



New Day of Laurel Maryland Inc. 329 Prince George Street Laurel, MD 20707 301-256-5927 Fax: 301-498-1855

Spring/Summer 2016

Welcome!

This is the first edition of our quarterly newsletter for New Day of Laurel Maryland Inc. New Day of Laurel Maryland is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This edition will highlight our mission and introduce our board of directors and staff and report on a few of the programs that have been successfully implemented.

Our Mission

As Evangelical followers of Jesus, our mission is to empower the mercy responses of area churches to facilitate relationally centered life change among the homeless and vulnerable. Our Vision is to empower churches, in cooperation with community partners to provide a year round, comprehensive response to homelessness in our region. We will succeed when Laurel's homeless, and those constantly at risk of becoming homeless, have opportunity for friendship, shelter, recovery from addiction, access to healthcare, and opportunities for meaningful work – all leading to the new life Jesus offers.



The New Day family of volunteers partners with individuals for whom traditional programming has failed to meet crucial needs. Our friends have become vulnerable and can even be homeless due to a variety of circumstances, such as addiction, mental health concerns, job loss, broken families, developmental disabilities, medical problems, and relational poverty. We foster permanent, Christ-centered relationships in order to facilitate positive change.

How We Serve

New Day understands that each person's spiritual journey is personal. New Day's services are available to the homeless and vulnerable whether they are already people of faith, are a member of another religious group, or express no interest in spiritual things at all. We allow each person to move forward at their own pace and respect the dignity of their choices. Each friend of New Day is met where they are, and they are invited

but never coerced to begin a spiritual journey through mentoring, Bible study, and group support. We believe that sustainable life change is possible only through the redeeming power of Jesus—and so we help our friends make an informed decision to begin and grow in a personal relationship with him.

Relationship Building

New Day fosters permanent, Christ-centered relationships in order to facilitate positive change. It is our goal that everyone we serve will be able to build enduring friendships. We understand that problems such as homelessness are symptomatic of relational poverty, and so we provide many pathways that lead to a sense of community with others. Since we empower the mercy responses of local churches, it is our highest aim to see our friends find a church family where they can tangibly experience the love of God in Christian community. Many churches of a wide variety of denominations are part of the New Day circle of supportive congregations. Often, our friends' first experience in community is with others who have similar life experiences and face similar challenges. Along with Bethany Community Church, New Day hosts a breakfast gathering every Friday morning at 8:30 am in Laurel. The men's group, First Friends, meets at Denny's restaurant while the women of Koffee Klatch meet at Linny's Deli for breakfast and conversation.

New Day understands the importance of professional services in addition to relational support. New Day formally employs a licensed social worker and has volunteer registered nurses and other professionals on call to assist with meeting the unique needs of our friends.

The Future

New Day is working towards a more permanent housing solution for many of our friends who find themselves homeless or chronically at risk for becoming homeless. We are also working to provide a permanent winter shelter facility to provide temporary housing for homeless people during the winter months. We are working closely with our elected leaders, business partners and others to make this dream a reality. Stay tuned for more exciting details about this project soon!

Our Board of Directors Officers:

Helen Harrington - President.



Helen is a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church. She is a native Washingtonian and graduated from George Washington High School in Alexandria, VA and received her BS in Business Administration from Columbia Union University, Takoma Park, Maryland. She Retired from Computer Sciences Corporation in 2009 where she

had managed different areas in support of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Ms. Harrington has been involved in serving the homeless and vulnerable residents in the City of Laurel for almost 10 years, having served as a member and Secretary of the Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS) Board of Directors. Helen Harrington also serves as Treasurer of the West Laurel Civic Association.

Helen's main focus for the New Day Programs is in support of the Jobs for Life program, helping the unemployed and underemployed attain the full potential that God has planned for them.

Dr. Michael Schaffer – Vice-President



Dr. Michael Schaffer is a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church serving as an Elder and worship assistant. Dr. Schaffer serves as the New Day Campus Coordinator and teaches Bible study classes for our friends in the Winter Shelter program. He retired from the

Montgomery County school system after 33 years. He also volunteers as the Vice-President of the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Dept. and will assume the chaplain's position in the fall of 2016. He became involved with New Day several years ago after volunteering at Our Saviors week of caring for our homeless friends.

Hank Crosswhite - Secretary/Treasurer.



Hank is a member of Bethany Community Church. Hank recently reduced his employment to part time as an engineer supporting the FAA's acquisition of airport and enroute radar systems. This has allowed him time to be centrally involved with the First Friends Breakfast ministry (see page 4).

He is also a leader at Bethany Community Church, working with the Compassion Ministry and a men's group.

Other board members:

Peter T. DeMik – Senior Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church.



Pastor DeMik was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in Arlington Virginia. He graduated with a B.A. in Psychology and Humanities from Valparaiso University in Northwest Indiana. While at Valparaiso, Pastor DeMik served as the Assistant to the Dean of the Chapel of the Resurrection

and he also met his wife, Michelle. The two were married in 1997, and proceeded on to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, where Peter earned his Master of Divinity Degree. Peter has served as Vicar (Intern) at Peace Lutheran Church in Arvada, Colorado, prior to his first call to serve as Associate Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Laurel, Maryland in July of 2001. On February 16, 2014 Pastor DeMik became the Senior Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Kevin G. McGhee – Senior Pastor at Bethany Community Church.

Pastor McGhee was born and raised in Johnstown, Pa. and is the



son of two school teachers. He decided to follow Jesus while in High School. Kevin graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1978. He served for six years as an officer in the USN, working on several ships and as a leadership and management consultant for the Navy. He received a number of

awards during his time in the Navy.

Kevin left a distinguished career as a Naval Officer to enter full-time ministry. He graduated with honors from Talbot Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity Degree in May of 1986. He was licensed and ordained for ministry at Bethany Church, Long Beach, California. There, he led the young couple's ministry. He worked in a previous church in leadership of one of the largest collegiate ministries in the nation.

He is the founding pastor of Bethany Community Church. For more than 20 years, he has also served as the president of the Laurel Clergy Association. He is best known in Laurel for his community involvement. He has developed close relationships with many of the area's elected officials of both parties.

Chris McMillian – Senior Pastor at Lifehouse Church.



Pastor McMillian has served in church ministry for 20 years with the last twelve as Senior Pastor of Lifehouse Church in Laurel, Maryland. His love for people and missions has taken him around the world where he has ministered in Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. He is an ordained minister

with the Assemblies of God and holds a Bachelor of Theology degree from Vintage Bible College in Winston-Salem, NC and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

Gregory O. Strong – Pastor of City of Zion Church.



Pastor Strong is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at a very young age at the Mt. Haven Missionary Baptist Church. After completing High School, Pastor Strong joined the United States Marine Corps and rendered seven years of dedicated service. Upon leaving the

Marine Corps in 1990, he relocated to the metropolitan Washington, DC area where he now resides.

Pastor Strong was licensed in the Gospel Ministry at the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Washington, DC; and later ordained at the Triumphant Baptist Church of Hyattsville, Maryland. Pastor Strong has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from the Maple Springs Baptist Bible College and Seminary.

In January of 2004 the Lord blessed Pastor Strong and his wife Mineva to organize the City of Zion Church in Laurel, Maryland. This is a non-denominational, progressive and growing church that specifically targets the "unsaved and unchurched." City of Zion Church has a number of ministries which help implement their vision which is "Making Disciples, Serving Jesus Christ and Living Abundantly." Pastor Strong's passion is teaching God's people to "Walk by Faith." He is indeed an End-Time Pastor with an End-Time Message for an End-Time Generation.

Our Staff:

Wrenn Skidmore - Director of Friends' Services



There is no such thing as a typical day for Wrenn Skidmore. LGSW, Director of Friends' Services for New Day. Wrenn was hired in October 2015 to provide our friends with year-round access to professional services.

During the shelter season, she was able to assist New Day friends with

coordination of multiple benefits and linkage with much needed resources. This was the first year that the Laurel Winter Shelter intake process included a second level intake completed by a nurse or social worker. Wrenn, with the help of two psychiatric nurses, Ruth Walls and Lisa Misra, completed 76 assessments. From the information gathered during this in-depth assessment, New Day was able to quickly connect people with medical care, psychiatric assessments, and substance abuse treatment options, among additional things.

Wrenn was drawn to this position partly because it allows her to get to know each individual and to tailor her approach to each person. She responds, "So often in the field of social work resources say that they respect each person as an individual, but they are constrained to offering a one-size-fits-all approach to their struggles. Here at New Day we are able to tackle life's challenges in an individualized way -- a way that works for people who have been unable to fit into the mold of traditional programming and who have not been adequately served by a cookie cutter model."

Outside of shelter season you can find Wrenn continuing to provide services for New Day friends. "Between shelter seasons, we are able to dig deeper into solving problems with a smaller group of friends. This is the time we build relationships and trust and are able to demonstrate that New Day is there for the long haul, no matter what."

Jobs For Life

New Day Inc. is an approved site to facilitate the **Jobs for Life™** training course. The training course is offered twice weekly during the Winter Shelter season. Jobs for Life™ is designed to help both men and women to identify the gifts that God has given them and use these gifts to move forward on career paths that will fulfill our friends both financially and spiritually. Jobs for Life™ is intended to help students engage in a journey from unemployment to employment or from under-employment to better employment.

Over the past few years, many friends have been successful in obtaining employment that meets their God-given talents and abilities. With full-time employment, they have also been able to find permanent housing, purchase automobiles, and re-establish positive relationships with family and loved ones.

First Friends Breakfast

On any Friday morning at 8:30AM at the Denny's restaurant in Laurel, Maryland, you will find a group of men having breakfast. When you look at the group, you may notice that some of the men may look like the homeless person you saw standing on the corner a few days ago. It may actually be that same person. Like most cities in the United States, Laurel has a problem with homelessness due to poverty.

Often poverty is described as a lack of material things. Anyone can find themselves in a situation when they have lost their home and possessions due to almost any catastrophic circumstance, such as loss of a job, major illness, addiction or even a tragic personal loss. This is what New Day calls the brokenness of the world. All of us have broken relationships: with God, with ourselves, and with others!

There a group of churches in Laurel that has operated a Winter Shelter program in the past few years. They provide a warm place for the homeless to sleep during the cold months of the year. Hank Crosswhite, the Secretary/Treasurer of New Day, attends



Bethany Community Church which is one of the churches in the Winter Shelter program. While talking with the men of Bethany Community Church, Hank felt that part of the reason that people find themselves living on the edge is because they have lost touch with their support network for one

reason or another, so he proposed the First Friends Breakfast to help these homeless men restore their relationships. This was the beginning of First Friends in 2013.

Since that day, each Friday morning at 8:30, you will find men from several different churches who want to help others joining together with a group of homeless or formerly homeless men to pray, study the bible and share a meal together. After the server takes everyone's orders, Hank opens with prayer and bible study while waiting for the food. Then as the men eat their food they build relationships and friendships with each other as they talk and tell their stories.

When you are homeless and alone, having someone to listen to you and care about you is sometimes more fulfilling than the food that you are eating. This is also a chance for the men to network, just as in a large business meeting, and learn about jobs and opportunities to help them find work. Some of the men are skilled tradesmen such as electricians, carpenters and plumbers who have lost everything and find it difficult to find work since they no longer have transportation to job sites. Some of the men are veterans who have served their country proudly and now feel abandoned. Hank has made a point of knowing all the men's names and their personal stories. Here is where they find new friends and people who care for them and feel better about themselves and begin healing their brokenness. Many of the men now come more for the fellowship and worship more than for just a meal.

First Friends Breakfast has been covered in the PG Gazette in January 2015 and on Laurel TV in 2016.

How Can You Help?

Anyone can find themselves homeless. Most of the homeless today did not plan to be homeless. An illness or loss of a job or addiction can be the beginning of a process where a person loses their friendships and family that will end in no longer having a place to call home.

New Day of Laurel Maryland, Inc. has a goal to help mend the broken relationships that lead to homelessness by first being a friend and then helping these friends to find a home and to teach them the skills to become independent and then they will be able to help others in the same situations.

New Day of Laurel Maryland, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Funds are used to directly support programs for New Day Friends. You can help by supporting New Day fundraising activities and making direct contributions to our program.

Watch our website (www.newdaylaurel.org) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/newdaylaurel) for announcements of fundraising activities and send donations at any time to: **New Day of Laurel, Inc. PO Box 514, Laurel, MD 20725** or donate online at our website – www.newdaylaurel.org.