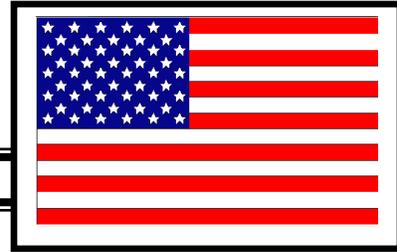


# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

July 2017



Back in Bible times, churches were known simply by the name of city they were located in. There was the church in Ephesus, the church in Corinth, and the church in Rome. These churches might also have had a few specific locations, but they were all still part of the same church. So, if you wanted to get specific, you'd refer to the church in Rome that meets in the house of Priscilla or the church in Laodicia that meets in Nymphas' house

These old Christians didn't have a dozen different flavors of Christianity to choose from, and they didn't draw firm lines between various house churches. Instead, if a church had a special character or aspect, people would say that the church in Thyatira is known for its generosity – never mentioning the church in so and so's house. The charitable work done in that city was always the work of the church in that city. It never belonged simply to the one house church or congregation.

And I believe that this is an important lesson for us to remember – a church draws its life from the community. Whether we like it or not, we are part of the Church in Glidden. We are the church in Glidden that meets in the old Presbyterian building. And, as part of the Church in Glidden, it is our responsibility to love and serve this town.

So, as the City of Glidden prepares for its Sesquicentennial next month, I hope that we will see ourselves as coworkers in the Church in Glidden. When the city does well, we tend to do well. When the city suffers, we suffer. Our fate is tied to that of the city, so we ought to take time to rejoice in this special occasion.

Right now, our Tour of Homes committee is working hard to plan a tour for August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first day of the Sesquicentennial celebration, and the Session has already dreamed up a float for Saturday's parade. But we could still use your help! The Tour of Homes will conclude with a dessert reception at the church, so if you enjoy cooking bars or cookies, we're gonna need plenty. If pies or cakes are your thing, we will also be helping to stock a dessert tent on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. So we'll happily take anything sweet that you can cook.

On Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Church in Glidden will have a single, joint worship service at the football field, in lieu of our regular services at each individual church. The Rev. Darin Seaman will be returning home to preach for us, and each congregation in Glidden will have a few minutes to share about the unique work that their church does. It should be a wonderful time of worship.

As the oldest church in Glidden, I believe that we have a special responsibility to love and support this town. They clean our streets, care for the cemetery, and protect us from fire and other disasters. They do so much for us, so I hope that we can give a little bit back this Summer and help to make this Sesquicentennial Celebration one to remember!

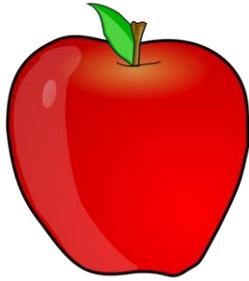
Blessings,

Pastor Brian

**Pastor Brian's Contact Info:**

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## Bible Banter



First the Apple . . .

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75 year old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

## Tour of Homes Help

Since our church took on the task of Tour of Homes, we will also be hosting refreshments after/during the tour on Thursday, Aug. 3 from 6-9 P.M. This is where Parish Life committee comes in to ask for help from the congregation. We are asking for members- women and /or men- to supply some kind of finger food to eliminate use of silverware.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church the month of July. You may make bars cut in small squares, smaller cookies, smaller sandwiches (i.e. cucumber sandwiches ), candies, etc. so that guests will be able to choose a couple or more items. The committee was thinking maybe 3 dozen apiece since one pan of brownies can be cut into 24 squares possibly.

The Parish Life committee will head up the set-up and will appreciate help to serve and to clean up, also. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for members to sign up to help if you can.

If you wish, you may call Diane Thelin at [712-790-7175](tel:712-790-7175) to sign up, also.



## Where are they now?

Louis and Esther Conner, now deceased, were long term member of the First Presbyterian Church. They raised four children who were active in this church. These children, in order of birth, are Jerry Conner, Judy Conner Reeve, Carol Conner Ewoldt and Kristi Conner Ruckstaetter.

This month we have chosen to feature Jerry Conner and his wife Judy in the spotlight. When Jerry first arrived in this world, his parents lived in the Green Gables Cabin court, owned by his mother's father, Charles Bedell in the north east part of Glidden. Jerry recalls a washing machine that served the cabins, which was powered by a gasoline engine. There was a community building that housed the machine and furnished the water etc. But, it also provided restrooms and showers for the use of people staying in the cabins that did not have those services. Jerry began kindergarten in 1941 and recalls fond memories as he walked to and from school. He remembers the rugs used during rest and nap time. He recalls the hot lunch program when milk was served in glass bottles. He even recalls the swinging doors on the coat room closets.

Jerry moved through the Glidden School system and recalls his third grade teacher with fondness. She was Dolsey Conner Lawrence, which is Jerry's aunt. Other teachers he mentioned as being excellent teachers were Irene Whalen, Beverly Riedesel, Ed Maack and Coach Crimmins. Jerry was active in school as he played football with the likes of Gordon MacDonald, Glenn Britt and other familiar names around Glidden. He was involved in vocal music, participated in the all-state chorus at KRNT Theater in Des Moines, was part of several swing shows and sang in a mixed quartet.

Jerry studied vocational agriculture and was a member of the Future Farmers of America. He attended the FFA National Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri. Jerry loved school and liked math, English, algebra, music and a college prep course.

Louis and Esther had expanded into the dairy business and milked 10-15 Holstein cows morning and night. They did have a surge milking machine and Jerry was expected to help out each day. When the electricity would go out, they had to milk them by hand. Even after school activities, the milking had to be done.

Like many young people, Jerry graduated from high school not really sure of what he wanted to do for a life's career. He went off to college and attended Iowa State University for one year. After one year at college, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Following basic training he attended electronic school in Denver, Colorado. He spent time in Madison, Wisconsin and then spent sixteen months in Newfoundland, where he worked on large tanker airplanes. After this hitch, he was transferred to Grand Forks, N.D. to serve out his time in the United States Air Force where he was honorably discharged after serving 4 years.

Jerry returned to Glidden with a young family and began a career of work. As we listened to Jerry's story of employment opportunities, it makes one wonder about all of the twist and turns in his employment life but he always landed on his feet and improved his career. After returning to Glidden he began to sell insurance for Farm Bureau. It didn't take him long to understand his limitations of being an insurance salesman so he quit.

Jerry signed on with the Glidden Creamery and operated a milk truck seven days a week picking up milk at the farms. The milk was gathered in five gallon cans so Jerry was very adept at tossing those full cans around.

Opportunity knocked once more as Farm Bureau offered Jerry a job as an adjustor. Jerry worked in the Marshalltown, Grinnell and Toledo area adjusting loses incurred by families. Jerry felt this was a fairly good job but he still wanted more out of life. In 1968, at 33 years of age a wife and three children, he enrolled again at Iowa State University. He attended school with the help of the GI Bill. He studied Ag Journalism and agronomy for the next three years. He also worked at the Clyde Black Seed Farm just south of Ames. Ia.

Following college, Jerry began a career in seed sales with various companies. From 1971 – 1975, he became the sales manager for Acco Seed and was located in Belmond, Iowa. The company was sold to Cargill and Jerry was invited to move to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Cargill had purchased Acco, PAG, and operated Cargill Seeds.

In 1980-1982, Jerry moved to St. Louis, MO. and was VP of sales and marketing for Trojan Seeds. In 1982, this company's parent company formed a joint venture between Pfizer and DeKalb Seed. This called for a move to

DeKalb, Illinois where Jerry was elevated to VP of Sales and Marketing. He remained in this position for the next six years.

In 1988-89, Jerry formed a consulting company and one of his clients was Ag Alumni Seed Company, owned by Purdue University. This was a not for profit popcorn seed company. They had a board of directors made up of Purdue graduates. People like former secretary of agriculture, Earl Butz and popcorn specialist Orville Redenbachher were graduates of Purdue. As a consultant, Jerry's assignment was to develop a marketing plan for popcorn. Once the plan was presented, the Purdue board found it to be favorable. So Jerry was employed as President of this company. They spent time improving genetics of popcorn and had seed growing in the US, Argentina and South Africa in order to speed up the development of seed with a spread out growing season. Some of the popcorn we eat today may have been developed from genetics developed by Ag Alumni Seeds. Jerry remained President of this company until his retirement in 2003.

Up to this point in the article, we have concentrated on Jerry's business career but he did have a life beyond work. In 1979 Jerry married Judy and they have been married for 38 years. This is the second marriage for both Jerry and Judy and between them, they have five children. They are Lisa Nelson and her husband Neal of Belmond. Ann Brown and her husband Chris of Bel Air, MD. Jeri Been and her husband Steve of Belmond. Lynn Biever of Brainerd, Minn., and Sean Conner of Clarion, Iowa. Jerry and Judy have nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Judy Conner was employed at the Ag Economics Dept. at Purdue University until her retirement in 2006. She recorded and followed our balance of trade with foreign countries and visited many countries as a part of her job.

Now Jerry and Judy live in retirement in Belmond, Iowa, on the edge of town where each year they maintain a large garden and give away much of the produce. Jerry got restless in retirement and attained his CDL to operate a truck. From January through June of each year, Jerry delivers chemicals. Jerry also visits the hog finishing units operated by his daughter and son-in-law to stay abreast of their farming operation.

Jerry speaks fondly of the Glidden community and the First Presbyterian Church. He recalls Sunday school

teachers like Mrs. Mereness and Mrs. Irma Gordon as being special. The youth group leader, Pastor Becker, led a joint Presbyterian and Methodist group each Sunday evening. Easter sun rise services were always special as families would gather for worship and breakfast.

In hindsight, Jerry looks back at life and with age is more reflective of contributions made by his parents, his family, friends and special people who influenced his outcome of life.

Judy and Jerry maintain good health. Their hobbies still include work they enjoy, some travel, the expectation of another great grandchild and daily routines

We wish Judy and Jerry continued blessings and God's guidance as they face the future.

## *Kudos Corner*

*\*\*To Roy Middaugh for being Grand Marshall for the Glidden Memorial Day Parade.*

*\*\*To our lectors, ushers, and communion servers for faithfully serving in worship, throughout the first half of the year.*

*\*\*To Mitch and Brittany Jensen who welcomed Liam Michael Jensen into this world on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He was born a healthy 8.8 lbs and 20.5 inches.*

*Congratulations!*

*Have a Happy Fourth of July!*

*Kudos to All*

## July Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Abby White
- 4<sup>th</sup>-Alexia Nelson
- 8<sup>th</sup>-Jennifer Flemmig
- 12<sup>th</sup>-Elizabeth Burdine
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Carson Mueggenberg
- 16<sup>th</sup>-Cal Riedesel
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Randy & Jennie Christensen Anniversary
- 19<sup>th</sup>-Mary Fairchild
- 19<sup>th</sup>-Bill Crawford
- 19<sup>th</sup>-Bill and Elaine Crawford Anniversary
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Lindsey Cose
- 31<sup>st</sup>-Lynne Lamp



### Announcements:

- Presbyterian Women meet on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am at the Family Table
- Session meets on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm
- The Glidden Sesquicentennial Celebration will go from Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, to Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Check the city calendar for more details.

### Stewardship

In July and August, our church will **Feed The People**

In July and August, we will support two different food-related ministries: the Community of Concern Food Pantry in Carroll and Meals From the Heartland. We know that at the last food drive you gave six cans of green beans and a box of cereal to the Community of Concern – but financial gifts are often far more helpful to a functioning food pantry than canned goods. The food pantry is able to buy grocery store excess food for greatly reduced prices, so it's far more economical to donate money to the pantry than it is to buy the food yourself and donate it at a food drive. The Community of Concern has enough green beans; let's give them some dough.

During the last week of August, we will join with Meals From the Heartland for their Annual Hunger Fight at HyVee Hall in Des Moines. Stay tuned for details!