



Jarrettown United Methodist Church
1460 Limekiln Pike
Dresher, PA 19025-1116

**Make Disciples • Relieve Suffering
Glorify God**



**Winter 2016/2017
NEWSLETTER**

Footprints

Jarrettown United Methodist Church
1460 Limekiln Pike
Dresher, PA 19025
215.646.4129

JumcOffice@verizon.net
www.Jarrettown.Church

***Opportunities for Worship
Each Week***

Sunday
8:00am Worship
9:15am Contemporary Worship
11:00am Worship

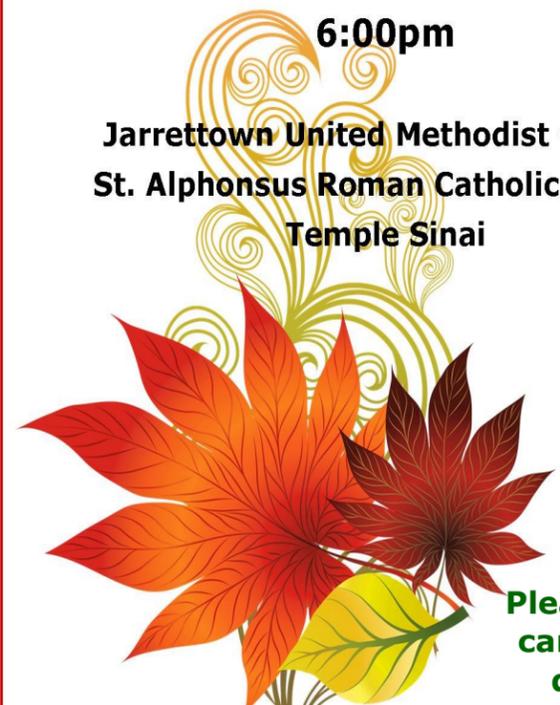
Wednesday Night Experience
7:00—Friendship Center

*In addition to every Sunday at
8:00am, Holy Communion is
celebrated the first Sunday of
each month at
9:15am and 11:00am*

**Eighteenth Annual
Community
Thanksgiving Interfaith Service**

**November 21, 2016
6:00pm**

Jarrettown United Methodist Church
St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church
Temple Sinai



**Hosted by
Jarrettown
United
Methodist
Church**

**Please bring a
canned good
donation**

**1460 Limekiln Pike, Dresher
www.Jarrettown.Church**



*Join us for
Christmas Eve Services*

*5:00pm Family Worship
7:00pm Contemporary Worship
9:00pm Traditional Worship*

For more information, please contact the church office.

Join us Christmas Day at 10:00am

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

(James 1:17)

This Christmas, I invite you to share in the magic as we unwrap four of the most important gifts we could ever receive. During the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we will dive into the meaning of hope, love, joy and peace as we prepare to celebrate the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus – on Christmas Eve.

The four weeks of Advent are set aside as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. The term advent is a version of the Latin word which means "coming." But Advent is not just an extension of Christmas, it is a season that links the past, present and future. We have the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, to celebrate His birth, and to be alert for His second coming.

One of our Advent traditions is lighting the candles on our Advent wreath. The circular evergreen wreath represents God's never ending love for us. And the lighting of five candles (four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve) represents Jesus' coming to a world lost in darkness. **"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."** *(Isaiah 9:2)* As we light a different candle each week, we get closer to the arrival of the true Light of the world.

There is value as well as excitement in patient and expectant waiting. May this be a season of wonder for us as we discover the gifts Jesus brings at Christmas: hope, love, joy, and peace. Our Advent/Christmas schedule looks like this:

- November 27 – The Gift of Hope (Love Feast during worship)
- December 4 – The Gift of Love (Communion)
- December 11 – The Gift of Joy
- December 18 – The Gift of Peace (Choir cantata at 11:00)
- December 24 – The Gift of Jesus (Candlelight services at 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00)
- December 25 – Christmas Day (Combined worship at 10:00)
- January 1 – All services and our *Believe* series resume

On a personal note, I want to thank you for all your support and prayers while Laurie has been receiving treatment for breast cancer. Her treatments have been successfully completed (except for one drug she will continue to receive every three weeks until May) and we are certainly looking forward to celebrating the joy of this season.

May God bless you as you celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Pastor Bob

Music Notes

"The Winter Rose," a beautiful Advent Cantata by Joseph M. Martin, will be presented by JUMC's Chancel Choir on Sunday, Dec. 18th at the 11AM service. The Winter Rose incorporates both traditional carols and newly composed anthems that visit the timeless Christmas story with fresh insight. Through use of music, narration and simple symbolism, the cantata presents the life of Christ from prophecy to passion. It is our sincerest prayer that as Christ, the Rose of Sharon, opens before you this Christmas, your spirit will be encouraged by the beauty of God's greatest gift.



You and JUMC!

Need Contact info for a fellow JUMCer or info about your contributions?

With **Jarrettown Connect (aka CCB)**, our church information system, you can not only access the online **church directory**, you can see and print for yourself a listing of your **giving** for just about any time period you would want, whenever you want.

Never been on Jarrettown Connect?

Go to **Jarrettown.ccbchurch.com**, click on the small blue words that say **Sign Up**. Type in your **email address** and a link will be sent to you.

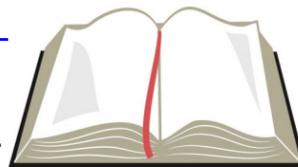
You can also access the directory through the website, Jarrettown.Church

Once logged onto **Jarrettown.ccbchurch.com**, you can explore all it has to offer, including **JUMC's Online Directory**. Just choose the people tab and type in the name of the person you would like contact info for. **After Logging in - to check out your Personal Giving Information.**

CONTACT WENDY IN THE OFFICE FOR HELP USING THIS GREAT RESOURCE!

SCRIPTURE READERS for SUNDAY SERVICES

Would you like to participate in the church service you attend by reading Scripture once a month? If so, call Connie Damon for more information, 215-643-6086



IN HIS STEPS

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."

(1 Peter 2:21)

God has blessed us in many ways here at Jarrettown Church, and it is only natural to want to give something back. We have all pledged to support our church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. The goal of the 2017 "In His Steps" program is to give every member the opportunity to fulfill those promises.

After Christmas you will receive a packet with all the information about this exciting "next step" of commitment to worship, prayer, financial giving and service. We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve in the life of our church. Mark your calendars now for our next big luncheon following worship on **Commitment Sunday, January 29!**

In Christian love,

"In His Steps" Planning Team

Hello, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been some time since the Trustees have talked with you. We have been busy with quite a few projects in the past couple of years and hope you have noticed some of the improvements. To keep you informed of what and how we do things, we're using the Footprints this month. The Trustees meet on the 4th Monday of each month; meetings are on the calendar and are generally open to the congregation. Subjects of discussion are the two major functions of the Committee:

General ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the buildings, grounds and equipment. General ongoing maintenance includes maintenance contracts, insurance, electricity, heat, water and sewer, property maintenance, and office and technology equipment. The costs of these general operations is included in the annual budget.

Capital improvements when major projects are undertaken. The Capital Reserve is for these major projects and follows a 25-year plan detailing the life expectancy of all the workings of the church.

In 2016 the Trustees invested in the painting of the sanctuary, new sanctuary window shades, \$35,000 in funds to the Transportation Fund, replacement of the old heavy tables in the Fellowship Hall with new light-weight plastic tables, tree work, as well as smaller projects.

The Trustees have determined that in order to maintain our church and its grounds in good condition for now and the future we need to budget a minimum of \$30,000 per year. The Capital improvements this year totaled over \$53,000. Total giving to the Capital Reserve (which used to be the Building Fund) in 2016 to date is \$13,829, leaving a shortfall of \$16,171. The Trustees were able to use money from the existing Capital Reserve Fund to bridge this gap but will not be able to continue unless giving catches up to the spending.

Here's how it works. There are items that wear out like heaters, air conditioners, shingles, doors, paint, flooring and carpet, black top, windows, hot water heaters, plumbing fixtures, cabinets, and the list goes on. These assets have varying lives spanning 20-30 years and have been scheduled for replacement based on their anticipated life span. We're taking a proactive approach to maintaining the magnificent facility we've been blessed with. We're not waiting for the leak to cause damage, or hanging pictures over the peeling paint. Thanks to scheduled replacement and dependable cash flow it will work because, remember, it's scheduled, so some years very little will be spent, whereas some years will require major outlays.

Does this require major sacrifice and endless fundraisers? NO!! All it takes is an additional \$5.00 per week. That's right -- \$5.00!! Less than the cost of an appetizer. Currently, 148 families contribute regularly to Jarrettown in its mission to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, Relieve Suffering, and Glorify God"! \$5.00 per week times 52 weeks is \$260.00 per year; \$260.00 times 148 families is \$38,480.00, and there is the funding needed. We ask for your prayerful consideration to increase your tithes and pledges to the Capital Reserve.

Yours in Christ, The Trustees of Jarrettown United Methodist Church,
Barry Scholtz, President; Steve Hamilton, Vice President; Ed Bowman, Tom Bratton,
Dennis Pennington, Mark Schwarz, Ron Nave, Bill Rambo, Jon Klinger

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

 **Nursery Care** is available for infants through 2 ½ during the 9:15 and 5 and under during 11:00 Sunday worship service.
 **Cradle Roll Volunteers** will mail regular newsletters to parents of new babies during their early years. If you are the parents of a baby or know parents of nursery age children from our church that would like to participate in this program contact JumcOffice@verizon.net

Sunday School meets after the Children's Moment during 9:15 service. Preschool ages 2 1/2—4 will meet in the Preschool classroom, Kindergarten-1st grade will meet in the Kindergarten room and grades 2-5 will meet in the Sunday School room next to the mission center.



The Sunday school children will be busy during the month of December. We will be continuing with our regular curriculums, as well as making Christmas cards for our annual Christmas caroling event.

In other news, the 2nd-5th grade Sunday school class has welcomed a few new faces. We sometimes have "standing room only" these days, but we wouldn't want it any other way.

Family Ministry will also be busy during December. We will have our annual **Christmas Caroling and potluck dinner on Sunday, December 4**. Caroling begins at 4pm and the dinner will be immediately following at 6pm in Fellowship Hall.

On **December 17** we will be making Christmas Keepsakes in the Friendship Center from 10am to 12pm. Come join us and make a mason jar luminary or a special glass ornament for your Christmas tree. January and February Family Ministry event plans are still being finalized, so keep an eye out for more information to come.

God bless, Vicki Zoscin

The offering collected in the children's classes is for the sponsorship of "Madina" through **Compassion International**. For more information about our "child", check the children's ministries bulletin board in the lobby.



Thanks to:

The volunteers who babysit during the monthly MOPS meeting!
Our wonderful Sunday School teachers!! Our awesome nursery volunteers!!

We are always looking for volunteers who love being with little ones to join our Nursery Ministry and the MOPS Ministry



After a unanimous decision at our parent's meeting this fall, THRIVE is now meeting on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30. The reason we

switched meeting times is to make it more convenient for our students to place youth group time into their busy schedules. I am also hoping to start up a group that is more focused on assisting parents in the New Year. The idea is that this group will be open to any parents with middle or high school aged children and we will meet once a month as a support group, discussing different articles and resources geared to assist parents in bringing up their students in Christ.

Recently, we were able to purchase a van thanks to our congregation's generosity and I am very much looking forward to putting it to good use. Our biggest event on the horizon is our 2017 Winter Retreat that will take place in Lake Harmony Pa, from January 20th-22nd.

One thing that we will be doing in the New Year is partnering with other church groups for events. I have also been meeting with fellow youth leaders in the area and have gotten advice, and suggestions from them. Coming up also in January, we will be partnering with Chelton to do a youth outreach lock-in at High Point in Chalfont.

I am convinced that God will use our group to bring glory for himself and that he is planning to do BIG things here at Jarrettown. Please pray for our students and their families in this new school year and also for me, that God would continue to minister through me as we seek to impact our students with the love of Christ and that they would make His love known in their families, schools, and communities all for the glory of God.

Blessings, Jake Fairfield

Opportunities to Serve.....



Our **AID FOR FRIENDS** group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in Fellowship Hall from around 5:30 or so to assemble and package meals for our AFF freezer. We usually prepare 80 meals from a pre-selected menu and can always accept gifts of individual desserts (in sealed sandwich or snack bags) or cash support to help pay for the foods used. Of course, we'd love to have you join us - the more the merrier. For ways to help, contact Carole McGlumphy or Michele Scholtz.

Rachel Circle now meets every other month on the first Tuesday at 7pm to cook for AFF.

Ambler Community Cupboard thank all of you who give generous donations to help those in need. Their motto is "Neighbors helping neighbors," and by donating food, laundry detergent and paper goods, you are helping those people in our communities who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives. The cupboard also has a boutique which is free to clients. They have counseling, nurse screenings, financial and emergency services. **We have an ongoing need for toilet tissue, personal soap, paper towels, detergents, cleaning supplies.** Please leave your items in the box marked "**Feeding the Hungry**" in the Mission Center.

North Hills Food Cupboard - for over a year, volunteers from Jarrettown UMC have been serving the North Hills Community located on Girard Street. We serve more than 50 individuals, families and seniors who are food insecure. The cupboard receives inventory from the Ambler Community Cupboard, Philabundance and government surplus, along with individual donations. Our volunteers sort the donations on Tuesday mornings from 9am to 11am (**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH RECEIVING AND INVENTORYING DONATIONS**), and on Thursdays from 9am to 11am our volunteers serve the clients. The cupboard is also open to clients on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm.

If you can help with this outreach, please contact Susan Baybutt or the church office.

St Philip's Community Meal The mission of St. Philip's church is to share with others the gift of God's love through our service, compassion, witness and life together. We are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through word and deed, calling people to salvation in Christ and to live the tenets of Christian faith in love and service to others.

September 2016 marks the 16th year of St. Phillip's mission outreach program. Every Wednesday, we serve a hot meal to 65 needy people. Your support both spiritually and financially enables us to continue the ministry. Praise God for his love, direction and JUMC service to others. JUMC's on-going food donations help to supplement our food cupboard. **We provide a bag of dry groceries every week to about 12 poor and needy families.**



Also, **Wednesday's Community Lunch** continues three other program components - each week a bible study, communion, and a devotions period before lunch. We are feeding people both physically and spiritually. We experience great fellowship at lunch. And, it is exciting at our prayer time to have folk sharing prayer requests.

We continue to need the following food items for the cupboard program:
Canned Fruits/Veggies/Tuna/Beef Stew, Cereal, PB&J, Mac & Cheese, Pasta Products.

Please leave your items in the box marked **Feeding the Hungry** in the Mission Center.



Your support of twin sized sheet sets and blankets are always welcome for the "Beds for Kids" **OHAAT** program! Collection bin in the mission hallway.

On the second Saturday of every month at 7:30am, a team of men and women from JUMC meet in the parking lot of Gloria Dei Church at the warehouse of a ministry known as OHAAT ("One House At A Time"). Our purpose in doing that is to help OHAAT fulfill its ministry to Philadelphia's disadvantaged children, delivering mattresses, bed frames, personal hygiene items, books, and bedclothes to the families of kids who have been sleeping on bare floors, or in bathtubs, or even in cardboard boxes.

If the Lord is moving you to join us on one of these delivery days, please contact the church office. Typically, we are finished for the day by noon.



LAUREL HOUSE OF NORRISTOWN SERVING MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOR 35 YEARS

Laurel House is a shelter for those who are fleeing their home, or place of shelter because of feeling unsafe.

The mission of Laurel House is to provide a safe haven for abused women and their children, to bring awareness to the public and advocate for social change against Domestic Abuse.

Laurel's Loft sells gently used clothing (less than 5 years old), housewares, jewelry, shoes and handbags. They are located at 1801 N. Broad St., Lansdale, (215-368-6037) and their hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 to 5:00; Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 to 7:00; Saturday 10:00 to 4:00; Closed Sunday.

Socks For Shelters



Socks for Shelters Along with men's socks, we are currently collecting personal care items to include in our next distribution in Logan Square. Small travel sized items can be left in the Mission Center Box.

October BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS



The Bloodmobile here resulted in 75 units of blood which is being processed by the Red Cross into 219 units of blood components for patients in our hospitals. This is at a time of severe blood shortages. Thanks to all who were able to participate.

The next blood drive will be at Temple Sinai on Thursday, January 5th from 1:30 to 7:15

FINANCE & YOU

If you already read through the Trustee Update in this issue, there's not too much more to say other than "Thank You" for your continued faithful support of our financial obligations.

Financial obligations are not only the staff salaries and operating expenses, and while they're pretty substantial by themselves, they don't do the real work of the church. Remember our mission? Make disciples of Jesus Christ, Relieve Suffering, Glorify God? We don't live out our mission without at least some nominal financial support. Our many volunteers give their time and effort in countless hours and sacrifice additional material and financial gifts to ensure the success of those missions.

When considering your giving to the church in 2017, take a minute and look back on where you are in 2016 compared to your pledge at the beginning of the year. Are you being realistic in terms of what you are prepared to give? Are you designing your budget to include your gifts to the missions that are important and meaningful to you? If you find yourself giving larger chunks at times and then little or nothing at others, maybe it's because you're away at different times of the year. Or maybe it's because your income fluctuates for one reason or another. Have you thought that perhaps you could level out your giving so that an affordable amount could be coming to the church on a consistent basis? It's worth a chat and a look-see at the various ways to solve that problem through electronic giving. We've done everything we can to see that it's easy, safe and secure. You can go to our website (www.jarrettown.church) and click the green "Online Giving" button to check out the directions. Or ask to talk to a Finance committee member for help.

Looking forward to a 2017 that sees Jarrettown as a blessing to its own and its community.

In His Service, The Finance Committee

Barry Rose, Chair

THANK YOU to everyone who was with us during Al's 4 year period of health issues and prayed for him and our family. It was a great comfort to know that so many were praying and gave us a sense of peace. It truly does mean a lot to our family. Sincerely, Carol Moffatt and the family.

JUMC WOMEN'S MINISTRY *The Women of Jarrettown*



WAWA SHORTIE COUPONS—4 for \$15—Like hoagies? Then help us with offsetting the cost of the Women's Retreat. Available in the Welcome Center and church office.



Women of Jarrettown Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 10, 2015 * 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

It's that special time of year again to start planning the UMW Christmas Tea! Please consider being a hostess for a table and start inviting guests!! We will be donating again this year to Make-A-Wish

Foundation. Monetary donations are welcome too. Please pass this information along to your guests.

Please contact Donna Gastner 215-350-9987 or email rndgastner@comcast.net if you are interested in becoming a hostess. Reservations will have to be made in advance so you don't miss this special event!

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another"

Proverbs 27:17

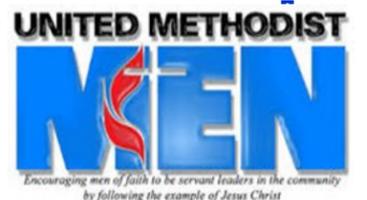
Hang on to your hats as we've kicked off a new year of United Methodist Men's Ministry at JUMC with our October meeting, followed up by our November meeting, where we turned out to support a very important mission at JUMC, Operation Christmas Child, assembling 29 Christmas gift boxes that will bring joy and introduce God's Word to kids in need across the globe.

JUMC men are active and visible in so many ways supporting many missions important to our Church, and our community. We're participating in many things including Red Cross blood drive, OHAAT, Philabundance, Church picnic, driving our new church bus, and more.

Come join us for breakfast, Saturday December 3rd at 8am in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy fellowship, conversation, and participate in discovering and following God's plan for you, and the men of JUMC.

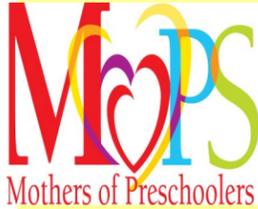
** Also..... Please join us for Men's Devotions led by Barry Rose every first and third Saturday in the Friendship Center 7am to 7:45 am. Bring your own coffee**

In Christ's service and love,
Ray and Tom



Better Moms Make a Braver World: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

We are currently seeking volunteers for our nursery and preschool rooms during our MOPs meetings, 1st & 3rd Thursdays from September – May, 9:30am – 11:30am.



MOPS is a Christian ministry seeking to connect moms from all around the world to a community of women in their neighborhood, who meet together to embrace the journey of motherhood. MOPPETS, the program for children during meetings, is an invaluable ministry to attending moms.

Interested in joining our volunteer rotation? Please contact Laura Mack at 267-629-9029 or LauraMack2@gmail.com.

VISITATION MINISTRY

Please call the church office or tell Connie Damon if you know someone who could use a visit from one of our Visitation Ministry Team. They are more than willing to give a call, send a card and/or pay a visit to give comfort and cheer to a member of our church family who may need it. You may be the only person who will let us know of the need. You can contact Connie at conniedamon@verizon.net or (215-643-6086) or Wendy in the church office, 215-646-4129. By everyone working together, all in our family will be cared-for.



Need for PRAYER SHAWLS

When our Visitation Volunteers take a Prayer Shawl to someone who is ill, it is greatly appreciated. The message that is shared is "We pray when this Prayer Shawl is around your shoulders, you will feel wrapped in God's love and the love of your church family." We have a sufficient supply of smaller sizes which can be used as lap robes. What we need are knitted or crocheted shawls that are about 52" long. Can you help? Call Connie Damon for directions for shawls or if you have questions, 215-643-6086.

*Prefer to make a white **BABY BLANKET** to use during baptisms?*

All women are invited to join us for **SATURDAY SANCTUARY** on Saturdays at 8am for devotional study as it relates to our lives. The group meets at Connie Damon's home.

Please contact Connie at 215-643-6086 or at conniedamon@verizon.net if you have any questions.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Hi Everybody!

For those of you who don't know me yet, my name is Aaron Bither and I am the new Director of Outreach here at JUMC. I am extremely grateful to be here and have been enjoying getting to know everyone here – this is truly a wonderful, loving community! I know that we have great people in our congregation with some great ideas and I would love to hear those thoughts. I am in the office every day except Thursday and would welcome your visit or phone call!

We just finished up my busy first month here in October with two events. It was great to see a large turnout for our Harvest Festival and to meet more of our congregation. We had a few visitors from the community resulting in a new family joining our MOPS ministry. A few of you came out for our Halloween movie night at the end of the month. Thanks to the Klingers and others for their awesome snacks!

I am currently working on developing 3 new outreach programs here at JUMC, with each being in the early stages of development. The three I am focusing on are a tutoring and mentoring service aimed at high school students, an addictions recovery group and an ESL (English as Second Language) group. If you have any interest or can assist in structuring any of these potential opportunities, you can either send me an email (jumcoutreach@verizon.net) or give me a call at the church office – I'd love to see our congregation gain a passion for reaching out to fulfill these needs in our community and show them God's love!

God Bless, Aaron Bither

News from Church Council

This is really the beginning of the year for your Church Council. Everyone is back from vacations, Charge Conference has been completed and so we begin the planning for next year. We are very interested in hearing about how each one of us can be involved in the Outreach Programs that are coming our way.

Church Council is also a great way for congregants to find out everything that is happening in our Church life. All the committees report on where they have been and where they are going and of course Pastor Bob's report is always a highlight of the meeting. Join us sometime. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of most months at 7:30 in the Friendship Center.

Greg Diehl



Missions

"I was hungry and you fed me; I was naked and you clothed me; when I had no roof over my head you took me in. When you did these things for the least of us you did them also for me." Jesus knows when his children are hungry, cold, tired and feeling despair. Most of us in this congregation have been blessed to have been spared these hardships. That is why this a missional church—we have so much that we can afford to share what we have with our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

You are already familiar with the many long-standing missions here at Jarrettown; St. Phillips UMC's Wednesday luncheons, food cupboard and Bible studies; Interfaith Housing Alliance, Operation Christmas Child, the Angel Tree, school supplies, Aid for Friends. In the last five years we've expanded our outreach to include the Jesus Victory Garden, One House at a Time, Socks for Shelters, Living Hope High School in Kenya, Ambler Community Cupboard and North Hills Community Cupboard, Philabundance, Laurel House, Carson-Simpson Farm and Helping Hands. Our congregation has donated thousands of dollars and immeasurable time and effort to these missions, leaving lasting effects on the lives of those in our community and world.

As we approach 2017, we are ready to take on challenges in our neighborhood. Our new Director of Outreach, Aaron Bither, has taken on many tasks since he accepted the position, all with vigor and desire to do his best. His article this month outlines his approach to the challenges and how in meeting those challenges he and the Missions Team will be working closely together. Our Team is very excited about working with Aaron to expand our outreach to our neighborhoods and spreading the Gospel as we go.

In His Service, The Missions Team



The **Jesus Victory Garden** (JVG) was beset by challenges this year: powdery mildew and vine borers killed the zucchini, blueberry-loving chipmunks moved into the neighborhood, and voles feasted on the sweet potatoes. Offsetting these issues were our dedicated gardeners, extended crop-growing weather, and the wonderful friends of the JVG who donated money for materials or helped with special projects. In addition, Lori Pancione and the National Garden Clubs District XI donated plants and containers, Jon Klinger and Lakeside School donated plants, and Mike Kratz and the Rhoads Garden donated seeds for next year. Our gardeners pulled together to fight pests, tackle weeds, and continue harvesting late into the season. Together, gardeners and friends helped Jarrettown JUMC supply over a thousand pounds of produce to the North Hills Community Cupboard and Manna on Main Street. Soon the garden beds will be readied for winter, but spring is just around the corner. We can always use more gardeners; so, if you have a green thumb or an interest in helping, even if you have never grown a plant, please consider signing up next year.

Corner

WATCH FOR UPCOMING MISSIONS OF THE MONTH!

DECEMBER 4—Angel Tree gift for Methodist Family Services are due

Month of December—Aid for Friends Gifts of Warmth

Month of January—Focus on the OHAAT Beds for Kids Program

Month of February—Focus on St. Philip's UMC donations for their weekly luncheon program and food cupboard

News from Living Hope High School, our foreign mission in Kenya



The Healing Hut—The Lord has not only sent showers of blessings towards the building of The Healing Hut. He's sent THUNDERSTORMS of blessings! While I was recently in China, I met a Couple who were impressed with the work going on at Living Hope High School/Orphanage. When I returned home, I was shocked to receive an email from this Couple saying they'd like to be a part of the Healing Hut project, and they were sending a check for \$10,000! What a blessing! Consequently, I continue to solicit contributions for the final \$5,000 needed to reach our goal. In January when I return to Living Hope, we will break ground and begin construction.

Marilyn Uhl, Founder and Director of the school, told me that just this past month school emergencies included 12 cases of Malaria, 3 cases of Typhoid, 4 cases of pneumonia, 1 case of TB, 2 cuts requiring stitches, 2 broken arms and 2 broken legs. Community emergencies included: 1 heart attack, 1 snake bite, 1 poisoning, 1 attempted suicide, 1 lightening strike, 2 babies delivered, and 1 child choking. There can be no doubt that there is a great need both on campus and outside the campus for a place for the sick and recovering to go for help. Donations from a church in West Virginia will enable Living Hope to provide a new home a flock of chickens. Another church in the same area provided funds for chicken food and vaccinations. This will mean fresh eggs in another six months for the children and later for chickens in the pot!

Academic Achievements—Kudos to our students for doing so well on their latest testing that they placed #1 in the district and #5 in the country. This is an almost unbelievable accomplishment for a small school with the limited funds that they have. Teachers at Living Hope receive \$1/day to teach without the benefit of many books and no advanced technological equipment that usually make for top-scoring students. Form 4 (seniors) students will be taking their national exams starting next week. Results are important in determining options for further schooling. We can be proud that we in America are part of the Living Hope family.

I ask for prayers for safe travel for our mission team as we leave on December 28th and return home on January 16th. We, as part of the United Methodists in Mission, go representing our home churches to spread the love of Christ on the other side of the world, remembering our Lord's mandate to love others as we love Him.

Would you like to learn more about this international mission? Feel free to contact me!

Connie Damon