



# The Stidham Story

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April 2014

Stidham United Methodist Church

## Dave's Dairy

### *Personal Revival*

#### Loving Others

How do we love ourselves? We give ourselves food and sleep. We seek joy and love from others. We long for comfort and peace of mind. The Bible tells us that we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. By loving them we show our love for God.

God loves us so much that he sent His only Son to die for us. Since we have received such amazing love, how much more should we love our fellow man—and be a reflection of God's love to them.

But our neighbor is not defined here as only a person that is easy to love. Our neighbor may even be our enemy. Jesus commanded us even to love those who are unlovable. *"But I tell you this: love your enemies. Pray for those who torment you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44, The Voice)*. This is where our faith is truly tested. Our faith is not complete without an understanding of this concept.

You may have been viciously scarred by hurtful events in the past. You may still be reeling from the wrong that has been done to you. Do not try to merely bandage those wounds with a quick prayer of insincere love and forgiveness. Use prayer to ask God how to love those who have hurt you. As you pray, listen for His wisdom on the matter. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into forgiveness. Sometimes we must have God's help in letting go of our emotional pain. If you feel like it is impossible to love someone who has hurt you, ask God to give you the grace to forgive. The act of forgiving and loving others can be a catalyst for true revival to happen in your life.

Prayer—Heavenly Father, I confess that sometimes it is difficult to love people. Sometimes it's even difficult to love people in my own family. It is especially difficult to love those that do evil, and those who have wounded my family and me. I need your grace to love and to forgive those unlovable people. Forgive me for the times when I was difficult to love. Help me to remember that I have been forgiven a debt that I can never repay. Help me to forgive those who owe me such a small debt in comparison. And may I be a reflection of your love, your grace and your compassion to a lost and dying world.

In Jesus' name I pray. ~~ Amen

Blessings,

Dave



**ON THIS DAY**

Mend a quarrel.

Search out a forgotten friend.

Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with a trust.

Write a letter to someone who misses you.

Encourage a youth who has lost faith.

Keep a promise.

Forget an old grudge.

Examine your demands on others and vow to reduce them.

Fight for a principle.

Express gratitude.

Overcome a fear.

Take two minutes to appreciate the beauty of nature.

Tell someone you love them.

Tell them again, and again.

Anonymous

## The Garden

The sun is shining today as I sit at my kitchen table and contemplate what I am going to talk to you about today.

A grand-daughter, Megan, and her family are preparing a garden plot in my back yard. Jonathan, age 6, tells everyone it is Grandma Betty's garden. No it is not my garden. My gardening days came to a halt a long time ago. I haven't had a full garden for over thirty years. Early every spring I fill unfulfilled; but I know my limits. I will need to find other ways to be complete.

I am happy Megan and Everette will be showing up some Saturdays helping Jonathan plant and tend Grandma Betty's garden. It will give me a reason to roll out of bed a little early and share a doughnut with Jonathan, giving me someone to share garden stories with. I am available for giving advice, even if they don't need it. They garden by information they pull up on the computer, and is probably more accurate than anything I could tell them.

I am looking forward to gardening this summer. The anticipation, the trust in good seed, good growing conditions, proper care (weeding and pest control) and timely harvest are necessary for success. Life is like a garden and I learn by participation. I give of my best thoughts full of Jesus' teachings. I nurture the ideas with actions of love and patience that follow the way my savior teaches me. I trust that inner voice to guide me. He does not forsake me. The garden harvest is the peace and the knowledge that I am a good and faithful servant. My prayer is that my seed is good and that I am a positive influence for many, that my Jonathan will remember me as a loving, listening, caring and understanding Grandma Betty.

Proverbs 22:6 and Luke 17:2-3a are two scriptures that are dear to me. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Luke 17:2-3a quotes Jesus saying, "It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause of these little ones to sin, so watch yourselves-----  
I try to be a good example, a good seed. I want to nurture the seed, give it proper care and good growing conditions, insuring a great harvest.

Help me plant productive gardens this year in church, Kids Night Out Wednesdays, Vacation Bible School.

There always is a place for us to be a part of shaping the lives of those that follow us, mimic our actions. Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little ones come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

May our gardens flourish in 2014.

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene

## Things going on in the church for the Month of April

Bible Study each Monday nights - April 7,14,21,28 at 6:30pm

Bible Study each Tuesday morning - April 1,8,15,22,29 at 10:00am

Kid's Night Out Wednesday nights - April 2 &16 at 5:30-6:55pm

Choir Practice Wednesday nights- April 2,9,16,23,30 at 7:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group Thursday mornings -April 3,10,17,24 at 10:00am

Trustee Meeting Tuesday night April 8 at 7:00pm

Finance Committee Meeting Friday April 11 at 4:00pm

Church Clean-up Day Saturday April 12 at 8:00am-???

Good Friday Service Friday April 12 at 7:00pm

Ad Council Meeting Tuesday April 15 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday April 20 at 8:00am

Easter Breakfast Sunday April 20 at 9:00am

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### Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall For the Following

Easter Breakfast—needed are (Breakfast Casserole's and Coffee Cakes)

Worship leaders, ushers, acolytes, children's story, children's church, and refreshment hostess

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### Campaign for the Church Window Restoration

We need volunteers to help with the campaign. Please call or see Bill Davis at 765-426-1664.

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### Articles for Future Stidham Story Newsletter

Put on your thinking caps and drop off, at the church office, a story, poem or a blessing you have had in your life. We would love to share these in our Stidham Story newsletters. Deadlines for articles is the third Thursday of each month to Judy Henderson in the office.

## Sunday Morning Information

### Attendance

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP SERVICE
3/1/14	13	48
3/9/14	16	78
3/16/14	14	80
3/23/14	16	74
3/30/14	14	80

### Budget & Specials

DATE	BUDGET	SPECIALS	TOTAL
3/1/14	\$3261.00	\$50.00	\$3311.00
3/9/14	\$3442.25	\$285.00	\$3727.25
3/16/14	\$2627.25	\$714.00	\$3341.25
3/30/14	\$2201.00	\$1337.00	\$3538.00

### Reminder:

It is very important to make sure you are doing your part in giving to the church each month as you estimated at the beginning of the year, so we can meet our budget.

Thank you,  
The Finance Committee

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Due to some major computer problems I haven't been able to put in your Sunday tithing for the last 8 weeks. We are working on the problem and as soon as it is fixed I will be working on them and will get your 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter letter out to you.

Sorry for the inconvenience,

Judy Henderson  
Financial Secretary

## 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. God we are asking that you be with all who are going through health issues, personal struggles and other worries that they may have.

Share your faith and love for one another as we all need prayer. Amen

The Whitehead Family, The Keller Family, Jill Plantenga and Family, Rob Inskeep, Jim Minniear, KimGuy, Roy Becker, Larry Burkert, Our Military, Our World Leaders and those who are mentioned in our Worship Service each and every Sunday, and those mentioned silently.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL 2014

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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1 Emma Zimmerman  
7 Olivia Wheeler  
17 Pat Baugh  
22 Dennis Wheeldon  
25 Judy Benedict  
26 Rich Conrad

24 Tim & Tera Driscoll

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### Thoughts for the Day

Ordinary acts can be signs of the presence of God.  
God loves us beyond anything we can imagine.  
God gives us the strength we need- - one day at a time.  
Where we may only see weeds, God sees a beautiful garden.

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## MISSIONS PROJECTS

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

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.

