

January 2022 Newsletter



“The Church”

These first few weeks of 2022 I’ve found myself reflecting on the importance of “The Church” and its role in our world. Most wouldn’t think of Appalachia Reach Out as “The Church” in the traditional sense of the word. Even though we’re not a traditional church, I do believe ARO is an extension of “The Church.” To me “The Church” isn’t brick and mortar; it’s you and I living in the world. All throughout history and even today, there has been much criticism about “The Church.” Since the day I was born “The Church” has always been central in my life (Being raised as a pastor’s kid didn’t give me much of an option). A few days ago I shared with someone, it’s because of “The Church” I am who I am today. Is “The Church” perfect? No! Is “The Church” needed in our world today? Absolutely! I believe it’s the redemptive arm of Jesus Christ in our world. Jesus is very specific about the posture of “The Church” in the Gospel of Matthew. In speaking to Peter Jesus says in Matthew 16, “...That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” These words spoken by Jesus it gives Christ’s followers the challenge to be on the offensive. Christians should never be taking a posture of defense, but step into the difficult spaces of our world and live out the message of hope found in Jesus! One way to do this is by serving others! It’s not an option! ARO is part of “The Church” and we’ve been commissioned to “GO” and live out this message in some of the most forgotten places. What a challenge, what a mission, what a calling! Is it worth it? Every minute! ARO will continue to lead in this direction because we are part of “The Church” in 2022!

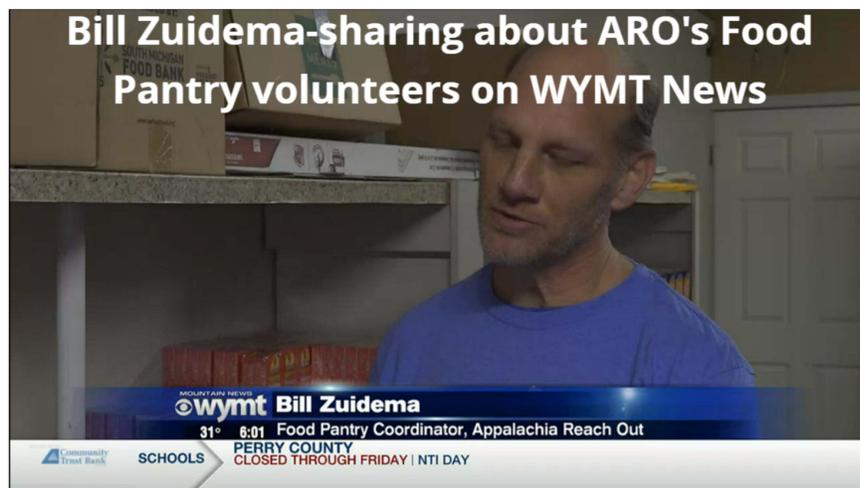
In His Care,

Wayne P. Mills,

Executive Director, ARO

As we are gearing up, and preparing for our 2022 Work & Witness teams to arrive this spring, the work of spreading the story of ARO, and how God is working through ARO to impact the lives of those in Appalachia, has not stopped. We continue to serve many families every month in our food pantry. Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, continues to travel most weekends, to share the story of ARO. Our Thrift Store continues to provide support to our community. As we prepare for the many teams to arrive on our campus in Kentucky and on site in West Virginia, will you pray for the preparations? Will you pray for His guidance? Will you pray for every team member that will be coming to serve? Will you pray for those that ARO and its partners will be serving? We appreciate all your prayers, as we could not do the work that we do without you and without Him to lead us!

Please enjoy the pictures below that highlight just a small portion of the work that ARO was apart of this month!

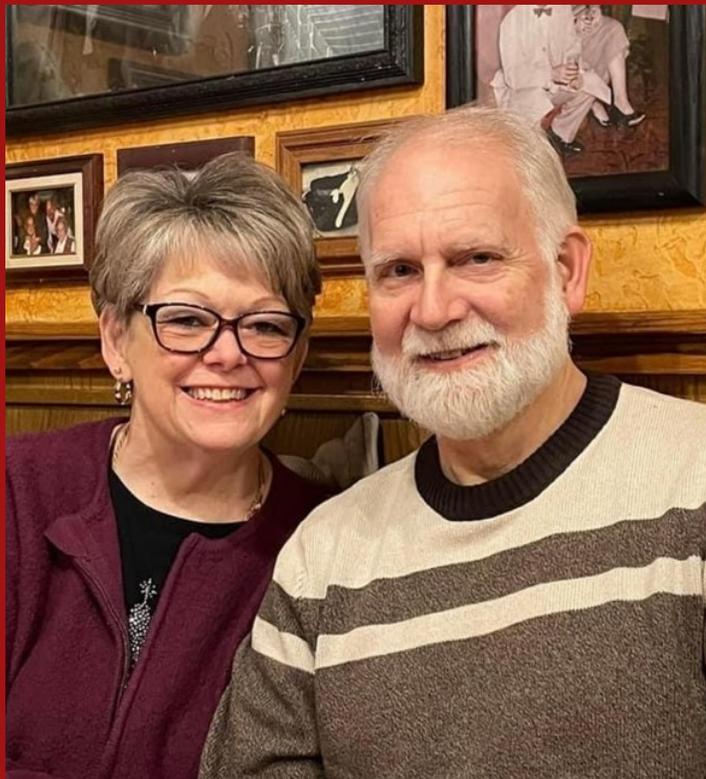




The Table Church-working in the Food Pantry & Thrift Store & unloading a trailer from Harvest Community Church in Michigan



Please help us welcome our newest staff to ARO: RICH & THELMA MILLS Rich and Thelma will be serving as our Work & Witness Site Coordinator in Nicholas County, West Virginia. We are very excited to see how God will use them to bless the ministry of ARO in West Virginia. We look forward to the days ahead as we partner with Rich and Thelma! Please enjoy a short bio below.



First & foremost, we both love our Savior, Jesus Christ and enjoy our journey together. We dedicate our lives to His service daily, and are excited and humbled for this privilege to serve with ARO-WV.

We are coming up on our 49th year of marriage. We make our home in Weirton and Weirton Nazarene is our home church. Rich retired from Weirton Steel after 43 years, and Thelma is a retired, Registered Nurse. We raised 3 children in a Christian home, and now love on 8 grandchildren.

Since retirement, we love spending time “On the Road” traveling the US in our RV. The Nazarene Campground in Summersville, WV is our home camp & Happy Place, although COVID has clipped our wings for now. We are finding WV is one of the most beautiful places in the whole world. We are looking forward to serving Nicholas County and the people of WV. Thank you for the opportunity

If you are in the area where Dwayne will be speaking, or want to plan to hear about ARO and how God is moving in the mountains, we would love to see you on the road!

Dwayne's Upcoming Speaking Schedule:

Sunday, February 6 - Eastside Freewill Baptist Church - Paintsville, KY
Sunday, February 20 - Mt. Sterling Church of the Nazarene - Mt. Sterling, KY
Sunday, February 27 - Blanchester Church of the Nazarene - Blanchester, OH



We ask that you continue to remember those effected by the natural disasters in Western Kentucky. As funds have continued to come in, we are grateful for all those that have contributed thus far. So far ARO, with its partners, have received close to \$35,000 to send to Western Kentucky. THANK YOU for your generosity!



Thank you for partnering with ARO to be *Christ's Love in Action*. Thank you for your faithful prayers, service, giving, and trust in ARO! Will you continue to pray that God would continue to guide our footsteps? Thank you in advance for your faithfulness!



Feel free to contact ARO's Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, at dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com