

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

July 2013

In my personal readings this month, I stumbled upon a letter written by George Washington to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. My father has oft quoted the contents of this letter to me, but I had not previously known that Washington had written specifically to us Presbyterians.

The letter reads in part,

"No man, who is profligate in his morals, or a bad member of the civil community, can possibly be a true Christian, or a credit to his own religious society.

I desire you to accept my acknowledgements for your laudable endeavors to render men sober, honest, and good Citizens, and the obedient subjects of lawful government; as well as your prayers to Almighty God for his blessing on our common country."

In the correspondence between the General Assembly and President Washington, it is clear that both parties believed that they could share a common purpose. Good Christians make good citizens and poor citizens often make poor Christians. Washington recognized that the work of the church in calling men and women to a higher moral standard also had the effect of turning them into better citizens of this nation.

Our denomination has long valued education, hard work, and the twin freedoms of thought and discourse. In these things, we have often walked hand-in-hand with our national leaders to improve "our common country."

This month we will celebrate our nation's 237th birthday. It has been a long road, and both our denomination and our country have made severe mistakes on the journey to the present. We have not always been the moral leaders Washington envisioned us to be, and our political leaders have often failed to pay heed during our moments of wisdom. Both our country and our denomination split as a result of the debate to end slavery. Both quietly participated in the theft of native lands. Both have struggled to live up to their ideals. However, despite our failures, I believe that today we hold a more perfect union than the one Washington helped create.

The Bible tells us that our true citizenship lies in Heaven, in God's holy kingdom. Our home lies not in the fields of Iowa, but on the golden streets of the New Jerusalem. Today we might be Americans, but there will come a day when we will only see ourselves as children of God. Until that day comes, I hope that we can share a common purpose with the nation in which we live.

Happy birthday America, and here's to another 237 years.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

The spotlight for this month's Meet the Members illuminates Mike and Linda McClellan as our feature family. They live on a small acreage east of Glidden at 30051 190th Street.

Linda was a native of Glidden and the daughter of the late Roy and Evelyn Hartwigsen. She attended Glidden-Ralston School graduating in 1972. Following graduation she attended Iowa State University in Ames and later graduated from DMACC.

Mike has a much more diverse background as he was born in Denison and lived there just one year. From this early beginning Mike lived in Carroll, Des Moines, and Glidden where he met Linda in high school. He moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he graduated in 1973. After finishing high school, he returned to Glidden and reconnected with Linda.

Mike and Linda were married on August 31, 1974. The ceremony was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden with Pastor Andrew Bosman performing the ceremony.

From this marriage Mike and Linda have two daughters - Michelle Daniel was born in 1976 in Carroll and Kate was born in 1981 in Naples, Italy. Kate is married to Chris Sparks. The McClellan's have four grandchildren: Alex Daniel and Caleb, Carter and Kiera Sparks.

Family is very important to the McClellan's. Usually every Sunday night they have a family and friends gathering at the acreage, cooking and enjoying each other's company. They consider these gatherings on Sunday evenings a real highlight.

Following their marriage Mike joined the Navy and became a Seabee and attained the rank of a 1st Class Petty Officer or an E-6. Mike and


Linda spent 17 years in the Navy and traveled throughout the world. Linda and the girls were not able to travel to every station where Mike was assigned but they made many stops in foreign lands. Mike was stationed in places like Antarctica; Moscow, Russia; Frankfurt, Germany; Naples, Italy; Northern Virginia and other spots around the globe.

After 17 years as a Seabee Mike was offered early retirement with a promise that his retirement would be based upon a full twenty years of service. The military was in a downsizing mode so Mike retired in 1995.


They purchased the acreage in 1993 when Linda and daughters moved here from Virginia before Mike retired. Since moving to this location they have added a kitchen and living room to their home, a garage and a new shop which is separate from the garage. Mike is quick to point out that living on the acreage is rewarding because the past twenty years in Glidden is the longest he has lived in any one place. In fact the couple has moved at least 10 times during their 39 years of marriage.

Linda has spent the last 12 years in accounting at American Home Shield. Mike spent three years at Ullrich Farms in Kiron working for a large farm operation. In February of this year Mike began employment at Bowie Manufacturing in Lake City.

As one might imagine based on their history these two people love to travel. Each summer they hop on their motorcycle and spend at least a week traveling. This year they plan to take in the Black Hills and Spearfish, S.D. and eventually end up in Gillette, Wyoming before heading home.



"You must work for whatever you get."



Mike credits his grandparents for good influences on his life. Mike's grandfather repeated several times a statement that rings in his ears yet today,

"You must work for whatever you get". This advice, plus the Hartwigsen influence comes through strong today as this couple does not shy away from work.

Linda was raised in the Pleasant Ridge Church and she learned many biblical teachings from those days. She applies many of these teachings in her life on a daily basis.

In 2014 Mike and Linda will celebrate forty years of marriage. Plans are now being developed to celebrate this blessed event with a trip to visit friends and destinations in England and Scotland.

Mike and Linda are a welcomed couple in the Glidden community and we congratulate them on 39 years of marriage and wish them and their families the best life has to offer for many years in the future.

What We've Been Reading

A short excerpt from America the Beautiful by Dr. Ben Carson

After [my friend] finished his engineering degree, he went to work for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Once while travelling, as the plane was landing, he noticed that the lady sitting next to him was extremely frightened by the plane's unstable descent. My friend is a very smart and creative young man, and he consequently designed a stabilization system for aircraft landing. For this magnificent invention with wide applications, he was given a \$500 bonus by the FAA. Feeling that his talents were unappreciated and certainly not properly compensated, he decided to seek an engineering job in the private sector. On hearing about his experience with the FAA, his new employer assured him that if he came up with another great invention he would receive 20 percent of the profits.

Well, the young man did come up with another fabulous invention - one, in fact, that

resulted in a \$300 million profit for the company. To celebrate their success, the company held a ceremony, during which they were going to recognize my friend for his contribution. He invited his parents and many of his friends to be present when he would receive his check for \$60 million. During the ceremony, [however], the CEO of the company called him to the state and presented him with a plaque and a glazed ham. The next day, the young man confronted the CEO in his office and asked about the \$60 million. The CEO replied that it had been decided that they would invest that \$60 million in the further development of the company and that it would all be made right with him in the long run. My inventor friend tendered his resignation immediately and started to walk away when the CEO stopped him, walked over to his desk, and wrote a check for \$75 thousand, which he handed to him. My friend tore up the check, threw it in the CEO's face, and walked out with the intention of starting his own company...

As his inventive genius was given the opportunity it needed to succeed, his company grew and prospered, and he ultimately sold it for a nine-figure amount when he retired at age forty, which was his dream. Even though he is now extremely wealthy, he continues to work and engage in charitable endeavors to advance science and engineering education in America.

My friend's story of being taken advantage of is only one example of how greed can manifest itself within the capitalist system. Unfortunately, however, greed is a significant drawback for *any* economic model, including communism and socialism. No one can justify ascribing a flaw in human character to one economic model or another, for greed is a human weakness seen in all societies.

In the Bible, God instituted a system of tithing, which means giving 10 percent of one's profits back to God. Since God is all powerful and owns everything, he certainly does not need any percentage of our profits. So why did he institute tithing? Could it be that he understood that all human beings are subject to greed and that by requiring them to give away 10 percent of their profits they might learn a valuable lesson about not hoarding and about voluntary sharing with others?

Capital Campaign 2013

In the May issue of this newsletter the Building and Grounds committee reported on some of the future repairs needed on the church to preserve this building. The committee listed projects that needed attention such as the bell tower repair, replacement of some shingles, tuck pointing of specific areas of the outside walls, gutters, downspouts and window repair. The church has not spent a great deal of money in the last 30 years except for exterior doors, repair of outside steps and carpet on the front steps.

We visited a little about these repairs at the Annual Meeting and since then the Session has received reports from the Building and Grounds committee nearly each month on how the church should proceed.

The committee has received some estimates but they are just estimates as hidden deterioration may be an unforeseen problem that will not be revealed until the project is underway. Committee members will stay on top of additional costs and will make sound judgment on additional repairs needed. So far the Session has approved three projects and they are:

Estimated range of costs

Bell Tower repair	\$13,500. – 18,000
Tuck pointing damaged areas	12,000. - 18,000
Replacing areas of shingles	8,000. - 13,000
Total range of estimated costs	\$33,500. - \$49,000

These are mighty hefty figures when one considers the church is presently failing to meet on-going operational costs by \$3,000-5,000 per month. With this in mind the session has elected to preserve current reserves to cover future operational costs and develop a capital campaign for repairs of the church building. The session has established a goal of \$33,500 to \$49,000 to cover these projects. If the church raises more than the goal the excess funds will be left in the Building Fund and be used for other projects.

The session will accept, from members, a onetime cash contribution or a pledge covering three years for the building fund. In any event this should not be an insurmountable goal for the church. We have fewer members and some members are unable to give large amounts therefore those remaining members will need to make a rather large commitment for the building fund in addition to the regular giving to cover operational costs.

As one pastor put it so wisely as he announced the building of a new church. He said, "We are going to build a new church and we have the money to cover the cost. The only problem, the money is in your bank account and not ours".

Once the capital committee begins to meet we will share more with the congregation as progress is made. In the meantime these three projects will be moving forward this summer. Let all of us look at this project as a worthy opportunity and get behind it and bring it to a healthy conclusion by December 31, 2013.

Capital Campaign Committee

Wayne Seaman, Chairperson

Quotes of the Month

"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it,
but what they become by it" John Ruskin

"Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it" Benjamin Franklin

"We tend to get what we expect" Norman Vincent Peale

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the
principal difference between a dog and a man" Mark Twain

Bible Banter

How did Moses make his tea?
"Hebrewed" it

Who is the shortest man in the Bible?
Nehemiah (KneehighMiah)

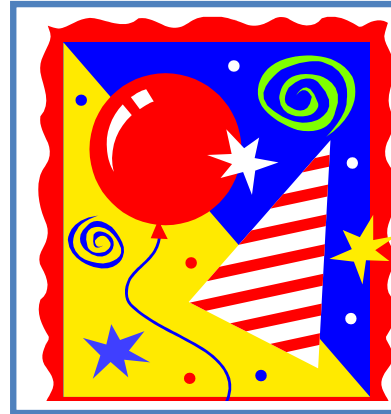
What do they call pastors in Germany?
German Shepherds.

Thank You!!!

The church service and bar-b-que in the park on Sun., June 2, went well considering it was a little chilly. Parish Life committee wants to thank all who came and brought great food, as well as Keith Danner for the grill and Brad Mueggenberg for the grilling. Approximately 23 attended the service with about 19 sharing the picnic.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd –Abby White
4th - Alexia Nelson
8th - Jennifer Flemming
12th - Elizabeth Burdine
14th -Carson Mueggenberg
16th - Cal Riedesel
18th -Randy and Jennie Christensen Anniversary
19th -Mary Fairchild
19th -Bill Crawford
19th -Bill and Elaine Crawford Anniversary
21st -Lindsey Cose
23rd - Pilar Arellano
31st -Lynne Lamp



Announcements:

***The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, July 10th at 11:30am.

***Next Session Meeting July 24th 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@schenkelbergimpc.com ***