

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

•• Now We Can Picnic and Fellowship in Our Park ••

New tables expand ways to enjoy God's creation and learn more about Him

We recently had the opportunity to purchase three sturdy wooden tables to be used outdoors at church. Picnic tables “in our own park” will open new opportunities for worship and social events. Having a place for people to gather after church can create a wonderful fellowship opportunity. As it is now, when we have no potluck, there is nowhere to gather or sit outside. So when people are tired of standing they just leave. Or they just stand around in the parking lot for hours.

We could have picnic days, which would be fun. Or maybe even outdoor Friday evening vespers with Gary at guitar to usher in the Sabbath. Already some plan to use it for Bible Study and a gathering place to meet before going to Wildwood after church on Sabbaths.

We could even advertise in the bulletin an informal “Sack Lunch Sabbath,” and everyone could bring a simple sack lunch. It could also be a great place for Pathfinders to gather, or even the Tuesday morning staff meeting. The ideas just go on and on.

A word of caution: If you do use the outdoor space, please throw away all your trash and pick up after yourself. And if you see Rick, the man who currently mows our grass and does much of the outdoor maintenance around our building, do thank him for accommodating our new tables to mow around.

Jesus did most of His teaching outdoors, because of the time in which He lived, but also because in nature we are drawn closer to God. There is something to be said about being in nature with God.

“On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate” (Psalm 145: 5). — Mike Casey ##



I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour if we will only tune in. —George Washington Carver

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May Happenings at Toledo First

The Mother's Day Tea was back! Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and entertainment. Jenny E. (photo 2) did a great job as Women's Ministry leader in charge of the tea. In the middle photo Tom Hess is welcomed by Pastor Mike and Donna S., having transferred his membership to Toledo First.

The TJA students sang at graduation (photo 4) and in the last photo, some of the 14 representatives of various countries march down the aisle on International Day at Toledo First. It was a celebration of diversity and unity in Christ. *Thank you, Jeff Batchelder, for taking and sharing the photos. ##*

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|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| <i>Calendar of Events</i> | JULY 13 | JULY 14 | AUGUST 2 | JULY 11 | JULY 25 |
| | Turtle Cove Day, leave @ 9:30am | Church Business Mtg. @ 7pm | tubing @ Niles MI - leave @ 9:30am | AUGUST 8 Circle of Friends @ 6pm | AUGUST 8 AUGUST 22 Lunches @ church |

Just a reminder

You probably don't need me to remind you about the very important money needing to be put aside for future evangelistic series. Last newsletter, I suggested that we all ask God to benefit us with extra money for that purpose. I know He responded to our prayers for the evangelism. It is His command that we spread His gospel message, and this is one very special way that you and I can do as He asks us.

Therefore, please remember to pray for the extra money each month so you don't have to take it from any other offering, and God will bless! Just put it into your tithe envelope and mark it "Evangelism Advertising." God will do the rest. Thank you for being a part of this extremely important gospel commission! —Marion Thomas ##

Business Meeting July 14

Church member? Then you have voting rights! Come to the church business meeting Tuesday, July 14, 7pm in the Fellowship Room and exercise them. We're counting on you! (Fall Meeting: October 6, 7pm.) ##

Take me to the river. . .

Take a relaxing float down the Dowagiac River at Niles, Michigan. You are invited! Join Pastor Mike and others on Sunday, August 2, leaving from the school parking lot at 9:30 am. Cost is \$15 per person. Remember to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, sun hat, drinks, and snacks for a fun day on the river. ##



May God go with you

We gave a fond farewell to our friends, Don and Marilyn Marsh, who have moved to Worthington to be closer to family. They have been members of Toledo First since 1965 and Marilyn served as our treasurer for 13 of those years. Don was active as a deacon for many years. We will miss them, but they promise to visit! ##

Nine Grads attended graduation potluck

It's always a great pleasure to welcome our graduates and hear about their accomplishments and plans for the future. This year almost all of them attended and received a book and handshake from Pastor Mike.

Kindergarten graduate, Jonathan Ashley was first up. He will continue at Toledo Junior Academy.



Graduating from 8th grade at TJA was Cassidy Cross who will attend Bowsher next year.

A friend of Cassidy's who attends Toledo First graduated from 8th grade at Northpointe Academy. She is Donasia Payne and she's heading for Maritime Academy for high school.



Emily Bills graduated from Monclova Christian Academy and plans to attend the

University of Toledo to study Nursing.



Nikyta Cantwell graduated from high school at Apostolic Christian Academy and plans to attend Andrews

University to study Archeology.

Brendan Leibengood graduated from Clyde High School and plans to attend University of Toledo majoring in Mechanical Engineering.



ECOT (Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow) High School graduate, Shaelyn

Good, is undecided about future plans.

Jerome Bernard graduated from Springfield High School and plans to enroll at Owens Community College.



Congratulations also go to Sylvia Aranda who graduated

from Toledo School of Beauty Culture.

Not able to attend were: Nolan Hood who graduated from preschool at James Meade Learning Center; Kyle Jakubowski who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from University of Toledo; and Jabez Othoo who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology.

Way to Go, Graduates! Congratulation on your achievements! ##

Now take time for fun at Turtle Cove!

For all the graduates and everyone else who likes to spend time in or on the water—this is for you! Turtle Cove is a fun place to be and some TF folks are going on Monday, July 13, leaving the school parking lot at 9:30am. Cost is \$5 per person.

Bring cash for drinks, snacks, meals, or a sack lunch to place in Pastor Mike's large cooler. (No outside food or beverage is allowed inside the park.)

Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Chaperones are needed!

There are a limited number of free life jackets in the park available on a first come, first served basis. Personal floatation devices brought into the park must be U. S. Coastguard approved.

Bring sunscreen, towels, and modest swim suits. Park closes at 7pm. ##

Quarterly Communion

Our next communion service will be on Sabbath, July 11. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for this sacred service. ##

July & August 2015 Calendar

Birthdays

- July 1 Emmett Romine
- July 3 Matt Crosby
- July 5 Craige Rieger
- July 7 Earl Mitchell
- July 10 Brian Jessop
- July 11 Amanda Oliver
- July 16 Daniel Hall
Nicole Warner
- July 17 Lorraine Poulin
- July 18 Anne Caulder
- July 21 Heather Smith LaPoint
Pam Neal
- July 24 Jacob Moses
- July 26 Jonathan Ashley
Veela Burks
- July 29 Tracie Gustrowsky
Dianna Hassen
Eva Romine
- July 30 Amber Hass
Brendan Leibengood
- July 31 Sarah Godie
Robert Reams



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 Engelbert
Cody Rieger
- August 31 Cole St. Clair

Sabbath Events

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

- JULY 4** Sabbath School & Worship (Sermon based on Luke 6:6-11)
- JULY 11** Sabbath School & Worship with communion (Sermon based on Luke 6:12-16); Circle of Friends @ 6pm
- JULY 18** Sabbath School & Worship; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm;
- JULY 25** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

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

Mondays

JULY 13 Turtle Cove Water Park, leave 9:30am

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm

JULY 14 Church Business Meeting, 7pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm

Thursdays

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

Sabbath Events

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

- AUG 1** Sabbath School & Worship; (Sermon based on Luke 6:17-19)
- AUG 8** Sabbath School & Worship; (Sermon based on Luke 6:20-23); Fellowship Potluck; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
- AUG 15** Sabbath School & Worship; (Sermon based on Luke 6:24-26); visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm;
- AUG 22** Sabbath School & Worship; (Sermon based on Luke 6:27-36); Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm
- AUG 29** Sabbath School & Worship; (Sermon based on Luke 6:37-42)

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

AUG 2 Tubing on Dowagiac River, Niles, MI, leave 9:30am

AUG 23 Constituency Meeting for delegates

Mondays

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

Thursdays

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30

