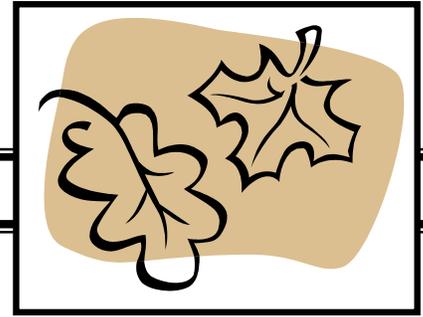


First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

November 2014



A couple weeks ago, I received an interesting letter in the mail. A group of students from Glidden-Ralston High School asked myself and a few other members of the community to attend a presentation on the topic of bringing a food pantry to Glidden. The young men leading this presentation did so as part of a class assignment in their Business English course, to help them learn to write grant proposals and handle probing questions from a skeptical audience.

When I arrived at the school, I was met by representatives from Glidden United Methodist Church, Peace Lutheran Church, St. Elizabeth's Seton, City Hall, and Community Insurance Agency. Obviously, a number of people were intrigued by the possibility of starting a food pantry in Glidden! One of the most compelling things said in the student presentation was that Lohrville, Iowa had recently started their own food pantry. If Lohrville, a town of fewer than 400 residents, could support a food pantry then why not Glidden?

I got in contact with Ruth Stephenson, the woman who helped spearhead the new food pantry in Lohrville, and asked her to come to Glidden to give a talk about all the work that went into starting and maintaining a food pantry. We have reserved a room in City Hall, just down the hall from the library and the city offices, on Thursday, November 13th at 7:00pm. And there, we'll hear about Ruth's experience.

At the very least, I bet that she'll have an interesting story to tell and we can learn a lot from her work in Lohrville. However, perhaps something new might arise out of this simple meeting. If we have enough interest, and the way forward seems clear, then I have recommended to other pastors that we form a steering committee to consider whether or not we should attempt to bring a food pantry to Glidden.

Obviously, there is a lot of work to be done. If meetings always accomplished their goals, then we Presbyterians would be neigh-on unstoppable. I know from experience that this is not the case. But maybe these students were onto something with their class presentation. Maybe there is a need in Glidden that has not been adequately met. Maybe we should be doing more to feed the hungry in our community. We will see on November 13th. The response to Ruth's presentation should probably tell us everything we need to know.

If this is something that you are interested in, please attend our meeting on November 13th. Everyone is welcome – from the mildly curious to the wildly opinionated. I don't know what the future holds for this idea. I just know that it's something worth talking about.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian's Contact Info:

Email: Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org or Cell phone: 818-388-9779

Meet the Members MTM

Our travels today take us to the home of Kirk & Diane Thelin at 308 Nevada Street in Glidden. This couple is very busy with school activities; therefore we met on a Sunday afternoon for the interview. When we arrived, Diane was diligently grading papers.

Kirk was born on January 2, 1958, to Roger & Karen Thelin who lived in Urbandale. Kirk attended school in Urbandale for 13 years. Kirk was joined in this family by a brother and a sister.

Diane was born five months after Kirk to Carolyn & Rodney Patch who lived in Indianola, Iowa. Diane was joined in this family by three sisters. Their names were Donna, Denise and Debbie – four girls all with names beginning with the letter “D.” Throw in “Dad” and keeping everyone straight must have been quite a challenge. In the years since their childhoods, Kirk & Diane have both lost their fathers but their mothers still live in Urbandale and Indianola, respectively.

Kirk & Diane both attended college at Simpson College in Indianola following their high school graduation. They claim their first meeting took place in their freshman year in the school library. We challenged the Thelin’s on the place of their first meeting, but they assured us that the Library story is true. On their first meeting Kirk stood up and Diane could not believe how tall he was. Kirk’s height aided him in his college basketball career at Simpson. After that first meeting as freshman, Diane’s sorority had a fall party during her sophomore year, and the ladies were to invite a guest. Diane called Kirk and set up their first date. Kirk followed up by inviting Diane on the second date to one of his parties.

Kirk and Diane dated through college and following graduation in 1980, they were married in the United Methodist Church in Indianola, Iowa. The wedding ceremony got off to a late start because someone had to go uptown and buy Kirk’s bow tie to replace the one that he lost.

Once married, Kirk secured a job at Glidden-Ralston School and Diane worked at Scranton Community School. They lived in an apartment in Carroll for a short time and then moved to Glidden that same year. Kirk and Diane told the story of their hardships prior to starting their first job. They were so broke that they had to sell one of Kirk’s baseball cards for \$100.00 in order to buy clothes nice enough to wear to school.

As they began their career in the fall of 1980, Kirk was teaching History, American Civics, and coaching. Diane started her career teaching English, Journalism, Reading and Writing. They were both drawn to teaching by their families, life at Simpson, and curiosity for learning and helping students.

Beyond the classroom, Diane has served as the school director of musicals and plays for 27 years. There she directed one-act plays, dinner theaters, and worked in

the production of the yearbook and school newspaper. She serves on the Leadership Committee at the school, plus she promotes the Book Club and Art in the Park. By the way, Diane speaks French and offers tutoring for students at GR who have an interest in learning French. This might only be 2-3 students, but she commits the time.

Highlights of Kirk’s career include being in the classroom with students, coaching and being in charge

of Glidden-Ralston’s extensive technology department. Presently he serves as coordinator of technology, overseeing nearly 450 electronic devices including laptops, tablets, printers, and much more. When computers malfunction Kirk is on call. Kirk also serves GR as athletic director, overseeing all sports at the junior high level, junior varsity and varsity level. These sporting events call for a commitment of many nights throughout the year. Another highlight that Kirk mentioned was helping coach the 1983-84 basketball team to the State Tournament.

Memorable events in their lives included the birth of their two children, Allison and Ryan. They also became proud grandparents in 2014, with the birth of Bennett Allen Boggess to Allison and Jason, who live in Norwalk, Iowa.



With birth sometimes comes trauma, and the Thelin's have had their share. When Ryan was just seven days old he was rushed to a hospital in Omaha where he was diagnosed with esophageal reflux disease, which means that Ryan could not keep food in his stomach and it would come into his esophagus where it would lodge, cut off his airflow, and he would turn blue for lack of oxygen. Treatment includes medication and possibly surgery. Ryan was a sick boy who spent three days in the Lake City Hospital, followed by twelve days in the Omaha Hospital. After arriving home, Ryan was on medication for the next nine months. Ryan is now grown and doing very well.

The new scare involved Grandchild Bennett, as he contacted a virus that affected his ability to breathe through the nose. He was so young that he had not yet learned to breathe through his mouth. This was a very difficult interval for his parents, but time and medication corrected the problem for little Bennett.

On December 23, 2012, Diane fell down a flight of stairs and shattered her wrist, broke her elbow, and suffered a concussion. Even with these events the Thelin's are still very thankful for the blessings they enjoy.

The Thelin's are involved in community activities beyond school; however, school tends to eat up a lot of their time. They have been involved with the Park & Recreation Board, Masonic Lodge, serving on the library board, church activities, session leadership, youth group leaders, teaching Sunday school, teaching Bible school and other activities.

The Thelin's have received a couple awards, including Coach of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Diane was recognized by the ISEA as one of the top teachers in the State. They also receive recognition from the community on the outstanding job they do on a daily basis.

As mentioned earlier in this article, Diane speaks French and her dream came true to visit France in the summer of 2014. On June 4th, two days prior to the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, they visited Normandy Beach. They also visited Utah Beach and Omaha Beach and its cemetery. On their trip, they also visited Mont. St. Michel, a beautiful coastal island where Monks and Nuns are able to study. It is a place of solitude and a place for reflection. It is a structure built on a 247 acre island and was built in the eight century. It sits just 6/10 of a mile from the coast of northwestern France.

The Thelin's are very busy people as they balance school, church, family and other activities into their schedule. Glidden is blessed to have this family in our community for the pasts 34 years and the positive influence they have passed on to our young people.

Stewardship Emphasis

Every year at our Thanksgiving Potluck, there is a small basket that sits on our serving table. As members of the church go through the line – piling up their plates with turkey, potatoes, and stuffing – many of us throw a few dollars or a check into that basket. But the money does not go to pay for our meal. It is not a “Thank You” to the parish life committee for all the work they do to prep for our various potlucks and activities. We pass the donations on to poor families in Glidden, so that they can eat as well during the Holidays as we do.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are, perhaps, the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” But they can also be the most financially challenging. There are gifts to buy, big meals to plan, and relatives to appease. Heating bills rise precipitously and warm clothes often need to be upgraded. It is no wonder that many people fall behind on bills during the winter months.

We believe that everyone deserves to eat well around Christmastime, so we use our Thanksgiving donations to buy gift certificates to the Glidden Grocery Store and give them out to families that have applied for heating assistance through the city offices. It is a small thing, but I know that our gifts have been greatly appreciated in the past.

If you want to donate to help feed local families this Holiday Season, look out for that little basket at our Thanksgiving Potluck. Or you can give to our special offering on any Sunday in November, and we'll pass that gift on to someone who needs a little bit of extra help this winter. It is a truly wonderful thing to help feed a family at Christmas.

Lectors

*Nov. 2-Wayne Seaman

*Nov.9th,16th,23rd- Randy Christensen Family

*Dec- 7th and 14th- Diane Thelin

*Dec. 21st and 28th – Mark Conner

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

4th-Wayne and Shirley Seaman Anniversary

7th-Tyler Stidham

13th-Marion Junker

16th-Cooper Mueggenberg

19th-Blayce Nelson

19th-Bill and Elaine Crawford Anniversary

22nd-Zachary Mueggenberg

24th-Jennie Christensen



Bible Banter

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son, Timmy, walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had the idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. The neighbor said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed. The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for a whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do everyday all week. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?" Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is." The little girl said, "Well, who is she?"

"That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy..."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest (*surely goodness*) and Marcy (*mercy*) shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it."

Growing Our Faith

This appears to be a good and worthy goal but the question remains - - How? What are things we can do to grow in faith and how can we influence others to help them grow in their faith?

Faith is described as a belief and trust in God or a belief in something for which there is no proof. When we think of faith we normally think about religious ideas and beliefs, but faith is much broader than just religious faith. We place faith in other people when we ask for help or assistance. We have faith in their qualifications and their ability to deliver on their commitment.

Christian faith is easier because we do have proof of God, Son of God, and a Holy Spirit – as recorded in the Holy Bible. Through this book we can be assured that God exist and there is an afterlife for people who believe and follow Jesus. So what are some key steps to enhancing our faith?

1. Read and study the Bible
2. Attend training sessions where the teaching of Jesus are taught
3. Make it a point to give God a higher priority in your life
4. Associate with other Christians
5. Read religious books to enlarge your perspective
6. As you live your daily life and make hourly decisions, ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?"
7. Prayer is important, but we tend to make it into an empty ritual. Jesus recommended that we should try to pray in private, and it's probably a good idea to try to spend at least 50% of your time listening to what God might have to say to you.
8. When speaking, choose words carefully so as to promote our beliefs and not be offensive to others.
9. Be of the world and associate with people like Jesus did. Reach out to the unchurched people who are different and those who may walk to a different drummer.
10. God is way beyond our understanding, so do not attempt to put boundaries on God. He's the leader of the universe. It's our job to worship him, not to tell him what to do.

There are other things we can do to grow in faith and you can add to this list. The choice of Growing Our Faith is your choice. First Presbyterian Church can be of assistance, but the decision, the learning and putting into practice is always a personal choice.

May we all GROW IN OUR FAITH.

Quote of the Month

Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays. ~**Soren Kierkegaard**

The state of your life is nothing more than a reflection of your state of mind. ~**Wayne W. Dyer**

Look at everything as though you were seeing it for the first time or the last time. Then your time on earth will be filled with glory. ~**Betty Smith**

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Please plan on feasting with us Nov. 23 for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The Parish Life committee is supplying the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, and drinks. Please bring your own table service and a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share. The dinner will directly follow church service.



Announcements:

*Come to Sunday School!

Students and children will meet at the Presbyterian Church at 9:00am

Adults will meet at the Methodist Church at 9:00am

*Christian Education Committee meeting on November 2nd at 1:00am

*Presbytery meets on November 11th at Morningside Presbyterian in Sioux City at 10:00am

*PW meets on November 12th at Hunan's in Carroll

*The Food Pantry presentation will be on November 13th at 7:00pm at the city meeting room

*Session meets on November 19th at 7:00pm

*Stewardship Committee meets on November 20th at 5:10pm

*Thanksgiving Potluck will be on Sunday, November 23rd, after church
Bring a place setting and a covered dish

*Hanging of the Greens is on Sunday, November 30th