

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

June 2013

One of my favorite stories in the Bible occupies just 5 short verses in Luke chapter 10. It falls right after Jesus' great parable of the Good Samaritan, and right before Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer. Situated between those two famous passages of scripture is a short little story about two women. If you happened to be in a hurry while reading through the Book of Luke, you might even skim right past it.

Jesus came to a small village, where a woman named Martha opened up her home to him and all the disciples. I can only imagine the challenges of cooking and preparing space for 13 travel-weary men (at least!). Before they all could eat, Jewish culture dictated that each man must bathe in clean water. Just retrieving enough clean water for 13 baths, in the days before running water, must have been a monumental task alone. Add on to that everything else that a good host must do to properly care for her guests, and you can begin to imagine the amount of work that must be done to take in Jesus and his disciples for a single night.

So Martha is running around cooking a feast of a dinner, preparing extra beds in every corner of her house, fetching gallons and gallons of water for baths, and attending every other need her guests might dream up – and all the while her sister, Mary, is sitting around listening to Jesus teach his disciples. Martha, in her exhaustion, comes up to Jesus and demands, “Tell my sister to help me.”

And Jesus says, “Martha, Martha. You are worried about a great many things, but only one thing is truly important. Mary has chosen what is best and it will not be taken from her.”

Jesus tells us that just sitting and learning about God is more important than all the preparations, all the responsibilities, and all of the other tasks that we appoint ourselves. Just sitting and being with God should be a higher priority to us than anything else.

Summer is a wild and busy time. Between the things we want to do while the weather is pleasant, the things we must do for our work or children, and all the random tasks that always seem to need doing, our summers often fill up very very quickly. But the truth is that not everything we feel we must do is as important as it seems. According to Jesus, there is one thing that matters more than anything else, and that is simply sitting and being with God.

We all are going to be busy this summer, chasing after our thousand different things to do and keep up with, but don't forget to take time to stop and simply be with God. There is one thing that is truly important. Do not let the lesser things of like take that from you.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian's Contact Info:

Email: Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org

Cell phone: 818-388-9779

Meet the Members MTM

Every family is unique and the Sherwins are no exception. They first met in Glidden kindergarten but there was no spark on their first acquaintance. In fact Marlene tells the story about a birthday party for Frank in kindergarten and she fell asleep during the party. Frank must not have been too impressive. Frank and Marlene have a long history connected to Glidden, Iowa. For a little background Frank's grandmother was Luella Everts and his mother was Ruth Everts and she was a sister of Polly Pratt. Everts and Pratts were long time members of the Presbyterian Church.

Marlene's parents were George and Zelma Steigerwalt long time residence of Glidden.

During the early years of childhood Marlene was stable with her family living in Glidden but Frank was another story. Frank was born in Omaha, Nebraska moved to California later to Tulsa, Oklahoma and to Glidden in 1943. The family moved to 18173 Sycamore Ave. where the Sherwins now live in 1944 then relocated to Arizona in 1948 and back to Glidden in 1955, These moves makes one tired just reading about all of them.

In 1959 Marlene departed Glidden and attended a business college in Omaha, while Frank packed his bags and went off to Iowa State University but graduating from Colorado in marketing. Once, far away from home, they began to think about that pretty girl in kindergarten and the big strapping boy that used to live in Glidden. At this time in their lives they began dating and were married in March of 1963 at the Presbyterian Church with Pastor Dune Heap performing the ceremony. Make a note of the year they were married and one realizes they celebrated 50 years of marriage this past March.

Marlene began her first job at Cudahy Packing Plant in Omaha. Once the couple moved to Fullerton, Calif. Marlene worked in the business office of IBM for 30 years. These were the glory day of IBM and computers were on the rise. Innovation, rapid growth,

and new technology was the driver at IBM during Marlene's career.

Frank' career began in Colorado as a chemical sales engineer. He traveled Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana and Idaho. Once they moved to Fullerton, Frank also became a computer junkie as he installed computers. Later the company developed the use of bar codes that record much information from these bars. Frank really enjoyed this line of work and the development of new technology. Frank worked on high value programs with the Federal Aviation Association installing extensive control systems.

This couple has always been involved in traveling. Even as a young person George and Zelma Steigerwalt would load up Marlene and her siblings and head for the East or West Coast. Because money was tight the family slept in Grand Central Station for one night and this became a memorable event in their family. Marlene and Frank have traveled throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada and visited eleven countries in Europe, Costa Rica, Australia, New Zealand and other areas

When asked what was the best advice they had received Frank said his father told him, "Don't stop with the first no". Marlene said she received daily advice from her parents and the older she get the wiser that advice appears.

"Don't stop with the first no."

The Sherwins had no children of their own so all children are precious to them. In fact one of their nieces lived with them for two years and two nephews lived with them for another period.

For hobbies Marlene has played golf and likes it very much and plans to become more involved this summer. Frank has his pilot's license and from 1972 to 2008 he and four partners owned their own airplane. They owned several airplanes but never more than one at a time. Frank and Marlene told many stories about weather problems and mechanical problems but never experienced a close call. Unless you are flying at 11,000 feet and smell smoke and call it a close call.

Frank and Marlene consider the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden as their home church as this is the church they grew up surrounded by friend and family. They do express a deep concern for the church as the size of the congregation dwindles. Young people move away to pursue a job and the older generation just fades away. They also remember the junior high and high school numbers of the past and how limited the numbers are today. They point out the church has lost the choir, Mariners, Sunday school classes and many events throughout the year that can no longer be staffed.

The Sherwins spend about seven months a year at their home in California which is located in Morgan Hills, California. At their California home the city is out their front door and farms appear out their back door. First, is an oat field, then meadow for cattle grazing and then some sod covered hills. Frank points out the tremendous traffic problem in California, which adds 2-4 hours commuting time to every workday, is unlike Glidden, Iowa. Long hours at work leave little time to socialize therefore there is limited relationships with neighbors.

At their farm in Glidden it was a very peaceful setting. We were there on a sun filled morning and it was quiet and one could see for miles. The Sherwins are repairing the outbuildings as time permits. The setting of this century farm is what Norman Rockwell pictured in his drawing.

Organization Structure

In a lot of organizations there is an extensive chain of command. Normally a business has oversight provided by the board of directors, followed by a chief executive officer and the organization structure grows depending upon the size of the organization. A larger organization may have a chief financial officer, human resource officer, chief operating officer, vice presidents, safety engineer and other responsible positions that direct the company.

In an organization such as the First Presbyterian Church we have a board of directors called the session. The pastor and session members fill most slots. The pastor of a small church is called upon to wear several hats.

So it is with our church, the pastor is responsible for many areas. Our session is responsible for oversight and overall direction of the church with much input from the pastor.

This past month Pastor Brian was in Iowa City, on two different occasions and visited members in the hospital and nursing homes in our location.

Through his schedule Pastor Brian spends time in continuing education of two weeks and four weeks of vacation. For instance, this past year Pastor Brian is following this pre-approved schedule.

March 10-12 - Pastor Brian spent these days off visiting a friend in Indiana.

April 8-15 – Attended a Presbyterian seminar on Leadership in the church. This week's conference was held in California.

April 15 – 22 – This was a vacation week as Pastor Brian observed his 30th birthday with friends.

The session is fully aware of these activities to expand and grow in leadership as he is called upon to serve in a capacity of many different functions. In a small church a pastor can learn about the overall workings of an organization by being involved.

A Problem Solved

On Pentecost Sunday Pastor Brian spoke on the text in Luke whereby Jesus taught using a parable of the rich man who lived the life of leisure and feasted sumptuously every day and at the rich man's gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table.

This was a parable but Pastor Brian spoke of similar events he had witnessed in Los Angeles, Mexico, China and other areas around the world. In fact, the DM Register reported of two immigrants who migrated to this country illegally. These two men, who lived in Iowa, were injured in an accident and taken to a hospital in Des Moines. These victims were in a comatose condition. Rather than treat them the hospital elected to charter a private jet airplane and fly them home to a hospital in their country while still in a comatose condition. This is a terrible story and one that should not happen in America or any place.

There are many such stories of people in Iowa who have struggled to receive adequate medical care, though few are quite so dramatic. Most recently Medicaid dictated that poor people in Iowa who need medical attention had to go to Broadlawns General Hospital in Des Moines or to the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City for treatment. These people were required to arrange transportation to one of these two hospitals, wait for treatment and travel home. A very long trip if one lived in western Iowa. They could have received the same treatment at their local hospital but Medicaid would not pay for the same services at a local hospital.

At the session meeting on May 22nd the session addressed this burdensome rule and were investigating the steps needed to call for a change. We were preparing to learn about the issue, and perhaps write letters or meet with the proper officials.

Apparently, having heard that the session of Glidden Presbyterian Church was concerned about this issue, the state legislature sprang into action. Mere hours after our session meeting, Senate File 446 was debated and later brought to a vote. This bill passed and with the Governor's signature will become law.

Now, patients can be treated at their local hospitals and Medicaid will pay for these services. This breaks the monopoly once held by these two hospitals but more important it relieves the burden of people traveling a great distance for medical services.

Very often, the difference between a person receiving help or simply suffering alone through the trials of life, is whether or not they are seen by someone who is willing to help. Most of us would not require a poor person to drive several hours to receive medical care, but few of us saw that our neighbors had to do so. The only way that we can truly aid our neighbors is to watch carefully for signs that they might be in need. Change can come, but only if we are willing to identify situations in which change is necessary.

Quotes of the Month

"Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church"

"Many folks want to serve God but only as advisors"

"God grades on the cross, not the curve"

"No one is in charge of your happiness except you"

"The garden of Eden was in Iraq"

Bible Banter

1.) *Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?*

*****Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.**

2.) A pastor decided to visit his church members one Saturday. At one particular house it was clear to the pastor that someone was home, but nobody came to the door. The pastor knocked several times and finally took out his card and wrote on the back:

Revelation 3:20 - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him and he with me."

The next day the same card showed up in the collection plate. Below the pastors message was another scripture passage.

It read *Genesis 3:10 - "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself."*

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

3rd-Diane Thelin
3rd-Brad and Heather Mueggenberg Anniversary
11th-Keith and Suzy Danner Anniversary
12th-Bruce Dettermann
13th-Ed and Mary Walkup Anniversary
15th-Matt and Rhonda Conner Anniversary
19th-Rick and Tami Burdine Anniversary
20th-Russ Draves
22nd-Cal Hughes
24th-Duane and Joyce Conner
24th-Alexis Detterman
29th-Madison Christensen
30th-Darly Raisch



Announcements:

***The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, **June 12th** at 11:30am.

***Next Session Meeting **June 19th** at 7pm in the Church Basement

***Bible Study meets at 10:00am in the church basement on the last Wednesday of every month.

***Communion takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

Do you have anything you would like to add or see in the monthly newsletter?

***If so please contact Lindsey at lcose@schenkelbergimpco.com ***