

# Valley Views



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2014

*Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Psalm 90:1*

## Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

Thy Word commands our flesh to dust,  
"Return, ye sons of men:"  
All nations rose from earth at first,  
And turn to earth again.  
A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and

blood,  
With all their lives and cares,  
Are carried downwards by the flood,  
And lost in following years.  
Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

Like flowery fields the nations stand  
Pleased with the morning light;  
The flowers beneath the mower's hand  
Lie withering ere 'tis night.  
Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

*Test: Isaac Watts, 1719.  
Based on The Psalms of David:  
Psalms 90.*



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*My sheep hear My voice,  
and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

From John 10:27-29 (NKJV)



The Youth Fellowship decorated the Christmas tree at the Hanging of the Greens at the Elimsport Church. We wondered how many people were actually singing, or watching us trying to get all the ornaments on the tree without tripping over each other. We enjoyed adding to the beauty of the church.

On December 15th, 11 youth and 3 adults went to the toy warehouse below Lewisburg to pull toys for the Toys for Tots program. We were given lists with the age and gender of the child and three things that they wanted for Christmas. It was up to us to search the shelves for the toys. The toys were arranged on the shelves by age and gender for the young children and by categories for the older children. There were shelves that held re-

mote control vehicles, farm equipment, dolls, Spiderman, Sponge Bob, Little Kitty, puzzles, books and games, and many others items. There were larger items such as bicycles, scooters, and table and chairs sets on the first floor. We gave each child a book and a game as well as stocking stuffers along with their Wish List toys. It was difficult at first trying to find the toys until we were able to remember what aisle and shelf a particular item was on. We worked for three hours and the time flew by. We are looking forward to working there again next year, maybe even two days rather than one. We took the bus to Pizza Hut afterwards as we had worked up quite an appetite. Tweet never saw breadsticks disappear so fast! A special thanks

to Bishy Hill and Deanna Drick for their help!

Several members of the youth fellowship participated in the Christmas Pageant at Elimsport or the Christmas Play at St John's. Thanks to everyone who came to watch the dramatization of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

If you haven't purchased your 2014 God's Creation calendar, please see one of the youth or Tweet. The wall calendars have large blocks to write in events or your appointments. They are \$7.00 and will help to support our mission trip this summer to Kentucky.

Thanks to you who have already purchased calendars or wreaths from us. We appreciate your support!



#### YOUTH FELLOWSHIP JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

January	5	1:00pm	Meet at the church. Bucknell basketball game for those who signed up for a ticket.
January	12	1:00pm	Meet at the church to go ice skating at Sunbury. Admission \$3 students, \$5 adults, skate rental \$2.
January	17	3:00pm	Meet out front of the school to leave for Winter Jam, State College. \$10.00 admission to Bryce Jordan to see 10 Christian bands. We will stop for fast food on the way.
January	19	4:00pm	Parish Birthday Party at Elimsport Church.
January	26	6:30pm	Meet at the church. Bring your Youth Sunday ideas!
February	2	6:30pm	Souper Bowl Sunday. Youth will take up collections at each church for Sonlight House and Footprints during the morning services. Meet at the church. Youth Sunday rehearsal. <i>Soup orders due!</i>
February	9	8:30am	Meet at Elimsport for Youth Sunday, then to St John's for Youth Sunday. Pizza at OIP after the services.
February	15	7:00am	Meet at the church to make soup. \$5 quart. Vegetable



Members of Elimsport Valle United Methodist Church:  
Thank you so much for the Starbuck's gift certificate. Starting in January, I will be in my final semester of graduate school and lots of caffeine will be needed.

Thanks for your support and keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Bethany Bower

Thanks,  
Thank you for the care package. It helped me get through the rough week of finals. Also, thank you for your prayers during this start of my college education. It is wonderful to know that I have such a supportive church family.

Tiffany Waughen

Dear Church Family,  
We would like to thank you for the college care packages. We are very appreciative of your continued prayers and support. Thank you again for thinking of us during our stressful week of finals.

Hannah and Ashlea Lovell

A big thank you from the Taylor family for all the prayers and concerns for Dick as he recovers from his kidney operation.

Also a special thank you to Pastor Mike for his two visits while Dick was at Fox Chase, Philadelphia.

Dick revisited his surgeon at Fox Chase, December 11th for a check up. He has been transferred to a local kidney doctor and perhaps chemo after the first of the year in Williamsport.

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Great New Year!

Sincerely with love,  
Dick Taylor and family

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you very much for the care package I received during finals. It's nice to know you are thinking of us while we are away at school.

Michelle Waughen

To: Members and friends Elimsport United Methodist Church:

On behalf of the recipients, volunteers and board of Directors at the Son Light House, "Thank You" for your continued support and for the non-perishable food donations this year, also for the generous monetary contributions of \$300.00 that we received December 14, 2013. This contribution will purchase food and help with expenses at the Son Light House.

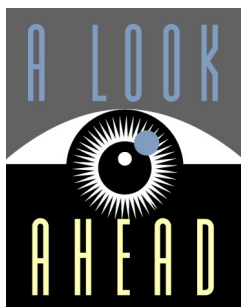
Your support in helping our ongoing mission at the Son Light House is greatly appreciated.

The month of November 2013, 697 households received food and clothing or 1,856 individuals, 623 youth, 929 adults, 3045 senior 60+, and 21 new households registered in November at Son Light House.

Son Light House depends on the community and local support with both food and monetary donations and not to forget our volunteers making it possible to provide this service to the many families in need during the year.

God bless you in a very special way this Christmas!

Gratefully,  
Ken and Delores Frey, Directors  
Son Light House



### **Elimsport Choir**

There will be no choir practice Wednesday, January 1st.



### **Prayer Chain**

We will be updating our prayer chain beginning January 1 2014. If you wish to be added or removed, please let Pastor Mike know before January 1.

### **Vacation**

Pastor Mike will be on vacation from Monday January 6 to Monday January 20. Any prayer concerns for the prayer chain can be directed to Pat Ulrich at 547-1752.

### **Soup Picnic**

Third annual soup picnic will be held Saturday, January 18th at 5:00 pm at St. John's. Please bring your favorite soup in a crock pot along with family and friends. Soup sampling bowl and spoons will be furnished. If to your liking bring a dessert.

### **Parish Birthday Party**

The annual Parish Birthday Party will be held Sunday, January 19, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. Please join us for fellowship, games, food, and fun.

### **Bible Study**

Parish Bible Study will resume January 21st on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 at St. John's. All are welcome.

### **Coat Collection**

St. John's is collecting hats, boots, gloves, coats and scarves that are in new or good condition to donate to those in need. There is a collection box in the church vestibule.

### **Favorite Scriptures**

If you have any favorite scriptures you would like to learn about or any that you have questions about, please write them down and give them to Pastor Mike as he will be preaching on these in 2014.

### **Elimsport Greeters for January**

Jan.	5	Tom & Donna Taylor
Jan.	12	Deanna Drick
Jan.	19	Debbie Salvatori
Jan.	26	Keith & Stacey Bennett & family

- Items for February's newsletter are due January 20th.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to Pastor Mike or Deb by Thursday **morning** each week.

*(Items received after these dates are not guaranteed to be printed.)*







## The Sojourner Truth Ministries Connection of Christians in Partnership



### *Our Vision*

Sojourner Truth Ministries shall be a loving, spiritual, and inclusive Christian

### *The Mission and Purpose of Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.*

Sojourner Truth Ministries loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of JESUS CHRIST

2013 December Newsletter    Hours: 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday thru Saturday    Volume 14 Issue 7

STM's 2013 Annual Review by our Director of Services.....

## Rev. Velinda Webb-Smith

ANNOUNCING!!!

*Jesus has said: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." ---John 14:12 (NIV)*

Our theme this year at our Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation evening November 15 was "Greater things are coming." We don't know of all God is going to do but we are anticipating greater things than what He's already done at Sojourner Truth. And we greatly thank Him for the many blessings that He's already provided these 14 years.

We were individually challenged to each do a greater thing. We were challenged to purposely choose someone that we have great difficulty relating to and pour our love and God's love on them over and over. Wow - yes a greater work of loving those we consider unlovable to enable God to forge a new loving relationship with one another.

We throw God's request out to you too. Ask God if you are to join us in this greater work of doing this as well. It is His heart cry that we love one another, for Jesus said "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.... — Matthew 5:44-45 (NKJV)

### Sojourner's December

### Matching Grant \$2,500 Funds!

*Will **YOUR** Giving This Month  
Double your Impact?*

YES! Your financial gifts made to Sojourner Truth Ministries will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$2,500 during the month of December. We are grateful for our donors' generosity in enabling us to offer this matching opportunity to double your gift towards God's mission at Sojourner Truth Ministries. Write on your check "Matching Funds" so we can match your funds with theirs.

Your gift can be mailed directly to our Treasurer, Philip Wolf, at Sojourner Truth Ministries, 501 High Street, Williamsport, PA. Or, if you are donating through SUSUMC at your U.M. Church write on your check our Advance Special #94775 so your Treasurer can send it to the Annual Conference indicating your donation is for us.



## We Are Grateful for Our Helpers

*We give thanks for these helpers who make it possible to serve the meals, sort clothes, and do so many numerous and various ministries at STM.*

- Community Service Workers
- TLC Volunteers
- Girl Scout Troops
- Three Springs Ministries, Morris, PA
- Experience Works workers
- Sojourner Volunteers themselves
- All the area Churches
- Williamsport High School students
- Other organizations and YOU!

### *CAN YOU HELP US?*

**KEEP THIS HANDY:** List of Ministries for people/churches to help at STM:

- 1) lawn care/in house care
- 2) computer savy - spread sheet/Excel
- 3) help with bulk mailings/newsletters
- 4) processing large donations of food
- 5) provide transportation to services for the Sojourners or to pick up food from area grocery stores
- 6) serve on STM Board of Directors
- 7) STM Board Secretary

**\*\*\*\*A Sojourner is in NEED of \*\*\*\*  
an Electric Washer and Dryer**

A long-time Sojourner has been in need of an electric washer and dryer for almost a year. The family has been hand washing their clothes out nightly but with health issues, recently, they must go to a laundromat. The cost of using the machines for this family is way beyond their low income. Do you or do you know of anyone who could donate a washer or dryer? Please call Pat Bole ASAP at 570-494-0423. *Thank you!*

**Thank you St. John's-Newberry UM Church for running this newsletter.**

## Thanks from All of US for 52

*2013 Saturday Café Meals  
Served at Sojourner Truth Ministry by.....*

St. Paul-Calvary, Williamsport UM Church  
(4 Saturdays)  
Balls Mills UM Church - S.S. Class and Y.F.  
(2 Saturdays)  
Pine Street UM Church  
First UM Church, Williamsport (4 Saturdays)  
Heshbon Park UM Church (2 Saturdays)  
Faxon-Kenmar UM Church  
Phelps Chapel UM Church  
Quiggleville UM Church  
Unityville UM Church  
Pine Run UM Church (2 Saturdays)  
South Williamsport UM Church  
St. Paul UM Church, Liberty  
Tivoli UM Church  
New Covenant United Church of Christ  
Girl Scout Trout Troop #60278 Unityville  
Avis UM Church (3 Saturdays)  
Pennsdale-Trinity UM Church  
Iron Man Bible Study at STM  
City Alliance Church  
Greenview Alliance Church (3 Saturdays)  
Trout Run UM Church  
Oval UM Church  
Hughesville Bethany UM Church  
Light and Life Chapel  
Antes Fort UM Church  
Radiant Light Assembly of God  
City Church  
Hope Community Church (10 Saturdays a year  
beginning 2010 and since 2008 Thanksgiving  
Day and Christmas Day full holiday meals!)  
Christmas Eve Lunch (Entire generations of Miele's)

*Check out our 2014  
Sojourner Café Calendar  
on [www.stmwilliamsport.org](http://www.stmwilliamsport.org)  
for open dates... January 4<sup>th</sup> not taken!  
22 already asked for!  
Call Pat Bole at 570-494-0423.*



### List of Kitchen Items NEEDED

- \* Paper Goods - toilet paper, paper towels, saran wrap, aluminum foil
- \* Zip lock gallon size bags
- \* Sugar, creamer, and coffee (both kinds)
- \* Breakfast meats - eggs, sausage, bacon

**HELP.... Two of our 55 Cup Coffee Pots are wearing out.** We use them regularly as a back up to this our large coffee urn.



*Each of you should give whatever you have decided. You shouldn't be sorry that you gave or feel forced to give, since God loves a cheerful giver."*

*---2 Corinthians 9:7 (GW)*

### We Give Thanks for Our Director of Ministries

This job involves many, many hours being put in above and beyond the scheduled hours when our doors are open between 9am to 3pm. Let alone, all the many details she cares for throughout each day as she works with different personalities, issues and interactions that demand direction as she is pulled in so many ways and frequently at the same time.

She has been faithfully planning and seeing that the weekly meals are served while preparing a daily devotional before each lunch. She organizes the workers who sort, and display all the clothes that come in making them appropriately available to those in need. Free bread, sweets and vegetables, given to us from the area grocery stores, are organized to be distributed on certain days of the week.

She schedules our quarterly Hoss's fundraisers, and a semi-annual Food Handler's class that is open to your churches and area community food servers to better understand and serve according to government health standards. Flu shots scheduling comes around each year. She does so many, many things, too many to mention here, and we are very grateful to her.

**For ALL you do ... Rev. Velinda Webb-Smith**

**THANKS to YOU AND...**

**TO YOUR HUSBAND, DERICK**

### A Year End "Big Thank You" ALSO to Businesses that Helped us in Time of Need

Plumbing Masters, Baxter's Plumbing & Heating, Nork Concrete Construction, Hillside Catering, SUSUMC grants, Clarkson Chemical Co., James Mazzante Electrician, Labels by Pulizzi, FCFP of PA, Williamsport Nolan Co., Trojan Tube & Fabrication Co., Merrill Lynch, Lycoming County United Way and Food Pantry.

### Grant That Pays the Salary of our Social Service Assistant Expires This Month

Last year First Community Foundation Partnership of PA awarded us a \$15,000 grant for creating two part-time staff positions, Social Service Assistant and Office Secretary with some of the salary going towards our Director of Ministries. They do not fund ongoing staff positions other than initial beginning ones. This position is of great value to so many who come to STM and there is no other one like this.

As Social Service Assistant, she weekly makes many referrals for the Sojourners to area agencies throughout our community. Many of them, even though living here for a long time, do not know what is available to help them in this time of crisis. She has located affordable housing on an average of 15 placements per month and then often asked for your donations to help them set up house keeping since many are homeless. She has directly located six jobs and continues the search for positions for others. Her time includes regularly transporting them to scheduled appointments, since most do not have vehicles, and guiding them through the maze of paper work, their dental, doctor, and health care needs. She has arranged for mental health reps to come to STM each month to conduct programs on educating and informing Sojourners about their health issues. One month she scheduled a health fair of various health care providers here with an open invitation to the community to attend.

Clearly, this position is essential as we apply Christ's loving care in these many practical ways. Yet, without a grant for 2014, starting next month, this position will need to be terminated as Dawn would need to earn income elsewhere to support her and her family. Can you help us?

*Are there any funds you know of to enable us to continue this aspect of God's work that is so desperately needed by these disenfranchised and homeless Sojourners in our midst?*



Hebrews 6:9-10 - But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, through we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

**What a year 2013 has been at Sojourner Truth!!  
We share these few milestones to praise God's  
goodness and faithfulness and your obedience to  
Him. Together serving our Lord Jesus Christ!!**

- ★ A new men's Bible study began called Iron Men that has been life changing to so many struggling men to want to know how to walk as a Christian.
- ★ We've served an average of 2,890 free breakfasts and lunches each month. That's a lot of meals provided through your food donations, ARW, and a \$500 grant from the area Food Panty!
- ★ Clothing donations have been faithfully coming in to provide needed clothes free to all ages.
- ★ A donation of 60 new chairs came in just in time to replace many of the ones that were breaking down from their continual use at the lunch tables.

- ★ We were able to repair the slate roof over the Shepherd of the Street building, a new double door installed and re-framed on the Center Street side, plus railings constructed at two outdoor entrances.
- ★ To save heating expenses, our windows inside were insulated with plastic including providing new full length curtains at each one.
- ★ We added a part-time cook to our staff to enable our Director of Ministries to be freed up for more ministry among the Sojourners.
- ★ We have received more workers from Experience Works, volunteers from Williamsport High School, and volunteers from among those coming to STM.
- ★ We have received more publicity through the Sun Gazette for the community to get to know and support us.
- ★ Teenagers from Three Springs have been coming Wednesdays to lead a time of their planned worship and help out wherever needed.
- ★ We have been working on diagrams to remodel the two cramped and old downstairs bathrooms that are constantly used by all those who come for meals.
- ★ And, so much more! Praise God!

## Kids Spot







# ***Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.***

501 High Street Williamsport Pennsylvania 17701 † 570-323-1797

December 4, 2013

## ***From the Desk of the STM Board President***

I am pleased to send you this issue of Sojourner Truth's Ministries, Inc. newsletter. It highlights a year in review of what has been going on at your local area mission.

Our full-time Director of Services has been overseeing the free meals we serve. We serve 7 days a week, 365 days a year which includes breakfast and lunch with a devotional. Read more of her report of so many other ways helping hands have been extended because of your support.

As I am sure you have been hearing from your pastor through your bulletins, newsletters, and even the Williamsport District Office of the United Methodist Church, we have expanded our mission to network with area service agencies and your churches to restore the lives of so many by adding a part-time Social Service Assistance to our staff. Please review the report about the First Community Foundation Partnership of PA grant expiring to see the practical ways Christ has been impacting their lives in their day to day needs.

The Board does so much to organize and actively participate because we desire to have members that are working Board members. The present nine members are stretched as they strive to balance family, business, and ministry hours in every day service. Our vision is to have you and others like-minded to join us meeting once a month to plan and then implement the greatly needed services and ministries. I welcome you to join us. I extend my invitation to you.

As a Sojourner Truth Ministries supporter, I know you agree with me that Christ is the one eternal gift we can give to all His creation. Read more about our offer for you to have a way to double your donation during December with a \$2,500 Matching Grant Fund. Then, throughout 2014, read about how you can join us by donating about \$10 a month through our Covenant Challenge, our main fund raiser. Yes, together we do accomplish more. I know you will stand with us, and I thank you ahead of time.

Serving our Lord Together,

*David Miele*

David Miele, President

**Our Vision Statement.....**Sojourner Truth Ministry shall be a loving, spiritual, and inclusive Christian mission.

**The Mission and Purpose of Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.....**

Sojourner Truth Ministry loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of JESUS CHRIST.



## 2014 Covenant Challenge - Sojourner Truth Ministries

*"They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.  
They will have influence and honor." —Psalm 112:9 (NLT)*

As God made a covenant with Abraham in the Old Testament times, we would like to challenge you to make a covenant with Sojourner Truth Ministries. We are in need of continual, consistent operational funds to keep our building opened, repaired and our programs functional. **We are asking that 1,000 people from area churches of the community, the United Methodist Church which is our founding denomination, and other organizations to make a covenant with us to give us \$100.00 per year. If so, partnering together do this, will provide us with enough money to fund all of our needs!** One hundred dollars is a small sum when spread out over 12 months or \$10 a month for 10 months. We urge you to prayerfully consider helping to fund our ministry in this covenant relationship. If you are willing to make this covenant with us, please fill out the form below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Covenant amount per year \_\_\_\_\_  
Committed: \_\_\_\_\_ weekly \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ semi-annually \_\_\_\_\_ annually

**Please send Covenant Challenge to:**  
**Sojourner Truth Ministries, c/o Treasurer, 501 High Street, Williamsport, PA 17701**

## MATCHING FUNDS OF \$2,500 OFFERED

**DOUBLE YOUR DONATION THIS DECEMBER**  
**TO SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES**

Your financial gifts made to Sojourner Truth Ministries will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$2,500 during the month of December. We are grateful for many donors' generosity to enable us to offer this matching opportunity to double your gifts towards God's mission at Sojourner Truth Ministries. Write on you check "Matching Funds" so we can match your funds with theirs.

Your gift donation can be mailed directly to our Treasurer, Philip Wolf, at Sojourner Truth Ministries, 501 High Street, Williamsport, PA. Or, if you are donating through SUSUMC at your U.M. Church write on your check our Advance Special #94775 so your Treasurer can send it to the Annual Conference indicating your donation is for us.



**ELIMSPORT  
VALLEY UNITED  
METHODIST  
PARISH**

**Parish Office:**

16145S. RT 44 HWY  
Allenwood, PA 17810

**Office Phone:**

547-1974

**Parsonage Phone:**

547-1386

**Pastor Mike's Cell:**

974-8590

**Parish Website:**

[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)

**Parish email:**

[elimsportumc@windstream.net](mailto:elimsportumc@windstream.net)

**[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)**

**Worship Schedule:**

**Elimsport UMC**

Worship 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:30 am

**St. John's UMC**

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Worship 10:30 am

**Parish Youth Group**

Check weekly Bulletin for  
current schedule and events  
(at Elimsport)

**Parish Bible Study**

Varies according to the season.

# VALLEY VIEWS



**Our Mission Statement at Elimsport UMC**

We gather together as a community of Christian believers to worship, fellowship, and to learn more about God. By the unity of the Spirit and the support of each other, we are able to reach out to the community and the world.

**Our Mission Statement St. John's UMC**

The purpose of St. John's is to both evangelize and nurture. We are called to show God's love in our world by giving aid and by spreading the Good News of Christ. We in turn provide an atmosphere for nurturing where Biblical truths are shared enabling people to become spiritually enriched. By providing this, people will learn and through learning, become more effective witnesses.

**Elimsport Valley U.M. Parish**

**16145 S RT. 44 HWY  
Allenwood, PA 17810**

**Non-profit Organization**

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