

Shepherd's Staff

September 2023

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.

Best Kept Secret

I have noticed in my life that many people don't like to keep secrets. We are naturally social beings and therefore are inclined to share what we know with anyone who will listen. That seems to be true in most situations but there is one thing that seems to contradict this theory, and that is when it comes to sharing the Good News of grace in Jesus Christ. Then we seem to get all anxieties and fail to share at all. We even may be like Peter and deny that we are Christians when we actually get the behavior correct. We just don't feel comfortable sharing our faith when given the chance.

In the 1970's, we had a song that expressed the goal of sharing our faith stating, "I'll shout it from the mountain tops, I want my world to know, the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on." Still, we would sing the song but not live the message. Keeping the secret is nothing new but part and parcel of our daily routine. Still, we have the command in scripture to be strong and courageous in matters of our faith as told to Joshua already in the Old Testament. We see examples of the power of the Holy Spirit leading ordinary men to preach the Gospel boldly without seminary degrees as seen in the Apostles. But we, instead of following their examples, tend to keep the best kept secret to ourselves.

So, we might ask, what should we do? The answer is not all that difficult. We need to spread the Word with those we come in contact with. When was the last time you spoke with an unchurched neighbor and invited them to church? Perhaps you could have offered to pray for them to get to know the trouble in their lives at the time as an example of sharing Christ. We can always pray for our neighbors and ask God to give an opportunity to evangelize them but then we need to be ready to take the opportunity God presents to us.

The best way to tell someone about Jesus is to simply tell your own story. What I like about this is that no one can argue with us because it is our story! Tell about the journey you made to discover Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell about the peace you get from having a forever friend who is willing to help when no one else can. Tell of the times peace came over you in an anxious moment that you can't explain any other way. These don't require hours of study. Like I said, it is your story! You already know it! So why do we still tend to keep the best kept secret? We often are afraid of what others will think of us. Still, how much more joyous will our friendship be if you are able to bring the change of life into their lives by bringing them to Jesus?

What joy in our hearts are we cheating ourselves out of because we don't share the Good News? While some things are best to be kept as secret, the love of God should not be one of them. Are you ready to take a stand for Christ? Are you ready to see the change in your neighbors when they learn about the grace of God because you were bold enough to stand in the strength of the Spirit and tell them God loves them and so do you? It is time to let loose of the best kept secret and live out our calling as Christians and tell the world.

Pastor Rus

Autumn Blessings

Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up. GALATIANS 6:9

WHEN YOU ARE GOING THROUGH
SOMETHING HARD AND WONDER
WHERE GOD IS
REMEMBER THE TEACHER IS
ALWAYS QUIET DURING A TEST.

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The Season of Autumn

The season of Autumn
Produces a display,
Of awesome-filled color
That only God could portray.
For in His presentation
Of hues in multi-color,
We see the glorious beauty
He creates like no other.

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September Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 9/2 Kellen Reints
- 9/3 Joshua Haan
- 9/7 Deb Prier
- 9/8 Mike Ascher
- 9/9 Mark Kramer
- 9/12 Carol Watters
- 9/15 Savannah Ascher
- 9/16 Laura Edeker
- 9/24 Larry Johnson
- 9/26 Ellie Reints
- 9/26 Kenneth Meester

Happy Anniversary

- 9/7 Marlyn & Marcia Allspach
- 9/13 Mike & Stacy Ascher
- 9/15 Frank & Patricia Pott



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please email it to Wendy Armstrong at wendymulder@hotmail.com by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.



Fall Word Search



ACORN
APPLE
AUTUMN
CHESTNUTS
CHILLY
CIDER
COBWEB
FALL
FOOTBALL
GOURD

HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
HAY BALE
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MAIZE
NOVEMBER
NUTS
OCTOBER
PUMPKIN

QUILT
RAKE
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SLEET
THANKSGIVING

