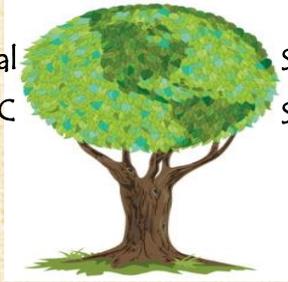


THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical
Ward UMC



St. John's UMC
Shunk UMC



MAY 2016 EDITION

Happy Spring??



I took this picture at Ward UMC on Sunday, April 10 after the snow that had fallen overnight. I found it a bit funny that there was so much snow on the ground and the forsythia wreath showed that it was actually spring! How comforting to know that God is still in control, no matter what the season! I praise God that this time of year, any snow that falls won't stick around long, but will nourish the ground that will produce beautiful flowers! ~Paula~

"He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority." Acts 1: 7 ESV

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 Candidate

Kathy Miller

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Administrative Assistant

Paula Schmidt:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

Parsonage phone number:

570-673-8232

Pastor Jerry's cell phone number:

717-571-1159

Pastor Jerry's e-mail address:

Pastorwho@aol.com

Kathy Miller's Contact Information:

570-398-7672 (Home)

570-916-7691 (Cell)

E-mail address:

kaydeemi@hotmail.com

Paula's e-mail address:

(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, Susan Stull, Andrea Sutton, 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 June 2016 issue is

Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

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

tricountyparishumc@gmail.com.

Please help us conserve paper!

The Circuit Rider is also available at:

www.tricountyparishumc.yolasite.com.

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

Pastor's Ponderings

By Jerry Schmidt

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ,

Do you ever wish that you had done something early? Or when you were thinking about it? Because waiting until the deadline made things more difficult because of the factors of life?

When I spoke with Kathy on Wednesday, we had a plan for the newsletter. We had a common thread that we would speak to in our respective letters. Lo and behold, life again got in the way of MY plans. As I sit here on a Monday morning, trying to take care of a few important e-mails, my e-mail program is taking an hour to load and respond. (I know people like that; and I may be one of them, at times). I am also attempting to get back the thought process that Kathy and I had on Wednesday.

As many of you already know, the distraction that has me baffled and befuddled, is the death of my father; Dad; Pop. He was not strong enough to handle the aftermath of quadruple heart bypass, and a valve replacement. Paula and I feel the love of friends, acquaintances, and those we barely know. We are overwhelmed by the outpouring from everyone. To answer your curiosity questions, the memorial service will take place downstate on June 7, just before I attend annual conference.

As many of you have been in prayer for this need, and other needs in the course of the last few days, weeks, and months, you prove yourselves to be vital in the lives of others. This is greatly appreciated. But, is there more that we can do? There are five things that make a vital congregation. The first is a strong and devout prayer life.

As we are strong in our prayer lives, perhaps we can be more vital in some of the other areas that make us vital to the people in our community. Perhaps we could be more giving? Maybe we could take the advice of Paul to the Ephesians or 1 Timothy pertaining to the role of the pastor and the leadership in each church. Maybe there is a way that you can reach deeper into your communities. Maybe you can be more of a leader in your congregation. And maybe there is a way that you can be more involved in the worship in your church. These are the five areas believed to be what marks a vital congregation. These make people in a community, realize the importance of that church to the neighborhood.

Many of you are doing some of these things in a great way, and there is always room for growth. Just look at me. I am nothing like I was because God took hold of me and made me better than I was. None of us are perfect, so there may be something that we can do to be more known by our faith, to those around us.

Kathy is on the vitality team, and has much more information concerning the things that we can do, and the places where we can grow. I am relying on her inside loop for help in the areas of need for each church, just as she has helped me in my growth over the past months. (But don't tell her that she has helped me grow)

Look at the response that Peter received from the religious leaders in Acts 11:1-18. He explained God's view, and they accepted it. God gives us the strength and words to speak, and then, God gives understanding in the listening ears. There have been many times that you may have heard something in a sermon that was never said...that, my friends, was God! Don't doubt God's ability and willingness to intercede for each one of us working towards His goal and will.

We are all in this together. Just as we need one another in our sorrow, and want to celebrate God's goodness in our lives, we also need the help of one another in our faith journey.

Blessings in His Name,

Pastor Jerry

Minister's Musings

By Kathy Miller

In Matthew 16 we find Jesus asking his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They respond with John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. "But what about you? Who do you say I am?", He asks. Simon Peter, always ready with an answer, said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Can you picture Jesus smiling at him, thinking "You got it right!" but saying, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Since March 2015, I have been a member of the Williamsport District Vitality Team. This was established by our D.S. Beth Jones in an effort to encourage the struggling churches and parishes in our district. The team is a group of clergy and lay persons willing to work in smaller teams with churches who request our help. The Rev. Jones has worked with the team this year to establish the five most important foundational principles of a church – the five "rocks". Just as the Susquehanna Conference has been requesting our "Vital Statistics", now the District is recommending that we, the congregations, also look at each of our churches to determine if we now have, or are ready to:

- 1. Develop a deeper world of prayer and discernment of God's call within the individual and collective life of the congregation.**
- 2. Develop an intentional journey of Discipleship.**
- 3. Develop lay-driven connections with the community in order to build bridges of relationship with those who have yet to know Jesus.**
- 4. Develop a Spiritual Core of Lay Leadership within the congregation.**
- 5. Develop worship that is focused, passionate and accessible to those who do not yet know Jesus.**

There are two studies that each church may choose from to determine your strengths and weaknesses:

Choosing the Faithful Path – or – Conversation at the Crossroads.

Each one will be facilitated by a team of 2 or 3 from the Vitality Team (Not including me. I will work with other churches, but I can work alongside you during the implementation). Remember, this will be available to all churches in the District. Re-evaluation is an important tool for every organization to examine where they are now and where they want to be. But we have the advantage of having God to guide us in the process. Please begin to pray about this as being a very beneficial study. Additional information will be coming soon!

I wish to thank you for your many expressions of caring concern for me as I have gone through the process of cataract surgery and a few minor unexpected complications. Both surgeries are now successfully completed, and I'm finding that many times I can even read without glasses (except for fine print). Praise God, and again, thank you for your prayers and encouraging words.

O church of God, united to serve one common Lord, proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord. Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way. May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one, close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son; to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright, that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light. (words by Frederick B. Morley, 1952 – UMH 547)

Grace and Peace, Kathy



Parish News

Happy Mother's Day!

The Prayer Warriors meet every Wednesday at 11 a.m. at CEP. Everyone is invited to join this small, but mighty group of warriors. If you have any prayer requests for the group, please call Paula Schmidt at 570-673-8232.

URGENT NEED FOR UMCOR CLEANING BUCKETS

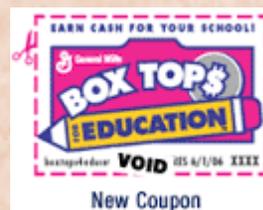
We are planning to get the Parish together to assemble Flood Buckets... watch the bulletin for more information!! In the meantime, gather up items!

UMCOR is responding to the recent flooding of the North Louisiana and South Texas area. UMCOR has called for all buckets in the system and anticipate the need for more. Mission Central will begin production of new buckets with our current supplies, but we are putting out the call for Cleaning Bucket Production and supplies to be brought to Mission Central as soon as possible. **(See page six for the instructions)** Please start gathering items and buckets as you are able. The cost of the supplies for each bucket is approximately \$60.00. Thank you in advance for your help! **If we do this together, we can help many people in need!**

Please keep the ink coming for recycling! We get \$2 for each cartridge that we take back to Staples (20 per month). There is a box as you enter the church, or you can always drop them off at the parish office or parsonage.

A note about Campbell's Soup labels and Box Tops for Education:

Thank you for continuing to bring in Campbell's Soup labels and Box Tops for Education! Please note that you do not need to bring in the entire soup label, just the UPC label from the can. (examples below) Your help is greatly appreciated by those in need!



Mission Central UMCOR Cleaning Bucket Instructions — Page 1

These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood or hurricane. All items must be new except for the actual bucket and lid. All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic containers. No powders please. If you cannot find the requested size of a liquid item, use a smaller size. Including larger sizes of any product will prevent the lid from sealing. UPS, FED EX and the U.S. Postal Service will not ship buckets containing bleach. In such cases, you may leave the bleach out of the bucket. If all of the items on the list are not included, please put a label on the bucket indicating what has been omitted. Cleaning buckets are only used within the United States.

~ Continued on next page ~

ITEM	QUANTITY	NOTES
14" - 14 1/2" tall 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid	1	Buckets from fast food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned. Do not use buckets that have stored caustic chemicals. Advertisements on the outside are acceptable.
liquid laundry detergent	*	* two 25 oz. bottles OR one 50 oz. bottle only
liquid household cleaner	1	12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water. no spray cleaners
dish soap	1	16-28 oz. bottle, any brand
air freshener	1	aerosol can or pump
Personal insect repellent spray	1	6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover; packets of 20 insect repellent wipes may also be used
Hand-held scrub brush	1	plastic or wooden handle, no toilet, kitchen or dish brushes please

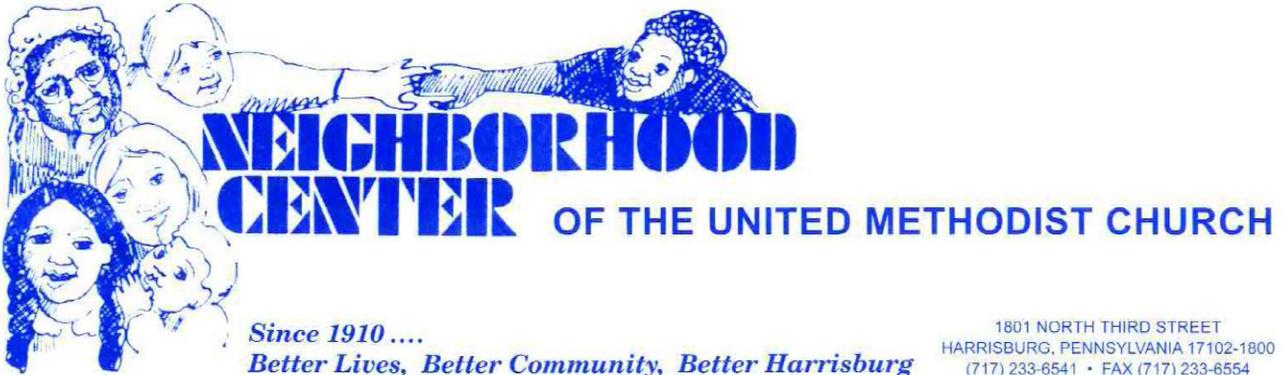
Mission Central UMCOR Cleaning Bucket Instructions — Page 2

ITEM	QUANTITY	NOTES
cleaning wipes	18	Handi-wipes or reusable wipes; no rags or terry cleaning towels; remove from packaging
sponges	7	Dry cellulose or foam sponges
scouring pads	5	No Brillo, SOS or other metal pads due to rust issues. Nothing with soap built in; Remove from wrapper
clothespins	50	not loose in the bucket; place in gallon sized, sealable bag
clothesline	*	* two 50 ft. OR one 100-ft. cotton, plastic or nylon
heavy duty trash bags	24	At least 1.5—2 mil trash bags, 33-45 gallon size— remove from box
dust masks	5	Place in bag with clothespins
disposable kitchen gloves	2 pair	rubber or latex (not light-weight hospital gloves); remove from packaging
work gloves	1 pair	Heavy Duty cotton or leather with leather or rawhide palm

Place all liquid items in the bucket first.

Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items.
Sponges and scouring pads can be separated in order to fit all of the items in the bucket.

Ensure the lid is closed securely.



4/1/2016

Tri County Parish
103 N Center St..
Canton PA 17724

Dear Neighborhood Center Friend:

Thank you for the gift of labels for education!

Campbell's offers so many wonderful products that your gift of labels will save us thousands of dollars on products for the children.

We are well on our way to saving for a new van in the next ten years. We can't do it without you. We currently have 386,000 labels in the bank. Please keep those labels coming!

On behalf of all the staff of Neighborhood Center, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Ronda Peters
Interim Executive Director



Shunk News

By Suzi Fisher

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

Bible Study – Every Thursday at 1 PM with Pastor Jerry.

May 8 - *Wishing all mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and special women in our lives a very **Happy Mother's Day!***

God's Masterpiece

~Herbert Farnham

God took the fragrance of a flower,
The majesty of a tree,
The gentleness of morning dew,
The calm of a quiet sea

The beauty of the twilight hour,
The soul of a starry night,
The laughter of a rippling brook,
The grace of a bird in flight

Then God fashioned from these things
A creation like no other,
And when his masterpiece was through
He called it simply - Mother.

May 30 - Memorial Day PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

Father,

Thank You for the men and women that protect this nation! Father, as they protect us, protect them as well! Lord, You know where they will be today and I pray that You will be there with them to guide them through whatever challenges and trials they face this day. I thank You for these men and women, Lord! I love You! Amen

Read more: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/8-prayers-for-soldiers-and-troops/#ixzz46ISBBPE4>

June 9-11-Annual Conference

Congratulations to all of the high school and college graduates in our parish!!!!

Canton Ecumenical News

By Paula Schmidt

Our Monthly Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 10 at 5:00 p.m. (menu to be announced, watch the bulletin). Dinner includes, entrée, Salad, beverage, and dessert. The cost is \$6.00 per person and take-outs are available. Come enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors!

The Canton Food Pantry item for May is Canned Ravioli or Beef-a-Roni. 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.

Ward News

By Dana Vermilya

Ward had its business meeting April 7, 2016 at 7:15pm. At the meeting, projects that need to be completed were discussed, the draft of the first two stained glass window panels were shown and approved, new business was discussed, and missions were given to victims of a house fire.

This month's spotlight will not focus on a position within the church, rather it will focus on the church itself. **Happy 135th anniversary Ward Church!** For those of you who have been around long enough, can you believe it has been ten years since our 125th anniversary celebration (or 35 years since the 100th anniversary)? What a great day it was! I haven't spent much time thinking about all of the history of the church since that day. However, I recently did and realized that it was once again an anniversary year. I am not sure if all churches have the records and history that ours has, but it seems that we are fortunate to not only have records and a copy of the articles of incorporation, but to also still have members who come from the lineage of the families that were a part of beginning as well as building this church.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Ward Township was chartered May 31, 1881. It was the outgrowth of a class started several years before and organized with twelve members. In 1882 a house of worship, costing \$1,200, was erected in the eastern part of the township. According to the Ward Township history, at the time of the application for a charter of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Ward, Rev. D. W. Smith of Canton officiated, W.R. Lyon was class leader, and P.C. Brooks steward at the Red school-house. At this time, Charles Smith was superintendent of the Sunday-school. There were about twenty in attendance. Rev. J.D. Regua was the first minister in the church building. His term began in 1881 and we are unsure when it ended. In 1907 Rev. Harry Reddict began serving at the church. The list then continues with: Rev. Delmont, Rev. W.G. Hull, Rev. Merritt A. Soper, Rev. Howard S. Bacon, Rev. W. C. B. Turner, Rev. John W. Faust, Rev. Albert Tricket, Rev. Leonard Guiles, Rev. Lewis F. Bachman, Rev. Paul Fattaruso, Rev. Robert Jones, Rev. Richard Tillapaugh, Rev. Donald F. Rahtjen, Rev. Donald Winstead, Rev. C. David Jones, Rev. Raymond Fravel, Larry Thoren, Dale Steward, Pastor Jasper Smith, Rev. Richard Barner, Rev. Ronald Beistline, Pastor Nancy Goff, Pastor Dean Walwrath, Rev. Jim House, Lay Leader Mike Wilson, Pastor Gerald Schmidt, CLM Brian Myfelt, CLM Kitty Keller, CLM Lauren Bissonnette, Lay Leader Myrle Braithwaite, CLM Candidate John Butts, and CLM Candidate Kathy Miller.

In 1898, a clock was purchased for the church. The cost was to be \$2.70. That clock last hung on the wall above the organ until 1995 when the church was broken into and it was stolen. The clock there now is somewhat similar to the original clock and was bought to hang in its place.

On July 28, 1941, the first marriage was performed at the church. It was that of John Osipovitch and Leah Machmer.

In 1972 Rev. Jones felt the church should be closed. The members decided the church should continue on as long as funds held out and would close if necessary. (Am I ever thankful that this didn't happen!) Coincidentally, in 1973, there was a change in ministers.

In 1978 Dave Shedden was in charge of youth group activities. (Dave, are you holding out on me? I could use some ideas!)

(continued from page 9)

An addition for Sunday school space was discussed in 1980 and completed in 1981. That is also when the 100th anniversary celebration was held with 185 signatures in the guest book. The second addition was completed in 1993 giving the church a larger dining area, a cellar, and a bathroom. In 2001 the ceiling was raised back to the original lines of the church.

In 2006 the 125th anniversary celebration was held at the church. I don't know how many signed the guest book, but, if I recall correctly, there were 125 people in attendance at the 9:00am service. As a part of the celebration, mugs and history booklets were printed and a DVD was created. Be on the lookout for a date as we plan to play the DVD in church one Sunday this summer. We will announce the date once we schedule it.

It seems that while I am sure a lot of things in the church have changed since its start, we still stand on several of the principals of which this church was built. The desire to gather as a church family, the desire to praise and worship God, and the desire to spread the love of God through missions etc. In 1898 the amount in the treasury at the end of the year was \$9.23. The amount expended \$4.40; \$1.05 for League supplies, Charter, Topic cards, leaflets, etc. & \$3.35 on clothing for the Johnson family whose house was burned.

Let us continue to remember and reflect on these roots as we move forward. It is not good to dwell on the past and be unaccepting of change, but it is from the past that we learn and grow. Our process and manner in which we reach out to others may need to change as we continue to move forward, but our foundation, built strong, is unchanging.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Ward United Methodist Church

1881-2016

Celebrating 135 years- Here's to 135 more!



St. John's News

By Andrea Sutton

Well, it is finally spring and now the spring-like weather is feeling like late winter. Maybe someday it will warm up again and help us know that with spring comes the hope of things being renewed, such as a Christian's spirit for the Lord.

At St. John's we are welcoming back our snowbirds, Judy and Roger Gatti as well as others who have not been coming for awhile.

Eating is a big part of the fellowship in the church and members were able to enjoy a great prayer breakfast at the home of Jim and Beverly Unruh. Also, the breakfast which is held once a month was enjoyed by those in attendance. They both are special and take a lot of work done by people who do not want the praise, but should have it (Unruh's, Heller's, Smith's, and Fern.) Don't tell them I placed their names in the newsletter. They do it for the love of the congregation and of course for Christian fellowship.

Music, once again is a great topic in our church. The Bell Choir, also know as the Bells of St. John's, under the direction of Dorothea Doud, played several songs during our Easter Worship service. Everyone enjoyed it. Also the Men's Quartet sang and a piano duet was enjoyed.

Several of our members have been under the weather this month. We offer up prayers to those in need, physically, financially, and of course, spiritually. Get well wishes especially go out to Denny who has been fighting a bad cold for several weeks. Please get better, so we can enjoy your music once again.

Our prayers go out to the family of Loretta Fitzwater who passed away recently. Prayers and sympathy also go out to Pastor Jerry Schmidt and family on the loss of his father, Gerald E. Schmidt, Sr.

The congregation took up a collection for Brian and Brandy Heatley. Brandy has been fighting Lyme Disease. Our church was asked to supply the salad for a Benefit Dinner in their honor. Any money left over would go directly to the Heatley's. We hope the benefit will be a big success.

Mother's Day is on May 8 and we all must remember our mothers. If they are alive, make sure that you give them just what they want, your time. It is more precious than gold.

There are several important mothers in the Bible. Check them out and see if you are living up to what a Christian Mother should be. Here is a little poem for Mother's Day:

*To one who bears the sweetest name
and adds a luster to the same.
Who shares my joys and cheers when sad
The sweet name she ever had.
Long life to her
For there's no other,
can take the place of my dear mother.*

Reflections on Psalm 23

By Esther M. Bailey

From “Christian Life” Part 12 – February 2016

www.uniongospelpress.com

This is one of my favorite passages of Scripture.

Let us look at Psalm 23: 1 – 6 phrase by phrase.

“The Lord is my Shepherd.”: I am amazed that the Creator of the universe chooses to be my Protector, my Counselor, and my friend.

“I shall not want.”: God’s promise to supply my needs assures me that I do not have to worry about life’s necessities.

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures”: When I go to bed at night, my body is weary, but God refreshes me through a good night’s sleep.

“He leadeth me beside the still waters”: When my emotions are in turmoil, Jesus whispers, “Peace, be still.”

“He restoreth my soul”: The part of me created to fellowship with God is refreshed through the presence of Jesus Christ.

He leadeth me in the paths or righteousness for his name’s sake.”: When the way I go is unclear to me, the Holy Spirit nudges me in the right direction.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.”: Even when life is coming to an end, I will have no fear because God’s presence over shadows the sting of death.

“Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”: Realizing that God’s discipline is meant to bring out my best soothes the pain of chastisement.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies”: If I invite an enemy to the table God prepares for me, perhaps my enemy can be turned into a friend.

“Thou anointest my head with oil.”: The presence of the Holy Spirit is a balm to my spirit.

“My cup runneth over.”: Joy fills my heart and bubbles over to touch others. The joy of the Lord never runs out.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.”: Something good will come from every situation – even those experiences that try human endurance.

“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”: After taking me safely through life’s journey, God will take me home to enjoy the riches of heaven for eternity.

The Black Dot

Submitted by Beverly Wright

This beautiful story has a simple, yet important message. It gives you things to think about in life. Sometimes it is the simplest of stories that make us ponder the most.

One day a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin.

The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions – just a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following:

“I want you to write about what you see there.”

The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain:

“I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same happens in our lives.” However, we insist on focusing on the dark spot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend.

“The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our mind.”

“Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love! We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots.”

“Our life is given to us by God, with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate – nature renewing itself everyday, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see every day...”



ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS (June 9-11, 2016)

Memorial Service, Thursday, June 9, 2016:

The Cup of Water Fund (8160) is a fund which is available to lay persons in our conference who are facing difficult financial hardship. These donations provide emergency grants to families or individuals who are recommended by pastors to the Cabinet. In these difficult economic times your generosity provides needed help to our brothers and sisters of the Susquehanna Conference family.

Celebration of Ministry, Friday, June 10, 2016:

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing. - Colossians 1:6

The Mongolian Mission of the United Methodist Church (2440) supports our missionaries and their work in a country where the major religion is Buddhism, but church leaders are finding people longing for the gospel. Mongolia lies between China and Russia in northern Asia and is undergoing rapid social and economic changes. In 2011 Bishop Park was named the first presiding Bishop of the Mongolian Mission of the United Methodist Church. He travels there once a year to conduct an annual meeting and to supervise, support, and strengthen the mission of our church in that part of the world.

Ordination Service, Saturday, June 11, 2016:

Bishop's Partners in Mission (7090) calls us to Imagine No Malaria and Imagine No More Debt! One hundred percent of the proceeds from this fund go to Imagine No Malaria (the UMC's global campaign to fight malaria) and paying down the debt of the mortgage of Mission Central so they can focus on their core mission of connecting God's resources with human need. Bishop Park is inviting individuals, congregations, and church groups to join him and be Partners in Mission, committing to \$100 or more a year. Whatever you can give helps the lives of those locally and around the world. God is still calling us to imagine great things; he is calling us to Imagine What We Can Do Together!

Please make checks payable to

'Susquehanna Conference' - include your church number & the advance number (listed after the name above) on the memo line of the check.

Please pray for our delegates to Annual Conference, Suzi Fisher and Brian Greenough, and Pastor Jerry and Kathy as they attend this important event in the life of our Conference at Messiah College.

First and Foremost...

A Positive Minute from the Hour of Power

By Bobby Schuller

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19: 18)

Friend, please listen. The highest doctrine for our faith is compassion. This is why God sent Jesus into the world. It was to change our hearts, to love our enemies, love the Samaritan, love those who are outsiders, love those who have never been invited into our circle. That's what makes us believers, that he invited us into his circle so we invite others into ours.

It's not about how you dance, or wear your makeup, or how you vote, or how you view creation, or how your view end times. The ridiculous things we use to make sure people are outsiders and we are insiders makes God angry because they become substitutes for living a missional life, a life that lives for those who are beaten and broken down.

Most of us, when we read this, we think, I've never seen a man beaten and dying on the side of the road. I've never seen anyone bloodied. Yet, you see people beaten down and bloodied every day. They're in the cubicle next to you. They're in the car next to you in traffic. It's that woman who just got a bad health report but nobody's asked her about it and she doesn't have the courage to ask for prayer. It's the man who's getting a divorce. Every day we interact with people that are beaten, bloodied, and dying. And we, in our desire to worship and be priestly and do all of these Christian things, walk around them.

Compassion and kindness is what honors God. You cannot be in a hurry and obey God at the same time. We must remember that God has called us, first and foremost, to love.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to spot those who are beaten down in heart and spirit. Show me how to be a healing force in their lives through your love. Amen.

Reflection: How have you seen God's healing transform a person from beaten down to released and healed?

Blueberry Coffee Cake

Recipe Courtesy of Ree Drummond

Ingredients:

Cake:

5 tablespoons salted butter, softened, plus more for greasing the pan
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 heaping teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup sugar
1 large egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup whole milk
2 cups fresh (or frozen) blueberries

Topping:

1/2 cup all- purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
6 tablespoons salted butter (cold)
1/4 teaspoon salt
Sugar, for sprinkling
Softened butter, for serving (optional)



Directions:

For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9 x 13 inch baking pan with butter.

Add the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt to a medium bowl and stir to combine. Set aside.

Cream together the butter and sugar with an electric mixer. Add the egg and mix until combined. Mix in the vanilla. Add the flour mixture and milk alternately and mix until totally incorporated. Do not over-beat. Stir in the blueberries until evenly distributed. (tip: if using frozen blueberries, coat them with a little bit of flour before adding to the batter. This will keep them from dropping to the bottom of the batter.)

For the topping: combine the flour, sugar, butter, cinnamon, and salt in a medium bowl and cut together using 2 knives or a pastry blender. Sprinkle over the top of the batter.

Bake until the cake is golden brown, 40 – 45 minutes. Sprinkle with sugar. Cut into squares and serve with softened butter if desired.

Olive Garden™ Inspired Chicken Gnocchi Soup

By 12 Tomatoes, Adapted by Paula Schmidt

Ingredients:

1 pound store-bought gnocchi, or use recipe at bottom of page
2 cups cooked chicken breast, cut into small cubes
1 1/2 cups spinach leaves, chopped or julienned
1 cup white onion, finely chopped
3/4 cup carrots, finely chopped or julienned
1 cup chicken broth or stock
1/2 lemon, juiced
2 sprigs rosemary or 2 teaspoons dried rosemary
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 – 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 3/4 cups heavy cream
1 1/2 cups parmesan cheese, grated
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg



Directions:

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil and cook gnocchi according to package directions. Remove with a slotted spoon. Set aside.

Heat Olive Oil in a large pan or pot over medium-high heat and saute onion and carrots until softened, but not browned, about 5 – 7 minutes. Add minced garlic during the last 2 minutes or so and cook, stirring frequently, until fragrant. Season with salt, pepper, and rosemary. Add chicken and cook until lightly browned and coated in cooking juices. Add the lemon juice and chicken broth or stock. Cook for a few minutes.

In a separate bowl, stir together heavy cream and parmesan cheese until there are no lumps.

Reduce stovetop heat to low and add parmesan cream mixture. Sprinkle in nutmeg and let simmer for a few minutes, or until thickened.

Add the gnocchi and the spinach to the mixture and cook until warmed through and coated in sauce, and spinach is desired texture.

Remove rosemary sprigs (if used) and serve immediately, garnish with more parmesan cheese.

Gnocchi recipe: Ingredients: 2 potatoes, 2 cups of flour, 1 egg

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Peel potatoes and add to pot. Cook until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes. Drain, cool and mash with a fork or potato masher.

Combine 1 cup mashed potato, flour and egg in a large bowl. Knead until dough forms a ball. Shape small portions of the dough into long "snakes". On a floured surface, cut snakes into half-inch pieces. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Drop in gnocchi and cook for 3 to 5 minutes or until gnocchi have risen to the top; drain and serve.



Tri- County Parish Events - May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Orthodox Easter May Day <i>Ken Robertson</i>	2 CEP Bible Study 1:30 pm <i>Ruth Ward</i>	3 Ward Bible Study 9 am Evening Bible Study 7pm <i>Alice Bown Frances Groover Gene Segur</i>	4 Prayer Warriors 11am at CEP St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Doyle Morgan</i>	5 Ascension Day Shunk Bible Study 1 pm Ascension Service 7 pm (New Covenant church in Williamsport)	6 Nurses Day <i>Eunice Mclwain</i>	7
8 Mother's Day	9 CEP Bible Study 1:30 pm	10 Ward Bible Study 9 am CEP Monthly Dinner 5pm <i>Don Blazer Marty Segur</i>	11 Prayer Warriors 11am at CEP St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm	12 Shunk Bible Study 1 pm <i>Edna Kniffin</i>	13 FLPAM 10 am (Pastor Jerry)	14 <i>Glen Griffith Nancy Fisher</i>
15 <i>Aaron Unruh Joy Winkler</i>	16 CEP Bible Study 1:30 pm	17 Ward Bible Study 9 am <i>Paul & Jenny Schmidt Glenn & Rosanne Swatzenruber</i>	18 Prayer Warriors 11am at CEP St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm	19 Shunk Bible Study 1 pm <i>Jacob Shedden</i>	20	21 Armed Forces Day <i>Any Buchanan Buck</i>
22 <i>Arlan & Brenda Higley</i>	23 CEP Bible Study 1:30 pm	24 Ward Bible Study 9 am <i>Carl & Andrea Sutton</i>	25 Prayer Warriors 11am at CEP St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm	26 Shunk Bible Study 1 pm	27	28 <i>Earl Ridall Brad Stanberry Rose Lloyd</i>
29 Baccalaureate <i>Misty Scott Theobald</i>	30 Memorial Day No CEP Bible Study	31 Ward Bible Study 9 am	1	2	3	4

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

Tri-County Parish May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Canton Ecumenical

- 1- Ken Robertson
- 4- Doyle Morgan
- 21- Amy Buchanan Buck
- 28- Earl Ridall, Brad Stanbery
- 29- Misty Scott Theobald

Anniversaries

- 17- Paul & Jenny Schmidt

St. John's

- 3- Frances Groover
- 10- Don Blazer
- 15- Aaron Unruh
- 28- Rose Lloyd

Anniversaries

- 17- Paul & Jenny Schmidt
- 22- Arlan & Brenda Higley
- 24- Carl & Andrea Sutton

Shunk

- 3- Alice Bown
- 6- Eunice McIlwain
- 13- Bob Shisler

Anniversaries

- 17- Glenn & Rosanne Swartzentruber
Paul & Jenny Schmidt

Ward

- 2- Ruth Ward
- 3- Gene Segur
- 10- Marty Segur
- 12- Edna Kniffin
- 14- Glen Griffith, Nancy Fisher
- 15- Joy Winkler
- 19- Jacob Shedden

Anniversaries

- 17- Paul & Jenny Schmidt



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

Lectionary for May 2016

May 1: (The Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 16: 9 – 15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21: 10, 22 – 22:5

John 14: 23 – 29

May 8: (The Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Mother's Day

Acts 16: 16 – 34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22: 12 – 14, 16 – 17, 20 – 21

17: 20 – 26

May 15: (Pentecost)

Acts 2: 1 – 21

Psalm 104: 24 – 34, 35b

Romans 8: 14 – 17

John 14: 8 – 17, 25 – 27

May 22: (Trinity Sunday)

Proverbs 8: 1 – 4

Psalm 8

Romans 5: 1 – 5

John 16: 12– 15

May 29: (The Second Sunday After Pentecost)

1 Kings 18: 20 – 39

Psalm 96

Galatians 1: 1 – 12

Luke 7: 1 – 10



The Tri-County Parish Circuit Rider
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Canton, PA 17724

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here