

Shepherd's Staff

October 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.

Details

There is an old saying, "The devil is in the details." While this may be metaphorically true for design, construction, legal or social issues I was reminded of one area where this could not be farther from the truth. Having the opportunity to see my grandchildren just hours after their births, yes twins, I was amazed at the tiny details they displayed. Characteristics they each have point to their parents. To name only a few, our granddaughter has long delicate fingers like her mother yet with a distinct pinky finger that bends at the last knuckle joint like our son. Our grandson also has traits of his father making me marvel at the developing process our children undergo waiting to be born.

Any parent or grandparent will argue who the author of such wonderful creations as a child really is. We of faith can turn to the wisdom literature in our Bibles where we find the answer of how this all happens. David in Psalm 139 recalls how God "knit me together in the secret place." Maybe that is why we often refer to these little ones as little angels. I am sure new parents everywhere are delighted when their children show traits of themselves in their offspring. We may even argue over whom they mostly resemble until they misbehave when we are quick to blame the other! Still what a miracle it is to witness this blessedness of a small, helpless child and be able to envision all the potential they offer.

I also began to wonder if these children will display the One who knit them together. We are told in the creation account that humans are created in our heavenly Father's image. In the world today it can become difficult to see this image in some people. Hatred distorts the image so badly that we find the image God unrecognizable. While it is always easier to look around at others when we try to see God imaged in people, we should also take the time to look at ourselves.

How well I reflect God's image is seen in how I deal with others. I like to refer to this as playing well in the sandbox. For some in the sandbox, there is the effort to control the environment completely, sharing nothing. Others are content to share but like to go off into their own corner and be left alone while others play very nice with those around them. What it all boils down to is how much of our lives reflect God in the things we do.

Jesus told his disciples that in seeing him they have seen the Father. If we carry that forward, we must ask ourselves, if I am to reflect Jesus in the world today how much of the Father is seen in me? We are still created in his image but how much of God through Christ is seen in us? What characteristics do we possess that show who we are in relation to our heavenly Father? While we cannot say our physical attributes are the link, we must strive to show we have the Spirit of God in us. While noses may run in our earthly families, love must run through us as part of our heavenly family.

Jesus gave us some insights into how this may look. He told us to love God first and our neighbor as our self. This is not always so easy to do but if we are to show a resemblance to our heavenly Father we must work at it. Is this the way others would describe you if they were asked to do so? If we really want to be seen for who we are, we must display our heavenly family nature by imitating Jesus. Watching our speech and actions will allow others to see more of God in us. Is that what you reveal when seen by those you come into contact with? If not, there is no better time than now to begin to point to the One greater than ourselves in everything we do. In this way we live out our purpose of bringing praise and glory to our Father.

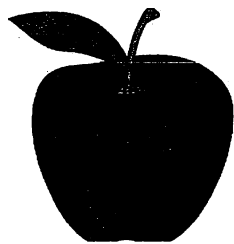
The Bend in the Road



When we feel we've nothing left to give,
And we're sure that the "song has ended"
When our day seems over and the shadows fall,
And the darkness of night has descended,
Where can you go to find the strength,
To valiantly keep on trying,
Where can we find the hand to dry
The tears that the heart is crying...
There's but one place to go and that is to God,
And dropping all pretense and pride,
We can pour out our problems without restraint
And gain strength with Him at our side.
And together we stand at life's crossroads
And view what we think is the end
But God has a much larger vision
And He tells us it's only a bend.
For the road goes on and it's smoother
And the "pause in the song" is a "rest"
And the part that's unsung and unfinished
Is the sweetest and richest and best.
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
Let go and let God share your load.
Your work is not finished or ended,
You've just come to a "bend in the road".

Simple Baked Apples

6 apples—peeled, cored and sliced
½ C white sugar
3 Tbsp flour
½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground nutmeg
¼ tsp ground cloves
½ C raisins
½ C chopped walnuts
½ C whole milk



Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 2 qt casserole dish, or coat with non-stick cooking spray. Place apples in a large bowl. In a small bowl, mix together sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Stir spice mixture into apples until evenly distributed. Fold in raisins and walnuts. Spoon into prepared dish. Pour milk evenly over apple mixture. Bake in preheated oven for 45-60 minutes, or until soft and bubbly. Allow to cool slightly before serving.

Meeting God

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her a Twinkie.

She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you look so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "...and you know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before her son responded, she added, "...and you know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Remember, we don't know what God will look like. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!



October Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 10/7 Twila Jansen
- 10/8 Janet Venenga
- 10/9 Hazel Eiklenborg
- 10/21 Aiden Merrill
- 10/23 Ken Mehmen
- 10/24 Madeline Geiken
- 10/24 Kenneth Kramer
- 10/28 Ivadell Primrose

Happy Anniversary

- 10/15 Ken & Rhonda Meester
- 10/20 David & Brenda Brown

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>
10/6	Clarence & June (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Delbert Cordes	John & Karen
10/13	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Ken & Janet (S)	Gerald Haan	Larry & Mary
10/20	Pat & Deb (N) Henry & Kathy (S)	Clarence Karsjens	AnnaMae & Henry & Kathy
10/27	Don & Annie (N) Delbert & Sharon (S)	Ken Mehmen	Marlyn & Marcia

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

Help the squirrel through the maze to find its acorns

