

February/March 2017

# FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Invite friends / family to Feb 11 concert featuring Steve Darmody

*This "Valentines for Toledo" concert benefits Hannah's Socks*

This year our Valentines for Toledo concert will feature Adventist baritone and recording artist Steve Darmody. Steve has appeared on numerous Christian television networks including the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), 3ABN, The Hope Channel and more. Steve has had the privilege of ministering in an array of situations and venues – from Carnegie Hall to make-shift stages in Australia's outback. He was invited to share a gospel concert at the Pentagon and also sang for the U. S. Senate Staff luncheon. Multiple overseas tours have taken him, literally, around the world. But his heart remains, as it has always been, in the ministry and mission of the local church. He fully supports our partnership effort with Hannah's Socks. And is looking forward to seeing how many packs of socks we can collect!



Concert will start at 7:00pm and conclude by 8:30pm with a reception.

Intermission will feature a love offering to benefit Hannah's Socks - a local non-profit organization providing dignity to the needy one sock at a time. During the month of FEB we will also be collecting packs of new socks in the foyer sox box. So be sure your children and grandchildren get the opportunity to throw a pack in the sox box. So they understand God's love of giving and helping others. Please start thinking of who to invite to this concert. You can preview his music or line up your special request at [www.stevedarmody.org](http://www.stevedarmody.org)

*"A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity to freshen into smiles."—Washington Irving*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Toledo, Ohio  
Permit No. 370

Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church  
4909 West Sylvania Avenue  
Toledo OH 43623  
Address Service Requested



# DEC/JAN Snapshots

We thank Jeff Batchelder for the photos above starting with the school Christmas program. Photo 2 is Josh Cozzens receiving a Deacon's pin from Craig Horvath after being set apart for the work of a deacon.

In the third photo David Ashley (right) joins his father Bill Ashley and Ray Riley as they sing prior to David's baptism by Pastor Mike in the last photo. David was baptized on his 13th birthday. Way to go! ##

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<b>FEB 4</b>	<b>FEB 11</b>	<b>FEB 18</b>	<b>FEB 25</b>	<b>MAR 4</b>
	<b>International Food Fest, 6pm</b>	<b>Valentines for Toledo Concert w/Steve Darmody, 7pm</b>	<b>Tobogganing @ Pokagon, leave 4pm</b>	<b>TJA Spaghetti Dinner &amp; Movie Night</b>	<b>1920s Party, 7pm</b>

### International Food Fest FEB 4

It's always fun, always delicious, and the prices are "just right" because it's all about raising funds for welcome baskets. For at least 40 years the International Food Fest has been one of the most popular of social events at Toledo First. We sample foods from other countries which our wonderful cooks prepare, get to know church family and friends better, and lively music keeps our toes a-tappin'. So come on out FEB 4 at 6pm. You'll be glad you did. ##



### Tobogganing FEB 18 - leave 4pm

Young and young at heart will be heading to Angola for a favorite winter activity: tobogganing on the refrigerated Toboggan Run at Pokagon State Park. Plan to leave from the church at 4pm on FEB 18. Wear warm clothes, bring \$5 and prepare for a few thrills! After all the outdoor fun, there will be a stop for pizza on the way home. ##



### Lunch at church in FEB and MAR

Friendship Lunches are planned during Fall through Spring and are prepared by teams working together. Everyone is invited as a guest (don't bring food). Come FEB 18 when Cindy Larimore and her team serve, and MAR 11 when Judy & Ray Riley and their team plans the meal. Vegan Challenge Potlucks (please bring a vegan or vegetarian main dish, salad and/or dessert) will be on FEB 25 and MAR 25. Challenge yourself to try at least one vegan dish. ##

### 'Roaring' fun planned for 1920's Party MAR 4

Last year the Social Committee's 1950s party was a huge success. This year's 1920s party scheduled for MAR 4, 7pm promises to deliver on fun too. So get your costume ready! Make plans now to be there, and look for more details in upcoming bulletins. ##

*If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. —Anne Bradstreet*

## What kind of praise is pleasing to God in the sanctuary?

Psalm 149:1-4 (NLT) says, “1 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song. Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful. 2 O Israel, rejoice in your Maker. O people of Jerusalem, exult in your King. 3 Praise his name with dancing, accompanied by tambourine and harp. 4 For the LORD delights in his people.”

These verses say quite a bit. They tell us new songs about the LORD are pleasing to the LORD. They tell us that praising, singing, rejoicing, and yes, even dancing

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So we at Toledo First are taking back  
what rightly belongs to God.***

accompanied by percussion instruments are pleasing to the LORD. They tell us the LORD delights when all his people participate in worship.

But the world has hijacked God’s praise. So we at Toledo First are taking back what rightly belongs to God. Emerging generations of believers are helping us unlearn some sincere misunderstandings of worship. Like whether praise dancing should occur in the sanctuary. So let’s re-read Psalm 149:1 this time in the KJV. “149 Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.”

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translations recognize, in context, the reclamation of praising, singing, rejoicing and even dancing “in the congregation of the saints”? Psalm 68:24-25 adds, “24 Your procession has come into view, O God—the procession of my God and King as he goes into the sanctuary. 25 Singers are in front, musicians behind; between them are young women playing tambourines.”

The question therefore, is not whether praise dancing in the sanctuary is pleasing to God. It clearly is. The

question is where is the sanctuary with the congregation of the saints? In the Bible, the congregation of the saints gathered in the sanctuary courtyards. There was one for Gentiles. One a little closer for Jewish women. And one even closer for Jewish men. But only one man, from the tribe of Levi, could go into the most holy place. And that was the high priest. But even he could only go in there once a year.

If the sanctuary platform / podium area in the church today is the most holy place, logically then only the pastor should be standing there. And he should only be doing so once a year. But that is clearly a violation of common sense. Not to mention a violation of the priesthood of all believers (cf. Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6). Which is one reason why pastor and elders enter the sanctuary from the east side floor hallway and sit in a pew instead of sitting in a chair up on the sanctuary platform / podium area. We are modeling the priesthood of all believers every single Sabbath!

Additionally, when Jesus died, the curtain to the most holy place was ripped in half from top to bottom (Matthew 27:50-51). The tearing of the veil at the

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moment of Jesus’ death dramatically symbolized that His sacrifice, the shedding of His own blood, was sufficient atonement for sin. But it also signified that now the way into the most holy place is open for all people, for all time, for all ages. Rightly understood, after Jesus died, the sanctuary with “the assembly of the faithful” and “the congregation of the saints” is anywhere where there are saints gathered to worship God. Jesus said in Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

Still, some folks compare the platform / podium area in the church today to the most holy place. But that is like comparing apples with oranges. Because the people never entered the holy or most holy place. You cannot compare

*(Continued on the next page)*

## What kind of praise *(Continued from page 3)*

our present day church service to the holy or most holy. The people were only allowed in the outer courts and that is where they would gather. That is where “the assembly of the faithful” and “the congregation of the saints” would be praising, singing, rejoicing and even dancing. As Jesus Himself was apparently pleased to witness.

Some Adventists are surprised to read the following in Desire of Ages p.463 paragraph 2: “When He spoke these words, Jesus was in the court of the temple specially connected with the services of the Feast of Tabernacles. In the center of this court rose two lofty standards, supporting lamp stands of great size. After the evening sacrifice, all the lamps were kindled, shedding their light over Jerusalem. This ceremony was in commemoration of the pillar of light that guided Israel in the desert, and was also regarded as pointing to the coming of the Messiah. At evening when the lamps were lighted, the court was a scene of great rejoicing. Gray-haired men, the priests of the temple and the rulers of the people, united in the festive dances to the sound of instrumental music and the chants of the Levites.”

So we’re grateful our newest church members, Karen and Courtney Simpson, like Cassidy Cross before them, are interested in praising, singing, rejoicing and even praise dancing “in the assembly of the faithful” and “congregation of saints”. They’re working together to provide meaningful praise dances for worship in 2017. Karen says, “There is power in movement. Movement has power to stir the senses and emotions, and convey a message that cannot always be expressed through words or song alone.”

The selected name of their praise dance group is N’Couraged. They practice on Sundays at 2pm. Their mission is to give praise and worship to the Lord through beautiful, graceful and flowing dance movement. All girls between the ages of 10 – 18 are welcome to participate. But all ages in “the assembly of the faithful” and “the congregation of the saints” will be inspired. —Pastor Mike Fortune ##



## Vegetarian food—order by FEB 5

A vegetarian food order will be delivered to the church the week of FEB 12 **IF** we have a total order of \$1000 or more (approx. 30 cases). All orders must be in complete cases—no single orders. A list of food items and prices is available. Order deadline is FEB 5. Items must be paid for in advance and made payable to “Toledo First SDA Church” so a church check can be given for the total order at time of delivery. Please direct questions to Linda Bilby or call the church at 419.882.6200. ##

## Soup for You: Jan 11 - FEB 15

Simplify is the book being read and shared at Soup for You until FEB 15. You are invited to join the group on Wednesday nights. As always, soup’s at 6:00pm and discussion of the book is at 6:30pm. ##

## Six Weeks Groups: MAR 1 - APR 5

After Soup for You ends FEB 15, there will be a short break before the Six Weeks Groups start again, MAR 1 to APR 5. In the last Focal Point issue Pastor Mike explained how it will work:

“I’d like to see Six Week Groups launching or continuing after every Ringfest, Valentines for Toledo, and Easter. . . . Imagine the number of people we could reach if everyone participated in a group and each group had one or two people who haven’t been baptized and you were praying would come closer to Jesus.”



Now is the time to think of what you would like to study and whom you would like to invite to study with you in your home, or another location. ##

## Women’s Ministry plans cook book

Would you share some of your favorite recipes for a new cookbook? Women’s Ministry would love to create a cookbook as a fundraiser. To send recipes or ask questions, contact Jenny Eichelberger at [jeneich366@outlook.com](mailto:jeneich366@outlook.com) (419.764.6731). Or, you can place recipes in her church mailbox. Thank you so much for your help and for your continued support of Women’s Ministry. ##

# February & March 2017 Calendar

*Birthdays*

- FEB 1 Brandon Gustrowsky
- FEB 3 Julie Herman
- FEB 5 Shirly Heiney, Eniko Romine
- FEB 7 Kendra Bills
- FEB 9 Edith Kolmar
- FEB 10 Beth Bench
- FEB 11 Cavin Atkins, Carrie-Ann Leibengood
- FEB 12 Barbara Duwve
- FEB 13 Lydia Fortune
- FEB 14 Natalie Hood
- FEB 15 Tamara Davydova
- FEB 17 Ashley Barnes
- FEB 18 Tracy Jakubowski
- FEB 20 Carla Szczechowski
- FEB 23 Rebekah Godie Koehler
- FEB 26 Allen Gustrowsky, Alec Leibengood, Ariel Richardson
- FEB 27 Andrea Hughes
- FEB 28 Nikyta Cantwell

*Sabbath Events*

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

- FEB 4** Sabbath School & Worship; International Food Fest @ 6pm
- FEB 11** Sabbath School & Worship; Valentines for Toledo Concert with Steve Darmody, benefitting Hannah's Socks, 7:00-8:30pm
- FEB 18** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner with Cindy Larimore's team; Visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm; Tobogganing, leave from church @ 4pm
- FEB 25** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm; TJA Spaghetti Dinner and Movie Night

*Sundays* - N'Couraged Praise Dance practice @ 2pm

*Mondays* - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

*Tuesdays* - Church office open 9am-4pm

*Wednesdays* - Church office open 9am-4pm

- FEB 1** Adventurers (K-4), 6 - 7pm; Soup for You, 6:00-8:00pm
- FEB 8** Soup for You, 6:00-8:00pm
- FEB 15** Adventurers (K-4), 6 - 7pm; Soup for You, 6:00-8:00pm

*Thursdays* - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

*Fridays* - Worship Practice @ 5:30



*Birthdays*

- MAR 1 Leonard Jessop
- MAR 3 Craig Horvath, Emma Landeros
- MAR 4 Lucille Seagert
- MAR 11 Theresa Brown, Katie Burton Yoder
- MAR 12 Ideshia Shumaker
- MAR 13 Larry Godie, John Hood
- MAR 14 Debbie Putano
- MAR 15 Charlotte Herman, Marilyn Marsh
- MAR 16 Allan Wolfson
- MAR 17 Glen Good, Sr
- MAR 20 Julie Jessop
- MAR 23 Dr. Ted Nonoy
- MAR 26 Leisha Armistead
- MAR 29 Sheila Case

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**MAR 12** Daylight Savings Time begins

*Mondays* - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

**MAR 20** Spring begins!!

*Tuesdays* - Church office open 9am - 4pm

*Wednesdays* - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

- MAR 1** Adventurers (K-4), 6 - 7pm; Six Weeks Groups
- MAR 8** Six Weeks Groups
- MAR 15** Adventurers (K-4), 6 - 7pm; Six Weeks Groups
- MAR 22** Six Weeks Groups
- MAR 29** Six Weeks Groups

*Thursdays* - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

*Fridays* - Worship Practice @ 5:30