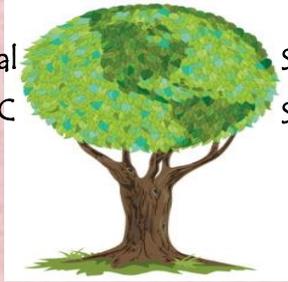


# THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical  
Ward UMC



St. John's UMC  
Shunk UMC



## FEBRUARY 2017 EDITION

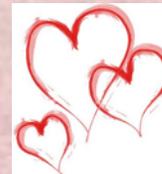
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### **Love is in the Air**

*By Cathy Irvin*

*From [cbn.com](http://cbn.com)*



Well folks, it's that time of year again; you know – red hearts, pink roses, balloons, cards, candy, and animals that sing songs of love.

Store shelves overflow with symbols of love. They began the day after New Year's to get ready for Valentine's Day. Do you know that more roses are sold on that day than any other day in the year? All over the world, it is the day that people show their love for someone special.

Most mothers and wives hope to receive a loving momento, perhaps dinner in a nice restaurant, or to have a meal cooked for them. It is a great occasion to express love and appreciation for any of your loved ones, but it is important to show little acts of kindness the other 364 days of the year.

I can do without a dancing gorilla singing "Love Me Tender", but I sure would miss getting that hug or kiss from my little great granddaughter when she says, "I love you GiGi." Or my son's nightly ritual when he says, "Good Night Mom, I love you." he says those are the last words we speak when he is at home. I guess that is because we only have today. We are not promised tomorrow.

When my daughter calls me she always says, "Bye, I love you." This is the best gift, day after day, just to know I am loved.

It means a lot when family and friends want to spend time with you, share a meal, or just talk. God tells us in His Word how much He loves us. He promises never to leave or forsake us, to answer us when we call, day or night. He never slumbers nor sleeps. We need to tell Him how much we love Him 365 days a year as well.

Flowers will die. Candy will get eaten. Balloons will pop. Stuffed animals may stop singing. Cards may get lost or thrown away, but the love that is shared with one another, and God's love for us, will never pass away.

*"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed." says the LORD, who has compassion on you.*

*(Isaiah 54: 10)*

May you find little ways to show some acts of kindness to those you love before and after Valentine's Day this year.

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10: 24)*

Let love be in the air at all times!

**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:**

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570-398-7672 (Home)

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[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 March 2017 issue is Wednesday, February 15, 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*

Happy Groundhog Day, Happy Valentine's Day, Happy President's Day, Happy season after Epiphany,

There is so much to be thankful for in our lives. God is present and knows us. There is nothing that we can hide from our God, His Son, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit and Advocate. We have many things to celebrate this month from the excitement of Spring as Lent approaches, and new growth after the dreariness of Winter, to the celebration of love, to the respect of those who were and are elected to govern us, to Epiphany of our Lord and the time that follows.

We know the meaning behind most holidays, and some of us know the history and how these holidays came to be celebrated. And many of us know of Epiphany. The time after Christmas while the Wise Men were traveling to get to the baby Jesus to present the gifts to this newborn King. But what about this time after Epiphany? Why do we celebrate these 50 plus days that lead to Lent?

This time for me represents the time Jesus took to learn, live, obey, and prepare for what His life would mean to people for the rest of time. Let's start with learning. 2 Peter 1:12-15 reminds us that Peter will keep reminding us of these things, although we already know them. We all need constant reminders. Many of the seasoned ones among us would quip that they have forgotten more than we will ever know. If we are not repetitious with something, we forget how to do it. Then we have to remember how to accomplish a task. How many of us have forgotten how to be what God wanted us to be? How many of us haven't been the Christian that we once were? How many of us do not have that constant reminder from a parent, loved one, or saint from our past? The bible calls us to tell, and retell the stories of the Bible that should be our guide to a better fulfilling life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There was a reason that Jesus asked Peter three times if he Loved Him. It hammered the point home for Peter. There was a reason that Peter denied Jesus three times. It was that third time, and the crow of the bird that reminded Peter of what Jesus said. Did a loved one tell you that you were loved? Did they do it only once? No! It was repeated over and over, each time that they saw you or talked to you.

We must continue to learn new ways of living our faith, and then keep telling the story of our faith journey. Our walk with God and Christ Jesus is a journey. If and when we listen to God and receive God's grace, mercy, and wisdom, then we will be able to explain difficult answers like Solomon did to queen Sheba in 1 Kings 10:1-3. Proverbs 19:27 tells us that we must continue to learn so that we don't forget how to learn. We must continue to emulate and mimic those who are of the faith and live their lives for the Prince of Peace who is the Hope of the world.

There are many new things going on around us. We must choose that which is right and honorable. We must make the difficult decision to fight off Satan when it would be easier to slip towards the dark side and join in, than to stand up to defend justice in our corner of the world, no matter how small or large our network may be.

I am excited to learn the new thing at St. John's UMC in Grover as we tackle the task of learning and growing with power point and multimedia in a worship setting. I am excited that CEP may join this venture in their own worship setting. I am excited for the children who are learning how to worship with relatives and friends at Ward UMC. I am thankful for the people who learn a different way to worship at Shunk UMC when they come to spend time at their cabins.

No church or worship setting is identical to another. I have shared Jorge Acevedo's principles for a healthy church. Now we, (all of us) We need to discern what that means for us in each church. We are in a volunteer society, and we need everyone in some way for our churches to be successful and grow. This growth may have a different meaning for each church. Listen and learn what you are being called to do. Listen to God's voice. God is waiting to talk to you. Are you ready to listen?

Ready to join you, to share the Gospel,

*Pastor Jerry*

## Minister's Musings

*By Kathy Miller*

FEBRUARY – The month we celebrate with groundhog predictions and LOVE!

When we consider agape (sacrificing, selfless) love, the first Bible passage that comes to mind, of course, is 1 Corinthians 13. It is so frequently used in marriage ceremonies that it is often thought of only in that context. But, even though the entire central theme of the Bible is God's love for us through Jesus' gift of salvation, Paul gives us an understanding of that love – what it is and how we should adopt and use it in our lives and our churches. Agape love is a radical love that is extended to all people that we may love as Jesus loves.

After Paul has listed the spiritual gifts in chapter 12, he reminds us that even if we have those gifts of the Spirit, they will mean nothing if we don't first have love. And when we live our lives led by the Spirit, we will be "filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control". (Gal. 5:22,23) The Spirit-given love that distinguishes the Christian is an unconditional love grounded in the nature of God.

In Eugene Peterson's "The Message", he paraphrases Apostle Paul's list of what love is and what it is not.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE  
HIS ONLY  
BEGOTTEN  
SON  
THAT WHOSOEVER  
BELIEVETH IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT PERISH  
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE

"Love never gives up; Love cares more for others than for self; Love doesn't want what it doesn't have; Love doesn't strut; Doesn't have a swelled head; Doesn't force itself on others; Isn't always "me first"; Doesn't fly off the handle; Doesn't keep score of the sins of others; Doesn't revel when others grovel; Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth; Puts up with anything; Trusts God always; Always looks for the best; Never looks back; But keeps going to the end." (1 Cor. 13: 4-7)

Friends, during this season of hearts and valentines  
I wish for you a joyful celebration.

Love,  
*Kathy*



## Parish News



### Prayer Warriors Update

The Prayer Warriors are a dedicated group of people who come together each week to pray for the needs of our community. There are now members from each of our four churches! We have started a card ministry in conjunction with what we do each week. When we pray for a person or persons for awhile, then we send them a card if we are able, to let them know we are praying for them. If you have a prayer request for the group, contact Paula Schmidt or anyone in the group. As we have been saying all along, everyone is welcome to join the group, not just women. Praying out loud is not a requirement. Come and check us out. We meet every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall at CEP. Please note that during the winter months, if Canton Schools are closed, there will be no Prayer Warriors that day.

All churches are participating in the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center's Baby Bottle Campaign in February and March. If you need a bottle, they are available at each church.

Don't forget to keep bringing in your used ink cartridges! Last year we were able to purchase a binding machine to use for our Charge Conference booklets for \$4.00 with our rewards! (This was an \$90.00 piece of equipment) Recently we purchased a printer/scanner for our treasurer to use for \$9.99. (This would have cost us \$89.99) This saves our parish a lot of money each year on office supplies and equipment! (and allows us to buy equipment that we wouldn't be able to otherwise) Keep those cartridges coming!! (Thank you so much!!)

Also continue to bring in your Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels.

Well, as they say, "Better Late Than Never..." As a gift to all of you, Pastor Jerry and Paula had Tri-County Parish Calendars made up for everyone. It took much longer for them to come than we anticipated. They are located as you enter each church. You can choose from a magnetic one or one with double sided tape on it, whichever you would prefer. It's just a small token of our appreciation for all you do for us! ...(Merry Christmas??)

Also, there are glasses/computer screen cleaners in a really nice case from Discovery Place that are available at each church. Please help yourself to them.

World Day of Prayer is March 3. A service will be held at CEP. More details to come.

# You Gotta Laugh

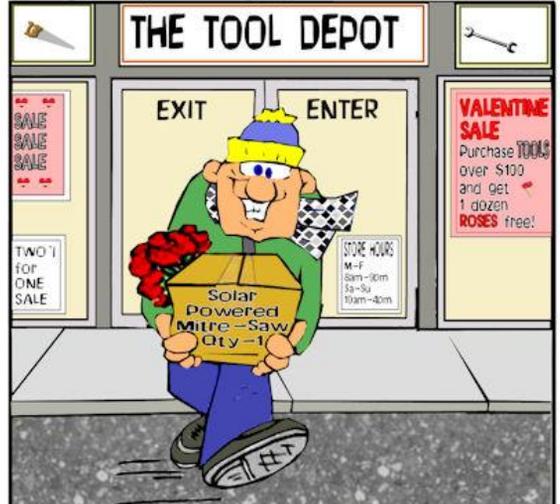
## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Your teeth are store bought and as white as the hairs on yer head. **Song of Solomon for Seniors**



## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



**Valentine Tip:** No matter how sweet the Deal, resist getting roses at the Hardware Store.

(Inspired by an actual Sunday Paper Ad.)





## **Shunk News**

*By Suzi Fisher*

**Sunday School** at 10:00 AM. All are welcome ☺

The annual Baby Bottle Campaign has begun. All proceeds benefit the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center's ministry to women in our community. The bottles are to collect "pocket change" and/or checks made out to EMPCC. The bottles are available at the front of the church.

**Feb. 5 – Souper Bowl Sunday** - Please bring cans of soup and \$1.00 for the Sullivan County Food Pantry.

**Feb. 12– Mission Sunday**...a second collection will be taken.

**Feb. 14 – Happy Valentine's Day!!**

SPECIAL THANKS to all who helped take the Christmas decorations down especially Ken Quail!

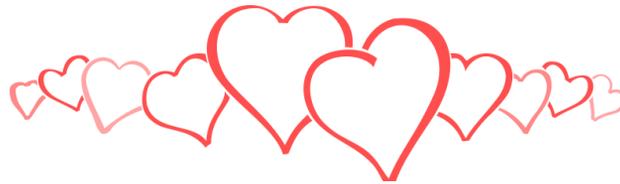
*If you know of a shut-in you would like listed in the bulletin please contact Paula Schmidt.*

The following prayer is from past years. In reviewing it I thought it also applied to this year right down to our township.

**Dear Heavenly Father, we are moved by the alarming news and tragedies that our country has faced in recent years. Please have mercy on those suffering, hurting and in fear, and give wisdom & strength to those who are assisting. May the forces of evil be broken by your power and may we humble ourselves before thee, our strength and refuge. Give wisdom to our President and our leaders, and bring your comforting peace through the power of your Holy Spirit. Help us here to reach to those that have been affected by this tragedy. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. AMEN**

*Taken from: St. John the Evangelist Church Youth & Young Adult Ministry West Chester, Ohio*

Reach out to those who are hurting and grieving as there are many.



## **Canton Ecumenical News**

*By Paula Schmidt*

The Canton Food Pantry item for February is Saltines. 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, February 14, 2017. Our meal will feature Spaghetti and/or Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo, Salad, Beverage, and Decadent Desserts. The price is still a bargain at \$6.00 per person. Take outs are available. Come enjoy delicious food and fellowship with your friends and loved ones.

Building 103 is now meeting on Sunday mornings before our worship services.



## Ward News

*By Dana Vermilya*

February, the month where we celebrate love! Are you one of those people who say Valentine's Day is ridiculous? Do you wonder why you need a special day to tell those in your life that you love them? I like holidays. I don't like decorating for holidays, and I don't need a big fuss made either. However, I see no problem in having a special day to acknowledge those you care about. I do tell my family that I love them frequently. However, is there really something wrong with having a day set aside to make sure you are doing just that?

Whether you believe in celebrating Valentine's Day or not, I am guessing you have someone in your life that you love. Love has been a part of Ward Church since the beginning. It was the love people had for their Lord that inspired them to build this church on the mountain. On July 28, 1941, John Osipovitch and Leah Machmer were married. This was the first marriage performed at Ward Methodist Church. On September 13, 2009, on their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, Bill and Alene Boyd renewed their wedding vows. They stood in the front of our church, not once, but twice, to proclaim their love for each other.

Today, I was fortunate enough to return home just in time to attend the community service that was held at the North Street Community Church. It was great to see the love within our community during this service. The focus of this service was our youth. They sang songs, gave a message, and shared prayers, and everything was centered around our children. Showing these youth that we love them as their parents, pastors, mentors, and friends is important, but more than that, helping them see the love that God has for them is key. When we look at the world that we live in: the drugs, the crime, and conflict that surround us, it is encouraging to see the churches come together to make a difference.

Although I was not able to attend, I have no doubt that while it was mixed with sorrow, there was a great deal of love filling the hearts of everyone in attendance at the memorial service for Viola McIlwain. Celebrating her life and then gathering as a family at the dinner afterward must have brought a sense of a special kind of love to all.

How do you make sure your loved ones know you care about them? I tell my family that I love them regularly. I also often show my love for my family by making them special foods or doing special things for them. They're small tasks but sometimes can have a bigger impact.

However we show our love for others, there is one who truly showed love in a way that is beyond our comparison. I remember my friend once saying that she told her husband after they had their first child, "I think I understand now how much God loves us. I love this child so much." Her husband's response was, "No, God loves us more". Think about that. Think of the people you love the most. Can you imagine that you could love anyone more? God does love us more than that. It is because of that love that He sent Jesus to die on the cross. He sent His Son to carry our sins and die for us. Remember this: when you have those days that you are not feeling loved, or when you are having a hard time showing your love, there is always someone who loves you more. God the Father is here for you and loves you more than you can imagine. Also, remember that because of God's grace and mercy, it doesn't matter how perfect, or imperfect, you are. He will still love you.



(Continued from page 8)

There are many scriptures about love. Some of them come to mind easily. Here are just a couple that I decided to share this month. I'm sure you know a few of them very well.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

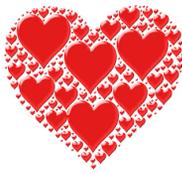
**Business for the month:**

We are planning a special service with a Blessing of the Bibles. We have not yet set the date, but it will be happening in the near future. Everyone needs to gather their favorite Bibles and think of the stories for how they got these Bibles and/or why they are special to them. At this service, we will be bringing our Bibles (however many) and sharing these stories. We will then bless the Bibles. We are hoping to share these stories with our youth and encourage them to have a special relationship with their Bible.

We are also still planning to hold an Old Home Day sort of service later in the spring. Let us know if you're interested in helping plan this or have ideas.

Just an FYI: the community services are currently being held every month that there is a fifth Sunday. When that time rolls around again, I encourage you to attend if you are able.

Only God can turn:  
A Mess into a Message  
A Test into a Testimony  
A Trial into a Triumph  
A Victim into a Victory



**St. John's News**

*By Andrea Sutton*



Remember Groundhog Day on February 2! If he sees his shadow, make sure you have a recipe which features groundhog!

We are coming into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in both the Sunday School classrooms and the sanctuary. We used the equipment for the first time in the Sanctuary on January 29!!

We are looking forward to our Valentine's Day Party. Plans not finalized as of yet. Watch the bulletin. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We really enjoyed the special music provided by Gerri Thomas a few weeks ago.

Spring is only 50 days away!! Yay!!!

**1 Corinthians 13**

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophesy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing; if I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.



## **Kids Say the Funniest Things**

*From godslittleacre.net*



01. A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible -- Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd . . . and that's all I need to know!"
02. When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking the three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"
03. A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you...."
04. A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head, "Yes." "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question. "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"
05. One day a space shuttle crashed to the ground in the yard of a preschool. When he finally struggled out of the wreckage, the astronaut shouted, "I'm free! I'm free!!!" At this point, one of the little children standing there shouted back, "Big deal, I'm four!"
06. A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"
07. A bright 8-year-old child was being tested by the Speech Teacher and was given analogies and asked to describe the following differences: Speech Teacher: "What's the difference between an oak tree and a Christmas tree?" Child: "One has leaves and the other has needles." Teacher: "Very good! What's the difference between a saucer and a plate?" Child: "One files and the other doesn't."
08. A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"
09. Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."
10. Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother tried to explain, keeping it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So, why's the groom wearing black?"
11. On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"
12. A three-year-old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Son, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. I KNOW they're my feet."
13. A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."



## **God's Plan For Aging**

*Submitted by Susan Stull*

Most seniors don't get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things thus doing more walking.

**And God looked down and saw that it was good.**

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. **And God looked down and saw that it was good.**

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise.

**And God looked down and saw that it was good.**

So, if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it is God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.



## **George Washington's Birthday**

*From the "Fishwrapper" February 17, 2015 Edition*



Although George Washington's birthday is celebrated on February 22, it is observed as a federal holiday on the third Monday of February. To complicate matters, Washington was actually born on February 11 in 1731! How can that be?

During Washington's lifetime, people in Great Britain and America switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar (something most of Europe had done in 1582).

As a result of this calendar reform, people born before 1752 added 11 days to their birthdates. Those born between January 1 and March 25, as Washington was, also had to add one year to be in sync with the new calendar.

By the time Washington became president in 1789, he celebrated his birthday on February 22 and listed his year of birth as 1732.



## *News From the Susquehanna Conference*



### **HUMAN SEXUALITY SUMMIT**

All laity are invited to the table conversation around the topic of human sexuality and our United Methodist denomination. Bishop Jeremiah Park will be joining us for these conversations which will be facilitated by Rev. Larry Leland, Rev. Beth Jones, and members of the Human Sexuality summit group. All are welcome but you are asked to please register ahead of time with the office in the district where the event will be held.

#### **Saturday, February 25, 2017**

9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*Faith UMC, Montoursville (Williamsport District)*

700 Fairview Dr., Montoursville, PA 17754

**Registration:** [jjohnston@susumc.org](mailto:jjohnston@susumc.org) or [570-323-7452](tel:570-323-7452)

#### **Sunday, February 26, 2017**

2:30 to 5 p.m.

*Shavertown UMC (Scranton Wilkes-Barre District)*

163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown, PA 18708

**Registration:** [jwallace@susumc.org](mailto:jwallace@susumc.org) or [570-344-8313](tel:570-344-8313)

#### **Sunday, March 5, 2017**

2:30 to 5 p.m.

*Harrisburg District (Location TBA)*

**Registration:** [lhaagen@susumc.org](mailto:lhaagen@susumc.org) or [717-766-8124](tel:717-766-8124)



 **susquehanna**  
Annual Conference

**May 4 - 6, 2017**

**Hershey Lodge**  
Hershey, Pa.

## **Graham Cracker Pudding**

*From Grandma's Recipes Cookbook*

### **Ingredients:**

2 cups milk  
1 egg, beaten  
1/3 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons of flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 cup whipping cream  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 cups graham cracker crumbs



### **Directions:**

Add beaten egg to milk in a heavy saucepan. Combine sugar, flour, and salt and add to milk. Mix well. Cook and stir until slightly thickened. Remove from heat and add 1 teaspoon vanilla. Chill.

In a separate bowl, whip cream. Mix in remaining sugar, salt, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Fold cream into pudding, reserving some for topping. Mix in graham cracker crumbs. Top with remaining cream. Sliced bananas may be added.



**A Daily Devotional Taken from**  
**Mornings With Jesus 2017 Daily Encouragement for Your Soul**  
**January 21, 2017**

*Written by Tricia Goyer*

***Rejoice always, pray continually,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18 (NIV)***

It's taken me a while to feel that I understand prayer and to consider myself a praying person. Maybe it's because of a misconception that I had since childhood that prayer was an event. I felt it was something I needed to remember to tack on at the end of my day, just like brushing my teeth before bed. It was a time when I needed to be still and come before Jesus. There are times when I do that. I love quiet mornings on my couch. Sometimes I even get on my knees before Him, but I've grown to discover prayer is not an event; it's a continual conversation.

In the last week I prayed when I started homeschooling seven children at one time. (I prayed we'd all learn and get along!) This morning I prayed as I watched my son drive away in the rain. (I prayed for his protection and for a bubble to surround his car from crazy drivers.) Last night I prayed for a friend who shared a need on Facebook. I didn't wait until the next morning's quiet time to pray. As I sat in front of my computer, I closed my eyes for a moment and I asked Jesus to be with her and to give her peace.

We don't need to wait for a certain time of day to pray; instead we can go to Jesus anytime. Longer prayer times are important – to listen as well as to make requests – but Jesus's ear is always attuned to even our smallest request. Each of us can be a praying person, and today is a wonderful day to start.

**Faith Step:**

*Whenever you hear of prayer needs during the day, pause and lift your requests to Jesus. Then set a time to pray for a longer period, taking care to listen for Jesus's whispers to your heart.*

# Tri-County Parish February Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Canton Ecumenical

- 7- Morgan Stone Wilcox
- 13- Eric Riggs
- 15- Lisa Carpenter
- 16- Janie Riggs
- 25- Cindy Clarke, Larry Wright
- 26- Michelle Campbell

### Anniversaries:

None



## St. John's

- 4- Ed Smith
- 5- Maria McNett
- 8- Michelle McNett
- 14- Nicole Castle
- 18- Dody Smith
- 21- Celeste Vermilya

### Anniversaries:

- 17- John & Diane Deljonavan



## Ward

- 2- Ruth Morse
- 5- Holden Ward
- 6- Korey Morse
- 9- Tonie Hall
- 11- Mark Betzer
- 13- Stanley Strong
- 17- Maggy Machmer, Taci Jane Smith
- 22- Darby Machmer
- 25- Cassidy Bellows

### Anniversaries:

None

## Shunk

- 8- Mary Ann Savage
- 14- Lucy Baumunk
- 16- Mark Savage
- 22- John Anderson
- 25- Wayne Quail
- 28- Linda Quail

### Anniversaries:

- 14- Mark & Mary Ann Savage



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 - February 2017

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  | 1<br>Prayer Warriors 11 am<br>St. John's Bible Study<br>6:30pm   | 2<br><br><i>Ruth Morse</i> | 3  | 4<br><i>Ed Smith</i>   |
| 5<br><i>Maria McNett</i><br><i>Holden Ward</i>   | 6<br><i>Korey Morse</i>                          | 7<br><i>Morgan Stone Wilcox</i>  | 8<br>Prayer Warriors 11 am<br>St. John's Bible Study<br>6:30pm<br><i>Mary Ann Savage</i><br><i>Michelle McNett</i>                       | 9<br><i>Tonie Hall</i>  | 10   | 11<br><i>Mark Betzer</i>   |
| 12<br>Boy Scout Sunday<br>Lincoln's Birthday   | 13<br><i>Eric Riggs</i><br><i>Stanley Strong</i> | 14<br>Valentine's Day<br><i>Lucy Baumunk</i><br><i>Nicole Castle</i><br><i>Mark &amp; MaryAnn Savage</i> | 15<br>Prayer Warriors 11 am<br>St. John's Bible Study<br>6:30pm<br><i>Lisa Carpenter</i>   | 16<br><i>Janie Riggs</i><br><i>Mark Savage</i>  | 17<br><i>Maggy Machmer</i><br><i>Taci Jane Smith</i><br><i>John &amp; Diane Deljonavan</i> | 18<br><i>Dody Smith</i>  |
| 19<br>President's Day<br> | 20   | 21<br><i>Celeste Vermilya</i>  | 22<br>Washington's Birthday<br>Prayer Warriors 11 am<br>St. John's Bible Study<br>6:30pm<br><i>John Anderson</i><br><i>Darby Machmer</i> | 23  | 24   | 25<br><i>Wayne Quail</i><br><i>Cindy Clarke</i><br><i>Larry Wright</i><br><i>Cassidy Bellows</i> |
| 26<br>Transfiguration Sunday<br><br><i>Michelle Campbell</i>   | 27<br><i>Linda Quail</i>                         | 28   | (March) 1<br>Prayer Warriors 11 am<br>St. John's Bible Study<br>6:30pm   | 2   | 3  | 4  |

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

# Lectionary February 2017

February 5: (The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany)

Isaiah 58: 1 – 9a (9b – 12)  
Psalm 112: 1 – 10  
1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 12 (13 – 16)  
Matthew 5: 13 – 20

February 12: (The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany)

Deuteronomy 30: 15 – 20  
Psalm 119: 1 – 8  
1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 9  
Matthew 5: 21 – 37

February 19: (The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany)

Leviticus 19: 1 – 2, 9 – 18  
Psalm 119: 33 – 40  
1 Corinthians 3: 10 – 11, 16 – 23  
Matthew 5:38– 48

February 26: (The Last Sunday After the Epiphany

Transfiguration Sunday)  
Exodus 24: 12 – 18  
Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1: 16 – 21  
Matthew 17: 1 – 9



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The Tri-County Parish Circuit Rider  
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