

Church Members Forsake Suburbs For Struggling Urban Neighborhood

BY JILL WENDHOLT SILVA
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KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jason and Candy Fields' backyard in the Lykins neighborhood — one of the most blighted areas in Kansas City, Mo. — is a patchwork quilt of urban farming ventures.

There are a vegetable garden fertilized with nutrient-rich fish waste and a lush swath of bamboo stalks waiting to be dried and used to stake tomato plants or to build a tree house or a lightweight bicycle.

Towering sunflowers wear paper grocery sacks draped over their heads, an effort to keep the birds away so the mature seeds can be roasted, then eaten as a snack. There's a playhouse-turned-chicken coop for heritage breed hens.

On the driveway, tilapia swim in an aquaponics system fashioned from recycled, food-grade plastic drums that takes up as much space as an average living room. Fragrant basil grows in rock beds above the drums, cleaning the water for the fish while the nutrient-rich fish waste fertilizes the basil, all without the use of soil.

Nearby, duckweed grows in kiddie wading pools. The inexpensive, high-protein, easy-to-grow food for fish resembles green pond scum. A biodigester constructed from more plastic drums converts 800 pounds of

restaurant and household food scraps into methane that could heat a greenhouse.

Word of these innovative, low-tech farming experiments has traveled rapidly through local food circles. One steamy weekend in late June, almost 300 people milled around the "Myrtle Plot" at the corner of 12th and Myrtle streets.

Much of that grassroots popularity is a result of social media. Using his iPhone, Jason Fields routinely posts cleverly produced how-to or slice-of-life videos to www.theurbanfarmingguys.com. More than 8,000 people "like" the website and Facebook page, and their "Farmin' in the Hood" video has gotten 47,000 views on YouTube since its debut last spring.

The idealistic newlyweds decided to ditch their comfortable suburban lifestyle, if not their sense of humor, in 2008. Only half-joking, they recall how they worried that the drug-dealing squatter came with the foreclosed property they bought for \$21,000.

After investing another \$40,000 and four months of hard labor, they have turned the burned-out, graffiti-clad shell of a house into a home for their young and growing family, which includes Candy's 17-year-old daughter, Raven, and the couple's two sons, Titus, 2 1/2, and Asher, 1.

The remodeled 1890s Victorian sits on a half-acre of land bordered by a white picket fence. Across the street, the abandoned lot

is overgrown with weeds several feet tall, and the blasted bark on the trunk of a tree that shades the home is a result of a stray bullet shot from a car speeding through the neighborhood in the dark of night.

"It's not a good investment," Jason Fields says of their move to Lykins, "but it's not necessarily a bad one, if this is where you want to live."

More than 20 suburban families have moved into Lykins, a pie-shaped piece of land that runs through the northeastern edge of 64127, a ZIP code synonymous with urban blight and sky-high crime rates. The 5,610 Lykins residents live between Independence Avenue and Truman Road, Benton Boulevard to Hardesty Avenue. Half the residents are Hispanic, according to 2010 Census data.

These urban homesteaders are mostly white 20- to 40-somethings. Most also are members of the Rock, a non-denominational Christian church founded in 1999 with loosely affiliated networks of house churches in Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Wyoming, Texas, Ohio, Michigan and North Carolina.

The Rock's mission is to "plant" house churches throughout the inner city so members can live in and work with the communities they are trying to serve. On the face of it, their tactics for revitalizing a racially mixed, economically depressed neighbor-

hood are simple: walk the neighborhood streets, make eye contact and open your heart.

"The biggest problem in this neighborhood is fear," Jason Fields says. "There's a spirit of hope and community when you decide not to hide from this and own it. ... Something happens when you're in something together. You meet people you wouldn't have met otherwise, and it turns into really deep friendships."

So far, those friendships mostly have been with other church members, but a new community garden is turning out to be fertile ground for getting to know neighbors.

Jason Fields went door-to-door asking timid residents — some who spoke Spanish and others who hadn't had the courage to answer the door to a stranger in years — whether they were interested in taking care of a free plot. A few families agreed to join in.

"Our hope is that this model becomes way bigger than the church," he says.

Flashback to 2002, when Lykins was "still a war zone." Back then, single guys came to live in Lykins. But with the 2008 real estate crash, young families started to make the leap of faith: "We have a lot of young families on a pretty tight budget who were put in proximity to walk out a vision," Rock pastor Ryan Kubicina says.

Rock members have tried to be sensitive

to existing community dynamics, aware that the influx of outsiders might be viewed with suspicion. To reassure their neighbors, Rock community members helped to vote a long-time resident in as president of the neighborhood association, taking lesser positions for themselves. And Rock Solid Urban Impact encourages a range of partnerships that will reach beyond the church.

When they're not donating their time to work on urban farm projects, Rock members earn money in a variety of jobs, such as computer programmers, architects and school teachers. They do not tithe, and services do not include an offertory, which might interrupt the flow. Instead there's a box at the back of the church for donations. There's also a "Change the World" button on theurbanfarmingguys.com, and Jason Fields' next goal is to begin applying for grants to help create paying urban agriculture jobs for neighborhood youth.

They were recently awarded 20 fruit trees through a grant sponsored by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, and they're currently soliciting online votes for a crowd-sourced grant from www.givingoflife.com for \$50,000.

"A lot of kids join gangs because nobody showed them how to make money. We've done a lot with nothing," he says. "A couple of shots in the arm, and we're off and running with the farm."

CHURCH INFORMATION

'In Our Own Voice' Forum To Be Held In Volin

VOLIN — The Health Cabinet of Faith United Lutheran Church (ELCA), rural Volin, invites the public to a health forum on mental illness entitled "In Our Own Voice" on Sunday, Oct. 16, at 10:45 a.m. in the fellowship room of the church.

The purpose of the program is to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness and help decrease the stigma associated with it. The presentation will touch on the dark days when a mental illness is diagnosed, acceptance, treatment, coping, and hopes and dreams as people learn to live with their illness. Audience participation and questions will be welcome. Presenters are Steve Schweitzer, president of the Yankton affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Dr. Mike Slama.

Following the presentation, please join us for noon lunch. Faith United is located at 44874 303rd Street, 2 miles west, 2 miles north, and 1/2 mile west from Volin, or 8 1/2 miles east of Highway 81 on 303rd Street, or 6 miles west, 6 miles south, and 1/2 mile east from Irene.

Soup Kitchen And Country Store Oct. 19

The First United Methodist Church will be holding a soup kitchen and country store event on Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 207 W. 11th St. in Yankton.

Homemade taverns, soups and pies will be served as part of the soup kitchen. Homemade baked goods, jams, jellies, canned goods, fresh vegetables, crafts and home-sewn items will be available in the country store.

Catholic Parishes To Host Abortion Movie

How did abortion become legal in a country that protects its citizens? Who was "Roe" of Roe v. Wade? Why are Planned Parenthood Clinics located in the heart of big cities?

These are some of the questions that you will find answers to in the new movie: "Blood Money: The Business of Abortion."

The movie documents the planned legalization of abortion in this country in a compelling complete overview of the abortion industry. Also included are stories from the victims, the mothers of aborted babies, sharing their experience of loss, abandonment, and exploitation.

"Blood Money" will be shown Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. in St. Benedict's Parish Dining Room and on Saturday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Community Center.

All are welcome. Childcare will be provided. Refreshments and discussion will follow the showings.

Holiday Dinner SHARE Program Begins Soon

Bring home a SHARE food package and celebrate the season with a nutritious holiday meal. SHARE's holiday food packages will help you save precious time and money to focus on what really is important; celebrating the season with loved ones.

SHARE's Holiday Dinner Packages comes with all of the fixings for a family of six.

As you can see, by the list below, each dinner package is a complete wholesome meal.

SHARE's Thanksgiving Dinner Package features a 10-12 pound turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy and dinner rolls. A fresh produce assortment will include celery, apples, oranges and sweet potatoes. Top it off with a traditional dessert, pumpkin pie.

Beginning Oct. 22, orders can be placed through your local volunteer site or online. The order deadline for this package is Friday, Nov. 4, for pickup on Saturday, Nov. 19, at most SHARE sites.

SHARE's Christmas Dinner Package features a delicious 6-pound boneless, honey ham, potatoes, gravy and dinner rolls. A fresh produce assortment will include broccoli, celery, carrots, apples and oranges. A delicious apple pie will complete the meal. Beginning November 19th, orders can be placed through your local volunteer site or online (see contact information below) The order deadline for this package is Friday, Dec. 2, for pickup on Saturday, Dec. 17, at most SHARE sites.

Bring home a SHARE holiday meal this year. Save time — save money and let the festivities, or orders can be placed by contacting your local SHARE volunteer Aves Sejnoha at 605-664-1117 or SHARE's main office at 800-344-1107.

Local churches, businesses and other organizations are also invited to participate. SHARE welcomes organizations that would like to make cash donations or give SHARE gift certificates so deserving local families can enjoy a delicious holiday meal. Everyone can join with SHARE to save time, money and pass on the tradition of the holidays. These packages can be picked up at Peace Presbyterian Church. Dates to be announced.

Scotland UCC To Host Belgian Waffle Fundraiser

SCOTLAND — The Scotland United Church of Christ will host a Belgian Waffle Fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 16, running from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The all-you-can-eat menu will include Belgian waffles and sausage. Carry-outs are available.

The proceeds will go toward updating the church and parsonage kitchens.

For more information, contact Sharon Orth at 605-583-2971 or sorth@gwcc.net.

St. Mary's To Hold Soup Dinner Oct. 30

DANTE — The St. Mary's Altar Society will host a soup dinner at the CCD Center in Dante on Sunday, Oct. 30, running from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The menu will include homemade soups, taverns, hot dogs, chili dogs, chicken salad sandwiches, kolache, pies and desserts. There will be other games and activities, as well. Also, Assumption Centennial Cookbooks will be available for purchase.

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Abundant Life	Baptist	Catholic	Charismatic	Lutheran	Non-Denominational	United Methodist
ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES , 517 Burleigh, Lawrence and Barbara Hladky, pastors, 665-0889. SAT 7pm Praise and worship celebration, SUN, 10am Worship. WED, 7pm Worship. Teens prayer daily 10am.	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH , 2407 Broadway, Yankton. (605)665-5594. Rev. Jon Cooke, Pastor Jeremy Nelson, and Laura Kotalk. www.cbchurch.com SUNDAY Oct. 16 8:30 AM Intercessory Prayer Time 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM Worship Service MESSAGE: Hosea Series "When God Withdraws From His People" Pastor Appreciation reception between services 10:45 AM Sunday School & Adult Community Groups 6:00 PM Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University MONDAY Oct. 17 9:00 AM Ladies Shop Time (Prayer Time) 7:00 PM Divorce Care/DC4K 7:30 PM Service broadcast on Channels 3 & 98 TUESDAY Oct. 18 WEDNESDAY Oct. 19 6:45 AM Men's Prayer Time 9:00 AM Joy In The Morning 12:15 PM Weigh In For God's Glory 5:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:00 PM Intercessory Prayer 6:30 PM TORCH Bible Study 6:30 PM AWANA 6:30 PM 7 & 8 Grade Youth Group 7:00 PM 9-12 Grade Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study THURSDAY Oct. 20 10:00 AM Preschool Storytime 7:00 PM Fire by Night 7:00 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM Dorcas' Hands Quilt Ministry FRIDAY Oct. 21 11:30 AM Mid Day Meal.	SACRED HEART , 509 Capital, Yankton, Rev. Mark Lichter pastor. 665-3655 (office). SAT. 4:30pm Mass. SUN. 8am, 9:30am, 11am Mass. THUR. 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 7:30pm Confessions. ST. AGNES PARISH: SIGEL , rural Utica, SUN. 9am Mass, confessions 1/2 hour before Mass. ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH , Bloomfield, NE. Fr. Michael Schmitz SUN. Mass: 10:30am; TUE. Mass: 8am; THUR. Mass: 7pm. Confessions: THUR. 6:30-6:55pm. ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH , 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton, Father Ken Lulf, 664-6214 (church). Masses: SAT. 5pm. SUN. 8:30am&10:30am. ST. BONIFACE CHURCH , rural Freeman. OCTOBER WEEKEND Mass Sundays 10:30 a.m. or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappilly. (605)583-4318. ST. COLUMBA CHURCH , rural Irene. OCTOBER WEEKEND Mass Sundays 9:00 a.m. or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappilly. (605)583-4318. ST. GEORGE CHURCH , Scotland, SD. Rev. Mathew Vazhappilly. OCTOBER WEEKEND Mass Saturdays 7 p.m. or call (605)583-4318. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC , Lesterville. SUN. 10:30am Mass. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC , Fordyce, Neb. Rev. David Fulton. SUN. 10:30am Mass. ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH , Constance, Neb., Fr. David Fulton, pastor. SAT. Mass: 7:30pm. ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC , Wakonda, Rev. Scott Trayner, 624-2697. SUN. 8:30am Mass. ST. ROSE OF LIMA , Crofton, Neb. Fr. Michael Schmitz. SAT. Mass: 8:00am & 5:30pm. SUN. Mass: 8:30am. WED/FRI Masses: 8:15am. Confessions: WED. 11am-11:30am, SAT. 5-5:20pm. ST. WENCESLAUS , Tabor, (605)463-2336. Rev. Joseph Puthenkulathil, SAT. 7pm Mass. SUN. 8:30am Mass. THE HOUSE OF MARY SHRINE , 6-mi. W. Yankton, Hwy.52. Masses: Monday 8:30 through October. Masses Saturday 9:00 every Saturday. Rosary Sunday 4:00. Rosary 4:00. Open 7 days a week for prayer. thehouseofmaryshrine.org	YAHWEH-SHALOM CHARISMATIC , St. Benedict Catholic Church. MON. 7:30pm prayer meeting Christian KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH , 19th & Burleigh, 665-6317. Joseph Mason, Pastor. 9am-SS; Worship 10:15am. Wed.-6pm-Kids games; 7pm Kids for Christ & Adult Bible Study. Church of Christ CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6379. SUN. 9:30am Bible study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship. Church of Jesus Christ CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS , 2300 Douglas, Yankton. Randy Campbell, (605)565-2016. Family History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting. Episcopal CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH , 517 Douglas, Yankton. Rev. James Pearson, (605)665-2456. Sunday October 2 9:00 Serenity 10:15 The Holy Eucharist and Sunday School Wednesday October 5 Noon The Holy Eucharist. Evangelical Cornerstone Evangelical Church , Pastor Oliver Omanson, Stewart Elementary School; Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday College Bible Study 1306 Maple Street. Mike Stevens 665-8750. EMMANUEL CHURCH YHS Theater, 1801 Summit, Yankton. Worship Service 10:00 am www.emmanuelnyankton.com (605)665-0404. Lutheran CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH : 305 W. 25th, Yankton, 665-8848. Rev. Dani Jo Ninke. SUN: 8:30am & 10am Worship, SS-9:45am. FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN , 44874 303rd St., Volin SD 57072, (605)267-2277. SUN. Worship Services 9:30am. Children's Education WED. Evening (WOW) 6:30-7:30pm. FIRST AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH , AFLC 300 S. Carpenter St., Tripp. (605)935-6941 9:30am Sunday School; SUN. 10:45 Worship firsthope@santel.net	GAYVILLE-BERGEN LUTHERAN Pastor Ralph Egbert. (605)267-4342 (church) Sunday: Bergen Worship-9:00am, SS-10:15am GLC SS- 9:15am, GLC Worship-10:30am. HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH , AFLC 200 South Wilson, Delmont. (605)935-6941. SUN 9am Worship. 10am Sunday school. firsthope@santel.net Martinus Lutheran Church , Utica. Pastor Dean Schroeder Sunday Divine Service 10:30am (605)589-3195 www.MartinusLutheran.org OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN , rural Irene. 263-3724. SUN. 9am Worship. OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN , LCMC/NALC, Menno. Interim Past 9:00am with brunch to follow; Sunday School 10:20a.m. Questions call (605)387-5256 OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN , LCMC, 12th and Elm, Springfield. Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study. PRINCE OF PEACE , Wisconsin Synod, 201 East 25th St., Pastor Werre, 665-4793. Sat. 6pm Worship. South Dakota Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, MAIN STREET LIVING television program, 10a.m. (CST) on KDLT-NBC; and 11a.m. (CST) on KAUN-PAX; and 10a.m. (MST) on KKRA-PAX. St. John Lutheran Church , Tyndall. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service: 8:30am (605)589-3195. www.StJohnsTyndallLCMS.org ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS), 1009 Jackson. David Gunderson, Pastor. SUN. 8am Worship, 9:15am Education Hour, 10:30am Worship. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH , 403 Broadway, Yankton, 665-7415. Saturday-5:30p.m. Worship; Sunday-8:15a.m./10:45a.m. Worship; 9 a.m.-Breakfast; Classes-9:30a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH , Hartington/Crofton, NE. Justin Wiase, interum pastor; (402)254-6606. SUN. 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton). TRONDHJEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (AFLC), rural Volin. 263-3841. SUN. 9:15am; 10:30am Worship.	FAITH ALIVE , 501 Cedar St., Yankton. 665-4797. Contemporary Worship & Family Values. SUN: 10am service. WED. 7pm Care-Cells "Small Groups For Building Relationships" Various Locations. GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER , 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED. 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988. PEACE PRESBYTERIAN (PC/USA), 206 E. 31st. 665-0448. Rev. Dr. Nelson Stone & Rev. Marilyn Stone. Sun-10am worship. Coffee to follow. SS for kids 10:30am. Aired at 8pm Fri. on Ch. 3 & 98. Presbyterian SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST, 722 Locust St., Yankton, 665-1032. SAT. 9:30am Sabbath School, 11am Worship. 665-4496, 665-4881. Pastor George Shaver Home phone (605)369-5496. United Church CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , Newcastle, Neb., 303 Highway 12, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SAT. 6PM Church school, 7PM Worship. Second THUR. 2PM Ladies Aid. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , 301 W. Franklin, Hartington, NE. (402) 283-4824 or 664-5310. Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 8:15am Church school, 9am Worship. PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC , 103 S. Elm St., Coleridge, Neb., (402) 283-4824 or 664-5310. Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Worship. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , (Congregational) 210 West 5th St., Yankton. (605)665-7320 Dr. Richard W. Jensen, Pastor. SUN. 10am Worship, 11am-Fellowship, 11:05am Church School. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST , Crofton, Neb., 412 W. Main St., (402)388-4124, Pastor Les Parmenter. SUN. 10:00am Worship.	FIRST UNITED METHODIST , Yankton. Rev. Ron Johnson Pastor. 665-2991. Sunday, Contemporary Worship 9:00; Trad. 10:30. Childcare 8:45-11:45. 8:30 UM Hour, KYNT. GAYVILLE-VOLIN UNITED METH-ODIST , Brook McBride, pastor. 624-2179. 9am Worship Service. 10:00am Sunday School. WAKONDA, IRENE, VIBORG, UNKED METHODIST , Pastor Mark Gronseth. SUN. 8:30am Worship at Wakonda; 9:45am Worship at Irene; 11am Worship at Viborg. KYNT 1450 AM Radio KYNT 1450 AM Radio SAT. 10:30am "Saturday Morning Live." SUN. 8:30am United Methodist Hour. 9:05am "God's Good News." 9:30am St. John's Lutheran Church WNAX 570 AM Radio WNAX 570 AM Radio . Lutheran Shows-6:30am, 8am, 11am. Wings of Healing-7:30am. Words of Hope 8:30am. Prop. Ref. Church-8:45am. Voice of Prov.-9:30am. Hr. of Hope 10am.ChristianCrusaders-10:30am. MIX 106 FM Radio CLASSIC HITS 106 KVHT FM Radio SUN.-THUR. 10:05PM "Family Radio Rosary" with Bishop Robert Carlson. ESPN Radio 1570 ESPN RADIO 1570 SUN. 10:30AM Trinity Lutheran Church, Vermillion, worship. Knology KNOLOGY. MON. 6:30pm St. John's Lutheran; 7:30pm Calvary Baptist. TUE. 6:30pm Trinity Lutheran. WED. 6:30pm Antioch Baptist; 7:30pm Grace Bible. THUR. 8pm Assembly of God. FRI. 7pm United Church of Christ; 8pm Peace Presbyterian.

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