

Branches

A monthly publication of the
Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church

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

January 2012

Soul Shift-Life Change

Whew, another year gone by! Where does the time go? We had an amazing Christmas season. Thank you to all on the creative and worship teams for your time and effort. We had remarks like "WOW BEST SERVICE EVER" to "I FELT I WAS IN HEAVEN!" Now that's powerful! The song by Frank Sinatra keeps ringing in my ear as I reflect on 2011. "It was a very good year." I know with the state of affairs in our country and the world this doesn't seem like an appropriate song. Some of us have been through a lot this year-sickness, death, foreclosure, divorce, so it doesn't seem like a very good year. My heart goes out to all of you who have had a rough year. We pray for you and will continue to do so here at the Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church.

Looking forward to the Hope we have in Him is the answer to the tough times we've had in the past. Perspective is the key to having "a very good year" every year. I can promise you a very good year for 2012 if you will agree with God. You see, a good year should be determined not by my external circumstances but by my relationship with Christ. That is why Christians around the world who have lost everything for their faith can stand up and rejoice in our Lord. Let us stop measuring if it was a good year based on things we cannot change but on how much God has changed us.

ARE YOU CLOSER TO JESUS THIS YEAR THAN LAST YEAR? This is the only question that really matters. And the next question is, "Do you want to be closer with Him next year than you are right now?" This is the most important question to ask while reflecting on last year and planning for this year. I know other things are important like how much weight will I lose this year or can I finally stop smoking or maybe I desire a better relationship with my spouse and family. All good things, but not the best thing. Or maybe it's where will I work this year, what is God's plan and purpose in my life for 2012? Let me answer that question for you. God's ultimate plan for your life is.....**THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM WILL GROW DEEPER AND DEEPER IN HIS LOVE.** Yeah that simple. His plan and purpose has always been the same for you, that you would receive His love in the fullness of Christ while being a part of His family.

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We want to help you at Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church this year to fulfill God's plan in your life by creating opportunities for God to shift your soul and change your life. Starting in February we will begin an 8-week all church study on Soul Shift, a book written by Steve DeNeff and Keith Drury. This book is guaranteed to change your perspective and start you off on the right foot this year. In addition to this we will start the "The MOVEMENT." I know some of you are saying what is this? We want to give everyone the opportunity to share life with each other, if you so desire. So along with Soul Shift which will meet once a week in small groups, we will have groups of 2-3 people (same sex) meeting on every other week for the purpose of building trust, using prayer, encouragement-affirmation-accountability and confession. We are praying that God will use this time during Soul Shift and the small group meetings to truly change us by shifting our souls and aligning us with His love. We will receive the fullness of his love when we are willing to step out of our comfort zones and do something different. This will require an eight hour commitment every month, plus some reading and writing.

ALLOW GOD TO LOVE YOU AND CHANGE YOU AND HE WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

In His Name,
Pastor Dana

1st Wednesday Dinner

You're invited to join us for a meal on Wednesday, January 4, 5:30-6:45 PM. The cost is \$3/adults and \$2/kids 10 years old and under. Bring the whole family and enjoy connecting with familiar friends and meeting new ones. All are welcome!

Prayer Gathering

Friday, Jan. 6—7:00 PM

Continues
monthly
every first
Friday



All are
welcome!

Senior's Luncheon

The next fellowship luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 10 at 12:30 PM. Please come and enjoy a great meal and warm, friendly fellowship.

MUMS

Join with moms of all ages for our first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, January 4 from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Youth Annex. Childcare is provided.

Baptism Blast

One of the most significant steps a person can take in their relationship with Christ is into the waters of Baptism! Through Baptism we publically profess to the world, "I belong to Jesus and he belongs to me." If you would like to be baptized on the weekend of **January 21/22**, please contact Felicia in the church office at 570-421-0750.



There will be a *Baptism Instruction Class* held on **Sunday, January 15 at 10:10 AM** with Pastor Dana in the board room on the 2nd floor.

Dinner with the Pastors



In 2012, we will kick off a gathering for you to get to know the pastors. This gathering will be held every other month beginning in January. There will be games, food, fun and a Q and A period. Everyone will have the opportunity to eat with the pastors. Our first gathering will be held on **Saturday,**

January 21 from 7:00-8:30 PM. Space is limited so please RSVP to the church office at 570-421-0750.



Soul Shift is a clear and measurable way of defining the target for spiritual transformation. It differs from most discipleship programs in that it is not a program—it is a way of life. Join us as we kick off Soul Shift as a church. Everyone is invited to join a Small Group so please stay tuned for more information on this.

God has more for you than what you're experiencing!

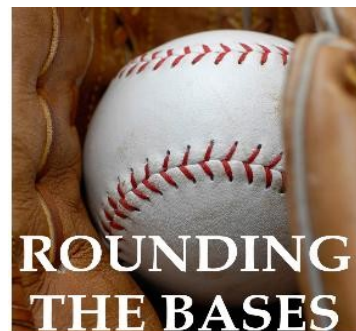
Family Promise

SWC will be hosting families for Family Promise **January 1-7, 2012**. If you would like to participate and volunteer for this ministry, please sign-up on the bulletin board on the ramp or contact Roxann Kemmerer at 570-872-6540.

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 one of the following 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, January 15 from 12:30-3:00 PM

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



January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Nursing Home Ministry-2:30 PM * Sandra Black * Rebekah Diehl	2	3 * Robert Michniewicz * Nicholas Rosato	4 MUMs-9:00-11:00 AM First Wednesday Dinner-5:30 PM	5 * Heather Gentry * Ana Henriquez	6 Helping Hands Food Pantry-5:00 PM Prayer Gathering-7:00 PM * Robert Longo * Don Stine	7 * Alyssa Acosta * Wesley Hwang * Natalie Swartley
Family Promise Hosting Week						
8	9 * Adele Baker * Wayne Carson * Amanda Henriquez	10 Senior's Luncheon-12:30 PM LBA Meeting-6:30 PM * Ralph DeConti * Rebecca Porter * Rebecca Ridner * Wayne Staples	11 * Engelina Dusovic * Freedom Peritz * Adam Reish * Sean Walborn	12 * Korynne Brink * Bella Cuevas * Amanda De Matteo * Clayton Kauffman * Tiernan Millard * Brenda Moore * Stephen Rau * David Relethford	13	14 Reception of New Members
15 Reception of New Members Baptism Instruction Class-10:10 AM * Rebecca Campbell * Dominic Macrini * Ariel Reiff * Brandon Robinson	16 * Abigail DiGirolamo * Julian Fuentes * Roxanne Rogers	17 * Gary Hufsmith	18 MUMs-9:00-11:00 AM * Angelique Labadie * Steven Michniewicz * Philip Ruggiero	19 * Lucas Antal * CJ Broschart * Jim Heitmann	20 Helping Hands Food Pantry-5:00 PM * Doris Abrams * Donna McCann * Jennifer Payne	21 Baptism Blast CR Leaders Meeting-3:30 PM Dinner with the Pastors-7:00 PM * Rich Walborn
22 Baptism Blast	23 * Jeff Fernley * Chelsea Martin	24 * Paige Elder * Carl Tirella Jr.	25 * Stephen Blum	26 * Mary Ann Broschart * Glendon Carper * Mark Van Why * Natalie Vasquez	27 * Teresa Bond * Chris Brown Pastor/Spouse Retreat	28
29	30 * Michael Antal * Keith Kmieczak * Bryce Robinson	31 * Agnes Diehl * Bill Frankenfield, Jr. * Brianna Robinson * Joshua Rodriguez	Sunday Schedule Worship—9:00 & 11:00 AM Adult Growth Groups 9:00 & 10:00 AM Coffee Time—10:15 AM Sr. & Jr. High Youth Group 6:45—8:15 PM		Wednesday Evening AWANA & Sr. & Jr. High Youth Group 6:45-8:15 PM Adult Growth Groups 6:45-8:00 PM Thursday Evening Celebrate Recovery 6:30 PM	
						Saturday Service 6:00 PM

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

Creative Learning Center
420-0706

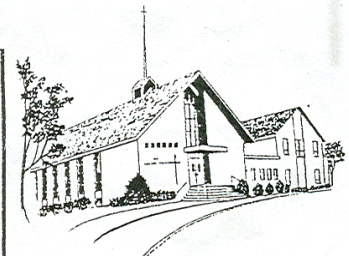
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Or Current Resident



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 & 11:00 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