

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

August 2020



Small Talk from Pastor Anna

Each week I preach from the lectionary which provides texts from the Hebrew Scriptures, a Psalm, the Gospel, and one from the rest of the Christian Scriptures. Earlier today, I attended a reflection on the gospel passage from Matthew 14:13-21 which details Matthew's version of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. As we discussed the meaning of the passage, John Grove wrote in the chat box (a feature of Zoom meetings) "Scarcity comes from our limiting ourselves to what we can do and not what God empowers us to do." Too often where Jesus sees abundance and possibilities we see no options. In other words, God has a bigger imagination than we do. Last night I watched a documentary on the late US Rep. John Lewis, titled "Getting in the Way". As a man of faith he willingly risked himself again and again to secure civil rights, equal rights for African Americans, refugees, for all people of color. Yes, he was arrested at least 45 times and bore the scars from many beatings to his dying day. He didn't fully achieve his vision for this country, but for him a worse failure would have been not to try at all.

Yes, we are a small church, but each of us, young and old have gifts we can use in the church and in the community at large. Despite a nasty virus, the people of this church continue to meet and worship. Yes, it has been online and no, it is not as satisfying as meeting in person, but now we will start worshiping in person starting on Sunday, August 2 at 9:30 a.m. As I wrote in my letter to all of you, it is not going to be the same. It will be shorter, but we will still have scripture, liturgy, a sermon and music. No, we aren't going to sing, but we can hear hymns played and see each other from a distance. And once we get all the bugs worked out, services will be recorded and put online for those who cannot attend worship. We are all in this together. I can't do it without you. So, what else can we do? What can we become if we let go, let God to work through us and in us?

Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Email me at annadeesmall@gmail.com or call me at 503/847-1938.

Blessings,

Pastor Anna

Where are they now?

Warren and Madge Conner lived on a farm around Glidden and they had four children. Colleen was the oldest, Roberta was second, followed by Sheryl and then Kenneth Conner. Warren Conner was one of nine children and eight of them settled in the Glidden area. Thus, there were many first cousin Conners in the Glidden School system. Our focus this month is on Ken Conner, youngest son of Warren and Madge Conner.

Ken was born at St. Antony Hospital in Carroll and weighed in at 9 lbs. 9 oz. Very unusual but Ken's sister, who is 21 years older, had just delivered a baby eight days earlier, therefore Ken was an uncle the day he was born. A couple of Ken's Aunts were nurses so they took him down the hall to introduce him to his older sister, who was mothering her new #5 child.

Ken claims his grade school years were non eventful, filled with routine events on an Iowa farm. However, he did explain that his father raised a lot of cattle in that period of time and each summer they would market the cattle in Omaha or Chicago. If the market was in Chicago, they would load the cattle on Saturday evening. Warren and young Ken would hop in the truck and ride all night to Chicago, arriving on Sunday morning. Chicago had two baseball teams so each week-end there was a game. Dad and son would take in a baseball game on Sunday afternoon, market the cattle on Monday morning and ride the train home on Monday night. Ken would do this a couple of times each summer until the stockyards in Chicago closed. This was Ken Conner's routine event as a farm boy.

Ken joined 4-H as a ten-year-old and would raise and show cattle as his project. At twelve years of age he was awarded Grand Champion prize at the Four County Fair in Coon Rapids. Ken's summer vacations were trips to visit his sister and brother-in-law at Air Force bases, where ever they were stationed or to visit relatives in Oklahoma. Ken did not relish the long two days trips in the back seat of the family Buick.

While in high school, Rev. Heap and adult sponsors took the senior youth fellowship on a week long trip to the

Black Hills. They visited all the tourist stops and once they returned to the church, gave a report to the congregation about their trip.

Mr. Weed was Ken's vocational agriculture teacher during his high school years and Ken was fond of his teachings skills as they could relate very well to each other. He received extra credit for his classes in ag., plus he did take some college classes

Mr. Jenkins was the vocal music teacher at Glidden and each year the school would present a Swing Show. Ken had trouble with music but was a master builder so he would build props for the show and bargained a position in the choir with his building leverage.



As a junior in high school, Ken was elected President, thus was in a leadership position for the junior/senior prom. Ken fails to remember the theme but claims it was along the lines of some paradise island with sandy beaches. They hauled in gravel to form the beaches. The gym floor was to be resurfaced following graduation so that was not a concern. Plenty of work was required but the prom came off with enthusiastic young people enjoying gravel as if it were fine sand.

Once graduated, Ken was offered a full ride Navy scholarship which upon graduation committed him to four years active duty. His sister, Sherry, thought this was a great idea and a golden opportunity. Ken's father objected and claimed the military had ruined one family member and they aren't going to ruin you. So Ken enrolled at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa and majored in Animal Science with a minor in Agri Business. He pledged the Theta Chi fraternity and after all of these years still keeps in touch with some of his fellow pledges. Iowa State was on a quarter system at the time Ken attended and Ken was in Chicago attending a fraternity brethren when he received a call from his father demanding that he come home promptly. It seems a cattle truck with dad's cattle had gone in the ditch, rolled over and killed some cattle. Ken headed for home the following morning and was told by his dad it was time for him to start farming. Ken had attended ISU for four years and two quarters with only one quarter left to graduate but was informed his time was up so he left Iowa State and began farming.

Ken had previously joined the Masons and just last summer was honored with a fifty-year Membership Certificate and pin. This summer Ken will celebrate fifty years in the Shrine. In 2008 the Shrine presented Ken with a membership in the Order of Quetzalcoatl, which is a honorary nation wide group of By-Invitation-Only for workers in the Shrine. Ken is secretary of this group and has been for the past four years. He still writes a monthly article that is published in the Arabian Tales, a monthly magazine for Arizona Shriners.

Ken married Diane Crosier from Coon Rapids in 1972 which resulted in three wonderful children by the names of Elicia, Mistie and Ashley. The couple ended their marriage after eleven years.

In the fall of 1984, one year past his divorce, he was at the Fifth Quarter and in walked Deanna Fisher Carmody after attending a funeral in Glidden. They greeted each other and Deanna departed only to return to discuss Ken's divorce. Deanna left again only to call the Fifth Quarter and invited Ken to visit her at her mother's home. So began a relationship that cumulated in their marriage at the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden on March 23, 1986.

Ken and Deanna farmed for a few more years and decided farming was not for them. They sold out and moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. The first five years in Arizona, Ken managed a chemical company. Following that period, Ken started his own remodeling company and a Real Estate Brokerage business. He would purchase a home; remodel it and then resell the property. Two events caused him to go out of that business. One was the housing collapse and then Ken fell and fractured his ankle which ended his climbing and construction business. Ken picked up the pieces and enrolled at Arizona College to learn Medical Coding and Billing which he has been doing for the past five years.

In the past five years, Ken has been in two car accidents, both caused by a party running a red light. These accidents have affected his life as he now experiences headaches for which he takes Botox shots in his forehead.

Ken plans to continue to work in Arizona for a few more years as he and Deanna enjoy each other's company.

It was a pleasure touching base with Ken and Deanna and learning about their lives, following their time

in Glidden and First Presbyterian Church. May God bless both of these people and their families.

Kudos Korner:

To Jeremiah & Dana Johnson on the birth of their daughter, Mila Grey, born on June 30th weighing in at 8 lb. 7oz. She joins big sisters, Weslie and Codie. Best Wishes to all.

To the Robert E. Wagner family for their monetary gift plus the placement of the Wagner surname on a window in the sanctuary. This addition is intended to memorialize their father & previous generations of the Wagner family dating back to approximately 1909. We miss you Dr. Bob.

To our teachers who will be returning to the classrooms to teach our students through difficult times. Grateful for their service.

Kuddos to All

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Presbyterian Church family, thank you for the gift and for thinking of me during graduation. I plan to attend Wayne State College next fall. It really means a lot. Thank you!

~Grant Fleecs

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

15th-Sara Stevens
18th-Deb Adams
20th-Joyce Conner
21st-Allison Thelin
22nd-Linda McCellan
24th-Carolyn Conner
25th-Jane Burdine
26th-Marge Middaugh
28th-Ed and Jen Flemmig Anniversary
31st-Mike and Linda McCellan Anniversary



From the Finance Committee

The finance committee would like to express a BIG THANK YOU to the members of the congregation. During the time we have been away from church the members have been vigilant in tithes and offerings to the church. During the pandemic we are experiencing the congregation has given at a steady rate similar to pre-pandemic offerings. This is essential to fulfill our mission of supporting the church and once again thank you.

The finance committee met the end of June and approved the following missions for the remainder of 2020.

July/August -Glidden Ralston student school supplies

September/October- Glidden Ralston after school program

November/December- Glidden Grocery gift certificates

Continuous-Sustaining the church

While the missions for July through December are unchanged from previous years to help support our local community, the continuous portion we don't talk about enough is supporting the church for future generations.

So how is the state of the church's finances? The state is good. We are experiencing market fluctuation on our investments due to current events, but the church is stable. As a church our balance sheet is strong, but we need to be looking to the future. Do you have any plans in place that include a little bit for the church?

Once again, the Finance Committee as a whole would like to express a sincere thank you to all of you for all that you have done to help keep the church in great condition and support our expenses and missions.

Your committee,

Wayne Seaman, Will Reeve, Deb Adams, Suzy Danner and Jeremy Douglas