

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

December 2018



## Pastor Mission Update

\*\*Pulpit has been filled through the end of the year

December 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rev. Barbara Huisman

December 9<sup>th</sup>-Tom Daniels

December 16<sup>th</sup>-joint service with Methodist

December 23<sup>rd</sup>-Tom Daniels

December 24<sup>th</sup>-inviting Methodist to join us

December 30<sup>th</sup>-Kendall VonGlan

\*\*Ministry Information Form was sent to COM for approval

\*\*Jennifer Olson from United Presbyterian Church in Denison is our Moderator

\*\* Pastor Lorinda is on call for emergencies



## Where are they now?

Dr. Robert Wagner and the late Virginia Wagner have been and were members of First Presbyterian Church in Glidden for many years. Dr. Bob and Virginia raised six children in this church and the Glidden Community. The focus of this month's article will feature son, Jeri Wagner, of Thornton, Colorado.

Jeri was born at St. Anthony Hospital in Carroll and spent the first 8 years of his life in Coon Rapids, Iowa. He attended school in Coon Rapids beginning in Kindergarten through April of his 2nd grade in 1954. At this point in life Dr. Bob and family moved to Glidden after the untimely death of his father, Frank E. Wagner. Frank was practicing Veterinary medicine in Glidden as was Dr. Bob in Coon Rapids. Dr. Bob assumed his father's practice at that time while terminating his own practice in Coon Rapids. Jeri finished the second grade in Glidden, plus the rest of his elementary and high school years, graduating in 1964.

At a young age Jeri participated Cub Scouts and later the Boy Scouts. He delivered the Des Moines Tribune each evening as he and his brother, Bob delivered the Des Moines Register. Jeri remembers very well the specific instructions as to where to place the paper at each household. He also recalls how some people would place money in a secret spot on a weekly basis to pay for the paper.

While in Jr. High and High School Jeri played in the band and sang in the chorus. He began his band days playing Dad's cornet but later switched to the baritone horn after band director, Hugh Eicke, encouraged him to do so. During these years, Jeri played football under Coach Miller and continued his music by singing in the Presbyterian Church choir. Memories of high school were like most young people as he recalled, Homecoming, Floats, Prom and other fun events. Maybe not the best memories of these years was the close acquaintance Jeri had with Benny Butler, the Town Marshall. Graduation from high school occurred in 1964 and Jeri left behind several classmates by the names of, Joel Shaner, Doyle Douglas, Donna Tryon, Judy Fisher, Roger Overholt and MIA Donald Sparks. In total there were 43 student in Jeri's graduating class.



The Presbyterian Mariners were a robust group of young married families during the late 50's and into the 60's. In 1959, when Jeri was 13 years old the Wagner's loaded up their new 1959 Mercury Station Wagon with the family of six children and headed to Stockton, California for a Mariner's Cruise. Mariner Cruises were an annual event and attendees from across the country would create unique outfits to highlight where they were from. For one Cruise, the children wore green hats with yellow pipe cleaners sticking out the top to represent corn tassels, a tribute to Iowa's agriculture and number one crop. While sorting through possessions prior to selling Dad's house

Jeri, Bob and Dr. Bob found these outfits and caps stored in the house. They were able to return each outfit to their respective sibling. Ed and Doris Walkup along with their three children traveled with the Wagner's in their 1958 Brown Chevrolet Bel Aire sedan. When the Cruise was over the Wagner's headed south to visit Disneyland, which was only 5 years old at the time. Jeri, Bob and Dr. Bob also found some Disneyland ticket stubs that went unused in the house. The return trip was very hot, as well as the trip out to Stockton. The Mercury didn't have air conditioning and the seats were covered in

clear plastic to protect them. This combination made for a very sticky and sweating travel experience.

Following high school graduation in 1964 Jeri moved to Omaha, Nebraska enrolling in an Electronic Trade School. He shared an apartment with Kim Smith, a young man from Lanesboro during those first 6 months. School went well for Jeri and especially well after he met Susanne, his future wife. Susanne's brother attended the school also and introduced the two.

Jeri and Susanne were engaged in early 1966 and were married on August 27, 1966 at the Christian Church in Weeping Water, Nebraska. The Reverend Raymond Heglin, former Glidden pastor, officiated at the ceremony along with the Weeping Water Methodist pastor.

A few months prior to his marriage, Jeri received a letter from the draft board requesting him to report for a physical. With that Jeri decided to enlist in the Air Force. During that time many young men were being drafted and enlisting and the scheduling of physicals were backlogged.

The Air Force recruiter stated that they would accept the Army's results. So, Jeri traveled to Carroll, boarded a bus and returned to Omaha to take his physical after which the Army, classified him 4-F due to medical issues therefore he did not pass. The Air Force recruiter advised that he could "get him in regardless" however Jeri declined to accept his offer.

Jeri needed a job as all of this was happening just a few months before the wedding. He enlisted the aid of a Job Center and interviewed for various positions. He applied at IBM Corporation in Omaha to work in the office Products Division thinking he wouldn't have a chance to get hired. Much to his surprise IBM offered him a job with the understanding that the job would be Denver, Colorado. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, a month before the wedding Jeri started work at IBM. Three days after Jeri and Susanne were married, Jeri had to go to Los Angeles for six weeks of intense training on IBM typewriters and dictation equipment. Upon returning to Omaha the manager offered him the opportunity to stay in the Omaha office, but Jeri declined. The couple moved to Denver on Halloween weekend in 1966 and moved into an apartment in Wheat Ridge. His employment at IBM lasted from 1966-1971 at which time Jeri left to accept a job at an independent service organization competing against his former employer for the maintenance and service of IBM office equipment.

In January of 1979, Jeri and a partner decided it was time to start their own business. The business successfully obtained a major contract from the University of Colorado's Medical Center to maintain their IBM office equipment. The company did well and grew to employ 15 people by 1995. The company was doing so well that Toshiba Corporation offered to purchase the business. Jeri and his partner sold the company. Jeri continued to work for Toshiba for seventeen years while his business partner retired. After a corporate restructuring in 2012 Jeri's position was eliminated. Jeri consulted for Toshiba on a part time basis, eventually retiring in 2014.

Susanne was busy in her life as daughter, Annette was born in January of 1971 and today is married to her husband, Doug Smith, a dentist and former Iowa boy. They have two boys ages 11 and 8. Annette is an ESL teacher in Denver's Cherry Creek School District. Son, Adam was born in September of 1975. He and his wife Kylie have two boys ages 12 and 8. Adam works at the State Mental Hospital in Pueblo as a Clinical Therapist, while Kylie teaches Science

in the Pueblo school district. Susanne is a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and worked for more than 21 years at a nursing home in Thornton. She went to work for the Colorado Rockies Baseball Club in 1995 while she continued to work at the nursing home. She worked for the Rockies until 2015 supervising ushers at every home game.

Jeri loves the outdoors and spends much time in retirement working in his yard. He also does plenty of hunting and fishing. He hunts Elk, Big Horn Sheep, Deer, Antelope and he fishes both summer and winter when the ice is thick. Jeri also hikes 14er's (14,000') mountain peaks for the joy of being outdoors and to remain somewhat fit. Fourteen thousand feet is above the tree lines and is mostly a gigantic boulder field with a little tundra overlaid. During a Sheep hunt on Pikes Peak Jeri was caught in an electrical storm, not uncommon at these altitudes. Jeri said it was scary and the hair on his arms and head stood up from the electricity in the air.

Jeri and Susanne have taken several vacation cruises to the Caribbean, Hawaii and Mexico. They also have traveled while fulfilling their job requirements.

During the growth of their children Jeri coached Adam in youth hockey for three years then moved on to become administrator of the Hockey Club. Jeri held several positions in the Amateur Youth Hockey Association rising to become President of the state organization overseeing 5,000 youths playing the sport. Adam was a talented player continuing to play competitively until he was 21 years old.

Susanne followed Annette in her youth soccer activities. Working midnight Bingo games to raise funds for team travels which included trips to Canada and Hawaii. Annette also was successful in soccer being rewarded with a full scholarship to the University of Denver where she graduated in 1993.

The Thornton Presbyterian Church closed while Jeri and Susanne were members. Finding another acceptable church is difficult but now Susanne is attending a church with Methodist roots. Memories of First Presbyterian in Glidden was brought up and Jeri remembers Christmas Eve services especially Santa Clause arriving, kissing the ladies in the pews next to the aisle while passing out treats. Jeri said that Santa Claus sought out Loretta Hanson on these occasions! Santa sure sounded like Bert Haupt!

Today you'll find Jeri each morning at the city's recreation center at 5:30am working out. He and Susanne spend a lot of time and miles following their grandchildren who play hockey and soccer. They both like retirement which give them the freedom to travel and have long coffee breaks.

It was a real pleasure visiting with a family member whose family has been aligned with First Presbyterian for most of our 148 years.

Psalm 31:24:  
"Be strong, and let your  
heart take courage, all  
you who wait for the  
LORD!"

### The "W" in Christmas

Each December I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations—extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting time for a six-year-old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant". I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately my son seemed happy with the compromise.

So the morning of the dress rehearsal I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited the students were led into the room.

Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas", I didn't expect anything other than fun commercial entertainment—songs of reindeer, Santa, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing "Christmas Love", I was slightly taken aback by its title.

My son was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright hats upon their heads. Those in the front row, center stage, held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas", a child would hold up the letter C, then "H is for Happy" and on and on until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love".

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down—totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of first through sixth graders snickered at this little one's mistake. She had no idea why they were laughing at her as she stood proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen.

At that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

C H R I S T W A S L O V E

Amazed in His presence, humbled by His love. Have a blessed Christmas season.

## *“Kudos Korner”*

*-To Nick & Becca DeVries on the birth of a new son, Ayrtohn Grey born November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Grand parents are Bart & Joni DeVries, Great Grandparents are Norm & Jane Soyer and Larry & Ruthanne DeVries.*

*-To Karla & Linda McClellan for preparing and serving hot dogs to trick-or-treaters from our church.*

*-To Diane Thelin for representing our church as she prepared and handed out treats at Trunk or Treat event in the city park.*

*-To Suzy Danner for filling in as clerk of session in Jen's absence.*

*-To the Parish Life Committee for planning, preparing & serving our Thanksgiving Meal. The committee furnished the turkey, ham, dressing, potatoes, gravy & sweet potatoes - delicious!*

*-To all those who organized and participated in the “Hanging of the Greens” service.*

## December Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup>-Lora Reeve  
3<sup>rd</sup>-Harry Reeve  
5<sup>th</sup>-Annette Douglas  
6<sup>th</sup>-Larry DeVries  
6<sup>th</sup>-Mandy Frazier Huff  
10<sup>th</sup>-Shirley Seaman  
12<sup>th</sup>-Bob Wagner  
12<sup>th</sup>-Charlie Newman  
13<sup>th</sup>-Tami Burdine



17<sup>th</sup>-Judy Reeve  
21<sup>st</sup>-Kirsten Stidham  
28<sup>th</sup>-Lillian Draves  
28<sup>th</sup>-Shelly Strahl

## **Christmas Program**

*Joint Presbyterian/Methodist Sunday School  
Christmas Program  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at the Presbyterian Church at 10:30am*



### **Announcements:**

- Session meets on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm
- PW meets on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at Garden View in Carroll
  - \*\*502 South Maple St. Hosted by resident Loretta Hansen 794-5671
- Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, is our joint Christmas Program with the United Methodist Church
  - \*Christmas Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the UMC
- The Christmas Eve Service is on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm
- No Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Sunday School returns on January 6<sup>th</sup>
  - \*Children and Adults will be at the United Methodist Church at 9:30am