

# The Beginnings Of Yankton's Christ Episcopal Church

Before South Dakota became a state in 1889; before the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad that tied the nation together in 1869 and changed American life forever; before even the signing of the Homestead Act of 1862 that brought hundreds of thousands of settlers to the Great Plains, the Episcopal Church was in Yankton.

And at a time when the United States found itself at its most divided in the midst of a civil war, the Episcopal Church served as a unifying force for the early Yankton community. Moreover, the church had a prominent role in the town's civic, economic, social and religious foundations. Yankton historian Bob Karolevitz has described the town's Episcopal Church as its first church and "the capital's most active and influential religious congregation" during the 1860s. During its earliest days, the Church's most active members tended to be those who were most conspicuously active throughout the community. Indeed, among the vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in the early 1860s were:

- Henry C. Ash, Yankton's first hotel owner.
- Newton Edmunds, Dakota Territory's second governor.
- Obed Foote, prominent Yankton community member since 1859, when the town's land first became available to U.S. settlement through treaty.
- John Hutchinson, Secretary of Dakota Territory in 1862.
- George W. Kingsbury, printer and publisher of the forerunners of the *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan* and popularly known as "the Father of Dakota Journalism."

As industrious as any of them and directly leading the way for the Episcopal Church in Yankton in the early 1860s was Reverend Melancthon Hoyt. A tireless and transformational figure, Hoyt touched nearly every aspect of the fledgling community as it grew into its role of Dakota Territory's first capital. Born on Feb. 13, 1809 — one day after the birth of Abraham Lincoln — Hoyt grew up in Connecticut and lived much of his life in the East. Graduating with a law degree from Yale in 1830, he entered the General Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained an Episcopal priest in Camden, N.J., in 1835. Gradually he headed West, first to Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and later to Sioux City, Iowa, where he established the city's first Episcopal Church.

First arriving in Yankton in 1860 — when the town was little more than a hodgepodge of



huts, shacks, and log houses — Hoyt worked with the Right Reverend Joseph C. Talbot to scout for a new church location. Collecting donations from Eastern friends and local citizens, Hoyt effected the construction of a log building with cottonwood siding at the northwest corner of Linn and Fourth Streets. St. John's Church, as it came to be known, served as one of Yankton's first important meeting houses and places of worship. Settlers from other denominations often used the building for a variety of purposes.

Kingsbury, the publisher and chronicler of Yankton's early days, described Hoyt's first Episcopalian congregation as consisting of members of "all denominations." The early days of the Episcopal Church in Yankton and its founding of St. John's Church thus serve as a prime example of a phenomenon characteristic to the beginnings of early western towns: genuine interdenominational cooperation. On the fringe of a nation at war with itself, clerics and townspeople alike sought the inclusion of all interested parties in a way that was rare in American life up to that time.

When the first Territorial Legislature convened in Yankton on March 17, 1862, its Upper House met at the William Tripp home a block away at Broadway and Fourth Street while the House of Representatives gathered at St. John's Church. When Yankton citizens gathered on April 27, 1865, to mourn the assassination of President Lincoln, the *Union & Dakotian* newspaper reported that "exercises in the Episcopal church, under the auspices of Rev. M. Hoyt, formed the principal feature of the day."

Hoyt's early efforts to grow the Episcopal Church in Yankton proved successful. On Feb. 3, 1863 the *Dakotian* announced that the parish had outgrown its log building and that services would be held at the new Territorial Capitol building until the completion of a new

church. Christ Church Episcopal officially organized and incorporated in 1864. Meanwhile, Hoyt, his wife Ann Eliza, and their ten children continued to use St. John's Church as a residence — with family members later recalling that the caulking between the logs was shoddy enough that snow blew through during the winter and made small, indoor snowdrifts.

Hoyt expanded his congregation into a new wooden building in 1866 and remained rector until 1875. Before his death in 1888, he worked as a general missionary and established 51 parishes in South Dakota, including those in Pierre, Watertown, Canton, Parker and Hurley.

Active at Christ Episcopal in Yankton throughout the 1880s — when the congregation first enjoyed its then-new building, constructed in 1882 and still in use today — Hoyt influenced the community in several ways. The Hoyt home was often the site used by the Lady Sociables, one of the first women's organizations in Yankton history. Hoyt also served as the brigade chaplain of the Dakota Militia, headed the first territorial Masonic Lodge as its Worshipful Master, and worked as an incorporator of the Dakota Southern Railroad that began service to Yankton in the 1870s.

Hoyt was also largely responsible for the foundations of education in Yankton in several ways. He founded the Dakota Historical and Literary Society in 1863. More importantly, in 1868 he oversaw the construction of Dakota Hall, which offered courses in Greek, Latin, French, astronomy, philosophy, geology, and other subjects. Built on the corner of Walnut Street and Sixth Street, it marked a milestone in the community's early educational facilities. Dakota Hall served Yankton well into the 1870s, when it was replaced by Central School (which, in turn, served Yankton until the construction of a new school in 1915).

Since Hoyt, Christ Church Episcopal has had more than 20 rectors. Each has led active parishes. The service-minded parishes, in turn, have made countless unique and important contributions to Yankton through the years. The tone was set, and the legacy began, 150 years ago.

*Christ Episcopal Church located at 517 Douglas Ave., Yankton have announced that public tours will be held to celebrate the 150th year of the church. Tours are scheduled from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. To schedule a group tour call 665-3943.*

## Low-Profile Tires Caused Owners Buyer's Remorse

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**Dear Tom and Ray:**  
When shopping for a new car, we favored the Mazda5, but my wife had one major concern: the low-profile tires. The dealer assured us they were absolutely safe and had standard tires beat. A month after purchasing this car, we caught a hidden pothole, which took out both right-side tires (side-wall bulges), rims, a front strut and a rear shock absorber. In 60 years of driving, having met many a pothole and losing only one tire to them, we've never experienced this degree of damage (\$1,800) from a pothole. Are these low-profile tires as safe as standard tires? Or are we the guinea pigs testing these tires?

**- Rick**

**RAY:** Are you sure it was just a pothole, Rick? From the amount of damage you did, it sounds like it may have been a canyon at a national park.

**TOM:** Or, it sounds like you were going very fast when you hit this pothole.

**RAY:** Or both. When you hit a large pothole at high speed, no matter what kind of tires you have, you're going to do some damage.

**TOM:** That said, low-profile tires are more susceptible to road hazards. "Low-profile" means the sidewalls are short. This makes the sidewalls firmer, and less likely to bend and deform on turns, which results in better handling.

**RAY:** But the downside is that there's less space between the road and your wheels. And if you hit a pothole, jump a curb or drive over your neighbor's granite lawn flamingo, you easily could find yourself in need of a new, \$800 alloy wheel or two.

**TOM:** Plus, there are two other things we don't like about low-



### CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

profile tires. First, they're noisier. And second, the ride is more punishing, because there's less side-wall rubber to absorb the bumps.

**RAY:** This is something to keep in mind when you're buying a new car. On some cars (like the Mazda5), you don't have a choice. Mazda obviously felt that the van needed the handling advantage of low-profile tires. But sometimes you do have a choice.

**TOM:** Dealers often will push optional "bigger wheels." But remember, bigger wheels almost always come with lower-profile tires. Why? Because if the wheels are bigger, the tires have to be smaller so the whole shebang can still fit in the wheel well.

**RAY:** So our advice, in general, is: Unless you own stock in alloy-wheel companies, stick with standard-size wheels and standard-profile tires when you have the option. Your wife was onto something, Rick.

*Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.*

### BIRTHDAYS

#### HOWARD COMBS

Howard Combs will be 80 years old June 12. His family invites you to help him celebrate with a card shower. Please send the cards to P.O. Box 775, Yankton, SD 57078.

A family honorary dinner will be held at a later date.



Combs

### SCHOLASTICS

#### QUINLIVAN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP AT SDSU

**BROOKINGS** — Michael Quinlivan of Yankton was awarded the Avera Health Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee 2006 Challenge for the 2011-2012 academic year at South Dakota State University.

Quinlivan is a senior majoring in nursing at SDSU, the son of Ray and Kathy Quinlivan of Yankton and is a 2008 graduate of the Yankton High School.

#### NURSE AIDE TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Five Nurse Aide Training Scholarships will be awarded in the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center (AHEC) service area. The South Dakota Healthcare Workforce Center identifies Certified Nurse Aides as a critical healthcare workforce shortage area.

Certified Nurse Aides are front line workers who work in virtually any area in our state in a variety of settings — acute care hospital, long-term care, assisted living facilities, medical clinics, etc. Additionally, nurse aide training is the starting point on a career ladder to many other career opportunities in the healthcare field — Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse Anesthetists, radiology, office work, computer science, technology, and many other fields of work.

Yankton Rural AHEC, in partnership with Avera Education & Staffing Solutions will be offering five \$600 scholarships to high school graduates aged 18 and older who are interested in becoming a Certified Nurse Aide. Applications are available at <http://www.yrahec.org/> and must be submitted by July 5.

The Nurse Aide Training Scholarships are funded in part by a grant from the US Department of Health, Health Resource Services Administration and by Avera Education & Staffing Solutions.

For additional information

contact [info@YRAHEC.org](mailto:info@YRAHEC.org) or call 605-655-1400.

#### CONCORDIA ANNOUNCES TERM HONORS

**SEWARD, Neb.** — Concordia University, Neb. announced its term honors list for the second semester of the 2010-11 academic year.

The top 25 percent of undergraduate students who complete at least 12 credit hours and compile a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale qualify for the honors list.

The list of area students includes:

Jacob Reifenrath, Sophomore, Wymot, Neb.

#### BAYLOR UNIVERSITY CONFERS DEGREES

**WACO, Texas** — Baylor University conferred degrees on more than 2,000 graduates during spring commencement exercises May 13-14 in the Ferrell Center on the Baylor campus. Baylor's nationally recognized academic divisions offer 151 baccalaureate degrees, 76 master's degrees, a juris doctor, 29 doctoral degree programs and two education specialist degrees through 11 academic units. Chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas, Baylor is a private Baptist university classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research university with "high research activity."

From the area was: Andrew Bernard Cork, BBA, Information Systems, Jefferson.

#### DRURY ANNOUNCES SPRING 2011 DEAN'S LIST

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** — Earning a spot on Drury University's Dean's List is a significant accomplishment; it means a student earned a grade point average of 3.6 or greater (on a 4-point scale) while carrying a full-time course load of 12 or more semester hours at Drury, a top 10 Midwest-

ern university, according to US News & World Report.

In the spring 2011 semester, the following student(s) made the Dean's list for the day school:

Samuel Brodeeen McBridem, Vermillion.

#### MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE CHOIRS AND DIRECTOR ARE RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL CONTEST

The Mount Marty College Mixed Chorus and Chamber Choir, along with Director of Choral Activities, Dr. Sean Vogt, were semi-finalists in the national music competition, The American Prize, this spring.

The choir groups were among eight semi-finalists to advance in the 2011 College/University Chorus Division of the competition. Dr. Vogt was a semi-finalist for The American Prize in Conducting in the Choral Division. South Dakota was well-represented as the University of South Dakota Chamber Singers also advanced to the semi-finals.

The American Prize is a series of new, non-profit national competitions providing cash awards, professional adjudication and regional, national and international recognition for the best recorded performances of music by ensembles and individuals each year in the United States at the professional, college/university, church, community and secondary school levels. Administered by Hat City Music Theater, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Danbury, Connecticut, The American Prize was founded in 2009 and is awarded annually. The competitions of The American Prize are open to all U.S. citizens, whether living in this country or abroad, and to others currently living, working and/or studying in the United States of America, its protectorates and territories.

#### HUSSEIN NAMED TO MACALESTER COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Jamila Hussein of Yankton, South Dakota

and Emad Hussein of Yankton has been named to the dean's list of Macalester College for academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2010-2011 school year.

A graduate of Yankton Senior High School, Hussein was a junior at Macalester last spring.

#### BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY DEAN'S LIST ANNOUNCED

**STORM LAKE, Iowa** — The following students have been named to the Dean's list for the spring semester at Buena Vista University.

Yankton: Grace Sullivan, senior; Caitlin Hof, junior; Zachary King, junior.

Students named to the Dean's List must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for the semester, based on a 4.0 grade point system, and must have taken at least 12 hours of coursework.

#### STERNHAGEN GRADUATES FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Kelley Sternhagen has graduated from Princeton University, in Princeton, New Jersey.

On May 31st, Kelley graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Psychology and a certificate in the Study of Women and Gender.

While training for the two marathons she completed this spring, Kelley completed her Senior Thesis, entitled "Knowledge is Power: Alleviating the Negative Effects of Benevolent Sexism through Education: An Empirical Study" and was awarded Miller-Schroeder Memorial Prize in the Psychology Department and the Suzanne M. Huffman Memorial Senior Thesis Prize in Women's Studies.

Parents are Steve and Nancy Sternhagen, Scotland.

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The Press & Dakotan



#### Padgett-Kuhl

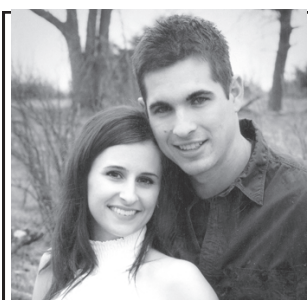
Sarah Kuhl and Sky Padgett were married in Nosara, Costa Rica by Father Juan Jose Perez on January 7, 2011 at the Immaculate Conception Church. A dinner reception followed at La Luna restaurant.

An open house was hosted by the couple's parents at the UNMC Alumni House in Omaha on May 21, 2011. Sarah attended Yankton High School and University of Nebraska in Lincoln, NE. She received her Doctorate of Pharmacy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE. Sarah is currently employed as a pharmacist at The Nebraska Medical Center.

Sky attended Yankton High School. He served two tours of duty with the Charlie Battery of 147th Field Artillery Unit. He graduated from University of Nebraska in Omaha, NE, and is employed by Truxedo as a Jobber Sales Specialist.

The parents of the couple are Kevin and Cathy Kuhl of Yankton, and Craig and Lois Padgett of Omaha. The grandparents are Dorothy Walz and the late Henry Walz, Vayle Kuhl and the late Don Kuhl of Randolph, NE, Bud and the late Darlene LaCroix of Yankton, and the late Monty and Betty Padgett of Foster, NE.

The couple resides in Omaha, NE.



#### Miller-Hofer

Ray and Sheila Miller of Aurora and Kirby and Donna Hofer of Yankton, South Dakota, announce the engagement of their children,

Ashley Marie Miller and Thomas Dean Hofer.

The wedding is planned for July 2, 2011, at Pleasant View Bible Church in Aurora.

Ashley is a 2006 graduate of Nebraska Christian and graduated in 2010 from Grace University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

Thomas is a 2004 graduate of Yankton High School. He attended Grace University and then continued his education at Iowa Western where he earned a Drafting/Construction Management degree in 2008. He is currently working with Kirby Hofer Construction.

The couple will reside in Yankton.

**VFW Post 791**  
*Avenue of Flags*  
at Fantle Memorial Park

Flags erected from 8am to 5pm

**June 14th**  
Flag Day

**July 4th**  
Independence Day  
(weather permitting)

**Volunteers Welcome!**