

# Shepherd's Staff

September 2014

*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.*

## **I Just Wanted to Know**

If you have been wondering why the dry spell has hit us yet again this summer, I think I may know the answer. It comes from the table discussions before church. When a shower comes, we often will sit and compare the amount of rain that has fallen at the various locations around our communities. While I would listen in on the varying amounts being reported, I could only chime in with a rhetorical, "I got about ten tenths to the inch" as I did not have a rain gauge.

This shortcoming was corrected when showing some of the treasured spots in larger area to recent guests, my brother and his wife. We were in a farm and fleet store when I found a gauge that would give me the ability to report what is happening on the south edge of town. That is when the trouble began. Driving home in the rain meant I would not get a reading that day but within a few days the measuring device was in place waiting only for the heavens to send the showers our way.

My measuring was very easy for the next few weeks, finding nothing but dust in the bottom of the rain gauge. I was hopeful many nights as I could see lightening around but come morning, nothing. I woke excited to find our driveway wet a few mornings only to find it was a trace amount, which according to a weather trivia question is an immeasurable amount. (The question was how many trace amounts does it take to make an inch of rain? There is no number as immeasurable amounts cannot be added!)

I was finally able to get my first reading just a few days ago, I measured my first tenth of an inch of rain! My yard and garden would like to get an inch just to be growing again but I was happy to get any measurable amount! I don't know for sure but I do wonder if God is teaching me to be content with whatever I receive and not worry about how much comes. After all, we receive all things in spite of the fact that we are not worthy of anything good.

Listening to Paul tell us he was able to be content no matter what the circumstances were might help us understand both how blessed we are and how to truly be grateful when the blessings come our way. I am torn now as what to do with my rain gauge though. It is nice to be able to know what we have received but if it is why we are not receiving then it must go. I am thinking it will stay put for a few more weeks and if we are still dry do a test. If rain comes when I put it indoors I may simply have to leave it there. Although I may have a new device for flood prevention!

Being thankful for what we get is not dependant on knowing how much God is doing for us. He often does much more than we can ask or imagine. We can simply praise him for what we have and know he is gracious and promised to supply whatever we need for the good of our salvation. Showers of blessing are not always found in the showers of rain no matter how badly we think we need them. Give thanks for what God has done and be ready to be surprised when God exceeds our expectations, as he often does.

Pastor Rus

## Sunshine Circle

It has been a wonderful summer, but it is going fast. Sunshine Circle will again begin the first Wednesday in September. The officers along with Pastor Rus & Mary met at my house to plan and discuss our meetings for the coming year. Mary Boersma will again be in charge of sending cards and Jan Johnson will be on the flower committee.

Our first meeting will be September 7 at 12 noon with a luncheon served by the officers. Pastor Rus will then lead our lesson, which will be from the book of Proverbs. Our prayer is that many of you will join us and if you are not a member please feel free to come and bring a friend. We have a good time discussing our lessons. Our Circle plans to raise money to help with Missions. We also use our fundraising money to supply the kitchen with coffee cups and whatever is needed in the kitchen.

We plan on having another Christmas Tea in December. Our Spring Supper is set for April 12<sup>th</sup>.

We pray for a good year and that we may all grow in the knowledge of our Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
AnnaMae Mehmen  
President



### **A little change.....**

The Worship Committee would like your input. I'm sure you have a favorite song or two or more! We'd like to know and be able to sing them. We will have a short questionnaire in each mail slot for you to fill out and return. Every member of your family may fill one out. Please choose one or two songs from either the Celebration or Psalter Hymnal. If you choose, you may tell why it is your favorite and your name (optional). Please place your favorites in the box in the fellowship hall marked with a music clef. Once a month, the song leader will draw two selections from the box. What a great way to lift up our voices to our Lord.

As believers in Christ we are called to lift up holy hands in praise. Doing so with a crochet hook or knitting needles is one way you can join others in doing this praise. The Knitting and Crochet Group is planning on making "Prayer Shawls" for persons battling cancer. These Prayer Shawls will be delivered to the Cancer treatment centers or hospitals in Waterloo to be given to patients willing to accept them. With this new undertaking, we are hoping for many new members to join in and spread the love of Christ and do something for those struggling in life.

Our meetings will begin on Tuesday, September 30 at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of church. Supplies are provided and instruction is available. Come and join in this ministry and be a part of the fellowship in this community of faith reaching out to those in need. If you have any questions contact Mary Boersma.

## Sunday School News

Our lessons will begin on Sunday, September 7.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum will be Route 66 - A trip through the 66 Books of the Bible. Each travel guide (lesson) will consist of a Road Map, featuring different parts of each book; a place to Fuel Up, or a worksheet about the book; a mile marker, asking a personal question of the book or the people associated with that book; and lastly, a Rest Stop, with fun puzzles, adventures, and word finds. The kids will be encouraged to construct their own Travel Guide (scrapbook) for each lesson. It appears this curriculum could go on for two Sunday School years. It will work out perfect for the kids since they will continue on in this class next year also. The four returning travelers will be Elena, Lauren, Cadyen, and Kellen. So get set, start your engines, and let's goooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!



Our little guys, Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> grade, will continue on with their lessons from last year beginning with Series 3 – Things Jesus Did and Said. After that series is complete, we will start back with the first series and add to the lessons as well as review. It's so very important that these little ones know these familiar lessons so they may in turn teach others. Our little ones include Austin Shepard, Lilly Stirling, Lila & Ellie Reints, Amy Mulder, and Emma Haan.

We again will be doing a rotation schedule with teachers. They include Carla Mulder, Nancy Mehmen, JoLynne Husz, Kay Swanson, Amy Swanson-Haan, Kamie Shepard, Kayla Stirling, Ryan & Stacy Edeker, and myself. With this rotation it gives each teacher a different week and helps the kids get to know more of us. It has worked out well in the past and I thank each one of them for being a part of our Sunday School.

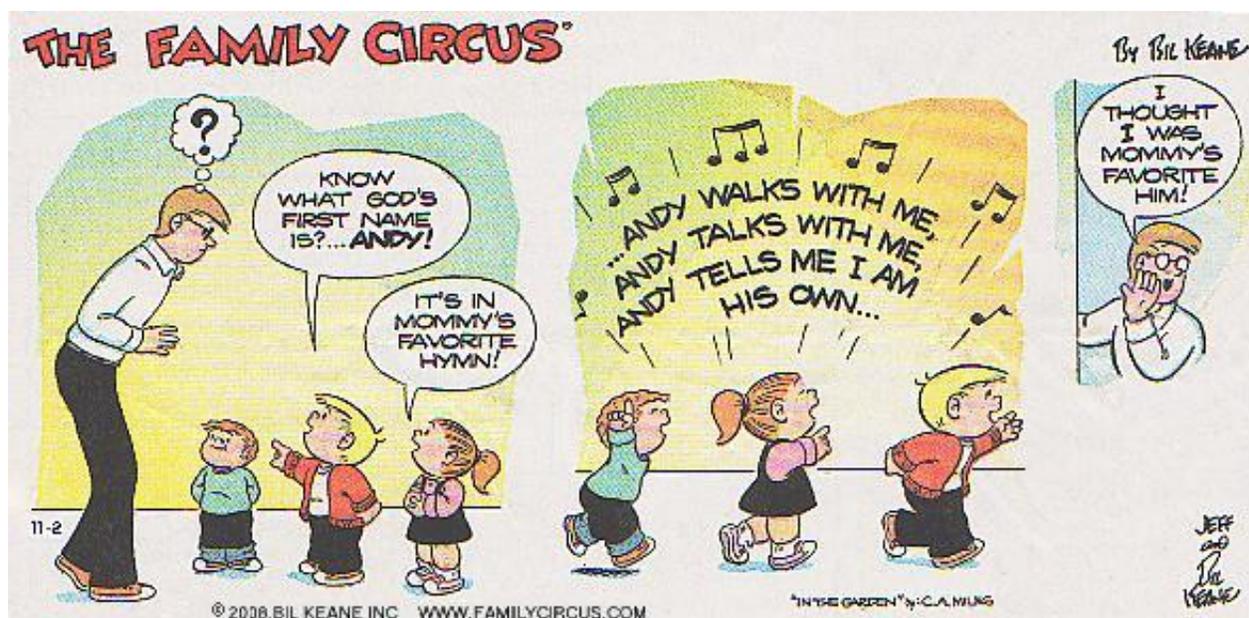
The middle school lessons will be led by Marcia Allspach. The kids include Luke Edeker, Diana Mulder, and Joshua Haan. Great bunch of kids- glad you keep learning. And thank you, Marcia, for continuing in their spiritual education.

Pastor Rus will lead the high school group with catechism lessons. This group is Nolan, Laura, Rebecca, and Andrew.

Please encourage your kids not to miss Sunday School. When weeks are missed, they seem to get behind on their knowledge and lessons, which they do not like. Besides, why would you want them to miss out?

Any questions, concerns, or ideas please let me know.

Deb Prier, Sunday School Director





## September Birthdays/Anniversaries

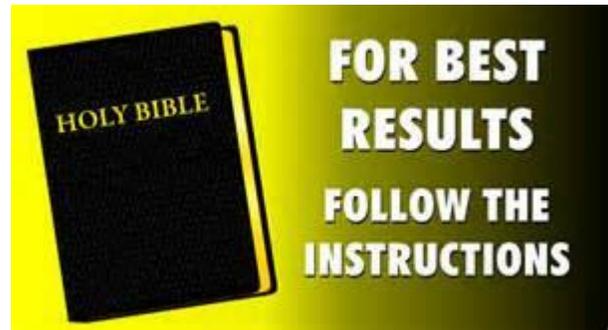


### Happy Birthday

9/2 Kellen Reints  
 9/3 Joshua Haan  
 9/7 Deb Prier  
 9/8 Bo Meester  
 9/9 Mark Kramer  
 9/16 Laura Edeker  
 9/19 Henry Heeren  
 9/19 Rebecca Mulder  
 9/22 Drake Shepard  
 9/24 Larry Johnson  
 9/26 Ellie Reints  
 9/29 Kenneth Meester

### Happy Anniversary

9/7 Marlyn & Marcia Allspach  
 9/25 Michael & Kayla Stirling

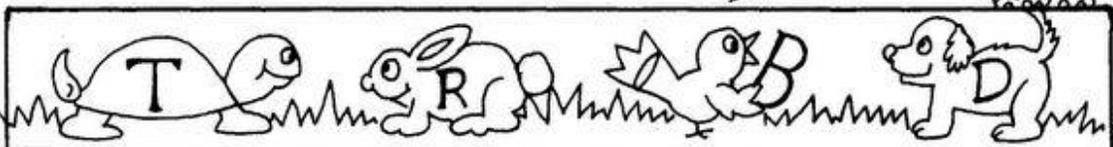


**Reminder:** If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please email it to [wendymulder@hotmail.com](mailto:wendymulder@hotmail.com) with Shepherd's Staff in the subject. Thanks!

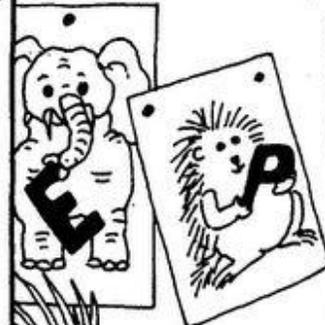
### CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
9/7	Steve & Charlene (N) Kevin & Shelly (S)	Gerald Haan	Paul & Darlene
9/14	Clarence & June (N) Larry & Mary (S)	Mark Kramer	Ken & Rhonda
9/21	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Ryan & Stacy (S)	Delbert Cordes	Chet & Teresa
9/28	Pat & Deb (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Ken Meester	John & Karen

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



Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii



I'm going to say "hi" to the new kid.

He looks friendly, but watch out for those quills!

