

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

What is the book of Revelation REALLY about?

Come to Soup for You on Wednesday evenings and discover Jesus in "the Fifth Gospel"

"Yes, some chapters of human history and our daily lives get pretty scary. Perhaps you can't take it anymore, you are too disheartened to continue. But don't give up yet. Come to the last book of the Bible, the final chapter in the story of salvation, and discover for yourself that Jesus wins!"

—from the back cover of "Revelation, the Fifth Gospel" by Elizabeth Viera Talbot ##

To some, perhaps to you, Revelation seems to be a book of mysteries with secret numbers, ferocious creatures roaring across the sky, and strange beasts wandering around heaven. But really, the focus of this book is revealing Jesus and His ultimate victory (cf. Revelation 1:1; 22:21). It is the portrait of Jesus the victorious Lamb. Author and pastor Elizabeth Viera Talbot's new book entitled "Revelation: The Fifth Gospel" is the focus of our Wednesday evening Soup for You series now through Christmas. Previously, we have read and discussed the books she wrote on each of the four gospels. Now, we look in the last book of the Bible to see how the red dragon is defeated, evil ends, death dies, and Jesus wins. Join us on Wednesdays starting @ 6pm for supper or 6:30pm for prayer time and discussion of this exciting little book chapter by chapter. —Pastor Mike ##



Look forward and be hopeful, look backward and be thankful, look down and be helpful, look up and be humble.

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Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church
4909 West Sylvania Avenue
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September & October

In September, Primary Sabbath School children enjoyed drawing with sidewalk chalk (photo 1); Dave & Deb Bening light the unity candle during their wedding in photo 2. Young, old and in between enjoyed the Bonfire at the Case Farm in photo 3,

and Shirlie Heiney and her friendship dinner team put on a colorful and delicious lunch for all on October 4. Many thanks to Jeff Batchelder for his photos. ##

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	OCT 31,	NOV 8	NOV 15	DEC 18	NOV 8 & 15
	7:30pm				DEC 20
	RingFest	Battle Creek	Pathfinder	TJA	Fellowship
	Concert	Academy	Day/Derby	Christmas	Potlucks
		Band visits		program	

Bring canned & dry goods to share

This Thanksgiving we are again asking for donations of non-perishable food for our pantry to share with individuals who would otherwise not have enough. Once our shelves are restocked, any extra food will be given to a local food pantry. Food donations should be brought on Sabbaths, **November 22 or 29** (or during the week if you prefer). ##



Make your own greeting cards

The next card making class is **November 9**, 2 - 6pm in our fellowship room. Come and learn new techniques for making special occasion cards. The class is free but donations are accepted. Bring a snack to share if you wish. ##

Just a reminder. . .

Next church board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 7pm. ##

Church dinners in NOV & DEC

Fellowship potlucks are **November 8** (50-member Battle Creek Academy Band—please bring extra food), **November 15** (Pathfinder Day) and **December 20** (Christmas Potluck). Greg & Heather LaPoint and team will host Thanksgiving Friendship Dinner on **November 22** and on **December 6**, Marilu Beebe and team will host December's Friendship Dinner. ##

Order fruit from TJA

Order fresh Florida fruit through Toledo Junior Academy (419.841.0082). This year we are offering the fruit in November and January. Brochures are in the magazine rack in the church foyer. Navel oranges and grapefruit are \$20 for a half case and \$35 for a full case. Tangerines and the variety pack are \$28. Tangelos (offered only in January - pricing available later). Order dates are NOV 1 and JAN 5. Cards will be sent soon. For further information, call the school. ##

Here's the BUZZ about this year's Christmas fundraiser

You will not Bee-lieve what one hive can do! Previously, we've raised money for goats and holy cows, but this Christmas we've chosen from ADRA's Really Useful Gifts Catalog bees and their hives! Beehives create buzzing business for people in developing nations. Ten beehives provide enough sustainable income for one family to put food on the table, send the kids to school and pay for adequate medical care. Ten beehives cost \$125. Last year, we raised \$1900 for five holy cows. Let's see if this December, we can raise \$2125 (about 12% more). To do so, each Sabbath in December, we will be handing out Bits-O-Honey to remind you how sweet it is to give like Jesus gave. After church in the foyer, there will also be children with bee antennas accepting your gifts and putting them in our hive. Please consider how many homes with hungry kids needing medical care you want to help. Because this Christmas, home is also where the beehive is. —Pastor Mike ##



Announcing Toledo First's First Vegan Cookbook

If you have had the privilege of dining at the "What the Bible Says About" series, or have visited one of our church potlucks, you know that we have some great cooks within our church, and are blessed anytime we sample. Well, now we are trying to bring all of these wonderful vegan recipes together for everyone to enjoy.

The definition of vegan is slightly different than vegetarian. A vegan diet is one that is free of all meat, dairy, and eggs, whereas a vegetarian diet consists of nuts, grains, seeds, fruit and vegetables and can include dairy and eggs. So with that being said, we are looking for recipes that contain no meat, dairy, or eggs.

We hope that you will be a part of our new church cookbook and submit your favorite vegan recipes for others to enjoy. And please feel free to submit more than one, in fact, the more recipes that we can gather the better. Please include where you found the recipe, if it is not your own, and please include your name as well. We want to give you credit for your submissions. We thank you for your participation.

Please submit recipes to vegancookbook@att.net or turn them in to Mike Casey, or Dee Caulder at the office. If you have any question please call Mike Casey @ 419-704-1691. Again we thank you for your participation. —Mike Casey ##

**...we are looking for
recipes that
contain no meat,
dairy, or eggs.**

14 Bell Choirs ring at Festival Concert Friday, October 31, 7:30pm

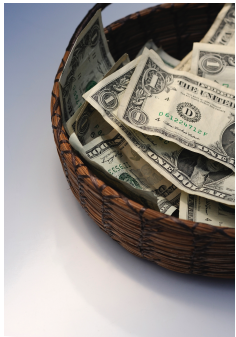


RingFest 2014 welcomed 14 Bell Choirs from as far away as Washington state, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Maryland and Virginia, as well as neighboring states: Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana and from Mount Vernon, Ohio. They received instruction October 30 and 31 from clinicians Chuck Kobb and Dean Wagner. Mr. Wagner commissioned a piece of handbell music, *Huron Carol*, which will have its premiere performance at the Festival Concert 7:30pm Friday, October 31 at Toledo First. The theme for this year's music is the Bible—from Genesis to Revelation. If you cannot be present, join us by live streaming for the concert Friday night. Visit www.toledofirstadventist.org and click on RingFest on the home page. ##

Toledo First's Finances

If you have been to a Toledo First church service and read the bulletin, you will be aware that our church budget is chronically in arrears. Through the end of September, our Combined Budget giving is over a month behind (\$12,375) the budgetary objectives for the first nine months of 2014. Our Tithe income is also down \$7,330 compared to 2013.

By way of review, the Tithe covers expenses of the SDA denomination, with the largest portion going to pay pastors' salaries, but also paying a part of the church school teachers' salaries. The church Combined Budget, on the other hand, pays



the expenses incurred in operating our local church. These include paying the wages for our hired staff: the church secretary, church janitor and church groundskeeper. Other large expenses include the utilities (electricity, gas and water/sewer) which keep our building comfortable for us. But there are a myriad other expenses also covered, including insurance costs, equipment costs (e.g. copier), trash pickup, snow plowing (a big expense last winter), financial support for our needy students (Worthy Student Fund), support for Mount

Vernon Academy, supplies for our Sabbath School, and support for Local Evangelism and our Pathfinder/Adventurer Clubs.

We have been greatly blessed in recent years by having income for a cell tower lease on our property. From this fund we give a subsidy to our church school (TJA) in the amount of \$36,000 annually. In addition to their classrooms the school is also provided with free utilities. The cell tower lease income also is used for maintaining our facilities, including making repairs to the church parsonage, making improvements in the church grounds, and replacing worn-out air conditioners and furnaces. In the recent past it also paid half the cost of replacing and repainting exterior wood trim on our church (the other half was covered by church members' contributions) and paying a portion of our Youth Pastor's salary (when we had one). A major looming expense which can be funded by the lease income will be the resurfacing of our church parking lot and drive, which in spots has deteriorated beyond the benefits that asphalt resealing can offer.

Toledo First SDA Church's continued success in being a beacon in Toledo depends in part on maintaining a strong financial base. The monetary support of each TF member is needed to continue its mission in our community. Thanks for doing your part to make this possible. —Jerry Marsa, Finance Chairman ##

Plan now for Pathfinder Sabbath

Pathfinder Sabbath/ PineWood Derby is November 15, 2014. We expect lots of clubs from Ohio. We're very excited that the SNAKE guy will be here for vespers. Make and race your cars with us. Hope to see you there. —Linda Bilby, Pathfinder/ Adventurer Leader ##

A special baby

Mark Lowry, who wrote the lyrics to the Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?" says he's always been amazed by Mary's silence at the cross, as her Son was being crucified. Maybe she was remembering back to that first Christmas, he wonders, when she counted Jesus' fingers and toes.

I wonder if she realized then that those were the same fingers that had scooped out the oceans and formed the seas. I wonder if she realized those were the same feet that had walked on streets of gold and been worshiped by angels. Those little lips were the same lips that had spoken the world into existence. When Mary kissed her little baby, she wasn't just kissing another baby; she was kissing the face of God.

Mary silently watched her Son die 33 years later, Lowry notes—not just for the world but also for His own mother. The baby boy she had delivered on

stmas was now on a cross delivering her.— *The Newsletter Newsletter, December 2014 ##*



November & December 2014

Birthdays

NOV 1 Frank Engelbert, Anjelika Manakhimova
 NOV 3 Leisha Barbee
 NOV 4 Larry Duwve
 NOV 5 Helen Konewka
 NOV 9 Bev Ostrander
 NOV 11 George Jenkins
 NOV 14 Daniel Landeros
 NOV 15 Fern Baer, Sara Rios, Randy Neal, Jennifer,
 Joshua & Lanna Cozzens
 NOV 17 Will Frey, Pat Kline
 NOV 18 Marilu Beebe
 NOV 21 Andrew Jessop, Ben Neal
 NOV 22 Shelly Batchelder
 NOV 27 Sonja Maxwell
 NOV 30 Alex Bills, Kathryn Landeros



Sabbath Events

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

NOV 1 Sabbath School & Worship w/sounds of Bells
NOV 8 Sabbath School & Worship with Battle Creek Academy Band; *What the Bible Says About* sermon series begins today and continues each Sabbath; Fellowship Potluck; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
NOV 15 Sabbath School & Pathfinder Day Worship; Fellowship Potluck; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm; Pinewood Derby in evening
NOV 22 Sabbath School & Worship; Little Minnow Awards; Friendship Dinner hosted by Greg & Heather LaPoint & Team; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm
NOV 29 Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays

NOV 2 NuAir Church rents our Fellowship Room each Sunday morning, 9am-1pm; Daylight Savings Time Ends
NOV 9 NuAir Church morning rental; Cardmaking Class, 2-6pm—everyone welcome
NOV 16, 23, 30 NuAir Church morning rental
NOV 23 Baby Shower in afternoon

Mondays

NOV 17 School Board Meeting
NOV 24 Church office is open 9am - 4pm

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm (*except Nov 25*); Pathfinders meet @ 6:30pm
NOV 18 Church Board Meeting, 7pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm (*except Nov 26*)
NOV 5, 12, 19 Soup for You, 6 -8pm

Thursdays

NOV 6 Adventurers meet 6:30-7:30pm
NOV 27 **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm
NOV 21 TJA Thanksgiving Break for one week begins at end of school day

Birthdays

DEC 5 Lu Bills
 DEC 5 Cindy Larimore, Eleanor Meade
 DEC 8 Chris Atkins
 DEC 9 Hannah Bundy
 DEC 10 Kay Ostrander
 DEC 11 Mindy Flack
 DEC 12 Mary Ann Sandy
 DEC 13 Marilyn West
 DEC 14 Kells Hall
 DEC 15 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 25 Janica Caster
 DEC 26 Carolyn Nonoy
 DEC 27 Duane Gustrowsky, Alex Peppard
 DEC 28 David Bening, Marion Thomas

Sabbath Events

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

DEC 6 Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner hosted by Marilu Beebe & Team (*mmm—haystacks!*)
DEC 13 Sabbath School & Worship; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
DEC 20 Sabbath School & Worship; Christmas Potluck; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm;
DEC 27 Sabbath School & Worship; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

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

Mondays

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

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

DEC 3, 10, 17 Soup for You, 6 -8pm
DEC 24 Community Christmas Eve Svc (Tentative: Time TBA)
DEC 31 New Year's Eve Agape Feast & Communion, 6-8pm

Thursdays

DEC 18 - 6:30pm TJA Christmas program "Meet Me at the Manger"
DEC 25 - Wishing each one Christmas blessings

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30

DEC 19 - TJA Christmas break begins at end of school day





**Come & join
an informal gathering of
Christians giving praise to God
through group singing,
worship, warm fellowship, and
prayer.**

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” — Psalm 150:6 (NKJV)

Circle of Friends

**Everyone’s invited — 2nd Saturday
@ 6pm**

**Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4909 W Sylvania Ave,
Toledo OH 43623 • www.tfsda.org**

Questions? Please call Mike Casey: 419.704.1691

Here are easy ways to help Toledo Junior Academy

1. **Purchase SCRIP gift cards** for groceries, clothing, restaurants, gas, etc. We have a long list of vendors who are participating retailers. You order the card(s) at face value through the school and the school gets to keep a portion of the cost. Forms are available at the school and in the magazine rack at church. Orders are placed on Mondays and the gift cards arrive by Thursday. I could personally give them to you at church if you would like. If the church family really started participating regularly in this program it could amount to thousands of much needed dollars for the school.



2. **Collect “box tops for education”**

These are located on many products including all General Mills cereals, Kleenex brand tissue, some Green Giant items, Progresso brand soups, etc. They are each worth 10 Cents. There are also bonus box tops on products occasionally that are worth more than 10 cents. If



everyone collected these and gave to them to the school, the amount we earn could add up fast. You can turn them in either at the school or in the slot on the far right hand side of the magazine rack in the church foyer.

3. **Turn in used printer cartridges** to the school. We recycle them and earn cash.

4. **Order fresh Florida fruit** through the school. (See separate article on 2nd page.)

5. **Donate to the scholarship fund.** It is a line item on the tithe envelope. Many students depend on the generosity of church members in order to attend.

6. **Pray daily for the teachers, staff, and students.**

Thank you. —Kells Hall ##

What are you doing 6-8pm New Year’s Eve?

Plans are being made for an Agape Feast and Candlelight Communion Service on New Year’s Eve at Toledo First. You are invited. What better way to welcome a brand new year? ##



**New Year's Eve
Communion Service**

*Jesus did not come to make God’s love possible,
but to make God’s love visible. —Author Unknown*



MERRY CHRISTMAS