Pastor Parks broke the Bread of Life night by night during our fall week of prayer. The theme focused on studying the Bible, with multiple passages from the book of Isaiah becoming the springboard for small group discussion. Table by table, prayers of praise and request ascended to our Father. Evenings ended with about 130-150 participants joining hands around the Family Center, singing our theme song, “Ancient Words,” and closing with prayer.

The children’s meetings featured singing, craft time, and a continued story each night about William Tyndale and the translation of the Bible into English.
Heart to Heart

What does a big church do in a little town (which by the way, has a bigger church in town, and a dozen others, to boot)? To every member of the Village church who wants a healthy, personal experience with Christ and a healthy church family this question is of paramount importance.

Please pray over the following quote:

Those who profess to believe the truth, but feel no burden for the souls of others, will be continually backsliding, and it will require time and strength on the part of the minister to keep them from making shipwreck of faith, when they should be laboring with all their might to present the way of life and salvation to their friends and neighbors. Hundreds of men and women who at the present time are professedly engaged in the work of God, are not doing one-tenth that they might do if they would only improve all the powers God has given them. Some are doing literally nothing for the truth, and by their example of indifference are bringing others into the same position of uselessness, and thus are scattering from Christ. This latter class includes by far the greater number. They are thinking and planning only for themselves. Fathers and mothers with their little ones around them make their little circle their own world. Every power of their being is centered on “me and mine,” and they are becoming narrower and more circumscribed every year of their lives. They do not open their hearts to the grace and love of Christ, and liberalize their nature and ennoble their being by placing themselves in sympathy with their fellow-men. Review & Herald, June 10, 1980

We are on a journey to rediscover our mission and refocus our lives. May we know our place and our purpose in a dying world.

Pastor Ron
Egress Update

Did you hear the VAES choir leave the sanctuary last Sabbath? No? Neither did the rest of the congregation. The students quietly exited through the doors and walked down the new stairways, between the insulated walls, while our service proceeded smoothly.

Should our building face a fire, our lower departments would now be able to exit the church on either side via the wide staircases. Automatic, motion-sensing lighting keeps the areas well lit while in use, but saves electricity when empty.

The stair landings await floor covering, which will tie-in with the much needed carpeting replacement outside our children’s Beginners, Kindergarten, and Primary Sabbath School departments. The funding for carpeting has already been set aside for this project.

AFM Sabbath: Spiritual Warfare Emphasis

Adventist Frontier Missions featured two speakers for the morning services. The afternoon session dealt with the subject of spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness.

One of the interesting facts related was that the local imams in a Muslim country have one solution for demon possession: refer the person to the Christians as the only way to find relief!

Rather than dwelling on darkness, the afternoon presentation focused on Jesus and His power. Daha and Dayita Sharma serve in northern India. Their young daughter has suffered both second degree burns and a severe fall, biting through her tongue. The Sharmas saw these trials as attempts of Satan to hurt them. The young family then particularly sought three things:

1. A full, personal surrender to God and to stay closely connected as husband and wife.

2. Put God’s honor first, even if it meant cultural misunderstanding.

3. Sing and praise God.

The previous events that harmed their daughter occurred around times of native festivals, which were nearly totally infected with worship of other gods. The Sharmas determined to maintain loyalty to God, regardless of the perceptions created. They also chose a triumphant hymn to sing over and over again during an upcoming celebration: A Mighty Fortress is our God.

God honored their devotion to Him. Carsickness was the only negative effect experienced by their daughter!

Adventurer Families enjoyed campfires and fellowship, sunshine and nature, worshipping God with other families from around the state at Camp AuSable the weekend of September 6.

The church family celebrated Merna Witzel’s 80th birthday at the fellowship meal at Feather Park.
Village
Church 100th
Anniversary
October 31-
November 1

Our celebration plans include music and messages, out-of-town returning members, former pastors arriving, visiting with old friends, time to reminisce and worship our faithful God. Connections are coming together as only five weeks remain before our big event.

Friday evening is set aside to see how our church has been fulfilling the Great Commission, and what God desires for our future. Former pastor Elder Don Driver is scheduled to speak for first service, and Elder Bill Knott, former pastor and current *Adventist Review* editor, for second service. Other pastors are scheduled to participate as well.

Following the fellowship dinner, the Fireside Room will be open to view memorabilia, the church and school available to tour, and a hymn sing-along will take place in the Riess Chapel.

Local members will praise God in music as we close the Sabbath, followed by refreshments in the Family Center.

Plan to invite friends, family, and former members to join the weekend’s celebration.

If you have “artifacts” from years gone by that could be displayed, please label and leave them at the church office.

Let’s pray for God’s Spirit to bless our celebration, that it will bring glory to Him, and renewed strength and courage to our congregation.

The Book of Revelation & the God that’s Calling Your Name

Do you wonder about the letters to the churches, the seals and scroll, the trumpets and the dragon, the beasts and the bowls?

The Revelation presentations begin Wednesday night, October 8, at the church. Twice weekly Andrews University students will present a different topic on this end-time book. Dr. Paul Peterson, chairman of the Religion Department, teaches the Revelation class, and his students will be sharing truth from the last book of the Bible at our church.

Jesus promises a special blessing on those who study the book of Revelation: *Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.* Revelation 1:3.

Michigan Men of Faith comes October 25.

Win! Willness

It’s not too late to join this weekly class to improve the quality of your life. Various topics will deal with pertinent issues that better physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Our health ministries team brings this balanced message to benefit our congregation and friends. Did you know that it costs half as much to copy per page using our new church copier, than did our old one?

The Angel & the Hour

November 2-8, following directly on the heels of the 100th Anniversary, Pastor Kelly will present *The Angel & the Hour.* Nightly presentations will focus on the first angel’s message in Revelation 14, as we rediscover our destiny and our mission as God’s end-time movement.

Sanctuary Renewal

Multiple meetings for both the building and steering committees are pulling together ideas, sketches, and people. The committees have worked together to pray and plan, dialogue and discuss the options. The mission of the church to reach out to a lost world has become clear, and how sanctuary renewal plays into the picture. Watch for upcoming information sessions.