



The Stidham Story

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January 2014

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

Here we are at the beginning of 2014. Another year has just been completed in our journey at Stidham. I want to thank all of you for a fantastic year once again. You are so generous in all that you do.

One-hundred and fifty-three items donated to the 2014 Mitten Tree.

- . 16—Coats
- . 11—Snow pants
- . 5—Pair of boots
- . 17—Scarves
- . 1—Pair of ear muffs
- . 55—Pairs of gloves and mittens
- . 48—Hats

I am sure that there are a number of kids in the Lafayette area that would like to thank all of you for your donations.

Through your generous donations, \$3080 was given in alternative Christmas gifts.

I think you should be proud of the way that you have responded to help the needy in the Lafayette area.

Thank you so much and praying for a wonderful 2014.

Blessings,

Dave

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

I WOULD APPRECIATE ALL ARTICLES BE INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY JANUARY 23.

THANK YOU, JUDY HENDERSON

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Happy New Year everyone! Yes, I know that Christmas 2013 is over... then why the title, you say? Well, I've been thinking; a dangerous activity for some of us:) Decades ago, retailers began bombarding consumers with Christmas paraphernalia after Thanksgiving.

I'm not sure when **Jesus is the Reason for the Season** was coined. Through-out the years retailers have found that one month isn't enough time for profit so the holiday shopping time has moved to Halloween and earlier. This bothers some of us yet others enjoy more time to make lists, selections and shop. Now I bring this up because we usually hear **Jesus is the Reason for the Season** during the Christmas holiday. I will say a tiny thank you to retailers for kick starting my **seasonal** thoughts.

SOO (you know that was coming) what's wrong with **Jesus being the Reason for the Season** throughout all our seasons? Or throughout the calendar year for those less fortunate without changing seasons? Do we use food **seasonings** only in December? Do we use garden produce only in the summer? Do we vacation only in one **season**?

Then why not rethink **Jesus as the Reason for all Seasons** as well? Surely we don't have to have our decorations up and the Christmas music we love 24/7 just to remember 'random acts of kindness' throughout the year? To me, a 'random act of kindness is a **Jesus is the Reason**. A smile, comforting words, volunteering our time, talents, our extra food (Pantry), clothing (Missions), etc. are all 'paying it forward' or whatever we choose to label **Jesus is the Reason**. I don't believe the word we use to define helping others matter to the Lord; it's what we do and why—**Jesus is the Reason**—that's important.

Many people we know as well as millions we don't know, have experienced loss of home, jobs, illnesses, or deaths throughout the past year. For me, during sad, down times I think of **Jesus as my Reason** to push on; Jesus is my faith that helps me through that darkness. The 'lows' are much tougher than the 'highs' but if **Jesus is the Reason** for exuberance then He is also there as my Comforter, my shoulder-to-cry-on, my prayer partner, my Counselor.

May 2014 be filled with peace, health, and happiness for all. May we bring happiness to others in our giving, thoughtfulness, and kindness. May we remember **Jesus is all Seasons** throughout 2014.

Happy New Year,

Cathy

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to everyone for your help with all the Mission projects that were done in 2013. Your faithfulness shows here at Stidham UMC. We are a very caring congregation and our work is to help others in time of need.

Matthew 5:13-16

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

2014 is Here

This is my second attempt to write an article for the January newsletter. I must have been especially tired when I sat down earlier or maybe I was preoccupied with the holidays.

I still need to take down the Christmas trees, store the wreaths from the front and back doors and maybe box up the snowmen that line the stairway. I will carefully put away the nativity for another year. Each year my decorating decreases a little, but my love of Christmas does not diminish. I look forward to a new year each New Year's Eve. I make plans for the coming spring and summer. I have so much to live for.

I am blessed with dear friends and a loving family. The church leads me into the new year with activities and projects that I can be a part of. The opportunities are everywhere.

The Lighthouse Prayer Group is an important part of my life. I extend the invitation to you to join us. We are sensitive to the prayer needs of all. The blessings are both in the giving and receiving of unselfish love and concern. All of us will attest to that. You may say: "I'm not comfortable in group prayer," or prayer is a private time for me". Each of us does not sacrifice our private prayer time. We share a Bible verse or short message we have discovered during the week. We bring names of suffering people to light and add them to our ever growing list of prayer concerns. We pray for God's healing hands to be on each one of them. We also thank God for prayers answered. We stay close during the week because we have come to care a great deal for each other. Think about it. Is this a special place that you can be a part of our Christian Ministry?

I will miss Bible study for about the next three months. It is not a good idea for me to be out on the roads during the winter months in the evenings. I will miss growing in the truth and wisdom. It is exciting to keep me learning new facts and pursuing growth of spirit. I can still read the text each week and I will; but I will miss the togetherness.

I have a great-grandson that is an electronic junkie. He is eleven and he devours the games and discoveries on his Kindle Fire. He also has a wise mother who, over Christmas break, took his away from him for two days saying, he needed to play with his two sister's ages nine and six. Mom said she didn't want a hermit for a son that doesn't communicate well with others; learn to give and take, and to be creative. Yea Mom!

Many things we encounter in our lives have great good—inventions that can enrich our lives and ease our existence. They can also hinder our lives. I can enjoy sumptuous meal, I can make candy and bake cookies, I can over—indulge and make myself ill, I can sit and read, not exercising my aging body and regret it. Eating to sustain my body, reading to improve my mind, sitting to rest after a busy day are all necessary, but self-control and moderation are good things. I set my mind and heart toward a good and happy new year in 2014. May you also have a blessed New Year!

Read Galatians 5:22-26, Paul guides us in a happy fruitful life in Spirit with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control- - Since we live by the Spirit let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene

Things going on in the church for the Month of January!

Bible Study each Monday nights, January 6,13,20,27 at 6:30pm

Bible Study each Tuesday morning, January 7,14,21,28 at 10:00am

Finance Committee Meeting Friday January 10 at 4:00 pm

Trustee Meeting Tuesday January 14 at 7:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group each Thursday morning, January 9,16,23,30 at 10:00am

Choir Practice on Wednesday nights January 8,15,22, 29 at 7:00pm

Kids' Night Out Wednesday January 15, 5:30pm-6:55pm

Stidham Church Talent Show and Dinner Wednesday January 29 at 5:30pm

SIGN UP SHEETS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THE FOLLOWING WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Acolytes

Meals—Kid's Night Out

Children's Story

Ushers

Children's Sunday School Worship Leaders

COOKBOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

The cost is \$10.00 per book. Please put your money in a pew envelope and mark it "Cookbooks" and please mark how many cookbooks you are taking on the paper in front of them. You don't need your name.

Thank you!



PRAYER LIST

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

Pastor Dave's Family, Family of Donna Clark, Mary Donahue, Janice Garrett, Maxine LeFevers, Harold Keller, Dick Watts, Rob Inskeep, Ben McHenry, Peg Carson, Kim Guy Michelle Maxwell, Our Military, Our World Leaders and all that are mentioned in Our Worship Service on Sunday mornings and those mentioned silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Reading scripture revives the soul.
 God is never to far away to comfort us.
 God has a purpose for our lives.

THANK YOU

The Church Staff would like to thank the Congregation for the Love Gift's for Christmas. It was appreciated!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 2014

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 4— MARY LOU COOGLE
- 8— DAVID WHITEHEAD
- 9— BRUCE BAUGH
- 9— DENISE HOFFMAN
- 12— KARSEN NEWMAN
- 15— MIDGE HOCKEMA

- 20—NOBLE KIZER
- 27—JULIA WAGNER

- 11—DICK & BONNIE WATTS



ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 2013

OFFERING/TITHE

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP SERVICE	DATE	BUDGET	SPECIALS NON-BUDGET	TOTAL
12/5	16	85	11/3	\$3,665.50	\$570.50	\$4,236.00
12/8	13	107	12/8	\$2,684.25	\$1,419.75	\$4,104.00
12/15	13	83	12/15	\$3,760.00	\$945.00	\$4,775.00
12/22	15	109	12/22	\$3,333.50	\$1,205.00	\$4,538.50
12/29	16	85	12/29	\$3,665.50	\$570.50	\$4,236.00

MISSIONS PROJECTS

Here is a list for the year of Food Pantry Items needed each month!

JANUARY- IS THE MONTH FOR STIDHAM MEMBERS TO DONATE MONEY-MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO STIDHAM UMC AND MARK YOUR PEW ENVELOPES "FOOD PANTRY" AND PUT IN THE OFFERING PLATE.
FEBRAURY- CANNED MEAT OR TUNA
MARCH-SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES (NO GLASS JARS)
APRIL-PAPER PRODUCTS
MAY-CASH DONATIONS
JUNE-CANNED FRUIT
JULY-MACRONI & CHEESE
AUGUST-PAPER PRODUCTS
SEPTEMBER-CASH DONATIONS
OCTOBER-PEANUT BUTTER
NOVEMBER-SOUP & CRACKERS
DECEMBER-OATMEAL OR CERAL

TABS AND CANS FOR RILEY HOSPITAL

Leave your tabs and cans in the containers in Fellowship Hall and Kevin Fry will pick them up and turn them in. The project will run from January-April 2014.

Lighthouse Prayer Group Mission Project

The labels collected will be 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. The Lighthouse Prayer Group would appreciate your help in making this a big success!! There are white sheets in Fellowship Hall by the basket showing you what companies are participating in the program.

