

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

November 2015



Jesus once told a parable about a merchant who was searching for beautiful pearls. His hunt eventually led him to find the most elegant pearl anyone had ever imagined – the pearl of great price. Not having enough cash on hand to buy the pearl, the merchant sold his house and all of his possessions so that he could buy this one pearl of great price.

It's a crazy story about an insane decision. And we have to wonder, "What happens next?" What will this merchant do with this pearl of great price? How could any pearl be worth the loss of his home and business? Is he going to resell the magnificent pearl or just put it on a pedestal and admire it daily? What justifies the cost paid? The more I think about this parable, the less sense it makes. Sure the Kingdom of Heaven is wonderful and it's worth more than anything else in this world, but what happens to the merchant after he has acquired the pearl?

Five years ago, I made a decision that many people said was insane. On November 3rd, 2010, I left my home, my family, all my friends, and everyone I ever knew or loved; and I traded them all for a church in Glidden, Iowa. Often over the past five years, I have reflected back on this parable and felt as if I was (in a small way) living it.

The First Presbyterian Church of Glidden, Iowa is my pearl of great price. I traded everything else I valued for a single gemstone that outshone all others. Was the trade worth it? Yes. Would I do it again? You bet. Was it hard to adjust to the change? Of course, but it was worth it. I have received far more love and acceptance from all of you than I ever dreamed possible. The pearl that I purchased shines brighter every day, and continually confirms the wisdom of my original choice.

I say this to you because I want you to know just how thankful I am for this church. I want you to know how much it means to me, and I hope that you are as grateful for this community as I am. I hope that you will see the same value that I do. Glidden Presbyterian is a pearl worth sacrificing everything else for. It is a perfect gemstone, reflecting the love of God and the light of the Kingdom of Heaven. I believe that I am blessed to be here with all of you.

I still don't fully understand the parable. I still don't know that the merchant is supposed to do next. But I am beginning to see how the story might unfold. Possessions can be replaced. Our most treasured relationships can endure the pains of separation. The perfect pearl is worth the cost of poverty and the times it takes to rebuild. The right community can fill the gaps of loneliness. It takes work, but it is possible to rebuild. It is possible to chase your pearl and worry about the costs later.

This is what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. It is worth recklessly trading everything else to gain. It is the goal for which we should be will to sacrifice everything. And I can tell you from experience, after you trade everything for the Kingdom of Heaven – you will find that, in the end, you'll have more than you ever dreamed.

Thanks for five wonderful years.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian's Contact Info:

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Meet the Members MTM

Our journey today takes us west to the home of Ms. Kathy Stidham at 602 Cleave Blvd. in Arcadia, Iowa. As we arrived we see a newly constructed home in the development area south of downtown.

We start the conversation by returning to her parent's home in Canton, Illinois, which is located between Peoria and Macomb, Illinois. Parents of Kathy are Jim and Eleanor Nelson, who have visited First Presbyterian on occasions. Kathy was born in the 1960's and joined two older brothers in a rural setting. Kathy attended Spoonriver Valley High School and upon graduation she attended Spoonriver Junior College for two years. She attended Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Missouri studying Ag Business. During her college years at Kirksville she became interested in a professor by the name of Doug Stidham.

After a courtship they were married in the Fairview Reform Church in Fairview, Illinois. A year or so following their marriage, Doug did not approve of the manner in which teachers were compensated as he wanted to be rewarded for performance over degree and years of service. Therefore the Stidham's left the University life and began employment at West Central Cooperative while living in Denison, Iowa. While living there Kathy was employed in the Court House and was a part of the treasurer's office. This job lasted for two years. When Doug and Kathy moved to Glidden, Iowa, Doug was promoted to Vice President of the feed and soy division at West Central.

Just prior to moving to Glidden in 1987 their son, Tyler was born in 1986. The second child in the family, Kirstin, arrived in 1989. Early in the children's life, Kathy was a stay at home mother caring for her two prized possessions. In 1993 the world of work beckoned her, so she became an employee of the U.S. Postal Service in Carroll for the next ten years. She worked nights sorting and putting up mail. During this time she saw how much her husband loved his job but Kathy never could get excited about her work at the post office, and eventually she resolved to make a change.



Kathy continued her education at DMACC while working at the post office, but in 2004, Kathy decided her future was in health care. She enrolled in the nursing program at DMACC to receive her RN degree. While at DMACC, Kathy worked part-time at St. Anthony Hospital as a Nursery Technician. Upon graduation, Kathy began a full-time position at the hospital, working three nights a week, twelve hours each night in Obstetrics. Kathy claims some nights gets a little long but one great joy is to witness the miracle of a birth. She claims the joy of a new birth is great but to get to celebrate such an occasion, with new parents, just puts the frosting on the cake. As in any job there is also a down side such as the loss of a child at birth. Kathy then must attempt to comfort those people around her as best she can.

Kathy's son, Tyler, works for Gavilon Trading Company in Amarillo, Texas. Amarillo is home to several very large cattle feedlots. Feedlots may cover a full square mile and these cattle need to be fed every day. Tyler is responsible for buying feed ingredients for several of these yards. Tyler's role is normally limited to purchasing proteins, roughage and other products but occasionally he steps over to aid another buyer in the purchase of corn or other grains.

Kathy's daughter Kirstin, has attained her Master's Degree in Mental Health counseling and is now employed in Omaha, Nebraska at Behaven. She works with youth age 5 years to 13 years of age. In her job she occasionally works with parents of these children. During the winter months she also is employed as a basketball coach, teaching 4th and 6th grade children.

Kathy readily points out the positive influence Doug Stidham had on his children. She questioned Doug, at the time he was teaching Tyler and Kirstin, as they were very young. But, today she concedes the children will remember many of the things Dad taught them. Unfortunately, Doug died on November 11, 2000 and never got to witness the responsible jobs his children perform on a daily basis. He would have been proud.

In 2010 Kathy moved to Arcadia. Today she enjoys her job in the labor and delivery and the nursery caring for new babies. She spends her leisure hours reading, vacationing each winter in Mexico for 10 days to two

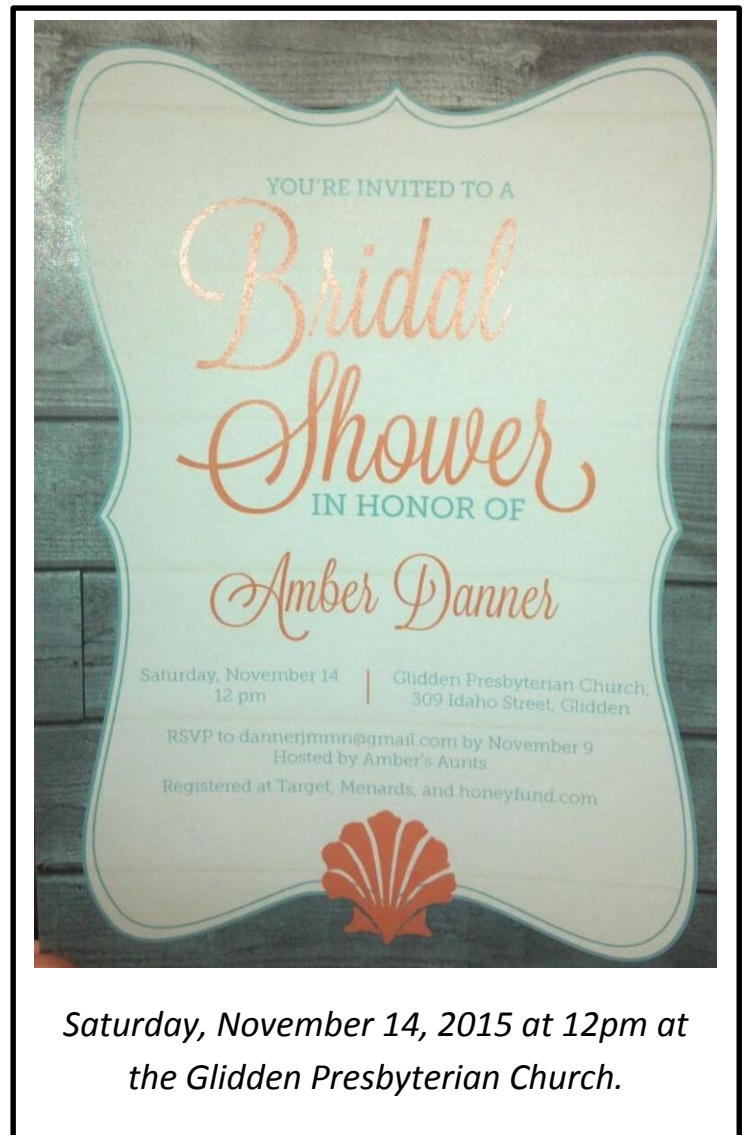
weeks, boating at Lake View in the summer, enjoying quiet time around a fire pit on the back patio and visiting her children in Omaha and Amarillo.

Kathy's memories are filled with her children growing up at First Presbyterian and one memory that sticks out is the friendly people in the church. Kathy served on the session for three years and knows that this was the best place to raise her children. Kathy also sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and helped with the youth group, which included chaperoning a mission trip to Northern Ireland.

When asked about unique experiences in her life she still believes that every birth is a miracle of God. Of course, the birth of her two children will always be remembered as unique. On the downside, the untimely death of Tyler & Kirstin's father will never be forgotten.

As for the future Kathy plans to spend time with her special friend, Matt Powell and continue her beloved career of bringing babies into the world.

We departed our conversation with Kathy after one and one half hours knowing more fully about the lives of Kathy, Tyler & Kirsten.



*Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 12pm at
the Glidden Presbyterian Church.*

Be Quick or Miss Out!

Mr. Camara of Los Angeles, California is owner/operator of an accounting/auditing business. Two of his clients are wonderful older church ladies who attend the Presbyterian Church with Mr. & Mrs. Camara. Mr. Camara completed some work for these two ladies but was in no hurry to bill them for his services. He was well acquainted with these ladies and knew they would pay him whenever the bill was sent.

After waiting for the bill to arrive for an extended period of time the two fine ladies assumed no bill would be sent for Mr. Camara's services. But they had a conscience and wanted to reward somebody for the services they received. So they remembered Mr. Camara had a son, Pastor Brian, who served a church in Glidden, Iowa. If Mr. Camara was not going to bill them, then they would make a donation to the church in Glidden. The church received a nice check from two great ladies in California as a donation to First Presbyterian.

Mr. Camara reports the amount of the donation was probably greater than he would have charged, but this experience will teach the accountant to be more prompt with his billing procedures!!!

Meeting Long Lost Friend

From 1989 to 1998, Pastor Don Cameron and his wife Della, served First Presbyterian in Glidden. They brought with them their son, Jacob who at that time was 8 or 9 years old. In 1998 Pastor Don and family moved to Sioux City, Iowa to serve a Presbyterian Church at that location. Pastor Don died while serving in Sioux City. We lost track of Della and Jacob as they moved to Texas.

On September 22, 2015, Marlys Conner and Shirley attended a meeting in Denison and as they were walking across the parking lot they ran into Della. Following is an email and pictures they received from Della.

It was so good to see you in Denison this past week. I wish we had had more time to catch up on what's been going on with the two of you and your families.

I'm attaching a few picture of Jacob and his family. He is now a Chief Warrant Officer in the Army and after being in the Army since high school, he has made it his career. He only has a few more years until retirement and at this point is not sure what he will be doing then. More than likely he will settle in Texas, which would be nice. I chose these photos because they show his beautiful family and the accomplishments he has made in the Army. One is when he came home from his last tour in Afghanistan. During that tour he was stationed at Bagram Air Force Base and worked with Special Forces on the Afghan-Pakistan border, He also still enjoy sports and ended up coaching his older boys, Isaac and Jonathon in football. His younger two kids are Kristiana and Mark. Isaac is a senior this year and plans to go to Texas A&M to study to be a vet.

Jacob's wife, Angel had a photography business. This past summer she did a photo-shoot with my daughter Lori's third daughter, Elyse, who is now a sophomore in college. Lori lives just north of Dallas in Frisco, Texas where she teaches third grade. Lori also has 4 kids - 3 girls and a boy. Her oldest, Julie is a labor and delivery nurse in Houston. Lynnette is a senior at Tulane in New Orleans and will be getting married in December, 2016. Elyse attends Dallas Baptist University and Scott is in high school. My older son, Paul and his wife, Leah live north of Houston in Cypress, TX. They have a son, Zach who is a freshman this year at University of Texas studying engineering. His daughters Zoe and Hayley are in high school. Paul has a medical practice. He specializes in Family and Sports Medicine.

After Don died I moved to Victoria, Texas (just north of Corpus Christi) and my aunt moved in with me. She and Rod's mom live with me in Texas until I could no longer care for them and they moved into the same nursing home less than a mile from my house. Both of them have since passed away. My aunt lived to be one week shy of 99 years old.

I moved back to Sioux City in 2009. Since that time I have helped my husband Rod run his rental property business. Lately he has had back problem, do I'm hoping he will be thinking about retirement.

I would love to hear about what's been going on with you and your families. Hopefully we can stay in touch this time.

Della

Della' email is dellanicolaisen@yahoo.com

Quotes of the Month

“Only as high as I reach can I grow, only as far as I seek can I go, only as deep as I look can I see, only as much as I dream can I be.”

~Karen Ravn

“Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Kudos Korner”

- *For abundant crops harvested this fall.*
- *For excellent harvesting weather this fall.*

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



Announcements

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

-Amber Danner will be celebrating her bridal shower on November 14th at 12:00pm in the church basement. Please RSVP to dannerjmmn@gmail.com before November 9th

-Finance Committee meets on Tuesday, November 17th, at 5:10pm

-Session meets on Wednesday, November 18th, at 5:30pm

*****Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Sunday, November 22, after church. The Parish Life Committee will provide the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, and beverages. The congregation families are to bring a covered dish to share and their tableware.

We hope all can attend to share in fellowship!