

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 8 Issue 8

A Publication of Countryside Ministry

May 2010

Calvary, Barnum; Fulton, Roelyn; UCC/Congregational, Moorland; Zion, Gowrie

National Day of Prayer—May 6

The United States Congress designated the first Thursday in May as the **National Day of Prayer** for all Americans to come together and pray in their own way.

The 59th Annual National Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 6, 2010. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. The theme for this year is **“Prayer for Such a Time as This”** and is based on

Nahum 1:7 which states: “The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.”

Mr. Franklin Graham will join Shirley Dobson to lead the nation in prayer as the 2010 Honorary Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

Please use the following prayer written by Franklin

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COUNTRYSIDE MINISTRY'S

VISION:

STRIVING TO
HELP OTHERS
EXPERIENCE
THE LOVE OF
CHRIST
IN WORD AND
DEED,
AND OFFERING
HOPE
TO INDIVIDUALS

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants

A Message from
Pastor Jim—

Members of Calvary Presbyterian Church gathered on Sunday, April 18, for the final worship services to be held in their beloved church building. It was a beautiful day. Steve Julius noted that “There are very few times when the wind isn't blowing at Calvary.” Sunday was one of those days. It was sunny and

warm with just a hint of a breeze.

The church was full for the morning's service of *Celebration and Thanksgiving* as it also was for the afternoon closing worship service. The Rev. David Feltman, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa, presided at communion at the morning service. Bruce Walrod, a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the North Central Iowa Presbytery, spoke at the afternoon service. Judith Walrod and Bailey, Katie and Carson Walrod provided music for the services. Calvary's congregation

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Countryside Ministry Advisory Board

Jim W. Carlson -----Zion
Loretta Daisy----- Fulton
Steve Julius-----Calvary
Greg Moe----- Fulton
Joyce Silvey ----- UCC/Cong.
Richard Silvey ----- UCC/Cong.
Bruce Towne -----Zion
Amy Walrod -----Calvary

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.

Hospital Visitation



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Gearing up for another class...

Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and communities who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. **Monday, September 13th our next class** will begin.

PLEASE pray about it— I know there are several of you who have thought about becoming a Stephen Minister—this is your opportunity to see if it is something you would like. I guarantee that the class will be fun and enjoyable. Call my office, 352-3612, and let's make a time to visit about this exciting decision in your Christian life.

A Stephen Minister is:

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting
- A congregation member with gifts for care-

giving who was carefully selected to serve in this role

- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care.
- A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there's a need.

These people are not trained counselors but caring members of our community who want to help when someone is hurting. We all experience challenges in life—times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty. Pray about this and then call Cindy today.

Cindy Youngquist,
Countryside Ministry's Stephen Ministry Leader

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

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National Day of Prayer

Graham – 2010 Honorary Chairman.

Lord,

We are thankful for the abundant blessings You have bestowed on America. Our forefathers looked to You as Protector, Provider, and the Promise of hope. But we have wandered far from that firm foundation. May we repent for turning our backs on Your faithfulness.

We pray that this great nation will be restored by Your forgiveness.

From bondage, You grant freedom.

Through Your own sacrifice, You offer salvation.

From the state of despair, You offer peace.

From the bounties of Heaven, You have blessed – not because of our goodness – but by Your grace.

You have given us freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth as Your holy Word instructs. May our lives honor You in word and deed. May our nation acknowledge that all good things come from the Father above.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that our nation should set apart a day for national prayer to confess our sins and transgressions in sorrow, "yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon... announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

"We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own... we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us! It behooves us then... to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Help us to pray earnestly for our president and leaders who govern, that they will humble themselves and seek Your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of Your glory in a darkened world.

May our prayers as a people and a nation be heard and blessed for such a time as this. We make this plea in faith, believing in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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Pastor's Message

provided an amazing, delectable noon meal, as well as refreshments following the afternoon service. The worship was inspiring, the food was delicious and the fellowship was delightful. Calvary was at her best.

A sense of joy and deep gratitude filled the day as people shared memories during worship and around the tables of the many ways in which the ministry that has happened in and through Calvary has touched their lives. It was deeply moving to listen during the afternoon service as people offered heartfelt stories of their experiences. While many tears were shed, laughter also filled the church. It was a gathering reminiscent of the countless times over the years people have gathered at Calvary to worship, eat and fellowship. I was sad when the day finally came to an end. It was the last time we will gather that way.

The decision to close Calvary church was difficult. Although our hearts wanted Calvary to

remain open, we believe God is calling us to a different form of ministry. While Calvary congregation will continue to exist, meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Friendship Haven and on the 4th Monday in members' homes, my heart is filled with grief. I feel like someone very dear to me has died. I am mourning.

One of my roles during the closing worship service was to declare the building closed. The official declaration was:

“May witness of its people continue undiminished, empowered by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, the Lord of the Church.”

“With thanks to God for the work accomplished here and by the authority of the Presbytery of North Central Iowa, I declare this building vacated by the congregation of Calvary Presbyterian Church in the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. May the witness of its people continue undiminished, empowered by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church.”

I struggled to speak the words: “I declare this building vacated by the congregation of Calvary

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Graduate Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, May 9, we will be recognizing our 2010 High School graduates and their parents during their respective worship service.

2010 graduating students are:

Michael Bessman, son of Kevin Bessman and Patti Bessman

Emma Davis, daughter of Rev. Jim and Tami Davis

Lindsey Kruse, daughter of Jeff & Ann Kruse

Brienna McGuire, daughter of Joe McGuire

Rex Miller, son of Shannon & Beth Miller

Tristan Miller, son of Scott & Jan Miller

Adam Niemier, son of Denise Niemier

Layth Peed, son of Lance & Lisa Peed

David Shavone, son of Toni Shavone

Ashley Vought, daughter of Gary Vought & Michelle Vought

Raegan Ware, daughter of Bruce & Cindy McCormack

Karlie Warehime, daughter of Rod & Shelly Warehime



Congratulations and best of luck in your future endeavors. May you always know that God is right beside you wherever you travel.

Graduation Reception



The members of Countryside Ministry are invited to attend the graduation open house of:

Emma Davis
Saturday, May 15th, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
At Zion Lutheran Church
1003 Church Street
Gowrie, IA

STEWARDSHIP..

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK

The meaning of the word *dominion* has been much debated for centuries, but this much is clear:

- Humanity has the highest place in the created order. Ps. 8
- A delegation of authority occurs here, God the creator transfers some authority over the creation to human beings. Ps. 8
- There is not a transfer of ownership. God the creator is still God the owner.

We are accountable to God for how we exercise our dominion. As children of God, and in our lives of discipleship to Jesus, we are asked to be good *stewards*. From scripture we learn that the *steward* is not the owner. Second, the *steward* has a position of high authority in the household of the owner and is given great responsibility. Third, the *steward* cares for the possessions of the owner and for the benefit of other people who depend on the owner for their well-being (Gen. 43, 44). The *steward* has the responsibility to care for the owner's possessions in such a way that the owner's assets prosper. Translated: We are accountable for the possessions with which God has entrusted us, so that his kingdom prospers and flourishes. And, as disciples of Jesus, we are to work for the benefit of others. Translated: We are to practice peace, distributive justice, kindness, help those in need – in short, to live lives of compassion and to love our neighbor (Matt. 25).

But a caution is in order. Contrary to our cultural language that suggests that we are the owners of that which is under our control, we need to understand that everything belongs to God. If we understand this, then our faith will influence how we make use of all that God has entrusted to us. A false sense of ownership will make a true sense of stewardship impossible.

Another caution is also in order. It is the false notion that we have what we have because we deserve it, and because we have earned it by our

own intelligence and hard work. “But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the power to get wealth” (Deut. 8). Contrary to the American “self-made man,” we tend to ignore the multitude of complicated factors that account for one person to achieve wealth and power, while others have not.

Rather than taking credit for my wealth, my wealth ought to make me ponder why God has chosen to so bless me. Rather than focusing my life on amassing great wealth that dramatically exceeds my needs, I ought to focus my life on using the wealth that God has entrusted to me to help those who have less.

We should celebrate the fact that God has named us stewards. To be a steward is to be in a place of high esteem and responsibility. To be God's steward is a privilege like few others. We should also celebrate the fact that our creator God promises to be with us when we go out in God's name. We can know that God has already provided us with all the resources we need to accomplish the mission to which God has called us.

Sometimes a congregation acts as if God is a God of scarcity, rather than a God of abundance. Sometimes congregations lack a vision of what they are called to do in God's name, because they don't think they have the resources to accomplish anything. Sometimes congregations congratulate themselves if the budget for the coming year is smaller than the budget for the current year (sound familiar?). This sort of behavior is likely an insult to God. God calls us to great and wonderful things. God provides generously to us the resources we need to do what He calls us to do. Let's celebrate this!

The goal of our stewardship ministry should be to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, abilities, and finances God has entrusted to them. We have quite a ways to go, haven't we?



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Pastor's Message

Presbyterian Church in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The sadness and grief that filled my heart almost overwhelmed me.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have worshiped in Calvary church and to have come to know the men and women for whom that church has been their spiritual home. They are a blessing not only to each other, but to many others. I will deeply miss gathering in that church to hear God's word and celebrate the sacraments, give thanks for God's presence in our lives, celebrate our joys, support each other in our struggles and respond to the needs of those both near and far.

In spite of our grief, I pray that the "witness of its people may continue undiminished, empowered by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church" until the day when God's kingdom will come in its fullness.

Well done, good and faithful servants. Well done.

Zion Lutheran WELCA May Morning Coffee and Bake Sale



Tuesday May 4, 2010

The Dorcas Circle invites everyone to attend the coffee and bake sale.

All Women of Zion are encouraged to bring items for the bake sale.

All proceeds will go to Lutheran Services of Iowa.

9:00 A.M. to
11:00 A.M.

at

Zion Lutheran
Church
Gowrie

Public Welcome



SCRAPBOOKING CLUB



Our scrapbooking club usually meets the third Saturday of each month. Due to graduations, however, we will not be meeting in May.

June's meeting will be on Saturday the 19th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Zion. Anyone is welcome to come and join our club. You do not need to attend every month; we'd be glad to have you join us whenever possible. You do not need to be a member of Countryside Ministry either; everyone is welcome. Come for an hour or two, or for the whole day. Bring your friends! We are considering planning some outings and overnight retreats, so watch for details.

If you have questions about our club, please call Cheryl Rasmussen, Cindy Youngquist, or Colleen Palmer. Nothing will be sold at this event so bring your own supplies. (We do trade and share supplies, tools, and ideas.) You will need to bring your own lunch (unless otherwise stated) and beverage.

What is Prison Ministry?



Prison Ministry is just one of the outreach ministries of the Countryside Churches. On the second Wednesday of each month, three very faithful members of the Countryside Ministry join our fellow Christians who are behind bars in a unique worship service at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. They would love to take some new faces with them. Why not give the gift of your time by joining us at this very moving worship experience and see how you can make a difference in the life of someone behind bars?

May's visit will be on the 12th. We leave from Zion around 5:15 p.m. but will make arrangements to pick up people in Moorland or meet them in the prison parking lot.

If you would like to be included in this outreach ministry, please call the Countryside Ministry office by the Thursday prior to the visit to reserve a spot or to ask questions about the visit.

Countryside Ministry website:
www.countrysidecoop.org



Together
Working
Churches

Box 63
Gowrie, IA 50543

Countryside Ministry

Countryside Phone Numbers:

Countryside Ministry Office 352-3645
Rev. Jim Davis
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Rev. Donald Wahlgren
Office 352-3645
Home 352-5245
Cindy Youngquist, Stephen Ministry
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Countryside E-mail Addresses:

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

Countryside Worship Times

Calvary, Barnum
1st Sunday at Friendship Haven..... 10:30 a.m.
4th Monday, various members homes..... 7:00 p.m.
Fulton, Roelyn..... 9:15 a.m.
UCC/Congregational, Moorland 8:00 a.m.
Zion, Gowrie 10:30 a.m.
.....also, 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.
FUSION..... Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
..... at 1107 Market Street, Gowrie



**Remember your mother on
Sunday, May 9.**

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