

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

January 2016



What is your New Year's Resolution?

Truth be told, I hate New Year's Resolutions. I've never had any success with them. I've failed all the classic resolutions – losing weight, saving money, getting organized, and reading my Bible more. I'm no stranger to making resolutions then forgetting about them before February.

The funny thing is that I have succeeded at all of those things (except for getting organized). My New Year's Resolutions never did me any good, but I have made needed changes to my life. About a decade ago, I lost over 60 pounds of weight. Recently, I've begun saving seriously for retirement. My enthusiasm for learning about the Bible seems only to grow. I've actually accomplished almost all of my resolutions, but only after failing at them when I called them "resolutions."

I might be tempted to look at all my old New Year's Resolutions and say, "I never kept my resolutions, so they must have been a waste of time." But that's probably not true. My guess is that I probably needed to fail a few times at those things before I learned how to succeed. I would never have figured out what would work for me if I never tried anything new. My resolutions never changed my life, but they may have paved the way for decisions that did.

Often, whenever we attempt to make changes in life, the first step is a failure. The people of the Biblical world did not have New Year's Resolutions (as far as I know) but they did have their own special set of rituals every new year. In the Jewish calendar, the new year begins with a time of forgiveness. The Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) is followed by seven high holy days, and the last day is the holiest of all Jewish holidays – Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement. It is on the Day of Atonement that God washes away the sins of Israel. In the Jewish calendar, every year begins with forgiveness.

Have you forgiven yourself for all the mistakes you made last year? Do you still hold onto all of the failed resolutions and goals not accomplished? Are you ashamed of your sins? Perhaps it would be wise for all of us to start our new year off with forgiveness.

This is the heart of Christianity. You and I were once stuck in an endless cycle of failure. We tried to be kinder, more generous, and more consistently faithful – but we just couldn't manage it. Our resolutions never seemed to change anything and we felt ourselves slip further and further away from God. But then God intervened and saved us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Forgiveness comes before success. Love comes before redemption.

Ultimately, God doesn't really care about most New Year's Resolutions. He doesn't care how rich or how thin you are. He has always loved you perfectly, from the moment you were born. So, don't stress too much about what's wrong with your life this January. Instead, start your year off with forgiveness.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

Our visit today leads us to 614 Montana Street, Glidden, Iowa to the home of Julie Burdine Raisch and her protective dog, Missie. This dog is a loyal friend and can detect when Julie may be experiencing a medical problem and will begin to bark. Julie and Missie like to go on walks when the weather is good.

Some of us complain about our life when in fact we have few obstacles. On the other hand Julie has experienced many setbacks during her life but still remains upbeat and positive. She loves living in Glidden due to the support she receives from neighbors, friends and family.

Julie was born on September 3, 1961, the daughter of Ron and Jane Burdine. Joining her in this family were three brothers. Rick and wife Tammi live in rural Glidden, Reed and wife Michele live in Lewisburg, Kansas, while Nick and wife Megan live in Polk City, Iowa. At age five Julie was diagnosed with type one diabetes which requires close monitoring and regular insulin injections. Currently she wears a monitor that measures her blood sugar every five minutes. If the recording is too high or too low the apparatus will emit a signal. If the warning signal is ignored the patient could enter a diabetic coma.

Julie enjoyed her school days at GR School as she participated in mixed chorus and swim team. She swam on the free style relay team that went the entire year undefeated. As a freshman Julie got to enjoy the celebration of the State Championship football team. She fondly remembers prom and graduation as special during her school days.

In 1980 Julie married Robert Frazier at the First Presbyterian Church with Rev Scott Berkley officiating. During these years Robert worked at meat packing plants in Perry and Denison. Julie was employed at Boomsma Egg plant in Glidden for eight years. While at Boomsma, Julie completed many tasks including candling, grading and breaking eggs. The egg plant closed shortly after Julie had resigned from her position. Julie and Robert raised a daughter Mandy, who now works in Carroll. This family suffered a setback on January 11, 1996 as Robert suffered a heart attack and died.



After a time of grieving, Julie decided that she needed a vacation so she went down to Florida to spend time with an old friend from her school days at Glidden Ralston, Daryl Raisch. Julie and Daryl enjoyed their time together so much that Julie moved down to Florida and the two were married in Dade City, Florida on August 10, 1998. Daryl and Julie loved camping and canoeing and Daryl flew model airplanes while Julie was content making latch hook rugs. Living in Florida, Daryl's health began to fail so the family moved back to Glidden to be with extended family. On June 6, 2012, Daryl passed away following surgery.

Earlier we mentioned that Julie worked at Boomsma Egg Plant but she also worked at the 5th Quarter in Glidden and Casey's General Store where she made pizzas and donuts. During this time diabetes began to affect Julie's eye sight and over four to five years her eye sight went from bad to worse and in 1996 she was declared legally blind. She is restricted from driving but she still has some eye sight in one eye so she can watch some television and read some large print material.

Julie has good memories of First Presbyterian as she recalled youth group with the likes of Scott Bender, Tracy Reeve, Carmen Conner, Becky Draves and others. She spoke well of Pastor Brian and his support of her during and after Daryl's death.

Even with the adversity in her life, she dwells on the good times such as how Daryl came into her life when things were bleak. The graduation of her daughter Mandy was a fond memory. Other highlights include the many friends and neighbors that support her and the wedding plans of her daughter Mandy to Adam Huff, later this summer. Julie is now recuperating from a fall that tore the ligaments in her knee and required surgery to correct. She is now walking better but still uses a cane when not in her home. Trevor McDonald, Julie's grandson, who is now 16 years old, helped Julie last summer during her convalescence.

As we concluded our conversation and prepared to leave, we continued to marvel at the positive outlook Julie maintains as she continues to deal with setbacks in her life. Go Girl!

Mission Emphasis

The finance committee has met on two recent occasions to discuss several issues involving investments in our church, ownership commitment of its members, and the mission emphasis for 2016. Through our discussion we have limited the number of mission projects for 2016 with the idea that members can more easily relate to each mission. Furthermore, the finance committee can better explain the mission, its recipients and the results obtained within the mission. We will be writing more about this area as the 2016 year moves along.

For the months of January and February, the church will be supporting Project Share. Project Share began in 1989 and is operated by the City of Glidden. This mission supports Glidden households in paying their winter energy bills. Those qualifying for help are carefully identified by a local community action agency. All Project Share contributions are available only to Glidden residents. The City Glidden Project Share program follows guidelines originally established by the Glidden Ministerial Association.

This mission has been selected and approved by the session as we help support our friend and neighbors. We don't want young or old people to be cold so this is our chance to help a friend. Please identify your donation so it will get to the right destination.

"Kudos Korner"

Kudos to:

- To Ron Burdine, Mitchell Jensen, Matt Conner, Keith Danner and Mark Conner as members of the Buildings and Grounds committee for their leadership and oversight on all of the remodeling projects completed in 2015
- Marlys Conner, Judy Reever and the joint choir for the music during this Christmas season
- The organizers of the joint Sunday School program who led worship service on Sunday, December 20
- To the special families that lit the Advent candles during the four weeks of Advent
- To Dr. Robert Wagner who celebrated his 95th birthday on December 12, 2015

Kudos to all

Now is the Time

The finance/stewardship committee has recently been thinking hard about what it means to be a member of Glidden Presbyterian. Members are more than people who occasionally show up to church – they are part-owners and investors in the mission of our church. So, the finance/stewardship committee has recently begun asking members, "What does your investment in this church mean to you?"

Here is the first response,

Now is the time.

The holidays are over and it is now time for the drudgery of organizing records for the upcoming tax season. Part of my process is to make adjustments to my investments and contributions.

My church contribution is also my church investment. An investment is the idea that the value will appreciate in the future. The future of our church is dependent on our commitment to increased contributions—contributions of time, talent, and money. The value of our church will grow with our Christian belief based on investments in our church and church family.

Church Member

Mission Investments

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has many missions, both domestic and foreign. One of the problems the church faces is the connection between the giver and the receiver. The members of a church give to missions but seldom understand where the money goes or how it is used. In this article we would like to pinpoint a mission and explain how it functions, who benefits, and the cost at this particular location.

The organization referenced in this article is called the Presbyterian Education Board (www.peb.edu.pk). The Executive Director is Veeda Gill, who is a lifelong resident of Pakistan and has dual citizenship with Pakistan and the US.

But before we get too deep into the mission let's first learn a little bit about Pakistan. Pakistan borders Afghanistan, Iran and India. The average income per year is \$1,500.00, yet 21.0% of the population live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 (US) per day. Nearly 20% of the population is in the agriculture industry but more and more people are moving into service occupations. Housing in Pakistan is across the board. There are areas where poverty is extreme and there are areas that seem to be doing very well. Families live together even into adulthood, probably out of necessity. Marriages are often arranged by the families. The country is 95% Islamic, which is the official religion. The remaining 5% of the country practice Christianity, Hinduism and other religions.

Rev. Dr. Samuel Martin (deceased) was a Presbyterian pastor and missionary who founded Martinpur, Pakistan along with 72 families. Today the population is approximately 8,000 people. Rev Samuel Martin's great grandson lives in Michigan today and still keeps in touch with the people of Martinpur, Pakistan. The Presbyterian heritage is alive and well in Pakistan due to the many Presbyterian churches established years ago.

Veeda Gill, the executive director, oversees 12 schools in this area. There are seven schools for girls and five schools for boys. Enrollment in these schools are limited due to facility size and teacher ratio. There are 250-500 students per school. Students range in age from four years to age sixteen. The schools graduate students when they conclude tenth grade. Many of the subjects taught parallel subjects to those taught in American schools. Most of the courses are taught in English. Cost of education is always a concern in Pakistan. The average cost in American dollars is \$365.00 for tuition per year. If the student needs room, board, and tuition the cost rises to around \$750.00 in US dollars. The bulk of the cost of these schools are supported by the Presbyterian Church in the United States, however a few organizations in the United Kingdom donate to these schools. The instructors at these schools are local residents who must meet certain standards in order to teach. One of the standards is being proficient in English.

Beyond these schools some students go onto college but may go to work to support their families. The Presbyterian Education Board is striving to monitor where their students go and the level of success they achieve in life.

So, what are the benefits to United States Presbyterians? We hope we are faithful to the scriptures of helping others in need. Education is a process that can impact the entire world for the better. Queen Rania of Jordan stated it very well, "If you educate a woman, you educate a family, if you educate a girl, you educate the future".

This is one specific example of where Presbyterian mission money is spent. In 2014 First Presbyterian of Glidden invested over \$6,000.00 in missions in projects such as outlined above. A similar mission investment happened in 2015. In 2016 First Presbyterian of Glidden will continue to reach out to local people and people from afar as we invest to make this world a better place and spread the message on behalf of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st-Kevin Nelson
2nd-Kirk Thelin
6th-Braylee Cose
7th-Brandon and Cole Burdine
7th-Linda Bender
12th-Daniel Lamp
15th-Megan Delaney-Arellano
17th-Jayden Douglas
18th-Stuart Conner
22nd-Larry Littlefield
23rd-Evan Arellano
24th-Duane Conner
25th-Randy Christensen
26th-Erin Danner
31st-Adam Arellano



Quotes of the Month

"Let us look upon our children; let us love them and train them as children of the covenant and children of the promise. These are the children of God" ~Andrew Murray

"Children have more need of models than critics" ~Joseph Joubert

Announcements:

- *Sunday School Returns on Sunday, January 10th, at 9:00am
 - Kids and Adults at the United Methodist Church
 - Students at the Presbyterian Church
- *PW meet at Hunan's on Wednesday, January 13th, at 11:30am
- *Session meets on Wednesday, January 13th, at 5:30pm
- *CE meets on Sunday, January 24th, at 11:30am at the United Methodist Church
- *Annual Meeting and Potluck is on Sunday, February 7th, after church