

# Shepherd's Staff

October 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.*

## The Rear View Mirror

While taking a history class at the Reformed Bible College, a fellow student described history as looking in the rear view mirror. The professor liked the analogy and as it has stuck with me, I must admit, I liked it too. The prominence of the mirror is in a real way symbolic of the importance with which we should consider our history. As we are approaching our church's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are given a wonderful opportunity to look back through such a device as a rear view mirror.

The location for such a mirror is centered on the windshield on most cars in such a way that we can easily look behind us. In history, even the history of a church we find much to be thankful for. When we look at the blessings we can see the hand of God working through each generation and maybe even each decade in ways that clearly display his guiding hand. Yet this guiding may not always have gone smoothly. Change is not always an easy thing. Yet we can see the benefits of the changes when we look back on them.

Many of us no longer speak the "native tongue" of our church. The language change was one that in some churches caused divisions. It is painful to think that God could and would use a world war to change our worship but that was a tipping point. Other changes have come about with battles within. The idea of singing songs other than the Psalms was not always as simple as we enjoy today. Indeed, how we worship likely would ruffle some of our forefathers if they would come and join us in worship today. Some of the "stories" of the past make us smile because of the strictness observed in worship. Sitting as families does seem to us to be more gracious than dividing up between male and females. Children in our worship were to be seen and not heard as well and yet what a wonderful example we have when our children join or even lead us in worship! Some of the changes were welcomed, I'm sure, but others came at a high cost. Congregations in many areas split over issues that make us smirk today but were sticking points in the past. Change for us does come slowly but God still moves his church, hopefully finding it easier than moving mountains!

Thinking about the rear view mirror reminded me that in our cars it is mounted on the windshield. If we were to take an honest analysis of the size comparison of the mirror to the size of the entire windshield we would see it pales in this contrast of size. That is why I think that as we look forward to celebrating the objects in the rear view mirror in 2016, we must still be paying attention to what is in front of us! What should we be looking forward to both now as we approach this milestone in our history but also beyond? Focus should be on what God has in store for us as we seek to be HIS church in the world today. What should we hold on to and what should we be looking at changing so we can clearly reflect the fact that we are the living, breathing body of Christ in the world today?

Living for Jesus is the theme song for the Calvinist Cadets but it would also be a great reminder of our purpose in life, both personally and in the community of the church. The key is that we are the living church, making up the "parts" of the body of Christ. It is vital that we continue to live for him throughout all our days. While our task may change in its vitality we must not consider ourselves of no value. Our hearts must continue to beat as long as we are given time on this earth. In the church we must also continue to take part in the praise and worship of our Lord and King.

The foundation of scripture reveals that each generation is to pass along the gifts of grace, hope, and love to the next generation. We are blessed in our churches when multiple generations come and worship together as one family. Sharing the strengths of each generation enhances our worship if we are truly open to the Spirit in our worship. Change also occurs in each generation as we continue to learn and grow in the grace of our Lord. So when, in the course of time something looks different in church it may do us all good to remember the changes our generation brought about and then be ready and willing to let God make all things new in worship for the future generations.

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## The Rear View Mirror (continued)

Looking ahead is vital to the continuation of being the body of Christ but we must also remember to check the rear view mirror as well so we can celebrate the grace of God through the ages. Let's look forward with the expectation of seeing God at work in his church as we also celebrate what he has done. Then when we come to the month of April in the year of our Lord, 2016, we will be poised to continue for the decades and generations to come as we rejoice in the knowledge of where we have been in his care while trusting him to lead and guide us into the future.

Pastor Rus

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Would you enjoy getting away for a great weekend at beautiful Pine Lake Camp in Eldora? Then you should pray about attending the fall Cursillo (kur-see-yo) Renewal Weekend October 23rd PM-Oct. 26th. If you would like to know more, several from Hope Reformed Church have attended & would be happy to share their experiences or answer your questions, or call Bob Kampman's at 319-830-8958. There is no cost for you to attend the weekend.

Lay people & a few pastors share some talks throughout the weekend, & there are also special times of drama, music, worship, & lots of GREAT food!. Think about it. Pray about it. Talk to someone who has gone. If you attend, it's a weekend you'll never forget!

## Mini Apple Crisp

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 5 min. Bake: 35 min.

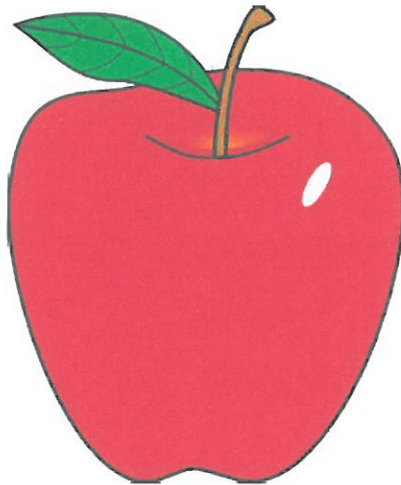
MAKES: 1 serving

### Ingredients

- 1 medium apple, peeled and sliced
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons quick-cooking oats
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Cream, optional

### Directions

1. Place apple slices in a small greased baking dish. In a small bowl, combine flour and brown sugar; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add oats and cinnamon. Sprinkle over apple slices. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until tender. Serve with cream if desired. Note: May want to add a little sugar and cinnamon to the apples before adding the topping.





## October Birthdays/Anniversaries



### Happy Birthday

10/7 Twila Jansen  
 10/8 Janet Venenga  
 10/21 Aiden Merrill  
 10/23 Chet Hay  
 10/23 Ken Mehmen  
 10/24 Madeline Geiken  
 10/24 Kenneth Kramer  
 10/28 Ivadell Primrose

### Happy Anniversary

10/15 Ken & Rhonda Meester

**Reminder:** If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder 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.



### CRC Service Schedule

|       | <i>Greeters</i>                            | <i>Ushers</i> | <i>Coffee*</i>          |
|-------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 10/5  | Don & Annie (N)<br>Dennis & Sharon (S)     | Ken Johnson   | Larry & Mary            |
| 10/12 | Mark & Lanae (N)<br>Ken & Janet (S)        | Ken Kramer    | AnnaMae & Henry & Kathy |
| 10/19 | Pastor Rus & Mary (N)<br>Henry & Kathy (S) | Ken Mehmen    | Marlyn & Marcia         |
| 10/26 | Jean Trey (N)<br>Delbert & Sharon (S)      | Dale Meester  | Ken & Janet             |

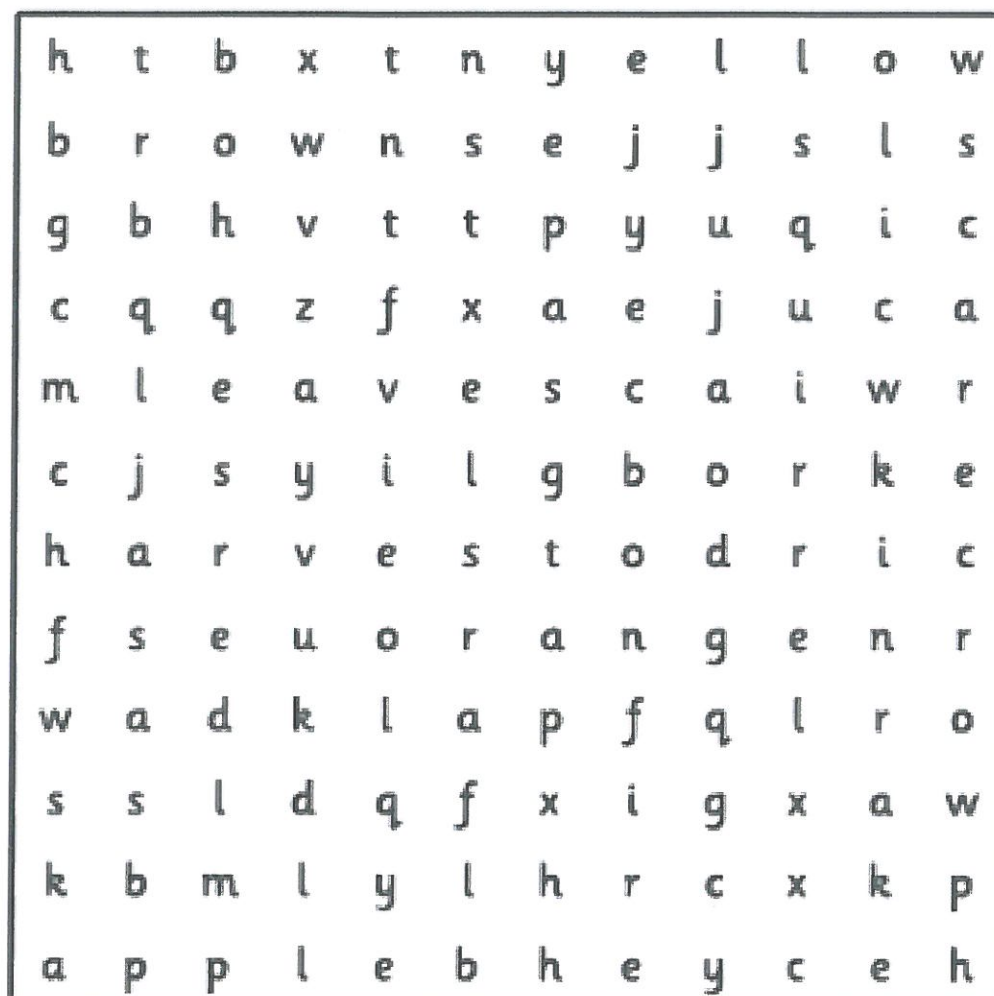
\*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.



# Autumn Word Search



Can you find the Autumn words in the puzzle below?



rake

scarecrow

brown

yellow

squirrel

leaves

apple

red

bonfire

harvest

fall

pear

orange

acorn

