

Shepherd's Staff

January 2016

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.

Looking Back to Look Forward

The end of the year gives us a chance to look back at the previous three hundred sixty-five days and consider the blessings and those times we wish we could do over. One of the common expressions of the year is that it went so quickly. As we age, the time does tend to speed up even though we know that there are still the same number of minutes in the hour and hours in the day. Still the days have come and gone, leaving many things we have not finished or, in some cases, not even started.

This may be the best time to stop the business we have grown so accustomed to for reflecting. What would we have done differently, what opportunities did we let get away, or what did we say that we wish we could take back? While we should not dwell in the past, we can learn from the lessons of the past. History is full of lessons if we simply take the time to consider what it can teach us. The regrets of life should urge us to make changes, not repeat the same mistakes. Still for many the idea of making our lives better is disheartening as well. We make resolutions to change but find we are soon overwhelmed with our lofty goals.

While setting goals is good, we must remember that goals are simply that. They are the target for which we aim, measuring our progress and not always hard and fast objectives. What many of us do is set a mark or standard instead of looking to set a path to success. The path we set can have some real steps that are relevant for success. The first step we should take is to consider the first step! Many turn to God only as a last resort, but we find in scripture that the noted people of faith started those steps toward success with conversation with God. This differing starting point might be behind many of our regrets of the past.

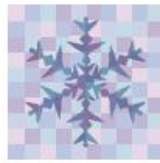
One benefit of starting with God is we can measure our goal with God's will as defined in His word. Are we looking for the blessing of our labor for this life or for the Kingdom promised to come? When Jesus spoke of laying up treasure, He spoke of heavenly treasure as most important. This, in and of itself, will remind us to consider the benefit or harm to our neighbors before we jump in. Knowing how we are to be our "brothers" keeper should help to keep us grounded so we are not so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good.

Being aware of what we would do over if we could can help us live within God's plan for us. Starting with prayer also sets us up for finishing well, but that is not the only step. We must begin doing what we have been entrusted to accomplish. Many a good plan is left as just that--only a good plan-- because nothing was started to complete that plan. Starting well never ensures that we will finish well, but with God's help, we will be farther along than going it on our own. Not only does continued prayer keep us grounded, but it may also open our eyes to the help God has placed around us by opening our eyes to see what God sees. Walking with others will help us to accomplish our goals, and our helping may get their goals accomplished as well.

This new year let's be sure to come together as a church to not only celebrate our anniversary but also to lay the ground work so that one-hundred and twenty-five years from now another celebration can take place because we labored well.

Pastor Rus

Lord's Winter



Snowflakes are delicate pieces of glass
Gliding down from heaven.

Delicate snowflakes
Shining bright like Jesus.

A robin is a chorister, singing to the
Lord.

He's as small as your hand, searching
for food.

A cloud is a marshmallow, floating in
the sky.

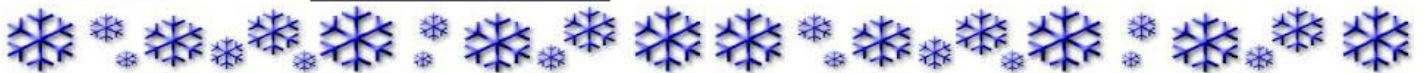
Snow is a quilt warming the ground,
Waiting to be used.

Snow is a diamond sparkling to heaven,
Shining bright like Jesus.

Steven Bland



If coal can change to diamonds,
if sand can change to pearls,
if a worm can change into a butterfly,
then LOVE can change the world.



CROCK POT CHICKEN & BISCUITS

5 frozen chicken breasts

12 baby carrots, chopped

1 Onion, chopped

3 large red potatoes, diced

2 cans cream of chicken soup

16 oz chicken broth

1/2 bag frozen sweet peas

1 can refrigerated biscuits

1/4 tsp thyme

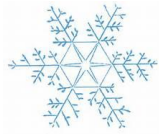
1/2 tsp rosemary

1 garlic clove, minced

2 Tbsp butter

1 Tbsp Wondra flour

1. Place the frozen chicken breasts, carrots, onion, and potatoes in the crock pot.
2. Top with cream of chicken soup, chicken broth, thyme, rosemary, garlic, and butter.
3. Cook on high for 5 hours or low for 8 hours.
4. As the chicken is cooking, break up the breasts into smaller pieces.
5. 30 minutes prior to serving, add in the 1/2 bag of frozen sweet peas.
6. 15 minutes prior to serving, prepare the refrigerated biscuits.



January Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

1/13 Larry & Mary Johnson

- 1/6 Lila Reints
- 1/11 Dennis Mennen
- 1/16 Gerald Haan
- 1/17 Lauren Husz
- 1/18 Hermina Everts
- 1/22 Levi Hay
- 1/24 Arnie Swanson
- 1/28 Mary Boersma
- 1/30 Harold Coplen



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. 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>
1/3	Kevin & Shelly (N) Sylvia & AnnaMae (S)	Mark Kramer	Paul & Gerald
1/10	Larry & Mary (N) John & Karen (S)	Delbert Cordes	Ryan & Stacy
1/17	Ryan & Stacy (N) Pat & Deb (S)	Ken Meester	Dennis & Lois
1/24	Ken & Nancy (N) Don & Annie (S)	Ken Johnson	Kevin & Shelly
1/31	Dennis & Sharon (N) Mark & Lanae (S)	Ken Kramer	Joel & Brandy

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

Winter Word Search

F S N O W M A N Y P V W R U E
X I U E I L I G O F I A R H T
U C R C T U O L D N G K L I A
C S E E G I A Z T S O R F B R
C N O N P R H E O M H Q C E G
H M E P B L R W C Y P K M R I
I P O E E K A L F W O N S N M
L O A G T O Q C I Z U C P A U
L R Z A K O C P E I J J D T Z
Y T H O T C H O C O L A T E J



chilly
fireplace
frost
hibernate
hot chocolate
migrate

penguin
polar bear
snowflake
snowman
white
winter