

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

October 2013

“Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.” – G.K. Chesterton

There is something strange and wonderful about a good story. A good story can boil the grand and complex truths down into something easily memorable. I can tell you that every single person you meet has value. I can remind you that no one deserves to be stepped on or mistreated. I can quote Bible verses like Luke 14:11, “Everyone who exalts themselves will be humbled and everyone who humbles themselves will be exalted.” I can list ten different reasons why it is good for you to be generous to others, and six different reasons why other people are deserving of your care.

I can say all those things, or I could simply tell you a story.

Once upon a time, a lion caught a mouse. As he toyed with his food, the mouse begged and pleaded with the lion to set her free. The lion listened, and eventually decided to let the mouse go - reasoning that she wouldn't have made much of a meal anyway. Then, a week later, the lion got trapped in a net, set by a group of hunters. He roared for help and attempted to tear free of the net, but he could not break his bonds. But then, the little mouse heard his cries. She ran to the place where the lion was trapped and, with her small teeth, she was able to chew through the net, setting the lion free.

Sometimes, the person that you help today will be your savior tomorrow.

I believe that stories stick with us for much longer than clever ideas. I believe that stories and parables teach us more about the world than witty sayings or logical arguments. I believe that most people are far more likely to learn from a fake story about a lion and a mouse, than they are to learn from the Bible verse I quoted. Stories stick in our minds, while ideas often drift away. This is why, I believe, Jesus so often spoke in parables. He used common, everyday stories about people doing normal things to explain what God was like. It wasn't good enough to simply tell people that God loved them or that God would forgive them, instead Jesus told them that God was like a father whose son had abandoned him. God was like a shepherd who lost a sheep. God was like a woman who lost her wedding ring. And you are the son, you are the sheep, you are the lost ring.

Fairy tales are lies. They are not true. But, sometimes, they are more than true. Sometimes a parable, a fable, a story, or a lie, can tell you deeper truths than any scientific paper or philosophic argument. Fairy tales tell us lies so that we can understand truth.

So, if I'm ever giving a sermon where I'm telling you a long, drawn-out story - don't ask me what the point of it all is. The lesson is not the point. The story is the point. Years from now, I doubt that anyone will ever say, "Remember when Pastor Brian taught us about Luke 14?" No. But there is a good chance that we might say, "Remember that story about the lion and the mouse?"

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

Megan, Evan, Pillar & Adam Arellano

Our focus for this month's feature swings east of Glidden to 30053 Highway 30 to the home of Megan Arellano and her three children. Megan arrived in Glidden eight years ago as she wanted to raise her family in a small town. Evan Arellano is sixteen years of age, attends Glidden-Ralston school and participates in football and golf; he also enjoys the academic side of school. Evan has participated in dance and soccer at previous schools. Pillar Arellano is ten years old and she likes Glidden-Ralston because of class size. Pillar was born in Pella and is involved in soccer, swimming, dance, volleyball, cheerleading and swims on the Carroll area swim team. Pillar participates in the TAG program at GR. Adam Arellano is seven years old and, like many seven year olds, he likes video games. Adam is in second grade, likes school, and participates in baseball and soccer.

When she was still a baby, Megan was adopted by her parents. Later, they became a slightly larger family when they adopted a little boy who became Megan's brother. Megan's parents are Ron and Karen Delaney who still live in Fullerton, Nebraska. Ron is a pharmacist and owns Delany Pharmacy in Fullerton. Karen taught kindergarten for 35 years prior to her retirement. Megan has one living maternal grandparent living in Winner, S. D. Megan grew up in Fullerton, Nebraska which is a town similar to Glidden and has about 1200 people in town. The school building is a very similar design to the GR building and both schools have the same fight song. Megan is very comfortable in Glidden as it reminds her of her childhood. As a child Megan participated in softball but seemed to be accident prone. She suffered a fractured jaw, several knee injuries that required surgery, plus experienced torn ligaments.

"Upon meeting them it seemed bonding was instant and we connected as brothers and sisters do."

Once Megan graduated from High School, this small town girl went off to college in Buffalo, New York where she got her first B.S. degree in Marketing and Design. Following her education in New York, she enrolled in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where she received her degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. After college she took a job at a radio station in Pella, Iowa. She stayed in Pella one year and then joined a larger radio station in Lincoln, Nebraska. She also

spent time in radio at Knoxville, Iowa and Oskaloosa, Iowa. While in Oskaloosa she married George Arellano and they moved to Glidden eight years ago.

Megan's hobbies include involvement with

the GR Booster Club, coaching soccer, and - like many parents with school age children - she finds herself being a taxi driver, attending events in the lives of her children and being involved with school activities. The family owns two Beagles and two silver Labradors which occupy more of their time.

As mentioned earlier Megan was adopted as a baby and at age 23 she set out to locate her biological mother. She completed this journey by locating her in Omaha, Nebraska. During a visit with her biological mother Megan learned that she has a half brother and sister. Megan said, "Upon meeting them it seemed bonding was instant and we connected as brothers and sisters do". This extended family has been a blessing to Megan and the children. Megan's biological mother, Cynthia Lund, lives in Omaha as well as her biological brother and sister.

Megan became a member of the Presbyterian Church early on in life and was active in the church. However, during her youth she had a falling out of church activities because of poor leadership. Later the church employed a young,

energetic pastor who put new life in the church that benefited young people. As a youth, Megan was a youth delegate to General Assembly which was held in Baltimore. At Glidden she likes the Presbyterian Church but would like to see more young people involved in church but realizes we are living in a community that is older. She claims that rural America is more friendly and polite. This is the environment in which she wants to raise her children.

In the future she wants to concentrate on raising her family, being a big part of the community, and living life to the fullest as she follows the example set for us by Jesus Christ.



The church will be handing out Halloween treats this year on Trick or Treat night. If you have little ones make sure you stop by.

Thank You - Thank You - Thank You

As we near the end of the Capital Campaign it is very important to express gratitude to every donor for the generous commitment they have made to this cause.

Your mother was right. It is polite to say thank you when you receive a gift. So it is with this church we say Thank You and want to show the church's appreciation for the largeness of hearts within this congregation

Giving – at any level and for any motivation – feels good. Therefore members of this church need to feel good for what they have done. As Walt Disney said, "It is kind of fun to do the impossible". You are doing it.



Interesting Facts

In the Old Testament book of Exodus, God promises Moses that God will lead the Israelites out of Egypt "into a land flowing with milk and honey".

Israel is roughly the size of New Jersey and has a population of 8.5 million (80% Jews, 20% Arabs). The southern half of the country is desert, the mid-section is plains and hills, and the northern section is the region of Galilee, where plentiful rains in recent months have transformed the landscape into lush grass pastures "and more wild flowers than we've seen in 20 years", our guide Tamar said.

Source:

Cliff Johnson

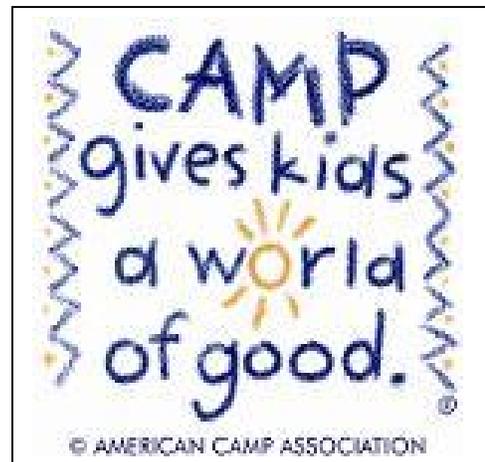
Traveler to the Area

PRESBYTERIAN CAMP ON OKOBOJI

A sacred space where all may come and experience God

Recently Cooper Mueggenberg had the opportunity to attend the Presbyterian Church Camp at Okoboji and experience the "Night Owl" Adventure Camp and would like to thank everyone at the Glidden Presbyterian Church that made it possible for him to go.

While there, he was able to participate in several fun and exciting events which included nighttime zip lining and multiple glow-in-the-dark activities as well as lots of daytime fun like archery, swimming, challenge courses and bible study.



Some of Cooper's favorite things to do at camp were meeting and hanging out with new friends, archery, swimming in the lake, canoeing and playing "ghost in the graveyard" at night with his bunk mates and camp counselors. Of course, "Staying up late and sleeping in were pretty cool too", according to Cooper.



Bible Banter

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday School class.

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

"Well, I continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

The History of the Candles

Have you ever wondered, "Why do we light candles every week in church?"

We light the two candles on the altar as a reminder that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

When the worship service begins, we believe that Jesus Christ enters into our little church and guides us in our worship of God. Our young acolytes bring a small light into the sanctuary as a reminder that the Light of the World comes into our church when we gather to worship God (Matthew 18:20). We light two candles to symbolize Jesus' dual nature - he is both fully human and fully God. And those two candles burn as a reminder of Jesus Christ, throughout the service, as we give glory God.

Finally, when the service is about to end, the acolytes come back, and they take the light from the candles - the Light of the World - and they carry it back out of the sanctuary. This symbolizes that Jesus Christ is active in the world, not just inside of our churches. When the light exits the sanctuary, we are reminded that we too should be doing our best to spread the light of Jesus Christ in the world around us.

A Letter From Peter

Dear Glidden Presbyterian Church,

Just wanted to let you know that I've safely completed my long trip from China to Oxford, by way of Iowa. So far every day has been fascinating. The city is called "the City of Dreaming Spires," and walking around the university, which makes up most of the city center, I see why. The university itself dates back to the 11th century, reflecting nearly 1000 years of history. Many of the buildings are ancient and beautiful but unfortunately sometimes placed alongside some misconceived attempts at modern architecture from the last century.

Yesterday I went to explore the Bodleian Library, which is a copyright library entitled to receive every book published in the United Kingdom. Sadly after nearly getting lost going up and down staircases and through hidden tunnels as my way to far-off underground basements to find a book I wanted, I learned that despite having more than 11 million books, none of them can be borrowed. It seems I will be spending quite a bit of time hidden in dark recesses reading fascinating books that maybe only a handful of other people also would wish to read. Thankfully there are many other libraries who kindly do loan books to graduate students, so I won't be suffering too much. :)

In my hall, which is one of the 44 colleges and private halls of Oxford, I've met great people and have had the most fascinating conversations. One faculty member who I've had coffee with several times translated the entire Old Testament single-handedly into English from the Greek version that Jesus would have read and quoted from. Another, who is around 90 now, has written several books, including *God of Surprises*, and likes to talk about things like violence in language or theology of liberation from consumerism.

This is all really just to say that I had a wonderful time visiting you this summer, and thank you for welcoming me into your church. The time of rest and enrichment that I enjoyed in Glidden has helped to prepare me for the challenges that lay ahead. I had a really nice time in Iowa and I hope to come back soon. Until then, I miss you always.

Peter

Quotes of the Month

A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful, and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life. **John Fischer**

God's heart is the most sensitive and tender of all. No act goes unnoticed, no matter how insignificant or small. **Richard J. Foster**

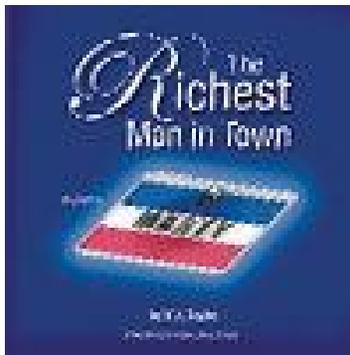
For what is faith unless it is to believe what you do not see? **Augustine**

“The Richest Man in Town”

How RICH are you? Do you have lots of money in the bank or maybe gold in a safe at home? Do you have a big house or a brand new car? Do those things make you rich? How about how rich are you are with relationships, with happiness, with life? Do you know how RICH you are? Sometimes being rich is more than having a lot of money, a big house, or a fancy car...sometimes we are richer than we think.....

I read a book called “The Richest Man in Town” by V.J. Smith and it really puts “being rich” into perspective. It is about this man named Marty. Marty lives in his double wide trailer house with his wife of many years and works at Wal-Mart. Marty is a very rich man....he teaches us three very important life lessons. 1- Relationships matter most in life. 2-Try harder. 3-Only you can make you happy.

To read about a man who is so rich with relationships, happy with his life, and counts his blessings every day it reminds you how the little things do matter (exactly what Brian preached about on Sunday). Marty worked at Wal-Mart and would have people wait to go through his line because of his personality and relationships he built with his customers. He was a happy man who thought of others before himself, really cared about his customers, and would give hugs to many people who went through his line. He was a sincere man who took nothing for granted. He was a grandpa to many and a friend to so many more. He loved his job, he loved his customers, he loved his friends, and he loved his family. Everything he had



in life he had earned himself. Like I said....he was a very RICH man.

So I ask again... how RICH are you?

Well, I say we are all RICH....as we all have Glidden Presbyterian Church. Think of the relationships you have with other church members and the support you get from the church. How many times do we stand after or before service talking and catching up? We have a Pastor that spends his time going to games of the children of the church to cheer them on and support them. Think how happy a little boy is to see Pastor Brian sitting in the bleachers during his T-ball game. The children are rich with Brian’s friendship. What

about a graduation party where a majority of the congregation comes to celebrate? I mean...think about it....how many churches have Loretta!! We are never short on hugs here at Glidden Presbyterian.

You may not have a big house, fancy car, or lots of money in the bank, but you do have Glidden Presbyterian Church. A

wonderful little church that even though numbers are small can do great things. A church where every member is loved just the same as the next...where relationships are built. We are all RICH with relationships because of the great members of Glidden Presbyterian and I am reminded of it every Sunday I attend church. How lucky my family and I are to have those endless hugs, a supportive Pastor, and great friends.

So remember Marty’s three life lessons.

You too are RICH.

- 1-Relationships matter most in life.
- 2.-Try Harder.
- 3-Only you can make you happy.

Sincerely...A RICH church member

Serving the Lord

In Sunday School we are teaching the kids about ways to serve the lord. When we asked them how they can serve the lord they came up with these ideas: pray, light the candles in church, sing in church, and so on. As adults we can do a lot of these same things but another way that we can Serve the Lord is to serve on session or on a church committee. You may have been asked or approached in the past and may be asked in the future to serve on session or a committee. Sometimes people say no because they don't know what a committee does, how important it is, or what it all entails. So here you go...information on two of our committees...more to come next month. If the opportunity arises, I encourage you to grab hold of it. It doesn't take that much time but it is so important to help make our church strong and it is another way for us to Serve the Lord.

Finance/Stewardship Committee

For this year and some months beyond the Finance Committee has taken on additional responsibilities as 2013 began the Capital Campaign for the First Presbyterian Church. We divided the committee and asked some additional members to serve on the two committees. The two committee are:

Finance/Stewardship Committee

Pastor Brian Camara
Suzy Danner
Mark Conner
Jennifer Flemmig
Wayne Seaman

Capital Campaign Committee

Pastor Brian Camara
Larry DeVries
Jennifer Flemmig
Wayne Seaman

As the finance/stewardship committee we are responsible for managing the net worth of the church by investing in stocks, certificates of deposits, savings accounts and making sure there are enough funds in the checking account to cover issued checks. We try to meet with the church's financial advisor, Brian Johnson, once a year and learn about his ideas as to trends in the market and factors that drive these trends. Based on this advice and other material we study the committee can decide where investments may be made. Early in the year we will meet a couple of times to strategize for the year. We follow this up with a six month financial report in the newsletter and a year-end report in the Annual Report. Additionally Suzy Danner provides the session with a monthly report of income, expenses and a month-end bank balance.

The church require dual signatures on all checks and these are signed by Suzy and Wayne

Our Stewardship Program has not followed an every member campaign for several years and we have not attempted to project income for the year. We do budget expenses. We have not followed the every member campaign because we are a mall church an each member knows the needs of the church. Additionally each member knows the amount their family is willing to share with the church to further God's Kingdom. We realize that some members believe the church should have a yearly every member campaign, pledge cards, gift envelopes and do it the way we use to. Others say, just allow the church to draw on my account each month with an electronic transfer of funds.

Capital Campaign Committee

The members of this committee have had a very intense year as we took on the job of raising funds to support the upgrade of the church building.

The committee has met on a regular basis to outline the program, to develop a theme for the campaign, **"Now is the time"**, to set goals, outline calling assignments, establish a time frame for the campaign and organize a kick-off with a kool-aid stand.

The committee has had a fun time as we developed new ideas, sifted out bad ideas, wrote an article for each month's newsletter and went out to see the people.

Rewards

So what are the rewards for serving on one or two of these committees? The rewards for committee members are setting goals and seeing these goals reached. The rewards are watching people of the congregation respond by their participation and investment in this church. The rewards are working with others on the committee and sharing thoughts. The rewards are having fun as the church moves forward and pleases God. The reward is also a chance to learn about investments, selling, strategic planning, cooperation and human reaction.

We would like to get new, or different people involved on committees in the church so if you are asked look upon it as an opportunity.

Personnel/Nominating/Pastoral

Personnel/Nominating: In charge of seeking new elders each year; provides support for church personnel.

Committee Members:

Heather Muggenberg

Jane Burdine

Mark Conner

Pastoral: Meets at the request of the pastor to lend personal support and aid in his ministry to the congregation. Topics of discussion are not related to the function of the personnel committee.

Committee Members:

Marlys Conner

Mark Conner

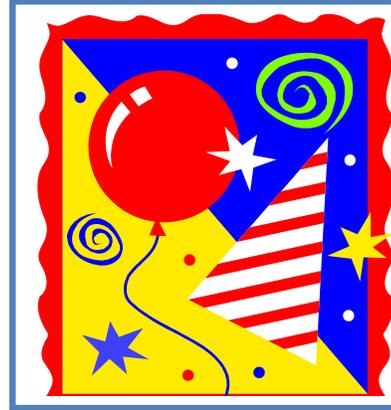
Matt Conner

Jane Burdine

Heather Muggenberg

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st-Bridget Draves
1st-Brooke Draves
2nd-Mark Conner
2nd-Mary Haselton
6th-Oliver Conner
8th-Anna Dettermann
14th-Tyson Cose
20th-Loretta Hansen
21st-Ethan Mueggenberg
28th-Roy and Marge Middaugh
Anniversary



Announcements:

***The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, **October 9th** at 11:30am at Hunans.

***Next Session Meeting **October 16th** 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.

***Thanksgiving Potluck after church on **November 24th** in church basement.