

Dakota Dispatch
Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Dakota Conference Celebrating 145 Years, 1874 - 2019

Yankton Church Highlighted



Some fifty years after the first white men settled in what is now Yankton, the Adventist message penetrated the "Mother City" of the Dakotas. Around 1915 cottage meetings were held with a handful of older believers in the home of Emilia Magera, who was interested in the Adventist message. They were visited from time to time by Elder E. H. Oswald and Brother Gordon Oss. During one of Oswald's meetings Miss Magera was baptized. After she married she moved to Mobridge where she served that congregation as a pianist for 50 years. Emilia was also one of the charter members of the Yankton church at the time of its organization. Other names listed are Bowers, Manley, Brewer, Rifenback, McConkey and Buroker.

In 1918, another series of meetings was held by Elder Barcus at the G.A.R. Hall in Yankton. There is no record of the number baptized at that time. However, when a box factory was established in town, several Adventists moved in from Kansas like the Snavelys and the Woods. Magera's home became too small for this growing group so they rented the upstairs room of the Odd Fellows Hall. The first floor housed the office of a chiropractor, who

also attended the services with his family. They continued meeting at this hall till the newcomers moved out again. As the smaller group couldn't afford the high rent, they returned to meeting in a private home. A Sabbath School was organized by Elders Necker, Linquist and Bidwell. During the 1940s the membership totaled 14. Some of the charter members had died and others had moved away. In 1945, the present church was purchased from the St. John Lutheran congregation. Among the members then present were the Wolfes, Averys, Amen, Baake and Pavelish.

In the late sixties the church was pastored by Myron Johnson, after which Elder J. Parmele took over the district, which included the Hurley and Madison churches. Jim Parmele started a remodeling program - fixing the roof and the ceiling - which was continued under the direction of Weldon Treat, his successor. As the baptistry couldn't be fixed it was decided to close it up. Helen Welby was the last candidate to be baptized in this pool. Dr. C. Henriques donated an electronic organ. Under the five-year ministry of Elder Treat the church prospered both in souls as well as in physical appearance. A foyer was added to the front of the building, which also received a facelift. In 1978, a church school was started, which met in a room of the teacher's rented house. During 1979, a house was purchased and remodeled to serve as a school building. It is hoped that the new provision of Christian education will keep families from moving away as happened in the past when the congregation didn't operate a church school.

Membership is on the increase and on many occasions the church is bulging at its seams. It may be that soon a new chapter will have to be written for the Yankton congregation with the erection or the purchase of a new church building.

As the first capitol of the Dakota Territory, Yankton has a large history. At present it has a population of 13,000 and is the home of Yankton College and Mount Marty College, a Catholic educational institution. It also serves as the recreational center of southeastern South Dakota with the varied facilities found along the 100 miles of shoreline of beautiful Lewis and Clark Lake, just four miles east of the town. As Yankton is located on the crossroads of US 81 and SD 50, it is readily accessible to many people of Iowa and Nebraska, attracting some 3 million visitors annually - a real

missionary challenge to the small band of 60 believers in Yankton. The Adventist message can now be heard three times each Sunday via WNAX, which broadcasts both the Voice of Prophecy as well as the Quiet Hour. This powerful station is well known all over South Dakota and parts of the adjacent states and can be heard by over 1 million persons.

Article by Frances Hedelson for the book Nothing to Fear by Bob Dupuy, 1983



Photo by Cliff Freese

Dakota Adventist Academy Update

The new 2019-2020 school year has begun at Dakota Adventist Academy. A lot has happened since our last opportunity to connect with you. First, we graduated 14 seniors this past spring, two of which are already in classes at Southern Adventist University. Another two will be enrolled at Union College and eight will be in a variety of colleges, including two in Bismarck. Besides the 14 graduates, one student returned to complete classes and improve his GPA and two others have made different plans for next year.

We hit the road recruiting and praying this summer. And God has blessed us; we have the enrollment numbers we finished with last year and are still talking with several others.

After the end of last school year, over the summer and as we met for pre-work at the school, staff and family members have put in many hours at the academy. We are pleased to report that new ceiling tiles and new lights have been installed throughout the school, new bleachers are set up in the gym and the water fountains have been upgraded. We believe you will be pleased when you come to visit.

Finally, in a year when it looked like almost everything would remain the same for the upcoming school year, we have had to make some sudden changes at the last hour. Last year's music teacher has accepted a call to another position, moving out of the music classroom. She and her husband will leave a few vacancies. I am pleased to announce that the puzzle pieces have fallen into place and new staff is in place for the 2019-2020 school year.

Our new music teacher is David Ballesteros. He comes to us from Great Lakes Academy where he has been engaged in directing all of the music genres we are looking for as well as lessons. Shannon Brown moves from assistant ladies dean to full time Bible and Spanish instruction and replacing her as the girls' assistant dean is Lana Miller. She is also assisting part time in the kitchen and in a supervision capacity. Stepping into the gap in the boys' assistant dean position for the first semester is Gregory Ratter. Ratter is a senior in Spanish, Bible and History Education at Union College. He has chosen our school for his last semester of student teaching under Jared Gibson and Shannon Brown.

As the 2019-2020 school year begins, keep us in your prayers and in your hearts. If you know of a student who needs to be at Dakota Adventist Academy, help us connect them.



Interested families or individuals may contact Recruiter [Tracy Peterson](#), Principal [Anthony Oucharek](#) or VP of Finance [David Chapman](#).



Article by Principal Anthony Oucharek; Photo from FB and Tracy Peterson

Black Hills Health & Education Center

invites you to attend their **Annual Spiritual Retreat** held in a red & white tent on the campus in Hermosa, South Dakota. The event starts Friday, August 30, at 6:30pm and ends Sunday, September 1, at noon. Richard Stenbakken will be presenting a first person narrative of Biblical characters (www.biblefaces.com) with special music by Advent Capelle. Call Sherlyn Martin for room reservations and meals at (605) 255.4101.

Schedule of topics:

Friday: John on Patmos

Sabbath 11am: Peter

Sabbath afternoon: Pilate

Sabbath evening: The Centurion at the Cross

Sunday morning: The Armor of God from Ephesians 6

Outdoor Church and Teacher Dedication



August 10, 2019 was the 53rd annual Turtle Lake-Mandan District outdoor church service, which was held at Fort Mandan in Fahlgren Park outside of Washburn, North Dakota. Eleven churches were represented as the weather threatened and finally delivered rain during the lunch hour. Gary Way taught the Sabbath School lesson focusing on Isaiah 58, Sharon Messer told the children's story about kindness being repaid and Elder Biloff spoke on the story of the paralytic in Mark 2 and Luke 5.



In the afternoon, several people provided musical numbers, Elder Tyler Bower shared how Adventist education has made an impact in his life and recognized the academy and grade school teachers who were present, followed by a prayer of dedication.

Many stayed to enjoy and/or participate in a musical "jam session" after the program.

Article and photos by Jacquie Biloff

Dakota Pathfinders Enjoyed Camporee

Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin is a highlight for all Pathfinders. It is where honors may be accomplished, pins traded, friendships renewed and memories made.

It was in 1984 when the camporee was started across America. By July 31, 1985, there were 14,000 people at the NAD Camporee held at Camp Hale in Colorado. They enjoyed BMX, rock climbing, archery and a circus bear. Four years later in 1989 there was no money and no sponsorship for a camporee. It was almost the end of the story but the Northern Union and the Columbia Union Conference stepped up to the plate and offered a **Friendship** Camporee in Friendship, Pennsylvania. Thirteen thousand participated.

The first international camporee was held in 1994. The hosting property owner backed out at the last minute leaving the Rocky Mountain Conference scrambling for a location. That location became the Bandamere Speedway, a drag racing track, with 12,000 attending from 23 countries. Sabbath's **Dare to Care** was held at the Red Rocks amphitheater in Colorado.

The quinquennial event has grown continually since. In 1999 there were 21,000 pathfinders from 53 countries for **Discover the Power**. A severe storm threatened and then split in two as it passed safely on either side of the grounds. 2004's **Faith on Fire** was named the Winter Camporee because Oshkosh had record low temperatures. 31,000 attended from 65 countries with 300 baptized. Esther - **Courage to Stand** - was the theme of the 2009 camporee. 35,000 pathfinders from 71 countries found their way to Oshkosh. Five hundred were baptized with a giant cross was displayed in the western sky on the final night.

Fifty thousand attended the 2014 camporee from 80 countries to be reminded to be **Forever Faithful** featuring the story of Daniel. Six hundred were baptized. Thunderstorms narrowly missed the campground as the program continued with Daniel in the lion's den. It was the second year the program ended with fireworks.

This year's **Chosen** was about David and Goliath. Dakota Pathfinders were there sharing the location with 55,000 others from around the world and being baptized along with 1,309 other friends at this memorable occasion. Beyond the record attendance, the event also broke two world records, verified by Guinness Book of World Records personnel. The *largest human image of a cross* was created after church on Sabbath, August 17, when 13,309 Pathfinders and staff formed the cross outside the main stage area. The other world record broken was for the largest *neckerchief and woggle* (scarf and slide). Displayed just to the side of the main stage, this gigantic Pathfinder scarf measured 300 feet from tip to tip and weighed about 800 pounds. The slide itself was almost 10 feet tall and weighed about 500 pounds. Pathfinders make memories.





Article by Jacquie Biloff and photos submitted by Sue Nelson

Spiritual Feast Weekend at Flag Mountain Camp

South Dakota's Spiritual Feast Weekend
August 24, 2019
Flag Mountain Camp

Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m.

Church at 11:00 a.m.

Musical Artists: SAY Singers from Spearfish, SD

Featured Speaker: Elder Mic Thurber, Ministerial Director for the Mid-America Union

Potluck Fellowship Meal

Afternoon Meeting Following Lunch

Campus Ministries in the Dakotas

Intelligent Design Fellowship is the philosophy and science outreach of Adventist Campus Ministries. It provides students with current scientific research, books, speakers and programs demonstrating creative design in life, using evidence to give foundation for faith by promoting the biological, cosmological and Biblical evidences of a Creator.

The purpose is to promote information and events on campuses that will aid students to experience life's liberty and happiness based in a Christian theistic world view.

As school begins on the public university campuses in the Dakotas, Adventist students may be attending. If you know of any students that will be in the Fargo, ND area going to school, Elder Darrel Lindensmith would like to make contact with them.



Article by Elder Darrel Lindensmith

Aug 22 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Chrystal Rittenbach in Stutsman County.

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