



The Quarterly Truth Newsletter

Winter 2018

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC. 501 High Street Williamsport, PA
570-323-1797 **Rev. C. Angeliqe Labadie-Cihanowyz**, Director
Website: www.stmwilliamsport.org

Want me to come and share about Sojourners to your church or group?

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:



Dinner Table Church

The pews in the sanctuary have been removed and in their place are large, round tables set for a meal. Immediately following a 30-minute service the stained-glass doors are opened to a small adjoining room from which guests serve others a simple buffet-style lunch. People come in early to spend time visiting, observing the volunteers or helping with last minute details. Some who have not volunteered in the past have begun to serve, and others have stepped up in new ways. In October, STM began hosting Dinner Table Church to meet the following needs: offer some “food for the soul” on a consistent, weekly basis, provide for a physical need (a meal), to be intentional about developing community, to be a place and time of fellowship, and to have intentional, spiritual conversations about important and relevant things- all in a nonthreatening, welcoming and inviting space for people who may be unchurched, or de-churched, and those who may not have a church home. The tables are round to encourage conversation. The atmosphere is casual to welcome all. The meals are made and served with love to all who come, regardless if they come for the preceding service or not. Conversation starters are printed for each table to help engage participants to debrief the brief Scriptural message of hope and what it might mean for them. Sometimes we are blessed with live music, and sometimes songs familiar to all are played (such as Journey’s ‘Open Arms’, which was played recently as a prayer song, imagining that Jesus was singing it to each of us personally).

Feedback from participating churches and groups has been overwhelmingly positive, as has been the response from those who come to attend or even volunteer for the service. A report back from Leadership Lycoming called it “a hidden gem of Williamsport”. Those who have had opportunity to serve on a Saturday are pleased with more face time and better connections with the sojourners.

The number of lunches served varies weekly from about 45-80, and most groups prepare for 100. Sometimes we have just enough food, and sometimes we get to send some home with folks. There are many openings in the schedule for the year- look at the website <https://stmwilliamsport.org> to find available dates! * signup is through the website*. Groups typically bring prepared food and serve from crockpots or roasters, but other arrangements can be made if needed. We are flexible! Plan on a 10 am arrival, and plan to stay until about 1:15. You will be blessed as you are a blessing to others! Questions? **570-323-1797 Office or Pastor Angeliqe 610-428-5721**. Won’t you come to experience this Fresh Expression of Jesus?

- *By the end of 2018, Sojourner Truth Ministries served over 16,000 lunches for the year
- * at least 300 devotions and messages of hope and encouragement were offered in 2018.
- * several homeless Wanderers came through and were spiritually strengthened before heading back to their own states.

Needed: Business envelopes, rolls of postage stamps

After-School Program

By the time you read this, we will have begun serving after school snacks to students and offering supervised programming from 3:30-4:45 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays! Thanks to an anonymous and generous gift, Homework help, life skills through problem-solving theatre, checkers and chess with life lessons, cartoon videos with a Christian message, group games and activities will all be offered! We offer a safe place for kids to be poured into as an alternative to being unsupervised after school. Incorporated into activities are intentional life lessons reminding each child that they are valued simply because of who they are, not because of what they do. Messages of anti-bullying, safety, and tools for empowering such as identifying “tricky people”(manipulative people) and the “uh-oh feeling” (something’s not right with what’s happening) will be reinforced as we do our part in working to reduce all types of abuse in the after school hours (a prime time for physical and sexual abuse to occur). Each facet of what we do has a purpose, and this is the most practical way we can show the love of Jesus to kids.

Committed volunteers welcome (we will help with all required safety and background clearances). Especially needed are homework helpers! Needed: Veggie tales or Bible times DVD’s, reams of printer paper, Boomwhacker set (whole musical scale), local gift cards to meet needs for our helpers, and generous financial gifts of all sizes.

Office: 570-323-1797, Pastor Angelique cell 610-428-5721

Our Social Services Advocate, Andrea, works mornings Monday-Friday and helps to find resources, make phone calls, filling out forms for those who cannot read or simply find the process overwhelming. She helps to make appointments with caseworkers, doctors, and other advocates to help people find placement, or find ways to help with a bill, or be a listener or talk sense with discernment. In addition to this, she runs the clearance checks for our volunteers and works with court ordered community service workers. In dealing with the many hardships our sojourners face, she still finds a smile and compassion enough for all. Thank you, Andrea!

We always seem to need coffee, sugar, creamer, butter/margarine, plastic ware, aluminum foil, PAPER plates, napkins, 10 oz. plastic cups, and volunteers who desire to connect!

Specific to Dinner Services: needed musicians, artists of various types, a set of walkie-talkies (chargeable) AV help, “regular volunteers” (10-1pm is ideal), “table hosts” to be intentional about not only connecting, but having the debrief conversations during the noon meal on Saturdays.

Quotes from “Sojourners” – *people on their journey*

- * “Because of having most of my meals at Sojourner’s, I can do things like pay my electric bill with the money I saved”-
- * “I wanted to get high this morning, but I came to your Dinner Church instead”- (PRAISE!!!)
- * “I started reading the Bible for the first time in my life”
- * “I am learning what it is to put my issues at the foot of the cross”
- * “I see change in me, and I hope others do, too”
- * “I actually get excited to come and hear what the message is going to be”
- * “Everybody loves us here”
- * “You prayed for me and God answered”
- * “If you (STM) weren’t here, I don’t know where I could go, or what I could do”
- * “I found Jesus and got right with Him. I got my joy back!”
- * “Will you tell me about Jesus?”

DID YOU KNOW....

As a volunteer you could help with thank you cards? You could help clean up Saturdays (12-1:15), you could offer homework help, pass out after school snacks on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons, register kids, read to adults (mornings) or students after school, help teach reading, help with a Bible study for adults (daytime), pick a day of the week or month and offer local transportation, pick up produce from a local grocery store weekly, help with a fundraiser, help host a special movie showing on site, bring ingredients and make PBJ’s to send with our guests, help with PR, handyman/person jobs, help teach basic rhythm to kids after school, come to play games, help with occasional mailings, offer special music, share your testimony, come to talk about your nonprofit and how it helps the community (schedule a Wednesday, 11:15 am) and much more! There are many ways that you can be involved in as we minister alongside others in sharing the love of Jesus! Call 570-323-1797 www.stmwilliamsport.org Angelique4STM@gmail.com

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The Quarterly Truth Newsletter, Winter 2018

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Editorial

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT A NEW YEAR?

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are **new every morning**; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:21-23

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:30-31

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him." Psalm 98:1

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Romans 8:18

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Sojourner Truth Ministries welcomes back a former President, David Miele, as our new Vice President. Miele became our Vice President in July 2018 after Rev. Angelique stepped down from Vice President and up as our Executive Director/Ministry Coordinator in May 2018. We would also like to welcome the new District Superintendent of the UM District of Williamsport, Rev. Troy Howell, D.S. to the Board. Also, the Board's Secretary, Summer Love Bair, took over the Treasury in December 2018. The Board also welcomes Rev. Lenore Hosier of St. John's Newberry and Brittany Tasch of AmeriCorps/STEP, Inc.

STM is now considered to be Proud Partners of United Way of Lycoming County!

Every year since 2015, STM has participated in First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania's "Raise the Region." This event supports local non-profits' fundraising efforts in a time of year when contributions may be low. The dates to save for 2019 are March 13-14 for a time period of 30 hours. Please keep Sojourner Truth Ministries on your heart for this grand fundraising event. For more information, please visit www.raisetheregion.org. [Ed. note: This is of vital importance to STM financial health. The number of individual contributions as well as the total amount determines awards from Raise the Region sponsors. Many small donations are needed.]

STM now accepts donations via the website through PayPal. The donor does not need a PayPal account to use this new feature. Simply go to www.stmwilliamsport.org and on the home page, at the very bottom, click on the button "Sow A Seed." We accept all major credit/debit cards including PayPal.

The month of December brought with it the spirit of generosity. We had several donations from individuals, businesses, and church's. STM is filled with gratitude and sends out a huge **THANK YOU to those who support this ministry. We could not do what we do without the loving support of **YOU!****

And an equal thank you to those who have given of themselves in service in countless capacities in and beyond "STM Central"(!).

Last, but not least: STM has a new logo! We felt that one was long overdue and necessary to support the vision and purpose of STM. The multi-colored hands represent "helping hands" and the diverse population that STM serves. The cross represents "the old rugged cross" of Christ and the command to "take up [your] cross and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). The heart inside one of the hands represents having the heart of Christ (Psalm 51.10; Matthew 5:8, 6:21).

A reward of forty prayers to the first person who finds it in this newsletter!!!

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www.stmwilliamsport.org or Angelique4STM@gmail.com**