



Freedom Focus

A Newsletter with information for your partnering with us in

Volume 24
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Fall 2023

“Proclaiming Freedom for Prisoners”

SFPM BOARD AND FUNDRAISING

Throughout the years, Support for Prison Ministries (SFPM) has been active in raising money for its own ministry and also for other Bible based prison programs. The law requires all nonprofit organizations to have a Board of Directors who oversee the operations of the ministry. One of the reasons for this law is the concept that if several individuals are overseeing the ministry, it is less likely that funds will be abused. Since SFPM’s beginning, the Board has been “rolling up their sleeves” to make fundraising events a success.

2024 will mark 40 years since SFPM board has been having fundraising events. There is not one individual that started this work, but persons who have been part of SFPM since the beginning say it was the vision of the late David Weaver, Pastor at Carpenter’s Church. His vision was to have an auction to raise funds for We Care Ministries in Alabama, which was started by Martin Weber. Through the work of Weaver, Carpenters, former We Care chaplains, and We Care Crusade helpers, an auction was started in 1984.



Board from 2004 (l-r): Warren Fox, Steve Martin, Glenn Hoover, Anthony Martin, Dwayne Sensenig, Kevin Hahn, Warren Hackman, Cliff Martin, Leon Martin, Nelson Martin

By 1987 Support for Prison Ministries was recognized as its own ministry and formed as a 501(c)3. Ken Burkholder, Glenn Hoover, Elvin Weaver, Ernie Stauffer, the late Marvin Reed, and the late Eugene Hoover were the initial SFPM Board. Leon Martin came on shortly after in 1988 to become an active part of SFPM Board. Now he has served 36 years and has been an officer and vital part of SFPM fundraising efforts through the years. The Board encourages its members to stay for as long as they desire. The meetings are upbeat and through the years there has been a special comradery with SFPM Board members and most votes over the years have been unanimous to exemplify unity and Christ like thought.

The original SFPM Nonprofit Mission purpose was: *To raise funds and to financially support those Christian ministries approved by the Board of Directors that rehabilitate first time offenders, persons in prisons, and reentry support programs.* After nearly 40 years, Support for Prison Ministry has not veered from this foundational statement.

Fundraising events are needed to support the chaplaincy services at Lancaster County Prison and the Youth Intervention Center. Over the years SFPM has also supported numerous after care programs in the area.

In 2020, the auction was postponed, due to COVID. After much deliberation, the board believed it would be the right time to transition away from the auction fundraiser and voted to permanently end the auction. Almost immediately plans were laid by the SFPM Board to do a multi-site chicken dinner in the fall auction spot. The drive through event would protect against having to cancel an indoor event due to a spike in COVID cases. At the auction, the chicken dinner and food items were always an important part of the profits, so it was logical to make this adjustment and expand its reach. Currently SFPM has added a smaller Roast Beef Dinner in the spring also to accompany its Annual Prison Conference.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR TAKE OUT CHICKEN DINNER



Friday, October 27

Serving at three different locations for your convenience:

Good's Store/Shady Maple from 1-5:30*

1338 Main St, East Earl

Martin's Country Market from 3-5:30*

1717 W Main St, Ephrata

Mellinger Mennonite Church from 4-5:30*

1916 Lincoln Hwy E, Lancaster

*or until dinners are sold out

Menu

Delicious chicken, cheesy potatoes, green beans, applesauce, dinner roll, whoopie pie, drink

Suggested Donation: \$15/meal

For questions or more information:

sfpmdb@gmail.com

717-859-5519

Proceeds go to several prison ministries
and aftercare programs



Will you partner with us?

Fall has always been the time that SFPM depends on a lot of its funds coming in from our fundraisers and giving in general. 2023 has been a tough year for many with inflation and that has also impacted giving this past year. We are asking that you would consider a special gift this fall.

Our staff at Lancaster County Prison and Youth Intervention Center have been faithfully working all year. Resources are needed as we also minister in State Facilities and for all the programs related to prison work and aftercare that we support. Thank you in advance for your generosity during this time of continued ministry in prison work. Two options for partnering with us:

Make an on line donation:
www.supportforprisonministries.com
Click the Donate button

Mail a check to: (use enclosed envelope)
Support for Prison Ministries
PO Box 727
Brownstown, PA 17508-0727

Chaplain's Corner

Meet Reuben Lapp: newest addition to SFPM Chaplaincy



Reuben Lapp is no stranger to Lancaster County Prison Ministry. It was over 10 years ago that Reuben first came into LCP to do church services and 1-1 visits. Recently Reuben became the newest member of our chaplain's office in what is referred to as a part time Volunteer Chaplain Assistant. At LCP these individuals are considered an extension of the chaplain staff. After special training, it gives them access throughout the prison blocks, same as our paid staff chaplains have. There is only a certain amount of these volunteer positions allotted at LCP. When a position came open in the chaplaincy staff, choosing Reuben was logical as he has a proven track record of dedicated ministry at LCP and especially in the Medical Housing Unit, which he specializes in. He has a tremendous heart for the lost, for those needing Christ, and those in need of help in establishing a better life path.

Reuben is a businessman in the New Holland area. He is married to Thelma and they have 9 children ranging from 12 to 25 and 4 grandchildren. His son, Daniel, (22) recently started following in his father's footsteps by helping Reuben on occasions at LCP with services and inmate visitation.

One of Reuben's favorite passages of scripture is Romans 12:13-21 where it centers on forgiveness and teaches love and repentance.

We at SFPM are thankful to have a team of chaplains like Reuben that put others' need before themselves. Thank you, Reuben, for taking time out of your business schedule to minister to those in need!

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

SFPM BOARD AND FUNDRAISING

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Over the years, SFPM Staff and Board members have done some one-time fundraisers. In 1997, the SFPM Board had a house built with donated labor and materials and then sold as a fundraiser. More recently, SFPM Board members Daniel King, Mike Martin, and Willy Zook, who are avid motorcyclists, have done several fundraisers with their motorcycle group. They have a network of cyclist friends who ride together on a weekly

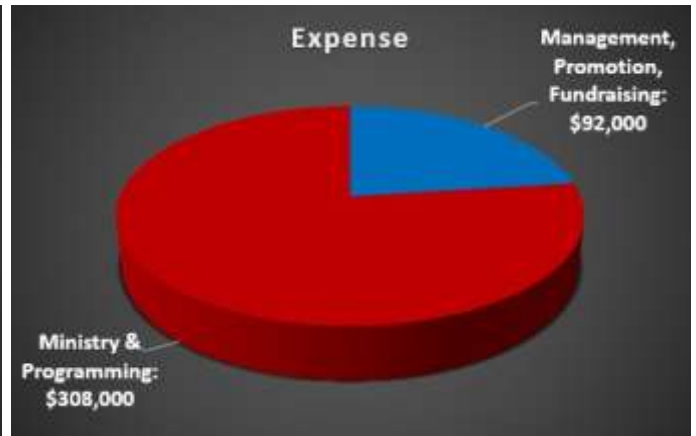
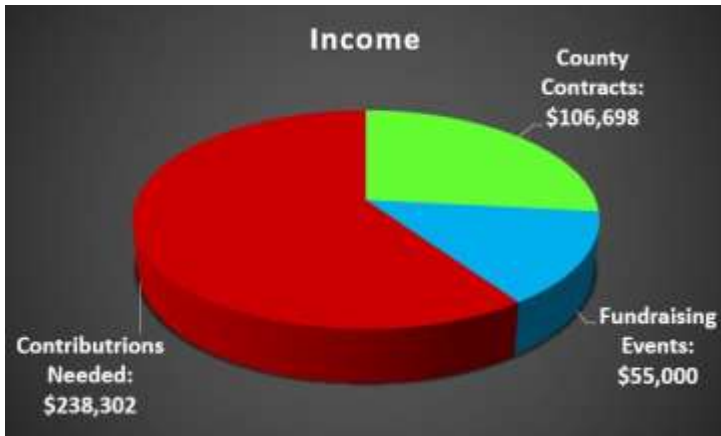
basis. Twice they have had a picnic and small motorcycle related auction accompanied by a fun night that has raised substantial funds for SFPM and its programs.



Board from 2023: Back row (l-r): Dennis Sensenig, Cliff Martin, Leon Martin, Ken Martin, Adam Hurst, Mike Martin, Willy Zook. Front row (l-r): Delmar Burkholder, Ken Haller, Warren Hackman, Daniel King, Darel Seibert

For almost 40 years, the amount of money raised by SFPM for prison work and aftercare has been significant. The dedication of very committed board members, past and present, has made a difference. Special thanks to all that have served on the SFPM Board of Directors since the beginning and the many other volunteers that have also helped with all of the SFPM fundraisers.

And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17



A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your gift to partner with SFPM. You can also make a donation on-line through our website. THANK YOU !!

Check out our website for updated photos and information: www.supportforprisonministries.com

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #1746
Lancaster, PA
17603

Email: info@supportforprisonministries.com
(717) 859-5519

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

Lessons from the Cherry

Del Burkholder, SFPM Director

I enjoy sweet cherries, but I don't like to pit the cherries. In fact, the only time pitting cherries didn't bother me was when I was preparing the cherries for my late wife when she was sick and not able to do any tasks. They tell me there is a technique for doing this and my mother was very good at it for her cherry pies. I recall the late SFPM chaplain, Marvin Reed, telling me of a time when he had inmates over to his house. His wife was pitting cherries and she taught them how and they were all put to work as they visited.

While secular and Christian methods differ on the methods of rehabilitation both agree teaching a man to work is a good thing. I am encouraged by businesses that take chances on hiring inmates. There are challenges associated with this, but what a great way to teach Christ's love through a second chance. The Lord did not burden us with work, rather, he blessed us with the ability to work.

The work may not be as technical as pitting cherries, but there is certainly a skill one can learn on his way to being a productive citizen. Let's enjoy the fruit of it. There is nothing better than the taste of a ripe sweet cherry, other than the spiritual taste of our Father's heavenly fruit in the Kingdom.

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalms 34:8