

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

March 2017



Truth be told, there are one or two members of my extended family that I might not want to be with – if anyone had ever bothered to give me the choice. Certain members of my family have obnoxious political beliefs or they drink too much at family gatherings. Frankly, I only ever smile and agree with them because I want the holidays to go as smoothly as possible – and only one of us is mature enough to yield the debate floor.

I suspect that a few of you might know the sorts of relatives that I'm talking about. But a more interesting question is, "How have these disagreeable family members influenced my life?"

Some of them have proved instructive examples of what not to do. I have gained wisdom from their errors. Some have given me help or extremely generous gifts, which I in no way deserved. Some – even though I was annoyed by their personalities – proved to be role models and heroes whom I greatly admire. My family is full of people that I would not have chosen, but who have enriched my life nonetheless.

And that thought makes me believe that we're all probably not very good at choosing our friends. Most of us choose friends who talk like us, think like us, look like us, and act like us. This is normal. We want to spend time with people who make us feel comfortable and accepted. But those people are not always the people who will most enrich our lives. And given that they're all like me, they're probably not the most loyal, most honest, or most kind-hearted people either.

Honestly, a world full of people like me wouldn't be very interesting, so I am blessed that God forced me into relationships with people that I might not otherwise have chosen to know. This is part of the blessing of family. Most of our families stick together, even though we don't like each other, even though we're frustrating, and even through (in the short term) we'd be happier if properly separated.

And this truth makes me believe that I should probably be friends with more people that I don't like very much – people who frustrate and challenge me. If my experience with family is any indication, then I might be blessed through knowing them.

The Book of Ecclesiastes says, "Two are better than one; for if they fall, one will lift up the other. But woe to the one who is alone when he or she falls, for they have no one to help them up."

But I wonder, what value is a friend who falls into all the same pits that you do? Will you help each other rise, or just encourage each other to keep digging? We need friends and family who don't share our blind spots and who will correct our mistakes.

Sometimes it is the people who are most frustrating to be around that bless our lives the most. I know that's true in my family.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

**Pastor Brian's Contact Info:**

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

## **Where are they now?**

Earl and Eva Hartwigsen were lifelong members of First Presbyterian. They were married on May 10, 1941 and until their death were pillars in the church.

This couple had two girls LaVonne and Roena. Today we focus on LaVonne Hartwigsen Baumhover who resides, with her husband Harry, at 410 19<sup>th</sup> Place in Carroll, Iowa.

LaVonne grew up on a farm south of Glidden and attended Glidden-Ralston School for thirteen years. During these formative years, she attended First Presbyterian participating in Sunday school and church. Reverend Duane Heap and Reverend Ray Heglin served the church during these times. The church had a positive influence on her life at that time and still influences her life today. During this period, in the life of the church, a young couples group called Mariners were active at First Presbyterian. LaVonne recalls, with fond memories, the bonding that occurred within this group. She also recalls the trips taken to meet with Mariners groups' and the joy of friendship these trips presented. From seventh grade throughout high school LaVonne attended church camp at Okoboji. Her first two years of college she would return to church camp, as a counselor. She was also a part of the North West Iowa advisory group, a part of our Presbytery. During these camp experiences, she met some good people that have become lifelong friends.

Following graduation, from high school, LaVonne enrolled in Buena Vista College where she graduated in 1970 with a degree in Elementary Education. She accepted a position at Carroll public school where she taught elementary children from 1970 until retiring in 2007. She did take time off for ten years. During this period, she raised her family. Even during this ten year period she did much substitute teaching for the Carroll school.

LaVonne met Harry Baumhover while teaching in Carroll. Harry was a graduate of the University of Iowa and had served two years in the U.S. Marines from 1969-1971. Following the Marine duty, Harry began employment with the Carroll County State Bank in Carroll as Ag representative where he was employed for

four years. During this time, Harry and LaVonne were married on June 30, 1973.

Harry and LaVonne started their family with the birth of Ann on April 13, 1975 and with the birth of Marci on October 3, 1977. These two girls have now grown and have a family of their own. Ann married Marty in 2004 and have two girls Ava 10 and Emily 8. Marci married Tim in 2003 and this couple have three boys – Luke 11, Colin 8, and Jacob 4. All of their children and grandchildren live in the Des Moines area. Since their children and grandchildren were in Des Moines they purchased a townhouse in Urbandale. They estimate they spend one-half of their retirement time at the townhouse.

We are a little ahead of ourselves so we return to life for the Baumhover's in the early 1970's. Harry began working for the State of Iowa as an auditor. In 1977 they moved to a farm four miles north of Carroll and began their farming operation and later expanded it to south of Glidden. Harry continued his State audit work in addition to farming. They moved to their current address in 1988.

The teacher in LaVonne is still paramount as she fondly recalls her years working with first and second graders. Today, she has adults who she taught in school approach and recall memories of those good days. LaVonne is a member of Beta Sigma Phi, an International Sorority.

In addition to family, the couple have enjoyed traveling and vacations, or at least LaVonne has enjoyed this time. Here is this quite, reserved, young lady from Glidden who has been snorkeling, whitewater rafting in Alaska and sky diving. They have traveled to Mexico, Hawaii, Arizona, Europe, and other places. On these trips they normally run into old friends.

Today, the couple lives in retirement by helping people of all ages to improve life wherever they go. They claim they receive way more than they give. Family is very important to LaVonne and Harry and the memories of LaVonne's youth and years in First Presbyterian church are fond as she recalls the people of that era.

## *Kudos Korner*

- *To the church members who prepared the potluck dinner and to those members who attended the annual meeting on January 29, 2017*
- *To the members of the Parish Life committee for setting up our meal and providing wonderful decorations*
- *To Jen Flemmig for preparing the Annual Report booklets*
- *To the G-R girl's basketball team for an outstanding season*
- *To members who volunteer to serve on committees that assist this church and make the organization better*
- *To the newest member of our church - Abby Stonner*

## **Bible Banter**

**Q. Which Bible character had no parents?**

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

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**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.

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**Q. On the Ark, Noah probably got milk from the cows. What did he get from the ducks?**

A. Quackers

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**Q. What animal could Noah not trust?**

A. Cheetah

## Famous Presbyterians

In 1940, a recent college graduate went to work as a management trainee for J.C. Penney in Des Moines, Iowa. Perhaps they trained him too well. That young man, Sam Walton, would grow up to become the founder of Walmart and our famous Presbyterian of the month.

Sam Walton was born 99 years ago, this month. At that time, Sam's parents owned a farm in Oklahoma, where he quickly learned the value of hard work. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Sam became the youngest Eagle Scout in the history of his state and, in high school, he led his school's football team to a state championship as their quarterback. But this wasn't an easy time to be a young man. Soon the Depression came and Sam had to work multiple jobs to help his family survive. This work ethic would stay with him throughout his life. As an adult one colleague described Sam saying, "This is a man who was at work at 4:30 in the morning, had warmth and charm throughout the day, an interest in his customers, and who treated his associates well as persons, not just as clerks and salespeople."

Even after he attained great success, Sam Walton was always extremely frugal. On business trips, he always rented the cheapest cars and slept at budget motels (or in the homes of store managers). This frugality extended to his business as well. The Walmart corporate offices were famously humble. Located in Bentonville, AR, these national offices had linoleum floors and metal desks – nothing like the fancy offices of Sears and J.C. Penney. At the time of his death in 1992, Sam was the richest man in the U.S. and drove a 1985 Ford pickup.

In Bentonville, Sam and his family attended the First Presbyterian Church, where he occasionally helped teach Sunday School. His wife, Helen, became the first woman moderator of Arkansas Presbytery and woman to be chair of the Presbyterian Foundation. Both Sam and Helen were proud members of our denomination, and an example to all of us.

## **Help!**

We are starting a new column for the newsletter entitled "Where are they now?" We would like to feature children, adults who attended this church and have moved on in their lives. We need your suggestions of possible names, addresses, e-mail and telephone numbers if available. We will then contact one family per month and do a telephone interview with the children who are now parents and or grandparents.

We selected LaVonne Hartwigen Baumhover as our first guest.

Please let Pastor Brian or Wayne Seaman know of your information by email or snail mail.

Pastor Brian = [Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org)

Wayne Seaman = [seamanws@yahoo.com](mailto:seamanws@yahoo.com)

Thank you readers for any help you can provide.

## Quotes of the Month

“Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.” ~ 1 Chronicles 16:11

Read more: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/top-25-christian-quotes-about-strength/#ixzz4aCF7GbVV>

## March Birthdays and Anniversaries

-11<sup>th</sup>-Ron and Jane Burdine

Anniversary

-17<sup>th</sup>-Irma Holley

-18<sup>th</sup>-Russ and Lil Draves

Anniversary

-26<sup>th</sup>-Leland Bender

-26<sup>th</sup>-Rhonda Conner

-28<sup>th</sup>-Kali Nelson

-30<sup>th</sup>-Judy Littlefield



## Announcements

-Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

The Ash Wednesday Service will be at the Presbyterian Church at 5:30pm

-PW meets on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am at the Family Table in Carroll

-Session meets on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm

The Mission Emphasis for the months of March and April is the One Great Hour of Sharing.

The One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest Special Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It goes to support three different Presbyterian ministries – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. In 2015, the OGHS supported projects from community improvement initiatives in Des Moines, Iowa to helping people rebuild after a flood in Myanmar. This offering is the primary source of mission funds for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is one of the best things that we do together as Presbyterians.