

the

NOV/DEC 2010 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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

* 'Tis the Season to Open Our Hearts *

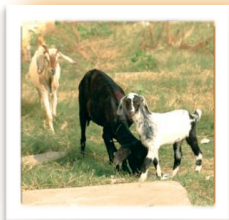
Those who experience the abundance of God's blessings can't help but think of families less fortunate than themselves, especially when Thanksgiving and Christmas time are here. And, folks, they are right around the corner!

It has been our custom to bring food for the needy the Sabbath before Thanksgiving and this year is no exception. On November 20, please bring in a bag of canned goods. The food collected will stock our shelves and the rest will be taken to a local Toledo food bank so families in our community will not go hungry.



Christmas Presence?

Last year during the weeks leading up to Christmas, we partnered with Toledo Junior Academy students and families in giving gifts to local families who could not afford to buy presents. We also raised some money for Serenity Farms—a local non-profit organization specializing in counseling services and therapeutic riding through the use of certified therapy dogs and special horses.



This year, as part of our Christmas Presence series of sermons preceding Christmas, we're going to be partnering with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency [ADRA] using their 2010 Really Useful Gift Catalog to raise money each week in a special offering for goats! Why? Because item #43 says one breeding doe will give an impoverished family overseas additional income and access to milk for their children. And each goat costs only \$70!!!

So when you come to church Sabbaths December 4-25, don't be surprised to see "the poor man's cow" tied up inside right beside the other Christmas decorations and manger scenes to help us remember how we can help impoverished families grasp the significance of Jesus' Presence this Christmas. Give a goat and help a family fight their way out of poverty!!!—Pastor Mike ##



"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and ... the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness...."

Isaiah 58:10 NIV



Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.—William Arthur Ward

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Farewell ... Hello! Hayride & Car Show!

In September we said goodbye to Pastor Rachel. Here, in photo #1 she preaches her farewell sermon, "Living Sacrifices." Another former youth pastor, Nathan French,

and his bride, Christina, visited us October 2. In his sermon he told of working with the Hollywood [CA] congregation to make life better for people in their community. Photos #3 &

#4 were taken during a hayride at Dave & Sheila Case' farm. Photos #5 & #6 show Pastor Mike and Toledo Junior Academy Principal, Dana Holland, awarding trophies to winners

at the Kidz Crazy Car Show on October 10. Thank you, Jeff Batchelder, for taking these photos and sharing them! ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOV 13
Pathfinder Day,
Potluck,
Pinewood Derby
& ABC Sale

NOV 20
Bring cans!
Little Minnows,
Potluck,
Film Fest

DEC 18
Friendship
Dinner,
Film Fest

DEC 25
A very special
worship service
& Eat 'n Greet

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

Little Minnow Nominations due Nov 6

Each year on the Sabbath before Thanksgiving we honor people in our church family who do small things with great love. We have honored Sabbath School teachers, 50 year members, and others who have made a difference! This year you can nominate someone. Just use the little card at the greeter stands by Nov. 6 or call the church office no later than Nov. 9. ##

Call in your orders to ABC

As mentioned elsewhere, the Adventist Book Center will be bringing their book display and any orders you place to the Pinewood Derby on November 13. So place

your order no later than Nov. 10 by calling 1-800-643-5714. Order any 3 cases of Worthington or Loma Linda canned food and get the 4th case free. ##

Circle Jan. 29, 2011

The ever-popular church social, the International Food Fest will be January 29, 2011. Plan to come and enjoy



International Food Fest

foods from many lands which our own culinary artists will whip up! Don't be late. Arrive at 7:30 for best selection! ##

Visit Shutins

Every 3rd & 4th Sabbath, a group visits and sings at nursing homes and you're invited, too! Recently they helped Sam

& Gloria Lee celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary at Sylvania Care & Rehab. *Congratulations, Sam & Gloria. ##*



First fruit arrives November 14

Sorry but it's already too late to place orders for that shipment (although you could check to see if they have extras). You are not too late for Christmas giving and enjoying! Order before Dec.

3 for fruit coming Dec. 19, by calling 419.841.0082.

In January you must order by Jan. 7 for the shipment on Jan. 23. ##

The Focal Point is published bi-monthly by Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church ~ 419.882.6200 ~ toledofirstadventist.org

We welcome Ohio Pathfinders November 13



We would again like to invite all Toledo First members to come and participate in Sabbath with the Ohio Pathfinders on November 13. We will start receiving guests for Sabbath School and continue to gain more and more Pathfinders until the Pinewood

Derby race begins at 7:00 PM.

We invite you to join us for potluck lunch, but would encourage you to bring extra as there will be many hungry teenagers (who are also bringing food). We would encourage your potluck lunch to be vegetarian as many of the Pathfinder clubs are strictly vegetarian.

Our afternoon for the Pathfinders will include teaching honors of letter boxing, fishes, animal tracking, nutrition, grasses, and more.

Pathfinders will be having supper at 5 PM.

Vespers will be at 6 PM.

The Ohio Adventist Book Center sale and Pinewood Derby Race will begin about 7 PM. If you would like anything special brought for you, please call the ABC directly and pre-order.



If you would like to participate in the race, the entry cost for Toledo First members is free. The rules for the Pinewood Derby are inside or on any Pinewood Derby Cub Scout kit or Pine Car Kit. If your car does not quite meet the requirements, you will be placed in the "unlimited" category to race.

Thank You

Linda Bilby

Toledo First Torchbearer Pathfinder/

Adventurer Club ##

Catching up with students and staff at Toledo Junior Academy

Toledo Junior Academy opened its doors this school year welcoming 60 students and their families. God continues to bless our school and for that we are continually grateful.

Our Enjoy the City coupon book sale went great! Thanks to everyone who made a purchase. We were able to add over \$1500 to the gym fund. To God be the glory.

October 18 -22, we celebrated Red Ribbon Week. This is a time set aside to highlight taking a stand for living a drug-free lifestyle. On Wednesday, our very own Lewis Simpson, gave several presentations about gun safety to the classes. The children came away with a very important message that says to: "stop, don't touch, leave the area, tell an adult." It was a very catchy tune that they chanted all day. WTG Lewis. Thursday's

theme was "Being drug free comes in cans: I can, you can, we can." Each student brought in at least two canned goods. We were able to stock the church's food pantry

with at least 120 cans or more. It's important to remember, it's not about us.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Ms. Tiffany Sullivan (aide to Mrs. Hood). Tiffany has moved on to a position with Help Me Grow helping families. We know she will be a blessing wherever she goes as she has definitely blessed us.

We're looking forward to presenting our annual school Christmas program on Thursday, December 16, at 7 PM. We hope everyone can join us.

For more happenings here at TJA, visit us on our website at www.toledojunioracademy.org. Thank you for your support. —Dana Holland, Principal ##





With red and white checkered tablecloths, contemporary music, and a practical worship message, Connections has been functioning as the Toledo First second service on Sabbath each week for the past five years. On September 25, the snacks and beverages were laid out for the last time, the praise team played our all-time favorites, and memories and testimonies brought us back through the years.

Although it was Connections last service in our building, the message was loud and clear—this is not the end of this ministry. We still believe God is calling us to a shared ministry in a downtown storefront similar to the one our church first operated in 1899. And we will proceed if God raises up a core team of committed volunteers willing to contribute their time and talents. If you are interested or willing to serve in such an outreach, please contact Pastor Mike @ 419.882.6200 or Ron Szczechowski @ 419.866.8951. And stay tuned to the JAN / FEB *Focal Point* for more information. ##

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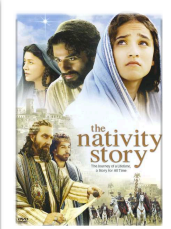
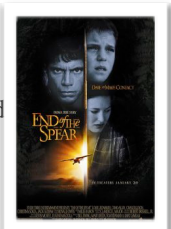
Film Fest begins November 20

Film Fest is back! We invite everyone to come to this ordinary outreach and mingle with our guests, including UT's international students whom we are also inviting.

Our first film, *End of the Spear* will be shown November 20. It is the story of Mincayani, a Waodani tribesman from the jungles of Ecuador. When five young missionaries are speared to death by the Waodani in 1956, a series of events unfold to change the lives of not only the slain missionaries' families, but also Mincayani and his people. God brings healing and hope even from tragedy.

On December 18, we will present *The Nativity Story*—which chronicles the arduous journey of Mary and Joseph and the miraculous birth of Jesus. This film captures the emotional resonance and spirituality of this epic time period with the recreation of the sights and sounds of the Holy Land. With a score inspired by traditional Christmas songs, it's sure to leave you with the real Christmas spirit.

Childcare will not be provided at Film Fest. Parents may bring their kids but only if they're comfortable with the content and their children are willing to stay in the fellowship room the entire time where there is supervision, due to liability concerns. ##



Wise men & women
still seek and share
the Presence of
Jesus



Each Sabbath during December hear a different part of the story of the Wise Men and the gifts they brought for Jesus.

Calendar of Events - Nov & Dec 2010

November

Birthdays

November 1 Frank Engelbert
November 3 Leisha Barbee
November 4 Robert Szana; Larry Duwve II
November 5 Helen Konewka
November 9 Bev Ostrander
November 11 George Jenkins
November 15 Fern Baer; Sara Rios
Jennifer, Joshua & Lanna Cozzens
November 17 Pat Kline; Willie Frey
November 18 Marilu Beebe
November 21 Andrew Jessop

Sabbath Events

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

Nov 6 Pastor Mike speaks @ morning worship, Friendship Dinner by Heather Smith-LaPoint & team
Nov 13 Mrs April Romuald speaks @ morning worship for Pathfinder Day; Fellowship Potluck; Pinewood Derby; Adventist Book Center here with books & health food ordered.
Nov 20 Pastor Mike speaks, Little Minnow Awards are given; Fellowship Potluck; Cans brought in will be taken to a local food bank; Film Fest in Evening: *End of the Spear*
Nov 27 Pastor Anna speaks @ 11 AM Worship / 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
Nov 14 Fruit pickup, 8 AM - 12N; Dumpster Day

Mondays

Nov 15 TJA students serve lunch at Cherry St. Mission

Tuesdays - Church office is open 9 AM - 4 PM

Visiting teams call on shutins & anyone who would like a visit. To make a request, just call the church, 419.882.6200

Nov 23 Thanksgiving Feast for TJA staff, students & families - then school dismissed until Monday, Nov. 29.

Wednesdays

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

Nov 10 Dumpster delivered to garage area

Thursdays - Church office is open 9 AM - 4 PM except Nov 25

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM

December

Birthdays

December 5 Lu Bills
December 7 Cindy Larimore; Eleanor Meade
December 10 Kay Ostrander
December 12 Mary Ann Sandy
December 13 Jacob Duwve; Marilyn West
December 16 John Eaton; Regina Tary
December 22 Mary Louise Parker
December 27 Carolyn Nonoy
December 28 Marion Thomas

Sabbath Events

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

Dec 4 Pastor Mike speaks @ morning worship, beginning the series, *Christmas Presence (no dinner)*; Concert by Sheri LaFontaine in the evening

Dec 11 Pastor Anna continues the series *Christmas Presence; Fellowship Potluck*

Dec 18 Pastor Mike speaks @ morning worship; Friendship Dinner by Marilu Beebe & team; Film Fest in Evening: *The Nativity Story*

Dec 25 A special Christmas worship service followed by 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

Dec 5 Messiah Concert by Christ the Word Church

Dec 19 Fruit pickup, 8 AM - 12N

Mondays

Tuesdays - Church office is open 9 AM - 4 PM

Visiting teams call on shutins & anyone who would like a visit. To make a request, just call the church, 419.882.6200

Dec 7 Christmas VBS starts - outreach to shoppers and their kids (Each evening Dec 7 - 11)

Wednesdays

Soup 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

Dec 16 - School Christmas program

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM