

the

JULY/AUGUST 2009 EDITION

# FOCAL Point

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

## ✧ The Lord's Fast ✧

*Let us seek the Lord's will regarding a "Storefront Ministry" in Toledo*



**Don't take a vacation from worship**

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I with them.*

*Matthew 18:20 NIV*



Did you know that Jesus himself is currently engaged in a very long fast? Matthew 26:29 says, "I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Did you know that before He returned to heaven, he reminded his disciples that some miraculous movements of God often only happen when people pray *and* fast [cf. Mark 9:29]?

But have you noticed, we his followers still rarely fast? Probably because fasting has been misused as a way to appease God or please others. At least that's how the Pharisees were using fasting in Jesus' day [cf. Mark 2:18-20]. But that's not why Jesus is fasting now and it's not why he said we should too. As Pastor Rachel shared in church last week, one of the reasons for true fasting is to reveal our need for food and drink. Why? Because that revelation can make us more aware of the needs of others whom God also loves like crazy!!!

Isaiah 58:6-7 says it this way: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with

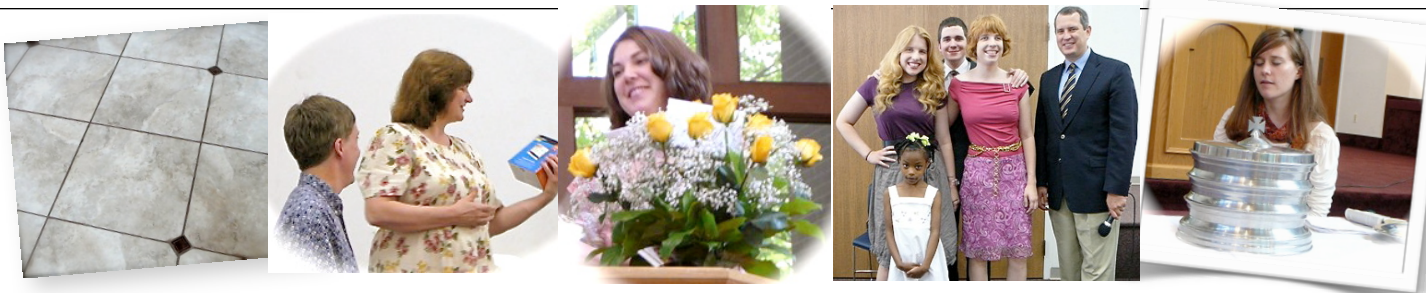
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*The heart that seeks God finds Him.*

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## Here's what we saw in June at Toledo First

Take a look at our beautiful new tile! The foyer floor is completed and we thank Henry Van Wyk for his excellent work! Photo #2 shows Kells & Vicki Hall right after they opened their farewell

gift—a GPS unit so they can find their way back to Toledo OFTEN! Jackie Fortune [our pastor's wife] celebrated her birthday with this lovely bouquet of yellow roses. Then in photo #4 a few of this year's

graduates pose with Pastor Mike. Ryen Langford graduated from TJA Kindergarten and the Cozzens triplets [Jennifer, Joshua & Lanna] graduated from high school. In the final photo Pastor Rachel

prays during the communion service on June 27.

*Thank you, Jeff, for taking the pictures which we share here. ##*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JULY 25 & AUG 15**  
Evangelistic Picnics @ Park

**JULY 26 & AUG 16**  
Outdoor Fun Activity

**JULY 27**  
Church Business Meeting — Everyone welcome

**AUG 17**  
Back to School for Toledo Junior Academy

*Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting [toledofirstadventist.org](http://toledofirstadventist.org)*



### Come to Picnics

July 25 and August 15 are the dates for our Evangelistic Picnics at Wildwood Preserve Metropark [2nd shelter/picnic area by the jogging trail].

We will have signup sheets on the bulletin board for [1] setting up the lemon-

ade stand, [2] tearing down the stand, and [3] for 1-hour shifts preparing and serving lemonade to joggers and hikers in the park.

Remember to bring food for your family and enough to share for the potlucks, then stay for the fun! Take a walk, bike ride, roller blade, or relax and talk with friends! Kids will run and play at the playground nearby.

And, sign up to serve! Let's "show and tell" Toledo that God loves them like crazy! ##

### Thank You!

On July 14 Jennifer Cozzens and Christina and Charlotte David will drive to Detroit to catch a flight down to Quito, Ecuador. The girls and I wish to express our gratitude for all the prayers and financial assistance that have gone into making this mission trip possible for them. Many of you ordered baked goods, purchased scarves, and made generous donations. Thank you. We will be sure to give a full report upon our return. — Pastor Rachel ##



I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin. When he smiled, I realized I had passed my joy on to him. I thought about my smile, then I realized its worth. A single joyous smile could travel round the earth. So, when I smile for Christ's sake, I'll not leave it undetected.

I'll try to start an epidemic and get the whole world infected.

—Adapted from the Internet ##

## The Lord's Fast *[Continued from front page]*

shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

In order for us to live Isaiah 58 and continue to “shout the Gospel with our lives,” for months we’ve been looking and praying for a place to do that outside our church walls. And we thought we finally found one. With a great owner. Who was as excited about us moving in as we were. It has a new roof. Furnace. And a big bay window on a corner lot in an area of downtown Toledo that in the late 1990’s used to be a popular antiques destination. Even more amazing is that God provided outside of our church budget for full payment of the entire first year’s rent!

But for a variety of reasons, we are unable to proceed with this outreach. So we are confused. Why has God seemingly led us to this storefront and provided the resources needed to convert it into a worship and mission outpost but is not arranging for our immediate occupancy? Moving into the storefront and renovating it was supposed to be our Mission Trip to Toledo this summer. But it looks like God is saying “no” “wait” or “look somewhere else” or maybe simply “I want more of you at Toledo First to see the significance of praying *and* fasting.”

We don’t know. What we do know is prayer and fasting is something Jesus did, is doing now, and encouraged his followers to try. Not just to develop a hunger for serving the less fortunate, but to grow closer to God. So if for no other reason, we are inviting you to do that for any five days this month.

Choose one of the options below that Pastor Rachel introduced in church last week. If you have any

blood sugar or health issues, please proceed with caution only after consulting your doctor first!

1. Non-food fast [abstaining from TV, music, video / computer games / online networking, time with friends, or an hour less sleep]

2. Partial-food fast [no sodas or desserts, only fruits and vegetables, raw foods, no animal products, only two meals per day instead of three]

3. Daylight liquid fast [no solid foods between sunrise and sundown, but during night hours food is okay]

4. Total liquid fast [five 24-hr days of only liquids with no solid food]

If after 5 days of fasting this month you hear God saying “no” “wait” or “look elsewhere” please email me: [mike4tune@gmail.com](mailto:mike4tune@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for helping seek God’s will for us! —Pastor Mike ##



*During August the church secretary will be vacationing, but Pastor Mike will be here. He will check voice messages from time to time, but if you really need to get in touch with someone, call his cell phone. ##*



## Save the date!

Some of you may recall that we needed to rename our annual Labor Day car show. Well, we did and we’re calling it the Kidz Crazy Car Show! [So I can tell our community guests that God loves them like crazy and so I can remind all the parents sending their children to James Meade Learning Center and Toledo Junior Academy how badly their kids need a gym!] My friend Jon Eva, at Idea Ink Communications in Washington, D.C., did the logo for us [BIG thanks and WTG to Jon!]

This year all proceeds benefit the Toledo Junior Academy gymnasium building project. So please save the date! It’s Monday, September 7 rain or shine from 4—7 PM. Right now we need help passing out fliers at any of the car shows listed at [www.K100country.com](http://www.K100country.com). There are at least 40 car shows during July and August!

We also need parents and people to give their bosses and companies they work for sponsorship forms. Forms are available at the church office or online at [www.kidzcrazycarshow.org](http://www.kidzcrazycarshow.org). Anyone can pre-register online or download the fliers and sponsorship forms. And check my Blog for more information coming soon! —Pastor Mike ##



## Summer Fun!

What's summer without a little outdoor fun on a lake or a river? Whether you are single, a couple, or family — plan to join Pastor Mike for a day of fun on the water. Save the dates: Sunday, July 26, for Harrison Lake and Sunday, August 16, for the Mohican River [Camp Mohaven]. And check with Pastor Mike for the exact location and time to meet. Information can also be found in the weekly bulletin when we're closer to the dates. ##



## Congrats, Grads!

Congratulations to all of our graduates, from Kindergarten to Graduate School! The photo above shows some of the Toledo Junior Academy students with 8th grade graduate, NaHyoung Kim. In the photo at the end of the article, Kells and Vickie Hall, TJA teachers for the past 7 years [who moved to Mt. Vernon this summer], are joined by NaHyoung. Here are all of our grads:

**TJA Kindergarten** [7 will return to TJA!]

*Miracle Burt*

*De'Von Cohen  
Erika Dryfuse  
MacKenzie Hayes  
Lilyan LaFontaine  
Ryen Langford  
Madasyn Lewis  
Daniel Vetter*

### TJA 8th Grade

*Na Hyoung Kim*

### High School

*Lanna Cozzens* - Britton Macon — will continue studies there

*Jennifer Cozzens* - Blissfield — going to Baker in Flint, MI to be Veterinary Technician

*Joshua Cozzens* - Blissfield — going to Andrews U. studying Biblical Archaeology

*Christina David* - Notre Dame Academy — going to CA Preparatory College before LaSierra

*Ambyr Herman* - Whitmer — going to Lourdes taking Pre-med with goal of being a pediatrician

*Alex Jessop* - St Francis de Sales — going to Air Force Academy

*John [Kwang Bok] Lee* - St. Francis de Sales [friend of Alex from Korea] — going to Indiana U.

*Lisa Marsh* - Sylvania Southview — going to UT studying Bio-Engineering

*Jarrod Oliver* - Whiteford — Auto Mechanic Apprenticeship

### Graduate School

*Cindy Leibengood* - BGSU, Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching

*Duane Gustrowsky* - UT, Master of Accounting - studying for CPA

### Proud Grandparents of Graduates

Mary Snowberger

*Jonathan Gardiner* - Mayfield H. S. in Cleveland

Donna Schuster

*Steven Pires* - North Carolina State, B.S. in Environmental Technology — going back to NCSU for degree in Wood & Paper Science Engineering

*Sarah Schuster* - Eastern Michigan U., Bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine — going to graduate school for physical therapy degree

Jim & Cindy Naus

*Hunter Jones* - 8th grade

*Janell Rosenberger* - High School  
*Scott Abbott* - Paris Island - Marine Basic Training

*Ricky Naus* - Paris Island - Marine Basic Training



## Need TJA Grad Names

We've had lots of graduates over the 80+ years that TJA/Seventh-day Adventist School/Goff Memorial School has been in existence. If you know the names and current addresses of any of those graduates, would you share with us? Either call the church office at 419.882.6200 or email [dee@toledofirstadventist.org](mailto:dee@toledofirstadventist.org). Thanks for your help!

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