

Shepherd's Staff

June 2016

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.

Remembering

Typing this article on the eight-year anniversary of the Parkersburg tornado, I am amazed at the changes that have come about since that dreadful day. I am also aware of the lives that were lost on that day and who were not here to see the recovery that has occurred through the determination of those who lost so much. The loss has continued for some, with loved ones still leaving the struggles in this life. Others have been separated because family and friends have moved on with life that has taken them far from "home".

The recovery has transformed parts of our town. Where once stood family homes with all the markings of children growing up and older, new homes have taken their place. The memory markings of growing children and the scars left behind have been replaced, rebuilt, and in some cases forgotten. Still the change is remarkable. The amazement of visitors is muted to those of us who see the changes on a daily basis. Still when we consider what was, we can celebrate the new day.

We as Christians can look at what has happened in our town as symbolic to what we may expect in the future as well. Our leaving the misery of life when God calls us home or should the Lord return in our lifetime, will see the beauty of the new heaven and new earth that is spoken of in Revelation. The change will be overwhelming and fantastic. The memories of today will fade as a new tomorrow without end begins. The sad thought for us today is that some of those we know will not be there! This life on earth today is where we are to live in preparation for eternity. What we do matters!

As Christians we know that we do not earn our way to life everlasting but it is a gift that must be accepted and believed so we can be changed from who we were to who we are in Christ. For many of us who are in Christ, we find it difficult to understand why anyone would not come to Christ. The concern is that we are not the reason they have not come to salvation. When we live in such a way as to cause shame to the cause of salvation we are not living as we should. Have we lived in such a way we do not see the power of God at work in the world as we have become numb to the restoration we have witnessed in our town? We who have been welcomed into the family of God must never forget where we came from as we look for ways to witness to those who are yet to come to a saving relationship with Christ.

This year may we remember on Memorial Day the lives given so we can live in the continuing freedom we so often take for granted. But more importantly, may we remember the ones who gave us the hope of eternity in the Kingdom of God. May our amazement never fade at what God is doing in and through us as we live in Christ.

Pastor Rus

Sunshine Circle News

Sunshine Circle met May 4th and distributed their funds to the following:

Faith Promise: \$500.00 (half to Vanderaa & Van Der Dyke)

World Renew: \$400.00

Home Missions: \$400.00

KNWS: \$200.00

Shannon Ries: \$120.00

Back to God Ministries: \$100.00

Food Pantry: \$100.00

Samaritans Purse: \$100.00

Alzheimers Association: \$100.00

We had a special offering for Hospice at our Christmas Tea and sent them \$222.00. We cleared \$268.00 selling root beer floats and \$641.00 was donated for our Bakeless Bake Sale (thanks everyone) and we also had several donations. We studied Ray Vanderlaan's new video and several other interesting Bible lessons. We welcome anyone who would like to join our society.



Change happens in life at differing paces. We have been witnesses of change in our social arena with the Supreme Court making marriage a civil right to all, including same sex persons. This acceptance in society has brought concern to churches throughout America. Concern as to liability should we not allow the use of our facility and if pastors could also be compelled to participate in marriage ceremonies that are not consistent with our beliefs. This is clear as our denomination has this issue included for Synod this year but also something Council here in Parkersburg decided to look into. With a desire to be pro-active and not reactive Council has researched the topic and taken steps to insure our position is clear and defensible. To do this we have acted with the adoption of policy statements, copies of which are included in this News Letter. These policies include our position on marriage and a church use policy that we will have in place should the issue arise. The policies are patterned after material made available through our denomination. Please take the time to look these policies over so you too can be informed if you should be asked regarding the matters covered.

On behalf of Council,
Thank you.

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

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Position Statement: Marriage and Human Sexuality

Marriage:

The position of the CRCNA and of this congregation is that “marriage is an institution created by God. It is a covenant relationship established by mutual vows between a man and a woman united by God. Permanent unity in marriage is possible in Christ and is demanded of Christ’s disciples who are married.

A civil government’s sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of “marriage” found in these articles.

Human Sexuality/Same-sex Attraction

The position of the CRCNA and of this congregation is that “homosexuality is a condition of disordered sexuality that reflects the brokenness of our sinful world. Persons of same-sex attraction should not be denied community acceptance solely because of their sexual orientation and should be wholeheartedly received by the church and given loving support and encouragement. Christian homosexuals, like all Christians, are called to discipleship, holy obedience, and the use of their gifts in the cause of the kingdom. Opportunities to serve within the offices and the life of the congregation should be afforded to them as to heterosexual Christians. Homosexuality (that is, explicit homosexual practice), however, is incompatible with obedience to the will of God as revealed in Scripture. The church affirms that it must exercise the same compassion for homosexuals in their sins as it exercises for all other sinners. The church should do everything in its power to help persons with homosexual orientation and give them support toward healing and wholeness.

Adopted by Council April 4, 2016

Pastor Rus Boersma

John Oltman, Clerk

WE LOVE YOU



DAD

June Birthdays/Anniversaries

WE LOVE YOU



DAD

Happy Birthday

- 6/1 Frances VanEllen
- 6/14 Lillian Reints
- 6/17 Lloyd VanEllen
- 6/18 Chelsea Meester
- 6/25 June Karsjens

Happy Anniversary

- 6/9 Cory & Kamie Shepard
- 6/19 Bernie & Hermina Everts
- 6/20 Clarence & June Karsjens
- 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>
6/5	Pastor Rus & Mary (N) Delbert & Sharon (S)	Dale Meester	Pat & Deb
6/12	Jean Trey (N) Ken & Tracie (S)	Gerald Haan	Dennis & Sharon
6/19	Cory & Kamie (N) Ken & Rhonda (S)	Mark Kramer	Clarence & June
6/26	Kevin & Shelly (N) Dennis & Lois (S)	Delbert Cordes	Don & Annie

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