

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

September 2017



The first gift that any church gives to its community is good citizens.

But what makes a good citizen? Theodore Roosevelt once said that “the first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.” This is a good definition. A citizen ought to pull their own weight at work or in the home, in local government and community, as an informed individual, and in national service should the need arise. A good citizen is a person who seeks to strengthen their nation, not someone who seeks to benefit from it.

We teach these skills in church – skills that are often sorely missing from our national community. We teach people how to work together, even when they disagree on important issues. We teach people to be mindful of the needs of their neighbors and look for ways to help. We challenge systems and “the way things have always been done” to ensure that such systems are not ineffective or counterproductive. Church is often the training ground for democracy.

I believe this with all my heart. Our Presbyterian church government is a democratic system. We follow the same rules of order that govern debate in both the United States Senate and our local city council meetings. Do you want your children to learn how to run a meeting or speak before an assembly? Send them to Presbytery! We meet more often than Boys/Girls State and are open to far more young people.

A good citizen is someone who believes that they can and should fix a problem; the type of person who says – in the words of the hymn – “Here I am, send me.” They know how to volunteer, listen, and learn. They do the right thing, even when it’s inconvenient or costs them time or money. A good citizen believes in something beyond their own personal prosperity.

And this is a big part of why Sunday School is so important to our church. It is one of the primary ways that we teach children the values that make good citizens. As children, we learn the habits that will carry us through our whole lives. Will we sulk when things don’t go our way or will we trust that God is in control? What sorts of people will we turn to for advice and counsel? Will we be happy for our friends and neighbors when they succeed or will we pretend that life is a zero-sum game?

Good habits are learned in Sunday School and – *gasp* – Sunday School begins September 10th! All classes will meet at 9:30am. Adults will be at the United Methodist Church and children / students will be at the Presbyterian Church.

But seriously, wonderful habits and relationships are formed in church, whether in Sunday School, in worship or at other times. Helping to create good citizens is only the first gift that a church gives to a community. There are many more that follow quickly on its heels.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian’s Contact Info:

Email: Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org or Cell phone: 818-388-9779

Where are they now?

This month we focus on two Glidden-Ralston school teachers of bygone days. Jan and Linda Bolluyt live at 15110 215th Avenue in Spirit Lake, Iowa. It was wonderful to visit old times and reminisce with them about their days in Glidden. Here is their story.

Both Linda and Jan's parents have now passed on. Jan's siblings consist of two brothers, David and Jim, plus a sister Betty. Linda has two brothers, Stan and Joel.

As a youngster, Jan attended Floyd Valley School through his first six grades. Linda attended Orange City Christian School through eighth grade. The young people came together as both attended Orange City high school as freshmen. Following graduation from Orange City high school, they both enrolled at Northwestern University in Orange City. Jan concentrated on Math as Linda majored in Humanities, which prepared her to teach elementary education. Linda and Jan were both involved throughout their college career. In addition to their studies they both were engaged in extracurricular activities. Linda played the clarinet in the concert band, played the organ in her church and directed the Junior High Choir. Jan played football all four years and was a sprinter on the track team. Their lives were full all the years they were in college. Later in life, Jan secured his Master's degree by attending Dakota State.

On July 29, 1969, between their junior and senior years of college, Jan and Linda were married at the Second Christian Reform Church in Orange City. Once the couple graduated in the fall of 1969 and the spring of 1970, they packed up and headed for Glidden, Iowa to begin their teaching career. Linda taught second grade and Jan taught middle school and high school math.

Linda and Jan joined the First Presbyterian Church for worship while in Glidden and recall fondly the warm greetings and friendly atmosphere they received from people of the church. During their years in Glidden, worship was led by Pastor Andrew Bosman.

While teaching in Glidden, Jan assisted in coaching football, track and junior high boys basketball. After three

years in Glidden, opportunity opened up in Spirit Lake and the Bolluyts accepted a teaching role in that school system.

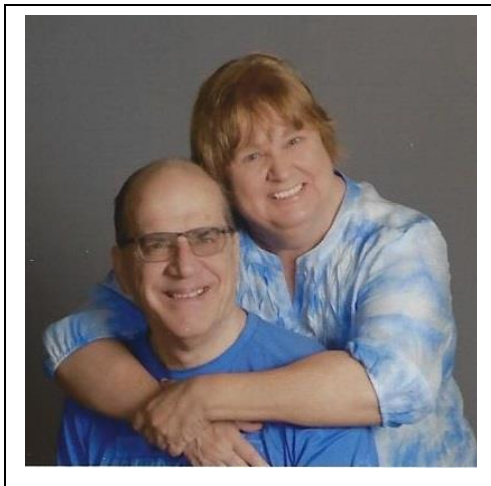
From 1973 until 1980, Linda became a full time stay at home mother as she cared for her two young boys, Josh and Jeremy. Jan continued his math teaching and coaching much like he did in Glidden. As life moved on, the couple realized that teaching and coaching was consuming their lives and the family was growing without much involvement from Dad.

Jan had been working at a local lumber yard during summer months while teaching. He was working as a part time store clerk. In 1979 Jan accepted a full time position with the lumber company and became the lead person in their computer department. During this time period, Linda returned to work at the Public Library. After three years she became director of the library and served in that position until her retirement in 2011.

After six years in the lumber business, Jan returned to his first love of teaching in the Terrill, Iowa, School system just fifteen miles from their home in Spirit Lake. He taught in Terrill for six years when the Spirit Lake school system came calling him back to fill the open math section in their school. Jan taught in Spirit Lake from 1991 until retirement in 2007. Jan was head girls track coach and baseball coach at Spirit along with being an assistant coach in football and girls basketball. As Jan points out, if a person loves coaching it becomes your life.

When the family moved to Spirit Lake in 1973, they joined the First Presbyterian Church there. Throughout the years they have been active in the church as Linda played the church organ for years, Jan sings in the choir and also occasionally sings in a male quartet. Some years ago Jan began leading the junior sermon once each month. He might have four children come forward of which two of them were his own children. Jan is a teacher and can hold the interest of children with some of his math and science wizardry. On a recent Sunday they had 35 children in the first service and 25 children in the second service come forward to hear the junior sermon.

Josh Bolluyt is a son of Linda and Jan and is married to Dana and they have a son, Lucas, 10 years old and a



daughter, Leah, 8 years of age. Josh followed Jan and Linda and became a teacher and coach. As head coach at Spirit Lake he coaches a tremendous program. They have won two State Championships and were runner up another year. The team has great support. The team Doctor was Dr. Jeremy Bolluyt, brother of Josh, the team Chaplain is the Pastor of First Presbyterian and the team risk manager is a local insurance agent. These people are all volunteers, plus they have the normal number of paid assistant coaches. Every Friday morning on game day the team and its coaches gather at the First Presbyterian Church for breakfast, served by the members of the church, compliments of the church. Dr. Jeremy Bolluyt is a general practitioner, volunteer track coach and along with wife Courtney has a daughter, Elizabeth, age nine.

At this point readers have in mind the perfect family. Teachers, coaches, librarian, doctor, three grandchildren and so forth. Life is good and road has been smooth. Not so fast! Every life has its twist and turns and sometimes a rocky road. So it has been with the Bolluyts. At age 40, Jan discovered he had type I diabetes and now lives with an insulin pump to help control this illness. In 2010 Jan received an early Christmas present as he became a kidney transplant recipient and is doing well. Jeremy received his doctor of medicine degree at age 30 and practiced in Spirit Lake for three years. At age 33 it was discovered that he had a brain tumor. Operation removed the tumor but he could no longer practice medicine. Jeremy still retains his medical license which he tests for every four years but is limited in his physical activities. Even with these bumps in the road the Bolluyt family is very thankful to God, to family and friends and remain optimistic about the future. They have handled adversity but it did not ruin their lives.

Today, Jan and Linda live in retirement but stays involved in school activities. Linda is an avid reader and takes care of grandchildren. Jan does junior sermons once a month, teaches chess at the library, oversaw a computer club for retired folks, teaches duplicate bridge and keeps stats for the football and track team.

Their memories of Glidden begin with the friendly and welcoming people. They recall the warm reception of the church and remember the young people of Glidden very fondly. They recall their teacher friends and still stay in touch with many of them. They recall Mister "D's", the Dairy Mart, and the McNaught Store.

The Bolluyt's live in a condo on West Okoboji and really enjoy life. They enjoy watching their family grow and they stay in touch with friends and fully realize their future is in God's hands.

We bid farewell to a great family and feel blessed that this family is, was and will be part of our church.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3rd -Julie (Burdine) Raisch
- 13th -Ryan Thelin
- 15th -Larry and Judy Littlefield Anniversary
- 18th -Amber Danner
- 18th -Elaine Crawford
- 26th -Wayne Seaman
- 26th -Dean Lamp



Quote of the Month

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me." ~ Philippians 4:13

Read more: <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/top-25-christian-quotes-about-strength/#ixzz4rBTfLPI>

Bible Banter

I had been teaching my three-year old granddaughter the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer.

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."

Kudos Korner:

~To First Presbyterian's newest member: Ruthanne Humphrey Rutherford.

~To everyone who volunteered to plan, execute, and make food for the Tour of Homes. It was a wonderful event, and we raised \$400 for heating assistance to Glidden families.

~To the blue ribbon floats entered by the Cose Family, representing the Presbyterian Church, the Matt Conner Family and the Tim Reever Family. The editor bestows the ribbons on each of these floats.

~To Ruthanne & Larry DeVries, Jack & Marty Neubauer, Dave and Michelle Snyder, and Steve and Pam Mohr for opening their homes to visitors on the Tour of Homes.

~To the community choir for their contribution at the community church event held at the football field on August 6, 2017.

~To everyone who walked alongside the float and helped to hand out water bottles at the parade.

~To Wes and Whitney Reever for awards received at the Iowa State Fair. We know how hard you work and are proud of you both.

~To Happiness Express, the men's singing group from Denison who performed in our church on July 23rd.

~To all the participants who entered the Glidden beard growing contest. A special Kudos to Matt Conner, the winner.

~To Suzy Danner for the baptism of her granddaughter Adeline, the amazing work she did planning the Sesquicentennial Celebration, and the work she always does for our church and city. Suzy, you are a treasure. Very well done!

Thank You Cards!

Church Committee for Time of Honor.
Thank you for organizing and preparing for the
time of honor. Your efforts were greatly appreciated
and everyone enjoyed the event. Your support for
the community is awesome!

Thanks,

Dory Danner

[Signature]

Gregg A. Blett

Cindi Diken

[Signature]

[Signature]

Thank you for sending me to
camp. I really liked playing gaga-
ball. I had a great time at camp.

Thanks!!

For all
the special things you do
Alex Daniel

Announcements

- ***Sunday morning worship begins at 10:30am, starting September 3rd**
- *Sunday School returns on Sunday, September 10th
 - All classes will meet at 9:30am
 - Adults will be at the United Methodist Church
 - Students / Children will be at the Presbyterian Church
- *PW meets on Wednesday, September 13th, at 11:30am at Las Margaritas in Glidden
- *Session meets on Wednesday, September 20th, at 5:30pm

The Special Offering for September and October is the **After School Program**

GRASP, the Glidden-Ralston After School Program, meets at the Glidden United Methodist Church, throughout the school year, Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. The program serves children from age 5 to sixth grade. Students are driven to the church by bus, and local volunteers provide homework assistance, snacks, and fun activities. Best of all, it is free to attend. GRASP is a true blessing to our community, so we want to support them both financially and with willing volunteers.