

Shepherd's Staff *We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.*

June 2017 "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.

Pulling

Puppies are high in energy and low in obedience. This is not a shocking statement for anyone who has raised a dog. I learned this again yesterday when I took our puppy for a walk. Part of the trouble is that puppies grow! The twelve-pound pup we took home is now tipping the scale at over fifty pounds of raw power and energy. Walks aren't as easy as they were before. They have become in part a tug-of-war effort with Marley trying to explore the entire world in a day and me working to be the anchor in his life.

Patience in a dog is not a virtue they are born with. After a long walk my legs were showing me the physical condition I have sunk to, with the burning muscles on the tops of my thighs letting me know that I am no longer a young man who can take teaching a puppy in stride. A test of wills is becoming part of the walks, me looking for a "nice" walk and Marley simply looking to go.

One good thing about walks though is it gives time to think. As the battle of the wills was taking place, I began to consider how I also battle against God in my life? I know that with Marley I am trying to keep him safe from the dangers that are around us all the time. He simply does not get it when I try to reign him in. Is this what I do when God tries to get me to slow down in life so I can also be safe?

I am sure I have the best interests in mind for Marley. I can only think that God also has my best interests in mind for me. Yet with Marley pulling against the leash, nose to the ground, not wanting to miss a single trigger of his senses, he tries to pull so hard at my arm that I am afraid I will have one side longer than the other. Is this what I do when God tries to hold me back? Am I so single minded on my own goals that I do not think about the dangers around me or the consequences of the direction I am heading.

Perhaps I need to return to the song played on the radio when I was contemplating ministry. The refrain is simple but powerful,

*Not my will but thine be done, God I want to be just like your Son,
Undeservingly surrender all to you. There are so many ways that I could go,
But anywhere from you I'd be alone, so not my will but thine be done.*

It sounds so easy yet in reality is so hard to do all the time. Maybe this is why God gives puppies such a strong will. They can teach us about our relationship with God so that we will not pull in the wrong direction.

I know that I will continue to "train" Marley to be the great dog I have in mind for him to be. I also pray that God will never tire of training me to be the child He desires me to be. How about you?

Pastor Rus

Father's Day

Over the years
As we grow old,
We remember our father
So brave and bold.

In the garden,
Leaning on the plow,
He would listen to me;
I see him now.

He would give advice
And understand;
He was always there
To lend a hand.

God made fathers
Strong and firm,
For he knew our lives
Would have great concerns.

So he gave us fathers
To teach us to pray,
And guide our lives,
And show us the way.

So on his day
Let's take the time
To say "Thanks, dad.
I'm glad you're mine."

~**Mary Frances Bogle**



WE LOVE YOU



June Birthdays/Anniversaries

WE LOVE YOU



Happy Birthday

6/1 Frances VanEllen
 6/14 Lillian Reints
 6/18 Chelsea Meester
 6/25 June Karsjens

Happy Anniversary

6/9 Cory & Kamie Shepard
 6/10 John & Jodi DeBerg
 6/19 Bernie & Hermina Everts
 6/20 Clarence & June Karsjens
 6/28 Rus & Mary Boersma



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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>
6/4	Ken & Tracie (N) Jean Trey (S)	Delbert Cordes	Irv & Amy
6/11	Ken & Rhonda (N) Cory & Kamie (S)	Ken Johnson	Dennis & Sharon
6/18	Dennis & Lois (N) Kevin & Shelly (S)	Ken Meester	Clarence & June
6/25	Sylvia & AnnaMae (N) Mike & Stacy (S)	Dale Meester	Don & Annie

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

Things to Do With Dad Word Search

V	V	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	I	U	C	I	E	M	D	P	BASEBALL
W	P	O	O	L	O	Q	I	D	R	B	M	V	G	E	I	F	BBQ
E	H	N	C	X	U	W	X	D	E	V	C	N	Z	N	Y	O	BOWLING
B	E	F	V	U	C	E	S	U	N	I	B	A	G	W	H	O	CAMPING
O	G	N	I	H	S	I	F	Q	N	V	L	P	A	O	J	T	CUDDLE
I	G	A	M	E	S	C	B	C	I	V	O	T	C	T	M	B	DINNER
P	F	Q	G	S	K	G	I	V	D	N	C	K	S	T	X	A	EATOUT
G	L	P	N	M	W	P	A	N	G	H	E	J	H	L	L	L	FISHING
J	O	L	I	Q	M	K	X	R	T	Y	R	J	L	W	A	L	FOOTBALL
T	G	A	T	T	R	H	B	V	D	M	R	A	C	H	H	Z	GAMES
T	W	Y	N	A	U	U	B	B	V	E	B	B	C	F	I	Q	GARDENING
K	S	B	U	N	E	O	Q	Q	N	E	N	A	W	H	K	C	GOLF
N	T	A	H	K	G	L	T	L	S	J	X	I	R	N	I	Q	HIKING
T	R	L	K	J	N	C	D	A	A	G	R	P	N	P	N	Q	HOCKEY
D	O	L	U	S	K	R	B	D	E	K	L	A	T	G	G	G	HUNTING
X	P	G	N	I	L	W	O	B	U	U	R	E	C	C	O	S	KITEFLYING
V	S	Y	A	R	D	W	O	R	K	C	V	I	P	O	N	T	PICNIC
H	R	X	V	K	K	I	T	E	F	L	Y	I	N	G	D	A	PINGPONG