

Shepherd's Staff

August 2020

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.

Choices

One thing I have discovered about myself is that I enjoy the benefits of gardening far more than the work of gardening. What I mean is that I love the fresh produce but the weeding and hoeing are not on my list of favorite things to do. I am certain that there are more people who would agree with me. The sad part is that to have a garden that produces well it takes a bit of care. No care and the resulting yield is diminished as well. It seems to me that many things in life are just like gardening, we only get out of it what we are willing to put in.

My garden has been on the decline the last couple of years as the excitement of gardening has slowly diminished. I do always seem to have an excuse for the low output, too wet when I have planted, the weed preventer did not work as promised, too dry for the growth time. You may think of even more excuses but if I am truthful with myself, the joy of gardening has just slipped away. The weeds don't pull themselves nor do the beans pick themselves.

The other excuse is that it takes a toll on my time to care for the garden and there are so many other things that are begging for my attention. Living in an older house does require some continual upkeep not to mention that the grass in the lawn keeps growing! So much to do and so little time to do it all. It is likely that my commitment level has found too many commitments to commit to!

In a real way I think that this is the same problem that we have with church membership in this modern age. We are drawn in so many directions that we find more on our plate than we can handle. It is not that we don't want to do our part, but there are only so many hours in a day. Only so many dollars in the budget and we must put things into perspective. Just what that perspective is like, though, tells us a little about our priorities in life.

Jesus set the goal rather high for our dedication to the things of faith. Seeking God first is not always the easy way. After all, there are sports for the kids, activities that call us away where we spend time with family instead of church. These times are important as the children are only little once. So what is the answer? How do we decide what should be first in our lives so we can get the most out of our walk of faith and life?

If I may be so bold, I think that the important choices should be the ones that have eternal consequences before the temporary consequences. What I mean is are we more concerned with the eternal lives of our children in heaven before the sports activity? Are we concerned enough to attend a church service while on vacation so that we are still stressing the importance of a sound relationship with God to our children? What we choose leaves an impression on the young hearts and minds. What are we telling our children by the choices we make?

When we lose our influence on our children, what we have done will influence what they choose in life. The things done for God or the things we have done for the worldly rewards will mean the eternal difference. We only get one chance to raise up children of faith so don't let the opportunity pass by without giving it you best.

Pastor Rus



Sunday Poem ~

I Count My Blessings

by Harold F. Mohn

*I count my blessings one by one
Though great or small they be,
And know without the help of God
Not one would ever be.*

*I thank Him for these blessings
Each morning of each day,
And then again at close of night
Before sleep comes my way.*

*He grants me all these blessings
Though sinner that I be,
And with the many faults of mine
I know that He loves me.*



Daily Checklist

for a

Happy Christian

- ✓ Don't let little things disturb you.
- ✓ Face each day knowing "Jesus does all things well."
- ✓ Give all your cares to Jesus.
He heals - He guards - He guides - He saves completely!
- ✓ Stop worrying! Do good, and then let the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit give the results in your life.
- ✓ Remember -- what you think is "impossible", to God, is nothing more than a passing breeze.
- ✓ Trust Jesus that everything will be okay.
For it's better to trust, than to doubt and miss a blessing.
- ✓ Do not do God's work for Him.
He convicts; He convinces; He will be the Judge.
- ✓ Look for the good in everyone, and don't find fault.
- ✓ Live so that all who meet you, meet Jesus.
- ✓ Know that Jesus is with you and nothing else matters!



August Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

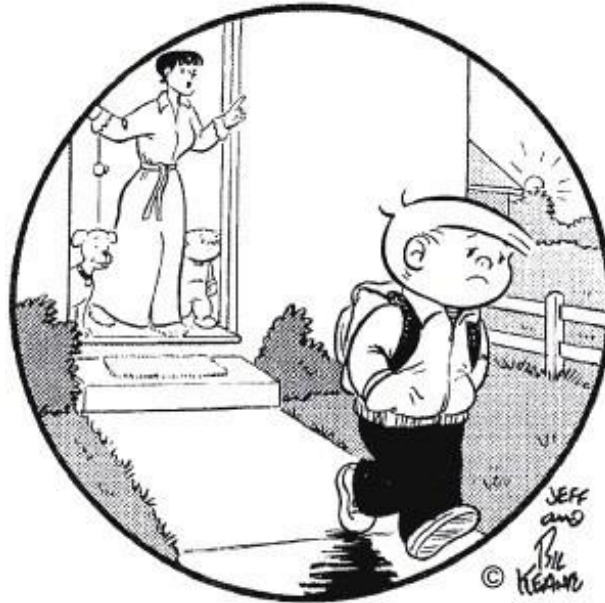
- 8/10 Ruth Haan
- 8/11 Kathy Heeren
- 8/12 Donald Allspach
- 8/18 Charlene Kramer
- 8/24 Pearl Reints
- 8/24 Doris Allspach
- 8/24 Lanae Kramer
- 8/24 Lilly Stirling
- 8/26 Karen Oltman
- 8/30 Mike Pott
- 8/31 Paul Haan
- 8/31 Stacy Edeker

Happy Anniversary

- 8/6 Ryan & Stacy Edeker
- 8/6 Joel & Brandy Reints
- 8/6 Ken & Diane Roberts
- 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 Armstrong by the 20th of the month. My goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month. Thanks!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Your day goes the way the corners of your mouth turn. So smile."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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