

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

September 2016 *"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.

Small but Mighty

Have you ever noticed that some small things can pack a powerful punch? This concept was brought to mind this summer when so many people were being troubled with allergies. The microscopic little pollen particles that are floating in the air have surely caused a great amount of trouble for a great many.

If something is so small that we cannot see it most often with the naked eye, then it makes me wonder if we have our priorities correct. We are often more afraid of the things we can see instead of what is unseen. Some of us are afraid of heights, some of water, some of insects, and the list could go on and on. But in the end we do not give much thought to the unseen until we are so caught up in its grips that we can no longer ignore it.

Are we so casual about other things that seem small or insignificant? We often refer to "little" lies as white lies. We seem to think that these are less offensive than "large" lies. The trouble is that we are not told in scripture that the size of the sin is important. God, we are told, abhors all sin including the little sins like white lies.

If we are so complacent about little sins, we forget that even a little adds up quickly to a large amount. Carelessness in sin is indeed a slippery slope. What in our lives have we overlooked because we did not see the extent of the consequences? This is like seeing the first snowflake of a winter blizzard. It does not seem like much but when added to the host of others we can be buried in the snow and drifts.

Perhaps we should make a greater effort to watch our conduct more closely. James tells about how the tongue, while a small part of the body, can get us into a mountain of trouble. We must be careful not only with what we say but also what we do so we do not give the devil a foothold. This careful living may very well become the vaccine we need to defeat the "allergens" of sin before we are so caught up we cannot breathe very well.

Pastor Rus

Knitting and Crochet Group

The Knitting and Crochet Group were very busy last season making over forty hats and scarves that will keep children warm this winter season. The hats and scarves were dropped off at the Butler County Health Department to be distributed to schools in Butler County for any child that is in need. The assortment of colors and patterns are sure to delight the children who will receive them.

The hats and scarves were not the only things that this group made as baby blankets were also made and delivered to families in the city of Parkersburg. These baby blankets are the foundation piece of the group as a way to reach out into our community. They have been greatly appreciated in many homes.

This year the plan for the group is returning to the Prayer Shawls. Previously, shawls were made and brought to the Cancer Treatment Center in Waterloo. These shawls serve a double purpose as each is prayed over for the eventual recipient as well as providing warmth while receiving treatments. A note is included with each telling the patient where the shawl was made and giving the hope that they have been remembered in prayer. The goal is to again supply a good number of pieces to the center for those in need.

The Knitting and Crochet Group is always open to new members with help given to beginners, as well as encouragement to the seasoned craft persons. If you are interested in participating or are interested in more information you are encouraged to contact Mary Boersma. The group is planning to begin their work on October 4, at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of church.

Autumn Blessings

By Deborah Ann



Autumn brings to the soul relief,
as hot Summer days, slip to an end
God sent the season for weary hearts
to restore, repair and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,
that shed their changing leaves
God sent the season for failing hearts
to adhere, embrace and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,
there comes a new refreshing rain
God sent the season for fraying hearts
to increase, grow and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb,
and dips much earlier into the night
God sent the season for sleepy hearts
to rise, shine and awake in His light.

God gave to us the Autumn season,
so we could have a respite and rest
for it is the season for our beset souls
to see how much we are blessed!





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
 9/17 Henry Heeren
 9/22 Drake Shepard
 9/24 Larry Johnson
 9/26 Ellie Reints
 9/26 Kenneth Meester

Happy Anniversary

9/7 Marlyn & Marcia Allspach
 9/27 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 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

Greeters

Ushers

*Coffee**

9/4	Ken & Janet (N) Gene & Janet (S)	Dale Meester	Paul & Darlene
9/11	Bernie & Herm (N) Pat & Deb (S)	Ken Johnson	Mike & Stacy
9/18	Henry & Kathy (N) Don & Annie (S)	Mark Kramer	John & Karen
9/25	Irv & Amy (N) Mark & Lanae (S)	Gerald Haan	Cory & Kamie

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

Autumn Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters A C O R N S.
Don't guess - use logic



S					O
		O	N		
	S	A	O	R	
	O	R	S	N	
		N	C		
R					N