



The Stidham Story

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April 2015

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

Easter People

When you read your Stidham Story we will have experienced our Easter worship. What a great day when we celebrate Easter because we are celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord! I remember walking to Sunrise Service many years ago with my six brothers and the excited anticipation of hearing the Resurrection story!

We Christians are Easter People because our whole body of work in our religion is based on the Resurrection. We are celebrating hope for today and every day to come. Our belief in the Resurrection of Jesus makes us Easter People! I feel the church calendar should start with Easter, because without Easter we are like any of the other religions; those who do not believe in the Resurrection.

As Paul says in 1st Corinthians chapter 15, "Now, let me ask you something profound yet troubling. If you became believers because you trusted the proclamation that Christ is alive, risen from the dead, how can you let people say that there is no such thing as a resurrection? If there's no resurrection, there's no living Christ. And face it – if there's no resurrection for Christ, everything we've told you is smoke and mirrors, and everything you've staked your life on is smoke and mirrors. Not only that, but we would be guilty of telling a string of barefaced lies about God, all these affidavits we passed on to you verifying that God raised up Christ – sheer fabrications, if there's no resurrection."

"If corpses can't be raised, then Christ wasn't, because he was indeed dead. And if Christ wasn't raised, then all you're doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever. It's even worse for those who died hoping in Christ and the resurrection, because they're already in their graves. If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. But, the truth is that Christ **HAS** been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries."

That is what makes us, Christians, different from non-Christians. We believe in the 'Living God' who resides in us through the Holy Spirit. This is what John, the writer, believed too. In his writings he reflects back on all those things that occurred during his walk with Jesus; it made sense to John because he was there with Jesus before the crucifixion. John also believed that Easter and Pentecost fell on the same day because Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples when He walked through the locked doors on Easter evening. All these thoughts and experiences of those who have gone before us are why we are Easter People.

I pray that this has been a great Easter season for you.

Blessings,
Dave

May newsletter articles are due by April 23rd
Thank you

THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH IN APRIL 1-30

The 1st or 2nd Sunday when we have communion is our "Helping Hands Mission". Please put your money in a pew envelope with your name, amt. and write "Helping Hands" and put it in the offering plate.

Kid's Night Out– Wednesday April 1– 5:30-6:50pm

Choir Practice– Wednesday April 1, 8,15,22,29- 7:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group– Thursday April 2,9,16,23,30– 10:00am

Maundy Thursday Service– Thursday April 2– 7:00pm

Good Friday Service- Friday April 3– 7:00pm

Sunday April 5- Sunrise Service 8:00am, Easter Breakfast 9:00am, Worship Service 10:30am and Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am

Monday April 6,13,20, 27– Bible Study 6:30pm Book of Revelations Chapters 1-2(Study Books on the table in Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday April 7,14,21,28– Bible Study 10:00am Book of Revelations Chapters 1-2(Study books on table in Fellowship Hall)

Monday April 13– Finance Committee Meeting 3:00pm

Tuesday April 21– Ad Council Meeting (Everyone Welcome to attend!)

MISSION PROJECTS

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

January– Donations of money-Make checks payable to Stidham UMC and mark your pew envelopes "Food Pantry"

February-Canned Meat or Tuna

March-Spaghetti sauce or Noodles (No Glass Jars)

April– Paper Products

May-Cash Donations

June-Canned Fruit

July-Macaroni & Cheese

August– Paper Products

September-Cash Donations

October– Peanut Butter

November– Soup & Crackers

December– Oatmeal or Cereal

WHEN CLEANING OUT YOUR PANTRY IF YOU FIND SOMETHING THAT IS ON THE LIST YOU WON'T BE NEEDING YOU CAN BRING IT AND PUT IT IN THE FOOD CART.

Lighthouse House Prayer Group

The labels collected are sent to Henderson Settlement. Please see the display in Fellowship Hall showing how each label is to be turned in. There is a basket for you to put your labels in.

There are white sheets by the basket showing you what companies are participating. See display on table in Fellowship Hall.

'R' Rated

I read the daily newspaper and while looking over the movies currently playing I realize that over half were rated 'R' and the rest were considered 'PG'. This narrowed my choices considerably. Consequently I don't see many movies. I will not be embarrassed and upset at the lack of values the world rates my intelligence. Years ago the entertainment industry did not portray a life style of vulgarity at every turn. I could go to a movie or play and not be bombarded with nudity, sex, and foul language. I would understand the plot and be entertained in the company of family and friends. When did the world decide that I needed to be shocked into reality? Today I find X-rated language and actions thrust in my face where ever I go. All these actions are excused in the name of freedom. Freedom of speech — a right I have as an American.

An old friend of mine, now deceased, had a favorite quote he used often as a judge here in Lafayette. He would say, "With every right or privilege comes and equal responsibility". When I lower my values to accommodate those who say "I have a right to free speech" and don't consider my responsibility for being an example to others and being the best that I can be. I am giving up the right to a respectable life and demeaning myself as a human being.

With every right—freedom—comes a responsibility. I am a role model whether I want to be or not. I can be a good one or an 'R' rated one. Luke 17:1-2 tells us in scripture to not be the one that causes others to stumble. It would be better for the perpetuator to have a millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea. I am disappointed in the entertainment industry. I will not buy a book as a gift unless I read it first. I have the responsibility to censor how I live today and how others see me.

I feel that all that is said in anger and disgust, I can find sufficient words in the English language to describe my feelings without cursing an oath. I lower my esteem of the intelligence of the orator who depends on four letter words to express their feelings. In other words, "are they not so smart?".

I'm glad I'm not a lip reader because I fear I would cringe at the utterances of the coaches of basketball teams involved in March Madness. They have an opportunity to direct the lives of young men and women, not by cursing at them like they were cattle being herded into a new pasture, but as intelligent college students. These youth love sports and are willing to sacrifice four years of their lives for a common cause and to earn an education. The situation of coaches tongue lashings does not begin in college. Even middle school and high school athletes are subjected to tirades. Does such behavior make better performers and strong youth? I know of one high school freshman that quit volleyball because she said she would not be cursed at. Good Girl!

I ask myself this question – How does God rate my life? I cannot judge, but He can and He does. Am I in need of Parental Guidance or am I 'R' rated? How many times have I ignored the opportunity to do God's will? Am I selfish and self-centered? Do I share what I have been blessed with today? Is my time given to being God's hands and heart at least 24 hours a day? Am I grateful for the blessings I am given? Do I love my Lord Jesus Christ as much as I could? Do I read the Bible to direct my thoughts and actions? How does God rate me? I pray He loves me for who I try to be.

Easter is upon us. Have a beautiful Easter and enjoy spring as it comes into full bloom another year.

THINGS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN HERE AT STIDHAM

As some of you may not know or have forgotten, Stidham has an ongoing Helping Hands Mission, managed by Noble Kizer to assist people in our community, with support from the Lighthouse Prayer Group and others. See page 2 on how you need to turn in your money.

We invite you to honor Christ on Communion Sundays, which are the FIRST Sunday of each month, by assisting those in need with contributions.

Please mark your pew envelopes with your name, date, check # and write "Helping Hands" and put in the offering plate.

SCHOLARSHIP'S

We are accepting applications for Scholarship's for this year, to our church congregation. If you are interested, please see Paula or Judy in the church office to pick up your applications forms.

Thank you

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Every Monday night at 6:30pm and Tuesday morning at 10:00am, Pastor Dave has a Bible Study.

He is a Great Teacher of the Bible! Come join us!

This month we are studying the Book of Revelation.

THANK YOU'S

On Sunday March 22, volunteers from Stidham UMC, served about 40 people the Community meal at LUM.

The menu consisted of pizza, chips and bananas. The food was purchased through the Missions.

Helping to prepare, serve and clean-up were: Joy Dietz, Alice Francis, Jane Hand, Opal Kuhl, and Jim & Susan Walters.

Thank you to all who help furnish refreshments each and every Sunday.
Your help is greatly appreciated!!

Stidham UMC Attendance and Weekly Giving Report

| <i>Attendance</i> | | | March 2015 | | <i>Weekly Giving</i> | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | SS Totals | Worship | Totals | | Budget Income | Specials | Total Deposit |
| 03/01/2015 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 03/01/2015 | \$1,070.00 | \$45.00 | \$1,115.00 |
| 03/08/2015 | 12 | 86 | 98 | 03/08/2015 | \$5,065.75 | \$302.00 | \$5,367.75 |
| 03/15/2015 | 13 | 80 | 93 | 03/15/2015 | \$5,232.50 | \$779.00 | \$6,011.50 |
| 03/22/2015 | 11 | 61 | 72 | 03/22/2015 | \$1,536.25 | \$24.00 | \$1,560.25 |
| 03/29/2015 | 14 | 87 | 101 | 03/29/2015 | \$3,733.81 | \$94.00 | \$3,827.81 |
| Totals | 50 | 314 | 364 | Totals | \$16,638.31 | \$1,244.00 | \$17,882.31 |

2015 Year to Date Income & Expenses

| Jan – Mar 2015 Income | Jan – Mar 2015 Specials | Jan – Mar 2015 YTD Deposit | Jan – Feb 2015 YTD Expenses |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$39,368.81 | \$3,359.00 | \$42,727.81 | \$22,821.52 |

March YTD Expenses are not available until after April 1st

LET US BE THANKFUL FOR ALL THAT THE LORD PROVIDES US WITH EACH AND EVERY DAY.

LET US GIVE GENEROUSLY EACH AND EVERY WEEK!

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

The closer we are to people in need, the closer we are to God.

What is the theme of my song of praise to God today?

We are all children of God.

Christ offers forgiveness.
Do I accept it?

God's love is the greatest gift of all.

Our joy is in the Lord.

God erases our sins and gives us a clean page to begin anew.



Cathy's Corner

My Nail

I began writing about my nail just after the Lenten season began but missed the March newsletter deadline (confession—not the 1st time) so will continue my thoughts now.

I both love and hate the events leading up to Easter. The 'love' part is obvious; Spring, perennials pushing up through the snow producing colorful spring flowers, people seem happier, weather is sometimes more cooperative, our 'Snow Birds' start returning, I have my nail and the anticipation of our Easter services

The 'hate' part of the Lenten season for me is that someone I love, someone I can talk to anytime, someone I can confess to, someone I can count on, someone stronger than me was persecuted and died a horrible death so that I might have spiritual support on earth and eternal life. I often think, "Did you have to go to that extreme God? Couldn't You just have let Jesus continue to preach to people and live a long life? I would still believe". But that's not how it played out. Because that's not how it played out I am glad I have my nail to hold and carry and rub whenever I feel the need.

I can't change the past. I can't change Gods' plan. I can only say "I'm so sorry that Jesus died for my sins and others" and attempt to live an honest, hard-working life witnessing HIS love to the world. I can rub my nail and carry it with me as a tangible reminder of what God and His Son did for me as I strive to pass goodness on to others.

I wish everyone had a nail representing the cross to hold and rub. Perhaps our world would be a better, safer, happier place. I'm so glad I have my nail; aren't you?

Happy Easter;

Maria's Birthday– submitted by Judy Wagner

Maria had a birthday coming up and she was not looking forward to it as it was her 65th. Her husband knew she was dreading it, so he decided to have a birthday party for her. He asked what would like for "her day". She said she would like to be "8 again", so he put together a day he thought she would enjoy with Balloons, Pizza, and a Big Birthday Cake.

At the end of a wonderful day, he asked her if she truly enjoyed her 8th Birthday? Maria said, "What are you talking about?" I meant I would like to be size 8 again.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL 2015

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 1- - Emma Zimmerman

April 24- - Tim & Tera Driscoll

April 7- - Olivia Wheeler

April 14- -Jill Plantenga

April 17- -Pat Baugh

April 25- -Judy Benedict

April 25- -Ron Hardesty

April 26- -Rich Conrad



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Everyone needs a prayer every day. Let us give thanks and ask God to be with those who are on our prayer lists and all those who are going through personal struggles, health issues and other worries that they may have. Let us share our faith and love for one another as life works in different ways.

Cindy Lindstrom, Kathy Fry and Family, Jill Plantenga and Family, Carol Stout, Bill Lutgen, Dick Watts, Seth Greene and Family, our Military, and our world leaders.



PINE CREEK CAMP

COME JOIN the FELLOWSHIP AND FUN AND MAKE
NEW FRIENDS THIS SUMMER AT CAMP!

The ages are Kindergarten and up. Several dates are available depending on the age of the child. Grades K-2 have a shorter camp and price depends on the age group. Date for camp is July 12-15.

If you are interested please see Tera Driscol here at church, e-mail her at:
teradriscol@frontier.com or call her at 491-4233. You can e-mail the camp website at:
beacamper.com for more information.

REGISTER TODAY!