

# Branches

A monthly publication of the  
Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church

Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches."

February 2012

## From Slave to Child

In February, we are embarking together on a "Soul Shift" journey. The Scripture tells us that "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come" (II Corinthians 5:17). In Christ, we have been made new, but often we don't feel very new. Often, we struggle with the same habits and attitudes that we've had for years. So, how do we move beyond them to really experience this newness of life? In Soul Shift, we will look together at seven key transformational shifts that God's Spirit wants to work in our hearts. These shifts spring, not from a sense of duty or obligation, but rather they spring from a life-transforming relationship with God through Christ.

Spiritual growth is based on our relationship with Christ. When we have a vibrant, deep connection with God through Christ, His Spirit helps us live in the newness of life that He promised us in Scripture. Because it is based on relationship, one of the key shifts that we will be exploring is the shift from slave to child. In this shift, we begin to understand that, because of Christ, we can be truly received by the Father as His child, loved and cherished by Him. We are not His servant, or His slave, required to earn His provision, His love, or His blessing. When we relate to Him as a child, we find freedom to love, to give, to be ourselves. When we relate to Him as a child, we long to imitate Him, and to work alongside Him in His Kingdom work, because we love Him, not because we feel we must.

As I thought about this shift from slave to child, I thought about some differences between how a child relates to a Father compared to a servant or a slave. For example:

- A child has freedom to come to the Father at any time (Hebrews 4:16)
- A child knows the Father in an intimate way – lives with the Father, interacts with the Father daily, knows the heart and mind of the Father (I John 4:13)
- A child is provided for and protected by the Father and shares in the inheritance of the Father (I Peter 1:3-5)
- A child is loved by the Father in a way a servant is not (Romans 5:8)
- A child is taught by the Father to become like Him – He is groomed by the Father, to share in the responsibility of the Father (II Peter 1:3)

As we begin this journey together, my prayer is that His Spirit will help us truly grasp our identity in Christ.

*(continued on next page)*

### *Look for . . . .*

Page 2	CLAM 2012 Youth Valentine's Banquet IGNITE
Page 3	Soul Shift Classes & Locations Dynamic Duos Valentine's Banquet
Page 4	Prayer Gathering Clothing Closet Connection's Dinner Rounding the Bases Seminars
Page 5	February Calendar

*(continued from first page)*

David Drury, co-author of Soul Shift, says it like this: “GOD CAN DO ANYTHING IN YOU SPIRITUALLY. GOD IS LIMITLESS, BUT YOU LIMIT WHAT HE DOES WHEN YOU ACT AS ONLY HIS SLAVE.” (p. 54). My prayer is that together we will live as His dearly love children and allow His limitless power set us free to live in His joy, peace, hope, love, and newness of life.

With love-

*Paster Lynda*



**DEAL or NO DEAL**

Reaching beyond our church walls...

March 3, 2012

**CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRY CONFERENCE PRESENTS ADULT, YOUTH, KIDS, AND PRESCHOOL CLAM. IT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 3 BUT THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17.**

**REGISTRATION AND SIGN UP IS LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE WELCOME CENTER. SEE REGISTRATION COSTS BELOW:**

**ADULTS: \$25—FATIH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

**YOUTH: \$25—BETHANY WESLEYAN CHURCH**

**KIDS: \$20—TRINITY WESLEYAN CHURCH**

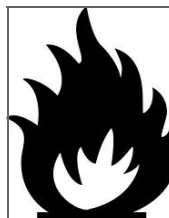
**PRE-SCHOOL: \$15—FAITH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

### **Youth “Valen-Stanquet” Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7:00 PM**

Jr. and Sr. High youth are invited to attend this celebration of Jesus’ love for us.

**Valentine’s Day+Stag+Banquet=  
“Valen-Stanquet”**

**There is no pressure to bring a date and dress up or come in casual attire.**



### **IGNITE: A Forum for Ministry Leaders**

All Ministry Leaders are invited to join us for the next IGNITE meeting on Saturday, February 18 at 7:00 PM in Uptown. If you cannot attend, please let one of the pastors know by February 14.

# SOULSHIFT

the measure of

a life transformed

**Kicks off February 4/5 weekend**

**Join us as we explore Soul Shift. The following small groups are available and begin on Monday, February 6, 2012.**

**Mon.—9:00-10:30 AM** at the church. Childcare available.

**Mon.—7:00-9:30 PM** at Carol & Sonia Tirella's home (708 Rosemond Ave, Stroudsburg, 570-856-8765)

**Tues.—7:00-8:30 PM** at the church

**Tues.—7:00-8:30 PM** at Charlie & Alice Fredholm's home (6 Blushingwood Grove in Blue Mountain Lake, 570-421-7322)

**Wed.—5:00-6:30 PM** at the church

**Wed.—6:45-8:15 PM** at the church

**Thurs.—9:30-11:30 AM**—Ladies Study at Nichole Pershyn's home (91 Fernwood Dr. in Penn Estates, E. Stroudsburg, 570-856-0033)

**Thurs.—7:00-8:30 PM** at Kurt & Joan Ehrenfeuchter's home (810 Scott St. Stroudsburg, 570-424-2606)

**Sat.—4:15-5:45 PM** at the church. Childcare available.

**Sat.—7:00-8:30 PM** at the church. Childcare available.

**Sun.—9:00-10:30 AM** at the church

**Sun.—1:30-3:00 PM** at Jim & Antoinette's home (15 Melvin Ln, E. Stroudsburg, 570-420-9778)

**Sun.—6:00-7:30 PM** at the church

**Sun.—6:00-7:30 PM** at Herb & Dawn Lantz's home (7120 Miller Rd, Canadensis, 757-817-4226)

**Sun.—7:00-8:30 PM** at Emily Nazimek's home (910 Wallace St, Stroudsburg, 570-421-0750)

## *Dynamic Duos Valentine's Banquet*



Dynamic Duos is hosting our annual Valentine's Day Banquet on February 17 at 6:30 at the Stroudsmoor Country Inn and we want you to be there! Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, games and encouragement. The cost for the evening is \$50 per couple. Couples can sign up at the Welcome Center and payment must be made by Sunday February 12 to attend the banquet. (Payment can be placed in the offering basket and labeled Valentine's banquet or given directly to one of the pastoral staff.) Please contact Keith or Lanee Kmiecak via email at [ljkmiecak@yahoo.com](mailto:ljkmiecak@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. If cost is an issue, please let us know. We are looking to sponsor couples who have a financial need. If you are interested in helping to sponsor a couple, or are in need of financial assistance, please contact one of the pastors or Keith or Lanee Kmiecak. Take the time to invest in your relationship and join us at the Stroudsmoor Country Inn for an evening of celebrating love!

## Prayer Gathering

Friday, Feb. 3—7:00 PM

Continues  
monthly  
every first  
Friday

All are  
welcome!



## Clothing Closet



New this month, the Clothing Closet will be open to the public every Monday and Tuesday from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (weather permitting) in the Annex on the bottom level. Please tell anyone who is in need of clothing (men, women, children, babies) to come and see what we have. If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please contact Marie Smith at 570-801-3154. We look forward to helping those in a season of need.

## CONNECTION'S DINNER



If you have been attending SWC for a year or less or have not attended a Connection's Dinner we want to invite you as our

guests to a Connections Dinner on Saturday, February 4, at 7:00 PM in Uptown. You will get a chance to meet with the pastoral and administrative staff of SWC and CLC. There will be food, games and great fellowship in a larger setting. If you would like to RSVP for this, please call Felicia Brown, the Office Manager in the church office at 570-421-07050


SWC offers core seminars that are designed to help all adults and teens develop a deeper relationship with Christ and discover how God has wired us to make a positive difference in the world. These seminars are taught by members of the staff and are interactive, as opposed to straight lecture. Lunch will be provided, along with free childcare for those requesting it. You need to start with *Seminar 101: Believing* and work your way around the bases. To register for our next seminars, please submit the white Communication Card in the offering basket with your name, the seminar you're taking, and if you need childcare.



**Sunday, March 18 from 12:30-3:00 PM**

- *Seminar 101: Believing*
- *Seminar 201: Belonging*
- *Seminar 301: Becoming*
- *Seminar 401: Being*

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 MUMs- 9:00-11:00 AM  First Wednesday Dinner-5:30 PM	2	3 Helping Hands Food Pantry- 5:00-6:00 PM	4 Prayer Shawl Ministry-10:00 AM Connection's Dinner-7:00 PM * Karen DeMatteo * Brian Deihl * Adam Devenezia * Reuden Lantz * Bonnie Walborn * Timothy Warner
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> Worship—9:00 & 11:00 AM  Small Groups 9:00 AM  Coffee Time—10:15 AM Sr. High Youth Group 6:45-8:15 PM		<b>Wednesday Evening</b> AWANA & Jr. High Group 6:45-8:15 PM Small Groups 6:45-8:15 PM <b>Thursday Evening</b> Celebrate Recovery 6:30 PM				
5 Nursing Home Ministry-2:30 PM * Elijah Kerprich * Kevin Werner	6 * Jennifer Coquet * Tracy Martin * Dylan Payne	7	8 * Jason Blaney * Micah Pepitone * Leeanna Relethford	9 * Jason Schuster	10 * Fernando Crespo * John Gizzo * Thomas Hwang * Dylan Pinder	11 Youth Valentine's "Stanquet"- 7:00 PM * Brenda Bogart
12 * Vincent D'Auria	13 * Madalyn D'Auria * Dawn Gizzo * Madalyn Valez	14  Valentine's Day Senior's Luncheon -12:30 PM LBA Meeting- 6:30 PM * Brittany Bishamber	15 MUMs- 9:00-11:00 AM ** Nathan & Jennifer Fluck	16 * John Black	17 Helping Hands Food Pantry- 5:00-6:00 PM Dynamic Duos Valentine's Banquet-6:30 PM * Felicia Brown * Kiera Lantz * Elizabeth Lee * Cheryl Peritz	18 CR Leaders Meeting-3:30 PM IGNITE-7:00 PM ** Jason & Felicia Brown ** Greg & Nichole Persbyn
19 * Rich Bloom	20 * Christina Kim * Lois Rivera * Sarah Sallo	21 * Shannon Pepitone	22 ** Jim & Doris Abrams	23 * Angela Bond * Rene Long * Hope Sparkes	24 * Andrew Mich- niewicz	25 * Aidan Millard * Richard Roth
26 * RJ Simonini	27 * Isabel Carrozza * Ramasses Holt	28 * Andrew Drake Jr * Marie Smith	29 MUMs- 9:00-11:00 AM ** Rich & Joyce Franke			

## Stroudsburg Wesleyan's

### *Vision Statement*

To become a prayerful, diverse, and community-involved church family whose passionate purpose is to help seekers become servants of Christ.

### *Our Purposes*

To fulfill the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment by:

- **Going** out to seekers in the Community
- **Gathering** believers into Christ
- **Growing** followers through the Church
- **Grooming** servants for the Commission

### BRANCHES

Published monthly by:

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915 N. Fifth Street  
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(570) 421-0750

[www.stroudsburgwesleyan.org](http://www.stroudsburgwesleyan.org)

Lead Pastors: Dana Antal & Lynda Keefer  
Assistant Pastor: Debbie Bond  
Youth Pastors: Joe & Shasta Gross  
Children's Director: Emily Nazimek  
Ministry Assistant: Angeliqne Labadie

Creative Learning Center  
420-0706

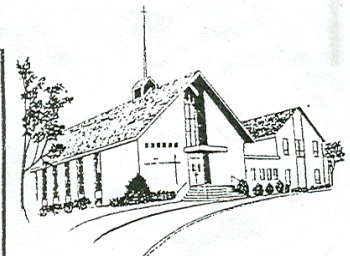
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915 FIFTH STREET  
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360

Or Current Resident



## Stroudsburg

## Wesleyan Church

(570) 421-0750

### Saturday Evening Worship

6:00 PM

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Morning Worship  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Small Groups for Adults  
9:00 AM

Coffee Time  
10:15-10:45 AM

Sr. & Jr. High Youth Group  
6:45 PM

### Wednesday Night

AWANA for Kids  
6:45 PM

Sr. & Jr. High Youth Group  
6:45 PM

Small Groups for Adults  
6:45 PM