

One in a *Ver* Million

Meet Steve Miller



By David Lias

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Pastor Steve Miller believed the primary reason he was invited to the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Community Awards

Banquet March 14 was to give the invocation before the evening's meal.

What soon became apparent, at the conclusion of that night's event held at The Eagles, was that Steve needed to make another trip up to the stage before

the banquet audience. Steve was awarded the 2013 VCDC Community Leader Award at the annual event.

VCDC Board Member Amy Christensen, in announcing Steve as award recipient, noted that community's greatest leaders are those who work to make a better life for others, not for personal or financial gain, but because they truly believe it is the right thing to do.

She noted that Steve and his wife, Jill Tyler, brought their young family to Vermillion in 1995. "He and his wife were considering a number of communities, but as they were driving through Vermillion, they decided to settle here.

"Vermillion is a place where he has made a difference," Amy said, describing the many roles Steve fulfills in the city. "After 18 years, there's not a corner of this community that has not been positively impacted by his choice to call Vermillion home.

"He has mentored countless young people and has carried families through trying times. He provides spiritual guidance throughout the journey of life, at the birth of our children, when we wed, when we are sick, and when we lose those closest to us," she said.

Amy noted that Steve

continues to have a strong influence over the community's children by serving on school communities, speaking at commencement ceremonies, and teaching our kids life skills through heavy involvement in the Character Counts program.

Steve's passion for baseball is also well known in the region.

"As the president of the Vermillion Baseball Association, he helped organize the first DakotaDome Youth Baseball Classic, and rarely misses a season coaching kids," she said.

The arts in Vermillion also have benefitted from Steve's contributions as a talented writer and musician. "He was instrumental in the revitalization of the Vermillion Community Theatre," Amy said, "he has acted on stage, involved youth in children's theatre workshops, and written songs and plays, including 'In Every Generation,' which celebrated the 150th birthday of Vermillion."

On top of his duties as pastor at the United Church of Christ - Congregational in Vermillion, Steve teaches a variety of religious studies classes at USD and has started a prayer group bringing together people of all faiths.

"His influence reaches far beyond the church pews and the members of his congregation. He downplays his role as leader in the church by claiming to lead simply because he is the loudest," Amy said. "The bigger volume he has in the sanctuary is not what makes him a leader in Vermillion. It is his passion for people, and his desire to make a difference in the community he calls home. Imagine a Vermillion today if that young family back in 1995 chose a different community. Consider how many lives would have turned out differently without his influence.

"Often leaders are measured by elections won or dollars earned. But the leadership of tonight's honoree is measured by each person he inspires. He is the leader of Vermillion's soul," she said.

Steve, upon accepting his award, said that he and his family expected, when moving to Vermillion, to stay in the community for a short time.

"And now, we can't imagine living anywhere else," he said.

1101 Announcements - Events

Trinity Lutheran Church 816 E Clark St **Worship Schedule:** Saturday evening: 5:30 PM and Sunday morning: 10:00 AM

Radio broadcast: Sunday morning at 10 AM on KVTK Radio, AM 1570. Holy Communion celebrated each Saturday evening and the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays each month. Pastor Trisha Boese

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran - Vermillion, SD

Unitarian Universalist "The Uncommon Denomination." Services are the first and third Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the United Church of Christ, 226 E. Main. Child care services and refreshments provided. All welcome. Info: www.unitarianvermillion.blogspot.com

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL, 226 E. Main St., Pastor Steve Miller. 10:30a.m. Worship Service. *No Longer Strangers* www.uccvermillion.org

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Located: **Wakonda Legion Hall, Wakonda, SD**

Saturday's Auction at 10:00 a.m.: Eldon Mortensen Estate of LeMars, IA Farm Toy Auction. Selling nearly 500 lots of clean and quality farm toys! Lots great custom Horse-drawn Toys plus a large selection of John Deere, International Harvester, Allis-Chalmers, 1/8th Scale & More!

Sunday's Auction at 11:00 a.m.: Spring Advertising & "Man-Tiques" Auction. Auction includes 7 Winchester Rifles-Mdl 1903 .22 auto; (6) Mdl 94 Commemorative Rifles all Mint in the Box-John Wayne, Boy Scouts, Oliver Winchester, Anne Oakley, Chief Crazy Horse & 1994 Centennial; Also nearly 100 Great Soda Pop, Seed, Feed, Beer & other signs; Bud Stein Collection; large Livestock Yards Memorabilia collection; Maytag Collection including 1cyl & 2cyl engines; Tobacco Advertising; Vintage Coke Trays; Hamm's Beer Signs, beer trays & more!

Upcoming Auction Notice: Sunday April 21st-100+ Firearms, plus antique & modern hunting & fishing equipment and "gentleman" antiques. Additional items can be consigned, call today for details!

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