

Shepherd's Staff

September 2020

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.

Drought

Every summer we run into a dry spell when the earth seems to dry up. The signs of the time are evidenced with the earth showing cracks in the soil and living plants start to suffer. One of the first to dry out seems to be the grass in the yards without sprinkler systems with the brown and "crunchy" grass replacing the soft green grass. The dormant stage kicks in waiting for the rains to start again. Even the crops begin to turn dry with the corn drying up from the base of the stalks and the ears of corn starting to yellow and brown, eventually turning down. All these are signs that rain is needed, and soon, for life to continue in the plant world.

Reflecting on what I see in the plant world made me think about our life in the spiritual world as well. When we see the blessings of the spiritual world we can see many of the same signs. The life we live by faith begins to dry up when we fail to spend time in fellowship with our creator. The signs may be faint at first but as time passes and the condition worsens the evidence begins to pile up that there is something missing. Many will dismiss the empty feeling that we get, but in reality there is a hole in us that yearns for God.

In our quest to satisfy this hunger inside of us we begin to seek out worldly satisfactions that may mute the cry of our hearts for a little while. Still the dying process continues while we remain apart from the source of our true need. The refreshing water of the Spirit is what we need to bring life back to the soil of our hearts. Our soul's one desire is to have the relationship with its creator but when we deny that desire we fail to grow in the power and strength that we could have.

The journey back into the lushness of living in the care of the Spirit is easy which may keep many of us from venturing into harmony with God's love. We must simply end the drought by returning to reading and studying the Word of God, spending time in conversation, and being available to his leading. Easy yet in this complicated world where time is often limited we must decide what is truly important for us. If we are to live in the peaceful life God desires for us we must make time for him to fill us with his peace. What is more is that we must also encourage that peace in those that we love. The beauty of living in God's love is that we are not alone.

Fellowship is one way that God is able to refresh us in our journey in this life. Showing love and care is one way the Spirit is able to show his presence in our lives. God made us to be sociable beings with us seeking communion with him and also with each other. When we live in the way God intended we can end any spiritual drought in our lives and once again present ourselves in the health and life filled beings that can weather any dry spell that comes our way. This is how we can live long and prosper in the world that tries to dry us up because God can bring us life through the most severe drought. We need only seek him in all that we do. Are you seeking him?

Pastor Rus

Come said the leaves to the
wind one day,
Come o'er the meadows and
we will play.

Put on your dresses

Scarlet 
 and Gold

For summer is gone and
the days grow cold.

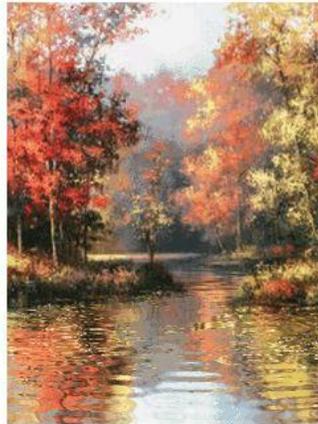
George Eliot

DON'T JUDGE
EACH DAY
BY THE HARVEST
YOU REAP
BUT BY THE
SEEDS THAT YOU
plant.



ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

©ON SUTTON PLACE



Sunday Poem ~

*I Count My
Blessings*

by Harold F. Mohn

*I count my blessings one by one
Though great or small they be,
And know without the help of God
Not one would ever be.*

*I thank Him for these blessings
Each morning of each day,
And then again at close of night
Before sleep comes my way.*

*He grants me all these blessings
Though sinner that I be,
And with the many faults of mine
I know that He loves me.*



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
9/19 Henry Heeren
9/24 Larry Johnson
9/26 Ellie Reints
9/26 Kenneth Meester

Happy Anniversary

9/7 Marlyn & Marcia Allspach
9/13 Mike & Stacy Ascher
9/27 Michael & Kayla Stirling



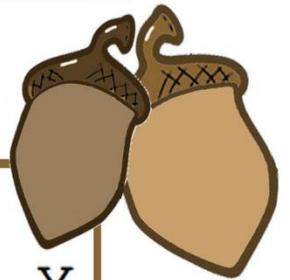
Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please email it to Wendy Armstrong at wendymulder@hotmail.com by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.



Autumn



WORD SEARCH



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



SCARF
TREE
ACORN
HAY

APPLE
FALL
PUMPKIN
SWEATER

BOOTS
RAKE
PIE
LEAF