



The Stidham Story

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January 2017

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE

The year 2016 is rapidly drawing to a close. For all practical purposes 2016 is in the history book. This coming Sunday is New Year's Day. I do not know of a year that had so many changes and things in my life as 2016.

The year began with an expectation of a new ministry assignment for me. Saying goodbye to a congregation I had served for a little over 10 years was not easy. Yet, I sensed Christ leading me away. He is my Good Shepherd. I am just a sheep. I heard the Shepherd's voice. I followed that voice of the Good Shepherd to a wonderful ministry called Stidham United Methodist Church. His words to me are: "Feed my sheep. Feed my lambs."

Julie's ministry of mental health counseling also experienced change. She had a thriving practice. Yet, she also sensed that Christ was leading our lives in a different location. Trusting in Christ's grace, Julie suspended her practice so I could follow Christ's call. With the move to Lafayette, her practice is starting up again. It is now beginning to grow with several new clients. We are seeing that call of Jesus was in the move to Lafayette for both of us.

As we were beginning for the move to Lafayette to serve Stidham UMC, our lives changed. While we were preparing to move, Julie's mother's health rapidly went down. The day before we were to go help Julie's family make decisions, my brother died. A week later Julie's mother died. In the midst of grief, we heard the Good Shepherd say, "I am the resurrection and I am the life. Those who believe in me shall never die." We found out the Good Shepherd is also the God of all comfort.

July brought the joy and challenge of beginning a new ministry adventure with Stidham UMC. We have prayed together. We have laughed together. We have studied together. We have had in depth discussions together. We have worshipped Christ together. We have done several mission outreach projects together.

My life and ministry are centered in the redemptive ministry of Jesus Christ. Ministry methods and practices do change. How we experience life will change. The source of significance and the purpose in both ministry and life will not change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

I seek to be an agent of God's grace, love, hope, and reconciliation as expressed in the revealed Word of God. You can expect to hear and see these themes in the coming year. What does grace look like? What does love look like? What does hope look like? What is reconciliation? These four biblical themes are the key ingredients of the one main thing church is all about: Making disciples for Jesus Christ.

The coming year of 2017 brings the powerful promise of Christ being with us no matter what. In the Great Commission found in Matthew 28 Jesus promises "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the earth." My wish and desire is for a very happy and prosperous new year that is filled with the presence of Christ for our entire congregation. Together, along with other Christians, we offer the best solution to the difficulties faced in our nation and world.

BLESSINGS!

Pastor Mike



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 2017

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- 1- *Eli Miller*
- 4- *Mary Lou Coogle*
- 8- *David Whitehead*
- 9- *Bruce Baugh*
Denice Hoffman
- 10- *Madden Morlan*
- 18- *Julie Dillon*
Majorie McGlothlin
- 20- *Noble Kizer*

- 25- *Michael Dillon*
- 27- *Judy Wagner*
- 28- *Ed Keller*

- 11- *Pastor Mike & Julie Dillon*

PRAYER LIST

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you be with all that are on our prayer list, those who are going through health, issues, personal struggles, and other worries they may have. Let us show our faith and our love to one another each and every day. Amen

Barbara Lawson, Bonnie Watts & Family, Ray Coogle, Hubert Doughty, Marjorie McGlothlin, Bud Dillon, Deloris Findlay, Eric Columber, Sue & Mike Biery, Jean Biera, Don & Jan Plantenga, Jane Vandeventer, Tom Sosbe. Pat Baugh, Mary Bulter, Bill Sullivan, Don Kelly, John Bryant Family, Rich Keller, Millie Vonstein, Al Cummins, Lucy Keller, Patricia Tooley, Shannon Withers, Sandy Kukman, George & Doris Carton, Karen Fridlin, Frank Airhood, our military and our world leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

TODAY I WILL LISTEN FOR WHAT God is inviting me to do.

GOD IS WITH US DURING ALL THE SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

GOD IS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF REFRESHMENT.

Tomorrow

The month of December is a time of reminiscing the events of the year that is coming to a close. Some happenings were exciting and fulfilling; others brought tears of compassion and sadness for the loss of a loved one. For the incompleteness of an attempted project. For missing the opportunity of friendship when someone needed a word of encouragement or a shoulder to cry on. The joy of a new year is, I can begin again and fill my day with happiness. The most rewarding is doing for others whenever I can.

Have you ever made a New Year's resolution? It is an opportunity to renew my desire to be a better friend and be a more dedicated follower of Jesus Christ. There is no purer mentor than the Son of God. My mother quoted a poem to me especially as I entered my teen years. The message was simple. Live my life as Jesus would want me to. I stubbed my toe many times but Mom never lost faith. I thank her for her persistence. She always looked forward to tomorrow.

The new year, 2017, is upon us and we can make of it what we want. The only days I have blocked off are doctor appointments, Sunday morning worship, Thursday Prayer Group and I hope I can still make dinner on Tuesday night for family and friends. Not a necessity, but it is fun.

I'm leaving lots of space to fill in the day to day opportunities and I invite you to join me in filling in your spaces on this page with your future happenings and expectations.

2017

January

July

February

August

March

September

April

October

May

November

June

December

I pray for a safe and exciting journey through 2017 for each of us.

May all the months be filled with special occasions of joy and peace in your life.

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene



THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH FOR JANUARY 2017

Communion Sunday January 11st.

Helping Hand Sunday January 1 (Please mark the pew envelope "Helping Hand")

Parsonage Open House Sunday January 1, 3:00-5:00 pm

Bible Study Monday Night January 9,16,30 6:30 pm (No Bible Study Jan 2 or 23)

Bible Study Tuesday Morning January 10,17,31 10:00 am No Bible Study (Jan 3 or 24)

R.O.C.K. Wednesday Night Ministry Program January 4, 5:30-7:00 pm (Meal furnished)

Trustee Meeting Tuesday Night January 10, 7:00 pm

Choir Practice Wednesday Night January 11, 18, 25 at 7:00 pm

Prayer Group– Not meeting the months of January & February (See page 5)

Sunday January 29, 5th Sunday Meal– Announcement will be made soon on what to bring and will be in the bulletin.

Wesley Students will be doing the Worship Service on Sunday January 29.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

JANUARY–CASH DONATIONS

JULY–MACARONI AND CHEESE

FEBRUARY–CANNED MEAT OR TUNA

AUGUST–PAPER PRODUCTS

MARCH–SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES
(NO GLASS JARS)

SEPTEMBER–CASH DONATIONS

APRIL–PAPER PRODUCTS

OCTOBER–PEANUT BUTTER

MAY–CASH DONATIONS

NOVEMBER–SOUP & CRACKERS

JUNE–CANNED FRUIT

DECEMBER–OATMEAL OR CEREAL

A BIG THANK YOU FROM DAVE WEBB

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE THAT TOOK TIME ON A VERY BUSY, OVERCAST AND RAINY CHRISTMAS EVE TO RING THE SALVATION ARMY BELLS. THIS ORGANIZATION TRULY LIVES UP TO ITS MOTTO: "DOING THE MOST GOOD." WHEN WE RECEIVE THE AMOUNT COLLECTED IN OUR KETTLES, IT WILL BE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AND IN *THE STIDHAM STORY*. AGAIN, A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED.

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, I WILL BE IN FLORDIA FOR A WHILE, AND YOU NEED TO BE REMINDED THAT THE BAKED STEAK DINNER IS **ONLY 41 WEEKS AWAY**. MARK YOUR **CALENDAR FOR** OCTOBER 14, 2017



A NOTE FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE PRAYER GROUP

We will not be meeting in January and February. This is an experiment.

Many of us are over 85 years old and the winter weather does not agree with us very well. We will contact each other by phone and keep up on the prayer needs of the congregation.

Thank you for being our support each week.

Love and Prayers,

Betty Green—and prayer group members

SOME CUTE LITTLE QUOTES FROM CHILDREN

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates. When they neared the pew where the little boy sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear; "Don't pay for me daddy, I'm under five."

A 6-year-old girl was over heard reciting the Lord's Prayer at church one Sunday morning: "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who trash against us."

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he was reading her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. Then she would touch her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" yes sweetheart, "he answered, God made me a long time ago." "oh, "she paused, Grandpa, did God make me too?" Yes indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

After the baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father ask him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "The minister said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys.!"

R.O.C.K. Children's Ministry

R.O.C.K is held on the first Wednesday night of the month January-April and will serve dinner the the children.

Two volunteers are needed to furnish meals and to also help with the preparing, serving and clean-up afterwards. There are twelve children and six adults to prepare for. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions, please see Judy Henderson.

**I WOULD APPRECIATE THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICE,
OR EMAILED TO ME, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY JANUARY 20.**

**THANK YOU
JUDY HENDERSON**