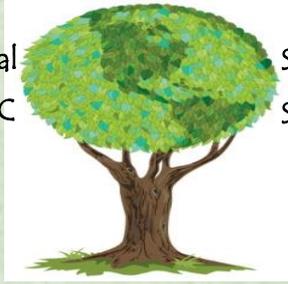


THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical
Ward UMC



St. John's UMC
Shunk UMC



APRIL 2017 EDITION

St John's Goes Bowling!

Recently, St. John's had a bowling party at the Canton Lanes. Some of us dusted off our bowling balls and used muscles we haven't used in years, while others played like old pros! A wonderful time was had by everyone!! Looking forward to doing it again soon!



Pictures courtesy of Jerry Schmidt and Beverly Unruh
(Sorry that the pictures are a little dark)

The Parish Office Address is:

The Tri-County Parish:
103 North Center Street
P.O. Box 313
Canton, PA 17724

(Second Floor of Canton Ecumenical Parish)

The Office phone number is:
(570) 673-5294

(Please make sure all correspondence is clearly marked with P.O. Box 313 as without it, it is undeliverable by the US Postal Service and will be returned.)

Be sure to check out our new and improved website! There are pictures, videos, event calendars, birthday lists, past and present editions of the Circuit Rider and more!

Go to:

www.tricountyparishumc.yolasite.com



Like us on Facebook! (Tri-County Parish)



Parish Office Hours:

Pastor Jerry Schmidt:

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Certified Lay Minister Kathy Miller

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Administrative Assistant

Paula Schmidt:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Office Hours are subject to change due to emergency calls or other unexpected events.

Parsonage phone number:

570-673-8232

Pastor Jerry's cell phone number:

717-571-1159

Pastor Jerry's e-mail address:

Pastorwho@aol.com

Kathy Miller's Contact Information:

570-398-7672 (Home)

570-916-7691 (Cell)

E-mail address:

kaydeemi@hotmail.com

Paula's e-mail address:

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tricountyparishumc@gmail.com

The Circuit Rider is a monthly publication of the Tri-County Parish.

Contributors:

Suzi Fisher, Kathy Miller, Jerry and Paula Schmidt, Andrea Sutton, Susan Stull, and Dana Vermilya.

Items for the newsletter can be sent to your church's contact person or by e-mail to Paula at:

tricountyparishumc@gmail.com

(Please do not send items to Paula's AOL address)

The Deadline for the May 2017 issue is

Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

The Circuit Rider is available by e-mail. If you would like to have your copy delivered by e-mail, please contact the parish office or send an e-mail to Paula at:

tricountyparishumc@gmail.com.

Please help us conserve paper!

The Circuit Rider is also available at:

www.tricountyparishumc.yolasite.com.

If a member of your family or a friend is hospitalized, please contact the parish office (673-5294) as soon as possible. (you can leave a message after office hours) Pastor Jerry and Kathy would like to make a visit, but since hospitals discharge patients so quickly, we need to know as soon as possible when your family member is in the hospital. Also, if you or a member of your family would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please let us know so Pastor Jerry can arrange a visit. No one should go without this important sacrament in their lives.

Pastor's Ponderings

By Jerry Schmidt

Greetings in the Name of the risen One who saves us from ourselves and a wicked world,

By the time you read this, we will be over half way through the season of Lent. This church season is for us to reflect on our lives now, and to search within for ways that we can be better people. People who carry on the long traditions of being caretakers of this world, and living the spirit in which Jesus taught.

We have added a mid-week Lenten service for the Tri-County Parish, and it has been well attended. (I am sure that supper helps to increase attendance) Thank you to St. John's United Methodist Church for hosting these services in the geographical center of the Parish. Thank you to Ward UMC, Shunk UMC, and CEP UMC for the time and effort to supply the light supper.

What new things, aspects of life, and renewed spirit can we add to the daily living out of our faith? I am encouraged by the ministries that take place in the church, community, and world. The Souper Bowl of caring donations were greatly appreciated. The monthly donations to the Food pantries in Canton and Sullivan County are well worth the effort that we make to feed the needy. The acts of kindness that I see encourage me to be a better person as I live my life to serve, (and try to get a little time for my sanity and rest). The list of ministries seen and unseen goes on and on.

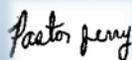
I pray that this Lenten season is not just another 40 days, but 40 days of reflection, repentance, and growth and change for each one of us. Has a caring community of faith made you want to be more involved in that community? Has the needs of someone made you see how blessed that you are, and made you want to see social justice for everyone? Has some act of kindness and realization of the blessedness of someone made you want to be a blessing to others? Has Jesus made you see the need for a renewed relationship with God? Has God's love made you see that you need Jesus more today than yesterday? The moving of our faith need not be a major jump for the coming year, but more a commitment to be better tomorrow than today!

One day at a time is easier to live than what we need to do next week. Taking each day, and taking each moment to accept help from Christ Jesus is all God expects from us. If we are rebuilding an engine, or remodeling a house, it can be overwhelming. But if we care for each individual task, then move on to the next, it is less stressful. Before you know it, the time has passed and the job is done. Each new aspect of our daily lives moves moment by moment, and before you know it, the day is done. How was each moment lived? To glorify God? Or to glorify self?

The PPRC wanted an accounting of my time. It gave me the opportunity to document my time and realize where I spend my efforts. I know that everyone will have a different opinion concerning the validity of my time, but I dedicate this time to God that He may be seen in what I do. What wasn't documented was the time spent expecting calls concerning the well-being of church members and community issues. What wasn't documented was every moment, day or night, that I am on call and stirred by God to contemplate the ministry of each church in the Tri-County Parish, or the time that God stirs me to a direction of the sermon.

Is there more to your life than meets the eye? Is there some aspect of your faith journey that is not seen by people, but is making an impact on the lives of others that God sees? That's what Lent is for. Increase, and improve your hearing of God's call on your life.

Living for God to see,



Minister's Musings

By Kathy Miller

It's the middle of March and I'm sitting in my upstairs office trying to decide what to share with you in the April newsletter. But my eyes are drawn to the window as I watch the wind gusts blow snow from the roof in dusty clouds. Icicles two and three feet long are growing from the edge of the spouting. Birds are trying to perch in the neighbor's tall trees, and they too, are being whisked away by the strong winds. Sparrows, juncos, and even a couple of robins are flitting about looking for a solid place to land. "Hang on", I tell them. "Spring is coming next week, I hope!" How foolish of me to think I can predict the weather. God is in control, and He will care for those sparrows -- and us-- just like He promised.

And so, I return to my thoughts of Lent and Easter, mid-week services, Sunday morning sermons, and a Sunrise service. I pull out my hymnal and begin leafing through the Easter hymns and discover – beautiful poetry set to music.

Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King! Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring. Hail, thou universal Savior, who hast borne our sin and
shame! By Thy merits we find favor; Life is given through Thy name. – John Bakewell, 1757

The head that once was crowned with thorns, is crowned with glory now; a royal diadem
adorns the mighty victor's brow. The highest place that heaven affords belongs to Him by
right; the King of kings and Lord of Lords, and heaven's eternal light.
The cross He bore is life and health, though shame and death to Him, His people's hope,
His people's wealth, their everlasting theme. – Thomas Kelly, 1820

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled
down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich
a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering for too
small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.
---Isaac Watts, 1707



**He is
Risen!**

*I pray that you will have a joyous spring -
And a Blessed Lenten and Easter Season !*

Kathy



Parish News

The World Day of Prayer Service was held on March 3, 2017, led by Joyce Castle. There were 15 people in attendance. \$30.00 was collected to support World Day of Prayer's efforts. Thank you to Brian Greenough who provided those in attendance with a lovely luncheon. Everyone who attended was uplifted by this special service. See you next year!

Just a few more Lenten Luncheons until Lent is over! April 4 will be hosted by Alba Christian Church and April 11 will be hosted by Grover Church of Christ. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

For the last few Wednesdays in Lent, St. John's will continue to host the weekly Parish Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend these uplifting services. A light supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone who has participated in these services and provided food for the supper each week.

Easter Week Services



Final Mid-Week Lenten Service

At St. John's UMC

6:00 Supper

7:00 Service

Holy Thursday

CEP Agape Meal- 7:00 p.m.

Shunk Holy Thursday Service- 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday

See Canton Independent Sentinel for Community Events

Easter Sunday

Ward UMC Sunrise Service, Breakfast following 7:00 a.m.

No regular Sunday morning worship

St. John's UMC and Grover Church of Christ Combined Sunrise Service

At Grover Church of Christ With Breakfast following- 7:00 a.m.

St. John's UMC- Easter Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.

Canton Ecumenical UMC- 11 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship

Shunk UMC- Easter Sunday Worship 11:10 a.m.

Shunk News

By Suzi Fisher

Sunday School at 10:00 AM.

Please check the bulletin and Canton Independent Sentinel for Holy Week Services.

April 16- Easter Sunday Service at 11:10 AM

He is Risen Up

by Micah Betzner

A bruised heel, a pierced side
On cruel cross my Savior died
He did not stay in death's cold grave
But risen up, He vict'ry gave

Though He was slain, and under laid
He rose again, our sin-debt paid
According to the Scriptures true
He giveth life free unto you

He is in Heav'n, our Christ and Lord
He giveth grace to trust His word
Though Satan toils us to accuse
If we trust God, we cannot lose

Canton Ecumenical News

By Paula Schmidt

The Canton Food Pantry item for April is Boxed Mashed Potatoes. Thank you for your faithfulness to this local ministry, helping people in need right here in our community! Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the needy in our town.

Join us for our Monthly Dinner on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. Our meal will feature Chicken With Sweet BBQ Sauce, Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll, Beverage, and Dessert. (The Menu is the same as last month as the dinner was cancelled) The price is still a bargain at \$6.00 per person. Take outs are available. We'll save you a seat!

Building 103 is now meeting on Sunday mornings before our worship services. Sometimes they are still downstairs as we are beginning our worship. We will be keeping the door to the Fellowship Hall Closed because of that. If you arrive a bit late, please enter quietly.

Soon we will be using our new equipment in the sanctuary for worship. We got a taste of it recently and are looking forward to using the power point each week to enhance our worship! Stay tuned!

Ward News

By Dana Vermilya

At the business meeting in March, we set the date for our “Blessing of the Bibles” service. It will be on April 30th. On that date, please bring your favorite Bible or Bibles with you. We will have a time for all to share about their Bible and any story you’d like to tell about it. If you do not have a Bible of your own or know someone in the church who needs a Bible, please let me or Maxine know by April 15.

We will hold our annual Easter Service with breakfast to follow. Be watching for the sign-up sheet for breakfast items.

We also decided that we would hold our own Mother’s Day service on May 14. We will be sharing some stories and poems. I am also planning another activity for which I need your help. Ladies, if you could write down some information about yourself: it can be a bit of your history from childhood to adulthood, stories you have as a mother, or any tidbit of information you feel is significant to who you are. I’d like this information to be more than the obvious information those of us at church already know about you. Some can overlap, of course, but some new would be great! I would like to have this information by the end of April, but the earlier the better. Even if you will not be there on Mother’s Day, please give me information. We want to include all.

The other key business we discussed at the meeting was the possibility of bringing back an Old Home Day Service. It would be a day of worship, fellowship, food, and music. We would like to plan this service and invite past members etc. If you are interested in helping plan this service or taking on a certain responsibility, please see Maxine or me.

I would like to take this time to let you all know what we developed as our plan when we completed the “Discipleship Network Worksheet” at our meeting a few months ago. As we move through this season of lent, and get closer to Easter, we think about all that was sacrificed to save us. This plan is a way for us to continue what we are doing as well as grow in the ways we share that story with others. The worksheet was broken down into different areas and for each area we were asked to write our existing ministries as well as our goals for 2017. Those areas and answers are as follows:

1. Developing a deeper world of prayer and discernment of God’s call within the individual lives and collective life of the congregation.
 - a. Existing Ministries: weekly prayer list in bulletin, Prayer Warriors meet weekly, prayer chain for those in need, pray blessing over quilts for medical missions
 - b. Goals: when cards and baskets are delivered, prayer is offered, develop visitation teams and offer prayers
2. Developing an intentional Pathway of Discipleship
 - a. Existing Ministries: daily devotions are available to everyone, Guidepost subscriptions are purchased, Circuit Rider is published monthly
 - b. Goals: Hold a Bible Study, get Sunday School going again, hold confirmation class.

(Continued from page 7)

3. Developing lay-driven connections with the community in order to build bridges of relationship with those who have yet to know Jesus.
 - a. Existing Ministries: Bible School, Reach out to those who are ill with quilts, cards, boxes, our cancer mission or giving \$100 with the quilt made for that person
 - b. Goals: Reaching out to those that have been to church through Bible School, Reaching out to those who don't come anymore.
4. Develop a Spiritual Core of Lay Leadership within the congregation.
 - a. Existing Ministries: Storytime as a part of worship, Leaders for cookie hour, Graduation Sunday, special services
 - b. Goals: Blessing of the Bibles, gifting Bibles to our youth
5. Develop worship that is focused, passionate and accessible to those who do not yet know Jesus.
 - a. Existing Ministries: Bulletin is user friendly, hymnals and bibles in pews
 - b. Goals: Bulletin is user friendly, Lord's Prayer accessible in bulletin or on paper, multimedia improvements and additions

Now that you know some of the goals that we have set, are there goals you would like to add? If so, what are they? To make some changes and meet these goals, we need help! Is there one area that you would be able to volunteer to help us meet that goal? Let us know where you see yourself fitting in to this plan. We have a great church and by working together, we can make a difference in the lives of others.

I'll leave you with lyrics from a Casting Crowns song called, "Glorious Day". Its lyrics are the same as the hymn, "One Day", that we sang in church last Sunday. I struggled to sing the hymn as I know the tune to the Casting Crowns version. Either way, the words are very meaningful.

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He
Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree
And He took the nails for me

Chorus

Living He loved me
Dying He saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming
Oh glorious day, Oh glorious day

There are many verses to this song. To reflect on them all, you can listen to the Casting Crowns song or refer to the Celebration Hymnal number 294. Happy Easter!

St. John's News

By Andrea Sutton

Wonderful breakfast at the Heller's. Good food, fellowship and faith. Always enjoy breakfast. Speaking of breakfast, we held our monthly breakfast on March 26.

Again it was great. Thank you for everyone who helps.

Congratulations to Bev Unruh who recently graduated from graduate school. Good nurses are hard to find and we have one in our midst.

Martha Kress performed both in church and also Sunday school. Everyone enjoyed the music, she is very talented and funny. We had a covered dish (full of good food of course) after Sunday school. Again good food, good time, great variety.

Lenten luncheons are going along fine, good messages from different ministers and good menus. Tri-County Parish hosted the luncheon on March 21. It was great that all four churches work together soooooo nicely and are all good cooks.

Congratulations to Sydney Crawford who was in the Wizard of Oz. Music terrific, dancing and acting was like watching a Broadway play. Not only is Sydney a star on the stage, but she has now qualified to go to states for bowling. Good job, Sydney!

Now that spring is here we can think about the growing season. Let's hope that the church will also grow as well.

As part of our growth, come out and see the new TV's that are in three sections of our church! Curious? Come check it out. All are welcome.

We are getting ready for Easter. Come let us adore Him and thank Jesus for the sacrifice He did for us ALL.

Special services will be held on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Information in this newsletter and hopefully in the local paper.

Remember those who are missing in our congregation. Please call, visit, or send a card plus keep them in your prayers.

Happy Easter. Hope the bunny brings you candy. Eggs marks new life. Let us all accept our "new life" in Jesus

The Perfect Ending, Right on Cue

By Bill Hussey

As appeared in "Mysterious Ways"

Posted on Guideposts.org March 13, 2017

It was a clear, calm spring night. People packed our church for a special Lenten service. Our congregation had worked for weeks preparing this presentation dramatizing Christ's final words on the cross. Church members would read passages from the Gospels, and at key moments we intended to play a tape of sound effects to add to the drama: the screams of a crowd, the creak of a wooden cross, the murmur of conversation as soldiers gambled for Jesus' robe.

We had an especially powerful finale planned for Christ's death on the cross when the "earth shook." My part was cuing up a tape of roaring wind, crashing thunder and blinding lightning. I would both narrate and turn the tape player on and off.

The lights in the church slowly dimmed. I stepped to the altar and lit the seven candles representing the last statements of Christ, then went back to the podium.

The readings began, and I clicked the tape on and off at the appropriate times without a hitch. The entire congregation sat in rapt attention as the story proceeded.

We neared the climax of the service. I pressed the play button and heard only a snap, then silence. I fumbled with the player, even flipped the tape over. It was no use. The tape recorder was beyond repair. The part of the evening around which we'd planned everything would not have the crucial dramatic sound effects.

Someone rose to read Christ's final words: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." At that moment, as if on cue, from outside the church came a mighty roar of real thunder. It sounded as if it had struck directly above the church's roof.

The stained glass windows shook. The sanctuary was illuminated by a brilliant flash of lightning. The candles on the altar flickered. My own voice trembled as I read the words of the centurion who stood by the cross: "Truly this man was the son of God."

Our best-laid theatrical plans hadn't worked out as expected.

But the real stage manager had things well in hand.

God's Pharmacy is Amazing!

From "The Fishwrapper", January 24, 2017 Lancaster/West Edition

Used with Permission

It's been said that God first separated the salt water from the fresh, made dry land, planted a garden, made animals and fish. All before making a man. He made and provided what we'd need before we were born, including a medical pharmacy. These are the best and more powerful when eaten raw. Have you heard the phrase, "eat lots of sweet potatoes", part of God's Pharmacy?

God left us a great clue as to what foods help what part of our body! God's Pharmacy is amazing!

A sliced carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris, and radiating lines look just like the human eye...and YES, medical science now show carrots greatly enhance the function of the eyes.

A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopene and are indeed pure heart and blood food. God's Pharmacy again.

Grapes hang in a cluster that is the shape of a heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all the medical research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food, available without a trip to the regular pharmacy.

A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.

Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys. God's unity in creation is astounding.

Celery, Bok Choy, and Rhubarb look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% calcium and these foods are 23% calcium. If you don't have enough calcium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.

Avocados, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine months to grow and avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. These fruits are loaded with over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each of these foods.

Sweet Potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetes, good news for insulin dependent patients all over the world.

Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries. God's pharmacy!

Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste material from all the body's cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, Garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous radicals from the body.

God's Pharmacy is amazing!

News From the Susquehanna Conference



MISSION CENTRAL COLLECTING SUPPLIES AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mission Central will be collecting supplies for Regional Activity Kits and Personal Care Items this year at Annual Conference.

Binders, folders, book sox, notebooks (all styles and sizes), filler paper, composition books, 8-1/2 x 11 copy paper, sharpeners, pencils, erasers, pens, colored pencils, rulers, scissors, crayons, markers, pencil boxes / pouch, glue sticks, stickers; personal care items of shampoo, deodorant, conditioner, soap, laundry detergent.

We will also accept gently used shoes. Drop off at big Mission Central truck at Annual Conference (location TBD). Please see www.missioncentral.org for details.

FEARLESS FAITH: 2017 SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE CAMPS & RETREATS

Be sure to check out this year's Camp & Retreat brochure, available at your local church or on the web at www.susumcamps.org. This year we're offering over 70 different programs at our four Conference Camps, as well as several off-site adventure camps. With opportunities, such as Dad & Me, Mom & Me, and Family Camp for children as young as age four, to adventure camps for high school youth and programmed weekend events for adults, you're bound to find something that will interest you at camp this year. We look forward to seeing you this year at Camp Penn, Greene Hills, Wesley Forest, or Mount Asbury.

WESLEY FOREST CAMPING 2017 BOOKLET: download a copy at:

<http://susumcamps.org/files/brochures2017/SCcampbooklet2017pdf>.

KASAMBIRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Kasambira Scholarship Fund committee has selected Ephraim Mogaka from Kenya, attending Mansfield University, as the next recipient of the KSF. If anyone would like Ephraim to speak at their church, please contact Marie Domenech at mdomenec@mansfield.edu. Thank you. KSF Committee Chair, Pastor Tom Harmac

What Did you Say?

*From "The Fishwrapper" January 24, 2017, Lancaster/West Edition
Used with permission*

The young man had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. So he went to see the old preacher.

Pacing about the preacher's study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally he clenched his fist and shouted, "I've begged God to say something to help me, preacher, why doesn't God answer?"

The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply, something so hushed it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. "What did you say?" he asked. The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher's chair.

"Sorry," he said. "I still didn't hear you." With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more.

"God sometimes whispers," he said. "So we will move closer to hear him." This time the young man heard and he understood.

We all want God's voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God's is the still, small voice...the gentle whisper.

Perhaps there's a reason. Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper.

God's whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. And then, as I listen, I will find my answer. Better still, I find myself closer to God.

The Stethoscope

Author Unknown

From "The Fishwrapper" January 10, 2017, Lancaster/East Edition Used with Permission

A nurse on the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones' chests, would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts.

Their eyes would always light up with awe. But she never got a response to equal four-year-old David's. She placed the disk over his heart. "Listen," she said, "what do you suppose that is?"

He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up, as if lost in the mystery of the strange tap-tap-tapping deep in his chest.

Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin. "Is that Jesus knocking?" He asked.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3: 20)

Changing Hearts

By Sharon Connors

From Christian Life Reprinted by permission from the Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division, P.O. Box 6059, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

Is there someone you know – a relative, a friend, or a coworker – who is extremely difficult to get along with? As Christians, we are called to love one another.

We can pray to God that He would soften or even change that person's heart toward us and others. God is in the business of changing hearts. Throughout the Scriptures, God has demonstrated His ability to soften or harden people's hearts.

The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instruction those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." 2 Timothy 2: 24 – 25)

What if that difficult person in your life is in a position of authority over you? Scripture tells us that we must obey those who are in authority.

This may be hard for a Christian who has a parent who is not a Christian or who is working for someone who is a non-Christian. Sometimes we do not agree with what we are asked to do. However, the Bible tells us that we are to obey those in authority over us. Romans 13:1 says, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

It is hard for me to believe that God would put a hard-hearted person in authority over me. I have struggled over this for a long time. The best that I can do is be an example of Christ and let His light shine through me to set an example.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, there are accounts of how God changed people's hearts. Hard-hearted authority figures who had been against God's chosen ones were changed and shown favor..

One example is the Old Testament story of Jacob's son Joseph and how he spent years in prison for a crime that he did not commit. He was gifted as a dream interpreter and was called upon while in prison to interpret the pharaoh's troubling dream when no one else could.

God helped Joseph interpret the dream and save the kingdom from famine. (Genesis 41: 25 – 32). He showed favor to Joseph because he obeyed authority and was faithful. Joseph was given a position of authority in the kingdom. We can learn from this, knowing that when we obey authority, God will be pleased.

No-Bake Chocolate Oat Bars

From tiphero.com

Adapted from allrecipes.com

Ingredients

1 cup butter
½ cup brown sugar, packed
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
3 cups rolled oats
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon kosher salt
1 cup dark chocolate chips
¾ cup chunky peanut butter



Directions

Line an 8-inch-by-8-inch baking dish with parchment paper, and set aside.

In a medium saucepan, combine the butter, brown sugar and vanilla extract. Heat over low-heat, until the butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved.

Add the oats, cinnamon and kosher salt. Cook, stirring constantly, for 4 to 5 minutes.

Pour half of the oat mixture into the prepared baking dish. Spread out the mixture evenly, pressing down.

In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the chocolate chips and the peanut butter. Heat on high in the microwave, in increments of 40 seconds, stirring in between each increment, until melted and fully combined.

Pour $\frac{4}{5}$ of the chocolate mixture into the pan over the pressed oats, reserving about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for drizzling. Top with the remaining oats and drizzle with the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chocolate mixture.

Refrigerate for 4 hours, or until set.

Tri-County Parish April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Canton Ecumenical

- 3- Ralph Wilcox
- 6- Patty Madigan
- 9- Mary Bronson
- 17- Karen Robertson
- 30- Samantha Barnes

Anniversaries:

- 3- Bob & Shirley Rathbun
- 15- Gerald & Dianne Stiles

Ward

- 4- Charlie Shedden
- 11- Hilary Machmer, Tate Smith
- 18- Missy Laudenslager
- 22- Judy Kelley
- 23- James Garges
- 29- Chantel Ward

Anniversaries:

None

St. John's

- 6- Dorothea Doud
- 10- Betty Schanbacher
- 11- Joanna Wilson, Nathan Wilson
- 19- Eloise Bennett
- 30- Stacey Sutton Kenefick

Anniversaries:

- 6- Gene and Betty Phillips
- 18- Jim & Beverly Unruh

Shunk

- 12- Rosa Hartford, Sally Atkins

Anniversaries:

- 21- Wayne & Linda Quail



If you have corrections or additions to this list, contact Pastor Jerry or Paula immediately so we can keep this list as accurate as possible.

Tri- County Parish Events - April 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |  |  | | | | 1 |
| 2 The 5th Sunday in Lent | 3 Minister's Network at CEP 9 am <i>Ralph Wilcox</i> <i>Bob & Shirley Rathbun</i> | 4 Lenten Lunch. @ CEP 11:45 am to 12:45 pm Alba Christian Church <i>Charlie Shedden</i> | 5 Prayer Warriors 11 am Parish Lenten Service 7 p.m. at St. John's | 6 <i>Patty Madigan</i> <i>Dorothea Doud</i> <i>Gene & Betty Phillips</i> | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Palm Sunday <i>Mary Bronson</i> | 10 <i>Betty Schanbacher</i> | 11 Lenten Lunch. @ CEP 11:45 am to 12:45 pm Grover COC <i>Joanna Wilson</i> <i>Nathan Wilson</i> <i>Hilary Machmer</i> <i>Tate Smith</i> | 12 Prayer Warriors 11 am Parish Lenten Service 7 p.m. at St. John's <i>Rosa Hartford</i> <i>Sally Atkins</i> | 13 Holy Thursday CEP Agape Meal 7 pm Shunk Holy Thursday Service 7 pm | 14 Good Friday See local paper for community events | 15 <i>Gerald & Dianne Stiles</i> |
| 16 Easter Sunday Ward Sunrise 7am St. John's and Grover COC Combined 7 am CEP 11 am Shunk 11:10 am | 17 <i>Karen Robertson</i> | 18 Federal Income Taxes Due <i>Missy K. Loudenslager</i> <i>Jim & Beverly Unruh</i> | 19 Prayer Warriors 11 am | 20 FLPAM Mtg. 10am | 21 <i>Wayne & Linda Quail</i> | 22 Earth Day New Beginnings Banquet at New Life Church <i>Judy Kelley</i> |
| 23 Holocaust Remembrance Day <i>James Garges</i> | 24 | 25 | 26 Prayer Warriors 11 am Clergy Day Apart 10-4 | 27 TCP PPRC at Ward 7pm | 28 | 29 |
| 30 <i>Samantha Barnes</i> <i>Stacey Sutton Kenefick</i> | | | | | | <i>Chantel Ward</i> |

All events are subject to change.
Birthdays and Anniversaries are in italics.

Lectionary April 2017

April 2: (The Fifth Sunday in Lent)

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14
Psalm 130
Romans 8: 6 – 11
John 11: 1 – 45

April 16: (Easter Sunday)

Acts 30: 34 – 43
Colossians 3: 1 – 4
John 20: 1 – 18 or
Matthew 28: 1 – 10

April 23: (The Second Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2: 14a, 22 – 32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1: 3 – 9
John 20: 19 – 31

April 9: (Palm Sunday)

Liturgy of the Palms:

Matthew 21: 1 – 11
Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 19 – 29

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a
Psalm 31: 9 – 16
Philemon 2: 5 – 11
Matthew 26: 14 – 27: 66 or 27: 11 – 54

April 30: (The Third Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2: 14a, 36 – 41
Psalm 116: 1 – 4, 12 – 19
1 Peter 1: 17 – 23
Luke 24: 13 – 35



The Tri-County Parish Circuit Rider
P.O. Box 313
Canton, PA 17724

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