

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

January 2014

Happy New Year!

When I celebrated the start of 2013, I met a group of old friends in Chicago and we began to work our way down a long list of tourist activities that the city had to offer. Unfortunately, I only ever crossed one item off of that list (deep dish pizza). Within 10 hours of arriving in Chicago, I came down with the worst flu I've endured in my life. I spent the next 2 days cooped up in a hotel room, before driving back to Iowa in a feverish haze. All in all, I was stuck in bed for four days, and 2013 started off as one of the most miserable years of my life.

But 2013 quickly turned around. Just two weeks later, we celebrated the baptism of A.J. Scott in our church. That same month, we combined our Sunday school program with that of the Methodist Church, and our Sunday mornings grew more vibrant than I would have believed possible. Spring saw me gain a new friend in Rikki Sorensen, the new pastor at the Carroll Presbyterian Church, and my own 30th birthday. This year we fixed the leak in the roof, tuck-pointed the church, and raised over \$90,000 to pay for our needed repairs. We had two weddings in the church, a Christmas program, and dozens of happy Sundays. We played host to Peter Gent for three weeks and learned about China; and this December we listened to Kevin Wagner remind us of our past. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. In all, we've had a wonderful year.

But go back with me to that first week of 2013, when I was curled up in bed instead of enjoying my vacation. At that point, 2013 seemed like the worst year ever. It seemed like I would never feel better. I wanted to beg the hotel manager to let me keep my overpriced room for a few more days – anything but go outside. The drive back to Iowa could be classified as a “germ-filled terror.” My friend and I had to alternate sleeping and driving, because neither of us had the energy to stay focused on the road for very long. On my 4th day of illness, I could barely get out of bed. 2013 started off as the worst year in memory, but has transformed into a year of great joy.

Psalm 30:5 reads, “Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning.” It is easy to let ourselves get overwhelmed by all of the challenges that face us. Whether it be an illness, inconsistent rains, the loss of friends and family members, or the stress that comes with a busy life. Weeping may drag on and on, but joy comes in the morning.

As you get ready for the New Year, take some time to remember 2013. Remember the nights and the days. Remember your tears and your joys. Remember the things that you wish you could have done better and all the areas in which you excelled. Every year is made up of the bad and the good, ups and downs, tragedy and blessing.

Remember the last year. Do that so when you enter the next, you will do so with eyes wide open. Every year will have its up and its downs, its joys and its sorrows. A new year is a wonderful opportunity to look back and take stock of your life. Don't get so caught up in your current troubles that you refuse to believe that the morning will ever come.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Meet the Members MTM

Our journey today takes us to 20276 Phoenix Avenue, Carroll, Iowa to the home of Russell and Lillian Draves. Lill was in college at UNI when she befriended a girl who lived in Webster City, Iowa. On one occasion, she visited her new friend's home and went on a blind date with a young man from Webster City by the name of Russ Draves. They have been married for 57 years and are now the parents of three children, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Russ was born in Latimer and graduated from Webster City High School. Upon graduation Russ worked in a machine shop for four years. He was a welder but also built tops for convertible cars, made seat covers, and repaired equipment for farmers.

Lill and Russ were married in 1956 and Russ worked for Lill's father, Carney Conner. Later they rented a farm north of Glidden. They moved to a farm south of Glidden after one year and lived in that area for the next sixteen years. In 1976 they built their present home and moved in but continued to farm the land south of Glidden.

Lill worked for sixty years at various jobs such as the Glidden school, McNaught's Grocery, the Village Clinic, Spurgeon's, and Rags to Riches. She worked as bookkeeper, retail sales and secretary in those enterprises. Lill's hobbies include gardening and canning the results of her garden. She also crocheted over 380 baby blankets and gave many of them away, as well as several bedspreads. Russ restores old Cockshutt tractors - which



involves stripping them down, sandblasting, and repainting them, before he reassembles these tractors. Another hobby for Russ is the breeding and raising of championship quality Limousine cattle. Russ also served on the board of the Carroll County Beef Producers. They have been members of a card club for 25 years and members of the Carrollton Community Club of Carrollton Iowa for 20-25 years, until it was closed down.

We began to talk about unique experiences in their lives and in 1989 they learned, after the death of Russ's mother, that she had been a member of the orphan trains. She was sent west from New York City on one of the trains in 1913, as a six or seven year old girl. Her parents could not afford to raise her so she was put on a cattle train, along with many other children, and moved her west, hoping someone along the line

would take her in. Good people in Mason City took her in and raised her as one of their own. These orphan trains operated from 1852 until 1928 and carried 325,000 orphans west in hopes of finding a home. As they traveled the only food given to the children was mustard sandwiches and water. They used mustard because it would not spoil. We will not go further into detail about this amazing story because even reporting a small segment of the story would take an entire article. This is a memory burnt deep in the minds of Russ and Lill.

The Presbyterian Church in Glidden is very important to Russ and Lill. Lill has been a member all her life. Russ has been a member since their marriage began. They were married in First Presbyterian. Their children

were baptized in this church. They both served on the Session. They both attend church on a regular basis and are very important to this church.

Now a sidebar to their lives. In years past Russ and Lill would host a New Year's Day party. Many people would join in and gather at the Draves household to watch football and dine. On their final year of hosting this celebration, they served a crowd of 65 guests with their traditional New Year's dinner of rabbit and waffles.

Today, the Draves are retired and enjoy their families, high school sporting events at Glidden and more frequently watching sporting events on television, especially supporting Iowa and Iowa State. They also enjoy socializing with friends.

During their retirement years they have experienced some health issues. Most recently Russ was hospitalized with pneumonia for several days. But with all of this Russ says "when we look around and visit hospitals we realize, compared to a lot of folks, we are very well blessed".

We wish Lill and Russ a Happy New Year and good health for years to come.

Ten Free Gifts for the New Year

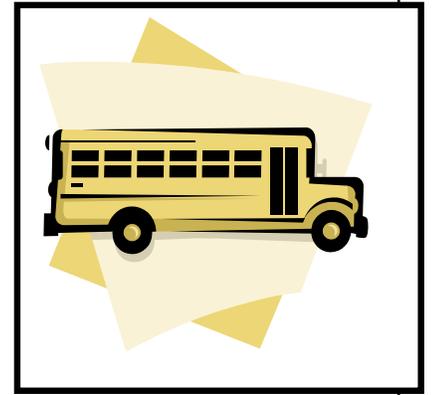
1. The gift of LISTENING - Why not give this valuable gift to someone who lives alone? And you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your responses. Just listen.
2. The gift of SIGNS OF AFFECTIONS - Be generous with your hugs, kisses, and gentle squeezes of the hand. Let these tiny actions demonstrate the love inside YOU.

3. The gift of a NOTE - It can be as simple as "I Love You" or as creative as a sonnet. Put your notes where they will surprise your loved ones.
4. The gift of LAUGHTER - Just cut out a cartoon, save a clever article. Your gift will say "I live to laugh with you."
5. The gift of COMPLIMENT - A simple "You look good in blue" or "I like your hair" or "Good supper, honey" can be of greatest value to those who may feel they are being taken for granted.
6. The gift of a FAVOR - Help with dishes, clean out the basement, etc.
7. The gift of LEAVING ALONE - There are times in our lives when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Become more sensitive to those times and give solitude.
8. The gift of a CHEERFUL DISPOSITION - Try to be cheerful around those you love especially.
9. The gift of GAME - Offer to play your loved one's favorite game. Even if you lose, you'll be a winner.
10. The gift of PRAYER - Pray for people and let them know that you pray for them. Praying for someone is a way of saying, "You are so special to me that I talk to God about you."



Sweatpants and Glove Drive

We will be collecting size 4T-6T sweatpants and gloves in January for the Glidden Ralston Community School. They would prefer to receive black sweatpants and gloves. Please consider purchasing these items to help support local school.



Confirmation is happening!

Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, January 5th for students who would like to become full members of the church. We will be meeting at 1:00pm and classes will last for an hour. There will be 8 weeks of classes, reviewing everything from Presbyterian history and theology to Pastor Brian's awkward teenage years. Students 6th grade and up are welcome if they have no previously completed confirmation.

Welcome our newest member to the Church!!!



Please be sure to welcome Avery Lynn Jensen to our church family. Avery was born at 11:03pm on November 28th, 2013, at a healthy weight of 7lbs 12 ounces and 19.5 inches long. Mitch and Britney plan on having her baptized in the church this Winter - most likely late January or early February. An announcement of the date will soon be made in church.

Worship

Acolytes

January Treynor Cose
February Pillar Arellano
March Cooper Mueggenberg

Ushers

Tyson & Lindsey Cose
Megan Arellano
Brad & Heather Mueggenberg

Communion Preparers

Marge Middaugh
Shelly Strahl

“Now is the Time to Celebrate”

On Sunday morning December 22nd, the Presbyterian Church took time to celebrate the results of the Capital Campaign and honor the giving people that made it happen.

The church began the celebration with a breakfast of egg casserole, fruit, rolls, juice and coffee. This was followed by a film entitled “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” which taught a lesson of inclusion. Inclusion is what this church experienced during the campaign as members stepped forward to help out with the campaign. Members and non-members contributed to help surpass our goal.

The results as of December 24th were as follows:

Gifts and pledges	<u>\$91,511.60</u>
Amount of cash paid to date	<u>54,361.60</u>
Balance left on pledges	<u>37,150.00</u>

To help the committee keep records straight we are asking members to help us out. Please mark your gifts when they are intended to be a payment on a pledge or a check for the Capital Campaign

This may be the last article from the committee so we close this article with a big debt of gratitude as we recognize all members of this congregation for their generous hearts. The results of the campaign exceeded even our wildest expectations.

Capital Campaign Committee

Quotes of the Month

Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed.
-Proverbs 12:24

I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die to find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't and die to find out there is.
-Albert Camus

Head is under our feet as well as over our heads.
-Henry David Thoreau

Where are they Now?

As young people progress through the GR Community School System we keep close tab on their progress and development but once out into this spacious world we tend to lose track of them. So to update the members on the whereabouts of GR students who are still in college we present this update.

ELIZABETH BURDINE: Elizabeth graduated from GR in 2012 and that fall headed off to the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. She is now a sophomore and is majoring in communications and Costume Design. She loves school at UNI. Elizabeth is the daughter of Rick and Tami Burdine.

SAMANTHA ADAMS: Sam graduated from GR in 2012 and is now attending school at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. Sam is on the college dance team. She is a sophomore and is enrolled in Nursing. To broaden her experience in nursing she works at St. Anthony Hospital every third or fourth weekend. Sam is the daughter of Mark and Deb Adams.

ABBY CONNER WHITE: Abby graduated from GR in 1999 and went to the University of Northern Iowa majoring in Art and Psychology. Abby received her BA degree and began working in an adult day care center. Later she moved to Phoenix, Arizona and worked at the Arizona Agency on Aging. Upon returning to Ames Iowa, Abby went on line to secure a Master's Degree of education and Human Resources. She graduated with her Master's from the University of Arizona at Flagstaff on December 19, 2013. In addition to working and earning her college degrees, Abby married Whitney White and they now have a precious little boy named Conner. In addition to being a wife and mother, Abby is employed at Wesley Life Home Care Service in administration. Abby's parents are Mark and Marlys Conner.

WILL REEVER: Will graduated from GR in 2011 and is now a junior at Iowa State University majoring in Animal Science and Pre Veterinary Medicine. Will is an ambassador for the College of Agriculture and he is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He is a member of the Block and Bridle Club of Animal Science and has served on the Veshia and Homecoming committees. Recently, Sukup Manufacturing donated some old storage bins to the people of Haiti. Will and his fraternity brothers help dismantle the building and prepare them for shipment. Will is the son of Tim and Lora Reever.

KIRSTEN STIDHAM: Kirsten graduated from GR in 2008 and entered Grace University in Omaha, Nebraska where she attained her BS degree in Psychology and Bible. Kirsten graduated in 2012 and moved on to further her education at Mid-American Nazarene. She is now completing her Master's Degree in Adult Mental Health and will graduate in July of 2014. As part of her education she is required to complete 1000 hours of intern work and is completing this part of her education at the Women Abuse Center in Kansas City. Kirsten's parents are Kathy and Doug Schuette and the late Dr. Doug Stidham.

BIDGET & BROOKE GRAVES: Bridget left the halls of GR in 2009 and enrolled at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. She graduated in December of 2013 with a BS degree in Agriculture Studies. While at ISU she was a member of the Pre Vet Club and the Dairy Science Club. She enjoyed her college life by attending sporting events at ISU and being with friends. Bridget is currently working at Hy-Vee in Carroll while she pursues other opportunities in her field of study. Twin sister Brooke graduated in December of 2012 and currently is an Agronomy Field Specialist at Decatur County Coop. in Overland, Kansas.

ZACHARY MUEGGENBERG: Zac graduated from GR in 2013 and traveled to Storm Lake to enroll in Buena Vista University. Zac's area of study is Business

Administration. Zac keeps very busy as he plays football for the Beavers and is on the track team. The coach has selected Zac to develop his skills as he becomes a decathlete to represent the Beavers track team. Zac also participates in Theater and Drama at the University. Zac loves the University life.

Zac is also a budding entrepreneur. For the past three years or so Zac has spent his summers helping vaccinate pigs to aid in the prevention of diseases.

Zac has now purchased the necessary equipment and will do vaccinations through his own company as he serves large hog operations. Brad and Heather Mueggenberg are the parents of Zac.

EMMA FLEMMIG: Emma graduated from GR in 2005 and enrolled at Iowa State University in Ames where she attained a BS degree in Biology and a BS degree in Agronomy. During this time she spent one semester in Argentina and another semester in Rome, Italy. She also spent time during this four year period studying International Agriculture.

Following her studies at ISU she attended North Carolina State in Raleigh N.C. attaining a Master's Degree in Plant Breeding/Genetics. From N. C. she enrolled in Virginia Tech at Blacksburg, Virginia as she pursued a Ph.D. Degree in International Research. Over the last 18 months she has traveled to South Sudan, Africa three times to aid in teaching at the University of Juba, South Sudan. She is studying types of soil and its ability to grow various beans. In January 2014 Emma was planning to spend a semester in So. Sudan but on December 16, 2013 an uprising was held and 500-800 people were killed. The American Embassy was closed and all Americans have been evacuated. Emma has one and one half years to go to receive her doctorate degree. As we write this article Emma is considering her options. Emma's parents are Ed and Jen Flemmig

We think we have covered all of our students and wish every one of them greatness in 2014 and beyond.

Sunday School Update!!!

*Sunday School begins again on
January 5th at 9:00am.*

*****Adults and Elementary School
meet at the Methodist Church**

*****Middle School and High School
meet at the Presbyterian Church**

January Anniversary's and Birthdays

- 1st-Doug and Kathy Schutte Anniversary
- 1st-Kevin Nelson
- 2nd-Kirk Thelin
- 6th-Braylee Cose
- 7th-Brandon and Cole Burdine
- 7th-Linda Bender
- 12th-Daniel Lamp
- 15th-Megan Delaney-Arellano
- 17th-Jayden Douglas
- 18th-Stuart Conner
- 22nd-Larry Littlefield
- 23rd-Evan Arellano
- 24th-Duane Conner
- 25th-Randy Christensen
- 26th-Erin Danner
- 31st-Adam Arellano



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the Christmas Program a success.

THANK YOU to Marlys and Judy for their continuous support and dedication to the music played during church.

THANK YOU to Rhonda, Shelly, and Mark for their years of

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?"

Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

***When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Announcements:

***The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, **January 8th** at 11:30 am at the Winery.

***Next Session Meeting Wednesday, **January 15th** at 7pm in the Church Basement.

***Annual Reports due **January 15th**.

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

***Sunday School classes will resume on **January 5, 2014**.

*Adults and children meet at the Methodist Church

*Middle School and High School meet at the Presbyterian Church

***Confirmation classes begin **January 5th** at 1:00pm at the church

***The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **January 26th** after church.