

the

JAN / FEB 2010 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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



Sometimes the most urgent and vital thing you can possibly do is take a complete rest.

—Ashleigh Brilliant

✕ Where Is Pastor Mike? ✕

The Ohio Conference encourages their pastors to take a four to six week study break every four years to rest or participate in an enrichment activity to ensure that they don't burn out. Pastor Mike last took a break in 2005 (before he came to Toledo), so during the month of January, he will be on sabbatical.

Though Pastor Mike and Jackie will be joining 35 other Ohio pastors [including Pastor Rachel!] during the Pastors Familiarization Tour of Israel January 19-26, most of the time he will be in Toledo, enjoying the peace and quiet, reading the stack of books he hasn't read yet but wants to, while taking care of the kids.

Please feel free to speak to him like normal about anything not related to church, school, or daycare! We want him back January 30th re-energized and encouraged—not drained because we didn't let him rest.

Should there be an emergency, please contact Pastor Rachel, Elder Allan Wolfson, Elder Dave Case or Dee at the church office. They will be leading us in worship and covering all pastoral needs in the meantime. Thank you!!!



“A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.”

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December 2009 at Toledo First

The pictures above were taken by church photographer, Jeff Batchelder. The first photo is of Pastor Rachel and two of the youth in their new Red Youth Sabbath School Room (at one time the conference room

and more recently the Primary Room). The room has bright red walls and a metallic gold ceiling and lots of mirrors. The Primary Sabbath School class has moved to the Fellowship Room. The second photo is

of the Bell Choir playing at the School Christmas Program. The manger scene occupied the end of the center aisle next to the platform during all of December. (Thanks, Pam Neal!) Photos 4 and 5 were taken during

the play, "All I Want for Christmas," an excellent program by Toledo Junior Academy students directed by music teacher, Sharon Van Wyk. ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 13
Soup for You
resumes
Wednesdays

JAN 23 & FEB 20
Film Fests
7 PM

JAN 30
International
Food Fest

FEB 13
Valentines for
Africa Banquet

Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting toledofirstadventist.org



Church hosts Souper Bowl Party

Sports Fans and Ordinary Outreachers, listen up! February 7th is the date for the Super Bowl Game—an opportunity to invite friends and acquaintances to see the big game on the big screen in our Fellowship Room. The party starts at 6 PM but you can come as early as 5:30.

For the "Soup"-er part we're asking that you bring three cans of soup or \$3 per person for the food bank. Munchies and pizza will be provided. ##

Sale to benefit School Building Fund

The upright Wurlitzer piano in the photo above right is French provincial style and looks like new. Call Kim Stanley at 419.882.3403 to make an offer. Proceeds



from the sale will go to the school building fund. ##

Give Liberty

Religious Liberty Sabbath is January 23. On that day or any day during January, your gift to Liberty magazine will fund subscriptions to government officials, judges, and

prominent social and religious leaders throughout North America. Your gift will also support a litigation fund which makes it possible to defend and preserve your religious liberty in court when necessary. Give generously to Liberty. You can even subscribe to Liberty Magazine yourself. Information folders will be on the foyer table in January. ##

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Valentines for Zimbabwe Banquet set for February 13

February 12-13th will be a very special weekend for all of us here at Toledo First. For the third year in a row, we will be extending Valentine's love beyond our own borders to our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

Two years ago Toledo First hosted "Valentines for Rwanda," which brought clean water to villagers outside of Kitale. Last year we hosted "Valentines for India," raising nearly \$4000 for the sons of prostitutes in the Kalighat district of Kolkata (Calcutta). Thanks to your generosity, teenage boys in Kolkata now have the opportunity to learn vocational skills in a bakery/restaurant setting which will give them real career opportunities where before they would have been lured away into drug-dealing and pimping.

This year our Valentines banquet will raise money to support the Murwira Orphanage near Marengwe, Zimbabwe. Founder and director Paula Leen is the aunt of Carl Wilkens, the celebrated ADRA director who was the only American to stay in Rwanda throughout the duration of 1994's gruesome genocide. Paula started Murwira in 1996 and at 72 years old she is now a grandmother to 40 little boys and girls, many of whom are suffering

from acute malnutrition and even HIV/AIDS. Zimbabwe has recently been devastated by an economic collapse, seeing unemployment rates rise as high as 94%, with unprecedented rates of inflation and widespread starvation taking over the country. Murwira is the only employer in the entire Marengwe area and feeds not only its resident children, but also hundreds of community people, the elderly, and widows. It also pays for hydrocephalous operations and runs an ambulance service between Marengwe and the nearest hospital, about 60 miles away. Funds raised at our Valentines for Zimbabwe banquet will go to purchase food and medical supplies for the dependants of Murwira Orphanage.

In conjunction with our banquet, several youth in our church will also be participating in World Vision's 30-hour famine on February 12 in preparation for the banquet. Participants will go without food for 30 hours in order to pray for and express solidarity with all those who suffer from hunger in Africa. Please contact me for more information, or if you would like to participate (adults are also welcome). —Pastor Rachel ##



International Food Fest coming Jan 30

You look forward to it every year—when Toledo First culinary artists shine! Don't be late. January 30th, about 7:30 PM you'll be able to purchase foods popular in many different countries. Mark your calendar for one of our most popular social events! ##

Fruit for January & March

Fight those uncomfortable colds and the flu. Fortify your body with Vitamin C in the form of Toledo Junior Academy's fruit from Florida. Order by January 15th for the January 31st delivery. Then order by February 19th for March 7th delivery. If you don't have an order form, call the school office for fruit selection and prices (419.841.0082). ##

Sabbath Lunches at Toledo First

January's potluck will be January 9th. Gregg & Heather LaPoint (& Team) host Friendship Dinner January 16th. Eat 'n Greet is January 30th. In February we have a potluck the first Sabbath, February 6th, and Cindy Larimore's Friendship Dinner Team hosts on February 20th. Eat 'n Greet will be February 27th. ##



Where Our Heart Is

Did you know that God is not needy or greedy? He doesn't need anything. From anyone. At any time. Because everything is God's. This becomes obvious when we read a few Scriptures about God. Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Job 41:11 adds, "Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me."

The Bible even says the strength to earn money comes from God. Deuteronomy 8:17-18 says, "17You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' 18But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

So if it's all God's, why does God ask us to give him a portion of his money back [cf. Malachi 3:6-8,10,17; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8]? Because He knows where are treasure is, there our hearts will be also [cf. Matthew 6:21]. And He wants our hearts to be all His.

To help us remember to do this, we're starting this new section of Focal Point entitled, *Where Our Heart Is*. Each newsletter will have an update about God's money and hopefully will encourage you to continue trusting Him with it.

Here's this edition's update:

Although tithe increased in 2009, giving to Church Budget has not kept up with our expenses. (Tithe is sent to the Conference to help pay pastors' and teachers' salaries. Only giving to church budget helps pay our expenses here.) Our high expenses are due to a combination of factors: an unprecedented rise in energy costs the last three years (did you know it costs at least \$400 to heat the church & school for just 4 hours each Sabbath morning?), a bad economy, and multiple maintenance issues (replacing the foyer tile, courtyard windows, and nearly all the heating and cooling units going bad after 25 years of use). And in order to reach our community, we have substantially increased our funding for ordinary outreach. To combat these costs, the Finance Committee recommended to the church in

Business Session a list of short term and long term ideas:

Short Term:

1. Sell the church bus [we bought it for \$7500 and we have already sold it 2 years later for \$6500]
2. Reduce "Eat-n-Greet" to once a month and do not reimburse teams volunteering to provide food
3. Ask for donations of paper products for fellowship meals
4. Continue sending flowers for funerals and those in hospital as long as we can or send really nice cards

The Bible even says the strength to earn money comes from God.

5. Develop visual aid as goal device for local budgetary needs
6. Reduce Dee's office hours

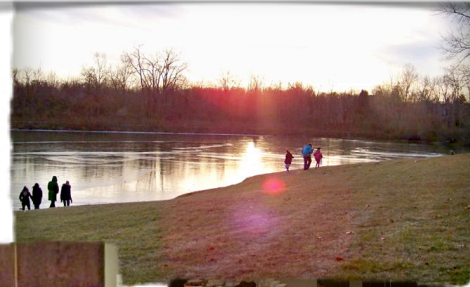
Long Term:

1. School subsidy reduced by 1/3 for 2010/2011 school year
2. Not hiring a paid office person whenever Dee retires
3. Consider selling cell phone tower for a lump sum
4. Negotiate higher rental cost, sharing utilities 50%
5. Pastor Mike and family move out of parsonage in May 2010 [saving maintenance and utility costs]
6. Sell church

Thank you for bringing your tithes and also remembering to contribute to local church budget in the new year. I promise to keep you informed about all short and long term ideas we consider in the new year.

—Pastor Mike ##

Picture Collage of December Spiritual Retreat at Lial



Thanks to Todd Barnes & Jeff Batchelder for Photos

Calendar Events - Jan & Feb 2010

January

Birthdays

Jan 1 JoAnn Arthur
Jan 2 Sam Santa Rita
Jan 3 Cathy Hall
Jan 6 Larissa Fraley
Jan 7 David Ashley
Kevin Herman
Jan 8 Donna Schuster
Dr Sam Santa Rita
Jan 16 Rosemary Maehre
Jan 20 Cassidy Cross
Jan 24 Kathy Kajfasz
Jan 27 Glenn Szana
Jan 29 Ericka Bilby
Jan 30 David Case
Kyla Reams

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week (except Jan 2)
Jan 9 Potluck
Jan 16 Friendship Lunch
Jan 23 Eat n Greet
Film Fest
Jan 30 International Food Fest

Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on
the 1st & 3rd Sundays
Jan 31 Fruit Pickup

Mondays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM each week
Jan 18 No School - M L King Birthday
Jan 25 No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wednesdays

Soup for You @ 6 PM each week starting Jan. 13
Adventurers & Pathfinders @ 6:30 PM each week
Book discussion @ 6:30 PM each week

Thursdays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM
Jan 15 Fruit orders due

February

Birthdays

Feb 3 Julie Herman
Feb 5 Shirlie Heiney
Feb 7 Kendra Bills
Feb 9 Edith Kolmar
Feb 10 Jim Naus
Beth Bench
Feb 11 Betty Godie
Shirley Tary
Feb 12 Barb Duwve
Feb 13 Lydia Fortune
Feb 15 Tamara Davydova
Feb 18 Tracy Jakubowski
Feb 22 Helen Emch
Feb 23 Rebekah Godie
Feb 27 Andrea Hughes
Feb 28 Nikyta Cantwell

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Kid Connect @ 11 AM & 5 PM each week
Feb 6 Potluck
Feb 13 Valentines for Zimbabwe
Feb 20 Friendship Lunch
Film Fest
Feb 27 Eat n Greet

Sundays

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

Mondays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM each week
Feb 15 No School - Presidents' Day

Tuesdays

Feb 16 No School - Teacher In-service Day

Wednesdays

Soup for You @ 6 PM each week starting Jan. 13
Adventurers & Pathfinders @ 6:30 PM each week
Book discussion @ 6:30 PM each week

Thursdays

Bell Choir @ 3 PM

Fridays

Worship Practice @ 5:30 PM
Feb 19 Fruit orders due