

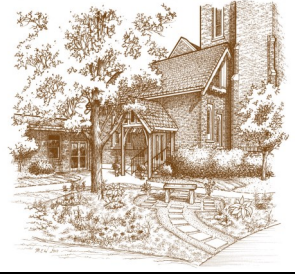


The Stidham Story

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September 2015

Stidham United Methodist Church

Dave's Diary

12 Reasons Why I as a Pastor Have Decided to Quit Attending Sporting Events

1. The coach never came to visit me.
2. Every time I went, they asked for money.
3. The people sitting in my row didn't seem very friendly.
4. The seats were very hard.
5. The referees made a decision I didn't agree with.
6. I was sitting with hypocrites----they only come to see what others were wearing!
7. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some songs I had never heard before.
9. The games are scheduled on my only day to sleep in and run errands.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyway.
12. I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

I know this is a parity of reasons usually used for why I don't go to church. But today, the church is struggling because of all the sporting events that take place during the time of church services. If we change our time to 7:00 AM to get ahead of these events, I don't believe we would have very many takers for worship. What is the answer? If you have an idea, please share it with the minister.

Blessings to you;

Dave

October Newsletter articles are due by September 25
Thank you, Judy Henderson

These articles were given by one of our church members:

DO IT ANYWAY
By Mother Theresa

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind. People may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, And it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It has never been you and them anyway.

Everyday Survival Kit

Little Things That Mean A Lot

Toothpick: to remind you to pick the good qualities in everyone.

Rubber Band: to remind you to be flexible— things may not always go the way you want, but they can be worked out

Band Aid: to remind you to heal hurt feelings, whether yours or someone else's

Eraser: to remind you that everyone makes mistakes

Candy Kiss: to remind you that everyone needs a hug or a compliment every day

Mint: to remind you that you are worth a mint to your family and friends

Gum: to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything

Pencil: to remind you to list your blessings every day

Tea Bag: to remind you that you never know how strong you are until you're in hot water

Prayers of Pray—ers

I am a part of the Lighthouse Prayer group. We meet in the church each Thursday morning. We are open to anyone that would care to join us. We gather, share scripture that sustained us in our journey of the past week and gather encouragement from each other. We bring to the group any names that have been given to us for prayers. We intercede for concerns of our church fellowships — the mission week at Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY— the mission projects planned for the week of **September 21st to 27th** — the Food Pantry shopping basket; etc.

There are many ways to pray. I don't get down on my knees anymore; my body rebels and I cannot get up. Each Thursday I prepare a written prayer to use in prayer group, because if I don't have a guide my mind wanders away from what I want to share. In preparation I can find much to pray about by reading the newspaper and hearing the news on radio and television. I look out of the window and see so much I am thankful for; the beauty God has provided is everywhere. I am thankful each time I step inside of Stidham United Methodist Church; it is a beautiful place I am thankful for the people that fill this church with happy voices and that brings me joy whenever I come here. I am very blessed. **Luke 6:38** tells us, **“Give and it will be given to you.”**

Each of us have an opportunity on **Thursday, September 24th from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm** to come to this sanctuary anytime during that day and, in the quiet of soft hymns playing, spend time soaking up the solitude of God's presence and talk with Him about whatever is on your mind. This day has been declared a Day of Prayer. We each have the opportunity to be a part of the week dedicated to missions. There are some tasks I'm not physically able to do anymore, but I can come and pray for a period of time on **Thursday, September 24th**. No one will be turned away, for any reason, from a time alone in the sanctuary. If you have never been a part of this special day in past years, you have missed a fulfilling experience. Come, spend a half hour or so with God in a beautiful place. The words will come into your mind —I promise you. You become a special part of a successful mission week for the least of these, the ones God knows will provide for today and tomorrow.

The poor will always be with us. Those people consumed by tragedy of all types are in need of care, as well. They need our hearts to be compassionate and our intercessory prayers for their well-being directed to God. Thus He knows we care. I need to be refueled so I come to this place, this beautiful sanctuary, to be refueled because I know God is here and hears my plea for a conversation with Him about many things. Tho' I pray daily in my home or in my car going from place to place, there is something so special about the sanctuary that I jump at the opportunity to spend time alone with my Lord. I ask you to come be refueled on **Thursday, September 24th**.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to reserve you a spot, but if you are not sure of your schedule, come impromptu. It would be the ultimate blessing if **100%** of the congregation became a part of the Day of Prayer at Stidham United Methodist Church on **Thursday, September 24th**.

Come, be a pray—er with me.

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM TRAVIS BAUGH

Just wanted to say thanks to Stidham for bestowing me with a scholarship for the 2015-16 school year. It will go along way as I pay tuition and books for my MBA program. Stidham has always been and always will be near to my heart and has played a key role in my development as a person.

God Bless All of You,
Travis Baugh

A NOTE FROM NOBLE KIZER WHO IS IN CHARGE OF OUR HELPING HANDS FUNS

The Helping Hand Fund is your church's program to help individuals, or families, who need help, particularly emergency situations. The Fund's purpose is to assist the members of your congregation who need support, for example, with utility payment, medical bills, food needs, and other personal concerns.

Secondly, we offer the same for people in the townships in the surrounding areas: Jackson, Randolph, Union, and Wea. Occasional requests for assistance by those outside of these townships are rarely considered.

The HHF is supported by our member's contributions in the Bible Study and Thursday Prayer Group meetings. All other members are otherwise requested on the first Sunday of each month to contribute, during our Communion Service. This is a "free will" donation which may be made by using the envelopes in the pews and placing them in the Offering Plates. Just put "HHF" and your name on the envelope to receive credit for your generosity. This contribution, of course, is tax deductible.

The Helping Hand Committee thanks everyone for their help.

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Monday nights at 6:30pm and Tuesday morning at 10:00am, Pastor Dave has a Bible Study.

He is a Great Teacher of the Bible! Come join us!!

We are studying the Book of Acts!!

KIDS NIGHT OUT PROGRAM

The Kids Night Out Program has started and will be the first Wednesday of each month September-December, 2015 and February-April in 2016.

We are in need of help furnishing, preparing the meals, and help in cleaning up.

A sign-up sheet is on the table in Fellowship Hall for the meals.

Also we are in need of people to help with the program. If you are interested, please see Arletta Brown.

Thank you

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2015

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Lucy Keller 22 Molly Slaven
 7 Susan Walters 23 Dave Webb
 8 Evalyn Windle 25 Bruce Parker
 19 Sue Davis 25 Sandy Nolfi
 20 Jordan Morlan

10 Larry & Judy Henderson
 16 Bill & Jane Lutgen
 16 Pat & Melinda VonderBok Wheeler



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

Margaret Cummins, Frank Arihood, Marylin Bigelow, Mike & Teresa Matthews, Cindy Lindstrom, Jill Plantenga and Family, Our Military, Our World Leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY!!

God is ready to fill us with love to share with others.
 I am God's child, today and forever!
 God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit and divine power to serve others.
 All that we do, we do for God.
 What we pray for shapes the people we will become.

Cathy's Corner

Looks Like Tomatoes . . .

Let me back up. One of my favorite singers years ago, was Barry Manilow. One of his famous recordings was – **Looks like We Made It** – which our then, small children misheard as – **Looks like tomatoes!** Consequently, whenever I hear or think of that song, I sing - looks like tomatoes.

We all have challenges in life, some big, some small, some insurmountable, some workable, some temporary, some permanent, some with positive results, some with negative results, some with outcomes that we like, some with outcomes we prayed would change. Some of these challenges are man-made while others are God-made and still others are Nature-made. Some are trivial – **I REALLY** want this summer heat to be over. Some challenges have reachable goals – **I MUST** get an 'A' on this exam to keep my scholarship. When we are able to take charge of the minor changes in life in which we have control, then we can say – **Looks like We Made It.**

However, there are challenges that we absolutely do not want but have to accept. Life-changing illnesses, job dismissals, and marriage dissolutions are examples one might think of. In these cases we do whatever is humanly possible to change the situation, or challenge it, then make the best of it and ask God for strength and to walk with us. When dealing with these insurmountable challenges that are beyond our control we often need to hand it over to God. In these instances we cannot say – **looks like we made it** – **UNTIL** we understand that God is with us, comforting us through these sad times. Our plan to the challenge we've been dealt may not be achievable.

It's only when we see that we've done everything humanly possible with these **BIG** challenges that come into our lives; when we can accept the outcome and eventually say – **looks like we made it Lord; looks like I've done all I can and I accept the outcome.** All too often the eventual outcome wasn't in our game book. With time, we can deal with what had to be and sometimes even say, "Thank you Lord."

Wouldn't it be great if all our challenges were trivial, manageable, and had good outcomes? Wouldn't it be great if we could always say – **Looks like We Made It?** But God doesn't promise us the easy road; He promises to walk with us, give us support and strength and a listening ear. **THEN** we can say – **"Looks like we made it Lord, You and me together, we got through it."**

Prayers for positive outcomes;

Cathy

Stidham UMC

Attendance and Weekly Giving Report

Attendance

August 2015

Weekly Giving

	SS Totals	Worship	Totals
08-02-2015	8	78	86
08-09-2015	16	69	85
08-16-2015	15	88	103
08-23-2015	12	83	95
08-30-2015	15	135	150
August Totals	66	453	519

	Budget Income	Specials	Total Deposit
08-02-2015	\$ 3,637.35	\$ 265.00	\$ 3,902.35
08-09-2015	\$ 2,227.25	\$ 713.00	\$ 2,940.25
08-16-2015	\$ 3,265.25	\$ 5.00	\$ 3,270.25
08-23-2015	\$ 2,060.50	\$ 27.00	\$ 2,087.50
08-30-2015	\$ 3502.25	\$ 25.00	\$ 3527.25
August Totals	\$ 14,692.60	\$ 1,035.00	\$ 15,727.0060

July 2015 — Income & Expenses

General Acct July Income	General Acct Jan—July Expenses	Specials Acct July Income	Specials Acct July Expenses
\$12,530.50	\$ 18,643.31	\$ 5,460.00	\$ 5,760.00
Checkbook Total—7-31-2015	\$ 19,199.28	Checkbook Total 7-31-2015	\$ 40,633.92

Complete monthly reports are available. If you would like a copy contact Paula in the church office: 765-474-2806 or email: stidhamumc@yahoo.com

LET US BE THANKFUL FOR ALL THAT THE LORD PROVIDES US WITH EACH AND EVERY DAY.

LET'S GIVE BACK GENEROUSLY TO THE LORD!

A Note from the Counters and Your Financial Secretary:

We would appreciate you putting your check number on your offering envelope if paying by check. If you are giving to a "Specials" account, please designate which "Specials" fund you want it applied to.

Thank you, Judy Henderson