
COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 10

A Publication of Countryside Cooperative Ministry

August 2003

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What is Stephen Ministry?

One-to-one ministry by trained, caring lay-ministers who have responded to Christ's call to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2

What is a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is...

- A child of God who walks beside a hurting person
- A caring Christian friend who really listens

- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care
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A Stephen Minister is NOT...

- A counselor or therapist
- A problem solver
- A casual visitor



How Can You Be

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Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

Byron Chalstrom, UCC/Cong.
Loretta Daisy, Fulton
Scott Engquist, Faith
Larry Fatka, Trinity
Marc Greenfield, Faith
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Larry Krakau, Trinity
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Countryside Cooperative Ministry Executive Committee

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

LEGACY



Remember and rekindle our legacy from God, our holy calling.

Some years back the pastor said in his Easter sermon, "Those who love most deeply are most vulnerable." How clearly I heard this truth about God and about us. God so deeply loved the

world that God was vulnerable to our persistent rejection. We have this love as our legacy, the love and the promise that our vulnerability even to death will not be the last word. Here is a legacy to shape our lives. What might it mean to love one another so deeply that we are

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Man must live by faith—faith in himself and faith in others.

– Benjamin E. Mays

An optimist is a person who looks forward to enjoying the scenery on a detour.

– Author Unknown

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Stephen Ministry

Involved?

Do you have the gift of mercy, encouragement, or intercession?

- Pray for our Stephen Ministers
- Help us stay sensitive to those who need caring support
- Help make others aware of the support system that is available

Consider God's direction as to whether you should become a Stephen Minister

Want to know more?

CONTACT:

Cindy Youngquist, Stephen Leader, (352-3612), Pastor Jim Davis or call the Cooperative

Office for more information.

GOD SIGHTINGS

I try to get out and run in the early morning. Usually I get to watch the sun rise while I am running. It is a very beautiful and peaceful experience to see the sun slowly rise while running down a dusty gravel road. Surrounded by

Flexible people never get bent out of shape!

towering corn, a carpet of beans, and flitting birds, it is almost like running in a garden. It is a powerful experience of the creative power of God for me.

Where do you experience God?

God Sightings is going to be a monthly feature of *Countryside News*. We invite you to call or send the office places where you

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Legacy

willing to reach out with compassion? Can we speak the truth in love and hear it spoken, learning to hear each other in families, nations, and churches around the world? Can we do anything else? Consider how we love our aging parents and our children. Consider how we love new neighbors in our land or our town. How we love may differ from case to case. That we love is the life to which we always return.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The final Vacation Bible School being offered through our Cooperative is at Zion for the children of both Faith & Zion. It will be July 28-31 starting at 9:00a.m. All children are invited to attend. If you would like more information, contact



Countryside Cooperative Ministry Men's Golf Tournament

The 3rd Annual Countryside Cooperative

Ministry Men's Golf Tournament will be held in early September at a date yet to be set. Watch your bulletin for more details.

All men are invited to attend. This is a fun event, so even if you are not a golfer, plan on attending.

If you would like to sign up, please contact the Cooperative Office at 352-3645. If you would like more information, contact Paul Johnson at 548-3425.

COOPERATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK

Please join the congregations of the Countryside Cooperative Ministry for Cooperative worship on Sunday, July 27. Two services will be provided for your convenience.



There will be a service in the South Lodge at Dolliver Park. Worship will be at **11:00 a.m.** A potluck dinner will follow worship. Please bring lawn chairs and quilts or blankets for seating. Also, please bring a main dish and salad to pass and your own table service.

There will also be a service at
(continued in next column)

Zion for those who do not want to join us at the park. Worship will be at **9:00 a.m.** The sanctuary is air-conditioned. This will be a casual service.

Did You Miss the Fun!!!

Sunday, July 13, 20 members of the Cooperative Churches took part in a bike ride. We started on the Raccoon River Trail in Clive and rode to Redfield and back to Clive, a 41 mile trip. The weather and scenery were both beautiful, riding by the river and the trees canopying the trail is a ride everyone should experience. After the ride we went out for pizza. It was a very enjoyable time and we invite all of you to join us next year.





WHAT CONSTITUTES A FAMILY?

Massachusetts is on the brink of becoming the first state in our nation to recognize same-sex marriages. The eyes of many in our nation are upon the State of Massachusetts as they struggle with this issue. Emotions run high on both sides of the issue. Gays and lesbians long for society to recognize and affirm committed relationships. Others fear that officially recognizing same-sex relationships will have a detrimental impact on our social fabric.

One of issues at the heart of the debate is the definition of what constitutes a family. There are those who believe that a commitment to each other is the basis of a family and that the actual family can take many forms. There are others who understand family as meaning a marital relationship between a man and woman that may or may not include children. This is often seen as the traditional or biblical view of marriage. The primary definition offered by Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary is "a group of people united by certain convictions."

How do you define family?

It is interesting that most of us understand family as a marital relationship between a man and woman that may or may not include children. We often cite

this as a biblical model for the family; however, it is interesting to see the variety of forms family takes in the Bible.

Abraham and Sarah's family included not only husband and wife, but also a slave who gave birth to Abraham's first child.

By the end of his life, Abraham had children who came from three different mothers. Jacob, Abraham and Sarah's grandson, had two wives and two slaves who bore him 13 children.

David had numerous wives and many concubines; while his son, Solomon, is reported to have had among his wives seven hundred princesses and three hundred concubines. It is difficult to find examples of what we think of as traditional, biblical families.

Jesus redefines the entire notion of family in

"Who are my mother and my brothers?"

Mark 3 when he says, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Jesus defines family as simply those who are willing to do God's will: to love God and to love others.

We live in a society in which families take many forms. Divorce and remarriage have created some interesting family structures that have challenged us to broaden our understanding of family. If people have lived together for many years without marrying, loving and caring for each other and raising children, but never married, are they not a

family? How will we deal with older adults who, for a variety of reasons, find marriage problematic, yet desire the comfort of a family? How are we to approach other cultures that define family in ways that are quite different from our definitions?

As we struggle to again define what it means to be family, where will we turn for guidance? To our own preconceived notion of what it means to be family or to a broad, wonderful notion of family presented by Jesus? That definition has the potential of embracing an amazing diversity of family!

—Pastor Jim



More Homemade Ice Cream!!! Please join Faith Lutheran, Harcourt for their Ice Cream Social & Bake Sale on Sunday, August 24 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. They will be serving beefburgers, beans, pie, bars & of course **HOMEMADE ICE CREAM**. A free-will offering will be taken, and Thrivent will provide matching funds for the first \$200.00.

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.

Cooperative Phone Numbers:

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|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| 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 |

Cooperative Email Addresses:

Cooperative Office: ziongowr@wccta.net
Rev. Jim Davis: elca506@wccta.net
Rod Meyer: rodmeyer@lvcta.com
Stephen Ministry: stephencoop@hotmail.com

Cooperative Worship Times

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|-----------------------|------------|
| 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. |



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.