“Ho, ho to the Whos”, he was Grinchily humming
They’re finding out now that no Christmas is coming.
They’re just waking up, I know what they’ll do.
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
then the Whos down in Whoville will cry, “Boo-Hoo!”

Deep down, in the Grinch-like part of my heart, I sometimes wish that I could stop Christmas from coming.
Maybe, not stop it entirely, but if I could just delay it for a few weeks or scale down the level of our celebration –
that might prove relaxing. I confess, that sometimes I'm just not in the Christmas spirit.

The making of Christmas lists and the prospects of shopping have always filled me with dread. And I want nothing
to do with Christmas lights or household decorations. When it comes to that part of Christmas, I have long been
felt like a grinch.

And he did hear a sound rising over the snow.
It started in low.
Then it started to grow...
But the sound wasn't sad!
Why, this sound sounded glad!

And sometimes, the happy sounds of Christmas music and the festive decorations of others, feed the grinch in my
heart. A “Merry Christmas” delivered with perfect enthusiasm, at the wrong moment, can make me groan under
the weight of everyone else's good cheer.

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling. “How could it be so?
It came without ribbons! It came without tags!
It came without packages, boxes, or bags!”

But we all know, that the festivities are just the outward signs of a different kind of celebration. The lights and the
trees and the gifts are all examples of the external exuberance of a full heart. I give, not because it is Christmas; I
give because I love others – and Christmas is a time to demonstrate love. Whenever I start to feel like a grinch
during Christmastime, it's really only because I fear that Christmas means more work, more to worry about, and
more to do. I only become a grinch when I lose sight of why I'm celebrating Christmas.

And he puzzled and puzzled, till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
“Maybe Christmas,” he thought, “doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more.”

So, consider this your annual reminder not to get too sucked up into that vortex of outward holiday cheer. Don't
spend all of your time shopping and planning and cooking and worrying. Don't get so caught up in that what's of
Christmas that you forget the Whos. Take time, not just to shop for the people that you love, but to enjoy their
company. Don't just come to church and sing your favorite Christmas hymns – take time to pray and talk to God.
Don't get overwhelmed by the festivities, and take time to remember why we sing songs, light lights, and buy gifts.
Only grinches focus solely on the externalities of Christmas - and no one wants to be a grinch.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Brian
Meet the Members MTM

This month the camera is focused on a well-known couple in this community. Keith and Suzy Danner were born here, grew up in the Glidden area, married and settled in the same town. They now reside at 603 Montana Street in Glidden. They attended school together and when they were in the last couple of years in high school they began dating. Suzy is the daughter of Joyce and Duane (Pee-Wee) and she has three siblings. Keith is the son of Verlin and Phyllis Danner and he has eight siblings. Suzy went off to college at A.I.B. where she graduated in accounting and computer operations. The high school sweethearts moved from puppy love to full romance and they were married in 1983. To celebrate this 30 year milestone the Danner’s traveled to Hawaii in March of this year to enjoy a week of sun and sand on the beaches of Maui and Honolulu.

Following their wedding in 1983 the couple settled into the work routine as Suzy worked at West Central in accounting for seven years and Keith worked his early years in construction prior to spending time working at Ferrellgas. During this time the family began to expand with the birth of a little girl named Erin and four years later another girl born by the name of Amber. Both girls attended Glidden-Ralston school and both graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. Erin is now employed in Seattle, Washington at a prominent sports work-out facility and Amber is employed in the Des Moines School district as she teaches pre-school, special-ed students.

In 1986 Keith accepted a job at Pella Corp. in Carroll and has been employed in that firm for the past 27 years. In June of 1989 Suzy accepted employment at the City of Glidden where she is completing her 24th year. She is now the City Clerk of Glidden.

Keith and Suzy down play their role in the community but upon close examination these people are quietly but deeply involved. Suzy is this church’s treasurer, which she enjoys very much, she is coordinator of community gardens which oversees the Butterfly gardens and she spends plenty of time shopping at New Hope Village buying games, puzzles and teaching aides for Amber’s special needs students in Des Moines. Keith is involved in sports activities as he operates the scoreboard at local basketball games, he is a member of the chain gang at football games and he helps with the Wildcat Relays. Keith is a volunteer fireman, sexton at the church for over 30 years, and is grounds keeper at Raccoon Valley Electric Company 5-6 nights a week. Additionally if Suzy can’t find an umpire for her girls little league she calls upon Keith. Oh, by the way, Keith helps the Lidderdale Store with catering food supplies normally each weekend. The weekend we visited them, Keith was headed for a catering job in Algona.

When asked about their hobbies, Keith and Suzy said their hobbies kind of blend in with their community activities but they do like to spend time watching sporting events. Keith enjoyed his time in the past working on the farm with Pee Wee and Matt. Suzy still works out at the Rec Center 2-3 nights during the week.

When questioned about some unique experiences in their lives, they were quick to recall the births of Erin and Amber. Next they mentioned they were both born on the same day but one year apart. For over 30 years Pee Wee and Joyce, along with their children and grandchildren have been vacationing in Okoboji for a full week and they still get along well.

The Presbyterian Church is very important to Keith and Suzy as they are in church nearly every Sunday. They say that a Sunday without church just doesn’t feel like Sunday. They especially like the atmosphere of the church where everyone knows your name, and welcomes you warmly. The congregation demonstrates a caring attitude and the church reaches out to the community. Keith and Suzy had high praise for the music in the church and like the Thanksgiving dinner at church.
Keith and Suzy are helping to host the Danner family Thanksgiving this year, which should reach nearly 50 people, as all the offspring of Verlin and Phyllis are invited for dinner. This year’s event is to be held at the Legion Hall in Glidden.

Plans for the future are to stay involved in their work, their activities and maybe a little more travel. Retirement will be in the future but many years in the future. Retired or working this couple will stay involved.

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Glidden Presbyterian Church
History

The First Presbyterian Church, Glidden was organized on April 17th, 1870, by a missionary of the Omaha Presbytery, the reverend George R. Carroll, with worship services held in the old schoolhouse led by WR Smith.

Services were held frequently for four years in the schoolhouse until the congregation became strong enough to build a church building. The new building was erected in the fall of 1874 and remodeled in 1888. Nineteen years later, the congregation decided to start a new building, which was dedicated January 12, 1908.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st - Lora Reever
3rd - Harry Reever
5th - Annette Douglas
6th - Larry DeVries
6th - Mandy Frazier
10th - Shirley Seaman
12th - Bob Wagner
12th - Charley Newman
12th - Ethan Dettermann
13th - Tami Burdine
17th - Judy Reever
18th - Phyllis Bender
21st - Kirsten Stidham
28th - Lillian Draves
28th - Shelly Strahl
30th - Tim and Lora Reever Anniversary

The church observed the centennial in 1970 with special emphasis during April and the summer months.

***Interesting Tidbits:
- The current church building was built for $14,750 in 1908.
- There were union services with the Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of God churches for many of the early years.
- A new organ was installed in 1926 for the cost of $4,500. A replacement purchased in 1979 cost $17,681.
- A severe store in 1967 caused considerable damage to the church building.
Sweatpants and Glove Drive

We will be collecting size 4T-6T sweatpants and gloves in January for the Glidden Ralston Community School. They would prefer to receive black sweatpants and gloves. Please consider purchasing these items as you do your Christmas shopping.

Annual Christmas Program

We will be having a joint Christmas Program on Sunday December 15 with the Glidden Methodist Church. The Sunday School youth will be participating and we are encouraging a solid Sunday School attendance on December 1, 8, and 15 to prepare for the program. This year’s Christmas Program will be held at the Presbyterian Church at 10 AM during normal worship time.

Lora Reever, CE Chair

IN V I T A T I O N

A CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS!

All are invited to celebrate success of the Capital Campaign 2013

When: December 22, 2013 - 8:15am

Where: Presbyterian Church lower level

Schedule: 8:15am - 8:55am - breakfast provided

9:00 - 9:55 - entertainment in sanctuary

10:00 - 11:00 - regular church service

Members, family members, holiday guests, and others are encouraged to attend.
“Now is the Time”

As was reported in the November issue of the newsletter the members of this church responded very well with grateful hearts and the Capital Campaign has now reached $91,000! In addition to big hearted members the church received donations from past members who have moved from this area and from a man on the streets of Glidden who stopped in, donated, and just wanted to help. Wow! Isn’t it nice to live in a community with so many caring people?

“Now is the Time” has been the theme of this campaign so Now is the Time to celebrate. On Sunday morning December 22nd, we will party. There will be no Sunday school that morning so at 8:15am breakfast will be served until 8:55am in the church lower level. At 9:00am people will migrate to the church sanctuary for a one hour program. Regular church service will begin at 10:00am.

All members, family members home for Christmas and other guests are encouraged to come. Let’s make this a party with great numbers. You see, this church and all the members have reason to celebrate, be thankful, and continue to support church functions as we celebrate.

Quotes of the Month

“The greatest of all miracles is to be alive.” - Thich Nhat Hanh

“...”

“To fear is to expect punishment. To love is to know we are immersed, not in darkness, but in light.” - Mother Teresa

“...”

“No matter how steep the mountain - the Lord is going to climb it with you.” - Helen Steiner Rice

Worship

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<tr>
<th>Acolytes</th>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Whitney Reever</td>
<td>Ron &amp; Jane Burdine</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>Treynor Cose</td>
<td>Tyson &amp; Lindsey Cose</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Pillar Arellano</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Cooper Mueggenberg</td>
<td>Brad &amp; Heather Mueggenberg</td>
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<td>Shelly Strahl</td>
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Serving the Lord

The last two months we have been giving you information on our Church Committees’ and their roles. This month we are focusing on the last two: Worship Committee and Building and Grounds Committee.

Remember if you have any interest in being a part of any of these committees please talk to anyone on that committee or Pastor Brian.

Worship Committee

Arrange for communion to be served monthly.

Organize lectors, ushers, and acolytes.

Arrange for pulpit supply when Brian is gone (Brian generally does this.)

Purchase palm branches for Palm Sunday purchase items needed for the sanctuary

Building and Grounds Committee

The Buildings and grounds committee is comprised of 3 primary members:

Brad Mueggenberg, Tim Reever, and Matt Conner.

The committee is also supported by Pastor Brian, Keith Danner, the session members and any member of the congregation that is able to recognize an opportunity that the committee can address. The committee members meet on an as needed basis either in person, via email communication or text message to discuss and resolve the necessary courses of action to ensure and maintain the longevity of the building and applicable property.

Church Members are encouraged to provide new ideas and opportunities to any committee member along with any session member whenever necessary.
Announcements:

***The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, December 11th at 11:30 am.

***Next Session Meeting Wednesday, December 18th at 7pm in the Church Basement.

***Bible Study meets at 10:00am in the church basement on the last Wednesday of every month.

***Communion takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

***This year’s Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 15th with a joint service with the Glidden Methodist Church.

***December 15th will be the last day for Sunday School in 2013.

***Capital Campaign Celebration December 22nd starting at 8:15 am with breakfast.

***Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30.

***Sunday School classes will resume on January 5, 2014.

Nominating/Pastoral/Personnel Committee Meeting Report

The nominating, pastoral, personnel committee met on Sun. Nov. 3rd. Present were Pastor Brian, Marlys Conner, Rhonda Conner, Heather Muegenberg, and Mark Conner. The nominating comm. put into nomination for elders for the coming 3 years, Jen Flemmig, and Linda McClellan, and to finish the term of Shelly Strahl, Marlys Conner. Also elder Wayne Seaman agreed to stay on the session for another term.

The personell committee discussed the compensation of the employees, and it was agreed that they should be.

The meeting was adjourned in prayer.

Mark Conner, chairman