

# Shepherd's Staff

June 2021

*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.*

## Growing Right

The growing season has begun with the signs of corn and soy beans poking through the soil seen in the fields around us. The sure sign of spring and the expectation of summer is fully upon us. One thing we expect is that the plants that are sprouting through the soil will produce a crop in keeping with the promise of God, that plants will bear seeds in the own kind in season. But what if the plants only grew to seed bearing size and beauty without any fruit? Bean plants that produce nothing but green leaves would be a waste of space as well as corn without ears of corn.

Perhaps this is what Jesus was saying to us when in Mark 11 Jesus went to pick fruit from a fig tree that was beautifully leafed out but bore no fruit. Jesus was hungry and went to pick some fruit even though Mark informs us that it was not time for fruit on the tree. Jesus cursed the tree and in the same passage we find that the tree withered from the roots up. Trees that are supposed to bear fruit but do not are not what God intended and this can serve as a warning to us.

We are called to be bearing fruit for God in the lives that we live. While many of us do prosper in the life we live we seem to bear little fruit. If we are not reaching out, Jesus implied that we may not be praying for the opportunity to reach out to others. It also may be that we have the opportunities but we may not be praying for the words to speak. We are told in scripture that we will be given the words to speak when we need them but prayer is our way of assuring that we are ready.

How will we answer Jesus when asked about our willingness to bear fruit by planting the seeds of hope and salvation in the hearts and minds of those we come into contact with? When we plant the seed, the Holy Spirit can move mountains to bring about the peace that comes with finding the truth of Christ. But if we are only plants with beautiful leaves then we have no seed to plant. We must be fruitful in our lives so to bring others in to the blessings of our God.

So what does it take to grow right? Knowing the truth about what Jesus taught us is a good place to start. Knowing this will remind us as to why we believe in God and the plan he gave us that saves us from sin. Knowing Jesus comes from the knowledge of his message to us in the Bible and is reinforced in the teaching of a true church. Fellowship with others who are like minded in study will also strengthen our knowledge as iron sharpens iron.

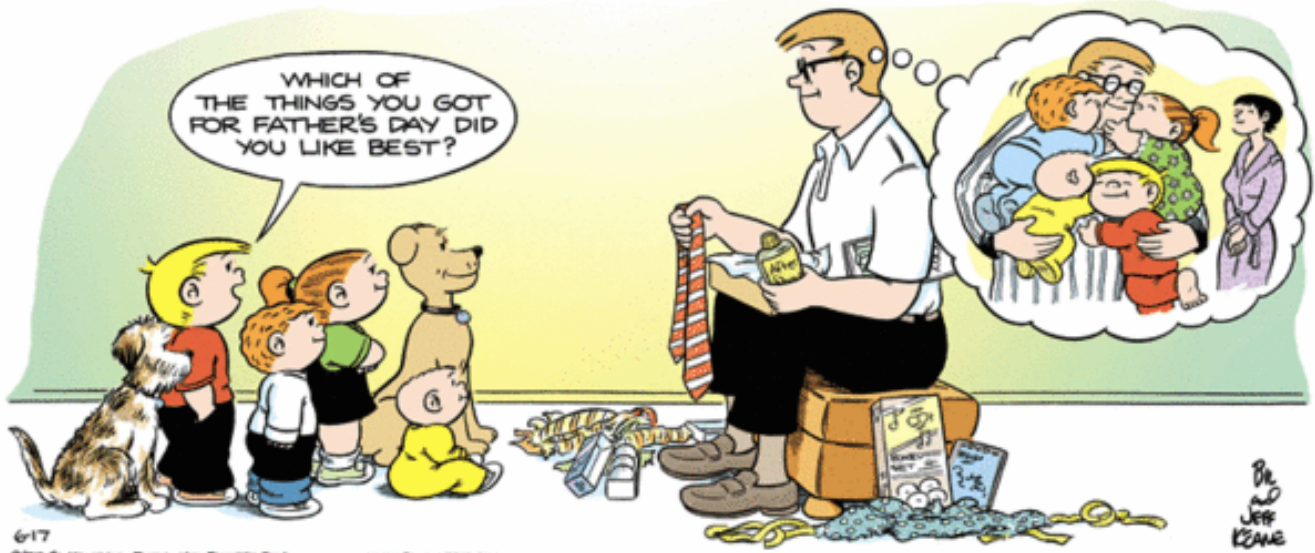
Prayer is also important in bearing the fruit that leads to being an ambassador for Christ. It is the vital link that helps to keep our hearts in tune with the Savior. If we never speak to our best friend we would likely lose our best friend. Speaking in prayer with Jesus is equally important. We become accustomed to relying on him and we can know that he not only hears our prayer but also answers our prayer.

Let's be sure that we are not like the fig tree and grow in the grace that allows us to be a beautiful plant with abundant fruit by being the people that God calls us to be. Then we can bring the Good News to those around us, planting the seed that the Holy Spirit can nurture into a new life for God.

Pastor Rus

# THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By BILL KEANE



**Dad** In your eyes  
I've seen God's love  
In your words  
I've heard His wisdom  
Through your life  
I've found His grace

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and who has made the LORD his hope and confidence*  
Jeremiah 17:7

WE LOVE YOU



## June Birthdays/Anniversaries

WE LOVE YOU



### Happy Birthday

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

### Happy Anniversary

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 Armstrong 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.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# June Word Search



JUNE

FATHERS DAY

CELEBRATE

FIREFLIES

GRADUATION

STRAWBERRIES

SUMMER

VACATION

FLAG DAY

CAMP

SOLSTICE

WEDDINGS

LONGEST DAY

BEACH

D DAY



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