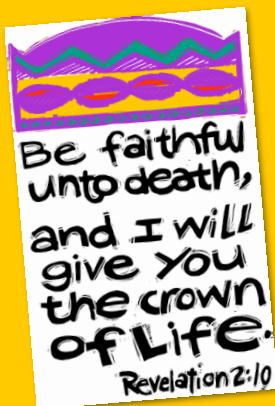


the

OCT 2008 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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



*Help me today,
Father,
to submit my agenda
to your perfect
planning.*

—John Sherrill

lelelele

✧ Take Control of Your Money ✧

Again this fall we're offering a financial seminar, this time marketing to women because today, every woman—single or married—needs to plan ahead for personal and family security. Getting out of debt, budgeting, and pursuing sound investment strategies are sure to benefit everyone whatever your age. Classes will be held Wednesday, **October 8** and Saturday, **October 11, 7:00 - 8:30 PM** each evening.

Classes will be taught by Shanyne Stewart, an investment advisor and partner at Leach, Stewart and Associates. She will guide you through all areas of money management and planning for the future. In addition to her financial acumen, Shanyne is a wonderful Christian with loads of experience in pastoral ministry and is also a proud parent of a 3rd grader at Toledo Junior Academy.

In these current times of bank failures, government bailouts, and home foreclosures, everyone knows someone with questions about finances. Bring your friends, family—yourself—to get the answers you and they need. On Saturday night, come to Connections at 5 PM. Enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of praise and worship before the seminar at 7 PM.

The educational workshop is free, but a suggested donation of \$20 covers the cost of a 20-page workbook full of valuable information to help you plan for a brighter future. Pre-register for the workshop by calling 419.882.6200 ASAP. ##



Taking Control

A Financial Management Workshop for Women

... It is in our life and conduct that we must show our devotion to Christ. —Woodrow Wilson

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RingFest is set!

Thirteen Adventist High School and Junior Academy Bell Choirs from all over the Eastern U.S. (more groups than ever before) will be arriving at Toledo First for the Ninth Annual RingFest - Handbell festival and workshop.

Registration will be Wednesday night, October 29; Workshop, October 30 & 31; Concert, Friday October 31 @ 7:30 PM. The Community Outreach this year is the Kidney Foundation of North-West Ohio (KFNWO).

The groups coming this year are: Adelpian Junior Academy (MI), Andrews Academy (MI), Atlanta Adventist Academy (GA), Blue Mountain Academy (PA), C. F. Richards Junior Academy (VA), Greater Lansing Adventist School (MI), Indiana Academy (IN), Mount Pisgah Academy (NC), Mount Vernon Academy (OH), Shenandoah Valley Academy (VA), Spencerville Adventist Academy (MD), Toledo Junior Academy (OH), and Wisconsin Academy (WI).

Housing this year will be at the Quality Inn on Airport Highway. Despite receiving an exceptional deal from the management, this is by far the greatest expense for the festival this year - over \$7000. Any donations from the church family would be greatly appreciated.

Toledo Junior Academy students will be selling candy bars to help offset their costs. (Still getting all the details worked out.)

Our chosen Community Outreach for this year is the Kidney Foundation. There are over 20 million kidney patients in the United States. Of these, over 100,000 need dialysis to survive. The KFNWO helps over 500 kidney patients here in North-west Ohio each year. Despite government subsidy for kidney patients who have end-stage renal failure, the costs for medications, treatments, and transportation can be overwhelming. Many give up and die. KFNWO provides help to as many patients as they can, but it is never enough. RingFest is partnering with KFNWO this year to help raise money to help those living with renal disease. RingFest participants will be giving out Lollipops in their hometowns in exchange for donations to the KF. RingFest would like to encourage church members who participate in local Trick-or-Treat events to purchase a 100-count box of Lollipops to distribute. The cost per box is \$15. Also, a portion of the freewill offering during the Friday night Concert will be donated to the Kidney Foundation. —Janell Ashley ##

T.R.I.P. made even easier

TJA is proud to unveil a new and even easier way to take part in T.R.I.P. (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program)!

I'm sure most of you are familiar and have heard about this program. But, for those of you who have not I'll give you a quick update. TJA has an extensive list of participating retailers that offer gift cards at face value for things you already buy like gas, groceries, clothes, shoes etc. These retailers then give percentages of that money to TJA. The school in turn splits this percentage between students' tuition and to help with TJA's budget.

By participating in this program YOU have the potential of helping many of our TJA students reduce their tuition and helping the school stretch our budget a little bit further. It is all possible because you're leveraging the money you are already spending!

This year we are pleased to announce that we are able to make it even easier to be part of this program by being able to order from home, work, or wherever your computer is. Online registering and ordering is so simple! You don't have to worry about picking up an order form, you always have it

available. But, don't be alarmed if you aren't computer savvy, you can still order the way you always have—by filling out an order form and dropping it in the box (with your check of course, made out to TJA Scrip). We have two box locations, one outside the school office in the hallway, and one across from the mailboxes at church in the foyer. Order forms are now conveniently available by these boxes as well.

Whether ordering online or by order form, orders and payment MUST be received each Monday by 9:00 AM. Your order will then be available for pick-up with Kells Hall on the Thursday that follows. Isn't that great? You get your order all in the same week!!

If you are interested in online ordering, please see me for a how-to guide to get you started ordering online. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. I want to thank you in advance for taking part in helping make it just a little bit easier for students to attend TJA and for helping TJA educate students for life and eternity! —Kendra Bills ##

Tent City is all about helping the homeless

"Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down(trodden)" Isaiah 1:17

Helping those who are less fortunate is the goal of Tent City—an initiative that raises awareness and services for the homeless. Tent City is the weekend of Oct 31st - Nov 2nd and is being run this year by the group: IMatters.org, an advocacy group that believes homelessness is an issue that affects us all. IMatters.org wants to be the “1” that matters to those that matter. This organization gives 100% of the profits to the homeless. It is a solely volunteer group with no salary or overhead.

The homeless & services come together at Tent City

Tent City was started in 1990 to bring the homeless and the services they need together. The homeless are helped to find shelter, medical care, clothing and to get IDs. Meals are served and clothing donated by the community is distributed throughout the three days. People are encouraged to come to the Civic Center Mall in downtown Toledo to volunteer their time, money, and gently used clothing to the homeless. Last year, Tent City delivered over \$50,000 in medical supplies and other services during the weekend. They also want people to stay overnight Friday or Saturday night to get to know and talk to the homeless and enjoy entertainment provided. They feel people will walk away with a better understanding of homelessness.

Churches should be in forefront

IMatters.org wants church congregations in the area to feel the call to help the homeless. The church should be the leading example to help

others. If churches don't help, then how are we spreading the love that God holds for us and others? It only takes one person to make a difference in the life of someone else—to show that we care.

Tent City is hoping to encourage area churches to have clothing drives and obtain donated backpacks, new socks, shoes, boots, and personal hygiene items. The personal hygiene items include: disposable razors, soap, shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, toothbrushes, toothpaste, alcohol-free mouth wash, shampoo, tissues, and combs/brushes.

Bring clothing & toiletries

This year, we are hoping to gather donations from our church. We still need lots of winter clothes for adults and kids and hygiene items. Hopefully, on Sunday, November 2nd, we will have a group of youth, or whoever else feels so called, to go downtown and donate our time to help either feed the homeless or distribute clothing, etc. We, as followers of Jesus are vessels for His love through our donations and time. As IMatters.org believes, it only takes one person to make a difference. Let us show our support for Tent City and the homeless. *“For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.”* (Galatians 5:13) — Mindy Flack, visitation team ##

Life Line Screening comes to Toledo First

If you have not already done so, you can sign up for screenings that will help detect warning signs of stroke. Blood tests will be available

too. Depending on the package you choose, the cost runs from \$99 for the complete Lipid Panel, Glucose (blood sugar) and C-Reactive Protein (CRP), to \$219 for three vascular screenings, plus heart rhythm, plus bone density plus the three blood tests. More information is available at lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required. Call 800.324.1851. A few discount coupons are available if you are unable to pay the full amount. Please call me for details. —Dee Caulder (419.882.6200) ##

We're havin' a Hayride!

What October would be complete without a hayride? Dave and Sheila

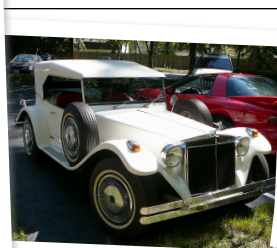


Case are hosting again at their farm, so mark the date: October 25, and plan to come. The

evening will get started about 7 PM. Come to Connections at church from 5 - 6 PM, then on to the Cases! ##

Ready to try a new Review?

The *Adventist Review* is making it easy for you to try the brand new *Review* with a new look and a new attitude. You can get three free issues. If you like it, then pay just \$31.95 and you'll receive 36 more issues. (Regular price is \$36.95 for 36 issues— one full year.) If you do not wish to subscribe, just mark “cancel” on the bill and return it without any cost or obligation. You can't beat that! Try the new *Adventist Review* today. Call 800.456.3991 or visit www.adventistreview.org or fill out the order form on the foyer table at church and mail to Subscriber Services, P. O. Box 1119, Hagerstown, MD 21741. ##



Cars 4 Kidz did not disappoint

Labor Day 2008 dawned with the promise of cool cars, great music, hot dogs, fresh-squeezed lemonade and most importantly, raising \$3k to purchase Webkinz to comfort kids with cancer.

The abundant sunshine, willing volunteers, and generous guests made this event a resounding success. Forty-nine cars were shown at this year's car show and they did not disappoint.

Johnny Rodriguez kept the 50's and 60's hits rolling until the awards were given. Then the Hot Wheels truck did some wheelies across the school parking lot which got the crowd fired up. Greg La-Point pulled out several of his

cars and put on a smoke filled burnout show!

Special thanks to our sponsor, St. V's Mercy Children's Hospital, and big thanks and WTG to all TF volunteers who served. —Pastor Mike

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 8 & 11
Financial Seminar

OCT 11
Education Day

OCT 22
Life Line Screening

OCT 29-31
RingFest

Essential for Growth = Circles

Jesus gave his disciples a task we sometimes refer to as the "Great Commission".

Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Small group ministries is proven to be one of the most effective tools known to the church for connecting people to Jesus and growing them in discipleship. That is why Toledo First has developed what we call Circles.

Circles is:

- A place to belong – be yourself
- To provide a safe setting where confidentiality is expected and no one is judged
- To encourage community through fellowship
- To help others discover their spiritual gifts
- To develop active disciples as they live out their faith in daily life
- To provide avenues for service to God
- To generate leaders for the church

-To multiply into more small groups with new people to participate.

Get connected

If you have not yet joined one of the Circles and would like to or would like to get more information, please contact me. Also, we need more "Circles". Please contact me if you have a desire to form a new group.
~Carla Szczechowski

cszczechowski@ymcatoledo.org, 419-866-8951) ##

Mission opportunities

The Quiet Hour needs medical staff to help operate medical, dental and eye clinics in Peru, May 22-June 6, 2009 and Jamaica, November 6-21, 2009. Please contact Charlene West at 800.900.9021 or visit the quiethour.org, evangelism opportunities, or charlenew@thequiethour.org ##

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