

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

March 2015



Why do Presbyterians baptize their children?

To many of us who grew up in the Presbyterian Church, it just seems like a natural thing to do. When a family welcomes a new child into their lives, we bring in the whole church to celebrate. But, there are many Christian traditions that do not baptize young people. Why the difference?

Much of the conflict has to do with the theology of baptism. I know many people who describe baptism as “an outward sign of an inward change.” Therefore, for them, baptism is a way of saying to the world, “I believe in Jesus Christ and I want to follow him.” And if you believe that that is what baptism is all about, then it doesn’t really make a whole lot of sense to baptize people before they’re capable of making such a decision for themselves.

And this view has a lot of merit. In most Bible stories about baptism, people get baptized shortly after they’ve had a life-changing encounter with followers of Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian Eunuch decides to be baptized when the Disciple Phillip told him about Jesus Christ (Acts 8). Paul was baptized after he encountered the risen Jesus on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9). The Philippian Jailer was also baptized after meeting Paul in his prison (Acts 16). Most descriptions of baptism in the Bible happen shortly after someone makes a life-changing decision for Jesus Christ.

But in that last example, there are a few words that we shouldn’t forget. Acts 16:33 says, “[The Philippian Jailer] was baptized at once, *he and all his family*.” Now, it’s very easy to argue that everyone in his family must have decided to follow Jesus Christ after hearing the story that their father told – but that’s not how most Presbyterians read the passage. Lots of families were baptized together in the New Testament. The families of Lydia (Acts 16) and Cornelius (Acts 10) were also baptized after just one person in the family had decided to follow Jesus. It stands to reason that some of these families had young children, and it sounds like they would have been baptized along with everyone else.

But if children can’t make an informed decision to follow Jesus Christ, then how does that fit in with baptism being an “outward sign of an inward change?” The truth is that it doesn’t. Instead, we Presbyterians tend to say that baptism is the “sign and seal of God’s covenant.” We agree that baptism is an outward sign – it’s a symbolic activity – but we also believe that it does something else. It also seals someone or something in. It’s hard to describe what we mean when we say that (and Presbyterians tend to disagree over the exact details)but the essence of it is that God does something during baptism.

When someone is baptized, God doesn’t just affirm what they’ve done. God acts upon their lives. God makes a change in their hearts. Baptism isn’t just the outward sign of an inward change; baptism creates inward change. When we are baptized, we are sealed into God’s kingdom. Therefore, in the Presbyterian Church, children are invited into the church family as soon as possible.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

Our visit this month is with Rick & Tami Burdine who live at 18364 Velvet Avenue, Glidden, Iowa.

Rick is the son of Ron & Jane Burdine and was born at St. Anthony Hospital in Carroll. Rick joined three siblings during his life and they are: Julie, Reed and Nick.

Tami was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa to Ruth Dewitt. She also was joined by three siblings by the names of Charles, Randy and Tanya Sue. Tami was raised in Rinard, Farnhamville and Rockwell City. She attended school at Cedar Valley in Farnhamville graduating in 1988.

Rick attended GR School graduating in 1983. While in school, Rick was involved in many activities and enjoyed his school days. Upon graduation Rick was off to Iowa State University earning a degree in Agri-Business in 1987. Following graduation Rick moved to Cedar Rapids and became a Commodities Broker where he traded grains, livestock, and other commodities for his parent company. After one year cooped up in an office, Rick yearned for more open spaces and fresh air so he returned to Glidden and began his farming career. Rick began to raise hogs and today he feeds out 2400 head of hogs at a time. He can feed out roughly 2.6 batches of hogs each year. But as a young man getting started Rick needed some cash flow, therefore he worked at the Pella Corporation for four years, in addition to his farming operation. Rick worked the night shift from 4:00pm until 1:00 or 2:00am. He worked 10 hours per night Monday through Thursday evenings. Rick loved the evening shift as it fit his schedule on the farm very well. Later in his career at Pella, Rick was transferred to the day shift. Rick was disappointed in the transfer because it did not fit well with his farming operation, and soon thereafter left the company. Presently, Rick continues with his swine operation plus farms row-crop land on his own plus aids his father on other land.

Tami began her career working for a road building company that constructed asphalt roads for county and state projects. Later she worked at a grocery store prior to a ten year employment at J's Align in Carroll. Tami took a

break from work and concentrated on raising a great family but the world of work beckoned her back in November of 2014. At that time she began part-time employment at Hy-Vee in Carroll until sickness sidelined her for a period of time. She plans on returning to work once she fully recovers.

Sometime in 1988 Rick stopped into the Bar in Lohrville and in walked a young lady in a formal who was going to her high school prom. Rick inquired to the bartender who that girl was. The bartender's reply was classic, "That's my daughter and you stay away from her." That was 1988 and in 1990 Rick and Tami began dating.

Rick and Tami were married at the Presbyterian Church in Glidden in 1993 by the Reverend Don Cameron. They lived in the City of Glidden for six years prior to living on a farm north of Lidderdale. In 2005—06 they moved to their present location on Velvet Avenue.



Following their marriage Rick and Tami had three children. Elizabeth is now a junior at the University of Northern Iowa majoring in Textile and Apparel. She would like to pursue a career in designing wedding dresses or designing costumes. During her summer months, she has volunteered at the Glidden Library.

Brandon and Cole, the twins, are sophomores at GR. At this stage in life, it is uncertain of their chosen careers but college will be greatly encouraged. Rick said, "Even if they, one day want to come home and farm, it will be good experience to get a job off of the farm and learn from experience". These men have many days ahead of them to decide on a life's career. Presently they are involved with high school activities which include sports and this summer both will be involved with baseball.

This young family enjoys traveling and this past Christmas the family traveled to Hawaii for a vacation that was very enjoyable. Other travels include trips to Disney World in Florida, Mexico, Dominican Republic, and domestic travel.

The couple attends most ISU football home games. They follow the boys involved in GR events and Rick likes to

golf, when time permits. Another hobby of Rick's was flying. Rick received his pilot's license in 1990 and flew until he gave up his license due to health. Rick and Tami have flown to such places as Oakland, California, Las Vegas, Nevada, and throughout many Midwestern airports.

The Burdine's are involved with Glidden by their joint purchase of the Lincoln Club in Glidden. Many families invested money into this project with little chance of the money being returned. During the summer of 2005 the Burdine's and many others contributed labor to remodel the facility. This venture has worked very well for the residence of Glidden and surrounding areas. All of the investors should be proud to see how well the Lincoln Club has turned out.

Rick is also a member of the Haggie Lodge. The family is members of the Presbyterian Church. One unique event in their church lives was that Tami and her daughter, Elizabeth, were baptized into the church at the same time.

Rick and Tami will continue to hold dear to the values their parents have passed onto them and move these same values to the next generation, as they continue to farm, work and develop life's skills for the three children.

"Kudos Korner"

Kudos to:

*To the Parish Life committee for organizing, setting up and clean-up of the pot luck at the church Annual Meeting.

*To the members who attended the 2014 Annual Meeting held on February 15, 2015.

Kudos to all

Bible Banter-*The Children of Israel*

Mr. Goldblatt," announced little Joey, "there's somethin' I can't figger out." "What's that Joey?" asked Goldblatt.

"Well accordin' to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"An' the Children of Israel beat up the Phillistines, right?"

"Er--right."

"An' the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"Again you're right."

"An' the Children of Israel fought the 'gyptians, an' the Children of Israel fought the Romans, an' the Children of Israel wuz always doin' somethin' important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed Goldblatt. "So what's your question?"

"What I wanna know is this," demanded Joey. "What wuz all the grown-ups doin'?"

http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Bible/The_Children_of_Israel.shtml

Barry Brandt Recognized

From 1971 to 1984 Barry & Lora Brandt were members of the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden. While in Glidden a third child, Jill, was born as she joined two older siblings, Corey and Jenny. Barry taught school at Glidden-Ralston and was the football and track coach. Lora was a nurse at Stewart Memorial Hospital in Lake City, Iowa.

The Brandt's were a large part of the Glidden community and First Presbyterian. As a coach, Barry had a tremendous record and in 1975 led the football team to a state championship.

In 1984 Barry & Lora moved on as Barry accepted a coaching position with Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. In 2000, Barry was named Northwestern's director of athletics, a position he held until June of 2014, and will retire in May 2015.

In April, Barry will be recognized as the Athletic Director of the Year for 2014 at the NAIA National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. "Barry Brandt stands for all that is good about the NAIA and intercollegiate athletics," says Jim Carr, President and CEO of NAIA.

"Perhaps his greatest legacy is the coaching staff he leaves behind," says Greg Christy, Northwestern's President. "Barry has hired every head coach we have," added Christy. Christy went on to say "He loves the Lord, his family, Northwestern College and our students."

It is great to witness one who passed our way, accomplished much while in our midst and even reached greater heights as he proceeded through life. We can only hope that Glidden and the Presbyterian Church had a small impact on the Brandt's lives because we know how great they impacted lives in our community.

Congratulations to Barry Brandt and the Brandt family for the well-deserved recognition of being chosen NAIA Athletic Director of 2014.

PS: We asked Barry for permission to publish the above article and he responded, in part, with the following message:

The experience my family and I had in the Glidden Presbyterian church was amazingly good and impactful. We have never had a church experience since that compared with what we had in Glidden. We are afforded the opportunity to make many friends in our lives but there are none that are as dear or have as great an impact as our church family friends. We will always love you because you became part of our family.

Quotes of the Month

"The people whom I have seen succeed best in life have always been cheerful and hopeful people who went about their business with a smile on their faces" ~Charles Kingsley

"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities, brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems. Unsolvable without God's wisdom, that is" ~ Charles Swindoll

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

-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:

-Joint Choir Practice is on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm at the Methodist Church

-The Joint Presbyterian/Methodist Choir will perform in Church on Palm Sunday

-Finance Committee meets on **March 4th** at 5:10pm

-The Presbyterian Women meet on **March 11th** at 11:30am at Las Margaritas

-Presbytery meets on **March 14th** at Vail Presbyterian Church

-Session meets on **March 18th** at 5:30pm

-On Palm Sunday, **March 29th**, we meet at the Methodist Church at 10:00am

-Maundy Thursday Service, **April 2nd**, is at the Methodist Church at 7:00pm

-Good Friday Service, **April 3rd**, is at the Presbyterian Church at 7:00pm