



The Stidham Story

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MAY 2014

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

May 2014

We have just celebrated another symbolic Easter, re-birth for those of us who believe in Jesus (Gods' Son) died on the cross for our sins. The one candle that remains at the altar signifies that Jesus has not yet ascended into heaven. When there are two candles, one represents the Earthly Jesus and the second represents the Heavenly Jesus.

As we await Jesus' ascension I am beginning a sermon series on Paul from the Book of Romans. After completing a dissertation on Paul recently I truly believe that Paul's greatest letter was to the Romans. We are sure there was a church in Rome which Paul wanted to visit and share stories. However, he writes to the Romans before traveling there, knowing some of the participants in the Roman church from his mission work (see Romans 16). Paul also tells us in Chapter 16 he is dictating to Tertius. Many of the scribes in Paul's letters are not named; however he clearly states who pens these words.

As Eugene Peterson says, "The letter to the Romans is a piece of exuberant and passionate thinking. This enlisted in the service of God. Paul takes the well-witnessed and devoutly believed fact of life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth and thinks through its implications. How does it happen that in the death and resurrection of Jesus, world history took a new direction, and at the same moment the life of every man, woman, and child on the planet was eternally affected? What is God up to? What does it mean that Jesus 'saves'? What's behind all this, and where is it going?"

Peterson's explanation is what drives Paul to dictate his letter and really create the premier document of Christian theology. Paul takes all that he has learned from Jesus along with all his own experience of several years in the mission field and offers the Roman people a map of faith.

Plan now to attend SUMC and hear about Paul! I pray his words will enlighten you as they do me.

God's richest blessings,

Dave

For the Beauty of the Earth

It was a LONG, COLD, WINDY, SNOWY WINTER in much of the country. Many were sure the above mentioned season would never end. We hear in the mid-west are experiencing a slower-than-usual start to warmer weather. Some of us who detest heat and humidity are happy with 50s/60s; others are ready to head south again. :-)

Because I love MANY hymns and because I love parts of all seasons, my brain reminded me recently of Hymn #92—For the Beauty of the Earth. Now I realize that some of you are allergic to cold/snow just as I cannot handle heat. But we all can find some beauty in every season which is what I concentrate on in June, July, and August.

Winter—I have some beautiful pictures of snow-covered fir trees. Spring—Though I had to blanket them at night, our tulips have been gorgeous these last 2 weeks!

Summer—Our earth is filled with wonderful flowers and fruits and vegetables in various growth stages all summer long, too many to name.

And we cannot fault Autumn once the cooler temperatures change the leaves to yellow, orange, red and purple! “For the beauty of each hour, for the glory of the skies, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light”.

We all have our favorite seasons, favorite temperatures, favorite places, favorite landscapes...

AND GOD MADE IT ALL. He made it for us to care and enjoy! When you hear me complaining this summer, please remind me of Hymn# 92—for the Beauty of the Earth. “Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise”.

Gratefully,

Cathy

GOOD-BYE

How do you say good-bye? No, I'm not planning to go anywhere just yet, but I do have to say good-bye to others. What do I say?

A friend is leaving the community especially this church.

She is excited and beginning a whole new life. I am so happy for her. I will miss her. She deserves such happiness. I wish her well. I ask Gods' blessing on her new life partner, new home, and new community.

I have another friend who has a one child. He is graduating high school this spring and has decided on a military career. He joined the Marines.

It broke his mother's heart. She is devastated and worried about his welfare. I have no idea what is best for the young man. He has had a sheltered life and will, I fear have a rude awakening. It will force him to grow –up.

I pray for both of them. This good-bye will be full of tears and anguish. A mother asking herself a lot of questions; like where did I fail in rearing this child. She thinks he is escaping her and her smothering. She will be lonely. I keep them in my prayers.

I have experienced many final good-byes. I am thankful for the times past I spent with each of them.

My daughter-in-law ask me if I still went out on Friday evenings with my friends from working at Penny's. My answer had to be no, that I am the only one left of that group of great gals. We had many good times together. I have no regrets of time I spent with those good friends; but I must deal with today. There will be others I will tell good-bye and will miss in times ahead. God is always present. Jesus is my best friend, he will never leave me.

I read scripture of the life of Jesus here on earth. The friends he made. The ones that looked to him for guidance. The disciples and other followers that he cared for and in many instances he provided for their daily existence. He is the answer to being comfortable in saying good-bye. Be one with Christ to whom we never have to say good-bye.

Every morning is a new day ,a new opportunity to live for others. A chance to finish an incomplete project I started yesterday or today. I plan for tomorrow not knowing what it will hold or even if I will have a tomorrow.

That's okay! I ask for today to project my light on those I encounter this day.

Like the Von Trapp families song of farewell in the Sound of Music, I say Au Revoir, Aut Wiedersehen. Good-bye for now. See you in church.

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene

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

Bible Study each Monday nights at 6:30pm- - May 5,12,19,26

Bible Study each Tuesday morning at 10:00am- - May 6,13,20,27

SPRC Meeting Wednesday night at 6:00pm- -May 7

Choir Practice Wednesday night May 7,at 7:00pm

Kid's Night Out Swim Party Thursday night, May 8, 5:30pm-7:50pm at The Buccaneer Bay Waterpark Center Best Western located on St. Rd. 26 E.

SIGN UP SHEETS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THE FOLLOWING:

WE ARE IN NEED OF HELP WITH THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE FOR
MAY:

Worship Leaders, Children's Story, Children's Church, Ushers, Acolytes and Refreshment Hostess.

TRINITY UMC COMMUNITY MEAL

On Sunday March 23, volunteers from Stidham UMC served about 60 people a meal of pizza, chips, fruit and cookies.

We wish to thank everyone who contributed money for the pizza or donated food.

A special thank you to those who helped us prepare, serve and clean-up:
Arletta Brown, Cathy Inskeep, Natalie Kanaby, Opal Kuhl and Jim and Susan Walters.

We appreciate your continued support for this mission of service.

Jane Hand and Trudy Risemas, Co-Chairs

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

God's grace is always at work whether we see it or not.
God accomplishes what seems impossible.
Walking with God builds and sustains our spiritual strength.

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, Jackie Dexter, Jill Plantenga and Family, Rob Inskeep, Jim Minniear, Kim Guy, 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

May 2014

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1-Audrey Burghardt
 6-Diana Byers
 7-Lauren Wethington
 12-Gretchen Kizer
 John Benefiel
 13-Natalie Kanaby
 14-Elizabeth Gamble
 16-Dick Watts
 21-Bonnie Watts
 27-Barbara Baugh
 30-Asher Morlan



3 — Craig & Tera Plantenga
 6—Doug & Karen Wethington
 12 — Josh & Alissa Morla
 20— David & Sue Whitehead
 21—Jeff & Cindy Stuart



SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2014

ATTENDANCE			BUDGET AND SPECIALS			
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP SERVICE	DATE	BUDGET	SPECIALS	TOTALS
4/6/14	17	93	4/6/14	\$4018.25	\$94.00	\$4112.25
4/13/14	22	93	4/13/14	\$3241.25	\$667.00	\$3908.25
4/20/14	None(Easter)	164	4/20/14	\$3459.00	\$266.00	\$3725.00
4/27/14	16	93	4/27/14	\$2122.50	\$625.00	\$2747.00

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 be sure and meet our monthly budget.

Thank you,
 The Finance Committee

EASTER FLOWER– IN MEMORY OF

Glenda Bauer– Parents John & Mildred Bauer
Pat Baugh– Bud & Lindy Baugh
Dave & Arletta Brown– Our Fathers
Dr. John Brown– Wife Linda Brown
Bill Byers– Joyce & Jonathan Byers
Gordon & Susan Chavers– Our Parents
Ron & Kathy Denhart– Ron’s Mother & Our Fathers
Paula Dillard– Husband & Parents
Mary Ezra– Husband Max & Our Parents
Alice Francis– Parents & Grandparents
Betty Greene– Bud & Bill Greene
Ron & Brenda Hardesty– Brenda’s Mother Ruby Duncan
Mike & Marcy Helms– Parents & Marcy’s Brother
Tom & Natalie Kanaby– Tom’s Grandfather & Natalie’s Grandparents
Noble & Gretchen Kizer– Eric, Son
Opal Kuhl– My Father
Maxine LeFevers– Myra LeFevers
Bill & Jane Lutgen– Jane’s Parents and Bill’s Father
Bruce & Cheryl Parker– William & Eleanor Poelstra
Griff Quirk– Mother– Mary Quirk
Diann Robinson– Husband-Terry & Our Parents
Bruce & Carol Rose– Bruce’s Mother & Carol’s Parents
Helen & Donna Strum– Our Cousin Virginia Whitehead
Julie Wagner– Roselyn Goff & Ronald Brickle
Jim & Susan Walters– Jim’s Parents Dick & Betty Walters
Jim & Susan Walters– Susan’s Dad Nolan McDonald
Dick & Bonnie Watts– Our Parents
Dave & Sue Whitehead– Our Parents
Evalyn Windle– Bill & Parents
Steve & Kristen Winstead– Grandparents
John & Connie Worth– Stacy Lindsay, Connie’s Grandmother & John’s Parents

IT'S ABOUT THE PRAYER CHAIN

Do you ever need someone to pray with you for a special person in your life; or need prayer for someone else? The Lighthouse Prayer Group is always available and the church is re-establishing the Prayer Chain.

To contact either or both groups, call Pastor Dave at the church 765-474-2806, his home 765-474-4733, or his cell 574-870-4902. Others to contact could be Betty Greene 474-2110, Paula Dillard 404-1186, or Connie Worth 538-2439 home or cell 427-4788. See below for Prayer Chain sign-up information.

----- Alert— Prayer Chain Information-----

There has been a sign-up sheet in social hall for several months that has many signatures of those wishing to be included.

The church can now accommodate three means of communication---

TEXTING, E-MAIL AND TELEPHONE. To be the most efficient for you, please complete the cut off sheet at the bottom of this page. It will replace the current sign-up sheet information.

If you do not indicate a preference it will be assumed you prefer to be contacted by phone using the current information in the church directory. Thank you for bringing Stidham U.M.C. prayer chain into the 21st century.

Any questions contact—Paula Dillard 404-1186, Connie Worth 538-2439, or cell 427-4788, Betty Greene 474-2110, or the church office 474-2806.

Cut off on line

I, _____, prefer to be contacted to pray with the Prayer Chain by:

_____ **Text Message**
Phone No.

_____ **E-Mail**
E-Mail address

_____ **Telephone**
Phone No.

Please return to the church office.

Thank you,

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.

Lighthouse Prayer Group 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. The Lighthouse Prayer Group would appreciate your help in making this a big success!

There are white sheets in Fellowship Hall by the basket showing you what companies are participating in the program.

