



At Countryside Covenant Church, we are a Community  
growing in the Grace and the Truth of Jesus Christ as we ...

- Worship
  - Disciple
    - Serve
      - Multiply



VOLUME 25, ISSUE 8

August 2026

COUNTRYSIDE COVENANT CHURCH  
PO BOX 765, 940 E. NORTHVIEW AVE. MCPHERSON KS 67460

# THE PULSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

## *The Art of One-Anothering - Pastor Jon Black*

You have no doubt heard that there are 59 “one-another” commands in the New Testament. I, as your pastor, have studied and mastered these “one-another” ideas.... in the privacy of my own quiet time and space with God.

But as soon as my feet hit the pavement for the day...as soon as my cell phone begins to ring...as soon as I open up my text messages and emails.... as soon as I get tapped on the shoulder at the coffee shop....these “one-another” commands can become a distant memory.

We have spent the summer weeks exploring theological concepts in our sermon series entitled: *“The Big Picture: Our Core Beliefs.”*

Beginning this month, we will continue along this same path by considering our practical theology; namely the specific ways our theological core beliefs play out in our everyday relationships with family members, friends, co-workers, church members, and unbelievers. We will do so by unpacking some of these 59 “one-another” passages from God’s Word.

The typical outline of the New Testament letters opens with ad-

ressing theological truths such as: who we are in Christ and what we believe. The letters then conclude with how these truths play out in our daily living.



The authors of these letters, namely Paul and Peter, conclude by transitioning with phrases like: *“Therefore....”* (Rom 12:1, 1 Peter 4:1, 2 Cor 7:1); or a *“So I tell you this...”* (Eph 4:17, Gal 5:16); or a *“Since then....”* (Col 3:1).

They often utilize the “one-another” phrase that Jesus gave them in the Upper Room before His crucifixion.

*“A new command I give you: Love **one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love **one another**. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love **one another**.”* (John 13:34)

Consider Colossians 3:12–17 (which includes three “one-another” commands). Paul can’t stop talking about Jesus; (His character, His words, His actions), and how we, as the Body of Christ, are to continue to reflect Christ in everything we think, say, and do.

*- continued on page 2*



- continued from page 1:  
*"The Art of One-Anothering"*

In the words of Scott Hubbard...

"The 'one-anothers', then, are earthly dramas of heavenly realities; they are the love of Christ played out on ten thousand stages."

So, as we hold each other accountable to more fully reflect Jesus through practical obedience to the "one-another" commands (after leaving our quiet times with Jesus), may we begin to see and hear more joy-filled testimonies of how God is able to use us to reflect His life in our daily encounters with "one-another."

### Church Life Update

#### **Births:**

Adalynn Anne, daughter  
of Caleb and Maggie Shaw,  
June 25

Zachary Peter, son of Josh and  
Isabelle Kahler, July 2

Adeline Ann, daughter of Jeff & Jody  
Hack, July 2

#### **Death in the Church Family:**

Elaine Anderson, June 24



We're back to two services this Sunday, August 2!  
8:30 & 11:00 am. Hope to see you there!



### Men's Retreat



Men, mark your calendars for **October 16-18, 2026**, for the annual conference-wide Men's Retreat at Covenant Cedars, Hordville, Nebraska.

Step away from the busyness of life and spend a weekend with other men pursuing Christ. **Homefront** is a chance to recharge, build authentic friendships, and be challenged to lead with courage, faith, and purpose when you head back home.

The cost is \$205 – \$240 per person which includes great meals, lodging, and activities. Register on the Covenant Cedars website.

<https://www.cedars.org/retreats/men.html>



### Women's Retreat

**Paradise 2026** is a weekend for women to breathe deep, let go, and be renewed. Through worship, teaching, and connection, we'll rediscover the peace and joy that come from abiding in Christ. Come as you are and leave refreshed.

**Dates:** Friday, Oct. 2 - Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026

**Price:** \$205 – \$240 per person: includes great meals, lodging and activities (*price varies based on lodging*) Register on the Covenant Cedars website:

<https://www.cedars.org/retreats/women.html>

# Countryside Kids

**AUGUST**

## COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

|    |           |                                                                         |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Sunday    | Return to 2 services   Kids Praise 11:00 service only                   |
| 9  | Sunday    | Kids Praise   11:00 Service                                             |
| 16 | Sunday    | Kids Praise   11:00 Service                                             |
| 23 | Sunday    | Children's Ministry Training   9:45 a.m.<br>Kids Praise   11:00 Service |
| 26 | Wednesday | Ministry Fair                                                           |
| 30 | Sunday    | Children's Ministry Training   9:45 a.m.<br>Kids Praise   11:00 Service |

BACK TO SCHOOL

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

You will see two dates on the calendar for children's ministry training. This is our annual training for anyone working with children (5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger). This is mandatory so please pick one of the two options to attend!

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Last month we announced that Countryside will be starting a children's choir in September! It will be on Wednesday evenings before Kids Life, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Our choir will be led by Jolene Czosnowski. You will see this listed as an option when you register your kids!

### REGISTRATION

Soon, we will kick off our fall ministries for children and families! You can help us get a head start on preparing by registering your kids now! Use the QR code to the right to register your kids for the new school year!



BACK TO  
SCHOOL

We are praying for your families as the summer ends and school schedules resume!

### CAMP

In June, we sent about 24 elementary kids to Covenant Cedars Bible Camp in Nebraska! They explored the theme of "Bless" as they dove into Genesis 12. A special thanks to our adult volunteers who served for a week at camp! Randy Walker (First Aid), Summer Demel (Camp Nurse), Dallas Pruitt (counselor), Kate Cooper (camper support), and Tiffani Eilrich (camper support).



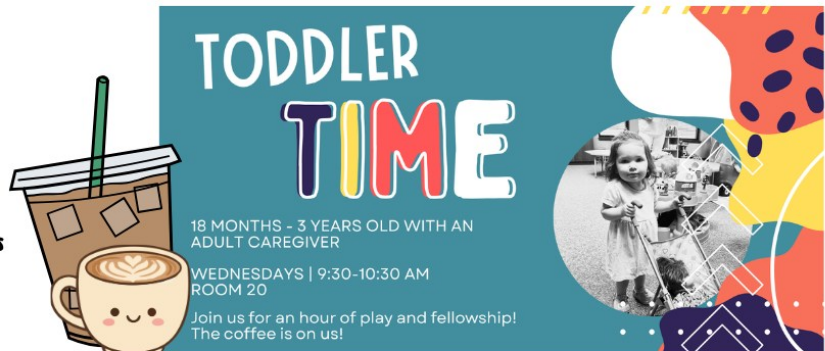
## MINISTRY FAIR | AUGUST 26



We have a lot of ministry opportunities at Countryside and we don't want you to miss out. So many ministries are what we would call "behind-the-scenes" ministries. You may not see these teams up front every Sunday, but without them, ministry would not happen. Come and learn about all of the ministries at Countryside and enjoy a meal together!

### TODDLER TIME | BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2

Starting in September we will be hosting Toddler Time every Wednesday morning from 9:30-10:30 a.m. This is for toddlers (18 months - 3 years) and their caregivers. We will even have coffee for caregivers to enjoy during this time of play and fellowship!





## More Than a House. A Place to Belong.

*"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."*

Romans 15:7 (ESV)

Have you ever been in a room full of people and still felt completely alone? It is a feeling most of us have experienced at some point in our lives. We all long to belong. We want to know that we are seen, valued, and accepted.

For many of the individuals and families who come to McPherson Housing Coalition, that feeling of not belonging has become a way of life. Homelessness is more than the absence of a home. It often brings isolation, loneliness, and the belief that no one cares. When someone has been pushed to the margins, it becomes difficult to imagine a different future.

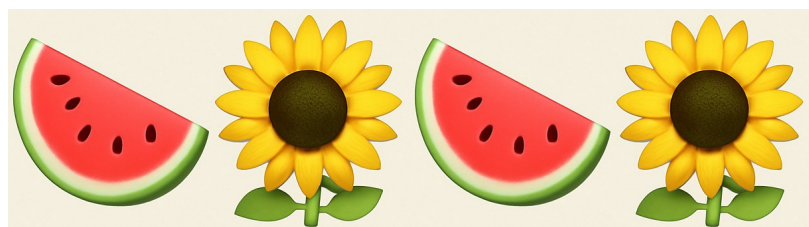
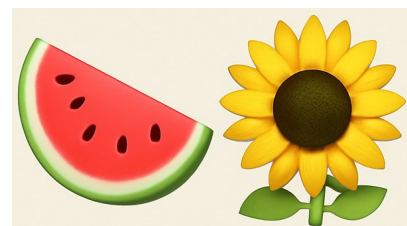
That is why our work is about much more than providing housing. We believe every person is created in the image of God and deserves the opportunity to live with dignity, hope, and purpose. A home provides safety, but a caring community provides healing. When people know they belong, they begin to believe they have value. When they believe they have value, they begin to see new possibilities for their lives.

At McPherson Housing Coalition, our mission is **From Homelessness to Homeownership and Everything in Between.** The words everything in between remind us that real transformation happens through relationships. It happens when someone listens without judging, offers encouragement without expecting anything in return, and walks beside another person through life's challenges. The Church has always been called to be a place where people are welcomed and loved. Every prayer, every volunteer, every act of generosity, and every word of encouragement helps create a community where people can experience the love of Christ in practical ways.

As you go through your week, I encourage you to look for someone who may feel unseen or forgotten. A simple conversation, an invitation, or a kind word may be exactly what they need to know they belong.

Together, we can continue building homes, restoring hope, and creating communities where every person knows they are loved by God and have a place to belong.

Blessings,  
Chris Goodson



### Sew & Share is back!!

Beginning **Monday, August 24**, we will gather to sew projects and have fellowship together! We will meet in **Room 5 at 9:00am**. Feel free to come and go as you wish. Contact Shirlee Harper, 620-755-1205 with any questions. Our schedule this year is: September 21, October 19, November 16, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17.



Therefore welcome  
one another as  
Christ has  
welcomed you, for  
the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

## Life Student Ministries

AUGUST 2026



# NEWSLETTER

Covenant Cedars Bible Camp is the *\*most favorite\** location in the entire world for some of our middle school and high school students! This summer proved to be no different!

LSM sent 14 middle school and 11 high school students to camp this July! Shout out to our incredible camp counselors who gave up a week of their lives to invest 24-7 in our students!



Mission Arlington 2026 was one for the books! LSM took 21 students and 8 adults to work with an organization called Mission Arlington in Arlington, Tx. While on this 6-day trip, our students had full days! They led 2 VBS events per day, consisting of games, skits, dancing, singing, crafts and sharing the gospel! They attended 2 worship services a day, prayed with and for each other, shared all meals together and spent endless hours in temperatures as high as 115 degrees! The Lord was so faithful and provided everything we needed for this trip! God is at work in pretty amazing ways.



## **Fall 2026 Adult Studies**

A year ago I was in isolation recovering from a stem cell transplant. My world was very small and my connection to the body of Christ came in the form of cards, texts, phone calls, and quick visits at my front door. God sustained me for that season, but all along I felt very keenly that Christ followers are meant to be in deep community with one another on a very regular basis.

We are all in the process of being discipled by somebody or something. The question is, “Who?” Are you being transformed and shaped by the Holy Spirit of Christ and His people, or by the world’s standards and practices as you busy yourself with other priorities? What daily and weekly habits do you have that incorporate time spent with His people, His body, The Church? Not a team or a club or an organization or a workplace, but the people of God that He chooses for you to walk alongside at Countryside.

Who will you choose to intentionally create community with this season? Groups begin in September so register this month through the church app, website, your Sunday connection card, or by calling the church office 620-241-4499. Registration helps us know how many materials to order for each class, study, and group.

### **Adult Christian Formation Classes begin Sept. 13**

(Sunday mornings at 9:45am between services; coincides with children’s CF classes and nursery care.)

#### **Marriage: Loving and Laughing with the Lord-**

Whether you’ve been married for six months or sixty years, taking time to learn and laugh together goes a long way in keeping your relationship strong. Enjoy various video presenters and discussion on marriage topics including conflict resolution, his/her needs, communication, and commitment to God and each other. No homework required unless you want to start a weekly date night! (Goldsmith, Harper, Neufeldt, Vetter).

**Parents of Students** –The unique challenges of raising teens today call for support, encouragement, and prayer. Teen culture has its own language, rhythm, and players. Navigation w/your teen through it all requires discernment with a Biblical worldview in mind. Forge partnerships with other parents of stu-

dents and Countryside’s student ministry team as you discuss current issues concerning students in today’s world, such as social media, sexual integrity, mental health and conflict resolution. Seek God’s heart together and reclaim your peace in parenting. (Johnson and Stevenson, plus)

**Practicing the Way** – Walking with Jesus is not about imitation; it’s about inhabitation. Wanting deeper fellowship with Jesus? Hoping for a change? Take time to be with Jesus, become like Him, and by His Holy Spirit be empowered to do as He did. Put yourself in a position to hear from the Lord in fresh ways through familiar and ancient Biblical and spiritual practices, both in class together and at home on your own. We’ll draw on John Mark Comer’s video material, Richard Foster’s classic, “Celebration of Discipline,” and other resources to enrich your time with the Lord. (Pastors L. Black and Bower)

#### **Journey through the Word: A Bible Reading Course**

- A new three-year journey through the entire Bible! Explore how we got the Bible as it looks today. Discover how ancient manuscripts were written, how the books of the canon were chosen, and how Scripture was preserved and translated into modern English. Then read large portions of the text each week and discuss thoughts, questions, and insights as a class. Expand your understanding of the Bible as a whole and challenge yourself to consider varied interpretations of the text. (Kaufman and Rogers)

**Women in the Word** - Join other women in a three-and-a-half-year journey through the chronological Bible. We are currently in Genesis! Read about a chapter a day on your own throughout the week, answer a few key questions, and come prepared to share what you’ve gleaned. Fall in love with the scriptures all over again! (Anderson)

**Next Step** – Newer to Countryside? Need a refresher on Countryside’s beliefs and practices as an Evangelical Covenant Church? Want to get better acquainted with the staff? This 5-week course will cover topics ranging from “What is church?” to “What does the Covenant affirm?” to “How can I get involved and connected here at Countryside?” Starts Oct. 11. Reservation needed; call the church office or talk with Pastor Lynn Black. Prerequisite for leadership and membership.

## **Bible Studies (Various days and times)**

### **Men's Study:**

- ⇒ **Bible Study on the Book of Acts** – Enjoy great discussion over the scriptures lead by a knowledgeable team of seasoned teachers (Sents, Spencer, Stinemetze, Williford). Walk in the footsteps of those who first became The Church. Connect and grow with us! **Wednesday evenings starting Sept. 10 at 6:30pm, Room 15.**

### **Women's Studies:**

- ⇒ **Precepts Inductive Method** – Learn for yourself how to study the Bible as you study it! Learn how to observe the text, find Biblical principles, and apply them to your life. Grow in discernment as to what God is saying to you through His living word today. Then as a class, come to discern together in community the voice of the Lord for confirmation, clarity, and dynamic discussion!

\* **Wednesday evenings currently at 6:15pm, Hebrews: Jesus, Our High Priest Forever (Thompson, Bosch, Schulz)**

\* **Thursday mornings 9:00-11:00am, starts Sept. 10, 1&2 Corinthians: How to Be or Not to Be the Church (Black, Logback). Child care upon request.**

- ⇒ **None Like Him ... 10 Ways God Is Different from Us** – Our limitations are by design. We were never meant to be God. But at the root of every sin is our rebellious desire to possess attributes that belong to God alone. Calling us to embrace our limits as a means of glorifying God's limitless power, author Jen Wilkin invites us to celebrate the freedom that comes when we rest in letting God be God. **Thursday evenings through the month of August in Room 13 at 7 pm. (Skar, Totman)**

- ⇒ **James, the Steadfast Life ...** Pursuing joy in suffering. Displaying good works by faith. Seeking wisdom in truth. These are all things that we desire to do as believers. The book of James shows us how we can submit ourselves to God and live in such a way that displays the grace given to us through Christ. This 7-week study will help equip us to 1) unpack the practical theology throughout James verse by verse, 2) apply the gospel to trials, temptations, and other areas of everyday life, and 3) be "doers" of the Word and live a life of true faith through the power of

the Holy Spirit. **Thursday evenings at 7 pm in Room 13 beginning September 10. (Skar, Totman)**

### **Co-ed Study:**

- ⇒ **Freedom in Christ Course** – Feeling stuck? In need of refreshment in your walk with Christ? Tired of carrying the weight of past hurts, guilt, or repeating sin patterns? Step into the abundant life God has for you by learning who you really are in Christ. Walk free from shame and guilt into truth and forgiveness. Experience the freedom you didn't know you were missing! This 11-week long, video-based discipleship course (plus a half-day retreat) is designed to help every Christian break free from what is holding them back so they can become who they are made to be in Christ. It is for every Christian—from those who have been Christians for a long time to those who are brand-new followers of Jesus. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2. **Starting Sept. 10, Thursday evenings 7:00pm (Dailey and Williford)**

## **Adult Gatherings for both Men and Women**

Watch for announcements concerning all-church events.

- ⇒ **First Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:45pm, Gather Moms and Gather Men** will meet individually for testimonies, connection, growth, and fellowship. Coincides with children's Wednesday evening activities and nursery care.
- ⇒ **Third Saturday, Gather Moms of Teens at 9:00am**
- ⇒ **Moms and Toddlers** – Wednesday mornings, starting Sept. 2 from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Build community with other moms and tots as you share in a simple time of conversation and play. Coffee provided. See "Countryside Kid's" page for further information.



## Life Groups and Discipleship for All Adults begins in September

As a large church, we try to make available opportunities for people to connect on a smaller, more personal level. Life groups and discipleship groups help families and individuals walk alongside each other by meeting weekly or biweekly for a meal, conversation, friendship, and support. The Word and Prayer are central to these groups as we spend time gathering in Jesus' name with Him. Choose to create community with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Countryside!

Countryside Covenant Church Family,

We are currently looking for three new volunteers to serve on our **Church Finance Committee**. This is an important ministry that helps ensure the faithful stewardship of our church's financial resources.

Responsibilities associated with this position:

- Monthly Finance Committee meetings which typically last about one hour and are usually held at the church on the third Monday of each month.
- Participation in a rotating schedule for Sunday morning offering collection and counting.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the church behind the scenes and contribute to the ongoing ministry and mission of Countryside Covenant Church.

If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please contact Lonny Bruce, Glen Snell, Cindy Goldsmith or Linda Totman. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to serve.

Blessings, Glen Snell



We are also looking for volunteers to help put this newsletter, *The Pulse*, together! If you're interested in getting more information, call Kim in the Church Office, 620-241-4499.

## Thank You's

Thank you to everyone who helped make the summer brunches a huge success! From the food, the set up, serving others, to the clean up; it made our time together so wonderful!

Dear Countryside Covenant Church,

Thank you for your recent participation in our Baby Bottle Campaign during your Vacation Bible School. You have made a tremendous difference in this ministry.

The funds raised from this special campaign go directly to Open Door Health Services, empowering families to make healthy, life-affirming choices. Because of your gift, those we see have more hope. Because of your gift, those we see have more practical help. Most importantly, because of your gift, those we see will hear about the endless love of Jesus Christ.

Each month, we see lives changed and lives saved. We thank you for your commitment to all that God's doing through this ministry. You've made a difference, and we appreciate you.

Your congregation brought in \$1,705.32 during your 2026 VBS Baby Bottle Campaign!!

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father,  
Kristi Busatti, Executive Director

## Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

- \* Tuesday, August 4, 9:30 a.m., The Cedars Event Center
- \* Saturday, August 15, 11:30 a.m., place TBD



## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

"One Another," the vibrancy of the body of Christ starts at the individual level and this was the theme of the recent "Gather 2026" meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The need we have to engage each other in a personal way to fellowship, love, encourage and challenge each other to make the whole church more alive was emphasized throughout the event. This concept is exactly what our local leadership is pursuing as we emphasize discipleship. How do we grow our faith from a transactional experience to that more fully embracing and pursuing "Christ likeness?"

The day before the actual meetings started was devoted to training geared towards Leadership Team members. The training was actually better than I expected and covered a wide variety of topics from strictly business issues to relational aspects of church life. A big take away that applies to every group we may belong to dealt with conflict. The take away was that conflict is inevitable and is something we can embrace instead of fearing. Embrace by realizing that through disagreeing and respectfully discussing we begin to discern truth. I am reminded of the early church reformer John Calvin who taught that truth is found in the tension between false extremes. That truth may not be exactly in the middle but is found as we begin to extract truth from each of those false extremes.

Our mission here at Countryside is "We are a community growing in grace and truth of Jesus Christ as we worship, disciple, serve and multiply." Grace and truth immediately brings up conflict; how do we discern that balance? We begin by recognizing that what unites us is greater than what divides us. We share a love for Christ. Once we get beyond that, things start to get harder to always agree on. Still, if we share a common goal, engage in regular and appropriate communication, respect the roles of our leaders and seek to discern together, we can grow in our understanding of God's will for our church and experience His peace in the process. Another encouraging aspect of the "Gather" event was the diversity of ethnicity, gender and age of those present. We truly seem

to be a church seeking to engage "all nations." It is a blessing to know our denomination supports 72 missionaries, (14 here at Countryside), and have a presence in 52 countries. Another blessing was to see 52 pastors ordained or transferred into the Covenant. In addition, we have numerous efforts underway within our denomination to build disciples and engage people where they are.

Perhaps the greatest role we play is to be a "peacemaker" whenever we can as described in Matthew 5:9 *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."* Scripture also offers a great guide for that as we demonstrate "fruits of the spirit." Galatians 5:22-23 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

I am thankful our church provides us opportunities and encouragement to grow, serve and share. I hope and pray you pursue those as well!

Allan Sents, Leadership Team



### July 2026 Attendance (includes online)

|         | Christian Formation | Worship |
|---------|---------------------|---------|
| July 5  | —                   | 431     |
| July 12 | —                   | 430     |
| July 19 | —                   | 462     |
| July 26 | —                   | 418     |

### July 2026 Giving

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| July 5                           | \$25,235.63         |
| July 12                          | \$23,260.61         |
| July 19                          | \$31,073.88         |
| July 26                          | \$14,853.04         |
| <b>Total Y-to-D</b>              | <b>\$784,101.46</b> |
| <b>Giving vs Expenses Y-to-D</b> | <b>\$-23,335.27</b> |



**Countryside Covenant Church**  
PO Box 765, 940 E. Northview Ave.  
McPherson KS 67460

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**Your August Newsletter is here!!**



*Countryside Covenant Church is a body of believers with a heart for Jesus Christ.*

## ***This Month at Countryside***

Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00 am; Christian Formation at 9:45 am

### **AUGUST EVENTS**

|                    |                                            |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 3, 5, 19, 12       | Women's Exercise Group                     |
| 4, 15              | Widows' Connection                         |
| 4, 11, 18, 25      | Men's Coffee                               |
| 4, 11, 18, 25      | Celebrate Recovery                         |
| 5, 12, 19, 26      | Time of Prayer                             |
| 12                 | Middle School Pool Party                   |
| 15                 | High School to World's of Fun              |
| 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 | Women's Exercise Group                     |
| 17                 | Sew & Share                                |
| 18                 | Leadership Team Meeting                    |
| 23                 | Children's C.F. Teacher Training           |
| 23                 | External Ministry Fair                     |
| 23                 | Life Student Ministries' Worship Night     |
| 26                 | Internal Ministry Fair                     |
| 29                 | Ernie Haase and Signature Sound in Concert |
| 30                 | Children's C.F. Teacher Training           |
| 30                 | Adult C.F. Teacher Training and Lunch      |

## **Countryside Staff**

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries

Lizy Johnson, Director of Student Ministries

Bobbie Kaufman, Director of Worship Arts

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director