

Shepherd's Staff

June 2013

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

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

I Can Do It



The older we get the more we seem to regress into our childhood. I am convinced that we all have these tendencies. How many of us have re-entered our toddler years with the "I can do it myself" attitude? After all we are very independent as a pattern of our heritage. That is why we have such a hard time when we find ourselves in a position of being in need of help.

That is the difficult place I recently found myself after what was to be a routine surgery with a speedy recovery. I should have guessed that trouble was brewing when I woke up with a leg brace in place. Of course the Doctor was already well on his way and left my wife to pass along the "good" news. Recovery changed as once in surgery the trouble found was worse than first thought. The news of not bending my knee for one month was not what I wanted to hear.

The timing of this news was not good in every way. The good news was that Life Plus had just wrapped up the year, even as my last pre-surgery meal was at the graduation for the fifth graders as I tried to keep the "date" for the next day quiet. But there was so much to do! A large garden was planned for the season that would need to be tilled and planted, as well as a lawn that would grow and need to be cut. I was blessed with many offers of help, and I did take up some people on those offers. Yet the constant help of keeping up our yard, which takes nearly three hours to cut, seemed more than I could ask of others.

Perhaps that is when my "I can fix it" thinking went into overdrive. Perhaps it is because of all the times I "helped" my dad fix things that were broken at home, when often times I was more of a hindrance than a help. Who knew shining the light in his eyes so I could see better was not the right thing to do? Anyway, the course of action was clear. My gear-shift lawn tractor would need to be modified!

I am not sure if you have heard the old expression expounding the attributes of the brand of tractor I have or not. The "runs like a deer and smells like a john" idea came into play as I knew I needed a lever to become a "John Deere" hand clutch tractor. Well being the pack-rat I am, I scoured my collection of miscellaneous items and found the perfect handle! The old, deformed, no longer useful toilet plunger that I threw away, but kept the handle from, was just right for this new life! With a few u-bolts from the hardware store, I was soon on my way out of the garage to work on the now overdue lawn. With the help of a friend who brought his own tractor we set out to get the job done.

While the system worked, it did bring out one thought that makes me wonder how many of us suffer from this 'I can do it' plague? Many of us carry this much farther than we should. While God did give us minds to overcome many of life's troubles, we must admit that there are matters that are beyond our ability to use the "junk" to make things right. We are told in scripture that if we could save ourselves then Christ would not have needed to die for us. Yet many people have the ill conceived notion that we can live good enough or make up for our shortcomings.

Still the Word of God clearly teaches us that there is only one way we can know peace. Only one way we can know salvation. It is only through the avenue God Himself provides through His Son. We must believe in the only One who can help, laying down our independence and coming empty handed to Him. Without forsaking our pride and independence we will never know what it means to be pardoned. Without coming in all humility to the King of kings and Lord of lords we will never know the joy of being children of God, brothers and sisters with Jesus.

The brace was a nuisance for the month I was required to wear it. It also left me in need of returning strength to my leg as the recovery process continues. Yet when we turn to Jesus, He is able to make us new without work on our part and yet because we are grateful for the new life, we do what God requires as a sign of our thanksgiving. It is good to know that no recycled toilet plunger handles are needed to make us whole in Christ Jesus. Simply giving our brokenness to Him, He is able to restore us to be what we were made to be, instruments of praise to our heavenly Creator!

Pastor Rus

Sunshine Circle News

May 1st was our last meeting for 2013. This was a "complete" year because we did not have to cancel any meeting due to bad weather.

A review of our year includes a somber, yet very encouraging study of the Book of Daniel. We never got through a single lesson in one meeting because of all the new and interesting points that were brought up in the study guide! It was clear to all of us that even though Daniel lived many years ago, his world included many of the same problems and issues that we face in our world today. A very comforting and reassuring point was, and is, that the God who was in control in Daniel's world is the same God who controls our world.

We thank Pastor Rus for leading our lessons and providing some of the "missing links" to help us understand what we needed in order to connect all of the information. There are more people that need to be given a Thank You. One goes to Mary B. for sending all of our cards and bringing the cards to the meetings for us to sign. Marge A. and Frances V. need to be thanked for getting the flowers for the special occasions that we have in our church, like birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms and holidays. Thank you to Doris and Naomi for keeping up with the kitchen supplies.

Thank you to each one of you who help support our mission causes. This includes the families who chose to give memorial gifts. We sincerely appreciate your gifts. Your generosity allows us to distribute \$2700.00 to the following:

World Renew (CRWRC) \$1,000.00	Home Missions \$500.00
Faith Promise \$500.00	Shannon Ries \$100.00
KNWS \$200.00	Food Pantry \$150.00
Bible League \$50.00	Back to God Hour \$100.00
Bethany Services \$100.00	

Our society felt honored to be able to show Christian hospitality to families of the Hope Reformed Church upon the death of two of their members. We learned a lot of interesting facts about River Hills School at our annual Christmas Tea. We invited the ladies of the Austinville CRC to join us. Hopefully, a new tradition is born! The only event we almost cancelled was our Hostess Supper. It is always a concern about scheduling our supper in March but the snow held off until it was time to start our Round-Up Supper. Thanks to those who dressed-up for the event. The western wear added a nice touch!

We need to give a special Thank You to Naomi for being the Sunshine Circle treasurer for at least 60 years!! She is retiring after writing hundreds of checks and designing all of those financials reports and booklets! What a big job for a long time!

Our officers for next year are

President-- Marcia.A.	Treasurer-Janet V.
Vice President-Kay S.	Vicar- Charlene K.
Secretary-Marge A.	

Finally, we want to thank each one of you cooks in our church who is always ready to bake a cake or cookies and make sandwiches for all the events we host. It is always a treat to see the wide variety of goodies on the kitchen counter! We never seem to be short of anything!

As always, we would love to increase the number of ladies in our society. Please consider this a personal invitation to join us on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Our goal is to support our missionaries and the other causes that we feel could benefit from our financial support. Another goal is to learn spiritual truths through Bible studies. The fellowship we share on those Wednesday afternoons is priceless along with a cup of coffee and a sweet treat!!

WE LOVE YOU



DAD

June Birthdays/Anniversaries

WE LOVE YOU



DAD

Happy Birthday

6/1	Frances VanEllen
6/3	Caleb Graham
6/6	Elena Mulder
6/17	Lloyd VanEllen
6/18	Chelsea Meester
6/22	Sharon DeVries
6/23	Dallas Druvenga
6/25	June Karsjens
6/27	Miranda Allspach

Happy Anniversary

6/9	Cory & Kamie Shepard
6/19	Ryan & Jenna Siems
6/20	Clarence & June Karsjens
6/24	Matt & Lisa Meether
6/28	Rus & Mary Boersma

Happy
Father's
Day

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>
6/2	Pat & Deb (N) Delbert & Sharon (S)	Gerald Haan	Greg Allspach
6/9	Mark & Lanae (N) John & Karen (S)	Clarence Karsjens	Dennis & Sharon
6/16	Pastor Rus & Mary (N) Ken & Rhonda (S)	Ken Johnson	Clarence & June
6/23	Jean Trey (N) AnnaMae (S)	Mark Kramer	Don & Annie
6/30	Cory & Kamie (N) Sylvia J. & Ivadell P. (S)	Ken Kramer	Irv & Amy

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

Music Has a Way of Touching One's Soul

Amazing Grace (1779)

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. Ephesians 1:7

It's hard to shake off a mother's influence. John Newton's earliest memories were of his godly mother who, despite fragile health, devoted herself to nurturing his soul. At her knee he memorized Bible passages and hymns. Though she died when he was about seven, he later recalled her tearful prayers for him.

After her death, John alternated between boarding school and the high seas, wanting to live a good life but nonetheless falling deeper and deeper into sin. Pressed into service with the British Navy, he deserted, was captured, and after two days of suspense, was flogged. His subsequent thoughts vacillated between murder and suicide. "I was capable of anything," he recalled.

More voyages, dangers, toils, and snares followed. It was a life unrivaled in fiction. Then, on the night of March 9, 1748, John, 23, was jolted awake by a brutal storm that descended too suddenly for the crew to foresee. The next day, in great peril, he cried to the Lord. He later wrote, "That tenth of March is a day much remembered by me; and I have never suffered it to pass unnoticed since the year 1748—the Lord came from on high and delivered me out of deep waters."

The next several years saw slow, halting spiritual growth in John, but in the end he became one of the most powerful evangelical preachers in British history, a powerful foe of slavery, and the author of hundreds of hymns.

Here are some things you may not know about Newton's most famous hymn. His title for it wasn't originally "Amazing Grace" but "Faith's Review and Expectation." It is based in Newton's study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17: "King David...said: 'Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet...You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree....'"

And here's a nearly forgotten verse that Newton added near the end of "Amazing Grace." Try singing it for yourself:

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
But God, Who called me here below, shall be forever mine.*



My Father Is A Christian

My father is a Christian;
He leads our household well;
With instruction from the Bible,
Right behavior he'll compel.

Yet he steers us with compassion;
His gentle love is true;
He conforms to our Lord Jesus,
So we know just what to do.
He teaches us with purpose,
Guides us in all Godly ways,
So we will take the right path,
And serve our Lord with praise.

I'm glad you're a Christian, Dad;
You help me see things clearly.
I'll always look up to you,
And love you very dearly.
- Joanna Fuchs

Father's Day Humor

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse goes up to the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins."
"That's odd," answers the man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!"
A nurse says to the second guy, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!"
"That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!"
A nurse tells the third man, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!"
"That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!"
The last man is groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask.
"I work for 7 Up!"

Happy Father's Day

It's Father's Day and the kids are all trying
to find Dad so they can give him a snazzy tie!
But where is he?

