

the

MARCH 2009 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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

✧ “Where Your Heart Is” ends March 7 ✧


New Offering Envelopes Introduced as Part of Series

The 5-part sermon series, “Where Your Heart Is” will end on Saturday, March 7, when Pastor Mike Fortune emphasizes that God wants us to keep giving our time, talent and treasure to God with no strings attached.

As part of this series new offering envelopes were made available. Some of you who mail your tithe and offerings to church have requested that we send envelopes to you for your convenience. We decided to send a few to all of our newsletter readers.


You will notice that the envelope is a little different than the previous one. The outside still has the church name and address and a place for your stamp and return address. On the inside, the Local Church Offerings and Conference and World Offerings have been separated. The purpose is to make it clear which money is kept at Toledo First and which money is NOT. All offerings on the left side stay at Toledo First to help with our expenses here [heat, electricity, paper goods, office supplies, janitorial, secretary, etc.]. All tithe and offerings listed on the right side are sent to the Ohio Conference.

Just a word about Pastor Mike’s sermons. The series, “Where Your Heart Is” and all his other sermons since he arrived in January 2007, are available on our website. Just go to toledofirstadventist.org. On the home page right under the photo of Pastor Mike you will see Sermons: Audio, Video, Podcasts and Manuscripts. Choose the medium that best suits your lifestyle. While you’re there, take some time to get acquainted with the website. It’s a wonderful resource. [Our many thanks to Shawn Flack for all his *time* and *talent* to make it attractive and user-friendly.] —DeLaura Caulder ##

“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth & rust do not destroy, & where thieves do not break in and steal.”
Matthew 6:20

In this world it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.
—Henry Ward Beecher



The Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. —I Samuel 16:7

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Seen at Toledo First during February

On February 7th, Duane and Tracie Gustrowsky joined our church, transferring from Fort Wayne, Indiana. They are shown in the first photo with their children, Kelly, Brandon & Allen. *Welcome to all of*

you! After the Valentines for India banquet, Pastor Mike must be thanking Judy Riley [and husband Ray] for all their work in making the banquet food. *[He loves Indian food!]* Isaiah is shown in the middle photo when he and other

members of the Bell Choir [Campanas Cristalis] played on Feb. 28. In photo 4 members of the Women's Class, taught by Kendra Bills, are sharing their thoughts. Final photo is Dave Case when he preached on February 28 at

morning worship. *As always, we thank Jeff Batchelder for taking the pictures which we share here. ##*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAR 7
Fellowship
Potluck

MAR 14
New Kid Connect
Program begins

MAR 15
YMCA Gym Day
3:00 - 5:45

MAR 30
Business Mtg,
7 PM

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

Big City Studio all set for Kid Connect

There is exciting news afoot! March 14 kicks off our new Kid Connect curriculum, entitled "Big City Studio." The unit will feature Bible game shows, skits, and breakout lesson & prayer sessions. We were very pleased with the response to our request for more volunteer support, and will begin our new volunteer rotation in conjunction with the start of the new curriculum. If you are thinking about getting



involved but are not yet ready to make a commitment, consider signing up for a "Come and See" date. During a "Come and See" you are free to sit in on our activities without obligation to sign up to help on a regular basis. Either way, be sure to bring your kids and grandkids and every child within a mile radius of your neighborhood to Kid Connect on March 14th. It's going to be grand! —Pastor Rachel ##

Revelation/Journey Workshops

March 20-22 at Sawmill Creek Resort [near Cedar Point] two workshops will be presented. Dr. Jon Paulien [Dean, School of Religion at Loma Linda University] will introduce his new series of 24 lessons on the book of Revelation. Drs. Ron & Nancy Rockey [Life Renewal Institute] will present The Journey, a roadmap of life. The beginning of the journey requires an examination of your days from conception onward. Understanding these early connections is the com-

pass for the rest of your journey.

The workshops are arranged so you may attend both of the workshops during the weekend which begins Friday at 7 PM and ends noon on Sunday.

The fee of \$60 per person includes Sabbath lunch and the Sabbath dinner banquet. Please contact the church if you would like to attend. ##

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Funds still accepted for New Light India



THANK YOU to everyone who came out to the big “Valentines for India” banquet. Together we raised over \$1600 for New Light, a comprehensive community development project operating in Ward 83 of Kalighat, in one of the most notorious red light districts of Kolkata (Calcutta), India. New Light shelters nearly 200 children nightly who would otherwise roam the alleyways while their sex worker mothers en-



tertain clients. New Light also offers nutritious meals and educational help to boys and girls, as well as gynecological care, literacy classes, and legal assistance to the women of the Kalighat community. Our banquet was an effort to raise special funds for a boy’s bakery vocational training center. While teenage daughters of prostitutes are often expected or forced to follow after the trades of their mothers in Kalighat, sons are targeted to join gangs of pimps and drug dealers.

New Light’s new bakery will provide boys with the necessary skills and counseling to establish themselves as credible laborers and restaurant employees, a lucrative profession in Kolkata.

The New Light bakery needs \$5000 total seed money before it can open its doors. Perhaps you did not have the opportunity to attend our Valentines banquet but would still like to make a donation. Please contact me if you would like to donate or if you would like more information, including a DVD and brochure. New Light is very near and dear to my heart, as I have spent significant time in Kolkata and with New Light in particular.



We are all very grateful to Mindy & Shawn Flack, Kendra Bills, Ray & Judy Riley, Yvonne Brion, Marilynn Marsh, and the dozens of other helpers who made the banquet such a success. —Pastor Rachel Davies ##
[Editor’s Note: The photos here were taken at the Banquet by Jeff Batchelder.]

Thank You!

We had a very successful International Food Fest in January. Thanks to all of you who prepared food and to those of you who came to enjoy and to mingle. We took in more money this year than ever before! Thanks to all! — Donna Schuster

Can you take over the Bread Ministry?

It doesn’t take much time, but it is important to be ON time!

Nestor Alvarez began this ministry and it has been a blessing to many people. Now he is unable to continue past March 27th.

If you could pick up the bread from Panera in Spring Meadows, Airport Hwy. on Thursday at 8:45 PM, then bring it to church on Friday [Nestor is there 7 - 9 AM], that’s the time commitment. Please call the church office if you are willing to give it a try [419.882.6200]. Thanks. —Dee Caulder ##

Countrywide has job openings

Tom Wilkins has asked us to make this information available. Countrywide Bank in Toledo has two jobs available: (1) Full time permanent underwriter and (2) temporary underwriter. If you qualify, contact Mary Fackler at

419.381.6000. ##

Afternoon at the Gym begins soon

Feeling flabby? Craving fellowship outside the regular church worship hours? Starting March 15th, the West Family YMCA will be hosting an “Afternoon at the Gym” for Toledo First members every third Sunday of the month from 3:00-5:45. Toledo First members and friends are also eligible to receive a 10% discount on a Max membership at the Y, thanks to their Church Partner Program. So grab your sneakers, your kids, your teenagers, your grandparents, and your pet turtles, and head

out to 2020 Tremainsville on Sunday the 15th. Pastor Mike will be there to kick it off into a rocking good time. The sports courts and swimming pool will all be open for our use. —Pastor Rachel ##
P.S. I was just kidding about the pet turtles...

*Life isn't about
how to survive
the storm, but
how to dance
in the rain.*