

# Shepherd's Staff

September 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.*

## Lamenting Summer

It seems that anywhere you go you will find someone who is unhappy with the weather we are experiencing at that particular moment or at best at the season we are in. As I am writing this I am certain there are many thinking the heat is a little excessive as we have been in the mid-nineties all week. Maybe we should have expected this as every year we seem to get a heat wave at the beginning of the school year.

The season will turn, as is evident with the shortening days already upon us. This is likely a good thing as the change brings on benefits for farm production. It also makes getting our children off to bed for school the next day easier when the sun has gone down yet I miss the daylight at nine or beyond. This time makes for a tranquil time to walk in the cool of the day and still enjoy daylight. Perhaps this is somewhat of a reminder of the unity we lost when God came calling Adam and Eve in the "cool of the day." I cannot imagine enjoying the coolness as much when the temperature is near zero but others may.

The blessed knowledge that God is close to us regardless of the season is comforting. We may often take this too lightly though, as this closeness came at a great cost. Jesus opens the way to this rich relationship that we have through the atoning death he died for us. The relationship we had was broken in paradise with the only restoration possible to be found through Calvary. Maybe the shorter days reminds me of the midday darkness, adding to the suffering of Christ. This was symbolic of the God of light refusing to shine his love revealing the total turning away from Christ.

Still the seasons each have their beauty and purpose. The long winter nights often allow snow to remain, brightening up the darkness as the moon and stars seem to reflect more readily off the frozen crystals, reflecting their light more efficiently than at other times. This too can remind us of God's love even in our darkest days. Days shortened yet with the promise that God remains with us always.

I will still miss summer but the knowledge that God is still with us will be comforting. This I can know in spite of circumstances that we cannot control because the One who controls the season is the very One who goes with us. The lyrics of the song put it so well: "No, never alone, He promised never to leave me alone." Seasons may change but it is good to know God and his love never will.

Pastor Rus



IN  
*Everything*  
GIVE  
*Thanks*

Thank you, Lord.

Every day be thankful for what you have and who you are.

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings. Thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible. Thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising. Thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise...there are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, and my children are so loud. Thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the picture in magazines and our menu is at times unbalanced...Thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job often is monotonous. Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest. Thank you, Lord, for life.

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**Look back and thank God.  
Look forward and trust God.  
Look around and serve God.  
Look within and find God!"**

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We have reached the completion mark for installing our new video system in our church. This is an exciting addition for us as we will be able to download the worship to the web site we have making it possible for our travelers to "participate" in worship though away from home. We are also planning on using the system for our shut-ins providing a DVD copy of services for viewing at home.

While the system is in place, we may still be working out the "bugs" for a little while but the services are being recorded and can be added at a future date.

This video system came through the thoughtful memorials we have received as well as donations provided by members of our congregation who thought this ministry was important for current members as well as being an outreach tool to reach out to seekers.

Thanks to the research done by Irv Haan and installation by Irv, Gene Venenga and Pastor Rus.

So smile when in church (as I am sure you always do) because you never know who may be looking in on you!

## September Birthdays/Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday

9/2	Kellen Reints
9/3	Joshua Haan
9/6	Cade Groeneveld
9/7	Deb Prier
9/8	Bo Meester
9/9	Mark Kramer
9/16	Laura Edeker
9/19	Henry Heeren
9/19	Rebecca Mulder
9/22	Drake Shepard
9/24	Frances Frieling
9/26	Ellie Reints
9/29	Kenneth Meester
9/29	Larry Johnson

### Happy Anniversary

9/7	Marilyn & Marcia Allspach
9/8	Al & Sharon DeVries
9/25	Michael & Kayla Stirling



**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. Please email it to [wendymmulder@hotmail.com](mailto:wendymmulder@hotmail.com) with Shepherd's Staff in the subject. Thanks!

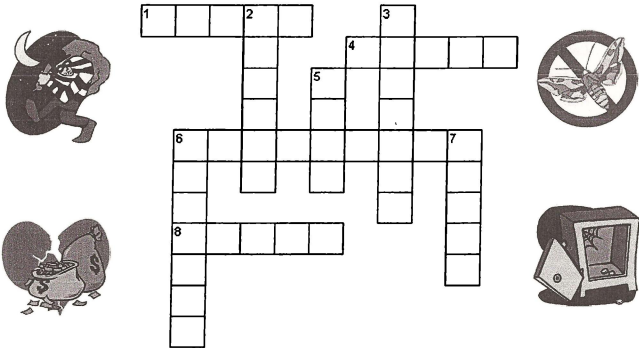
### CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
9/1	Ken & Rhonda (N) Cory & Kamie (S)	Delbert Cordes	Arnie & Kay
9/8	Sylvia & Ivadell (N) Kevin & Shelly (S)	Clarence Karsjens	Gaylen & Carla
9/15	John & Karen (N) Larry & Mary (S)	Ken Mehmen	Paul & Darlene
9/22	AnnaMae (N) Ryan & Stacy (S)	Ken Johnson	Ken & Rhonda
9/29	Steve & Charlene (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Mark Kramer	Chet & Teresa

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

# HEAVENLY TREASURES

All of the answers to this crossword puzzle about where your treasures should be can be found in Matthew 6:19-21.



## Across

- 1 What are like butterflies, but ugly and destructive? (verses 19 and 20)
- 4 Where your treasure is, so will your what be? (verse 21)
- 6 What should you store in Heaven? (verse 20)
- 8 On what should you not store your treasures? (verse 19)

## Down

- 2 Your treasures should be where? (verse 20)
- 3 What do moths and rust do? (verse 19)
- 5 When metal is left out in the rain, what will it do? (verse 19)
- 6 People who take things not belonging to them are called what? (verse 19)
- 7 What do burglars and robbers do? (verse 19)