

the

NOVEMBER 2008 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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



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

—Oswald Chambers

delede

✘ November = More Ordinary Outreach! ✘

It's frosty mornings, leaves rustling, bulb planting, and preparing for winter, but November is more than that. Thanksgiving dominates the month. And it brings us another chance to impact the lives of people for Jesus.

First, on November 15th we will hand out plastic grocery bags with Colossians 3:17 printed on them inside a wreath of leaves. Please return the bags on November 22 filled with non-perishable food items. (A suggested list will be attached to the bag.) This food will be taken to local homeless shelters to help them feed hungry people.



We have also been invited by Cherry Street Mission to serve food on Thanksgiving Day, either 11 AM - 1 PM, 1 - 3 PM, or 3 - 5 PM. They have four locations. Please contact Pastor Mike if you can help on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th.

November also includes other activities: Leaf Raking at Church (Nov. 9th), Little Minnow Awards, Welcome Lunch for Pastor Rachel & the Landeros family, Adventist Book Center & Bake Sale (all on Nov. 22nd). Read about these activities (and more news you can use!) in the following pages. —DeLaura Caulder ##

Bread for myself is a material question, but bread for my neighbor is a spiritual one. —Jacques Maritan

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Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first "Thanks" and then "Giving."

YO assists in "Food for Thought"

For several months I have participated in a parting request of Pastor Nathan. It has been my good fortune to continue the assistance of Toledo First Youth, on the first Sabbath of each month to assist the leadership of the New Harvest Church (<http://nhccoh.org>) in their homeless mission of "Food for Thought."

You can read the mission statement and more about this "leaving the church building" ministry at <http://www.christianvolunteering.org/org/org20772.jsp>. Without a doubt the real emphasis of this ministry is to use food to build relationships with people who desperately need to know that God loves them, and that their lives have real value.

A truly unique, and maybe unexpected blessing of this ministry, is the regular participation of non church-related youth from the Sylvania public high schools.

Each time I have the pleasure of driving our Church Bus with Steven, Josh, Jenny, Lanna, Kyle, Brandon, Christie, and Charlotte to "Food for Thought" I am reminded and thank God for the blessed ministry and wonderful ambassadorship provided our Toledo First Church by Pastor Nathan.

WTG Nathan, thanks for the assignment! —Leonard S Jessop, Toledo First SDA Church, Bus driver ##

Fundraisers - past & future!

A BIG thank you to all of you who were so kind when approached or called by a TJA student to purchase Yankee Candles in our latest school gym fundraiser. Due to much hard work by our students and parents, we raised over \$2,000 towards our school gymnasium fund. WAY TO GO!!! All of these kids were so proud of what they personally contributed towards their gym.

Bake Sale is Nov 22!

We will also be doing a Bake Sale November 22 and proceeds will also go towards gym fundraising. We are planning some delicious *home made treats* you don't want to miss! This is the same evening that the ABC will be here for the book sale. So come on out, buy some books and some yummy goodies too! [Freeze some for Christmas or enjoy them for Thanksgiving Dinner.]

Thank you for supporting Toledo Jr. Academy! —Kendra Bills, Home & School Leader ##

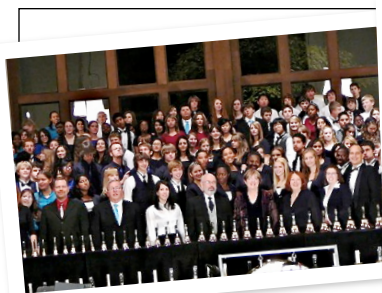
Full-color Calendars for the 2008-2009 school year are available from the school for \$12 (419.841.0082). Student activity pictures are featured throughout.

Don't forget T.R.I.P. for gifts!

What could be easier! You can have all your Christmas shopping done quickly and easily and help our school at the same time! How, you ask? By purchasing gift cards from Toledo Junior Academy. Here's what to do. Pick up a T.R.I.P (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) list from the literature rack across from the mailboxes at church. Decide whether to give your sister a gift card to Bath & Body Works or Barnes & Noble, and whether to give Dad a gift card to Home Depot or Speedway, and keep going through your list and marking down your choices, total it up, include your check & send it or bring it to the school. Each Monday at 9 AM the orders are placed, then on Thursday of the same week the gift cards are ready for pickup.

Each of the retailers who participate in this program gives a percentage of the gift card amount to the school. By participating in this program YOU have the potential of helping many of our TJA students reduce their tuition and helping the school stretch its budget a little bit further.

This year 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! Please see Kendra Bills to get the code number and instructions for online ordering. ##



Toledo First's October in Review

October highlights included: RingFest 2008 when 13 bell choirs came for instruction and to play at the concert. Awesome! On

Education Day [photo 2] our own Toledo Junior Academy students, their parents and teachers, were honored at the Sabbath

morning worship. Photos 3 & 4 are the annual Hayride! Many thanks to the Dave and Sheila Case for their hospitality, the

warmth of the bonfire and the ride in the wagon! A good time was had by all! ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 9

Get to Know Pastor Rachel's Rake-a-Thon

Nov 15

Baptism Class starts
Distribute Thanksgiving Bags

Nov 22

Little Minnow Welcome Lunch
ABC & Bake Sale

Nov 25

Thanksgiving Feast-TJA

Here's the scoop:

Nov 9—Leaf Raking, 1:30 - 4:30 PM with Pastor Rachel. Please come & help!

Nov 11—Scrapbooking for everyone, 7 PM—church foyer. Cost \$7 for materials.

Nov 15—Pastor's Class begins, 10 AM. If you're interested in baptism & church membership, please register by calling 419.882.6200 or send an email to: dee@toledofirstadventist.org



Nov 15—Grocery Bags for Thanksgiving will be distributed.

Nov 15—Pinewood Derby at 7 PM

Nov 22—Bring back Grocery Bags filled with non-perishables.

Nov 22—Little Minnow Awards given at 11 AM.

Nov 22—Welcome Lunch for Pastor Rachel & Jennifer Landeros & family. It's a Friendship Dinner hosted by Heather Smith-LaPoint & her team. No need to bring food.

Nov 22—ABC Books & TJA Bake Sale, 7 PM, home-baked breads, cookies, etc. Order books and health foods by Nov 20 by calling the ABC @ 800.643.5714.

Nov 25—TJA Thanksgiving Feast, 11 AM

Dec 6—Weekly Webkinz Giveaways begin [Dec-Feb].

Dec 6—Christmas Tea

Dec 18—School Christmas Program, 7 PM

Dec 26—YO Agape Christmas Communion, 7 PM

Dec 27—Messiah Musical Christmas Program, 11 AM

Jan 5—Church Business Meeting, 7 PM. We're working our way through the TF Assimilation Manual. Come & join the discussion.

Every Sabbath—Connections @ 5 PM

Every Tuesday—Adventurers @ 6:30 PM

Every Wednesday—Prayer Meeting @ 7 PM, studying *Searching for the*

God of Grace by Stuart Tyner

1st Saturday—YO feeds homeless [Food for Thought]

1st & 3rd Saturdays—Pathfinders meet [also last Sunday of each month]

Saturdays—Jamaicans for Jesus [Nursing Home Outreach]

3rd Monday—TJA serves lunch @ Cherry St. Mission

Circle Groups meet as scheduled: weekly, monthly, or twice monthly.

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

Getting to Know You — The Landeros Family

Our Toledo First family is happy to welcome our new school teacher, Jennifer Landeros, who teaches grades 3 - 5 at Toledo Junior Academy. Jennifer and her husband, Al, and children:



Daniel 8, Kathryn 6, Emma 3 and Taryn 16 months moved to Toledo in

July from Chattanooga Tennessee. Both Al and Jennifer expressed their thanks to the church family for helping them move in when they arrived.

To get better acquainted, we asked Jennifer and Al several questions about themselves. They both said that the best experience they ever had was having each of their kids. Their kids' interests include reading, crafts, building things, and nature. Al likes computers, history, Bible, math and science. Jennifer's hobbies are reading, playing the piano, and camping. Al, whose occupation is Information Tech, was born in Southern California and Jennifer's hometown is Asheville, North Carolina.

When asked about their best vacation ever, Al replied that he enjoys any vacation with his family, while Jennifer was more specific. She especially liked going to Mexico Beach, Florida with her whole family plus her mom and sister. Both Jennifer and Al would like to take a trip out west with their kids.

Jennifer describes herself as quiet, studious and caring while Al says he is “not indifferent, introverted.” In other churches Jennifer has been a pianist and greeter. Al has helped with Pathfinders. They would both like to play a more active role here.

Jennifer chose Job as the one person who “most inspires” her because no matter what he went through, Job was still able to praise God. Al chose Jesus as most inspirational because He was perfect.

They have the same “favorite” Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

And, now that you know them a little better, introduce yourself so they can get to know you! —DeLaura Caulder ##

Getting to Know You — Pastor Rachel Davies

Driving a U-Haul truck across the country from Seattle, Pastor Rachel arrived in Toledo on October 15. We are so happy to welcome her as our new youth pastor.

She's been busy getting settled while immersing herself in TF church life and getting to know our youth.

Rachel was born in Victoria, British Columbia, and was baptized in Bellingham, Washington. She graduated from Walla Walla and has spent the past year traveling through Europe and Asia. She would like to walk the “Camino de Santiago de Compostela” (ancient medieval pilgrimage route) through Europe for several months. Her best vacation was when she stayed at a monastery in France for a month. “It taught me an integrated lifestyle of prayer and play,” she said.



When asked what three words describe her best, she replied: “1, 2, 3: LOVED.” Her hobbies include: reading, writing, traveling, cooking hot Indian curries and being an ethnic food connoisseur.

The three most spiritually forming experiences of her life were: 1) annual “Ultimate Workout” mission trips when she was a teen, 2) Walla Walla and 3) India. The one person who most inspires her is Mother Teresa because she “understood profoundly what it means to love Jesus.” Her favorite Scripture text is Jeremiah 15:19.

Pastor Rachel misses her “two beautiful brothers,” Jesse 10 and Anakin 8, but

she's not without companionship. Nova, her feline friend, made the trip with her. Nova



entertains her by chasing her tail, doing backflips over the couch and purring in her ear at night.

Pastor Rachel also wants you to know: “I'm so happy to be here! I've been so blessed by the warm spirit and generosity of the Toledo First community already. Thanks for inviting me to be a part of this family!” ##

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



Devotionals for 2009

Below is a brief overview of the new Devotional books for 2009. Two prices are listed. The lower price is available if we as a church have an order of at least 10 books total. The prices are good through January 30, 2009, but some people may wish to purchase them for gifts. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board. If we get 10 orders before Nov. 20 we could have them delivered when the ABC arrives.

Adult—Lest We Forget by George R. Knight. Remember how God has led us in the past. \$14.99 [Special church price, \$10.99]

Evening—The Upward Look by Ellen G. White. Excerpts from Mrs. White's manuscripts and letters, always pointing to Jesus as our hope of salvation. \$14.99 [Special church price, \$10.99]

Women—Grace Notes edited by Ardis Stenbakken. Women from around the world share God's enduring grace in their lives. \$17.99 [Special church price, \$13.99]

Young Adult—Getting Through by Yvonne Rodney. Midst devastating loss, members of New Haven Ministries struggle to get through so God's promise can be fulfilled. \$12.99 [Special church price, \$8.99]

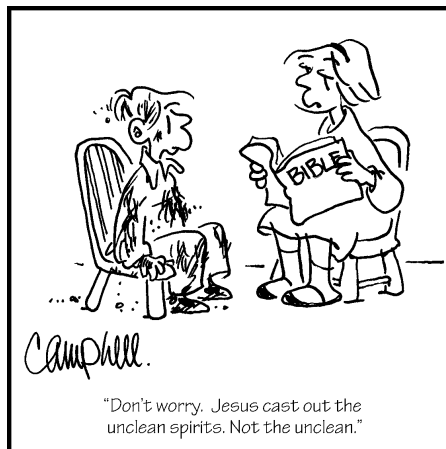
Teen—24.7.365 by Dwain Neilson Esmond. One year in the Word. Watch the Bible play out and get acquainted with people who struggle just as you do. \$14.99 [Special church price, \$10.99]

Junior—Elasti-Brain by the Guide Editors. Clear out some space in your cranium—you'll be stuffing it full of facts and faith! \$14.99 [Special church price, \$10.99]

Primary—Heroes in Training by Vicki Redden. Read about heroes from Bible times to modern times. \$14.99 [Special church price, \$10.99]

Preschool—Love Letters from Jesus by RosAnne Tetz. 180 readings using simple object lessons that your child can touch, chew, pray, play, smell, squish, color, bake & laugh over. \$14.99 [Special church price, \$10.99]

Adult Sharing Book—The Sign by Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director for It Is Written. Life has become very noisy in the 21st century. It is hard to escape noise and busyness. We have come to think of relentless activity as noble. . . . Even though we secretly resent working every spare minute of every day, we actually feel guilty if we spend time doing nothing in particular. . . . Somebody is trying to keep us incessantly occupied, because if we stopped the endless cycle of activity for even a few moments, we would discover something amazing: the presence of God. Learn about God's sign of love and loyalty, a day to step away from your noisy, hectic life. Come explore with Pastor Boonstra the joys of the Sabbath. [1-9=\$1.99 each; 10-99=\$1.49 each; 100-999=\$1.29 each; 1000+=\$1.09 each.] ##



Pumpkin people



How is being a Christian like being a pumpkin?

God sees us, picks us out of the dirt, cleans us off, takes the yucky material out of us by forgiving us, puts a smile on our faces and places a shining light within us for others to see.

Jesus said: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NRSV).

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

T. Gyatso,
the 14th Dalai Lama

Guidance from Wesley

John Wesley (1703-1791) offered the following "Rules of Conduct" for Christians:

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can. ##