



# Monthly Ministry Motivator

e-newsletter from the BeFriender Ministry National Office

December 2008

The BeFriender Ministry National office will be closed from December 24 through January 4.

Dear Joanne,

We are keeping this month's "Motivator" short and sweet. We know that during the holidays your time is in short supply and every moment is sweet.

We are grateful to all of the friends of BeFriender Ministry who have poured their hearts into the ministry this year. It is a joy to see the ministry growing and expanding into new places. Delivering a workshop in Italy was certainly a highlight of the year! Actually, every location where we have the privilege to interact with BeFrienders and program leaders is a special one.



We hope each and every one of you has a blessed Christmas, and we wish you peace for the new year. Thank you for giving the gift of listening every day of the year.

Barb Schwery  
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Joanne Hansen  
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## This month in the Motivator

[Workshops in your area: Albuquerque, Fargo, Golden Valley](#)

[Inspirations](#)

[BeFriender Ministry on the radio](#)

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Workshops  
in your area

**Albuquerque, NM**  
**Fargo, ND**  
**Golden Valley, MN**

The "Foundations" workshop is ecumenical. In the next several months, at various locations around the country, the workshop is being hosted by Lutheran (ELCA), Unitarian Universalist, and United Church of Christ churches, as well as Catholic churches and dioceses.

## Early registration savings

Pay in full by the early registration deadline for the "Foundations" workshop to **save \$50** per registrant. Early registration deadlines for upcoming workshops are listed below and on



### Foundations for BeFriender Ministry

#### WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

##### 2009

**Jan. 12-15**  
Albuquerque, NM

**Jan. 26-29**  
Golden Valley, MN

**Feb. 9-12**  
Fargo, ND

**Mar. 9-12**  
Belleville, IL

**Apr. 17-18 and May 1-2**  
Golden Valley, MN

**April 27-30**  
Ripon, WI

**October 26-29**  
Independence, MO

[More information:](#)  
Details including fees and deadlines

#### Who attends Foundations?

*New programs:* A team of leaders (2 to 5) attends the workshop. Discounts are available for multiple registrants.

Existing programs: Additional program leaders are trained as a program grows or when there is turnover in the leadership team. Discounts may apply for active programs.

[www.befrienderministry.org](http://www.befrienderministry.org).

## Quick links

Workshop schedule  
Register for Foundations  
Order materials  
Earn credit for referrals  
Volunteer opportunities  
Clusters of churches

1-866-468-8708 (toll free)  
952-767-0244



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. CDT

Friday - Sunday  
Closed



## Albuquerque, NM

January 12-15, 2009

Early registration deadline: December 22



Many of us in the upper Midwest relish the idea of traveling to New Mexico in January! Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church is hosting the workshop. Deacon Joe Herrera attended the workshop in Saint Paul, MN, a few years ago. This is the third time he has arranged to host the "Foundations" workshop in Albuquerque.

Earlier this month, Barb Schwery, BeFriender Ministry Executive Co-Director, was part of a featured panel discussion on Immaculate Heart Radio for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sante Fe. Deacon Frank Smith, BeFriender Ministry program supervisor at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Rio Rancho, shared his experience with implementing the program. Deacon Steve Rangel, the Director of Pastoral Outreach Ministries with the archdiocese, talked about archdiocesan support for BeFriender Ministry.



More details about the workshop in Albuquerque are available [online](#).

*TOP: The "New Mexico Weaves" exhibit is on display at the Open Space Visitor Center in January and February. BOTTOM: The Rio Grande Botanic Garden hosts an annual Winter Fire Colors Flower Show. MORE INFORMATION: Click on either photo.*

## Fargo, ND

February 9-12, 2009

Early registration deadline: January 19

Pastor Tiffany Sundeen and Olivet Lutheran Church are hosting the "Foundations" workshop for the second time. Olivet Lutheran began their BeFriender Ministry program in 2007. More than a dozen people from their church have completed the "Foundations" workshop! Their commitment to lay pastoral care is inspiring.



BeFriender Ministry program leaders in the Fargo-Moorhead area meet periodically to share ideas. Pastor Sundeen and Lynn Sipe, the program supervisor at First Lutheran Church in Fargo, have arranged for a retreat in February for BeFriends and program leaders. The retreat will be conducted by Barb Schwery.

More information about the "Foundations" workshop in Fargo is available on the [website](#).

*TOP: The Fargo Force, the newest addition to the Tier 1 U.S. Hockey League, plays the Lincoln Stars in Fargo on February 8. BOTTOM: The Little Country Theatre is presenting the one-man play "Mister Lincoln" on February 12, the 200th anniversary of the President's birth. MORE INFORMATION: Click on either image.*

## Golden Valley, MN

January 26-29, 2009

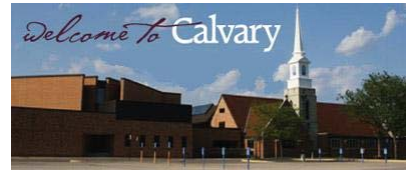
Early registration deadline: January 5

April 17-18 and May 1-2, 2009

Once-a-year offering of workshop in split format

Early registration deadline: March 30

Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, MN, has been providing facilities for the "Foundations" workshops in the Twin Cities for the past 2 years. Parish nurse Annette Langdon is the program supervisor for Calvary's thriving BeFriender Ministry program. They have been very generous with their hospitality and support for the national office.



The January workshop in Golden Valley is in the standard format, which is 4 consecutive days. The split format (2 days in each of 2 weeks) is offered only once a year in the Twin Cities and is scheduled this year for April and May. The split format often is easier for volunteers to schedule.

More information about the workshops is available on the [website](#).

## Inspirations

### On patience

"Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience."

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience."

*"Connections" 1993, author unknown*

"To everything there is a season, a time to every purpose under heaven."

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)*

## BeFriender Ministry on the radio

### Saint Paul-Minneapolis

On December 12, Executive Co-Director Barb Schwery and Sister Linda Soler, BeFriender Ministry program supervisor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Little Canada, MN, were guests on the weekly "CityWinds" program on Relevant Radio 1330 AM.



Host Paul Sadek invited Sr. Linda to describe her experience of attending the "Foundations" workshop and of joining a leadership team already in place at St. John the Evangelist. During the program, a BeFriender from the Twin Cities called in and talked about how meaningful BeFriender Ministry has been in his life.

To hear the broadcast, go to [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com) and choose "Twin Cities" under "Select Your Station." In the "Audio Archives" menu select "CityWinds." On the calendar that appears, click on December 12.



### Albuquerque

Barb also was interviewed for an Albuquerque radio program on December 5. See more about that interview in the above article about the Albuquerque workshop.

PHOTO: Sister Linda Soler (left) and Barb Schwery on the air at Relevant Radio on Dec. 12.

## Easy as pie!

**Buying last-minute gifts is simple with pie certificates**



Only 2 days remain to purchase certificates for pies that can be redeemed at **any Bakers Square or participating Village Inn Restaurant** in the country. A portion of the purchase price goes to the BeFriender Ministry National Office.

Each certificate is good for one pie, and there are at least 10 varieties from which to choose.

Certificates, which *do not expire*, also can be applied to specialty pies for an extra \$2 at the time you redeem the certificate.

[Purchase the certificates](#) online for \$12 and redeem them at any time for pies for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, potlucks, New Year celebrations, and other holiday events. The certificates also are great stocking stuffers, host/hostess gifts, and gifts for teachers. Since the certificates don't expire, you can even buy extra to keep on hand for last-minute gifts.

To see if your intended gift recipient has a Bakers Square or participating Village Inn Restaurant nearby, go to [www.bakerssquare.com](http://www.bakerssquare.com) and click on "Locations" or to [www.villageinn.com](http://www.villageinn.com) and click on "Find us." Restaurants with the **"Sweet Returns"** program accept the certificates.

Certificates will be mailed immediately upon receiving your order when you pay by credit card.

## Question of the month

by Barb Schwery

### Responses from the previous question

There is still time to respond to the most recent question:

*How have you encouraged men to be a part of BeFriender Ministry as a BeFriender or as a member of the leadership team?*

Share your responses with me at [barb@befrienderministry.org](mailto:barb@befrienderministry.org). A sampling of responses from BeFriender program leaders will be included in the January issue of the *Motivator*.



## Important notices for program leaders

### Sales tax exemption certificate needed from Minnesota program leaders

Effective immediately, we will charge state sales tax and applicable county sales tax on orders shipped to a Minnesota address or picked up at our office in Bloomington (or any other location in Minnesota) unless we have documentation on file indicating that your church or organization is tax exempt. If your church or organization has a **state sales tax exemption certificate**, please fax it to us now so that your next order is not delayed. The fax number is 952-767-0247. Individuals who personally pay for materials will be charged sales tax.

### Order at least 2 weeks ahead

Be sure to plan ahead for your orders. We ask that you allow at least two weeks for delivery. If you are located near our office and plan to pick up your order, we also ask that you order at least two weeks ahead. We will contact you when the order is ready.

**We regret that we can no longer make exceptions.** We have a very small staff and, in order to be efficient, we process orders once a week. As you plan your schedule leading up to candidate training (information sessions,

**Allow 2 weeks  
for delivery or  
pick-up of orders**

**Office hours  
Monday–Thursday  
9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Central)**

recruitment, interviews, and discernment), build in at least two weeks for ordering and receiving your materials. Orders can be placed [online](#). We appreciate your cooperation!

## In gratitude

### Around the world of workshops

The **Archdiocese of Louisville** (KY) hosted a "Foundations" workshop in November. We thank **Sue Brodfehrer, Michelle Herberger, and Fr. Paul Scaglione** from the archdiocese Office of Pastoral Care for serving as hosts for the second time.



The "Foundations" workshop in Brookfield, WI, was hosted by **Rev. Suzelle Lynch** and **Unitarian Universalist Church West**. We are grateful to Rev. Lynch for serving as a first-time host.

## Combine forces for training

### Training Network

We have launched an Web-based networking service for program leaders who are interested in conducting BeFriender candidate training jointly with another church. You can complete and submit the [online form](#) to have your contact information listed. For more information and to complete the form go to the Training Network.



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