

The Voice of the
Yokefellowship

Sharing the Good News

Prison Ministry
Lehigh Valley Council

The Yoke and The Cross



"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls."

summer
2017 Edition

Our Mission
To help at-risk youths, inmates and ex-offenders yoke themselves to Christ for salvation and changed lives.

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
PO Box 3114 - Wescosville, PA 18106
610-820-8469 - www.yokefellowpa.org
e-mail: yokefellowpa@yahoo.com

The Yoke and the Cross brings the latest news and events of the Lehigh Valley Council of Yokefellowship Prison Ministry to the volunteers, friends, inmates, and former inmates involved with Yokefellowship.

Council Director
Lisa M. Perry
Spiritual Advisor
Rev. Gary Morrison
Chairman
Rev. Jesus Ramirez
Vice Chairman
Rev. Gary Morrison
Treasurer
Jess Hong
Secretary/Editor
Norris Lovette

**Send a Bible
to an Inmate**



Every week we are putting Bibles into the hands of inmates in the Lehigh Valley who are seeking to change. We meet each inmate and show them how to use the Word of God and teach them to apply it to their lives.

Help Provide Bibles
send a check to

Bible Fund

Payable to:

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
PO Box 3114 - Wescosville, PA
18106

Honoring a Faithful Volunteer

Martha Jayne (Lambing) Lang, 85, of Kutztown, passed away May 8, 2017 after a brief illness. She was the loving wife of Howard Lang. Born in Wilkinsburg, PA, she was the daughter of the late Albert F. and Ellen M. Lambing. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, her two sons Peter and Albert; her sister Mary Ellen, and seven grandchildren.



Martha was an Elementary and Sunday School teacher, as well as a devoted mother. Her work with the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry, Lehigh Valley Council began in March of 2001. Martha visited the inmates at Lehigh County Jail for a number of years and also trained our current Lehigh Valley Council Director, Lisa M. Perry when she started in 2008. It is with fond memories of Martha serving the Lord in a difficult ministry that we say goodbye and honor her memory. We look forward to meeting again in joyful reunion at the Lord's banqueting table.

Director's Corner

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry – Lehigh Valley (YPMLV) is expanding this year. We started with one local training session and have recently added a second session so new volunteers can be properly trained before entering Lehigh County Jail or Lehigh County Community Corrections Center ("CCC") for the first time. In October we have the opportunity to travel to Lewisburg, PA and participate in a state wide training conference. While there we get to meet other YPM Councils and learn what they are doing in their areas. All training is open to the public so please contact us if you are interested in attending any sessions.

On July 15th we held our annual fellowship picnic and on July 26th a Job Fair was held for returning citizens. We plan on holding a Job Fair at least once a year. The next event for YPMLV is our Fundraising Banquet that will be held on September 16th, 6 pm – 9 pm at Bethany UMC, 1208 Brookside Rd, Wescosville, PA. Please come join us. In the fall we will be setting a date to prepare seasonal Blessing Bags for the homeless.

Now, I would like to take this time to thank those who make YPMLV possible. Without the volunteers who go into correctional institutions, write inmates, mentor, drive and share the Word of God with these individuals this organization would not exist and souls would not be saved. Pray that the Lord calls more workers, especially men, to share the Love of Christ with the inmates in all of the Lehigh County correctional institutions. May those who are called be faithful and work diligently for The Lord. May hearts and lives be changed and may the Lord be Glorified.

May God bless you, your families and ministries.

Working for Him Always,
Lisa M. Perry

Someone Needs You!



*"...I was in prison
and you visited me"*

**We have Volunteer openings at
Lehigh County Jail and at the
Community Correction Center
in Bethlehem.**

**Find out how to become a
Yokefellowship Volunteer!**

Contact Lisa M. Perry at

Yokefellowpa@yahoo.com

610-820-8469

Come to Our Timothy Meeting

A time of Fellowship, prayer and Bible study for YPM members, Returning Citizens and their Families is held every Tuesday 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Trinity Baptist Church, 689 S. Hillview Road, Allentown PA.

Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Gary Morrison, leads us in our study of God's Word. Come for fellowship and encouragement in the Lord.

Call the YPM office for a ride to the meeting if needed.

Good Food

Good Life



Almost Home Catering, LLC

All Occasions Catering

**Off Premises and Catering Hall
availability**

Tracey Nooft, Owner

18 S. Scenic Street
Allentown, PA 18104

almosthomecatering333@gmail.com

Spring 2017 Training Completed

On Saturday May 13, 2017, Yokefellowship Prison Ministry held its annual training for Lehigh and Northampton Area Councils. 26 volunteers were certified or recertified for ministering to inmates. Another training was held on June 21st for those who could not be available on May 13th. A number of newcomers expressed interest in becoming a

***Become a Yokefellowship
Volunteer and receive
valuable training annually***

Yokefellowship Volunteer. Each year Yokefellowship provides ongoing training for its volunteers. Prison, parole and re-entry officials present guidelines for successful meetings in the prison and Yokefellowship veterans teach new volunteers the requirements for prison ministry. When someone becomes a Yokefellowship volunteer they can be assured they will receive valuable training each year.

**Watch the YPM newsletter or the www.yokefellowpa.org website for
the next Training event**

Freedom Wall

Contribute to Our Freedom Wall

Yokefellowship Lehigh Valley is looking for artwork, poetry, lyrics, etc. from inmates or returning citizens to be displayed on our Freedom Wall at the Yokefellowship Lehigh Valley Fund Raising Banquet September 16th.

Send your donated items to Yokefellowship Prison Ministry PO Box 3114, Wescosville, PA 18106

If you would like your items returned please state that in your letter.

Yokefellowship Prison Ministry Annual Conference October 6-7, 2017

This Years topic will be "The Why and How of Prison Ministry".

The conference will begin at 1:00 PM with check-in from 12:30 to 1:00 PM.

This year's conference is being held at the Best Western Country Cupboard 7701 West Branch Highway, Lewisburg, PA. You can learn more about the conference and find a registration form at the YPM state website www.yokefellowship.net or the LVAC website at www.yokefellowpa.org. Registration is open to the public. You do not have to be a Yokefellow volunteer.

If you are from the Lehigh Valley Council please forward your completed registration form by August 31, along with half of the fee (if you regularly go into the CCC or LCJ) to the Lehigh Valley Yokefellowship address at the top of this newsletter. For LVAC people, If you have further questions about the registration process please call or email the LVAC office. See the top of this newsletter for contact information. ***Financial assistance is available for returning citizens who would like to attend but cannot afford the fee. Contact the LVAC office for more info. It is on a first-come first-served basis.***

Yokefellowship Picnic



Once again we had a good time of fun and fellowship at the annual LVAC Picnic on July 15th at Trinity Baptist Church, with salads, desserts, hotdogs, hamburgers, and even shish kabobs! Before the picnic we spent some time with the Bible Study volunteers sharing about our experiences at the various meetings. We all had a good time and hope to see you there next year!



Santa delivered a number of Christmas gifts to inmates families last year, along with Bibles and a gospel message.

You can help this years gift delivery by sending funds and new Bibles to the Yokefellowship Lehigh Valley Council Office by December 1, 2017



Invite a Yokefellowship Group to Your Church

Learn More About the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry.

Find out what Yokefellowship is doing to help prisoners find Jesus Christ and a new life. God may have a place for you in this outreach.

Call Lisa M. Perry at 610-820-8469 or email her at yokefellowpa@yahoo.com

Blessing Bags

We are collecting items for seasonal Blessing Bags to be handed out to the homeless during the winter. Items can be dropped off at the church. We are looking for the following items:

Deodorant, Toothpaste, toothbrush, tissues, wipes, comb, chapstick, raisins, crackers, gloves, knit beanie hat, pen/pencil, small tablet. Gallon ziplock bags. Financial donations will also be appreciated for this project.

34th Anniversary Yokefellowship Fund Raising Banquet

Saturday, September 16, 2017
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Bethany United Methodist Church – Carlson Hall
1208 Brookside Road, Wescosville, PA 18106

Music will be presented by The Heart Street Band, Bob and Jan Vasile and Barry Madden, David Garcia, and Bill & Amy Kunsman

Hear how God is working to change the lives of prisoners
Discover how you can become part of Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
If you have any questions, please call 610-820-8469

RSVP by August 31, 2017

Come join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship!

Tickets will be sold and winners chosen for our raffle gift baskets.

(See the attached Banquet Flyer, bring a friend!)

Yokefellowship Lehigh Valley JOB FAIR

The Lehigh Valley Council held a Job Fair on July 26th from 2 – 6 PM at the Trinity Baptist Church, Allentown, PA.

The fair was held to help those returning citizens who may have a criminal record or other offense that has held them back from getting a job and supporting their families. Five background friendly employers participated in the event and it was well attended. We plan to continue to offer the Job Fair and hope to see additional employers attend.

Heartfelt thanks to the following businesses who attended the Job Fair: Nazareth Pallet, Pallet Express, Inc., The Performance Group, Kuhnsville Car Wash and J. P. Mascaro & Sons.

Special thanks to Bethlehem Precast for allowing us to pick up job applications, Peerstar, Inc. for sending us information on their Forensic-Focused Peer Support Program, Office of Vocational Rehab and Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living for explaining their services, and Valley Youth House caseworker. Thanks to Brian and Jennifer at Zippercord for taking time out of their schedule to meet with us and respond to our letter

If you are or know an employer who would be interested in attending the next Job Fair contact us!



Some Important Events To Remember...

- **Yokefellowship Coordinator Meetings**

October 14th, 10 AM, Trinity Baptist Church. 689 S. Hillview Rd. Allentown, PA

- **Lehigh Valley Area Council Board Meetings**

Sept 21st, Nov 16th 7 PM
Trinity Baptist Church

- **Yokefellowship Picnic**

Watch the newsletter for next year's picnic! Invite a friend who likes to eat!

- **Fund Raising Banquet**

September 16th, 6 - 9 PM, Bethany UMC Church 1208 Brookside Rd. Wescosville, PA

- **YPM State Conference**

Best Western Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg, PA October 6th and 7th.

- **Annual Membership Meeting**

December 21, 7 PM,
YPM Members must attend.
Trinity Baptist Church.

Save Yokefellowship Money

We would like to send you the Yokefellowship Newsletter by email to reduce cost. So, if you get the newsletter by U.S. mail but would like to get it by email instead, let us know. To get our newsletter by email or to cancel the paper copy of the newsletter send an email to:

yokefellowpa@yahoo.com

Just put "Send YPM Newsletter by email" in the subject line. That's it!

Volunteer Feedback

From Yokefellowship Volunteers ministering at Lehigh County Jail and the Community Corrections Center .

I asked the women for their feedback on the job fair. They said that holding a job fair for them is such a great idea. It provides practical help which they needed most. J.H.

Dear God, please show others your power as I share the treasure of your gospel in my broken but beautiful life. Our surprising God often shows His presence when we least expect Him. Yokefellowship Bible Study has helped me understand what life means in a different way than before. I read the Bible on a daily basis. In the past I used to hate people now I just love them and pray that God helps them. I'm not an angry person anymore and I know how to control myself in any situation. Jesus is real. Believe. MR

Yokefellowship Bible Study has impacted me in a tremendous way. It gives me hope when all hope was lost. It comforts me and puts my faith back in Christ. It makes me realize my situation is not all that bad but that it is in fact divine intervention. God has a funny way of opening our eyes. Anonymous

I feel the love of God no matter what. AP

Pray for the ones that have not accepted Jesus Christ and for Jesus to change our hearts and to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us strength in order to receive your peace and love. Anonymous

I am so grateful since I have been coming to Yokefellowship Bible Study at LCJ. Hearing the voice of God and the love that all the brothers share with one another. I thank God for all the blessings He gives us. God bless you all. LS

I pray that I receive a positive answer from the court on a petition for work release. Pray for all the brothers behind these walls and outside, and all families of the church, and society within our communities. And pray for all the sick and suffering. GB

Pray for my wife Eve who is going through some bad times and pray for those around her. Anonymous

The Holy Spirit is having an affect on the men at LCJ. Most have claimed to be born again and some have recently accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior ! Praise God ! May the Lord continue to bless all. J.G.

We are seeing God work each week. One of our lady volunteers had the opportunity to speak to a young woman at an LCJ Bible Study. The young inmate had heard about Yokefellowship and after coming to a few meetings she understood the gospel and asked the volunteer to lead her to Christ. What a privilege to help her ask Christ for forgiveness and healing! Praise the Lord! C.K.

A volunteer gave his testimony about the difficult time God helped him through concerning his child in jail. Many inmates were very touched and said that it spoke directly to them, making them realize the suffering parents endure because of what they've done. They thanked the volunteer for being honest and sharing. It was certainly a divine appointment. N.L.

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6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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Music by
Heart Street Band

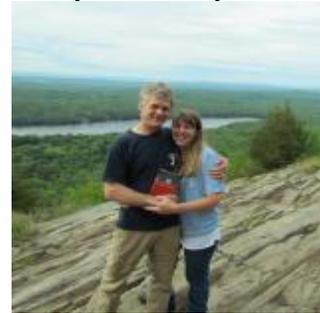


Bob and Jan Vasile
and Barry Madden

Music by David Garcia



Music by Bill & Amy Kunsman



Testimonies from Returning Citizens

Hear how God is working to change the lives of prisoners
Discover how you can become part of Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
If you have any questions, please call 610-820-8469 – **RSVP by August 31, 2017**

Come join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship!

YOKEFELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISING BANQUET
\$14.00 per person

Please complete this ticket reservation and
return it with your check or money order to the
Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
PO Box 3114
Wescosville PA 18106

September 16, 2017

**RESERVATIONS
TICKET REQUEST
PLEASE RESERVE
IN MY NAME:**

Seating for ____ People

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Church: _____ Phone: _____

Tickets will be sold and winners chosen for our raffle gift baskets.