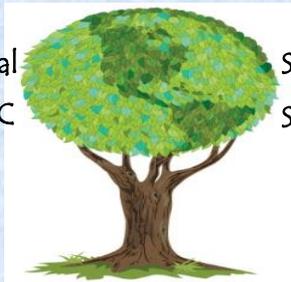


THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical
Ward UMC



St. John's UMC
Shunk UMC



JANUARY 2018 EDITION

Open House 2017



Carolyn Whiteman



Don Heller



Judy Gatti



Janice Hertel



Jim Unruh



Don Blazer



Pat Hamilton



Nancy Beahm
Brian Greenough

The Open House for 2017 is just a memory now, but it was attended by 52 people, who braved cold temperatures and snow, but were greeted with glowing lights, lots of food, games for all ages, and wonderful fellowship! Above are the winners of this year's door prizes (not pictured, Fern McNett). The winner of the "Whose Decoration am I?" game was Brian Greenough. Thank you to everyone who came and helped us celebrate Jesus' birthday!

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)
570-337-8329 (Cell)

(please note that this is a new number)

E-mail address:
kaydeemi@hotmail.com

Paula's e-mail address:
(Parish business)

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 February 2018 issue is Wednesday, January 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

Keep Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace in your hearts throughout the year,

Merry Christmas! As you read this, we are in the Christmas season. As I write this, we are in day 3 of the Christmas season; as you read this, today (Sunday) is day 7 of the Christmas season.

Keep the hope that all will go well for us all this new year. In a reflection of Jurgen Moltmann's *Theology of Hope*, Miroslav Volf reminds us of the difference between optimism and hope. "Optimism is based on the possibilities of things as they have come to be; hope is based on the possibilities of God irrespective of how things are... Hope is grounded in the faithfulness of God and therefore on the effectiveness of God's promise." Do you have optimism or hope for the next day, month, and year?

Keep the love that is perfect, and comes perfectly from God. We know that this agape love that God, through Jesus Christ, has given freely to us is not something that we have readily to give. We love, unconditionally, our children, spouse, family, (even when on the "outs" with them), and good friends. But the love that God offers, and wants us to attain to hold in our hearts for everyone is more difficult to maintain. We are too human! Where are opportunities that we will have to grow towards this perfect love? Might it take a step of hope to reach it?

Keep the joy that we find in the knowledge of God's care for us. Some people are optimistically happy and joyful. What is their secret? It may not be a secret after all. It may be that we don't understand why they are so joyful because of this pessimistic world. When we have and celebrate the hope and love of God, how can we not see the blessings that are around us? Every situation can be worse, and maybe it was for a time, but then healing, or a routine has taken over our life; and we get through each day. Will you be prepared to see the joy that this life holds because of the love and hope of God?

Keep the peace of God near and dear to your hearts from this day forward. There are too many situations, and people that steal hope, love, joy, and peace from us. Like a thief in the night, they sneak in and take that which God has placed in us, that we are to share with others. You will find that some do not want to receive it, unless on their terms. Those terms may be unacceptable to us, so brush the dust from your feet and move on. Others may find that they must seek us out with terms of peace, which may include an apology, or ownership of their entering in and trying to steal what God has given so freely through the hope, love, and joy of Christmas, and life. Will you allow the peace of God to well up in you?

My prayer for all of us this close to the new year is:

That hope may be what you seek in every situation of life that seems to steal your faith. That love is felt by us all as we meet those who seem to steal our joyous disposition. That Joy may fill our hearts, even when others try to impose their disruption of peace on us. That peace may surround us all in our church, our family, our community, and our entire lives!

May the coming new year be a year that our Spiritual growth exceeds our wildest expectations.

Hope, love, joy, and peace to you all,

Pastor Jerry

Minister's Musings

By Kathy Miller

We just finished our Christmas Day celebration, and now we are celebrating a brand new calendar year even though we still have a few more days in the Christmas season. Let's keep that Christmas Spirit going as long as possible, right?

2017 left us on the heels of Old Man Time, and 2018 is marked by the image of a baby. That seems to fit with our honoring of the Christ Child as we approach Epiphany, and the story of Jesus at the temple with Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna. The Church year is marked each week by a mile stone of Biblical scriptures and stories that take us through the Bible, always reminding us of God's great love for us and Jesus' great gift to us.

I pray that we may always be like a Dora the Explorer searching for and finding the riches in God's Word. (If you don't know who Dora is, check with your grandchildren)

.....
Joe and I would like to thank all of you for your many cards and gifts that you have shared with us during the Christmas Season.

.....
We wish each of you a very blessed and . . .

Happy New Year!

Kathy

Pastor Jerry & Paula's 35th Anniversary Party

Surrounded by family and many friends from the Tri-County Parish and beyond, Pastor Jerry and Paula celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary with a lovely meal and a renewal of their wedding vows, officiated by former Associate Minister, Brian Myfelt. (which was a surprise to Paula, this could have been a bad thing had she not suspected it...☺) Thank you to everyone who helped out with the preparations, including Dorothea Doud, who made the cupcakes and cake, Kathy Miller, and everyone who attended! We feel so blessed that so many came out to help us celebrate our special day!



St. John's News

By Paula Schmidt

St. John's Cookie Exchange 2017

A cookie exchange was held at St. John's on December 10. It was well organized by Marcia Wilson and her helper Emma Blazer. There were lots of cookies to choose from, and snacks were served to the participants. A drawing was held and several prizes were given out. Thanks to everyone who came out and enjoyed this activity. A fun time was had by all!



St. John's Sunday School Christmas Party

On December 16 a lovely Christmas Party was held at Kelley's Creekside for the St. John's Adult Sunday School Class. We enjoyed a lovely meal of either chicken or roast beef and decadent desserts provided by Dorothea Doud. Andrea Sutton provided a wonderful program for everyone to enjoy. It was a great time of food, fellowship, and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.



Canton Ecumenical News

By Paula Schmidt

The Canton Food Pantry item for January 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.

Adult Sunday School will begin on Sunday, January 14 at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join us and don't have a book, please see Sue Stull. Everyone is encouraged to join us!

Shunk News

By Suzi Fisher

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

Jan. 14- Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - The annual Baby Bottle Campaign begins. All proceeds benefit the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center's ministry to women in our community. The bottles have slits in them to collect "pocket change" until March. Thank you in advance for your support.

Christmas Party - Carol Miller led us in some fun games. We had lots of fun with our \$1 gift exchange and sampling yummy food. Thank you to all that helped!

Prayer Warriors-I know each of our churches has a Prayer Chain and that's great. I just want to invite you to come pray as a Prayer Warrior on Wednesdays at 11 AM at Canton Ecumenical. It is such a wonderful thing to do and includes our whole parish plus rippling out into our community and fellowship with others. I'm in Florida for the winter and via email can pray with the Prayer Warriors every week via email. Give it a try!

Attitude-a dear friend who lives in Ohio and is on the Prayer List due to pulmonary fibrosis with 30% on one lung left. She's 81 and just keeps going. She has to be on oxygen 24/7. I asked her the other day how she was doing and she told me that every morning when she gets up she looks at the bottom of her feet and doesn't see an expiration date so she has a wonderful day. Think we should all look at Life that way. Wishing everyone many blessings in the New Year!

Ward News

By Dana Vermilya

The Christmas Program was held on December 17 and was entitled, “No Room in the Inn”. The youth did a great job, played their parts very well, and even displayed fitting costumes! Thank you all.

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts to give to the four children we were given through the Giving Tree. It was certainly a wonderful sight to see the bottom of the Christmas tree filled with gifts! It’s great to know that we are able to support our community in so many ways.

The business meeting was held on Dec. 7th at 7:15 at the home of Dianna Thompson. This is always such an enjoyable meeting as we give to so many organizations in December. The next meeting will be held in February at the home of Ruth Morse.

As we wrapped up December, we were once again asked to fill out the vitality worksheet regarding our church. We didn’t make a lot of changes, but did include a few things we would like to do. We are hoping to hold quarterly youth events and also hold a luncheon for those who have lost a loved one and would like to gather together. If you’re interested in helping with these events or have any ideas, let us know.

I don’t have a topic that is currently popping out as something I want to write about. Because of that, I am going to share a poem by Blanche McCauley Hallett with you instead.

Lower Mountain Road

*Hemmed in by greenness from the whispering trees,
Cooled by shadows and wayward breeze,
The mountain road, not very wide,
Had little thought, could not decide
Which way to go;
So merrily he climbed a hill,
Went down again, and down until
He had to turn around to see
Just where the end of him might be;
Then thru a quiet spot where deer
Had sole possession, no one near;
And where ferns, whole congregations,
Danced a dance of jubilation,
And blackberry bushes, blossoms blowing,
Gave invitations for future showing;
To where a church, all chastely white,
Stood quietly in holy light;
Then where the past, in retrospection,
Stood saddened by our recollection,
To hills, our past, our present, our forever,
In circled guardianship
That never
Changes.*



2017 Giving Tree

Ward Angel Tree Service 2017



Ward held its annual Angel Tree Service on December 3. A lovely light supper was served followed by a meaningful service honoring loved ones both here and in heaven. If you have never attended the Angel Tree Service, I encourage you to do so next year!

Angels were presented by:

Charles and Teresa Shedden in memory of their grandmothers, Irma Earley and Marguerite Leonard

Brenda Holland in memory of Donna Good

Jerry & Paula Schmidt in honor of their children, Paul, Jenny, and Rachel and their soon to be born grandson, Conrad Joseph.

Paula Schmidt in memory of Karen Kocher Heilner, Diana Heilner Ziegler, and Charlotte Elaine Ziegler.

Diana Thompson in memory of Shirley and Bill Tebo, Wayne Thompson, Tina Thompson, and in honor of Amy Thompson and Sidney Nestor.

Amy and Randy Bellows in memory of Bill Boyd, Roger Bellows, Betty Boyd, Donna Good.

The Comfort Quilters in memory of Debi Innes and Larry Dunbar

Lydia and Kylie Landon in memory of Daniel Woodward and Eric Galligan.

Thad and Sheila Woodward in memory of Tina Woodward

Mark and Sylvia Betzer in Memory of Betty and Paul Cooper, Deneise and Bob Ebersole, Jane and Joe Rosbuschil, Corrine and Bill Twist. In honor of their grandchildren, Deanna, Marcus, Matt, and Heather and in honor of their granddogs.

Dave and Maxine Shedden in memory of Irma Earley, David McWilliams, Dick Morgan, Carol Rockwell, Jim Rockwell, and Bobby McWilliams.

Ruth Morse in memory of Marie Taylor, and in honor of her grandchildren and the young voices in the Christmas Conglomeration.

The Vermilya Family in memory of their grandparents: Lyle and Ginny Vermilya, Dean and Myra Morse, Dorothy and Howard Norman, and Marion and Jim Richards.

Link Vermilya in memory of Kloey Miller.

Kathy Miller in memory of her parents.

2017 Angel Tree Service



From Power of Positivity A Lesson on Happiness from a 92 Year Old

A 92-year-old moved into our nursing home today. She was well-fashioned, well poised and proud. However, she was also blind.

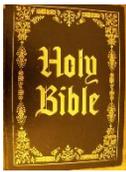
Her husband of 70 years passed away recently, necessitating the lady's move.

As she walked to her new nursing home room, I described her surroundings.

"I love it," she said, as enthusiastic as a small child in Christmas morning. "We haven't reached the room yet," I said.

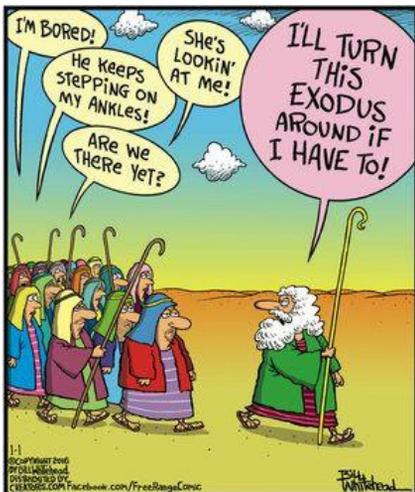
"That doesn't matter," she said. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on the furniture's arrangement. It's all in how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning. I figure I can either spend the day moping about my life, or I can get up and be thankful for what I still have. Each day is a gift. As long as I know that, I'll be happy."





January Daily Bible Reading Calendar From the Gideons International

1 Genesis 1,2 Matthew 1	2 Genesis 3 – 5 Matthew 2	3 Genesis 6 – 8 Matthew 3	4 Genesis 9 – 11 Matthew 4	5 Genesis 12 – 14 Matthew 5: 1 – 26	6 Genesis 15 – 17 Matthew 5: 27-48	7 Genesis 18, 19 Matthew 6
8 Genesis 20 – 22 Matthew 7	9 Genesis 23, 24 Matthew 8	10 Genesis 25, 26 Matthew 9: 1-17	11 Genesis 27, 28 Matthew 9: 18-38	12 Genesis 29, 30 Matthew 10: 1-23	13 Genesis 31, 32 Matthew 10: 24-42	14 Genesis 33– 35 Matthew 11
15 Genesis 36, 37 Matthew 12: 1-21	16 Genesis 38 – 40 Matthew 12:22-50	17 Genesis 41 Matthew 13:1-32	18 Genesis 42, 43 Matthew 13:33-58	19 Genesis 44, 45 Matthew 14:1-21	20 Genesis 46 – 48 Matthew 14:22-36	21 Genesis 49, 50 Matthew 15:21-39
22 Exodus 1 – 3 Matthew 11-20	23 Exodus 4 – 6 Matthew 16	24 Exodus 7, 8 Matthew 17	25 Exodus 9, 10 Matthew 18:1-20	26 Exodus 11, 12 Matthew 18:21-35	27 Exodus 13 – 15 Matthew 19: 1-15	28 Exodus 16 – 18 Matthew 19:16-30
29 Exodus 19, 21 Matthew 20:1-16	30 Exodus 22 – 24 Matthew 20:17-34	31 Exodus 25, 26 Matthew 21:1-22				



Cheesy Ham and Hash Brown Casserole From Allrecipes.com

Ingredients:

- 1 (32 ounce) package frozen hash brown potatoes
- 8 ounces cooked, diced ham
- 2 (10.75 ounce) cans of condensed cream of potato soup.
- 1 (16 ounce) container sour cream
- 2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar Cheese
- 1 1/2 cups grated Parmesan cheese.



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
2. In a large bowl, mix hash browns, ham, cream of potato soup, sour cream, and Cheddar Cheese. Spread evenly into prepared dish. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.
3. Bake for 1 hour in the preheated oven, or until bubbly and lightly brown. Serve immediately.

Country Breakfast Casserole From Allrecipes.com

Ingredients:

- 1 (16 ounce) package breakfast sausage
- 1 chopped green onion (optional)
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 6 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 (2.64 ounce) package country gravy mix
- 6 slices bread, cut into 1 inch Cubes
- 2 tablespoons melted butter (optional)
- Paprika to taste (optional)



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease an 11x 8 baking pan.
2. Brown sausage in a large skillet, drain the fat.
3. Combine sausage with green onion and spread evenly across the bottom of the baking dish. Top with shredded cheese. Whisk together eggs, water, milk, and gravy mix, add mixture to baking dish. Arrange bread squares evenly on top. If desired, drizzle melted butter over the bread, sprinkle with paprika.
4. Bake for 40 minutes in the preheated oven, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Set aside 10 minutes before serving.

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

Canton Ecumenical

- 2- Katie Rathbun
- 3- Beverly Wright
- 4- Katrina Dean Sharrow
- 17- Marsha Krause

Anniversaries:

none

Ward

- 2- Barbara Boyd
- 5- Jill Ward
- 12- Susan Shedden
- 14- Brenda Holland
- 17- Jaylee Marie Ward
- 24- Mike Hall

Anniversaries:

None

St. John's

- 14- Bob Strozyk, Sr.
- 16- Roger Hickok
- 17- Evie Doud, Marcia Wilson,
John Deljonavan

Anniversaries:

None

Shunk

- 8- Bertha Mae Bagley
- 23- Carol Miller
- 29- Marilyn Brown

Anniversaries:

- 26- Ken & Phyllis Quail

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



**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 - January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 <i>Katie Rathbun</i> <i>Barbara Boyd</i>	3 Prayer Warriors 11 am Salvation Army mtg. 12n <i>Beverly Wright</i>	4 <i>Katrina Dean Sharrow</i>	5 Twelfth Night <i>Jill Ward</i>	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Epiphany Sunday Baptism of the Lord Confirmation Class 2pm @ CEP	8 <i>Bertha Mae Bagley</i>	9	10 Prayer Warriors 11 am	11	12 <i>Susan Shedden</i>	13
14 Confirmation Class 2pm @ CEP <i>Bob Strozyk, Sr.</i> <i>Brenda Holland</i>	15 Office Closed Bishop's Retreat Martin Luther King Jr, Day	16 Office Closed Bishop's Retreat <i>Roger Hickok</i>	17 Bishop's Retreat Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Evie Doud</i> <i>Marcia Wilson</i> <i>Marsha Krause</i> <i>Joylee Marie Ward</i> <i>John Deljonavan</i>	18 Office Closed Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25) FLPAM 10am	19	20
21 Confirmation Class 2pm @ CEP	22 TCP Ad. Council @St. John's 7 pm	23 <i>Carol Miller</i>	24 Prayer Warriors 11 am Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Mike Hall</i>	25	26 <i>Ken & Phyllis Quail</i>	27
28 Confirmation Class 2pm @ CEP	29 <i>Marilyn Brown</i>	30	31 Prayer Warriors 11 am Bible Study 6:30pm	2	3	4

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

Lectionary January 2018

January 7: (Epiphany Sunday/Baptism of the Lord)

Genesis 1: 1 – 5

Psalm 29

Acts 19: 1 – 7

Mark 1: 4 – 11

January 14: (The 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany)

1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10 (11 – 20)

Psalm 139: 1 – 6 , 13 – 18

1 Corinthians 6: 12 – 20

John 1: 43 – 51

January 21 (The 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany)

Jonah 3: 1 – 5, 10

Psalm 62: 5 – 12

1 Corinthians 7: 29– 31

Matthew 1: 14 – 20

January 21 (The 4th Sunday After the Epiphany)

Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8: 1 – 13

Mark 1: 21 – 28



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