



The Stidham Story

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June
2016

Message from Pastor Mike

Although it is still a little more than a month before I am officially the pastor of Stidham United Methodist Church, I want to let all of you know Julie and I are looking forward to a fruitful ministry with this congregation.

Before I tell you a little about us, I want to thank Rev Dr Dave Inskip for his excellent leadership as the shepherd of Stidham United Methodist Church. Both Pastor Dave and Cathy will be missed. All of us wish them God' blessing and best in their retirement.

I also want to thank the Staff Parish committee for their leadership in this time of change of pastoral leadership for Stidham UMC. It takes a strong team partnership of laity and pastor for a church to be effective. This committee has demonstrated an inclination to be willing and able partner with me in the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ.

My name is Mike Dillon. Most people call me Pastor Mike. Some call me Pastor Michael. A few have called me Mike. My late mother called me Michael. I answer to most anything except late to supper.

I am married to my college sweetheart. We have been married 41 years. We have three adult children. We have eight grandchildren.

Julie and I met while attending United Wesleyan College in Allentown, Pa. I was studying pastoral ministry. Julie was studying Christian Education.

With Julie at my side, I began full time pastoral ministry 39 years ago. We served 10 years within the Wesleyan Church. We served the remaining 19 years in the United Methodist Church. I was ordained a full elder in the former North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1999.

Julie received a M.A. from Indiana State University in Terre Haute. She is a licensed mental health therapist and a licensed clinical addictions counselor. She is hoping to set up a private practice in Lafayette.

I have a B.S. in pastoral ministries from United Wesleyan College. I have a M.A. in Ministerial Education from Indiana Wesleyan University. I have a M. Div. from Anderson School of Theology. I have also taken many seminars to be the most effective servant leader for Jesus Christ and His church that I can be. I recently completed a year of peer mentoring for the Indiana Conference Ministry program of Fruitful Congregations Journey.

My greatest passion as a pastor is to equip God's people for ministry. I have skills in leading worship, preaching, teaching, pastoral counseling, and leading small groups. My life's mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Our favorite hobby is anything to do with grandkids. All our grandkids are Purdue fans. That frustrates our one daughter who has a masters from I.U. (Our other daughter is a Purdue graduate.) Julie and I enjoy going to the Caribbean, especially during Indiana Winters. We also enjoy dinner theater. We have been known to go out with parishioners to various events.

I ask you to pray for Julie and I as we transition to become your pastor. We are in the process of saying good-bye to Columbia City St. Matthew's UMC and Kimmell UMC. We will miss both of these congregations, yet we sense a strong presence of Christ calling us to serve Stidham UMC.

Pastor Mike's article cont. from page 1:

Before any of us know it, July 1 will be here. After our furniture arrives on June 22, we will be taking a few days vacation before we begin our first Sunday on July 3.

I want to close with a verse from Romans 15:29, out of the New Living Translation. "I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mike

Vacation Bible School

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 9:00AM-4:00PM



A New Day is Coming!

A new day dawns and I prepare for it and the blessings it brings. I recall a **new** day early in my widowhood. My conception of a vacation was to explore **new** places. My life partner was always obliging; with his passing that was taken away. I became restless. My brother, Bill, was preparing to spend two weeks fishing with his buddies in northern Minnesota. Dorothy, his wife, would be home alone. I wanted to see more of this beautiful land. A trip was in the making. I had heard of Galena, IL. It sounded exciting. On west, in Iowa, were the Amana's colonies, another place I had read about and was on my **'to do list'**. Dot was brave enough to say she would go with me on this **new** adventure. I had never driven outside of central Indiana. I felt that I stood on a hill top – there were two ways down. I could go down the way I came – or on a **new** road to **new** places. I needed the adventure – I needed the strength. I am a AAA member and asked their assistance in planning the route we would take. **But, not through the Chicago area!** We made lodging reservations and everything was ready for us to begin our adventure.

Brother Bill, a mechanic, serviced my car and added a compass to the dashboard saying, he would like to have his wife back home at the end of our journey. We had a wonderful time. In Galena we stayed at a Bed & Breakfast. The proprietors became friends and we spent many weekends with them; even after they moved to southwestern Wisconsin and opened a B&B in a small town there. They welcomed us and our friends for many years.

I will be a part of a **new** experience in the coming weeks. There is a **new** pastor coming to Stidham. He is **new** to me. I am **new** to him. I'm in a secure, for 60 years, environment. He and his wife are the ones traveling a **new** road. I have much to offer them. I know the people they will be coming acquainted with, their names, where they live, their talents, their idiosyncrasies, the ways they serve this church. I pray for all of these happenings to be joyful. God is good and He wants the best for our pastor and the folks that are his congregation.

I await his coming with happy anticipation. I prepare to be a friend and confidant. **New** is different for all of us. The dictionary says, "**New** can be different from the earlier one; having just come recently; beginning again." Thank you Mr. Webster!

I ask you to be my companions and welcome Pastor Mike and Julia when they arrive at 5300 S 175 W and make their home in the community.

Lamentations 3:22-24 tells us, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are **new** every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion, therefore I will wait for him'." (NIV)

We await a **New** Day!

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene



THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH FOR JUNE

Helping Hand Sunday- June 5, Please put your name and mark your pew envelope
"Helping Hand"

Worship Committee Meeting - Monday Afternoon June 6, 4:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group -Thursday Morning June 2,9,16,23,30 10:00am

VBS Planning Meeting - Wednesday Night June 8, 6:00pm

SPRC Meeting - Thursday Night June 9 , 7:00pm

VBS- Saturday June 11, 9:am-4:00pm

VBS Program - Sunday June 12– During Worship Service

Parsonage Clean-up Day – Saturday June 18, 8:30am-?

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday June 20, 4:30pm

Ad Council Meeting -Tuesday June 21, 7:00pm

Sunday June 26– Stidham at Elston Church for Worship Service 9:30am

BAKED STEAK DINNER COMING UP ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 8.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

JANUARY—CASH DONATIONS

FEBRUARY—CANNED 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 CEREAL

Cathy's Corner

How do I begin to say thanks to you, our Stidham family? Probably at the beginning which was around October or November of 2007 at our 'take in' meeting with the SPRC—Staff Pastor Parish Committee. Our time there with the committee members around the fire-place in the Fellowship Hall seemed like a good fit for us and the Stidham people though a difficult decision to make in a few short hours.

We knew that small group had made the right decision when lunch was delivered to us on moving day by two church members. Nothing says—welcome to the neighborhood—like food and smiles! We knew that small group had made the right decision on our 1st Sunday in 2008 when we were greeted by MANY smiling faces and introductions. We knew that small group had made the right decision when you, SUMC congregation understood that, because of my work at Home Hospital, I would be absent from evening church events; then absent from worship every 3rd Sunday when I worked the night shift. We knew that small group had made the right decision as we all worked together bringing in new ideas, resurrecting old ideas, customs, events, missions, etc.

We knew that small group had made the right decision as our congregation numbers started to increase week after week. You, the members of SUMC were reaching out to former members, neighbors, old friends encouraging them to worship with us at Stidham. We knew that small group had made the right decision when your mission ideas, both local and out-of-state continued to grow, allowing us to demonstrate God's love and showing others how to reach out with God's love. We knew that small group had made the right decision as we all worked together with necessary upkeep on our beloved church building and grounds.

What a happy day retirement was for me when I knew I could become more involved with church meals, evening meetings, Bible Study, etc.! It's fun to usher and greet people each Sunday morning, to help with KNOW, to make baby blankets during local Mission Day:) Notice how I slipped that in to encourage others to help too?

Our UM conference made the decision for us one year ago that David's retirement time was approaching. Originally it seemed far away; now it's here. Though we will miss worshipping and working with you—a huge understatement—it is probably the right decision because we need time for US now. However, David and I definitely made the right decision when we bought a home in the neighborhood. We want to continue to hear from you and visit with you. THANK YOU for the knowledge, friendship, help and love we have received during the past 8 1/2 years. We were overwhelmed by your generous gifts last Sunday and will put everything to good use as we maintain upkeep on our yard and Stidhams!

Our love, blessings, prayers, wishes for happiness, and good health to you, our SUMC family;

David and Cathy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE 2016

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- 1 Craig Plantenga
- 5 Bill Lutgen
- 7 Kathy Fry
Maxine Lefevers
- 15 Randy Cravens
- 23 Tom Kanaby
- 29 Maddie DeVault
- 30 Ella Kanaby



- 1 Dave & Susie Webb
- 2 Dennis & Carolyn Hockstra
- 10 Bruce & Carol Rose
- 20 Bill & Sue Davis

PRAYER LIST

Everyone needs prayer every day. Let us give thanks and ask God to be with those who are on our prayer lists and those going through personal struggles, health issues and other worries that they may have. Let us share our faith and show love to one another each and every day. Amen

Dick Watts, Pat Baugh, Matthew Smelcer, Larry Henderson, Lucy Keller, Patricia Tooley, George & Doris Carlton, Neve Bowden Karen Fridlin, Roy Becker, Frank Airhood, Cindy Lindstrom, our military, our world leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

How much love can I give to others today?

I can reflect my heavenly Father's love in my words and actions.

Persistence in prayer can lead to faithfulness in thanksgiving.

Every day I can look for ways to share God's word with others.