



The Stidham Story

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FEBRUARY 2015

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

Religion Cannot Become Robotic

A number of you have had the opportunity to tour Fair Oaks Dairy Farm north of Rensselaer, IN. It is fascinating to watch as 70 cows are milked on a carousel with humans assisting. When you multiply those 70 by their 11 other milking barns, that is about 770 cows being milked at the same time.

Fast forward to 2015 — the newest innovation in milking dairy cows is robotic milkers. More and more of the large dairy farms in the United States (200 - 1,000 cows) are changing to robotic milkers. In that situation, the cow enters a stall, is washed and the equipment is attached and detached with a robot. The robotic milkers are becoming popular on these mega farms because they reduce long term labor costs.

I sometimes wonder if Christians would welcome robots in our spiritual walk, instead of taking the time to read, taking the time to pray, taking the time to study, and taking the time to become active in our church. Our relationship with God however doesn't work quite that way. God expects each one of us to become spiritually involved in our Christian faith.

What does that mean you say? It means that God expects us to take charge of our spiritual life and make sure that every day we spend time with God in prayer, time with God in reading the scriptures, and time with God in being active in our church. This is not a one-out-of-three option, but our daily obligation to ourselves and God. Committing our time to our spiritual life makes us accountable and helps us to be born again each day in the loving presence of God through Jesus Christ our Lord with the Holy Spirit becoming more and more active from within.

It took my grandfather an hour twice a day to hand milk about 6 cows; it took me 2 hours twice a day to milk 70 cows on our farm; and it takes Fair Oaks Dairy 8 minutes on the carousel to milk 70 bovine twice daily. The Christian faith certainly doesn't work that way; it takes time and an active spiritual life on a daily basis. However, we are the winners when we take the time to participate.

Blessings,

Dave

I would appreciate having the March Newsletter articles by Friday, February 20th.

Thank You!
Judy Henderson

THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH IN FEBRUARY 2015

Bible Study Monday Nights - February 2,9,16,23 at 6:30pm The Book of John

Bible Study Tuesday Mornings – February 3,10,17,24, 10:00am The Book of John

Kid's Night Out Wednesday Night – February 4, at 5:30-6:50pm

Choir Practice Wednesday Nights - February 4,11,18,25 at 7:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group Thursday Mornings - February 5,12,19,26

Finance Committee Meeting Monday February 16, at 3:00pm

Ad Council Meeting Tuesday February 17, at 7:00pm (Everyone Welcome)

MISSION PROJECTS

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

January– Donations of money-Make checks payable to Stidham UMC and mark your pew envelopes "Food Pantry"

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

WHEN CLEANING OUT YOUR PANTRY IF YOU FIND SOMETHING THAT IS ON THE LIST YOU WON'T BE NEEDING YOU CAN BRING IT AND PUT IT IN THE FOOD CART.

Lighthouse House Prayer Group

The labels collected are 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.

There are white sheets by the basket showing you what companies are participating. See display on table in Fellowship Hall.

Pop cans and Tabs are still being collected for the Riley Hospital mission. Please bring them to church and Kevin Fry will keep us updated on how much money he has collected. If you have any questions please see Kevin.

A Happy Heart Makes the Face Cheerful

Proverbs 15:13a

I had progressed to the check-out counter at the grocery store. The clerk was a lovely young lady, very pleasant and articulate. I thanked her and turned to the young man sacking my purchases. I told him I appreciated his work with a smile and praise. His face lit-up and he nodded his appreciation of my gratitude. The clerk ask if I needed help taking my cart to the parking lot. I thanked her and told her no - not unless I could take him home with me to take the groceries into the house. I got a chuckle from both of them and this reply, "They won't let me do that." It was a short exchange of pleasantries. It lifted my spirits and I hope it did the same for two very nice young people. I ask myself how often do I miss the chance to smile at someone? A smile is the most powerful medium of exchange I posse. I carried a small card for years that was a reminder of the power of a smile.

I have many books. I am a reader. I selected one this morning to use as my daily devotion. I found two readings I felt would boost my attitude today. One was titled, "The Power of a Smile". The other was "Love's Do's and Don'ts". The first devoted a page to smiling. The other one began with a five year old asking her mother, "Why are old people so grouchy?" The author noted that to the child almost everybody is old. Here are some ways I can become crotchety - even obnoxious. (As if I need help.) Never listen to anyone else's views. Expect the worst of everybody. Demand your rights. Respect nobody's opinion but your own. Keep your feelings sticking out so they can easily be hurt. Remember every little injury anyone ever did to you. Enough said.

The Bible offers a course in how to love each other and ways to show it. A smile costs me nothing but it is priceless for building friendships. Giving a smile makes me richer. It is an expression of caring and love. During the month of February the stores and shops are decorated in red and pink in honor of St Valentine's Day. There are many suggestions of ways I can tell others my inner thoughts. I can declare love and happiness to the world around me not only in February, but all year long.

I Corinthians 13:4-8 gives me a guide to live by. Paul tells me, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (NIV)

The advice I have for all of us is—head for the greeting card section in your favorite store. Stop by the candy counter or perfume display. If you are really brave purchase a new piece of jewelry or an item of clothing to say I love you to those special someone's. Meanwhile a smile is a great beginning to each day.

Have a beautiful February.

Next month the seed catalogs come in the mail. Hurrah!

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene

CHURCH FAMILY PAGE

Kids Night Out Program

A big thank you to the people who provided meals for the first "semester" of Kids Night Out:

Bryan Hoffman (Sept.) Taco's - - We had 15 Children.

Dave and Susie Webb (Oct.) Pizza - - We had 22 Children

Paula Dillard (Oct.) Halloween party with all kind of neat finger foods & treats.- - We had 35 Children

Bill & Sue Davis (Nov.) Corn dogs - - We had 21 Children

Dave & Arletta Brown (Dec.) Waffles & Sausages- - We had 17 Children

Also thank you to the people who regularly help get the kids served and clean up tables & kitchen:

Pastor Dave, Cathy Inskeep, Judy Henderson, Kevin Fry, Dave and Arletta Brown, Tara Driscoll, Paula Dillard. There is an opening for April 1st for someone to sign-up to furnish the food for Kids Night Out.

If you have any questions, please see Glenda.

Thank you,
Glenda Bauer

Also, a "BIG THANK YOU" goes out to Glenda for making sure the tables are set and the food is ready to be served on time to the children.

Thank you to Jim Walters and Keith Butler for taking down and storing our Christmas Star.
Your help is greatly appreciated!!

As some of you may not know or have forgotten, Stidham has an ongoing Helping Hands Mission, managed by Noble Kizer to assist people in our community.

With support from the Lighthouse Prayer Group and others.

We invite you to honor Christ on Communion Sundays, which are the first Sunday of the month by assisting those in need with contributions. Please mark your pew envelopes with "Helping Hands"

We appreciate everyone who rang the Salvation Army bells on Christmas Eve.

We had 30 people covering 3 locations and we netted \$4,026.09.

Not a bad for a cold rainy day.

Thank you to Dave and Susie Webb for organizing the event again in 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHELBY BROWN AND KYLE COOMEY ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT!!

Thank you to Glenda Bauer for her contribution of this page.

**Stidham UMC
Attendance and Weekly Giving Report**

JANUARY WEEKLY ATTENDANCE 2015

Date	Adult SS Pastor Dave	Adult SS Betty Greene	Nursery	SS Totals	Worship	Totals
1/4/15	9	4	4	17	86	103
1/11/15	9	2	4	15	65	80
1/18/15	8	3	4	15	70	85
1/25/15	8	0	4	12	64	76
Totals	34	9	16	59	285	344

JANUARY WEEKLY OFFERING 2015

Date	Budget	Specials	Deposit
1/4/15	\$4104.00	\$250.00	\$4354.00
1/11/15	\$2926.25	\$392.00	\$3318.25
1/18/15	\$2358.25	\$205.00	\$2563.25
1/25/15	\$1691.25	\$530.00	\$2221.25
Totals	\$11,079.75	\$1377.00	\$12,456.75

LET US GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE LORD !



Cathy's Corner

As many of you know David and I and a contractor and volunteers have been working on a house we bought last June. I (mistakenly) thought these were small changes we were making since I was unaware of prep work with, for example, a simple floor change. My emotions have been on a roller coaster ride since we demolished the 1st floor last fall so I looked up some quotes about faith recently. Here are several that seem to apply to me. **Faith makes things possible, not easy.** I know that; just need reminding.

That's when this anonymous quote comes in handy. **Faith can move mountains but don't be surprised when God hands you a shovel.** We had our shovels ready—literally—but were still unprepared for the obstacles that fell into our path—rotten exterior walls in several rooms up to the windows:(- We've certainly had our discouraging days; OK, mostly me since I'm the resident worrier in this household.

But my faith has kept me going even through these seemingly, unimportant obstacles. It's not like our health or our extended families' health is in jeopardy or a catastrophic weather event has taken place, etc. Our faith comes into play every day when we face large or small unexpected changes. Having faith that God will give us strength to get us through whatever is a big deal. Knowing that God believes in me and has faith in me reminds me that I am strong and can persevere through the uncomfortable, or expensive, or painful, or etc. circumstance. Knowing God has faith in me lifts me up spiritually and keeps me moving forward.

The 3rd anonymous quote that speaks to me is — **Feed your faith and your fears will starve to death.** We see this happening as our renovation nears completion; my fears are beginning to starve:) Without having experienced a terminal illness or any other catastrophic life change I believe I could apply these faith quotes in those circumstances as well. That said, the more life changing the event, the more difficult to have faith, the more we need God at our side.

What I'm attempting to write is that I COULD NOT get through my daily life without faith in God as part of my support system and the knowledge that God has faith in me to help myself and others.

Faithfully;

Cathy

SCHOLARSHIP'S

We are accepting applications for Scholarship's for this year, to our church congregation.

If you are interested, please see Paula or Judy in the office for an application.

Thank you

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 2015

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1—Henry Hoffman

27—Josh Morlan

3—Robert McKee

29—Kevin Fry

16—Jim & Susan Walters

4—Larry Henderson

25—Bryan & Denise Hoffman

7—Jane Hand

29—Kevin & Kathy Fry

16—Cheryl Parker



19—Alissa Morlan
Jane Lutgen
Travis Baugh



20—Melinda VanderBok Wheeler

PRAYER LIST

Everyone needs a prayer everyday. 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. Let us share our faith and love for one another as life works in different ways. Amen

Bob Dietz, Reba Page, Seth Greene and Family, John Michael Worth, Laura McGlone Allen, Barbara Lawson, Russ and Midge Hockema, Betty Weaver, Reva Page, Larry Henderson, Jill Plantenga and Family, Our Military, Our World Leaders and all that are mentioned in our Worship Service on Sunday mornings and for those who are mentioned silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Praying for one another is a powerful testimony of our faith.

God can help me today to help someone feeling alone or in need.

God is faithful and will answer when we call.

Generous giving expresses our thanks to God.

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to take a moment and give thanks for the generous Love Gift I received this past Christmas. As usual it was much to generous, but very much appreciated.

Moreover, I wanted to thank you for making us a part of your church. The sense of fellowship, caring, thoughtfulness and support that my family and I receive from you is simply tremendous, and to see His Love working through so many inspiring. With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, may we all love one another as ones self, and in His name.

With a Grateful Heart,

Sarah Inskeep

Cindy Stuart is reading a book of historic prayers/poems she want to share with us.

God is what thought cannot better
God is whom thought cannot reach
God no thinking can even conceive
Without God, man can have no being, no reason, no knowledge, no good desire, naught.
Thou, O God, art what thou art, transcending all.

Eric Milner-White, 1884-1964

Great and holy is the Lord, the holiest of holy ones for every generation. Majesty precedes him, and following him is the rush of many waters. Grace and truth surround his presence; truth and justice and righteousness are the foundation of his throne.

Separating light from deep darkness, by the knowledge of his mind he established the dawn.
When all his angels has witnessed it, they sang aloud; for he showed them what they had not known;
Crowning the hills with fruit, good for every living being.

Blessed be he who makes the earth by his power establishing the world in his wisdom.
In his understanding he stretched out the heavens, and brought forth wind from his storehouses.
He made lightning for the rain., and caused mists to rise from the end of the earth.

Dead Sea Scrolls ~~

Thank you Cindy

THE LAST THREE PAGES ARE SOME YUMMY RECIPES THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY JILL PLANTENGA

Thank you Jill

Let's start a Recipe sheet in our Newsletter each month. We have lots of GREAT COOK'S IN THIS CHURCH!