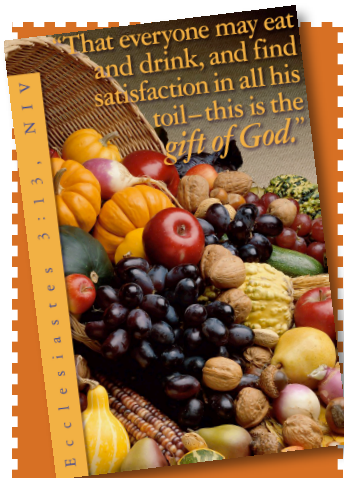


the

OCT/NOV 2011 EDITION

# FOCAL Point

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



*In all things give thanks.*



## ✘ Who will we thank God for this year? ✘

For the past four years, around Thanksgiving, our church has taken time during worship to recognize the dedicated volunteers that work behind the scenes in our church (sometimes for years without being thanked!) for Jesus' sake. This year, on November 19, 2011, we will be hosting the 5th Annual Little Minnow Awards and we are again accepting your nominations in the church office. In previous years, categories we've thanked include long-time 50 year members and "pillars" of our church in addition to Sabbath School teachers and Deacons and most recently church treasurers.

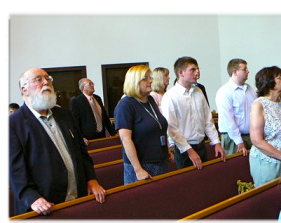
Who will we thank God for this year? Plan to be in church November 19 to find out! And feel free to submit your Little Minnow Award nominations between now and November 12 to the church office. Romans 12:8-9 (NLT) says, "If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." —Pastor Mike ##



*Not what we say about our blessings but how we use them is the true measure of our thanksgiving. —Purkiser*

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# September Snapshots

The photos here show our members and friends on Sabbath days throughout September 2011 as we learned more about Jesus in

Sabbath School, and in church heard about "The Born Supremacy" of Jesus - Pastor Mike's new series based on the book of He-

brews. Lastly, we enjoyed fellowship time - Photo 5 shows everyone enjoying Eat 'n Greet (apples, cider & donuts) after worship.

Thanks, Jeff Batchelder, for sharing your photos! ##

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**OCT 1**  
**Picnic with Purpose**

**OCT 15**  
**Communion then Hayride in evening**

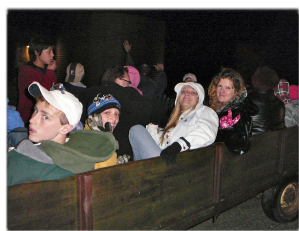
**OCT 27-29**  
**RingFest**

**NOV 12**  
**Pathfinder Day/ Pinewood Derby in evening**

**NOV 19**  
**Little Minnow Awards**

### Annual Harvest Party to be Oct 15

Dave and Sheila Case will again host the Harvest Party complete with Bonfire and Hayride on Saturday, October 15, at 6pm.



*Last year's hayride above & at right*

Where else can you have such a special evening with free food and great fellowship? Only at Case

Place. So come and enjoy hamburgers and other goodies provided for you. Bring your old friends and hang out with some new friends. We will have a tractor-driven hayride and cozy bonfire. Dress warmly and spend a relaxed evening under the stars with your friends.

*(Directions will be in bulletin insert at church.)*  
##



### Lunch @ Church

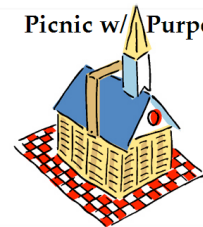
On October 8, Shirly Heiney and her team will host the first Friendship Dinner of the fall season. After the Little Minnow Awards, Heather Smith-LaPoint and her team will host November's Friendship Dinner. Potlucks will be October 1 and November 12. For RingFest lunch when we provide food for the bell choirs, each family is asked to give \$5 toward the cost of the meal.  
##

### Join us Oct 1

Plan to come to another outreach event, Picnic with Purpose on Sabbath,

October 1, following worship. We'll be inviting park goers to join us, offering dog biscuits to their

### Picnic w/ Purpose



canine friends and generally showing by example that *God Loves Them Like Crazy!* Please join us and bring food & friendship to share. ##

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

## Good Things are Happening at Toledo Junior Academy

*“When I grow up I can be anything.  
Out of all the possibilities,  
there is one that really appeals to me.  
I want to be like Jesus!”*

You are invited to our annual Education Day where the theme is: Be Like Jesus

When: Saturday, October 1

Service begins at 11am

Come and support our TJA and Toledo First children.

Don't forget—you too can support TJA. How? Turn in your box tops and CapriSun pouches down at the school. Also you can register your Kroger card using our organization number 90280. A little bit goes a long way.

Feel free to visit us at

[www.toledojunioracademy.org](http://www.toledojunioracademy.org) for more information.

—Dana Holland, Principal ##

## ABC will bring food October 16

Place your PREPAID orders by October 12 with the Adventist Book Center (740-397-4675 or 800-643-5714) for delivery on Sunday, October 16. The truck will come to our church parking lot and your order can be unloaded to your car. If you're not present, they will take the prepaid orders into the church and leave them for you to pick up later.

This will likely be the last time to place orders of this kind before the holidays, so make your holiday food list and your Christmas gift list now. Ordering this way, you pay no shipping charges. ##



## Worthless or Priceless?

*“That which is worthless, sinful man, was paid for by that which is priceless, the Son of God.” —Allan Wolfson*

Think about it. We—you and I—because of Eve (*ok! Adam too*) were condemned. Because of that condemnation of sin, man is separated from the source of life and all that is good.

It kind of reminds me of when I bought our new car. We paid X amount of dollars for it. But the minute we separated that car, drove off from that dealership, the car became “used,” depreciated, and devalued by several thousand dollars.

Genesis 2:7 says that man was formed from the dust of the earth. I do not know how many ounces of dust of this earth man was made from, but I do know that a 40 lb. bag of earth goes for \$1.14 a bag at Lowe's. That works out to be about 2 1/2¢ per pound. My point is we are not worth much as far as dust/dirt goes. But what of the eyes and heart of God? He looks at us differently.

Isaiah 43:4 says “Since you were precious in my sight, you have been honored and I have loved you....” We have been created by God. We have been reformed by God. The price for that redemption is and was very costly—the life of God Himself. You did not come in a K-Mart special. You were paid top dollar for.

Let me give you an illustration. #1, remember no analogy is perfect. #2, no illustration can truly explain God's ultimate love for mankind.

Here it comes: I love ants. I have thousands of ants and hundreds of ant farms. Ok. Good. But I have a mean neighbor who at one time was a good friend. He was like family. One day he decided that he wanted to kill all my ants that I loved—every one of them.

This is where the illustration is hard to understand, because it doesn't seem to make any sense. I decide I love my ants and I don't want them to die. I cannot bear the thought of them being destroyed. So I offer myself to him to die for them. My life for the life of the ants I so love.

God said, “I can't let them go.” I will go. I will die. I will die for you, Allan Wolfson, the death you deserve. I will die for you, my children at Toledo First. I am willing to die for the whole world. John 3:16.

For you see that which was a worthless sinner became priceless. II Corinthians 6:18 says, “I will be a Father to you and you shall be my sons and daughters.” —Allan Wolfson ##



## Pathfinder Day is November 12

There are only 43 days left to build your Pinewood Derby car for the competition on November 12, 2011. Please enter cars made in the past 11 months, or cars that have been re-glued or refurbished. Older



cars come apart with wheels falling off, etc., when they are raced.

We are expecting many clubs - some who have been here before, others who have not. Pathfinder Sabbath will begin with some of the clubs arriving for Sabbath School, many more for church. Lunch will be potluck.

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***We encourage you to bring food and extra for our guests.***

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We encourage you to bring food and extra for our guests. We also encourage them to bring potluck food as well. In the afternoon, the Pathfinders will be working on badges. We will have supper for the Pathfinders in the evening, followed by vespers led by Pastor Daniel Graves. Pinewood Derby will begin after that.

This year we are unable to have the ABC at our event due to scheduling conflicts. But they will have a prepaid drop shipment on October 16. Please have orders

called in by October 12. They will bring anything they stock - books, supplies, bulk food.

Thank you for your continued support of this youth event. Without your continued support, attendance and prayers this event could not be possible. —Linda Bilby ##

## Help is needed when disaster strikes

It's not a question of IF disasters will strike. It's a question of WHEN. We hear about them all the time: floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes. Yes, they even happen in our own backyard such as the tornado which hit near Delta and another in Lake Township in 2010.

Our Adventist Community Service Disaster Response Team helps out in such disasters, usually setting up warehouses which distribute much-needed supplies to the victims. The ACSDR needs help. There are not enough people trained for disaster.

If you would like to help, training is available. The next Disaster Response Training Weekend is October 7-9 at Chesterland Seventh-day Adventist Church. Cost is \$40 which includes Saturday and Sunday lunch and all manuals and handouts. Please see Pastor Mike if you would like to go.

If you're interested but can't make it in October, contact Roy Nelson, Ohio ACSDR Coordinator at [ohacsdr@gmail.com](mailto:ohacsdr@gmail.com) or call him at 740.381.7703. ##

## Can The Best Pastors Be Women?



Pastor Rebekah Liu is a seminary student pursuing a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies specializing in the Book of Revelation at Andrews University. She was raised in a staunchly communist family and community but was converted at 17, baptized at 18, and at 19 began preaching and doing other pastoral ministry in house churches.

Since becoming Christians, she and her mother and brother have raised up 400 home churches that now has 10k members led by four pastors three of whom are women. She currently pastors the Chinese congregation at Andrews University and will be speaking in Dayton, Ohio, on October 22 during Acts 2011 — a convocation of Ohio Adventists celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the book Acts of the Apostles.

I'm looking forward to attending this gathering and I'm hoping with enough notice, some of you will join me and come hear her story with me. She is living proof that women can become the best pastors and prophetic voices in the Adventist Church and our world today just like the prophet Joel predicted (cf. Joel 2:28-29). Go to [ohioadventist.org](http://ohioadventist.org) to register by OCT 14 for the free meal provided or see me for car pooling info. — Pastor Mike ##

## Can Kids Change the World?

It is it possible for a kid, a young person, to do something that could change the world? Before you say yes or no, let's first ask ourselves: what does it mean to change the world? I asked several people what it means to them. I got everything from God being shown to the world, peace, love, to making an impact in the world around you.

For the purpose of this article let's stick with changing the world around us, because that is a easier to define. The world around us is our family, our neighborhood, our church, and even our city, right? We have been going through a series in both YO Sabbath School (youth age) and KidConnect (Kids Church) about how God has made us to make a difference in our world.

In fact the youth have been reading a book given to them called "You Were Made to Make a Difference" by Max Lucado. The kids in KidConnect have been discovering how God can use what's in their hand, like Moses with his staff and David with his sling, to make a dramatic impact in the world around them.

This is so special for our kids and young people to learn at an early age—that God has endowed them with special abilities that can be used for Him and other people. We see examples of young people in God's Word who were not defined by culture or their age, but by the big vision God had for their lives. We see it through world-changers like David who was anointed to be king when he was still a teenager herding sheep. We see it through Jeremiah who was called to be a prophet when he was young and, most of all, we see it through Jesus who was speaking to his elder Pharisees in the temple when he was just a boy! Jeremiah actually told God "I'm too young," but God told him "Don't say 'I'm too young' for you must go wherever I send you" (Jeremiah 1:7).

I encourage you not to set mediocre expectations for youth because they're young, but as a church body to set high expectations for our kids. Paul instructed Timothy who lead a church when he was young, to "let no one despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in faith, love, and purity." (1 Timothy 4:12) There is no limit to what God can do with children. He can use them, even to change the world, because "nothing is impossible with God." —Pastor Daniel ##



### Unlikely Methods

By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days (Hebrews 11:30, NRSV). What must Joshua and the Israelites have thought of those orders?

What must Naaman have thought when Elisha prescribed a leprosy cure of washing seven times in the muddy Jordan River (2 Kings 5)?

What must the disciples have thought when Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified?

God seems to delight in using unlikely methods to accomplish His plans. Remember that when life doesn't make sense or circumstances seem hopeless.

God's plans are rarely straight-forward or predictable. He is full of surprises. With a little faith and obedience, we will see God work in our lives, too. —*The Newsletter Newsletter* ##

# Calendar Events

# Oct & Nov 2011

## October

### Birthdays

October 1 Megan Cross, Pearl Ray  
October 2 Steven Bills  
October 4 Mary Famulare  
October 5 Cathie Heath  
October 8 Bill Ashley  
October 10 Denise Edwards  
October 11 Marshall Makley  
October 14 Pat Olenik, Greg Tary  
October 18 Bill Schulz, Olga Villalon  
October 23 Jean Kline  
October 26 Wil Ashley  
October 29 Will Orlet  
October 31 Rose Cross



### Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11am each week  
Kid Connect @ 11am each week

**Oct 1** Education Day & "Go Fish"; Picnic w/Purpose at Wildwood

**Oct 8** Pastor Mike speaks; Shirlie Heiney & team host Friendship Dinner; AY Meeting @ 5:30pm

**Oct 15** Pastor Mike speaks; Communion; Baby Dedication; no dinner; visit Nursing Home; Hayride at 6pm

**Oct 22** Dave Case speaks @ Toledo 1st; Eat 'n Greet (Acts '11 in Wilmington, OH)

**Oct 29** Pastor Daniel speaks; RingFest Sabbath; Lunch for Bell Choirs

### Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month; Morning only other weeks.

### Mondays

**Oct 10** - Youth go on Amish field trip

**Oct 17** - Dee's vacation - through Nov 4

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

**Wednesdays** - Soup for You @ 6pm; Reading Revelation & Pathfinders @ 6:30

**Oct 26** - Bell Choirs arrive for RingFest

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

**Oct 27** - RingFest

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

**Oct 28** - RingFest; Mass Bell Choir Concert @ 7:30pm

## November

### Birthdays

November 1 Frank Engelbert  
Anjelika Manakhimova  
November 3 Leisha Barbee  
November 4 Larry Duwve  
Robert Szana  
November 5 Helen Konewka  
November 9 Bev Ostrander  
November 11 George Jenkins  
November 14 Daniel Landeros  
November 15 Fern Baer, Sara Rios, Randy Neal  
Jennifer, Joshua & Lanna Cozzens  
November 17 Pat Kline, Will Frey  
November 18 Marilu Beebe  
November 21 Andrew Jessop, Ben Neal  
November 22 Shelly Batchelder  
November 27 Sonja Maxwell  
November 30 Alex Bills, Kathryn Landeros

### Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11am each week  
Kid Connect @ 11am each week

**Nov 5** Pastor Mike speaks; no dinner

**Nov 12** Youth & Pathfinder Day; Fellowship Potluck; AY Meeting (vespers); Pinewood Derby

**Nov 19** Pastor Mike speaks; Little Minnow Awards; Heather Smith-LaPoint & team host Friendship Dinner; Nursing Home visit; Film Fest in evening

**Nov 26** Pastor Mike speaks; Eat 'n Greet; Nursing Home visit

### Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on the 1st & 3rd Sundays; Morning only the other Sundays.

### Mondays

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

**Wednesdays** - - Soup for You @ 6pm; Reading Revelation & Pathfinders @ 6:30

**Nov 23** - No Soup for You

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

**Nov 24** - Thanksgiving

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

