



The Stidham Story

765-474-2806

stidhamumc@yahoo.com

www.stidhamumc.org



January 2016

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

Time to Ponder—words from Karl Barth

Now it is no accident that for us the Virgin Birth is paralleled by the miracles of which the Easter witness speaks, the miracle of the empty tomb. These two miracles belong together. They constitute, as it were, a single sign, the special function of which, compared with other signs and wonders of the New Testament witness, is to describe and mark out the existence of Jesus Christ, amid the many other existences in human history, so that human historical existence in which God is Himself, God is alone, God is directly the subject, the temporal reality of which is not called forth, created, conditioned, and supported by the eternal reality of God, but is identical with it. The Virgin Birth had the beginning and the empty tomb at the close of Jesus' life bear witness that this life is a fact marked off from the rest of human life, and marked off in the first instance, not by our understanding or our interpretation, but by itself. Marked off in regard to its origin: it is free of the arbitrariness which underlies all other existences. And marked off in regard to its goal: it is victorious over the death to which we are all liable. Only within these limits is it what it is and is it correctly understood, as the ministry of the revelation of God. It is to that ministry that these limits point – he who ignores them or wishes them away must see to it that he or she is not thinking of something quite different from this.

The mutual relationship between these two limits may perhaps be defined like this. The virgin birth denotes particularly the mystery of Revelation. It denotes the fact that God stands at the start where real revelation takes place – God and not the arbitrary cleverness, capability, or piety of humans. In Jesus Christ God comes forth out of the profound hiddenness of His divinity in order to act as God among us and upon us. That is revealed and made visible to us in the sign of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, but it is grounded upon the fact signified by the Virgin birth, that here in this Jesus Christ Himself has really come down and concealed Himself in humanity. It is because he was veiled here that he could and had to unveil himself as he did at Easter. The empty tomb, on the other hand, denotes particularly the revelation of the mystery. It denotes that it is not for nothing that God stands at the beginning, but that it is as such that he becomes active and knowable. He has no need of human power and is free from all human caprice (impulsive change). Therefore even the ultimate extremities of human existence, as he submits to them and abandons Himself to death, offer no hindrance to His being and work. That God himself in his complete Majesty was one with us, as the Virgin birth indicates, is verified and what the empty tomb indicates, that here in this Jesus the living God has spoken to us humans in accents we cannot fail to hear. Because he has unveiled himself here as the One He is, we may and must say that the Christmas message says, that unto you is born this day the Savior. The mystery at the beginning is the basis of the mystery at the end; and by the mystery of the end the mystery of the beginning becomes active and knowable. And since this is so, the same objective content is signified in the one case by the miracle of the Virgin birth, and the other by the miracle of the empty tomb.

We will expand upon these thoughts in the future.

Dave

February Newsletter articles due by Friday, January 22nd.
Thank you

Stidham UMC

Attendance and Weekly Giving Report

Attendance			
	SS Totals	Worship	Totals
11-01-2015	16	93	109
11-08-2015	15	104	119
11-18-2015	12	73	85
11-25-2015	14	86	100
11-29-2015	12	91	103
October Totals	69	447	516

November			
	Budget Income	Specials	Total Deposit
11-01-2015	\$ 4,169.71	\$ 940.00	\$ 5,109.71
11-08-2015	\$ 2,541.25	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 3,961.25
*11-10-2015	\$.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
11-18-2015	\$ 1,783.96	\$ 574.00	\$ 2,357.96
11-25-2015	\$ 2,634.25	\$ 420.00	\$ 3,054.25
11-29-2015	\$ 3,495.25	\$ 173.00	\$ 3,668.25
November Totals	\$ 14,624.42	\$ 9,527.00	\$ 24,151.42

* Deposit 11-10-2015—Donor Deposit to Specials

October 2015 — Income & Expenses

General Acct Jan—Oct Income	General Acct Jan—Oct Expenses	Specials Acct Oct Income	Specials Acct Oct Expenses
\$ 132,333.99	\$ 138,003.92	\$ 7,078.00	\$ 12,856.60
Checkbook Total—10-31-2015			
	\$ 17,824.19	Checkbook Total 10-31-2015	\$ 34,919.34

Complete monthly reports are available. If you would like a copy contact Paula in the church office: 765-474-2806 or email: stidhamumc@yahoo.com

END OF THE YEAR FINANCE REPORTS

I will be mailing them out on Thursday January 7, 2015. After you receive them please look them over and if you have any questions, please give me a call or see me at church.

Thank you,
Judy Henderson

Your Finance Committee for 2016:
Bryan Hoffman-Chairman
Bruce Rose- Assistant Chairman
Paula Dillard-Bookkeeper
Asst. Bookkeeper-Betty Greene
Financial Secretary- Judy Henderson

Bill Lutgen
Dave Webb
Bill Davis
Glenda Bauer

Cathy's Corner

Follow the Star

I am a sentimental person and hang on fiercely to good memories, many with importance only to me. Some involve my parents, others center around our children, our church families present and past; etc. Since David became itinerant I have good memories of our parsonage experiences which will be with me forever. One of my best memories is driving home from work, night after night – 2008-2012 – guided by the Christmas Star atop Stidham UMC.

I LOVE THAT STAR. I love it physically and I love it spiritually. I am immensely grateful to those who made it, re-made it and those who put it skyward year after year! To me the SUMC star is a symbol of Jesus birth, a helpless baby God sent to teach us to love one another as He takes away our human sins. Every night during our Christmas seasons at the parsonage I could see the SUMC star and know I was safe no matter the time or weather.

When I googled 'Christmas Star' I found there are many diverse opinions about it. Few astrological records were kept at the time of Jesus birth though there are numerous natural possibilities coinciding with that time. No matter the reason, the Christmas Star has become a major symbol of Christmas for Christians throughout the world.

I share these thoughts with you on the Christmas Star from Denver Planetarium Director Larry Sessions. "Unless some major indisputable archaeological discovery is found to settle the question once and for all, the mystery of the Christmas Star will remain in the realm of faith. Science cannot explain it, history offers no clear record and religion offers only untestable miraculous apparition. Although there may be no agreement on the nature of the star or even its' actual sighting two millennia ago, all writers and theorists agree on the message the Christmas Star heralded— '*...on earth peace, good will to men*'.

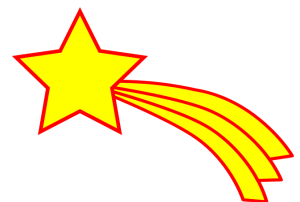
Although the SUMC Star is not within eyesight for me now I know it's there and will be for many years to come. For many of us, it is in our hearts, minds, and memories year round, forever.

I look forward to a healthy, happy, peaceful 2016 for all just as I look forward to the Christmas Star of Stidham this coming December!

Cathy

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "*Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.*"

Matthew 2—CEV



Today

I hold in my hand a calendar for 2016. Not one page has been written on; not one date has been claimed by anyone. I will take the calendar and mark the birthdays of those I feel close to. I add the age each will become on said day. I have a few appointments to post in my new calendar. Otherwise it is open to opportunities that present themselves. Some dates are mine – to circle in red ink – that I hold dear to my heart. I'll make promises to others I will try very hard to keep. I will focus on each day. **Today** – what am I doing with **today**? I can spend it remembering yesterdays. I can look ahead to tomorrows. I can do a joyful task in Jesus' name. I spend too much time daydreaming, planning activities I never accomplish. The hymn that goes like this "**Today** is the day that the Lord has made; let us **rejoice** and be glad in it." Keeps running through my head.

Rejoice in it tells me to show my appreciation that God is so good to me, and I need to let him know that I do **rejoice** in being able to participate in this day, today. The years fly by and I keep expecting to face tomorrow. Do I give thanks for **Today**? The sun may be shining, it could be raining or snowing. It is a day God made for me to use to the best of my ability. I thank my Heavenly Father for his kindness, his trust, and his expecting that I will fill this day with deeds he deems worthy of his approval.

Be **glad** in it. Happiness is contagious. I've been down in the dumps; concerned with world affairs and where they are leading me. The condition of my checkbook may be a worry today. The fact that my basement needs to be straightened – for the furnace man is coming on Wednesday to give the furnace its yearly check-up. A date I have procrastinated in scheduling since last fall. I hear the phone ringing and I see I have a call from a dear friend and she makes me giggle. My spirits rise to a happy level. I am **glad** I am here **today**. I am **glad** my mind is clear that I can converse with a joyful voice over the latest exciting event in her life. She shared with me her gladness and I **thank** her for saving my day. **Glad** times are precious.

I make no New Year's Resolutions that I am not equipped to keep. I have no great expectations for 2016. I am happy to be a part of a caring church family. I enjoy the biological family that surrounds me. I keep all the above in my prayers each day. I will follow the progression of our government in the upcoming election and pray that God will be with those in power at the close of the year. I trust God to take care of me when I follow his desires. I ask him to "Give me **today** my daily bread" Matthew 6:7. In Hebrews 3:13 I read "But encourage one another daily, so long as it is called **Today**!" Again Hebrews 4:7 I am told "God set a certain day, calling it **Today**" – all scripture quoted from NIV Bible.

I repeat, "**Today** is the day the Lord has made; rejoice and be glad in it." May your **Today** be special and **gladsome**.

Have a blessed 2016. Fill your calendar with joy.

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 2016

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

4- Mary Lou Coogle

8- David Whitehead

9- Bruce Baugh
Denise Hoffman

10-Madden Morlan

12-Karsen Newman

18- Marjorie McGlothlin

20- Noble Kizer

27-Julia Wagner



11- Dick & Bonnie Watts



PRAYER LIST

Everyone needs prayer every day. Let us give thanks and ask God to be with those who are on our prayer lists and those going through personal struggles, health issues and other worries that they may have. Let us share our faith and show love to one another each and every day. Amen

Patricia Tooley, Rusty Nofli, Lucy Keller, Caitlin Wethington, Mary Kaiser, Bill Byers, George & Doris Carlton, Meve Bowden, Karen Fridlin, Brenda Walker, Marilyn Bigelow, Roy Becker, Frank Arihood, Mike & Teresa Matthews, Cindy Lindstrom, our military, our world leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY!!

Peace is just a prayer away.

I am in the household of God no matter where I am.

God calls us to invest in relationships with our neighbors.

