

the

MAY 2009 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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

✧ Growing from the Children's Divisions Up ✧

Growing from the Children's Divisions up a Christ-centered church shouting the Gospel with our lives.

"Growing from the Children's Divisions Up" emphasizes the importance we place on young people. That has been true in our Toledo First Church since the early 1920's when we began our own elementary school. It has been true through the years as we have sometimes had to sacrifice to keep our school doors open. And today we put even more of our time, talents and treasure into the children God has entrusted to us.

In addition to Sabbath School classes for all ages, some of which are bursting at the seams [the teachers are doing a great job!], we have a weekly Vacation Bible School on Sabbath at 11 AM and 5 PM called Kid Connect. The creative programs bring children and parents into a closer relationship with Jesus. Many of the youth [YO - Youth Operate] develop their ministry leadership skills by assisting with Kid Connect along with a volunteer group of adults headed up by youth pastor, Rachel Davies.



Another ordinary outreach for children and youth is Adventurers and Pathfinders led by Linda Bilby and daughter, Ericka. Throughout the school year, children in grades 1 - 4 have enjoyed Adventurers on Tuesday evenings with their parents. It's an opportunity not only for kids to learn and spend quality time with their parents, but the adults also get to know one another. Pathfinders is for students in grades 5 - 8 and has been meeting on the first and third Sabbath afternoons, plus a special activity on the fourth Sunday of the month.

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The best inheritance a mother can leave her children is a Christian example.



—Oswald Chambers

All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose he has given them.

Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church
4909 West Sylviana Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43623
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April scenes seen in the Sanctuary

April was a month of very happy occasions at church. We had two baby dedications and one child was dedicated. In first photo Head Elder Allan Wolfson officiated at the dedication of Joy Reams, 2nd

daughter of Robert & Kyla. In photo 2, Tiffany & Craig Kidd brought baby Kiernan and daughter Rhiannon to be dedicated. Tiffany's mother, Jackie, joined them. Pastor Rachel sings at worship on April 18

when the people in photo 4 were baptized [Ariel, Sandy, Shayna, Kyle and Tiffany]. See more on this elsewhere in this newsletter. In the last photo Donna Schuster and church family welcome John

& Natalie [Richards] Hood into membership on April 25. *Thanks, Jeff Batchelder, for taking the pictures which we share here. ##*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	MAY 9 Mother's Day Tea, 3 PM	MAY 14 TJA Spring Program, 6:30 PM	MAY 16-17 Room Makeovers @ Aurora House	JUNE 1 Business Mtg, 7 PM
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Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting toledofirstadventist.org

Growing. . .

[Continued from front page]

Here are some more areas of ministry which support "Growing from the children's divisions up."

TJA

May is always a busy month at our church school, Toledo Junior Academy, and this year is no exception. May 11 is Mud Hens Day when the kids attend a ball game in downtown Toledo. May 14 is TJA's Spring Program. Be sure to come! It's scheduled for 6:30 PM. On May 18 TJA students serve lunch at Cherry St. Mission [This ministry has continued once a month throughout the year]. On

May 22 students and staff will enjoy a Field Day and Picnic. Graduations are set for June 3 [Kindergarten] and June 4 [8th grade], both at 7.

JMLC

James Meade Learning Center will have graduation for their pre-school kids on Wednesday evening, May 27, 7 PM. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy seeing the "mini graduates" in their caps and gowns receive their diplomas.

Family Camp is offered

Feel the need to get away? Want to do something relaxing with your family? Consider Family Camp, June 7 - 14, at Camp Mohaven.

There are planned activities each day, but also plenty of time to relax, swim, ride horseback, canoe, or take walks. Prices include all activities plus three meals each day. Costs range from \$20 per person per night for tents/RVs or bunk cabins, to \$100 per night for the guest house which sleeps 4 people. Choice of lodging is on a first come, first served basis, so register today by picking up a form at the church office. Oh, by the way, Pastor Mike will be there as camp pastor. ##

Keep these dates

Last year we set aside each Sabbath in July for our Evangelistic Picnics in the

Park. This year we have reserved just two dates with Wildwood Metropark. They are July 25 and August 15. Please circle these dates in red on your calendar now so you won't miss these important picnics. We've intentionally scheduled fewer of these picnics and made sure they weren't around a holiday to ensure maximum church support and attendance. Please don't schedule family gatherings or parties on these days. Your church is doing evangelism in the park!! ##

Please support our Youth Mission Trip

July promises to be a very special month for a few of the youth of Toledo First. One week ago we were planning to



participate on Maranatha's "Ultimate Workout" teen mission trip to Villahermosa, Mexico.

But with news of the h1n1 virus in Mexico, the decision was made to change Ultimate Workout's location to Puya, Ecuador, just within the "border" of the

Amazon jungle. So on July 14th a small team of youth from Toledo First will meet nearly 200 other youth from around North America to build a school for the children of Puya. We will be accompanied by a professional medical and dental team, and our youth will have the opportunity to learn how to take vital signs, extract teeth, and care for patients suffering from minor treatable illnesses. We will also host a variety of children's programs and ordinary outreach events. Our teens will be pushed to stretch themselves spiritually, physically, and relationally.

I have been on short term mission trips with various groups, and my experience has found Ultimate Workout to be the most culturally and spiritually relevant, well organized, and well executed mission trip available to young people in our church. 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the first Ultimate Workout which happened in Brazil in 1990. I went on my first Ultimate Workout at 13 years old in 1997, and it was (and continues to be) the most formative event of my spiritual life. I am nearly certain that I would not be a follower of Jesus today if church members had not stepped in to provide the resources for me to travel to El Salvador twelve years ago. Over the years I have continued to participate on the Ultimate Workout, and I have deepened in my faith, compas-

sion, and leadership abilities as a result. Not only did Ultimate Workout make me fall in love with God, but it also introduced me to valuable mentors who have continued to walk beside me into young adulthood. I ache that the youth of our church would be given this same experience.

It will cost \$2500 for everyone in our group to participate, and we are in critical need of sponsors to reach this goal. I have never experienced a ministry event with such power to impact the lives of young people for Christ. I believe in this project with all my heart. If you feel moved by the Spirit, please partner with us by praying and financially supporting our young missionaries. Donations can be mailed to the church or marked "youth mission trip" and dropped in an offering plate. We are also offering the following youth-baked goods for listed suggested donations. Give me a call at 419-320-3516 to place an order:

2 Dozen cookies (chocolate, white macadamia, chocolate peanut butter, double chocolate fudge, chocolate mint, ginger, sugar) -- \$15

Éclair bars -- \$10

½ Dozen cinnamon rolls (orange or regular)-- \$10

1 Dozen donuts (baked or fried) --\$10

2 Dozen peanut butter chocolate cheesecake bars-- \$16

1 Pie (cherry, apple, or chocolate pudding) -- \$7

2 Dozen muffins (apple, blueberry, chocolate, cinnamon crumble) --\$18

Peach cobbler or pear crisp-- \$12

Bread (monkey, sourdough, nine grain, whole wheat, white) -- \$6/loaf

Thank you so much for your support!

—Pastor Rachel Davies

Please volunteer to help with HoH Makeovers

Haven of Hope [HoH] is the non-profit organization helping us build families, provide hope, and empower community inside and outside the church by making homes more livable. On May 16-17 Haven of Hope volunteers will be completely making over two bedrooms at Aurora House. If you would like to help with this project, or upcoming projects, please fill out a volunteer form. You may have found one in your church mailbox on May 2nd, or you can pick one up at the table in the church foyer or in the church office. You may also call Nicole Szczechowski, Executive Director of Haven of Hope, at 740.507.0431 or email her at igotjoy777@gmail.com. ##



We celebrated baptisms April 18

Pastor Mike has been studying with several people in his baptismal class on Sabbath mornings. Here are those who were baptized during the morning worship service on Sabbath, April 18, 2009.

Ariel Richardson

Ariel was born and spent most of her life in rural Jamaica. She raised eight children and has 25 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She came to Toledo in 1990 and lived with her eldest son who recently died. She is retired from YZ Enterprise in Maumee and now lives with her daughter. She enjoys cooking, shopping, traveling, church, and her grandkids. "Jesus means everything me," Ariel declares. "I am asking for your prayers as I begin this new journey with the Lord."



Kyle Jakubowski

Kyle is the 17 year-old son of Tracy Jakubowski and Jim Jakubowski and grandson of Shirley Smith. He has attended Toledo First since birth and also attended Toledo Junior Academy during his middle school years. He credits Mr. and Mrs. Hall [teachers at TJA] for their influence in growing his faith in God. "To me baptism means renewing your faith in God," Kyle said, "and starting a new life in Christ..."

Sandy Powder

Sandy grew up in various churches. During her 20's she "started thinking about the Hebrews and how good the Lord was to them" and thought, "I want to be with the Lord, too, so I converted to Judaism." She knew she was still missing something, but she didn't know what! Then a friend started telling her over and over, "You are missing Jesus Christ in your life," but Sandy didn't believe her. She had to find out for herself! Now she says, "I don't know how I existed without Him and I couldn't possibly live without Him today."



Shayna Powder

Shayna is Sandy's daughter. She said as she grew in age she also grew in the Lord. She wanted to be baptized to "show God my sincerity and faith that I have in His goodness." She wants to be "a warrior for Christ and the Lord and for goodness to others." She believes it can be a movement to pass goodness on to others and spread God's Word "because it can start with a smile and an open mind."

Tiffany Kidd

Tiffany began attending Toledo First after she became acquainted with other parents at Toledo Junior Academy where her daughter, Rhiannon, attended. She and her husband, Craig, also have a baby daughter, Kiernan. In the beautiful story read at her baptism, Tiffany told of how she and her husband were overcome with emotion for weeks after the births of their daughters. "I had that overwhelming sense of awe I could not explain...I wanted to know more and began to ... thirst for it." She and Rhiannon began coming to church and "something kept drawing me back. It was a love and peace that I had so needed to find and never realized it was right here all the time."

