

Shepherd's Staff

August 2018

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.

Doing Nothing, Really?

In my youth a question that I always dreaded was "What are you doing?" Often it would come at a time when what I was doing was already known but not an activity that was in my best interest. When challenged by the question, an easy answer would seem to roll off the tip of my tongue without any hesitating, "Nothing!" That answer could be dangerous as it seems parents always have a list of chores readily available to occupy any youth with "nothing" to do.

Perhaps the old trend is making a comeback. If we look around in churches, we see many people who are very content to be fed without contributing to the ministry. Maybe it is time to ask, "What are you doing?" If the answer is nothing, the lack of volunteers for the programs of any given church makes sense. With lives so busy it is tough to get the help needed in the various programs but is this something that we can simply ignore?

When we choose to let someone else take on the tasks that we could easily handle are we nurturing a behavior pattern that our young are picking up? Learning responsibility in the Family of God is one of the goals we have promised to do when we respond as a congregation at the time of baptism. The most compelling way is to teach through example instead of using words. Words can often fall empty when the correlation between our actions and our words do not align.

Jesus had a message about using what we have. Matthew 25:14-30 is often referred to as the parable of the talents or of loaning money. Still it teaches us to put into action the ability we have been given for the benefit of the Kingdom of God. Where two of the three men went and applied the gifts they were given and honored for their investment for the Master, the one claimed to be afraid, and did "nothing". The behavior of the last was condemned by Jesus.

What is there for us to learn from this parable? We are given ability with an expected outcome! Doing nothing is not an option. Protecting what has been invested in us so that it can be returned without gain is disgraceful to God and shameful for us. While we may not all be qualified for every task that is available in a church, there are plenty of things we can do. As the time draws near when teachers, helpers, and other opportunities come we should give time for prayerful consideration. If we are not able to work with our hands in the trenches any longer, we are all qualified to fall to our knees either literally or hypothetically in prayer.

It is especially important for churches that are not overflowing with people that everyone contributes. If you simply do not know how to help, you can always ask. Doing nothing should not be an option for us if we truly desire to have Jesus say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." For the One who has done so much for us, can we offer anything less than our best to Him?

Pastor Rus

Funny Church Signs & Quotes

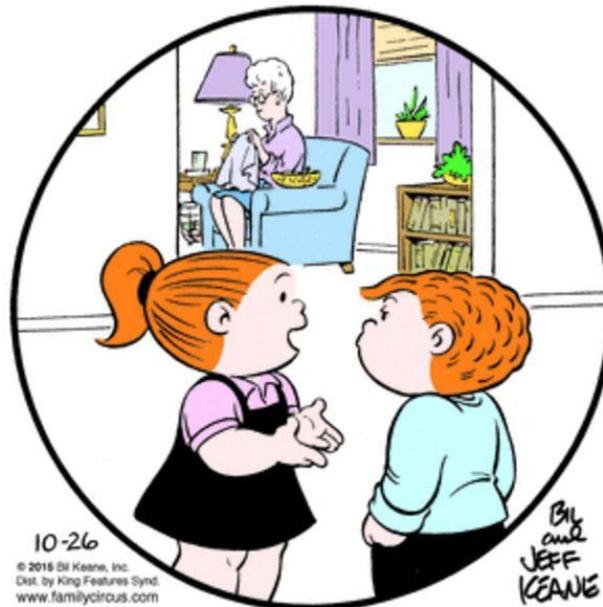
- Tomorrow's forecast: God reigns and the Son shines!
- Why pay for GPS? Jesus gives directions for free.
- Need a lifeguard? Ours walks on water!
- What on earth are you doing for Heavens sake!
- Honk if you love Jesus... Text while driving if you want to meet him.
- God will accept broken hearts – but you must give Him all the pieces!
- If the devil is knocking at your front door, let Jesus answer it!
- T.G.I.F. - Thank God I'm Forgiven!
- Is temptation knocking? Let Jesus get the door!
- Faith is Not Blind, Faith is your sight Set On Jesus!
- Feeling thankful and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.
- When you throw mud at someone, you're the one losing ground!
- Heavenly forecast: God will reign forever!
- May all your days have Son shine!
- The 10 Commandments are not multiple choice!
- Jesus has a great "prophet-sharing" plan!
- F.R.O.G. = Fully Rely On God!
- Church sign - ATM inside: Atonement, Truth, Mercy
- Adam blamed Eve. Then Eve blamed the snake. Then the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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10-26
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"The two places we know we're always welcome are church and Grandma's house."



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
- 8/10 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>
8/5	Sylvia & Herm (N) Dale & Angie (S)	Nolan	Ken & Nancy
8/12	John DeBerg Family (N) Pat & Deb (S)	Ken Kramer	Pat & Deb
8/19	Frank & Betty (N) Larry & Mary (S)	Dale	Arnie & Kay
8/26	Don & Annie (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Joel & Kellen	Larry & Mary

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

How to Read the Bible

ACCOMPLISH ANSWERS CLAIM COMFORT COMMANDS GUIDE HEED
LEARNED LESSONS OBEY OFFER PRAISE PRAYERS PRINCIPLES
PROMISES PROSPER QUESTIONS READ SOOTHE WARNINGS

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