

Shepherd's Staff

May 2013

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.

Loving Care

As spring approaches, the signs of new life are becoming abundant. One that has caught my eye is the activity of the birds. The mating actions and even looking for a nest to refresh or the process of building a new nest is fascinating to see. The enjoyment of watching the procreation process in the birds is always a time I look forward to as the helpless young hatch and depend on the parents for everything.

In May we also are given a chance to celebrate the character of this care in the gift we all have been given. Mothers are known as the nurturing, caring providers who gave us so much. The warmth that mothers bring to families can often be seen as the glue that holds life together. The strong instinct that renders protection in times of danger and loving care in sickness and injury is likely one of the strongest humans have.

Could it be that God gave us this mentoring role model to have a glimpse of how he cares for us? We find throughout the Bible the examples of God nurturing his children. God gently provided and corrected the people of Israel so that they would be the people he desired. We find this same action in our mothers. We likely did not like the correction in our actions, but we can now look on it as truly done because we were loved. It is amazing how "hindsight" can change our perspective.

This year on that special day we can thank God for providing the dedicated care givers who are in many ways the hand of God in our lives. Not only teaching how to care for ourselves but also teaching us about the One who cared enough to send us such loving mothers to love and who love us unconditionally.

Pastor Rus



Memorial Day

We walked among the crosses
Where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle
As TAPS began to play.
The Chaplin led a prayer
We stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades
I had known so long ago.
They came from every city
Across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.
I felt a little guilty
My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time
But these men lost their all.
Now the services are over
For this Memorial Day.
To the names upon these crosses
I just want to say,
Thanks for what you've given
No one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven
From now through evermore.

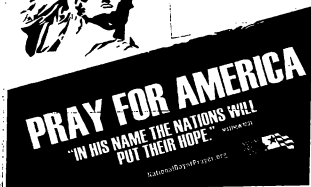
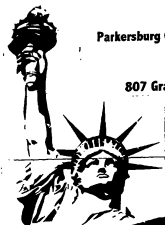
-C. W. Johnson

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Sunday May 5th, 6:00 pm

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

807 Grant St, Parkersburg



Mother's Day Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with Mom's special day.

H	D	V	G	R	A	N	D	M	A	Z	A	H	Z	E	BRUNCH
M	O	T	H	E	R	U	R	E	N	N	I	D	G	E	BOUQUET
R	S	N	M	E	M	O	R	I	E	S	H	S	L	T	CANDY
R	S	D	O	J	S	D	R	A	C	H	U	R	P	U	CARDS
P	Q	C	A	R	I	N	G	A	U	N	T	E	B	B	CARING
Q	R	R	O	S	E	S	D	G	D	C	N	T	O	I	CHILDREN
S	Y	C	W	K	F	E	S	A	C	K	E	H	U	R	DAUGHTERS
C	P	L	F	N	T	L	Y	J	G	I	R	G	Q	T	DEVOTED
X	H	T	I	O	M	D	O	A	U	E	A	U	U	K	DINNER
I	L	I	V	M	N	A	J	W	T	E	P	A	E	I	FAMILY
S	G	E	L	E	A	G	Y	H	E	C	M	D	T	S	FLOWERS
T	D	V	I	D	N	F	G	C	A	R	N	O	Q	S	FRIEND
F	V	R	S	I	R	U	U	N	M	X	S	E	H	E	GIFTS
I	F	N	V	O	A	E	D	U	C	Q	P	K	X	S	GIVING
G	O	I	W	L	V	Y	N	R	M	Q	G	H	A	V	GRANDMA
S	G	N	I	V	O	L	D	B	B	W	C	I	I	B	HOME



May Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

5/3	Steve Kramer
5/4	Dale Meester
5/5	Bernice Freeman
5/9	Emma Haan
5/11	Jacob Allspach
5/14	Sharon Schipper
5/15	Kate Graham
5/16	Dale Vry
5/20	Amy Mulder
5/21	Irvin Haan
5/24	Marjorie Rewerts
5/26	Cayden Shepard
5/28	Rollyn DeGroot
5/29	Ryan Edeker
5/30	Dave Mulder

Happy Anniversary

5/14	Steve & Charlene Kramer
5/16	Delbert & Sharon Cordes
5/23	Lloyd & Frances VanEllen
5/26	Henry & Kathy Heeren



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>
5/5	Steve & Charlene (N) Ryan & Stacy (S)	Ken Johnson	Ken & Jan
5/12	Clarence & June (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Mark Kramer	Gene & Janet
5/19	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Ken & Janet (S)	Ken Kramer	Mike & Kayla
5/26	Don & Annie (N) Henry & Kathy (S)	Delbert Cordes	Steve & Charlene

*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

America the Beautiful (1893)

...The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them. Psalm 89:11

In 1892, the United States observed the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

As part of the celebration, the city of Chicago sponsored a World's Fair, which carried over to the next year. It was in the early summer of 1893, that a group of professors from Wellesley College visited the Exposition on their way to teach summer school in Colorado. The women later compared the wonders of the man-made Fair with the glory of God's handiwork in the Rockies.

At the close of school, the teachers decided to visit Pike's Peak, elevation 14,000 feet. One of them, Katharine Lee Bates, later wrote, "We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse...."

It was then and there, as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind. When we left Colorado Springs the four stanzas were penciled in my notebook....The Wellesley work soon absorbed time and attention again, the notebook was laid aside, and I do not remember paying heed to these verses until the second summer following, when I copied them out and sent them to *The Congregationalist*, where they first appeared in print July 4, 1895. The hymn attracted an unexpected amount of attention...In 1904, I rewrote it, trying to make the phraseology more simple and direct.

The new version first appeared in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, November 19, 1904.



There are two stories about the melody, *MATERNA*, which was written by Samuel A. Ward, originally for a hymn entitled, "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem." Ward's son-in-law said that the tune was composed in memory of Ward's oldest daughter. One of the employees at Ward's music store in Newark insisted that he composed the tune in 1882 while crossing New York harbor after spending the day at Coney Island. The notes came to him so quickly he jotted them on the cuff of his shirt. Perhaps both stories are true.

Quoted from *Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories* by Robert J. Morgan



Thank you, Mother

No matter where we go, we remember the things our mothers taught us—those precious lessons of life and love; the example they lived before us; the prayers that pointed us in the right direction. As we look to the future, we can face with confidence whatever happens because mothers help give us a foundation of faith. No matter where, no matter when, mothers love us, again and again.

--Rebecca Barlow Jordan