

the

DECEMBER 2008 EDITION

# FOCAL Point

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



**Share your joy of  
Christmas  
And God's blessings  
from above.  
Celebrate God's  
graciousness!  
Celebrate God's  
love!**

—Peggy Ferrell



## ✘ Christmas Blessings to You! ✘

In 1934, Edward, Prince of Wales, paid a visit to small hospital in England where thirty-six hopelessly injured and disfigured war veterans were being tenderly nursed. At each bed he stopped, shook hands, and spoke a few encouraging words. After visiting twenty-nine of the unfortunates he was being conducted to the door when he said, "I understood you have thirty-six men here. I have seen only twenty-nine. Where are the other seven?"

The nurse gently explained that they were so terribly disfigured that it would be better if he did not see them. But the Prince insisted. He was again being led to the exit when he said, "I've seen only six men. Where is the seventh?" "Oh, nobody sees that one," replied the nurse. "Please do not insist." But he did. And there lay a bundle of human flesh-blind and disfigured, a shocking sight. The Prince stood speechless, his face white, his lips drawn. Then with cheeks wet with tears he bent low and kissed the wounded hero.

Which was wonderful. But God did something even more wonderful for you and for me. According to Isaiah 53:7-9, He Himself became the wounded hero! So that we might become His royal sons and daughters! Luke 2:6-7 says, "And while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn." John 1:12 adds, "And to all who believe in Him and accept Him, He gave the right to become children of God." Think about that. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords [Revelation 19:16] bent low to grace this earth with His presence so that by His grace we may live every day of our lives as His royal children in His presence. No wonder the angels sang!

In the coming weeks of December, we'll be joining them! On Sabbath December 6, we'll be focusing on Advent Hope at 11 o'clock and Christmas is For-giving at our second service, Connections at 5

*Continued on next page*

*At Bethlehem, God demonstrated that to love is to give. — Anonymous*

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### Items for the Church

## Working together provides needed items

*For some time, Donna Schuster has promised an article about how she has been able to purchase many needed items for the church kitchen over the years. Here is what she wrote. —Ed.*

In 1990 we needed a dishwasher for our new kitchen. At that time we were selling nuts along with our fruit program at our church school on Independence Road. Along with our nut program, we started our recycling program. The bulk of our monies for two years was from the nuts. During that time we purchased a dishwasher (still working), and a very expensive knife set (which we still have and use). We also purchased the sound system for our fellowship hall which has been updated. The school needed some money, so out of our fund we gave them \$241.

Since 1992 our funding has come from pop cans only. Below is a list of our major purchases over the past 16 years.

#### **1 Round Table**

#### **1 Microwave**

**Extra Good Silverware** (Plus when Betty Crocker was canceling out our pattern we purchased quite a bit of extra silverware at a rock bottom price. It's put away and will be used as needed.)

**Electric Range** (Sharon Santa Rita gave us \$100 from the Chair Fund. Recycle paid \$400.)

**20 White Linen Polyester Tablecloths** used for special occasions.

**Replacement of Stacking Ovens** (Our largest purchase—\$1201.49. We had two donations totaling \$320. Recycle paid \$881.49.)

We have purchased quite a few minor and miscellaneous items throughout the years, such as a third cart for the kitchen, miscellaneous serving pieces, stool for the kitchen, storage units for our closet, picnic tablecloths (which have disappeared—would appreciate their return), card tables, can openers, drawer dividers, dishtowels, etc.

So many have been faithful bringing in pop cans. Some of our steady people throughout all of these years have been Jo Ann Arthur, Mary Snowberger, Will & Loni Orlet, Jerry & Marcene Marsa, Burge & Lu Bills, Eleanor Meade, Bill & Janell Ashley, Shirlie Heiney, Hermine Wright, Dave & Kimiko Kawakami, Fern Baer, Jim & Cindy Naus, plus a host of others when they had some on hand. My son, Kurt, has saved cans for us at his business since day one.

Our range top on our counter has seen better days, so we will be replacing it when we have enough money on hand. Saving pop cans all of these years has enabled us to keep our kitchen up and running. The more cans we have to recycle the more we can do for our kitchen, so we welcome pop cans from each and every one. I have heard that plastic bottles are being used more and more so one of these days we might not have the cans. Keep them coming while we have them!

Also, throughout the years quite a few of our members have donated items for our kitchen, plus a host of towels, hot pads, and miscellaneous items. We thank each and every one of you for helping to keep our kitchen in good shape. —Donna Schuster ##

## Christmas Blessings! *(continued from front page)*

PM. On December 13, we'll be zeroing in on Advent Birth at 11 AM and at Connections—Initiating Forgiveness. On December 20 at morning worship, we'll be celebrating Advent Joy. Receiving Forgiveness is the topic at our second service at 5 PM. And on Friday evening December 26, we'll be participating in a very special candle light agape communion service @ 7 PM led by Pastor Rachel and Youth Operate. On Sabbath December 27, the full array of Toledo First musical giftedness will be on display during our Christmas Musical worship service at 11 o'clock. At our 5 PM second service, Connections, we continue the celebration with Behold All Things New. You'll want to experience all of it.

So if you haven't been attending Toledo First recently, please consider this your personal pastoral invitation to return!

So together, as God's royal sons and daughters, we can all worship Him and have a very merry Christmas!!! Love ye, Pastor Mike, Jackie, Joshua, and Lydia.

PS—And don't forget to drop your packs of socks in the **Sock Drop** located in the back of the church each week you walk into the sanctuary at church!!! We will again be collecting adults pairs of socks for the less fortunate all winter!!!

**NOTE: Our dumpster at church has two lids. If one side is full and over-flowing, please lift the lid for the other side. Often, that side of the dumpster is almost empty!**



## Seen around church in November

It was another busy month! We welcomed Dr. Trent and Janica Peppard and their son, Alex, who transferred their membership from Michigan [photo 1]. We had Pathfinder Day and Pinewood Derby.

Ohio Conference Youth Director, Mike Stevenson, congratulated our Pathfinder Director, Linda Bilby, on a job well done [center photo]. We handed out grocery bags on November 15 and they came

back filled on November 22. We helped six families who needed food before we could even get the food out the door to the homeless shelter! In the last photo, Pastor Rachel Davies is interviewing the

children in Kid Connect about what they are thankful for during the November 22nd worship service. It was a great month! ##

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**DEC 6**  
Christmas Tea, 3-5 PM

**DEC 18**  
School Christmas Program, 7 PM

**DEC 26**  
YO Agape Christmas Communion

**DEC 27**  
Musical Worship, 11 AM

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

### Annual Christmas Tea Dec. 6th

All ladies are invited to the Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 6, from 3 - 5 PM in the Fellowship Room of Toledo First. It promises to be a special treat with delicious finger foods and a variety of teas. Hear Pastor Rachel Davies who will speak on "Metamorphosis." ##

### Come to Lunch!

You're invited to the Christmas Friendship Lunch December 20. Marilu Beebe and her team are planning haystacks. Come and enjoy a favorite lunch and introduce yourself to someone you

don't know. It's all about friendship! ##

### Go Caroling!

Join the Adventurers and their parents when they go caroling on December 16th. Meet at 6:30 PM. Possible additional date is December 23rd. Check with Linda Bilby. ##

### Plan for OMU

*Coming Closer to Christ, Doing His Work* is the theme of Ohio Ministry University set for January 24 - 25 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio. This Ohio Conference workshop is for local church leaders to "discover principles and strate-

gies to lead your church to greater impact in ministry and mission!"

It begins at 3 PM on Saturday and ends at noon on Sunday. Speakers are Peter Roennfeldt and Clarence and Dianna Schilt. If interested in attending, please contact Pastor Mike. ##

### Living Nativity

Our friends at St. James Lutheran Church, just east of our building at 4747 W. Sylvania Ave., are having their annual drive-through Christmas Living Nativity December 13 and 14 from 6 - 8 PM. You may also want to check out the nativity displays, Christmas trees and a special

children's corner in their fellowship hall. ##

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"The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Luke 1:35, NIV



# Fifty Golden Years as Members of Toledo First!



*Pictured are: Fern Baer, Dr. Burgess Bills, Wanda Graham, Charlotte Herman, Jack Herman, Pat Kline, Will Orlet, Harold Rumsey, Donna Schuster, Shirley Smith, Helen Szana and Dr.*

Our second annual Little Minnows Awards were given to Toledo First members who have been members continuously for at least 50 years. Pastor Mike congratulated each of the 12 who were able to be present on November 22 to receive their awards [see above].

Last year Little Minnow Awards were given to the Sabbath School Teachers

—DeLaura Caulder ##

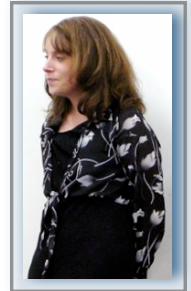
*Thanks to Jeff Batchelder for taking the pictures!*



## Welcome!

We welcomed our new youth pastor, Rachel Davies, and our new school teacher, Jennifer Landeros, and family on Sabbath, November 22, at the Friendship Lunch hosted by Heather Smith-LaPoint and her team.

Both Rachel and Jennifer were presented with monetary gifts of about \$250 each. Thanks to all who took part in the welcome. We're glad you're with us, Pastor Rachel and Jennifer Landeros & family! ##



## See School Program December 18th

It's Thursday, December 18th, and it's one of those "must do's" during the Christmas season. Without it, your Christmas just won't seem complete. Yes, it's the school Christmas program. Come and see and hear what our Toledo Junior Academy kids have been learning. Sit back and relax and feel the Christmas spirit wash over you as you listen to the young voices singing praises to God. ##

## Remember to turn in Tithes & Offerings by December 31st

As always, in order for your tithes and offerings to be counted for 2008, they must be in our treasurer's hands by December 31st. If possible, please place them in the offering plate on Sabbath, December 27th, or mail them to arrive before the end of the year. Thank you for your help. ##