

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

March 2014

Lent begins with ashes.

It begins with a black cross on our foreheads and the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return." Every year, Lent reminds me that I will die.

At 30 years old, I am remarkably resilient to these meditations. I have often worn the ashes on my brow, but I'm not sure that their meaning has ever penetrated my skull. We young people have an impressive talent for denying the obvious, and believing in our own invincibility.

I will die. I am mortal. My life is fragile. I am but dust and ashes.

I will keep on saying those words to myself as the forty days of Lent pass. I will seek again and again to understand what it means to be vulnerable, to remember that one day I will die. I suspect that such meditations gain gravity with years. A true knowledge of mortality probably doesn't completely sink in until you've watched friends pass away, one by one, like the changing of the seasons.

My days are numbered, and that number keeps getting smaller. Every day, I have fewer and fewer moments to enjoy this good Earth. So what will I do with this knowledge? What will I do with my next 40 days? Will I seek to savor all the delicacies I can find? Will I embrace hedonism and search out new joys and new experiences? Will I make the most of the limited time I have left? Strangely, that is not what Lent is about.

Lent is about sacrifice. Lent is about denial.

Over the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, Christians everywhere will both contemplate their own deaths and actively seek to deny themselves the pleasures of life. Why is this? How can this be true? What prisoner on death row worries about his cholesterol?

The truth is that Lent isn't just about death. It may begin with ashes, but it ends in glory. We may spend Ash Wednesday contemplating the shortness of our lives, but Easter signals the beginning of eternity. My days are few, but I will not spend them chasing after the fleeting pleasures of this world. Heaven is waiting for me. I will not risk the health of my immortal soul to satiate my mortal gut.

Lent is what we do when we truly believe in eternity. We fast. We sacrifice. We take time to get right with God, because our days are numbered. Our time is running short. I will not wait till tomorrow because I am mortal. My life is fragile. I am but dust and ashes - but Easter is coming.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

It was a spring like day in the middle of February as we traveled to 17914 Timber Avenue just north of Glidden to meet Harry and Judy Reever. Born at St. Anthony Hospital in Carroll they both have lived in Glidden their entire lives. They began their school days together but were members of the first class in Glidden to be split into two sections. They believe the class might have been divided alphabetically as Judy Conner was in one section and Harry Reever was in another section.

Once they finished high school they were married and settled into a life of farming. Harry began farming with his father and they lived on the south place, presently where their son, Tim and Lora Reever live. In 1964, three years into their marriage the Reever's moved to a farm north of Glidden where they presently reside. In 1981 they built a new home at this location and moved into this home in 1982.

A near crises was averted in 2009 when a propane explosion rocked their home. Harry and Judy were home at the time and both were in a remote location when this occurred. It was determined that a copper gas line inside of the fire place had sprung a leak and the gas was contained within the fire place therefore the Reever's never smelled the leaking gas. Following the explosion, the Reever's lived in a borrowed camper and were able to spend some time in their home as it was being repaired. The repair work took 14 weeks to complete.

Judy's immediate family consisted of two sisters and one brother while Harry has one brother. Their extended family was large with many aunts and uncles. These people along with their parents had a big influence on their lives. Also, as many of us will agree, special teachers influence us for the rest of our lives. Joe Weed, agriculture instructor at Glidden was a person of influence in Harry's life as well as other boys from Glidden.

Harry and Judy are the proud parents of two children. They are Traci and her husband Mike Schaefer, Tim Reever and his wife Lora. Additionally they have five

grandchildren and enjoy following these children and support them in their activities.

When pressed to reveal a unique experience Harry reluctantly told the story about an airplane ride. It seems that three farmers were going to inspect some property and they were flying in a small private plane. The altimeter malfunctioned and recorded a height greater than the plane was actually flying as they descended to land. Because of this malfunction, the landing gear clipped the top of a barn in the flight pattern and it tore off the landing gear. They bellied the plane in for a landing and walked away safe and sound. A very big blessing for all concerned.

The Reever's have been and are very active in the community. Harry has served on many boards of directors

such as the Fair Board, Extension Council, Insurance Board and other business boards. Judy has been a 4-H leader, a piano teacher for over forty years, volunteers at G-R in the peak up program and many other activities that are connected with being a farmer's wife.

Hobbies for the Reever family are very diverse. Like all good grandparents they follow the grandchildren involved in sports, school activities, the Opera at Simpson College, 4-H

activities, etc. They have enjoyed traveling throughout their lives whether it be to their cabin in Cross Lake, Minnesota, a trip to warm weather in Arizona or a trip to foreign lands such as Argentina, New Zealand or Australia. Judy involves some of her spare time with gardening and crocheting. Harry likes to fish, ride his motorcycle and both enjoy playing cards with family and friends.

Harry and Judy are very involved with the Presbyterian Church in that both have served as Deacons and Harry has served several times as a ruling Elder. Judy has been a lifelong member while Harry has been a member for over fifty years. They have taught Sunday school and Judy has been the church pianist for many years. The church is proud and indebted to the Reever's for all the years of service to First Presbyterian and we wish them well as they move into the future of tomorrows.



Annual Meeting

January 26, 2014

The annual meeting of First Presbyterian came off on schedule this year with the Parish Life Committee in charge of the potluck luncheon. The theme for the luncheon this year was St. Valentine for table and other decorations.

Following lunch the annual meeting was called to order by Pastor Brian as the moderator. A quorum was declared. Each family was presented a copy of the annual report. For members who did not receive a report, a copy can be picked up at the church office. The report was assembled by Rhonda Schroeder as she included this year a definition of the meaning behind the Seal of the Presbyterian Church. Very well done.

Pastor Brian opened the meeting with prayer and gave the Pastor's report. The previous year's minutes were approved followed by various committee reports that are a part of the printed copy of the annual report. All reports were approved.

Several people who have served this church throughout the year were given special recognition. Session members whose terms had expired were Mark Conner and Rhonda Schroeder. Shelly Strahl is leaving the session due to her work schedule.

Recognition of others for their service and the job they do also was acknowledged:

Suzy Danner – treasurer
Mark Conner – financial secretary
Marlys Conner – organist
Judy Reeve – pianist
Rhonda Schroeder – Clerk of Session

Each of these people that help make the Church successful were given a symbolic hi-five as a way to say thank you for the job they have done.

The congregation then elected Jane Burdine to serve on the Pastoral/Personnel/Nominating Committee as a representative from the congregation.

Session members were then elected for a three year term and they were Linda McClellan and Wayne Seaman. Marlys Conner was elected to serve a one year term.

The church had a successful year and will expect continued success in the future. Pastor Brian closed the meeting with prayer.

Worship

	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion Preparers</u>
March	Cooper Mueggenberg	Brad & Heather Mueggenberg	Shelly Strahl

You are important

A church is much like a football team. Everyone pays the most attention to the quarterback and the receivers - the people who make the flashy plays and score the touchdowns. We're always on the lookout for the "player of the game" and speculating about who will break what record. But that is not how a team works - just ask anyone who played in this year's Super Bowl. A defense of 11-men, working together, proved more than a match for one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time. True teamwork trumps individual greatness every single time.

The same thing is true in the Church of Jesus Christ. Success is not about the pastor. Victory is not about flashy sermons or dramatic performances. Teamwork is what really matters - and we have been blessed with an outstanding team.

Unfortunately, we are also a small team. Our depth chart doesn't go very deep and every player is precious. The truth is that we are not the same team without you. We are not as strong as we could be. Gaps form in our backfield when pews remain empty on Sunday morning. Of course, it is impossible to be in church every Sunday - but your presence does matter. You make a difference to this team. We are much stronger with you than without.

When we are all in church, our hymns are more joyous and our prayers more powerful. When you are in church, our community is more welcoming and our confessions are more sincere. It's just not the same without you. Don't worry if sometimes you're unable to make it to church. Life happens. But your presence does matter. Your team needs you!

Quotes of the Month

If our love of God does not directly influence, and even change, how we engage in the issues of our time on this earth, I wonder what good religion is.

–Richard Rohr

I believe having religion in your life creates the potential for long-lasting relationships.

-Goldie Hawn

To find what you seek in the road of life, the best proverb of all is that which says:

"Leave no stone unturned."

-Edward Bulwer Lytton

Bible Banter

boy was sitting on a park bench with one hand resting on an open Bible. He was loudly exclaiming his praise to God. "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God is great!" he yelled without worrying whether anyone heard him or not.

Shortly after, along came a man who had recently completed some studies at a local university. Feeling himself very enlightened in the ways of truth and very eager to show this enlightenment, he asked the boy about the source of his joy.

"Hey" asked the boy in return with a bright laugh, "Don't you have any idea what God is able to do? I just read that God opened up the waves of the Red Sea and led the whole nation of Israel right through the middle."

The enlightened man laughed lightly, sat down next to the boy and began to try to open his eyes to the "realities" of the miracles of the Bible. "That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10-inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across."

The boy was stumped. His eyes wandered from the man back to the Bible laying open in his lap. The man, content that he had enlightened a poor, naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight, turned to go. Scarcely had he taken two steps when the boy began to rejoice and praise louder than before. The man turned to ask the reason for this resumed jubilation.

"Wow!" exclaimed the boy happily, "God is greater than I thought! Not only did He lead the whole nation of Israel through the Red Sea, He topped it off by drowning the whole Egyptian army in 10 inches of water!"

Christian Education Update

On Sunday, February 24th, the Christian Education Committee had a joint meeting with Sunday school leaders from the Methodist Church. At that meeting, we determined the following,

The last Sunday for Sunday school this school year will be May 4th.

We will not have Sunday school on Sunday, April 20th, due to Easter.

We will have a joint Palm Sunday service at the Methodist Church that will involve the Sunday school classes.

Lorinda will organize the service.

We will have another joint meeting in May to review classes and curriculum.

Please remember that we value feedback about the Sunday school program from both parents and members of the congregation. If you have any ideas on how to improve our Sunday school program or if you would like to help teach Sunday school, please do not hesitate to speak to Pastor Brian or any of the members of the Christian Education Committee. Also, all adults are welcome at adult Sunday school at the Methodist church, every Sunday at 9:00am.

Thank you,
Pastor Brian



March Anniversary's and Birthdays

11th-Ron and Jane Burdine Anniversary
17th- Irma Holley
18th-Russ and Lil Draves Anniversary
26th-Leland Bender
26th-Rhonda Conner
28th-Kali Nelson
30th-Judy Littlefield



Announcements:

*** Sunday School is back!

Adults and children meet at the Methodist Church

Middle School and High School meet at the Presbyterian Church

***We will have an Ash Wednesday service this Wednesday, **March 5th**, at 7:00pm

***Daylight Savings begins on **March 9th**

***Presbyterian Women's luncheon is scheduled for 11:30am, **March 12th**, at Hunan's in Carroll

***Session meets on **March 19th** at 7:00pm in the church basement

*** Joint Easter Program with the Glidden Methodist Church will occur on Palm Sunday, **April 13** at the Methodist Church.

***Maundy Thursday (**April 17th**) service will be at the Presbyterian Church

***Good Friday (**April 18th**) service will be at the Methodist Church

***Easter is **April 20th**

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