

the

JULY/AUGUST 2011 EDITION

FOCAL Point

CENTERED ON ACTIVITIES OF TOLEDO FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FAMILY



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...

—Ecclesiastes 3:1



✘ Will YOU Picnic With Purpose? ✘

Jesus did all the time. Matthew 14:15-21 says he did so with 5k plus people! We probably won't have that many at ours after church on July 16, but hopefully, we'll have a few hundred. Because in addition to our church members, who bring their friends and family who might never walk into a church but would walk into a park for a delicious meal, we will again be serving smiles and lots of fresh squeezed ice cold lemonade to all the walkers, joggers, and proud doggie owners walking by our picnic (plus doggie biscuits for the dogs!!!).



Pastor Daniel is organizing a corn hole tournament and Donna will once again be taking on all challengers in ladder ball. Sabbath afternoon promises to be a delightful day full of good fellowship, games, and worship. Jesus always picnicked with purpose. Will you? —Pastor Mike ##

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.—Abraham Lincoln

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May and June @ Toledo First

Sabbath, May 21, was Pastor Anna Romuald's last day with us. In photo #1 she and Pastor Mike welcomed Alex Peppard into membership after having been baptized in April. At the close

of her sermon she invited the young people to join her on the platform, and then their parents, support staff, and members, for the purpose of beseeching God for a special blessing on behalf

of the kids and youth. At the farewell potluck (middle photo), Anna presented Julie & Leonard Jessop (her hosts during the past year) with an orchid plant. Photo #4 shows Pastor Daniel

Graves soon after his arrival May 27th. And the final photo is of the Toledo 1st Kids' Choir as they sang at Graduation. Thanks, Jeff Batchelder, for sharing your photos! ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 9
"Parents meet
Pastor Dan"
potluck

JULY 16
Picnic w/
Purpose @ park
—Y'all come!

AUGUST 17
TJA begins
again!
(So soon)

AUGUST 31
Soup for You
resumes with Lesson
12 of Revelation

Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting toledofirstadventist.org

Early Bird Discount till July 15

Complete in Him—Ohio Conference Women's Retreat—is September 16-18 at Deer Creek Resort with registration due August 15. But if you want to save \$10, be sure to send in your registration to arrive by July 15.

The retreat features Rebekah Wang-Cheng, MD, who has spoken at many women's retreats about growing in Christ.

Prices for the weekend vary depending on the type of room and number of people in the room (starting at \$155 which

includes all materials, meals, & lodging except for Friday supper.) Brochures are available at church. ##

Kids ages 8-18 are invited

Sharon Van Wyk (our children's choir director) and founder of Fountain Music Academy will present a Music & Worship Camp at WPOS Christian Center, Holland, Ohio, July 25-29, from 9am - Noon, Register at 419.870.4007 or email: fountainmusicacademy@hotmail.com. ##

Get InStep for Life

Adventists in North America say yes to healthy kids and families with "Let's Move Day" set for September 25, 2011.

But that's not all. They want to promote exercise *every* day by encouraging you to sign the InStep for Life Commitment. Why? To improve your health and to encourage others to be more active.

Did you know children today make up the first generation in history to grow up less healthy than their parents? That they face asthma, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, depression, and sleep problems because of

limited activity? That childhood obesity rates in America have tripled? That's why our church has adopted this initiative! To combat this problem.

Go to www.nadhealthministries.org for more information and to download a toolkit, explore ideas and to record your physical activity.

Do it today—and enjoy a healthier tomorrow.

—DeLaura Caulder ##

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Getting to know... Pastor Daniel Graves

Our new (as of May 27, 2011) Youth Pastor, Daniel Christopher Graves, is a native of Cleveland and is a member of Glenville Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition to being selected as our youth pastor, Daniel is Director of Push Against Poverty, an organization on the campus of Cleveland State University (CSU) that he started originally while a student at Mount Vernon Academy. He organized his fellow students to reach out into the community, to find those families who needed help and to make a difference in their lives. Daniel, a student at CSU with a heart for ministry, agreed to take a year off to help guide our young people here at Toledo First.



Daniel considers his time at Mount Vernon Academy as the best experience of his life. "Attending Mount Vernon Academy for all of high school, through God's power, changed me completely. Those years were the most transformative and also some of the most fun so far in my life," Daniel states.

Looking toward fun things he would like to get around to doing, he said he would love to travel across the country with the guy from "Diners, Drive Ins and Dives" of Food TV Network, eating America's best food from mom and pop restaurants. Know why? Not only does Dan like to eat—he *loves* to cook! His other pastimes include playing basketball and tennis.

What one thing people may not know about him is: Pastor Daniel's early years were spent with his brother in a homeschool setting. His mother, with a master's degree in special education, was his teacher. He attributes this experience as shaping him into the person he is today.

Asked what three words describe him best, Daniel replied, "Visionary resilient, calm." Some of his calm spirit may be attributed to his favorite scripture: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" Hebrews 11:1. Pastor Daniel sees himself "continuing to impact youth and families in the future" even after his stint here as our youth pastor.

We're glad you're here, Pastor Dan! —DeLaura Caulder ##



Attention, Parents:

Please come to the "Pastor Dan Meets the Parents" potluck on Sabbath, July 9th, right after worship in the fellowship room. Our new youth pastor, Daniel Graves, wants to meet with you and share an overview of plans for the year.

This potluck is just for you—parents of youth and kids—so plan to come, bring food to share, and bring the kids.

LET'S BLOW IT UP



Did you know that young people ages 8-18 spend an average of 7 hours a day in front of a screen? Have you discovered that it causes irregular sleep and flighty attention span? Are you one of those parents who wonder what is going wrong with our youth today? It's not surprising that there are vast problems, when so much time is devoted to texting, facebook, video games, TV, and you name it.

It's not surprising because on these screens are enormous amounts of often destructive ideas. Yet, it's also not surprising when there are many parents who can do more to be an example and keep their kids headed in a better direction. The effects from all this will have a lifelong lasting impact.

Do you have a burning desire in your heart to do something to help your children and other kids overcome this? If you have the same passion as I do, I know that we together here at Toledo First can do something about it! It is not impossible, with God, to combat the effects of mainstream society that our kids absorb every day. We as Christians, particularly Seventh-day Adventists, strive to live our lives upon God's Word. Looking at

the Word of God to blow up our young peoples' minds about how amazing God is, how much He loves them, and the big picture He has for their lives, is how we can do it.

This is why the theme I chose for the year is "Blow Up the Myths," because I endeavor to see every young person here at Toledo blow up false ideas and be blown away by God. This theme "Blow Up the Myths" includes a yearlong series of talks inclusive of the following:

- **Blow it UP** (dispelling major myths of society) – June through August
- **What would Jesus Do? It's what He DID!** September-December
- **The Holy Spirit and Me** (Teaching the youth about how they can be like Christ: through God's Spirit!)
- **Jesus has a bride** (Learning why Christ is married to our church)- February
- **Because I love Jesus I will...** (Why keeping God's commands is based

on our relationship with Jesus) - March-April

These talks can show our young people how to live in Christ, how to rise above the status quo! Yet talks are not enough, that is why I plan with the youth ministry team to engage TF youth in ongoing service ministry, fun activities, and joint events with youth from Parkwood SDA Church here in Toledo. In this way they can begin putting into practice what they have learned and see the impact it can make in a fun way! Soon to come will be a list of cool events planned for the year of my stay, that can help take our young people, your children, to the next level in Christ.

I know in my heart that if you as parents and members of this church bring your children to Sabbath School, youth events, Pathfinders, and reinforce what they are learning here at home; we will do mighty things. For "**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has!**" (Margaret Mead).

Let us together, starting now, change the face of a generation beginning right here at Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church, through God's power and grace!
—Pastor Daniel Graves ##

2011 Graduates

The June 4, 2011, potluck was set aside to honor graduates in our Toledo First family. Each graduate received a card and gift. Here are the honorees:

Emma Landeros – daughter of Al & Jennifer Landeros, graduated from Kindergarten at Toledo Junior Academy and will be attending First Grade at TJA.



Emily Bills – daughter of Dr. Steven & Kendra Bills; Granddaughter of Dr. Burgess & Luanne Bills, and Jim & Cindy Naus; great-granddaughter of Fern Baer; graduated from 8th Grade at Toledo Junior Academy and is enrolled in 9th Grade @ Monclova Christian Academy.



Nikyta Cantwell – daughter of Tripp & Lina Cantwell, graduated from 8th Grade at Toledo Junior Academy and will attend 9th Grade @ Apostolic Christian Academy.



Daniel Whitehead – son of Tom & Kimberlei Wilkins, graduated from Sand Creek High School and has been accepted at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, for study of Graphic Design.

Melissa Bilby Hare – daughter of Linda Bilby; granddaughter of Elizabeth Rutter, graduated from Ohio State with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Her husband, **Bill Hare**, also graduated from Ohio State. His Bachelor's degree is in Electrical Engineering. They are both employed in their field.

*Melissa & Bill
were
unable
to attend*

Andrew Jessop – son of Leonard & Julie Jessop; grandson of Ron & Delores Brown, Brian Jessop &

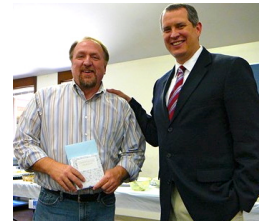
Dorothy Jessop, graduated with Honors from University of Michigan with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is employed at Z. F. Group, Northville, Michigan.

*Andrew
was
unable to
attend*

Al Landeros – graduated from an online course with a degree in Computer Science from University of Illinois, Springfield.



Tom Wilkins – graduated with a Master's degree in Organizational Management from Spring Arbor University in Michigan.



Other graduates honored are grandchildren and great grandchildren of members:

Brandon LaCourt – son of Mitch & Dr. Kathi LaCourt, grandson of Dr. Gerald & Marcene Marsa; and great-grandson of Mrs. Eleanor Meade, graduated from high school @ Thunderbird Adventist Academy, Phoenix, AZ. He will major in Physical Therapy @ Andrews University. His brother –



Cody LaCourt – graduated from 8th grade @ Thunderbird Elementary, Phoenix, AZ; and will attend Thunderbird Adventist Academy. Their sister, Kelsey, was on hand to accept their gifts.

Elizabeth (Liz) Schuster – daughter of Kurt & Mary Schuster and granddaughter of Art & Donna Schuster, graduated from Maumee High School; and will attend Ohio State, Newark, Ohio, with a Buckeye scholarship. She will study Physical Therapy.

Steven Pires – son of Mike & Holly (Schuster) Pires; grandson of Art & Donna, graduated from North Carolina State with a Masters in Forest Biomaterials. He will work with the civil engineering firm, AECOM (World Wide) at Raleigh, NC, as their Environmental Scientist – Water and Natural Resources group. ##

Calendar Events

July - August 2011

July

Birthdays

July 3 Matt Crosby
July 7 Earl Mitchell
July 10 Brian Jessop
July 11 Amanda Oliver
July 16 Nicole Warner
July 17 Lorraine Poulin
July 21 Heather Smith-LaPoint
July 22 Elaine Mitchell
July 24 Jacob Moses
July 26 Veela Burks
July 29 Tracie Gustrowsky; Dianna Hassen
July 30 Amber Hass; Brendan Leibengood
July 31 Sarah Godie; Robert Reams



Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11am each week
Kid Connect @ 11am each week

July 2 Pastor Adam Case is our speaker
July 9 David Case is our speaker; "Pastor Dan meets the parents" potluck — just for families with children & youth
July 16 Pastor Mike's topic: "Wonder Women-Esther"; Picnic with Purpose @ Wildwood.
July 23 Pastor Mike speaks: "Wonder Women-Mary"; Communion
July 30 Pastor Mike: "Wonder Women-Anna"; Eat 'n Greet 'n Art

Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month; Morning only other weeks

Mondays

Tuesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

Wednesdays

Thursdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

August

Birthdays

August 2 Marcene Marsa; Brad Schrecongost
August 6 Joshua Fortune
August 7 Laura Frey; Alex Jessop
August 8 David Kawakami
August 11 Kay Kermode
August 14 Lanetta Cross, Kim Stanley; Gale Ostrander
August 15 Gail Flack
August 17 Teresa Moses
August 21 Ron Szczechowski
August 24 Mary Snowberger
August 26 Becky Godie; Laura Williams
August 27 Mary Ann Engelbert

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11am each week
Kid Connect @ 11am each week

August 6 Pastor Mike speaks: "Wonder Women-Samaritan"; Fellowship Potluck @ Church
August 13 Pastor Daniel speaks; Baby Dedication, Sethlina;
August 20 Pastor Mike speaks: "Wonder Women-Martha & Mary"
August 27 Pastor Mike speaks: "Wonder Women-Lydia"; Eat 'n Greet 'n Art

Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on the 1st & 3rd Sundays; Morning only the other Sundays

Mondays

August 29 Church Business Meeting, 7pm

Tuesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

Wednesdays

August 17 School starts at TJA
August 31 Soup for You starts back again @ 6pm

Thursdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

August 18 - Back to school night

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

