

## October 2023 Newsletter

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**“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him”.**

**Luke 15:17-20**

It is that time of year where trees are filled with a variety of color. It is beautiful to see leaves change from green to orange, red, and yellow. It is a reminder that like seasons, change is constant. Leaves change color, then fall and it makes trees bare. Change can take us through high's and low's. So, what should we do when change happens. Like the lost son in this passage it is important, that when change happens we remember who God is.

I love this passage because it is a reminder of who God is. The lost son was navigating through change. He was navigating through life like many of us. Yet, what does he do, in verse 17 it says, "he came to his senses". He remembered Who the father was. So he got up and went to the father and verse 20 tells us exactly who the Father is: Earnestly seeking us, full of compassion, and is a Father whose love never fails.

As seasons come and go, as change happens, and as we are reminded of the constant that change is. May we also remember who God is. He also is constant in His seeking, in His compassion, and in His love. Maybe this time of year, as you look at the changes in the colors of the leaves, remember who God is and know His love for you.

Jennifer Caplinger,  
ARO Administrative Assistant

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## Burlington (IA) Church of the Nazarene

What a week with this wonderful team! We are so thankful for the work and impact they made in Martin County! They are so inspiring with how they have impacted our community. During their time with us they were able to complete various work projects. They helped replace a floor to help a family who is raising four foster children. They spent time tutoring in Inez Elementary School. They served the ladies of White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility. They spent time loving the women and babies of Karen's Place Maternity Center.

They partnered with our local Martin County Tourism to help on the Kingfisher Trail. And they served at our local Martin County Celebrate Recovery and ARO Food Pantry. We are thankful for their time and service in Martin County. Your work will impact our area for years to come!



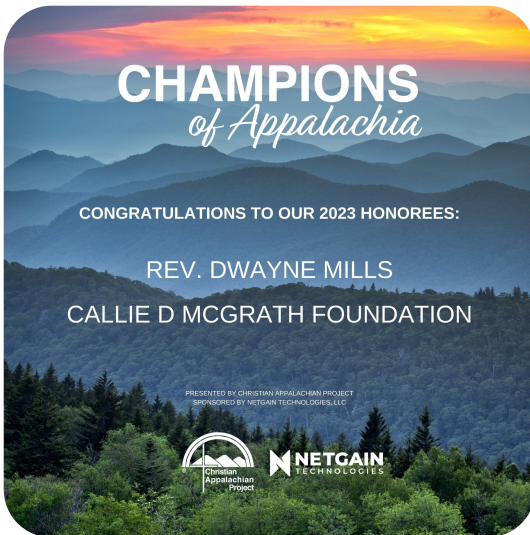




SPECIAL  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, was awarded the Champions of Appalachia award, for the work being done through ARO! Please help us congratulate our leader, Dwayne Mills! We are blessed to have Dwayne and his servant leadership!

ARO was honored to provide a meal for the Martin County High School Girls Soccer Team! We are proud of these young ladies and thankful for how they represent Martin County so well!



**CHAMPIONS**  
*of Appalachia*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 HONOREES:

REV. DWAYNE MILLS  
CALLIE D MCGRATH FOUNDATION



## Thrift Store & Food Pantry Updates

Our ARO Thrift Store and Food Pantry is run everyday mainly by our wonderful volunteers. When our Pantry and Store are closed-we have workers and volunteers working to stock shelves, unload trucks, coordinating food pick-ups and drop-off donation items continuously even if our doors are closed. We want to thank our leaders Bill & Jana Zuidema for leading this incredible ministry.

If you would like to donate the following items, it would be greatly appreciated:

- Family sized cereal
- Family sized orange/apple juice
- Cartons of shelf stable milk
- Canned fruit, soup, or Chef Boyardee
- Pinto beans in bags
- Peanut butter/jelly
- Mustard/ketchup/mayo
- Spaghetti noodles & jars of spaghetti sauce
- Handheld can openers (please no electric can openers)
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Liquid body wash/hand soap (not bar soap, and please pack toiletries separate from food items)
- New socks and underwear (all sizes)
- Adult diapers

\*All items need to be within their expiration date\*



ARO's Executive Director, Dwayne Mills was able to speak to Mount Vernon Nazarene University students in 11 classes about our 2023 Summer Internship opportunities. If you know of a college student(s), that would be a good fit for ARO's internship program next summer, please let us know or send them our way! :). They must have a call to come serve and at least one year of college. Thank you!

Dwayne also traveled to Flemingsburg (KY) Church of the Nazarene, what a joy and honor to share about His mission in our home state!

What a privilege to be at Trevecca Nazarene University, two Nazarene Universities in one month, to share about ARO and our mission. At Trevecca Dwayne was able to speak at their Compassion Conference along with other people that serve throughout the Church of the Nazarene.



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, October 8 - Marysville Nazarene (Marysville, OH)
- Sunday, October 22 - Paulding Nazarene (Paulding, OH)
- Sunday, October 29 - Fairfield Nazarene (Fairfield, OH)





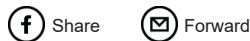
Thank you for partnering with ARO to be *Christ's Love in Action*. Thank you for your faithful prayers, service, giving, and trust in ARO! All that has been accomplished would not be possible without you! Will you continue to pray that God would continue to guide us?



Feel free to contact ARO's Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, at [dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com](mailto:dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com)



**DONATE NOW TO ARO**



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