



# The Stidham Story

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March 2016

Stidham United Methodist Church

## Dave's Diary

### Holy Spirit

While reading scripture from the 4th chapter of Daniel the other day I began to wonder how much the lay person is in tune with the Holy Spirit. Why are we concerned with the Holy Spirit being among us? What does the Holy spirit means to each of us? In that passage from Daniel we find that even King Nebuchadnezzar knew that Daniel (Belshazzar) was filled with the Holy Spirit. The King went to Daniel asking about the dream he had. Since Daniel was filled with the Holy Spirit he interpreted the King's dream to him. This is one of only a few intense Old Testament scriptures on the Holy Spirit.

Fast forward to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century AD when Martin Luther started the Reformation because the Roman Catholic Church had stated that only Bishops and Priests had access to the Holy Spirit. Reading Paul's letters, Ephesians 4 and 1st Corinthians 12, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all", Martin Luther realized that the Holy Spirit was open to anyone who believed and trusted in Jesus. It was the Holy Spirits' perpetual presence that enabled Christianity to continue in its essential identity with wide differences in liturgy, theology, customs, languages, cultures, and politics throughout the ages.

To clarify, the Holy Spirit is God's presence within us. What does this mean you ask? Example—you are praying and suddenly you are confronted with a name or group to pray for. The Holy Spirit has intervened. Often when I am praying another image or name is placed in my mind. The Holy Spirit has intervened. Paul said in Romans 8:26-28, "Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is there alongside helping us. Even when we don't know how or what to pray, the Holy Spirit can help us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our thoughts and keeps us present before God. This is how we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good".

In 1st Corinthians chapter 12 Paul talks about how we are all given different attributes by the Holy Spirit. So our accomplishments are a gift from God through the Spirit of God. Another favorite verse for me comes from Luke 4:14 where Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit when He starts His ministry. In other words, God was with Jesus in all He did and said because the Spirit had filled Jesus. For those of us who worked at Henderson Settlement last summer, we saw the Holy Spirit working through us. We were pushed beyond our limit physically, yet were able to finish a job that was almost beyond our grasp. I am convinced that we were able to complete our monumental task because the Holy Spirit was working in and through us.

Does this help to clarify the Holy Spirit part of the Trinity for you? I pray that it does.

Blessings,

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April Newsletter articles due by Friday, March 25th  
Thank you

## – Paycheck –

After I finished the article I submitted for last month's – The Stidham Story – I felt I had not finished my story. I needed to point out how all of these super activities and comforts that I experience is paid for. Sorry, but they do cost money. God put an answer right in my lap. When I opened the March issue of Reader's Digest, the top of the cover page began, in big print, "Funny Family Stories". I know I had the explanation I wanted on page 68. Each story was about a paragraph and one was captioned, "And on the Seventh Day He Got Paid". Chris Allen gave me exactly what I needed. He told an account that happened one Sunday morning during worship service. His three-year old son insisted on putting the offering envelope in the collection plate when it passed along the pew. The child had a question for his dad. He asked, "When is God coming to pick up His paycheck?" Evidently he had been told that the contents of the envelope belonged to God.

A flood of thoughts to use this story came to my mind. It depends how I interpret the word "paycheck". What constitutes a "paycheck"? I earned a "paycheck". God's paycheck is something very different. Scripture tells me a tenth of what I claim as mine belongs to God. A pastor explained to his sister when she asked why he gave 15% to God. His answer was "A tenth I owe, the 5% is my gift to God." How does God accept this payment? It is by giving of my financial income. It is by giving my time to further his kingdom. It is prayers, prayers, prayers. It is my loyalty to my church family. This is my "paycheck" to God. How often is it God's payday? Every day I give to God that which is His.

I can improve my paydays by thanking him every day; for the morning breakfast I am able to place on my kitchen table. I thank him for a mind that is clear and always churning out new ideas that I put on paper and is transcribed to print so that I can share my thoughts with you. I am thankful for the opportunity to pray – to talk with God every day.

The pledge envelope I lay in the collection plate each Sunday is for those people appointed to do God's work here at Stidham. It makes a small dent in the debt I owe. It helps pay the bills each week. It becomes a tiny part of what I would call God's paycheck. It is not something I earned but something I owe for the blessings I receive every day. It is pay day when I am able to do something in God's name. I miss opportunities to serve him and I make excuses for being lax in commitment.

Now when I place my pledge in the collection plate each Sunday I will be seeing him pick up his paycheck. It can only happen if I am there in the fifth pew from the front of Stidham UMC on the east side of the sanctuary, unless someone else wants my seat, I can find another one. If I miss a Sunday, He is there with his hand out waiting for my pledge and I must make it up the next week. All of the extras are bonus pay days. It could be Easter lilies, food pantry, helping hands, love gifts, or any of the mission projects coming my way throughout the year.

The one thing that is free is the love God pours out on you and me. Even if we give him nothing in return he would still love us. Shame on us. Matthew 10:8 says; "Freely you have received, freely give." Acts 20:35 tells us the Lord Jesus himself said; "It is more blessed to give than to receive," (NIV)

God bless you –

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene

## **TIME CHANGE**

**It's that time of the year!**  
**Remember to set your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night, March 12th**  
**as you go to bed for the evening.**  
**The clocks officially Spring Forward at 2 am Sunday morning.**

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### **Wilma Osterhoff has moved from Westminster Village**

**Her new address is:**  
**Wilma Osterhoff**  
**The Springs — Rm # 129**  
**2402 South St.**  
**Lafayette, IN 47904**

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### **A Note From Your Financial Secretary & the Counters**

**We would appreciate it if you would put your check number on your offering envelope on the line where it says Envelope No. If you are paying with Cash please write Cash on that line. Thank you**

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### **Looking Ahead to Some Things Going on in April**

#### **PINE CREEK PROJECT**

**We will need lots of volunteers to help take off a roof and put on a new roof on one of the buildings. The dates are Friday, April 1st and Saturday, April 2nd — weather permitting. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday March 6. If you have questions, please see Pastor Dave.**

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### **SONG FEST & TALENT SHOW**

**Time — Sunday, April 10th — Time — 4:00 pm — 6:00 pm — A light meal will follow the program!**

**A sign-up sheet will be put out on Sunday March 6, which we will need your name and what talent you are performing. Your talent can be reading of a poem or telling a story, singing or playing an instrument or whatever your talent may be. We will have a joyous time of music and fellowship with other churches in our community.**

**If you, or anyone else, is planning on coming to the meal please sign your name and how many will be in your party on the sign-up sheet. This helps in the planning of how much food to have on hand.**

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### **WESLEY STUDENT FOUNDATION DINNER**

**We have been ask to furnish a dinner for about 40 students on Sunday April 24, at 5:30pm at the Wesley Foundation 425 W. State St., West Lafayette. Jeannie Poulson is our representative and she will need a few volunteers to help serve and clean up. A sign-up sheet will be put out in Fellowship Hall on Sunday April 3. Jeannie is thinking about getting Subway sandwiches. If you have any questions, please see Jeannie.**



# Cathy's Corner

## Continued Thoughts

**January 31, 2016** – Thanks to Mother Nature offering us some mild weather a good number of us enjoyed food and fellowship for our 5th Sunday lunch after worship. Our committee counted 25 crock pots with delicious tummy warming food and nearly as many desserts. Safe to say no one went away hungry! Even though there is considerable pre and post lunch work connected with these 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday meals, I'm 100% going to miss not being involved with them. Next lunch after worship May 29<sup>th</sup> – save the date.

**February 7, 2016** – No subs were needed for nursery or toddler room or ushers today so guess who got to sit in church? I love watching people come into the sanctuary, find a pew of choice (usually the same one since we are creatures of habit) and catch up on news with friends we may not have seen for a week. If not engaged personally, it's fun to listen to the buzz as neighbor chats with neighbor and we prepare for worship. Then David and I have the privilege of greeting you all before we leave each Sunday. If we don't shake hands or hug after the service, some of us can visit over another coffee or snack before we make our way out the door. Because of this congregation, Sunday mornings are good for the soul!

**February 14, 2016** – What an interesting Sunday. I was a substitute in the toddler room along with Kyle Coomey; who helps at least two Sundays per month. The children love him for many reasons; he's young and agile and can interact with them physically, but also reads to them and helps them with crafts. It's good to have kids of different ages as well as caregivers of different ages! We talked about love ie: 2/14, colored in hearts to take home, snacked on cheese and animal crackers and sang their signature go-home song, Jesus Loves Me. After the children had been matched up with their parents, I was STILL able to visit with some of you in Fellowship Hall.

**February 21, 2016** – Another Sunday with the toddlers, this time as helper. Pardon me while I climb on my soapbox here and say that I really wish more people in the congregation were willing to help when help is needed. SPRC has not been able to find suitable, additional paid staff yet for the nursery and toddler rooms. Two persons are required in each room for child safety. Therefore, we currently need volunteers. An announcement has been made; there are sign-up sheets, but very few signatures are on it. The one hour during worship usually involves holding a baby or assisting play, craft, and snack with 4-6 toddlers. We can all serve in many capacities and helping with these little ones is a fun change occasionally. End soapbox...

As we process through Lent and look toward Easter, I am excited once again to have our beautiful sanctuary filled with people remembering and rejoicing that God sent a man to earth to save us from our sins. Though it saddens me year after year to know Jesus had to be sacrificed, it pushes me to be a better human.

Easter Blessings to you;

Cathy

## Happy Birthday

March 2016

## Happy Anniversary

2- - Bruce Rose

27- - Keagan Plantenga

5- - Carol Rose  
Steve Plantenga

30- - Marcy Helms

10- - Mary Ezra

15- - Judy Henderson

16- - Cindy Stuart  
Jim Walters

17- - Cathy Inskeep

19- - Mary Butler

22- - Jeannie Poulson



27- - Ed & Lucy Keller

31- - Bruce & Cheryl Parker



## 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

Ralph Bray, Tommy & Blair Brindle, Gene Philpot, Larry Henderson, Roy Laudermilk, Dan Altepeter, Patricia Tooley, Lucy Keller, Bill Byers, George & Doris Carlton, Neve Bowden Karen Fridlin, Roy Becker, Frank Arihood, Mike & Teresa Matthews, Cindy Lindstrom, our military, our world leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



## THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

The words of scripture refresh our hearts.

With God's help I can speak blessings to others.

The Bible, like a love letter, is meant to be read over and over again.

## THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH IN MARCH

**Helping Hand — The First Sunday of each month.**

**Bible Study — Monday Night March 7,14,21,28 at 6:30 pm**

**Bible Study — Tuesday Mornings March 1,8,15,22,29 at 10:00 am**

**Kids Night Out — Wednesday Night March 2, 5:30-6:50 pm**

**Choir Practice — Wednesday Nights March 2,9,16,23,30 at 7:00 pm**

**Lighthouse Prayer Group — Thursday Mornings March 3,10,17,24,31 at 10:00 am**

**Trustee Meeting — Tuesday Night March 8 at 7:00 pm**

**Easter Breakfast Sunday, March 27th at 9:00 am — See sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for Egg Casseroles and Coffee Cakes.**

**LUM Community Dinner Sunday March, 27th at 11:30 am –See Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for food and workers.**

**Scholarship Applications available in the church office.**

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### FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

**JANUARY-CASH DONATIONS**

**JULY-MACRONI & CHEESE**

**FEBRUARY-CANNED OR TUNA**

**AUGUST-PAPER PRODUCTS**

**MARCH-SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES (NO GLASS JARS)**

**SEPTEMBER-CASH DONATIONS**

**APRIL- PAPER PRODUCTS**

**OCTOBER-PEANUT BUTTER**

**MAY-CASH DONATIONS**

**NOVEMBER-SOUP & CRACKERS**

**JUNE-CANNED FRUIT**

**DECEMBER-OATMEAL OR CEREAL**

**If you have anything in your pantry you don't need or won't use bring it in and put in the food cart.**

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### Other Mission Projects are:

**The Lighthouse Prayer Group — Labels for Henderson Settlement. See display in Fellowship Hall and pick up a sheet showing labels needed.**

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**Cary Home Craft Items — pick up a list in Fellowship Hall. Jane Hand & Shelby Brown in charge.**

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**The Pop Tabs and Cans for Riley Hospital** leave on table in Fellowship Hall.  
If you have any questions, please see Kevin Fry.