

## **Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsburg The Silver Spring and Newcastle Congregation Covenant**

Our covenant began in 1993 when Silver Spring (SSPC) youth met Rev. Gideon Kabela, pastor at Newcastle Congregation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Madadeni, South Africa, who was attending a program at Stony Brook. When Rev. Kabela visited SSPC, the groundwork was laid for the South Africa Task Force. In 1995, Rev. Cleopas Ngbane, Kabela's successor, visited SSPC and a "covenant relationship" between the two congregations developed. Signed in 1996 by both Sessions, the Covenant created a partnership, a process where both learn from the other, as we journey together along the Way of Christ.

In 1997 the first SSPC visitors traveled to South Africa. Since then, we have had bilateral visitor exchanges. SSPC visitors to South Africa have learned what it is like to live in a third world country where there is no government welfare, food stamp or unemployment programs, free education, free food banks, Habitat for Humanity or free AIDS clinics.

In 1999 with Presbytery's help, we shipped a 40' container of goods to help our sister church expand their mission work. Our partnership provides scholarships and school uniforms to children in need. SSPC visitors taught them how to make home based Aids kits. One visit delivered a free eye-health clinic that distributed 300 pairs of glasses. Our partners were so encouraged by what they had learned from working at Downtown Daily Bread and with SSPC's ROAR Team, that they opened a soup kitchen, which feeds 1200 children 3 days a week, rebuilt their church and first manse (named Silver Spring), as well as several "out station" worship centers.

We are excited that 2016 will mark the twentieth anniversary of our journey together. Both congregations are planning a visitor exchange and celebration, and we rejoice that with God as our guide, our "covenant relationship" continues to grow.

### **Please pray for:**

Mission covenants/partnerships

### **Let us pray:**

O Lord, open our lips and our mouths,  
so that we will shout your praise forever.  
Give us a childlike, humble faith, and  
teach us obedience in every part of our  
lives. May our ears hear your word, and  
our hands do your work. Gracious God,  
guide our feet to walk your path with a  
heart for all your people. Grant us  
confidence that says to the possible  
and the impossible that I am the Lord's  
servant, so that all may be as your  
will and word have said. Amen

