

The CSCC CONNECTION

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Chester Springs Community Church

"Helping people find their worth and purpose through Jesus Christ"

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NEW BEGINNINGS

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Happy New Year, Everyone! The year 2007 has come and gone. 2008 has ushered in a brand new year. With the dawn of each new year comes the concept of a fresh start, a new beginning. A prevalent saying is "Out with the old and in with the new." Many people make New Year's resolutions which may or may not be kept nor fulfilled.

From the world's perspective, many TV news programs recently reflected on famous personalities and reviewed the prominent newsworthy events that transpired during the past year.

From the Christian's perspective, the most important new beginning that can take place in a person's life is being born again into the family of God. The ultimate fresh start is found in the process of acknowledging that we are sinners, believing in Him, and committing our lives totally to our Lord and Savior. "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come." (2 Corinthians 5:17 NAS) A brand new beginning doesn't get any better than that.

Transition or change is an inevitable part of life. As we usher in a new year, let's reflect on some of the changes and transitions that Chester Springs Community Church has experienced in recent months.

The most obvious and substantial change for CSCC during the late summer months and into the fall was the pastoral transition. Pastor Brent Galbreath felt led to pastor another church. We were saddened by this development. However, the CSCC family wishes the Galbreath Family God's richest blessings in their new ministry.

Fortunately for CSCC, the pastoral search process wasn't a lengthy one. By October 2007, Pastor John Willis was offered and accepted the Senior Pastorate of CSCC. We look forward to a bright new year filled with the promises of God.

*"Therefore if any man is in
Christ, he is a new creature;
the old things passed away;
behold new things have
come."*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NAS)

Sing to the Lord

Beginning January 2008 Janine Gonyea assumed a new Chester Springs Community Church role as Worship Arts Director. Previously she served as CSCC's Children's Ministry Leader for two years overseeing Children's Church and the children's Sunday School program. In addition to her expertise in the children's ministry area she has experience in music and drama, and has a wonderful heart for ministry.

Worship Arts ministry includes: singing, instrumental, dramatic presentations, and sound and PowerPoint. In addition to Worship Team ministry, vocal and instrumental arts may include special solos or ensemble arrangements. If you are interested in being part of the Worship Team or any other area of worship arts ministry, please contact Janine at janineandgeorge@yahoo.com.

In recent months, the development of the CSCC Worship Team has been a priority. As additional members have joined, individuals are scheduled from 1-4 times per month. Current Worship Team members include:

Craig Adams, sound & PowerPoint
 Melissa Boarman, vocalist
 Dom Degilio, acoustic guitar, electric guitar
 Melanie DosSantos, worship leader
 Will Fournier, bass guitar
 Denege Gonyea, keyboard, vocalist
 George Gonyea, sound & PowerPoint
 Kristi Harrison, vocalist
 Tim Heist, acoustic guitar
 Jenna Jurgielewicz, keyboard
 Lee Willis, vocalist
 Neil Willis, drums, sound & PowerPoint
 Kyle Young, drums

Vocal, instrumental, and drama – We look forward to the development of all these ministry areas during the coming year.

So let's join with the CSCC worship team in singing praises to our Lord. Let us "...sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised!" Psalm 96:104 (NKJ)

"Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised!"

Psalm 96:1-4 (NKJ)

Meditation of the Month January 2008

*"The Lord is my Shepherd,
I have everything I need."*

Psalm 23:1 (NCV)

"I am loving it, and am ably supported by the core group of men that are there each Friday morning."

Wild At Heart

Leadership of the Men's Ministries went through a transition during Fall 2007. As a newer member of CSCC, Craig Adams wanted more fellowship and an opportunity to get more involved. Pastor John Willis invited him to attend the Men's Ministries group that meets early on Friday mornings. During the *Wild at Heart* series, Craig facilitated the group on several occasions during Pastor John's absence. When it became necessary for Pastor John to relinquish this responsibility, the Men's Ministries group requested that Craig assume the leadership role. He says, "I am loving it, and am ably supported by the core group of men that are there each Friday morning."

In review of their recent studies, John Eldredge's ministry describes *Wild at Heart* as follows: "*Wild at Heart* had been stirring in John [Eldredge] for many, many years before it was written. There is something fierce, passionate, and wild in the heart of every man. That is how he bears the image of God. And the reason most men 'live lives of quiet desperation' (Thoreau) is because men have been told that the reason God put them on earth is to be a good boy, to be nice. But every man longs for a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue."

Craig adds, "It is my personal belief that Eldredge's perspective has great merit. The Men's Ministries group enjoyed a number of personal challenges that the series presented with regard to growing our relationships with our spouse, our children, and each other."



"Since completing *Wild at Heart*, we completed a series called *Every Leader's Fear: The Shadow Mission* by John Ortberg. Our current series is *Be Still and Know That I Am God*. This one instructs us to be ever mindful to stop the weapons of mass distraction in our daily lives and just hear God's voice and know His will. Soon we'll begin a multipart program by Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*. Stay tuned!"

Captivating

"The Women's Ministry continued to grow and learn this fall with the study of *Captivating* by John and Stasi Eldredge. Six to nine women were in regular attendance for the ten-week series that concluded on December 3, 2007. We enjoyed growing closer to the Lord and to each other as we watched videos, shared our own stories, encouraged one another through tears and laughter. Sharing prayer requests and seeing answers to those prayers helped our faith and strengthened our relationships. This study was all about the "heart," which spurred us on to share our own hearts more fully with the Lord and with each other." (Lee Willis) [*Captivating* continued on page 4]

*“Arise my darling,
my beautiful one,
and come with me.”*

Song of Solomon 2:10



Each woman found something unique that related to her heart and to her life story. “This series was an intriguing journey of exploring the feminine heart. Women are created in the image of God, bearing His likeness through intimacy, passion, romance, adventure, and unveiling beauty. For me the study culminated with a reminder that He is the only one that can satisfy the longing in our heart and soul. We can’t expect any person to fulfill our every need or whim. We should love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Delight ourselves in Him as he longs to delight in us. Accept ourselves as God sees us. And to treat others as we long to be treated.” (anonymous)

Women’s Ministries Director Lee Willis shares a brief summary about the next series. “Our next study, beginning January 14th, is *Choosing Victory/Overcoming Defeat*, by Kay Arthur. It is a study based on the books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth. I don’t know if it sounds exciting to you, but I love these books. The books contain so much richness. The stories of the judges are underappreciated by many people. Some wonderful stories are found in these books. Deborah is just one of them. Together we will grow closer to God as we study His Word, fellowship together, and pray for one another. Come, let’s learn together.”

* * *

Both the *Wild at Heart* series and the *Captivating* series were authored by John & Stasi Eldredge. To learn more about John & Stasi’s ministry, visit www.ransomedheart.com.

From Going Underground to Emerge

Emerge [i-murj] 1: To come forth into view

Going Underground is now **Emerge**. The youth group at CSCC officially changed its name to Emerge. The purpose of this transition is to encourage both students and the youth ministry to share what they learn with the people they encounter.

December 2007 events for **Emerge** included: Attending Missions night on December 12th, decorating the Youth Room for Christmas, and enjoying a youth Christmas party on December 19th.

Some exciting youth events are coming up in early 2008. The Penn-Del Winter Retreat in Carlisle, PA, and the annual Fine Arts Festival are a couple of the significant Assemblies of God youth events. Please check out the youth web page to stay in touch with upcoming youth ministry events and registration deadlines.

Contact Youth Ministry Director Tim Heist at ttheist@vfcc.edu to obtain a copy of the youth group’s newsletter.

“Helping people find their worth and purpose through Jesus Christ”

Go Into All the World

Since the very early years of Chester Springs Community Church, missions has always been an integral priority. CSCC currently supports a number of missionaries on a monthly basis. When scheduling permits, these CSCC-supported missionaries or other missionaries are invited to speak during the Wednesday night prayer service or during the Sunday morning service.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." If you are not called to serve in foreign missions, please support/send someone in your place.

Please check out our website to read more about the missionaries that CSCC is associated with.

One of the most important things you can do is to keep them in your prayers.

David & Rosemarie DiTrolio

Phil Eyster

Dave & Cheryl Greco

Jeff & Liz Hartensveld

Duane & Carolyn Henders

Jerry & Paula Ireland

Peggy Lamb

Melissa McSurdy

Tony & Jamie Sebastian

Richard & Rosilyn Smith

Bob Snyder

Jeff & Rebecca Wiles

Christmas 2007 at CSCC

Chester Springs Community Church experienced no shortage of events and ministries to be involved in during the 2007 Christmas season.

SEASONAL DECORATIONS

A special heart-felt **Thank You** goes to Fiora Clark, Lori Hudson and Virginia Tolson for arranging the seasonal Christmas decorations we admired in the sanctuary, the foyer and the fire place room.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

During the month of December donations were collected in support of our military troops. A suggested list of personal items (including sunglasses, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.), food, magazines, and specialty items was provided by Deneje Gonyea. Each week additional bags of supplies were left by the tree in the foyer.

In addition to serving as CSCC secretary, Deneje is currently a junior at VFCC majoring in Business Administration with a focus in management. She says, "It's going well, but is keeping me extremely busy!" When asked what her inspiration was for promoting "Support Our Troops," she credited that the drive was run by a gentleman from the community named Bryan Caldwell who is the father of a soldier who was killed.

GIVING TREE

In the foyer a Christmas tree was decorated with "ornaments" designating a particular gift to purchase for a child. Volunteers selected the ornament(s) for the gift(s) they intended to purchase. Prior to Christmas the presents were collected and taken to Richard Smith's church, Faith Assembly of God, in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for distribution to some very needy children.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 16th the children began the Christmas program with a song accompanied with sign language. Then Cammi Willis and Sierra DosSantos took turns reading about the ABC's of Christmas. As the Christmas reason for each letter was being read, an ornament standing for the object of the reason behind it was hung on a Christmas tree by one of the following children: David Deiteman, Justin DosSantos, Emma Pizzi, Sophia Pizzi, Hawk Robinson, Diamond Willis, and Kezib Willis. The congregation was asked to join in singing several Christmas hymns during pauses in the narration. From "A is for Angel" to "Z is for Zzzzz," God's message of Christmas and love is as simple as the ABC's.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

For the second year in a row, in lieu of a traditional Sunday morning Christmas service on December 23rd, tables and chairs were set up in the sanctuary for a Christmas brunch. Attendees enjoyed a casual morning of fellowship, a brief Christmas devotional, and shared an array of holiday, breakfast, and dessert dishes.

*"I love the lighting of
the candles and
watching the
children's awed
faces."*

Welcome to the first issue
of
The CSCC Connection.

Please share this with a friend!

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

When asked what she enjoyed most about the Christmas Eve Service, Kathy Pizzi couldn't limit herself to just one thing. "I love that we all get together as a congregation and sing Christmas hymns. I love the feeling of togetherness and fellowship that the service provides. I love the lighting of the candles and watching the children's awed faces while holding their candles. As you can tell, I really enjoy this evening." Lori Hudson also loves the candle lighting and singing.

"Extreme Makeover"

The CSCC website has undergone a complete makeover. The site has a completely different appearance, in addition to access to a lot more information. Details include: directions, service times, descriptions of ministry, calendar of events, ministry opportunities, prayer & praise, missions directory, and weekly church bulletin. Additional enhancements will be added as deemed necessary.

Will Clemens is the master mind behind this dramatic website transformation. During services on January 13, 2008, he provided a brief visual presentation to show what the new home page looks like, and demonstrated how to navigate and find specific types of event details. We greatly appreciate all his efforts in this major undertaking.

Check it out and stay connected! www.cscceg.org

What's the Buzz?

- Adult Christian Education (Sunday School) will begin a series on February 4th by Bill Hybels called *Just Walk Across the Room* – "leaving your circles of comfort and extending hands of care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God's love today."
- Currently The CSCC Connection Newsletter appears in this traditional newsletter format. Sometime in the future the appearance and mode of delivery will change. Stay tuned!

John Willis, Senior Pastor

Tim Heist, Youth Ministry Director
Henry Gildersleeve, Adult Education Director
Janine Gonyea, Worship Arts Director
Moe Moser, Director of Building and Grounds
Craig Adams, Men's Ministries Director
Lee Willis, Women's Ministries Director
Ed & Denise Jurgielewicz, HUG Ministry
Virginia Tolson, Hospitality Ministries