

Cheyenne county women named Thrivent volunteers of the year

Cheyenne County women, Bethel Gottl and Neala Carmichael, were named "Thrivent Volunteers of the Year" at Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby on Nov. 18 during a Thrivent Financial annual volunteer dinner. Also recognized were Bruce and Donita Baird of Brewster. Donita is the daughter of Robert and Gertie Zwegardt of St. Francis.

The Northwest Kansas Chapter of Thrivent Financial honored nine such volunteers that evening. Wilma Mai, Chapter events director, from Sharon Springs presented each with a gift of appreciation after their volunteer activities were read.

Bethel Gottl

Bethel Gottl of St. John's Lutheran in Bird City, moved from Goodland to McDonald in 1961, when she married her husband LaVern, now deceased. Then "like normal women do," she said, she taught Sunday school, sang in the church choir, worked with St. John's Women of the Church and in the former Tri-State women's group, and also helped tie quilts and pack clothes for Lutheran World Relief.

Now she continues with the Women of the Church activities by helping with funeral meals; delivering plates of food to shut-ins; and packing soap and assembling school, infant, and hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief. In addition, she helps with the Altar Guild, all Thrivent activities, and lines up readers for worship services. She also organizes the

church women's fund-raising sale of cards and napkins.

In addition, with a couple of other church women, she helps keep the art of hand-quilting alive. Since 2007, she has helped hand-stitch fourteen quilts. This extraordinary servant of the church is definitely more than just a "normal woman."

Neala Carmichael

Neala Carmichael of Peace Lutheran in St. Francis, is defined by her love for music. She sings in the worship choir and women's chorus, serves on the Worship Committee, directs the Men's Chorus, helps line up special music for summer worship services, and helps provide entertainment for nursing home residents. In the community, she's a member of the Bookies book club, St. Francis Federated Music Club, and On Stage, Inc (serving as the president of their board of directors).

She is also a member of Chapter U of P.E.O. International and Sweet Adelines International (for 40 years). Her honors include being named the 2011 Kansas Federated Music Clubs Musician of the Year and being recognized by Sweet Adelines for her dedication to the organization and her years of teaching vocal music and performance skills to singers in a six-state region. She's helped judge several Junior Miss and Young Miss Scholarship Pageants in Cheyenne County and the 2012 District Junior High Vocal Music Contest.

Before moving back to St. Fran-

cis from Sterling, Colo., she directed church choirs for 42 years and the award-winning Windsong Choir for 30 years. She was also a member of the Sterling Arts Council and Orpheus Music Club; and she sang with the Sterling Silver Quartet, a comedy group who performed all over the tri-state area for 38 years.

Now she directs the Cheyenne County Community Chorus of 60-plus singers from all over Cheyenne County, with its principal benefactor being the local Food Pantry. This year the chorus sang once again sing at Salem Lutheran's annual "Christmas in the Country," a German-English service.

"She is the one who taught me 'Volunteering has the true gift of both helping another person, as well as yourself,'" said Scott Carmichael, her son.

Bruce and Donita Baird

Bruce and Donita Baird have been members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Brewster since 1989. Bruce has served on the property committee for many years, and last year made many repairs on the parsonage, assisting with its potential sale. He has served on the church council for two six-year terms. On Sundays he opens the church, sets the temperature, makes coffee, and assists as lay leader for worship.

Donita serves on the parish education and evangelism/stewardship committees. She's into her second six-year term on the church council and currently is council

City participates in flood program

The city of St. Francis has joined over 21,000 communities nationwide that are allowed to purchase federally-backed flood insurance. This availability follows the community's adoption and enforcement of ordinances to reduce flood losses and acceptance by the National Flood Insurance Program.

The city is now a participant in the program effective on Sept. 12. Residents of St. Francis will be able to purchase flood insurance up to the limits under the regular phase of the program. However, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage goes into effect.

For single-family dwellings, the building coverage limit is \$250,000, and the contents coverage limit is \$100,000. Renters

can also protect their belongings by purchasing contents coverage. For commercial properties, the building and contents coverage limits are both \$500,000.

Lenders must require borrowers whose properties are located in a designated flood hazard area to purchase flood insurance as a condition of receiving a federally backed mortgage loan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

The National Flood Insurance Program is implemented through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. There are over 5.5 million flood insurance policies in more than 21,000 participating communities nationwide. Participation in the flood program is required to receive FEMA funds.



Thank You!

Now that we are all home, it's time for a big thank you to some very special friends. First of all, a grateful thank you goes out to Dr. Allard for her compassion and professionalism with me and my family. We were truly blessed to be under her watchful eye when we were faced with a heartbreaking dilemma. We couldn't have asked for a more competent staff at the clinic, hospital and the EMTs. Your faithful commitment to this community is a true testament to your profession. Big thanks to the United Methodist Thrift Store. Your monetary gift to us and The Ronald McDonald House were greatly appreciated. To our friend, Linda Rogers. Thank you for all your caring thoughtfulness, especially with Madison. To my very best friend, Vinecia (Krien) Haugsness. Your heartfelt concern and kindness will always be remembered. To those who sent cards, prayers or a phone call, we so much appreciated your concern. To our families, when we needed you, you were always there to cheer us up and give us moral support. With the help and support of this wonderful community, we are pleased to say that our daughter, Riley, is doing well and growing every day. Thank you for sharing your love and concern.

Brian, Kaycee, Madison & Riley

WAY TO GO INDIANS!



ST. FRANCIS JUNIOR HIGH A TEAM 2012 NWKL CHAMPIONS — COACH DAVID MORROW, TAYLOR ROGERS, QUINTON CRAVENS, TATE BUSSE, JEREMIAH NEITZEL, JOEL HILL, JR LANDENBERGER, CONNOR MCBRIDE. PICTURE COURTESY OF KENT KECHTER

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