

Monthly Ministry Motivator

e-newsletter from the BeFriender Ministry National Office

October 2008

Foundations for BeFriender Ministry

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

2008

Nov. 10-13
Brookfield, WI

Nov. 10-13
Louisville, KY

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

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.

A message to you from the Executive Co-Directors

Dear Joanne,

September was an incredible month for BeFriender Ministry! I had the privilege of teaching "Foundations for BeFriender Ministry" at Aviano Air Base in Italy and one in Pullman, WA. I also was able to co-train with Julie Berg on the last day of the workshop in Golden Valley, MN.

All three were wonderful workshops filled with faith-filled, gifted people. The workshop in Aviano was our very first international workshop, and the one in Pullman was our first in the Upper Northwest. When I returned from Italy I had the opportunity to meet Lynn Cox, who participated in the workshop in Golden Valley. Lynn is the mother of Chaplain Kris Cox, who arranged for and attended the workshop in Aviano. God is truly at work!

The workshop in Italy was a particularly profound and powerful experience for me. I was presented with an Air Force Chaplains Coin at the close of the workshop and a [letter of gratitude](#). You can see the letter on our website. There is such a great need for pastoral care in the military, both overseas and here in the U.S. It is our great honor to provide support to them.

Barb Schwery barb@befrienderministry.org
Executive Co-Director and Program Manager

I appreciate the kindness of our Board of Directors in asking that I include a prayer request in this issue of the *Motivator* (see the prayer request below). My dad passed away in late August. I have been comforted by many expressions of condolence from those of you in the BeFriender community.

My own assumptive world has been opened more fully to the experience of losing a parent. As often happens when I encounter a transition in my life, I read. I'm currently reading *Death of a Parent: Transition to a New Adult Identity* by Debra Umberson (Cambridge University Press, 2006). The author has researched how adults are affected by parental loss. At any age - even into their 70s and beyond -- adults can feel orphaned or abandoned and can struggle with the redefined roles within their families.

This is not meant to be about me or my situation, but it did raise an awareness about befriending opportunities. You could use the topic of losing a parent for an article in a church bulletin or newsletter and talk about how BeFrienders can be of support in that situation. If you have mid-lifers among your members, chances are that many of them are facing this particular transition.

A "[blurb](#)" for your bulletin or newsletter is available on our website for you to use or adapt.

Joanne Hansen (joanne@befrienderministry.org)
Executive Co-Director and Operations Manager

Quick links

Workshop schedule
Register for Foundations
Order materials

This month in the Motivator

[Workshops in your area](#)

Earn credit for referrals
Volunteer opportunities
Clusters of churches

[Barb Schwery's Question of the Month](#)

[Important notices for program leaders](#)

[Featured product: NEW note cards](#)

[Flying the \[be\]friendly skies: Delta special through Oct. 31](#)

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

[Easy as pie!](#)

[Prayer request](#)

[Volunteer opportunities](#)

[In gratitude: Around the world with BeFriender Ministry](#)

[Pastoral Care Week](#)

[Combine forces for candidate training](#)

[Contact us](#)



OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday - Sunday
Closed

Workshops in your area

Louisville, KY
Brookfield, WI

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.



Louisville, KY November 10-13

Pay in full by October 20 and save \$50

This is the third year in a row that the Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville has hosted the ecumenical "Foundations for BeFriender Ministry" workshop. Sue Brodfehrer, Fr. Paul Scaglione, and Michelle Herberger continue to be excited about BeFriender Ministry and invite anyone in the region-and beyond-to attend the workshop.



BeFriender Ministry is being used both in churches and in a hospital setting in and around Louisville. BeFriender Ministry is part of a 50-hour training program for hospital volunteers. Lay pastoral care teams are trained for visitation to Catholic patients and their families. The Archdiocese Office of Pastoral Care partners in close collaboration with the hospital's Department of Pastoral Care. The BeFriender Ministry team consists of several pairs of trained volunteers who donate their time and service and are commissioned to serve for 2.5 years at University Hospital. The covenant signed by each team member acknowledges a commitment to team collaboration, continuing education/formation, and participation in "Making Meaning" groups.



Many of the trained program leaders in the Louisville area are part of church clusters. Go to our website to find out more about [clusters](#) and how they can be beneficial to small and mid-sized churches.

The workshop in Louisville is being held November 10-13. More details are available [online](#).

TOP: Historic Louisville home Whitehall, built circa 1855. BOTTOM: University Hospital.

Brookfield, WI

November 10-13
Pay in full by October 20 and save \$50

Rev. Suzelle Lynch and the Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield are hosting the ecumenical "Foundations" workshop and are getting ready to start a BeFriender Ministry program.



The church already has done a great deal of planning and given a lot of forethought to their lay pastoral care program and to the goals of the program. In June the church's newsletter, *West Wind*, included an [article about lay pastoral care](#) and introduced BeFriender Ministry to members. The article is an excellent example of how to publicize BeFriender Ministry in your church.

We are grateful to Rev. Lynch and others from the church for hosting the workshop, and we look forward to being in Brookfield. [Details](#) are available on our website.

*A work from Michael Foster's **Transitions** exhibit at Brookfield's Ploch Art Gallery in the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts through November 21*



Inspirations

On expressing gratitude

"Every time we remember to say 'thank you', we experience nothing less than heaven on earth."

Sarah Ban Breathnach
Author

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

William Arthur Ward
Author, pastor, teacher

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

Albert Schweitzer
Theologian and Nobel Peace Prize recipient

Question of the month

by Barb Schwery

Responses from the previous question

Thank you so much for responding to the "Question of the Month" from the previous issue of the *Motivator*. I enjoyed hearing from you and learning about the areas in which BeFriender ministers are offering a listening presence around the country. A sampling of the responses is provided below in no particular order.



For whom are the BeFrienders in your group providing a listening presence? What have you identified as priority areas?

- Military veterans and their families
- Families who have a loved one serving in the military
- Grieving support for spouses
- New mothers

- Difficult marriage relationships
- Aging parents
- Hospitalized
- Terminally ill
- Onset of dementia
- Sending cards or notes to those who have lost close family members
- New members
- Youth and family
- Follow-up with people on prayer list
- Bereavement ministry
- People with serious illnesses
- People with multiple sclerosis or other chronic diseases
- People in chemotherapy or radiation treatment for cancer
- Recovery from a severe trauma
- Divorce
- Flood victims
- Elderly in their home or senior apartments
- Residents in long-term care facilities
- Post-surgery/medical issues
- Men in long-term care facilities

As you read the above list, I hope your assumptive world about areas for befriending has been expanded.

Are there new areas that come to mind as you assess the needs in your congregation or organization? Are you publicizing the areas in which BeFrienders offer a listening presence?

I encourage you to review Session 7 of the candidate training, "Understanding Loss and Grief." When you revisit the kinds of losses, you may find some new areas for befriending. In the month of September, for instance, families in your community may have experienced the transition of children attending kindergarten or moving away to college. A BeFriender can be a wonderful support during this time of change. As a mom whose son has started his senior year of high school, I can relate. I have already been known to say "I am going to need a BeFriender!"

Schedule time with your leadership team and re-evaluate your priorities. Celebrate all the ways your BeFrienders are offering a listening presence, and you may find it is time to expand into some new areas.



October Question

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

Share your responses with me at barb@befrienderministry.org. A sampling of responses from BeFriender program leaders

will be included in the next issue of the *Motivator*.

Important notices for program leaders

In Minnesota

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.

All locations

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.

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

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

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, 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!

Featured products

New designs for note cards

Note cards can be used in multiple ways to increase awareness of your BeFriender Ministry program. Use them to invite individuals to an information session; provide them to BeFrienders to send messages to individuals who have experienced a transition; or use them to thank people who have helped make your program successful. BeFrienders also can use them to confirm a first visit or to follow up after a visit.

The note cards are flat (non-folding) and are available in 2 designs. Both designs are blank on the back. The cards are 4¼ in. x 5½ in. and are in packages of 20 with envelopes. You can choose 20 of one design or 10 of each design. Get a [closer look at the designs](#) on our website.



Go to the website for an [online order form](#). *Please allow at least 2 weeks for delivery.*

Flying the [be]friendly skies

Give or transfer miles to BeFriender Ministry

One way you can support the BeFriender Ministry National Office is to transfer your miles to us. Most major airlines provide this option, and it would help tremendously as we travel to different cities to provide training. Rising transportation costs have had a significant effect on BeFriender Ministry.



Delta Airlines special ends October 31

Delta is currently running a special offer through the end of October in which [transferred miles will be doubled](#). Delta charges a fee (as do the other airlines) for making the transfer of SkyMiles. If you have Delta miles that you would like to transfer to BeFriender Ministry, now is a great time to do it.

Other airlines

Here are links to some of the other airlines that allow you to transfer miles or to buy a gift of miles.

- American Airlines, www.aa.com, Share AA Miles and Gift AA Miles
- Frontier Airlines, www.frontierairlines.com, EarlyReturns Miles
- Northwest Airlines, www.nwa.com, WorldPerks miles
- United Airlines, www.ual.com, Mileage Plus Transfer Miles and GiveMiles
- U.S. Airways, www.usairways.com, Gift and Transfer Miles (**promotion through December 31 for extra miles**)

These links soon will be posted on our website. If you would like to transfer miles or give a gift of miles, please call us at 952-767-0244 (toll free 1-866-468-8708).

Easy as pie!

Buy pies and help the BeFriender Ministry National Office



From now through November 17, you can 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 and click on "Locations" or to www.villageinn.com and click on "Find us." Restaurants with the "**Sweet Returns**" program accept the certificates.

Certificates will be mailed beginning October 27. Anyone can order the certificates on our website. A [blurb](#) for your bulletin or newsletter is available to let people know the certificates are available for a limited time.

It's as easy as pie.

Prayer request from the Board of Directors of the BeFriender Ministry National Office

Please remember Joanne Hansen, BeFriender Ministry Executive Co-Director, and her family in your prayers. Her father, Clifford Hansen, passed away on August 28, 2008, at the age of 91 after a lengthy illness. If you wish, memorial gifts in his name may be given to BeFriender Ministry. May God bless his memory.

Volunteer: Ongoing opportunities For the national office

Thank you

We are grateful to **Rev. Dick Day** and **Nancy and Merlin Bretzman** from St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN, who recently volunteered time at the national office. Thanks, too, to **Reid Johnston** who has been volunteering his time and expertise.

Help needed

As little as 30 minutes of your time would be a great help.

- **Assembly of materials and other projects** to be done at our office in Bloomington
- **Send out pie certificates** (see "Easy as Pie," above) from our office
- Projects you can do from home, including **computer research** that can be done from anywhere in the country

Contact us

More information about current [volunteer opportunities](#) is available on our website. If you are interested in any of the opportunities, send an e-mail to joanne@befrienderministry.org or call toll free 1-866-468-8708 (952-767-0244 in the Saint Paul-Minneapolis area).

Volunteer: Wrap it up

Those of you in the Saint Paul-Minneapolis metro area can help raise funds for the national office by lending a hand to do gift wrapping at either of two Barnes & Noble locations on any of three dates:



1.
B&N supplies the paper

2.
We wrap the gifts

3.
Customers donate



- **Barnes & Noble Highland Park store**
2080 Ford Pkwy, Saint Paul, MN 55116
December 12, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Barnes & Noble Eagan Promenade store**
1291 Promenade Place, Eagan, MN 55121
December 15, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.
December 17, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For this fundraising event, Barnes & Noble provides the wrapping paper, and we supply the labor. Customers provide the donations!

Use a [blurb](#) for your bulletin or newsletter to let others know about these dates and locations ... just in case they are shopping for the book-lovers this Christmas.

Not located in Twin Cities metro area?

Contact the manager at your local Barnes & Noble and ask about how you can raise money gift-wrapping during the Christmas season. If you need brochures to hand out to customers who ask about BeFriender Ministry, let us know.

Call 952-767-0244 if you would like to volunteer an hour or more.

In gratitude

Around the world of workshops

The **Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Pullman, WA**, hosted a "Foundations" workshop from September 29 through October 2. We are grateful to the pastors, **Rev. Kristine Zakarison** and **Rev. Chip Laird**, for hosting the workshop. We also extend our thanks to the entire team at the church for their warm hospitality and work behind the scenes for the workshop: **Helen Belt, MaryAnn Boehmke, Nancy Gillard, Tricia Grantham, Ronda McLean, Monique Slipher, Beth Waddel, and Jim Wills.**



The "Foundations" workshop at **Aviano Air Base in Italy** was a success thanks to **Chaplain Kristoffer Cox, Capt. USAF**, and **Chaplain Jim Browning, Lt. Col. USAF**, for making the arrangements and for being such kind hosts.

Pastoral Care Week

October 20-26, 2008

Pastoral Care Week is an opportunity to honor and thank BeFrienders, program leaders, and pastoral staff for the care they give. It also can be a chance to remind church members and others of BeFriender Ministry and how it can help people in transitional or difficult situations.

This year the theme is "Listening Presence." You can find resources for events and observances of Pastoral Care Week on this website:
<http://www.pastoralcareweek.org>.

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.



CONTACT US

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