

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

February 2018



For almost three hundred years, Christianity was an underground religion. Early Christians faced various levels of persecution in the Roman Empire; ranging from mild annoyance to a total ban on Christian scriptures, worship, and assembly. The penalty for repeated defiance of the Empire was usually death.

But all that changed in February 313, when Emperor Constantine legalized the practice of Christianity and ordered the return of property taken from Christians during the period of persecution. And what did the Early Christians do with their newfound freedoms? Well... they started fighting with each other.

And soon the Church found itself engaged in one of the most bitter theological disputes of our history – the Arian Controversy. Arius, a presbyter (elder) from North Africa, argued that Jesus Christ was like God, but not the same as God. He believed that God the Father had a position of power and authority greater than that of God the Son, Jesus Christ. This belief stands in contrast to the now commonly accepted Trinitarian understanding of God – one God in three persons. The Arian Controversy became so heated that St. Nicholas (Santa) is said to have struck Arius, across the face, at the Council of Nicaea.

Obviously, this period did not exemplify the Church at its most Christlike.

But one bishop, who was deeply ensnared in this controversy, soon grew tired of all the infighting. Gregory of Nyssa decided to write a book about a person who was living a truly Christlike life – his sister St. Macrina.

It's an odd little book. I just read it for the first time this month. It describes a woman who gave away her fortune to found one of the first monasteries, where she lived a life of prayer and service. Macrina decided that it was improper for a Christian to employ slaves or servants, so she freed her slaves and treated her former servants as equal to herself – sharing all chores and duties. She sought no high office in the Church, though three of her brothers were famous bishops, and never engaged with the Arian Controversy.

The Book, *The Life of Macrina*, is a powerful statement of how we choose to define our faith. Some people believe that God wants us to have all the right beliefs, rejecting heresy and preaching the truth – and he does. But Macrina reminds us that the goal of a life of faith is to love and serve others.

And so, during this month when we decorate with hearts and talk about the importance of love, let us remember that Christian love is not reserved only for romantic partners. Christian love is given freely to everyone in our church (regardless of their opinions), everyone in our town, and everyone in our world. It is a love that ignores the barriers of race, money, and status – a love that changes the world.

This month, let your love shine.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

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## Where are they now?

Pastor Andrew J. Bosman accepted a call to serve First Presbyterian in 1968 as its pastor. Irene Bosman was Andy's wife and she had a young son by the name of John Friesz and he is our focus of this month's article.

John was born in Des Moines in 1953 joining two sisters. The family lived in Dallas Center where John attended school from kindergarten through second grade. The family moved to Washington, DC because of job requirements. There John attended school during his third to fifth grades. While John was in fourth grade, his father died. During his fifth grade year, John's mother moved the family back to Dallas Center where John completed his sixth grade. With the remarriage of Irene to Rev. Andrew Bosman the family moved to Davenport, Iowa. During John's seventh grade the family moved to Glidden where John spent the rest of his seventh grade through his senior year at Glidden-Ralston school.

Moving and changing schools was hard on John at the time but looking back, John confesses it might have been a blessing to live in different communities and meet new people. While at Glidden, John participated in football and track but didn't care much for track and only spent his freshman and sophomore years in track. As a junior and senior, John enjoyed competitive golf as a member of the golf team. As a young man with a driver's license, John's loved cars, and owned a 1966 Mustang. Several young men in Glidden helped John one weekend and installed a larger engine in his prized car. John claims he needed a car because it was three long blocks to walk to school. While at Glidden, John developed a keen interest in science and math courses which would serve him well later in life.

Fred and Arlene Rudi lived in Glidden and they had a daughter named Debbie. Debbie was in the same grade as John and during their high school years they began dating. Debbie enjoyed her days at G-R and participated in

music and band during those years. Unlike John, Debbie attended all 13 years of her schooling at G-R.

During these years both young people were involved with their respective church activities. They attended Sunday school, youth activities, potlucks and many other activities. Remember John's step-father was the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

The two young people graduated from G-R in the spring of 1972. They were married in November of 1972 with a desire to attend college. Funds were limited so they devised a plan on how to accomplish their goals. John

joined the Army for a three year enlistment. He attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. This was followed by a Technical School at Fort Devens, located in Massachusetts. There he learned Morse Code and modern communication techniques. At the end of 1973, John was shipped to Torii Station in Okinawa, Japan where he would be stationed from 1973-1975. Once John was settled and located a small home five miles from base, Debbie joined him for the stay in Okinawa. While there, Debbie worked at the Air Force Base Exchange at Kadena Air Base. This army stint was a major part of their long range plan as the GI Bill helped them in the next phase of

their life.

Upon being discharged from the army, John enrolled at Iowa State University in the spring of 1976 in Electrical Engineering. John and Debbie lived in Ames until John graduated in the spring of 1979 after only three years at Iowa State. This was possible by completing some course work in the Army and a very heavy course load at ISU.

Debbie also attended classes at ISU and also in North Carolina and Colorado. She has a flair for art and that was her college emphasis.

In 1979, John accepted a position with Scientific Atlanta as a design engineer. This company manufactured large antennas to be used in conjunction with satellite



communications. He worked for this company for three years and an opportunity became available at M/A-Com in Newton, North Carolina. This was a company that manufactured Dish Antennas. The company was a high volume production company and were early into this developing market. In fact, they may have been a decade or two premature of market development.

Scientific Atlanta invited John to work for them in a different division. With John's background in engineering, they wanted him to work in marketing. After working there for a period of time in marketing, Ball Aerospace came calling for John's services. Ball was located in Boulder, Colorado and wanted to market and manufacture Satellite Antennas for installation on airplanes for long range communications. John worked for this company from 1987-1995 and regularly traveled throughout the world as a part of the development business of this firm.

John decided to come home to Iowa where he was employed from 1995-2004 at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids. Later he took a job with a British aerospace company from 2005-2018 and retired the week this interview was conducted.

John and Debbie live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and their family consists of a son and daughter. Son, Damien and his wife Jordan have two children, a boy Zander and a girl Lily. They live in Mankato, Minnesota. Daughter, Haley and husband Mike, have two girls, Adelyn and Avery and live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Like most grandparents, John and Debbie are very proud of their grandchildren and their parents.

Over the years Debbie has been employed in retail and has volunteered at different schools where ever they were located.

John and Debbie returned last summer for Glidden's 150<sup>th</sup> reunion. They both agreed they have a special fondness for Glidden. They appreciate the friendly atmosphere, safety for the children, the community support and services to community and other qualities Glidden offers that are not always evident in larger cities. They recall fondly their school activities, the swimming pool, working on farms during summer months, the Movie Theater, Platts Drug Store and happy times with friends.

Special events in their lives have been the Army life, school days, graduating from ISU, births of their

children and grandchildren and now retirement. The future will involve continuing efforts to remodel their old home, travel to the Rudi Cabin in Minnesota, some auto trips, spending time with grandchildren and enjoying each other's company. These young people developed a plan for their life and worked the plan to reach their goals. This small town is proud of the accomplishments of Debbie and John and how they attained their goals. May they enjoy their retirement years!

## *"Kudos Korner"*

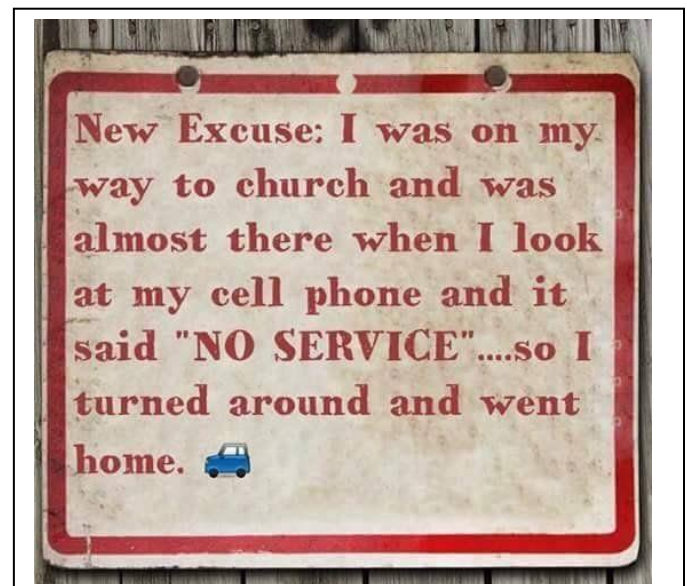
*To the United Methodist Church for hosting church services on January 21<sup>st</sup> while Pastor Brian was on study leave.*

*To all church members who do things on a regular basis without recognition.*

*To church volunteers who helped take down the church decoration following epiphany.*

*To the members of the Parish Life committee for helping to set up everything for our Annual Meeting and potluck.*

*~Kudos to all*



## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



### Quotes of the Month

“Success is due to our stretching to the challenges of life. Failure comes when we shrink from them.”

~Benjamin Franklin

“Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left.”

~Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

### Announcements:

\*Sunday School meets at 9:30am

Children and adults at the United Methodist Church

Students at the Presbyterian Church

\*PW meets on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at Family Table in Carroll at 11:30am

\*Ash Wednesday Service is on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

\*Session meets on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Just this past year, it was expanded to also include meal delivery to elderly residents as well. Donations to Project Share will be split evenly between these two worthy causes. We are proud to be a church that helps to meet the needs of our neighbors.