

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

March 2016



The beginning of March is a wonderful time. It is the time when winter's grip is lessened on our community, when robins return to Iowa, when the grass turns green, children play outside, and it is when Warren Buffett releases his annual shareholder's letter. I'm sure that you are all as excited for March as I am.

Now, I am not a business person nor am I an investor. I also know that Warren Buffett will be long dead before I'll ever be able to afford even one Class A share in his company, Berkshire Hathaway. But, nonetheless, I like reading his annual letter. When most people in business and investing are worried about quarterly returns, Mr. Buffett is thinking long term.

Let me share with you a few sage bits of advice from the Oracle of Omaha,

"I tell college students, when you get to be my age you will be successful if the people who you hope to have love you, do love you."

"It is not necessary to do extraordinary things to get extraordinary results."

"It's better to hang out with people better than you. Pick out associates whose behavior is better than yours and you'll drift in that direction."

"Over the long term, the stock market news will be good. In the 20th century, the United States endured two world wars and other traumatic and expensive military conflicts; the Depression; a dozen or so recessions and financial panics; oil shocks; a flu epidemic; and the resignation of a disgraced president. Yet the Dow rose from 66 to 11,497."

This advice is not your typical investing jargon. Warren Buffett's letters are not full of stock tips or suggestions about how to get rich quick. He simply offers us wisdom, and he knows that wisdom is all we truly need.

If you have wisdom, you will be successful in whatever you wish to do. If you want to make money, wisdom is the most reliable way. If you want to build a happy family, wisdom should be the foundation of your home. If you want to make new and wonderful discoveries, first learn wisdom and then you will be able to seek out a path that others have overlooked.

Warren Buffet's shareholder letters only come once a year; so, in the meantime, I must content myself with reading the wisdom found in our Scriptures. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and James are all books of great wisdom. They teach us about the dangers of pride and the value of humility. They remind us that adulation and attention often lead people to ruin. They counsel silence and learning above winning arguments.

From the Bible, we learn that wisdom is the process of mastering your fleeting desires and focusing your heart on the things that matter most.

So, in the month of March, I would offer you this small bit of wisdom – your environment shapes your soul. The things that you read, watch, and listen to will determine your future. If you never seek out wisdom, then your life will be shaped by whoever shouts the loudest.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Members MTM

Our journey this month is a night trip as both husband and wife are employed during the day. We traveled North of Glidden to 17126 Sycamore Avenue to the home of Rhonda and Matt Conner. The roots of these two people are deep in the Glidden Ralston Community as each of them were born and raised in the area. In fact three of their four parents were raised in this community as were grandparents.

Rhonda is a daughter of Jack and Marty Neubauer and was joined in this family with six siblings. Matt is the son of Joyce and Duane Conner and was joined in the family with three siblings. Matt and Rhonda both attended GR School with Matt graduating in 1982 and Rhonda graduating in 1984. Matt attended DMACC in Ankeny for one year graduating in Building Trades.

The young couple dated during their high school days and related a couple of stories that happened during those days. It was winter with plenty of snow on the ground. Matt was bringing Rhonda home late one evening when he hit a patch of ice and veered off into a neighbor's yard. The car was stuck so they went to the house, woke up the neighbors to ask for assistance. The grumpy neighbors got dressed, put on heavy coats, and went out to help Matt and Rhonda. With Rhonda driving, the neighbors and Matt were able to dislodge the car and get it back on the road. Thankfully, the neighbors in question – Wayne and Shirley Seaman – didn't hold a grudge.

The second story involved a railroad crossing located west of town by the Little League ball park. Several times Matt had crossed over this railroad track at that location. The railroad company decided to remove the crossing ramp but failed to put up any barriers. Unsuspecting, Matt and Rhonda crossed the tracks and immediately got hung up on the rails. Matt walked back to Larry DeVries to secure some help. Larry first brought his pickup to pull the car off of the tracks. Not enough power. Larry returned with his tractor and removed the car before a train came barreling down the tracks. These were some anxious moments for this young couple.



The summer prior to Matt going off to college, Matt joined George Horton on what is called the wheat run. Matt operated combines and trucks and began harvesting wheat in Oklahoma. Once complete there, they moved on to Kansas and then to Nebraska. For Matt the season lasted two and one half months. Matt greatly enjoyed the experience and the knowledge gained during that summer.

The couple started dating in 1981, and on June 15, 1985 they were married at First Presbyterian Church in Glidden, with Jerry Reisen officiating. This began 31 years of precious memories raising a family, working, playing; and this fall their youngest son, Oliver, will go off to college, leaving the Conner's as empty nesters.

Rhonda has worked much of her adult life at various jobs. Early on she worked at the Carroll Health Center for 8 ½ years. She loved her job and particularly

loved sitting with folks at the end of their lives. Our community is blessed to have people, like Rhonda, to do this. Rhonda also worked two years at American Home Shield, nine years at Carroll Vet Clinic, and the last eleven years at GR School.

In 1984, Matt joined his father, Duane in the farming operation. Over the years this operation has grown to farming 2200 acres and collectively feeding over 16,000 grow-finish hogs per year, with the help of son Stuart. Matt receives hogs weighing 40lbs and feeding them to 300lbs. Stuart receives iso-wean pigs at 15lbs and feeds them to 300lbs. They custom feed for GSC in Carroll. Matt claims to be very blessed to be a farmer even when it comes time to wash down the hog facility. His passion for farming is demonstrated by the professional approach he uses in his management decisions. In every venture, his intent is to leave it better than he found it.

For almost ten years of their working career, the Conner's owned four female golden retrievers and raised pups. Busyness took over and they temporarily gave up raising golden retrievers but one day they hope to restart this venture. Golden Retrievers are a smart and gentle breed of dogs. Therefore, the Conner's hope to raise pups and give them away to be used to encourage children and adults at rehabilitation centers.

All during their work career, the Conner's had another interest – raising a family. Weston was born in 1990 and now lives in Melcher, Iowa where he is a certified welder working for MIC. Today Weston is a specialist repairing and inspecting large centrifuges. Emily Naylor is a special friend of Weston.

Stuart was born in 1992 and has become part of the farming operation and with livestock keeps him busy year around. In fact, in the days prior to and of our visit, the Conner's loaded out truck loads of 180 hogs each day. Stuart's special friend is Becca Schultes.

Oliver was born in 1997 and is a senior at GR and is involved in many school activities. This fall Oliver plans to attend ISU in Ames and major in agronomy with an emphasis on Precision Agriculture. A very difficult period in the Conner's life occurred with the birth of Oliver. Complications set in and both mother and son were at risk. Oliver was life-flighted to Des Moines for special treatment, while Rhonda had to remain in Carroll for treatment, including many blood transfusions. Matt accompanied his new son to Des Moines, leaving behind a sick mother who was not well enough to go see her baby. Matt's voice shook with emotion as he recalled his fears on that day. Thankfully, both baby and mom recovered fully.

Like most young families, Rhonda and Matt spent a great deal of time following their children through scouts, sporting events, school development, county fairs, and helping with 4-H projects. Rhonda likes to spend her time reading and taking long walks. Matt likes to restore tractors and go on tractor rides. Other activities involving this couple is the remodeling of their home, which has been beautifully upgraded.

Matt and Rhonda are involved with many community activities as Matt has been a member of the Haggai Masonic Lodge for over 25 years. He has served 13 years on the local board of education and the past 5 years as President. Matt serves on the FFA Alumni Organization and they both volunteer to help out at special events in Glidden.

Some of the memorable moments of the church were the baptisms of their children. Other memories include the Children's Christmas program, Christmas Eve Service, homecoming chicken and biscuit dinners, church camps, and other church activities. Matt and Rhonda have

both served on the Session, and various committees, and Matt is a member of the Building and Grounds Committee.

The future for Rhonda and Matt will be to follow their children, witness their continued development, and, on July 30th of this year, celebrate the wedding of Becca Schultes and Stuart Conner. They will continue the development of the farming operation and with a newly empty nest, they hope to involve themselves in more travel. As in the past, they will continue to serve this community and their church.

We wrapped up our visit with a freshly grilled hamburger and friendly conversation. We may have overstayed our welcome but the hospitality was so good we didn't want to leave.

Kudos Korner

- *To the Parish Committee for decorating and hosting the luncheon prior to our annual meeting.*
- *To GR boys and girls basketball teams for their great season. You make us proud of your accomplishments*
- *To Jennifer Flemmig for gathering information and assembling the annual report*
- *To Pastor Brian as he begins his role as Moderator of Presbytery. On behalf of Presbytery, he will also attend General Assembly this summer.*
- *To Lindsey Cose for organization and layout of our newsletter. Also for the Cose family for addressing and paying postage for the newsletter.*

Welcome new Members

The church family gives a hearty welcome and big hugs to the newest members of our church. Karla and Gordon Cose transferred their membership to First Presbyterian Church on February 7, 2016. The Cose formally lived in Denison and were members of the Presbyterian Church in Denison.

The Cose family purchased a house in the developing area north of the Raccoon Valley Electric office and warehouse. Wonderful new residence to our community and church so let's make them feel welcome.

MEMBER SPEAKS

I am not a member of Glidden Presbyterian Church. I cannot claim ownership over this building and this ministry in the same way that each of you can. All I can say is that I feel a profound sense of relief every time I enter this building. To me, this church is as warm and welcoming as the home I grew up in. I am deeply invested in its success. If this church were to close fifty years from today, I would regard it a personal failure – I would wonder if I could or should have done more. The loss of this place would be the loss of a home and many of my happiest memories. Glidden Presbyterian will always be special to me. It was here that I first aided in a baptism. It was here that I learned how to be a pastor. It was this place that welcomed me when I felt alone and broken. This place built me up when I was small. I only hope that I can be a gift in return.

Ed Walkup Remembered

Ed Walkup contributed greatly to the success of First Presbyterian Church in Glidden, throughout his life. He was active in Mariners when it was a strong part of our church. He served on session, committees, and in many other roles beneficial to the church.

One of the old time stories about Ed goes like this: The floor of our church sanctuary slopes down toward the altar, but the pews we have were originally designed to sit on a flat surface. So, prior to the 1970's, the pews tipped significantly forward. This lasted until the current carpet was installed, and Ed Walkup told Pastor Burkley that they should fix the pews before putting them back in. Ed worked with Dave Moorhouse, Paul Walkup, Ralph Conner, Paul Conner, Cal Hughes, and more to cut off a small portion of the back legs of each pew so that they would sit flat in our sloped sanctuary. This, along with the fabric on the pews, made for much more comfortable seating.

This was one of the many, many ways that Ed Walkup was a blessing to our church, throughout his life. We were honored to have him as a member for 75 years.

Thanks for the memories, Ed, and God Bless your soul.

Annual Meeting Recap

Following a potluck luncheon fit for a king or queen, First Presbyterian held its annual meeting in the lower level of the church. There were approximately twenty five people in attendance. Pastor Brian, as moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and conducted the meeting.

Normal business practices were conducted with each committee chairperson presenting written and verbal reports on their committee. Members freely asked questions and discussion took place. All reports were approved as presented,

Lindsay Cose and Marlys Conner were elected to serve a three year term on the session. Rhonda Schroeder was selected to serve on the nominating committee as a representative of the congregation.

Each family in attendance received a copy of the annual report. Families not in attendance may pick up a copy at the church.

Pastor Brian closed the meeting with prayer.

Mission Emphasis

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been a high profile charity at First Presbyterian for several years. In the past four years this church has averaged over \$1600. in gifts to this organization each year.

OGHS is supported by several denominations throughout the world and serves people with fresh water, housing, food, education and many other aspects of life.

The session at First Presbyterian has designated the months of March and April to highlight this charity. Members of First Presbyterian can make an investment in this charity that may impact people here at home or around the world. If members choose to invest in this worthy cause just mark your checks or investment so it will get to the correct account.

The church has not fully accounted from all of the Project Share investments as gifts are still arriving. We can report Project Share was well received and through January 31st seven households will benefit from our generosity. Project Share continues through February as we support those in our community with heating assistance.

Quotes of the Month

"God will help us become the people we are meant to be, if only we will ask Him"
~Hannah Whitall Smith

"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

*The Presbyterian-Methodist joint choir is practicing on Wednesdays at 6:30pm

*They will be performing at the Joint Palm Sunday service on March 20th

*PW meets on March 9th at 11:30am at Queen Bean in Carroll

*Presbytery meets on March 12th at 9:30am at the Carroll Presbyterian Church

*This will be Pastor Brian's first meeting as Moderator of Presbytery

*All are welcome to attend

*Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13th. Remember to set your clocks forward!

*Session meets on Wednesday, March 16th, at 5:30pm

Holy Week is March 20th to March 27th

*Palm Sunday, March 20th, we will have a joint service at the Methodist Church at 10:00am

*Maundy Thursday, March 24th, we will have a joint service at the Methodist Church at 5:30pm

*Good Friday, March 25th, we will have a joint service at the Presbyterian Church at 5:30pm

*Easter Sunday is March 27th at the Presbyterian Church at 10:00am

The two churches will celebrate Easter in separate buildings, but in one spirit

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday