

SONLIFE NEWS

SonLife Community Church

Change is Mine in 2009!

www.sonlifecc.org

March 2009

Report in church today . . .

More than 15 attend Ladies' Retreat

There will be reports in church this morning from women who went on the Ladies' Winter Retreat at Janes Island in Crisfield on Friday night and Saturday. Speaker for the retreat was Sharan Allen who gave a vivid visual talk about the "woman at the well" and her testimony. Sharan and her husband, John, pastored a church in the Wilmington before moving to Seaford.

Thinking of the Ladies Winter Retreat this weekend, Gilda Wise said, that so many song titles come to mind..."God is so good", "We Are So Blessed", "Praise Him, Praise Him" and others. Anticipating, planning, praying, preparing...it was ALL worth it!!! For everyone present, the Lord just "showed up"! What more can we say???

Under the SonLife theme, "What does God need to change in my life in order for me to grow?", she said that many experienced personal growth, honesty among our sisters, tears, worship, laughter, too much awesome food...and we have memories to last a lifetime!



It's lunch time yesterday at the Retreat in Crisfield with Sharan Allen (left), the speaker, and Gilda Wise, back to the camera.

40 Days of Fasting starts for church on Tuesday

Starting March 3rd, our church begins 40 days of prayer and fasting with everyone signing up for at least one day to pray and fast, according to Linda Larson who is coordinating it. In the prayer and fasting, we seek God's power in changing our lives and ask Him, "What do You want me to change, Lord?"

There are still days available if you haven't yet committed to pray. Calendars will be given out today with prayer concerns and a list of who has committed to pray on which day so we all can be praying for that person or people. We are anticipating that God will continue with His amazing transformation of us.

Don't forget that fasting isn't necessarily about food, but it's giving up whatever gets between us and time with God - our computers, TV, cell phone, shopping, and other areas. We hope you'll join us for this adventure in pursuing God wholeheartedly.

Youth group sponsoring spaghetti dinner to raise funds for Ocean City

Beginning March 27th, SonLife's Youth Group will be traveling to Ocean City to attend **IMPACT '09**, a weekend-long conference geared towards high school kids. And to help make it all possible, our Youth Group is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, March 20th, with take-outs from 5 to 6 p.m. and in-church dining from 6 to 8 p.m. Get your ticket today from any member of our Youth Group

The Ocean City conference is organized by the Metro Maryland Youth for Christ. MMYFC is a chapter of the national Youth for Christ organization. Formed in 1944, with Billy Graham as its first full-time staff member, YFC has over 2,000 middle – high school ministries. Their stated mission is to "...raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness



SonLife's dance team made its initial appearance last Sunday with a presentation choreographed by Sally Choquette.

A note from Pastor Marshall . . .

If you would like to be **baptized** on Easter Sunday, please let Pastor Marshall know. If you have renewed your commitment to Christ during this year, **now** is the time to "go the next step" in your spiritual journey!

Don't delay...He is coming soon!!!

in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement..."

One way to accomplish this is through IMPACT, an annual event, hosting over 200 churches each year. The conference features multiple speakers; provide adult and student training sessions as well as entertainment. This year's conference will feature worship band *Daniel's Window* and a Saturday night concert with national recording band *Skillet*.

Of course there is a cost to attend the conference. Last year we commuted back and forth daily and found it to be a bit challenging and tiring on all of us. This year we are making arrangements to stay in the area for two nights. The church once again is paying the registration fee for all SonLife youth and adult leaders.



Daughter and Mother study together during the Ladies' Retreat in Crisfield with Carol Franz (left) and Scottie Glasgow.

However, it is important that the youth contribute towards this event will be using the Spaghetti Dinner to do so. Pre-sales are strongly recommended.

In the back of the church is a list of items that the youth will need to purchase for this event. If anyone feels led to donate any of these items it would be greatly appreciated.

SHINE program starts with 5 great participants in first class

The SHINE program (Staying Healthy in Nutrition and Exercise) is off to a great start with two weeks (six sessions) already finished for the five initial students.

Program Director Estrella Knutson, says "thank you to everyone who helped to get us to this point. There was the painting, cleaning, unpacking equipment, registration, designing and handing out brochures...the list could go on."

"The participants," said Estrella, "are committed and wonderfully diverse. They range in age from 8 to 13 years old. The sessions begin with prayer and a praise dance lead by Sally Choquette.

The program then moves into the circuit room for some challenging muscle training and aerobic work. The equipment is built in such a way that Sally and Estrella both go through the circuit with the students. (Yes, they get as much of a workout as they do). The sessions end with a short "huddle" time and prayer. Everyone leaves tired, sweaty, and red-faced, but smiling. It is so neat to see the Lord at work.

Support has been wonderful. In the words of one of the participants, "Is it time to praise the Lord yet?"

DON'T FORGET!!!

Daylight savings time begins next Saturday night...March 7th. Mark your calendars so you will remember to ***spring ahead***.

Estrella quickly responded and said, "Yes it is, it is definitely time to praise the Lord".

Please continue to pray for the kids to see progress. Pray that God provides open doors with the parents and extended families. Pray that more children will be impacted. Finally, pray that we can also set the example in body, mind and spirit.

Recruiting is still open yet for current session times and for the new session that starts at the end of the current session in May.

Easter dinner theatre, Power of the Cross, set for April 5th

The Power of the Cross is the title of our Easter drama written completely by two of the youths, Michelle Digby and Sarah Struve — such talent—with coaching by Rhonda and Sally. Michelle and Sarah are high school students.

Rehearsals have begun and the whirlwind begins as we prepare for Palm Sunday, April 5th, at 6 pm.

We will be hosting a Dinner Theatre with Maria Waller again playing the "hostess with the mostess". Free Tickets will be available soon for you to invite your friends and family.



The TeamBuilders Valentine Day Party for church couples was held at the Wisemans. on Feb. 20. (Left) Enjoying the evening are (from left) Pete and Inge Frost, Donna and Bill Digby, Don and Christina Mattson, and Glenn Knutson. (Lower left) Pete shows a photo from their life as a couple while Inge laughs at his story. (Below) Traci shares a story from her and Eric's life as a couple while Estrella Knutson, Gilda and Marshall Wise, and Jim Thomas listen.





Team meetings now include joint meeting every first Wednesday

Join us this Wednesday, March 4, for the March Joint Team Meeting at the church from 7 to 9 p.m. The Larson Team is in charge of the food and the message and the Wise Team is taking care of the games. Everyone is welcome whether you are presently on a team or not.

Wise Team

We've been enjoying increased numbers and fun as we study Exodus together. This week we had 15 in attendance; praise GOD! It is awesome to see our living room so full of people who want to learn and fellowship. Be Encouraged! There is always room for 1 more... or 2..or whatever! "Whosoever will may come"!

Larson Team

The Larson team had a rowdy time last week - only got through one plague, the darkness, but had a debate on abortion and the death penalty. The study on Exodus has been good and continues to remind us how much like the Israelites we are, amazed at what God has done for us and then shortly after, whining and complaining!!



Fun at the Joint Team Meetings! (Top) Ina Seaton, Estrella Knutson, Jeani Warren, Walt Warne, Ann Wiseman and Linda Larson have a good laugh trying to guess what the drawing is about. (Below) Walt Warren considers how to draw his object with Lisa Townsend and Lee Still in the background.

Ladies' Team has a lot on their plate...Easter eggs, spring flowers

It is with gratitude that we report this month! God has been working among us and we are *grateful*... we have seen an increased attendance at our monthly meetings, more participation in our activities and renewed enthusiasm for the One we love. What more could we ask for???

To continue to fund our projects, we will again be making chocolate-covered Easter eggs at a reasonable fee of \$3 each. Order sheets are available on the back table in church and we encourage you to "get busy taking orders." The more, the merrier, as they say.

Our preparations will be made on Monday, March 30th and Tuesday, March 31st. The Larson Home will be our "bakery". Just doing a project together is fun for us, so come and join the fun!!!

Looking ahead to May, we plan on selling spring flowers, such as hanging plants, flats, etc. More info to come in next newsletter; we encourage you to plan on assisting us by purchasing from us!!!

Men's Team to 'spruce up' the church on March 10th

The next team meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th, 6 p.m. and they will meet at the church. Please come prepared to work outside raking and preparing the grounds for spring. A wheelbarrow or tarp will be needed for transporting the leaves and branches and a saw for trimming or cutting trees. Dinner will be served when it gets dark...SURPRISE!!!

Missionary news . . .

Josh and Tiffany Mitchell, visiting from Hawaii, will be leading worship on March 15th. We are excited to have them home with the family for pastor's birthday and they are looking forward to seeing all of you as well.

ON-GOING EVENTS

Sundays

- 10 a.m. Worship Service (with nursery provided)
- 6 p.m. Prayer at church

Mondays

- 7 p.m. Mattson-Still Team (410-742-0675)

Tuesdays

- 6:30 p.m. Shepherds 1st Tuesday of each month
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Team 2nd Tuesday of each month
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Team 4th Tuesday of each month with potluck meal

Wednesdays

- 7 p.m. Wise Team (410-548-5688)

Thursdays

- 7 p.m. Larson Team (410-742-5134)

Fridays

- 9:30 a.m. Ladies' Prayer Team at church
- 7 p.m. Homebuilders at Frosts (410) 860-2411 once monthly

SPECIAL EVENTS

- March 3 Start of 40-day Fast
- March 4 Joint Team Meeting at church, 7 to 9 p.m.
- March 8 Church Chat after Sunday Services
- March 10 Men's Team meets at church for outside clean-up, 6:30 p.m.

- March 15 Josh and Tiffany Mitchell will lead worship
- March 20 Spaghetti Dinner by Youth Group
- March 27-29 Youth group to **Impact '09** in Ocean City
- April 5 Dinner Theatre, **Power of the Cross**, 6 p.m. at church
- April 12 Easter Sunday with Missionaries to the Ukraine Jim and Marianna Peipon, from Salisbury

Birthdays

- March 5 Cameron Merryweather
- March 13 Lisa Townsend
- March 15 Donna Digby
Marshall Wise
- March 17 Chris Shawen
- March 20 Jeani Warren
- March 26 Carol Franz
Jan Wiseman



Anniversaries

- March 7 Tom and Rose Merryweather

If you want to send cards, the addresses are in the latest SonLife directory.