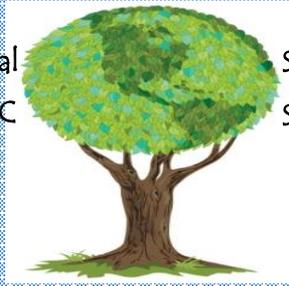


THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical
Ward UMC

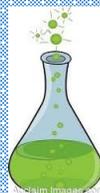


St. John's UMC
Shunk UMC



SEPTEMBER 2017 EDITION

Fizz Boom VBS 2017 Ward UMC



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)

570-916-7691 (Cell)

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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, Beverly Unruh, 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 October 2017 issue is Wednesday, September 13, 2017

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

tricountyparishumc@gmail.com.

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

Dear friends and partners in ministry,

As we journey in ministry together, we must look at the term journey. The dictionary states that a journey is a trip from one place to another over a long distance. Many of us prepare for a journey. We pack everything that we think that we will need. Clothes, (possibly for different temperatures during the time that we are away), money, (depending on how long the journey is), What recreational; material will we need?, (such as books, puzzles, work), we may get a neighbor to watch the house, stop the mail and newspaper deliveries, and gas up the car.

I have evolved to realize that I pack enough clothes for the number of days gone. (I could always wear something again if need be). I don't have much money, so I take all I have, I don't get around to the work that I take along, and I am too busy walking or shopping to do word puzzles, I have a neighbor who watches the house, (who am I kidding, the entire neighborhood watches), Rachel is usually home to get the mail, and Paula hates the fact that I know there are plenty of gas stations along the way, so I may leave Canton with a quarter tank of fuel.

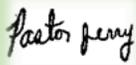
I think that it is safe to say that we in the Tri-County Parish have seen our numbers dwindle to the point that we have a tough time watching it continue. This is where the vision teams are so vital. An idea turned into reality, (succeed or fail), is a step in the right direction. The first steps of any journey are difficult, so get it over with. Take that first step. Even the seasoned members of our churches have fond memories from when they were younger, and full of energy and passion. The point is that even outdated ideas can be resurrected, changed, and implemented for success.

Many of you will be here long after Kathy, Paula, and I are gone. These are your churches, I am simply blessed to walk this journey with you for a while. What will you do to make it last? The ministry that you choose to attempt will be a way to glorify God, and His presence in your ministry opportunities. St John's is trying to get something started, (actually two things). The people are beginning a journey. They are beginning to put their ducks in a row, gather information from those who have more expertise, and find out where to gas up, raise up leaders, so that they are ready to begin the travel from where they are, to another place. And it will be a long distance. They realize that it will take some work, money, and prayer. They are going in the right direction according to the list of things from the May Circuit Rider concerning being a vital congregation, and the plan that all the churches need to write out by January 2017. That is only four months away.

I know about deadlines. I have been planning to work on my theology papers for the past two years or so, and now the deadline is September 6, a mere ten days from your reading this letter. I have to settle into a new routine that focuses on that part of my "job". As we are praying the prayer of Jabez, please include me in your prayers for God's blessing on what I write, that those who read it will understand what God has placed in my heart as I reach out, and stretch my theology muscles.

One last point that I would like to make in this letter to y'all: it is that time of the year that I call on the treasurers, financial record keepers, and other people for the numbers that I need to complete the church conference paperwork. So there may be some last minute meetings called in the next month. Please be patient and flexible with me as we work to make it possible to be accountable to the things that we have covenanted to do this year, and plan for next year.

And before we get to that point in our journey together, please accept my thanks for who you have been in Christ as we try to join our faith journey with the necessary part of the administration of the church. Many of us have no clue how things get accomplished. We show up, and it's done. The church people and buildings are cared for. What part do you take in these miracle moments in the life of our church? Perhaps it is time for us all to inquire, and ask what we might do to help. There is a form that we fill in concerning the alternative structure of the church. Maybe you could serve the church in this capacity? Maybe you could help to be a decision maker on the journey that we take as a church. Continue to pray the prayer of Jabez, and live a life that glorifies God.

Be the blessing God intends, 

Minister's Musings

By Kathy Miller

Recently, I was given a copy of the September issue of Gospel Herald, in which I read an article entitled Prayer: Behind the Scenes. It focuses on the Book of Daniel in Chapters 9 & 10. It has been a while since I have read Daniel in its entirety, so I took time to read it through with particular interest in those two chapters that describe Daniel's concern and prayers for the people and the nation of Judah and Jerusalem. Although he and the people of Israel were still being held in captivity in Babylon, Daniel's prayer is one of confession. He admits that the nation had turned away from God's commandments and fallen into sin. Daniel understands that this bondage is a result of this failure, even though he personally had been faithful to God's law throughout his time as a servant of the Kings - Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Darius.

And in Ephesians 6:12 Paul tells us, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil..."

All of this reminds me of the dark forces creating hatred, violent protests and division in this nation at this present time. What we are seeing more frequently in our news reports is a disturbing reality and re-enactment of the powers of this dark world similar to events in 1930's and 40's Germany. The "dark forces" are fomenting violence in an effort to establish a new world order that would destroy the tenets of freedom in this country and in other places in the free world.

We may feel fear about this trend, but we must not allow that fear to take hold of us. Rather we must continue to place our trust, as did Daniel, in the God of the universe. Also, like Daniel, we must devote ourselves to constant prayer. Just as Paul reminds us, "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. . . be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." (Eph. 6:18)

In a lighter note, I wish all those returning to schools and universities an enjoyable season of learning, athletic events, and new (and renewed) friendships. May the cooler days refresh each of you as we anticipate the beauty in the coming Fall season.

Grace & Peace,

Kathy



Parish News



2017 Operation Christmas Child Schedule

July- Clothing & Accessories

August- School Supplies & Stuffed animals

September- Games & hygiene items

October- toys & gloves, hats, and scarves

November- \$9.00 donation for your box
(Boxes are collected)

December- Pray for those receiving boxes



The Labels for Education Program is ending nationwide. (Campbell's Soup Labels)

They are still accepting them until the end of the year. If you have any labels, please bring them in as soon as possible so we can send them in for credit. **The Deadline is December 1.**

Thank you for your support of this program. We will still collect Box Tops for Education. If you have any questions, contact Ruth Morse.

Due to the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, Mission Central is asking for the following critical items: (see pages for flood bucket and hygiene kit lists)

7"-8" combs for Health Kits

Liquid Household Cleaner (12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water. no spray cleaners)

Hand Towels - no microfiber

Lightweight cotton fabric to be used to make dresses (minimum of 3 continuous yards)

8.5" x 11" Copy Paper

30" x 30" receiving blankets

1 Subject Notebooks or filler paper up to 150 sheets

**** All Items Must Be New ****

Hygiene Kit

Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes. All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used. Please remove all packaging except for nail clippers, toothbrush and soap. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items—nothing more. DO NOT include any personal notes or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

1- Good quality hand towel. Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels are not acceptable Cut and remove all tags. Please ensure towel is dry.

1- wash cloth. Adult size, no microfiber cloths please. Please ensure wash cloth is dry.

1- comb. Please remove from packaging. Comb needs to be sturdy; no pocket combs or picks, please; rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable.

1- metal nail file OR clipper. Remove from packaging or baggies - wrap in wash cloth Please do not remove UPC sticker—this leaves a sticky residue. No sand paper emery boards or toenail clippers, please.

1- bath size soap. 3 oz. and larger sizes only; all brands acceptable except Ivory, Lisa, and Jergens soap. Do not remove from original packaging.

1- toothbrush. Adult size only; Do not remove from original package, which must be completely sealed (not taped shut) Dental ads are ok.

6 - adhesive bandages. 3/4” to 1” width, common household band aids. Do not use small or large band aids.

1 - plastic bag. one-gallon size, sealable bags only

****Please include \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste****

Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the wash cloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the wash cloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and fold over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the folded bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

Cleaning Bucket Instructions

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.

1 - 14" - 14 1/2" tall 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid. 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

1 - liquid household cleaner. 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water. no spray cleaners.

1 - dish soap 1 16-28 oz. bottle, any brand.

1 - Personal insect repellent spray. 6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover; packets of 20 insect repellent wipes may also be used.

1 - Hand-held scrub brush. plastic or wooden handle, no toilet, kitchen or dish brushes please.

18- cleaning wipes. Handi-wipes or reusable wipes; no rags or terry cleaning towels; remove from packaging.

7 – sponges. Dry foam sponges-PLEASE NO cellulose sponges.

5 - scouring pads. No Brillo, SOS or other metal pads due to rust issues. Nothing with soap built in; Remove from wrapper.

50 – clothespins. not loose in the bucket; place in gallon sized, sealable bag.

clothesline * * two 50 ft. OR one 100-ft. cotton, plastic or nylon.

24- heavy duty trash bags. At least 1.5—2 mil trash bags, 33-45 gallon size—remove from box.

5- dust masks. Place in bag with clothespins.

2 pair - disposable kitchen gloves. rubber or latex (not light-weight hospital gloves); remove from packaging.

gloves 1 pair work gloves. 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.

Canton Ecumenical News

By Paula Schmidt

The Canton Food Pantry item for September 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.

The monthly dinner for September is Ham Loaf, Baked Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll and Butter, Beverage, and Dessert. The cost is still a bargain at \$6.00 per person. Take-outs are available. Take time out of your busy schedule and have dinner with us! If you are able to help, please contact Brian Greenough.

Shunk News

By Suzi Fisher

Please be careful pulling out of the church parking lot!

Can't believe it's time for school to start already. Where did the summer go? Let's say some extra prayers for the students, bus drivers, teachers and helpers as they begin a new year.

Operation Christmas Child is in full swing. We have a good showing of filled boxes already. Let's make this our best year ever!

This is an open invitation to everyone in our church/parish to come join the **Prayer Warriors** every Wednesday at 11 AM at Canton Ecumenical. This is for men and women. It is a wonderful group! You do not have to pray out loud if you don't want to. It is a very special time of lifting up praises and concerns. Yes, I know....we do that every Sunday during our church service. This is more personable for lack of a better word. Join us on Wednesday and find out for yourself.

As I write this, southeast Texas is experiencing one of the worst storms in their history. Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey is stuck in the same area and will be there for a few more days causing flooding and horrible devastation. By the time you read this that will all be over, but the cleanup and rebuilding will take a very long time. Mission Central will be seeking out a list of materials needed to help with that process. (see pages 5 – 7) Please be generous! We have an idea of what it's like to lose everything due floods and wind. Also, and very importantly, **pray for the victims of Harvey!**

St. John's News

By Andrea Sutton

The church held a picnic at the home of Jim and Bev Unruh. There were about 38 members and guests Dan and Denise Walker. After a delicious and a great dinner, with a variety of foods, homemade ice cream was served. This was made by Will Unruh and Alyssa Blazer using an old motor to do the churning. Next was a brief time of singing lead by Dan. This was followed by scripture and message by Beverly Unruh. Great time!!!

Next on the agenda for members of the church was attending a memorial service for one of our own, Roger Gatti. It was well attended and the meal afterward brought peace to everyone.

On a happier note, Beverly Unruh and Kathy Miller did what they have been called by God to do. Witness. They went through the town of Grover passing out bags with information about St. John's. They knocked at every door and welcomed people to join our fellowship of Christian friends.

Also the members of the congregation held another mission project when they gathered school supplies which the Canton school district had listed as needed. First they packed 12 bags full of supplies for their own members of the church family who were going back to school including college. Carl Sutton packed the excess supplies in bags for all six grades and a large bag of "leftovers " to be used by the school where needed and delivered them to the Canton Elementary School. Principal Wells was thrilled and helped carry items into the school to be used by students who might not have the resources to supply their own.

With the remaining funds a large number of baby wipes will be given to the special needs students in Mrs. Whitesell 's classroom.

Members have been talking to other members of the Tri-Parish about holding a parish wide birthday party as we did several years ago. Tentative date is Sept 16th. More details will appear in bulletin. Anyone interested in helping may get in touch with Andrea Sutton.

We pray that the children, teachers and administrators all have a great school year! Let's start September off by enjoying Labor Day. Don't work too hard!

God bless all who are not feeling well or are grieving or maybe just need a hug!

St. John's News (continued)

Church Picnic at the Unruh's
Pictures courtesy of Jerry Schmidt



A Walk through Grover

By Beverly Unruh

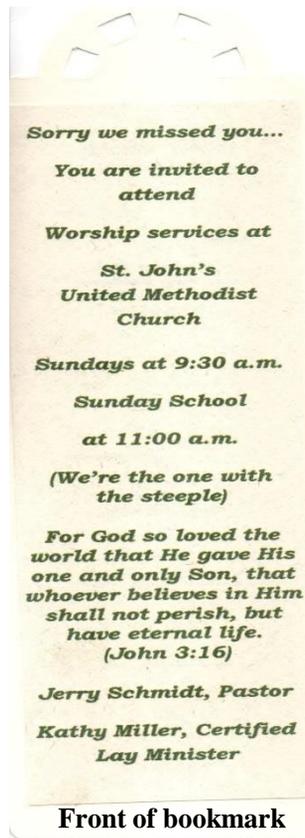
This summer my husband and I attended the Bible study, Choosing the Faithful Path. During this time I felt the Lord telling me to go and invite the people living in Grover to our church. This was a way to reach out to others right in our community. I asked Kathy to go with me as I was somewhat nervous about going to a stranger's house and knocking on their door, inviting them to come to church. Kathy said she would accompany me. Paula stuffed the last of the Tri-County Parish tote bags with the bulletin and the latest edition of the Circuit Rider, which featured our picnic at the Blazer's. She also designed a bookmark with the St. John's service times on one side and John 3:16 on the other side, tying the bookmark to the bags with a ribbon. We were all ready to go.

So on a beautiful, sunny day (with all the rain we've been having, I felt like this was the Lord's confirmation and blessing), after saying a prayer, Kathy and I walked to the village of Grover and went house to house knocking on doors. Some folks were not home and we left a tote bag on the door handle. Others answered the door and we were able to introduce ourselves and invite them to church, giving a tote bag to each person. Some people were friendlier than others but none slammed the door in our faces. Three of the houses we went to the people said they already had a church home and we rejoiced that there was a Christian presence in Grover.

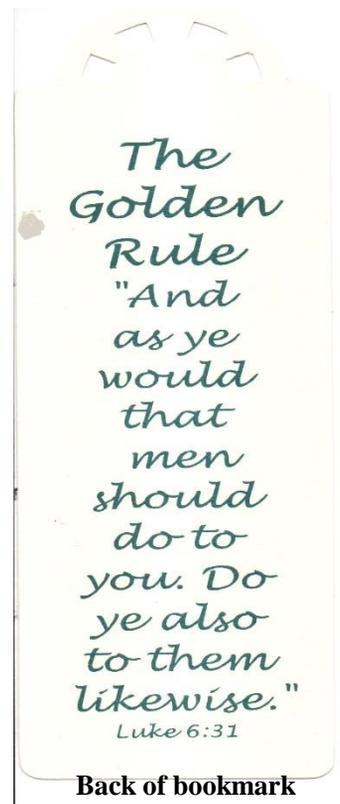
The walk took us about one and a half hours. Afterwards, Kathy and I prayed that the Lord would use our efforts to bring the people of Grover to know Jesus. It gave me joy and peace to know that I had been obedient to the Lord's prompting. And best of all, Kathy said she lost two pounds the next day from our walk!



Bags that were handed out



Front of bookmark



Back of bookmark



Ward News

By Dana Vermilya



As you know, we held Bible School in July. (as seen on page one) This year we had four nights of activities. We began each evening with dinner. We then followed with our Bible School activities. Those activities included an opening, a lesson, craft time, outdoor activities, music, and a closing.

We had a science theme and centered our lessons around the fruit of the spirit. For each lesson, we had stories that involved the one or more of the fruit of the spirit and each had an experiment that was used to help demonstrate the main idea.

The highlights of the week were: the Mentos and Diet Coke fountains when demonstrating that we need to be filled with the fruit and overflowing with joy, and when we placed a ten dollar bill in a solution to demonstrate how the disciples soaked up as much of Jesus' words and wisdom as they could and then watched as the bill was lit on fire and ignited but was left unburned when we discussed the tongues of fire above the heads of the disciples on Pentecost. All of the children were encouraged to be filled with the fruit of the spirit and soak up as much of Jesus Word as they can. They were also encouraged to share that love and joy with others.

For craft time, we did a few service projects. The children worked together to make two fleece blankets and each decorated a pillow case. These items were donated to Seeds of Hope through the Citizens and Northern Bank. They were also able to make a cross decoration and/or necklace for themselves.

For our music, we taught some of the "good old songs" that many of them did not yet know. They included songs like "Praise Ye the Lord" and "Down in My Heart". The outdoor activities allowed the kids to have a partner race with both legs in one pant leg, a balloon relay, and make their own soda fountains. The dinners included tacos, chicken nuggets, hotdogs, and pizza. Cookies were enjoyed each evening following outdoor time.

We were blessed to see 27 children throughout the week and had around 22 in attendance most evenings. The helpers included Lydia, Kylie, and Nathaniel Landon, Noah, Sam, Teresa, and Maxine Shedden, Pastor Jerry and Paula Schmidt, Dianna Thompson, Karen Coles, and Ruth Morse. Thanks to everyone's help, and the parents who brought their children each night, we had a great week. As a mission we collected school supplies and donations for school kits. Together, the children sent many school supplies and approximately \$103 to Mission Central. It was a joy to see these children learning about and sharing the love of our Lord!



You Gotta Laugh!

Jesus, Moses and an Old Man Go Golfing

The first to play is Jesus. After his swing, the ball lands in the lake. He runs towards it, walks on the water and grabs the ball.

Then it's Moses' turn. Bad luck, the same thing happens to him. He walks to the lake, spreads the water into two parts and grabs the ball on the dry ground.

Finally, it's time for the old man to play. His ball lands on the top of a tree. Instead of getting the ball, he just waits. After a few minutes, a squirrel hiding in the tree takes the ball and goes down. Then a wolf attacks the squirrel, kills it and eats it. He goes further and ends up vomiting up the ball, which is then taken by an eagle. The eagle goes even further, but a hunter shoots it down. The ball falls down and lands exactly in the golf hole. It's hole-in-one and the old man wins.

Moses looks at Jesus and says: "I really hate golfing with your dad."

A Child's Point of View!

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

Sunday Funnies

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please don't shove me either!"

Little Angel!

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm.

Johnny asked his mom, "Where'd he come from?" "He came from heaven, Johnny."

Johnny responded: "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!"



News From the Susquehanna Conference



August 2017

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” (The Lord’s Prayer)

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Susquehanna Conference,

Grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Prince of Peace, Healer of our brokenness, and Hope of the world!

In recent days we have witnessed, once again, a horrible manifestation of the presence and power of evil in this world. Our hearts are broken as we hear about the violent death of Ms. Heather Heyer, a victim of domestic terrorism, and the tragic death of two police officers, Lt. Pilot H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Pilot Berke M. M. Bates, in the midst of public service for the safety of the people present in the clash in Charlottesville, VA. I urge the pastors and congregations of the Susquehanna Conference first and foremost to pray for comfort and healing of the families and friends who lost their loved ones and of those who suffered injuries in this horrific act of terror. I also ask you to uplift our nation in prayer this Sunday for God’s spirit of truth, love and justice to prevail and that our leaders seek God’s righteousness to lead our country to shalom for all. Please pray also for the transformation of the hearts and minds of the people who represented racial hatred in the clash.

It is so troubling that in our country we continue to witness the hatred and disregard for all of humanity that was displayed in Charlottesville. We all should find it alarming and disheartening that there seems to be a growing climate that induces such blatant racism. It is also deeply troubling that far too often those individuals who espouse hatred towards persons who look different than them suggest that they are doing so in the name of Christianity. I hear Jesus weep. Racial hatred and bigotry are never in the will of God and have no place in the Kingdom of God.

The ideology of racial superiority for dominance, power and control by one race over others is evil. Racism is a sin. It must be confronted and condemned in the name of humanity. It is also antithetical to what Christian truth stands for. Everyone is created in God’s image and has the same sacred worth as everyone else. All of us are God’s beloved. The reign of God that Jesus Christ came, lived, died, and was resurrected for is for all of the human race. Each one of us is invited to be an equal citizen in the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom and our country are being attacked at their foundational vision and values, by many race-based and racism-inspired hate groups. Lamentably, Pennsylvania has one of the largest numbers of hate groups in the United States and many of them are located within the boundaries of our annual conference. There have been reports from some congregations in the Susquehanna Conference of leaflets from the Ku Klux Klan being left under the car wipers of worshippers as they attended church last Sunday. The very core of who we are as people of faith is being challenged. Silence is not an option for such a time as this.

Earlier this week through the QuikLINK, you received the statement on the current and evolving situations out of Charlottesville from Bishop Bruce Ough, President of the Council of Bishops. You might consider reading it in worship or in a congregational gathering for prayer or conversation. Bishop Ough calls upon us that, “We share collective responsibility to turn our thin words into thick action. We share collective responsibility to break our silence.” His words connect me to a passage in the Book of Esther: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13-14)

We need to be ever more determined for such a time as this to continue to proclaim the good news of the coming of the Kingdom of God, pursue its vision, and demonstrate its values by our prophetic voice and witness for racial justice and reconciliation with intention and integrity as we continue to commit ourselves to work on racial relations in our community and beyond. At the end of this statement, there is a link to an article titled, “Ways United Methodists can take a stand against racism”**, that was released this week in United Methodist Now from United Methodist Communications. It explicitly offers suggestions for how congregations and individuals can do the hard work of dismantling the walls of racism within and outside of ourselves and of building bridges.

Let’s be reminded that our country was founded on the mandate of “E Pluribus Unum” (Out of Many, One). We are to be one out of diversity and difference. It is the foundational identity and irreversible destiny of our nation. It is also the biblical vision of God’s future for the human race. No matter what difference we may represent, all are to be honored for who they are with respect and dignity as children of a loving God. Difference is never to be a cause for discrimination and marginalization. Any ideology that justifies racism and promotes hate, fear, and violence is wrong and must be confronted, challenged and defeated.

In closing I offer for your reflection these words from the third and fourth stanzas of the hymn, For the Healing of the Nations. They were authored by composer Fred Kaan in 1965:

“All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned; pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life’s brief span, may we hallow life’s brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.”

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is heaven

With You in Christ’s Ministry,

† Jeremiah J. Park

Bishop, Susquehanna Conference

Daily Bible Reading Plan- September

1- 1 John 10 – 12	13- Proverbs 24 – 25	25- Numbers 25 – 28
2- 2 Timothy 1 – 2	14- Amos 5 – 9	26- 2 Chronicles 6 – 10
3- Psalm 104	15- John 16 – 18	27- Proverbs 28
4- Numbers 13 – 16	16- Titus 1 – 3	28- Jonah 1 – 4
5-1 Chronicles 20 – 24	17- Psalm 106	29- Acts 1 – 2
6- Psalms 22 – 23	18- Numbers 21 – 24	30- Hebrews 1 – 4
7- Amos 1 – 4	19- 2 Chronicles 1 – 5	
8- John 13 – 15	20- Proverbs 26 – 27	
9- 2 Timothy 3 – 4	21- Obadiah	
10- Psalm 105	22- John 19 – 21	
11- Numbers 17 – 20	23- Philemon	
12- 1 Chronicles 25 – 29	24- Psalm 107 – 108	

That's Right, You're Wrong!

From the Fishwrapper March 2, 2015

Answers on Page 17

Each question here is a trick question, so be on your guard before answering – and don't be disappointed if you find the going is a little tough. (before looking at the answers on page 17, at least try to answer the questions.)

1. Just what does a battleship weigh when it leaves port?
2. How many birthdays have you had so far?
3. What state has the greatest gold deposits?
4. If you have only one match, which would you light first – a gas stove or an oil lamp?
5. If you are an unmarried man, what will your future wife's name be?
6. In a fist fight Bill knocked Jim down. When Jim fell, what did he fall against?
7. Starting with any day of the week, can you designate six consecutive days without naming Wednesday, Thursday or Friday?
8. If an airplane could fly 5,000 feet directly above a train all the way from New York to Chicago, which would travel farther, plane or train?

Great Rules for Living

Author unknown

From the Fishwrapper, January 24, 2017 edition

Used with permission

If you open it, close it.

If you turn it on, turn it off.

If you unlock it, lock it up.

If you break it, admit it.

If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.

If you borrow it, return it.

If you value it, take care of it.

If you make a mess, clean it up.

If you move it, put it back.

If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it, get permission

If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.

If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

If it will brighten someone's day, say it.

If it will tarnish someone's reputation, keep it to yourself.

That's Right, You're Wrong

Answers From Page 16

1. It weighs anchor.
2. One. The rest are anniversaries.
3. Kentucky (Fort Knox)
4. The match
5. Your name preceded by Mrs.
6. Against his will.
7. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Saturday, Sunday, Monday(starting on day Thursday)
8. The airplane: it flies in a greater arc.

Tri-County Parish September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Canton Ecumenical

- 1- Emily Grace Wilcox
- 3- John Ambrush, Jenny Schmidt
- 9- Marge Wood
- 10- Kristi Robertson
- 13- Lida Parfitt, Bobbee Wilcox
- 14- Joan Davison
- 16- Brant Buchanan, Rachel Schmidt
- 17- Beth Acampora
- 20- Terry (Bassett) Seeley
- 22- Mike Harkness, Jr.
- 30- Dianne Stiles

Anniversaries:

- 9- Roger & Joyce Castle
- 16- Wayne & Mary Bronson

Ward

- 1- Sylvia Betzer
- 3- Tess Smith, Jenny Schmidt
- 7- Harry Fisher
- 8- Sarah Rockwell
- 11- Karen Coles
- 12- Angela Sechrist, James Tompkins
- 13- Debbie Elliott
- 14- Dana Vermilya, Becky Kilmer Metzler
- 15- Dave Shedden
- 16- Rachel Schmidt

Anniversaries:

- 9- Charles & Teresa Shedden
- 15- Jeff & Angie Sechrist
- 16- Harry & Nancy Fisher
- 30- Dave & Maxine Shedden

St. John's

- 1- Cecil Kneller, Devon Beeler
- 3- Jenny Schmidt
- 4- Jackie Deljonavan
- 5- Theresa Stimson
- 6- LaVonne McNett, Alyssa Blazer, Carl Sutton
- 7- Carol Kneller
- 9- Crawford Holmes
- 12- Dick Turner
- 16- Rachel Schmidt
- 18- Barb Avery
- 27- Andrea Sutton

Anniversaries:

- 7- Don & Anna Mary Heller
- 18- Cecil & Carol Kneller

Shunk

- 3- Jenny Schmidt
- 16- Rachel Schmidt

Anniversaries:

- 9- Darwin & Phyllis Higley

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.



Happy Anniversary



Tri- County Parish Events - September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Emily Grace Wilcox Cecil Kneller Devon Beeler Sylvia Betzer</i>	2
3 <i>Tess Smith Jenny Schmidt John Ambrush</i>	4 Labor Day <i>Jackie Deljonavan</i>	5 <i>Theresa Stimson</i>	6 Prayer Warriors 11 am <i>LaVonne McNett Alyssa Blazer Carl Sutton</i>	7 Ward Business Mtg. 7:15 PM <i>Carol Kneller Harry Fisher Don & Anna Mary Heller</i>	8 <i>Sarah Rockwell</i>	9 <i>Marge Wood Crawford Holmes Charles & Teresa Shedd Roger & Joyce Castle Darwin & Phyllis Higley</i>
10 <i>Kristi Robertson</i>	11 CEP Ad Council 1:30pm Bishop's Day Apart 9:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Karen Coles</i>	12 <i>James Tompkins Angela Sechrist Dick Turner</i>	13 Prayer Warriors 11 am Bishop's Retreat Mtg 1:30pm <i>Lida Parfitt Bobbee Wilcox Debbie Elliott</i>	14 <i>Joan Davison Dana Vermilya Becky Kilmer Metzler</i>	15 <i>Dave Shedden Jeff & Angie Sechrist</i>	16 <i>Brant Buchanan Rachel Schmidt Harry & Nancy Fisher Wayne & Mary Bronson</i>
17 <i>Beth Acampora</i>	18 <i>Barb Avery Cecil & Carol Kneller</i>	19	20 Prayer Warriors 11 am Superintend. Mtg 6:30pm <i>Terry (Bassett) Seeley</i>	21 Pastor Jerry DCOM 2 pm	22 The First Day of Fall <i>Mike Harkness, Jr.</i>	23
24 Pastor Jerry Vacation	25 Pastor Jerry Vacation	26 Pastor Jerry Vacation	27 Prayer Warriors 11 am Pastor Jerry Vacation <i>Andrea Sutton</i>	28 Pastor Jerry Vacation	29 Pastor Jerry Vacation	30 <i>Dianne Stiles Dave & Maxine Shedden</i>

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

Lectionary September 2017

September 3: (The 13th Sunday After Pentecost)

Exodus 3: 1 – 15
Psalm 105: 1 – 6, 23 – 26, 45c
Romans 12: 9 – 21
Matthew 16: 21 – 28

September 10: (The 14th Sunday After Pentecost)

Exodus 12: 1 – 14
Psalm 149 or Psalm 148
Romans 13: 8 – 14
Matthew 18: 15 – 20

September 17: (The 15th Sunday After Pentecost)

Exodus 14: 19 – 31
Exodus 15: 1b – 11, 20 – 21
Romans 14: 1 – 12
Matthew 18: 21 – 35

September 24: (The 16th Sunday After Pentecost)

Exodus 16: 2 – 15
Psalm 105: 1 – 6, 37 – 45, or Ps. 78
Philemon 1: 21 – 30
Matthew 20: 1 – 16



The Tri-County Parish Circuit Rider
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