

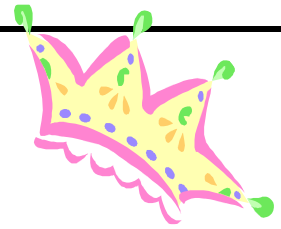




## Ladies Spring Retreat

*Keeping a Princess Heart*

*...in a not-so-fairy-tale world*



Ladies, you are cordially invited to spend a weekend of spiritual refreshment and encouragement with our New Life ladies at Middlebrook Bible Conference in Gettysburg, PA on March 12th-14th, 2010. Lallah Brillhart will be our guest speaker this year. Lallah was raised in Towson, MD and now resides in Westminster, MD with her husband Walt. Thirty-seven years ago Lallah had a very personal encounter with the Living Jesus. In search for truth and an answer to the emptiness in her heart, the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to her in a marvelous and unique way. Shortly thereafter, the Lord called Lallah into ministry for women. She now provides leadership for women's Bible studies and retreats as well as offering counseling to hurting people in the Carroll County region.

Please reserve these special dates on your 2010 calendars. Cost per person is \$130. This fee covers lodging and meals beginning Friday evening through Sunday morning. A \$30 deposit is due at the time of registration, with the balance due by February 21st (layaway plan available as well). You may register at the Welcome Center or at the women's ministry kiosk, both located in the church foyer.

## Rescue Mission Ministry

New Life men are invited to spend an hour at the Beacon House, located on South St., **Monday, February 22nd** ministering to and encouraging the residents. The service is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm. For more information about this outreach ministry please call Dave Gust at 301-898-9734 or Tom Gilbert at 301-845-0424.



# Kids Café at Sunshine Park



Pancake chef, Gene Cregger, prepares pancakes for our *Kids Café* each Sunday morning from 8:45 to 9:15 am. From 9:15 to 9:45 children ages nursery through 5th grade participate in Bible games and learning activities. For more information about Kid's Café please call the church office at 301-663-8497 or email Sharon Cregger at [sharon@newlifefoursquare.com](mailto:sharon@newlifefoursquare.com).

## Interested in finding out more about New Life Christian School?

Join us for one of our Open House events!

**February 4th**

10:00 am -2:00 pm

**February 24th**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

More Open House events have been planned for March. For more information or to register please call 301-663-8418.

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# New Life Family Matters

*By Pastor Dave*

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*“Then Samuel ...cried out to the LORD ON Israel's behalf, and the LORD ANSWERED him. While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD THUNDERED with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up...He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far has the LORD HELPED us.” So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israelite territory again.” 1 Samuel 7:9-14*

The above scripture reveals God’s redemptive activity on behalf of His people. It reveals His divine initiative on behalf of His people followed by a “faith-prompted” response from those He rescued. In this passage of scripture, we are reading about literal history –real people and real events. But scripture is also representative in that it is given to us to teach us about ourselves, about life, and about our God.

For the New Life Family, this portion of scripture was brought to our attention during the past Advent season as we learned about Emmanuel, God with us, and the joy that is promised to those who receive the gift of life through Christ. Using lessons from the story, *The Christmas Carol*, we learned that Ebenezer (stone of help) became known as “Scrooge” (bah, hum- bug) because of a stingy, self-centered, materialistic lifestyle. But we also learned that the story of Scrooge doesn’t end at this point, but rather, through “divine intervention”, he has an experience that transforms him into a benevolent, caring, and relational man –Ebenezer.

Three words express direction and mission for the New Life Family in 2010: community, caring, compassion.

**Community.** Jesus called us as individuals and baptized us into His body (1Cor 12:12,13). Life as a follower of Jesus is sustained and thrives in vital relationship with other believers. Loving and being loved makes the heart come alive. Loving one another is a humanly impossible task but, by His Spirit within us, we are empowered to do this and made alive by His living hands and heart (fellow believers). In 2010, we will place much emphasis upon essential relationships among Jesus’ followers through our Home Church Network.

**Caring.** This is simply our response to God’s love for us –to love one another (1John 4:11,12). A caring community grows large in its ability to embrace. No one is left behind. No one slips through the cracks of busyness. No one slowly drifts away from Christ because in a vital caring community someone is always asking, “How are you doing?” Our Home Church Network will provide the basis to be able to experience this love of God. Smaller, intentional meetings of Jesus’ Church –gathered together to honor and worship Him, and to love Him by loving each other.

**Compassion.** Like our care for one another within Jesus’ Body, compassion is moved by the hurts and joys of others, but compassion moves boldly beyond the walls of Jesus’ Church and reaches out to those who do not yet know the love of God through Jesus Christ. Our mission statement of being “Neighbors for life” (Luke 10:29-37) comes directly from Jesus’ teaching and question about who we are responsible to love. Neighbors love the folks in their circle of influence in practical ways. They get involved. They feel their pain. They get messy and are moved to do something. When we, like the good Samaritan, “see and respond” –Jesus has a way of empowering us beyond ourselves to meet needs that are beyond our natural selves.

Like Martin Luther King who had a dream empowered by the ideals of Jesus’ Kingdom (peace, hope & joy), I too have a dream of being part of a community of fellow believers who love God with our whole heart, soul, strength and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. What a difference a community like this can make. I have a dream –join me in dreaming too.

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Happy Valentine's Day!



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## **HOME CHURCH MEETINGS**

### **Have you connected?**

If you have not connected with a small group we would like to encourage you to consider doing so—and anytime is a great time to jump in! The friendships that are built during these times of fellowship, food, prayer, and study are a blessing that every believer should embrace. Listed below is some brief information about the groups that are already meeting. Please feel free to call the church office at 301-663-8497 or any of the leaders below for more information.

**Todd & Stephanie Watkins—Jefferson**

301-834-5426  
(2 Fridays/month)

**Mark & Nicole Lopez de Victoria—Frederick**

301-662-7024  
(Alternate Monday Evenings)

**Mark & Terri Napier—Frederick/Walkersville**

301-845-1020  
(Sunday—2x month)

**Vaughn & Betsy Thurman—Frederick**

301-473-9992  
**Group 1:** (2 Fridays/month)  
**Group 2:** (2 Saturdays/month)

**Tom & Ellie Gilbert/Gene & Sharon Cregger**

301-845-0424                      301-845-0575  
(2nd & 4th Sunday Evenings)

**Jack & Alix Gilbert—Frederick (Young Adult)**

240-446-5808  
(1st & 3rd Sundays)