

the

SEPT/OCT 2009 EDITION

FOCAL Point

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

✧ The Response ✧

We sought the Lord's will regarding a "Storefront Ministry" in Toledo. What did we hear?

For almost two years now we have focused our energies on ordinary outreach, a lifestyle approach to evangelism, reaching people where they are with the good news that God loves them like crazy. But unless we cultivate and fuel our appetites for ordinary inreach as well, we may burn out, not be entrusted by God with even bigger outreach endeavors, or even worse, lose our first love [cf. Revelation 2:4]. That's what we heard back from those of you who fasted for five days this summer with the specific purpose of listening to God's will concerning the proposed ordinary outreach ministry at the storefront the last edition of Focal Point explained in detail. In response to what we heard God say, Pastor Mike has been talking in worship the past two weeks about the Holy Spirit's work and guidance in our lives. The Spirit is always there to help us. But WE must stay connected. If we are burned out by doing good, added to the everyday busy-ness and demands of life, we may find our connection getting weak. Isaiah 40:29-31 reminds us: "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. . . those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

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"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."



Galatians 6:9, NIV

Goodness is love in action...love with the burden on its back, love following His footsteps who went about continually doing good.

—J. Hamilton



God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. . . —Romans 5:5

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Going & Coming & Serving Up Sunshine

Here's some of what happened during the summer. We said good-bye to Rosemary Maehre who moved to Bakersfield, CA, and the next week we said goodbye to Drs Char-

les and Amelita David & family who moved to Loma Linda, CA (sorry, no picture of them). But it wasn't all sad because we welcomed into membership Gloria Clark from Park-

wood, shown in the second photo above with her daughter, Ideshia. We were also happy to welcome Louis Simpson from Ephesus Church in Columbus. The final picture shows some

of our youth with their sunny smiles serving lemonade.

Thank you, Jeff, for taking the pictures which we share here. ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS
Prayer all day
in Sanctuary,
10 AM - 9 PM

WEDNESDAYS
Soup for You @ 6.
Adventurers, YO, &
"The Shack"
6:30-7:30

3RD SATURDAYS
Film Fest @ 7

OCT 10
Hayride @
Cases'

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

Mission Trip, anyone?

In mid-October, we are going on a mission trip to Elkhorn, West Virginia in McDowell County which is the second poorest county in the country. Elkhorn is the location run by Keith and Charlene Barr (Toledo First members). Their ministry is with a Christian organization called SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People). We will leave Monday, October 12th and arrive that evening, and then return Sabbath after a morning devotional service. They have a devotional service each evening and during the day we will be working on housing for the people of the area. We are

still looking for volunteers to go with us. It is \$300 per person. If you would like to join us, please contact me at 419.754.4404. Thank you. — Mindy Flack ##

Are you a Health Nut?

Health Nuts is a new monthly gathering of people who are interested in a healthful diet. Debbie Britenbaker and Pastor Rachel are leading out with the book, "What Would Jesus Eat." (You can pick up a copy at one of the local Christian book stores or order online.) At each meeting there are food samples which go with that night's



discussion. Health Nuts meets once a month on the second Thursday. Next meeting is October 8, 7 PM. No need to register. Just come. ##

RingFest celebrates 10th Anniversary!

Congratulations to Bill and Janell Ashley for 10 years of excellence in organizing RingFest, a learning opportunity for hundreds of students over the years.

Students arrive October 28 for the 10th Annual RingFest at Toledo First. Be sure to attend the Festival Concert on Friday, October 30, 7:30 PM. ##



Ready for a Hayride?

Hayride time is almost here! Just around the corner, in fact. Dave and Sheila Case will again host our Toledo First Bonfire & Hayride on Saturday night, October 10, starting about 7 PM (following Connections & Kid Connect at the church from 5 - 6 PM).

Look for a flyer in your bulletin with directions to their country home. All are invited. ##



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The Response *Continued*

To help us stay connected, Pastor Mike and Pastor Rachel believe that the Lord is directing them to provide the following:

1. A weekly **“Soup for You”** night on Wednesdays designed to stimulate “inreach” at Toledo First. Adventurers for children and YO for youth will meet. Adults are invited to join a discussion of the book, “The Shack” with Pastor Mike. At YO, Pastor Rachel will lead the Youth in practical soul-shaping habits like prayer, scripture reading, etc. Soup for You begins each Wednesday at 6 PM cross-generationally with a short joint worship and a shared meal of bread and easy canned soup. (Please bring a can of red or white base soup for use in following weeks.)
2. A **discipleship** group in Pastor Rachel’s home each Saturday night, 7 PM. Participants will share practical ways they can deepen their experience with God, and they will hold each other accountable in this pursuit through prayer and discussion. The group will explore discipleship as a process that takes Christians both inward and upward through the practice of various spiritual disciplines, and outward and upward through engagement with the needs of our world.
3. Every Wednesday beginning in September, the church sanctuary will be open for **prayer**. Rachel or another person from her discipleship group will be there from 10 AM – 9 PM

praying for members in our church and the specific needs they lay before us. A number of prayer activities will be set up around the sanctuary for people to engage with when they drop by throughout the day, and we will ask them what else we can do to facilitate spiritual growth in their lives.

4. A church **retreat** where even the leaders in Toledo First get to rest [led by Andrews University students] is being planned for December 11-13 on the theme of spiritual hunger. The theme will serve as a springboard for a year of intentional spiritual formation at Toledo First as we look toward bringing God’s presence to the community possibly through a storefront ministry.

May these ministries serve to bring you closer to the God Who loves you. ##

Congratulations, Jen+!

We recently received word that Jennifer Cozzens, daughter of Chaplain Steve and Barbara Cozzens, will receive a Servant Leader Award at a banquet October 8 hosted by The Servant Leadership Center of Toledo. Jen is being honored for having the “heart of a missionary” and for her mission work in Toledo, at youth camp, and in Ecuador.

Also being honored are Carroll Ashley for his extensive commitment to the Toledo community, and Don Shiewer, founder of Food for Thought (which our youth have helped with—taking sandwiches to the homeless). ##

KCCS NOT rained out!

It rained most of the afternoon on Labor Day, putting picnics and outdoor plans on hold throughout the Toledo area. But not the Kidz Crazy Car Show at Toledo Junior Academy! It was surprising even to car enthusiasts that 37 show cars came—even in the rain. And people came to see the cars! And to enjoy lemonade and hot dogs and food from Aladdin’s. The movies in the Fellowship Room were popular, too. (Adults and kids enjoyed having a dry spot to hang out!)

The rain subsided for the Awards Show at 7 PM and there were 15



happy winners of beautiful Kidz Crazy Car Show trophies. The children even got in on the act this year. Their Matchbox and Hot Wheels cars were also judged, with prizes awarded for all entries. ##



“Our Father, who art @heaven.org, hallowed be thy name...”

SCRAPBOOK



Former school students gather at Toledo First for Alumni on August 22, 2009.



This was a common sight mid-August to mid-September at our main entrance while the window wall was being repaired. The wood was replaced with a vinyl material which may outlast all of us!



This was the scene on August 17, the first day of school, when a TARTA bus crashed into our canopy. It wasn't the first time, but it was the worst time!

Fall Film Fest



Everyone's invited to the Fall Film Fest the third Saturday of each month, starting at 7 PM. Better yet, come to worship at 5 PM and stay for the film. Enjoy free snacks and hot drinks. Children's videos will be shown in another room.

Sept. 19, 7 PM—"Brother Sun, Sister Moon." A film on the life of St. Francis of Assisi, who devoted himself to a life of prayer and simplicity.

October 17, 7 PM — "Les Miserables," a wonderful film (not the musical) which illustrates powerfully how hard it is for many to receive forgiveness/grace, but how we must!

Other dates in this series are November 21 and December 19. Don't miss a single one! ##