

APRIL / MAY 2013 EDITION

the

FOCAL Point

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

✧ Rejoice with the Angels on March 30 ✧

Join them as Alec, AlexB, Cassandra, Cassidy, Daniel, Josh, Lydia & Ryan go "all in" for Jesus



Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all.

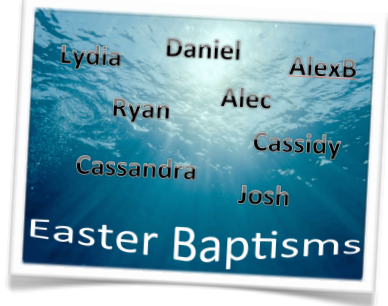
—Augustine



Baptism is a divine ordinance, a symbolic ritual, a mechanism for publicly declaring a believer's faith, and a sign of having already been saved, not what saves you. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. But since Jesus is our example and He was baptized and encouraged His followers to "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you" (Matthew 28:19-20), why shouldn't we follow His lead and also be baptized?

Maybe our decision to go "all in" regardless of what the world thinks, will inspire others to make similar commitments to Jesus. At Easter time years ago, He was lowered into the tomb after dying on the cross for our sins but rose from the dead just like He rose from the waters of the Jordan River at His baptism.

We know baptism is the beginning of our walk with Jesus. We know we won't obey perfectly afterward. We know we have much to learn. Because we only know in part (1 Corinthians 13:12). But what we also know is God loves us like crazy flaws and all, that Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross makes us perfect in God's eyes (Hebrews 10:14). We know that the things of this earth will grow "strangely dim" if we turn our eyes upon Jesus. And that HE will make us holy. We know becoming like Jesus is a lot easier with a supportive church family. That's why we're inviting you to join us and the angels in heaven who will be rejoicing with us (Luke 15:7,10) on Sabbath March 30 when we are baptized. See you then! —From Alec, AlexB, Cassidy, Cassandra, Daniel, Josh, Lydia, and Ryan ##



All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose he has given them.

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4909 West Sylvania Avenue
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Youth take active role

February 23 was Youth Day at Toledo First with children and youth leading the music, reading scripture, offering prayer, telling the children's story, and even

giving the sermon. First two photos above show the Leibengood family with Gary Gooden leading music and Josh, Alex and Ryan giving the sermon. The next two

pictures show a few of the 30 people who went to Pokagon for the toboggan run the next day. In the final photo, Pastor Jolee and

Kathryn read Scripture together at worship in March.

Thanks, Jeff Batchelder, for taking the pictures which we share here. ##

**SPECIAL
EVENTS**
@ TF

APRIL 6
Communion

APRIL 20
Conf President,
Raj Attiken speaks
& Friendship Din

MAY 4 & 18
Fellowship
Potlucks

MAY 28 & 30
JMLC Grad - 28th @ 7
TJA Grads - 30th @
6:30pm

Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting www.tfsda.org

Connections meets 2nd Sabbath

You are invited to Prayer Connections on April 13 and May 11 @ 5pm where Toledo First gives special emphasis to prayer. Worship in a casual setting in the Fellowship Room. ##

Steed postponed

Lincoln Steed, Editor of *Liberty* magazine, originally scheduled to speak on March 23, will be coming June 29 instead. ##

MVA Dates

Academy Days for students in high school or entering high school next year will be April 14 & 15. If you would like to go, but need a ride, please contact Pastor Mike.

Mount Vernon Academy Alumni weekend is April 26-28. Find full information at mvacademy.org/alumni. ##

JMLC graduates 8

Our graduation program is Tuesday, May 28th at 7pm. We look forward to the Prekindergarten and Preschool classes performing with an Opera, Letter People and more. Pastor Mike will join us for worship songs so we can show our families one way we worship Jesus at the James Meade Learning Center. Our graduates this year are: Lucy, Taylor, Leah, Ella, Cadence, Mitchell, Rishi and Carson.

We hope you all can come! —Melissa Wurch ##

Computer classes scheduled

The YMCA and JCC are again offering free adult basic computer classes to the public at our church. Dates are April 24-25, May 15-16, and June 12-13, at 6:30-9:30 each evening. Please call 419.729.8135 for further information or to register. ##

Tea, anyone?

Plans are being made for a Mother's Day Tea on Sabbath, May 11. Watch your mail for more information. ##

Save the Date for a Make & Take

You are invited to a Free Cardmaking Workshop on Sunday, April 21,

1 - 4pm at Toledo First. Bring a friend or two with you for an afternoon of fun! Bring your questions. Bring your ideas. Enjoy friendship and fellowship (and refreshments) with Toledo First Crafters! You'll see demonstrations of cards for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thinking of You, Get Well, and more. No prior experience needed. Bring your own supplies if you have them, or use ours for just a donation.

It's easy to do! Please RSVP by signing up at the bulletin board near the side entrance at church, or call Pat or Jean at 419.476.5249. Questions? Just call us. —Pat and Jean Kline ##



Pathfinders gearing up for 2014

The Toledo Torchbearers will attend the 2013 Pathfinder Fair May 3-5. There will be team games like “raising the flag” with rope tying to see who can build the highest flagpole, the “Big Foot” race, “Catching the Snake” (no real snake involved) and many others, as well as marching competitions, parade, food, flag raising and tent camping. Pastor Mike will be the guest speaker for the weekend, and we’re praying for great weather.

We have one more camporee this fall and one more fair next spring before 2014 NAD Camporee at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where 30,000+ people are expected to gather.

Our club has grown to nine Pathfinders and three Adventurers. We have been going to the “Y” this year working on our swimming honor to prepare for water events we plan to do within the next year. —Linda Bilby ##

Please help with Romania mission trip

This summer, July 30-August 14, the Ohio Conference is organizing a mission trip to Szent Gyorgy, Romania, for high school students and their sponsors. The students will work on a church building project and will put on a Vacation Bible School program for the local children.

I bring this to your attention because I know you to be a community that is generous with your time and resources, has a heart for youth, and values mission experiences. The youth and I are fundraising through various projects and have raised \$780, but we could use more support. The cost of the trip is \$5,400 total for the three of us (two students and myself). This includes airfare, food, lodging, and anything else we may need while in Romania. I understand that funds are tight, but if you sense God’s leading and have the means, we would greatly appreciate your financial support. Please give by sending checks to: Toledo First SDA Church, 4909 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43623.

Please indicate that the funds are for the Romania Mission Trip. If you have questions feel free to contact me at 503-914-9569 or gaede.jolee@gmail.com. — Pastor Jolee ##

Join Pastor Mike and other men from throughout Ohio for Men’s Retreat

Guns. Golf. Venison (and lots of veggie options). Throwing knives. Falling trees. Rising buildings. God at work in the good, bad, and ugly. Last year, God showed up big time at Men's Weekend. This year, the date is May 17-19 and I was hoping YOU could come with me. If you’re at all interested, please let me know! And save the date! Women's Tea is the week before, but it's time WE had OUR thing too! Will leave church FRI MAY 17 @ 5pm and return SUN MAY 19 early afternoon. Cost? Donation to church. Must be 18 years old or older. Feel free to invite a friend. But do NOT bring a tie or nice clothes. —Pastor Mike ##

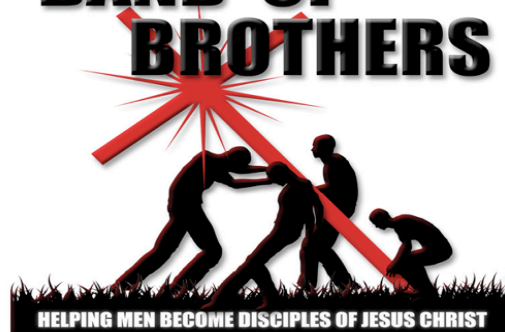
**THE GOOD
THE BAD &
THE UGLY**

**LEADERSHIP
in a Christian Context**

**MAY 17-19, 2013
CAMP MOHAVEN**

**A WEEKEND OF SPIRITUAL
ACTIVITIES, WORK, AND PLAY**

**BAND OF
BROTHERS**



WEEKEND SPEAKER: DR. KEVIN KUEHMICHEL

Sunday work projects planned, so bring your gloves & tools!

Prices begin at \$35 per person for the weekend. Ask your pastor for a brochure & registration form.

www.ohioadventist.org

School year is winding down

We had Kindergarten Roundup in March for potential new students and our Spring Break is the week of March 25. We're looking forward to the Worship Fest at Mount Vernon Academy April 12 - 13 when 5th through 8th grade students from all over Ohio gather to sing praises to God. Pray for our students and parents as we travel there and return.

Graduations for Kindergarteners and 8th graders will be Thursday, May 30, starting at 6:30pm. We have four students graduating from Kindergarten: Adia Fraley, Daymiah Booth, Emerson Wurch and McKenzie Jordan. Our Eighth graders are: Ausha Harris, Jeffrey Holland Jr., and Kaytlin Roman.

We need you! Speak up and tell someone about our school, Toledo Junior Academy, where students experience not only academic excellence in a Christian atmosphere, but they learn the most important truths of all—those taught in the

Bible about God's love and His plan of salvation for each of us. Support Christian Education with your time, your interest, your voice. ##

We all need more joy!

Hi Healthies,

Praise God for another _____(you fill in the blank)_____!! How blessed we are and be thankful!

Here is a really good article I'd like to share:

Want more joy in your day? Cultivate it! Joy springs from viewing the day's events from eternity's perspective. With this intentional focus, you're sure to see today differently — with more joy and conviction that God is at work in your life.

1. **Rehearse with God the reasons you trust Him.** Tell Him which of His attributes is your favorite right now. Read the praises of Scripture back to Him — begin with Psalm 103.

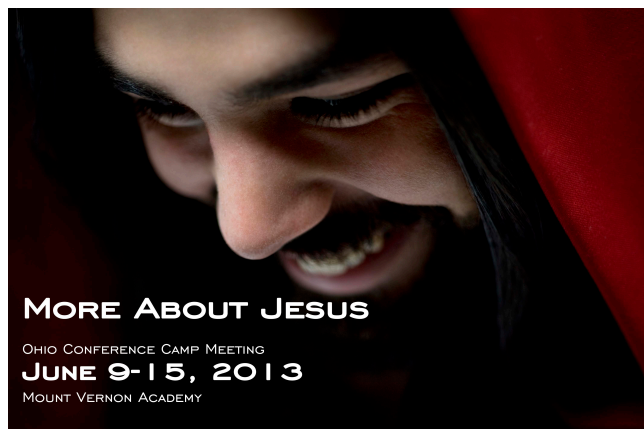
Join with another believer in prayers of thanksgiving, and delight yourself in His character.

2. **Keep a "joy journal."** Record the reasons you have to rejoice and the reminders of God's faithfulness that you encounter in your everyday life. In addition, why not press a leaf from your prayer walks into its pages or include a photo of a person that brings you joy each time you remember him or her? Think big — expand your journal into a "joy box" or a "joy drawer" that brings floods of joy each time you open it.

Adapted from "Seven Ways to Cultivate Joy," Insights (March 2001): 2. Copyright © 2001 by Insight for Living. All rights reserved worldwide. Content provided by OnePlace.com.

—Deb Britenbaker ##

(Editor's note: Deb will pass on more ways to cultivate joy next time.)



MORE ABOUT JESUS

OHIO CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING

JUNE 9-15, 2013

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

Plan now to attend Ohio Camp Meeting

Leave the stress behind and save the dates June 9-15, 2013 for **More About Jesus** 2013 Camp Meeting at Mount Vernon Academy, Mount Vernon, Ohio! Learn the biblical art of listening with your heart and head, so someday others might return the favor. Learn how to cook delicious and healthy food. Study what the Bible has to say about money, worship, and spiritual maturity. Find more information at www.ohioadventist.org. Click on "Annual Events." Reserve lodging at campmeeting@mvacademy.org or call MVA at 740.397.5411 and ask for Dean Woolcock.

NEW THIS YEAR: Full-service options for lunch and

dinner, Monday through Friday, in the cafeteria courtesy of Chef Samuel Hutchinson! **PLUS:** Special feature focusing on the 150th anniversary since the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Review the origins and development of our denomination with our esteemed guest Merlin Burt, PhD, former Ohio Conference pastor and Director, Center for Adventist Research at the Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office at Andrews University. It's going to be a great Camp Meeting so don't miss it. See you there! —Pastor Mike ##

Calendar of Events...

April & May 2013

Birthdays

April 2 Mary Ann Bagaoisan
April 3 Tom Sandy
April 6 Tiffany Kidd
April 8 Robert Ostrander
April 9 Kimiko Kawakami
April 11 Kelly Gustrowsky
April 18 Greg Justice
April 20 Tyler Leibengood
April 22 Arden Brion
April 24 Taryn Landeros
April 25 Loni Orlet
April 26 Ray Riley
April 27 Lewis Simpson Jr.
April 28 Don Marsh

Sabbath Events

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

APR 6 Worship with communion; Pastor Mike speaking

APR 13 Worship with Cavin Atkins speaking; Prayer Connections @ 5pm (Elementary Worship Fest in Mt. V)

APR 20 Worship with Ohio Conference President, Dr. Raj Attiken speaking; Friendship Dinner with Ray & Judy Riley & team; visit nursing home on Whiteford at 3pm

APR 27 Worship with David Bening speaking; Eat 'n Greet; visit Elizabeth Scott nursing home; (MVA Alumni @ Mt. Vernon)

Sundays

APR 14 Academy Days @ Mt. Vernon Academy

APR 21 Free Cardmaking Class, 1-4pm

Mondays

APR 8 No school @ TJA; Parent-Teacher Conferences

APR 15 Academy Days @ Mt. Vernon 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

APR 24 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

Thursdays

APR 25 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

APR 5 Youth Vespers @ Tonya Hurt's home



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 30 Sharon Crosby
Julie Larimore



Sabbath Events

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

MAY 4 Worship with Dean Rico Woolcock from MVA speaking; Fellowship potluck (Pathfinder Fair @ Mt. V)

MAY 11 Worship with Pastor Mike speaking; Mother's Day Tea; Prayer Connections @ 5pm

MAY 18 Worship with Pastor Jolee Gaede speaking; Fellowship Potluck; visit nursing home on Whiteford at 3pm (Men's Retreat @ Camp Mohaven)

MAY 25 Worship with Pastor Mike speaking; Eat 'n Greet; visit Elizabeth Scott nursing home

Sundays

MAY 12 Mother's Day

MAY 19 Men's Retreat @ Camp Mohaven

Mondays

MAY 27 Memorial Day

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

MAY 21 Church Business Meeting, 7pm

MAY 28 JMLC Graduation, 7pm

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

MAY 15 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

Thursdays

MAY 16 Community Computer Class 6:30-9:30pm

MAY 30 TJA Kindergarten & 8th Grade Graduations, 6:30pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

MAY 3 Pathfinder Fair begins

MAY 17 Men's Retreat begins

MAY 31 TJA LAST DAY