

SEPTEMBER 2007 EDITION

the

FOCAL Point

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

Let the children come to me;
do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that
the kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14b



*Every child born
into the world is a
new thought of
God, an ever-fresh
and radiant
possibility.*

lelelele

* 150 Webkinz is goal for Car Show *

A Webkinz is a special stuffed animal that our Cars 4 Kidz sponsor St. Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital recommends as THE toy 7 year olds and up really love. Not only is it soft and cushy comforting kids in crises battling cancer, it also allows its owner to connect to the internet for continued "care and learning."

Through the generosity of St. Vincent's Mercy Children's Hospital, we have received enough money to purchase 50 Webkins so far. The goal between now and September 3rd is to find 50 more people/families/giving units **inside** Toledo First and 50 more **outside** Toledo First willing to part with \$20 each so we can **triple** the number of Webkinz we can give to kids in crisis as an ordinary outreach of our church.

Hey kids, will you or your brother or sister pool your allowance money together to sponsor one Webkinz? Could you collect some loose change from the couch? Could you do some odd jobs for your parents around the house? **We want to give away 150 Webkinz to comfort children battling cancer. I KNOW we can do it!!!** Thank you for considering this small gift to show one child that God loves them almost as much as He loves you!!! Just kidding. As much!!! —Pastor Mike ##



Attitude is the crayon that colors our world.

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1st Annual 'Cars 4 Kidz' Car Show is Labor Day

Just picture half of our parking lot filled with great vintage cars, dragsters, hotrods and more - 60 cars in all! September 3rd is the day and we'll be giving away

fresh-squeezed lemonade and hotdogs hot off the grill. And we'll have a moonwalk! We can use lots of help as we serve our community friends and neighbors. We need help

with setting up the stage, making lemonade, grilling the dogs, registering cars, and parking lot control. St. James is willing to share their parking lot that day for

attendees. We will need lots of volunteers, so please look for the sign up sheets in the foyer and choose a time you can help. Thanks a million! —Dee Caulder ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	SEPT 22	SEPT 29	OCT 6	OCT 25-26
	<i>Confessions of a Bridge Builder</i>	Welcome Social for new pastorS	<i>Pastor Sorvino & Hayride @ Cases</i>	RingFest

Oh My Goodness! Where are the kids?!

You may have thought they were out of the sanctuary and on vacation but the truth is, our kids have been dealing with Old Testament warfare. Believe it or not, as young leaders, they have been bringin' it! Thanks to Toledo First's innovative children's ministry program known as Kid Connect, children ages 4-12 have been making strong connections with each other and with Christ.

Every quarter Kid Connect will have a theme and an interactive program to learn different biblical stories. This quarter's theme is, "Bible Super Heroes." Every Sabbath at 11am kids come in ready to praise, pray, play, and learn, all while having fun! So far they have followed Joshua all the way to Jericho to destroy its walls. They have even marched behind Gideon all the way to Midian, with their torches held high, and taken over the Midianites! With such courage and bravery, it is no wonder why a nine foot giant

like Goliath has been the least of their problems!

One of the main components of Kid Connect has been role playing. After singing and hearing the story, kids are assigned different characters and/or tasks to take on to help reenact the story, therefore becoming part of God's glorious victories. Throughout the hour they also break into small groups and play trivia games. Through such activities they have been learning the importance of working together as a team and remembering important details from each

story, such as geographical locations and names of tribes, such as the Moabites, Philistines, Midianites, and more.

Please keep an eye out for more information on the bulletin board—which is currently under construction—in the Fellowship Hall. A special thanks to all of the parents, volunteers, supporters, and especially to the kids for their great enthusiasm and high energy ;)

Kid Connect is held every Sabbath at 11am and 5pm. — Pastor Aly ##

Our Time at Cedar Point



On Friday, Aug. 17 our youth group went to Cedar Point. We did lots of volunteer work so that we could go. It was so much fun! It was better than any amusement park I have ever been to,

with all the things we did. We came to the church early in the morning. We listened to Nathan as he gave us the rules we had to follow, so that we wouldn't get lost or get into trouble. We had a long trip in the car, but it was fun because we were listening to music and talking about stuff.

Soon we were there and getting on all those fun rides! We went on the **Demon Drop**, the **Cork Screw**, and the **Power Tower!**

Nathan and Aly were there all the time to supervise us. We had a good lunch and then more rides. Some rides were pretty easy, like **Ocean Motion**. Then we went on some roller coasters: the **Sky Ride**, the **Twister** and the **Chaos**. We could not go on some of the rides because the lines were too long, but other than that we had SO MUCH FUN and it was the opportunity of a lifetime!

When it was late we went to the car and then to Taco Bell for some more good food. Then it was time to go home and I was sad to leave because we had so much fun ! ! ! ! ! Thank you to Nathan and Aly and everyone else who made this trip possible! —by Lanna E. Cozzens ##

Pastor Bryan Gallant to speak September 22

Pastor Bryan is the founder of Enoch's Passion, a ministry to Muslims in the United States. He is a former Adventist Frontier Missionary to the Muslim Chan in Cambodia, and has a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies from the University of Georgia.

He will speak at Toledo First's 11 o'clock worship and at 2:30 will speak on "Confessions of a Bridge Builder" at the University of Toledo's Law Center Auditorium just off Secor Rd., south of Bancroft. (Sack lunches will be provided after worship in order to make the 2:30 meeting easier to attend.)

All community members are invited to the meeting at

the Law Center including Christians inside and outside the Adventist community as well as Muslims. ##

Women's Retreat set for October

Registrations must be received by September 10 for the Women's Retreat October 12-14 at Deer Creek Resort. Lodging costs on average are about \$140 which includes meals and materials for the weekend (Sabbath all day and Sunday morning).

Joy Swift, speaker, is author of the best-selling book, "They're All Dead, Aren't They" published in 1986, and other books written since then.

Applications are available at ohioadventist.org — click the events button. Or pick up an application in the church office. —Dee Caulder ##

Welcome Social begins with S&SS

We're planning a Welcome Social for Pastor Nathan and Pastor Aly for September 29, and to start it off we'll have a Salad & Sandwich Supper at 6:30 following Connections. Our plan is to start the program at 7:30 PM (if all goes well!).

There will be no potluck that day, so plan to come to the supper. Bring a plate of sandwiches to share, or a salad of your choice. Plan to have fun. ##

13th Sabbath is Education Day

On September 29, Toledo Junior Academy along with the Youth and Kid Connect will be presenting our 11 o'clock service for 13th Sabbath. Expect lots of children, singing, and fun in what we expect to be a unique worship experience.

We hope to do this every quarter and look forward to having our children help lead us closer to Christ! —Pastor Nathan ##

Another School Year Begins

The school doors opened wide August 21st to admit the 45 students who now make up the Kindergarten through 8th grades at Toledo Junior Academy. We're happy to say that five of the kindergarten students came from our James Meade Learning Center's pre-K class.

In addition to Mr. & Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Holland, two teacher aides have been added this year: Mrs. Marcene Marsa and Mrs. Cindy Naus. Please pray for a successful school year for students and staff. ##

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James Meade Learning Center - a new beginning

A few months ago I was cleaning out a box in preparation for a yard sale. I began to read a pile of cards that I had saved over the years. I found a small card with a heart of roses on the front. The card contained a saying of thoughtfulness and inside a handwritten note. The note said, "I hardly know how to put this into words, how pleased my James would be to see his dream come true. Much Love, Eleanor." I was silent for a moment as I began to reflect on the many memories I had of the beginning days of the James Meade Learning Center.

I was so thankful of the gentle way the Lord had allowed James Meade to see a vision for children to be loved and to learn about God's love. I could not stop thinking about this

for the remainder of the day. I was unsettled by the thought of some "unfinished work" at the James Meade Learning Center.

Just a few weeks later I found myself in a place of returning to JMLC for another opportunity to direct the center. I am amazed at the working power of God. He always knows just what we need, the perfect time, and He truly does order our footsteps.

Thank you for the wonderful welcome back and I am excited to watch the plan unfold according to His purpose.

—Tanya Purcell ##



Reflections following VBS

As I write this we just had Vacation Bible School. The theme was *Quest for Truth*, and we laid out some basic truths for the kids and hopefully they picked up on those truths; the awesome love of our Lord for His children.

As most of you know, I have a six year old son. A couple weeks ago we went to Maumee Bay State Park to observe a kite flying exhibition. We checked out all the

unique kites for awhile and then we bought a small kite.

Garrett went swimming and down the water slide, and we just walked around a bit. I left Heidi and Garrett on the beach for a minute so I could get a soft pretzel.

When I came back, Heidi was sitting on the beach flying the kite we had just bought, while Garrett was picking up bird feathers off the shore. And in the eyes of a six year old, what do you think was the highlight of our afternoon adventure at the park? That's right, those common sea gull feathers were the hit of the day.

When I was considering helping with Vacation Bible School this year, I tried to approach it as what can I offer? And I'm sure that most of the helpers thought that

way. That is good. We as parents and/or older children want to help and lead the little ones. But there is another side. That is, not only what can we teach our children, but also, what can our children teach us? Maybe better said, what can we be reminded of? The innocence and pleasure found in the small things of life. Remember the wonder of kicking a ball, playing with a wet sponge, throwing a Frisbee, or collecting bird feathers?

Jesus told us not to forget what it is to be a child.

Matthew 18:1-5 (NKJV)

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, "who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,

3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

May we all remember what it is to look at the world, and more importantly, look to our Savior through the eyes of a child.

Friends, we are *all* blessed and *all* loved beyond *all* comprehension.

—Submitted by Ron Denlinger ##