

THE TRI-COUNTY PARISH CIRCUIT RIDER



Canton Ecumenical
Ward UMC



St. John's UMC
Shunk UMC



FEBRUARY 2016 EDITION

Jesus is My Valentine

By Susan Y Nikitenko

*Jesus is my Valentine;
I talk to Him each day.
He never, never leaves me;
and always listens when I pray.
Yes He is my Valentine;
there is no love like His.
He is the Heart of all that is;
for Him I breathe and live.
He's a Valentine that never lies;
never hurts or breaks.
He always has forgiven me;
for all my past mistakes.
If you only knew my Valentine;
you would love Him too.
For His love is always perfect;
His love is always true.
So if your heart is longing;
for a love that never ends,
for someone that is faithful;
you know you can depend,
call upon my Valentine;
He'll wash away your sin.
He will be your Valentine;
and your dearest, dearest friend.*



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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:

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

Contributors:

Suzi Fisher, Kathy Miller, Karen Robertson, Jerry and Paula Schmidt, Donna Strout, Andrea Sutton, and Beverly Wright.

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 March 2016 issue is
Wednesday, February 17, 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 Prince of Peace,

I have been in much prayer concerning the churches of the Tri-County Parish. I must admit that sometimes, those prayers are corporate for the whole church area. I apologize to you all for that lapse in my judgment. It is difficult to attend a seminar or training session, be asked to use my own example, and pick each church individually. There usually is not enough time built into the sessions to think of each specific church. Hence, being in much prayer for each church.

I have been choosing continuing education retreats, seminars, and training sessions, that specifically speak to the needs of **my** heart concerning the growth of CEP, St. John's, Shunk, and Ward United Methodist Churches. I say **MY** heart because for the last eight months or so, God has been working on changing me, so that change, in the form of growth, might happen in each church. I have asked the PPRC members to name a few in each church who might have some ideas that have been unheard, or ignored. I want this to happen in each church alone, not as a parish PPRC.

The Bishop's retreat for clergy and spouses was the straw that broke the camel's back, so to speak. I have loved you all very much, but have left a part of my heart out of the equation when trying to lead each church. I have always known that each church has their own personality, but I have not split myself into four to satisfy the needs of each church. While attempting to cater to each church, I have kept too much of me in each church. I propose that there be less of me, and more of **YOU!**

Each time that I approach the Altar, I pray that God's words are heard, while my words are decreased. I want this to be a major draw in each church. I want there to be less of me, and more of you. People come to church because of the relationships in the church that you build. I want each church to be successful in this venture, so that your ministries can grow, and people can see Christ.

Bishop Webb, the speaker at the Bishop's Retreat, advocated leading from the heart; to get back to the very soul of who we are, as believers and followers of Christ. This vision team idea that I am being pulled into by God is a way for you to take more leadership in your church. Many people fight change because they have tried it before, and it failed. We have all seen miracles worked in the hearts of loved ones who have come to believe in the name of Jesus. Many times, what was tried, did not work. Until something or someone lit some sort of spiritual fire under them. The same is true of ministry; God brings us together for such a time as this. We are all different than we were months, or years ago. This may be the time that God is calling us to act, and make a certain difference.

February brings many opportunities to think of love. And love comes in many forms. We love our family, even if we can't stand them. We love our spouse, even though they drive us crazy. We love our church, even if it is only on Sunday. We love our country, and some even died for her. So how much do we love humankind? Are we willing to let go of ourselves so that others may see Christ Jesus, healer of all brokenness? Are we willing to expose our underbellies, show our vulnerable side, and proclaim Christ in all we do?

I believe that the visioning team of each church puts ownership of the mission of the church back in your hands. If you are not one who is good with outside the box thinking, then put your trust in God that others might have that gift. If you are unable to do the physical work of the church, then pray hard for the thing that God wants to see happen in your church. Pray for me, your pastor. Pray for Kathy, as she has much discernment left to do. Pray for Paula, who is taking some of the load off of my shoulders so that I can understand how best to teach and train the leaders in each church.

And most of all, pray for the visioning teams, the people who see that things get done, and those who are praying with you to see a new thing accomplished. To quote a person of great faith, "pray for revival in your church". What will that look like? I am curious and anxious to find out.

Blessings on our journey together,

Pastor Jerry

Minister's Musings

By Kathy Miller

Warm Greetings Friends,

For a number of years, I have read and reread the book, *The Darkness and the Dawn*, by one of my favorite authors, Charles "Chuck" Swindoll. Because it takes the reader from Christ's Last Supper to His Resurrection, I have chosen to read it each year during Lent. If you have the opportunity to borrow the book or to buy a copy for yourself, you will find it extremely informational and spiritually uplifting.

The book jacket tells us, "Between the illuminating bits of technical and historical information he (Dr. Swindoll) tucks passionate pleas for all whose lives are mired in darkness to reach out in trust to the only One who can bring us to the light. He says, 'We're dealing here with a mixture of vital things that make a difference. Taken seriously, they can transform your thinking and alter your destiny.'"

The premise of this book is the bedrock reality that suffering brings us to the grace of God. Through pain and illness, through mistreatment and unfairness, great character emerges. When we contemplate the Cross and the Resurrection together, as Dr. Swindoll does in this book, then we see clearly that the path through the darkness can lead us to the dawn."

Read it! You will be glad you did. I am willing to loan you my copy.

Have you noticed that Valentine's Day falls on the first Sunday of Lent this year? While I encourage you to celebrate that day with your Valentine, I sincerely hope that you will first celebrate that day with the One who created you and loves you the most. Let us all spend time together in our churches in praise and worship, showing God that we love Him and that He comes first in our lives!

In His name,
Kathy





Parish News

Can you believe that Lent starts this month? Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 10. A Tri-County Parish service is being planned (more details to come). The annual Lenten Luncheons will be held again this year at Canton Ecumenical, sponsored by the Canton Minister's Network. (formerly the Canton Area Ministerium) The first Lenten Luncheon will be on February 15 beginning at 11:45 a.m. The Luncheons continue every Tuesday in Lent, with a different minister from the area speaking. Please plan to attend!

Something to think about...

It has been on my heart for awhile now, and God has been telling me we should bring back something we've been missing for quite some time now. I've been kicking around the idea of bringing back the Monday Morning Ladies Prayer Group, and was hoping I could get some input from the ladies of the parish. (it wouldn't have to be on Monday Morning, we could come up with another day as well) I know that its former leader, the late Pat Rosner from St. John's would be happy if we could reinstate this group, and I would really like to give it a try. I have even come up with a new name for the group, Wesley's Prayer Warriors, named after John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist Church. (but that is also up for discussion...just an idea...) I really think during the times we are living in, this group could really be a benefit to our parish, our community and the world. If you are interested in being a part of this group or have any other ideas, please let either me or Pastor Jerry know as soon as possible, as we need to see if anyone is interested before we can get started. I look forward to hearing from you!! (from Paula)

Pastor Jerry and Paula attended the Bishop's Retreat in January. The speaker was Upper New York United Methodist Bishop, Mark Webb who grew up in Williamsport, PA. He was a former Pastor and District Superintendent in our Conference. It was a wonderful time of rest and spiritual renewal. Thank you for allowing us to attend! Here are some pictures from the event:



Shunk News

By Suzi Fisher

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

Bible Study with Pastor Jerry continues on Thursdays 1 PM upstairs at the church. This is open to everyone so please come join us.

Jan. 17 - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - The annual Baby Bottle Campaign has begun. All proceeds benefit the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center's ministry to women in our community. The bottles are to collect "pocket change" and/or checks made out to EMPCC until March 20. The bottles are available at the front of the church.

Feb. 7 – Souper Bowl Sunday - Please bring cans of soup for the Food Pantry. (monetary donations are also accepted)

Feb. 10-Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14 – Mission Sunday...a second collection will be taken.

Feb. 14 – Happy Valentine's Day!!

Feb. 15-Presidents' Day

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

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

February marks the beginning of Lent. There are so many in the world today who have so little. We are so very blessed to live in America! God gave us the ultimate gift of His son, Jesus Christ, who paid for our salvation with His own suffering and blood. It seems like we can sacrifice something during the 40 days before Easter.

Canton Ecumenical News

By Paula Schmidt

Our Monthly Dinner will be held on Tuesday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m. This month features Fettuccini Alfredo and Spaghetti and Meatballs. Dinner includes, entrée, Salad, beverage, and dessert. The cost is \$6.00 per person and take-outs are available. Come celebrate Valentine's Day a bit early with the ones you love!

The Canton Food Pantry item for February is Chicken Noodle Soup. 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.

Don't forget that during the winter months we have our services upstairs in Fellowship Hall. If you haven't experienced the service in Fellowship Hall, we encourage you to come worship God in this more casual setting. You will be blessed.

Ward News

By Paula Schmidt

First of all, we are still looking for someone to be the information person for Ward Church for items to be put in this newsletter. If you are able to be this person, please contact Paula as soon as possible. You would only have to get the information to me once a month, so we can get it into the newsletter. Please prayerfully consider taking on this position, that way, your information will be sure to be in the newsletter each month. We wouldn't want to miss anything important that is coming up that everyone should know about!

Don't forget! The February Business Meeting will be held at the home of Ruth Morse on Thursday, February 4 at 7:15 p.m. Please plan to attend, we have some new ideas for Memorials.

Thank you to the Comfort Quilters for the wonderful work you do! I know your efforts are greatly appreciated by those who receive a quilt.

Some words of wisdom from John Wesley

From John Wesley's Words and Wisdom 2016 Calendar:

*It was free grace that "formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into him a living soul,"
and stamped on that soul the image of God.*

*The greatest of all blessings, salvation; what can we say to these things, but,
"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!"*

*There is nothing we are, or have, or do, which can deserve the least thing at God's
hand. "All our works, Thou, O God, hast wrought in us."*

Grace is the source, faith the condition, of salvation.

*Believe, "that God is; that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"; and
that he is to be sought by glorifying him as God, by giving him thanks for all things,
and by a careful practice of moral virtue, of justice, mercy, and truth, toward their
fellow creatures."*

St. John's News

By Andrea Sutton

Winter has arrived and we are all relaxing after the hectic Christmas season which just passed. All the decorations are down, put away, and now just sit with a cup of your favorite hot beverage and enjoy. But wait! I must get ready for Valentine's Day. As I am looking at the calendar, I also see something else marked on February 10. It couldn't be. Do my eyes deceive me? It can't say that! It's can't be Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. I just got over Advent and Christmas. Well, as the old adage says, "No rest for the wicked." Just how wicked can I be?

With the coming of winter, everyone can enjoy the wonderful prayer breakfasts which have taken place, at the Heller's and on Feb. 6 at the Unruh's. Those who attended the one hosted by the Heller's said it was great! Good food, fun, fellowship and prayer was all part of the morning. It will be the same at the Unruh's. Please make time in your schedule to join other members of the congregation at these wonderful events!

On Sunday, January 24, Tom Bradford, a special guest speaker was in the pulpit and spoke at Sunday school. It was an enjoyable day. This man was an acquaintance of Denny's.

Speaking of Denny, he sang with Sydney Crawford and Carol Kneller, one Sunday. GREAT! Also Don Heller sang on the first Sunday and as usual did a fine job. I am sooooo thankful for all the wonderful music in the church. It is like singing prayers unto the Lord.

Now back to my cup of tea. Stop, can't just sit here. I have work to do. So do you. You can't just sit and think that the Lord's work will be done by someone else. It is up to you.

The annual Ash Wednesday schedule has not been announced, but check the bulletin in the near future to make sure you attend.

Usually, the Sunday school Adult class has a party around Valentine's Day. This year, they are thinking about having one near the end of the month, so that it might not be as bad weather and it won't be close to Valentine's Day. Maybe we can celebrate spring just around the corner or even have an Easter theme. Details will be forthcoming. Watch the bulletin or this wonderful newsletter. Everyone from everywhere is invited. The more the merrier, so they say. Let's see.

To close, as usual I am long winded, here is a poem about love and a February afternoon. If you have any poems, thoughts, or ponderings you would like to share, just let me know. They surely can be published in this newsletter.

***Thank you for a February afternoon that felt like spring,
Blessings are the things we take for granted.
A person to talk to, Friends to laugh with,
Music to listen to, Movies to watch,
Food in my stomach, Air in my lungs,
Knowledge in my mind, Emotions in my heart.
Teach me through all my frustrations,
My angers, My shames,
My sorrows, To remember your grace
On a February afternoon that felt like spring.***

Happy Lent. Remember Jesus is the Reason for this season also. More about Lent and the wonderful thing the Lord did for us all in next months newsletter. Each day should be Valentine's Day. Love to all from St. John's.

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER
ENDLESS MOUNTAINS PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Thank you for participating in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and it is something the whole family can participate in! Through your contributions we are able to offer free ultrasounds, baby clothes, maternity clothes, and clients earn car seats and pack-n-plays through our Earn While You Learn parenting classes.

God Says....

For you created my inmost being, you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139: 13 – 16 NIV

By filling a baby bottle with change, you support the work of EMPCC. We help struggling parents have the courage to make a decision for life. Babies, like the one pictured here, think what we do is really important. We help save lives! I hope that you agree and you will take a bottle or two to fill. We cannot think of anything more worthwhile for you to do with your change. On behalf of the parents and kids, thank you!!



Remembering Roses

By Beverly Wright

Every year someone asks me if I still go out to California and work on the Rose Parade floats and this year, Pastor Jerry asked if I would write an article for the Circuit Rider. It's been 10 years since I have worked on the floats and it has been 14 years since I went out the 1st time for the 2002 parade.

That 1st year my sister-in-law and I were not sure we were even going to get there as our flight in Buffalo, NY was canceled due to a snowstorm. We debated whether to wait and see if we could get a flight the next day or drive to Pittsburgh to catch a flight that would take us to Washington, DC before flying to LA. We drove to Pittsburgh, and it was a good thing, as that was the year Buffalo got almost 7 ft. of snow during a 5-day snowstorm.

Work on the floats would start at 8:00 AM and continue until 11:00 PM except on December 30 when it would continue until everything was done into the early morning hours of the 31st. Fiesta Parade Floats had to have their floats ready and waiting for the 2nd round of judging at 9:00 AM. (The 1st round of judging was done during the decorating process). If you were still decorating for the 2nd round you got points taken off. There were usually different groups of volunteers that came at different times. We worked in the florist area where different flowers from all over the world were processed for the floats. It was fun to try to guess where the flowers came from. One year some boxes marked "tulips" came in. We knew where they came from—wrong—they came from California.

Our jobs could be anything from wrapping oasis in chicken wire, counting out 50 to 100 flowers per bucket, removing the stamen from the lilies, which we called "picking the nose of the lilies", clumping, which is sticking flowers in oasis, but not arranging them, and making rose balls, which were ½ spheres holding anywhere from 20 to 35 roses depending on how big the roses were.

One night as we were getting ready to call it quits when we were asked if we could remove the thorns from some roses before we left. It shouldn't take long, there were only 600. Another time on the last day of decorating, 60,000 roses had to be put on the Dr. Pepper float and everyone was tired, but a group of Girl Scouts were recruited to finish the project.

Sometimes a special color of roses is desired and is developed just for that purpose. When you see buckets of fresh brown roses, all you can think is, who would want a brown rose. Until you see four different shades of brown roses being used to create beautiful wood paneling for a station wagon.

One year there was a shortage of red carnations. 60,000 carnations were needed to decorate Uncle Sam's red coat. Every inch of the float has to be decorated with organic material. The back of his coat was a little sparse around the bottom, but other flowers kind of sprang up from the float to cover it up. Another time, there was forsythia that wasn't in full bloom. I had to move it around to find a warm spot of sunshine to get it to open up.

You don't really understand their size until you see them up close. There is no limit on size except they must be able to retract to under 17 1/2 –ft. in 60 seconds to get under an underpass on Colorado Boulevard. Also, they must be able to make the corner at Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevards. The average float is 55 ft. long, 30 ft. high and 18 ft. wide. The number of flowers on the average float would supply an average florist for 5 years. The 1st year that Fiesta Parade Floats did the Rose Queen float they were required to put at least 5,000 roses on it. They put 15,000 roses on it. They estimate 18 million flowers are used to decorate the floats each year.

(continued from page 10)

We didn't work with dried material, but it was the dry material that amazed me. The plant materials can be fresh, dried, chopped, sliced, ground, ironed, but never dyed. You never realize how much rolled oats, coconut, and cinnamon they use until you work on the floats. How many pounds of black onion seeds to make black stripes on a tiger that is bigger than a Clydesdale? To get skin tones for their human characters they use a mix of crushed walnut shells, cinnamon, cornmeal, and paprika. A toadstool could have a cap made out of slices of dried oranges, grapefruit, or lemons. Another one might be made out of ironed corn husks with groups of roses for dots.

And the use of fruits and vegetables. A border around the bottom of the float could contain a mixture of sweet corn, peppers, cauliflower, carrots, and onions, along with a few flowers, of course. A competing float company used blueberries to create tiles for a floor. Potatoes and small gray squash became cobble stones on a path. Kidney beans make a beautiful looking train engine along with more black onion seeds.

We saw some teenagers flattening apricots and asked what they were going to be used for. They had no idea, but later we saw someone gluing them onto an orange stegosaurus as part of its hide, and its underbelly was made of golden raisins, which had to be glued one at a time.

Of course, you cannot forget the people you meet from all over the country. A lady who was originally from the Philippines, came into the area where I was working. Someone had told her we had Bells-of-Ireland and wanted to know what they looked like. She had lived in the area for 40 years and it was her 1st time to work on the floats. She had a very interesting story of how she came to the US.

Then there is Johnnie. It was the last full day of decorating. I noticed a lady sitting all by herself at breakfast at the motel we were staying. I asked if she would like to join us. She noticed our flora badges that got us into our work areas and asked what we were doing. She asked if she could help, her husband was going to watch football games all day and she had to entertain herself. She was a lifesaver for us that 1st year. It turned out she worked for a florist for 10 years and when we were asked to go get a flower that we didn't know what it was, all we had to do was ask her. And she knew the tricks of the trade.

My sister-in-law and I went 4 times together and had a wonderful time with great experiences.

Mini Oreo Cheesecakes

From Tasty

Ingredients:

16 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs
Oreos, 12 whole, 5 crushed



Directions:

In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla with a hand mixer. When they are well combined, beat in the eggs. Set aside.

Line a cupcake pan with paper liners. Place an Oreo in the bottom of each cup. Fill each cup with the cream cheese mixture. Top with some crushed Oreos.

Bake at 275 degrees for 22 minutes. Cool, then refrigerate for 3 hours. These freeze well for future use!

Black Forest Torte

Submitted by Karen Robertson

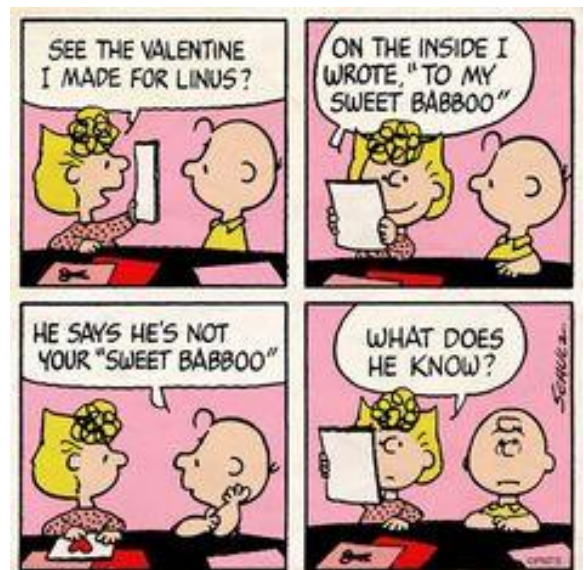
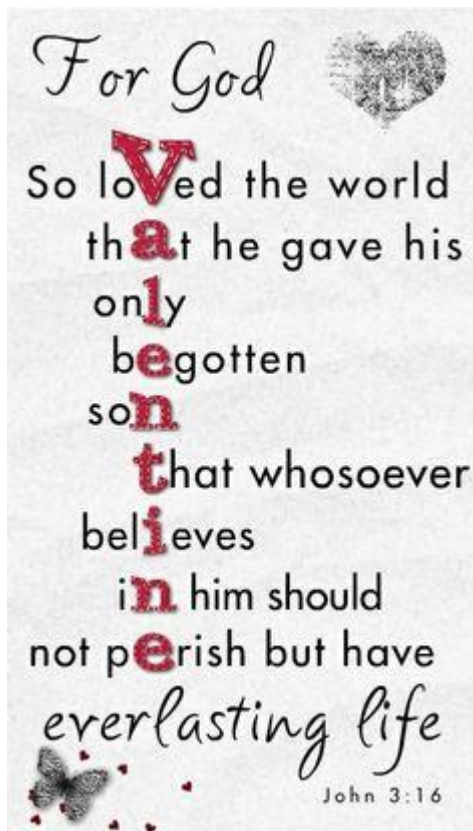
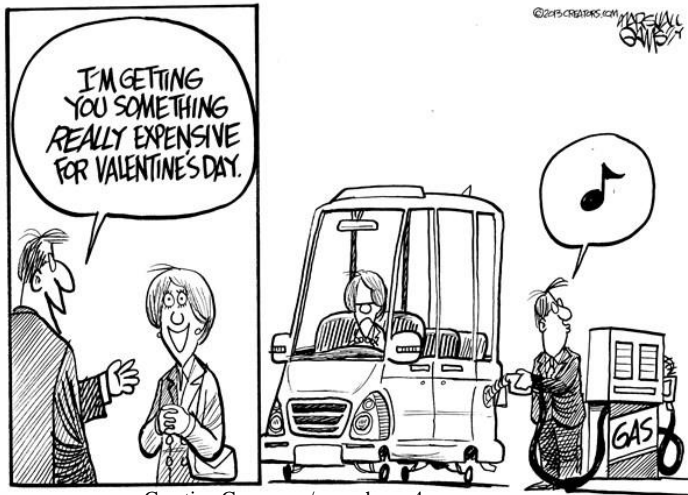
Ingredients:

5 cups miniature marshmallows
1 package chocolate cake mix (any kind is ok, I use Devil's Food)
1 can (21 oz.) cherry pie filling
1 (8oz.) Carton frozen whipped topping, thawed

Directions:

Sprinkle marshmallows in a greased 13x9 inch bake pan. Prepare cake batter according to package directions; put over the marshmallows. Spoon pie filling over the batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool. Frost with whipped topping. Store in the refrigerator. I prefer to refrigerate cake without the topping and put the topping on each piece when I am ready to serve the cake.

You Gotta Laugh!





News from the Susquehanna Conference



January 5, 2016

Dear Clergy and Laity of the Susquehanna Annual Conference:

Grace to you in the most precious name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness and Hope of the World!

In accordance with Disciplinary Paragraph 418 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, with much joy and gratitude, I announce that the **Rev. Beth Jones will continue to serve as a District Superintendent** of the Susquehanna Annual Conference for her seventh year and will be re-appointed to the Williamsport District as of July 1st, 2016. Upon the recommendation of the Williamsport District Committee on Superintendency and after consultation with the Cabinet, I am pleased that Rev. Jones has affirmed her present appointment to continue.

Rev. Jones has provided significant leadership to the Williamsport District, and she has been very instrumental in helping the clergy and the churches of the district to be more intentional in their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Among her gifts that have been uplifted by the District Committee are: her visionary and servant leadership to form and lead the larger Williamsport District, her honesty and professionalism, her willingness to listen, and her strong and focused spiritual life. Rev. Jones has demonstrated that unique ability to help clergy and laity alike to take risks and to truly be the people of God. I am most grateful for the Cabinet of the Susquehanna Conference and for the particular gifts and graces that Rev. Jones has brought to this team. Her contributions to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference and the general church, as well as to the district and the conference, are significant and appreciated by many. We are grateful as well for her husband Tom and his support of her ministry.

Your prayers for Beth would be greatly appreciated as she continues her ministry of superintendency among us. She is a gift to our beloved church for such a time as this.

With You in Christ's Ministry,
Jeremiah J. Park

24 Hour Prayer Vigil Set

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On May 10 - 20, 2016, 864 delegates from all around the world will gather in Portland, Oregon for General Conference 2016. Held every four years, with the guidance of God's Spirit, the future direction of our United Methodist Church is crafted and held up before the whole church for our life together.

This conference gathering will be both a challenge and an opportunity for the delegates representing our United Methodist Conferences to act as the church's top legislative body. All delegates are elected by their annual conferences to serve. Half of the delegates are lay and half are clergy. In the course of these 11 days, the delegates will prayerfully church's set the official position and church policies regarding such important issues as mission, vision, discipleship, structure, spiritual formation, human sexuality, war, peace and set the General Church funding for ministry plan for the next four years.

On December 2, 2015, our Council of Bishops encouraged each of our 131 Conferences to hold a **24 hour prayer vigil**. In so doing one conference will be continually praying for our delegates, bishops and leadership for the 131 days leading up to General Conference!

Our **Susquehanna Conference 24 Hour Prayer Vigil** is set for **March 4th, from 12:00 am through 11:59 pm**. We are asking pastors and local church leaders to organize a vigil in their congregation or charge and join our other 900+ local churches in prayer for that 24 hour period. Each church or charge can develop their own plan which will fit their needs. *The important thing is that we all covenant together to do our part of this important prayer vigil!!*

A special prayer vigil web page will be added to our conference web site at **susumc.org/gcprayervigil**. There you will find a listing of our delegates so that you might include their names in your prayers. You will also find resources to help you plan your church-wide experience. Prayers, service ideas, and other suggestions appear for your possible use or create your own special way to be a part of this critically important time of prayer.

Thanks in advance for taking responsibility to make this happen in your church or charge. Prayer really does make a difference, especially when we do it together as the whole body of Christ! After all, we are "Better Together!"

Grace & Peace!

Rev. Mike Bealla

Director of Connectional Ministries

Our Parish is going to participate in this prayer vigil. You simply have to sign up to pray during the times designated for your church. (from wherever you might be at that time) We will have sign-up sheets available closer to the day of the vigil. The times will be:

CEP: 12 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Shunk: 6 a.m. to 12 noon

St. John's 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Ward 6 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Love Bible Verses

Luke 6: 31

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6: 35

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Romans 12:9

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 13: 10

Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

1 Corinthians 13: 13

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

Ephesians 4: 2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

1 Peter 4: 8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.

1 John 4: 7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Ephesians 5: 25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Proverbs 17: 17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

“Morning, Mr. Pop”

*Originally written by Tim Taylor/Condensed and edited
From “The Fishwrapper, January 2014 Edition*

His “calling card” is the kind the children at Bellevue like best.

Two nurses, standing at the doorway of New York’s Bellevue Hospital, smiled as the short, chubby old man trudged down the hall, a battered canvas satchel in hand. A doctor looked up, grinned broadly and said, “Morning, Mr. Pop.” the little man nodded cheerfully and walked by.

These hospital workers, as well as thousands of New York’s children, will never forget Mr. Pop. For over 14 years he came to the hospital regularly. For a long time he spent one morning or afternoon a week visiting the nine wards populated by boys and girls, stopping to talk with, or smile at, each bed’s occupant, and moving on after leaving his calling card – a cellophane-wrapped lollipop.

Mr. Pop – 77 -year-old Hyman Kullick, a retired house painter distributed thousands of lollipops at Bellevue, although exact numbers are of no consequence in affairs of the heart. Children looked forward to his visits with the feeling usually reserved for the news that they are about to leave the hospital, while newcomers who had never seen Mr. Pop anxiously awaited the stocky gentleman they heard so much about.

If he was making his tour around lunch time, he would ask, “Have you had your lunch?” If the answer was yes, a work –worn hand went into the satchel and emerged with a candy-stick. But if the child hadn’t eaten, Mr. Pop would say he will return or secure a promise that the candy wouldn’t be eaten until after the noon meal.

“Lollipops are good for children,” he would say. “They have a stick, so even the youngest child is safe with one. And they don’t hurt sore throats ‘cause they can be licked.”

Then he added, “I’ve worked hard all my life, but always I thought about children and how I could help them enjoy themselves. Then I thought of lollipops and the hospital. The look on the children’s’ faces is something to see.”

Mr. Pop was unwilling to calculate how much his candy-giving cost. “I worked years as a painter and saved a few dollars,” he said, “You know how it is.”

Mr. Pop himself had often been confined to Bellevue, for he needed treatments for arthritis. But whether he was a patient or a visitor, Mr. Pop was known and loved by thousands who didn’t know his real name or anything about him except that he was good, and cheerful, and delighted in spreading happiness.



Tri- County Parish Events - February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Minister's Network 9 am CEP Bible Study 1:30pm	2 Ward Bible Study 9 am TCP Bible Study 7pm  <i>Ruth Morse</i>	3 St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm	4 Shunk Bible Study 1pm Ward Business Mtg. 7:15pm at the home of Ruth Morse <i>Ed Smith</i> <i>Lindsay Sue Garber</i>	5 <i>Maria McNett</i> <i>Holden Ward</i>	6 St. John's Prayer Breakfast at the Unruh's. 7:30 a.m. <i>Korey Morse</i>
7 <u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> Lunch at Shunk with Ad. Co. following <i>Morgan Stone Wilcox</i>	8 CEP Bible Study 1:30pm <i>Mary Ann Savage</i> <i>Michelle Mcnett</i>	9 Ward Bible Study 9 am CEP Monthly Dinner 5pm TCP Bible Study 7pm <i>Tonie Hall</i>	10 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service 7pm at CEP No St. John's Bible Study	11 Shunk Bible Study 1pm	12	13 <i>Eric Riggs</i> <i>Stan Strong</i>
14 <u>The First Sunday in Lent</u> <u>Valentine's Day</u> <i>Nicole Castle</i> <i>Lucy Baumunk</i> <i>Joshua Kelley</i> <i>Mark & MaryAnn Savage</i>	15 CEP Bible Study 1:30pm  <i>Lisa Carpenter</i>	16 No Ward Bible Study Pastor Jerry DCOM Lenten Luncheon 11:45 am Pastor Jerry PLD 1-4 TCP Bible Study 7pm <i>Janie Riggs</i> <i>Mark Savage</i>	17 St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Maggy Machmer</i> <i>Taci Jane Smith</i> <i>John & Diane Deljonavan</i>	18 No Shunk Bible Study Pastor Jerry at a retreat <i>Dody Smith</i>	19 Pastor Jerry at FLPAM Meeting 1 - 3 Kathy at Licensing School	20 Kathy at Licensing School
21 Kathy at Licensing School <i>Celeste Vermilya</i>	22 CEP Bible Study 1:30pm <i>John Anderson</i> <i>Darby Machmer</i>	23 Ward Bible Study 9 am Lenten Luncheon 11:45 am to 12:45 pm TCP Bible Study 7pm	24 St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm	25 Shunk Bible Study 1pm <i>Cindy Clarke</i> <i>Larry Wright</i> <i>Wayne Quail</i> <i>Cassidy Bellows</i>	26 <i>Michelle Campbell</i>	27
28 <i>Linda Quail</i>	29 CEP Bible Study 1:30pm	(March) 1 Ward Bible Study 9 am Lenten Luncheon 11:45 am to 12:45 pm TCP Bible Study 7pm	2 St. John's Bible Study 6:30pm	3 Shunk Bible Study 1pm	4	5

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

Tri-County Parish February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Canton Ecumenical

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

Anniversaries

None

St. John's

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

Anniversaries

17- John & Diane Deljonavan

Shunk

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

Anniversaries

14- Mark & Mary Ann Savage

Ward

2- Ruth Morse
4- Lindsay Sue Garber
5- Holden Ward
6- Korey Morse
9- Tonie Hall
11- Mark Betzer
12- Katie Garber
13- Stanley Strong
14- Joshua Kelley
17- Maggy Machmer, Taci Jane Smith
22- Darby Machmer
25- Cassidy Bellows

Anniversaries

None

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 February 2016

February 7: (Transfiguration Sunday)

Exodus 34: 29 – 35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2

Luke 9: 28 – 36 (37 – 43)

February 14: (The First Sunday in Lent)

Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11

Psalm 91: 1 – 2, 9 – 16

Romans 10: 8b – 13

Luke 4: 1 – 13

February 21: (The Second Sunday in Lent)

Genesis 15: 1 – 12, 17 – 18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1

Luke 13: 31 – 35

February 28: (The Third Sunday in Lent)

Isaiah 55: 1 – 9

Psalm 63: 1 – 8

1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 13

Luke 13: 1 – 9



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