

# SONLIFE NEWS

*SonLife Community Church*

January 2008

## **Second church Chat today**

At the first Church Chat in December, it was decided to hold a church chat on the first Sunday of each month following services. Because of the frequency of the chat, we will be aiming to limit each chat to 30 minutes so it doesn't interfere with too many plans.

Today's chat will include a short update on progress involving changes in the church since the last meeting, items from the Shepherds' meetings, and items from any church member.

## **SonLife Christmas Program held to a full house**

No seats were left for the SonLife Christmas Program dinner theatre on Dec. 16th. More than 100 persons crowded into the sanctuary for a pre-program meal, followed by an excellent presentation with both children and adults. The meal was prepared by members of SonLife under the direction of Maria Waller. Maria, you did a fantastic job!! Thank you. And all who participated to make the program such a success—great job—thank you. Weren't our kids fantastic. Not that we want to fall into pride, but we can be proud to be members of SonLife.



*The youngsters of SonLife offer "presence to the Lord" during the church's Christmas Program on Dec. 16th in front of full house.*



*The Ladies' Team Christmas with (left) Lee Still, Linda Larson, and Christina Mattson enjoying their time. (Below left) Ina Seaton samples some of the food while (below) Gilda Wise plays the piano for a time of singing at the Dec. 11th event.*



## **A reminder....**

Grace is getting what you don't deserve.

Mercy is not getting what you deserve.

## **Church 'teams' building relationships**

Our three teams at SonLife meet weekly to help us build friendships and relationships with each other. To get and give your full gifts as a Christian, join a team. If you don't know which one, then visit each one and see which speaks to your heart. This is where you will fulfill your God-given desire to connect with others, to learn from them, to help them, to pray for them and to love them. Here are reports on what's happening with each Team—

***Mattson Team Report.*** We are anticipating how our precious Father will touch lives at SonLife this year. Our Monday night team continues to support each other through the ups and downs of our lives.

Wookie's mom came down with another bacterial infection this week. She has been in the hospital more than three weeks and Wookie continues to hold vigil at her side. He continues studying for his insurance licensing exam which was scheduled for yesterday (Jan. 5). Please hold them both in prayer.

Steven earned a place on the President's List for an outstanding grade-point average at Del Tech where he is studying hard for air conditioning and heating.

Rose and Tom are well, busy raising their family and finding work. Please keep Tom's shoulder in prayer as he has been experiencing a lot of discomfort.

Rachel is busy at school and finally getting her clothes dryer hooked up...which is a praise report as it entails getting new electrical service.

Daniel is battling health issues and working way too hard.

Bob and Lee continue to be a strong part of our support system, sharing great insights learned through the many ups and downs of their life together. We all so value that.

I, Christina, continue to praise and thank my Lord for the best gift, second to my salvation, and this is being free from the overwhelming fatigue of multiple sclerosis. I delight in being alive. May we all continue to love and support each other through this coming year with understanding and support.

**Wise Team.** We have been studying the Book of James, but really got into learning more about Advent through the month of December. As usual, Pastor Marshall continues to ask thought-provoking questions. The Wednesday after Christmas, we had a pizza party and fellowship at the Wise's which was a lot of fun.

Mary and Matt Stratton come faithfully to the Wise Team and have a lot of insight into the scriptures. Matt has been a joy to get to know better. He can be difficult to understand sometimes, but he will repeat if asked to.

Estrella recently appeared on Channel 47 (WMDT-TV) news where she was interviewed about her physical transformation in which through dieting and physical exercise, she has lost



*Pastor Wise (above) welcomes church members and visitors during the church's Christmas Program. (Top right) Matt and Mary Stratton, Harvey and the Wise's eat in a "Dinner Theatre" setup prior to the program. (Bottom) The youngsters present part of the program.*

45% of her body weight. In the process, she became a physical fitness instructor.

Ann recently was named the top ambassador in Maryland (out of 24) for Business Networking International (BNI). And, at the end of the month, she will be participating in the Polar Bear Plunge in the Chesapeake Bay to help the Maryland State Police raise money for the Maryland Special Olympics.

Ina has been joining our team—when she is able to get a ride, and has been doing really well. It's a joy to see her beauty unfold.

Pastor Wise and Gilda are currently in Hawaii visiting their newly-wed daughter Tiffany and her husband Josh. We're pretty sure they're really soaking up the sun there!

Our team has recently been joined by Harvey, as well as Sally, who has returned to SonLife and the Praise and Worship Team.

**Larson Team.** Our team is studying Bible prophecies using a book called "Bible Prophecy for Dummies" in which the author does a good job of presenting the various views of the End Times.

In December, we caroled at Doris Bebee's and we were joined by Ina, Rhonda and Harold. Doris seemed pleased and it was a blessing to all of us to get to visit with her.

As far as personal updates:

Donna Digby is substitute teaching at various elementary schools which still allows her to chauffeur the girls to their activities. Bill has been promoted to working in quality assurance which involves working weekends so we will miss seeing him in church "for a season."

Clare Edmond continues to recover from cataract surgery on her left eye. She is back at work now, but not totally recovered physically.

Carol Franz continues working at PRMC and working with the youth group at church.

Inge and Pete continue to lead Homebuilders which has five couples participating, in addition to themselves. Inge continues to battle health issues, but seems to be on an upswing.

Scottie Glasgow is continuing to enjoy her apartment and her neighbors and serves an awesome breakfast!! She is still at Dress Barn and is fantastic about coordinating outfits for those of us who are challenged in that area.

Gretchen Kessner continues to keep us on our toes with "faith" questions as does Carol, which stimulates lots of discussion.

Leonard and Jadean are our travelers having made trips to Hawaii and Virginia, and Jadean even made it to the Bahamas. Leonard is battling shingles but medication is helping. Jadean continues to battle health issues also related to her back, feet and legs.

Melody Wood is swamped at work with too much to do and too few people to help. Continue to pray for her as she seeks God's wisdom and direction.

Craig is coaching his swim team at school and they had their first win in the two years he has coached. YIPPEE!! He has had to rein in his competitive nature and now celebrates improvements in kids' techniques but a win is always nice. The big news for us is that Andy has moved to the big island of Hawaii and is working for a friend building an apartment on the friend's mother's home. He is in Kona, across the island from Tiff and Josh. We have prayed "whatever it takes" and see this as a good thing...and a great place for us to vacation.

## **Men's Team meeting and Ladies retreat . . . don't miss them!**

A week from Tuesday, Jan. 15th, the Men's Team will meet at the Wise's, at 7 p.m. for a time of fellowship. Join the men of the church and continue to build your friendships. No

reservations necessary.

Ladies Team will meet on Tuesday, January 22. Bring a covered dish, your Bible, and be ready to really get into the Word of God—and have a great time of fellowship. Fellowship and Food. Who could ask for more???

Ladies, also put a big star on the calendar for the Ladies Retreat at Janes Island, near Crisfield, on Feb. 8-9, Friday night and Saturday day. Cost is \$40 per person and volunteers are needed for the program and food/meals coordination. For more information, see Inge Frost.

## **Don't forget to visit, call or write**

There are several members of our church family who would love to have a visit from you, a phone call or a letter. It doesn't take long...and you would make a real difference in their lives. Here are three to start with:

Mildred Ware at the Wicomico Nursing Home, 900 Booth St., Salisbury, MD 21801. Phone: (410) 742-8896.

Frances Mischler, 1000 North Schumacher Dr., Salisbury, MD 21804. Phone: (410) 543-4390.

Doris Bebee, 6437 Mary Jane Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801. Phone: (410) 219-1162.

## **Free items . . . Just call**

If you would like two dining chairs, contact Pete and Inge Frost at (410) 860-2411. They no longer need the chairs and would like to give them to someone who would use the chairs.



*(Left) As part of the Christmas program, Carol, Rhonda and Sally have fun in a musical number. (Above) Gretchen, Ina, Linda and Estrella spoke about presenting the gift of our weakness to our King.*

## **Upcoming events;**

- Jan. 7 Mattson Team, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 9 Wise Team, 5765 Cairn Ct., Salisbury, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 10 Larson Team, 1306 Taney, Salisbury, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 15 Men's Team at the Wise's, 216 Mildale Dr., Salisbury, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 18 Homebuilders at the Frost's, 136 Nentego Dr., Fruitland, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 8 - 9 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 Jan. 27th**

This is your chance to tell you're the rest of the church about others in the church and yourself. E-mail info and photos to Ann Wiseman at [Bdenver234@comcast.net](mailto:Bdenver234@comcast.net) or by giving her the information at church. The deadline for the next newsletter is Jan. 27th.