

November/December 2020

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

Think Outside the Trash This Christmas!

They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Matthew 2:11

What's fire proof, bullet proof, earthquake resistant, well insulated, affordable to build, and helps to save the planet? Give up? It's bottle houses! This December we are choosing an ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) project to benefit lepers in Mauritania, Africa.

As we know from Bible times, those with leprosy are often cast out and live on the fringes of society. If they can find work at all, it is the lowliest of jobs and doesn't come close to covering the needs of the family. In Mauritania, lepers are often homeless, living out in the blazing sun, monsoon rains, and blowing dust.

Mauritania is a very poor country anyway with the majority of families having to build their own homes from whatever they can find. Since most of the country is desert, homes are not typically built from wood. Bricks are also expensive to make because the bricks need to be heated in a kiln which takes energy in some form (electric, wood, etc.) which people cannot afford.

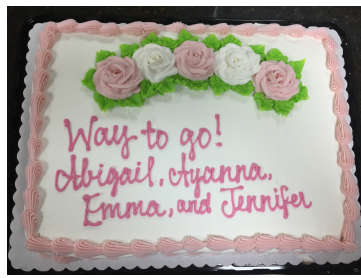
(Continued on page 3, column 1)



"I love autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it. —Lee Maynard"

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September & October at Toledo First

The Toledo First food pantry is stocked and ready to serve our church and community. Thanksgiving items are still needed! (Photo 1). In Photo 2 we welcomed 4 new members, Abigail, Ayanna, Emma, and Jennifer through baptism on September 12.

Pastor Mike shared a photo from Michigan taken during an outdoor adventure prior to the leaves changing colors (photo 3). In photo 4 Kathryn takes a picture with two friends/coworkers from camp who were visiting Toledo First. ##

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|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Calendar of Events | NOV 1 | NOV 4 | NOV 11 | NOV 26 | DEC 25 |
| | Daylight Savings Time ends | 6 Weeks Groups begin | Veteran's Day | Thanksgiving Day | Christmas Day |

Our Pantry Helps Feed the Community

Our food pantry has been revitalized and thanks to the generosity of Toledo First members, has been up and running since early September. To date, we have helped to feed 28 people and have been able to encourage and pray with those who come to us for help. The folks that come to us are vulnerable and hurting, and most of them share their plight with us as we gather food for them. Some chatter nervously while others quietly tell us of their circumstances. We certainly have been blessed by their humility and openness as much, if not more than, we have blessed them (hopefully). A couple of our new friends that come to mind are....

George (not his real name), a homeless man came to us for some food because he was walking up Sylvania one Wednesday and saw the sign in front of the church. A gentle and soft spoken man, he apologized for being "choosy," but he was only able to take items that would fit into his backpack.

Susan (not her real name) a middle class woman was embarrassed to have to ask for help, saying that she's never been in such dire straights before. She told us that her husband had recently had a stroke and was now in the rehab center at Kingston, which was taking most of their money every month.

When Covid-19 forced many businesses to shut down, their adult daughter lost her job, and could no longer pay rent, so she moved back to her parents' home with her two children. Susan said she was driving home and praying about how she was going to feed her family. Then she "happened" to see the sign in front of our church.



Your donations in response to our specific requests not only help us feed hungry people in our community, but provide an opportunity for Toledo First to minister to and pray with hurting people that need to know Jesus. Thank you for caring!

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Note: The Food Pantry is open every Wednesday afternoon from noon until 3pm and is available to any church member in need after services on Sabbath. Cathie Heath ##

Think Outside the Trash *(continued from page 1)*

Enter - the water bottle (or sprite, coke, etc.). Every year, just in the United States, about 60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills. In Mauritania, and other parts of the world, these bottles are being used as 'bricks' to build new cost-effective homes for families.



They are collected from hotels, restaurants, embassies, and, of course, local landfills. They are filled with sand, which is abundant, and packed as tightly as possible. Then they are used in just the same way bricks are, with mortar and string lines to keep everything level. After the walls are built and the roof put on (often a tin roof)

more mortar is put on the outside and inside of the home which completely covers the bottles. The mortar is smoothed out and painted just like a typical stucco wall. Sometimes bottle floors are put inside the house as well.

ADRA's homes are about 228 square feet, which is about a 15' x 15' home. It takes 8,000 bottles to construct them at a cost of about \$35/sq. foot, which, of course, includes the finished interior (kitchen, bathroom, etc.).

What are the benefits of these bottle homes?

First, they are much more resistant to erosion from the constant dust and sand filled wind. Second, they are energy efficient, keeping the inside at a

steady temperature of around 64 degrees F. Next, bottle walls are said to be 20 times stronger than concrete cinder blocks. The job of filling the bottles with sand can be given to people without jobs and even to the handicapped. And finally, non-degradable plastic bottles can be used for something constructive as opposed to filling our landfills and oceans.



So, this December, as we have in year's past, we will be collecting an additional offering each Sabbath after church for ADRA. Any gifts placed in the offering plates held by deacons in the church foyer after worship and any additional monies marked ADRA Water Bottle Houses online or on your tithe / offering envelopes will be given to ADRA. Remember that even Jesus was born with a shelter over His head, crude though it was! ##

Christmas Tunes

Neither the author nor composer of this well known Christmas tune thought the carol would live beyond Christmas 1868. But it did. And we are still singing its prophetic fulfillment 152 years later.

Another famous Christmas tune is even older. Originally written in 1739, it's

lyrics were "updated" in 1754. And then again in 1782! And we're still singing them today. Originally entitled, "A Hymn for Christmas-Day", it is now famous by another title and is sung throughout the Christmas season in churches all over the world.

Then there's the majestic Christmas march written by a husband and wife team in the 1980s but arranged by someone else with a powerful chorus and solid choral writing that includes these lyrics: On a star filled night into Bethlehem / Rode a weary woman and a worried man / And the only sound in the cobblestone street, Was the shuffle and the ring of their donkey's feet / And a King lay hid in a virgin's womb, And there were no crowds to see Him come / At last in a barn in a manger of hay, He came and God incarnate lay.

Do you know which songs they are? Join us when we sing them DEC 12 / 19 / 26 to find out! Toledo First worship is available in person, on church website, Facebook Live, church Roku channel, and dial-in via Zoom. Contact the church office for more info. Pastor Mike ##

Christmas Tunes



Join us in person or livestream December 17, 24, & 31
tfsdsa.org

NOV & DEC 2020 CALENDAR

Birthdays

NOV 1 Frank Engelbert, Anjelika Manakhimova
 NOV 3 Leisha Barbee
 NOV 4 Larry Duwve
 NOV 5 Helen Konewka
 NOV 7 Gabriel Landeros
 NOV 9 Bev Ostrander
 NOV 11 George Jenkins
 NOV 14 Daniel Landeros
 NOV 15 Fern Baer, Sara Rios, Randy Neal, Jennifer, Joshua & Lanna Cozzens
 NOV 17 Will Frey, Pat Kline
 NOV 18 Marilu Beebe
 NOV 21 Andrew Jessop, Ben Neal
 NOV 27 Sonja Maxwell
 NOV 28 Callie Hood
 NOV 30 Alex Bills, Kathryn Landeros



Birthdays

DEC 3 Ryan Wilson
 DEC 6 Jordan & Megan Wilson
 DEC 7 Cindy Larimore
 DEC 8 Chris Atkins
 DEC 9 Hannah Bundy
 DEC 10 Kay Ostrander, Charles Makley
 DEC 11 Mindy Flack
 DEC 12 Mary Ann Sandy
 DEC 15 Sara Austin; Brian Crosby
 DEC 16 John Eaton
 DEC 17 Norman Burrow
 DEC 18 Joseph Famulare
 DEC 19 Frank Netry
 DEC 20 Ralph Collins
 DEC 22 Cassandra Leibengood, Mary Parker
 DEC 26 Carolyn Nonoy
 DEC 27 Duane Gustrowsky
 DEC 28 David Bening, Marion Thomas

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

NOV 7 Sabbath School & Worship
 NOV 14 Sabbath School & Worship
 NOV 21 Sabbath School & Worship
 NOV 28 Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays -

NOV 1 Daylight Savings Time

Mondays - Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Tuesdays - Church office open 8am-3pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 8am-3pm

NOV 4 Six Weeks Groups begin

NOV 11 Six Weeks Groups

NOV 18 Six Weeks Groups

Thursdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

NOV 26 Happy Thanksgiving!

Fridays -

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

DEC 5 Sabbath School & Worship
 DEC 12 Sabbath School & Worship
 DEC 19 Sabbath School & Worship
 DEC 26 Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays

Mondays - Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Tuesdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 8am - 3pm

DEC 2 Six Week Groups

DEC 9 Six Week Groups

DEC 16 Six Week Groups

Thursdays - Church office is open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Fridays -

DEC 25 Merry

Christmas!

