

JAN / FEB 2015

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

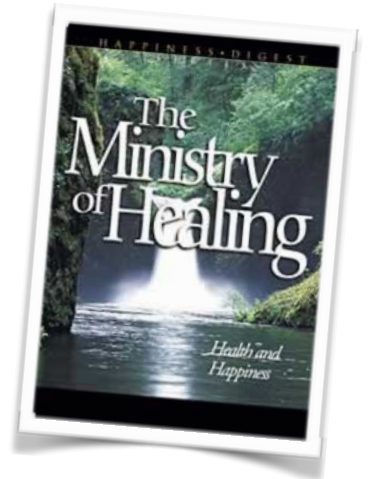
Read *The Ministry of Healing* this new year

Come to Soup for You on Wednesday evenings and discover a better way to live

“During His ministry, Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching” (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p.2). Did you know that? “To all He brought treasures from the storehouse of wisdom. He spoke to them in language so simple that they could not fail of understanding...With tender, courteous grace He ministered to the sin-sick soul, bringing healing and strength” (Ibid., 3). “With unwearied patience and sympathetic helpfulness He met men in their necessities. By the gentle touch of grace He banished from the soul unrest and doubt, changing enmity to love, and unbelief to confidence” (Ibid, 3). These are just a few thought provoking quotes from chapter one of the “new” book we’re starting at Soup for You resuming WED JAN 14, 2015.

Come for good food and fellowship at 6:00pm then stay to discuss chapters 1 and 2 of *The Ministry of Healing* at 6:30-8:00pm. This little book is full of practical principles and Godly counsel that is sure to draw you closer to Jesus this new year. Free copies are available in the foyer at church while supplies last.

Should you wish to contribute \$4 / book to the evangelism fund at church to cover the cost of the book those funds are appreciated but not required. Join us! Let *The Ministry of Healing* lead you to a new life of joy, vibrant health, service to others, and peace with God. You do not need to be a member of Toledo First Church to participate. —Pastor Mike ##



The new year is our opportunity to refresh our relationship with the One who says, “See, I am making all things new!” (Revelation 21:5-7 NRSV)

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November & December

November was BUSY beginning with RingFest Sabbath on November 1; we welcomed Battle Creek Academy Band (photo 2) the very next week. Pathfinders from around Ohio joined us for worship and at Vespers on November 15 the “snake guy”

brought slithering creatures to fascinate them (photo 3). On the Sabbath before Thanksgiving we honored 5 teachers (photo 4) with the Little Minnow Award for “all the little things” they do. (One was unable to come.) ##

Calendar of Events

JAN 14,
6 - 8pm

Soup for You
begins

JAN 18,
6pm

Church
Business Mtg

JAN 31,
6:30pm

Int'l Food
Fest

**JAN 10 &
FEB 14,**
6pm

Circle of
Friends

FEB 1, 2pm

Card Making
Class

Join a new Baptismal Class

Pastor Mike is beginning a new Baptismal Class on Sabbath, JAN 3, 1pm in his office. It's open to all ages and will meet each week through MAR 28. Please contact Pastor Mike (419.386.8918) or mike4tune@gmail.com in advance, if possible, so he will have enough materials on hand. ##

Come for fun, fellowship, creativity

Join the card making class **FEB 1**, 2 - 6pm in our fellowship room. Learn new techniques for making special occasion cards. The class is free but donations are accepted. Bring a friend and a snack to share if you wish. ##

Just a reminder. . .

Next church business meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, JAN 18, 6pm**. Budget for 2015 will be presented. All members are welcome. ##

Church dinners in JAN & FEB

Fellowship potlucks are **January 10** and **24** and **February 28**. Cindy Larimore and team will host Friendship Dinner on **February 14**. ##

Orders for fruit due JAN 5

Order fresh Florida fruit through Toledo Junior Academy (419.841.0082) by January 5 for pickup on January 18, 8am - 1pm. Navel oranges and grapefruit are \$20 for a half case and \$35 for a full case. Variety pack is \$27 for small box and Honeybell Tangelos are \$28 for small box and \$48 for large box. (If you did not pre-order Tangelos in December, they may not be available due to limited supplies.) ##

Snow Levels & church closings

Our fall and early winter have been mild, but just in case it doesn't stay that way, here's clarification of our church closing policy during snow emergencies: Levels 1 and 2, we will be open but members should exercise caution and personal discretion if they plan to come. Should there be a Level 3 Snow Emergency, the church will be closed. ##

Don't miss International Food Fest

It's set for January 31, 6:30pm. Enjoy foods from other countries, our usual fare and some surprises, too! Don't miss this ever popular event. ##

Watch for a schedule of Vegan Fellowship Meals

For many of us a daily diet of meat, dairy and eggs is all that we have ever known. But strangely enough, no matter how hard we exercise, we have been unable to lose weight eating that way. So in 2015, we are going to try something different. We will continue to encourage exercise (see our [AUG 2014 Visitor Magazine](#) cover girl Sheila Case for more info on that and for details on how to join our Toledo First Church *FitBit* group online). But we will also begin regularly experimenting once a month with the grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables our Creator recommended in Genesis 1:29 to see how they can help us live happier and healthier lives.

For this reason, Toledo First will be introducing a free plant-based dining experience once each month following church service. This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall, and it is here where we will be providing various plant-based food options presented buffet style complete with recipe cards to take home. A “vegan fellowship” team will be providing the food just like the other unique Friendship Dinner teams have done in the past and will continue to do in the future. This “vegan fellowship” style Friendship Dinner will be in addition to not instead of any other previously scheduled Friendship Dinners.

Over the last eighteen months, even with all the pie Pastor Mike consumes, he gradually lost twenty pounds by exercising and simply changing the way he eats five days a week. Aside from weight loss, you too can gain more energy and just plain feel better. Slowly changing the way you eat can also positively affect other health issues such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or even diabetes. You do not have to be a member of Toledo First Church to participate. So feel free to invite your friends and family to church and stay for lunch especially on the dates of this tasty outreach. (full schedule TBA ASAP). We are sure everyone who participates will be pleasantly surprised at just how yummy, inexpensive, easy, and readily available a plant-based diet can be. Like the apostle John, we too hope that in this new year, that all will be “well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit” (3 John 2) —Co-written by Mike Casey & Pastor Mike ##



Mount Vernon Academy needs a miracle

Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) boarding school needs miraculous financial intervention to continue operating beyond this school year. In the USA, 27% of Adventists have eligible school age children. Of those eligible, 30% send their children to Adventist schools. Which surprisingly to some is the same percentage of

Adventists that sent their children post-world war II. The difference is back then 68% of Adventists had school age children. So the number of enrolled students was larger (30% of an eligible 68% is greater than 30% of an eligible 27%).

Therefore, the commitment to Adventist Education is just as high as it was in the “good old days.” But the ability to sustain an Adventist Boarding School from the currently eligible pool of students is low. So the Ohio Conference has been sacrificing and subsidizing the academy for years by sending nearly half a million dollars a year to help them balance their nearly \$3M annual operating budget. But Ohio Conference cannot continue to do so.

So MVA is asking alumni and friends of MVA for \$1.5M before February 10, 2015 and another \$1.5M before March 10, 2015 to renew teacher contracts, pay back debt, and put some money in reserve to recalibrate for the future. If God and His people do not miraculously intervene, it is possible that this year's class will be the last graduating class. And that teachers will need to start looking for other jobs sooner than later. Which is the primary reason for the first quarter deadlines. Please see Pastor Mike for more info. And please pray for Mount Vernon Academy. ##



News from Toledo Junior Academy

During December the students at Toledo Junior



Academy found time along with their Christmas program practice to make lovely decorations for the

foyer Christmas tree. The program, "Meet Me at the Manger" was well received with



excellent performances by the students.

K Roundup & Visitor Day

On January 14, TJA is hosting Kindergarten Roundup and Visitor Day. If you know of anyone who is looking for a great Christian school with high academics and small class size, direct them to contact Toledo Junior Academy at 419.841.0082.

Please keep in mind the several ways you can help TJA financially. (This was included last month but bears repeating.)

- (1) **SCRIP.** Buy gift cards for purchases you make all the time like groceries, gas, clothing, restaurants. Use a form in the magazine rack at church and order what you want. Put the form in the black box hanging on the wall at school by Monday and Thursday the same week,

you'll have your cards. It's that easy! The school gets a percentage of all of your purchases but you get the full value of the card.

- (2) Remember to collect **"box tops for education"** that are found on many household products and turn them in at the school or in the far right slot of the magazine rack in the church foyer.

- (3) **Turn in used printer cartridges** which are recycled for cash.

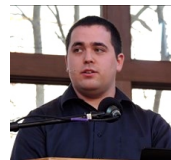
- (4) **Donate to the Scholarship Fund** (line item on the tithe envelope). Many students depend on the generosity of church members in order to attend.

- (5) Pray daily for the teachers, staff and students. ##

Sermon series continues

During the first quarter of 2015, the sermons will be taken from "What the Bible Says About" evangelistic series with Christopher Atkins (pictured here) joining

Pastor Mike and Cavin Atkins in the presentations from Sabbath to Sabbath. Please



pray about who you can ask to join you when the evening evangelistic series begins again in the spring. ##

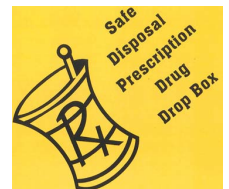
"Inspired Intimacy" seminar scheduled FEB 1

Do you struggle with sexual health issues? You aren't alone.

Attend the Ohio Conference Women's Ministeries one-day workshop led by Dr. Celeste Holbrook, a church leader in sexual health featured in the September 2014 issue of *The Visitor*. Come with your girlfriends (over 18 please) and enjoy a safe place to discuss, learn, and pray about the most intimate part of your relationship. Leave with a more clear understanding of God's intentions for this aspect of your life. Visit www.ohioadventist.org to register or for specific details about this unique seminar. Registration fee will be \$10 and includes materials and lunch. ##

Safely dispose of prescription drugs

To keep unwanted prescription drugs from being used illegally or contaminating landfills, the Toledo Police Department and University of Toledo have set up dropoff boxes



in these locations: •UT Medical Center Emergency Room Lobby, ••Toledo Police Safety Building, 525 N. Erie St., •••Toledo Police Scott Park Station, 2301 Nebraska Ave., ••••Toledo Police NW Station, 2330 W. Sylvania Ave., •••••The UT Police Station in the Transportation Center on UT's main campus.

The boxes provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of unwanted pharmaceuticals. ##



January & February 2015

Birthdays

- JAN 1 JoAnn Arthur
- JAN 2 Sam Santa Rita
- JAN 3 Cathy Hall
- JAN 6 Isaiah Godie, Larissa Fraley
- JAN 7 David Ashley, Kevin Herman
- JAN 8 Donna Schuster
- JAN 11 Trent Peppard
- JAN 16 Rosemary Maehre
- 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 3** Sabbath School & Worship
- JAN 10** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
- JAN 17** Sabbath School & Worship; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm
- JAN 24** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm
- JAN 31** Sabbath School & Worship; Inernational Food Fest @ 6:30pm

Sundays - NuAir Church rents our Fellowship Room each Sunday morning, 9am-1pm

JAN 18 Church Business Meeting, 6pm

Mondays

- JAN 5** Back to school @ TJA
- JAN 19** Martin Luther King Day

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm; Pathfinders meet @ 6:30pm

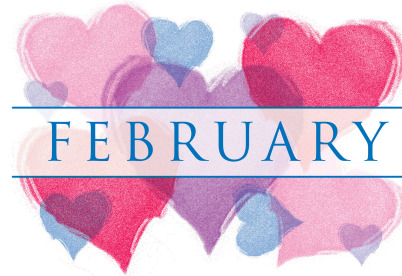
Wednesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm

JAN 14 onward Soup for You, 6-8pm

Thursdays

- JAN 8** Adventurers meet 6:30-7:30pm
- JAN 15** Finance Committee meets @ 6pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm



Birthdays

- FEB 1 Brandon Gustrowsky
- FEB 3 Julie Herman
- FEB 5 Shirlye Heiney, Eniko Romine
- FEB 7 Kendra Bills
- FEB 9 Edith Kolmar
- FEB 10 Beth Bench
- FEB 11 Carrie-Ann Leibengood
- FEB 12 Barbara Duwve
- FEB 13 Lydia Fortune
- FEB 14 Natalie Hood
- FEB 15 Tamara Davydova
- FEB 17 Ashley Barnes
- FEB 18 Tracy Jakubowski
- FEB 20 Carla Szczechowski
- FEB 23 Rebekah Godie Koehler
- FEB 26 Allen Gustrowsky, Alec Leibengood, Ariel Richardson
- FEB 27 Andrea Hughes
- FEB 28 Nikyta Cantwell

Sabbath Events

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

- FEB 7** Sabbath School & Worship
- FEB 14** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner hosted by Cindy Larimore & team; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
- FEB 21** Sabbath School & Worship; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm;
- FEB 28** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

Sundays - NuAir Church rents Fellowship Room 9am-1pm

- FEB 1** Free Card Marking Class @ 2pm, donations accepted
- FEB 1** "Inspired Intimacy" Seminar @ Worthington Church, 9am-3pm

Mondays

FEB 16 Presidents' Day

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm; Pathfinders, 6:30pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm; Soup for You 6 - 8pm

Thursdays

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30