

December 2017 / January 2018

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

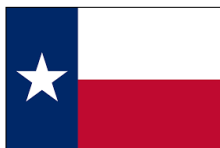
Give generously for schools this Christmas

Help rebuild SDA schools in Puerto Rico & Texas ravaged by hurricanes

Years ago one of our church founders Ellen White wrote, *“The holiday season is fast approaching with its interchange of gifts, and old and young are intently studying what they can bestow upon their friends as a token of affectionate remembrance. It is pleasant to receive a gift, however small, from those we love. It is an assurance that we are not forgotten, and seems to bind us to them a little closer..It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best friend. We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the word of God or that will increase our love for its precepts. Provide something to be read during these long winter evenings”* (The Adventist Home pp.478-479).



So giving gifts is a good thing to do this time of year. Which reminds us of the greatest gift Jesus. But books will not rebuild the eighteen Adventist schools in Puerto Rico (six elementary, eleven secondary, and one university) and Texas (both the Oaks Adventist Christian school and Triangle Adventist Christian School experienced structural damage) that sustained severe devastation from Hurricanes Maria and Harvey. So this year, during the month of December, we will collect an additional offering in the church foyer to help rebuild the Adventist schools in Puerto Rico and Texas affected by hurricanes in 2017. 100% of the donations received will be given to the North American Division Office of Education and distributed equitably among the schools. So look for the palm tree and flags in the foyer to remind us to set aside some monies for these schools. You can put your gifts in the plates the deacons will be holding in the foyer or return them in the tithe envelopes marked “Puerto Rico” or “Schools”. You will also be able to donate online via our church website.

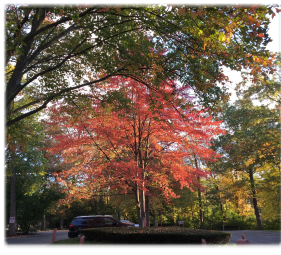


(Continued on page 3, column 1)

“Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.”—Jonathan Edwards

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October & November @ TF

Mother Nature painted the trees beautifully in our church's park-like setting (shown in photo 1). Bell Choirs from across the nation visited us for RingFest in October. Photo 2 shows our bell group, Campanas Cristalis, at RingFest. (Many thanks to Tripp for the photo.)

Thanksgiving week, the TJA Kindergarten class visited the church office and brought muffins they had baked. They are shown here with Pastor Mike. Thanks to teacher, Mrs. Naus, for the photo. And lastly, we're already decorated for Christmas! ##

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	DEC 2 & 16	DEC 14	JAN 13	JAN 14	JAN 16	JAN 27
	Friendship Lunch, then Vegan Challenge	TJA Christmas program, 6:30pm	Kids Rule @ worship; Baptisms	Scrap-booking Class, 10am-8pm	Church Business Mtg., 7:00-8:30pm	Communion

When are church lunches?

On DEC 2, Marilu Beebe and her team will provide Friendship Lunch after worship. Then on DEC 16 please bring vegan or vegetarian foods for our Christmas potluck. Everyone is invited to both lunches.

In January our kitchen gets a facelift! Meals will be on hold while the work is being done. We plan to resume our Toledo First hospitality in February. ##

Come to Church Business Meeting

We have business meetings just four times a year which last from 7:00-8:30pm—not burdensome at all! Church members are always invited and encouraged to attend. Next one is JAN 16 when the 2018 budget will be presented. Your voice is needed and welcomed. ##

Delegates chosen

Church members voted by ballot choosing delegates to represent them at the Constituency Meeting in Worthington, Ohio, May 6, 2018. The following were chosen and have accepted: Cavin Atkins, David Case, Sheila Case, Glendon Cross, Rose Cross, Jackie Fortune, Pastor Mike Fortune, Duane Gustrowsky, Dr. Gerald Marsa, Marcene Marsa, Gary Swackhamer, Katie Swackhamer. Alternates are: David Bening, Dr. Steven Bills and Tom Sandy. ##

Adopt a Grandparent for Christmas

At this writing there are still blanks on the list from Genesis Healthcare. You can sign up to purchase a Christmas “want” and “need” for a nursing home resident. It is our privilege to be able to brighten the day for someone in senior living. Many thanks to those who have already responded. DEC 16 is the deadline to bring the gifts to church. ##

Scrapbooking - crafting - cardmaking

Join women who will be having fun and preserving memories on Sunday, JAN 14, 10am - 8pm in Toledo First's fellowship room.

Registration fee of \$25 includes table space to craft, lunch and dinner, snacks, goodie bag and a “make & take.” Funds raised will benefit the “Gym for Kids.” ##



Vegetarian food order arrives DEC 5

If you ordered food (orders were due NOV 28), then plan to come to church on Tuesday, DEC 5, for pickup. The driver will call with an approximate arrival time. We will call you when your food is here. All food should be picked up on the day of delivery. —DeLaura Caulder ##

Give generously for schools *(continued from page 1)*

“As the twenty-fifth of December is observed to commemorate the birth of Christ, as the children have been instructed by precept and example that this was indeed a day of gladness and rejoicing, you will find it a difficult matter to pass over this period without giving it some attention. It can be made to serve a very good purpose” *(The Adventist Home p.478)*.

Thank you in advance for helping us commemorate the birth of Christ with gladness and rejoicing. Thank you for helping to rebuild the places children need to learn more about Jesus. Could there be a better purpose? — Pastor Mike ##

TJA upcoming events



DEC 14 - All are invited to Toledo Junior Academy’s annual Christmas program. In addition to special songs performed by the students, the TJA Junior Bell Choir consisting of students mostly in 2nd - 5th grade will have their first performance. The program starts at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

JAN 17 - TJA will have its annual Kindergarten Round-up and Visitor Day. If you know of any potential new students this would be a great day for them to visit. The visitation runs from 9:00 - 11:00am.

JAN 27 - The 8th grade class along with the Home and School Association will be hosting a pizza and snack movie night. The funds earned will help pay for 8th grade graduation and the 8th grade trip. Please come out and show your support for our 8th graders. The program starts at 6:30pm. —Kells Hall ##

Faith for You & Soup for You resume JAN 10

Faith for You (1:30pm) and Soup for You (6pm) resumes WED JAN 10 and continues until WED FEB 7. We will be discussing Dr. Timothy Jennings new book *The God-Shaped Heart: How Correctly Understanding God's Love Transforms Us*. Jennings is a Seventh-day Adventist psychiatrist board certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology from Chattanooga, TN where he lives with his wife Christie. He is a lecturer, international speaker, and author of other widely respected books *The God Shaped Brain* and *Could It Be This*

Simple? His latest book, *The God-Shaped Heart* exposes a single idea, misunderstood and deeply rooted within Christianity, that has prevented millions of believers in God from experiencing the freedom and healing of His unfailing love.



When he is not traveling giving seminars for pastors and others on mental health filled with moving real life stories, practical Biblical wisdom, and powerful life-changing insights,

he is teaching a weekly Sabbath School class based on the “quarterly” that is then broadcast online via his YouTube channel. For more info see his website (<http://comeandreason.com/index.php/en/>) full of free resources and additional info. And plan now to spend six weeks with us reading his book. It might make a great resource for a Six Week Group you could host on your own next Spring. Copies of his book are available in the church office for donations of \$10 while supplies last. ##



RingFest 2017



Thank you to all our TFSDA family for pulling together and helping make RingFest 2017 a great success! This was the biggest year ever with 16 groups attending under the direction of Guest Clinicians, Nick Hanson & David Harris. The mass pieces for the concert were some of RingFest’s best ever — hope you didn’t miss it! (Watch for it on the church website and type RingFest in the “Search” function.) RingFest 2018 is planned for October 24-27, 2018. — Janell Ashley ##

What is Christmas?

What is Christmas? I know that seems like a strange question, but keep reading. This beautiful season is so very important, much more than most of us think.

Christmas to you may be a winter wonderland, Santa Claus, flying reindeer, presents under the festively lit tree, snowflakes, and joyous songs. There may even be time for office parties, caroling around the neighborhood, snowmen, and even a snowball fight. But Christmas is a lot more than this.

You may think that Christmas is a very holy season. With a bright shining star in the east, an angel choir, shepherds and wise men, no room in the inn, and a manger for a bed. There is even room in your definition for a doting husband, a pregnant teenage bride, and a virgin birth. But even with all this, Christmas is more.

Christmas is about fulfilling a promise. Not from you or me. It was a promise from God in the beginning, when the world was brand new. When Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, Satan got a foothold on this earth. When Adam and Eve believed the lie about God, they lost their closest connection.

But Adam and Eve were not the only ones to suffer. God suffered along with them. He grieved for the loss of the close communication and trust He had had with His creation. It must have hurt Him a lot.

After calling out to them, seeing them hide from Him, and hearing Adam blame his wife, and his wife blaming the serpent, God made a promise. In Genesis we read:

So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:14-15)

Who was God talking to? Read the first eight words to get the grasp of the enormity of this statement. God didn't make the promise to Adam and Eve. He made this promise to the serpent, aka the Devil, aka Satan. God's first promise of a Savior on this earth was made to Satan himself.

He said, "And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman (the people on earth), and between your (Satan) seed and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Satan had

rebelled against God in Heaven, showing disrespect. Now he had hurt God's newest creation. God was going to bruise his head (crush him), and Satan would bruise His heel (temporarily hurt Him). God was not acting out of revenge. He was showing the universe how he would end sin, and all the negative effects caused by it.

What was man's role in this promise? Do you see it? Can you find it?

If you can't, it's because it doesn't exist. Satan was at war with both God and man, but God was going to take care of everything. Man has no part in fixing the problem. Man cannot fix the problem, because man was the root of the problem. Man does not have the ability to fix the problem. Nothing man does will work. Only God can fix our mess.

Christmas is about God keeping His promise to fix everything. When Jesus was born, the angels could not contain themselves with joy. Jesus Christ had been born, and He was going to restore humanity. They burst into song in front of a group of very frightened shepherds. All Heaven shouted with praise as God started the process of fixing mankind's problem.

Christmas is a very happy time, full of joy and singing. Giving gifts, erecting Christmas trees, exchanging presents. Spending time with family and friends, reflecting on the Baby born in a manger to poor parents, and heralded by shepherds, angels, and wise men from the east.

But Christmas is also God keeping His promise to restore us. God always keeps His promise. Every promise He has made He has kept. That includes the promise that He would always be with you (Matthew 28:20). And the promise that His load for you is light (Matthew 11:30). And the promise that if you accept what Jesus has done for you, you will have eternal life (John 3:16). And literally thousands of other promises found between Genesis and Revelation.

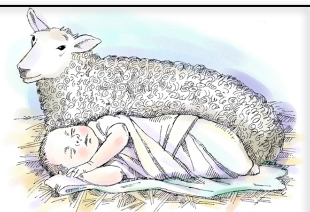
Christmas is fun, beautiful, sacred, and holy. But it is also proof that God will always keep His promises.

But probably the most important promise is that He is making a place for you in Heaven, because He loves you so much, and desperately wants to spend all eternity with you. —Jeff Batchelder ##



"Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible."

—Author Unknown



Much help = success on Pathfinder Day

Many thanks to everyone who helped make Pathfinder Day and Pinewood Derby 2017 possible.

We have an awesome group who helped with potluck lunch – donating & preparing the food, serving, and cleaning up afterwards. They were: Craig, Donna, Cathie, Mary, JoAnn, Rose, Jackie, and many, many more that I didn't see while I was zooming around.



Many thanks to the following people without whom we could not have had Pathfinder Day/Honors/or Pinewood Derby.

- The people who helped teach the classes:
- Frank Peden (Prayer & Sanctuary)
- Pastor Edward Marton (Abraham and Sand Art)
- Josh & Alex (Legos)
- Glenn (Music)
- Melissa (Engineering)
- Julie, Leonard and Carrie (Heart and Circulation)
- Pastor Mike (Patriarchs of the Bible)

The teachers at Toledo Junior Academy who gave us permission to use their classrooms and were willing to be inconvenienced when they started classes on Monday.

Toledo 1st SDA who allowed us to once again host the event. Pat, Jean and everyone else who helped with supper —preparing, serving, and cleaning up.

Gary from the Toledo Herpetological Society who brought snakes, tarantulas and lizards for Vespers...and all the box carriers.

Bill, Ericka, and Melissa who formed the weigh-in group. The Track Crew —Shawn, Steve, Tripp, Leonard, Carrie and the two volunteers. Everyone who entered the

Pinewood Derby Race. Everyone who helped clean up, carry, move, and put things away all during the day. I'm sure I've missed many names – but thanks anyway.

Oh, and Linda's Duct Tape Roll won this year.

For next year, we would like to offer a bigger variety of classes – especially some nature honors. If you would be willing to teach, let me know so we can get the supplies you need. Also, if anyone would be willing to teach Gift Wrapping that would be awesome because I've been collecting little boxes and would really like to use them.



Our next Pathfinder Sabbath/Honors/Pinewood Derby is Nov 10, 2018. See you then! START YOUR ENGINES. —Linda Bilby ##

Here's the schedule for Adventurers

Adventurers meet on the following Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:00pm in the fellowship room.

- JAN 3 - Busy Bee/Sunbeam, Who Am I
- JAN 17 - Shapes
- FEB 7 - Busy Bee/Sunbeam, God Is My Friend
- FEB 21 - Birds
- MAR 7 - Turtles
- MAR 21 - Busy Bee/Sunbeam, Who are My Friends
- APR 4 - Gardening
- APR 18 - Busy Bee/Sunbeam, Everything else
- MAY 2 - Investiture —Linda Bilby ##

Make plans to attend Valentines for Toledo

Timothy Noble, a young Gospel pianist and singer, is coming to Toledo First for our annual Valentines for Toledo concert—this year on FEB 17, 7pm. Set aside the date now so you won't miss this gifted musician.

"Amazing!! Simply Amazing!! I've never heard something done so well by someone so young . . ." —Lari Goss, award-winning, nationally known producer and arranger, Nashville, TN

Timothy plays to honor God and to encourage and uplift Christians. Know someone who needs a little encouragement? Invite family, friends and neighbors to attend with you. —DeLaura Caulder ##

Kids Rule — JAN 13

Sabbath School Teachers, Parents & Kids: The worship service on JAN 13 will be done by kids—the welcome, scripture, offering, songs, skits, poems, memory verses, paintings, dance or any other short (five minutes or less) testimony. Parents and teachers can help / assist the youngest ones. We need to know who will participate by DEC 20. Please talk with Pastor Mike to volunteer or call the church office ([419.882.6200](tel:419.882.6200)). All youth and children are eligible. ##

Everyone's invited to the party DEC 16

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Saturday, DEC 16, at 7pm, join us for a celebration of Christmas goodwill and cheer! Bring your favorite holiday treat to share and be ready for some crazy holiday games sure to bring many smiles and laughs! Hosted by the Toledo First Youth. —Jennifer Landeros



DEC 2017 & JAN 2018 CALENDAR

Birthdays

- DEC 3 Jennifer Eichelberger; Ryan Wilson
- DEC 5 Lu Bills
- DEC 6 Jordan & Megan Wilson
- DEC 7 Cindy Larimore
- DEC 8 Chris Atkins
- DEC 9 Hannah Bundy
- DEC 10 Kay Ostrander,
Charles Makley
- DEC 11 Mindy Flack
- DEC 12 Mary Ann Sandy
- DEC 15 Sara Austin; Brian Crosby
- DEC 16 Regina Tary, John Eaton
- DEC 17 Norman Burrow
- DEC 18 Joseph Famulare
- DEC 19 Frank Netry
- DEC 20 Ralph Collins
- DEC 22 Cassandra Leibengood, Mary Parker
- DEC 26 Carolyn Nonoy
- DEC 27 Duane Gustrowsky
- DEC 28 David Bening, Marion Thomas



Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- DEC 2** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Lunch w/Marilu & her team
- DEC 9** Sabbath School & Worship
- DEC 16** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm; Christmas Party @ church, 7pm
- DEC 23** Sabbath School & Worship; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm
- DEC 30** Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays

DEC 24 Our church sanctuary is rented for a service @ 4pm

Mondays - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

- DEC 4** Campanas Cristalis (Bell Choir) plays at Flower Hospital for their tree lighting ceremony
- DEC 18** TJA on Christmas break for 2 weeks & 2 days
- DEC 25** Christmas Blessings to one and all

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm

- DEC 5** Vegetarian Food Delivery @ Toledo First; Baptism Preparation Class, 3:15 - 4:00pm
- DEC 12** Baptism Preparation Class, 3:15 - 4:00

Wednesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm

- DEC 6** Baptism Preparation Class, 3:15 - 4:00 Adventurers, 6:00 - 7:00pm
- DEC 13** Baptism Preparation Class, 3:15 - 4:00

Thursdays - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

- DEC 7** Surprised by Love class @ Jenny Eichelberger's home, 6pm
- DEC 14** TJA Christmas Program @ 6:30pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30

Birthdays

- JAN 1 JoAnn Arthur
- JAN 3 Cathy Hall
- JAN 6 Isaiah Godie, Larissa Fraley
- JAN 7 David Ashley, Kevin Herman
- JAN 8 Donna Schuster
- JAN 10 Skylynn Choti
- JAN 12 Kyle Jakobowski
- JAN 14 Jackson Flack
- JAN 16 Rosemary Maehre
- JAN 18 William Crosby
- JAN 20 Cassidy Cross
- JAN 24 Kathy Kajfasz, Jennifer Landeros
- JAN 26 Larry Duwve
- JAN 27 Glenn Szana
- JAN 29 Ericka Bilby
- JAN 30 David Case, Kyla Reams

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- JAN 6** Sabbath School & Worship
- JAN 13** Sabbath School & Worship —Kids Rule!; Baptisms
- JAN 20** Sabbath School & Worship; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm
- JAN 27** Sabbath School & Worship w/communion; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm



Sundays

JAN 14 Scrapbooking - Crafting - Cardmaking, 10am - 8pm

Mondays - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

- JAN 1** Happy New Year
- JAN 8** School Board Meeting, 7pm
- JAN 15** No school at TJA - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- JAN 22** No school at TJA - Parent-Teacher Conferences

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm

- JAN 9** Baptism Preparation Class, 3:15 - 4:00
- JAN 16** Church Business Meeting, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

- JAN 3** School resumes at TJA; Baptism Preparation Class, 3:15 - 4:00pm; Adventurers, 6:00 - 7:00pm
- JAN 10** Baptism Preparation Class, 3:15 - 4:00 Faith for You @ 1:30 & Soup for You @ 6pm
- JAN 17** Kindergarten Round-up & Visitor Day at TJA, 9-11am Adventurers, 6:00 - 7:00pm Faith for You @ 1:30 & Soup for You @ 6pm
- JAN 24** Faith for You @ 1:30 & Soup for You @ 6pm
- JAN 31** Faith for You @ 1:30 & Soup for You @ 6pm

Thursdays - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30