

Shepherd's Staff

May 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.

Holding Out Hope

The winds of last winter took their toll on many things. One night the wind was a little stronger than usual. The double shepherd's hook we use to hold our bird feeders was serving us well, holding our two feeders in clear view of our picture window. The worst we had to deal with was the clanking noise it made hitting the post when it was empty. It was working well, all things considered, until that one windy night. When I woke up and looked outside, only one feeder was to be found and that one had come free from the hook and was being blowing across the yard.

I quickly went out to rescue the runaway bird feeder as the wind was trying to put some distance between it and me. My haste paid off though as I did catch it at the edge of our yard by the bean field. Returning to the house I was looking for any sign of the missing in action feeder. What I did find was the hanging hook and the detachable roof from the feeder. I went looking in a pattern down wind over our yard but found no sign of the missing feeder. Dressing in warmer clothes I ventured off to search the bean field going to the distant fence row, hoping it was enough to stop the feeder. This venture went unrewarded though. Returning home empty handed, a rational person would have counted the feeder a lost cause and thrown the remaining parts away. I guess I am not that rational.

Somewhere in my mind, I held out hope that I would find the base of the feeder. My plan was that I would search the stand of trees along the highway when the weather warmed up. With the cool spring we are having I am still waiting for that part! But on one of the rare nice days we did have, I walked around the edge of our acreage picking up sticks and simply seeing what the winter may have left for me. That is when I spotted something under one of the pine trees. It always seems we find what we are looking for when we are not looking for it. Yet there it was! The base for the bird feeder, hidden behind a snow drift that formed at the base of the tree, obscured from view all winter.

Of course I was delighted to find the base but now I had a new search to embark upon. I knew I did not throw the roof away but where I put it was the new question. At least this was a short search. The feeder is now back in action feeding the birds. While this may make a pack rat like me claim vindication for keeping things, I sometimes wonder.

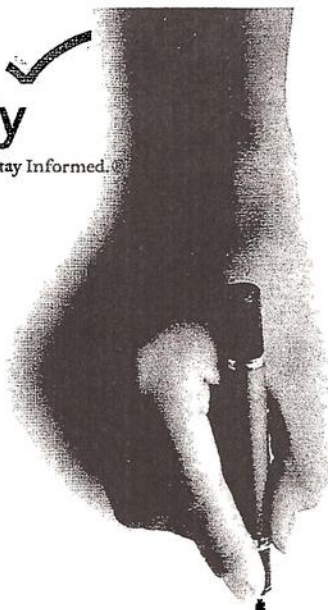
Finding lost items like this bird feeder gives me reason for hope that God is also patient with the lost. The difference comes in what is lost. Many families have someone who has walked away from the family of faith. We all hold out hope that someday they will return. Proverbs gives encouragement stating "Teach a child the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it." So what happened? There are no easy answers to that question. Yet we must continue to hold them in prayer and be assured that God will welcome them back with open arms when they return. We should never give up on the prospect that time will change their heart. In the mean time, keep holding out the hope that the God who can move mountains can also move a heart to seek him while he can be found.

Pastor Rus



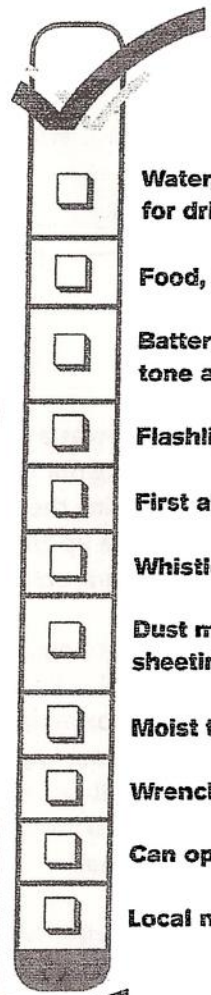
Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.®



Emergency Supply List

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:



Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both

Flashlight and extra batteries

First aid kit

Whistle to signal for help

Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place

Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)

Local maps

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses**
- Infant formula and diapers**
- Pet food and extra water for your pet**
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container**
- Cash or traveler's checks and change**
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov**
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.**
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.**
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper** – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher**
- Matches in a waterproof container**
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items**
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels**
- Paper and pencil**
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children**



Through its **Ready Campaign**, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. **Ready** asks individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

All Americans should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. Following is a listing of some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. However, it is important that individuals review this list and consider where they live and the unique needs of their family in order to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.

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May Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 5/3 Steve Kramer
- 5/4 Dale Meester
- 5/5 Bernice Freemon
- 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>
5/4	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Ryan & Stacy (S)	Clarence Karsjens	Ken & Jan
5/11	Pat & Deb (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Ken Kramer	Gene & Janet
5/18	Don & Annie (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Gerald Haan	Mike & Kayla
5/25	Mark & Lanae (S) Ken & Janet (S)	Ken Mehmen	Steve & Charlene

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

So Blessed by You, Mom

A mother who always cares,
A mother who's always there.
A mother who always prays,
A mother who always stays.
When things get rough,
When life gets tough,
When all is just too much to bear,
God's Word she shares.
God's light she shines.
So blessed God made this mother mine.

Author Unknown

BRING THE BOUQUET

TO MOM

