

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

April 2017



The Six Great Ends of the Church are:

- The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
- The maintenance of divine worship
- The preservation of the truth
- The promotion of social righteousness
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

This list appears in the first few pages of the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is drilled into the minds of our seminarians and is one of our proudest statements of our unique identity, as a denomination, but these “ends” are almost wholly unknown by most members of the church.

In our theology, church is about a whole lot more than just Sunday mornings. It’s about more than just preaching the Gospel or converting sinners. Our time together, as a congregation, is richer than just reading the Bible, singing a few songs, and calling it a week. We have other goals too.

A good example of this is our Presbyterian Women’s luncheon. What does our lunch have to do with the life of the church? I would say that it serves the Second Great End – the spiritual fellowship of the children of God. Fellowship strengthens the church, even if we occasionally don’t do anything “church related” at our lunches.

The truth is that a congregation has to do more than just worship together. If we leave out fellowship or service or educating our children, then we’re failing to accomplish one of our Six Great Ends. Each is important. Each is part of our Christian life.

And I think that viewing church in this way can help us to understand that people and institutions always have more than one goal; we have more than one reason for living. You are not just your career. You are not just a person who works at a job and fulfills a specific role in society. You are a friend and a relative, a customer and a neighbor. You are a teacher to one person and a favorite student of another. As Walt Whitman might have said, “You contain multitudes.”

But did you know that many of these goals – many of these other ends – are just as important as your career or role as a parent? What do you really gain if you succeed in one area and fail in all the others?

One day you will stop working at your current job, or your children will move away, or you’ll grow too old to do the hobbies you love – and when that day comes, will you find that you neglected every other end of your life? Will you be confused over what to do next? Or will you simply move to the next item on your list and say, “I’ve always wanted to try something new.”

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

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Where are They Now

Tom and Alma Conner were long term members of the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden. They raised their family on a farm north west of Glidden. Tom and Alma had ten children, consisting of six girls and four boys. Arlene Conner Stoval is 92 years of age and lives in Kansas. Evelyn Conner Boardsen, a younger sister, lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa and she is our featured guest for this article. Arlene Stoval was also asked for a story but she deferred to her sister. These two ladies are the remaining survivors of the ten children.

Evelyn Conner Boardsen was born in 1936 when many on the farm were still suffering from the financial depression that began in 1929 with the collapse of the stock market. Money was scarce in those days but it went unrecognized by many children because all their neighbors were also suffering the same plight.

Evelyn acknowledged that with ten children in the family the playground was just outside the door. As a family, she fondly recalls the many games the children played to create their own home grown fun! As with many large families, they supported each other as a family. Even today, Evelyn recalls the activities and accomplishments of her siblings and is proud of what they have done in their lives. The family was especially proud of John Conner who became a Pastor and eventually Moderator of General Assembly.

As a young girl, Evelyn recalls her years in church attending Sunday school, youth group, and being a part of the yearly Christmas program. Sunday school consisted of 12-15 students in her class, with Irma Gordon, Dorothy Hauptert or Mrs. Mereness leading the discussion. Youth fellowship was held on Sunday evening with 20-25 young people in attendance. The Christmas Eve Program was always a special time because the young people read bible verses and poems, and sang carols for the congregation. Santa Clause always arrived on schedule and Evelyn believed in Santa, even though he strongly resembled Bert Hauptert.

The year was 1941 and it was time for Evelyn to enter kindergarten as a five year old, shy, young girl. She joined 30 or so other five year olds. Evelyn said, "Talking to me today I doubt if you can believe I was ever shy."

Like many of us, we can't remember famous people of our day but Evelyn can recall two of her favorite teachers. Ferne Adair and Aunt Dolsey were two of her many favorite teachers. Junior and senior high school days

were filled with activities and friendships for Evelyn. She played the cornet in band, beginning in fifth grade and continued playing through her college days. She played in the concert, marching and pep bands. She sang in the glee club and the mixed chorus and participated each year in stage productions. She recalls with great fondness her days at Glidden school.

Once Evelyn graduated from Glidden high school she enrolled in Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She attended Teachers College for two years and transferred to the University of Iowa for one semester. She then attended the University of Dubuque where she received her BA degree. Sometime later she received her Master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Elementary Counseling.

Evelyn began her teaching career in Clinton, Iowa, and this is where she met her future husband. After three years, she accepted a job in Waterloo, teaching children in elementary school. Her school was in a predominantly African American area and most of the students were of this background and she loved every one of them. Later in her career, the government required a balance in schools, therefore white children were bussed in to create a balance of white and black students. These were difficult times at first because of racial and economic tensions but time heals all things and time soothed these wounds.

Evelyn explained a unique experience at her school. Some children were in her class as youngsters for three years. These children were not held back but were retained to understand more deeply the problem and the solution. After being in her class for one, two or three years, they might go forth and jump two grades to catch up with their regular class. One problem with this concept were the parents who thought retaining a student meant failure, which it did not. Evelyn called it a blended classroom as children helped each other learn. Evelyn taught school for thirty one years, retiring in 1991. Evelyn has some concerns about the education system and how it as changed over the past 50 years. Today's students lack parental involvement because of both parents are working or they are in single parent homes. Some children are not encouraged to take responsibilities while others lack a top level work ethic. But before we leave Evelyn's teaching career let it be known that her students were her children.

In June of 1961 Evelyn Conner and Harry J. Boardsen were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden with Rev. Duane Heap and Rev. John Conner officiating. Evelyn and Harry had no children. Harry was an

architect and was practicing in that field when they were married but later received his teaching certificate and taught industrial arts for the last 22 years of his career. In November, of 2014, Harry passed away after 53 years of marriage. Harry was born in Norway and came to the U.S. at 2 ½ years of age. Several times during their years of marriage, the couple traveled back to Norway to visit his relation.

Evelyn reported that in 2016 she had open heart surgery and has recovered very well. Other ailments involved once suffering from a hangnail.

Prior to Harry's death, the couple moved into an apartment housing complex that also has assisted living units, nursing home units and other units that can house many people. Evelyn said, "If I want to be alone I can stay in my housing unit but if I want to be around people, all I have to do is open the door and step outside." Her facility houses great people and all the amenities one would need.

Evelyn attends Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waterloo and has served on the Session and several committees. Westminster's membership is around 900 people.

We concluded our telephone conversation after one hour of banter that was truly delightful.

Building and Grounds Update

As we enter 2017, I would like to update everyone on our activities and current projects. We have an old building that has required extra maintenance be performed to catch up on items that have slipped by undone in the past.

The large stained glass window was the beginning of some expensive work, followed by the discovery of leaking water coming thru the large stained glass North and East window sills which had holes in them. These were fixed on a temporary basis and new plexiglass storm windows installed. Water had entered the downstairs north room and narthex causing water stains so these were painted. There was also damage to the ceiling in the north storage room and new dry wall was installed. The roof was in poor condition and was shingled and the wood trim painted, and the carpet in Brian's office was replaced.

More recently, we have started to replace the storm windows on the rest of the stained glass windows due to discoloration, as funds have become available. The first of these were done last summer by Glassarts of Lincoln Nebraska, with steel frames and quarter inch glass, each storm window costs \$862 to replace. We started with the most visible windows facing the east street.

Right now, we are planning to replace the north 6 stained glass storm windows with the same steel frame quarter inch storm windows at a cost of \$5,172. We are also going to replace the two oval storm windows with like storm windows. We discovered that the glass in these two windows has some broken glass sections and cracked glass. It was decided to fix the glass in place before installing the new storm windows. The cost to fix the glass and install the new storm windows is \$2,622. We hope to have this completed before the summer celebration takes place. Total cost of this project is \$7,794.

We currently have \$5,200 on hand in the building fund which will leave \$2,594 to be raised by mid-summer to complete the project.

Once we are finished with the current project, there will still be 8 windows on the west and south sides of the building with discolored storm glass. Thankfully, these windows are less visible to the public. They are not critical at this time, and will be fixed when extra funds are available in the building fund.

If you have concerns or other items that need attention be sure to contact the building committee. We greatly appreciate your financial support many of you have helped to make our church to be a structure we can all be proud of and enjoy.

Committee Chairman
Ron Burdine

Famous Presbyterians

I don't know if you've tried to buy tickets to the hottest show on Broadway this year, but they're probably already sold out. People in Des Moines, Chicago, and New York can't get enough of our famous Presbyterian for the month of April. He is none other than the star of the show, *Hamilton: An American Musical*. Our famous Presbyterian this month is none other than... Aaron Burr!

Now, Alexander Hamilton was also raised in a Presbyterian Church but it is likely that his faith had less of an influence on his life than it did on that of the man who eventually killed him in a duel, so we'll focus our attention on the latter.

Aaron Burr's father, Aaron Burr Sr., was a Presbyterian minister and one of the founders of Princeton University (originally started as a Presbyterian Seminary) in New Jersey. At age 32, Aaron Burr Sr. became the youngest person ever to serve as President of Princeton, but he passed away less than two years later.

Aaron Burr was only about a year old when his father died, but that was not the end of his misfortune. His mother, Esther Burr, died in the following year, and Aaron went to live with his maternal grandfather, Jonathan Edwards (the famous Calvinist preacher). Edwards passed away the next year, and Burr was passed along to William Shippen, a friend of Benjamin Franklin and the founder of Second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Despite his tragic childhood (and poor depiction in the *Hamilton* musical), Aaron Burr was a successful and principled American Founding Father. Before the Revolutionary War, he studied theology at Princeton, thinking of becoming a Presbyterian minister like his father, but changed his focus to law two years later. During the war, Burr was commended by Congress for heroism and called a "knight without fear" by John Adams. Aaron Burr even once saved Alexander Hamilton's life in battle. As a legislator, Burr was an early champion of women's rights and fought for the abolition of slavery, eventually outlawing slavery in New York.

Aaron Burr was far from perfect, as is clearly demonstrated by his fondness for duels, but he was a man of faith and principle, a child of Princeton Seminary, and our famous Presbyterian for the month of April.

Kudos Korner:

- *To the Glidden-Ralston boys basketball season. It was a good season and the community is proud of your efforts.*
- *To first team all-state selection of Julia Fleece. What a basketball season she experienced. Hard work does pay.*
- *To the great people who travel south for the winter, we welcome your return. It's great to see you in our midst.*
- *To the Jeremiah & Dana Johnson family on the baptism of their daughter, Weslie Rose.*
- *To all those who helped clear snow from our parking lot, especially Paul Walkup, Ron Burdine, and Harry and Tim Reever. Thank you!*
- *To Karla Cose for creating beautiful new flower arrangements for our sanctuary.*

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

-2nd-Mark and Marlys Conner

Anniversary

-3rd-Gordon and Karla Cose

Anniversary

-3rd-Erica Bowman

-5th-Brad Mueggenberg

-18th-Suzy Danner

-18th-Keith Danner

-21st-Pastor Brian

-29th-Matt Conner



Announcements:

-Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:30am

Adults and Children meet at the United Methodist Church

Students meet at the Presbyterian Church

-On Palm Sunday, April 9th, we will have a joint service at the United Methodist Church

-PW meets on April 12th at Bloomers in Carroll at 11:30am

-Joint Maundy Thursday Service is on April 13th at 6:00pm at the United Methodist Church

-Session meets on Wednesday, April 19th, 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.