

DEC 2013 / JAN 2014 EDITION

the

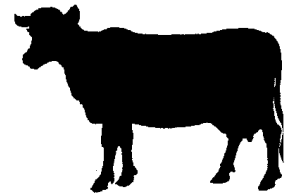
# FOCAL Point

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

## ✘ Holy Cows! ✘

*“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’” —Acts 20:25*

Have you seen the cow in our church foyer? It’s big and black and, and . . . it’s only a cutout. But it has a special purpose. It’s there to remind us to give generously of our Christmas cash to partner with ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) to purchase cows for the blind in Vietnam. Why blind people? Because in the poverty stricken provinces of Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc, blind people have difficulty in contributing to their family’s income, so they often become a financial burden.



A gift of just \$400 will enable one blind person to receive a female cow through a revolving cow bank. A cow provides milk to drink, fertilizer for the fields, and help in agricultural activities. The blind person will also receive training in livestock husbandry and will repay the cow bank with a female calf. An entire village can be lifted from poverty with the addition of one cow while one marginalized person in it becomes indispensable.

Every year, Americans spend \$450 billion at Christmas. Imagine how many marginalized individuals and villages in Vietnam we could pull from poverty during December if we chose to spend less on presents and gave more by raising money in \$400 increments for “holy cows” from “holy Toledo”! Let’s see how many villages we can help! ##



**“I WILL RAISE  
UP YOUR  
OFFSPRING  
AFTER YOU ...  
AND I WILL  
ESTABLISH  
HIS KINGDOM.”**

2 SAMUEL 7:12, NRSV

*Christmas is love tugging us back to God with the powerful clasp of a tiny hand reaching out from a bed of straw.*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Toledo, Ohio  
Permit No. 370

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



It was all about the youth this autumn at Toledo First. As our custom is, each Sabbath we had different young people (here in photo 1 Kathryn, Megan and Jordan with Pastor Jolee) reading the Scripture for the day. In

photo 2, Wil was baptized on his birthday (Oct. 26) by Pastor Mike, and became a member of Toledo First. Two young men, Ryan and Daniel, joined the ranks of our deacons who serve in many ways. In the 4th

photo the annual Hayride and Bonfire put smiles on lots of faces. And in the last photo Jacob and Teresa (with daughter, Skylynn and Teresa's sister) brought their baby son, Flynn, to be dedicated to the Lord. It was an

altogether lovely fall season!

*Thanks, Jeff Batchelder, for taking the pictures which we share here. ##*

<p><b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b> @ TF</p>	<p><b>DEC 7 &amp; JAN 11</b> Family Board Game Nights</p>	<p><b>DEC 19</b> TJA Christmas Program, 7pm</p>	<p><b>DEC 31</b> New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner</p>	<p><b>JAN 25</b> International Food Fest, 6:30pm</p>
---	---	---	--	--

*Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting [www.tfsda.org](http://www.tfsda.org)*

**Join us New Year's Eve!**

We're planning another Progressive Dinner like we had two years ago and we hope you'll be part of it! As soon as plans are set, a signup sheet will be on the bulletin board. ##

**School News**

No Christmas season is complete without TJA's annual Christmas program which is set for December 19, 7pm. This year they are presenting, "Three Wise Men and a Baby". Come for the fun and support our students!

Kindergarten Roundup and Visitor Day is scheduled for January 22, 9 -

11am. If you know of prospective Kindergarteners, or older students, invite them and their parents to TJA's Visitor Day! ##

**Dinners at church**

**Dec 7** - Friendship w/ Marilu Beebe & team

**Dec 21** - Christmas Potluck

**Jan 4** - Fellowship Potluck

**Eat 'n Greet** will be on the 4th Sabbath in December and January. ##

**Next Business Meeting set**

The next church business meeting will be on **MONDAY, JAN 27, 7pm** instead of the usual Tues-

day night. All members are invited. ##

**Socials for you**

Church socials are planned as an opportunity for our church family to get together for fun and fellowship. You are always invited and welcome. On **Dec 7, 6:30pm** come for Caroling in our neighborhood and then enjoy Board Game Night. Popcorn provided. Please bring your favorite board game, a drink and favorite snack to share.

Another opportunity for board games will be on **Jan 11, 7pm**. Again, bring your favorites!

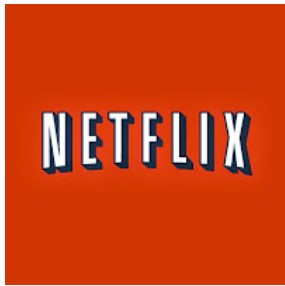
And be sure not to miss one of our all-time most popular socials—the International Food Fest on **Jan 25, 6:30pm**. ##

**Cardmaking class offered**

Next free cardmaking and papercrafting class will be December 8, 1:30-4:00pm at church. Representatives from Close to My Heart and Stampin' Up will be here. Please bring a salad to share. Donations appreciated. Everyone welcome. ##

The Focal Point is published bi-monthly by Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church ~ 419.882.6200 ~ [toledofirstadventist.org](http://toledofirstadventist.org)

## Keeping Our Kids Media Safe



Recently, I've been reminded of the importance of discussing media boundaries and content filters with our family.

1 Did you know that with the advent of Netflix (and other streaming content providers), even some cartoons and anime have pornographic themes in them? Even though I previously spent hours adjusting the toggle content filters on Netflix, I (re)discovered that doesn't mean everything that comes through is appropriate. One reason is because Netflix constantly adds new toggle filters so I've learned you have to return to your settings every few months to update them. One example is a TV14 cartoon called *Chobits* that made it through my previously set Netflix toggle filters that upon parental review, we will not be watching.

*Discussing and applying media boundaries and content filters to what we watch is important as adults as well*

2 Discussing and applying media boundaries and content filters to what we watch is important as adults as well. Political dramas like *House of Cards* (a Netflix original series) was originally interesting to me when I first heard about it (thought it might be like *The West Wing*). But before I watched it, I read the IMDb.com online review and decided the graphic language and nudity made it unacceptable viewing for me. Same thing with *Breaking Bad* / *Homeland* / *Mad Men* / *Game of Thrones*. All of these shows are critically acclaimed award winners readily available on Netflix (except HBO's *Game of Thrones*) but the online reviews say they also contain graphic language and nudity.

Long-time youth pastor and author Josh McDowell says in his excellent book [Right from Wrong](#) (a great

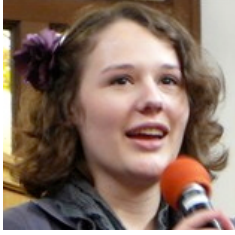
resource you too could read and discuss chapter by chapter with your pre-teen children or grandchildren), it's important to teach children that the lifestyle / behavioral policies we adopt don't come from church or your preferences. They come from timeless Scriptural principles. And those principles, if they're legit, can be traced to the character and Person we profess to follow — Jesus Christ. So our discussion and thought process goes something like this: Policies > Principles > Person of Jesus. Specifically re: media boundaries and content filters, what we talked about in our family is how 1 John 3:3 says Jesus (the Person) is pure (the principle) so that's why we choose, as best we can, to watch what's pure too (the policy). Which eliminates cartoons and content that contain pornographic themes, graphic language, and nudity.

Hopefully, if we continue to discuss WHY we choose what we do, our children will understand the significance of media boundaries and content filters and maybe even adopt them as their own when adults! In the meantime, please do share if you have a helpful media tip or resource. I'm preparing and eventually will share in church a topical series of presentations re: media and a Christian response to it so could use your help! I'm grateful as we turn our eyes upon Jesus, the things of this world grow strangely dim and that by beholding Jesus we still become changed (2 Corinthians 3:18). —Pastor Mike Fortune ##

## God among us

The claim that Christianity makes for Christmas is that at a particular time and place God came to be with us himself. When Quirinius was governor of Syria, in a town called Bethlehem, a child was born who, beyond the power of anyone to account for, was the high and lofty One made low and helpless. The One who inhabits eternity comes to dwell in time. The One whom none can look upon and live is delivered in a stable under the soft, indifferent gaze of cattle. The Father of all mercies puts himself at our mercy. —Frederick Buechner ##





## Pastor Jolee says farewell

Dear Toledo First Church Family,

As many of you are already aware, I will be following God's leading in a new adventure soon and my last day working at our church will be November 21, 2013.

As I look back on our time together, I am reminded how richly blessed I have been in experiencing the opportunity to get to know and love you all. God has done a lot of good things over these past 15 months. He has grown and strengthened our children's division Sabbath School classes, our Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs, and we've experienced the joy of seeing some of our young people accept Jesus through baptism as well. We've dedicated little ones to Him and watched them grow. He has given us opportunities to play together, learn together, and share His love together through Vacation Bible School and sponsorships to summer camp. He's used us to encourage our school and daycare families, and to support the parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers, etc. in their ministries to children. He has given us a heart that lovingly embraced our youth and children in service to others by welcoming them into sanctuary worship and teaching them how to be involved in roles that will grow them in faith. By God's grace, we've caught a glimpse of what Jesus meant when he said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them" (Matthew 19:14).

As I move on to pursue a Masters degree in Education, so as to better serve children, youth, and families in the future—as I believe God is calling me to do—I hope that you will know how greatly I appreciate you all. I appreciate all you've done for me and all the ways you have supported me. I appreciate all your prayers and encouragement. I appreciate all your hard work and involvement in youth and children's ministries. Most of all, I appreciate your friendship.

I pray that God will continue to lead and grow our family in Christ. As He has been faithful in the past, may He continue to be faithful in the future. I would encourage you, no matter what may happen, keep your focus on Jesus Christ and let Him lead the way. Don't ever give up on His children. Encourage and train them. Give them opportunities to test their faith and by that testing grow a stronger faith in Jesus. Tell them your stories—stories of how God has revealed Himself to you. As the scripture says, "Tell your children about it in the years to come, and let your children tell their children. Pass the story down from generation to generation" (Joel 1:3). God be with you until we meet again.

May God bless you, your family, and all you may have opportunity to influence.

With Love,  
Pastor Jolee

---

### Pathfinders earned honors, raced cars

Another Pinewood Derby has come and gone. We were expecting 60 and at final count had over 130 attendees who earned honors in Sharks, Parrots and Cockatoos, Bridges, Nutrition, Prayer and Cultural Diversity. The "Snake Guy" from the Toledo Herpetological Society and a reptile specialist from the Toledo Zoo came with "friends" that slithered and crawled. Pastor Jolee modeled the newest in accessories—a LIVE albino boa.



We raced lots of cars, animals and characters. Lots of thanks to all who brought food, helped us clean up and came and watched. Extra thanks to Shawn, Tripp, Steve, Alex, Pastor Jolee, Pastor Mike, Glenn, Arden, Pat, Jean and Ericka for helping the event run so smoothly.

We're on the Ohio Youth calendar for November 15, 2014—"Gentlemen and Ladies, start your engines." —Linda Bilby, Pathfinder Director ##

## Order Fruit

The next fruit order deadlines are Nov 27 and January 10 for December 15 and January 26 deliveries. Available both months are Grapefruit (\$33 full/\$18 half case), Navels (\$33 full/\$18 half case), Tangerines (\$25 half case) and Variety Pak of all three fruits for \$25 half case. Order by calling the school at 419.841.0082. ##

## Safely Worship

Our church will be hosting “place of worship safety training” on Dec 1 and 2, 7 - 9pm. Cost is \$19.99 per session or \$24.99 both sessions. This seminar is open to the community and is being taught by a Wood County Sheriff. Register online at <http://www.safelyworship.com> . ##

## Orders being taken for cookies

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board where you may sign up for White Christmas Cookies in a Jar (or call the church office, 419.882.6200). Cost is \$8 per jar, proceeds going toward building a school gym. The jars will be available by the second week of December. ##

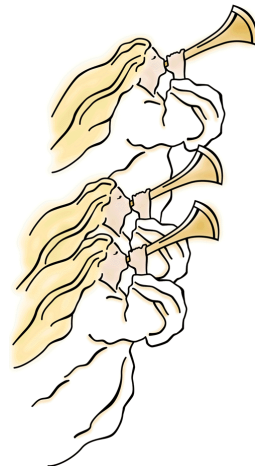
## JMLC celebrated 10 years!

We add our congratulations to James Meade Learning Center which in September celebrated ten years of serving families in our community. Way to Go, JMLC! ##



## Lessons from the angels

To frightened shepherds on the first Christmas Eve a host of angels



sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14, KJV) Nineteenth-century minister Charles Kingsley explained how these key words

tell the meaning of Jesus’ birth and give meaning to our lives.

**Glory.** That little babe, lying in the manger among the cattle, was showing the very highest glory of the great God who had made heaven and earth. To stoop, to condescend, to have mercy, to forgive—that is the highest glory of God.

**Peace.** God is not selfish. He sacrificed himself for us. Sacrifice yourselves then for each other! Give up your own pride, your own selfishness, your own interest for each other, and you will be all at peace.

**Good will.** God loves you, and he wills to raise you out of this selfish, quarrelsome life of sin, into a loving, brotherly, peaceful life of righteousness. That babe in the manger at Bethlehem is a sign to you and me that God will freely give us that spirit of love if we ask for it. —*The Newsletter Newsletter, Dec. 2013 ##*

## Camporee brought rain

The 2013 Ohio Pathfinder Camporee at Mohaven was a fun and rainy event. Sabbath brought many opportunities to see old friends and make new ones. Several of the Ohio Pathfinder Clubs now have new leaders who were excited about coming to the Pinewood Derby and were already working on their cars. Honors taught Sabbath afternoon were Ferns, Seeds, Birds, Waterfalls, and Flag.

The Flag honor is brand new. There have been new changes in rules of how to present flags properly. It is exciting to learn that the Christian flag goes to the right of the speaker and to the right of the American flag during **religious** ceremonies. So now churches can have both the Christian and the American flag on the same side (much less confusion). There are many other changes in how flags are carried, handled, and presented.

The waterfall honor is a newer honor and the presenter had many waterfalls for us to look at so we could identify the kind of falls they were—block, cascade, plunge, tiered—just to name a few. We saw the world famous falls: Victoria Falls—the largest, Niagara—a block falls; Angel Falls—the tallest; and many many more. The kids were able to name several falls that they had been to that weren’t on the presentation.

Of course, it was a Camporee so it had to rain, and rain it did—came down in sheets accompanied by lots of thunder and lightning. But, of course, Pathfinders “...weather the weather, whatever the weather, whether we like it or not”. —Linda Bilby ##

# Calendar of Events... Dec '13 & Jan '14

## Birthdays

December 5 Lu Bills  
 December 7 Eleanor Meade  
 December 8 Cindy Larimore  
 December 8 Chris Atkins  
 December 9 Hannah Bundy  
 December 10 Kay Ostrander  
 December 11 Mindy Flack  
 December 12 Mary Ann Sandy  
 December 13 Marilyn West, Jacob Duwve  
 December 14 Kells Hall  
 December 15 Brian Crosby  
 December 16 Regina Tary, John Eaton  
 December 17 Norman Burrow  
 December 18 Joseph Famulare  
 December 19 Frank Netry  
 December 20 Ralph Collins  
 December 22 Cassandra Leibengood, Mary Parker  
 December 25 Janica Peppard  
 December 26 Carolyn Nonoy  
 December 27 Alex Peppard, Duane Gustrowsky  
 December 28 Marion Thomas, David Bening



## Birthdays

January 1 JoAnn Arthur  
 January 2 Sam Santa Rita  
 January 3 Cathy Hall  
 January 6 Isaiah Godie; Larissa Fraley  
 January 7 David Ashley, Kevin Herman  
 January 8 Donna Schuster, Dr Sam Santa Rita  
 January 11 Trent Peppard  
 January 16 Rosemary Maehre  
 January 20 Cassidy Cross  
 January 24 Kathy Kajfasz, Jennifer Landeros,  
 January 26 Larry Duwve  
 January 27 Glenn Szana  
 January 29 Ericka Bilby  
 January 30 David Case, Kyla Reams

## Sabbath Events

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

**DEC 7** "The Birth of John" -sermon @ Worship; Marilu Beebe Friendship Lunch  
**DEC 14** "Zechariah's Prophecy" -sermon @ Worship; no lunch  
**DEC 21** "The Birth of Jesus"; Fellowship Potluck; visit nursing home on Whiteford at 3pm  
**DEC 28** "Name Above All Names"; Eat 'n Greet; visit Elizabeth Scott nursing home @ 3pm

**Sundays** - Greater Faith Fellowship Church rents each Sunday morning

**DEC 1** PreWedding Reception - Damynus Gekonde 3 - 6pm  
 Protecting Our Church - 7 - 9pm  
**DEC 8** Cardmaking & Papercrafting, 1:30 - 4:00pm

## Mondays

**DEC 2** Protecting Our Church - 7 - 9pm

**Tuesdays** - Church office is open 9am - 4pm except Dec. 24 & Dec 31; Pathfinders, 6:30pm

**DEC 31** Progressive Dinner leaving church @ 5pm

**Wednesdays** - Church office is open 9am - 4pm except Dec 25; Soup for You @ 6pm

**DEC 25** Merry Christmas!

## Thursdays

**DEC 19** Toledo Jr. Academy Christmas Program

**Fridays** - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

## Sabbath Events

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

**JAN 4** "Simeon Says" -sermon @ worship; Fellowship Potluck

**JAN 11** "Anna Says" -sermon @ worship w/communion; Family Game Night

**JAN 18** "Jesus Says"; visit nursing home on Whiteford at 3pm

**JAN 25** Worship; Eat 'n Greet; visit Elizabeth Scott nursing home @ 3pm; International Food Fest, 6:30pm

**Sundays** - Greater Faith Fellowship Church rents each Sunday morning

## Monday

**JAN 20** Martin Luther King Day

**JAN 27** Church Business Meeting, 7pm

**Tuesdays** - Church office is open 9am - 4pm; Pathfinders, 6:30pm

**Wednesdays** - Church office open 9am - 4pm except Jan 1; Soup for You @ 6pm

**JAN 22** Kindergarten Roundup & Visitors' Day @ TJA

## Thursdays

**Fridays** - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

