Sundays, plus one extra scheduled on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The time for that one will be determined later. All singers are always welcomed, those experienced as well as those who have never sung with us before. If you have questions, call Monte Albert, 352-3049, for answers. See you November 12<sup>th</sup>!

—Monte Albert,  
Director

Prayer: Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!



Box 63  
Gowrie, IA 50543

# Countryside Ministry

### Countryside Phone Numbers:

Countryside Ministry 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  
 Cindy Youngquist, Office .....352-3612  
 Stephen Ministry Home .....352-3798

### 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..... 10:30 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.)

## Thanksgiving Eve Service Schedule

Trinity of Boxholm will host Faith of Harcourt at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Zion of Gowrie will host The United Methodist Church of Gowrie at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

UCC, Calvary, and Fulton will celebrate Thanksgiving at the United Methodist Church in Somers on Wed., Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m.

**Countryside Ministry website:**  
**[www.countrysidecoop.org](http://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.