PROTEST

Protest flags to bring as many pro-life advocates as in past years

Cara March

The annual Kirksville anti-abortion prayer vigil organized in largest number of participants during last year’s event.

Only a handful of pro-choice supporters were present. The pro-life demonstration composed of local church members, pro-choice advocates and independent supporters took place all day along Main Street.

“When our community first did this in ’93, we had between 500-600 participants,” coordinator Sharon Smith said. “We’re never bad number that again.”

Over the years the number of participants has declined markedly. Right to Life coordinator Cara March said about 80 people showed up for Sunday’s Life Chain. This is lower than the 300-plus people who showed up to protest last year. Smith said she is not sure why the number keeps going downhill. “It’s possible that people are becoming disillusioned,” she said. “I would think maybe [because] the issue, which is unpopular.”

She said some students are becoming prophet and think there is no need to participate because others will be protesting. This demonstration takes place throughout the United States and Canada. Supporters plan to meet in various cities, some reading “Adoption Changes Options” and “Abortion Kills Children.”

The concept of the Life Chain began in the late ’80s north of Houston. By the number of participants there was higher in the fall of 93 but has declined over the years.

“Perhaps people are tired of doing this and have given up,” Gates said. “The reason we are all doing this is because it is time to make a statement for this issue of life,” Gates said. As Christians, the loving thing that is strongest. She said this is also a time to pray that God will intervene.

Gates said about 20 area churches participated. The Newman Center, Sigma Gamma, Sigma Sigma Sigma and others had participants who demonstrated.

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CASA’s Women’s Center Spiegel said only 100-150 people showed up one year in opposition to the event before the demonstration.

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