

The Stidham Story

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August
2016

Message from Pastor Mike

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day.” Philippians 1:4, NIV

I am grateful for the partnership of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Stidham United Methodist Church. It is an honor to be your pastor. Being a partner means we talk, pray, listen, ask questions, seek to understand, and discern what Christ wants to do through our partnership. The end result of the partnership is that people are brought to faith in Jesus Christ and then grow spiritual maturity.

As a part of a spiritual discernment process, the staff parish committee asked me to consider teaching a Sunday School Class in addition to teaching a Bible Study. Several individuals from the congregation asked me about the same thing.

In praying and thinking about this request, I was drawn to the mission statement listed on stidhamumc.org web site.

Our mission: we are called to make Learners of Jesus Christ by

- (1) Bringing people into the church
- (2) Growing them up in the faith
- (3) Sending them out to continue doing Christ's work in the world!

In keeping with this mission statement, I will begin my equipping ministry through both Sunday School and Bible Study. This is specifically from the second part of the Mission statement.

In Sunday School I will be helping believers understand how Christ can use them. Each of us is unique with our distinctive personality, spiritual gift set, and life experiences. We will begin using the book, “S.H.A.P.E: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life” as the primary basis for this study. There will be copies of the book available. I purchased an electronic copy for my Kindle app through Amazon.com.

This teaching time will revolve around 5 ways Christ equips and shapes us for the sake of His mission. We will study all of these areas:

Spiritual Gifts: A set of special abilities that God has given you to share his love and serve others.

Heart: The special passions God has given you so that you can glorify Him on earth.

Abilities: The set of talents that God has given you when you were born, which he also wants you to use and to make an impact for Him.

Personality: The special way God wired you to navigate life and fulfill Christ's plan in your life.

Experiences: These are the parts of our life, both positive and negative, that God intends to use in great ways for His Kingdom.

Through this teaching time, my goal will be to assist people and experience meaningful and fulfilling service to Christ through Stidham United Methodist Church.

Pastor Mike's article cont. to page 2

Pastor Mike's article cont. from page 1

My wife Julie, has volunteered to be in the children's room during Sunday School so that parents may attend church, knowing that someone will be with the children.

I will begin my Bible Studies the second week of August. I will be keeping the Bible Study schedule with what Stidham has been using. The first Bible Study will be on Monday August 8 at 6:30pm. The same lesson will be taught on Tuesday morning August 9 at 10:00am. We will be studying the Holy Spirit together. This will be a course taught from a Wesleyan/United Methodist theological perspective on the Holy Spirit. The goal of this study will be to understand and experience the Holy Spirit in our world, our church, and our own personal lives.

A variety of teaching tools will be used for this course: bibles, handouts, video presentations, group discovery, in addition to personal reflection.

It is always exciting to learn how much God loves us and can use us. I am looking forward to these learning times together.

I am now sharing other ministry items I am doing in addition to teaching, preaching and leading worship.

The office staff has given me a list of 10 shut-ins connected to our congregation. I am now placing them on a rotating schedule for visits from me. Pray that I will be a blessing to them, as I know they will be for me.

We are still working on a schedule for me to visit each family connected with our congregation. My hope is that these visits will develop into a strong relationships that make an eternal difference in our community.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

God's Faithful Providence

Yes, Stidham is in a period of transition. We all know that transitions can be difficult!

Are we, the members of the Stidham congregation, going to focus on the problems and issues associated with change or the faithful providence of the God who provides? **Your Choice!!!**

For me the answer is simple, I am going to hand over to God the fear and uncertainty of change. I am going to ask Him to help me grow my faith and strengthen my understanding. I know He will never withhold His love or faithful providence.

All Praise be to the Lord who will never abandon His Stidham Family. His kindness and faithfulness will last forever!



Submitted by: Bill Davis

ARTICLES FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE BY AUGUST 24th

Thank you

THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH FOR AUGUST

Communion – Sunday August 7

Helping Hand– Sunday August 7 (Please put your name and mark pew envelope “Helping Hand”)

Bible Study– Monday August 8,15,22,29, 6:30pm

Bible Study–Tuesday August 9,16,23,30, 10:00am

Food Pantry Day– Tuesday August 9, 11:45am-2:30pm– See sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall

Food Pantry Day– Wednesday August 10, 11:45am –2:30pm– See sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

Lighthouse Prayer Group– Thursday August 4,11,18,25. 10:00am

Finance Committee Meeting– Monday August 15, 4:30pm

Ad Council Meeting– Tuesday August 16, 7:00pm

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

JANUARY-CASH DONATIONS

FEBRUARY– CANNED MEAT OR TUNA

MARCH– SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES
(NO GLASS JARS)

APRIL– PAPER PRODUCTS

MAY-CASH DONATIONS

JUNE– CANNED FRUIT

JULY– MACARONI & CHEESE

AUGUST– PAPER PRODUCTS

SEPTEMBER-CASH DONATIONS

OCTOBER– PEANUT BUTTER

NOVEMBER– SOUP & CRACKERS

DECEMBER– OATMEAL OR CEREAL

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE KEEPING THE CHURCH KITCHEN IN ORDER!

As of September 1, I will be giving up taking care of the kitchen.

This is a job I have had for several years and I have enjoyed, but it is time for someone else.

I am asking that someone please step up and take over.

The job involves cleaning twice a year or after someone uses for an activity if needed. When it comes time to clean ask for volunteers to help.

Making sure we have the necessities we need (coffee, sugar, creamer, dish soap, paper goods, plastic silverware etc.

If you wish to be reimburse you will need to fill out a requisition form and attach your receipts and leave on the desk in the office.

If interested please see me.

Thank you,
Judy Henderson

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

Marjorie Elliott, Tom Sosbe, Millie Vonstein, Maxine LeFevers, Ed Wagon-
Al Cummins,
Dick Watts, Pat Baugh, Larry Henderson, Matthew Smelcer, Lucy Keller,
Patricia Tooley, George & Doris Carlton, Neve Bowden, Karen Fridlin,
Frank Airhood, Cindy Lindstrom, our military, our world leaders and
those who are prayed for silently.



er,

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

We become more like Christ more like Christ when we put others first.

Gratitude an important part of prayer.

I can trust in God in every situation.

The prayers of friends can be a powerful healing force.

WORDS OF WONDER

I will not hurry through the day!
Lord, I will listen by the way,
To humming bees and singing birds,
To speaking trees and friendly words;
And for the moments in between
Seek glimpse of Thy great Unseen.

I will not hurry through this day;
I will take time to think and pray
I will look up into the sky
Where fleecy clouds and swallows fly;
And somewhere in the day, maybe
I will catch whispers, Lord, from Thee!



By Ralph Spaulding Cushman

The Habit of Gratitude

I subscribe to a magazine titled "Ladies Journal". Its contributions are mostly of Mennonite and Amish faith. The stories come from all over the United States, Washington, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, etc. and from South America and Africa. There are poems, health hints and recipes; also a funny story or two. I want to share an anonymous contribution titled, "Empty Pockets" by a school teacher dealing with teenage girls. Girls that share a familiar trait; complains of how they are perceived. The teacher begins each semester by telling them this story.

"A mother and her daughter lived in an apartment outside a small town. Each day the mother headed for work at a local diner. She took with her a small tablet and jotted notes down throughout the day. On her way home she tore out the pages and placed the bad things that happened in the left pocket of her jacket and the funny, good things in the right pocket.

After dinner the daughter watched as her mother emptied her jacket pockets and silently read the notes. Her mother's shoulders would slump and her lips tighten into a grim line as she read the mysterious notes.

The daughter was very curious as to why the notes made her mother so unhappy. She asks, "Does someone give you those notes that make you so unhappy"? "Oh no", replied the older woman, "I write them to myself. I jot down what I see and hear people say to me. On the way home I tear off the sheets and place the good things in my right pocket and the bad things in my left. At the end of the day I review my notes and recall the kind of a day I had".

The daughter was puzzled, why was her mother always so sad at the end of the day? Surely some good things happened to her mother. The next night she pulled out her mother's jacket and plunged her hand in the left pocket and found a half a dozen small sheets of paper. They were full of nasty notes.

Replacing them she reached into the other pocket and her fingers touched the ragged edge of the hole in the bottom of the right pocket. After her mother went to bed she retrieved the jacket and stitched the hole in the pocket securely so it would not fray out. Then she carefully snipped the bottom seam open of the left pocket.

This changed her mother's outlook and she began sharing happy events of the day after supper. Her shoulders and her tired brow smoothed. The daughter knelt beside her bed that night and prayed; "Thank you God for empty pockets".

The teacher then challenged her students – giving them a daily assignment of writing in a journal at the beginning and at the end of the day two things for which they are grateful. At first this little exercise was difficult for some. Then they began to notice the simple joys in their lives."

By the end of the semester each student had been introduced to the **habit of gratitude**. Teenagers aren't the only ones that need to hear this story of empty pockets. So many of us let the good things, the small blessings of each day pass by unremembered as we store up and rehash each hurt, slight, and grudge. We all need to rip the seams from pockets of sorrow and release the things that weigh down our hearts.

Let us all resolve to dwell on the blessings of life, the joys of nature, friends and family. May our pockets overflow with gratitude.

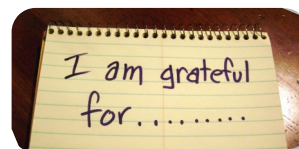
I close with Psalm 100 (NIV), a psalm for giving thanks; another word for gratitude.

**"Shout for Joy to the Lord, all the earth,
worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all
generations."**

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUST 2016

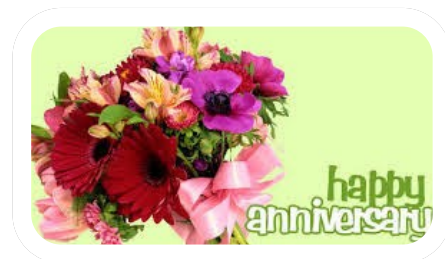
- 1 - LeeRoy Williams
- 2 - Margaret Hoffman
- 3 - Dick Benedict
- 4 - Alice Francis
- 5 - Sue Whitehead
- 6 - Jeanine Newman
- 7 - Bea Hoffman
- 10 - Griff Quirk



- 15 - Virginia Perkins
- 19 - Kale Slaven
- 20 - Betty Ann Cleaver
- 23 - Jean Bennett
- 24 - Bill Davis
- 29 - Opal Kuhl
- 30 - Bryan Hoffman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AUGUST 2016

- 11 - Jared & Molly Slaven
- 14 - Jonathan & Natalie Nolfi Blount
- 24 - Bruce & Barbara Baugh
- 27 - Larry & Jane Hand



*And now abide faith, home, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love. 13:13*

1 Corinthians 13:13