
COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 9

A Publication of Countryside Cooperative Ministry

May 2003

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

MY CHURCH WANTED TO CARE

Beverly could not possibly have anticipated the tragic turn her life would take when she kissed her husband David good-bye after lunch that day. Recalls Beverly, "He said, 'I'll see you later,' and left. I never saw him again."

On his way back to work David died instantly in a traffic accident. Because of the nature his injuries, Beverly didn't see his body. "I never had closure," she said. "I knew he was dead, but in some ways I didn't believe it. I was in shock, I couldn't even

cry.

"Seven weeks after the accident, I was alone and visiting his grave. That's when I finally realized he was gone. I fell apart. I remember thinking, 'If I was sick, I'd go to the doctor. If I had a toothache, I'd go to the dentist.' I had a spiritual problem, but I didn't know where to go. When I looked across the cemetery, I saw my church in the distance. That's where I went.

"My church had provided

(Continued on page 2)

COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Countryside Cooperative Council met Wednesday April 16, 2003 at 7:30p.m. at Zion Lutheran in Gowrie. Members present were Everett Underwood, Steve Lane, Shannon Miller, Ron Walrod, Larry Fatka, Larry Krakau, Marc Greenfield, Scott Engquist, Bryon Chalstrom, Dick Silvey, Steve Julius, Loretta Daisy, and Pastor Davis. Bryon Chalstrom called the meeting to order and Pastor Jim Davis led us in prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview Cindy Youngquist for the position of Stephen Ministry Leader. She shared with us her personal journey in faith, her past work experiences, and her vision for and personal commitment to the Stephen Ministry. After the interview and sharing a motion was made by Scott Engquist to recommend to the individual councils that Cindy Younquist be

(Continued on page 2)

Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

Byron Chalstrom, UCC/Cong.
Loretta Daisy, Fulton
Scott Engquist, Harcourt
Larry Fatka, Trinity
Marc Greenfield, Faith
Steve Julius, Calvary
Larry Krakau, Trinity
Steve Lane, Zion
Shannon Miller, Zion
Ned Palmer, Zion
Richard Silvey, UCC/Cong.
Everett Underwood, Fulton
Ron Walrod, Calvary

Countryside Cooperative Ministry Executive Committee

Byron Chalstrom, President
Larry Fatka, Vice-president
Loretta Daisy, Secretary
Steve Lane, Treasurer
Rev. Jim Davis, Administrative
Pastor

To keep a lamp burning, we have to put oil in it.

– Mother Teresa

Since the early bird catches the worm, it's a good idea to begin your day as soon as you can – unless, of course, you happen to be a worm

– Edwin Bliss

(Continued from page 1)

some immediate care, but I needed more. I needed someone to hold my hand through the days and weeks ahead, to point me in the right direction and walk with me. My church wanted to care, but just didn't have the resources to provide the ongoing care I needed."

Then Beverly heard about Stephen Ministry from a friend in another state. "I began calling churches in my area and asking if they had Stephen Ministry. I finally found one in a neighboring town. I went there and met with one of their Stephen Leaders, and I was assigned a Stephen Minister. We've been meeting ever since. My Stephen Minister has given me a reason to go on. She encourages me to grieve and gives me a safe place

to do that. She helps me remember to take small steps as I continue to grow in the Lord."

With the encouragement and support of her Stephen Minister, Beverly began to piece her life together again. But her story does not stop there. Having benefited from Stephen Ministry in another congregation, she decided to bring it to her own congregation.

"We have so many needs for care in my own congregation, and there are people who may not be strong enough or persistent enough to find the care they need. They are out there pulling the covers over their heads. I want to help hurting people who are all alone in their pain."

After much prayer and discussion with her pastor, Beverly gave a donation in memory of her husband to get

Stephen Ministry started at First Congregational Church. "I had wanted to bring Stephen Ministry to our church for a long time," said Beverly's pastor. "And now the time was right."

Beverly's congregation enrolled in the Stephen Series, and she, her pastor, and another layperson attended a Leader's Training Course. The three of them have now equipped a team of Stephen Ministers who have multiplied the caring ministry happening in and through their congregation.

"Stephen Ministry is the good that is coming from my bad situation," said Beverly. "I want others to benefit from a Stephen Minister's care when they go through a crisis, just like I did. I know I couldn't have survived this past year of my life without my Stephen Minister."

(Continued from page 1)

hired as the Stephen Ministry Leader. Shannon Miller seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion unanimously passed. Each representative of the member churches was asked to take the recommendation back to their own church council for approval.

Shannon Miller reported on the progress of the youth ministry program.

Everett Underwood made a motion that meeting be adjourned and Dick Silvey seconded it. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned by Bryon Chalstrom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Daisy, Secretary

YOUTH LEADERS

Shannon and Beth Miller have been called by the Countryside Cooperative Ministry to provide leadership in youth ministry. Shannon and Beth are currently in the process of learning about exciting forms of youth ministry that are being used in the church and what those forms mean for the youth ministry that will occur in the Cooperative. Their first responsibility will be to develop a vision for youth ministry in our Cooperative. They will then be involved in recruiting, training and organizing that youth ministry. If you have suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact them. Also, when they invite you to be involved in our youth ministry, please take their

invitation seriously. We need all of your support in order to develop an effective youth ministry.

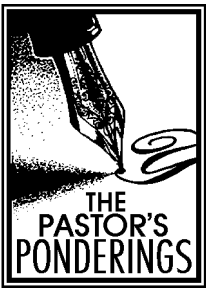
HUNGRY?



Dad's Belgian Waffles will be served at Zion, Gowrie on Sunday, May 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

* * * * *

Faith, Harcourt will be hosting a Pork Loin Dinner on Sunday, May 25 at noon.



Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the

Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.

³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves

to prayer and to serving the word."

Imagine congregations filled with people who are willing to use their unique gifts and experiences to care for others.

⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. – Acts 6:1-8 NRSV

The needs of the members of the early church were greater than could be met by the disciples, who had been called to

proclaim God's word, so the community called seven of their members to attend to the social needs of the community, freeing the disciples to focus on preaching and teaching God's word. The result was an unprecedented period of growth in the church and many signs and wonders being done among the people. The early church provides us with a model of ministry that has born fruit throughout the centuries.

This account of life in the early church is the basis for the Stephen Ministry Program. Stephen Ministry derives its name from Stephen, one of those first Christians called to attend to the social needs of the congregation. We are told that

Stephen, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, did

many wonders and signs among God's people.

Imagine congregations filled with people who are willing to use their unique gifts and experiences to care for others. Imagine congregations where people who are going through difficult transitions have someone who is caring and understanding to stand by their side. Imagine congregations where no one has to be lonely because there is a host of others willing to care. The Stephen Ministry program can make dreams like these a reality.

Stephen Ministries is a transdenominational Christian education organization that provides high quality training and resources to strengthen and

expand lay ministry in congregations. Stephen Ministries is a complete system for training and organizing individuals for caring ministry in their congregations and communities. Since 1975, more than 8,000 congregations in the United States and around the world have enrolled in the Stephen Ministry program. More than 42,000 people have been trained as Stephen Leaders and have returned to their congregations to train more than 300,000 others to serve as Stephen Ministers. Those Stephen Ministers have used their caregiving skills to touch the lives of millions of others in an informal way.

Countryside Cooperative Council recently called Cindy Youngquist of Gowrie to be the Stephen Ministry Coordinator. Cindy will be going to St. Louis to receive training that will enable her to train others as Stephen Ministers. I am very excited about the potential this program has to increase the quality and quantity of Christian care we are able to offer members of our congregations and community.

Please pray for Cindy and our Cooperative Ministry as we begin this new venture. I am confident that Stephen Ministry will be an exciting piece of our Cooperative Ministry.

Pastor Jim

NEED A VISIT?

If you or anyone you know of could use a pastoral visit, please contact the Cooperative office at 352-3645 so a visit can be scheduled.

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

Cooperative Email Addresses:

Cooperative Office: ziongowr@wccta.net
Rev. Jim Davis: elca506@wccta.net
Rod Meyer: rodmeyer@mail.lvcta.com

Cooperative 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	5:00 p.m.

