



# The Stidham Story

765-474-2806

[stidhamumc@yahoo.com](mailto:stidhamumc@yahoo.com)

[www.stidhamumc.org](http://www.stidhamumc.org)

**MARCH 2014**

**Stidham United Methodist Church**

## **Dave's Diary**

**March 2014**

On Wednesday, March 5, Lent begins. We call that day Ash Wednesday (with the imposition of ashes) and it starts the 40 days of Lent. Of course, it ends on Easter Sunday.

This was a tradition that was started by the Catholic church in the fifth century. Even though we Methodist have started celebrating different parts of the Lenten season in the past 40 years, as a young person we only worshiped in special services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Why was the 40 days of lent started in the first place? The Catholic church thought that it was important in teaching through those 40 days for members to be baptized. The 40 days were chosen because of the 40 days Jesus went up on the mountain to pray and fast at the beginning of his ministry. It was also the amount of time Moses spent on the mountain with God when he received the 10 Commandments. It then became for the Catholics a very meaningful tradition.

The Lenten season is a special time in the church, but as a Christian who closely follows Paul, these 40 days is not that important. As Paul says, if you believe in Jesus Christ and take him as your savior you will be saved. It is a very personal experience for Paul (and for Dave) in your acceptance of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit works through each individual in different ways and at different times in our journey. These stories may be very beneficial to others or they may just be words that are only sounds to others.

During the Lenten season of 2014, I want it to be special for each and everyone of you. I hope that you will experience a faith story of your own that is very meaningful to you. For the seven Sundays of Lent, I would like to have six people to tell their story and their walk in the Christian faith. Maybe your story would be the lightning blot for someone else to accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

That is my hope for the 2014 Lenten season.

Blessings,

Dave

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR APRIL WILL BE MARCH 27**

THANK YOU JUDY HENDERSON

## Benefit Dinner for Jill Plantenga

Location—Tippecanoe County Fair Grounds in the Home Ec Building

Time—Saturday, March 8, 2014, 4—8 pm for a chili benefit dinner.

We are coming together to support and raise funds for Jill's medical bills. In addition, there will be a bake sale, so please feel free to bring your favorite dessert and/or baked goods to donate to the sale. Please use disposable pans to bring your baked goods in.

Stidham congregation will be donating baked goods for the Bake Sale.

Please mark your calendar for the benefit dinner and come to support Jill!

We are in need of articles for upcoming newsletter. Please share a cartoon, your special thoughts or a life experience you may want to share.

God works in mysterious ways!

## Records

I watched some of the Olympics on television this past month. According to the sportscaster records were broken and new records set. I listen to the weather for cast and he says there will probably be record setting snowfall in the 2013-2014 winter season. And we will see a new record for cold the first few days of March. Some records I celebrate—others not so much!

On the fifth of March, Ash Wednesday, I will have the opportunity to begin the weeks of this years Lenten season. That period of time before Easter Sunday I prepare for a new day, a new life, a rebirth. I prepare to shed my old self, to understand anew the fact that God's son, Jesus Christ, would willingly be tortured verbally, beaten unmercifully, and nailed to a cross— the punishment of a common criminal. He did all of this for me and you for our sin filled lives.

Many of us consider Lent a time to give up something we really enjoy or something essential in our daily live; make us suffer a little. Some members of my family are members of an Orthodox church. They observe Lent by abstaining from all foods that have an animal origin; including all meats and some seafood. They eat no eggs, cheese, butter, cow or goat milk, cream, and any food prepared with any of the afore mentioned items. They become very vegetarian or even a little hungry for about six weeks. These food choices remind them of Jesus' sacrifice for them, and it makes Easter mean more.

There are other ways to worship Jesus and be aware of his suffering for me. I can renew my faith by doing something special, maybe more difficult than daily activities. I can support the Food Pantry, LUM, and U.M.C.O.R. I can visit the ill and the lonely. What will I give time to today? Will I make a special time to pray for those of us that are seriously ill? Will I send a card to someone, telling them I'm thinking of them today? I confess I dislike talking on the phone. A phone call will be a sacrifice on my part. Praise God for His many blessings and the telephone is one of the inventions He embraces. I need to repent of my short comings and overcome my fears. I need to give God complete control of my life.

An author I read recently suggested four ways to be a part of Lent. I share them in a brief form with you now.

### A Time for Sabbath (A web site says it's the seventh day of the week)

1. A Sabbath requires time for ceasing. Allow ourselves a moment of stillness.
2. A Sabbath requires a time for resting. Allow ourselves a time to bring a restoration which can be healing to our spirit.
3. A Sabbath requires a time of embracing. To cling to religious traditions given to us by those that have gone before us. We might read scripture or classic literature or read the life of a great person of the past or just being aware of those of our own heritage.
4. A Sabbath requires a time of feasting with family and friends that bring us special joy. Feasting is more than eating, it's about talking and listening, planning and dreaming, forgiving and loving. (I borrowed the above from the March-April issue of The Upper Room, page 40-41. He said so much that I applaud and I wanted to share it today.)

I have a difficult time in the weeks before Easter. The sacrifice Jesus made for me causes me great pain and grief. I don't think I could endure Good Friday unless I know that on Easter the tomb is empty and Jesus rose from the dead and lives in heaven at the right hand of the Father, God, forever. His words guide my life and His love is mine from this day 'till eternity. I soak up the beauty of Easter music and celebrate the scriptures of the discovery of the empty tomb. John 20:1 gives me a description of the activities of that beautiful morning.

Back to records to be set and records to be broken. Will I set a record for a full Lenten season? I pray I shall. May your journey through Lent be a close walk with Christ Jesus

Love and prayers, Betty Greene

**Things going on in the church for the Month of March!**

**Bible Study each Monday night March 3,10,17,24, & 31 at 6:30pm**

**Bible Study each Tuesday morning, March 4,11,18,25 at 10:00am**

**Lighthouse Prayer Group each Thursday morning, March 6,13,20,27 at 10:00am**

**Choir Practice on Wednesday nights March 5,12,19, 26 at 7:00pm**

**Kids' Night Out Wednesday nights March 5 & 19 at 5:30pm-6:55pm**

**Trinity Community Meal is on Sunday March 23 from 11:00am-1:30pm.**

**Menu is: Pizza, chips, fruit and cookies.**

**We are asking for donations of \$5.00 toward the purchase of the pizza's. You may enclose cash or a check in a pew envelope marked "Trinity Meal" and place it in the offering plate.**

**There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for food donations and also for volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up.**

**If questions, please see Trudy Risemas or Jane Hand.**

**Your help is appreciated!**

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**TABS AND CANS FOR RILEY HOSPITAL**

Leave your cans and tabs in the containers in Fellowship Hall and Kevin Fry will pick them up and turn them in in April. The money he gets will go to Riley Hospital.

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**COOKBOOKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE. THEY ARE \$10.00 EACH. Please put your money in pew envelope and mark "Cookbooks" and put in the offering plate. Be sure to put your name, the date and if paying by check please put the check number.**

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**SIGN-UP SHEETS IN FELLOWSHIP**

**HALL FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

**Worship Leaders**

**Acolytes**

**Ushers**

**Children's Story**

**Children's Church**

**CAMPAIGN FOR CHURCH WINDOW RESTORATION**

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE CAMPAIGN.  
Please see Bill Davis or call him at 765-426-1664**

### 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

Jill Plantenga, Rob Inskeep, Kevin Fry, Nancy Trott, Bonnie Reggle, Larry Burkert, Harold Keller, 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

God's strength is greater than anything that knocks me down.

I will allow Christ to tend to my spirit today.

God brings healing and restoration

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### **MARCH 2014**

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

2- Bruce Rose

23- Ron Sturm

31- Bruce & Cheryl Parker

5- Carol Rose

26- Hayes Loggins  
Russ Hockema

7- Karen Scott

27- Keagan Plantenga

10- Mary Ezra

30- Marcy Helms

15- Judy Henderson

16- Jim Walters  
Cindy Stuart

17- Cathy Inskeep

19 Mary Butler

22- Jeannie Poulson



## MISSIONS PROJECTS

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

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 CEREAL

## REPORT FROM LIGHTHOUSE PRAYER GROUP MISSION PROJECT

Labels are continually being collected. The following have been mailed to Henderson.

To date: Henderson Settlement: Campbell Products etc.

142 points– April 2013

110 points– September 2013

275 points– January 2014

527 points to date mailed

Frakes Elementary School– General Mills products etc.

To date: Box tops for Education

215 coupons– April 2013

179 coupons– September

292 coupons– January 2014

686 Box top coupons to date mailed

A reminder: Please continue to add to the basket in the Fellowship Hall. I am sorry to report that there were 22 Campbell labels that I could not use. The labels must be complete in one piece to be accepted.

Check the poster about the basket for help in carrying out the process.

### 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.

