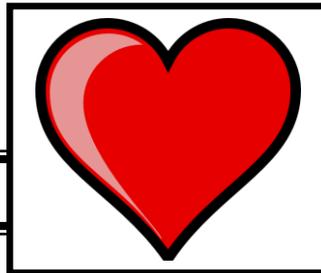


First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

February 2017



In the 1975 movie, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, King Arthur goes on a quest to gather the finest knights in England and rally them to discover the location of the Holy Grail. It is obviously a very silly movie. But there is one scene that I've been thinking about a lot lately.

King Arthur approaches a castle and asks a nearby peasant, "Who is the lord of that castle?"

"We don't have a lord," the peasant replies.

"What?" asks Arthur, confused.

"We're an anarcho-syndicate commune. We take it in turns as a sort of executive officer for the week. But all decisions of that officer have to be ratified at a special bi-weekly meeting. By a simple majority in the case of purely internal affairs – but by a two thirds majority in the case of more..."

Arthur interrupts the peasant, screaming, "Be quiet! Be quiet! I order you to be quiet!"

You see, whenever a non-Presbyterian asks me, "What does the Moderator of Presbytery do?" I ask tell them about King Arthur's encounter with that peasant. We take it in turns being executive officer for the year, but all decisions have to be ratified by a special..." And then they start screaming at me, "Please, be quiet!"

I am the first to admit that we Presbyterians have an obnoxious and complicated way of doing things. In some cases, it all seems rather silly. But we do these things for idealistic reasons. Our castle may not always function as smoothly as others, but it represents the interests of the people – not the opinions of a powerful ruler.

If I had to describe the Presbyterian Church in one sentence, I would say, "Our denomination is obsessed with democracy." We have democracy in our theology, in the structure of our meetings, and in our worship of God. No one, in our church, stands closer to God than anyone else. No pope or bishop can tell us what to believe or think. The power belongs to the people.

And to ensure that it all stays that way, we have committees and moderators and decisions that must be ratified by a simple majority in the case of purely internal affairs... And you get the picture. We are a denomination that loves democracy, and democracy is complicated and frustrating – but it's worth it.

So, if you're ever frustrated by all the layers of complexity in the Presbyterian Church – Session, committees, annual meetings, presbytery, and the like – remember that we do it because we want to make sure that everyone can have a voice.

Who is lord of our castle? We have no lord but Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Meet the Congregation

Our list of potential interview prospects is very short, therefore our visit today is a short journey to the home of Shirley and Wayne Seaman at 1827 West Street in Carroll, Iowa.

Shirley was born in Dallas County, Iowa where she joined one older brother and sister to make this family complete with Mother, Dad and, three children. Later Shirley's family moved to Grand Junction, Iowa where Shirley attended school graduating in 1958.

Wayne was born in Scranton, Iowa and his family consisted of Mother, Dad, three girl siblings, and three male siblings. Wayne attended Scranton School graduating in 1956.

Things were tough in the late 1930's so Shirley and Wayne were expected to work at a very young age. This work ethic carried over after graduation and Shirley began working at the Iowa State University Press in Ames, Iowa. Later Shirley moved back to Jefferson, Iowa where she was employed at Shriver-Van Horn Construction Company as a bookkeeper.

Wayne began his work career at the Farmers Cooperative Association in Ralston, Iowa that later changed the company name to West Central Cooperative. Wayne began his work in the feedmill as he was a feed sacker, ditch digger, and all round worker that was expected to do whatever he was told.

Shirley and Wayne's paths crossed in the spring of 1958 as they met in the roller rink in Jefferson. This meeting began a long term relationship that has lasted nearly 59 years. In early 1961 this relationship was interrupted when Wayne enlisted in the Air National Guard in Fort Dodge, Iowa and was sent off to Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas for basic training which lasted eight weeks. Wayne served six years in the Guard and the Reserves.

After 3 ½ Years of dating, Shirley and Wayne were married on November 4, 1961 at the United Methodist Church in Grand Junction, Iowa. Following their honeymoon trip, the couple settled into married life by renting a one bedroom apartment in Jefferson. The young couple continued their employment at Shriver-Van Horn and at West Central in Jefferson. By this time, Wayne had moved into sales and

management at West Central. They lived in Jefferson for two years before moving to Ralston in 1963. Soon Wayne was promoted to assistant manager at Ralston-Jefferson and given the opportunity to be in charge, at various times, of the fertilizer, feed, soy processing divisions, along with leading the lumber division for a period of time. On Christmas Eve in 1968, the five members of the accounting section walked out the door in a protest action. Wayne asked the then manager if he might have the freedom to talk one on them into staying, whereupon he replied, "Let them go". At that point Wayne was selected to be the short term accounting section, where he learned the meaning of debit and credit. He posted the books, made out the month end reports, paid bills, and oversaw the whole accounting section. Later West Central employed two ladies to fill the accounting section, both of whom were true workhorses. Wayne maintained his role as accounting manager. This was a busy and difficult time in Wayne and Shirley's lives; but, in the end, this experience proved to be a blessing as Wayne understood accounting from top to bottom. Wayne also served on the City Council and Shirley was City Clerk for many years.

In 1966 Shirley became a full time mother. February 7, 1966 was a special day in the life of Shirley and Wayne as a son David was born. Their second son Darin was born on June 6, 1970 followed by the birth of Derek on May 21, 1971. Shirley and Wayne now enjoy eight grandchildren. David and his don Zachary, Darin and Shauna and their children Landry, Brynn and Bailey. Derek and Karri have four children, Bredyn, Bree, Brylee and Belle.

In 1972 Wayne became the Chief Executive officer of West Central and served in that capacity for the next twenty eight years. The company attained success during this period as it grew in the number of locations, total employees, dollar sales and a new culture in the company. Not everything was upbeat as the company suffered some setback's, such as the Jefferson elevator explosion that killed three employees, the collapse of a grain storage tank, and other setbacks that many businesses are required to deal with in life.

Not because of who they are but rather their positions at West Central, plus being on boards of directors of different corporations, the Seaman's have

been fortunate to experience many events in life. They have traveled to several foreign countries on business and have met with government officials. As part of St. Antony Hospital, they traveled to Rome and while there they visited the Vatican. They were invited and participated in communion and visited several historical churches while in Italy. Also they have visited the White House in Washington, D.C. and attended a press conference in the Press Room. The Seaman's have visited a floating grain elevator in the Gulf of Mexico, a phosphate mine in Florida, and many other points of interest that have been connected to agriculture.

The Seaman's retired from West Central in 2000 and relocated from Ralston to Carroll where they started Seaman Enterprises, which they operated for eleven years. This was a business consulting firm that worked with Agri-Business throughout the mid-western states.

Today, the Seaman's serve on several boards of directors, volunteer at the hospital, New Hope Village Store, play bridge and enjoy life with friends.

The Seaman's joined the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden over 50 years ago, raised the boys in this church and still attend church in Glidden. Deep roots and excellent friendships developed over the years. The Seaman's take ownership in this church even though they realize the church belongs to all people. The church, the teachings of the church and the sacrifice made by Jesus is important to them as virtually every Sunday they are in church in Glidden or some place that are in their travels.

They plan to continue volunteer efforts, attend grandchildren events, follow high school events and stay close to the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden.

Editor's Note: Our congregation has been especially blessed by Wayne and Shirley's commitment to this section of the newsletter. Wayne has doggedly pursued dozens of interviews with members and friends of this congregation. He has faithfully turned our conversations into interesting stories – and then asked Shirley to type them up for the rest of us.

I have witnessed grieving families pull out this section of the newsletter when writing a loved one's obituary, and heard children comment that they "never knew that" about their own parents. We all know each other better as a result of Wayne and Shirley's hard work. Bravo!

The End of Meet the Congregation

For the past three years, starting on February 13, 2013, this newsletter has been sent to you by email or snail mail. During this period we have done interviews with most of you which has been a blessing to the writers and to the readers.

We have exhausted our list of those people willing to be interviewed. If we have missed anyone who would like to be interviewed, please let Pastor Brian know. If no one responds then "Meet the Congregation" will cease to be published as part of this publication.

We are studying a section to replace Meet the Congregation but we will report more on this thought as time passes.

Thank you to all who were willing to allow us an interview and publish your wonderful story.

Any extra Annual Meeting Reports will be left in the back of the church for anyone to grab who was unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

“Kudos Korner”

- To the Parish Life Committee for organizing, setting up and hosting the potluck dinner proceeding the Annual meeting
- To Jeremy Douglas for his and others effort on searching for the girl from Denison who was missing following a vehicle accident.
- To Jennifer Flemmig for organizing and assembling the Annual Report
- To all people of the congregation who supported the Church throughout 2016
- To Rhonda Schroeder, Gordon Cose and Jennifer Flemmig for accepting the nomination to serve on the Session for three years.
- To all the people who served on committees that help move the Church gracefully through 2016.
- To Pastor Brian for his leadership on the completion of another year.
- To Wayne Seaman and Pastor Brian for all of their efforts writing articles for the newsletter.

~Kudos to all

Famous Presbyterians

If you've been to the movie theater this year, then you've probably seen posters for the new movie, *Hidden Figures*. It is the story of three African-American mathematicians who worked as “computers” (and later as programmers) for NASA during the Space Race. One of these three women, Katherine Johnson, is a living legend in the aerospace community. She is also a devout Presbyterian.

Katherine Coleman was born in West Virginia in 1918. At that time, her school district did not enroll African American students in high school, so her family spent half the year in Institute, WV so that their kids could attend high school. Katherine graduated from high school at age 14 and graduated from college *summa cum laude* at 18.

Beginning in 1953, Katherine started working at NASA, where she met her future husband Lt. Colonel James Johnson. At NASA, Katherine Johnson calculated the trajectory for the 1959 space flight of Alan Shepard, the first American in space. She calculated the launch window for the Mercury mission, and was asked to verify the calculations of the electronic computer that calculated the orbit of John Glen (another Presbyterian) around the Earth. She stayed at NASA until 1986, participating in the Apollo 11 mission to the moon as well as many others.

The story of *Hidden Figures* is the story of how Johnson and her colleagues surpassed racial animosity to become some of the most respected people in aeronautics. In 2015, Johnson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in our nation. But through all of her success and challenges, she has also been a faithful member of her church. She served for many years on session (leading the finance committee) and in the choir.

It is truly wonderful to see the achievements of a fellow Presbyterian be celebrated in such a popular film.

Finance Committee

Update on 2016

The church continued its improvement projects with the installation of another seven storm windows at a cost of \$6033.50 in 2016. Church members responded by donating \$8862.00 to this project, leaving a balance in the building fund of \$2828.50. Further projects will be discussed in 2017.

During 2016 the church had several missionary projects that were supported. Throughout the twelve months the church supported the Presbytery Mission at \$3600.00 for the year. Much of this money was in support of the camp at Okoboji. Other mission projects were as follows:

Jan/Feb – Project Share

Mar/Apr – One Great Hour of Sharing

May/June – Heifer International

Jul/Aug – Food Pantry, Meal from the Heartland

Sep/Oct – GRASP

Nov/Dec – Groceries for Glidden residents

Operating costs at First Presbyterian have come up short for the past few years and 2016 once again saw expenses exceed giving by about \$1500.00 per month. Only because of past members support has the church been able to pay all of its bills. Much of this support has been developed through the contributions from past members estates. Currently we have members who have plans in their wills to gift 3-5% or more of their estate to First Presbyterian when they activate their estate. Members are encouraged to give this practice some thought so the church can continue to serve generations in the future.

On a very positive outlook members have contributed over \$5000.00 for missions in 2016 plus many have donated many hours volunteering to various missions. Additionally members individually contribute money and time to charities such as New Hope Village, St. Antony Hospital, Cancer Society, and other charities that benefit many people. Added together the church members should be very proud of the mark they make in this community.

Going forward the yearly expenses of the church will be \$100,000 or over \$8,000.00 per month. Given the limited number of families in our church, this remains a real commitment by good people. A big thank you to all for your support, past, and in the future.

Thank You Cards Received

Thank you for remembering me with the Christmas gift Card. Thank you! ~Elizabeth Burdine

Thank you so much for the kind letter and gift card. It was extremely thoughtful and I am very grateful to have received it. I continue to wear the silver bracelet from graduation and it's a great daily reminder to pray and acknowledge God. Thank you so much again! ~Anna Fleece

Thank you for thinking of me with your gesture of the gift card. When in Ames I know this will come in handy. ~Wesley Reeve

Thank you for your continued support of the After School Program. Your contribution is very much appreciated. Thanks also to the members of your congregation who volunteer at GRASP. We are proud that we provide a community service that is truly ecumenical. ~Mary with GRASP

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

5th-Karla Cose
7th-Heather Mueggenberg
9th-Whitney Reeve
11th-Harry and Judy Reeve
Anniversary
15th-Michael Douglas
17th-Emma Flemmig
18th-Will Reeve
18th-Treyvor Cose



Quotes of the Month

“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light.” ~ **Helen Keller, American Author**

“The strength of a man consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going in that way too.”
~ **Henry Ward Beecher, American Preacher & Reformer**

Read more: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/top-25-christian-quotes-about-strength/#ixzz4WtYCKRDM>

Announcements:

- PW meets on Wednesday, February 8th, at Queen Bean in Carroll at 11:30am
- CE meets on Sunday, February 12th, after church, at the Presbyterian Church
- Session meets on Wednesday, February 15th, at 5:30pm
- Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 1st
 - The Ash Wednesday Service will be at the Presbyterian Church at 5:30pm

The Mission Emphasis for the months of January and February is Glidden Project Share. The Project Share program was created in 1989 by the City of Glidden electric utility to assist needy 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.