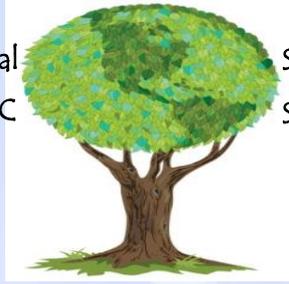


# THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical  
Ward UMC



St. John's UMC  
Shunk UMC



## JULY 2017 EDITION

### A Humorous 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parable

*Author Unknown*

*From Pastor Tim Burt: <https://todaysfreshmanna.files.wordpress.com>*

Once in the 1820's, a little boy called Sam was playing in the yard behind his house. During his pretend fighting game, he knocked over the outhouse.

Now Sam was upset and worried that he would get into trouble so he ran into the woods and didn't come out until after it got dark. When he got home, his pappy was waiting for him. He asked suspiciously, "Son, did you knock over the outhouse this afternoon?" "No, pappy," Sam lied.

"Well, let me tell you a story," said the father. "Once, not that long ago, Mr. Washington received a shiny new axe from his father. Excited, he tried it out on a tree, swiftly cutting it down. But as he looked at the tree, with dismay he realized it was his mother's favorite cherry tree," his pappy paused. "Just like you, he ran into the woods. When he returned, his pappy asked, "George, did you cut down the cherry tree?" George answered with, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did indeed chop down the tree." Then his father said, "Well, since you were honest with me, you are spared from punishment. I hope you have learned your lesson, though. "So," Sam's father asked again, "did you knock down the outhouse?"

"Pappy, I cannot tell a lie anymore." said the little boy. "I did indeed knock down the outhouse."

Then his pappy father spanked Sam boy red, white, and blue. The boy whimpered, "Pappy, I told you the truth! Why did you spank me?"

Pappy answered, "That's because George Washington's father wasn't in the tree when he chopped it down!"

John Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. President and Signer of the Declaration of Independence said:  
*"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principle of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God."*

**"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance." (Psalm 33: 12)**

**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

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

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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 August 2017 issue is Wednesday, July 12, 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 Jesus,

Jesus wants the best for you, so that you can be the best advocate for Him in your arena, neighborhood, family, and social networks.

Choosing the Faithful Path shows us where we really are, and will, through our conversations, help us to see where we want to be, and see a way to get there. I am encouraged by those who feel the importance of caring for their church family, and who seek to find a way to increase the kingdom of God.

There was a Facebook post that portrayed yours truly as a human being. Perhaps you have seen it? I was in the Doctor's office looking at the calendar to set my July appointment. I looked at the Tuesday and Friday dates. I ruled out Fridays since this is my clergy weekend and I am usually at my son and daughter in law's house helping with remodeling projects. As I looked at Tuesdays, I commented that Independence Day is the fourth this year, bringing a hearty laugh from the Doctor.

Now I know that forgetfulness is a part of growing older, but that shouldn't hit me until I am much older. Then the comment from the Dr. saying that my calendar must be too full that I would refer to the fourth of July as Independence Day, and show my surprise that is on the fourth this year.

So I am as human as the rest of you, and maybe even more human than some of you. It has taken ten years, but some of you are showing me your human side, and I see what a blessing that makes you to me and to so many others. Please don't be afraid of the people around you. Show them who you are. That is what others are looking for in a friend, or in someone who can shed God's light on their harsh world. Share your human story, and how your faith in a forgiving God can make you see the light of tomorrow, and the light of eternity.

Walk with Jesus today. When we get exhausted and frustrated with our work for the Lord, we must reenergize with the strength of Christ. We can rely on God's power to help us through. Sometimes we rely on God's power to drag us through because we just don't have the words, ambition, or the desire to continue in the Lord's work. These are the times that we can share with those who feel the same way about life in general, and are looking for the source of our strength.

Just because you are lost in what day it is, or wondering how you will ever get it all done, does not mean that you take a day off when God places opportunities to minister to the needy, in your way. Say that prayer that God wants to hear: Dear God, thank you for giving me the means to answer your call right now, right here. Give me the words to speak, or a helper like Aaron was to Moses. Bless the one that I am to minister to right now, that I may be blessed in this time that you have made for us to be in the same place at the same time. Amen.

Then watch what God does. I have watched what God can do when I am obedient to Him, or when I step back and let you take charge of your church. It is difficult for my personality to let go, but God has put it in the heart of others to make me see other's blessings in ministry.

As we take time away during these warm summer months, remember to unplug from the daily routines and look for the special situations that God is giving you to allow His peace to permeate your soul, mind, and body.

Looking forward to time away,  
Knowing I will miss you,

*Pastor Jerry*

## Minister's Musings

By Kathy Miller

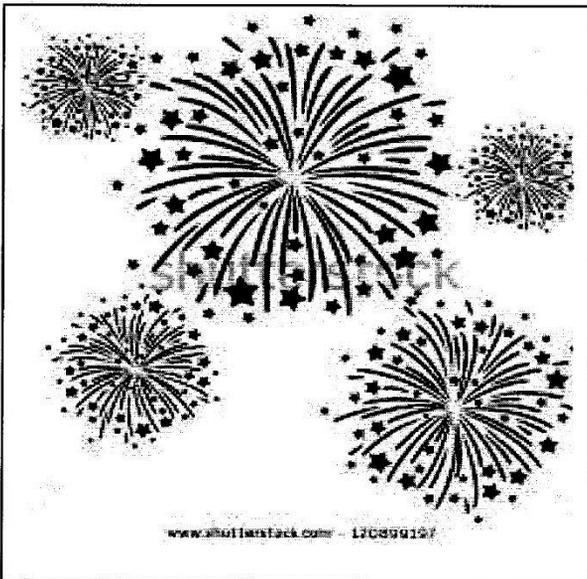
I can't believe it! It's been two years since I came here to Tri-County Parish! And I'm so glad that God called me to this beautiful country-side and the wonderful people in the churches and the community. It seemed to take me a long time to match names to faces, but I certainly appreciate your patience with me, your willingness to help me with your ways and customs in each church. I still have much to learn and look forward to your continued promptings as I begin this third year with you.

We have shared very special moments in our worship times, as we have lifted our joys that God has showered on us, and the concerns we have taken to Him. We came together as a parish for our Mid-Week Lenten Services. I look forward to this coming year, and ideas you may have on other cooperative projects, missions and services!

May we all pray for other ways that we can share the word of Jesus saving grace to those who do not know Him. As a community of faith, let's work to transform the Canton area by being disciples making new disciples.

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The Fourth of July! – Fireworks! – Parades! – Family Picnics! – Hot Dogs! – B-B-Qs! – Enjoy!



Joe & I wish each of you a wonderful day of celebration with friends and loved ones!

Blessings, *Kathy*



## Parish News



### Choosing the Faithful Path Continues

We have had a good turn-out for the first sessions of this study, but everyone is still encouraged to attend! Even if you haven't attended the first sessions, you can still come for the rest of them! Each chapter in Choosing the Faithful Path is designed for us to engage this process together while participating in the following spiritual guidelines:

- Worship
- Searching the Scriptures
- Prayer
- Christian Conferencing
- Holy Communion

Without more than one person from each church, it is difficult to have discussion about each specific church as to which path they should take. So your attendance is critical to its success! Who should attend? Lay Leaders, Ad Council Chair and members, PPRC Chair and members, and others representing various age level ministries in each church. So in other words, **YOU!**

Please prayerfully consider making this study a priority in your week. Even if you haven't attended any of the sessions, you can still catch the remaining ones. The more people, the better! We meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the basement at St. John's UMC, and are led by both Pastor Jerry and Kathy Miller. The more input we have, the more good we can do for our churches and the needs of our surrounding communities. We look forward to seeing you this week!

A new approach to nurturing faith in teens.

# confirm

Confirmation isn't just a decision; it's the beginning of a conversation about what it means to be a Christian.

Confirmation Class will begin after Choosing the Faithful Path has completed.

Grade 6 – Adults

If you would like to participate, contact Pastor Jerry.



**Tri-County Parish Shut-ins**

*Please take time to pray for and perhaps send cards to our Shut-ins to let them know we think about and care for them!*

*Thank you to Cindy Walton for suggesting we list our shut-ins in the CR!  
If you have any additions or corrections, please let Pastor Jerry or Paula know.*

**Canton Ecumenical**

Sandy Hartford  
Schoonover Trailer Park  
382 Hill Top  
Canton, PA 17724

Edna Tomlinson  
50 N. Washington Street  
Canton, PA 17724

Martha Jeane Wood  
Sherwood PCH, E-6  
3995 Rt. 414  
Canton, PA 17724

Dorothy Smithgall  
Sherwood PCH, E-8  
3995 Rt. 414  
Canton, PA 17724

Francis Hite  
Towanda PCH #301  
1 Hospital Drive  
Towanda, PA 18848

**St. John's UMC**

Phil Fitzwater  
Bahr's PCH  
73 Pine Street  
Hills Grove, PA 18619

Anne Lodge  
Towanda PCH # 12B  
1 Hospital Drive  
Towanda, PA 18848

Betty Schanbacher  
Towanda PCH #317A  
1 Hospital Drive  
Towanda, PA 18848

**Ward UMC**

Paul Machmer  
Twin Oaks PCH #5  
1100 Cowley Road  
Granville Summit, PA 16926

Marie Taylor  
BCM #226  
15900 Rt. 6  
Troy, PA 16947

**Shunk UMC**

None



**Canton Ecumenical News**

*By Paula Schmidt*

The Canton Food Pantry item for June is Small Jars of Jelly. 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.

Remember, there will be **no** monthly dinner in July to give our wonderful volunteers a break from working in the heat of the summer! Join us for our annual Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 5 p.m. We will again feature Pulled Pork Sandwiches, assorted salads, and of course, Ice Cream! We look forward to seeing you!

**Everyone from CEP is encouraged to attend  
*Choosing the Faithful Path*  
Wednesdays at St. John's UMC at 6 p.m.**



! Discussions are always better than arguments  
! because an argument is to find out who is right,  
! And a discussion is to find out what is right.

***James 3:17 ESV But the wisdom from above is first pure,  
then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits,  
impartial and sincere..***

## **Shunk News**

*By Suzi Fisher*

A great way to start your day of worship is with Sunday School at 10:00 AM.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is on Tuesday. Let's all invite all of our family and friends who are visiting to join us here at church on Sunday.

July 9 is Mission Sunday. Checks are welcome. Please write your check to Shunk UMC with **Mission** in the memo line.

This 4<sup>th</sup> of July let's pray for our country and its leaders whether we agree with them or not. So many things are happening very quickly in our country and around the world so we need to be ready and "prayed up". We are to love our neighbor as ourselves and yes, that includes our leaders.

Here are a few Independence Day Bible Verses:

### **Psalm 119: 45**

*I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. (NIV)*

### **Luke 4: 19 – 19**

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (NIV)*

### **John 8: 32**

*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (NIV)*

### **John 8: 36**

*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (NIV)*

### **2 Corinthians 3: 17**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (NIV)*

### **Galatians 5: 1**

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (NIV)*

### **Ephesians 3: 12**

*In Him (Christ) and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (NIV)*

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!**

## St. John's News

By Paula Schmidt



Congratulations to Alyssa Blazer, who graduated from Canton Jr./Sr. High School in June. A small party with a cake was held for her recently at St. John's. She was presented with a small gift from the church the following Sunday in church. May God bless you, Alyssa as you move on to the next chapter of your life! (Picture courtesy of Beverly Unruh)

Father's Day was celebrated at St. John's on June 18. All the men in attendance at church received a candy bar, which were handed out by the kids of the church. After church, there was a party complete with Strawberry Shortcake!

On July 9 during worship, we will be blessed with special music by Forte. Everyone is welcome! Spread the word!

### Independence Day Prayer- by Mary Fairchild

From ThoughtCo.com

*There is no greater feeling of liberty than to experience freedom from sin and death that you provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this I am very thankful.*

*On this Independence Day, I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of Your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that a very high price was paid for my freedom. My freedom cost others their very lives.*

*Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty, meet their needs and watch over their families.*

*Dear Father, I am so thankful for this nation. For all the sacrifices others have made to build and defend this country, I am grateful. Thank you for the opportunities and freedoms we have in the United States of America. Help me never to take these blessings for granted.*

*Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing to someone's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Jesus Christ.*

*In your name I pray,  
Amen.*

**Ward News**

*By Dana Vermilya*

We honored our sixth grade graduate, Hayden Ward on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Hayden will be a student at Canton Jr. Sr. High School in the fall.

We held a special service to honor our fathers on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who participated. It was great having an opportunity to know a bit more about each of you.

It is hard to believe it is already July (At least that is when you will be reading this.). It seems that another year in the history of Ward Church has come and gone. Wasn't I just writing about the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary? As I sit down to write this, the history of this church is once again forefront in my mind. This past year has been marked with many joys and sorrows. We have seen joy in health, healing, birth, and yes, even death. Of course, death also brings sorrow. We lost more than one of our members this year. I don't think there is a person among us who doesn't feel it when we lose a church member. When looking back at the history of this church, you see ties to the Machmer family all the way to its beginning.

We have just lost a member of this great family: Irma who was our second oldest member. (Marie is the oldest member) It is a sad time for us, but as we heard at her service, she didn't want us crying. Irma lived a good, long life. These are her words, not mine. It's not hard to believe that Irma would say this. After all, she was a woman of great faith. Pastor Jerry talked about her great smile. While I agree with him, Irma did have a great smile; it is her laugh that I hold dear. Over these last few years, Irma was fairly quiet, but if you knew her prior to her stroke, you knew that laughing was something she did often and easily. She was a feisty lady, and any time spent with her was enjoyable. I have memories of Irma that go back to when I was a small child. I always enjoyed days we would stop and visit her on the mountain. It didn't matter when it was; she typically gave me hot chocolate. I remember when she decided to move off the mountain to Cedar Ridge. We didn't visit her at her home extremely often, but those occasional visits were always enjoyed. It didn't matter whether it was me visiting as a child or me taking my children to see her, there was always laughter. The funny part is, I can't really remember specific memories of why we laughed (or perhaps they just aren't appropriate for this newsletter?!) but there was always laughing. I have no doubt that Irma is still laughing. Irma had faith, and she knew there was something better awaiting her. This is evidenced in the steps she took prior to her passing.

(Continued from page 10)

She planned out her funeral by leaving notes about information she wanted included in the service. Her daughters had this information and were able to plan based on her wishes. Irma asked that Psalm 121 be read. It is a nice passage. Part of it states, “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” (v. 2), and “The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” (v. 8). To continue this, I like the message in Psalm 122:1. “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” I bet there is some rejoicing in heaven right now. I often think of the hymn, “*When We All Get to Heaven*” when someone passes. Some don’t think this is appropriate to sing at a funeral. I think it is a great song for a funeral. After all, won’t it be a great day of rejoicing when we all do get to heaven? I could be wrong, and her family can let me know if they feel this is not the case, but I think Irma would agree with me. Irma will not be forgotten and her family’s legacy continues within our church. After all, we were blessed with the birth of Joanna less than a year ago. In closing, it seems appropriate to say, “Farewell my friend.” and “God be with you ‘till we meet again.”



In loving memory of Irma Earley

## **The Presidential Touch**

*From the Fishwrapper, May 23, 2017 Lancaster/West Edition  
Used with Permission*

One day, Calvin Coolidge lay down for a nap in the executive offices of the White House. It was a busy day and important visitors and matters of state waited while the President slept peacefully on, past the time when he should have gone back to work.

His secretary tiptoed anxiously in and out, hesitating to awaken his chief, yet noticeably concerned. At length, Mr. Coolidge awakened, and opening one eye inquired with a sheepish look, "Is the country still here?"

Warren G. Harding, who always prided himself on his courtliness, discovered after he became Chief Executive that the President is not permitted to observe the same standards of conduct as other individuals.

The first time he and Mrs. Harding entered the White House, after his election, they were escorted to the elevator. Harding stepped aside to let his wife pass. It was the last time he did so. The elevator operator blocked the entrance. "Sorry," he said firmly, the President first."

Franklin D. Roosevelt was known to practice a psychological trick on visitors, a private bit of secret service as it were. Passing through the crowded reception room on the way to his own office, F.D.R. would pause long enough to tell an old, bewhiskered joke to those waiting to see him. He would make a mental note of those who laughed and those who merely smiled politely. The laughs, he once explained to a friend, were there to seek favors – the others were there on business, which should be attended to first.

Through all the might and majesty of the Presidency, Calvin Coolidge never stepped out of this accustomed character of simplicity and unaffected kindness. The following incident is indicative:

A guest aboard the Presidential yacht, the Mayflower, observed with astonishment one day that when the vessel put out on a week-end cruise, the usual Presidential salute was not given. She mentioned the omission to Mrs. Coolidge, who explained that the President had ordered it so.

"Would you mind telling me why?" the very surprised guest inquired.

"The salute," Mrs. Coolidge explained, with a smile, "would frighten our dog."

## You Gotta Laugh!

### Older Folk Views

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, “How old was your husband?”

“98,” she replied. “Two years older than me.” “So you’re 96,” the undertaker commented. She responded, “Hardly worth going home, is it?”

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman asked her, “And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?” She simply replied, “No peer pressure.”

### Large Party

On one occasion William Howard Taft, in his work as an attorney, took a train to Somerville, about forty miles north of his home in Cincinnati.

At the end of the day he knew the policy of the railway was not to stop for just one passenger to board. He therefore sent this telegram:

“Stop at Somerville for a large party.”

As the train came to a halt, Taft began to board the train, and the conductor asked, “Where’s the large party?”

Taft, with all of his 335 pounds replied, “I’m the large party.”

*Both of the preceding taken from  
the “Fishwrapper”, May 23, 2017 Lancaster/West Edition  
Used with permission*



(See Matthew 10:29-31)

11-16-2005

**WE ONLY HAVE TO NUMBER THE HEAD HAIRS,  
RIGHT?**

Creative Commons/SwapmeetDave.com



*News From the Susquehanna Conference*



**Are You Smarter Than The Average United Methodist?**  
**(Dad's Edition) (Answers on Page 17)**

1. True or False: Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, has no recorded words in Scripture.
  - True
  - False
  
2. A pastor in the Church of England, what was the name of John Wesley's father?
  - Charles
  - Edward
  - Samuel
  - William
  
3. Which dad was the longest serving bishop in the United Methodist Church?
  - Bishop Escrivao A. Zunguze
  - Bishop Elias Galvan
  - Bishop Emilio de Carvalho
  
4. When were the first United Methodist father and daughter ordained together?
  - 1974
  - 2000
  - 1996
  - 2016
  
5. True or False: The first Father's Day church service was held at Methodist Church.
  - True
  - False

**Are You Smarter Than The Average United Methodist?  
(Dad's Edition) (Continued)**

6. What Methodist daughter first proposed an official day to honor fathers?
  - Ann Jarvis
  - Sonora Smart Dodd
  - Frances Willard
  
7. Which of the following is true of the “Father of the United States, George Washington?”
  - He is recognized as the “Father of the American Foxhound”
  - He owned more than 30 dogs
  - His dogs included three named Topsy, Drunkard, and Tipler.
  - All of the above
  
8. What is the oldest Methodist structure in Pennsylvania, named after one of the church’s founding fathers?
  - Asbury United Methodist Church
  - Boehm's Chapel
  - Hamorton United Methodist Church
  - Barratt’s Chapel
  
9. Who is remembered as the “Father of Methodist Missions”?
  - Thomas Coke
  - Francis Asbury
  - Charles Wesley
  - Richard Whatcoat
  
10. Which U.S. President signed the law making Father’s Day a federal holiday?
  - Calvin Coolidge
  - Dwight D. Eisenhower
  - Lyndon Johnson
  - Richard Nixon

**(Answers on page 17 )**

**Take another quiz at : [www.umc.org/quizzes](http://www.umc.org/quizzes)**

## Annual Conference 2017

*By Beverly Unruh*

In early May, I had the privilege to attend the Annual Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church as a delegate representing the Tri-County Parish. Accompanying me were Pastor Jerry and Diana Thompson from the Ward congregation. The theme of the conference was “Better Together, Make us one.” The logo was a mosaic of praying hands which was actually created at the conference out of broken pottery. It represented how in our brokenness we can all come together in the Name of Jesus for healing, wholeness and service.

The conference consisted of plenary and worship sessions. The plenary sessions were the business sessions of the conference. Included in these sessions were reports from the United Methodist Stewardship Fund, the Sierra Leone initiative, the Bishop’s Partners in Mission, and Mission Central. The retiring Pastors were honored in a special session. Jim Wiebley retired after 24 years of service in the UMC. The delegates voted on business issues with a show of hands and had an opportunity to express our opinions before the entire conference. We had 5 proposed constitutional amendments that we voted on by ballot. Two of the amendments were concerned with gender issues. Another issue was to boycott products made in Israel, which I am happy to say was voted down.

The worship sessions were very meaningful. We received a braided prayer stole which we wore around our necks during the conference. Every time we prayed for someone, we tied a knot at the end of the stole. The singing was amazing with over 1500 delegates in one room singing praises to God. We stopped the conference many times, even in the plenary sessions, to pray in groups for a variety of needs but always with the vision of “Better Together, Make us One.”

We heard several excellent sermons in the worship sessions. The themes were unity, love and the church. The one I enjoyed the most was by Rev. Dr. Jamie Clark-Soles on John 17. She stated, “Our unity is based on this fact – that we are beloved by God; we just have to act like its true.” As I sat in that conference room with more than 1500 people, I felt that unity and love being poured down on us by the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we can continue in that same spirit of love and unity as we go back to our churches.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention Bishop Park, who lead the conference. He is a singing Bishop – he broke out in song and was dancing around the platform. His enthusiasm for the Lord and for the church was inspiring. He announced that he will be with the Susquehanna Conference for four more years.

The conference was closed with the ordination of the new pastors. As we drove home I reflected on the conference and was impressed by all the different ministries that are carried out by the various churches. We are Better Together.

P.S. Brian, Lauren, Kitty, Jim and Angie House send their greetings and love.

### Offering totals for Annual Conference

Mission Central: \$23,469.44

Seminary Debt Fund: \$20,967.97

Bishop’s Partners in Mission: 48,657.90

**Are You Smarter Than the Average United Methodist?**  
**(Dad's Edition)**  
**Answers**

1. True. Joseph plays a vital role in Jesus' life and the four Gospels, yet none of his words are recorded in the Bible.
2. Samuel Wesley was clergy of the Church of England, a notable poet, and father to John Wesley who founded Methodism.
3. Bishop Emilio de Carvalho was an active Bishop in his native country of Angola from 1972 to 2000.
4. One June 1, 2016, the Rev. Alan Nagel was ordained at the same time as his daughter, the Rev. Tiffany Nagel Monroe.
5. True. The first Father's Day church service was held at Central United Methodist Church in West Virginia.
6. Sonora Smart Dodd celebrated her widowed father who raised Sonora and her five siblings on his birthday in June 1920.
7. All of the above. George Washington was recognized by the American Kennel Club for his continuous work with dogs.
8. The chapel is named after Martin Boehm who became a leader of the United Brethren of Christ, a predecessor of the United Methodist Church.
9. Thomas Coke was president of the United Methodist Church in Ireland and first Bishop of The United Episcopal Church in America.
10. Although many presidents had a hand in creating Father's Day, President Richard Nixon signed it into law.

**Daily Bible Reading Plan- July**

July 1- Philippians 1 – 2	13- Ezekiel 31 – 36	25- 2 Kings 16 - 20
2- Psalm 78	14- Luke 19 – 20	26- Proverbs 15
3- Leviticus 10 – 12	15- Colossians 1 – 2	27- Ezekiel 43 – 48
4- 2 Kings 1 – 5	16- Psalms 82 – 85	28- Luke 23 – 24
5- Proverbs 10	17- Leviticus 16 – 18	29- 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3
6- Ezekiel 25 – 30	18- 2 Kings 11 – 15	30- Psalm 89
7- Luke 17 – 18	19- Proverbs 13 – 14	31- Leviticus 22 – 24
8- Philippians 3 – 4	20- Ezekiel 37 – 42	
9- Psalm 79 – 81	21- Luke 21 – 22	
10-. Leviticus 13 – 15	22- Colossians 3 – 4	
11- 2 Kings 6 – 10	23- Psalms 86 – 88	
12- Proverbs 11 – 12	24- Leviticus 19 – 21	

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

**Canton Ecumenical**

- 3- Danielle Henson
- 4- Janet Graham
- 6- Liam Robertson
- 7- Noah Carpenter, Renea Quail
- 9- Gerald Stiles, Caleb Henson
- 16- Jeanie Scott
- 18- Wayne Seely, Bonnie Morgan Seeley
- 19- Al Stull
- 20- Warren Strout
- 21- Lori Buchanan
- 24- Martha Jeane Wood
- 25- Paul Schmidt
- 29- Lance Ridall
- 31- Gene Lattimer

**Anniversaries:**

- 17- Joe & Kathy Miller

**Shunk**

- 3- Rosanne Swartzentruber
- 12- Phyllis Quail
- 21- Suzi Fisher
- 25- Paul Schmidt

**Anniversaries:**

- 17- Joe & Kathy Miller

**St. John's**

- 8- Lucas Smith
- 10- Anna Mary Heller
- 12- Mart McFall
- 17- Emma Blazer
- 20- Roger Gatti
- 25- Paul Schmidt

**Anniversaries:**

- 2- Alvah & Barb Avery
- 3- Donny & Emma Blazer
- 14- Roger & Judy Gatti
- 15- Chuck & Theresa Stimson
- 17- Joe & Kathy Miller

**Ward**

- 1- Nathaniel Landon
- 8- David O'Connors
- 15- Lucas Abercrombie
- 17- Levi Vermilya
- 18- Ken Williams
- 22- Craig Shedden, Kylie Landon
- 25- Paul Schmidt
- 26- Bob Coles
- 29- Darrin Morse
- 20- Rhonda Williams

**Anniversaries:**

- 17- Joe & Kathy Miller
- 29- David & Jean O'Connors

**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 - July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Memorial Service 1pm  <i>Nathaniel Landon</i>
2  <i>Alvah &amp; Barb Avery</i>	3 Parish Office Closed  <i>Danielle Henson Rosanne Swartentruber Donny &amp; Emma Blaze</i>	4 Parish Office Closed   <i>Janet Graham</i>	5 Parish Office Closed Choosing the Faithful Path 6 pm at St. John's	6 Mission U- Pastor Jerry  <i>Liam Robertsons</i>	7 Mission U- Pastor Jerry  <i>Noah Carpenter Renea Quail</i>	8 Mission U- Pastor Jerry  <i>Lucas Smith David O'Connors</i>
9 Forte at St. John's  <i>Gerald Stiles Caleb Henson</i>	10  <i>Anna Mary Heller</i>	11	12 Choosing the Faithful Path 6 pm at St. John's  <i>Phyllis Quail Mart McFall</i>	13 FPLAM 10 a.m. Lewisburg	14  <i>Roger &amp; Judy Gatti</i>	15  <i>Lucas Abercrombie Chuck &amp; Theresa Stimson</i>
16  <i>Jeanie Scott</i>	17  <i>Levi Vermilya Emma Blazer Kathy &amp; Joe Miller</i>	18  <i>Wayne Seely Bonnie Morgan Seeley Ken Williams</i>	19 Choosing the Faithful Path 6 pm at St. John's  <i>Al Stull</i>	20 Ed Seeley and youth at St. John's  <i>Warren Strout Roger Gatti</i>	21 Ed Seeley and youth at St. John's  <i>Lori Buchanan Suzi Fisher</i>	22 Ed Seeley and youth at St. John's  <i>Craig Shedden Kylie Landon</i>
23 Ed Seeley and youth at St. John's  <i>Martha Jeane Wood</i>	24  <i>Martha Jeane Wood</i>	25 PPRC 7 pm at St. John's	26 Choosing the Faithful Path 6 pm at St. John's	27	28	29
30 Unity Service at North St. Ch. Focus on Youth <i>Rhonda Williams</i>	31  <i>Gene Lattimer</i>	  <i>Paul Schmidt</i>	  <i>Bob Coles</i>			  <i>Lance Ridall Darrin Morse David &amp; Jean O'Connors</i>

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

# Lectionary July 2017

July 2: (The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost)

Genesis 22: 1 – 14  
Psalm 13  
Romans 6: 12 – 23  
Matthew 10: 40 – 42

July 9: (The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost)

Genesis 24: 34 – 38, 42 – 49, 58 – 67  
Psalm 45: 10 – 17 or Psalm 72  
Romans 7: 15 – 25a  
Matthew 11: 16 – 19, 25 – 30

July 16 : (The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost)

Genesis 25: 19 – 34  
Psalm 119: 105 – 112 or Psalm 25  
Romans 8: 1 – 11  
Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23

July 23: (The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost)

Genesis 28: 10 – 19a  
Psalm 139: 1 – 12, 23 – 24  
Romans 8: 12 – 25  
Matthew 13: 24 – 30; 36 – 43

July 30: (The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost)

Genesis 29: 15 – 28  
Psalm 105: 1 – 11, 45b  
Romans 8: 26 – 39  
Matthew 13: 31 – 33, 44 – 52



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The Tri-County Parish Circuit Rider  
P.O. Box 313  
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