



The Stidham Story

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November 2014

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

Our Monday night and Tuesday morning Bible studies have been re-examining the book of Hebrews. The author of Hebrews was probably a preacher who was talking to a Jewish-Christian community. Although the writer Paul has been known to use similar metaphors, the author of Hebrews takes a different approach in using a 'racing' metaphor in our Christian walk.

In Chapter 12 of Hebrews the author compares our Christian walk with running a marathon. I like this metaphor because our Christian walk takes time and endurance, just like a marathon does. It is no simple task to be a Christian but it IS a satisfying task to walk the Christian path. At times we are filled with anxiety, fear, and doubt; at other times we are calm, relieved, and at peace.

Equate this Christian walk with marathon runners who may not be at the front of the pack but are happy to say they continued their run. Our Christian walk is a similar situation. It definitely isn't fast but if we stay on course, and persevere, we lead happier lives. Consider these thoughts when you are in the midst of anxiety and struggling emotionally, physically or spiritually. We must remember that Christ is ALWAYS walking with us; especially during our struggles. He wants the best for us because he loves us. Christ is not the shot-in-the-dark but rather the ever-glowing light which keeps us on track in our Christian walk.

We need to remind ourselves that, during our Christian walk, we have trials that continually crop up. Many of us have experienced deaths of loved ones, financial difficulties, or physical illnesses. All these obstacles are made easier with Jesus walking beside us. The Christian walk, fraught with every day human pitfalls, is worth every step, enriching our lives.

Blessings;

Dave

I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES BY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

THANK YOU
JUDY HENDERSON

FINANCIAL INFORMATION PAGE FOR OCTOBER 2014

ATTENDANCE			OFFERING			
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP SERVICE	DATE	BUDGET	SPECIALS	TOTAL
10/5/2014	16	90	10/5/2014	\$5,277.25	\$1,112.00	\$4,165.25
10/12/2014	32	90	10/12/2014	\$6,455.25	\$2,765.00	\$3,690.25
10/19/2014	15	69	10/19/2014	\$2,351.25	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,991.25
10/26/2014	20	102	10/26/2014	\$3,944.07	\$1,026.00	\$2,918.07
			10/18/2014	Baked Steak Dinner	\$4,038.60	\$4,038.60

Here is a summary showing the income of our budget for the church and the expenses of what is paid out January– October

Income — January — October 2014	\$118,210.47
Expenses—January—October 2014	<u>\$132,852.60</u>
Total	- \$ 14,342.13

HELP! HELP! - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Your church needs your help in these last two months of 2014 to be able to meet our 2014 financial expenses. For three-fourth of this years income and expense your church has spent almost \$14,000.00 more than has been received. The spending is a little less than was in the budget for this year; at three-fourth of the year. BUT, our giving/receipts for this period are well behind what is needed to pay for the programs, activities, and needs for Stidham to carry out God’s work here in our community and where needed.

Please do what you can to make sure your estimate of giving is up to date; and IF possible increase it for these last two months to help Stidham meet it’s obligations for this year. We want to continue Stidham UMC’s great history of meeting our obligations to do God’s work and demonstrate that even though we are not large in size, we are VERY large in heart.

With your help your finance committee looks forward to ending this hard year of 2014 on positive notes. We look forward to a positive stewardship planning for a great year in 2015 with activities, growth, service; etc.

Thank you for your help in making Stidham United Methodist Church the friendly, get the job done, church.

Your Finance Committee,

Bill Lutgen, chairman

TODAY

It is a beautiful autumn day Monday, today. This is my favorite time of the year. Yet I can say the same for spring and the awakening of the earth here in Indiana. Summer is a time of growth and anticipation for the garden to produce those lovely green beans, lush red tomatoes and the corn on the cob that melts in your mouth.

In the fall my thoughts are full of thanksgiving. I grew up on a farm and harvest time was always exciting. The place was abuzz with activity. Winter was coming so batten down the corn crib, seal up the windows on the porch, build up the woodpile and take the potatoes to the cellar for storage.

The library in Remington was a favorite place in the winter to pick out a weeks supply of books to read every night as the family gathered around the big stove in the kitchen.

I enjoyed my life because of the love in my home. I didn't know any other way to live. It was during the Great Depression and there were not many dimes to spend at the 5 and 10 cent store. I never felt that I missed out because I had so much that money could not buy. I found love in my home, my community and my church. Where love is there is compassion, understanding, sympathy, protectiveness, forgiveness, delight, pride, and a warm heart. It is easy to love my family, my friends and those I interact with and know well. I find it so necessary for me to say 'I love you!' Because it is how I feel.

My prayer is to not forget the important times in my life. Brian and Michelle, my grandson and wife, are in the midst of a terrifying experience. Their youngest child, Seth at 2 years of age, has been diagnosed with leukemia. He is in the care of Riley Hospital for children in Indianapolis; has had his first chemotherapy treatment with many more to come. He is at home now and will be going to the hospital weekly for some time to come.

The family is surrounded by family, friends, co-workers and church family as they make major decisions that will alter their daily lives. In the immediate future they are focused on Seth, his two sisters and a big brother; ages 7, 9 and 12.

Riley Hospital has been a haven of medical expertise, compassion, understanding and treatment for the whole family. I thank God for Riley Hospital. Seth and family came home to be surrounded by loving people, willing to; so anything to seed his recovery. Better days are coming. God will provide. Prayers are appreciated. The response in Warren, Benton and Tippecanoe counties has been astronomical. People are good; God is good all the time. I cannot comprehend how many lives that Brian and Michelle and the children have touched and they have returned to show them how they love and care for this hurting family.

I stop to think about what love is and how do I not deserve such love. It is caring at the depth beyond being concerned. It makes my life complete and I look forward to each morning, loving and being loved.

The love of God is the greatest love of all. Read the 107th Psalm with me today and discover His love.

May God Bless you today.

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene

Thanks

November evokes thoughts of apple cider and all things autumn, right? Well for me, it's lemonade. Why, you ask? Because I like turning lemons into lemonade! It's all part of my **thankful strategy**. As many of you know David and I bought a house this summer, a purchase which happened sooner rather than later instead of losing the opportunity. So, although the timing was premature, we are thankful it came together for us. Next, I wanted to make some minor changes to the house which have turned out to be not-so-minor. In order to make the minor changes correctly, the kitchen had to be removed. Once again, I'm making lemonade and am thankful that we've had help to demolish properly while saving our cabinets:) Renovations were going more smoothly of late until our contractor found rotten 2x4's, rotten plywood and rotten insulation complete with mold in several outside walls. More lemons needed please to make lemonade... We are **SO THANKFUL** that this was found NOW and can be remedied. One more huge piece to our thankful strategy is that we have a place to live during these not-so-minor renovations. We are extremely grateful, yes, **thankful**, to SUMC for a parsonage to remain in until our house is habitable.

Sometimes, it's very difficult to make lemonade out of lemons. Loss of a job, loss of a loved one, unplanned changes in our lives are depressing, upsetting, disappointing. Sometimes others problems make ours seem ridiculous and miniscule. Sometimes we can help others find the **thankful** part of the bad by some random act of kindness. It doesn't have to be a front page story; a card, a visit, a meal, a listening ear, a pep talk. A small gesture may be huge in someone else's eyes and they may be very **thankful**.

Most of us here at SUMC have much to be **thankful** for; the changing seasons, clean air, our health, our church working together for our Annual Baked Steak Mission meal, a special Halloween night for the community, our homes, food, our freedom to worship, etc., etc. These are all part of my **thankful strategy**. Why walk around with a sour face when I can make lemonade and have so much to be **thankful** for? Maybe you are way ahead of me on this **thankful** thought; as for me, I'll keep making my **thankful** list:)

Happy **Thanksgiving**;

Cathy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WILMA OSTERHOFF

**Wilma will be 95 years young on Thursday November 6
Please send her a birthday card to let her know you are thinking of her.**

**Her address is:
2741 N. Salisbury St.
West Lafayette, IN 47906**

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

The Family of Seth Greene, Laura McGlone Allen, Barbara Lawson, Joy Strum, Betty Weaver, Russ & Midge Hockema, Reba Page, Jill Plantenga and Family, Roy Becker, Our Military, Our World Leaders and all that are mentioned in our Worship Service on Sunday morning and for those mentioned silently.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER 2014

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1— Keith Butler
2—Karen Wethington
6—Joy Sturm
 Wilma Osterhoff
7—Paula Dillard
12—Connie Worth
15—Jon Newman
18—Larry Hand
19—Connie Standiford
23—Tara Plantenga
24—Barbara Lawson
27—Carter Plantenga
 Megan Plantenga



2—Ron & Brenda Hardesty



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Where we may see only weeds, God sees a beautiful garden.

It's never too late to ask for forgiveness.

The peace of God can release us from our anxiety.

Living in moderation frees up space in our hearts for God.

THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH IN NOVEMBER

Bible Study — Monday evenings at 6:30pm — November 3rd,10th,17th, 24th

Bible Study — Tuesday mornings at 10:00am — November 4th,11th,18th, 24th

Choir Practice — Wednesday evening 7:00pm — November 5th,12th,19th, 26th

Kid's Night Out Wednesday — 5:00 – 6:50 pm — November 5th

Lighthouse Prayer Group — Thursday morning at 10:00am — November 6th, 13th, 20th

Finance Committee Meeting — Thur afternoon at 3:00 pm — November 6th

Thanksgiving Dinner — Sunday, November 23rd after Worship Service —Please bring a side dish and salad or dessert. Meat, drinks, and table service will be furnished.

Commitment Sunday — November 30th. Place your Estimate of Giving cards in the offering plate or mail or bring to the office before that Sunday.

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

Lighthouse House Prayer Group

Labels are still being collected and are sent to Henderson Settlement. Please clip the labels from Campbell's soup cans, and box tops. There are white sheets by the basket showing you what companies are participating.

If you are unsure which products are collected, please see the display in Fellowship Hall. Please note how each label should be clipped and turned in.

Place your clipped labels in the basket on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!

The Lighthouse Prayer Group