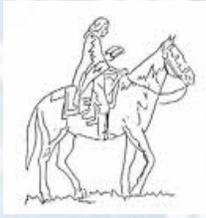
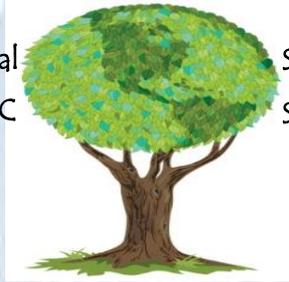


# THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical  
Ward UMC



St. John's UMC  
Shunk UMC



## DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

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### Tri-County Parish Advent Events

**Wednesday, November 29- Tri-County Parish Mid Week Bible Study  
Supper at 6 p.m., Study at 6:45 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 3- The First Sunday of Advent  
Ward Angel Tree Service: Dinner at 5:30 p.m., service following  
Soup, Salad, Sandwich Dinner at St. John's, (with Grover COC) 6 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 13 Tri-County Parish Mid Week Bible Study  
Supper at 6 p.m., Study at 6:45 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 10- The Second Sunday of Advent  
Canton Ecumenical Chrismon Service, 11 a.m., followed by the annual Christmas Party  
Shunk Christmas Party following the worship service  
St. John's Cookie Exchange, 2 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 13 Tri-County Parish Mid Week Bible Study  
Supper at 6 p.m., Study at 6:45 p.m.**

**Friday, December 15- Annual Parsonage Open House, 4 to 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 16- St. John's Sunday School Christmas Party**

**Sunday, December 17- The Third Sunday of Advent**

**Wednesday, December 20 Tri-County Parish Mid Week Bible Study  
Supper at 6 p.m., Study at 6:45 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 24- The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas Eve Services:**

**Canton Ecumenical: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. (note the time change)**

**St. John's: Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 p.m.**

**Ward: Family Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.**

**Shunk: Christmas Eve Service at 8 p.m.**

**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](http://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](mailto:Pastorwho@aol.com)

**Kathy Miller's Contact Information:**

570-398-7672 (Home)

**570-337-8329 (Cell)**

**(please note that this is a new number)**

**E-mail address:**

[kaydeemi@hotmail.com](mailto:kaydeemi@hotmail.com)

**Paula's e-mail address:**

**(Parish business)**

[tricountyparishumc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:tricountyparishumc@gmail.com)

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

**The Deadline for the January 2018 issue is Wednesday, December 13, 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](mailto:tricountyparishumc@gmail.com).

Please help us conserve paper!

The Circuit Rider is also available at:

[www.tricountyparishumc.yolasite.com](http://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 Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit,

As I sit down to write this letter, after the date that it was due, I am thankful for the chance to sit after the last two weeks of planning, organizing, and contacting so many people concerning the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration. As I was living through the busyness of last week, I had several aha moments, and ideas that would have made for a good letter for the CR. But that was then, and this is now. By the time you read this edition of the CR, we will have celebrated the last Sunday of the church year, and are now ready to begin the new church year that brings us to Advent. Well, maybe we are not ready for this season of our spiritual lives.

You will also have celebrated Thanksgiving, whether on Thursday, or whatever day you and your family could gather together. There is much for which to be thankful. Blessings abound for us. There is a person I know, who wants no sympathy for the ailments in his body because, as he says, there are many who are worse off than he.

We will have celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Methodists in the Canton area. We had a spirit filled night with special music, special speakers, and videos that added to our celebration.

We will have shared an evening celebrating 35 years of marriage for Paula and me as husband and wife, and partners in everything, including raising two kind and beautiful children in Paul and Rachel. I wanted to have this party as a thank you to Paula for so many wonderful years, and a thank you to St. John's United Methodist Church for their thoughtfulness 10 years ago when they hosted our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party.

It is one thing to remember with fondness, years gone by. It is another thing altogether to live in that past. God calls us to live, and move on, cherishing the memories that we have amassed in the living of life. As we move on, we have learned a thing or two about how best to help others. God gives us all that we need to minister to others. We know what eased our pain, and then can offer that same empathy, sympathy, and comfort to those who are hurting.

Every year at Advent, we are encouraged to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. This is not a chance to relive what we have done every other year, but a chance to recognize the growth in our spiritual selves, and build on that growth for a better self.

God's love comes down every Christmas, and every day for those who see it. Where is the opportunity for us to help someone in need? As this is the letter between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I want us to give thanks, and listen for God's call on our lives. From the mundane actions of every day, to the extra special times we share with loved ones, family, and friends, we must take each opportunity to grow each day toward the person God has called us to be. After we suffer from an illness, such as a cold, the flu, a broken bone, or even cancer, we want to get up, get out, and make the most of each day. The same holds true for our spiritual lives. After we suffer, we should want to share the Good News of God's love in our lives.

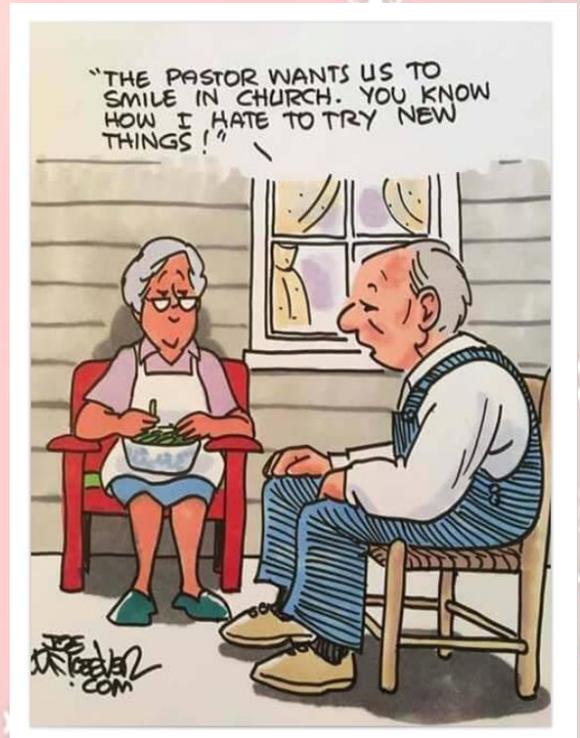
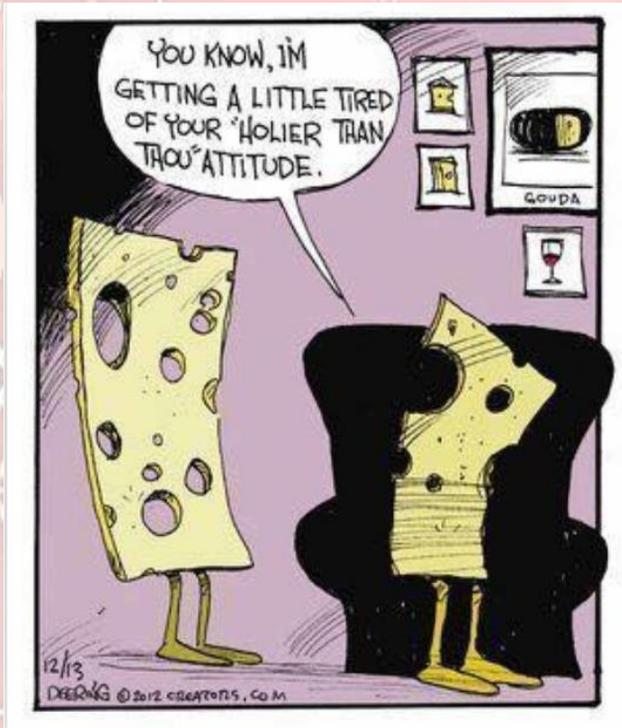
(Continued from page 3)

I pray that you will be the best version of yourself. I pray that you become the person God has called you to be in this world so that you can be with God in paradise. I pray that we can all be better people, accepting the grace, peace, and love that God offers abundantly. And that we might share God's gifts given freely to us.

May you love a little deeper, laugh a little louder, and hear God a little clearer as you live each day to glorify the Lord God Almighty.

Living to serve the Creator,

*Pastor Perry*



## Minister's Musings

By Kathy Miller

Christmas! Isn't that one of the most magical words?! Simply speaking of it can create warmth, joy and memories of our childhood. For me, Christmas really began when my Dad would say, "C'mon, let's go to the attic for our decorations." And, always, the first box we looked for was the little, battered cardboard box that held the family Nativity set. Recently, I asked my brother, Russ, (9 years older than I), how old the set was. He thought about it and decided he couldn't remember a Christmas without it either. A few years before my mother had passed away, she remembered buying it at the 5&10 cent Store. Wow, that dates me, doesn't it!

Anyway, I had the privilege of bringing that precious box to the living room, unwrapping each piece from the cotton batting, and placing them in just the right place near the tree. Jesus always had the place of honor in the Nativity arrangement at Christmas – and in our lives all year.

My Christmas prayer for you is that Jesus always has the place of honor in your homes and hearts all year long!

### Suggestions from "The Little Book of Christmas Joys"

**Be the first to wish everyone you meet a Merry Christmas.**

**Don't count calories from December 15<sup>th</sup> thru January 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Mend a broken relationship with a friend or relative during the holidays.**

**Be nice to sales personnel. They're often wearier than you are.**

**Don't schedule yourself too tightly during the holidays. Before making an appointment, ask yourself, "Can this wait until after Christmas?"**

**Take a basket of Christmas goodies to your local fire and/or police stations.**



*Merry Christmas*

*To all our friends in the Tri-County Parish,*

*Kathy & Joe*



# Parish News



Thank you to everyone who filled a box this year! We took a total of 89 boxes from all four churches to be distributed!! (For those of you who are competitive, here is the breakdown from all four churches)

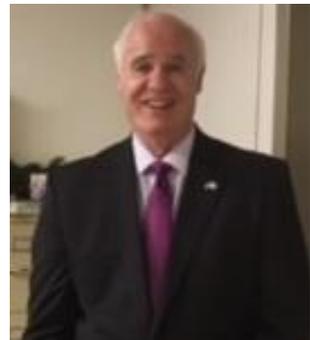
CEP- 12 boxes    St. John's- 21 boxes  
Shunk- 23 boxes    Ward- 33 boxes

We are sure you will make this Christmas very special for the person who gets your box!

On Saturday, November 4, 2017, surrounded by family and friends, Gerry and Marilyn Brown celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at Shunk UMC. They celebrated with a renewal of their vows officiated by Pastor Jerry, and a lovely party at Ruby Tuesdays. We congratulate them and wish them many more happy years together!



On Friday, November 3, 2017 St. John's had its annual Thanksgiving Dinner followed by a Jacob's Brothers Concert. The meal consisted of Roast Pork and all the trimmings and of course pie! The concert was uplifting and a blessing to all in attendance. Thank you to all who helped with this event.



## **St. John's News**

*By Paula Schmidt*

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner was again a success! (how can you go wrong with good food and wonderful fellowship? The Jacobs Brothers presented another wonderful concert. (see previous page 3 for pictures and details). Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

St. John's will again be doing the Giving Tree to help needy people in our area. Please bring in stuffed animals, hats, mittens, socks, and scarves to decorate our tree. Thank you in advance for your donations. If you have any questions, contact Dody Smith.

On December 10 at 2 p.m., we will be having a Christmas Cookie exchange. Please bring 6 dozen of your favorite Christmas Cookies and containers to bring your cookies home in. This isn't just for women. Men, if you can bake cookies, you are welcome to come as well! If you have any questions, see Marcia Wilson.

Don't forget the Midweek Advent Bible Study that is open to all in the Tri-County Parish, but hosted by St. John's. Take time away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas activities and recharge your batteries with Food, fellowship, and God's Word. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and Bible Study at 6:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Come and bring a friend!

Our Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 16 at Kelley's Creek Side. See Denny Vermilya if you are coming. Time to be announced later. Watch the bulletin.

Our annual Christmas Eve Service will begin at 6:30 p.m. Come join us for this inspiring service! Everyone is welcome!

### **Love Came Down at Christmas**

*By Christina G. Rossetti*

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas; start and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token; love be your and love be mine;  
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.*

## Canton Ecumenical News

*By Paula Schmidt*

The Canton Food Pantry item for December is canned pears. 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 annual Chrismon Service on Sunday, December 10 during the 11 a.m. worship service, followed by our annual Christmas Party. Come celebrate with us! Everyone is welcome!

We are going to start an adult Sunday school class beginning with the new year at 10 a.m. If you are interested in coming to Bible Study, see Sue Stull. Everyone is welcome to attend this study.

## Shunk News

*By Suzi Fisher*

Pastor Jerry and Kathy Miller were honored after church during Pastor Appreciation Week with a lovely cake baked by Carol Miller. The presentation took place after a potluck and meeting. Thank you for all you do for us Pastor Jerry and Kathy!!

On November 4<sup>th</sup> Gerry and Marilyn Brown renewed their wedding vows in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ralph and Carol Miller also celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with a surprise family reunion. Congratulations to both couples!!

**Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Pastor Jerry and Paula on November 26<sup>th</sup>!!**

**Christmas Party-** Join us after church on Sunday, December 10 for our annual Christmas Party. Bring a dish to pass and a \$1 to \$2 gift for the exchange. Everyone is welcome! Join us to celebrate Jesus' birth.

**Annual Christmas Open House** – at the Parsonage on Friday, December 15 from 4 to 7 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Schedule** see page one.

**Operation Christmas Child** shoebox collection has ended. Thank you if you participated!

As Christians we are asked to help people fall in love with God; learn about God; and serve Him through aiding others in need. This Christmas Season, open your heart to the Lord. Thank Him for the many blessings you have and share those blessing with others. Welcome visitors to our church. Lend a hand to a neighbor. Even a smile can be uplifting. Let your Christ Light shine!

“Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man.”

*Phillips Brooks*

Merry Christmas!!!



## Ward News

By Dana Vermilya

Tonight is the Angel Tree Service. Dinner is at 5:30 and the service will follow. We hope to see you there. If you haven't given your angel to me, please do that or bring any last minute additions to the service.

Thank you to everyone who packed Operation Christmas Child boxes. They were taken to the drop off location by Pastor Jerry so we also thank him for that.

We are buying for four children this year. If you are purchasing an item, please have the gift, with the tag taped to it, at church on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for helping by purchasing desired items.

The business meeting will be held on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 at the home of Dianna Thompson.

Ward will be having a Christmas program during the morning worship service on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Coffee hour will follow the service that day.

This month, one of our members, Maxine, is having a special birthday. In honor of this occasion, I have a list to share with you. It was actually developed a few years back, so you may remember parts. We have added to the list to complete it for this year.

### 70 Reasons We Love Maxine



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. She crochets dishcloths  | 14. She is always there when Amy dials 673-8906  | 26. She lets Dave ride a bike to church   |
| 2. She makes wonderful baby blankets and sweaters                                 | 15. She is our go-to girl with church questions  | 27. She is very crafty  |
| 3. She makes delicious monkey bread   | 16. She stands up for what she believes in   | 28. She is an awesome baker   |
| 4. She is able to balance how many checkbooks?                                    | 17. She has taught many children the basic stories of the Bible                            | 29. She never hung up on Barb when she called hundreds of times about the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration |
| 5. She keeps the church warm  | 18. She is always prepared for the business meetings no matter how long she procrastinates | 30. She is open to any and all ideas  |
| 6. She starts the coffee for coffee hour  | 19. She keeps Dave in line   | 31. She is very loveable  |
| 7. She is very organized  | 20. She makes diaper cakes for new babies  | 32. She visits many in need   |
| 8. She pays our bills on time   | 21. She is a devoted comfort quilter   | 33. She always helps out when the cleaners forget   |
| 9. She is always willing to drop what she is doing to do something for the church | 22. She helps make Bible School extra special  | 34. She makes fine tea  |
| 10. She always has a smile on her face when she sees you                          | 23. She is always ready to put on a theme dinner   | 35. She is a newspaper article clipper  |
| 11. She is always thinking about others   | 24. She has a strong faith and is an example to others                                     | 36. And she can dig up any article from any number of years ago (except that one)                                   |
| 12. She plants flowers upside down and brings poinsettias back to life            | 25. She likes to be to church on time-with or without Dave                                 | 37. She delivers quilts and other goodies   |
| 13. She is a great bargain hunter   |  | 38. She always remembers the Veteran's Day holiday décor for the church   |





(Ward news continued)

- 39. She is a great mother
- 40. She is a great grandmother
- 41. She appreciates the small things
- 42. She helps Dave pick out his clothes
- 43. She is good at fighting fires
- 44. She is a great mom who makes soup for people
- 45. She's the tax collector people don't mind visiting
- 46. She's involved in the township
- 47. She is always ready for a late night trip to Walmart
- 48. She is a wonderful back-up when you forget to do things
- 49. She sorts more pictures than she scrapbooks (and enjoys ripping up the doubles)
- 50. She has got enough canned goods for everyone in the church if the storm of the century hits
- 51. She appreciates everything anyone does for Ward Church
- 52. She conserves gas very well by strategically planning her trips to town
- 53. She starts her day with her yellow legal pad and list of things to do and crosses them off as she goes
- 54. She puts in her hours on election day
- 55. She attends meetings of all kinds when related to the church
- 56. She has the ability to catch her chin in a coat zipper
- 57. She's a flooring and painting queen
- 58. She has her own bike club and Linda Urban is her only member
- 59. She is one in a million
- 60. She is a wonderful wife
- 61. If she says she will do something, she keeps her word
- 62. She keeps a folder for every event at the church, but sometimes has trouble finding her list the next year
- 63. She has flowers and decorations for every holiday
- 64. When getting ready for a church dinner, she waits a few minutes and calls to see what we forgot before she comes down.
- 65. She is a world traveler
- 66. She is a proud great-grandmother
- 67. She makes sure others are honored, but does not ever include herself
- 68. She always enjoys a good quilters shopping trip
- 69. She has begun crocheting mats for the homeless
- 70. She has made the Ward Church and the world a better place.



I'm sure I've missed many reasons, but we wanted to take a moment to recognize Maxine and thank her for sharing her love in so many ways. Join me in wishing Maxine a Happy Birthday at the end of the month. I would also like to take this time to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Ward Veteran's Day Service

Ward UMC had a very emotional and moving Veterans Day Service, honoring our veterans past and present on November 12. The message was given by Dana Vermilya, special music by Pastor Jerry and Josh Kelley, and a special presentation was made to Ward church by Sandy Mc Williams of a portrait of Bobby McWilliams who was honored during the service. Thank you to everyone who participated in this special service.



## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Methodism in Canton

A wonderful service that began with dinner and communion with Bishop Park was held on Sunday, November 19 at CEP. We would like to thank everyone who made this service possible! Special thanks to Bishop Jeremiah Park, The Rev. Beth Jones, The Rev. Greg Rapp, Michael Carl, (guest organist), the C-Notes, (Special Music), The TCP Confirmation Class, The Youth of Building 103, Brian Greenough, and Kathy Miller. Even though the snow began to fall during the service, it didn't dampen anyone's spirits!

Photos courtesy of Andrea Sutton



**A letter from former Associate Minister, Brian Myfelt for the 200<sup>th</sup> Year of Methodism in Canton Celebration: (as he was unable to attend)**

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ,

I am sorry that pastoral duties prevent me from attending in person. I would like to let you know that I think fondly of you often. My time of ministry among you was blessed. I hope I contributed to the growth of you as Christians. I know you contributed to my growth in my professional ministry.

I know that many of our friends have preceded us to glory - and though it seems sad for us - we should celebrate their triumph. Part of that triumph was the ministry that they performed among you. It is always tempting to look back and think that yesterday was somehow better than today. Don't do it. A church sign near us said it so well. *Don't stumble over something behind you.*

It is important to remember the past - see the obstacles that were overcome and the friendships shared and the Kingdom building that was done. However, Jesus came so we could let the past go and press on to what is going on today and in the future - knowing that we are secure in the promise of salvation.

I encourage you to keep meeting - keep studying the scriptures - keep serving our Lord. One of the ways to do that is to continue to meet - to say the prayers and to break bread in the Holy meal. Numbers fluctuate and we look at attendance and say - oh the good old days. But scripture indicates the best is yet to come.

Examine yourselves - find your spiritual gifts- keep pressing on toward the prize and as you go into the world - preach the Gospel! God has work for you to do. Christ paid a high price for your soul - He cherishes you. He prayed the Father send a helper to you - the Holy Spirit.

You are a people of great promise - look over the promises of your Baptism and your Membership vows. Claim the power to fight evil and oppression in all of its forms - wherever you find it.

You are a chosen people and you have chosen to claim Christ. Do it Boldly! Do it kindly! Do it to save others from an eternity in Hell - separated from God and loved ones. You have great power – even though small in numbers at worship.

Jesus promised us that in his name we would do even greater works of power than he did. We are shy about our abilities - but who are we to go against the word of Christ. We promise to die to ourselves and to rise up and live for Christ. I know from my time among you all that this is possible - though difficult. Hold each other up and encourage each other. Work together to accomplish great things. When we partake of the Holy meal we ask God to pour out his Holy spirit on us and the gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine - to take the ordinary and make it extraordinary - to take us and make us extraordinary.

I have been among you and I know you're extraordinary – even when you don't see it yourselves. I pray that you keep the faith – keep worshipping and praying and taking the Holy meal so that you are transformed and you continue the transformational work that Christ has for you in that part of the world where you have been placed.

I would have liked to be with you tonight - but please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers and part of my Thanksgiving memories will be how I was received among you - how Mom was received among you - and how I flourished under the leadership of Pastor Jerry.

I pray for you to have the courage to move out in Christ's name - with the power of the Holy spirit to continue your tradition of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

May you see God's blessing in all things,  
Brian L. Myfelt  
Newton Hamilton Charge  
814-542-4907



# Christmas Child

by Mary E. Carpio

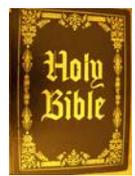
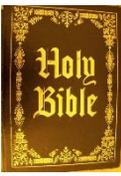
Turn your eyes this Christmas  
To the Child who was born  
He came into the world  
Only to find sorrow and scorn

He knew we needed a Savior  
To set us free from sin  
No other way to redemption  
But to open your heart to Him

Remember this Christmas season,  
Material things cannot satisfy  
They are but temporary  
They disappear and die

But the love of our Savior  
A gift that lives eternally  
He is that brightest Star  
Which shines upon the tree!



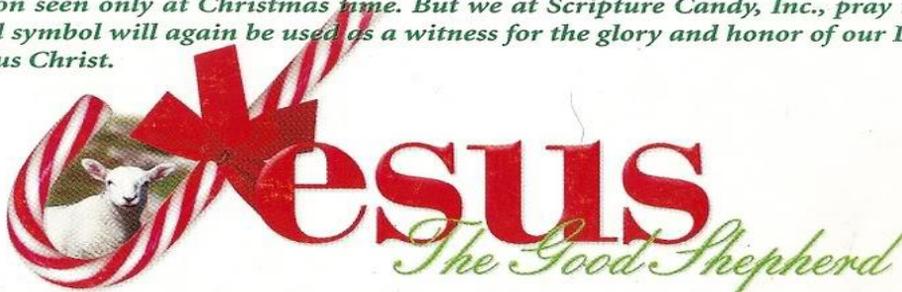


# December 2017 Daily Bible Reading Calendar

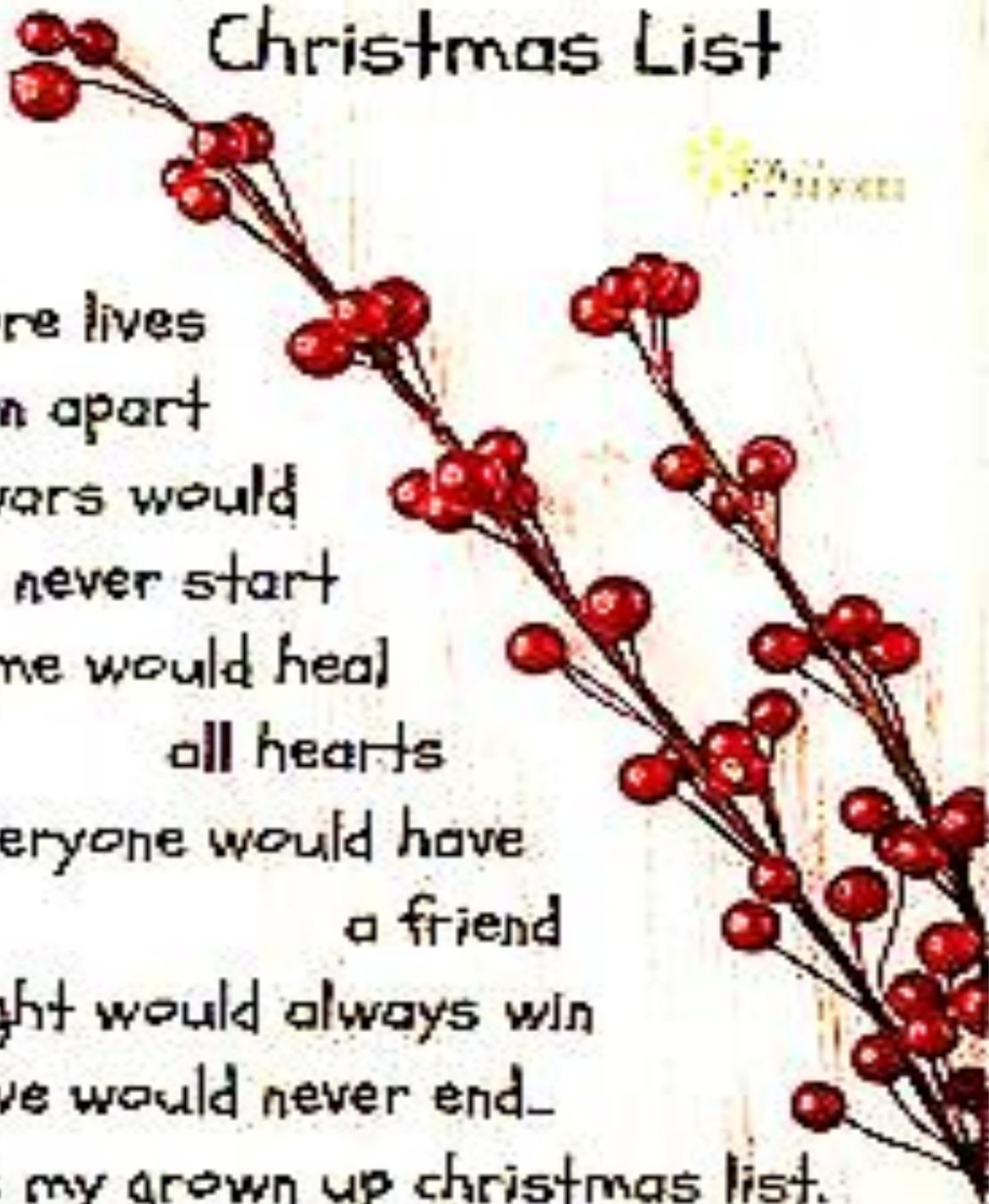
1 Ezekiel 45, 46 II Peter 3	2 Ezekiel 47, 48 I John 1	3 Daniel 1, 2 I John 2	4 Daniel 3, 4 I John 3	5 Daniel 5, 6 I John 4	6 Daniel 7, 8 I John 5	7 Daniel 9, 10 II John 1
8 Daniel 11, 12 III John 1	9 Hosea 1 – 4 Jude 1	10 Hosea 5 – 8 Revelation 1	11 Hosea 9 – 11 Revelation 2	12 Hosea 12 – 14 Revelation 3	13 Joel 1 – 3 Revelation 4	14 Amos 1 – 3 Revelation 5
15 Amos 4 – 6 Revelation 6	16 Amos 7 – 9 Revelation 7	17 Obadiah 1 Revelation 8	18 Jonah 1 – 4 Revelation 9	19 Micah 1 – 3 Revelation 10	20 Micah 4, 5 Revelation 1	21 Micah 6, 7 Revelation 12
22 Nahum 1 – 3 Revelation 13	23 Habakkuk 1 – 3 Revelation 14	24 Zephaniah 1 – 3 Revelation 15	25 Haggai 1, 2 Revelation 16	26 Zechariah 1 – 3 Revelation 17	27 Zechariah 4 – 6 Revelation 18	28 Zechariah 7 – 9 Revelation 19
29 Zechariah 10 – 12 Revelation 20	30 Zechariah 13, 14 Revelation 21	31 Malachi 1 – 4 Revelation 22				

## The Candy Cane Story

*A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness for his Savior, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. The white symbolizes the Virgin Birth (Is. 7:14; Luke 1:26-35) and the sinless nature of Jesus (1 John 3:5). The hardness of the candy symbolizes the Solid Rock (1Cor.10:4), the foundation of the Church (Mt. 16:18), and the firmness of the promises of God (Ps. 18:30-32). The candy maker made the candy into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior (1 John 3:16-17), and a symbol to represent the staff of the Good Shepherd (John 10:14). Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker decided to stain it with red stripes, representing the stripes of the scourging Jesus received prior to His crucifixion (Mark 15:15-20) for our healing (Is. 53:5). The large red stripe represents the shedding of His blood on the cross for our salvation (Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:7). Unfortunately, the Candy Cane has lost its traditional meaning and become just a decoration seen only at Christmas time. But we at Scripture Candy, Inc., pray that this traditional symbol will again be used as a witness for the glory and honor of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*



# My Grown Up Christmas List



No more lives  
torn apart  
That wars would  
never start  
And time would heal  
all hearts  
And everyone would have  
a friend  
And right would always win  
And love would never end.  
This is my grown up christmas list.

*12/1/2010*

## Christmas Chex™ Party Mix

### *Ingredients:*

- 6 cups Rice Chex™ or Corn Chex™ cereal
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows (from 10.5 oz. bag)
- 1 cup mini pretzel twists (from 16 oz. bag)
- 15 oz. vanilla candy coating (almond bark) (about 9 cubes from a 20 oz. package)
- 3 tablespoons holiday colored sprinkles or nonpareils
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup holiday – colored candy – coated chocolate candies

### *Directions:*

1. Line a large rimmed cookie sheet with waxed paper. In a large bowl, mix cereal, marshmallows, and pretzels.
2. In a medium microwavable bowl, microwave candy coating uncovered on High for 60 to 90 seconds, stirring after 1 minute, until almost melted. Stir until smooth. Pour onto cereal mixture; mix well
3. In a 2 – quart re-sealable food-storage plastic bag, add coated cereal pieces and powdered sugar. Seal bag; shake to coat. Remove from bag; discard any remaining powdered sugar.
4. In a large serving bowl, mix coated cereal mixture and chocolate candies.



**Tri-County Parish**  
**December Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Canton Ecumenical**

- 1- Seth Robertson
- 7- Jesse Lattimer
- 11- Cailin Robertson
- 14- Peggie Acampora, Joan Lattimer
- 15- Madge Mahosky
- 18- Courtney McNett, Noelle Lattimer
- 20- Marilyn Machmer
- 30- Kathy Miller
- 31- Jordan Campbell

**Anniversaries:**

- 1- George & Bobbee Wilcox
- 20- Orin & Florence Finogle

**Ward**

- 4- Paul Machmer
- 7- Hudson Ward
- 9- Zoey Morse
- 25- Christine Rice
- 30- Mike Boyd, Kathy Miller
- 31- Maxine Shedden, Pete Loudenslager

**Anniversaries:**

None

**St. John's**

- 7- Deb Avery
- 11- Sammy Deljonavan, Charlie Johns
- 15- Beverly Unruh
- 18- Brenda Higley
- 21- Jim Doud
- 23- Denny Vermilya, Brian Driscoll
- 30- Kathy Miller

**Anniversaries:**

None

**Shunk**

- 10- Dori Fisher
- 18- Darwin Higley
- 27- Phyllis Higley
- 30- Kathy Miller

**Anniversaries:**

None

**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.**



# Lectionary December 2017

December 3: (The First Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9  
Psalm 80: 1 – 7, 17 – 19  
1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9  
Mark 23: 1 – 12

December 10: (The Second Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 40: 1 – 11  
Psalm 85: 1 – 2, 8 – 13  
2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a  
Mark 1: 1 – 8

December 17: (The Third Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – 11  
Psalm 126  
1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24  
John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28

December 24 : (The Fourth Sunday of Advent)

2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11, 16  
Luke 1: 47 – 55  
Romans 16: 25 – 27  
Luke 1: 26 – 38

December 24: (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2: 11 – 14  
Luke 2: 1 – 20

December 25: (Christmas Day)

Isaiah 52: 7 – 10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1: 1 – 12  
John 1: 1 – 14

December 31: (The First Sunday After Christmas)

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4: 4 – 7  
Luke 2: 22 – 40



## December

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

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