

# Shepherd's Staff

September 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.*

## **You Reap ....**

Maybe it is just me, but the news of today seems to reflect a disturbing trend. The violence that is reported on a regular basis shows a remarkable lack of value for human life. The morality of society has become frightfully absent. While I do not have research to back up what I think, I want to run it past you. Maybe the condition will be reversible if we identify the root cause of the behavioral changes that are causing so much concern today.

Living in a time when respect for others was common place, I have a theory of when the change began. In my mind the spiral downward began with a combination of two events. The challenge to prayer being offered in our public schools is one of the points of change. The daily reminder of a sovereign God or deity reminds us that we are not our own. It also reminds us of a higher power to which all people will answer. Losing this level of accountability leaves humanity to find a replacement power that controls the direction of life. While some philosophers claim mankind is inherently good until acted on by outside stimuli, we who are people of faith have a differing account.

If humanity does not look to God for direction, then humanity itself tries to fill in the answers to moral questions. This opens the door to a societal rule of popular opinion of the day in place of a permanent basis of morality. The society rule will change with the broken nature of the mind that desires to make sin into good so the conscience can be tamed instead of taming the sin in response to the conscience. Turning from God's foundation of behavior changes how we live and deal with others.

The second issue I have seen is closely related. The idea is the removal of God's law as the center of our existence. When the Ten Commandments were ordered out of all public buildings, including our courthouses, we continued the downward fall. Again, we see the idea of God's creation trying to be god! The voice of a few set the tone for living without divine interference.

We see the giving up of a higher authority so it can be replaced by human thinkers coming into play again. But this time the second half of the Commandments is also taken away. The value of being created in the image of the Creator makes life, in the minds of some, of less value. Losing the inherent value means that loving our neighbor as our self becomes a non-issue. When we care only about ourselves we find it easier to take from others. When we compare our life to others instead of to the picture that God provides in Christ Jesus we can become envious and be filled with greed for the things that have escaped us. Obtaining things then becomes an all-consuming way of life.

Changing the purpose of life from loving and serving God has taken a toll on human morality. But what can we in our small town U.S.A. do to change the course of society in America? We can begin by changing the way we look at life. Turning back to God in our daily walk will have us living with the care of others continually on our minds. This is the side effect of living God centered lives. It will come naturally as we follow the commands of God!

When others begin to have value to those around them we will see a change in society. We can begin this in how we choose those who represent us in political office. Choosing those who fear God and respect life is a place to start. But that is handing the matter to others. We too can begin showing more compassion to those whom God places in our path. Kind words spoken may change the life of someone who is struggling. We may never know the power of kindness shown to those casual meetings we have in the store checkout line or in the most unlikely places.

Reaping what we have sown in what I think is happening to our nation. We have the power to begin to take back the morality with everyone we meet. Showing our love for God by loving as he commanded will plant the seeds of value in humanity. Offering to pray for others will allow them to be released from the burden of self-direction and to rely on God once again. For too long we have sown the seed of me first, let's put God first and see what the harvest will bring.

Pastor Rus

## Hook and Needles Knitting and Crochet Group News

It is almost time to gather so we can begin the projects to be given away this year. Some have been working on hats and scarves for the school children throughout Butler County, which are distributed through the Butler County Health Department. These will be welcomed by the teachers and administrators who will give them to the kids without such necessary warm items this fall and through the winter.

The fall project for this year is to work on lap throws or blankets which we are planning to take to Parker Place for distribution to the residents. The fall projects will also include the baby blankets that are given for new babies who live in Parkersburg. Of course, your help in this delivery would be greatly appreciated of hearing about the new births.

If this sounds like something you may be interested in participating, come and join the group for instruction, fellowship, and a good snack. Supplies are provided, so come on out and join the fun as we provide warmth to those in our community.

The group meets twice monthly, on Tuesday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall, beginning September 25 at 1:30 PM. A schedule will be given out but also can be obtained by contacting Mary Boersma.

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The Sunshine Circle will begin our 2018-2019 season on September 5, 2018. We are planning to have a luncheon that day at 12 noon. We invite all the ladies of our church to attend, and we encourage you to bring a friend who might be interested in joining our group.

There are some changes that we hope will make it easier for us to attend the meetings. We will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. We will **not** meet during January, February and March, but we **will** meet during the months of June, July, and August.

The year we will meet from September through December and restart our year in April, 2019.

The goal for Sunshine Circle is to find ways to support our missionaries and mission projects.

Please consider joining our circle, a group that has been gathering for many years and represents a legacy that many of our grandmothers and mothers attended. We will continue to have Bible, prayer time, and a time for Christian fellowship.

Our Sunshine Circle always has room for more women who wish to learn, grow, and serve in Jesus' name.



## 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  
 9/12 Carol Watters  
 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 email it to Wendy Armstrong at [wendymmulder@hotmail.com](mailto:wendymmulder@hotmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

### *Greeters*

### *Ushers*

### *Coffee\**

9/2/2018	John & Karen (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Gerald/Joshua	Paul & Darlene
9/9/2018	Rollyn & Kathy (N) Ken & Jan (S)	Luke E.	Mike & Stacy
9/16/2018	Arnie & Kay (N) Mike Ascher Family (S)	Ken Meester	John & Karen
9/23/2018	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Joel Reints Family (S)	Mark Kramer	Clarence & June
9/30/2018	Melvin R./Harold C. (N) Kamie Shepard Family (S)	Ken Johnson	Rollyn & Kathy

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fall Word Search

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

FALL

AUTUMN

LEAVES

PUMPKIN

APPLE

ACORN

SUNFLOWER

HAYRIDE

CHILLY

RAKE

FOOTBALL

SQUIRREL

ORANGE

SCARECROW

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

CIDER

YELLOW

BROWN

RED

