

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

August 2013

“Two are better than one, because if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.” – Ecclesiastes 4:9,10

On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of this month, one of my closest friends will be coming to Iowa to visit me for a period of three weeks. His name is Peter Gent and I have spoken about him several times in church. He has spent the past few years living and working in Beijing, China, and is on his way to attend Oxford University in England, starting this Fall.

We first met at UC San Diego because I lost the lottery. New undergraduate students at UCSD were only guaranteed one year of on campus housing, and we had a lottery to see who would be able to live on campus the second year. Losing that lottery was one of the luckiest things to ever happen to me. As a result, I moved in with a few random graduate students and among them was Peter.

Peter was studying biology in a very well respected PhD program. I believed that attempting to find a cure for cancer was far too banal of a pursuit for such an interesting person, so I sabotaged his research and talked him into following me to Fuller Seminary to study theology. (Sabotage may be a slight exaggeration, but I did once unlock and enter his lab late at night, stomp around in muddy boots, and contaminate a plurality of his experiments. He was not pleased.)

We bonded primarily through church. We both were committed Christians that just didn't seem able to fit in with everyone else. My Presbyterian roots caused me to chafe at the Fundamentalist structure of our church, and Peter always has his own unique way of doing things. That church was not a very healthy place for the two of us, but we were committed members. We drove together to church faithfully, every Sunday, only to complain about the pastor's theology on the car ride home. Our pastor once (accidentally) condemned us both to hell during a sermon, but turned around and denied having done so afterward.

Every struggle, failure, and dispute, we shared together. When I fell, he lifted me up. When he struggled, I provided whatever aid I could. My Mother has promised Peter that he always has a second home in Los Angeles and a second family, should he need one.

Had it not been for Peter, I do not know if I would have achieved what I have. I do not know if I would have made it to Glidden, without his support. However, I do know that without him, I would be scarred and broken – in comparison to who I am today. Peter is a friend who has always given me strength.

I hope that you will all enjoy meeting Peter as he visits in late August. But more importantly, I hope that you all have a friend like Peter.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

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## Meet the Members MTM

This month's feature is on the oldest member of the First Presbyterian Church and his name is Dr. Robert Wagner. Bob was born in Glidden in the home now occupied by Shirley Mosman, on December 12, 1920. Bob was later joined by two sisters where he grew up and graduated from Glidden Consolidated School.

The Wagner family had a 300 gal, tank in the attic to provide the home with running water. As a young boy, Bob's job was to pump water from the cistern to the storage tank on a regular basis. The original Glidden school building was built prior to Bob beginning his school days. Bob told us the boys played baseball at school on a regular basis. He also stated the tennis courts were in a run-down state and school officials plus students worked together to restore the courts to playable conditions. The Glidden basketball court was inside the original building and was a two story structure. Fans would sit around the base of the court while other fans would sit at the second level and look down on the action. As the present basketball gymnasium was built the old gymnasium was turned into classrooms.

One interesting side bar in Bob's life was how he met his future wife. A friend of Bob's, Raymond Ross, had a date with a Carroll girl by the name of Virginia Buddin but Raymond had no car. So Raymond asked Bob if he would drive him to Carroll so Raymond and Virginia could spend time together. Bob liked what he saw in Virginia and arranged a date with her for the next night.

Bob and Virginia were married on January 24, 1942 and supported each other until Virginia died on March 7, 1999. For over 56 year these two were a couple after a chance meeting in Carroll, Iowa.

From this marriage Bob and Virginia raised six children. Bob was sharp as he recalled names, dates, spouses and grandchildren of his off-springs. He is very proud of his 15 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren. Members of the church get to meet Bob's children as they return to Glidden for a visit with Dad. Bob's children and spouses are Bob and Donna, Jerry and Susanne, Curtis

and Pat, Roxanne Mason, Janet and Steve Botsford and Kevin and Carol Wagner. Like many families they are now spread out all across the mid-west.



As reported earlier Bob graduated from Glidden and went on to attend Iowa State University majoring in Veterinary Medicine where he received his Doctorate degree. Upon graduation he and Virginia moved back to Glidden and practiced medicine with his father, also a veterinarian. Bob then went out on his own and practiced veterinary medicine in Coon Rapids, Titonka and Glidden before quitting practice October 25, 1965 and joined the United States

Department of Agriculture in Animal Health Inspections. Bob was

very proficient in administrative work and was called upon to move up and around. His first transfer from the Iowa USDA was to Kearney, Nebraska in 1969. In 1976 he was transferred to Jefferson City, Missouri and spent six years serving a vast area with other veterinarians reporting to him. In 1982 he was called to Washington, D.C. to oversee the animal health inspection of several states. He worked out of the Washington, D.C. office for five years and decided it was time to move back to Jefferson City, Missouri where the couple still owned a home. Bob retired October 31, 1986 at 66 years of age. Bob enjoyed his work with USDA as he spent a great deal of time dealing with the eradication of diseases such as scabies in sheep, brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle or hog cholera and in other administrative duties to ensure a safe and growing food supply for the populace.

Highlights of Bob's life has been his children and grandchildren plus his work. Bob reported that the loss of his father in a car accident was a shock to the family because it was so unexpected. The loss of his mother was a more normal passing as she died of a sickness 15 years after his dad was killed.

Church has always been important to Bob and Virginia regardless of where they lived. They would move to a new location and join a church in that new area. Bob speaks of First Presbyterian Church of Glidden with many fond memories. As a young boy Bob attended Sunday school where Andy Buss was the teacher. On several occasions Bob was a member of the Session and was active in the Mariners, a group in the church of young adults. In fact Bob and Virginia were Skippers of Presbytery Mariners and for four years were leaders of the church camp clean up, active in camp functions and their children attended camp.

Bob still enjoys playing cards, working with genealogy, having lunch at Congregate Meals in Carroll and attending church every Sunday. Bob was proud to show us his grandmother and grandfather's family Bible that was published in 1890 and is nearly six inches thick.

Bob has enjoyed excellent health in his life and has rarely been sick except a short battle with kidney stones. Our church is greatly blessed to have older people in our congregation who can communicate stories of the past. Our blessings are extended with young children in our midst. **Thank you Dr. Robert Wagner for all your years and service to advancing God's kingdom.**

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### Strangers When We Met

It was July 2013 and we had three granddaughter as guests. To break up the day we traveled to McDonalds for coffee and sodas. As we sat down we noticed four bicyclists sitting in a booth nearby, and we struck up a conversation with these young people.

We learned that two of them were riding across the United States while the other two started their trip in Denver and were headed to New York.

We met Francis Duvois whose home is 1420 Marie – Victorian in Varennes, Quebec, a suburb of Montreal, Canada. His travel mate was Jean-VhilippeDuboris, a gentleman also from Montreal. These two guys had flown to San Diego and were biking from San Diego to Montreal. Francis had taken off work from Coca Cola for 60 days to make the trip. Jean-Vhilippe had worked in a coffee shop but had quit his job to bike and return to college once the trip was complete. These two estimated their trip would cover 4000 miles once complete. They were raising funds for the muscular dystrophy foundation in Canada and in the USA.

The next two in the group were from Denver, Colorado. They lived at 2755 Humboldt Street. Bill Ross is the 42 year old father and Rip Van Ross is his 15 year old son. Bill is a photo journalist and does some writing and plans to publish events of his trip once complete. They had left Denver and were going to bike to New York for their vacation. I inquired how the two groups of two had met. Bill and Rip were sitting along highway 30, their route, in Osceola, Nebraska when Francis and Jean-Vhilippe passed by. Bill and son jumped on their bikes and chased the two Canadians for 15 miles before catching up with them. They had never met prior to this time. They determined there was safety in numbers as they decided to travel together until they arrived in Chicago. At this point in their trip they would take separate routes to Montreal and New York.

During their trip they sleep under the stars but seldom stay in parks as local official do not like people staying in parks after 10:30pm unless it is a camp ground. The night before they had set up camp on a small bluff overlooking highway 30 west of Carroll. They camped under a tree and felt secure because no one from the highway could see them.

I asked them if they had any unique experiences so far on this trip. One night the Canadians stopped in a bar in Utah and struck up a conversation with another patron in the bar. This new acquaintance owned a Cessna airplane and he asked them to take a ride with

him in the plane. They went on the ride and enjoyed it very much. Next they were biking along and came upon a road kill raccoon that was still fresh. They did not eat it but did cut off its tail and kept it with them for good luck!

These are people who are free spirits and they adhere to the following philosophy, "It is better to live a rich short life than living a long boring and dull life". They took our picture and placed it on their web site which is Camera72.tumblr.com and assured us that we would now be famous.

We bid farewell and we traveled to Glidden to visit the church. On the way home we met them, stopped one mile west of Glidden. We also stopped to see if they were having trouble. They said they almost got hit by a tractor-trailer and they were still frightened.

They asked about our trip to Glidden and our church denomination. We told them the Presbyterian Church had some roots in Scotland and told them a little about our church. We asked them if we could write their story for our church newsletter and they agreed. They even gave us their telephone number.

We had a delightful time meeting and chatting with people we had never met and most likely will never see again. The Seamans

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### ***Christian Ed***

*Imagine for a moment that the rest of your family was away for the day so, as a gift to your family, you volunteered to make everyone dinner. You called everyone up and identified their favorite foods. You went to the market so that everything would be fresh, and spent two hours cooking to perfection. And at six o'clock, on the dot, everyone's food was laid out, piping hot, on the table – but no one showed up to eat it. Close to half-an-hour later, one kid ambles lazily through the door, picks up her plate, and whisks off to her room, without a word of thanks. The others don't even show for dinner, and the food you spent so much time on spoils slowly in the refrigerator.*

*Unfortunately, this is what our church has been doing to our Sunday school teachers, every Sunday morning. We ask them to show up, to prepare*

*lessons in their free time, to give up their weekend – all to educate our children. But often our classrooms are devoid of students on Sunday mornings.*

*I have no interest in condemning anyone for having a busy schedule. I don't want people to feel obligated to attend church on Sunday mornings. I want people to come because they find church to be enjoyable and rewarding. But it breaks my heart every time I see our Sunday school teachers sitting in an empty classroom. Our teachers are tired, not because they find the work exhausting or without meaning. Our teachers are tired because there are too few children to teach. They have made a commitment to prepare our lessons, yet there is precious little commitment to attend.*

*This is why we joined with the Methodists, to create a more robust Sunday school program. But even that does not seem to have been enough. Even working together, there is still not enough commitment, between the two churches, to avoid empty classrooms.*

*I do not believe that our church will be able to attract new families, or even keep the ones we have, if we allow our Sunday school program to die. So, the Christian Education Committee would like to explore the possibility of having Sunday school at 5pm on Sunday evening. This schedule would, ideally, make it easier for children to attend regularly. We understand that many of you are busy and must travel on weekends, and that sports are encroaching more and more on Sunday mornings. Perhaps an evening Sunday school would allow more space for other weekend activities.*

*You must understand that this would be less convenient for myself and the other Sunday school teachers. We are volunteering to give up more of our weekends and more of our energy, to perhaps make it easier for our children to attend. We believe that Christian Education is a vital part of what it means to be a church. We are willing to make the commitment, are you?*

*Over the next week, we will be polling the families in the church to see whether or not this is actually a workable solution or not. We want your feedback, and if you have any ideas on how to strengthen our*

Sunday school program, we would love to hear them.

-Pastor Brian

**First Presbyterian Church  
Glidden, Iowa  
Balance Sheet**

	2010	2011	2012	2013 (6 MONTHS)
<b>Current Assets</b>				
United Bank/Checking	9,305.65	4,561.21	14,927.57	11387.69
United Bank/Savings	- 0 -	- 0 -	47,923.10	38,944.44
ING/Savings	89,047.6	17,104.28	126.73	126.97
United Bk./CD1700611201	50,308.0	51,166.93	35,000.00	35,157.07
United Bk./CD1700511828	100,675.04	102,684.70	104,032.75	104,447.74
<b>Totals</b>	<b>249,336.42</b>	<b>175,517.12</b>	<b>202,010.15</b>	<b>190,063.91</b>
<b>Ameriprise Financial</b>				
2009 5090.823 shares \$4.73	24,079.50			
2010 5124.853 shares 5.41	27,725.45			
2011 5159.405 shares 5.77		29,769.77		
2012 5230.486 shares 6.46			33,788.94	
<b>6 MO. 5230486 7.35</b>				<b>38,444.07</b>
<b>ING Brokerage</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Pershing Fund/Beginning Balance	155,000.00			
Pershing Fund	165,325.35	164,393.85	167,251.67	171,104.14
Money Market		34,645.41	2,385.40	298.26
	<b>165,325.35</b>	<b>199,039.26</b>	<b>169,637.07</b>	<b>171,402.40</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>44,2387.22</b>	<b>404,326.15</b>	<b>405,436.16</b>	<b>399,910.38</b>
<b>Fixed Assets/church Bldg.</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>442,388.22</b>	<b>404,327.15</b>	<b>405,437.16</b>	<b>399,911.38</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>442,388.22</b>	<b>404,327.15</b>	<b>405,437.16</b>	<b>399,911.38</b>

### Income & Expense Statement 2013 (6 Months)

Month	Receipts	Transfers	Memorial	Expenses	Gain/Loss
January	3154.00			8705.67	-5551.67
February	2016.00	3000.00		8932.30	-3916.30
March	4624.79	3000.00		8899.84	-1275.05
April	2294.00	3000.00		6103.79	- 809.79
May	14902.36		20.00	5728.68	9193.68
June	4559.20		2000.00	6431.55	127.65
	31,550.35	9,000.00	2020.00	44,801.83	-2,231.48

### Church History

Checking some old records of the Presbyterian Church we ran across an old log book that was started in January of 1900. This book lists the donations made by members for each Sunday with total donations of the congregations ranging from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per week. But on Sunday February 17, 1901 the collection totaled \$5.85. Must have been a snow day!

The book lists the names of people and the amount they donated each Sunday. Many are unfamiliar names but others reference families we have known. People like A. Moorhouse, D. B. Haselton, Flora Sherer, Mrs. C. E. Akin, W. C. Prill, F. G. Rust are names that some of the old timers of our current member can relate. Other names such a W. E. Potter, J. A. Culbertson, Isabel Orris, J. F. Grace and W. A. Kelley are names that have faded into history.

Sunday donations ranged from .10 cents per person up to the big givers who gave \$1.00 per Sunday. What can you buy for .10 cents any more or even a \$1.00? Given the time in history these may have been generous gifts. The really big givers would give \$1.10 per week. On rare occasions a member may donate \$5.00 in support of the church. The Collection accounting included 30-40 families each Sunday but only the head of the households name was recorded.

This log book began in January of 1900 and recorded donations through March 4, 1906.

This is just a bit of this church's rich history.

## Capital Campaign 2013

For many years the First Presbyterian Church of Glidden has delayed upkeep on the exterior of the building. We have known for some time of the problem with a leak in the bell tower. Each time it rained Keith traveled to the church to place a bucket in the Narthex to catch the water. We have now discovered the bricks surrounding the bell tower are so loose that the roofing company cannot adhere the roofing material to the brick until they are stabilized. Stabilizing the bricks is called tuck pointing which is the process of placing mortar mix between the brick. In addition to the bell tower and the tuck pointing repair Brad Muggenberg and his committee of Tim Reeve and Matt Conner have identified other projects that need attention, such a shingle replacement, repair of stained glass window frames, coverage over the stained glass windows with plexiglass or some other material.

As has been announced from the pulpit and in last month's newsletter the session has approved a capital campaign for 2013. The church needs to raise \$75,000 to make substantial repairs to the exterior of the church building. This capital campaign will be in addition to normal giving by members of the church.

When we review the surrounding area of what other churches are doing, such as completing new additions, building new church buildings or remodeling present church structures, our upgrade is not enormous. With this message we must all be aware of the limited number of members of our church. We have some members who have the means to make a donation of \$5,500-6,000 or more payable at one time or over a five year period. We have other members who may make a commitment of \$2,000-3,000 and others who may be limited to pledging \$1,000 or less and other amounts that land between these numbers. Every member knows their ability to give and all members are encouraged to participate at the level that is beneficial to the church.

	<u>Pledge Calculation</u>	
<b>Amount Pledged</b>	<b>5 year (Per Year Cost)</b>	<b>60 months (Per Month Cost)</b>
<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$166.67</b>
<b>6,000.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>16.67</b>

*Committee members and volunteers will be contacting church members to explain the scope of the program, receive feedback from members and encourage member participation. We are asking all members to receive volunteers knowing that it is a job that needs people involvement and we thank them for helping out.*

Based upon Bill Crawford's 15 years of leadership with the Masonic Lodge and reported to us by Elaine Crawford people will readily donate to new or repaired buildings more so than they will donate to employ personnel, develop new programs, provide charity care or donate to missionary work. Bill then went on to declare that once a lodge fails to donate to the repairs of their building this then is the beginning of the end of the lodge organization in the community.

First Presbyterian members can prevent this from happening in Glidden as all of us commit to repair and upgrade our building. Historically the members of this church have been very generous in supporting the maintenance, programs and our missions. The committee and session members believe like other members before us that current members will reach the goal and refurbish the church building so that future generation can enjoy worshipping at First Pres.

**Capital Campaign Committee: Pastor Brian, Jennifer Flemmig, Larry DeVries,**

**Wayne Seaman**

## Quotes of the Month

"God grades on the cross, not the curve"

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

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"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

- Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

## ***Bible Banter***

. A pastor was walking through the church and spotted young Billy  
fixated on the back wall.

Pastor: "What are you looking at, Billy?"

Billy: "Pastor, why are there names on all these bricks?"

Pastor (solemnly): "Those are the names of people who have died in the service"

Billy: "Oh... Was that the 10-00 o'clock Service, or the 12-00-o'clock Service?"

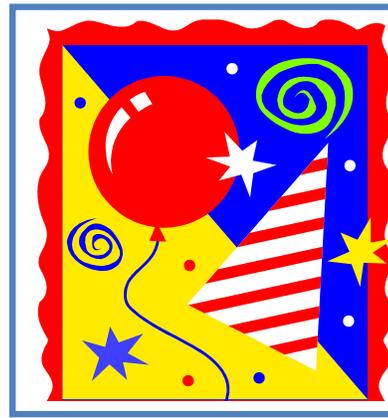
## Happiness Express

On Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> a group called the Happiness Express visited our church in Glidden to sing Amazing Grace and the Lord's Prayer. There were seventeen men in the group and they were led by Mr. Jerry Peters. The group's home base is Denison but they sing at various churches in the surrounding area and other functions. Glidden's Kevin Rasmussin is a long standing member of this group. These people voluntarily share their talents with communities and use these talents as a way to share the word of our Lord Jesus Christ with others.

We recognize these people for the talents they possess and thank them for sharing with us. On their way out Mr. Peters commented how fortunate this church was to have both a talented organist and piano player. We agree.

## **August Birthdays and Anniversaries**

4<sup>th</sup>-Evan Dettermann  
6<sup>th</sup>-Susan Stageman  
7<sup>th</sup>-Leland & Phyllis Bender Anniversary  
9<sup>th</sup>-Kirk and Diane Thelin  
11<sup>th</sup>-Chuck Newman  
13<sup>th</sup>-Toni Sinclair  
20<sup>th</sup>-Joyce Conner  
21<sup>st</sup>-Allison Thelin  
22<sup>nd</sup>-Linda McCellan  
24<sup>th</sup>-Carolyn Conner  
25<sup>th</sup>-Erik Lamp  
25<sup>th</sup>-Jane Burdine  
26<sup>th</sup>-Marge Middaugh  
27<sup>th</sup>-Stacy Dettermann  
28<sup>th</sup>-Ed and Jen Flemming Anniversary  
28<sup>th</sup>-Deloris Leonard  
31<sup>st</sup>-Mike & Linda McCellan Anniversary



## Announcements:

\*\*\*The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, **August 14<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30am.

\*\*\*Next Session Meeting **August 21<sup>st</sup>** 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.