We welcome three young people into our church family. Aubrey Ruedinger was baptized at Camp Au Sable by Elder Jim Mitchell. Kirsten Baerwald was baptized in their family swimming pool by Pastor Ron Kelly. Cavan Miller was baptized graduation weekend by Pastor Dwight Nelson.

**Aubrey Ruedinger**
I decided to get baptized because I love Jesus and want Him in my life. I was also influenced by my mom and dad’s example. I wanted to show my decision to follow Him to others.

**Kirsten Baerwald**
Since I can remember I have been learning about Jesus from my family members. We would have worship services, we prayed, we sang, and we read Bible stories. When I was eight I started attending a program at a local church called Awana. Each week I memorized Scripture verses, sang songs, listened to a Bible story, and learned about Jesus.

Of course, I was growing up in our Village church and Sabbath school, too. Two summers ago I signed up for Bible studies from the Voice of Prophecy called, "Kid Zone.” I learned about many of our church doctrines from them.

This summer at VBS I asked Jesus into my heart. I knew then that I was ready to be baptized when I understood that Jesus died for me. My favorite verse that I’ve memorized is John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Cavan Miller**
For my whole life, I have always wondered at the importance of baptism. Why do I have to get put under water and dedicated, and then everything is all good? It took me a long time, 18 years, in fact, to finally figure it out.

But this past May 2014, I decided something. I decided that I was going to tell myself, and the rest of the watching world who knows who I am, that I am fighting back. I am taking a stand to say that the only Truth that is Everlasting, and the only thing worth getting put under water for, is Jesus Christ. It’s hard to live a day without noticing the difference without Him.

He is the only way. God let Himself die, in human form, so that people like me could live forever. Doesn't make a lot of sense really, but that's a God that I will serve.

I spent years of my life waiting and waiting for the “right time” in my life to come, because I just didn’t feel ready. What I realized is that it’s not about feeling, it’s about knowing. God says, “Be still, and KNOW that I am God.” He didn’t say, “Be still and FEEL that I am God.” It’s a knowledge, and a choice to make. I could have continued waiting for the rest of my life. But instead, I chose to surrender. So, whoever may be reading this, I ask you: What are you waiting for?
**Heart to Heart**

Psalm 90:10 says, “The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

Today, as I write this, I have just returned from visiting my mom and sister in Ontario. Today, October 8, Mom turned 99 years of age. She resides in a nursing home that takes very good care of her but she does not recognize who I am when I visit, for she has Alzheimer’s disease. But while she may not know who we are, we are still grateful to have her as our mother and to be able to spend time with her.

There are many around us who have spiritual Alzheimer’s disease and they don’t recognize who their heavenly Father is or even what He is doing for them. But He knows who they are and wants them to be a part of His family.

That is where we come in. As part of God’s family, we have the privilege of of first of all, demonstrating His character to them by the way we interact with them and each other. We can also introduce them to the parent that knows them better than they know themselves and still loves them. In the sharing He gets to heal them of their spiritual Alzheimer’s, and our spiritual family grows as well. That is a very good reason to live for Jesus.

*Pastor Hayward*

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**Annual Walk-a-Thon: Kids Walk for Kids**

The Village School held the annual walk-a-thon on Friday, September 26 from 12:30-2:00. This year's event will benefit an amazing organization called Make-A-Wish Michigan, which grants wishes to Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions. Children who have had their wishes granted find renewed strength to fight their illness and the experience helps to strengthen the families as well. Please take the time to visit [www.michigan.wish.org](http://www.michigan.wish.org) to learn more and hear stories of these children.

Mrs. Baldwin and the office staff placed a challenge: if the students could collectively raise $2,500 dollars, the office staff would dress up in 50's style attire for a day, including Mrs. Baldwin wearing skates for the day! The total raised was just over that amount: $2555.22!

Harry Miller and his wife Sharon, avid Make-A-Wish Michigan supporters and Village Church members, joined the Kids Walk for Kids event to encourage and support VAES students as they walked or ran.
Senior Class Trip: Service for Jesus

Andrews Academy’s senior class trip is held in the fall with an itinerary designed to rekindle relationships with each other and form friendships with the new seniors. This strengthens relationships with each other and with God.

The trip included adventurous events like caving and white water rafting. These brought spontaneous closeness as students helped each other through tight spaces and rapid waters. But, serving others during a day of service was, for many, the most meaningful part of the trip.

At Andrews Academy we purposely include the integration of faith in every aspect of the school experience. Christian service, turning love into action, is an important component of faith. The students showed eagerness as they participated. Some students helped in a veteran’s home; others at the Nehemiah Center which provides after school activities for low income children. Some helped fourth graders build a community garden at a Sandusky public school.

This part of the trip helped the students bond as they assisted people who had needs. Some students expressed how thankful they were to be part of a Christian school which would include activities like these.

“Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education... is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.” {Education 13.1}.

The organizations where we volunteered were amazed to see such a cooperative, kind, and hard working group of teenagers. Over and over again they expressed their admiration and appreciation. Many individuals we interacted with throughout the trip expressed that there was “something different about this group of teenagers.” We had a great opportunity to share that we were SDA Christians at a school in Michigan. It was an excellent opportunity to witness for Jesus.

Steven Atkins

Wellspring

After spending time with the Haywards I feel like the Lord has freed my heart of the terrible pain that I was carrying for so long!

And now, thank God, I am so much closer in my relationship with Him. I am spending so much more time with the Lord, and trying to make Him first in my life. Thank you for all your help! God bless you for your help.

A thankful recipient

Carrot Cake

2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. baking powder
2 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 c. undrained crushed pineapple
3/4 cup vegetable oil
2 cups grated raw carrots
2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Mix all ingredients together well. Bake at 350 for one hour.
Happy 100th: Neighbor to Neighbor Celebrates

Balloons and white tents fluttered in the afternoon breeze as Neighbor to Neighbor celebrated 100 years of service to the community on Thursday, September 18.

During the open house visitors were able to tour the building, seeing the various departments of the community service-based establishment. Refreshments and live music added to the festivities.

The ministry of Neighbor to Neighbor includes a wide variety of services.

Men being released from prison are given clothing, and books and puzzles are used for jail ministry. Last year almost 400 layettes were given to new moms. The layettes included a handmade blanket, receiving blankets, diapers, sleepers, and other baby essentials.

In 2013 $32,000 worth of clothing, stuffed animals, and other items were shared both locally, and as far away as Asia, Europe, South America, and Africa.

Bags of Love are given through the foster care agencies and homeless shelters. The bags include a blanket, pillow, towel, toiletries, book, and toy.

Bedding is given to international Andrews University students, some of which arrive in Berrien Springs with very little belongings.

The food pantry and family emergency services are in place to benefit those with specific needs.

Community events and seminars serve the public, and, of course, the thrift store recycles usable items of furniture, clothing, bedding, books, and housewares.

For many years hundreds of boxes of clothing were packed for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

The century of history of the center began as members from both the Village Church and Emmanuel Missionary College Church (Pioneer Memorial Church) began organized Dorcas Welfare. The two churches joined together to serve in 1957.

Two years later, on November 3, 1959 an open house celebrated the work moving to a building at 202 N. Main Street. Over 70 volunteers worked for the community there.

In 1968 Schrader’s Market bought that building, and in 1971, 500 guests celebrated the opening of a larger building at 840 St. Joseph Avenue, the current location.

The SDA Health and Welfare center was renamed Neighbor to Neighbor in June 2002.
A LOOK BACK

Nursing Home Ministry Concludes

“Lakeland Specialty Hospital Berrien Center, a long-term care facility on land that started as the county poor farm in the 1840s, isn't long for this world.” (Herald Palladium, March 12, 2014)

Along with it, goes a hospital/nursing home ministry started in 1976 by Elder John Dry and Ken and Pat Morrison. The nursing home ministry which was part of the Sabbath School Extension Program of Village came to an end, as of March 29, 2014.

I’ve been privileged and very blessed to be a part of this ministry since 1997, working with Elder Dry until about 2010 when he had to step down, due to his health.

We’ve conducted church services for the residents at the old Berrien General Hospital, and then Lakeland Long-term Care Center, on Sabbaths from 3:00-4:00 p.m., except the second Sabbath of the month.

I could not possibly remember every Village member who has volunteered of their time and talent to be a part of this ministry. There have been so many. Many volunteer on a regular basis, helping a particular Sabbath each month.

Thank you all for your faithfulness over the years. Without you, we would not have been able to take Jesus to these precious people who are no longer able to get out and come to church. They have so many times expressed how much they enjoyed the sermons, singing, and hearing special music, and just talking with us volunteers.

I am sad to see this ministry come to an end. I promised Elder Dry that I would continue helping with this ministry as long as I was physically and mentally able. I did not realize that it would come to end in this way.

Please pray for each of the residents that they find a good home and that the Lakeland employees are able to find new jobs.

Susan Morss

The Horn Museum Lectureship Series presented Andrews University Excavations in Sicily. On Monday evening, October 6, Dr. Randall Younker introduced the recent trip to the gathered crowd in the Seminary Chapel. PhD students Christopher Chadwick and Shellie Berglin shared their findings with the audience. The spread of Christianity over the nation is being studied.

Andrews University now has this area as a continuing site in Sicily, an island off the coast of Italy. Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, and is governed by a presidential representative democracy. Italian is the predominant language of the five million residents.

Pastor Kelly invited his students from the Personal Witnessing Class at Andrews University to join the elders for a Sabbath supper. Students are linking with local elders for visitation, implementing knowledge gained in class.
The Book of Revelation & the God Who’s Calling Your Name: Andrews University students are presenting studies on the book of Revelation on Wednesday and Sabbath evenings. The evenings include singing, a presentation, breakout study time, and prayer. Join your church family as we rediscover Jesus as revealed in the last book of the Bible.

Chef Mark Anthony joins our church for the Sabbath morning services on November 15, and will present a cooking class on November 16.

Citrus time has arrived! If you would like to place an order that benefits our school, call 269-815-6141 or order online at goldenharvestsales.com.

It’s a Boy!
Congratulations to Kevin and Karey Messina, along with Evia and Weston, on the birth of Leo Kieran MacNicol Messina. Weighing in at 8 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20 1/2 inches, Leo was born Friday, October 3.

Pastor Kelly will present nightly the first angel’s message of Revelation 14, the week of November 2-6. As we live in the final sands of earth’s hourglass, we must remember God’s eternal gospel and its relevance for every nation, tribe, language and people—including those in southwest Michigan. Let’s pray for God’s Spirit to move on our hearts.

The 100th Anniversary Celebration weekend includes:
Friday, October 31: 7:00 p.m. History & Destiny
Sabbath, November 1: First service: Elder Don Driver
Second service: Elder Bill Knott
Sabbath Lunch
Fireside Room memorabilia
Church & VAES tours
Hymn Sing-a-long
Musical program & vespers
Refreshments