

Pulpit Reflections:

Where are you headed?

By Rev. Rick Pittenger

1st United Methodist Church

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor. 13:11-13 NRSV

Sunday afternoon we had our first rehearsal for the Vermillion Community Palm Sunday Cantata.

Unfortunately, due to the long President's Day Weekend, we only had 11 singers: Four sopranos, one alto, three tenors and three basses. I sing bass and we were seated behind the two rows of sopranos.

As I glanced up from my sheet music a T-shirt in the front row caught my eye. Peering over the pew were the words: "The health of the eye seems to demand a horizon. We are never tired, so long as we can see far enough." (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

That is all I needed to go off on my day dreaming journey.

When I visited the Vermillion Care Center the other day, Joan told me the story of when her children were young and they took the train to Colorado.

They were so excited to be going anywhere on a train. As she was trying to settle them all down, she noticed an elderly woman across the aisle on the train. When their eyes met, the other woman shared how she too was excited about this, her first trip on the train.

"I've lived here my whole life and I've always wondered where this train track leads to. Today I'm going to find out!"

In the midst of the changing weather our landscape can go from frigid one minute to balmy the next. Snow that fell this morning has left no sign other than the puddles on the sidewalks and under the downspouts.

I got to thinking about those two encounters I had this week. The first one talked about horizons and the second was much like the first.

I recall someone sharing what another visionary had said, a poet really: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, / Or what's a heaven for?" (Robert Browning)

Each day of our lives we have choices to make about how we'll live out our days. Many have given up on their dreams. Children are known for their dreams.

"What will you be when you grow up?" is a question often asked of children.

The years fly by, our lives ebb and flow, and some would argue we have no choice in the matters that influence our lives.

Still, I think there is a certain disconnect when we become adults. It's as if we think we can't dream anymore. It's as if we can't ask questions of "why" anymore or perhaps even better: It appears we don't dare ask "Why not?"

It was not always that way for us; when does that stop? How old are we when we don't ask questions of life and faith anymore? "When I became an adult..." What does that even mean?

I sat in the Mall of America a few days ago as my wife shopped in a nearby store. I watched as people walked by. Many were on their cell phones talking to some invisible person on the other end of the line.

Simultaneously others zigged and zagged through the mall in a hurry to get to the next store, the next appointment, or just around the next corner while multitasking with one eye fixed to their cell phone screens, thumb texting the "others" of life. Seemingly no one was asking the question about where they were headed.

And I thought of the lady on the train who had finally decided to see where that train track led. My hope and prayer for you is to take a moment in your day to be at peace with where you are while looking for the next train bound for your greatest horizon yet to be enjoyed.

VERMILLION EMERGENCY CALLS FOR SERVICE

2/10-16/2014
02/13/2014 09:00:00 – Fire Safety Inspection
02/10/2014 14:34:29 – EMS Medical Transfer
02/10/2014 16:30:00 – EMS Medical
02/11/2014 02:32:21 – EMS Medical
02/11/2014 08:05:25 – EMS Medical
02/11/2014 13:15:48 – EMS Medical Transfer
02/11/2014 17:27:25 – EMS Medical Transfer
02/11/2014 19:43:59 – EMS Medical Transfer
02/11/2014 23:15:10 – EMS Medical
02/12/2014 03:17:21 – EMS Medical
02/12/2014 06:37:58 – EMS Medical Transfer
02/12/2014 10:48:42 – EMS Medical Transfer
02/13/2014 20:51:30 – EMS Medical Transfer

02/14/2014 15:03:21 – EMS Medical
02/14/2014 16:40:52 – Fire/EMS motor vehicle accident, Highway 50 and Plum Street.
02/14/2014 18:51:31 – Fire 1530 S Dakota St, Vermillion, SD 57069. Crews responded to reports of a gas fire at the wastewater plant. Quick action by city employees and the fire department limited damaged to the boiler room.
02/15/2014 21:37:57 – EMS Medical
02/16/2014 17:51:01 – EMS Medical



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Vermillion boys sweep Red Raiders

By Scott Bormann

WAGNER – After the girls' team defeated the Red Raiders to stop their losing streak, the Vermillion Tanager boys' team stopped their own two-game losing streak on Feb. 18 by beating the 8-10 Bulldogs 66-43. They had four players score in double-figures to lead the way to the victory.

Vermillion's Jayce Huska led all scorers with 14 points, one rebound, one steal and four assists.

Tyrell Harper had another double-double with 12 points and 13 rebounds, plus four steals and two assists.

Nick Jensen scored 12 points, grabbed five boards and six steals, plus one assist. Cooper Williams went 10 for 10 from the free-throw line to score his 10 points. He also had two rebounds and six assists.

"We really defended well in the second half to break the game open," Coach Jay Drake said.

Wagner was led by Derek Soukup with 11 points and nine rebounds. Trajan Holiday had nine points, while Noah St. Pierre added eight points.

Carter Andre added nine points and one assist for the Tanagers. Jeremiah Johnson had six points and one rebound. Paul Schwasinger

scored three points by hitting a shot from beyond the arc.

"We didn't feel like we played the first half with the energy and passion that a team needs to play with this time of the year," said Drake, "but to hold Wagner to a total of 10 second-half points is a nice job by our team, and we finished the game strong."

The boys' team does not have an easy road to finish out this month. They close out the regular season on Feb. 28 when they travel to Canton (13-4).

Madison is the sole undefeated team in South Dakota, while Canton is right behind Vermillion in Region 4A.

Tanagers stop skid in Wagner

By Scott Bormann

WAGNER – On Feb. 18, the girls' basketball team finished their regular season by beating the 10-9 Bulldogs 53-48. The Tanagers had three players score in double-figures to stop a four-game losing streak.

"I was really proud of our team last night," Coach Jon Brooks said. "Wagner is a good basketball team, and they play really hard."

Vermillion's Haleigh Melstad led all scorers with 14 points, two rebounds

and one steal. Josie Huber added 13 points, five boards and four steals.

Kyleigh Melstad scored 10 points, grabbed four rebounds and one steal, and had one assist.

"We got taken out of some of our stuff offensively, but our defense was good," said Brooks. "Once we really started rebounding, we got a lot of stops."

Wagner was led by Emily Brunzing's double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Gina Soukup had 10 points, six rebounds

and five assists. Ali Kuca grabbed 12 boards.

"Once again we were in a close game, but this time we got stops and got good shots in the last few minutes," Brooks said. "We took care of the ball, and made some free throws to get the win."

Kasey Jensen added eight points and three rebounds for the Tanagers. Tori Gregoire added four points. Rachel Finnegan scored two points, grabbed three boards and one steal, plus had one assist. Hailey Freidel added one point,

five rebounds and one steal. Sydney Peters had one point, six defensive rebounds, and one steal. Shantel French grabbed one defensive rebound, also.

"We really needed this win to get our confidence back heading into Regions," said Brooks. "I think we are playing good basketball, and the girls are excited about the challenges ahead."

The pairings for the upcoming Region 4A tournament were not available at press time.

Hage wins first historic Dakota XII title

By Scott Bormann

NORTH SIOUX CITY – Trey Hage became the very first Dakota XII Conference wrestling champion on Feb. 15.

Second-seated Hage pinned Caden Lamer of Tri-Valley and Tyson Stoeber of Lennox. He got a late takedown in the semifinals against Elk Point-Jefferson's Dylan Ryder to secure a 5-4 victory. He won the 106-pound championship by

dominating top-seated Jordan Sehr of Canton 5-1.

Brett Bye was the only other champion for the Tanagers at 152 pounds. He pinned Cody Davis of Elk Point-Jefferson and Hunter Kjose of Lennox to meet Tri-Valley's Derek Eldeen in the final. He scored a totally dominating 14-3 major decision to help the Tanagers to a second place finish.

The Canton C-Hawks had four individual

champions to win with 209.5 points. With two champs, the Tanagers were helped by four runners-up and one fourth-place finisher to take second place with 142 points.

Beresford was third with 125.5 points, Dell Rapids scored 102.5 points, Lennox 95, West Central 94, Madison 93, Tri-Valley 80.5, Elk Point-Jefferson 80, Dakota Valley 42 and Tea Area 13.5 points.

Kyle Seibel (113 pounds), Carter Kratz (132 pounds), Regan Bye (145 pounds) and Alex Osborne (170 pounds) each lost in the final to score second-place points. At 182 pounds, Seth Heine went 3-2 on the day to place fourth.

The Tanagers next compete in the Region 2A meet in Lennox Feb. 20 and 21 to see who gets to take the long trip to Rapid City for the Feb. 28 and March 1 State A meet.

\$12M

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community, every time we entertain a business, they ask a few questions. They look at the parks and recreation, they look at the schools, they look at health care, they look at churches and those kinds of things.

"While (health care) isn't number-one, it always factors into business and individuals coming to the community at some level," he said. "So, we think this takes us to the next level of actually preparing us for going forward."

Tracy said the role of the DHF going forward played a big part of the decision to go with this plan.

The DHF was formed in 1930 for the purpose of getting a hospital built in

Vermillion, and has gone on to play roles in the nursing home, the clinic and other health care entities.

In 1989 the DHF leased the hospital to what was then Sioux Valley, which signed a further lease in 1997.

An addition was made to the hospital in 1992, but Tracy said at that time, 80 percent of its business was in-patient.

"It's just the reverse of that today," he said. "The business has changed a lot, not just in that ... necessitating the Dakota Hospital Foundation to take a real hard look at what they're doing and what their mission is."

Part of that mission has grown to include helping other community endeavors. The DHF and Sanford have also donated nearly \$1 million to the

community since 2007, including to both incarnations of the Vermillion NOW! project, Tracy said.

At the conclusion of the project, the DHF will continue to work in an advisory capacity to Sanford Vermillion.

"That board/Sanford relationship will continue," Tracy said. "What we're real pleased about ... is when they get done with this, they'll still have a substantial foundation."

Several DHF and Sanford officials spoke in favor of the project and the continuing relationship in a press release.

"We are thankful for the long-standing relationship with Sanford Health and

the opportunities this agreement presents," said Susan Tuve, DHF president. "We are confident there are opportunities for continued growth and partnership to benefit the entire Vermillion area."

Rick Giesel, president of the Sanford Health Network, agreed, saying, "This is a time of great change in health care, but also a time of great opportunity. Sanford Health is committed to the communities it serves, and we continually look at what medical services can be enhanced or added to the Vermillion community that are not already present."

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Darby Ganschow, Clerk

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