

Shepherd's Staff

September 2015

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.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

This year Mary and I put in a veggie garden in our back yard. We started with all the intentions of having a beautiful and clean garden where the plants would grow healthy and strong with an output that would allow for sharing the bounties with our church family and friends. Clean rows would be accented by the choice of flowers that Mary planted around some of the edge of the garden making a wonderful addition to the beauty of our home. Well, that was the plan anyway!

What we have in actuality is a delightfully producing garden that is very overgrown with grasses and weeds making the rows of vegetables difficult to find. For example, the water grass is so thick and tall in the carrot row that I had to let it grow or risk pulling the carrot plants up with the grass roots. The tomatoes are holding their own among the weeds but they do have lots of company seeking the sun and nutrients from the soil. Still the beans are growing and producing so we have an abundance making sharing a pleasure with plenty for our freezer for the winter. Even though the carrots are fighting for real-estate, they seem to be thriving as well. The potatoes are ready to dig, if only the soil would dry a little and oh my, the onions are so tall with such large buds I can hardly wait to start pulling them.

Having told you about my embarrassment regarding the condition of our garden, I am reminded of the story Jesus told. In the Matthew 13 beginning at verse 24 we find the parable of the weeds growing among the good seed. Pulling the weeds would pull up the good plants so both would need to grow side by side until the harvest. Then the weeds could be sorted out and destroyed while the good produce would be saved.

Many times in life we find ourselves in places where we find ourselves surrounded by "bad company". We wonder how God could leave us in such a place but even here we find grace in the strength that God gives to endure the trials. We also never know what an impact we may have on the "weeds" around us. God is greater than the trials and is able to reap a harvest of joy in spite of the weeds even as my garden has been showing me the same thing.

Next time you are tempted to give up and pull up everything, good and bad plants, roots and all, remember that God is still able to sort out what is good and what is the weed in our lives no matter where we are. If we live in the joy of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives we will have the strength to grow and produce a pleasing crop for our Lord. Who knows, we may even have enough joy to share that some of the weeds may blossom into wonderful flowers that are pleasing to God as well. After all Look what he has done with us in our lives!

Pastor Rus

Sunday School News

Sunday School begins Sunday Sept. 13. A big THANK YOU to the following for being the teachers/leaders for our Sunday School program.

Kamie Shepard
Nancy Mehmen
Brandy/Joel Reints
Deb Prier

Kayla Stirling
JoLynne Husz
Ryan & Stacy Edeker

Kay Swanson/Amy Swanson Haan
Marcia Allspach
John & Jody DeBerg

This year we will have three classes with their curriculum as follows:

"JUST US LITTLE GUYS" Preschool - K

"Route 52-Follow the Bible" 1st - 2nd grade

"Route 66 – Books of the Bible" 3rd - 6th grade

Marcia and Pastor Rus will be leading the 7th- HS.

GRANDPARENTS DAY, SUNDAY SEPT. 13

On September 13 we would like to have everyone invite their grandparents to our services. Kids - call Grandpa and Grandma and ask them to worship with you.

We plan on having a luncheon after services for the entire congregation and invite the grandparents to be the honored guests.



Knitting and Crochet Group

The crafty ladies of the Knitting and Crochet Group were very busy last year. They took on the project of making Prayer Shawls for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy treatments. During the season they made a total of _____ to a local treatment center.



This year the Group is planning on returning to the Baby Blanket program so that new babies born in Parkersburg will each receive a handmade blanket. Along with the blanket, a card is given explaining it came from the group as part of our church's outreach into our community. The blankets are always welcomed by the parents who see the love that is put into each one.

As an addition this year the group, will be working on hats and scarves that will be donated to those in need. These will be made later in the year so will be delivered next fall. These will hopefully warm the hearts as well as protect from the weather when they are given to those needing such items.

Although much good is done, there is time for fellowship where a cup of coffee or tea is shared as well as a sampling of goodies. This is also a time for sharing what is going on in life as well.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in doing this season, you are encouraged to join in. The Group is scheduled to begin their meetings on Tuesday, September 22 at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall in church. If you have questions, please contact Mary Boersma at 319-239-7987.



September Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

9/2 Kellen Reints
 9/3 Joshua Haan
 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 Larry Johnson
 9/26 Ellie Reints
 9/29 Kenneth Meester

Happy Anniversary

9/7 Marlyn & Marcia Allspach
 9/25 Michael & Kayla Stirling




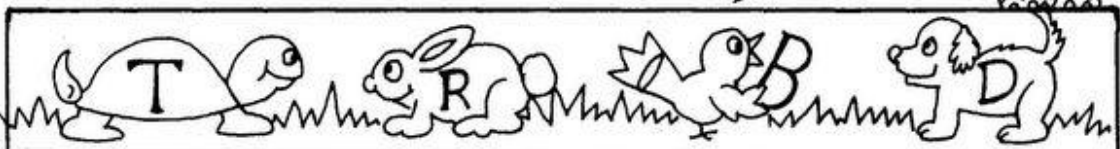
Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20th of the month. Please email it to wendymulder@hotmail.com with Shepherd's Staff in the subject. Thanks!

CRC Service Schedule

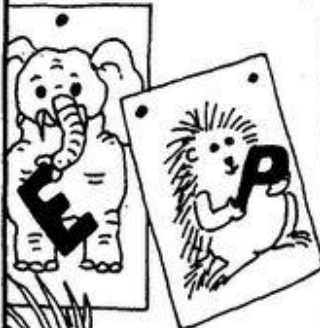
	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
9/6	Ken & Nancy (N) Clarence & June (S)	Gerald Haan	Dale & Angie
9/13	Dennis & Sharon (N) Marlyn & Marcia (S)	Mark Kramer	Ken & Rhonda
9/20	Ken & Janet (N) Pat & Deb (S)	Delbert Cordes	Chet & Teresa
9/27	Henry & Kathy (N) Don & Annie (S)	Ken Meester	John & Karen

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

I'm a bookworm 



Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii



I'm going to say "hi" to the new kid.



He looks friendly, but watch out for those quills!

