Collecting Oshkosh Memories from participants:

“ My favorite part of Oshkosh was the evening meeting.” - Lizzy Attencio

“ Oshkosh was the best part of my whole summer!” - Eliah Manke

“ I really liked the play on Daniel during the evening meetings.” - Sally Byun

“ I really enjoyed the pin trading. I got two full MI sets!” - Nathan Church

“ My favorite part of Oshkosh was getting to connect with the Pathfinders.” - Ryan Comeau

“ Oshkosh was one of the best things that happened to me this summer!” - Sam Gusky

The Pathfinders enjoyed the vigorous camping, pin trading, honors, making new friends, seeing old ones, and listening to the evening meeting. Those who attended the Forever Faithful Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin could say they gained a closer relationship with God and deeper understanding of what it means to be a forever faithful servant of God.
Make a Wish Foundation Selects Millers to Receive “Leaders in Joy” Award

Sharon and Harry Miller feel blessed to have each other to share the “Golden Years” together—24 years in October. We look at our life’s journey, from Harry’s birth in 1943 war-torn Poland, and both surviving divorce, and see God’s hand in bringing us through all the hard times. Our blended family consists of five daughters, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Being blessed with our good health and our children’s good health, we wanted to give back to others. In 1990 we got involved with Make A Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. We have been wish-granting volunteers for 22 years and are rewarded by being involved bringing hope, strength and joy to these children and their families. We are blessed by the many opportunities for witnessing for our Lord.

We participate in Make A Wish’s three-day/300 mile fundraiser bike ride each year. For Harry, it has been 25 consecutive years raising money for Make A Wish. His personal goal is to raise $250,000 total for the cause, which he could reach in five or six years. This year we have been humbled by being selected as two of 30 people in Michigan to receive the “Leaders in Joy” award from Make A Wish of Michigan.

Besides being involved at Neighbor to Neighbor and Village church with various responsibilities, we also participate in mission projects with Maranatha and Village church. Our first trip with Maranatha, was in June 2001 and since then we have gone on 22 projects including: South America, Central America, Africa, Iceland and in the states. Doing mission work keeps us close to the Lord and His commission — looking forward to the Brazil project in 2015 with Village Church.

Harry & Sharon Miller

Note: The Michigan Wish-A-Mile Bike Tour in July raised more than $2 million for children with life-threatening medical conditions. More than 1000 cyclists and volunteers participated. Harry’s photo is one of the first on Wish-A-Mile’s website photo gallery.

Heart to Heart

I’ve yet to meet someone who didn’t have a good reason for doing the wrong thing. We human beings are kind of funny about this. We grab bad examples and improper choices of other people—especially leaders—and then, with skewed points of reference, we continue on a crooked path and wonder why life isn’t turning out right and we’re not happy.

If you’re looking for the happy path—one in which your joy comes from the inside, then the only point of reference is found in Hebrews 12:1. “Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith . . .”

It is the narrowest way—because Jesus can only reign in a clean heart. So every time something attempts to pollute the environment of your mind, He talks with you about it. You then get to decide. Look at Jesus—or focus on a good excuse to not be like Him.

Happiness is a function of having only one point of reference—JESUS.

Pastor Kelly

Freedom in Christ through Wellspring Ministry

John 14:14: “You may ask me for anything in My name, and I will do it.”

Serving the Lord has been the focus of our family for years. However, despite being connected with God, my heart ached for healing. And despite being happily married, I agonized inside. After years of prayer for understanding, He finally answered. Through Wellspring Ministry God dispelled the darkness and tore down walls of shame. Now, my wife and I enjoy a marriage filled with peace and love.

After one week with Pastor Bruce & Dorothy Hayward, plus a willing spirit on our part, it soon became evident there were underlying issues in both of our lives. And if we were going to build a marriage filled with unconditional love, our personal issues required immediate attention. Through this journey, we recognized the need for total dependence on God; the need for dialogue with God; and (to experience success in our relationships) complete surrender to God. Through this journey, we experienced God’s power in unimaginable ways and reconnected emotionally with each other. As a result, the joy, peace, and overwhelming harmony we experienced has enhanced our walk with God, devotional life, and our marriage.

Praise God for Wellspring Ministry, the feeling of freedom in Christ is overwhelming, and has given both of us a new heart for God and each other.
Oshkosh 2014

Campsite

Jelly Belly Factory

Jelly Belly Sample Bar

Evening Meeting

waiting for evening meeting

Mrs. Gardner

Sam

Madison & Lauren

Helen

pin trading

off to Oshkosh
Village Artist Exhibits Locally

A brand new exhibit at the Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph opened Friday, August 15, with Jacqueline Baerwald’s artwork. The display in the Riverwalk Gallery featured Melondy, a young adolescent making the journey through the teen years.

“My Melondy: Issues of Adolescence sculptures pose a series of unasked questions and unanswered issues often experienced in the lives of teenage girls.

“Fabricated entirely from thrifted, found, or donated books and a bit of paint, the Melondy series is a compendium of high school hurdles, hiccups, and heartbreaks. Every aspect of each sculpture was carefully selected. Each book was specifically chosen for its title and meticulously stacked with its counterparts to create a thought-provoking found poem,” Jacqueline writes in her artist’s statement.

Twenty-two stacked-book sculptures and the three large wall paintings combine to depict Melondy’s challenges as she anticipates leaving the nest and becoming a young woman. Titles for each of the sculptures are reminiscent of nursery rhymes or childhood sayings.

Proceeds from a silent auction of the piece, “Somewhere Over The Rainbow,” which illustrates Melondy finally growing up and finding healing from her turbulent past, benefit the Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force. Anyone interested in knowing more about this subject, and how you can personally make a difference, is invited to attend a free artist talk/human trafficking awareness evening on September 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Box Factory. The exhibit will be on display until September 27.

A few questions for the artist:

Is this your first exhibit at the Box Factory?

This is my first solo show at the Box Factory. I have had pieces in their members’ shows before.

Have you exhibited at other locations?

Yes. I’ve exhibited work in various other group shows in mid-Michigan and Southwest Michigan galleries. I’ve also done another solo show of a different body of work, “Food For Thought,” which was a series of found-object sculptures crafted to look like food dishes (spaghetti, tacos, pancakes, etc). These were all created out of thrifted and found games and game pieces, entertainment mediums (tapes, videos, etc.) and kitchen utensils (dishes, toaster, baking tools, etc).

How do you bring your relationship with Jesus into your artwork, how does it play into an exhibit like this?

My personal relationship with Jesus, as well as my Adventist worldview, play heavily into the creation of my art, even though it may not be immediately obvious.

I am a conceptual artist who takes an idea and then decides which medium (painting, sculpture, photography, etc.) would best communicate that idea. Most of my work has dealt with the human condition, as seen through the Great Controversy.

What is your inspiration?

My goal in making art is to make the viewer think. I want to evoke questions in their minds about their own values, ethics, morals, briefs, principles, and lifestyle. I gain a lot of inspiration for my work through reading Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, as well as other thought-provoking literature, watching insightful documentaries, having deep discussions with others, and simply watching people.

In this particular body of work, Melondy came as a result of reminiscing on my high school years and how many of my girlfriends had troubled pasts as well as many then current struggles. Sadly, from what I know, much of this baggage has clung to them even into their adulthood. It made me stop and realize how blessed I was to have a relatively innocent childhood, and even the greater blessing of developing a real personal relationship with the only One who can bring healing and victory over whatever challenges I may face in life.

It is my hope that those who view this series will walk away encouraged to have their eyes open to the see the struggles each of us, especially our youth, are battling, and show genuine compassion. I’m reminded of Christ’s words in Matthew 25:40, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me.”
Mexican Mennonite Health Outreach

Last spring Daisy Kis invited our church family to assist in an outreach to the German Mennonites in Mexico where her parents serve for Jesus. Daisy traveled to Mexico to assist in the health evangelistic endeavor. Radio announcements and fliers advertised the event prior to its beginning. The day before it started, Daisy’s father was informed that the church next door to the seminar decided to have their own health event. Despite the discouraging news, the Adventists continued with their plan.

Two family practitioners, Daisy and another physician, covered the eight natural remedies, depression, substance abuse, diabetes, and cancer. Mr. Cornelius Froese Wall, Daisy’s dad, translated and shared the spiritual portion. Although the seminar started out with 22 people, the last couple nights only a father and son attended.

“It was not easy to keep the motivation and excitement, but God was with us and we did give the entire seminar to the two people that came every night. At the end of the week these two persons, father and son, were so excited about the information that they asked us to give the seminar again, but in their church. They want their church to know all about this,” Daisy stated. Plans are being laid for the seminar to be given in February 2015.

We invite our church to pray and ask for God’s guidance and protection of His work. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

From Family Froese Dyck, Our sincere appreciation to the Village Church, and to those who gave donations to the Mexico Mennonite Ministry Project. Thank you very much for your kindness. Part of the donations were used for the health seminar and the other part helped to start the foundations for our new building, Mennonite SDA Church-hall. We are still accepting monetary donations. May God bless your ministry.

Cornelius Froese Wall

Daisy has three CDs available to advance the Mennonite project. The first is in German, with Daisy and her sisters singing worship songs. The second consists of Spanish worship songs and hymns sung by her sister Lilly. The third CD is of English hymns, along with a few Spanish songs, sung by Daisy and Lilly. They will be available at the church office for a minimum donation of $10 for the next couple weeks.

Prayers of Petition & Dedication

The second annual prayer walk for VAES took place on Sunday, August 17, two days before the beginning of the new year. Friends, family, and members asked God’s blessing on the classrooms, kitchen, gym, and offices.

On Sabbath Mrs. Baldwin introduced the teachers and staff to the congregation and Pastor Kelly prayed a dedicatory prayer for all teachers present at second service, asking God’s blessing in the 2014-2015 school year.
Eat the Scroll:

Fall Week of Prayer

Bring the family for a week of Christian fellowship, worship, instruction, and prayer, starting Sabbath evening, September 6. Pastor B. Parks will lead the group, focusing on Bible study.

Singing begins at 6:15, followed by a one-hour study and prayer service for adults. Stories and crafts will be provided for the kids, with prompt dismissal at 7:30, so families can tuck in their tykes at a reasonable hour.

Simple suppers will be served at 5:30, Monday through Friday nights.

Village Church 100th

Keep your calendar clear for celebrating our church’s 100-year history. Friday night vespers on October 31 begins the weekend, followed by a very full Sabbath. Former Pastor Don Driver will speak for first service, and Elder Bill Knott, former Village youth pastor and current editor of the Adventist Review will present the sermon for second service.

Following lunch the Fireside Room will be open to view memorabilia and visit with old friends. A musical program and vespers will conclude the formal schedule. Light refreshments will end the evening.

Begin praying and inviting family, non-attending members, and other friends to this historic occasion. What a great opportunity to refocus our energies to reach out to those around us.

8 Days: The Hour of Judgment

The eight-day evangelistic series by Pastor Kelly runs November 7-15, just a week after the 100th. The Hour of Judgment will focus on the first angel’s message in Revelation 14.

Michigan Men of Faith

“Called to Lead” is this year’s theme for the conference-wide men’s ministry Sabbath. Pastor Walter Vieth of Amazing Discoveries will be the main speaker, with multiple seminar presenters. The one-day event is Sabbath, September 28, at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. Register at www.campausable.org.

Keys Thrown Away--Almost!

Are you missing your keys? The church has a key collection that will soon be disposed of. Stop by the church office to see if your lost set is found!

Health Tent Benefits Youth Fair

Berrien County Youth Fair attendees could travel from station to station to learn about the eight natural laws of health. Free massages, learning your body’s health age, and balloons twisted into animal shapes drew young and old.

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Adventist Frontier Missions

On Sabbath, September 6, AFM missionaries will share the morning messages at Village Church, with a panel discussion at 4:00 in the Riess Chapel. Their topic is Spiritual Warfare: Defending against spiritual powers in mission.