

Shepherd's Staff

February 2015

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"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.

Charlie



Charlie is someone who has a fascination with cars. His intensity for chasing after this desire is something that caused more than a little trouble for his contact with a particular car. You see Charlie was struck by a car when still young. The injuries to Charlie cause him to lose his sight completely. This, for many of us, would be catastrophic with all the adjustments required to get along in a seeing society, but for Charlie it could be described as worse. You see Charlie is a dog. In fact Charlie is a rather large dog, weighing in at about 90 pounds, yet he considers himself a lap-dog!

Adapting to the environment is not always something we find exciting but when it becomes necessary as it is for Charlie we often find ways to avoid the difficulty, claiming it is too hard. This may be one of Charlie's remarkable features. He has amazed me with his ability to get around in a dark world. His sense of smell and his hearing have proven to be exceptional, coupled with his ability to feel any obstacles with the slightest brush of his whiskers and eyebrows steering him away from trouble. This does not mean that Charlie does not bump into things though.

Fitting into a world where sight is valued so greatly, Charlie has conformed with amazing agility and ability. His love of attention goes well with the insatiable desire to be scritch'd for as long as your arm and fingers holds out. Charlie proved you can work past the challenges of life and be transformed to thrive in life with a new way of thinking.

When I think about Charlie, I am reminded of what Paul tells us in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." When I read this I think of how good we have found life to be in this world and so find it challenging to be transformed into something new. I find pleasure in the luxuries of life and excitement in the events that surround me as I am sure you do also. Giving up a way of life is never an easy task but if we are true to our calling to be Christ like, it is exactly what we must do. Doing so may be stepping out in faith and even though we do not see the full picture we still step out.

God never did promise that life would be easy or without challenges. What he did promise was that we would never have to go it alone. When Charlie is introduced to a new area, we guide his steps, warning him of the pitfalls in his path. God does the same for us. His gaze is never distracted. His attention is never averted to other events. In his love and presence he is always at our destination waiting for us even while he goes beside us on the way. With God's help and guidance we can be assured we can, and will, reach our destination. Still we must take the step in trust with faith that God will see us through any trial leading the way with grace and mercy.

If we are truly willing to be conformed as Paul tells us we need to be, then we must trust God to complete the work he began in us. Listening for the leading of God will steer us away from the pitfalls of life and into the glory God has intended for us. This is one time when an old dog, in spite of being blind, can teach us something valuable.

Pastor Rus

God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs
www.poemsource.com



John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.



Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.



February Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

2/1	Andrew Haan
2/7	Pat Prier
2/7	Lacey Hay
2/8	Mackenzie Allspach
2/10	Marlyn Allspach
2/14	Nolan Prier
2/17	Sharon Cordes
2/20	AnnaMae Mehmen
2/24	Rodney Mulder



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. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
2/1	Clarence & June (N) Larry & Mary (S)	Ken Johnson	Joel & Brandy
2/8	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Ryan & Stacy (S)	Ken Kramer	Ken & Nancy
2/15	Pat & Deb (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Dale Meester	Pat & Deb
2/22	Don & Annie (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Ken Mehmen	Larry & Mary

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

