



THE BEFRIENDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEFRIENDER MINISTRY NATIONAL OFFICE

THE SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

The “neutral zone” of change and transition Fallow fields

Occasionally world-weary friends mutter, “The only thing that’s constant is change”—usually in the immediate aftermath of an unwanted change that has been thrust upon them. It’s an age-old realization. Twenty-five hundred years ago, Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, “Nothing endures except change.”

Heraclitus also mused, “You cannot step twice into the same river, for other waters are continually flowing in.” The river may look the same, and the water might feel the way it always does, but it’s not exactly the same river. Change continually occurs whether or not we are conscious of it. We adjust or we don’t, and life goes on.

Sometimes, though, the change is too significant to be missed. It enters into consciousness quietly through a back door or with trumpet fanfare through the front. Once it has arrived, it demands attention. These kinds of changes are precipitating events. They bring about transition, according to William Bridges, author of several books on the subject. “We go through changes without going through transitions all the time. In such cases we come out of the situation the same person as we went in,” he says. “Transition comes along when one chapter of your life is over and another is waiting in the wings to make its entrance.”¹ A change doesn’t need to be large to precipitate transition. It only needs to coincide with “ripeness” for a new chapter to begin.

Bridges defines three phases of transition: endings, the neutral zone, and new beginnings. Endings involve letting go of what was, recognizing loss, and grieving. Even when change is made by choice (a new job, for instance) and its wealth of opportunity is known, there are things to let go of, losses to grieve. Life is no longer workable in the same way. Like a field that has been cultivated year after year, once-dependable resources are depleted.

Letting go allows entry into the neutral zone. A person going through transition can experience this phase as emptiness—a fallow field. In a fallow field, there is no longer a regular routine to follow. No plowing, planting, and harvesting. The land has temporarily lost its purpose. So has the farmer, at least in relationship to that

Change and BeFriender Ministry

For BeFriender Ministry program leaders and BeFrienders, change is a familiar guest—sometimes invited, sometimes not. Those who become part of this ministry, which emphasizes personal and spiritual growth for lay ministers, are inviting change into their lives. Other changes are drop-in guests—turnover within leadership teams, turnover of BeFrienders, new areas of need for befriending. Persons befriended may long for change, yet fear it.

This issue of *The BeFriender* focuses on change and its relationship to ministry.

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OUR MISSION

BeFriender Ministry educates, forms and supports women and men as leaders for a listening ministry of care. Based on a model of mutuality, this national and ecumenical ministry heals hearts, energizes communities and transforms a suffering world.

Continued on the next page

A word to you

From Susan Niemi, Director
of BeFriender Ministry

For those of us living in the Northern Hemisphere the months of November and December bring more and more darkness into our lives as we get closer to the winter solstice on December 21. The end of daylight saving time makes the change more dramatic. So when I read one of the texts (Romans 13:11-14) for the first Sunday in Advent, I was engaged by its timeliness.

In this text, the apostle Paul writes about the time when Christ will come again. He tells us “the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light” (Romans 13:12 NRSV).

It is a time of seasonal darkness while we wait to celebrate the first coming of Jesus’ birth. And by the time Advent gives way to Christmas, more light begins to fill our days.

It also is a time of spiritual darkness into which the image of a hopeful light shines. This light shines brightly to illuminate the expectation of Christ’s second coming when God’s promises will be fulfilled. Christ comes into our darkness to bring new life and hope. We can live in the light of God’s promises.

This issue of our newsletter focuses on the ever-present aspect of change in our lives. Change can be overwhelming and cause us to struggle. And change can bring new vitality and growth. The image of Christ as the light of the world is a hopeful one as we work through changes in our lives and in the lives of those we love and befriend.

Amid the change of seasons and the changes in our lives, the light-filled season of Advent provides us with the unchanging promise of hope we have in Christ. ■

Leviticus 25:1-5 (NRSV) The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.

Fallow fields, continued

field. There also is risk. A farmer who earns a living by producing crops sees a field lying fallow as a threat to income. A farmer who raises crops to feed a family sees it as a risk to daily sustenance.

A person in the neutral zone is no longer able to make meaning of his or her life in the same way. What was known as reality no longer exists. The world makes no sense. The person’s role and relationship to others have been altered, but nothing has yet replaced them. Reliable support systems are no longer available. Interpretation of events requires a new lens, because the old one is shattered. The truth, as it has been known, “loses its familiarity and certainty against the horizon of this emptiness.”²

When the limits of the past way of knowing are revealed, however, the exciting possibility of knowing in a new way also is revealed.³ The soil is prepared for creation of new meaning. That includes understanding God in new ways and allowing God to reveal new insights into our lives as believers.

A fallow time requires faith that one’s needs will be provided for even in a state of emptiness. It requires hope that what is fallow will become productive again. It requires courage to look for new meaning. Someone wandering in the neutral zone is not idle, but actively engaged in faith, hope, and courage. He or she is also actively waiting, no small task. Jesus asked the disciples to wait with him in the garden, and they fell asleep. Yet the Advent season is a reminder that there is hope in the waiting. Waiting allows a new beginning to emerge.

There are good reasons for a field to lie fallow. A fallow field naturally replenishes itself. It lies open to seeds that might not otherwise take root there. It is rejuvenated so that it can begin to serve its purpose once again.

When BeFrienders are called upon to become companions, they often are being invited to journey with someone through the fallow field of the neutral zone. That is the place in the journey where meaning is being sought, questions are being asked, and choices are starting to unfold. It can be a time to affirm the person befriended for the faith, hope, courage, and patience that it takes to be in a state of uncertainty. ■

¹ Bridges, William, *The Way of Transition: Embracing Life's Most Difficult Moments* (Perseus Publishing, 2001), pp. 16, 223.

² Papineau, Andre, *Breaking Up, Down and Through: Discovering Spiritual and Psychological Opportunities in Your Transitions* (Paulist Press, 1997), p. 98.

³ Ibid, p.98.



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Editor: Joanne Hansen

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2nd annual BeFriender Ministry Volunteer Recognition Awards

People volunteer for many different reasons, as varied as the individuals themselves. In addition to their desire respond to God's call to ministry, volunteers for BeFriender Ministry often step forward because they "want to help others." At the heart of it, "helping" is the act of making change possible.

James Baldwin said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced." BeFrienders help others face the situations in their lives so that they can explore the option to change. Program leaders help BeFrienders face their relationship to God and to their faith community so that they can identify personal opportunities to change and grow. BeFrienders do that for each other, as well.

Thousands of volunteers across the country serve as BeFrienders. And 70% of BeFriender Ministry program leaders are volunteers. One relationship at a time, they embody God's love and steadfastness in times of transition. Consider the BeFriender Ministry volunteers in your community and nominate a program leader, BeFriender group, or BeFriender for an Outstanding Volunteer Award. Your nomination is an expression of support for their efforts to bring about positive change in the world.

Nomination guidelines

Who can be nominated

Any BeFrienders or program leaders who volunteer for BeFriender Ministry.

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- Outstanding BeFriender
- Outstanding BeFriender Leader
- Outstanding BeFriender Group

Who can nominate

Nominations in all three categories can be from BeFrienders, program leaders, pastors, or other staff members. Self-nomination also is encouraged. You may submit more than one nomination in a category. You may also submit nominations in multiple categories.

Selection

A national office staff member, a national office advisory committee member, a BeFriender, and a program leader will serve on the selection committee.

Deadline for nominations

Friday, February 11, 2005. Recipients will be announced in April.

Award

The recipient in each category will receive a framed print.

The nomination

Include the following:

- Your name, address, phone number, and relationship to the nominee. This information will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to nominees.
- The nominee's name, address, and phone number.
- The name and address of the nominee's church or organization
- A statement of 500 words or less describing the nominee's service to BeFriender Ministry (see "Points to Consider" on this page).

Send your nomination to the address below or submit an online form at www.befrienderministry.org.

- BeFriender Ministry
2260 Summit Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Questions

If you have questions, please call 651-962-5775 or 1-800-328-6819, ext. 25775. ■

James 1:17 (NRSV) Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.



Margaret Johnson, Richmond, VA
2004 Outstanding BeFriender Leader

Points to consider

Volunteers demonstrate support for BeFriender Ministry in many ways. All are important.

Attitude can be demonstrated by a commitment to regular meetings, willingness to learn and grow, mutuality, teamwork, and going above and beyond the assigned role.

Skills can be demonstrated by active listening, nonjudgmental communication, and the ability to become aware of one's assumptive world and grow from that awareness.

Program support can be demonstrated by seeking opportunities to befriend, expanding the program within your setting or beyond, finding creative ways to publicize the ministry, and regularly evaluating the program in order to improve it.

When writing a nomination, include examples of observable actions and behaviors. Be concrete and specific in your description of what makes the nominee's volunteer service outstanding. It might be useful to start with a "what" question, for instance:

- What did I see her do?
- What did I hear him say?
- What positive changes occurred as a result of her action?

Use the writing style that is comfortable for you. The selection committee is interested in what you say, not how eloquently you say it.

Calendar and registration information

Workshops and events in Saint Paul, MN

Use this registration form for workshops and events in Saint Paul, MN.
Contact the host listed to register for workshops at other locations.

Registration form for Saint Paul, MN, workshops and events

List the title and date of the workshop or other event for which you are registering:

Title _____

Location: Saint Paul, MN

Date(s) _____

Your name _____

Preferred mailing address:

The address above is my:

home work church/organization

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Church/organization: If the name, mailing address, and phone number of your church or organization are not listed above, provide that information below:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Denomination _____

Special needs: If you have special needs for the workshop (access, etc.), check here. Someone from the BeFriender Ministry staff will contact you.

Your current role (check all that apply):

___ Professional staff

___ Volunteer minister

___ Trained BeFriender

___ Trained BeFriender program leader

___ Other _____

Your BeFriender Ministry program:

___ New ___ Existing

___ To be determined

Mail registration and workshop payment to:
BeFriender Ministry, 2260 Summit Ave.,
Saint Paul, MN 55105.

WORKSHOP PAYMENT

Registration fee. Registration fees are payable to **BeFriender Ministry**.

A check payable to **BeFriender Ministry** for \$_____ is enclosed

I authorize BeFriender Ministry to charge \$_____ to my credit card (complete the information below)

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

If paying the registration fee and/or lodging fee by credit card, complete the following:

MasterCard VISA

_____ Cardholder

_____ Card no.

_____ Expir. date

_____ Signature

LODGING

Lodging is available on a limited basis at the seminary residence on the University of St. Thomas campus (single-occupancy, air-conditioned, adjoining rooms share bath). Details will be included with the confirmation packet, which you will receive 7-10 days prior to the workshop. Room fees are:

1-4 nights..... \$45 per night
5-7 consecutive nights..... \$225
4+ non-consecutive nights.....\$45 per night

If you would like lodging at the seminary residence, please complete the following.

Lodging fee. Lodging fees are payable to **The Saint Paul Seminary**. Payment is due by the end of your stay.

I will pay by check (payable to **The Saint Paul Seminary**) or by cash

I will pay by credit card.

___ Female ___ Male

Number of nights lodging requested _____

Arrival date _____

Departure date _____

If attending a split format workshop, list arrival and departure dates for the 2nd half:

Arrival date _____

Departure date _____

FOUNDATIONS FOR BEFRIENDER MINISTRY

Location: Saint Paul, MN
(Course description on page 5)

Cost and registration deadline:

- \$599 if we receive your registration and deposit at least 14 calendar days prior to the first day of the workshop.
- \$649 if we receive your registration and deposit fewer than 14 calendar days prior to the first day of the workshop.

Deposit due: A non-refundable deposit of \$100 to reserve your space in the workshop is due when you register. The remaining balance is due at the start of the workshop.

Workshop hours: The workshop begins at 8:30 A.M. and ends at 5:00 P.M. each day.

- **November 12, 13, 19, and 20, 2004**
Fridays and Saturdays (split format)
- **January 19-22, 2005**
Wednesday-Saturday
- **February 14-17, 2005**
Monday-Thursday
- **April 15, 16, 22, and 23, 2005**
Fridays and Saturdays (split format)
- **June 13-16, 2005**
Monday-Thursday
- **July 18-21, 2005**
Monday-Thursday

BEFRIENDER DAY

Spring 2005 BeFriender Day

- **Saturday, April 2, 2005**
9:00 A.M.-noon
- Topic to be announced
- Location: University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN

Other locations

To register for a workshop listed below or to get more information, contact the person listed. Workshop costs will vary from city to city.

MICHIGAN

Foundations for BeFriender Ministry (Course description at right)

- **February 11-12 and March 4-5, 2005**
Fridays and Saturdays
8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
- Location: Saginaw, MI
- For more information or to register:
Leona Sullivan, 989-797-6671

MISSOURI

Foundations for BeFriender Ministry (Course description at right)

- **March 7-10, 2005**
Monday-Thursday
8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
- Location: Kansas City, MO
- For more information or to register:
Ginny Feeney, 816-741-2805, ext. 218

VIRGINIA

Foundations for BeFriender Ministry (Course description at right)

- **October 25-28, 2005**
Tuesday-Friday
8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
- Location: Richmond, VA
- For more information or to register:
Margaret Johnson, 804-266-2715

Workshop cancellations

In order to be a good steward of funds, BeFriender Ministry may cancel workshops with fewer than the minimum number of participants. If a workshop is cancelled, you may choose to have the fee fully refunded or applied to a future registration.

Workshop description Foundations for BeFriender Ministry

“Foundations for BeFriender Ministry” is the core workshop for leaders who want to implement and maintain a listening ministry of lay pastoral care in their church, healthcare institution, or long-term care facility.

This highly-experiential workshop includes:

- Case studies
- Role plays
- Small group discussions
- Individual learning activities
- Reflection exercises

Registrants will receive approximately 2 hours of pre-work for the workshop.

Who attends

A team of leaders (2–5 people) from your setting attends the workshop. The leadership team includes clergy and/or at least one paid staff person, as well as 1–3 lay volunteers.

New program leaders for existing BeFriender Ministry programs also attend this workshop.

Time

The 30-hour workshop is offered in two formats: 4 consecutive days or a split format (usually 2 consecutive days in each of 2 different weeks). Workshop hours are 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M. each day.

Materials

Each person who attends the workshop receives a full set of program leader materials. The set includes everything necessary to implement and maintain a BeFriender Ministry program. The set includes a Trainer Guide, Facilitator Guide, Administrator Guide on CD-ROM, Candidate Workbook, and a video used in teaching the small group process for learning from ministry. The set is valued at \$100.

During the workshop

- Experience the training for lay ministers you will ultimately deliver in your own setting.
- Learn skills for facilitating a small group process for learning from ministry. The process focuses on ongoing skill-building for ministry and spiritual growth.
- Learn how to manage the nuts and bolts of the program.

By the end of the workshop

- Understand the three primary functions of program leaders: training, facilitating, and administering.
- Have a roadmap and the tools for implementing and maintaining the program.

More information

For additional information about the workshop, go to the website, www.befrienderministry.org, and click on “Workshops and Services.” You also can call the BeFriender Ministry National Office at 1-800-328-6819, ext. 25775 (651-962-5775 in the Saint Paul-Minneapolis area). ■

For your reflection

Human beings are torn between a life of stability and habit and a life of adventure and discovery. Where faith is concerned, God calls us to choose adventure, to be on journey of discovery. Like Abraham, Isaac, Sarah, Jacob, and others, we are invited on this journey without knowing the destination, only that it is the “city to come” (see Hebrews 13:14).

Without a known destination, we cannot follow the trails that others have blazed. We must have the courage to traverse the mountains and valleys on our own path to discover the new horizons that God calls us to.

Why must we travel this unpredictable road instead of the established path? Why face obstacles and changes of course if someone else has drawn a map from their own journey? Because we can never experience the experience of others. Our experiences of faith are our own experiences. To discover the way that God is unfolding our purposes, we must each ask our own questions. In our moments of insight along the way, we experience for ourselves the presence of God’s grace and love. (*Based on a sermon by Rev. Luther Dale, Shoreview, MN, August 2004.*) ■

- ▶ What changes in your life journey have enabled you to see where God is leading you?
- ▶ How does this quote from John Killinger help you think about change differently? “It’s usually our good experiences that prevent us from progressing in our personal journeys. Because they are good, we want to settle down with them, enshrine them, cultivate them, even idolize them. And then they keep us from going on to other experiences.” (*From Lectionary Homiletics, Vol. XV, No. 5, p. 47*)

Resources

Nothing Is Permanent Except Change: Learning to Manage the Transitions in Your Life. Willowgreen Productions, 1992. Written by James E. Miller. VHS or DVD, \$24.95 for personal use; \$39.95 for congregational use. Website: willowgreen.com. Phone: 260-490-2222.

This 33-minute video explores the transition model defined by William Bridges (see “Fallow Fields” on page 1). Writer James Miller acknowledges Bridges’ work as his inspiration and adds his own layers of meaning to the three phases of transition. The video, written after a particularly difficult time in Miller’s life, was the result of his desire to deliver a message of hope for others facing difficulties.

The video is a leisurely-paced comparison of the phases of transition to the seasons of nature. It is narrated by Miller and clearly divided into five parts, which lends itself to group discussion at the close of each part. It is peaceful and reflective in tone, and includes a series of nature photographs, quotations about change, and bulleted, general suggestions for someone going through each phase.

While the video appears to have been developed for a wide audience, not particularly for churches, its principles are easily applicable to a spiritual journey of change.

Welcoming Change: Discovering Hope in Life’s Transitions. James E. Miller. Augsburg Fortress, 1997. Retail \$14.99. For a 50% discount on this book, place an order by calling Augsburg Fortress at 1-800-722-7766 and mention the code H46C. The discount is valid through April 21, 2005.

This book is essentially the print edition of the video *Nothing Is Permanent Except Change*. It adds simple, affirming suggestions—more concrete than those in the video—for times of transition. Inspirational quotes from the Bible that were not included in the video are added, as well. It more overtly looks at the spiritual aspects of transition. Like the video, it lends itself to reflection. With beautiful nature photographs, interspersed pages of quotations, and text designed almost like poetry, it also is a fitting gift book. ■

Featured service Leader Library

The Leader Library provides program leaders with online tips and tools for effective leadership and management of a BeFriender Ministry program. The Leader Library now has information in four categories:

- **Training.** Resources for candidate training and continuing education.
- **Facilitation.** Resources for small group facilitation and supervision of BeFrienders.
- **Administration.** Resources for implementation and maintenance.
- **Online forms.** A one-stop location for links to the order form, registration forms, and other online forms.

What’s new

The “Announcements” page of the program leader resource site now features a weekly announcement called “T time.” Each week a brief tip, tool, or thought for leaders will be featured. “T time” entries will be archived in the Leader Library after one week.

When you are checking the weekly “T time” entry, you can also scan the announcements to see what new resources have been recently added to the Leader Library.

Among the resources added to the site in the past quarter are 3 sample visits for “Making Meaning” practice, a link to an article titled “Listening as Healing” by Margaret Wheatley, and sample visits with suggestions for ending a BeFriender relationship.

Access to the site

The program leader resources site requires a user name and password. To request access, click on “Program Leader Resources” on the home page, then click on “Password Form.” Complete and submit the brief online form. ■

www.befrienderministry.org

Featured product Pastoral Care Video

VHS, \$25 from BeFriender Ministry (retail \$29.95), Fisher Productions. Distributed by St. Anthony Messenger Press. 25 minutes.

This video resource is highly recommended for candidate training. It looks at what pastoral care is all about, the role of a pastoral caregiver, and the link between medical and spiritual healing. While it was written for hospital volunteers and refers to care receivers as "patients," the content is ecumenical and readily applicable to BeFrienders.

The video begins with a re-enacted true story of a pastoral care volunteer and a person in need. The hosts then provide practical advice on what a pastoral care volunteer is called to do. Insights are given as to what the person in need may be experiencing and how the pastoral care volunteer may respond.

The video is used in session 3 of BeFriender candidate training. The Trainer Guide provides instructions on how to incorporate 15 minutes of the video into training.* The video also can be used for continuing education for seasoned BeFrienders. For instance, it could be the springboard for discussion about how their view of pastoral care has changed since they first volunteered.

An Overview of Pastoral Care is an excellent tool for recruiting new BeFrienders and for reminding church members what BeFrienders do. The *Overview* is the first in a six-video set titled *Pastoral Care* (reviewed in the Winter 2004 edition of *The BeFriender*). Read about the writers and hosts of the video on our website. ■

* If you decide not to purchase the video, there is information in the Trainer Guide to convey the concepts in an alternative manner.

The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers.

- M. Scott Peck

Product order form

Order online or by mail, fax, or phone.

befrienderministry.org ♦ click on "Workshops & services" then on "Products"
BeFriender Ministry, 2260 Summit Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105
fax 651-962-5790 ♦ phone 1-800-328-6819, ext. 25775 (651-962-5775)

YOUR NAME _____

SHIPPING/BILLING ADDRESS (no P.O. boxes):

The address above is my: home church/org.

Phone number: (____) _____

____ Candidate Workbook, \$10 ea.....\$ _____
____ Trainer Guide, \$20 ea.....\$ _____
____ Admin.Guide CD-ROM, \$20 ea.....\$ _____
____ Facilitator Guide, \$7 ea.\$ _____
____ Making Meaning Video.....\$ _____
 DVD VHS tape, \$25 ea.
____ Program Leader Package, \$70\$ _____
 (One of each item above –
 please indicate DVD or VHS
 for the Making Meaning Video)
____ Tree Ring (with stand), \$18 ea.\$ _____
____ Posters (set of 4), \$15 per set.....\$ _____
____ Reminder Cards, pkg. of 10,
 \$5 per pkg.\$ _____
____ Bookmarks, pkg. of 10,
 \$3 per pkg.\$ _____
____ Pastoral Care Video, \$25 ea.\$ _____
____ Note Cards, boxed pkg. of 10
 with envelopes, \$8 per pkg.\$ _____
____ Pins, \$5 ea.\$ _____

Subtotal.....\$ _____

Shipping and handling fee (call the
National Office if pre-paying by check)\$ _____

Total Due.....\$ _____

Prices are subject to change.

PAYMENT

- Send the invoice with the materials
 A check for \$_____ is enclosed
 (payable to BeFriender Ministry)
 Charge my credit card for the total
 due (complete the credit card
 information below)

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Most orders are shipped via UPS Ground. If you request expedited delivery, you will be billed for any additional charges.

Shipping costs vary depending on the total weight and size of the order. A \$3 minimum handling charge is applied to all orders.

An invoice will be enclosed with the shipment.

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

To pay the total due by credit card, please provide the following:

- Master Card VISA

Name on card (please print)

Card number

Expiration date

Signature

BeFriender Ministry National Office
2260 Summit Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Office hours: Monday–Friday,
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (Central time)

Phone 651-962-5775
Toll-free 1-800-328-6819, ext. 25775

Fax 651-962-5790

befriender@stthomas.edu

www.befrienderministry.org

National Office news

Karen Underhill joined the National Office staff on October 25 as community and events coordinator. Karen has an extensive background in event management, customer service, information services, training, communications, and volunteer management. **Caroline Budreau**, a University of St. Thomas student worker, joined the staff in September. She works two half-days a week as our customer service assistant. Welcome, Karen and Caroline! ■



BEFRIENDER MINISTRY
 The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity
 University of St. Thomas
 2260 Summit Ave.
 St. Paul, MN 55105-1094

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Join BeFriender Ministry's Circle of Supporters

Your support today will help meet the ever-growing need for pastoral care.

Name: _____
 Address: _____

The address above is for my:

Home Church or Agency Other _____

I am a: BeFriender Coordinator
 Staff person Friend

I want to give a gift today in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$ _____

Check all that apply:

- A check is enclosed (payable to BeFriender Ministry)
- I have also enclosed my employer's matching gift form
- Charge my credit card. *Complete the information below:*

VISA MasterCard

Name on card _____

Credit card number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Your gift to BeFriender Ministry is tax-deductible.

- LISTENING CIRCLE
\$1-49
- BEFRIENDING CIRCLE
\$50-99
- HEALING CIRCLE
\$100-249
- CARING CIRCLE
\$250-999
- LEADING CIRCLE
\$1,000-4,999
- ENERGIZING CIRCLE
\$5,000-9,999
- TRANSFORMING CIRCLE
\$10,000 & OVER

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GIFT!**

Expressing Faith

As Christians we are called to ministry, to express our faith in action.

Your financial gifts *are* ministry, because they are used for action. Your gifts ...

... widen communities' circles of care,

... ensure that God's love and presence are felt by those who are experiencing pain and sadness,

... provide opportunities for BeFrienders – and those they befriend – to grow in faith,

... promote one-to-one caring relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.