The 24 eighth graders from the Village Adventist Elementary School graduated on Wednesday, May 28. Mr. Jose Cruz, VAES music teacher, served as pianist as students marched down the aisle to Pomp and Circumstance. Class president Kayley Alonso reminded her class of the many memories they created together. Tributes were paid to the teachers who instructed the students, and the classmates gave red roses to their parents, along with thankfulness for their love and care throughout the years.

Technology teacher, and former seventh grade teacher, Mr. Aaron Koleda challenged the students to be who God calls them to be, and pursue their mission in life. He related his personal decision to never drink, and how he stayed true to his belief, even when he was the only one in the room abstaining from alcohol. Mr. Koleda also related the inspiring story of Diana Nyad, a woman swimmer who swam nonstop from Florida to Cuba. What makes Diana’s feat so amazing is that she completed her 2013 swim at the age of 64, after four failed attempts over the past 35 years. She is the first to make this challenging swim without a shark cage for protection. One of her messages is, “We should never, ever give up.” Her story of persistence and endurance is one our graduates can take with them for life.
The Stunning Wonders of God’s Hands

It has always amazed me that the closer we look at what God has made the more perfect it appears, and yet the closer we look at what man has made, the more imperfect it appears. But every once in a while we come across something that just blows our minds even more.

This week I picked up a book by Shawn Boonstra entitled The Presence. In it he tells how back in the 13th century a mathematician by the name of Leonardo Pisano studied a problem that went like this: a certain man puts a pair of rabbits in a place surrounded on all sides by walls. How many pairs of rabbits can be produced from that pair in a year, supposing that every month each pair begets a new pair, which from the second month on, becomes productive?

The answer that he worked out produces the following numbers: 0,1,1, 3, 5, 8,13, 21, 34, 55. . . . Those numbers have become known at the Fibonacci numbers. Most of us would say, “So what? What difference does it make?”

Those who have studied this have discovered that those numbers and their ratios to one another hold a secret to the intricacies of God’s design. You see, after the first few numbers the ratio of a number to the one before it is 1.618:1.

You can look through nature and find these same ratios repeated over and over. In fact, plastic surgeons are using them. The most beautiful people have that ratio between the width of the mound to the width of the nose, and from the width between the pupils of the eye to the width of the mouth.

God has built into all of creation another proof, if we are willing to accept it, that there is indeed a master designer to our universe. Many in the world are unwilling to acknowledge that He exists. But as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we have the privilege of being witnesses to His existence by living our lives according to His plan and demonstrating to the world that there is a better way to life. Having a God to serve that is so detailed gives us courage to realize He can handle any of our trials.

Pastor Hayward

All I Need to Know I Learned in . . .

The graduating kindergarten class of 2014 is ready to move on to 1st grade this fall! Teacher, Mrs. Finkbeiner, along with her 16 kindergarten students, presented a super cute graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 22nd.

Kindergarten students sang their ABC’s, recited poetry, sang in Spanish, offered a welcome message, and prayed! Mrs. Baldwin assisted Mrs. Finkbeiner with the presentation of diplomas, and we now have the future first grade class! Mrs. Stevenson is awaiting their arrival this fall! Congrats to our graduating K class!

Wendy Baldwin

VAES Kindergarten Class

Our Prison Ministry Team shared at Michigan City Prison.
Congrats Graduates!

Nick Collard
8th Grade
VAES

Jamie and Christine Wallington
Masters of Divinity
Andrews University

We love you!  Bill, Denise, Nathan

Julie Kelly
8th Grade
VAES

Smiley Tan
8th Grade
VAES

Michael Gardner
Medical Degree
University of Sydney

Andrew Kelly
A.S. Pre-Physical Therapy
Southern Adventist University

David Kelly
Senior
Indiana Academy
John King
AU Masters of Divinity
Chaplain at FL Hospital
Celebration, Orlando FL

David Church
Senior
Andrews Academy

Joycelyn Davis
A.S. Paraprofessional
Southwestern MI College

Cavin Miller
Senior
Andrews Academy

Sarah Gardner
BA
Andrews University

Philip Kissinger
Eighth Grade
VAES

Luda Vine
MA English
AU

Conrad Vine
Doctor of Ministry
AU

Samantha Kissinger
Senior
Andrews Academy
Better than $ in the Bank!

Many years ago now, we lived in a house out on Hillandale and Empire Roads in Benton Harbor. We had much less than we do now, with two kids in church school: one in elementary and one in academy. One day we came home from work to find that the firebox in our old furnace had “blown up” and spewed soot through the whole house. The furnace, of course, no longer worked, and every room was covered with soot. The basement looked like an absolute dungeon.

I was working at Andrews, so I went to Morna Firth who was in charge of university housing and explained the situation. Bless her heart, even though there was a waiting list, she put us at the top because our house was now not liveable, and, as she said, it was an emergency. We moved into the university house at the end of Grove Street.

We were very discouraged and didn’t know what to do. We had come back to the house to start doing some wall washing, and while we were there a visitor of the neighbor across the street came over and introduced himself. He told us he was a realtor, surveyed the damage, and told us that when we had a new furnace put in, and got the house painted inside and out, he would list it for us. We had absolutely no money in, and got the house painted inside and out, he told us not to do another thing, he would bring in a crew and do all the cleaning. As we got ready to have, he asked if we had an attorney, which of course, we didn’t. He said he would have his attorney draw up the paperwork and we could each pay half of the closing costs on the house, which cost us exactly $50. But God still wasn’t done with us. We met him at his bank to arrange payment. The banker told us that they did not finance a house without a working furnace, but since this man had done so much business with them, they were giving him what amounted to a signature loan to buy our house.

The following Sunday, we were back at the house getting the last few things out of the garage when the realtor from across the street came over again. “Have you decided what you’re going to do with your house?” he asked. “Yes,” Leon said. “We sold it.” The realtor stood there with his eyes and mouth wide open for a few seconds. Then he said, “Do you mind if I ask what you got for it?” We told him, “I can’t believe it,” he finally said. “That’s top dollar in this neighborhood, and you would not have gotten any more if you had put in a new furnace and painted it inside and out.”

“Before they call, I will answer.” We hadn’t even thought of calling, but we realized as we talked about it later that God had His plan worked out even as we were agonizing on what to do. Since that time, we have never doubted that God can do anything.

This also took place at a time when I paid the tithe, but grudgingly, and of necessity, because we struggled so much. That’s probably the reason for the struggles. But it goes to show how God still blesses us, and then one day it occurred to me that I could never outgive God. I began to change my attitude about paying tithe, and now I count it a great privilege to return to Him the little He asks. I discovered on this journey that I never give Him anything that He doesn’t give back to me in triplicate! He supplies all our needs, and I find this greater security than money in the bank. What an awesome God we serve!

Renee Copeland

Welcome to the Family!

Twins Nickisha and Tickisha Thompson moved to Michigan from New York two years ago.

Both young ladies find art a passion in their lives.

Tickisha attends Lake Michigan College, and is working on her paraprofessional certificate in Early Childhood, with the long term goal to teach art to children. “God wants me in ministry with children,” Tickisha stated. She has helped in children’s Sabbath School, and works with the Adventurers. Tickisha loves doing websites and design. Her favorite Bible verse is Matthew 11:28-30, the beautiful passage that begins, “Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden. . . .”

Nickisha also shares the love for art, and draws, paints, sketches, and doing portraits. She has spent hours posing as an art model at Lake Michigan College. She loves writing poetry, and is also writing a book entitled, Love Returns, which has twenty-four chapters so far. Nickisha is involved in both creating and selling art. Her favorite Bible character is Solomon, and she enjoys Psalms and Proverbs, with Proverbs 3:5,6 being her favorite verses: “Trust in the Lord and with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”

We welcome you both to our church family!
Are you one of those hilarious givers?


You may have one of those amazing stories of how God has stepped in to bless you as you were faithful to Him. If you would like to share your story in the newsletter, please hand deliver or email it to collenekelly@gmail.com by June 22. Your church family can be strengthened and encouraged to be faithful to God.

Sermon CDs

While sitting in our sanctuary your heart was touched by the Spirit. You wanted to share the blessing with others, but weren’t sure how.

It’s really easy! Stop by the CD ministry desk in the connecting corridor and pick up a copy. You may also fill out a request sheet to order sermon CDs that will be reproduced and placed in your church mailbox.

**Berrien Springs Gardening Club**

The gardening club is sponsoring a class on Food Preservation and Canning. Rita Klavinski, Extension Educator, will present the class on Monday, June 9 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Chan Shun Hall at Andrews University.

**Welcome home, Bradley Church!**

Bradley has been serving as a student missionary in Guyana. He has completed two years in the aviation program, and will be embarking on a two-year study in the business department.

**Montana Mission Trip**

Thank you for the clothing donated for the upcoming trip to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Please pray for this outreach to the native people. The trip dates are July 3 - 13.

**Michigan Campmeeting**

June 13-21
Come & meet Jesus!
Chat with old & new friends.
Sing from your heart.
Pray, learn, deepen your commitment to God.

**50% OFF TUITION**

If your child has never attended an Adventist school and is in second grade or above, you are eligible for 50% off an entire year’s tuition. Call Sarah Kurtz at 473-5121 to find out more.

The church school rummage sale hours are as follows:

- Thursday, June 12, Noon - 6:00
- Friday, June 13, 8:00-4:00
- Sunday, June 15, 9:00-3:00

Grandma & Grandson