

Community Church opens in temporary home quarters

When St. Francis Community Church opened its doors a few weeks ago in Sainty, Pastor Rich and Ingrid Garcia knew they were still on track in following God's call to this corner of Kansas.

"The excitement and love for the people here has not diminished an iota over the past year of being here. This community has many wonderful, loving and friendly people that make us happy to share their lives," said Richard, senior pastor of the St. Francis Community Church. "We want to see God bless our Cheyenne County friends and neighbors!"

The Garcias launched St. Francis Community Church, a non-denominational Christian church that has Luke 4:18, 19 as a cornerstone verse. Jesus explained His mission on earth as "to preach good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Pastor Rich said, "Jesus detailed that God the Father sent Him on that mission then Jesus sent His disciples out just as the Father had sent Him. It's still Christianity's role: Present the Gospel in a way that is relevant and life changing. People need more sermons on 'how to' than 'ought to,'" said Pastor Rich.

The St. Francis Community Church helps people to discover and recognize, in practical ways, their God-designed purpose and joy in life, and emphasizes that God still loves, forgives, reconciles and allows u-turns.

Non-denominational Christian churches are the fastest growing Christian churches in America, a trend begun a couple decades ago. The St. Francis Community Church's first service last month was nearly packed, followed by increased attendance. The church is looking for a larger facility.

"Present Christ to the people and Christ will present the people to church," Pastor Rich said. "People are looking for real answers to real goals and problems in life. Jesus

Christ and His Word offer the real and best solutions."

How are children and youth included in the dynamics of these churches?

"Thanks for asking!" radiated Pastor Rich. "Children's and youth ministries go to a whole new level. Like adults, kids are intentionally pastored as individuals with their own curriculum, church and events while also getting their families involved. Children's ministries are the number one draw for people with children."

What is the appeal of non-denominational churches?

"They continue to spring up and grow for several reasons," Pastor Rich said. "But the summary that explains their popularity is that most stress and apply the principle of relationship and relevance over religiosity. That means the focus is on God's original plan for mankind which is for people to be in healthy relationship with Him and each other, and to apply His principles for peaceful and prosperous living in a way that makes sense today."

Pastor Rich added that a key principle many such churches focus on and inspires people is that the Bible clearly designates every Christian is a minister with a unique God-given ability. That empowers members with a strong self-worth in the quest for meaning and purpose in life. St. Francis Community Church uses positive slogans to communicate key ideas. One of them is, "every member a minister" based on Ephesians 4:11, 12. Pastor Rich is the senior pastor but not the only pastor as others are also called to do it and all are called to minister.

Like most non-denominational churches, St. Francis Community Church has a contemporary style that incorporates music, video, and technology popular in America schools, homes and jobs.

"It's stuff that our kids and adults have used for years. Introducing current technology in churches is one of the most inviting elements in Christian worship in decades.

'Amazing Grace' and 'Lord, I Lift Your Name On High' have never before been sung with such splendid visual effects," Pastor Rich said.

St. Francis Community Church services have a DVD hooked to a video projector displaying stunning nature scenes and music lyrics onto a screen.

Does the St. Francis Community Church have people they want to attract to church?

"Yes! Without a doubt, it is two types, both 'unchurched': Folks who have never regularly been part of a Christian church and those that once were but haven't for years.

"In God's economy there are a variety of ministries but the same Spirit of God working in them and through them all, St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:4, 'We feel that we are called and committed to intentionally love people and to invite, involve and inspire them to find their God-designed place in this world with people that genuinely care for them.'

"Another slogan, 'We have a place for you!' is key because we believe God creates everyone for a purpose. We are a purpose-driven church committed to living purpose driven lives that love others on purpose. Christian churches are in partnership with God to fulfill their ministry for the sake of glorifying God through Christ."

As owners of Koinonia Coffee House, Pastor Rich and Ingrid have been greatly encouraged by the many people who have stopped in to say how much they appreciate the couple being here.

"Oh my," Mrs. Garcia said with a big and humble smile.

"We have been so blessed by the many people we didn't even know who have told us they love us and are glad we are here. Being so far away from our home, it means a lot to have people welcome us as 'family,'" she said with teary eyes. "We hope God uses us, the shop and the St. Francis Community Church to bless this community for the bless-



ST FRANCIS COMMUNITY CHURCH is meeting at the Koinonia Coffee House.

ing the community has been to us."

The St. Francis Community Church temporarily meets at Koinonia Coffee House, 216 W. Washington (next to the Post Office), Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Sunday school meets at 9:30 a.m.; service is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday worship and Bible study is at 7 p.m.

In keeping with the focus of presenting Christianity in a relevant, life-

applicable way, Pastor Rich begins a new Wednesday night Bible study series this week called, "Route 66: The Journey of a Lifetime," that is a brief survey of the meaning and application of each book of the Bible.

Next Sunday morning he introduces a new sermon series called, "Misconceptions That Ruin Our Lives," that addresses how to avoid and overcome problems caused by some ideas and ill-logic that are popu-

lar today. Other classes and training, including recovery groups, are currently being planned.

"Wow! St. Francis Community Church brings a positive message and vision to our area. If you don't have a church you regularly attend, maybe the St. Francis Community Church is a place you may want to check out!"

Interested people can reach Pastor Rich at 332-3150.

Teams begin season at Oberlin

By Betty Jean Winston

Twenty-four junior high boys under the leadership of coaches Jeff Beims and Kent Kechter will form two junior high basketball teams, a seventh grade squad and an eighth grade squad. They will represent St. Francis in Northwest Kansas League play beginning today (Thursday) and ending with the league tournaments on Thursday, Dec. 18. Coach Beims works with the eighth grade boys and Coach Kechter with the seventh graders.

The eighth grade has a small team with only nine players while the seventh grade team has 15 mem-

bers.

Eighth grade: Josh Carpenter, Ted Crabtree, David Guthmiller, Justin Sherlock, Gavin Smull, Chance Hobrock, Keaton Frewen, Corbin Sherlock, R.L. Walz.

Seventh grade: Chase Barnhart, Jon Finley, Scott Ford, Trevor Hilt, Trent Kinen, Logan Lampe, Tyler Miller, Lance Owens, Jesse Pacheco, Jacob Riedel, Sam Sowers, Brennan Van Allen, Shawn Warren, Matt Whitmore, Ethan Zwegardt.

Schedule

Thursday, Nov. 6: Oberlin, there, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 11: Quinter, there, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 13: Oakley, here, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 20: Atwood, here, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 24: Hoxie, there, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Colby, here, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11: Goodland, here, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15: Northwest Kansas League, first round

Thursday, Dec. 18: League, second round; seventh grade, Goodland; eighth grade Atwood.

Congratulations Indians for beating the Atwood Buffaloes in District Play and the Plainville Cardinals in Bi-District Play! Regionals will be played Sat., Nov. 8 as the Sainty Indians battle Stanton County!



2003 FOOTBALL TEAM: Back row, left to right - Coach Ted Busse, Michael Raile, Kyle Buffington, Jonathan Roelfs, Troy Torrence, Dillon Zwegardt, Tyler Voorhies, Trey Hilt, Andrew Feikert, Troy Zwegardt, Luke Keller, Grant Keller, Nick Keller, Trevor Henderson, Coach Chuck Peters, Coach Scott Carmichael; middle row - Coach Tim Lambert, Gabe Walz, Seth Swihart, Josh Walters, Tal Earl, Heath Owens, JD Hawkins, Gabe Smull, Dylan Loyd, Trevor Richard, Matt Brown, Heath Kibel, Gabe Gienger, Tanner Kinen, Derek Ross, Coach Steve Jenkins; front row - Brennon Wilger, Mac Frewen, BJ Killingsworth, Levi Weeden, Darren Laffond, Jordan Gienger, Brady Frewen, Joel McAtee, Russell Rogers, Zach Mills, Adam Peter, AJ McAtee. Not pictured - Jon Zwegardt and Devin Rohweder.

Good Luck Indians

Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts (Formerly All Pro Auto Parts)
Bankwest-OF Kansas
Bartlett Grain Co. L.P.
Becky's Bierocks
Bier's Hometown Store
Brice's Auto Repair
Bud & Eunice Burnham
Burr Retail Liquor
Craig & Nadja Button
Captain Hooks Fine Dining
Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael
Cheyenne Bowl/Dairy King
Cheyenne Co. Clinic/Hospital
Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus
Sam & Paula Crabtree
Pat & Vicki Cress
Theron & Carolyn Culwell
Patrick & Brenda Delano
Dankenbring Auto Body

Diamond R Bar & Grill
Dr. Melvin & Barb Dunn
Farm Bureau Insurance
Bruce & Sharon Feikert
First National Bank
Frewen Insurance Agency
Fromholtz Body Shop
Larry & Beth Gabel
Leach Insurance Agency
Good Samaritan Village
Goodell Greenhouse & Floral
Lezlie Hilt
Homesteader Motel & Trailer Park
Jaqua Abstract Co.
Jenik Oil Co.
K-Store
NAPA Auto Supply
Perry & Paula Keller
One More Year Ranch -
Pete & Alice Kinen

Knodel Funeral Home
Don & Twila Kramer
Krien Masonry Service
Krien Pharmacy
Krien Steel Buildings
Lampe Hardware
L & W Andrist Ins. Agency LLC-
Linda & Walt Linthacum
Daryl & Keely Loyd
Rick & Dawn Lucas
Dick & Michelle Rohweder
Neitzel Insurance Service
James Milliken, Chartered
Mill & Seed Co.
Owens True Value
Park Hill Restaurant & Lounge
Pizza Hut
Dr. Tim & Margaret Poling
Tim & Robyn Raile
Ranch Food Direct

Bud & Marla Rice
Republican Valley Vet Clinic
Tim & Teri Richard
Kenneth & Janet Roberson
Dick & Michele Rohweder
Ross Manufacturing
Terry & Mary Beth Miller
Marlin & Anabelle Rueb
Rueb Cattle -
Randy & Rikki Rueb
St. Francis Equity
St. Francis Feed Yard
St. Francis Herald
St. Francis Sand & Redi Mix
St. Francis Tire & Service
Sainty Super Foods
Schultz's
Silver Crest Farms
Shay Realty, Inc.
Stuart's Jewelry

Dr. Pat & Bonnie Stuart
Sunshine Travel
Unger Chiropractic
T.R. Services Inc. -
Tom & Kathy Roelfs
Tri-State Lumber & Tubing/
Paints Plus
Van Allen Inc.
Video Connection
Video Kingdom
Gale & Mary Walz
Wiese Angus Farm -
Kip & Deone Wiese
Carl Werner
Western Sprinklers
Wheeler Equity
The Windmill Restaurant
Betty Jean Winston
Yost Farm Supply
Yost Ford-Mercury