

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

September 2013

In Mark 12, Jesus sat down near the temple treasury and watched as people came to make their donations. He and his disciples witness the very rich make donations that would make bankers salivate. Under Roman rule, Ancient Judah was a society sharply divided between the affluent and the desperate. Priests in the temple wore robes adorned with gemstones. Pharisees were walking mountains of expensive fabrics, while regular people wore heavily patched tunics that they had sewn themselves. In terms of donations, the Temple would have depended far more on the donations of a few very wealthy patrons, than they would have on the donations of thousands of regular people.

Jesus sat with his disciples, and witnessed the great philanthropists of Israel donate vast sums of money to the Temple treasury. But one woman, a poor woman, had the ostentation to approach the House of God and donate two copper coins. The combined value of these coins would have been comparable to the value of a single dollar today. It was enough money to buy the ancient equivalent of a McDonald's hamburger, but probably not enough to fill your stomach.

The donation of a single dollar to a national enterprise, like the Temple at Jerusalem, would have gone unremarked and unnoticed by even the most diligent of accountants. But Jesus saw things differently. Jesus looked at this poor woman, with only a single dollar to donate, and said to his disciples, "She gave more than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth but she gave everything she had to live on."

Our little church is not your average organization. It isn't even your average non-profit. We are a people that seek to follow the example of the man who valued the gift of the poor woman over that of the richest people in Israel.

As our church engages in a capital campaign to pay for some much-needed repairs to our building, I hope that we will remember the example that Jesus Christ set for us. How much a person gives doesn't really matter. God does not view the greatest givers with any more favor than he views the least. The heart is all that matters, and with enough heart the gift of a single dollar can be far greater than a donation of thousands.

My hope is simply that people will give with open hearts. A church with 100 passionate members and no money is in far better shape than a church with hundreds of thousands of dollars but without passion.

The Capital Campaign Committee has no desire to extract donations from anyone who does not want to give. We recognize that small contributions can be larger than vast donations. We know that active members are worth far more to the life of a church than a pledge. If you don't have any money to give, don't worry. Don't go into debt to help the church. If you have nothing, yet still drop a dollar in the offering plate, God will see your gift and treat you as if you'd given millions.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

This month's focus takes us to a rural setting west of Scranton to the home of Randy and Jennifer Christensen located at 1353 B Avenue, Scranton, Iowa.

Randy grew up just ½ mile south of their current home and graduated from Jefferson-Scranton high school in 2002. He enrolled in Kirkwood Community College in the fall of 2002 and transferred to Iowa State University in the winter of 2003. He majored in Ag Studies and finished in 3 ½ years. Randy returned home to begin his career in farming with his Dad & Mom; Glen & Cheryl Christensen. Randy had an older brother Ryan, who passed away in 1986, and a younger brother Matthew.

Jen graduated in 2002 from Carroll High School and began her employment at New Hope Village where she worked in village group homes. Jen's mother, Cindy Mueggenberg still lives in Carroll and her father, Ron, passed away in 2012. Jen has four brothers; Brad, Brian, Jason and Nathan Mueggenberg.

As Jen began her career, marriage and family were not even on her mind but that all changed on a cold and snowy evening in 2007. Randy had scheduled a party at his new home and invited some friends. The friends invited Jen to come along and at this point Randy did not know Jen and Jen did not know Randy. Randy had purchased the acreage from his grandfather and grandmother and moved into his home on the acreage where his grandparents lived prior to their death. The party went a little late and the wind picked up making for hazardous driving conditions but like young people the girls struck out for home in the blizzard. To this day Randy does not know how they made it back to Carroll.

Love took over their lives and on July 18, 2009 this young couple was married. To this marriage came a bundle of joy named Madison Rose. This little girl was born on June 29, 2011. The day before we interviewed Randy and Jen they had gone to the Omaha Zoo and Madison was worn out so she slept during our visit.



As part of their farming enterprise the Christensen's raise IsoWean pigs to market. They feed out 2500 pigs at a time, on contract with the AMVC located in Audubon. They normally feed two plus groups of hogs each year. In May of 2009 they received the Gary Wergin "Good Neighbor Award" presented by WHO radio in the name of the late Gary Wergin. The day the award was presented Gov. Branstad, Iowa secretary of Agriculture, WHO Radio, and guests all gathered at the Christensen farm. Of course, it rained and rained throughout the whole day. The award ceremony might have been dampened but the award itself is well respected.

Beyond raising hogs and helping Randy's parents with row crop activities, Randy and Jen sell and record sales of Pioneer Seed and crop insurance to farmers in the area - as far east to Jefferson, west to Glidden, north to Churdan and south to Coon Rapids.

Randy and Jen work together on their operation but also support each other with their hobbies. Both love to play golf when time permits. They worked together building a machine shed and Pioneer warehouse, tearing down the old house on the farmstead while Jen is involved in scrapbooking, assembling puzzles, gluing them and framing them to make for neat wall hangings. Both are involved in supporting Iowa State University activities.

This is a busy young couple who still make time for church. They are comfortable in the Presbyterian Church because people are so friendly. They both agreed that this friendly atmosphere reaches into all age groups. People who are 90 reach out to young people who are 2 and everything in between.

Beyond the church Randy is a board member of Midland Power located in Jefferson. He is a member of the Ralston Fire Department, Greene County Farm Bureau, Greene County Pork Producers and serves on the State Swine Advisory Board.

These people are "good neighbors" and the Presbyterian Church is blessed to feature them this month as members of the church. We wrapped up our

visit to the Christensen's farm with a fond farewell and wished them God's blessings as we drove away from this serene farmstead.

History of First Presbyterian Church

Our history reaches back to 1870 in Glidden, Iowa. This church has been served by 33 different pastors during its lifetime. Beyond these pastors the church has been served by many Elders, Deacons, volunteers and dedicated members during the church's rich history.

During the first twenty-six years of our history, the congregation was served by thirteen temporary supply pastors whose terms of service usually lasted between one and two years:

H.R. Smith	P. Reed
James M. Phillips	W. A. McMinn
Thomas A. Shaver	James L. Countermine
John L. Dunning	A. K. Baird
John H. Sammis	Arthur Davies
E. A. McLaury	J. A. Cahill
Dewey Jones, Jr.	

In 1896 the church employed its first regularly installed pastor to serve this congregation. Since that time the following ministers have provided the spiritual leadership of the pastoral office.

Fred Towers 1896-1899	Kenneth Brown 1899-1903
George Tooth 1904-1910	W. H. Parker 1910-1918
J. T. Thornton 1918-1919	Frederick Nichol 1919-1925
Wm. D. Jones 1925-1934	Wayne Overholser 1934-1938
Warren D. Ives 1939-1942	Samuel R. Reed 1942-1945
Harrison C. Becker 1947-1956	Duane Heap 1957-1962
E. Raymond Heglin 1963-1967	Andrew J. Bosman 1968-1975
Scott Berkley 1975-1983	Jerry Reisen 1984-1988
Donald Cameron 1989-1998	*Gregg Caldwell 2000-2001
Robert Peters 2001-2002	Patricia Summer 2003-2005
*Michael Fitzimmons 2006-2009	Brian Camera 2010-present

*These two pastors were stated supply pastors.

Throughout the years several have answered God's call to serve the cause of Christ in a church vocation. Miss Elizabeth Reed and Miss Beatrice Riedesel have served in the mission field. Four young men have entered the Christian ministry: Manley Mace, John Conner, Wayne Gute and Darin Seaman.

In seven years the First Presbyterian Church of Glidden, Iowa will celebrate its 150 years of service to this community. This church has been blessed by God and we all should celebrate our rich history. Thanks to those who come before us

Welcome Fall with joint Sunday School on September 8!

The United Methodist and First Presbyterian Churches of Glidden will kick off the fall season with Sunday School at 9 AM on September 8.

PreK-Kingergarten with Coaches Krystal Lloyd and Brandy Snyder at the Presbyterian Church.

First grade thru High School at the Presbyterian Church.

Marlys Conner provides leadership for the youngest with Pastor Brian tackling the Jr & Sr High.

Adult Sunday School is coached by Pastor Lorinda at the Methodist Church.

Juice and Donuts to fuel your game will be available.

Worship follows at each church.



“Even lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing\” Psalm 31:10

For Sale

Eight oak chairs

Silent Auction – Minimum Bid - \$25.00 each

***Limited to members – if no interest

will be listed on E-bay

Submit bid at church before September 15, 2013

First Presbyterian Church

Glidden, Iowa

Building and grounds Update


Over that past few weeks you may have noticed a lot of extra activity going on around the building. That is a good thing! Repairs to the roof are under way and almost complete. You also may have seen the repair work being done to the bricks and expansion cracks that was desperately needed, if you recall, phase one and phase two of a restoration/maintenance program outlined in a previous congregational publication.

Part 1 of phase one, which was the replacement of the flat roof areas of the church, got off to a great start and progressed nicely up to the point when it was realized that in order to successfully and properly complete the project, additional work needed to be done to the outlying structure to ensure longevity and stability of the newly applied roofing materials. In short, in order to insure proper application and warrantee/guarantee coverage, the roof needs to be secured to the building with a termination bar that is embedded into the mortar joints of the brick. The bricks lacked sufficient joint density to do that. Thus the need to tuck point (Phase 2) the bricks became a more immediate repair requirement.

With the tuck pointing done and the flat roofs nearing completion we have altered the timeline of the proposed work that needs to be done to the building, but have not changed its contents. Shingled roof repairs and window/door repairs are still in the pipeline as well as any general functional or cosmetic deficiencies that need to be addressed.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns about building and grounds activities, please to not hesitate to talk to any session or committee member.

Brad Mueggenberg



NOW IS THE TIME

"Now is the time" is the title of the Glidden Presbyterian Campaign for 2013. "Now is the time" to commit or "Now is the time" to _____ . We are asking members to be innovative and help us fill in that blank. Perhaps, now is the time to believe - to believe that God has a plan for our church. Or, now is the time to mend or roof and our hearts. Send your ideas to the church or give them to a committee member. Be innovative, be creative, and give us your help.

The campaign has begun and people are responding to visits by committee members. We've had quite a roaring start. About 10% of the church families have received a visit and we've made great progress toward our final goal of \$75,000 - encompassing all our immediate and near-term repair needs. The campaign committee hopes to call on every family in the church before October 1, 2013.

At these calls on members we are asking for your ideas on how the church can grow and prosper to serve members well into the future. How can we improve at First Presbyterian?

One of the maintenance improvement the building & grounds committee has discussed is the discolored Plexiglas covering our stained glass windows. The Presbyterian Church in Audubon faced the same discoloring and recently remodeled this part of their church. Three of our members traveled to Audubon to observe the repairs. They replaced the Plaxiglas with a strong traditional glass. That solution would have the added benefit of not turning green after 15 years.

This church has procrastinated long enough so "now is the time" _____.

Let's all work together even though our numbers are small and bring this capital campaign to a rewarding conclusion.

Quotes of the Month

I do not know anyone who has got or gotten to the top without hard work. That is the recipe.
Margaret Thatcher

We can do no great things - - - only small things with great love.
Mother Teresa

It gives me a deep, comforting sense that things seen are temporal and things unseen are eternal.
Helen Keller

Those who do not know how to weep with their whole heart don't know how to laugh either.
Golda Meir

Bible Banter

One day, Jesus and the Devil were having a discussion about who was best, so God suggested a typing competition. So God sat them down at two computers, one each, and told them to type up an article written on a piece of paper. The first to complete the typing would win.

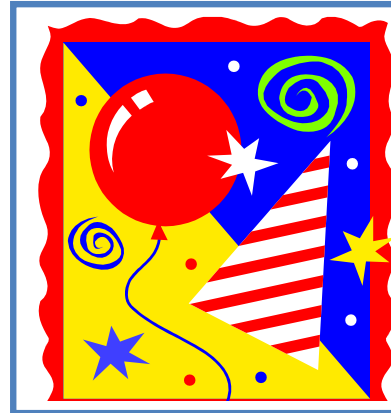
Anyway, both Jesus and the Devil were typing away frantically, when there was a power cut and both computers switched off. Their typing work had disappeared from the two screens.

When the power was restored, and the computers re-booted, Jesus's work re-appeared on his screen, but the Devil could get nothing back and had lost all his work. So Jesus was declared the winner. The Devil complained bitterly to God saying that it wasn't fair at all and demanded a rematch, but God said,

"Stop whining Satan, you know why Jesus got his work back - everyone knows "JESUS SAVES!"

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

3rd-Julie (Burdine) Raisch
11th-Jack and Teresa Stageman Anniversary
13th-Ryan Thelin
15th-Larry and Judy Littlefield
18th-Amber Danner
18th-Elaine Crawford
21st-Bruce and Stacy Dettermann
22nd-Teresa Stageman
26th-Wayne Seaman
26th-Dean Lamp



Announcements:

***The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, **September 11th** at 11:30am the Country Club.

***Next Session Meeting **September 18th** 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.

***September 8th-Sunday School Kick Off