

APRIL 2007 EDITION

the

FOCAL Point

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

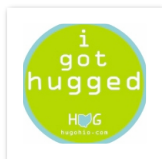
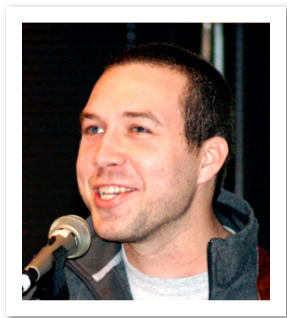


Jesus Christ is one whom we approach without pride, and before whom we humble ourselves without despair.

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## ✧ New Youth Pastor arrives April 9 ✧

On March 15 and 26, the leadership team followed by the church in business session unanimously voted to invite Nathan French, a 1998 graduate of Mount Vernon Academy, to become our Youth Pastor. He has attended Columbia Union College and Southern Adventist University but graduated in 2002 from Full Sail Recording Arts School in Orlando, Florida. Nathan plays piano and guitar, loves to write and sing songs, and talk about Jesus. He has a passion for youth and outreach recently launching his own website called "Hug Ohio" [ [hugohio.com](http://hugohio.com) ] as part of an initiative to show college students the love of Jesus by giving away free hugs on the campus of Ohio State University. Recipients also receive "I got hugged stickers" with directions on how to register their names and contact info on his website allowing continued conversation and ministry opportunities. Because we have enough money to pay his salary for 6 months, we will re-evaluate his contract and future ministry at Toledo First upon its expiration. If you'd like to contribute to the Youth Pastor fund, please mark your tithe envelopes accordingly. Nathan will be staying with Pastor Mike and Jackie in the parsonage and will arrive April 9. Welcome Nathan! —PMF ##



*True freedom is found in the empty tomb.*

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## Agape Communion

On Friday evening April 6 @ 6:30 PM, there will be a candlelight Agape Meal and Communion Service at church. Tables in the shape of a cross loaded with fresh fruit and breads and juice will be provided. There will be no sermon, so plan on bringing your own special poems, verses, or words of what Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross means to you. After we eat and share, we'll conclude by distributing and sharing the special symbols of the Lord's Supper. This promises to be a special intimate setting for communion. —  
Pastor Mike Fortune ##

## Portraits to be taken soon

It's time for a new church photo directory, and so far we have 67 families signed up for photos. But we need YOU to make our directory complete. We are hoping for 90 families because the more photos that are taken, the more activity pages we get! If you haven't signed up to get your photo taken, just call the church office (419.882.6200). For signing up, you will get a free 8x10 color photograph and a free copy of the church photo directory. The photographers will be here Monday—

Wednesday, April 23, 24, 25, from 2:30–9:00 PM.

During your one-hour session, you will be photographed, immediately view your portraits, and have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits. Remember, you are under no obligation to purchase photos.

A photo directory is more than pictures—it is a history book. Have you looked at the 1989 or 1970's directory lately?! This new directory will tell the story of our church in 2007. Be a part of it! ##

## Hear about conference plans

The Ohio Conference holds area Town Hall Meetings every year as a means of communicating with church leaders. This year's meeting for our area will be held on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at our church. All church leaders are invited and encouraged to attend. Be on hand to welcome not only conference leaders, but members from our neighboring churches. The meeting will be from 7:00-8:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. ##

## MVA Choir & Echoliars to visit Toledo First

On Sabbath, April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Mount Vernon Academy Choir and Echoliars will board the bus early Sabbath morning and journey from their campus in Knox County

to Toledo First. They will sing for us during the 11 o'clock worship: The Lord Is My Shepherd, Psalm 150, The Majesty and Glory of Your Name, and more. Music Director is Leland Tetz.

Women of our church are asked to give \$5 towards the planned Sabbath lunch that day. ##

## Centenarian celebrates

A voice from the past said, "Hi, this is Richard Williams." Thus started a conversation about his father, Charles, who will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 15. An Open House is being planned for him on his birthday at the clubhouse near where he and Marti live. If you cannot make the trip to California, but would like to help Charles celebrate, please send a card and include a written memory if you can. Send to the church and we will forward them on to Charles. Richard reports that his father is in good health, still has a sharp mind and never complains about aches or pains. The cover of the invitation includes a picture of Charles with the heading, "Aged to Perfection." Indeed.  
— DeLaura Caulder ##

## Prayer Requests

Standing in the need of prayer? Call Sharon Crosby at 419.874.4046 or email [crosone@aol.com](mailto:crosone@aol.com) and she will start the prayer chain. ##

## Vacation with a purpose Dec. 16–23

Cruise with a Mission is the combination of an exciting vacation, a series of fulfilling outreach projects, and a meaningful spiritual retreat. Cruise with a Mission is all three rolled into one amazing journey for young adults ages 18 - 35 (and up). This is an opportunity to step out of everyday life and step into an encounter with God, service and other people.

Enjoy the beautiful Holland America cruise ship on your way to Belize where you will be involved in a wave of service to meet the deep and lingering needs there.

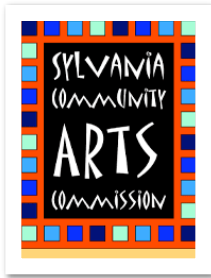
Young adults from all over the world are excited and getting involved in this outreach.

Cruise with a Mission is a project of the Center for Youth Evangelism in cooperation with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Cost is \$787/person plus travel to/from Tampa, Florida. (Rates go up end of May). Contact Pastor Mike Fortune for more information, [mike4tune@gmail.com](mailto:mike4tune@gmail.com). ##

## Want Mulch?

Kay Kermod has small limbs left from cutting down maple trees in her yard. If you have a wood chipper or mulcher, you are welcome to the limbs. Please contact the church office. ##

The Focal Point is published monthly by Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church. Editors: DeLaura Caulder & Marion Thoma



## Orchestra to present concert

The Sylvania Community Orchestra approached us last fall about having a concert at our church. At that time they had three dates available and we chose the last Sunday of April. The Sylvania Community Orchestra will present a concert at our church on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 4 PM. The community is invited and so are you! Come and mingle with your neighbors and the musicians. It's another form of outreach.

The orchestra will be rehearsing in our sanctuary on Thursday, April 26,

from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. The school Science Fair will be held in the Fellowship Room during those hours. Please respect their practice time. ##



## A cup of tea & a touch of love

The afternoon was a delight! The moment was special! The emotions

were high! On Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, eighteen women from Toledo First SDA Church entered the doors of an inner-city shelter for women. With our hands and an abundance of God's love we pampered 20 residents of the Aurora house. Manicures, facials, hand treatments, pedicures, haircuts and massages were offered and very well received. A cup of tea, delightful desserts and mini-sandwiches were served as the pampering began. Meanwhile, the children of these ladies were being entertained in the other room with crafts and other activities. I know the ladies were blessed by this experience and so, also, were we! —Carla Szczechowski, Women's Ministries Leader ##

## Members, the Church Business Meetings are for you

Do you ever wonder what your church is planning? Would you like to have a voice? Well, you DO have a voice. Come to the Church Business Meetings each month and hear about our opportunities as a church and help make the decisions that will affect you and your church and our community.

All members are invited and encouraged to come to the Church Business Meetings each month. They are scheduled for the last Monday of each month at 7 PM. Memorial Day and other conflicts will change that schedule slightly during the summer. Here are the upcoming meeting dates: April 30, June 4, July 23, August 27. Mark your calendar, plan to come, let your voice be heard! —DeLaura Caulder ##

## Worship with us!

We have three worship opportunities each week: 11 AM and 5 PM on Saturdays, and 7 PM on Wednesdays. We welcome you to any and all of our services, designed with you in mind. ##

## A mighty harvest is coming

The above title is proclaimed by Impact World Tour, an organization that has seen the harvest in cities and small towns across our nation and around the world. Now they are about to embark on an evangelistic outreach here in our area. For an intense three weeks, starting April 23, they will present their youth-targeted extravaganzas at various venues including high schools like Clay, Whitmer, Libby, Perrysburg, and at SeaGate Convention Center and UT's Savage Hall.

Their purpose is to bring children and youth to know Jesus as their Saviour. We have committed to help welcome people at Whitmer on May 7th. If you can be

there, contact either Pastor Mike or Ron Szczechowski. They also need people with administrative skills, prayer warriors, and housing for the 150 missionaries coming to Toledo. Go to [www.transformohio.org](http://www.transformohio.org) for more information. ##



## Congratulations!

Hermine Wright and Megan Cross both recently became U. S. citizens. *Congratulations to you both and welcome to the good ol' U.S.A.* ##