

Shepherd's Staff *We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.*

August 2017 "You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Due to a death in the family, How Does Your Garden Grow is reprinted from August, 2015.

How Does Your Garden Grow

One of the things I have learned since arriving in Parkersburg is that gardening is a skill that takes cultivating. I have been blessed with the tutelage of wonderful teachers who are patient with my attempts (and failures). The advice is always helpful although I do have that stubborn male gene that does not allow me to heed all the advice as perhaps I should. Still I have been grateful for the fresh beans, tomatoes and potatoes as well as the gifts from other gardeners in the church community. It is always a pleasure to share the bounty we are able to harvest.



One of the rules of gardening that I needed to learn is knowing when to plant! Hampered by vacations I do not always get this vital step just right as one year our plants froze while the next we were late starters. In a project where timing is important it is reassuring to know even here there is grace! Having time each week to keep after the weeds is also helpful as it seems these invaders thrive more readily than the desired plants! Having a garden also helps to understand the farmer's concern for rain in the proper time and amount. Still, in spite of all the challenges and setbacks, gardening proves to be a wonderful escape from the rigors of the office.

Gardening also gives me a chance to ask how my other garden grows, the one that is nurtured by God in my heart. It too takes being aware of the time in our life. We are never too young to begin learning of the gifts of grace and love that can be planted in the hearts of children (and the rest of us) before they learn the ways of the world. We also can see the importance of keeping the "weeds" out of our lives through all our days as these unwanted thoughts and habits invade and seem so quickly to take our mind off what is really important in life.

Just as we can learn from the farmers who rotate crops, we need a balance of learning of the wonders of God. A little fertilizer can also take us a long way on growing in the grace of God. The spiritual nutrients help us to grow so that we can produce the fruits desired in the garden of our hearts without depleting us of the sweet communion with our Lord. This too takes a conscious effort on our part. What we choose to ingest is vital to our spiritual heart health as we exercise our devotional renewal times.

Fortunately, there are many guides available to teach us in our life gardens. God gave us the examples of the prophets, priest and the disciples as well as his most precious gift, Jesus! The harvest we seek is of a life grown well, watered with care in the right amounts and the knowledge that allows us to grow tall and strong bringing in a crop that brings joy to the Master Gardener. Spend time with this Gardener in quiet time each day and you too will see amazing growth with fruit in abundance for sharing. I pray your garden is growing wonderfully blessed this year!

Pastor Rus

16 Back to School Bible Verses

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Colossians 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

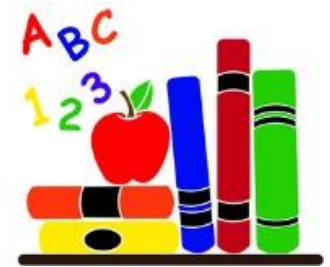
Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Isaiah 26:3 The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.





August Birthdays/Anniversaries



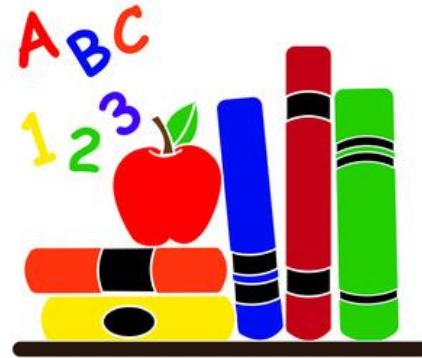
Happy Birthday

- 8/10 Ruth Haan
- 8/11 Kathy Heeren
- 8/12 Donald Allspach
- 8/18 Charlene Kramer
- 8/24 Doris Allspach
- 8/24 Lanae Kramer
- 8/24 Lilly Stirling
- 8/26 Karen Oltman
- 8/30 Mike Pott
- 8/31 Paul Haan
- 8/31 Stacy Edeker

Happy Anniversary

- 8/6 Ryan & Stacy Edeker
- 8/6 Joel & Brandy Reints
- 8/10 Frank & Betty Pott
- 8/13 Dave & Betty Mulder
- 8/23 Paul & Darlene Bruns
- 8/27 Ken & Nancy Mehmen
- 8/30 Gene & Janet Venenga

Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20th of the month. My goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month. Thanks!



CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
8/6	Clarence & June (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Ken Kramer	Ken & Nancy
8/13	Arnie & Kay (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Gerald Haan	Pat & Deb
8/20	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Rollyn & Kathy (S)	Mark Kramer	Arnie & Kay
8/29	Gene & Janet (N) Ken & Janet (S)	Ken Meester	Larry & Mary

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.

How to Read the Bible

ACCOMPLISH LEARNED PROMISES	ANSWERS LESSONS PROSPER	CLAIM OBEY QUESTIONS	COMFORT OFFER READ	COMMANDS PRAISE SOOTHE	GUIDE PRAYERS WARNINGS	HEED PRINCIPLES
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