

## Pastor's and Prison Care

**We, at SFPM, greatly admire pastors that take an interest in visiting prisoners and working with released prisoners in helping to bring restoration to their lives.**

One of the local pastors that goes out of his way to visit, write, mentor, and teach inmates is Pastor Wayne Lawton of Cedar Hill Community Church outside of Elizabethtown. Wayne regularly visits Lancaster County Prison, Camp Hill Prison in Dauphin County, and various other prisons. Not only does Wayne visit and connect to active prisoners, his fellowship, Cedar Hill, has been inviting ex-inmates to their services and even allow them to participate in music and testimony as they nurture them in returning to society. In my travels in prisons over the years I have known of Wayne for some time, as many prisoners have shared with me the influence he has given to them on their spiritual growth. (Del Burkholder)



Pastor Wayne & Mary Lou Lawton

**What are some pitfalls you have encountered while ministering to prisoners or ex-prisoners?**

The most discouraging aspect of this ministry is when men get out of prison and they do not hold true to the commitment they made in prison. Knowing they go back to using drugs, or being in immorality is such a disappointment, but thank God there are exceptions!

**What keeps you from not giving up writing to and meeting with prisoners?**

God's grace to me personally is a motivating force. My own personal struggles with sin and failure have been met with God's unfailing love and grace, so this motivates me to hang in there with those who struggle.

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**How did you start ministering to prisoners?**

One of the teenagers in our church was sentenced to prison and I went in to visit him. While there I was approached by the leader of a group from the Hershey Free Church that held Bible studies in the Dauphin County Prison and they asked me if I would join them. I thought it was amusing that one of the largest churches was asking help from one of the smaller churches, but it worked and I began to go in to hold Bible studies occasionally.

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## Volunteer Spotlight: Stacey Catigano

“Volunteers are special and they make a difference”

Chaplain volunteers give about 75 hours per week. This spotlight features one of these committed persons who shares so much inside the prison walls.



It has been, approximately, three years since the Lord has brought me to prison ministry and it continues to be an absolute privilege to work and learn from my fellow chaplains and volunteers in Lancaster County Prison. It is an extraordinarily humbling experience to witness the Holy Spirit at work in an environment where one would think all hope is gone but it is not. Thank you, for the invitation to share a few of the insights I have learned during my brief time at LCP.

First, I have discovered it is not uncommon for people who are incarcerated to come from a secular background. The Gospel is new and fresh to them and often I am asked, “How do I read the Bible?” Other folks were simply never taught, fully, what Jesus did for them and why. There is a need to introduce the values of God while offering the hope of what a God centered life could look like. Prayer groups, Bible studies, and one- on- one pastoral counseling are some of the ways chaplains and volunteer ministers meet the needs of our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

Second, I have found in order to help someone; I need to listen to the story beneath the story, which means going beyond my media fed assumptions. It is easy to watch a news clip or view a mug shot and quickly conclude, “They are guilty and are good for nothing!” But for me to try to really love someone, the way God loves me, it is important to remember how I am also in need of God’s forgiveness. Prison is a hard place where people can be confronted by the hard truths of what has been done to them, what they have done and the immensity of the crimes, which have been committed. All of us are in need of God’s love therefore; we can never allow ourselves to believe that any single human being, no matter what the circumstance, is beyond the transformative grace of the Almighty.

Finally, prison ministry appreciates and needs the prayerful support of the beloved community. I’m not suggesting everyone should serve in the physical prison but donating religious reading material and supporting SPPM’s auction in October (see page 3) makes a tremendous difference in people’s lives as well.

I am deeply grateful to LCP, Support for Prison Ministries, and Hope Episcopal Church for the opportunity to serve the One who lived the Good News He proclaimed; who consistently treated the outcasts, the sick, the marginalized, and the thief with compassion, respect, and dignity; and who was Himself the fulfillment of God’s promises.

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**How do you balance being a pastor at an established church with mainstream citizens to a prison work where you are dealing with individuals that often have problems being model citizens?**

Fortunately, I pastor a small church of very committed people who believe in the grace of God. They have been very supportive of my ministry and to those who are incarcerated.

**What is your message to those that are afraid to take a chance of being involved with prisoners, because of the possibility of seeing them fail?**

People sometimes don't want to be involved because they fear if this person would get free they might take advantage of them in some way. But my message to those people is that it is worth the risk to reach out to the least of these. They will never change if we don't take the Good News to them.

# Chaplain's Corner

Isaias Maldonado is one of the SFPM chaplains at Lancaster County Prison and he spends time meeting with inmates; listening, praying, and sharing



One of the best places to be, when you are called by God, is when you are at the lowest point of your life. In First Corinthians 1:18-31 we can see that the Gospel is as powerful as the One of which it talks about, Jesus Christ our Lord. Prison ministry brings that powerful Gospel to inmates that, for the most part, feel that they are “next to nothing.” Many of them have done so much damage to themselves, to family, and to society. Some of them feel that no one is going to trust them, no one believes in them, nor do people want them to be part of their lives anymore.

God calls everyone, no matter if you are in or out of prison, into his service through the foolishness of the Gospel (vs. 21). In the same manner as he called Jews and Gentiles to become members of his church, he now calls prisoners to serve Him, even to full time ministry. He calls the un-wise by human standards, the non-influential, and non-noble to become His children. Many times, people become prison inmates because they’ve done some very foolish things, others have been at their lowest, and many are rejected by people. However, God can raise them all to be men and women of worth, that give honor to our Lord. He can also use them to nullify the things that “are” (vs. 28) so no one can boast before Him.

When these men and women understand their need of God and surrender their lives to Jesus, God turns them into His beloved children with the same values and purpose as anyone else in the Kingdom. God can save and use whoever surrenders their lowliness, their nothingness and unworthiness to Him. That includes prisoners. That’s why it is worth ministering to even the “least one of them.” Amen!



COME TO THE **34th** ANNUAL AUCTION

OCTOBER 27 & 28, 2017  
EPHRATA BUSINESS CENTER  
400 W. Main St, Ephrata



Delicious homemade foods and baked goods available Friday evening and Saturday



Framed pictures  
Some pictures  
made by inmates



Pedal Tractors



Theme Baskets



Quilts, afghans,  
wall hangings

Many Valuable Gift  
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area businesses for  
food, lodging,  
professional and  
home services.



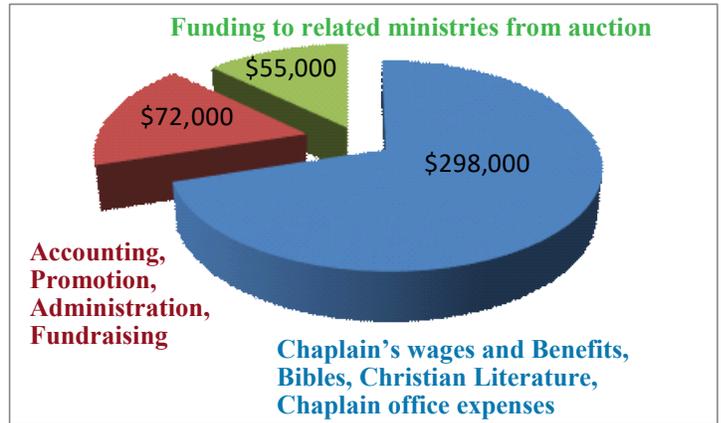
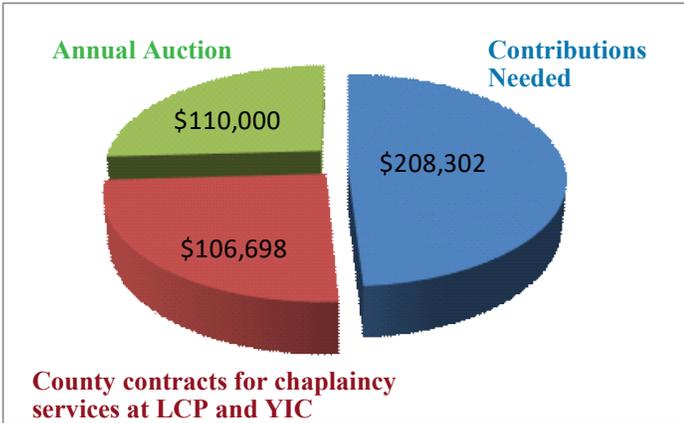
Since the SFPM annual auction began in 1984, over \$2.4 million has been contributed to prison ministries.

Check our website's Annual Auction Pages for more information at [www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)  
Or our facebook page for pictures of items for sale.

# Focus On Finances

Income

Expenses **2017 Budget: \$425,000**



**A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift to partner with SFPM. THANK YOU !!**

*Check out our website for updated photos and information: [www.supportforprisonministries.org](http://www.supportforprisonministries.org)*

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17603

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**Support for Prison Ministries**  
P.O. Box 134, Lititz, PA 17543

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT By Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

There were many thoughts going through my mind as I was walking down the hall to the same the classroom where I have taught in a particular state prison institution since 2002, with an inmate Bible study for some 35 men. It was back in 2002 that Jim Newsom had asked me to assist him in some Bible studies in a couple of prisons. The other night I was thinking of the men that have been in the study over these last 15 years. Some of the men are still in this very same study from the first time I walked into that room 15 years ago, some have transferred to other prisons we minister at, some have died at that prison, and most of those that died I have been part of doing their memorial services.



Many have returned to society since I started, and quite a few that have returned to society are living productive Christian lives outside the walls. Just as our chaplains at Lancaster Prison and the Youth Center will attest to, there are disappointments, but there are those that overcome sin and walk in the Light of Jesus Christ. This is why we and others that work in prison ministry do what we do. Please keep all our chaplains in your prayers.