

# Valley Views



VOLUME 26, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2019



Pastor Mike Hill

## What should be the focus of Christians on Thanksgiving?



The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in December, 1621. The first winter had killed 44 of the original 102 colonists. At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then an unexpected trading vessel arrived, swapping them beaver pelts for grain, providing for their severe need. The next summer's

crop brought hope, and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive.

These Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom and opportunity in America, gave thanks to God for His provision for them in helping them find 20 acres of cleared land, for the fact that there were no hostile Indians in that area, for their newfound religious freedom, and for God's provision of an interpreter to the Indians in Squanto. Along with the feasting and games involving the colonists and more than 80 friendly Indians (who added to the feast by bringing wild turkeys and venison), prayers, sermons, and songs of praise were important in the celebration. Three days were spent in feasting and prayer.

From that time forward, Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a day to give thanks to God for His gracious and sufficient provision. President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1941, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November be observed as Thanksgiving Day and be a legal holiday.

Scripturally, we find things related to the issue of thanksgiving nearly from cover to cover. Individuals offered up sacrifices out of gratitude in the book of Genesis. The Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving as they were delivered from Pharaoh's army after the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 15). Later, the Mosaic Law set aside three times each year when the Israelites were to gather together. All three of these times [Unleavened Bread (also called the Feast of the Passover) (Exodus 12:15-20), Harvest or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-21), and the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-36)] involved remembering God's provision and grace. Harvest and Tabernacles took place specifically in relation to God's provision in the harvest of various fruit trees and crops. The book of Psalms is packed full of songs of thanksgiving, both for God's grace to the Israelite people as a whole through His mighty deeds, as well as for His individual graces to each of us.

In the New Testament, there are repeated admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is to always be a part of our prayers. Some of the most remembered passages on the giving of thanks are the following:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1).

Of all of God's gifts, the greatest one He has given is the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus paid our sin debt, so a holy and just Judge could forgive us our sins and give us eternal life as a free gift. This gift is available to those who will call on Christ to save them from their sin in simple but sincere faith (John 3:16; Romans 3:19-26; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:13; Ephesians 2:8-10). For this gift of His Son, the gift which meets our greatest need, the Apostle Paul says, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that we can complain about (the Pilgrims had lost many loved ones), but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our society becomes increasingly secular, the actual "giving of thanks to God" during our annual Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only the feasting. May God grant that He may find us grateful every day for all of His gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from Him (James 1:17). For those who know Christ, God also works everything together for good, even events we would not necessarily consider good (Romans 8:28-30). May He find us to be His grateful children.

# **World Hunger Sunday**

## **Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering**

**Together We Can Reach More Hungry Persons**

**Did you know...1 in 6 Americans  
are living with inadequate food?**

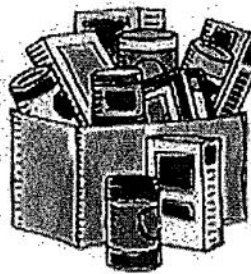
The crisis of inadequate food extends into many communities worldwide. Our Christian compassion calls us to do all we can to help alleviate hunger in our local community, in our nation and around the world.

By participating in the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering you can take one action to help address the urgent need of the hungry in our midst.

**The offering goal is \$1 per member.**

Our prayerful action and monetary gifts bring **hope** to those struggling to put food on their table.

**Jesus encouraged us to feed the hungry.**



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ... Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink.

Jesus replied: "I tell you the truth for whatever you did to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.

Matthew 25:3 -37, 40

**To Local Church Worship Chairpersons:**

**Together We Can Do More to Feed the Hungry!  
Will your congregation help?**

**Susquehanna Conference Harvest Home Offering for World Hunger  
Goal \$1.00 per member**



**World Hunger Sunday, November 17, 2019**  
(Suggested date to gather the offering)

**100% of the Offering Goes to Hunger Projects**  
50% will go to hunger programs within the Susquehanna Conference  
25% will go to national hunger projects through UMCOR  
25% will go to international projects through UMCOR

**37 Hunger Programs and Agencies within the conference boundaries  
requested grants from the 2018 offering.**

*~~ We need every congregation to support this offering. ~~*

With support from local congregations in this conference, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of those with insufficient resources to feed their families.

The agencies who help the hungry and the persons who received the help have benefited immensely from your prayers and gifts of money.

With the current economic trends, the need continues across this annual conference and we must do all we can to help alleviate hunger in our conference, the nation and the world. Therefore, we hope your church will prayerfully participate in the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering with your monetary gifts. The greater the gift the more families we can help.

- There are no offering envelopes for this offering. Be creative in how you gather the offering, such as taking a Love offering with a receptacle carved out of a loaf of bread.
- Bulletin inserts are enclosed, dated and undated copies.
- Enclosed is a list of Hunger Ministries within our Susquehanna Conference who received Grants from the 2018 Offering.
- 2019 Grant Application is enclosed.

Please give a copy of the Grant application for the 2019 offering to any agency or project in your community that addresses hunger needs and would benefit from a grant. An agency or project that has previously received funding, must apply each year to receive a grant.

**Each United Methodist Church** can have its treasurer remit the offering on the "Treasurer's Remittance Report" under C: Special Day Offerings – line 6 (Harvest Home Offering for World Hunger).

**If you have any questions about the 2019 Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering contact:**  
Flo Waybright, World Hunger Offering contact for the Conference Board of Global Ministries  
Phone (717)225-5933 email: waybright5@comcast.net

*"The World is Our Parish"*

***We look forward to a future world without hunger. It can be done if we work together.***

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**These Hunger Projects within Susquehanna Conference  
Received Grants from the 2018 Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering**

1. Center UM Food Pantry, Three Springs
2. Chambers Hill UM, Harrisburg
3. McVeytown UM, Lewistown
4. Elm Park UM/Bread Basket of NEPA, Scranton
5. Port Matilda UM Missions, Port Matilda
6. Montdale Food Pantry, Scott Township
7. Kitchen of Care - Westside UM, Clearfield
8. Osceola Mills Community Winter Suppers, Osceola Mills
9. United Church of Nelson, Nelson
10. Trucksville UM, Trucksville
11. Cupboard at Calvary, Harrisburg
12. Mackeyville UM, Mackeyville
13. Trinity UM, New Cumberland land
14. Caring Community Food Bank, UM Community Church; Great Bend
15. Hope UMC, Mechanicsburg
16. Wesley Chapel UM, Fairfield
17. Bethany UM, York
18. The WELL, York
19. Charleton UM, Harrisburg
20. St. Paul- Calvary UM, Williamsport
21. First UM, Williamsport
22. York City Day Camp, York
23. Messiah UM, Shippensburg
24. Mt Holly Spring UM, Mt. Holly Springs
25. Peach Bottom UM Charge, Delta
26. Cogan Community UM, Trout Run
27. Spry UMC Food Pantry, York
28. Park Forest UM Preschool, State College
29. First McClure UM, Five Barley Loaves
30. Halifax UM, Halifax
31. Martha UMC, Port Matilda
32. Shavertown UM, Shavertown
33. Feed My Sheep - First UM, New Milford
34. Northeast Neighborhood Association, York
35. Sullivan County Food Pantry, Dushore
36. Pleasureville UM, York
37. Trinity UM, New Kingston

**International Hunger Program Offering Designations:**

UMCOR World Hunger and Poverty- worldwide; Food Resource Bank - worldwide; A Give Ye Them to Eat – Mexico; Solar Oven Partners UMC –Dominican Republic

**National Hunger Program Offering Designations:**

Society of St. Andrews-Gleaning Program; Big Garden – US Mid-west; Blackfeet United Methodist Parish - Montana



October 8, 2019

Elimsport  
16145 S Hwy 44  
Allenwood, PA 17810

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you"*  
**Matthew (28:19-20)**

Dear Friends,

**Thank you!**

Your financial support is enabling Global Ministries missionaries to fulfill the mission of the Church.

Through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries around the world.

Nearly 400 United Methodist missionaries come from many places and backgrounds, witnessing and serving in dramatically different locales and cultures, engaging in a range of activities and professions as pastors, educators, congregational and leadership developers, regional coordinators for UMCOR, agriculturalists, health coordinators, and doctors.

On behalf of the people who are recipients of the love of God through the direct ministry of a Global Missions missionary – *Thank You!*

Grace and Peace,




Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary



Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer

**Supporting**  
James Keech

**Gift Amount**  
\$ 

Date Received 09-09-19

Account #17960

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution.



## The Quarterly Truth NEWSLETTER

*Fall* 2019

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC.

501 High Street Williamsport, PA 570-323-1797

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Monday – Saturday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm Sunday - Closed

Rev. C. Angelique Labadie-Cihanowycz, Director

Website: [stmwilliamsport.org](http://stmwilliamsport.org)

Want me to come and share about Sojourners to your church or group? Invite me! I'd love to!

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

**Mission Statement** Sojourner Truth Ministries loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are supported by these foundations:



### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS

The After School Kids Program (ASK) at Sojourner Truth Ministries will be starting back up on October 9<sup>th</sup>. It is offered to children ages 6 through 12. This is a Christ centered program meant to help children succeed academically and socially.

A snack is offered as well as homework help. Games, music and group activities are also offered to the children. ASK is open from 3:30 to 4:45pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week at no cost to participants. We are looking for volunteers. No particular skills are necessary, only the ability to work well with children. However, if you are an educator, we would be especially interested in having you be a part of this wonderful and much needed program. For more information or to volunteer call 570 323 1797.

#### After School Kids program has a new leader! Welcome Jerry!

Hi, my name is Jerry Kabat, and I just started here at Sojourner Truth as the volunteer manager of the After-School Kids Program (ASK). I recently moved to the area from upstate New York (Oneonta) after retiring as a licensed social worker (LMSW) with the state of New York. I spent most of my state service in the mental health field counseling adults, children and their families.

The span of my career included stints as a case manager, therapist, supervisor and administrator. Although I worked for a state agency, my primary focus was and still is to serve my Lord Jesus Christ wherever He leads me. I am here at STM now, following God's call. I am looking forward to leading ASK for this school year. If you are interested in working with me, I would love to meet with you.



### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Monday - Friday** - Breakfast 8:00am & Lunch 12:00Noon (Devotions 11:45am)

**Saturday** - Dinner Church - upstairs 11:30am (followed by Meal)

**Tuesday & Wednesday** - After School Kids - 3:30pm - 4:45pm



### ***Sojourner House***

GOALS for our Ministry House for Women Leaving Homelessness behind Many thanks to all who have given toward our project to not only turn the former house (attached to the Sojourner Truth building) into usable housing, but to get a program up and running. The goal is to provide communal, short-term (6 months) housing for women who have fallen through the cracks of society and likely of other programs in the Williamsport area. The program is completely Christ-based, and residents will be given not only tools to get by, but Truths to live by and thrive. Physical work has been productive, and the upstairs is looking great!

At this writing we are awaiting architect drawings of changes, and work is being done to add a downstairs bathroom and open up the kitchen-dining room areas. Windows have been gifted and are in the process of being installed. So many people have invested, and the walls are full of Scripture and prayers beneath coats of paint. There is still much to do, and volunteers are welcome!

We are just over half of our financial goal beyond the building. We are well on our way to raising the funds for an anticipated years' worth of expenses prior to us being able to open.

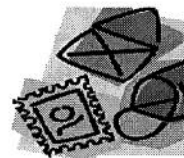
An advisory panel meets biweekly to iron out details in policies and procedures, and we are at the point of accepting volunteer applications for mentors, volunteer staff, training, and many other positions. This House is already filling with hope, and we eagerly anticipate filling it with new residents and volunteers, while being able to serve others more effectively. Won't you please join us, if you haven't already, in your support? Would you or your company help to get us up and running with a gift of \$10,000 or more? Will you gift any amount toward this goal? Would you sponsor a resident at \$200 per month? Please contact us for details, or visit [www.stmwilliamsport.org](http://www.stmwilliamsport.org) Any gifts for the House go into a separate account, please mark accordingly. We are so grateful to team up with so many!

### ***Supplies we frequently use (and run out of)***



*Bleach  
dish detergent  
powdered creamer  
paper cups  
(no styrofoam please)  
powdered drink mix  
food service gloves  
hand sanitizer  
feminine hygiene supplies*

*Always in need of  
Postage Stamps and thank you notecards*





## NEW VOLUNTEER

### Jaime Gatusky



Hello and God Bless you all!! My name is Jamie Gatusky, I am so excited to introduce myself as the newest member of the Sojourner team.

I will be serving God and our community as the resource advocate. I am a Christian woman in long term recovery, a wife, and a daughter. However, I was not always walking the path God intended.

For many years I struggled with healing from a volatile childhood, that I attempted to smother with destructive, self-inflicted behaviors, which eventually led me to prison.

I was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth Pennsylvania, and yet with such obvious naivety I went 40 years not realizing that God was with me through it all. It took a near death experience on a bitter February in 2017 to acknowledge His loving arms wrapped tightly around me. I came to Williamsport upon being released from state prison in 2016. I knew no one and had spent four years incarcerated. I was directed to visit Sojourners to obtain clothing and receive meals. Little did I know that He was giving me a glimpse of where the path was heading. Since those dark days of my past, I have experienced miracles and blessings in abundance! I am now baptized, the suffering has been lifted from my heart, and I am able to finally live a life I never thought I was worthy of. PRAISE GOD!!!! It is an honor to have been chosen by God, to serve the same individuals I sat with once, when I knew no one and had nowhere to go. I am passionate about assisting with whatever may need to be taken care of. Whether it may be a physical, emotional, or spiritual need, I will seek God's direction to obtain the needs of others. As I continue this journey I no longer fear having to walk alone. I rest in the knowledge that God, my family, and the other employees will guide and lift me up when I am uncertain of where to go. Thank you for the amazing opportunity to have my life to come full circle in so many ways!!!! PRAISE GOD!!!!!! I look forward to meeting and hearing from you all.

### Tina Knipe, STM Board

My name is Tina Knipe and I have been involved with STM for over 10 years serving 2 terms on the Board, so I am familiar with STM and how it functions. I am impressed with the current leadership and would like to be a part of STM again. Here are several reasons for my return to the STM Board:

- I know many of the Sojourners and have kept in touch with several of them over the years by dropping in on luncheons and stopping to visit.
- Have known Pastor Angelique for several years and am impressed with her mission and commitment here at STM
- I have worked with several members of the Board previously and recognize what they have accomplished in the past few years.
- Have helped with the after school program and several fundraisers of STM

I am looking forward to serving Sojourner Truth Ministries and being more involved with their missions.

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**Volunteer Orientation** is the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9 am.

If this cannot work, please call for other arrangements! 570-323-1797

A great way to connect!

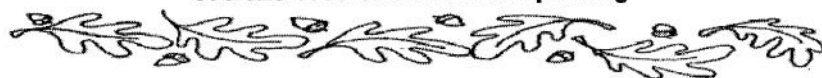
### THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO ARE GIVING TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!!

\*\*If you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please leave a detailed message with your name, address and phone number... call 570-323-1797 and we will remove you from this mailing list\*\*

If you want to save paper and **receive email newsletter**, please email your name and contact information asking for EMAIL NEWSLETTER to [Angelique4stm@gmail.com](mailto:Angelique4stm@gmail.com)

We are willing to come to share more about who we are and what we do in the community-invite us! Pastor Angelique or Jamie Gatusky, our resource advocate, would love to visit and meet you! Call to schedule.

**570-323-1797 or [Stmwilliamsport.org](http://Stmwilliamsport.org)**



**SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES**  
501 HIGH STREET  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
STM newsletter Winter, 2019

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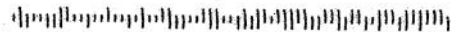
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Inside This Issue

- ✦ After School Kids Program
- ✦ Ministry Update & New Members
- ✦ Sojourner House Update
- ✦ A Reflection

ST JOHN'S UN METH CHURCH  
16145 S St Rt 44  
ALLENWOOD PA 17810-9421

1781039421 R004



## A Reflection

Hello to you all. I've been considering the subculture of suspicion, even the potential of conspiracy theory overload in which much of society has become immersed. It seems our deceitful minds can allow or even encourage us to develop reasons or excuses or ways to avoid attempts to overcome – confessing to God our weakness to submit to being shaped or conformed into the image of God. There are times when we wander, lose direction, or become confused about that which we have been called to do.

Out of chaos, Jesus calls, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37) He fills us and guides us along the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. Jesus keeps us from being cynical and deluded; encourages us to love others as we have been loved; strengthens us in our battle against the enemy; keeps us from gossip, envy and jealousy. Romans 15:13 declares "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

-Len Richards, Board President



Dear Elmsport & St. John's churches,

Thank you for all the cards, food and prayers when our mother, Lois Finck, passed on. Thank you for preparing and serving the luncheon after the service. We appreciate all your support.

Love,



The Finck Family

#### Acolyte Schedule:

11/3	Elizabeth & Mallorie
11/10	Jackson & Mitchell
11/17	Samuel & Garrett
11/24	Elizabeth & Jackson



There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, December 3rd from 2 - 7 at the Fellowship Hall.

Community Breakfast is held Wednesday mornings from 7:00 - 9:00 am at the Elmsport Church.



We are in need of someone to do snow removal and salting of our parking lot at Elmsport



UMC this winter. This job is paid by an hourly rate. Let Pastor Mike or Tom Taylor know if anyone is interested.



Parish Bible Study is on Tuesdays at 6:30. We are studying the book of Psalms. All are welcome.

We will be having a Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 24th at 6pm at the Fellowship Hall. Details to follow.



Monday, November 4th we will have a budget meeting to work on the budget for 2020. This includes: Mardi Anderson, Frank Cleaver, Retta Moore & Mary Moore.

Just a reminder: Everyone is to check the mailbox in the back of the Elmsport church.



Dear Christians Crusader's,

Thank you for the wonderful card but mostly for your thoughts & prayers during my surgery & recovery. Everything turned out very well & I am well on my way to a full recovery. I thank our Lord for His grace & mercy & to all of you for your thoughts & prayers.



God Bless you all,

Denny



Apple dumplings being made  
Wednesday, November 20th.  
Orders are due November 17th.



- Items for December's newsletter are due November **20th**.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by **Wednesday** morning each week.

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

## Elimsport Volunteers

### Greeters for November

November 3	Katy Ulrich & Family
November 10	Ruth Taylor
November 17	Sandy Chamberlain
November 24	Ann Finck



## Council Of Ministry Events

As we count our blessings during this harvest season, we want to remember our neighbors in our community that need our help. So we are again collecting nonperishable food items and cleaning supplies for Footprints of Montgomery food pantry. We will be collecting items from 10/13-11/10. Thanks for your help!

Calling all college students: We are making our list of all college students so they can get a college care package. Please let Christa McCormick or Sharon Heintzelman know of any names. We would also appreciate any donations of money or food to help with this mission. At this time we have app. 20 students. College care packages will be ready for pick up 11/23rd at both churches.

We will be recognizing the Veteran's on November 10th during the morning worship services at both churches.

Again this year our warming of the tree mission will be to help with gifts for some students/families of Montgomery School District. We will be putting the tree up 11/10 so you have some time to pick and buy an item/ornament off of the tree. The unwrapped gift needs to be brought in by 12/8. Please attach the ornament to the gift when you bring it in. Thank you in advance for your help with this important mission. Any questions please see Deana Drick or Sharon Heintzelman.

Our yearly Church Conference will be held on Sunday, November 17th at 7:00 at St. Andrews UMC in Milton. We need at least two people from each church to attend to make voting valid. If anyone would like to go, you are welcome to ride with Pastor Mike. This usually lasts an hour or so.

We are in need of a pianist in 2020 and possibly the future for St. John's Church. If anyone is interested or if you know of someone who might be interested, please let Pastor Mike know.



Work on the foundation walls at the parsonage is coming to an end. Thank-you to all who have already donated funds to help pay for the repairs. If you wish to give to help with the cost, you may continue to do so. Please mark your envelope "parsonage repairs".



We are also in need of someone to fill a position on Pastor Parish Relations Committee and someone to fill a position on the Parsonage Committee for St. John's Church. These are 3 year terms. PPRC meets 4 times a year and parsonage committee meets as needed.



# Kid's Corner



Gobble Gobble

# **ELIMSPORT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST PARISH**

## **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.

### **Parish Office:**

16145S. RT 44 HWY  
Allenwood, PA 17810

### **Parsonage Phone:**

(570) 547-1386

### **Pastor Mike's Cell:**

(570) 974-8590

### **Parish Website:**

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

### **Parish email:**

[elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimsportumc@gmail.com)

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



### **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 at 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.