

Rom Sianipar

For the six years that Rom Sianipar has attended New Song, she has quickly become known as the snack lady, as she provides snacks to the children after church. But Rom has also been involved in a lot more, including volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, with her husband, and Martha's Place. "There was a lot to get involved in," she said, adding that it didn't take long to find ways to serve.

After moving to Baltimore roughly seven years ago, Rom was looking for a church that was multi-cultural and similar to a church she had attended in Savannah, Georgia. An engineer for McCormick & Company, Rom found New Song through family. Her brother learned of the church while in college with Todd Marcus, who has been involved with many of Sandtown's outreach ministries. She came one week and decided to stay.

"I like the fact that everybody is very genuine," she said, when reflecting on why she decided to stay at New Song. The openness and diversity of people and the lively worship is also something she enjoys. Being raised in a Methodist church, worship was very "proper." Born and raised in New Jersey, Rom's father is from Indonesia and her mother is half-Indonesian. She went to college at Cornell University before moving to Savannah. She remembers those first few years alone away from her family in college as a time when her faith became more real. "In college it was up to me to take care (of my faith) and to go out and find a church I liked," she said.

For just under three years she has been married to Conor O'Reilly, whom she met through mutual friends. The couple lives in Mount Vernon, very close to the University of Baltimore where Rom is taking classes toward her masters degree in business administration.

In between working and taking classes, Rom and her husband love to eat, read and run together. Right now they are remodeling their kitchen, where Conor likes to cook.

Her husband attends a Catholic church, but they were married at New Song. Rom remembers how after the wedding, many people said how much they enjoyed Pastor Thurman's demeanor.

Rom has been to Indonesia twice and has also traveled to London for her 30th birthday.