

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

December 2016



My grandmother once gave me silverware for Christmas. Judging by how many times she told the story, I think that my reaction to her gift was her favorite Christmas memory.

The setup was years in the making. Each year, before the day of Christmas came, I would carefully weigh and shake all of my presents. It wasn't too much work to guess which boxes matched which items on my wish list, so I could normally open my gifts in the order of my enthusiasm. Big gifts were first, followed by games or movies, and clothes were always last.

Soon, my relatives began to try to sneak things by me: video games might be hid amongst clothes or small items would be placed in much bigger boxes. But I was rarely fooled, and I would triumphantly announce the contents of each box before I opened it. After a few years of this, my grandmother was fed up.

So, one year, she wrapped a new set of silverware (intended for my mother) and put my name on the tag. The gift sat under the tree for weeks – taunting me. It was heavy, so it must be expensive. It was packaged tight, so it wasn't re-boxed or weighed down. The slight hint of moving pieces confused and excited me. I had no idea what was in the box.

And so, when Christmas morning came, I opened my gift from my grandmother – as my very first gift! No box under the tree held more excitement for me than that mysterious present. I quickly read the card aloud and tore off the wrapping, with all the speed of a hyper-active twelve year-old, only to discover three boxes of silver and green table utensils. I then looked at my gloating grandmother with so much confusion and disappointment that my face became a Christmas legend.

Now – over twenty years later – I still remember opening that box of silverware. I fondly remember how happy my grandmother was to tell and retell that story. I remember her, and the feeling of being gathered with family around that Christmas tree. But I can't quite remember any of the other presents that I received that year. In fact, I only remember a small handful of the many gifts that I received as a child.

This holiday season, we will all spend a frightening amount of time searching for “the perfect gift” – the gift that will stand out from all the others. But the perfect gift is rarely the gift that anyone was dreaming about. For me, the perfect gift was a box of silverware, coupled with the joy of my grandmother. For you, it might be stories shared around the table. The gift that sticks in our heart is rarely the gift that we were expecting.

You see, the real worth of a gift is not measured in how much it cost or in how much it might have been desired. The true value of a gift can be seen in how it is remembered – in the feelings of love it evokes. And I can tell you that, right now, I would happily exchange all of my Christmas gifts this year for just one more chance to hear my grandmother tell that old story – and see her smile, one last time.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Congregation

Mark and Jane Toyne moved to Glidden this past summer and are this month's feature in the newsletter. Both of these people were originally from the Lanesboro-Lake City area so this move to Glidden was a homecoming.

Mark is the son of John and Mary Toyne of Lanesboro and was joined in the family with four siblings. Jane is the daughter of Clifford and Laurene Dowling of Lake City and was joined in the family with five siblings. As young children both Mark and Jane attended small schools. Mark attended school in Lanesboro until he reached sixth grade and Jane attended country school through third grade. Lanesboro and the country school were both closed and merged into the Lake City school system. As young children they were in the same grade in Lake City and knew each other from sixth grade on. They began dating in high school and graduated in 1965. While in high school, Mark was involved in the Future Farmers of America and play productions. Jane was a band member all four years of high school, along with participation in the pep club.



Mark headed off to Iowa State University to study dairy science. Jane attended Iowa Central College in Fort Dodge. After one year of college, they decided that marriage was their future and on November 19, 1966 (calculating 50 years!), they were married at the Woodlawn Christian Church in Lake City. Along with their customary wedding vows they pledged to each other that divorce would never be an option in their marriage. They reported this with a sense of pride in our conversation.

Once married the couple began a work schedule and Mark went to work at a Dayton, Iowa dairy, milking 75 cows twice a day. Family also began to become a reality with the birth of Michelle in 1967. Daughter Lynne followed in 1969 and son Jeff was born in 1973. Today, Mark and Jane have twelve grandchildren, with one being deceased, and five great grandchildren. Oldest daughter Michelle lives in Glidden and works in Carroll at DOG Paws, as a dog

groomer. Lynne lives in Coon Rapids while son Jeff and his wife Debbie live in Carroll and both are employed at Farner-Bocken Co.

Even with the birth of children, work went on and Mark took another job on a dairy farm in Winterset milking 50 cows day and night. Work on the dairy farm lasted three years from 1967-1970. In 1970 the Toyne's began farming with John Toyne and renting land as they expanded on their own. They farmed until 1987 while also being employed as a punch press operator and operating a plastic molding machine at the General Electric plant in Carroll. The GE plant began to shut down in 1989 and Mark was offered a retraining option at DMACC in Ankeny, Iowa. Two years later Mark graduated with a degree as a tool and die manufacturing specialist. He began his employment at making equipment for the pet food industry. Mark spent the next twenty five years at Readon Machine Co. in St. Joseph, Missouri, making equipment. Mark retired June 1, 2016 and they moved to Glidden.

Jane did not sit on her hands during the work tenure of Mark. Early on she cared for their children while raising fruit, vegetables, and other garden items. She canned and froze products for winter consumption. Over the years she worked many jobs such as a meter reader, detassling corn, sorting corn at the Garst & Thomas plant in Coon Rapids, and providing child care services for neighbor's children. She worked as a church custodian and for five years worked full time at Casey's General Stores. When they moved to St. Jo, Missouri in 1991, she took up her most rewarding occupation – providing child care services for young people.

The farm boy returns to the land as Mark helped out with harvest this fall and plans to return in the spring to help with the planting season. Additionally, the Toyne's enjoy reading mysteries, watching old westerns on television, and using their computer for entertainment. They enjoy camping and traveling in their motor coach. Earlier in life they would square dance at least twice weekly. This activity has dropped off with the progression of age.

“If you want an organization to change you must stay in the organization to influence that change”. This was advice Mark received at an early age.

An old fashion experience occurred while this young couple was on their honeymoon visiting Jane’s grandparents, Max & Letha Nicols, who lived in Westlaco, Texas. About thirty or so neighbors organized a shivaree for the couple. They paraded down the street beating drums, blowing horns and singing as they disrupted the young married couple. A tradition that has died over the years.

Both Mark and Jane have grown up in the church and as youth attended church camps. While living in St. Jo, Missouri, they were members of the Presbyterian Church where Mark served on the session and was church treasure for fifteen years. Both were workers in the church throughout these years and were instrumental in helping lead the church when their pastor retired. They relish the chance to meet new friends at the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden and get reacquainted with old friends.

The future for this couple will involve some remodeling of their living quarters. New windows have been ordered, new siding will be installed, concrete work and one additional bedroom are all in the plans. They will be relieved when these projects are completed. They do enjoy traveling and spending time with family.

First Presbyterian considers it a high honor to involve Mark and Jane Toyne as fine people who attend First Presbyterian in Glidden, Iowa.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st-Lora Reeve

3rd-Harry Reeve

5th-Annette Douglas

6th-Larry DeVries

6th-Mandy Frazier Huff

10th-Shirley Seaman

12th-Bob Wagner

12th-Charlie Newman

13th-Tami Burdine

17th-Judy Reeve

21st-Kirsten Stidham

28th-Lillian Draves

28th-Shelly Strahl

30th-Tim and Lora Reeve Anniversary



Quotes of the Month

“Do not strive in your own strength; cast yourself at the feet of the Lord Jesus, and wait upon Him in the sure confidence that He is with you, and works in you. Strive in prayer; let faith fill your heart-so will you be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” ~ Andrew Murray, Pastor

“Tears shed for self are tears of weakness, but tears shed for others are a sign of strength.”

~ Billy Graham, American Evangelist

Mission Emphasis December 2016

We sometimes think we are not as wealthy as our neighbors or the likes of Bill Gates or Warren Buffet, which is financially correct. With this line of thinking we sometimes begin to feel sorry for ourselves or even think we are not well blessed. But when we step back and view the entire world we then realize how blessed our lives have been. We seldom lack for clean water, clean air or clothes to wear. It seems there is abundance all around us. However, there are folk in our Glidden community that are living on the edge with only limited resources to eat this Christmas season. Therefore, as the church has done in the past, we are using this season to share some of our abundance with Glidden families who could use some support during this Christmas season.

Twenty five dollar gift certificates, from the Glidden Grocery Store, and donated by First Presbyterian Church, will be presented to families in Glidden. These families are selected from a list of families submitted by New Opportunities. First Presbyterian can aid in making Christmas a little more joyous for our community.

If you plan to support this venture, please mark your donations as **Christmas Gift Certificates**.

Recap of Building Projects

At the June 2016 Session meeting, the board approved the continued installation of six east storm windows and one north entry window. This is a continuation project from the previous years. The building and grounds committee, led by Ron Burdine, contracted the work with Architectual Glassarts Company with a cost projected to be \$6034. Following is a report of the income and expenses for this project.

Building Fund Income:

June	\$1000.00
July	3862.00
Aug.	1000.00
Sept.	3000.00
Total Income	\$8862.00

Building Expenses:

July Payment	1508.50
August Payment	4525.00
Total Payment	6033.50
Surplus payment	2828.50

Thank you to a generous congregation for promoting the upkeep of the church building.

“Kudos Korner”

Kudos Korner:

- To the Parrish Life Committee for organizing, cooking and overseeing the Thanksgiving Dinner. This hard working committee consists of Diane Thelin, Lora Reever, Jane Burdine, Jen Flemmig and Judy Reever.*
- To Linda McClellan for helping Pastor Brian with the distribution of hot dogs on Halloween*
- Congratulations to Amber and Tom Birkett for the birth of a daughter named Adeline Marie. The child was born on October 23, 2016 and is a blessing to this family.*
- Congratulations to Dana and Jeremiah Johnson on the birth of a girl on October 20, 2016. This precious package is named Weslie Rose and we wish her well to grow up strong and healthy.*
- Congratulations to Sandy and Russell Pietig on the birth of a granddaughter. This child of God was born on September 7, 2016 and named Emma Loraine. We wish this family well as Emma develops into a young lady.*

Kudos to all

Bible Jokes

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua, son of Nun (Joshua 1:1).

Q. Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?

A. In the big inning. Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Q. Who was the fastest runner in the race?

A. Adam, because he was first in the human race.

Q. Why did the unemployed man get excited while looking through his Bible?

A. He thought he saw a job.

Christmas Program

*Joint Presbyterian/Methodist Sunday School
Christmas Program
Dec 18th at the Presbyterian Church at 10:30am*



Announcements:

- Session meets on Wednesday, December 7th, at 5:30pm
- PW meets on Wednesday, December 14th, at Hunan's in Carroll
- Sunday, December 18th, is our joint Christmas Program with the United Methodist Church
 - *Christmas Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the UMC
- The Christmas Eve Service is on December 24th at 5:30pm
- No Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st
- Pastor Brian will be out of town from December 26th through January 9th
 - *Worship on January 1st and January 8th will be at the United Methodist Church
- Sunday School returns on January 8th
 - *Children and Adults will be at the United Methodist Church at 9:30am