

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

•• BE A PART OF JESUS' ENTOURAGE ••

He calls us to fill our roles—to become a priesthood of all believers

An entourage, according to the dictionary, is a group of people surrounding a very important person. Within the church, that VIP is not the pastor. And it's not the people. It's Jesus. We are His entourage. The term the Bible uses to describe us is "The Priesthood of All Believers." The pre-incarnate Christ, after saving and sustaining the children of Israel, promised them in Exodus 19:6: "And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation."

To accomplish this, we studied the pastor's role and learned that Ephesians 4:11-16 says God calls and gives churches men and women to be apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors. People like Junia (Romans 16:7), Ellen White, Priscilla (Romans 16:3), and Rebekah Liu have answered God's call and ably fulfilled these roles. Then we studied the people's role too. And found that 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14 revealed that local leaders, both brothers and sisters, are called too. And that when they take seriously their roles as ambassadors, servants, disciple-makers, and ministers, the priesthood of all believers becomes a reality. 1 Peter 2:9 states, "You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." Notice now it is not "will be" anymore. When pastor and people are doing their jobs, "you are" royal priests. Mission accomplished! And if we keep up the good work, respectfully and peacefully, one day Jesus will declare: "Well done good and faithful servants. You have become a Kingdom of priests for our God" (cf. Matthew 25:21; Revelation 5:10).



Don't you want to be in Jesus' entourage? You can be!
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We rise by lifting others. (Be an encourager.)—Robert Ingersoll

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March & April @ Toledo First

The Bells are back! Campanas Cristalis, our bell choir under the leadership of Bill & Janell Ashley played at worship in March. In photo 2, children are attentive during the children's story video. A praise dance was presented by talented girls in our church in photo 3. During worship the Sabbath before Easter we

heard testimonies. David is giving his in photo 4. The angels were singing when Pastor Mike baptized Mike and Linda who are shown with him afterward with happy smiles. We were glad to welcome them into church membership on April 4. *Thank you, Jeff Batchelder, for taking and sharing the photos. ##*

Calendar of Events

MAY 9,
2:30pm
Mother's
Day Tea

SUN, 4pm
WED, 6pm
Evangelism
thru June 17

MAY 26 & 28
Graduations:
JMLC & TJA
respectively

MAY 17
Cardmaking,
2-6
MAY 31
Scrapbooking,
2-10

MAY 30
International Day
@ Toledo First
w/International
Potluck

Come to Lunches in May & June

May 2 - Lunch prepared by men in honor of Mother's Day. (Food prepared under leadership of Ray Riley)

May 23 - Vegan Challenge Potluck (bring vegan or vegetarian food to share)

May 30 - International Potluck (bring food dishes representing your country of origin)

June 13 - Fellowship Potluck honoring graduates (bring food to share)

June 27 - Vegan Challenge Potluck ##

We need names of graduates

As our tradition is, in June we will honor the graduates of our church at a potluck after worship. This year the date is June 13. Everyone's invited and we especially want to invite our graduates. Please contact the church office with names of those in our church family who have graduated since last June. Call 419.882.6200; leave a message. Or email dec@toledofirstadventist.org. Thank you! ##



Vegan challenge met!

Way to go! Many of you took the vegan challenge during potluck on APR 25 by tasting and trying all the good food including the dishes clearly marked vegan. Most of my mashed potatoes were gone. All of Linda's yummy vegan gluten steak. And all of Jackie's vegan chocolate cake. For those of you who didn't try Edith's mushroom lentil spinach dish, oh man, you missed out. Which just meant more for me! That should be on the table for Thanksgiving for sure.

Here's the deal: Every fourth Sabbath after church during potluck we will be adding a variety of marked vegan dishes that are not only good for you, but delicious! We're inviting you to taste and see that the Lord (and His advice in Genesis 1:29) is good. —Pastor Mike ##

TODAY will never come again.

Be a blessing. Be a friend.

Encourage someone.

Take time to care.



How to be part of Jesus' Entourage *(Continued from page 1)*

- Join our Adventist friends in The Fountain Church JUN 8-JUL 13 on TUE and THUR from 5:30-7:00pm as they host a summer tennis camp for ages 15-17. We could use six volunteers 17 years or older to play tennis with unchurched people.
- Nancy Rieger runs our Panera Bread Giveaway every Friday morning. But she will be unavailable on Friday, May 8 and needs a replacement. Who will call the office and be her one week substitute?
- We could use some folks to be trained for prison ministry, community visitation, and social committee assistance.
- We could use others to be trained for leadership development and Sabbath School teaching.
- Please let me know if you're interested in learning about your spiritual gift. Allan teaches a class on that.
- Another way you can help is when the church gathers for weekly study and worship, do so! Based on your feedback, we're including more hymns each week from each praise team in the 11am service. Lend your wisdom and presence and voice to support every generation and tribe in study and worship.
- When the church gathers every three months for quarterly business meetings, be there! Encourage the finance committee and guide the personnel committee and help us plan

our ordinary outreach and evangelistic efforts.

- In 2013, 20 people were baptized or joined our church and most of them were young people. But we're not doing as well reaching adults. Our What the Bible Says About meetings are an attempt to do so. I think it would be great if everyone in this church supported at least one evangelistic series each year. I'm not saying you should support spring and fall. I'm saying I think you should support spring or fall. Twice a week. Maybe some of you are saying, "Well, I've heard those presentations." Well, maybe you have. But by being there, you can make it a lot more comfortable for those who haven't. The median age of the church keeps rising. We need to reach the young and the old. Inside and outside the church. Our ongoing mix of ordinary outreach and seasonal evangelistic invitations will hopefully help us do so. Jesus made invitations (Luke 14:15-24). We should too.
- I had a friend in Florida call me a couple days ago by mistake. But since he had me on the phone, he took the time to pray for me. I was so grateful. Prayer is a powerful way you can get more involved. I'm grateful Sharon and Bill run our email/phone prayer chain. But we could also use prayer partners at the front of the church leading intercessory prayers at the end of each worship service.

My brother Mark once said, "Church is a lot less boring when you're involved." I couldn't agree more. Do you? God has always desired a priesthood of all believers. An entourage of brothers and sisters who work hard at loving and encouraging one another. Since we are Jesus' entourage, as Hebrews 10:23-25 says, "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." — Pastor Mike ##

Ohio Conference Men's Retreat @ Mohaven

This year's Men's Retreat May 29-31 will feature speakers Andy Weaver, a former Amish member who is now a Seventh-day Adventist, along with Mohaven Ranger, Dave Robinson and Ken Franklin, an elder from Cleveland. The Men's Retreat is for men of all faiths and no faith. Registration forms along with more information may be found on the foyer table at church or at www.ohioadventist.org. ##



An open letter from Marion Thomas

Hi Everyone! It's a joy to be back home again, and to be able to see all that Toledo First is doing. Evangelism—the opportunity to spread the Gospel message, which is exactly what Jesus told us to do, and the Holy Spirit is enabling us to do. We are involved with our Springtime edition of evangelism, but we also have plans for other meetings, which brings up my reason for writing.

We all know that we cannot reach people without advertising. We also know that advertising takes money—much money. So, it's time for you and me to begin saving money for our next evangelism. While our springtime meetings are in progress, we must begin putting aside the advertising money for future meetings. God tells us that we must never stop preaching His Gospel, so please join me in getting ready.

You and I can turn in money once each month from now on for this extremely important work, adding our money together to be able to advertise the meetings in the *Toledo Blade*, where people from all over the area can be made aware that the Holy Spirit is calling them to attend and learn more about Jesus. We (again that's you and me) must ask God to provide us with “extra” money for this project, so that we don't take it out of our usual offerings total. God will hear and provide, believe me!

So, will you join me in this project? Please mark your envelopes “**Evangelistic Advertising**,” and know that God is blessing you each time you turn it in to church. Won't it be wonderful when that great and glorious day arrives and we meet people in Heaven who are there through our small effort to advertise? You and I are not preachers, but we can be a part of spreading the Gospel—through giving to the advertising part of the project. I want to be part, as Jesus commissioned each of us to do. Join me, friend, in preparing to advertise this eternal project. God bless you as you make such a wonderful decision. —Marion Thomas ##

JMLC & TJA plan graduations

James Meade Learning Center will hold their ceremonies on Tuesday, May 26, 7-8pm in the Fellowship Room for their four graduates.

Toledo Junior Academy will have eight graduates from Kindergarten and one graduate from 8th grade. Their ceremonies will take place on Thursday, May 28 starting with Kindergarten at 6:30pm and 8th Grade graduation shortly thereafter. Everyone is invited to all graduations. ##



It's going to be a celebration!

On May 30 our Toledo First family will celebrate International Day to acknowledge and appreciate the richness that the many different ethnic groups represented brings to our church family.

As Romans 12:5 (NIV) says, “. . . so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

In order to make this worship celebration as meaningful as possible, we need your input. If your country of origin is other than the United States, please fill out the colorful flyer with flags across the top (copies on table in foyer) and turn it in to the church office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help! We look forward to honoring your nation among all those represented on May 30. ##

You are invited to Mother's Day Tea

Whether or not you received an invitation like the one below, you are invited to Mother's Day Tea on Sabbath, May 9, at 2:30pm. Please reserve your place by writing your name on the list at the bulletin board near the



Fellowship Room at church, or simply call the church office (419.882.6200) and leave your name and the number of friends you will be bringing with you. Bring your favorite teacup, too, and plan to have a blessed time! ##

Winding Down and Gearing Up at TJA

At Toledo Junior Academy, we are getting ready to wind down another school year. Likewise, it is time now for us to be anticipating enrollment for the coming fall. We currently have 31 students but would love to see our numbers grow. If you know of anyone who might be a good fit for our school, this would be a good time to get them thinking. If money is an issue, we have a few resources we can pull from to help out.

First, if a child is currently attending a public school or will be entering as a first time kindergartner in the fall, and lives in a school district that is deemed “at risk” by the state, then they are eligible to have their full tuition paid for by the state, regardless of the parents’ income. Next, if a child is entering kindergarten, first, or second grades and the household income is below 200% of the poverty level, then that child is also eligible to have their tuition paid by the state.

If a family is not eligible for either of these, then the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund, a volunteer organization offering financial assistance to private school students, offers scholarships, through a drawing, covering nearly half the cost of tuition for eligible families.

Last, church families who do not qualify for any of the above often seek a portion of aid from the church,

and the church is generous in helping where they can. If you know of any child who would benefit from our school environment, please direct them our way. Ask Mrs. Hall for the info and paperwork.

How Can I Help?

Even with all of these opportunities for tuition assistance, many families still struggle with the necessary finances to put their children through Christian education. Many of our students depend on donations from people like you, often anonymous donations, that help relieve the financial burdens of our families. But still, there is never enough. When there are just a few who make major donations, and then those few can no longer give, our school suffers greatly.

Consider giving to the church’s Worthy Student Fund so that when decisions are made in the fall to help church families, the funds don’t have to be spread quite so thin. Consider giving to the school, even anonymously, so that we can apply funds directly to those accounts that are most deserving and most in need, especially in times of family emergencies. Consider giving directly to the school budget so that we can use the money wherever it is most necessary at the time. Thank you.—Mrs. Vicki Hall, Principal ##



Circle of Friends meets the 2nd Sabbath of each month @ 6pm

Circle of Friends is morphing into a prayer/study group. We believe that this exciting new format will allow us to grow closer to God as we dig even deeper into His Word.

For people the world over, the Bible is God’s Word to us. It is these inspired words which not only form the foundation for which to live our lives, but allows us to know Him better.

“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4.

Prayer and reading the Bible go hand in hand. It is our way to communicate with God as we reflect on His

Word. It is a platform for worship and praise to the Lord, and a vehicle to renew our strength.

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” Romans 12:12.

So please join us in worship through prayer and Bible study the 2nd Sabbath @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a Bible and a friend. —Mike Casey ##



May & June 2015 Calendar

Birthdays

- May 1 Austin Jessop
- May 3 Gary Gooden
- May 8 Lori Marsh
- May 11 Kelly Maxwell
- May 12 Linda Ostrander
- May 14 Tina Polzin
- May 15 Eric Polzin
- May 18 Linda Bilby
- May 22 Derrick Polzin
- May 25 Raymond Kawakami
- May 26 Janell Ashley
- May 27 Cindy Leibengood
- May 28 Madeline Flack
- May 30 Sharon Crosby, Julie Larimore



Birthdays

- June 1 Troy Brion
- June 2 Cindy Naus, Sara Woggerman
- June 3 Christine Behler
- June 4 Angela Eschmann
- June 5 Brad Marsh
- June 6 Jim Larimore
- June 10 Gerald Marsa
- June 14 Rachel Hall
- June 15 Melissa Hare, Helen Szana
- June 16 Jack Herman
- June 19 Mike Heiney
- June 21 Dan Frey
- June 22 Charlotte Neal
- June 25 Judy Riley
- June 26 Karen Sandy, Carson Makley, Cheryl Malosh
- June 29 Meghan Makley
- June 30 Sandy Gorsuch

Sabbath Events

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

- MAY 2** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 4:42-44); Dinner for Everyone prepared by men in honor of Mothers
- MAY 9** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 5:1-11); Mother's Day Tea @ 2:30pm; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
- MAY 16** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 5:12-16); visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm;
- MAY 23** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm
- MAY 30** Sabbath School & Worship featuring International Day followed by International Potluck

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

- MAY 3** What the Bible Says About the 2,300 Year Prophecy, 4-6pm
- MAY 10** What the Bible Says About the Law of God, 4-6pm
- MAY 17** Cardmaking, 2-6pm; What the Bible Says About the Change of the Sabbath 4-6pm
- MAY 24** What the Bible Says About Death, 4-6pm
- MAY 31** Scrapbooking, 2-10pm; What the Bible Says About Hell 4-6pm

Mondays

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm (except May 26)
MAY 26 James Meade Learning Center graduation, 7-8pm

- Wednesdays** - Church office open 9am-4pm (except May 20 & 27)
- MAY 6** What the Bible Says About the Judgment, 6-8pm
 - MAY 13** What the Bible Says About the Sabbath, 6-8pm
 - MAY 20** What the Bible Says About False Prophets & Deceptions, 6-8pm
 - MAY 27** What the Bible Says About Health, 6-8pm

Thursdays

MAY 28 Toledo Junior Academy graduations, K & 8th beginning @ 6:30pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

Sabbath Events

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

- JUN 6** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 5:17-26)
- JUN 13** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 5:27-32); Fellowship Potluck honoring graduates; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
- JUN 20** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 5:33-39); visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm;
- JUN 27** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 6:1-3); Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

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

- JUN 7** What the Bible Says About the Mark of the Beast, 4-6pm
- JUN 14** What the Bible Says About the Millenium, 4-6pm

Mondays

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

- JUN 3** What the Bible Says About the U. S in Prophecy, 6-8pm
- JUN 10** What the Bible Says About the Seven Last Plagues, 6-8pm
- JUN 17** What the Bible Says About Heaven, 6-8pm

Thursdays

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30

