

the

JANUARY 2008 EDITION

# FOCAL Point

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



## ✧ A Call to Service from Pastor Aly ✧

To all in Toledo who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank God for all of you because your faith in this ministry is being known to the city of Toledo. I am happy to share that in 2007 I was privileged to see many new faces that were brought to our church thanks to your willingness to invite children to our program. However, God, with whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the wonderful stories about his love, is my witness how constantly I am in need of a *children's ministry board*. Though I am continually surrounded by children, I always remember their parents and other adults in Toledo First and I keep them in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last, in 2008, by God's will the way may be opened for them to come to us and *volunteer as team leaders*.



If it is in your heart, I long to see you in order that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong – that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been unsuccessful until now) in order that I may have a harvest among you as I have had among the children. I am obligated both to our community and our church, both to the children and the adults, and that is why I am so eager to work with *you* who are interested in seeing this ministry grow.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let each new year find you a better person.*  
—Ben Franklin

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

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

## What awaits us

We're at the starting gate of a new year. What will it hold for us? Only God knows. yet if God knows, why not try to discover his plan for us each day?

We should carry on a daily dialog with God. Following His lead is always interesting and challenging. And much of the time it's filled with wonder and joy.

I remember the story of a small boy who prayed to God at the end of a fun, interesting Monday: "It's been a wonderful day God. What do you have in mind for Tuesday?"

### A Call to Service (Continued)

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in this process by praying to God for our Kid Connect Ministry. Pray that we may grow and bring all children in the community who long for a relationship with Christ and a friend to lead the way into our ministry. I pray that my service in Toledo may be accepted by the saints here, because by God's will I have come to you with joy and together we will be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Dear friends and family, as I sat and contemplated on what to write for our newsletter I couldn't help but hope that this letter will be as effective as the apostle Paul's writings to the Romans. I started reading the wonderful ways in which he wrote and was in awe of how much *truth in love* was found in his letters. After reading Romans, I realized that within that text laid the perfect structure of how I can com-

municate the message about our developing ministry, Kid Connect. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the manifestation of the power of God, and the way towards salvation for everyone who believes, therefore this letter is structured around the epistle of Romans.

I have complete faith that this ministry will have a board and an abundance of volunteers in 2008 because it does not start with this letter, but began with your prayers and a call to service, that which you will now respond to by dialing (419) 822-5977. God Bless. —Pastor Aly ##

### Christmas giving

Thank you to those of you who responded to the need for toys and money to purchase food for ten needy families this Christmas.

This year we contacted the Christmas Clearing Bureau for the names of ten families to help for Christmas. We purchased food from Angel Food Ministries, a non-profit organization which provides food year 'round to anyone.

What does God have in mind for you in 2008? Keep in touch with him, and you'll enjoy the trip around the sun. —Charles Ferrell (from *The Newsletter Newsletter*) ##



Start the New Year with  
**Prayer**

For \$25 you can get enough food for a family of four for a week or a single person for almost a month.

Our new church bus was packed with food, toys, teens and adults when they delivered the packages to needy families on December 15.

Then five days later we had another call and we were able to make Christmas a little brighter for a mother and her five children who just recently moved to Toledo. ##

### Caroling tradition continues

The Pathfinders and others who joined them came back with red noses, smiling faces, and a bag of fudge, from their caroling adventure on December 19th. They sang their hearts out, and gave away plates of cookies at about 19 houses near the church. WAY TO GO to Linda Bilby and daughters who baked all the cookies the night before!

The extra cookies were shared with the day care next

morning when Pastors Mike and Nathan gave away hot drinks and goodies to the surprised parents as they brought their children to the James Meade Learning Center. ##

### HeartSong begins

Our first *HeartSong* Community Sing attracted some new faces to our sanctuary and was an opportunity to enjoy our talented musicians. Thanks to all who participated—from mike setup to washing trays after the refreshments! ##



The Focal Point is published monthly by  
Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist  
Church ~ 419.882.6200  
toledofirstadventist.org



## Seen during December at Toledo First

Here are some of the sights of Christmas which Jeff Batchelder's camera captured during December 2007. At left is one of the Christmas ornaments made by a Toledo Junior Academy

student. Their beautiful decorations (many different kinds) hung from the tree in the foyer. The Christmas angels in the second photo sang during the school program. The tree in the

sanctuary was decorated by Pam Neal and friends. The faces in the camel cutouts are two students at James Meade Learning Center who spoke and sang during the school program and the bells

represent the Bell Choir who also performed at the school program. Thanks to all for adding to our Christmas experience. —DeLaura Caulder ##

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 12  
Communion

JAN 19  
*Family Movie & Game Night*

JAN 27  
Fruit Sunday

JAN 28  
*Business Meeting*

### A Look Back



If you take an in-depth look at all we've done as a church this year, you might be overwhelmed, so let's just take a quick look at snapshots: We started off with welcoming the Fortune family, began giving away Kindness-2-Go bags, had a

Super Bowl party, International Food Fest, and sat for our pictorial directory, went on nursing home visits, hosted Sylvania Community Orchestra concert, helped with Impact World Tour, welcomed two more pastors, hosted Mother's Day Tea, started Kid Connect, worked at the Carnival and Block Party at Aurora House, went to evangelistic picnics at the park, put on Vacation Bible School, Life Worth Living, Car Show, More About Jesus, ManFest, hosted Red Cross blood drive, welcomed bell choirs for RingFest, and

more! (Not even mentioning Sabbath School, worship and dozens of meetings!) Whew! No wonder the year went by so fast! ##

### A look forward

Just a little detail to the dates above. Please take note of them. Our quarterly communion service will be Jan. 12. Prepare your heart for this sacred service.

Plan to come to the Movie and Game Night Jan. 19th following Connections.

Fruit for January is grapefruit and navel oranges. Whole

case for either is \$24 and half case is \$13. Order by noon on Friday, January 11th.

At the church business meeting on Monday, Jan. 28 we will have a look at the proposed budget for 2008 so we can continue operating.

Ohio Ministry University in Dublin is the previous weekend, January 26-27. About ten church leaders are planning to attend.

More new things are coming in February. Don't go away! ##