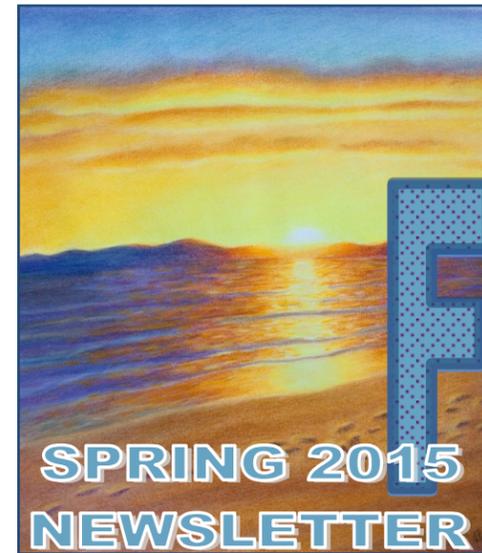




Jarrettown United Methodist Church
1460 Limekiln Pike
Dresher, PA 19025-1116



SPRING 2015
NEWSLETTER

**Make Disciples • Relieve Suffering
Glorify God**

Footprints

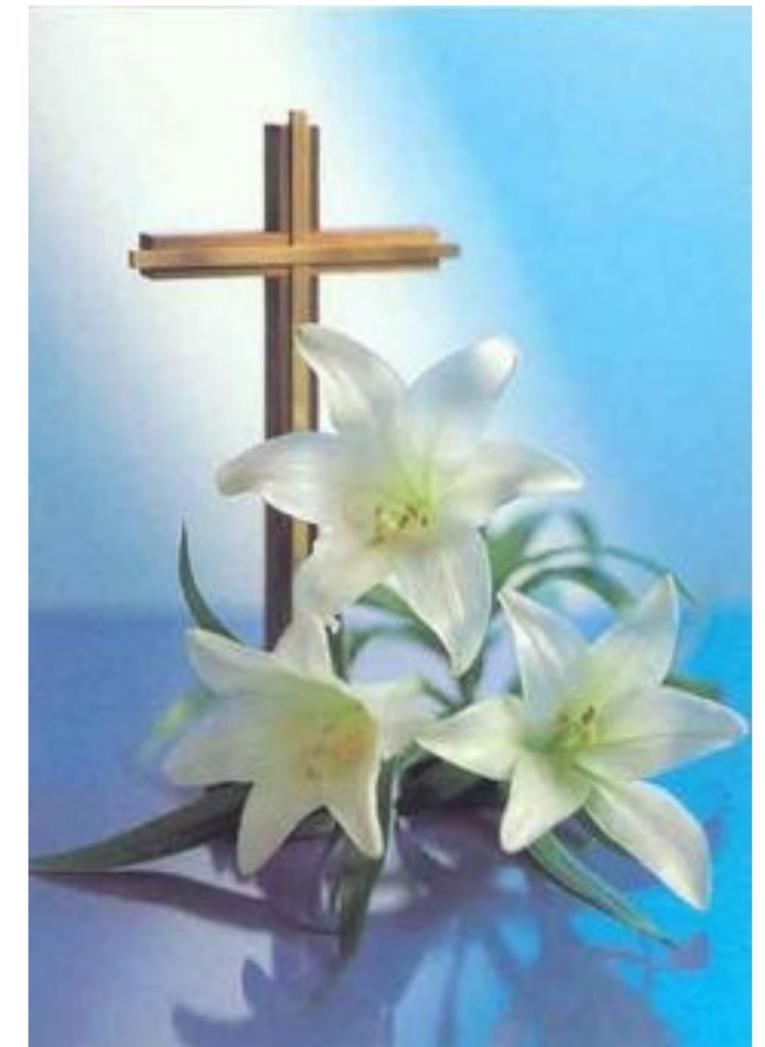
**Jarrettown United
Methodist Church**
1460 Limekiln Pike
Dresher, PA 19025
215.646.4129
Fax 215.646.6912
JumcOffice@verizon.net
www.Jarrettown.Church

***Opportunities for Worship
Each Week***

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

Wednesday
7:15pm Communion Worship in
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*



Join us for Lenten Services:

Palm Sunday Cantata— during 11:00 Traditional Service

Holy Thursday—6:00pm Seder Meal & Service, Fellowship Hall

Good Friday—12:00 noon Worship Service

Easter Sunday Worship

8:00am Traditional Worship - Friendship Center

9:15am Contemporary Worship

11:00am Traditional Worship



SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

**Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow - flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.**

* Graham Kendrick *

As Christians who pray, "Thy (Your) Kingdom come," we long to see our lives, homes, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces filled with Jesus' light. The words of this uplifting song explain how this can happen.

The more time we spend in God's awesome presence, the more we become changed into His likeness. Every minute that we spend gazing into His face, the more He will consume our darkness so that our faces can display His glory. Because we tend to become like those with whom we spend time, why not spend some time lingering in God's presence today?

Imagine God's perfect ways that can weave together a good plan for your life. Listen to God's gracious and forgiving words as you confess your failures. Soak in God's relentless tenderness as you give Him your burdens. The more time we spend with God, the more we will be changed. And so will our world.

Spending time with God – isn't that what the season of Lent is all about?

We invite you to join us as we continue our Lenten journey through Holy Week with our choir cantata, "In the Ninth Hour," during the 11:00 worship celebration on Palm Sunday. We will be offering a special Seder Dinner & Service on Holy Thursday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and a traditional Good Friday service on March 25 at 12 noon in the sanctuary.

On Easter Sunday (March 27) we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Join us at 8:00, 9:15 or 11:00 as we proclaim the Good News that "He is Risen!"

Let's let Jesus shine!

May God bless you!

Pastor Bob

Music Notes

The Chancel Choir, Praise Band and special guests are looking forward to the services and observances that take place during Holy Week. Music plays a crucial role in setting the mood of the worship and in helping to convey the messages during Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

The Chancel Choir is presenting a moving work on Palm Sunday- AT THE NINTH HOUR, by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The composer writes the following regarding the inspiration for this work:

The last week of Christ's life on earth is the central drama of the Christian faith. Mark devotes over a third of his Gospel to the events that begin with Jesus riding triumphantly into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and end with his suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection. It is a story that plummets from exuberant celebration to the darkest depths of pain and betrayal, and then soars once again to the transcendent joy of Easter morning. It was the first account to be memorized and communicated by the followers of Jesus, and it remains the foundation of our faith today. AT THE NINTH HOUR captures that drama as specifically revealed in Mark's gospel. Two narrators, a choir and several soloists tell the story. The heights of joy we feel on Easter are rooted in the depths of Christ's suffering that precede it. We pray this work might give you a chance to experience both ends of that journey.

--- Tom S. Long and Allen Pote

Special Music during Holy Week includes:

Palm Sunday 11:00a.m. Service

AT THE NINTH HOUR- Lenten Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir and friends, Handbell Choir, instrumentalists and narrators

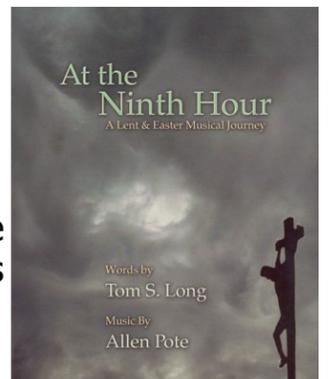
Good Friday Service

Chancel Choir, Women's Trio - Becky Conrad, Donna Gastner and Vicki Zoscin, Frank and Cheryl Malfi, special guests Cynthia Rasmussen, soprano and Larry Hickernell, tenor

Easter Services

8:00a.m.- Cynthia Rasmussen, soprano

11:00 a.m.- Chancel Choir, Brass Quartet, Handbell Choir, Kids Choir



You and JUMC!

- ♦ **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF JUMC?** - Leave your name at the Welcome Center, or contact the church office and we will contact you when we schedule the next New Members Orientation.
- ♦ Would you like a **NAME TAG** for services & events? Help those around you get to know you? Be a part of a welcoming church? Let us know on your blue sheet or contact church office. Magnetic tag—cost donation welcome.
- ♦ *Our congregation is growing! We are in need of volunteers for the **NURSERY**. Please call the church office if you can help out once a month or so in this important ministry.*

Church Archives Needs Your Help!

Can you spare a few hours each month to help with JUMC's archive files? Working with photos, looking up items of interest, helping to change the archive display cases, scanning historical records, photos, and recording items of interest and activities to preserve our church history - these are just a few of the activities involved in keeping our church archives. Please contact: Sherrie Irwin, srirwin2@gmail.com or 215-479-2245, if you can be of assistance.

Need Contact info for a fellow JUMC'er 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.

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!

Hi, all.

Just in case anyone missed the announcement that Bud Brown made in our services at the end of January, I want to repeat the gist of it here.

The Bishop and the Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference have appointed me to be the Senior Pastor of Colemanville UMC in Conestoga, PA. My pastorate will begin there on July 1, 2016.

Ironically, for the past 40+ years, I have lived within walking distance of the eastern boundary (the Delaware River) of our Conference. Conestoga, PA is situated at the western boundary (the Susquehanna River) of our Conference. It is a few miles outside of Lancaster, PA.

Within me is a real mix of emotions. On the one hand, I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and for the confidence that has been placed in me. I have been preparing for this for a long time.

On the other hand, I am very sad to be leaving our Jarrettown church family. We have been through so much together, and you have supported and affirmed me through some of the toughest times in my life. I will always love and be grateful to this congregation.

But I'm not gone yet. There is still much for us to do together in service to God in the time that remains. Let's use our time together really well.

God bless you all.

Pastor Walt



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Nursery Care is available for infants through 2 ½ during the 9:15 Sunday worship service. Stop in the nursery for a brochure with nursery information and policies.

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

Join us for **Sunday School** after the Children's Message during the 9:15 service. Children ages 2 1/2-4 will be meeting in the Preschool room and children in K-1st grade will be meeting in the Kindergarten room. Children in 2nd through 5th grade will meet in the Sunday school room located in the mission hallway.

Sunday School is Cool



Jarrettown Church is pleased to announce the reviving of its **Family Ministry**. Every 3rd weekend of the month we will be having Family Ministry sponsored activities. These events will have various scheduling times—Evening game or movie night? Morning crafts and pastries? Afternoon pool party? Something to fit all our busy schedules!

These activities are for the entire church, not just families with children. Please come out and share food, fun and fellowship with your church family at one or all of these events.

This Way to FUN Upcoming Family Ministry Sponsored Activities—3rd Weekend Monthly PLEASE JOIN US! BRING A FRIEND!



In March our Family Ministry event will be our annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. It will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, **March 19** at 10:30 a.m. After the hunt we will enjoy refreshments, games and crafts. Children ages preschool thru 4th grade are invited to participate.

Saturday **April 16th** is **Family Game Night** with Pictionary (not the board game), pizza and the Bounce House! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00pm. A fun night for all ages!

On Saturday, **May 21st**, we will be having our **VBS Kickoff Pancake Breakfast** in Fellowship Hall at 9:00am. We will also have a demonstration of the Imagination Station gizmos and experiments the children will be doing during VBS this year.

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!!



Big things are happening in THRIVE! We had our **Winter Retreat** February 5th -7th. After a little difficulty with our original plan, we went to Michele and Barry Scholtz's cabin in Lake Harmony, Pa and had an amazing time. Not only did we get to explore God's creation and climb in a boulder field, we also took the opportunity to stop and consider the marvelous works of

God. Not to mention we went to an awesome indoor water park and got to see Jake face plant on a surfing simulator (there is a video circulating if you have not yet seen it).

We have also made plans for the **2016 SUMMER MISSION TRIP!** We will be going to MOUNT HOPE, WEST VIRGINIA June 26th- July 2nd. We will be helping impoverished families by doing some home repairs and showing them the love of Christ. We also plan on going white water rafting and zip lining during our free time on the retreat. This is not a retreat you want to miss! If you or someone you know that is in Jr. or Sr. high school wants to go on the mission trip, email me at jumcyouth@verizon.net.

Please continue to pray for our youth ministry as we seek to love God and make his love known to others!

Blessings!
Jake Fairfield

News from Church Council

My friends, it is exciting serving on your Church Council. The officers are dedicated and motivated in moving our Church forward in our walk with Christ. We especially love the concerned congregants who join us and join freely and even lead some of our discussions.

Our Pastor has set a goal for himself to increase attendance by 20% this year. The Church Council believes that it is our duty to support him in attaining his goal. We are working to engage and challenge all of you to join us.

Pastor Bob is introducing several programs to help us develop our relationships with each other, with our Church and with Jesus. The first is "In His Steps" with which I am sure you are familiar. Two more programs are in the planning and moving towards implementation. The "Assimilation" and the "Sheparding" programs that you will hear about in the coming months are exciting and I know are going to be effective. Please step forward when you are called to help with these programs.

These programs are designed to care for the souls inside our Church. The Council is currently working on plans, keeping with Pastor Walt's teachings over the years we have been blessed to have him, to attract and care for the souls outside of our Church.

I see so many amazing things happening in our Church but the one that makes me most proud is watching each of YOU becoming more engaged. We at Jarrettown have a history of answering the call whether it is giving of our time, our talents or our gifts.

On behalf of your Church Council, God Bless each one of You!

Greg Diehl

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 Pastor Walt.

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 bed-clothes 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 Pastor Walt at pastorwalt@verizon.net. Typically, we are finished for the day by noon.



AID FOR FRIENDS
FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Aid for Friends can only provide the desperately needed services it does because of the ongoing generosity and dedication of volunteer cooks.

Jarrettown's groups now include the regular monthly third Tuesday group as well as Rachel Circle every other month, MOPS moms and Martha Circle, and all the generous individuals who bring their meals made at home.

If you are interested in joining the regular cooking group, they would love to have you! Contact the church office for information. If you'd like to make meals from home, trays and directions are available in the mission center.

The next Red Cross blood drive will be at Temple Sinai on Tuesday March 15 from 1:30 to 7:15. You can sign-up on line at redcrossblood.org code DRESHER, or at church with Al Chamberlin.



Socks For Shelters



Socks for Shelters Thank you for your generosity for our gifts of warmth collection and personal items for our February 28th trip to the Welcome Church in Logan Square, Philadelphia.



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 Mon, Wed, Fri, 10:00 to 5:00; Tues, Thurs 10:00 to 7:00; Sat 10:00 to 4:00; Closed Sunday.

FINANCE & YOU

Want to make your giving as easy (and secure) as possible? Then pull up our website (www.jarrettown.church) and click the green "Online Giving button" and follow the easy step by step directions. We accept most major credit cards.

Your response to appeals for increased giving in 2015 have met our expenses and allowed for us to put some funds aside for the Capital Reserve. The Capital Reserve is not just a "saving for a rainy day" account – it is the fund that is intended for the maintenance and preservation of our buildings and property. The Trustees have in place a 20-year maintenance plan for our church which requires that we continually support our budget which, starting in 2016, will include a line item to make sure the Trustees' plan goes forward. You may have already noticed the painting of the Ark and the sanctuary, the painting of the outside of the main church building and new roof on the parsonage, all of which are part of that 20-year plan and were paid for out of the Capital Reserve.

Our bus is on its last wheels and we have begun a capital campaign to replace the bus and add a van to our transportation options. Craig Fernsler presented all the reasons for the campaign and we will be actively challenging our members to meet the \$95,000 goal within six months. The campaign posters will mark our progress by coloring in a seat on the bus every time we raise \$2500, either through individual gifts or fundraising efforts.

Our electronic options for giving have been increased and made easier to access and use. We have discontinued our use of the PayPal option but continue to encourage you to subscribe to our Vanco option. If you want more information on electronic giving you can contact Barry Rose 215 542 0517 or the church office. Also, you can track your giving to the church in your profile section in CCB. If you need help finding that information, contact Wendy Hamilton or Michele Scholtz.

As far as our current situation goes, in January we are showing a deficit against expenses of around \$3,000, which is typical of the winter months following Christmas. So again we thank you for your faithful support of our church and its missions and ministries.

In His Service,
The Finance Committee
Barry Rose, Chair

JUMC WOMEN'S MINISTRY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



RESOURCE BOOKLETS available from the church office and Welcome Center. Call the church office if you would like additional information.

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.

UMW READING PROGRAM—The new program started in January with some new books for the new year. Anyone interested in learning about the UMW Reading Program can contact the church office.

WHAT WE'VE GOT COMING UP

JUMC Women's Ministry Spring Tea

Saturday, April 23, 2016—11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

PLEASE JOIN US! Everyone is welcome to attend the UMW Spring Tea. Invite friends and family to join in fellowship! We want to make it easy for you to join us! Look for a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center or contact the church office.



Would you consider yourself a fan or a follower of Jesus Christ?

Can we carry out God's plan for us, as just mere fans of Him? Cheering on His successes in our lives? In our families lives? In our church? Sometimes losing interest when it seems His plan isn't going our way?

Or do we need to be more than just a fan? Do we need to find a way to truly **follow the example of His son, Jesus Christ?** Carrying His banner 24/7 and leading other men to do the same? **Jarrettown United Methodist Men's Ministry** has been busy the past few months focusing on our spiritual growth through God's word, His plan for us, and our outreach to several ongoing JUMC ministries.

In January we assembled 20 personal care packages and prepared 30 bowls of soup for JUMC's **Aid For Friends Ministry**. At our February meeting we heard from George Cahlink about the important ministry for **St Philip's Church** and donated cans of soup, fruit, vegetables, pasta and several other needed food items. We've encouraged each other to focus on God's plan for us through **servant leadership and outreach**. Leading efforts to help important existing ministries within JUMC as well as looking outside of JUMC.

Why not join us at our next Men's breakfast? Sat at 8am in Fellowship Hall; 03/5, 04/2, and 05/7 ? Bring a friend. Enjoy fellowship, conversation, and participate in discovering and following God's plan for yourself, and the men of JUMC.

In Christ's service and love, Ray and Tom

Saturday Mornings Devotions—Please join our men's group for fellowship and reflection as we discuss Scripture and it's relevance to men today. Our schedule continues March 5 & 19 , April 2 & 16 and May 7 & 21 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. in the Friendship Center. This is a BYOC event (Bring Your Own Coffee). No prior reading is required. If you have any questions, contact Barry Rose at 215-887-2018 or gbrsoccer@aol.com

Better Moms Make a Braver World: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is a community of women who share the concerns of caring for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, get a little creative with crafts, and learn skills we can use to be even better Christian mothers. We meet the first and third Thursday of every month from September to May from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Jarrettown United Methodist Church. If you would like to meet us, please contact Katie Wenger at iamhistoo@gmail.com or 717-808-0499.



Do You Enjoy Working with Children? We are looking for a few teens or adults to help babysit children while MOPS members attend their bi-monthly meetings. Only two hours of your time is needed. Your service is greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact Katie Wenger at iamhistoo@gmail.com or 717-808-0499.

MOPS Spring Flea Market

The Dresher Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group is hosting its annual flea market on Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 9 am - 12 pm in the parking lot of Jarrettown United Methodist Church. (Rain date is May 7th.)

Come shop for household items, clothing, baby items, books, puzzles, toys, DVDs, glassware, craft items, teaching supplies, and more. Prices cannot be beat! Spread the word to support our local church moms, or set up an area for selling (BYO table) for only \$10. There will also be plenty of snacks including baked goods, coffee, hot dogs and pretzels. For more information, contact Tara Garrison at bacione@wsucougars.com or (215) 205-3716. We hope to see you there!

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.



2016 TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN

Our goal is to raise \$95,000 to purchase a Bus and Van by end of the year. Every \$2,500 will bring us one seat closer to that goal—look for the tracking poster in the lobby!



WHY DO WE NEED A BUS AND A VAN?

- ♦ Men's, Women's, Youth, JUMC Trips and Retreats
- ♦ Methodist Days at Dorney Park, Phillies, 76ers, Creation
- ♦ Outreach Trips such as Philabundance, Socks for Shelters, Interfaith Transportation, Christmas Caroling
- ♦ Picking up residents for Sunday Worship

Due to its unreliability, we can no longer use the current bus except for the estate pick ups on Sunday. The bus is now 26 years old and has broken down several times, and cannot be trusted for any long-term travel.

The new Bus can hold 25 people, but a CDL license is required. At times, we have needed alternate seating on private vehicles for Christmas Caroling, Philabundance and other outings.

A Van will hold 15 people, and increases ability to transport without requiring a CDL. Also, when there are 2 events on a weekend, both vehicles can be utilized and not affect Worship pickup.

In addition to Sunday Worship, the Bus and/or Van can be used to pick up congregants from the Estates and other communities for Wednesday Worship, Holy Days and special events.

Would you consider being a vital part of this bus ministry and obtain a CDL license?

Missions Corner



2016 Missions Happenings *** Check out the Missions Hallway!

SOCKS FOR SHELTERS was our January Mission of the Month, but the need is real and year-round. We have been very fortunate to have a gift from Thrivent Financial that went a long way toward providing sneakers and jeans for our homeless brothers and sisters. The donations were delivered to the Welcome Church in Logan Square on February 28.

ST. PHILIP'S UMC COMMUNITY MEAL & FOOD CUPBOARD was the February Mission of the Month. George and Elaine Cahlink will be marking the 16th year of this outreach in September. The mission is to share the good news of Jesus Christ through word and deed, calling people to salvation and life in the Christian faith. Every Wednesday 65 people are served a hot lunch and a bible study, communion and a devotion beforehand. Our congregation can support not only the lunch program but the St. Philip's cupboard through donations of canned fruits, vegetables, meats and stews. Also priorities are cereals, PB&J, pasta products and mac'n'cheese.

AID FOR FRIENDS is a historic mission here at Jarrettown. Lois Brightwell and her group were preparing meals for this mission almost from day one of its inception. Over the past few years our contributions have been increasing and so has the number of contributors. Our groups now include the regular monthly third Tuesday group as well as Rachel Circle every other month, MOPS moms and Martha Circle, and all the generous individuals who bring their meals made at home. We are on track to deliver over 2,000 meals in 2016.

PHILABUNDANCE is the largest collector and distributor of foods to the hunger-challenged in the Delaware Valley. Witnessing the operation of their warehouse in Philadelphia is awesome. Anyone who volunteers with us each month can experience what a massive effort it is to collect, sort, package and distribute needed food to the thousands of men, women and children in the five-county area. Our volunteers meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, leave our parking lot at 5PM (sharp!!) and return by 9:30PM. Over the past year we helped process and pack well over 50,000 pounds of food, and that's a lot!

FOOD CUPBOARD donations are another way to help feed the hungry, but in a very localized way. Our members have been given the responsibility and privilege to manage the North Hills cupboard in partnership with the Ambler Community Cupboard. Each week we supply families in the 19038 zip code with bags of groceries, meats, breads and even produce from our Jesus Victory Garden in season. Our clients are appreciative of the efforts and let us know what a blessing the cupboard is for them and their families. The main sources of supply are government surplus, grants from private and corporate entities and Philabundance. How great is it that some of us get to see how our work at Philabundance benefits our work at the cupboard!! We open our doors for contributions and deliveries of supplies on Tuesday mornings from 9 til 11 AM and for our clients every Thursday morning from 9 til 11 AM; also every first and third Tuesday evening from 7 til 8:30 PM. We are especially looking for volunteers for those evening hours.

As our **April Mission of the Month**, we will be putting forth a very particular request – breakfast cereals and PB&J are in very short supply. We have not had enough to go around and suppliers are not able to accommodate the need. So we are asking for you to make up the difference. Look for coupons and special "twofers" wherever you can.

A LOOK AHEAD FOR MISSIONS: March is going to be full of good stuff! Remember the **St. Andrews** coin boxes? They're coming back, so start saving your coins now; donations came to just about \$1300 last year, so let's make those pennies count again.

The seasonal kick-off for the **Jesus Victory Garden** will be at the end of the month. You know what we'll be asking for – milk bottles, egg crates, etc., as well as "foster parents" for seedlings. Beds will be assigned to volunteers and the "menu" of vegetables and fruits will be decided. Get out your gardening gear, guys.

One of our missions that is perhaps overlooked is our **MOPS moms group**. Mothers of Preschoolers meet twice a month here in our Fellowship Hall to share devotions, activities, mutual support and education. On occasion they will have speakers from outside the group to provide opportunities for growth in their care-giving and spiritual lives. On Sunday, March 13, Katie Wenger will be attending services and telling us about how this very special group of moms operates.

The Students at Living Hope High School/Orphanage Say "Jambo"

It was with great enthusiasm that 80 students from Living Hope welcomed our United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Team for 3rd annual visit on January 1, 2016. The 23-hour flights plus the 10 hours in our rented vans made us very glad to arrive. Each of us had paid \$200 for each extra suitcase we took so that we could take much needed supplies for the children and the school. There were many pieces of luggage that needed to be unloaded that night.

After a good night's sleep under mosquito netting we were up at 5AM and ready to go to work. Of course my first priority was to be reunited with my dear Kenyan "daughter", Zabby, who is now a Senior. By the next time I go to LHHS, she will have graduated.

What a joy it was to see continuing evidence of how the Well that Jarrettown Church provided for LH has changed the lives of the students. This visit I was able to see the Van (aka Emergency Transport Vehicle) in daily use as it transported ill students and people in the bush around the school for medical help. I was able to see first-hand how important the vehicle is when it raced out to the road from the school where two boda bodas (motorcycles) had crashed head-on with two people on each cycle. I have a photo of people being loaded into the van before it rushed off to the hospital in Bungoma.

I spent mornings doing medical testing for STD's, HIV, Typhoid and Malaria at a Community Dispensary a half hour away from our school. In the afternoons I continued to work with the Choir I formed last year. Our Evangelism Team consisted of a Pastor on our team, a LH graduate who has gone on to Seminary, and students who wanted to learn how to evangelize. By the end of our stay they had brought about 30 people to Christ. I took 10 hand-held recorders that contained 20 pre-loaded sermons in Swahili and English. They were donated by In Touch Ministries. They proved to be a wonderful asset in helping these new Christians to strengthen their new faith in Christ after we left Kenya.

Changes at the school since last year include cottages for the children where 12 girls (or boys) live together sharing a study room between the 2 "bedrooms". This is the first time many of the children have ever slept in a bed. Our Lauri Evard provided beautiful pastel sheets, pillow cases and a colorful curtain for the window for one of the cottages. Zabby and her roommates joyfully showed me their new "home".

Last year we helped to build a classroom building. This year three of the men on our team electrified the building so the students will have light for studying after dark. The foundation has been laid for a science building. The walls will go up as soon as there is money for the bricks for the walls. How wonderful it will be for the children to have hands-on learning that a science lab will provide as an addition to the learning by lecture that they now receive.

The needs at the school are many; textbooks, sponsorships for the new students, etc., but my goal now is to fund a Healing Hut. It will be a free-standing building of two rooms where students who are ill can go to be separated from their well classmates while they convalesce. It is Marilyn's and my dream to use it for an eye clinic and a dental clinic when we can secure visiting doctors and dentists (so far, the children have never seen an eye dr. or a dentist). The room can also be used as a guest house for visitors or a meeting room.

Our days were long and filled with activity. We felt that God was blessing our efforts every day as we saw results that can only be termed "miracles". I would love to have the opportunity to share more with you. If you or your group-here at JUMC- or elsewhere-would like to have me visit and share, I would be only too happy to do so. With great effort I have selected only 30 of my 433 photos to use to visually accompany my Talk. I'm ready to go to continue doing His work here for the children at Living Hope.

Perhaps one of you here at Jarrettown Church will feel led to join me next December to go to Living Hope. If you feel God calling you to serve Him in foreign mission, I would be glad to talk with you. I feel blessed to have been able to join with wonderful dedicated Christians on our Team to carry God's word and His love to His children on the other side of the world. Thank you for your prayers and support as I went as an extension of you, my church family.

Blessings,
Connie