

SEPT/OCT 2010 EDITION

the

FOCAL Point

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



*...let your light
shine before
others, so that
they may see
your good works
and give glory to
your Father who
is in heaven.
—Matthew 5:16.*

✘ Come to the Car Show Sunday, Oct. 10 ✘

The prophet Isaiah predicted that one day, God's mountain would become "a house of prayer for all nations" [Isaiah 56:7] and that even foreigners and eunuchs [previously excluded cf. Deuteronomy 23:1-3] would one day worship God together on the seventh day [Isaiah 56:3,6]. That reality was already beginning to take place in Jesus' day. We know this is true because Acts 8 reveals that an Ethiopian eunuch in Jerusalem to worship had pulled over in his chariot on his way home to read Isaiah and after learning more about Jesus [verse 35], asks Philip to be baptized.



This is significant because chariots in the Exodus were instruments of death [Exodus 15:4] whose occupants were seeking to prevent the children of Israel from worshiping God [Exodus 9:1]. But years later, chariots like this Ethiopian's become an instrument of life spreading the "everlasting Gospel" to "every nation, tribe, language, and people" in the far corners of the earth with the same invitation to worship Jesus that Adventists have shared with that Ethiopian ever since: "Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water" [Revelation 14:6-7].

This is an allusion in the last book of the Bible to Exodus 20:11 which itself is a plea to remember our Creator from the first book of the Bible. Why? Isaiah 58:13-14 says it's so humanity can delight in the presence and joy of the Lord [my translation]. And that is what we will be doing during our 4th annual Kidz Crazy Car Show taking place this year, in partnership with Alumni Weekend of Toledo Junior Academy, on October 10, 2010 from 4 - 7 PM rain or shine. Modern chariots of all makes and models are welcome with over 20 trophy presentations. General admission is free. Show cars are \$10 each. All proceeds including Food Court will help build a school gymnasium for Toledo Junior Academy and James Meade Learning Center. Pre-register at www.kidzcrazycarshow.org or call 419.841.0082 for more info. Kidz, don't forget to bring your own Hotwheels or Matchbox car to be judged [limit one per child]!. —Pastor Mike ##

The roots of happiness grow deepest in the soil of service.

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First Family Celebrates

In the first photo top left Pastor Rachel (holding baby Skylynn Moses) looks on as Donna Schuster welcomes Jacob & Teresa Moses to our church family. Craig Horvath

holds the welcome basket which was presented to them. Teresa was baptized in June and Jacob joins by transfer from Atlanta. We are so happy they are part of our family! In

the middle photo Pastor Mike serves up lemonade to walkers on the park trail at Wildwood. Joining him are Derrick & Jamie who were recently baptized. The last photo was taken

August 14 at the Picnic with Purpose. Thank you, Jeff Batchelder, for the photos! ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	SEPT 11	OCT 2	OCT 9 & 10	OCT 29
	Pastor Rachel speaks/farewell @ potluck	Hayride @ Case Farm	TJA Alumni Weekend & Kidz Crazy Car Show	RingFest Handbell Festival Concert

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

News from JMLC

Although James Meade Learning Center is open year round, a special time is designated to begin the Pre Kindergarten program. Beginning on August 23, the school year arrives with a full enrollment in every classroom.

JMLC, a 2-star awarded center by the State of Ohio for high quality child care, offers an easy transition from Pre K to Toledo Jr. Academy. This year JMLC provided over half of the TJA kindergarten attendance.

The JMLC staff is eager to begin the school year with exciting activities, Christian curriculum, and active worship with Pastor Mike, as an ongoing tribute to the late Pastor James Meade.

JMLC thanks Toledo First Adventist Church for the opportunity to reach out to the community, model Christian character for children, and bring hurting families hope. —Tanya Purcell, Director ##

Harvest Party & Hayride

You know what happens in October? Dave and Sheila Case invite the church family to the Case Place—their farm—for a hayride! This year it's October 2, 7 PM. Come for sandwiches and goodies, a tractor-driven hayride (not the horse shown



here!) and a cozy bonfire. It's all free, so come and enjoy!

See bulletin inserts for directions if you've never been there. ##



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Pastor Rachel to study in London

Some occasions are both happy and sad, opening and closing precious experiences at the same time. Just such an occasion will be happening on September 15, when I take a plane across the Atlantic to begin a new journey in London, England.

As most already know, I'm beginning an MA program at Heythrop College this fall, which is the specialist philosophy and theology college of the University of London. Heythrop College is situated in Kensington Square, right in the heart of the city. My degree will be in Christian Spirituality—the study of how believers throughout history



have experienced God in prayer, silence and religious community. I'll be finished with my coursework next April and will then spend the next six months writing a thesis on a subject yet to be decided.

Naturally, I am very excited about the coming academic year. London is an exciting place to live and is home to some of the best museums and most gorgeous churches in the world. But the impending transition compels me to pause and express my gratitude to each of you who have made my experience in Toledo equally valuable.

I have never doubted for a moment that God led me to the Toledo First Church. His call was unmistakable, and from the moment I arrived I felt welcomed and supported as I worked with your children. Some churches give lip-service to putting their kids first, but I have learned that the Toledo First community really means it when it says "We are building this

church from the children's division up." You have proved it with the offering of your time and treasure, and it has made a difference in the lives of the little ones among us. I'm so grateful that Pastor Anna has come to team with Pastor Mike to carry the dream you began to new heights.

I'm looking forward to keeping in touch with your kids in the coming years. You may remember that last year I took Jennifer Cozzens and Christina and Charlotte David to Ecuador for a unique mission trip/leadership development experience called the "Ultimate Workout." This summer I was in Mexico with 150 teenagers from all over North America. Next summer we will be returning south (the country is of yet undecided), and Shaelyn Good has expressed a desire to be a part of the experience. Shaelyn has demonstrated maturity and initiative as a teen leader in Kid Connect each week, and I'm excited about the possibility of helping her develop her gifts further next year on Ultimate Workout. Although I won't be in Toledo to help beforehand with her with fundraising efforts, I hope you'll consider encouraging her along the way. All teens who have finished 9th grade are eligible for this experience, and if you know someone who fits that category and would like a real spiritual challenge during the summer of 2011, please contact me in London:



laughwrinkles@yahoo.com.

I feel deep gratitude for each of you right now. May God bless you as you have blessed me, and may the reality of your belovedness in Christ be an eternal awareness in your life. — Rachel Davies ##

To be included, you must let us know

In the past when we have needed to call the church family to let them know of an emergency, several people have made the calls one-by-one, taking hours to accomplish.

To streamline the process we can record a message then a phone service sends it to the numbers we provide and the job is done in seconds!

Here's the catch: we want your permission to put you on the calling list. Many of you have already given

your permission by writing your initials beside your name and phone number on a list we had in the foyer for several months. To give your permission, you may initial the list, or send me an email: dee@toledofirstadventist.org giving your permission or

call the church office. We will start using the service in October, not just for emergencies, but to let you know of other events. But you won't be called unless you give your permission! Please do so today. — Dee Caulder, 419.882.6200 ##

Introducing. . . Pastor Anna!

Around the house, when I was little and if I was in trouble, my mom would call me “Anna Rebekah Romuald!” But because my last name is hard to pronounce for some – you can just call me Pastor Anna (and not with a French accent please). I’ve spent my entire life in Minnesota, growing up in the suburbs of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and once I moved on to Maplewood Academy my family eventually moved to the small rural town of Glencoe. In high school I vowed never to go to Union College mostly because I



wanted to get out of the Midwest and try something bigger and better. After setting my heart on Andrews University in Michigan and running away from where I knew God was tugging me and away from what He was calling me to do with my life, I didn’t stop running until my plans failed and the doors to every school I thought of going to closed tight.

Now I’m going into my fourth year as a student at Union College, working on a BA in Theology with an emphasis in Youth Ministries and I wouldn’t trade it for the world. But I’m spending this school year in Toledo task forcing because it was definitely in God’s plan for me to do so and I’m no longer running away.



But more than where I’ve been or what I do, I love who God is making me to be. He has given me a heart passionate for leading people to the Kingdom, a love for the energy and enthusiasm of kids, and a fiery desire for activity, adventure, and travel all around the world. I am tickled silly when I have the time to enjoy my hobbies of singing, writing, baking, camping, scrapbooking, reading for pleasure, hiking, and just being active. Of course, I am a loyal Minnesota Vikings and Twins fan, and will take that with a side of NASCAR please! I’m a Master Guide and a Pathfinder still to this day. I am a constant, loyal friend who shares in life’s experiences, struggles, and joys together with people who make me want to be a better person and encourage me in continuously deepening my relationship with God. I am a hard worker, a fun-seeker, and a giver, but much more than any of that, I can proudly and boldly declare that I am a child of God! Thank you to each and every one of you for already welcoming me with such warmth and friendliness; I look forward to getting to know each of you better throughout my time here!

To read about my most recent travels, experiences, etc. check out my blog at <http://annaromuald.blogspot.com/> Find me on Facebook.

Email me: annaromuald102@gmail.com

Call me (I’m on Verizon): 651-226-5884

— Anna Romuald ##

Join the discussion on Wednesdays at Soup for You beginning September 8

The book discussion has continued all summer, but September 8 marks a new beginning, with a new book. It’s a good opportunity to join the group. Come for soup at 6 PM. Book discussion starts about 6:30.

Here is a short synopsis of the book, *Hurt People Hurt People*, which can be purchased for \$10-12: The pain we feel when we are victimized by others is an inevitable part of being human. But how we react to injustices can make all the difference in our hearts and lives. The author, Dr. Sandra Wilson, gives biblical guidance for overcoming our

own hurts and stopping the vicious cycle that causes us to hurt others. The author helps readers understand the pain in our past and the ways we continue the cycle. Then she shows how hurtful patterns can be broken only through the power and love of Jesus - the Healer of all hurts.##



Calendar Events - Sept & Oct 2010

September

Birthdays

September 2 Dr. Burgess Bills
September 3 Hal Rumsey
September 6 Pastor Mike Fortune
September 14 Glendon Cross
September 15 Jeff Batchelder
September 27 Emily Bills
Luann Ostrander

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week

Sept 4 Pastor Mike speaks @ morning worship, "Wonder Women: Hannah"
Sept 11 Pastor Rachel's farewell Sabbath; she speaks @ morning worship; Farewell Potluck
Sept 18 Pastor Mike speaks, "Wonder Women: Mary"
Sept 25 Pastor Mike speaks: "Living the Resurrection - Risen" @ 11 AM Worship / Eat n Greet 'n Art

Sundays

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

Mondays

Sept 6 Labor Day

Tuesdays

Sept 28 Church office is open 9 AM - 4 PM (Dee returns)

Wednesdays

Soup for You @ 6 PM each week; Adventurers & Pathfinders @ 6:30 PM each week; Book discussion @ 6:30 PM each week
Sept 1 Doll Club meets in Fellowship Room

Thursdays

Sept 30 Church office is open 9 AM - 4 PM (Dee returns)

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM

October

Birthdays

October 5 Cathie Heath
October 18 Bill Ashley
October 26 Wil Ashley

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week

October 2 Nathan French will be here and will speak @ morning worship,
October 9 Pastor Mike continues his series "Living the Resurrection"
October 16 Pastor Mike speaks on "Living the Resurrection"
October 23 Pastor Mike speaks on "Living the Resurrection"; Eat 'n Greet 'n Art
October 30 RingFest Sabbath

Sundays

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

Mondays

October 25 Church Business Meeting

Tuesdays - Church office is open 9 AM - 4 PM

Wednesdays

Salad for You @ 6 PM each week
Adventurers & Pathfinders @ 6:30 PM each week
Book discussion @ 6:30 PM each week

Thursdays - Church office is open 9 AM - 4 PM

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM