

TRAPP

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relationships with the church. It takes a while to build that trust level, then you can really start to do good ministry. I feel it will usually take at least 3-4 years to build that trust."

In his 14 years in Yankton, Trapp says the church has come alive.

"I have seen so many things that have happened," he said. "The building addition has changed the whole feel of ministry here. A lot of younger folks and families are getting more involved in the church. We started a contemporary service, which has become a big part of the church."

Trapp said that no matter what happens in the future, Yankton will always have a significant place in his families hearts.

"We hate to leave Yankton, the people here have been so good to us and we have felt such a part of the family. But it will be what we make of it. Every town we have served, every town we have been in has been good to us. We are expecting the same in Sioux Falls."

REV. DEAN TRAPP

"It has been home for our kids, when we moved here Kimberly was in second grade," he said. "Yankton is and will always be home for them — it is the only home they have ever known. In some ways it is harder for our kids than us. Our biggest memory of this community will be that this is where our kids grew up and went to school. We are so grateful that the school system has been so great here."

With Trapps placement in Sioux Falls, a vacancy was created here in Yankton which will be filled by Rev. Ron Johnson who will be starting in July, but before that the church invites the community to join them Sunday in celebrating the Trapp family.

The farewell open house is scheduled from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the church with a short program planned for 1:45 p.m. at the church.

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installed in the front lobby, and the wood paneling of the front lobby has been replaced, as well.

"Now all the walls are nice and clean, and are actually ready to have displays put on them again," Zeutenhorst said. "The one lobby is pretty much barren right now until we get the actual displays put out there."

She described the displays as still being in "the creation process."

"We're going back and forth between Formations coming up with designs, and then we're going through and checking them and making sure everything is exactly the way we want it to be, right down to the

pictures that we have on the walls," Zeutenhorst said. Once the approvals process is complete, the displays will be fabricated and installed.

"We hope to have them up by Oct. 1," Zeutenhorst said. She added that the finished displays will be "an updated, more modern version of what we had, and more current with the Corps's operation today. We're incorporating new photos, images and technologies with old artifacts, whether it's newspaper articles, or actual things that were used during the construction of Gavins Point Dam."

Zeutenhorst said some of these materials were discovered in 2007.

"We found a lot of photos during our 50th anniversary, and we were able to get them put into the computer and scanned in," she said. "Some of the historic documents and photos are really what excites

me in this project." One vintage photo depicts then-tour guide Tom Brokaw on the job — a photo Brokaw photographed and sent to the dam himself.

All of this information should help visitors better understand the history of the dam and its role in the Missouri River as a whole.

"It's been a fascinating journey for me," Zeutenhorst said. "This is the first time I've had to work on installing new displays in a large fashion, and I'm just so thoroughly impressed with the way this is working out. It's been a great and challenging process."

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by the Church Centennial Committee, in the church's CCD Center.

Be sure to notice the newly painted Stations of the Cross and re-leading of the stained glass windows. They are the same windows originally donated by founders of the church.

Also not to be missed, said Leona Kotab, are the apron display and memorabilia room at the church. She noted there are some things that will be displayed that are from city history also. Cookbooks, note cards and church directories are for sale.

Don and Dolores Kotab headed up the church centennial effort.

Following dinner, the doors to the Dante Auditorium again will be open, this time set up with numerous displays, including quilts, a license plate collection, a memorabilia table, home and garden vendors, and a time capsule signing. Centennial beer mugs, koozies, caps and visors, as well as the Dante Centennial Painting/Silent Auction items are available. Raffle tickets will be available for several drawings: a commemorative rifle with Dante community engravings, a Dante centennial quilt featuring images of the town, and an original oil painting of Dante by Johnny Swatek, Wagner artist.

Antique tractors will be in place on Main Street, and guided "trolley" rides will be available showing historical points of interest in the town. Don Kotab will be narrating, and a brochure has been printed of the route. Harvey Wormsbecker and his One Man Band will be entertaining during the afternoon.

Kids' events begin at 1:30 on

Main Street, with a pedal pull, followed by a Century of Family Games—some 15 of them—as well as barrel train rides and a jumping castle. Inflatables also will be at the City Park, sponsored by the Wagner National Guard.

Things will start to wind down with a free barbecue and music by the Back Porch Pickers, beginning at 5 p.m. on Main Street.

So much has been planned, said Rysavy, because "we are not going to see (the Centennial) again."

THE TOWN IS OLDER

While the church is 100 years old, the town actually is two years older. It was known as Mayo from 1908, but Mayor Dick Rysavy said it was decided to "have (the centennial) with the church and make it a nice celebration." Mayo's name was changed to Dante prior to its incorporation on Aug. 12, 1912, said Leona Kotab.

Located eight miles southwest of Wagner, Dante boasts Czechoslovakian heritage. Those hardy settlers started constructing the Assumption Church in 1909, dedicating it Aug. 15, 1910. Parish social events were held in the former Saxophone Hall on Main Street, built in 1915 to house a 30-piece Saxophone Band, after it was donated to the church. But in 1979, another addition was put on the church's parish hall to hold the large crowds attending the annual Harvest Festival dinner, as well as other events.

The Dante Auditorium already had been built during the 1930s, thanks to a WPA project. It has had several remodelings to add bathrooms and a kitchen, but it stands as a sturdy focal point of the town. Rysavy

notes its popularity by showing its well-filled booking calendar.

"For this little town, that dance hall has to be running," he said, noting there are 12-18 outings per year on the schedule.

Leona Kotab can tell about when Main Street was two blocks long and businesses also were on side streets.

"There were three elevators at one time," she said, with a jail in 1914. Sykora car sales until 1924, and Rattlesnake Pete, who offered his barbering services in 1929. Grocery stores, cafes, a pool hall, and a WNAX gas station, as well as a doctor, nurse, newspaper, post office and hardware stores were among past businesses.

Now, there are two bars—TJs Bar and Gordo's, as well as Country Pride, that offers gas and tires, and the Dante Auditorium. Overlooking it all is the Assumption Church.

The commemorative painting by Johnny Swatek captures the flavor of the small town. Rysavy said Swatek worked with the group to make sure the painting reflected its heart, and he is pleased with the result.

While the 24x30-inch framed original is being raffled, prints in two sizes, on both canvas and paper, are being offered at the event.

While the population of Dante usually triples for the annual dart tournament, the crowd should be much bigger this weekend.

"Dante is not going to grow, but it is never leaving," said Rysavy. "I think it is here forever—it is not going to blow away."



PHOTO: ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ
Dante Mayor Dick Rysavy shows the original painting by Wagner artist Johnny Swatek, which shows memorable town sites and activities. Rysavy is hoping for a big crowd at the weekend festivities that will show off the heart of the small town of 83 residents. The event commemorates both the town and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church.

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