

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

October 2015



In the late 19th century, an art professor at Oxford University, named John Ruskin, gathered a group of students and told them to improve one of the roads leading out of the university. Ruskin was frustrated by the fact that his students spent all day at parties or writing essays and believed that they should “feel the real pleasure of useful muscular work.” (I suspect that many of us have had similar thoughts about the technology-obsessed youth of today.)

To John Ruskin, the problem and its solution were obvious. He had far too many students who’d never done an honest day’s work in their lives, and the road he walked everyday was in desperate need of repair. Why shouldn’t the privileged students of Oxford University do a little hard labor and improve their community? So, Ruskin summoned volunteers from his art classes and soon had sixty students lined up to repair the Ferry Hinksey Road, just outside of Oxford.

As you can imagine, these art students proved to be an unimpressive-looking bunch. These were rich and fashionable young men, who turned up to work wearing all the wrong sorts of clothes for hard labor. One observer theorized that they handled picks and shovels about as poorly as anyone in history. The whole venture seemed a mistake from the beginning.

Progress was slow and inconsistent. These boys had no prior knowledge of roadwork, but slowly the condition of the road improved. And, after a year’s hard work, they transformed a swampy road into a clear, straight path, lined with flowers.

There were many, many good reasons why Oxford students should not be engaged in this sort of work. It seemed ridiculous to ask art students to work with picks and shovels. But they eventually got the job done. And from this example, we can come to understand something that John Ruskin believed very deeply. Ruskin believed that we often fail to solve many of the problems around us, simply because we’re afraid to look foolish. We allow problems to go unsolved because we think that other people will think less of us if we try to solve them.

For example, consider the issue of litter. It is not uncommon for me to see trash outside of the church, or along the street. What prevents me from grabbing a sack and cleaning up our little section of road? What keeps everyone else from doing the same? My guess is that many of us are afraid that we will look slightly eccentric if we were to do just a little bit of road maintenance every week – but how much more beautiful could our city be with just a little effort?

Or consider how many of the problems that plague our personal relationships that could be solved if we were willing to simply engage in an open and honest conversation with our friends or partner? We are often so afraid of looking foolish that we fail to solve some of the simplest problems in our lives.

I believe that, as Christians, we are called to focus on what God thinks of our behavior – not what the neighbors will think. I believe that we are called to raise uncomfortable questions and to look mildly foolish in order to improve our community. Paul once described the Apostles as “fools for Christ.” Perhaps it is only the fools who are willing to work to create a better world?

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

Our trip today was very short ride but a long distance call reaching across four states, all the way to Sandy, Utah. Sandy is a suburb of Salt Lake City, Utah, where Mary Haselton makes her home. On October 2nd, Mary will be the fifth living member of our congregation to reach the age of ninety years.

Mary was born on October 2, 1925 in Owatonna, Minnesota, where she joined three older brothers. She attended school in Owatonna. Following graduation she attended college at Stephan College in Missouri, studying theater.

This was during World War II and many of our young men were in the military service. Mary's brother Oliver, was a Lt. Commander in the Navy so she asked to be introduced to a pilot. The Lt. Commander lined her and three of her girlfriends up with four pilots. Among this group of pilots was Mary's date, a guy by the name of Ens. David Haselton. David was a torpedo bomber pilot and after the war, in the fall of 1945, Dave was honorably discharged from his service. As was the case with many couples following the war, romance blossomed rapidly and in June of 1946 David Haselton and Mary Roberts were married. The wedding was held at the First Baptist Church in Owatonna.

Mary and Dave moved back to the farm west of Glidden, Iowa and farmed the Haselton land for the next nine years. During this time period the young couple started their family as Meredith Sue was born in 1949. This was followed by the birth of Charles R. in 1952 and Clark W. in 1954.

The Haselton's searched for a more suited life and landed back in Minnesota, where Dave worked with a moving and storage company. Shortly he became a building and supply salesman serving northern Iowa and the entire state of Minnesota. He traveled in this capacity for 23 years.

While living in Owatonna, Mary was employed at KRFO radio station. In a small radio station people fill in at a variety of jobs. She became the "Jackie of all trades" as

she assembled commercials, typed program logs, and occasionally was on the air as a broadcaster. While working in the media, Mary learned of constant stress because of the requirements to meet deadlines. One eye was always on the clock in order to meet the schedule.



In 1964 Mary worked as office manager at the Social Service program in the Owatonna school system. She worked with selected children who were in age from 8-18 years. The school closed in 1970 so Mary went back to the radio station to resume her employment.

In 1980, the Haselton's moved to Sioux Falls, S.D. as David was promoted to manager of a lumber distribution center. Mary was employed at a boy's ranch which cared for dependent and delinquent boys. Mary was able to utilize some of her talents learned at Owatonna schools to aid her in the employment at the boy's ranch.

In 1994 the Haselton's decided retirement was their next occupation. They searched for the right place to retire and they chose Glidden, as that was Dave's home. One year later, Dave suffered a stroke. Mary became a care giver for the next 15 years until Dave's death in 2010.

During their life, the Haseltons loved to play cards and were members of a card club. Dave belonged to The Masonic Lodge in Glidden, Jaycee's in Carroll, and during their younger years they enjoyed riding bicycles.

David grew up in the Presbyterian Church in Glidden. Mary sang in the choir and directed the Junior Choir. They belonged to Mariners and were instrumental in installing the steps and railing leading to the altar of the church. Today, Mary cannot drive but attends church every Sunday by watching a church service on television.

Sandy, Utah is home to about 90,000 people and it lays in a valley with a great view of the mountains. The area is filled with really friendly people. Recently, Mary achieved a life-long dream when she received four tickets to attend a Mormon Tabernacle Concert. She took three of her friends as guests and they all greatly enjoyed the

concert. Also living in Sandy is Mary's son Chuck and his wife who watch after her.

Highlights of Mary's life include the birth of her children, her six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. This past summer Melissa, her granddaughter, gave the family a scare as they discovered she was required to have brain surgery. With good doctors and many prayers, she is doing well.

Mary concluded our conversation with reminding us she has lived in many places and at each location she has found extremely nice people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY!

Quote of the Month

"You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips" ~Oliver Goldsmith

"Nothing speaks louder or more powerfully than a life of integrity" ~Charles Swindoll

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1st-Bridget Draves
- 1st-Brooke Draves
- 2nd-Mark Conner
- 2nd-Mary Haselton
- 6th-Oliver Conner
- 8th-Anna Dettermann
- 14th-Ty Cose
- 20th-Loretta Hansen
- 21st-Ethan Mueggenberg
- 28th-Roy and Marge Middaugh Anniversary



"Kudos Korner"

- *To Jeremiah & Dana Johnson for their wedding on September 19, 2015.*
- *For the beginning of Sunday school this fall season and the joining together with the Methodists in this learning process.*
- *To people who volunteer to teach Sunday school and to all teachers in the GR school system.*

Memories of August 9, 2015

"It really was a wonderful day of celebration and remembrance for us. We have many good memories of friends at the church. We saw new, young couples in church and were thankful the Lord's work and witness is still going on, on a daily basis. It tells us in the Bible to "not grow weary in well doing". We pray this for all of you.

May God bless and keep you all close to him and continue to reveal himself to all of you. He is faithful!
Barry & Lora Brandt"

"We have many memories of First Presbyterian, including early sunrise service, Mariners, Santa Clause at Christmas and others. It was a wonderful day filled with meeting a lot of good friends".

Ed Walkup
David & Janet Walkup
Paul Walkup and Joyce Stonehoker

"We remember the youth fellowship parties and especially the roller skating trips to Carroll. The reunion was wonderfully organized and beautifully done. Thanks to all who helped out. It was fun seeing people we haven't seen for a while".

Neil & Diane Wheeler
Dean Wheeler & Linda Youngmark

"I recall Sunday school with Mrs. Mereness in the east room of the lower level. She had a purse and she would pull a bag of candy and give each of us a piece after Sunday school. We are looking forward to 150th"
Frank & Marlene Sherwin

"It was a great event and I loved seeing old friends and worshipping with them. Thank you for inviting me".
Clair Conner



Bible Banter

The Combination

The temporary Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet. She had been told the combination, but couldn't quite remember it.

Finally she went to the pastor's study and asked for help. The pastor came into the room and began to turn the dial.

After the first two numbers he paused and stared blankly for a moment.

Finally he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently.

Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock.

The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe at your faith, pastor," she said.

"It's really nothing," he answered. "The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

Announcements

-PW meets on Wednesday, October 14th, at 11:30am

-Christian Education Committee meets on October 11th at 1:00pm at the Presbyterian Church

-Session meets on October 21st at 5:30pm

-Presbytery meets on October 27th at 10:00am at the Presbyterian Camp in Okoboji

-Bible Study meets on Wednesday, October 28th, at 10:00am

-Be sure to stop by the church when trick-or-treating on Halloween, October 31st

*******On August 29th, 5 volunteers from Glidden Presbyterian packaged meals as part of the Annual Hunger Fight with Meals From the Heartland. Our table assisted in packaging over 40 boxes of meals. Each box contained 36 bags of rice, soy beans, dried vegetables, and vitamins. Each bag contained enough food to feed a family of 6. All in all, we assisted in the preparation of nearly 9,000 meals, to be distributed around the world. Not bad for 2 hour's work!***