

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

May 2016

Spring

There is a wonderful old poem by Percy Shelley, called “Ozymandias.” It’s a short poem that’s very easy to read, but I’m not going to quote the whole thing here. In the poem, Shelley imagines the ruins of a great statue, worn down by time. A traveler visiting the monument can see only the remains of the figure’s two mighty legs, rising like pillars from the ground. And nearby lies the head of the statue, half-submerged in the sand. The figure must once have been enormous, commanding attention from all directions, but now it is just an oddly shaped pile of rocks in an empty landscape.

A pedestal sits nearby with an inscription that reads, “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!” Of course, there are no more mighty works in this desert. Time has removed them. The great kingdom is several thousand years gone. The same boast that cowed so many in Ozymandias’ life, now rings ironically in the ears of the currently living. Ozymandias may have once been a great king, but his kingdom is forgotten.

I’ve always liked Shelley’s poem. It reminds us that even the greatest men and women of our age will soon be forgotten. Most of the things that we think are most important in this world probably won’t last. You could probably spend your whole life chasing fame or fortune or a great legacy. You could waste every day of your life in miserable toil for a goal that (even if you achieve it) will gain you nothing. Life is not about being remembered. It is about celebrating the time that we have.

There is only one small wrinkle in this interpretation of Shelley’s poem. You see, Ozymandias was not forgotten. Actually, you’ve probably heard of him. Ozymandias is the Greek name for the Egyptian Pharaoh, Ramesses II. Historians will tell you that Ramesses was easily one of the most powerful and important Pharaohs in Egypt’s history. He built several cities and many important monuments. I even saw the statue that inspired this poem at the British Museum last year.

Ramesses is not forgotten. He has achieved fame and respect far surpassing his wildest expectations. We can still see his mighty works. They’re gathered carefully in museums and studied by thousands, witnessed by millions. Ramesses still commands our attention and our respect, more so than anyone else of his time... well, with the possible exception of one person.

The scholarship is a bit dubious, but Ramesses II has traditionally been identified as the Pharaoh who squared off against Moses in the Book of Exodus. If the tradition is correct, then it is remarkable that the lives of two figures from the same time and place are so well remembered in different contexts. But it strikes me as particularly interesting that Moses is the better known of the two. It turns out that the great Ozymandias was overshadowed by the son of a slave in his kingdom.

Percy Shelley was right. Power is fleeting. Great deeds are soon forgotten. But even when they aren’t, we still pay greater respect to people of high ideals than we do to men of power. The world tells us that money and fame are worthy pursuits – things that will always be remembered. But that is not true. We don’t tell our children stories about the richest people in Egypt. We tell them the story of a man who lived with slaves, prayed to God, and built a better world.

The stories of Moses and Ramesses teach us that the greatest legacy does not go to the person who acquired the most stuff or won the most battles. It belongs to the person who serves God the most faithfully. And that is what we will be remembered for – how well we did as parents, who we were kind to, and how well reflected the image of our maker.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

**Pastor Brian’s Contact Info:**

Email: [Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org) or Cell phone: 818-388-9779

## Meet the Congregation

Our travels today takes us south of Ralston to the home of Chuck Newman and Shelly Stahl. Their home is located on an acreage at 23553 Zephyr Avenue, Glidden, Iowa.

Chuck is the son of James and Mabel Newman who lived in Stuart, Nebraska. Chuck was born in 1946, was joined in this family by one brother and two sister. Chuck grew up on a dairy farm in the Stuart area where his family milked 150 cows. Once Chuck finished high school at Stuart, he was determined he had graduated from milking cows, so off he went into a larger world.

While in high school and two years following, Chuck participated in rodeo events. He road them all but specialized in bareback riding. He traveled the circuit as a professional for two years and won the Pendleton Roundup in Pendleton, Oregon. He participated in rodeo for a total of five years.

After graduating from high school Chuck enrolled in South Western Oregon College as a pre-veterinarian student. After two years he transferred to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

While in college Chuck was married and from this union three children were born. Their son Tuffy is now 47 years old, daughter Crystal "sis" is 45 and married to Dave. Daughter Jenni is 44 and married to Jeramy. Chuck has five grandchildren.

After leaving college, Chuck gained employment at a 50,000 head cattle feedlot where he was responsible for oversite and care of herd health. He chaired the veterinarian division for this large enterprise.

We now need to bring readers up to date regarding Shelly's history. Shelly is the daughter of Kenneth and Faye Strahl. Her family lived in Louisville, Ohio, located in East Central Ohio. Shelly was joined in this family by seven siblings. Shelly loved the outdoors as a girl growing up. She graduated from Louisville High School in 1981. Immediately, she enrolled in Farrier school in Oklahoma City. A farrier school is a school that instructs students on how to shoe horses. Shelly spent ten weeks at this school completing her studies and shoeing horses.

Chuck Newman had been a farrier for some years but did not have a diploma and therefore might have been subject to a lawsuit, so he enrolled in farrier school in Oklahoma City. After his first week he became a part time student and a full time instructor helping the students to become licensed farriers.

The year was 1981 and this was the first meeting of Chuck and Shelly. Once they finished farrier school, Chuck invited Shelly to join him in working at a horse farm at Kingsley, Iowa. This farm had a variety of horses but most were quarter horses. They owned several horses but also trained and stabled other people's horses. Shelly began to develop her farrier business plus doing chores on the farm. She also would ride horses to warm them up prior to training and cool them down following training.

While they were still in Kingsley, Chuck had to deal with some serious health problems. He began to suffer from fatigue. He could only work for a short time. After several days of shortness of breath and fatigue, stubborn Chuck, at the encouragement of his fellow workers, went to see the doctor. Upon examination the doctor said, "We need to get you to the hospital now". He was transported to a Sioux City hospital where he spent the next two weeks with severe heart problems. He was transferred to Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis. In February of 1988, he was diagnosed with a virus infection that had damaged his heart. At least the doctor thinks this caused the problem but they weren't sure. In any event, Chuck needed a heart transplant. He stayed in Abbott for one month and was sent home to get his affairs in order and wait for a heart. Keep in mind that heart transplants were a new procedure in 1988. In late April, he was rushed back to Abbott and the doctor determined they should install a mechanical heart until a heart becomes available. While waiting for a new or mechanical heart, Chuck died and a code blue was activated at the unit. Chuck had an out of body experience that only he can describe. They revived him with electrical paddles on his chest to stimulate the heart. Chuck came around and could describe the events that had taken place in his room. While waiting to gain some strength, a young man from Colorado died and on May 6, 1988 a donor heart was inserted into Chuck, and it keeps on pumping. Chuck was grateful for all the Lord and



people have done for him and he lives each day thanking God and serving him.

In the years following those event, Chuck was divorced and, in 1991, Chuck and Shelly became a couple. Then, in December of 1995, they moved to their present home south of Ralston. They bought this location so they might continue to train, stable and work with horses. Their son, Charley was born in December of 1996. He graduated from Glidden-Ralston school in May of 2015. Presently he attends DMACC in Carroll and studies liberal arts. He will complete his first year in May. He also works on the farm doing chores and working with the horses.

Chuck claims to be retired but we suspect he is still involved in the farm activities. Shelly has been employed by UPS on a full time basis for the past four years. She runs a delivery route out of Guthrie Center that serves one half of Perry, North to Grand Junction and east to highway 169. She travels 150-170 miles per day on her route and has 95-115 stops per day. Shelly puts in long days but loves her job with this company.

In their spare time Shelly likes to paint, pitch horse shoes and walk their dogs. Chuck involves himself with horses and working with the Cowboy Church. For the past five years, he has taught team roping to youth ages 8-17 years at a Rodeo Bible Church for one week each year.

Good advice they have received includes “keeping your bible close and read it regularly”. Also “It doesn’t matter what you do in life, but do your best”.

We wrapped up a wonderful two hour visit with this interesting family and wishing them well into the future as they pursue their work, hobbies and worship of our one God.

## Thank You

Thank you! On behalf of the Board of pension of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), I am deeply grateful to you, your session, and your congregation for receiving the 2015 Christmas Joy Offering. Through this Offering, you extend a lifeline to PC (USA) retired pastors and other church worker with income and housing needs and to current teaching elders, educators, and other church workers who find themselves in financial crisis.

Last year, the Assistance Program provided nearly 1,300 grants, for a total of more than \$5 million in assistance, with the majority of grants going to retirees – to boost income, help with retirement housing costs and allow them to live independently, with dignity.

The Reverend Frank Clark Spencer  
President

## In Memory

We remember Carolyn Hofstad and her contribution to this church and the Glidden Community. She passed from this life to a new life with Christ on April 7, 2016. At the time of her death, she resided in Florida. She and her family were a blessing to the church.

## Member Speaks

### Gracious People of First Presbyterian

We as a congregation inherited a tremendous legacy as we joined this church. The legacy includes 146 years of teaching, investing, and development. Today our role is to perpetuate the teaching of Jesus Christ for the benefit of our peers and those who follow. We perpetuate this cause with our enthusiasm, our regular attendance, our knowledge, and our investment made in support of First Presbyterian Church. We cannot leave this legacy to somebody else but rather recommit ourselves to serving by becoming inspired to serve our church, our community, and other people as we pledge to do better in 2016.

## *Kudos Korner:*

- To Ron Burdine and the building and grounds committee for their observation and continuous repair of the church building, from the top of the chimney to the lower level bathroom and even outside maintenance, the committee is making needed repairs.*
- To the 2015-2016 Sunday school teachers who served willingly to inform and educate people of all ages on the meaning and beliefs of Christianity. Thanks go out to Marlys Conner, Lindsay Cose and Pastor Brian.*
- To Allison and Jason Boggess on the birth of a beautiful daughter, Everly Cate. She was born on April 5<sup>th</sup> and weighted in at 6# 12" and 19 inches long. She joins a brother, Bennett in this family. Proud grandparents are Diane and Kirk Thelin and Nancy and Brian Boggess.*

## **Bible Banter**

**Six-year old Angie , and her four-year old brother, Joel , were sitting together in church.**

**Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.**

**"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?"**

**Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,**

**"See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."**

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**A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service,**

**"And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"**

**One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."**

## ***Special Anniversary***

On April 18 1880 the First Presbyterian Church of Glidden was officially reorganized, therefore the church became 146 years of celebrating and worshipping on April 17, 2016.

A record to remember and celebrate with a commitment to continue this cherished tradition for many years to come.

## **Summer Camp**

This summer, our church is sponsoring 4 campers to attend the Presbyterian Camp at Okoboji. Treynor Cose, Blace Nelson, Alex Daniel, and Dawson Majerus are all going together to the Lil' Campers event in July. Lil' Campers is designed for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and serves as an introduction to the camp experience. By the Lakeshore, our campers will sleep two nights in one of the camp cabins. And, during their three days at camp, they will sing camp songs, learn about Jesus, and as much fun as is humanly possible.

If you know of anyone else who might be interested in attending camp this summer, please let Pastor Brian know as soon as possible. It is our joy to sponsor these four kids in their first trip to camp, and we hope to see more kids join them in years to come.

## **Graduating Seniors**

It comes around each year and we recognize and celebrate people who are graduating and heading in a new direction in their lives. This year we honor three special people in our church.

**Oliver Conner:** Oliver is the son of Matt and Rhonda Conner. Following graduation from Glidden-Ralston school, Oliver's future plans include attending Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. He will be majoring in Agronomy with a minor in Precision Technology.

**Anna Fleece:** Anna is the daughter of Kevin and Sara Fleece. Following graduation from Glidden-Ralston school, Anna's future plans will lead her to Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska. She plans to complete her general courses prior to selecting a major.

**Samantha Adams:** Sam is the daughter of Mark and Deb Adams. Sam will be graduating from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Sam will begin employment at the University of Iowa in the neurosurgery unit. Also, she has enrolled in a correspondence course at Morningside College to earn a master's degree in Clinical Nursing Management.

We salute these graduates for their accomplishments and wish them great success in future endeavors.

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4<sup>th</sup>-Jeremy Douglas
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Roy Middaugh
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Jeremy & Sarah Douglas  
Anniversary
- 11<sup>th</sup>-Wesley Reever
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Rick Burdine
- 16<sup>th</sup>-Marlys Conner
- 20<sup>th</sup>-Tim Reever
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Ron Burdine
- 25<sup>th</sup>-Kathe Schutte
- 28<sup>th</sup>-Ty & Lindsey Cose Anniversary



### **Announcements:**

- \*Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>
- \*Presbyterian Women meet on Wednesday, May \*11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am at Hunan's in Carroll
- \*We will recognize our 2016 graduates on May 15<sup>th</sup> in church
- \*Session meets on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm

### **Stewardship**

The Mission Emphasis for the months of May and June is Heifer International.

Heifer International seeks to bring sustainable agriculture to the poorest parts of the world. They begin by donating to a community or a family the gift of an animal, like a heifer or goat or a small flock of chickens. Those animals provide families with both a source of food and a reliable income. This small addition of food and income can transform the lives of a needy family. They then pay the gift forward by passing on the first female offspring to another family in need. Heifer International has received numerous awards, including a World Food Prize and the Presidential End Hunger Award. They have partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and are regularly audited by charity watchdog groups. We believe that this will be a wonderful ministry for us to support this summer.