



# ◆ Meadowlark Notes ◆

Issue 33

Hospice serving Clay, Cloud, Marshall, Republic, Washington Counties

Summer 2004

## *Course on spiritual care at end of life to begin*

Eighteen clergy and laypersons will spend three days completing an educational course, "Spiritual Care at the End of Life," in August and September.

Course instructor will be Byron A. Waldy, director of family service and supervisor of chaplains for Midland Hospice Care, Inc., Topeka.

On Thursday, Aug. 12, the group will meet in Topeka at Midland Hospice Educational Center, according to Kay Lohmiller.

She chaired the planning committee for Clay County Caring Community Council and for Rallying Points, which is providing funding for the class.

Participants are expected to pass along course information and training to others in their communities, Lohmiller said.

Opening hours will provide an overview of the dying process, typical pain and symptom issues to expect when visiting a dying patient, and the hospice care concept.

After touring Topeka's Midland Hospice House, course members will discuss the chaplain or layperson's role during death.

A week later, Thursday, Aug. 19,

class meets in Clay Center at the Episcopal Church to focus on numerous aspects of spiritual care at the end of life.

Subjects will include communication skills and tools, spiritual care assessments, and case studies, as well as video and role playing.

After lunch, group members will look at ethics, cultural diversity, their individual roles at the end of life, and memorial services for both the churched and non-churched.

Sessions conclude Thursday afternoon, Sept. 9, in Clay Center's Episcopal Church.

The group will review, discuss and look at ways to implement the information gained in rural settings.

Three books will be provided to each participant, who may also use resources available through the Hospice office in Clay Center.

Participants who applied and received funding for the course include:

Gay Robertson, United Methodist minister, Concordia;

Melinda Oberhelman, interim pastor, Lawrence;

Phil Morris, United Methodist pastor, Washington County;

Kathy Ouellette, Lutheran church lay pastor; Washington;

Darlene Nonhof, United Methodist pastor, Clay Center;

Bill Brazil, United Methodist Minister, Belleville/Scandia;

Paul Hutchinson, Baptist Minister; Washington;

Karen Miller, United Methodist minister, Frankfort;

Joyce Beam, United Methodist Church lay pastor, Republic;

Clyde Wollenberg, lay leader, Clay Center;

Sherrie Harrison, layperson, Baptist Church, Marysville;

Marabeth Concer, pastoral assistant, Methodist Church, Marysville;

Plus members of the steering committee:

- Gary Griffiths, Episcopal Church lay leader, Clay Center;

- Cherie Birkbeck, volunteer, Clay Center

- Sr. Marilyn Wall, Catholic officiant, Washington County;

- Susan Sawyer, Episcopal pastor and Hospice chaplain, Clay Center;

- Kay Lohmiller, lay leader, Clay Center.

### **Introducing Bryon Waldy**

Bryon Waldy has led workshops on grief and loss for Kansas and Washburn universities, Kansas departments of transportation, health and environment, and social and rehabilitation services, Topeka USD 501, and other groups. Waldy has a B.S. in human resources and business management, an M.S. in marriage and family therapy from Friends University, Wichita, and two years of post graduate work. He completed a course in core mediation training at Midland Mediation and Settlement Services of Topeka.

Waldy served on many boards, such as Parents of Murdered Children, Compassionate Friends, Kansas Children's Service League and as a faculty member at Menninger's.

*"A 1999 survey of Kansas City pastors found less than half thought they ministered effectively to the seriously ill or dying."*

*"We know that dying people and their loved ones look to their ministers and lay leaders for spiritual support at the end of life."*

— Kay Lohmiller

From the Director—

## Providing hospice care for veterans under discussion

This year seems to be flying past us. We have been so very busy because we have patients such a short time.

With all the staff time it takes to do an admission, then in a couple of days the person passes away, making it very hard to keep afloat.

The ideal time to be able to do good Hospice care is 3 to 6 months. We rarely have our patients more than 1 month.

On the state level, Kansas Hospice & Palliative Care Organization is working on a partnership with the VA's in Kansas to see how we can

work together to provide Hospice care in the communities where veterans live.

This would be a great asset to the veterans who want to remain at home and not go to a VA Hospital for their final days.

What a great breakthrough for the Veterans Administration.

A meeting on July 9th has been set up to "assess the needs of the dying Veterans and provide hospice education and care."

Have a great Summer.

—Dianne Michaud  
Program Director

## Kay Lohmiller making plans to retire

Meadowlark's Director of Social Work Kay Lohmiller has announced plans to retire, tentatively at the end of August.

She and her husband, William "Buzz" Lohmiller, have bought a log home in the Ozarks, where they look forward to hosting their children and friends.

Kay joined the staff in 1992, initially completing the certification process for the Clay County hospice.

Since then, Meadowlark has expanded, first to three and now to five counties.

She also created and implemented a compliance program. Currently, she chairs the Kansas LIFE Project board of directors.

Lohmiller has conducted bereavement classes for loved ones and has made dozens of public presentations on behalf of hospice.

She served eight years on the Association of Kansas Hospices board of directors, three as chair.

Donna Bales, President and CEO of the LIFE Project Foundation and Association of Kansas Hospices, said,

"Kay Lohmiller epitomizes excellence in care for Kansans living with advanced chronic and terminal

ill-ness. Her keen sensitivity for human need, her caring and advocacy, her vision and leadership, and her tireless efforts have been a gift to all who long to live with dignity, comfort and peace as they near the end of their lives.

"Her service and leadership through both the Kansas Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Kansas LIFE Project have demonstrated the breadth and depth of her commitment and passion. She is a treasured friend and leader."

"Kay had this to say: "I have found such reward and a very real sense of meaning in my 13 years as an advocate for quality end of life care.

The staff of Meadowlark Hospice are my friends and support system, the volunteers area group of caring and dedicated people and many I have gotten to know so well and will always call friends.

"I have received great gifts from many of the patients and families I have served and will be forever grateful for the privilege of being a part of their lives during a very meaningful and vulnerable time.

"I will always treasure my time

### MEADOWLARK HOSPICE

#### Staff

##### Program Director

Dianne Michaud RN, BSN

##### Patient Care Coordinator

Rita Wollenberg RN

##### Social Work Coordinator

Kay Lohmiller LMSW

##### Hospice Staff Nurses

Paula Cheney RN

Donna Lee Fisher RN

Deb Martin RN, BSN

Anita Droll RN

Debbie Hedke RN, BSN

Kirstin Wernecke LPN

Sherry Wiese RN

Chris Smith, RN, MSN

##### Social Workers

Donna Coufal LBSW

Katrina Jones LBSW

Marilyn Dressman LBSW

##### Volunteer Coordinator

Charlotte Topel

##### Administrative Assistant

Charron Cales

Lisa Seley

##### Chaplain

Pastor Susan Sawyer

##### Billing

Ronna Urban

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here, and it is with some sense of grief that I leave. I am, however, looking forward to a new chapter in my life with my husband.

Retirement will offer new challenges and opportunities. Grandchildren are a major priority. Travel and yard work will fill our time. I may even, after I settle in, look into being a hospice volunteer!

"Thank you all for everything. Continue our work toward quality end of life care for all of our friends and neighbors!"

## August demonstrations of guide, specialty dogs scheduled for volunteers

Hospice volunteers in Meadowlark's five-county area will get a fascinating look Aug. 17 at how guide and specialty dogs are used and trained.

Phyllis Burdge, will present the program, beginning at 2 p.m. She has a third dog from KSDS (formerly Kansas Specialty Dog Service) in Washington and is a VISTA volunteer.

The staff will provide a tour of the facilities just off U.S. 36 and answer questions.

Karen Price is executive director of the facility, which has excellent community support and a reputation for excellence throughout a multi-state area.

"We've placed dogs in 29 states now," a spokesperson said in June.

Last year, KSDS earned accreditation from Assistance Dogs International (ADI) after extensive evaluation. A plaque was presented at the ADI conference in Vancouver, Canada, Oct. 16.

## Director invites you to see remodeled space

We are so delighted to have our new space done. We now have a conference room, remodeled offices and a beautiful new lobby. Liberty Street is now our front entrance.

We would love to have you all come and see it. Stop by whenever you are in Clay Center.

## Our thoughts are with these families

- Mable Hammer
- John Smith
- Ambrose Travelute
- Jerome Dieker
- Mary Buss
- Bessie Windenwader
- Janet Lindsay
- Mary McGee

- Evelyn Buche
- Vera Craft
- Mildred Behrens
- Floyd Tomlinson
- James Cranmer
- Betty Zulek
- Allen Weir
- Ellen Rook

- Gary Paris
- Carol Slupianek
- Mike Yaksich
- Maxine Davis
- Ernie Foster
- George Leisler

# Calendar of Events

## July 2004

- July 12 Cloud County Volunteer Continuing Education, 10 a.m., Cloud County Health Center, Concordia, Room 106.
- July 12 Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education, 12 noon, United Methodist Church, Republic.
- July 14 Clay County Volunteer Continuing Education, Hospice Office, 12 noon, Clay Center.
- July 20 Washington County Volunteer Continuing Education, 9:30 a.m., Extension Meeting Room, Courthouse, Washington.
- July 20 Marysville Continuing Education, 12 noon, Community Memorial Healthcare, Meeting Room, Marysville.
- July 20 Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education, 2 p.m., Conference Room, Frankfort Care Home.

## August 2004

- Aug 10 Town Hall meetings. Donna Bales, LIFE Project Executive Director, presents an open forum. Bring a covered dish. Noon, St. Paul Episcopal Church, 6th & Clark, Clay Center. 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Church, 400 C St. Washington Everyone welcome. Bring a friend.

Aug 17 Joint meeting for all volunteers, KSDS (formerly Kansas Specialty Dog Service), 124 7th St., Washington, program on their services, 2 -3:30 p.m.

*(Note: no individual meetings this month)*

## September 2004

- Sept 8 Clay County Volunteer Continuing Education, Hospice Office, 12 noon, Clay Center.
- Sept 13 Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education, 12 noon, United Methodist Church, Belleville.
- Sept 13 Cloud County Volunteer Continuing Education, 10 a.m., Cloud County Health Center, Concordia, Room 106.
- Sept 21 Washington County Volunteer Continuing Education, 9:30 a.m., Extension Meeting Room, Courthouse, Washington.
- Sept 12 Marysville Continuing Education, 12 noon, Community Memorial Healthcare, Meeting Room, Marysville.
- Sept 21 Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education, 2 p.m., Conference Room, Frankfort Care Home.

## November 19

LIFE Project Annual Meeting, Wichita Marriott  
Champions for LIFE Gala, Wichita Marriott

# Volunteers

*"Destiny is not necessarily what we get out of life, but, rather, what we give."*

## Mary Alice Baker finds outside help eases family losses

A graduate of Manhattan Area Technical College, Mary Alice Baker of Blue Rapids has spent most of her working years in geriatric care.

The Blue Valley Nursing Home social service director is certified as both a nurse's aide and a medication aide, handling several roles.

She and husband Terry have a son, Mark living at Seneca with his wife Carol and their two sons; and a daughter, Stacey Whiting, living on a farm south of Waterville with husband Jim, who have a daughter and a son.

Baker has volunteered for multiple causes, from Scouts to American Legion and the Election Board.

She served on the board of Habitat for Humanity.

"I enjoy helping people," Baker said. "I feel very lucky to have such a wonderful family. They are all healthy, but we have had losses in the family, too. There were times when we had support from outside the family with some of them, and at other times, we did not have that support. It was much easier to get through those hard times with the support of friends and community."

## Brenneis' nursing career has ranged from youth to elderly

"They light up my life," said Martha Brenneis of her four nieces.

The registered nurse lives at Hollenberg in Washington County near the Nebraska border.

She was worked in pediatrics, including oncology and home health in the Wichita area. She has also been an instructor of CNA and LPN through Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Neb., and surrounding area.

For slightly more than a year she has worked as human resources/staff development coordinator at Blue Val-

## Mary Finlayson still hears about her unusual horseback wedding

Her horseback wedding ceremony at the Washington County Fair Sept. 10, 1949, generated special memories for Mary Finlayson.

At a suggestion from the fair board, Mary Woodward and Delbert Finlayson exchanged vows before a filled grandstand at the Washington City Park.

Even Methodist pastor Leslie Toburen and the couple's attendants rode horses.

"It had rained all morning, with showers in the afternoon," Mary recalled more than 50 years later.

Today, five children, one living in Washington; 15 grandchildren, six of them married; and 11 great-grandchildren with two more "on the way," share their Finlayson heritage.

During the last year of Delbert's struggle with cancer almost nine years ago, Meadowlark Hospice was a blessing for the farm family.

Mary never forgot what the staff's help meant, and trained as a hospice volunteer in March. Her brother Gene Woodward of Linn also benefited from hospice care before his death in December. "I want to help the ill and their families," Mary said.

ley Health Care in the Marysville and Blue Rapids areas.

A graduate of Fairbury, Neb., High School, she attended college in Bethany, Okla., and Kankakee, Ill.

She trained with hospice volunteers to help children dealing with oncology to work through their feelings.

Martha also helps out at the Decorating Denter in Beatrice, and enjoys wallpapering, crocheting, cooking and reading "when I get a chance to get away."

Next time you will meet these volunteers trained at Blue Rapids in March.

- Lori Ham, Frankfort
- Delores Sedlacek, Marysville
- Judy Studer, Frankfort
- Barbara Welch, Frankfort
- Marion Wybo, Marysville

## Barbara Baker makes impact in Marysville community

Lifetime Marysville resident Barbara Baker never quits doing good.

Along with raising four sons and four daughters with her "loving, supportive, giving, husband," Charles, she continuously learns and then teaches others.

When she was a Habitat for Humanity board member, Barbara started a speakers' group to help publicize the program.

She studied natural family planning at Creighton University in Omaha, and now teaches it without charge.

After working with Northeast Kansas Agency on Aging as a respite caregiver, she used her travel reimbursements to help start Marshall County's Agency on Aging. And she also started a local Meals on Wheels.

In addition to teaching marriage preparatory classes for St. Gregory's Church, she janitors the hall and sanctuary.

And then there's her regular employment. She works nights at Super 8 Motel, where she does audit reports.

This outgoing grandmother to seven, with two sons, ages 14 and 16, still at home, loves to swim, stitch, and read. In fact, she usually has several books going at the same time.

# LIFE Project CEO Donna Bales to speak in area

The Caring Coalitions of Clay and Washington are pleased to invite the public to a covered dish dinner on August 10," according to Kay Lohmiller, social work coordinator for Meadowlark Hospice.

Donna Bales, executive director of the statewide project, Living Initiatives for End of Life, ( called the LIFE Project) will be in Clay Center at noon and in Washington in the evening. Lohmiller chairs the LIFE Project Board.

This event is part of a statewide effort to share the work of the LIFE Project and to get input from the public, and sometimes is referred to as a town hall forum.

The LIFE project is working to bring about good end-of-life care for all Kansans, Lohmiller said.

In addition to sharing information on the efforts of the LIFE Project, Bales will use these forums to listen to area people's concerns and hopes for-end-of life care in their communities.

The LIFE Project will use the information the audience shares to determine the goals of the Project for the future.

Everyone is encouraged to attend one of two opportunities to hear and share with Donna Bales.

The first opportunity is at noon on August 10 at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 6th

and Clark Sts., Clay Center.

The second opportunity is August 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Washington, 400 C St.

Rev. Phil Morris, Washington UMC, said, "We are encouraging all the churches in this area to send representatives.

He discussed the forums with members of the Washington County Ministerial Association and said he has found that people speak highly of Donna Bales.

Lohmiller reiterated the invitation at Clay Center and Washington: "Bring a covered dish and join the group."

## Nurse's Notes

Christine Smith, RN, MSN

## Learning to Live with Imperfection

Hospice nursing is not a perfect science. Because it is dependent upon caring, which is an art, it requires a daily blending of art and science to create a recipe for success. It is more like one of Grandma's unwritten recipes with "a pinch of this and a handful of that" than it is a precisely published set of instructions. There are those days when the sense of imperfection is overwhelming enough to discourage even the most courageous.

Jimmy Karuniadi reminds us: "Have you ever noticed the pockmarks, or dimples, covering the surface of a golf ball? They make the ball look imperfect. So, what's their purpose? An aeronautical engineer who designs golf balls says that a perfectly smooth ball would travel only 130 yards off the tee. But the same ball with the right kind of dimples will fly twice that far. These apparent "flaws" minimize the ball's air resistance and allow it to travel much further.

Most of us can quickly name the physical characteristics we wish we had been born without. It's difficult to imagine that these "imperfections" are there for a purpose and are part of God's master design . . . if we could accept our "imperfections" as part of God's master plan for us, what a dif-

ference it would make in our outlook on life. The "dimples" we dislike may enable us to bring the greatest glory to our wise and loving Creator, who knows how to get the best out of our lives."

Hospice nurses are only imperfect partners with imperfect primary care givers (PCG's) who together provide the best, "perfect" care we can to those in need.

For Hospice to work effectively, it is imperative that a PCG be identified and embraced as the lifeline to the patient. While Hospice nurses have a job to do, PCG's have a ministry to carry out. To minister, according to Webster, means, "to serve, to attend; to render aid."

**Do you have a MINISTRY or a JOB?** The difference was recently defined in a Christian women's group conference publication, which points out the difference between a job and a ministry. Word of mouth has precluded an author or title, but the message must be shared: "What is the difference? If you are doing it just because no one else will, it is a JOB. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it is a MINISTRY. If you quit because someone criticized you, it was a JOB. If you keep on serving, it was a

MINISTRY. If you will do it as long as it doesn't interfere with your other activities, it is a JOB. If you are committed to staying with it, even though nobody recognizes your efforts, it is a MINISTRY. It is hard to get excited about a JOB. It is almost impossible not to be excited about a MINISTRY. If your concern is success, it is a JOB. If your concern is faithfulness, it is a MINISTRY. If God calls you to a MINISTRY, do not treat it like a JOB. If you have a JOB, give it up and find a MINISTRY. God does not want us feeling stuck with a JOB, but rather excited and faithfully serving Him in a MINISTRY. God bless you, Primary Care Givers, as you serve Him!

Nancy Reagan has captured the imagination of those of us involved in providing end-of-life care. Her perfect grace and style and access to the finest available health care still left us with the question of "How did she do it?" . . . and for ten years?

How do primary care givers do what they do? They do it one day at a time, imperfectly at best. Working with PCG's, is, perhaps, the most important part of the Hospice nurse's "job."

## Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others

### Thank you for these gifts which help Meadowlark serve all those who need us.

#### Warren Anderson

Narka Presbyterian Church  
Presbyterian Church of Cuba  
Republic County Church Women  
Dorothy Richardson

#### Anne Diefendorf

Martha Averill  
The family of Anne Diefendorf  
James Woellhof

#### Dick Ebert

Kenneth "Jack" Blackwood

#### Maude Swart

Kenneth "Jack" Blackwood  
Jack & Pearl Watson

#### William Ball

James & Sara Cole  
Anne Grace

#### Bill Gonser

Gary & Sally Griffiths

#### Thelma Bisenius

Agnes Epley  
Francis & Joan Mattingly  
Craig & Terri Lee Parry  
Ron & Nola Schmale  
Lon & Jackie Silver  
Wakefield Rehab Center  
Jr. & Peggy Wiedman

#### Ruth Alquist

Russell & Mary Lee Alexander  
Eric & Michelle Alquist  
Keith Alquist  
Richard & Mary Jo Bull  
Robert & Georgia Butler  
Donna Cameron  
Beverly Cheney  
Sherryl Cossey  
Wilbur & Patty Fowles  
Friends & Neighbors  
Thomas & Kay Gilbert  
Brad & Cathy Girton  
Fred & Mayalwilda Griffiths  
Shirley Hager  
Judy Hileman  
Milo & Florene James  
Tonya Knoettgen  
Debra Kovarik  
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Lloyd, Virginia Starkweather  
Carroll & Sharalyn Tiers  
Mike & Patricia Walker  
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Cindy Zimmerman

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Charles & Marcia Johnson  
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Anna Lee McGinnis  
Teresa Roberts  
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#### Janet Brown

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Warren & Louise Regnier  
Robert & GERALYN Strait  
Loren & Joyce Swenson  
Pauline Vignery  
David & Jeanne Wheaton

#### Evelyn Buche

Dann Buche  
William & Randine Buche

#### Vera Craft

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Harold & Lorna Craft  
Friends & Neighbors  
Bruce & Gail Johnson  
June Stone

#### Maxine Davis

Joyce Boyle  
Jim & Jan Davis  
Mark & Michele Gant  
Bill & Marcia Lauck

#### Jerome "Jerry" Dieker

David & DeLaine Burch  
Daren Dieker

Deanna Dieker  
Doug Dieker  
Gary & Sally Griffiths

#### Marie Doebele

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Connie Doebele  
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#### Ernie Foster

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Sophie Butler  
Stewart & Ann Crow DDS, PA  
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Betty Foster  
Charles & Betty Foster  
Josephine Foster  
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Lawrence & Maxine  
Habluetzel  
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Imogene Kamphaus  
Cecil & Evelyne Keen  
Roberta & Ray Keen  
Carol Kirtley  
Frankie & Audrey Knox  
Bill & Terri Lee  
Keith & Marie Macy  
Lorraine Nelson  
William & Juanita Peter  
Tom & Jenice Philips  
Ivan & Sharon Schweitzer  
Ronald & Ruth Ann Smith  
Lloyd & Virginia  
Starkweather  
Roger & Alice Wilcoxson  
Clyde & Rita Wollenberg  
Marvin & Darlene Yarrow

#### Kenneth Fritz

Kathryn Fritz

#### Marvin Gebers

Joe & Audrey Dittmer  
A.R. & Loriene Eitzmann  
Martin & Lola Eitzmann  
Friends & Neighbors  
Marcia Heitmann  
The family of Marvin Gebers

#### Leslie Klocke

Coborne & Dee Adkins  
Alert Covenant Women  
Wallace, Marguerite Johnson  
Larry & Roxanne Klocke  
Jean Lund  
David & Donna Rundquist  
Clifford & Lily Smith

Swede Creek United

Methodist Church  
"George" Leiszler, Jr.  
Sally & Sally Griffiths  
Sheri Huffman  
The Family of George Leiszler

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Paul & Marcia Chopp  
Terry & Joy Jelinek  
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Keith & Marie Meador

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Richard, Mary Janet Brumfield  
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Ralph & Janice Craig  
Leroy & Dorothy Deaver  
Gary Oetinger  
Loyd & Juanita Patterson II  
William & Juanita Peter  
Rick Reed  
Josephine Steinbruck  
Marian Williams

#### Carroll Slupianek

Tom Coufal  
Jennifer Slupianek  
Roseanne Slupianek

#### Floyd Tomlinson

Daisy Freeby  
Friends & Neighbors

#### Charles Topel

Bob & Yvonne Bartley  
Joyce Beam  
Ron & Patti Bender  
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Vera Burge  
Melvin & Charron Cales  
Alice Christensen  
Bill & Kim Davis  
Marie Derousseau  
Kenneth & Irene Duitsman  
Sr. Eileen Farley

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## Your memorial gifts help

Gary & Sally Griffiths  
 Kim Harding  
 Ruth Heyka  
 Gail Hileman  
 Gevine Hoesli  
 Phyllis Hofts  
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 Mary Agnes Johnson  
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 Carolyn Minor  
 Mildred Neish  
 John Pack  
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 Ralph & Lorette Rogers  
 Kathy Ryan  
 Edith Sallman  
 Mary Rose Santrock  
 Ona Tessenenden  
 Mike & Gaye Yaksich  
 Odella Yaksich  
 Sam & Mary Jane Yaksich

—Compiled by Charron Cales  
 Administrative Assistant

## Relationships don't end with death

*Nile Buck, Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church, Palmer*  
*Editor's Note: Pastor and five other ministers attended the Kansas Funeral Directors Convention in Topeka to hear Dr. Earl Grollman.*

Dr. Earl Grollman talked about grieving and how we so often pretend that nothing happened at the time of death; we don't want to deal with the reality of death.

His major emphasis was that death takes a life but it doesn't end a relationship.

Relationships don't end just because a person has died.

People who have died live on in our minds, and we need to talk about memories and those stories which live on after the death of a loved one. There is no closure.

Grief is like weeding a garden in the summer. You have to do it over and over.

Many times people want to talk about loves ones who have died, but they are not sure others can handle it or care enough to invest in what can be a difficult

conversation.

How are we available to one another when it comes time to talk about the difficult subject of grief and loss?

Each of us need to take inventory of how we invest ourselves in the lives of others for the sake of healing and wholeness. The harvest is plentiful, but often the laborers are few.

One story involved the time someone went to a baseball. This guest smelled the hot dogs being sold at the game and started crying.

He was reminded of the time he went to baseball games with his father, who had died.

The friend had the opportunity to listen to some important information about his guest's past experience with death.

The mind triggers many interesting internal responses, which enable us to have good conversations and do good ministry for one another.

Let us remember that one touch of sorry makes the whole world kin.

## Thank you, volunteers, for your help

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—Charlotte Topel,  
 Volunteer Coordinator

## About your newsletter—

We needed three front pages for this issue of *Meadowlark Notes*.

It's significant that Kansas hospice's head honcho, Donna Bales, will speak in both Clay Center and Washington August 10. In the spring of 2003, a large group attended Clay Center's Lions meeting and heard her speak eloquently. That same week, Washington Rotarians, plus several dozen guests, were unusually quiet as this dynamic speaker discussed end-of-life issues. Donna Bales deserves the front page.

Then there's the hard-to-believe decision by Kay Lohmiller to retire soon in the beauties of the Ozarks with her husband. Our program director, Dianne Michaud, said *she* didn't even want to think about it. Our state CEO and president, Donna Bales, said *she* didn't want to think about it. Certainly, dozens of you have met and learned to love and admire this hard-working Southerner. Kay, too, deserves the front page.

Besides these events, Charlotte Topel has arranged a tour and program on the guide and specialty dogs being trained in Washington. It's fascinating. Front page stuff.

But the actual front page story about additional training coming up for Spiritual Care at the End of Life is definitely deserving. *And, yes. . . . It's okay to second guess me.*

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- Website: ccmcks.org (look under Hospice)
- Personnel are available to present programs to area organizations.

—Christine Buchanan

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