

# Shepherd's Staff

July 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.*

## Big Changes

Change often comes with much resistance even when the changes are intended to make a situation better. This year the Synod (the major assembly of the Christian Reformed Church) met on the campus of Dordt College. The proposed changes had been brewing for a while as previous Synods set the wheels of change in motion with the forming of study committees tasked with coming up with recommendations.

The first major change affects the mission outreach of the church. We all are familiar with the Home Missions and World Missions branches we have tasked with doing our outreach. With the different branches we had administrators over each. The two branches came with a proposal to join the two into one agency. This should make the doing of missions easier and streamline efforts to reach others for Christ.

The next change is one that changes the look of the deaconate. Deacons' work will be expanded into new areas as churches will be asked to send more members of each Council to the delegated assemblies of Classis (the regional gathering of churches) and Synod. For Classis this will change from a Elder and a Pastor or two Elders if the Pastor is not able to attend. The new system will have Deacon, an Elder, and a Pastor. If no pastor is available, an additional Elder will be sent, and these delegates will speak for the congregation. At Synod the change is similar. The system for sending delegates would have the Classis determine which two Elders and two Pastors would represent all the congregation of Classis at Synod. The new system will call for a Deacon, an Elder, a Pastor, and one more of any of the three offices as the fourth delegate. This last part will not likely effect the day to day of individual congregations but is intended to enhance the delegates' range of knowledge for dealing with the issues confronting the major assemblies.

The last major change effects the operation at our denomination headquarters. The work of insuring the operation between Synod being in session. We have operated with a Board of Trustees numbering thirty individuals who would both carry out Synod's instructions, as well as make the necessary decisions for Synod. This board would be made up of regional representatives that are voted on by Classes. This will be replaced over a transition period into a Council of Delegates numbering sixty members with one from every Classis, plus at large members from both Canada and the United States. These individuals will continue with dealing with the issues between Synod sessions as well as have expanded areas of specialty groups that will report to the full group.

These changes are being phased in with expectations of improved leadership throughout our denomination. We are encouraged for the response to a changing world. Recognizing that a change would enhance our ability to be reactive and still be true to our reformed heritage is important for seeing our way into the future.

The importance of being able to change is what individual congregations must also be aware of in order to remain into the future as well. Still change is not easy because of the memories we cherish and the joy we find in doing the familiar. The difficulty comes for some churches when the harsh reality comes that closing may be the only option. A much healthier way is to be aware of the changing climate of the church and the community. Churches must be willing to change to meet the needs of each new day. Fear of change can be paralyzing but not changing when conditions change can be even more devastating.

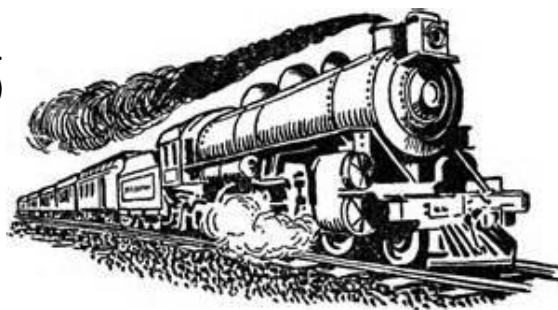
The first step is to be open to the possibilities and to choose a path that will bring about the results that are intended. Change without considering the consequences may be more harmful than no change at all. The changes our denomination made will hopefully pave the way for a strong future. With the lead of the denomination we can pray that many congregations will be able to change to make healthier churches.

Pastor Rus

Attention all MEN... Attention all Boys... Attention Just the Guys!!

### **JULY 12 GUY'S Afternoon/Night**

You won't want to miss what is planned for the all the guys. Sunday, July 12. We will be hosting a "TRAIN" party just for you. Frances Edeker (Ryan's Dad) will be entertaining us with his stories, work, and life on the train. You'll want to bring along your imaginations as well. You just may need to show us how "the guys" can decorate! As always, a hearty lunch will be served, complete with pie & ice cream. Please, please fill out your RSVP and get it in to Angie by July 7 to reserve your ticket!



So grab your dad, sons, nephews, neighbors, friends..... ALL ABOARD!

### **Friendship Helpers**

The Friendship Circle would like to sponsor a helping hand to anyone who may need just that. Do you have a ceiling fan that needs dusted, a retrieval on a top shelf, do you need a quick sweep of the garage, do you need a ride to the doctor's office or hair appointment? These are just examples of what the helping hand ministry would like to do. We need to hear from our congregation. We would like to limit any job or appointment to approximately one hour. Please contact one of the Friendship Circle members and we will get you the helping hand you need. Just a note: We may be asking you as a congregation to help with whatever the need may be and together we will become the Helping Hand.

Friendship Circle Members (WE ALWAYS WELCOME OTHERS TO JOIN US!!)  
Angie Meester, Deb Prier, Sharon Schipper, Karen Oltman, May Johnson  
Leave us a message in our church box, give us a call, or contact us after church.

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Busy, Busy, busy.....that is what's been happening downstairs in the Sunday School and Life Plus rooms. By the end of the summer they will be ready for the upcoming season. Angie's creative mind has been at work (as well as her painting skills!). You may have been asked to help out in some way, whether it be making a sign, creating a tree, making an ark. Whatever it is, we appreciate it and will be excited to showcase the new look.



## July Birthdays/Anniversaries



### Happy Birthday

7/2 Gaylen Mulder  
 7/3 Sylvia Jansen  
 7/3 Janet Johnson  
 7/3 Darrell Druvenga  
 7/8 Clarence Karsjens  
 7/14 Curtis Kalkwarf  
 7/14 Michael Mulder  
 7/20 Frank Pott  
 7/20 Marcia Allspach  
 7/21 Marjorie Aswegan  
 7/22 Luke Edeker  
 7/25 Lola Stirling  
 7/25 Carla Mulder  
 7/26 Kenneth Johnson  
 7/26 Mary Vry  
 7/26 Kamie Shepard  
 7/26 Amy Swanson-Haan  
 7/27 Gene Venenga  
 7/28 Joy Kneppe

### Happy Anniversary

7/5 Dale & Angie Meester  
 7/23 Dennis & Sharon Schipper



**Reminder:** If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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>
7/5	Pat & Deb (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Gaylen Mulder	Paul Haan's
7/12	Don & Annie (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Gerald Haan	Mary V., Mary B.
7/19	Mark & Lanae (N) Ken & Janet (S)	Delbert Cordes	Kevin & Shelly
7/26	Pastor Rus & Mary (N) Henry & Kathy (S)	Mark Kramer	Ken & Nancy

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

