

Shepherd's Staff

August 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.

Be Silent, Or Not

Last night was a wonderful night for sleeping! The temperatures were down all the way to the fifties with low humidity which is a rare occasion for July. Sleeping with the window open was just plain the right thing to do. Yet on such a calm and peaceful night the thought of sleeping in for a little while would be just as wonderful. The trouble with that plan is, of course, that all creation sings the praises of our maker!

With the windows open, the songbirds were not concerned with my plan for sleeping in. The clock on the nightstand was not even reading 5:30 A.M. and the music was filling the air. The sun was not even above the horizon (as best as my sleep-filled eyes could tell), yet the music was constant and loud! Perhaps that was what started me thinking about how we begin our days. For many it is not a pretty sight until we have had our first cup of coffee, our morning exercise (maybe not for me but...), or some special ritual that we have claimed. Yet how would our day be different if we would be more like the birds and wake up praising God?

We find in many of the Psalms the idea of praise for God being offered at all times, so what is wrong with early in the morning? Some of us may also be inclined to claim we are NOT morning people. Starting our day with communion with God would indeed set us in the right direction for a day of blessing. Singing songs, spending time in praise or simply reading the promises we have in the love story we know as the Bible may be just what we need to chase the blues and temptations away. I do like the idea of that! Still the sound of birds singing at 5:30 A.M. just does not seem like a wonderful thing when I would like to sleep in for an hour or so.

I have to admit that while the strong voiced bird was not the worst sound I could think of, I wonder how my thoughts or song would sound in God's ear? We sing "May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear" in one of our songs but is that what God hears? Being upset because of a songbird singing may change the tune when we do get around to our praise. We like to be "large and in charge" when it comes to our scheduling. Praise at 7:30 A.M. may seem better to us, but for many of us we would need to rush. If we are hurried to complete our time with God, what does that sound like?

Creation again can be a great teacher about God. He delights in the praise of his children when we can do so without limits or concern over time. We might also find it more enjoyable to praise God while we are not in a hurry. I know I would be put-off if a friend would be constantly watching the clock when we visit or worse yet be very evident that they really didn't have time for us but felt obligated to stop for only a minute. Does God care if we continually use the excuse that we are busy, too busy to spend time alone with him?

Perhaps the birds can teach us something about worship and praise. Begin early, while the day is still new. Sing loudly, you never know who might be listening in. Don't rush, the rest of the day can wait. Carry the closeness of the communion time with you through the whole day and watch for the blessings. Maybe it is more than just the worm the early bird gets. Starting right will help us to end the day right as well when we wake up to praise.

Pastor Rus

The 7 UPs

1. Wake Up!!

Decide to have a good day.

“Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalms 118:24

2. Dress Up!!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile.

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.

Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

3. Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen.

God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do

Twice as much listening as talking.

“He who guards his lips, guards his soul.”

Proverbs 13:3

4. Stand Up!!

For what you believe in.

Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

“Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good...”

Galatians 6:9-10

5. Look Up!!

To the Lord.

“I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13

6. Reach Up!!

For something higher.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding

In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

7. Lift Up!!

Your Prayers

“Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.”

Philippians 4:6

A POSITIVE THOUGHT

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.

He could live anywhere in the universe and He chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem,

Not to mention that Friday at Calvary.

Face it He's crazy about you.

Always remember, God answers Knee-Mail



August Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

8/10	Ruth Haan
8/11	Kathy Heeren
8/12	Donald Allspach
8/18	Charlene Kramer
8/24	Doris Allspach
8/24	Lanae Kramer
8/24	Lilly Stirling
8/25	Brian Graham
8/26	Karen Oltman
8/30	Mike Pott
8/31	Paul Haan
8/31	Stacy Edeker

Happy Anniversary

8/6	Ryan & Stacy Edeker
8/6	Joel & Brandy Reints
8/10	Frank & Betty Pott
8/13	Dave & Betty Mulder
8/23	Paul & Darlene Bruns
8/27	Ken & Nancy Mehmen
8/30	Gene & Janet Venenga

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. My goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month. Thanks!



CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
8/4	Dennis & Sharon (N) Don & Annie (S)	Ken Johnson	Rod Mulder
8/11	Ken & Janet (N) Mark & Lanae (S)	Mark Kramer	Pat & Deb
8/18	Henry & Kathy (N) Pastor Rus & Mary (S)	Ken Kramer	Dennis & Lois
8/25	Delbert & Sharon (N) Jean Trey (S)	Gerald Haan	Clarence & June

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

Kids Bible Wordsearch

People in the
book of Acts
Puzzle #4

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward,
backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Acts Chapter 1:1-2

ABRAHAM
ALEXANDER
ANANIAS
ANDREW
ANNAS
BARABAS
CAIAPHAS
DAVID
ISAAC
JACOB
JAMES
JESUS



JOHN
JOSEPH
JOSES
MARY
MATTHEW
MATTHIAS
PHILIP
PILATE
SAMUEL
SAPPHIRA
THEOPHILUS
THOMAS

BARTHOLOMEW
BARNABAS

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Daniel in the Lion's den

Get the keys to lion's beak

