

Shepherd's Staff

June 2014

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.

It's Personal

Maybe I am simply old fashioned but I miss the old days when business was done in personal ways. The technical age we are in today seems cold and impersonal. We are encouraged to bank with our computers instead of a visit with a teller. We pay bills online and order supplies through computer generated messages, all without human contact. I don't know if any businesses still use a real person as a receptionist anymore where I do not have to choose if I want English or Spanish for the language on the recorded messages offering options, none of which are exactly what I want! Don't get me wrong, the technology advances have improved our lives in many ways but I still miss the people to talk with.

With small talk no longer available in our neighborhoods or even with other folks from town in our interactions with businesses we lose out on keeping up with the lives and friendships that were once the cement that held our communities together. In fact it is difficult to have a sense of community when all we have is electronic communications. This sheltering can even be seen as well in the designs of our homes. Where once every house had a large front porch where we could sit and visit with friends and neighbors out for a walk, we now build a deck on the back of the house for privacy. Closeness with others may be a thing of the past.

One thing I am delighted to know is that one relationship remains personal. It is that relationship that brought the promise of Emanuel, God with us, into focus. Christ came to live, walk, talk, and eat among us! Rubbing elbows with the Son of God must have been exciting. The idea of a triune God enabling us to join in the relationship with Him may even relate back to Genesis where God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." We find this in the knowledge that God also gave His Spirit to live in and with us, in fellowship so real and so close that we can know we are never alone. All this makes me wonder if we are missing something today?

Interaction with others should be a part of the Christian walk in life. We are to care for one another but how can we if we do not even know what is going on in the lives of others? How can we pray, interceding for others if we don't know what is going on in their lives? How can we reflect the unity we have with God when we are independent to the point of seclusion in our daily lives? More concerning...are we portraying the wrong picture of living in and with Christ?

Perhaps it is time to slow down in life and not only smell the flowers but enjoy the fellowship of those God has placed around us. Visit with a neighbor over a cup of tea or coffee (or maybe lemonade) and simply talk without the hindrance of electronics. We may find a way to be the hand of Christ in this world that we otherwise would have missed. We may find an opportunity to share the love of our God with us by being with those around us in the acts of everyday life. Maybe it is just me but this time with others sounds quite inviting. Maybe it will catch on and everyone will want to give it a try. Maybe some day anyway.

Pastor Rus

2013-2014

May 7th was our last meeting for the year. Where does the time go?

Under the great leadership of Pastor Rus, we studied the book of Proverbs. Our study guide book had six chapters however, we only got three done. We always had a lot to discuss every time. Hopefully we are all "wiser" now that we have learned from that book.

We want to thank all of you who helped in any way this year. You are always so willing to bake a cake, make sandwiches, and help serve them at special events. Our biggest fund raiser this year was our "Spring Supper." We were able to distribute \$2000.00 this year as follows:

World Renew \$500.00	Faith Promise 500.00
Home Missions 500.00	Back to God 100.00
Shannon Ries 100.00	Food Pantry 100.00
KNWS 200.00	

We had Rhonda Adelmund show us all her hats at our Christmas Tea. We also served root beer floats at the annual Parkersburg Musical last August.

Our officers for the coming year are: Anna Mae-President, Kay-Vice President, Marge-Secretary, Janet V-Treasurer, Charlene-Vicar.

We always welcome new members. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1:30. We always have a Bible Study lesson and a time for coffee/fellowship. Our goal is to support our missionaries and other worthy causes. Hope to see you there.

On April 8th Governor Terry Brandstad signed a proclamation that Monday July 14, 2014 (7-14-14) will be a day of prayer, fasting, and sincere repentance for our nation. At 7:14 a.m. and 7:14 p.m. citizens are asked to pray for revival. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says: " If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land. For more information, go to www.prayer7-14-14.com. Also, Bob VanderPlaats has written a book called "If 7-14." See Marcia if you want to read it.



Anniversary Volunteers Needed



In only two short years we will, as a church, be celebrating 125 years as a church. Now is the time to start planning and making arrangements for the celebration of God's goodness to us. The volunteers could easily be grouped into sub-committees of history, food for a meal(s) of celebration, memorabilia items, invitations to former pastors and members, and perhaps even a new pictorial directory to mark the occasion.

The scope of the celebration will only be limited by the amount of ideas and volunteers we have who are willing to make this a wonderful time of celebrating our past as we look forward to the future. If you see yourself being available in some way please contact a member of Council so we can compile a list of volunteers with any potential areas of interest so we can get the budget together and have all things planned well so we can celebrate this milestone for our church.

As with all such celebrations we will likely look for a theme. If you have a suggestion for a theme please forward it to a Council member as well.

"God is the Father who is always home."

- Unknown

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
- 6/14 Lillian Reints
- 6/18 Chelsea Meester
- 6/22 Sharon DeVries
- 6/23 Dallas Druvenga
- 6/25 June Karsjens
- 6/27 Miranda Kyhl

Happy Anniversary

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

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>
6/1	Pastor Rus & Mary (N) Henry & Kathy (S)	Mark Kramer	Steve & Charlene
6/8	Jean Trey (N) Delbert & Sharon (S)	Ken Johnson	Greg & MacKenzie
6/15	Cory & Kamie (N) Ken & Rhonda (S)	Delbert Cordes	Dennis & Sharon
6/22	Kevin & Shelly (N) Sylvia & AnnaMae (S)	Clarence Karsjens	Clarence & June
6/29	Larry & Mary (N) John & Karen (S)	Ken Kramer	Don & Annie

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

Things to Do With Dad Word Search

V	V	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	I	U	C	I	E	M	D	P	BASEBALL
W	P	O	O	L	O	Q	I	D	R	B	M	V	G	E	I	F	BBQ
E	H	N	C	X	U	W	X	D	E	V	C	N	Z	N	Y	O	BOWLING
B	E	F	V	U	C	E	S	U	N	I	B	A	G	W	H	O	CAMPING
O	G	N	I	H	S	I	F	Q	N	V	L	P	A	O	J	T	CUDDLE
I	G	A	M	E	S	C	B	C	I	V	O	T	C	T	M	B	DINNER
P	F	Q	G	S	K	G	I	V	D	N	C	K	S	T	X	A	EATOUT
G	L	P	N	M	W	P	A	N	G	H	E	J	H	L	L	L	FISHING
J	O	L	I	Q	M	K	X	R	T	Y	R	J	L	W	A	L	FOOTBALL
T	G	A	T	T	R	H	B	V	D	M	R	A	C	H	H	Z	GAMES
T	W	Y	N	A	U	U	B	B	V	E	B	B	C	F	I	Q	GARDENING
K	S	B	U	N	E	O	Q	Q	N	E	N	A	W	H	K	C	GOLF
N	T	A	H	K	G	L	T	L	S	J	X	I	R	N	I	Q	HIKING
T	R	L	K	J	N	C	D	A	A	G	R	P	N	P	N	Q	HOCKEY
D	O	L	U	S	K	R	B	D	E	K	L	A	T	G	G	G	HUNTING
X	P	G	N	I	L	W	O	B	U	U	R	E	C	C	O	S	KITEFLYING
V	S	Y	A	R	D	W	O	R	K	C	V	I	P	O	N	T	PICNIC
H	R	X	V	K	K	I	T	E	F	L	Y	I	N	G	D	A	PINGPONG

All About Puzzles
puzzles.about.com