

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2013 EDITION

the FOCAL Point

CENTERED ON ACTIVITIES OF TOLEDO FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FAMILY

✘ Wall of Misconception? ✘

A Rethink of the Separation of Church & State

Liberty Magazine has been arguing for full religious freedom for any and all—and for the right to change your belief or to have none at all—for 106 years now. From the beginning its editors have argued for the separation of church and state: a constitutional mandate designed to protect religious freedom. But some even in America would want us to rethink this separation. Lincoln Steed, current editor of *Liberty* magazine, writes in a recent editorial that he recently received a copy of a book entitled *Wall of Misconception*. It is a rethink of the separation of church and state, and a redux of the godly state. More and more voices like its author are crying, “If we just morally cleansed our nation—our world—then God would stay His hand.” There is a half-truth here: God wants willing obedience and will bless it—but I, like Lincoln Steed, cannot imagine any mandated worship being pleasing or effective.

Why? Because God loves you like crazy! And because He is love (1 John 4:7-8), He is not willing to coerce or force anyone to follow Him (though current leaders in Egypt who this week gave a 15-year prison sentences to a woman and her seven children for converting to Christianity apparently don’t feel the same way). But even in America, this kind of sincere but dangerous thinking (Continued on page 3, top)



"I know
that
my
Redeemer
lives."

*In the cross,
God descends to bear
in his own heart
the sins of the world.*

*In Jesus
He atones at
unimaginable cost
to Himself.*

—Woodrow Geier



The best mathematical equation ever given: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 370

Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church
4909 West Sylvania Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43623
Address Service Requested



Blessing after Blessing

Every month of the year has its own blessings and the past two months are no exception! We had two baby dedications (one pictured above in the first photo) for friends in the

community. We enjoyed Eat 'n Greet (monthly) - finger food in the foyer after worship. Photo 3 shows Karen & Jeremiah at their December wedding. Pastor Jolee was ordained as elder in 4th

photo. The final photos are of the baptisms celebrated January 19. David Bening and Jeremiah Bernard also joined our Toledo First family on that day. Praise the Lord!

Thanks, Jeff Batchelder, for sharing your photos! ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 2 & MAR 16
Friendship Dinners
MAR 23 & 30
Potlucks

FEB 2
Film Fest - Martin Luther @ 7pm

FEB 16
Unity Day-Worship @ Parkwood SDA Church

FEB 16
Valentines for Toledo Benefit Concert, 7pm

MAR 23
Religious Liberty Emphasis w/ Lincoln Steed

Baptism for You?

The next baptism will be March 30. Call, email or talk with Pastor Mike at church if you are interested in being baptized. Classes are February 2 & 23 and March 2 & 16. Pastor Mike's contact info: mike4tune@gmail.com or 419.386.8918 ##

Come Wednesdays

It's never too late to join the group studying *The Great Controversy* on Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00pm. Come for Soup @ 6:00 and stay for class dis-

cussion with Pastor Mike facilitating. ##

Haven of Hope reports Feb 23

You're invited to Haven of Hope's Year End Praise Report meeting on February 23 at 2pm. (This meeting was postponed from January 19.) ##

TJA Movie Night + ABC & Bake Sale

Toledo Junior Academy's Family Movie Night on March 9 will include a Bake Sale and a visit from the Adventist Book Center & Health

Food Store. Order specific books or health foods for delivery by calling 800.643.5714 no later than noon on March 7. ##

Souper Bowl of Caring - Feb 3, 6pm

Invite a friend, come watch the game, eat pizza and have fun! Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to Toledo food banks. ##



Computer Classes

Free Adult Computer Classes will be held at our church February 13 & 14 from 6:30 - 9:30pm and again March 13 & 14, 6:30 - 9:30pm. Classes are offered by the YMCA & JCC and Ohio Connect. To register or for more information, call 419.729.8135. ##

The Focal Point is published bi-monthly by Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church ~ 419.882.6200 ~ toledofirstadventist.org

Wall of Misconception? *(Continued from first page)*

is alive and well. In the same *Liberty* issue quoted above (pick up your free copy in your church mailbox March 9), another article details how a devout Christian named Michael Salman was fined more than \$12,000 and sentenced to 60 days in jail for the “crime” of holding a weekly Bible study in his Phoenix, Arizona home. If you think armed police raids of his property, repeated warnings against holding any form of Bible study at his home, and a court-ordered probation banning him from having any gatherings of more than 12 people at his home sounds more like Egypt than Arizona, think again.

Yes, life is (usually) (for many of us in America at least) good. And even when its not (as Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:8,14), God is still good. And can bring good from evil (cf. Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). But Bergman had it right: God was not in the flagellant revivals, He was not in the witch hunts, He was not in the edicts of clergy or ruler—as always, He is found in the heart and the conscience of free individuals. And it is this freedom to love the God back who first loved us that we will be highlighting **March 23 @ 11am and 2pm** at Toledo First Church. Come meet Lincoln Steed and hear him share more fascinating stories of religious liberty concern from around the world. (Adapted from Lincoln Steed's editorial “Earth and Sky” found in the NOV/DEC 2012 edition of *Liberty Magazine*.) —Pastor Mike ##

Do you know what all you can do with Scrapbooking Supplies?

(Supplies such as: paper, tape, cutters, glitter, pictures, photos, stickers, diecuts, scissors, ribbons, buttons)



You can make:

CARDS GIFT TAGS CALENDARS
COOKBOOKS POSTERS INVITATIONS
MEMORY VERSE DEVICES ATTENDANCE DEVICES
SIZZLEX & MORE!

Come eat, relax, meet friends, make friends, have a massage by Duane Leonard, Licensed Massage Therapist, win prizes, have Jill Oblizajek from Creative Memories give you ideas, do a make & take, learn a new talent. Enjoy! Just by coming you help us raise money to build our gym. See bulletin board near side entrance for application and more detail. Please register. **Scrap-booking dates are Sundays, March 3, 1 - 9pm and August 11, 1 - 9pm. ##**

Free cardmaking class offered April 21, 1 - 4pm

Bring your ideas. Bring your friends. We're making Mother's Day Cards, Father's Day Cards, and/or Get Well Cards. Bring your own supplies or use ours for a fee of \$10.

Bring snacks to share. We'll supply beverages. Please RSVP by signing up at the bulletin board near the side entrance at church. ##

Pathfinders News

We've been swimming at the "Y" this year - working on our Aquatic Master as well. We want to go canoeing this summer.

We're excited to have Pastor Jolee working with us and getting us ready to compete at the Fair and Camporee with our Marching and Drilling Skills.

In December we had fun caroling and taking cookies to homes near the church. We even received a thank you card.

We'd like to thank everyone for supporting our face painting booth at the International Food Fest.

We're growing. Watch the bulletin for our Investiture Day and come see us. —Linda Bilby ##

Valentines for Toledo - February 16, 7pm

Make plans to come to the FREE Valentines for Toledo benefit concert with Scott Michael Bennett as our musical guest. He is an Adventist Christian young man with a great story and even better voice.

“His profound personal testimonies are woven between song selections each of which tell a story and encourage the audience to find their God-centered



purpose in life.”

Your friends, family, and neighbors will fall in love with his music. (Prize to person who brings the most guests to the concert.) Hear him on his website, www.scottmichaelbennett.com.

A LOVE offering will be received during intermission to benefit Haven of Hope Toledo, Inc. a nonprofit organization bringing hope to NW Ohio families with home repairs and makeovers. ##

We worship at Parkwood on Unity Day

It will be Sabbath School as usual at Toledo First on Unity Day, February 16, but worship will be at Parkwood SDA Temple, 2200 Parkwood Ave. (about 6 miles away) where their pastor, Mackenzie Kam-bizi and church family will welcome us. Pastor Mike will be speak. Lunch will follow (more details about that soon). There will be no church service at Toledo First that morning. In the evening, Parkwood members will be joining our church family at Toledo First for Valentines for Toledo Benefit Concert. ##

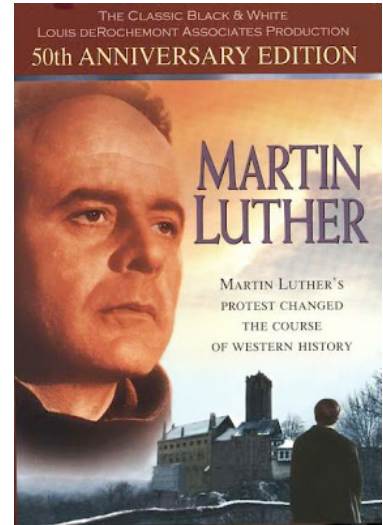


Come to Film Fest - February 2, 7pm

When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, his deed reverberated throughout the world—challenging assumptions about religious authority and how we are to approach God.

This classic black-and-white film presentation captures the passion of the life and times of the Great Reformer. Nominated for two Academy Awards, it traces Luther’s life as a guilt-burdened monk through the monumental events that led to his eventual break with the Roman Church. In spite of its age, this film continues to be a popular classic to introduce Luther's life and will be what we’re watching

February 2 @ 7pm in our third installment of this winter's Film Fest. Free hot drinks and snacks and discussion follows. ##



Go Tobogganing February 24

The warm weather in January thwarted our plans to go sledding, so we have a new date. And, while families with kids will especially enjoy the day, everyone is invited. Please meet on the canopy side of the church at 9am, Sunday, February 24, to travel to Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. Cost is \$5 per person. Lunch is provided. You may want a few extra dollars for hot chocolate at the lodge located nearby.

Plan to come and enjoy the fun. . . and pray for freezing temps! ##





Romania Mission Trip will be July 30-August 14, 2013

High school youth from Toledo First will be joining other youth from Ohio on a trip to a village near Saint George (Szent Gyorgy) in Romania where they will work on a church building project as well as provide a VBS program. Cost is \$1800 per person. Because service changes the heart of not only the one being served, but the one serving, please consider supporting our teens' service. Donations may be given by marking your tithe envelope "Romania Mission Trip." Thank you.

The teens will also be fundraising to meet their financial goals for the trip. Please look for opportunities to encourage them.—Pastor Jolee ##

GODencounters is February 15 -17

A weekend spiritual retreat for young adults ages 18-35 will be held at Camp Mohaven Retreat Center. All are invited to this opportunity to go deeper in relationships with God and other people. Early registration (cheaper price) deadline is February 1. Child care is provided free for those who need it. Contact Pastor Jolee at 503.914.9569 or gaede.jolee@gmail.com or go to ohiosdayouth.org for information and registration. ##

Vespers for youth

Youth ages 10-17, please set aside the evening of March 15, 7-9pm for youth vespers with Pastor Jolee. More information and location to be announced soon. ##



Plans for Evangelism during 2013

A look at evangelism plans at Toledo First for 2013 includes continuing the distribution of the 600 monthly copies of SIGNS magazine to the 7 yellow newspaper-style boxes filled every two weeks by volunteers. The magazine is also sent home monthly with each student at Toledo Junior Academy and James Meade Learning Center with a note from Pastor Mike.

In February we will host the Souper Bowl of Caring and Valentines for Toledo - both great opportunities to invite friends to our church who may not readily come to worship.

In March Lincoln Steed, the editor of *Liberty* magazine will be speaking twice on Sabbath addressing global religious liberty stories and concerns.

Pastor Mike will be working with Pastor Mackenzie of Parkwood SDA in a joint evangelistic effort in Maumee—team teaching/facilitating content on Revelation.

Women's Ministry is planning a Mother's Day Tea, historically a great time for women to invite their friends to join them for an afternoon at our church.

In July Haven of Hope Toledo, Inc. will again be helping the neediest of families in Northwest Ohio with home improvement repairs or home makeovers.

In September, the "Adventist Emeril," Mark Anthony will be here to share his testimony on Sabbath and then offer a community cooking class on Sunday. As the former owner of a casino in Nevada, he has a fascinating story. Plan to invite your friends.

The Kidz Crazy Car & Truck Show is also on the schedule for September, primarily for the children and parents of our learning center. Come and enjoy the afternoon with them.

In October the Free to Laugh Comedy Fundraiser at University of Toledo will again be raising money to combat human trafficking.

During December we will be collecting money to purchase "holy cows" through ADRA to help lift people from poverty in overseas countries. ##



**Evangelism
2013**

Calendar of Events...

Feb & March 2013

Birthdays

February 1 Brandon Gustrowsky
February 3 Julie Herman
February 5 Shirly Heiney, Eniko Romine
February 7 Kendra Bills
February 9 Edith Kolmar
February 10 Beth Bench, Jim Naus
February 11 Carrie-Ann Leibengood
February 12 Barbara Duwve
February 13 Lydia Fortune
February 14 Natalie Hood
February 15 Tamara Davydova
February 17 Ashley Barnes
February 18 Tracy Jakubowski
February 20 Carla Szczecowski
February 22 Helen Emch
February 23 Rebekah Godie
February 26 Allen Gustrowsky, Alec Leibengood
February 27 Andrea Hughes
February 28 Nikyta Cantwell

If your name does not appear on the birthday list, please call the church office: 419.882.6200 and let us know when your birthday is.



Birthdays

March 1 Leonard Jessop
March 3 Craig Horvath, Emma Landeros
March 4 Lucille Seagert
March 11 Theresa Brown, Katie Burton
March 12 Ideshia Fincher
March 13 Carolyn Cole, Cathy Rumsey, Larry Godie, John Hood
March 15 Charlotte Herman & Marilyn Marsh, Eli Jesudason
March 16 Allan Wolfson
March 17 Glen Good, Sr
March 20 Julie Jessop
March 21 Gloria Lee
March 23 Ted Nonoy
March 26 Leisha Armistead
March 29 Sheila Case



Sabbath Events

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

FEB 2 Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner with Cindy Larimore & her team; Film Fest (Martin Luther) @ 7pm
FEB 9 Sabbath School & Worship; Rose Cross speaker
FEB 16 Sabbath School @ TF; Worship @ Parkwood SDA; Valentines for Toledo benefit concert @ TF 7pm
FEB 23 Sabbath School; Worship w/Pastor Jolee & Youth; Eat'n Greet; Haven of Hope annual meeting @ 2pm

Sundays

FEB 3 Souper Bowl of Caring (Super Bowl) @ 6pm
FEB 24 Sledding @ Pokagon; leaving from canopy side of church @ 9am

Mondays

FEB 18 Presidents' Day - no school @ TJA

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

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm; Soup for You @ 6pm; *The Great Controversy* @ 6:30pm

FEB 13 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

Thursdays

FEB 14 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

Sabbath Events

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

MAR 2 Sabbath School & Worship; Dave Case speaker
MAR 9 Sabbath School & Worship; Connections @ 5pm; TJA Movie Night @ 7pm; Adventist Book Center here. (Place orders)
MAR 16 Sabbath School & Worship; Allan Wolfson speaker; Friendship Dinner w/Ray & Judy Riley & team; visit nursing home on Whiteford at 3pm
MAR 23 Sabbath School & Worship; Religious Liberty emphasis w/Lincoln Steed as speaker; Fellowship potluck; 2pm meeting follows (OMU begins in Columbus); No nursing home visit
MAR 30 Sabbath School & Worship; celebrate baptisms; Fellowship potluck

Sundays

MAR 3 Scrapbooking/Papercrafting, 1 - 9pm
MAR 10 Daylight Savings Time begins

Mondays

MAR 25 Spring Break all week for Toledo Junior Academy

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

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm; Soup for You @ 6pm; *The Great Controversy* @ 6:30pm

MAR 13 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

Thursdays

MAR 14 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

SAVE THESE DATES: May 17-19 for ManFest @ Mohaven (men only)

June 15-19 for Ohio Camp Meeting at Mount Vernon Academy (everyone)