

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

Open Table *could* start in September at TF

Will you be one of ten people willing to listen, love and serve?

Are you willing to love and serve one woman rescued from strip club owners or the streets of northwest Ohio? A not-so-ordinary outreach, called Open Table, requires 10 Toledo First members willing to meet 2 hours a week @ church for a year with someone referred to us by our friends at The Daughter Project. It's a faith-based model that is intentionally composed of church volunteers willing to listen and act as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates. The volunteers must be grace-based, Christocentric, capable of being confidential, at least 18 years of age, and clearly understand how supremely important it is not to share or judge anything they hear. 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 NLT says, "12 It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders...13 God will judge those on the outside." Our job, over the course of a year, is to shower unconditional love and support on one rescued woman that God loves like crazy and help her set goals, foster accountability, and implement a plan for any positive change she wants to pursue.



The Open Table Inc. supplies the technical support, training, structure, and process to draw the community and congregation together. The 'cost' is 8 to 10 people who are willing to devote one year of their lives, about 2 hours per week, *(Continued on page 3, first column)*

"You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

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July at Toledo First

Patriotic whirligigs were popular with the younger set after church in photo 1. In photos 2, 3, and 4 we say goodbye to friends who are moving away: Kells & Vicki Hall in #2, are going to North Carolina, Dr. Chad & Vanessa Hines, with daughter, Hannah, are moving to

Florida, and Eldridge & Antoinette Edgecombe and daughters, Ayzlei, Aubree & Annastyn are moving to the Washington DC area. Last photo shows Jo Ann serving the goodbye cake she made. *(Thanks to Shawn Flack and all the photographers for contributing photos.) ##*

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	AUG 11	AUG 16	AUG 25 & SEPT 22	SEPT 9	SEPT 25
	SEPT 8	School starts @ TJA	Picnics @ Wildwood	Scrap-booking, 10am-8pm	Church Business Meeting
	Fellowship Potlucks				

Church Float Day is AUG 12, 2 - 7 PM

This beautiful pond is located at Dave and Sheila Case's new home near Delta and they've invited YOU — church family and friends— to come and relax on a summer afternoon. Bring your own chairs, blankets, water toys, lawn toys and play, swim, float or just unwind.



Lunch will be at 3PM with veggie burgers, toppings, condiments and drinks provided. Grill will be available throughout the day. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the day at Case Place Pond. ##

Come to Business Meeting SEPT 25

Church family, you are invited to attend the quarterly church business meeting on Tuesday, SEPT 25, from 7:00-8:30pm. Hear reports from Pastor Mike and help make any decisions needed. ##

Scrapbooking = Fun & Fellowship

You are invited to a day of scrapbooking on Sunday, SEPT 9, 10am - 8pm in the church fellowship room. This is a fund raiser for the school gym.

Dig out those photos you've been intending to organize and get help with your project at this scrapbooking event. The Registration Fee is \$25, which includes table

space to craft, lunch & dinner, snacks, goodie bag and free Make & Take. Brenda Szana, Close To My Heart Independent Consultant, will be available to help you##



Women's Retreat set for Sept 28-30

The 2018 Ohio Conference Women's Retreat will be held the last weekend in September at Shisler Center in Wooster, Ohio. Special guest will be Tamyra Horst, author of "Praying Like Crazy for Your Husband." More information will be in upcoming bulletins and Headline News. ##

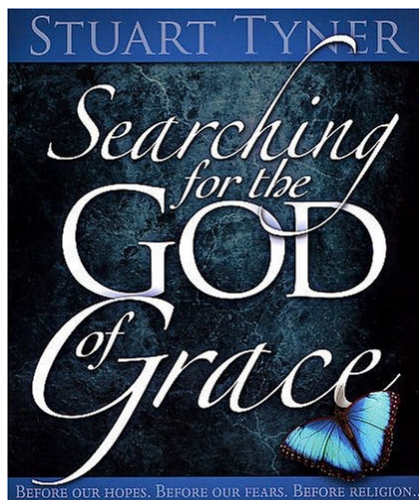
Open Table *(Continued from page 1)*

to love and serve one woman. If the interested Toledo First volunteer cannot pay the \$120 membership fee to cover the training and supplies, that fee will be paid by Toledo First Church and / or The Daughter Project. So please do not allow money to prevent you from helping!

This is profoundly challenging work and cannot be done without an “open table” full of people pouring into one broken but precious person, but I promise you it will be immeasurably fulfilling! So do pray about it and let me know if you are interested in this high-cost high-reward evangelistic effort. Applications are available in the church office and must be returned before Labor Day. If we receive ten applications by then, an open table group could begin meeting before the end of September. Please consider partnering with us in this supremely important, life and death ministry here in northwest Ohio. —Pastor Mike ##

Better understand the beauty of grace

Soup for You returns WED SEPT 12 @ 6pm and continues for six weeks (9/19; 9/26; 10/3; 10/10; 10/17) concluding before Ringfest. Some of you may have already read *Searching for the God of Grace* by Stuart Tyner when we first purchased and distributed it in 2008. But many of you have not, so a book and small group discussion tracing the development and understanding of grace through all of Christian history continues to be most helpful. This study concludes with Adventist understanding of grace and its relationship to other doctrines and obedience in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ellen White once wrote, “We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn.”



Read and discuss this book so you and your children and grandchildren and friends and neighbors can better understand the beauty of grace. And some of the “many, many” things about it we need to unlearn. And then, after Ringfest concludes, plan to launch your own six week group modeling your conversations after the ones you’ve previously experienced during Soup for You. We have all been invited to participate in Jesus’ Great Commission! —Pastor Mike ##

Enjoy food and fellowship in nature

Evangelistic Picnics in the Park are AUG 25 and SEPT 22 at the first shelter on the left after you enter Wildwood Metropark (5100 W Central Ave, Toledo, OH 43615) and wind your way around toward the back of the park. Bring a dish to share and plan to enjoy potluck in nature. Bring your walking shoes, bikes and frisbees to enjoy the trails and down time. We will be giving away fresh-squeezed lemonade. Download the “Geocaching” app on your phones if you want to go on the afternoon scavenger hunt. Kept right, Sabbath is a delight (cf. Isaiah 58:13-14)!



—Pastor Mike ##



Preschoolers graduate

At our James Meade Learning Center graduation on May 29, thirteen white cap and gown clad preschoolers marched down the center aisle of the sanctuary. Along with students from the community Callie Hood, daughter of John and Natalie Hood, also graduated. Congratulations, graduates! Next stop? Kindergarten! ##



Enjoy Senior Discovery Days at the Zoo

Seniors 60 and better will get FREE admission to the Toledo Zoo on Tuesdays from SEPT 4 - OCT 30, plus FREE parking in the Anthony Wayne Trail lot, FREE small coffee and mini muffin in the Timberline Bakery from 10am - 2pm, 20% off any merchandise in the gift shop and \$5 off any membership. There will be senior activities every Tuesday as well.

Caregivers who are directly responsible for assisting seniors are eligible for free Zoo admission too. Pre-register with the Zoo's Visitor Services Dept. by calling 419.389.5651 before your visit. This applies only to professional caregivers. Regular admission rates will apply for volunteers and relatives of visiting seniors. Discovery Days are sponsored by WellTower. ##

Join field trip to Bible Museum in OCT

Always wanted to visit Washington D.C.? We're planning a church trip! Leave Friday, OCT 12, spend Sabbath touring the Museum of the Bible. See historical sites including the White House, Jefferson Memorial and Lincoln Memorial. Return Monday. Cost is for hotel: \$300/person single occupancy or \$150/person double occupancy. Price includes breakfast and supper on touring days. Bring or purchase food for travel days. Coolers will be available for food supplies and hotel rooms have refrigerator and microwave. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Deposit of 50% due SEPT 12; balance due OCT 12. Sign up at church bulletin board or call church office. ##

New church entrance will be snow free!

The pebblestone finish at the main church entrance was removed in June and heating coils were installed. The days were hot, and then rainy, delaying the cement pour, but the trucks pulled into our lot at 8am on July 3rd and in just an hour's time the concrete was in place. See photos



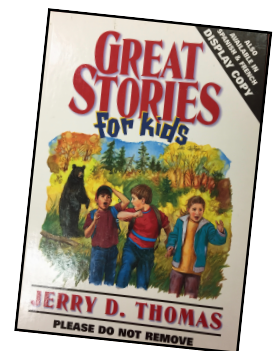
which follow showing the heating coils (photo taken from fellowship room door), the cement pour, and the panoramic



shot of the whole area from inside the main entrance taken by Shawn Flack. ##

Free books for kids are available

We have brand-new free copies of Volume 1, Great Stories for Kids by Jerry Thomas. Pick up your copy while supplies last. ##



Grads honored at potluck

We honored our graduates at Fellowship Potluck on June 23. There were seventeen graduates from our church, plus six more who are grandchildren of Toledo First members.

Callie Hood (not pictured) graduated from James Meade Learning Center preschool and will attend Toledo Junior Academy Kindergarten.



LilyRose Bradburn and Sofia Alvarez-Myers graduated from



Toledo Junior Academy Kindergarten and received books from Pastor Mike.

Ayzlei Edgecombe (not pictured) graduated 8th grade from Toledo Junior Academy and will be moving this summer.

Maya Daley graduated 8th grade from Toledo Tech.



Yelaina Douglas and Shaunte Mullings graduated 8th grade from Bennett Venture Academy.



Caleb Rieger and David Ashley (not pictured) graduated 8th grade at TJA.



Six High School graduates were honored.

Joshua Fortune, who will attend Walla Walla University, graduated from Toledo Technical School.

Kelly Gustrowsky, who will attend Southern University, graduated from home school.



Jeremy Bernard (not pictured) graduated from Springfield High School in Holland, Ohio.



Daniel Landeros also graduated from Springfield High School and will attend University of Toledo.

Zaria Lawrence (not pictured) graduated from Start High School and will attend University of Toledo School of Nursing.

Alec Leibengood graduated from high school at Clyde, Ohio and will attend Terra State Community College before going on to Cleveland Institute of Art.



Jonathan Bair (not pictured) graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Master's degree in Applied Geospatial Science.

Jerome Bernard (not pictured) graduated with an Associate degree in Business Administration from Owens Community College and will be continuing at University of Toledo this fall. **Congratulations to all! ##**

(Many thanks to Carla Szczechowski for taking the photos.)

AUG & SEPT 2018 CALENDAR

Birthdays

- August 2 Marcene Marsa
- August 6 Joshua Fortune
- August 7 Laura Frey
Alex Jessop
- August 8 David Kawakami
- August 9 Flynn Choti (Moses)
- August 10 Nolan Hood
- August 11 Deb Bening
Kay Kermode
- August 14 Lanetta Cross
Kim Stanley
- August 15 Gail Flack
- August 17 Teresa Moses
- August 19 Chad Rieger
- August 21 Ron Szczechowski
- August 24 Mary Snowberger
- August 26 Becky Godie
Laura Williams
- August 27 Mary Ann Osinski
Cody Rieger
- August 31 Cole St. Clair



Birthdays

- Sept 2 Dr. Burgess Bills
Shirley Smith
- Sept 4 Nicole Rieger
- Sept 6 Pastor Mike
Claire Jakubowski
Joyce Jenkins
- Sept 10 Vickie Wintersmith
- Sept 14 Glendon Cross
Joy Reams
- Sept 15 Jeff Batchelder
- Sept 16 Troy Leibengood
- Sept 18 Camile Sluder
- Sept 19 Pam Frey
- Sept 20 Shawn Flack
- Sept 21 Karen Conkle
- Sept 22 Andrea Orr
Elaine Mitchell
- Sept 23 Gloria Clark
- Sept 27 Emily Bills
Luann Ostrander
- Sept 29 Al Landeros

Sabbath Events

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

- AUG 4** Sabbath School & Worship
- AUG 11** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck
- AUG 18** Sabbath School & Worship; Visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm
- AUG 25** Sabbath School & Worship; Evangelistic Picnic at Wildwood Metropark, first shelter house; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

Sundays

AUG 12 Church Float Day @ Case Place

Mondays -

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm (except June 13)

Thursdays -

AUG 16 - School begins @ Toledo Junior Academy

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30

Sabbath Events

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

- SEPT 1** Sabbath School & Worship
- SEPT 8** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck
- SEPT 15** Sabbath School & Worship; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm
- SEPT 22** Sabbath School & Worship; Evangelistic Picnic at Wildwood Metropark, first shelter house; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm
- SEPT 29** Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays

SEPT 9 Scrapbooking, 10am - 8pm in church fellowship hall

Mondays -

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm (Senior Discovery Days @ the Zoo each Tuesday (See page 4)

SEPT 25 Church Business Meeting, 7pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

SEPT 12 Soup for You begins @ 6pm

SEPT 19 Soup for You @ 6pm

SEPT 26 Soup for You @ 6pm

Thursdays -

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30

SEPT 28 Ohio Conference Women's Retreat begins at Wooster.(See page 2)

