



The Stidham Story

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July 2014

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

“You are the body of Christ and parts of each other” (1 Cor.12:27-CEV).

Paul's striking metaphor for Christian community conveys the intricate web of relatedness that unites us in the risen Body of Christ. We are bound together in an interdependence and mutuality analogous to the systems and structures of a healthy human body. And the animating energy of our life in Christ is God the Holy Spirit, who bestows upon various members the capacities needed in the community for its growth and strength. “A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good” (1 Cor. 12:7-CEV).

In the world and often in the church, gifts distinguish us from others and place us above or below them. However, in Christ and only by the grace of the Holy Spirit in the church, gifts draw us to one another and place us side by side, a unique corporate witness to the new creation inaugurated in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

“There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:4-CEV). Something vast and mysterious confronts us in Paul's conviction that the potentially centrifugal diversity of the church is contained by a deeper unity rooted in Christ and enlivened by the Spirit. We catch glimpse of a fresh reality in which affirmation of spacious unity does not collapse into expectations of smothering conformity, and esteem for diversity unravels into neither relativistic individualism nor strife over rank, rights, and privileges. The vital tension of unity in diversity, which only remain vibrant and vivifying by committed practice of the love Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13, is tangible proof of the new social relations that characterize God's creation now healed and whole in Christ” (From Weavings by John S. Mogabgab).

We may not all agree on things, however, that is the reason Paul uses the term “body of Christ”, to make us aware that we don't have to all agree all the time. It gives us the opportunity to listen and become better educated by listening to other opinions.

I pray each day that the Lord will help us to become the church He had in mind when Stidham was planted in the midst of fields in 1912, that in our diversity we find strength and in the strength we invite others to be a part of this “body of Christ”.

Dave

Cathy's Corner

The Train Ride

At birth we board the train and meet our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from that train, and leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant...i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats!

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers...requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way - --love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty- - we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey!

Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

- - -Sent to me by a friend who wishes to remain anonymous - - -

Cathy Inskeep

A BIG THANK YOU

**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY JUNE 29.
FUN WAS HAD BY ALL! THE CHILDREN WERE A GREAT BLESSING.**

**BE SURE AND CHECK OUT THE PICTURES ON THE BULLETIN
BOARD IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

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

Bible Study each Monday night at 6:30pm- - July 7,14,21 No Bible study on July 28

Bible Study each Tuesday morning at 10:00am- - July 1,8,15,22 No Bible study on July 29

Lighthouse Prayer Group Thursday morning at 10:00am- -July 3,10,17,24,31

Adopt-A-Road Monday July 7 at 9:00am If questions please see Dave Webb.

July 27-August 2-Henderson Settlement Trip– Cost is \$250.00 per person. Please make your check payable to Stidham UMC and put your check in an pew envelope and mark “Henderson Trip” and put in offering plate. If questions please see Pastor Dave or Dave Brown.

SIGN UP SHEETS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THE FOLLOWING

WE ARE IN NEED OF HELP WITH THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE FOR JULY:
Worship Leaders, Children’s Story, Children’s Church and Acolytes

We also need help in keeping our flowers watered and weeds pulled.
If questions, please see Kevin Fry.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

As members of the family of Christ, we can create a sanctuary for one another.

When we call, God will always answer.

Through hardships we can learn to trust God more fully.

Christ’s love for us is unconditional; we can come to Him as we are.

If we follow our Savior’s voice, He will lead us to the right path.

THE SECRET

I met God in the morning, when my days was at its best.
And his Presence came like sunrise, like a glory in my breast.

All day long He stayed with me and we sailed in perfect calmness
O’er a very troubled sea.

So I think I know the secret.
Learned from many a troubled way
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day.

~~ Ralph S. Cushman

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Have you seen a Bible that is dedicated to patriots of this beautiful country? Quotes of people that risk their life to create a country that would come as close as possible to being where all of us want to live. It is amazing to read the words uttered over 200 years ago, based on Scripture that is thousands years old. The presentation is also current with today's leadership input.

We never outgrow our need for the strength and wisdom found in the Holy Bible. Every generation has the feeling they discovered life and how to live it. No one has faced temptation as they are experiencing it now, Death and heartache are new devastating emotions they have endured. Excitement and elation are first in the world and they are the ones to behold them. Successes or dis-heartment have never been felt as we feel them today. Sorry to disappoint you, but every generation has had their joys and sorrows.

Many of our early leaders knew who to go to for strength and wisdom. They studied the Bible, they depended on God when big decisions had to be made. Ben Franklin made a statement to the Founding Fathers as they struggled to agree on the wording of the Constitution of the United States of America. He said in the part, "I have lived a long time and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men." he quoted Psalm 127:1 saying, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it."

Franklin went on to move that, "henceforth prayer imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessings on our deliberations be held each morning before we proceed to business! I say Amen.

The celebration of Independence Day is July 4. The Declaration of Independence is considered the founding document of the United states. It is an act of the Second Continual Congress adopted on July 4, 1776, which declared that the 13 American colonies was "free and Independent States."

Benjamin Rush, one of the Founders, said "Without (religion) there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments. The Scripture suggested to explain freedom is in Romans 8:2 "For the low of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free."

In the introduction to the American Patriots Bible* is a page titled "A call to Action. Abraham Lincoln is quoted there as saying "we have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven." our call to action is Pray, process, participate, Persevere. The last paragraph on this page tell us: let us bend our knees and humble our hearts and pray. "Let us be willing to be used of God to turn this great nation back to him. Let us stand in the gap and make our lives to be salt and light in our families and neighborhoods and work places. God wants to come and bless us, to forgive our sins and heal our nation."

I'll celebrate Independence Day on July 4th and every other day by thanking God for creating this nation. A new nation with many strikes for success against it. There was a small rag-tag army, no resources and a fragment of leadership still learning to function. But those against our survival did not reckon with God's hand in establishing a new nation.

Let's all fly the flag on July 4th. Tell the world that "in God we trust means just what it says.

Have a joyous 4th.

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene

- The American Patriots Bible, The Word of God and the Shaping of America.
- General Editors, Dr. Richard G. Lee
- Published by: Thomas Nelson Press

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

James Wesley Klinger ,Jill Plantenga and Family, Rob Inskeep, Roy Becker, Larry Burkert, Our Military, Our World Leaders and all that are mentioned in Our Worship Service on Sunday mornings and those mentioned silently.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 2014

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

4– Ray Coogle	20– Diann Robinson	1– Mike & Marcy Helms
5– Glenda Bauer	23– David Brown	11– Paul & Joy Dietz
7– Gary Standiford	27– Bill Byers	18– Pat & Lee Yoder
9– Brenda Hardesty	28–Arletta Brown	23– Gary & Connie Standiford
10– David Inskeep		26– Dick & Judy Benedict
11– Betty Greene Joy Dietz		30– Russ & Midge Hockema

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION FOR JUNE 2014

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP SERVICE	DATE	BUDGET	SPECIALS	TOTAL
6/1/14	19	82	6/1/13	\$3.365.25	\$376.00	\$3.741.25
6/8/14	15	72	6/8/12	\$2.783.25	\$2.00	\$2.785.25
6/15/14	18	82	6/15/14	\$2.422.25	\$110.00	\$2.532.25
6/22/14	19	90	6/22/14	\$3.402.25	\$322.00	\$3.724.25
6/29/14	20	130	6/29/14	\$1.756.00	\$650.00	\$2.406.00

REMINDER: It is very important that we continue to do our part in our monthly giving as we estimated at the beginning of the year so we can meet our monthly budget.
Thank you, ~~ The Finance Committee.

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

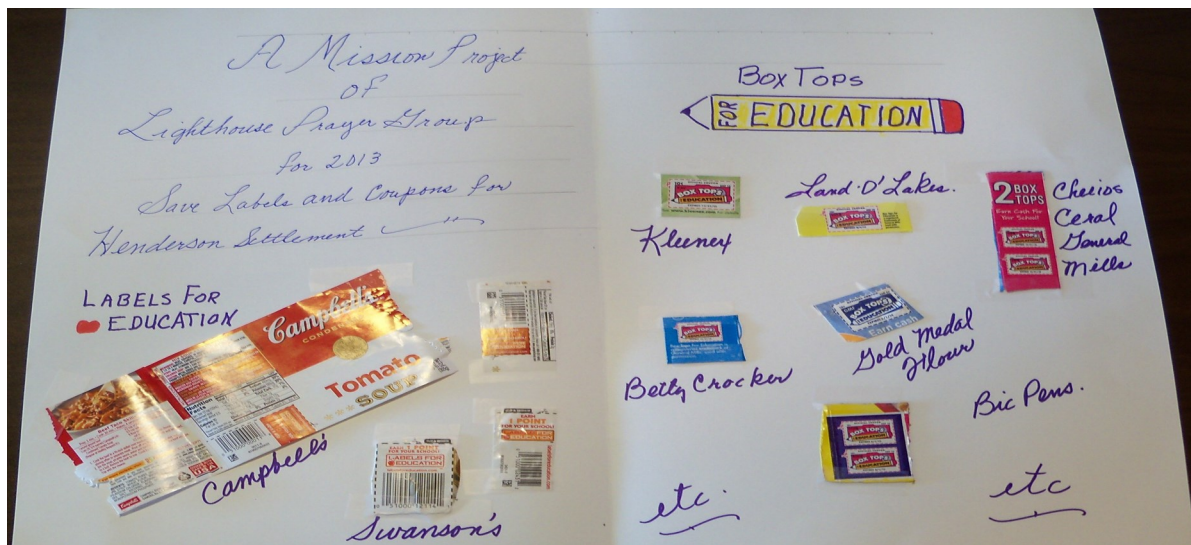
Leave your tabs and cans in the containers in Fellowship Hall and Kevin Fry will pick them up and turn them in. He will be cashing in the cans every 4th quarter, so continue bringing them in.

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LIGHTHOUSE PRAYER GROUPE 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.

There are white sheets in Fellowship Hall by the basket showing you what companies are partici-



TO STIDHAM METHODIST CHURCH

We are half way through this year of 2014 and we are not where we should be (and would like to be) financially.

Your church has incurred expenses that are about \$8,000 more than our budget income through May. The congregation must be aware of this situation and all of us working together can (and will) bring our estimates of giving up to date and add whatever is possible, on an individual basis, to eliminate our current shortage of income to cover Stidham's ongoing work in the community, state and national/international Christian works!

The Stidham congregation has an outstanding record for coming through with meeting the financial needs of all the programs/activities/mission work/etc. that Stidham has undertaken to accomplish. Please help YOUR congregation to keep this excellent record going for 2014. The only way to accomplish these great things are by ALL of the congregation participating however they can and by keeping up with financial help as much as possible.

Looking forward to a very active and successful second half of 2014!

Your Finance Committee,
Bill Lutgen
Chairman

HENDERSON SETTLEMENT 2014

Are you interested in fun, fellowship, and sharing your God given talents? Stidham Church is planning another mission trip to Henderson Settlement this summer. We are searching for a few good men and women with big hearts to help others.

We will be leaving on Sunday July 27th and returning on Saturday morning August 2nd. We are planning on to build a 12x12 shed for a family in the community. You can help with the building, volunteer in the community, or you can just come along for the wonderful fellowship and hang out with the town folks of Frakes, Kentucky. It is really great to get to know each other better through experience.

The meals are very good and the lodging is nice, we will have an entire house to ourselves. If you would like to share this experience with your church family, the cost per person is \$295.00 for meal and lodging.

If you would like to go but do not have the funds, please let me know and we may be able to work that out.

If you have any questions, please see me at church or contact me by phone or e-mail which is listed below.

Dave Brown
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