

SONLIFE NEWS

SonLife Community Church

December, 2007

Church Chat today

The Church Chat is re-starting today after the service to better keep all of us on the “same wave-length” as changes are beginning to take place at SonLife. The time will be limited to 45 minutes so that everyone will be able to stay and take part. If the business isn’t finished, it will be carried over to the next Church Chat on the first Sunday of February—or a special chat will be called as necessary.



The Shepherds will be conducting the meeting with reports on some changes which have taken place and church members will be asked for input on future suggestions and be given an opportunity to join the church body in helping implement the needs.

SonLife celebrates 15 years of personal relationships

Special recognition was given to church members at the 15th Birthday for the Church on Nov. 4th.

The church was planted by Marshall and Gilda Wise in 1992. Two families still attend the church today and they are Doris Beebe and Bill and Donna Digby’s family.

Recently married Josh and Tiffany Mitchell led the Praise and Worship as a final gift before leaving for Hawaii for a year.

Joining SonLife for our anniversary were members of the Christian Unity Church who have been frequent guests.

Left., Josh and Tiffany Mitchell led praise and worship at the 15th Anniversary Celebration of Son Life on Nov. 4th. This was their final church appearance before leaving for Hilo, Hawaii, where they will be leading the music ministry there.



(Above) Members of the congregation send Josh and Tiffany Mitchell (sitting) off to their Hawaiian worship ministry. Tiffany's parents, Gilda and Marshall, share the moment with Matt Stratton along with others in hands-on prayer.



(Left) SonLife's special 15th Year Anniversary Cake...which was hastily consumed.

Free items available...silent auction set for piano

As well be discussed during the Church Chat today, there are several good, but free, items which can be taken by our church members on a first-come, first-served basis. We'll tell you where they are and what you have to do to take them home for Christmas.

Also, the piano in the education room is up for Silent Auction, starting today and finishing next Sunday.

Shepherds working on upgrades for church

For the past several months, the Shepherds have been asking questions. What brings people to church? How can we make our church better for our members? How do we reach out and build better personal relationships?

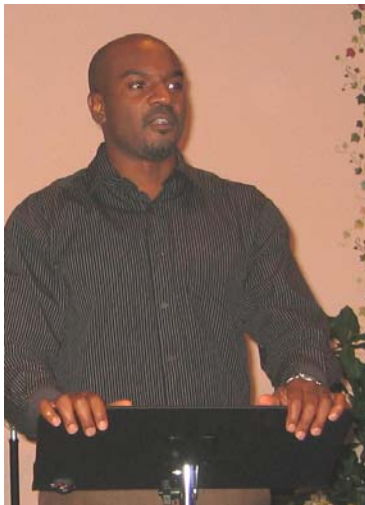
In November, each Shepherd took a pad of paper and walked the church noting areas of safety concern as well those being poorly used or detracting to our membership. Now, the Shepherds are sharing some of their thoughts at the Church Chat today and asking for membership input.

After prioritizing and starting changes on the physical elements, the Shepherds will be looking at special projects which will serve our congregation and a public relations/advertising program to support the new changes.

A life lesson about the easy path

A professor stood before his class of twenty senior organic biology students about to hand out the final exam.

"I want to say that it's been a pleasure teaching you this semester. I know you've all worked extremely hard and many of you are off to medical school after summer. So that no one gets



Men's Retreat a time of fellowship, learning

(Top left) Troy Ray was the guest speaker for the Men's Retreat overnight at the church. (Left) Marshall Wise led discussion Friday night as Bryce Rogers listens. (Above) Craig Larson and Don Mattson prepare a large Saturday breakfast as Bill Digby watches.

their GPA messed up because they might have been celebrating a bit too much this week, anyone who would like to opt out of the final exam today will receive a 'B' for the course."

There was much rejoicing in the class as students got up, walked to the front of the class, and took the professor up on his offer. As the last taker left the room, the professor looked out over the handful of remaining students and asked, "Anyone else? This is your last chance."

One final student rose up and opted out of the final.

The professor closed the door and took attendance of those students remaining.

"I'm glad to see you believe in yourself," he said. "You all get 'A's.'"

How many have taken the easy way out? The short road, the easy path, the light load, all lead to lower grades in the school of life.

‘Wish Me a Merry Christmas’ pins just \$2 each

Linda Larson has ordered special pins for people who want to declare that “using the word Christmas is preferable to holiday greetings.” If you want to make your own statement by wearing the button during this merry **Christmas Season**, see Linda. She is selling them for \$2 each as long as they last!

Upcoming events

Dec. 4th—The ladies will be singing Christmas carols at Wicomico Nursing Home. All are invited, 6:45 p.m. See Gilda or Rhonda for details.

Dec. 11th—Ladies Christmas Party at the Wiseman’s at 6:15 pm. Potluck. White elephant. Estrella Knutson and Gilda Wise in charge. See Ann for directions/map.

Feb. 8th & 9th—Women’s Retreat at Jane’s Island, \$40 per person.

Sept. 12 & 13—Women of Faith Conference, “Infinite Grace”, \$99.



This is your newsletter...item deadline Dec. 30th

This is your chance to tell your fellow SonLife members what is going on. We’re interested in knowing what is happening in each of the study groups, the Women’s Group, the Men’s Group, etc. Please send an e-mail to Jan Wiseman at tjan.wiseman@comcast.net or by giving him the information at church. Photos are also welcome.

The deadline for the next newsletter is Dec. 30th.

Church surprises with a gift for Pastor Appreciation Month



SonLife Community Church members surprised Pastor Marshall and Gilda Wise with cash to help defray their airline tickets to visit their new son-in-law and their daughter at their new home in Hawaii. (Left) Craig Larsen, with Pete Frost and Bob Still of the Shepherds presents the surprise Pastor Appreciation gift. (Above) Pastor Wise holds back tears as he sees the gift. (Right) Church members line up to thank Marshall and Gilda for their hard work. Here Lisa and Gary Townsend are the first to congratulate them.

If you want to make a pledge to help cover the gift, please contact Craig Larson.

