

Generation seeks authenticity

By Aaron Duell
Staff reporter

It has been established that the 20-something generation doesn't like to go to church. But what is the church doing about it?

There is local effort to appeal to the 20-somethings in Winfield, but whether or not the effort of the church in general is sufficient is yet to be seen.

Precious Little

There has been no massive effort to make church appealing to 20-somethings. Steve Rankin, campus minister, said, "Many churches try to have a youth group of some sort. Beyond that, we're doing precious little to help young people in the church."

The 20-somethings tend to go to some sort of youth group during their high school years, but many will stop attending church after graduation.

Most of these people go through college without finding a church to attend regularly. It's not until these people are in their 30s that

they begin to start coming back to church. By this time, the 20-somethings have aged to 30-somethings and have families. Raising a family then draws people back to church.

There is one critical component that appears to be missing is relationships between young people and older generations.

"Students like the fact that they are part of a family in church," said Kevin Hopkins, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church.

Rankin said the church has appeared to be welcoming to 20-somethings while underneath, they are not really welcoming. Rankin said, "We like young people but we don't really." An intergenerational convergence must take place to make church members feel like family.

"There needs to be a more of a spirit of openness to young people, which means older people are going to have to change some things," said Rankin. "It starts with a willingness to say 'Okay young people I'm listening. I'm willing to share this space with

you."

Local Effort

Hopkins said, "We have to think outside the box. We have to meet college students where they're at." Grace United Methodist Church plans several different things to appeal to young people, more specifically college students. "We have to get away from the idea that students come on Sunday morning," said Hopkins.

Grace and several other churches often combine two things that greatly appeal to college students, sleeping in and eating. "Sunday school and lunch are in the afternoon rather than being a Sunday morning thing," said Hopkins.

Often lunch and Sunday school are planned and hosted by older people in the church. This helps bring the generations together.

The United Methodist Church divides Kansas into two conferences, each governing themselves with their own budget. Winfield is in the West Conference. The conference allotted money to address the problem of encouraging the

20-somethings to attend church. Rankin said, "I think we're throwing a little money at it and hoping it will take care of itself."

The West Conference started a campaign to help bring young people into the church. Hopkins said, "They passed \$4.2 million campaign which really stresses the importance of bridging that gap to the next generation."

One thing this campaign addresses is promoting campus ministries. This directly affects a large portion of 20-somethings.

Hopkins says it is not a matter of worship style that draws in young people. He said, "They'll come regardless of whether we are traditional or contemporary." What the 20-somethings seek can't be simplified to guitars versus organs. It's a matter of authenticity.

This is the second article in a series about young people and the church.

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Actors juggle multiple productions

By Adam Dees
Staff reporter

Going from class to meetings to rehearsal is all in a day's work for Hayley Vogt, theatre and psychology senior.

Vogt plays Barbara in "Nickel and Dimed" next week and Eagerfame in "Eagerheart" in December. She is rehearsing for multiple theatre productions at the same time.

She said, "It's an enjoyable challenge. Working with dif-

ferent directors and styles enhances and expands my acting ability."

Vogt said, "The two characters I play are juxtaposed from each other. One is a middle class writer trying to experience the low-wage working experience. In five minutes I have to switch to Eagerfame. She's a pompous arrogant sister of Eagerheart, the main character, and Eagersense, the embodiment of wisdom."

When she needs time to relax, Vogt goes walking, drinks

good tea or coffee, swims, knits scarves, stargazes, and prays.

Brianne Simon, theatre sophomore, also has roles in both "Eagerheart" and "Nickel and Dimed." This time crunch creates stress for her. She said, "Only having three weeks to rehearse is incredibly fast. Trying to balance everything and keeping in good health creates stress for me."

Simon said, "Between rehearsals and homework, I try not to think about the situation. I

keep myself from being idle and sitting around. It is nice to take 45 minutes for dinner to relax and tell stories about the day. It's like family time."

The theatre department coordinates the multiple productions to ensure rehearsals aren't scheduled at the same time.

Allyson Moon, associate professor of theatre and speech, is directing "Nickel and Dimed" and Roger Moon, associate professor of theatre and speech and theatre program director, directs

"Eagerheart."

"Nickel and Dimed" plays at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15, 16 and 17 in Richardson Auditorium.

"Eagerheart" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 and 3 p.m. Dec. 2 in Richardson Auditorium.

Abram Rankin, undeclared sophomore, plays in "Eagerheart" and "Nickel and Dimed."

He saved time to be in theatre. "I don't always have anxiety. I have high energy and use

that energy up in theatre," said Rankin.

He relaxes by doing things he enjoys. He said, "I like working on sets from 10 o'clock to midnight on weeknights. The people working blast music ranging from show tunes to 'Red Hot Chili Peppers.' We dance if we feel like it and mindlessly paint."

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college is making minor changes such as replacing energy inefficient light bulbs and making sure automatically-controlled lighting is shutting off at the indicated times of the day.

The team hopes to initiate some major changes around campus in the future.

Cowlishaw said that it would be exciting to see some addi-

tions such as a wind turbine, or other "green" energy sources.

However, big projects such as that will require getting other people involved to make these things happen, like alumni and community members.

Gaskill said that she got involved to help make improvements to the school and because she feels it is a great cause.

Her favorite part of being involved with this project is that

she hopes to improve not only the college, but also the environment. Gaskill said, "Hopefully, research will continue each year and the college will operate as green as possible."

Joiner wanted to be a part of making a difference on campus. "The best way to make our costs lower is to see where exactly the expenses are being made," he said.

Southwestern's efforts are

part of a bigger picture going on all over the globe to attempt to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses.

Joiner said, "I think that this campus can save more energy, and then make goals toward a global initiative."

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surgeon in Salina, he performed the first laparoscopic gallbladder removal in North Central Kansas, the first laparoscopic hiatal hernia repair in that area, and (with a classmate) the first laparoscopic gallbladder removal in Madrid, Spain. He served on the Science Advisory Council at Southwestern College continuously beginning in 1985.

—Pies from page 1

either freeze them and bring them home for Thanksgiving. Wilke has offered her oven to those students without one. The smell will welcome in the fall season, and the first bite will comfort the taste buds.

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—Classic from page 1

down with the family after the funeral. "They wanted a memorial for her and we tried to figure out what would be best-served. We decided to host the classic in her name. As long as I'm here at Southwestern, we'll have a classic here in her honor."

Patterson was one of a kind. She had a work ethic like none other, and had a passion for the sport. Denly said, "She was one of the hardest working, toughest kids I've ever coached. She just loved playing a game."

Sheleah Taylor, director of campus life, played with Patterson for two years and lived next door to her off campus.

She said, "She was very competitive. She always had that Tara smile on her face. She would come off a little more arrogant because she

had high self esteem with herself."

Taylor said she and Patterson were alike. "She was a very warmhearted person. She was always a go-getter.

We played the same position so we were very competitive."

There were times early in Patterson's career when she butted heads with Denly.

Denly said, "Her and I weren't always on the same page but we always had the same goals in mind. That was for her to be as good as she could be and the team be as good as they could be."

Patterson left an impact on the Southwestern community.

"She was here for three years and left a tremendous impact. A lot of times you don't know what a kid means until they have been gone or something like this happens. She touched everyone's heart. On the court she was a

fan favorite," said Denly.

"She lived life to the fullest and unfortunately she was taken from us a lot earlier than we would have liked. God has his own plan and I'm sure she still keeps a close eye on what's going on here."

Although the tragedy ended one life, it helped others realize how valuable life is.

Taylor said, "I'm thankful because I'm here and I'm blessed because I'm approached with a lot of hard situations. I thank God everyday that I'm here and able to be an impact on students lives the same way she would have."

The Tara Patterson Memorial Coca-Cola Classic is in its sixth year. The tournament will be Friday and Saturday in Stewart Field House.

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When you hear the name Tara Patterson, T-Pat, or even T, you would probably remember her bright smile that you would always see.

She was a true champion in her 23 years, although, it is difficult to see amidst the pain and tears.

Tara made every single moment count, all she ever gave was the complete, and maximum amount.

She was always the one to take that risk or chance, and even God knows, that girl could dance.

Tara never let up and was always prepared, even when a suspicious below-the-waist injury flared.

#10 will always be a special part of Southwestern women's basketball, and Tara's inspirational tradition will never fall.

She was sent by God to touch our lives in a certain way, but, now, all the players in heaven, are quickly learning, just how well she could play.

Even though she is in heaven, and we are apart, whether on the court or off, she will forever be in our hearts.

---By a former teammate



Patterson