

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

September 2015



When I was a senior in High School, I discovered that a close friend of mine was regularly using a drug called crystal meth. Crystal meth is a really evil substance. It is highly addictive and it quickly turned my friend's life upside down. He started by pawning off most of his possessions. Then he began stealing from his parents and from his work. Finally, he took to lying to his friends, saying that his mother needed help paying for rent and begged them for a hundred dollars to make it through the month. He was pathetic. And every cent that passed through his fingers was used to purchase more meth.

I was a close observer of all of this drama. My friend was unable to keep a car for more than a month without selling it, so I became his primary ride to and from school. The bank wanted nothing to do with him, so I occasionally helped him to cash his paycheck and tried to make sure that he repaid some of the debts he owed to our mutual friends. It was obvious that something was desperately wrong with him, but I had no idea how to fix it. All I could do was treat some of the worst symptoms.

How do you care for a friend with a serious addiction? What can a high-schooler do in a situation like that? Unfortunately, I believed that one thing that was absolutely, completely out of the question was exactly what I should have done – told my parents. Sometimes (like in my case) children are afraid to talk to their parents about some of their most important challenges.

After we graduated from High School, my friend joined the army – a decision which probably saved his life. But I've often wondered why I never spoke with an adult about what was clearly the most dangerous problem facing any of my friends. Why didn't I trust anyone enough to think that they might be able help?

My story doesn't have a clear moral. I'm not sure that speaking to even the wisest adult could have changed anything for the better. Substance addiction is often a challenge that overwhelms many adults and strong families. Maybe things turned out about as well as anyone could have hoped for. But I regret that I never trusted someone enough to ask for help.

This is what I'm thinking of as we prepare for the return of Sunday School. Now, I'm not naive enough to think that Sunday School attendance could have prevented my friend from becoming addicted to drugs. However, I do know that Sunday School was one of the few places in my life where I spoke regularly to an adult who was not a parent, teacher, or coach.

The truth is that our young people are full members of this church. They are as entitled to support from the community, pastoral care, and prayer as any adult. Dozens of adults – who may or may not be family – care deeply about their wellbeing. This is the primary benefit of Sunday School. We're not just teaching kids about the Bible. We're building relationships of trust so that our students will know that they have friends and allies in the church, regardless of the challenges they face. Whatever issues they face in life, they are not alone.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

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## Meet the Members MTM

As we arrived at 322 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, we were greeted by a barking dog, Max, and Linda Bender. Linda was smiling and upbeat as she greeted us, while sitting in her wheel chair and holding her close friend, Max, on her lap.

Linda Fabricius was born in Toledo, Iowa, and her family moved to Carroll, Iowa, shortly thereafter. Linda grew up in a family of four girls and one boy. She spent her school years in the Carroll School system. Like many young people, Linda was very involved during her school years. She was a six-year cheerleader; she sang in the chorus; was a CHS Club officer; served as class secretary; and, as a senior in high school, Linda was surprised when she was voted homecoming queen of Carroll High. In addition to all of her activities, she also concentrated on her education.

Back in those days, Linda's mother would not permit her to go to the Carroll skating rink, because of its less savory reputation. Although, Mom did once allow Linda to attend a youth sock hop at the rink; and, at that sock hop, Linda met a young fellow by the name of Jerry Bender. About a year later, after her graduation in 1959, Linda walked down the aisle at First Presbyterian Church in Glidden and married Jerry Bender. Reverend Heap performed the wedding ceremony. Around this same time, Linda joined First Presbyterian where she ended up teaching Sunday school. Jerry and Linda were also youth advisors for Sunday night youth fellowship, under the leadership of Rev. Andrew Bosman. Another event that remains a strong memory in the church was the Homecoming chicken and biscuit dinners. Linda mentioned how she loved working with Adeline Riedesel and the rest of the ladies of the church. The homecoming day was a lot of work but the development of relationships with co-workers and the community made it worthwhile.

Early in their careers, the Bender's lived in Storm Lake and Des Moines prior to returning to the rural living in the Glidden area. For a time, Linda worked at J. C. Penny in Carroll. These were very happy times for Jerry and Linda as they began a family with the arrival of Scott, Kurt, Patti and Ryan. They played cards with friends, in fact, Linda was in a woman's card club for thirty years. The Bender's were involved in school activities at all levels and were especially involved with following the children and their activities.

The family enjoyed spending time together and accomplished this by being campers. Like many young

campers, they started camping in a tent, followed by an upgrade to a fold down to finally purchasing a travel trailer. They camped at several locations, including: Swan Lake, Dickinson Timber, Hyde Park, and even a few places out of State. The Bender's created many memories during these camping excursions.

During this time, Jerry had begun his farm operations by renting land SE of Glidden. In 1976 the Bender's moved from the Lorene Kline farm to the place owned by Harold Bender, Jerry's father. Jerry's mother had passed away and Harold left the farm and moved to town. As most farm women did in those days, Linda was a big part of the farm operation as she worked alongside Jerry, raised children, and carried on a busy life.

Tragedy struck in 1977 as Jerry was diagnosed with a brain tumor, which required surgery to have it removed. In 1978 Jerry had a shunt inserted to remove fluid from the brain. This was followed by an aneurysm and another surgery to remove more of the tumor. Jerry was placed on disability in 1979, while still living on the farm, but was limited in his ability to work. Jerry's health continued to decline and in 1996 the Bender's moved to their new home in Glidden. In December of 2009, Jerry suffered a stroke and died in March of 2010. For over 30 years, Linda has been a nurse in some capacity for her husband.

Beginning in 1975 and for the next 34 years, Linda drove a school bus for the GR school system. With great joy, she related positive stories of these young people. She especially liked 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders as they enjoyed bantering back and forth with her. In contrast, the little ones were often restless and the high school students were off in their own world. Linda could only relate two negative stories about her interactions with students, as the vast majority of her time driving the bus was a positive experience, and she still misses the young people who rode her bus. After serving all of these years as a bus driver; the school honored her with a ceremony and a PLAQUE, recognizing her wonderful contribution to the GR school system.

After caring for her husband for such a long time, Linda was required to have back surgery. The original back surgery had to be followed by a second back surgery. While at home in March of 2012, Linda suffered a stroke. Luck was on Linda's side as her daughter, Patti, was with her and Patti called 911. She was flown to Mercy in Des Moines. This stroke coupled with her back surgery, has

affected her mobility and she is now confined to a wheelchair. In the late months of 2014, Linda experienced an open wound that would not heal. She spent 3 ½ months at St. Anthony and 8 months at Mercy in Des Moines getting the wound to heal.

This family has faced difficult times involving their health and, through it all, Linda has been upbeat, positive and cheerful. Linda does not cry about her situation but takes life one day at a time. She advises people who face challenges to think positive, stay upbeat, and be thankful for what you have. When she had her stroke, Linda died or was near death and they brought her back to live life with children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild and many friends.

We concluded our visit with a fond farewell and prayers to God that Linda's wish will be granted to walk again.

## Financial Operational Report

Six Month 2015

For the first six months of 2015 the church reports the following operational income and expense. These numbers do not include income and expenses attributable to church repair items.

Operational Income – Jan. – June	\$36,787.74
Operational Expenses – Jan. – June	51,686.00
LOSS	14,898.26

Expense items includes per capita expense of \$2,713.53 – property insurance of \$2609.00 and mission funding of 5,795.11 through June.

### *145<sup>th</sup> Church Reunion of First Presbyterian*

On Sunday August 9, 2015 one hundred thirty to one hundred forty people gathered for church services at 10:00am at First Presbyterian. The church was full of laughter, hugs, and greetings as people gathered to celebrate the history of First Presbyterian and remember those people and events of the past. Pastor Brian did a wonderful job of comparing God's reaction to the prodigal son story on his homecoming and the homecoming of past members who returned to a warm welcome.

Following church services, the program continued in the sanctuary with assigned people speaking of their memories. Marian Junker, Barb Ridesel Iverson and Barry Brandt all did a great job of recalling fun times at First Presbyterian. Following Marian, Barb and Barry the floor was open for others to recall memories. Many volunteers stepped up and recalled events of the past which was entertaining and serious. A special moment was articulated by Lorna Peters as she recalled the support and love demonstrated by the people of First Presbyterian following the untimely and sudden death of her husband Dr. Robert Peters. Interspersed with these comments were some interesting points of history brought to the audience by Pastor Brian.

Once this program was complete 120 or so people migrated to the lower level where the Parish Life Committee had organized lunch of potatoes, beef, chicken & rice, salads & dessert, all catered by JJ's Catering of Glidden. During the noon meal historical booklets were distributed to each family in attendance. Other booklets have since been distributed to local members who could not be in attendance. Also, during the meal a video of families of the past, including wedding pictures, grown children when they were small, previous social events in the church and baptisms. The video change pictures every 8 seconds and ran continually throughout lunch and into the afternoon as people mingled and visited.

Fond farewells were expressed as people departed to return to Arizona, Idaho, Orange City, Des Moines, Pella, or just down the road.

The 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Presbyterian received great comments and was a good experience for this church to continue its mission of serving people.

A big thank you to all of the people who volunteered or helped in any way to make this day memorable.

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3<sup>rd</sup> -Julie (Burdine) Raisch
- 13<sup>th</sup> -Ryan Thelin
- 15<sup>th</sup> -Larry and Judy Littlefield Anniversary
- 18<sup>th</sup> -Amber Danner
- 18<sup>th</sup> -Elaine Crawford
- 21<sup>st</sup> -Bruce and Stacy Dettermann Anniversary
- 26<sup>th</sup> -Wayne Seaman
- 26<sup>th</sup> -Dean Lamp



## “Kudos Korner”

- *To all of the members who helped to celebrate the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Presbyterian.*
- *To the Glidden Graphic and the Carroll Daily Times Herald for their articles on the 145<sup>th</sup>. Also to Bob & Jay Woodhouse for the two bouquets of flowers and to the Methodist Church for the use of their projector.*
- *To all of the people who attended the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You made the day.*
- *To those who helped clean the church on August 4<sup>th</sup>, in preparation for the reunion, and on August 9<sup>th</sup>, after the event had concluded.*
- *And a special KUDOS! to the members of our reunion committee - Wayne Seaman, Jen Flemmig, and Barb Riedesel Iverson - for all their hard work.*

## Accounting of Building/Finance Committee

The church has now completed all of the construction that has been approved by the session. Following is an accounting of the income and expenses for these projects:

2013-2014 Giving & outstanding pledges	\$101,950.00
2015 Mini Campaign giving	5,000.00
<b>Total commitment to date</b>	<b>\$106,950.00</b>
Expenses with a description of repair:	
BBF5/13-10/5/14 Classic Art Glass – repair rose window	35,760.00
2014 Warnke Construction - stabilize rose window	2,107.00
2014 K & D Painting – painting area – rose window	2,000.00
2014 Andrews Roofing – repair roof – bell tower	13,843.69
2014 Pajic – tuck pointing	13,450.00
5/15/15 BBFC – inspect & caulk upper windows	267.00
Subbert Const. – repair N. room, Narthex ceiling above office	1,795.30
BBFC - Seal – install plexiglass (upper windows)	909.43
BBFC - Repair – caulk – seal soffits	348.94
Michael & Deb Carter – quote on roof repair	100.00
J. Schon – roof repair – down payment	7,000.00
8/2/15 J Schon – remaining balance	25,000.00
5/31/25 R. Burdine – reimbursement for plexiglass	728.99
8/8/15 Angela Diaz – painting soffits & trim	2,718.00
8/8/15 – MJL Painting – interior Narthex & North Room	1,029.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>107,057.35</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>( 107.35)</b>

Outstanding pledges - \$3,500.00

The listed items are those items of construction the session has approved. The session discussed, but not yet approved, the removal of Plexiglas and replacing it with new Plexiglas on the exterior church windows and replacing the carpet in the church office.

Once again this church must express its gracious gratitude for the member's support of these projects. We may still have a ways to go but people have responded with open hearts. Thank you and may God Bless this church and all of the people who pass this way.

## Bible Banter

A priest, an evangelist, and a minister were in a row boat in the middle of a pond fishing. None of them had caught anything all morning.

Then the evangelist stands up and says he needs to go to the bathroom so he climbs out of the boat and walks on the water to shore. He comes back ten minutes later the same way.

Then the minister decides he needs to go to the bathroom, too, so he climbs out of the boat and walks on the water to shore. He, too, comes back the same way ten minutes later.

The priest looks at both of them and decides that his faith is just as strong as his fishing buddies and that he can walk on water, too. He stands up and excuses himself. As he steps out, he makes a big splash down into the water.

The evangelist looks at the minister and says, "I suppose we should have told him where the rocks were."

## Announcements

-PW meets on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am

-Sunday School Returns on September 13<sup>th</sup>

-Session meets on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm

-Bible Study meets on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 volunteers from Glidden Presbyterian prepared lunches for local children at that week's Playdate Picnic. They made sandwiches and assembled a bag lunch with a sandwich, carrots, banana, stringed-cheese, and a packaged "Rice Krispies" treat for over 30 kids who attended the day's event. It only took about half an hour to prepare the meals, and the event was a great success. We look forward to finding more ways to serve our community in Glidden.

## Stewardship

During the month of September, the Presbyterian Church (USA) participates in its annual Peacemaking Offering. The concept of "peacemaking" arose directly from the ministry of Jesus Christ, when he said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." As God's children, we believe that it is our responsibility to promote peace. But this isn't always easy. Just because a person's country isn't at war does not mean that they are living a peaceful life. Some of us have steady jobs and live in safe communities, but live lives of desperate turmoil.

The Peacemaking Offering recognizes that peace means a whole lot more than the lack of violent conflict; so our offering goes to support a number of different causes, including: confronting racism, reducing human trafficking, preventing gun violence, and healing victims of sexual assault and finding methods of prevention. Locally, we advance the cause of peace by supporting the after-school program at the Methodist Church – because education is the best way to create a peaceful community. 75% of the offering will go to support denominational peacemaking efforts and 25% will stay in Glidden to support the after-school program.