Dear Church Family,

We, as a large family, are embracing change. The need to change has become more apparent with each passing year, and now we are excited to be on the brink of seeing it become a reality. We have finally embraced the desired changes before the carpet totally unravels in well-worn places. We have been providentially blessed with many years of good service with all that we have. Now there is excitement that the renovation work could commence as early as mid-July. Yes, that is just two months away! During the envisioned changes, we look forward to various opportunities for creative worship experiences as we 'press together' as a church family, either in the school gym or outdoor church, as the weather permits. We are very pleased that Jason Hippler, a church member and very experienced builder, is willing to be our Project Manager.

To reduce the costs, much of the labor has been donated, and we invite our church family to participate in the renovation to keep the cost lower, as we will have needs for removing pews and carpet, painting, clean up, etc. We are seeking volunteers and invite you to indicate your willingness to help when the sign-up sheet is out. We anticipate that the project could take four weeks to complete. We hope to have a very detailed understanding of the process that we, as a church family, would need to take for this project to be completed, and plan to publish the details in our June newsletter. The $180,600 is the high end of the envisioned project, and we do not intend to spend money on anything that we have not planned for.

We need your full support to make this a smooth transition into a new worship environment. Firstly, we need your prayers for wisdom and protection throughout this project. We also need your financial support through pledges or cash contributions. We thank those who have given, and who have pledged more than $74,000 at our last business meeting, where we took this decision to make changes to our sanctuary. We further need your full support for the time we will be worshiping in another venue. We know that we can do this project together because the Lord has blessed us and provided for us in the past, and we desire no glory for ourselves. Imagine the joy we will feel as we welcome new family members into our new sanctuary. We also invite you to start telling former members, or those who used to worship with us, to plan to join us in celebrating the new sanctuary on the Sabbath that we rededicate the church for the Lord's presence to freely work among us. Finally we invite everyone to participate in 'renovating' our own lives spiritually, as we wish others to see the beauty of Jesus Christ consistently reflected in us. - Pastor Darrel
**Designed for Godliness**

God’s desire for my life is godliness (God-like-ness). Knowing this has lifted and inspired my spirits to move beyond my known to God’s known. Contemplating godliness moves my soul to a place beyond myself to whom God is. It refocuses me from temporal to eternal things. These thoughts have tugged at my heart lately, and I believe that they are worthy of contemplation. I invite you to take one thought a day and ask yourself: “How can I practice this in my world?”

1. You are designed for godliness. (2 Pet. 1:5-7; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Pet. 3:11)

2. Your energy is sacred, as you are not your own, for you are bought with a price. (1 Cor. 6:19,20)

3. God wants His reflected glory from you. (Gen. 1:26,27; 2 Cor. 3:18)

4. You are designed to be yummy. (Gal. 5:22,23)

5. Godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Tim. 6:6)

6. Your best exercise is godliness. (1 Tim. 4:8)

I would love to know how spending time contemplating these simple desires God has for us has shaped your living!

Blessed Blessings,

Pastor Darrel

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**From the Lord’s Library**

By Chiare Frazier

Over the last three years, we have seen a wonderful increase in members using the library. Praise the Lord! We have been able to increase the children’s DVD section greatly, and the adult section is also growing. We have tried to arrange the library so it is easy to keep an eye on everyone, and it is convent for you to find what you are looking for and check out. We regularly have at least 100 check outs every week and sometimes more. The library is running like a well-oiled machine to anyone looking from the outside, yet even a well-oiled machine needs replacement parts now and then. Many of the women who work in the library on Sabbath have done so for ten years or better and without complaint. Yet we all deserve a regular break from our service to each other, a chance to get away and recharge with our Lord’s messages. Many of the Library Ladies stay to check in all the books and tapes and put everything away while the service is starting, and most of the time we are not finished until the service is almost over. We have asked for help, and we were received kindly by our church family. Many came to offer their help with this or that, yet as soon as the service started we would lose them. By all means this is not a criticism. We love the help we get no matter how great or small, and we are very happy to incorporate whatever time you can give. We do need a couple of members who would be willing to give a more scheduled time to the library. We will take male or female—it does not matter. If you are new to our Church Family, what better way to get to know everyone? That’s what I did when I joined. So come on in and give a hand or two. We can’t wait to see you!
Meet Our New Members

Brendan & Tara Carlsen
by Tara Carlsen with Gina Meekma

Brendan & Tara Carlsen have always lived in this area and currently live in Dowagiac. Tara grew up attending the Buchanan Adventist Church, and Brendan attended PMC. When they got married, they spent about five years attending different churches in the area. They finally decided to transfer their memberships together to Niles Westside because they were consistently attending Westside every week for about two years. Brendan’s parents, Steven Sr. and Alma Carlsen, and his brother Steven Jr. and family, are also members at Westside.

Brendan works for AEP at the Cook plant for the Corrective Actions Program. Tara teaches Math at Cedar Lane Alternative High School, which is part of Niles Community Schools.

Tara & Brendan enjoy scuba diving, horses, camping, and motorcycles. They have two dogs (Strange and MudFlap), and a horse (Rowdy).

The Carlsens met at Berrien Springs High School their senior year. They have been married for six years.

Welcome to the Niles Westside Church Family, Tara & Brendan!

It’s a Boy!

Congratulations to Erin & Tim, Grace, Lillian, Anabel and Emma Dockerty on their new addition!

Timothy Maxwell Dockerty
4.12.2012 2:44 PM
21.5 Inches 9 Pounds 08 Ounces

Maxwell & Anabel

Photo Provided by Erin Dockerty
We had a full and fun month in Adventurers! The Sabbath before Easter, we had a potluck picnic at the Niles Riverfront park with the Primary, K1 and K2 classes. After the picnic, we handed out healthy snacks to the kids and books to the adults. Some of the kids came back with amazing stories! I had the privilege of accompanying Tyler Hutchinson as he passed out his goodies. Ty was not satisfied until he handed out all the snacks and books that we had. I was worried that some of the people he was giving the books to wouldn’t read them. I realized that I was prejudging people and stepped back in my mind and watched him carefully. He wasn’t handing the books to every adult he saw, he was looking around at the adults, and then he would say, “I’ll give it to him/her.” So I started praying that the Holy Spirit would guide him, as I’m sure was already the case. One man with a thick Hispanic accent approached me and asked, “For me?” I nodded, and he said, “How much?” I told him if he was interested in it, it was a gift. His face lit up! I turned around and continued to follow Ty, and the next man he picked was someone that I NEVER would have approached. A big burly man got off a Harley, started walking toward the park then just stopped and watched the kids. He looked like a stereotypical biker. He had a beard and mustache, a long ponytail, tattoos and was wearing leather. Due to the times we live in, I have to admit that I was a bit alarmed, but I was still praying. Ty said, “I’ll give this one to him,” and started walking toward the man. I started praying harder and followed close behind. As Ty got closer, he hesitated a bit and turned to look at me for reassurance. I nodded, smiled and took a step closer, still praying. Ty walked up to the man, handed him the book and said, “This is for you.” The man looked at the book for a few seconds and then slapped it against his leg before exclaiming, “All week long!” At this point I was afraid he was upset, and my adrenaline started pumping, preparing to get Ty out of there as soon as possible if need be. But then the man said something I didn’t expect. He said, “God must be trying to tell me something.” I started to relax, and the man told me that the previous Sunday he had planned to go to church for the first time in a very long time, but he decided to sleep in. Then that afternoon someone from the Baptist church knocked on his door and gave him an invitation to their Easter service the following week. A few days later he was sitting on a bench, and a man sat down next to him and asked him if they could talk about Jesus. He said yes, so they had a long conversation about Christ. Then he said, “And today I get this! I guess I better go to church tomorrow!” So he and I chatted for a little while about how God was trying to reach him. He shared his struggles and dreams, his past, and hopes for the future. I was amazed and blessed by his story. We talked about how God was reaching out to him, and no matter what happens, He always searches for us. I promised to pray for him, and he said that he would be going to church the next day for the Easter service. I found out that he was there for his great-niece’s birthday party but had apparently been given wrong information about the location or time, which put him right where God wanted him so that a little boy, led by the Holy Spirit, could get him another message. I pray that God will help me to be as a little child and let the Holy Spirit guide my thoughts and actions toward others as Ty did so that I can be a living testimony as well.

The other big even we had this month was the Adventurer Fun Day! We left at 5 a.m. Sunday morning, April 29, and returned around 7 p.m. It was a long, tiring day, but the kids had a lot of fun! When asked what they did at Fun Day, Ty Hutchinson, Tyler le Roux, and Aubrie Demler all mentioned the sand crafts they did. They had sand pictures they made and a bottle they filled with layers of different colors of sand. Reilly Gaudin mentioned marching in the parade. Both Reilly and Justin Demler mentioned the outdoor picnic we had for lunch. Elijah le Roux talked about the slide show. When I asked them what their favorite part was, they all said the same thing: “The movie” (Justin), “the story of creation about the animals” (Ty), “when it rained” (Aubrie), “[and] thundered” (Tyler & Reilly), “and there was a volcano” (Elijah) by “the guy with the cowboy hat” (Tyler). To clarify, it was a slide show by Rich Aguileria, showing the evidence, or lack thereof, for Evolution vs. Creation. To be honest, I think that was my favorite part too! In addition to those activities, the kids played games, listened to stories, and colored pictures. Each club set up a booth with pictures, crafts and awards they had done from that year. It was really neat to go around the different tables and get ideas for next year! At our next meeting, I took a little poll consisting of three questions:

1. Did you have fun at Adventurer Fun Day?
2. Do you want to go again next year?
3. Would you like your friends to go with you?

Everyone answered yes to each question. We all can’t wait for next year!
What is our church garden? We have been called a club, a hobby, and a group of people who just like to grow their own food. To give a true answer as to what the church garden is, we must look to our Lord Jesus and our Father God to answer that question. Genesis 1:11,12; 2:5-8. In the first two pages of the Bible, we see that God intended us all to be farmers. God planted our first garden for us in the east of Eden, and He fully intended us to work and till the ground. Now in no way am I suggesting that we all become farmers, yet what I am trying to say is that our Lord intended all of us to stay close to agriculture. We all know the many parables throughout the Old and New Testament that teach us using farming and agriculture. It was not until my parents’ generation that we have an overabundance of people who know nothing about agriculture. We all remember our grandparents growing some kind of food, whether it was a tomato plant, grape vines, or orchard trees. Just in the last 80 years, with the rise of technology and a grocery store on every corner, most people don’t grow their own food.

We also have no time . . . . I cannot tell you how much I hear, “We have no time for a garden.” This is unfortunately true for many in our church family. Yet that does not mean you can’t grow your own food. There are many ways to be able to accomplish this task without digging up your yard or spend time weeding. The point I am trying to make is this: we are in the time of the toes. Our Lord is coming quickly to take us home, yet in the mean time we are still here, getting ready to face a time of trouble like the world has never seen. Church Family, as much as I hate to say this, we will NOT BE ABLE to BUY, SELL OR TRADE for anything. It is time to prepare. The Church Garden is a mission of love to our church family and an outreach tool to share the word of our Lord with people in need. Jesus gave us many examples of how to care for His flock before you share or teach the word of God, which is the ultimate goal.

"Life will only work out successfully one way, and that is God’s way.”
- Leslie Weatherhead
Revivals brought deep heart searching and humility. They were characterized by solemn, earnest appeals to the sinner, by yearning compassion for the purchase of the blood of Christ. Men and women prayed and wrestled with God for the salvation of souls. The fruits of such revivals were seen in souls who shrank not at self-denial and sacrifice, but rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer reproach and trial for the sake of Christ. Men beheld a transformation in the lives of those who had professed the name of Jesus. The community was benefited by their influence....

This is the result of the work of the Spirit of God. There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. If he restores the pledge, give again that he had robbed, confess his sins, and love God and his fellow men, the sinner may be sure that he has found peace with God. Such were the effects that in former years followed seasons of religious awakening. Judged by their fruits, they were known to be blessed of God in the salvation of men and the uplifting of humanity.

- True Revival: The Church’s Greatest Need
by Ellen G. White, pg. 18
NAS Spring Concert

On Thursday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m., NAS students will present a musical play called the *The Binding Tale of Beethoven's Bookworms*. Come and learn more about the composer who changed his place of residence more than 70 times, was arrested because his hair and clothes were so messy, and whose funeral had 20,000 attendees. The chosen BOOKWORMS of NAS live in the texts of the school library, and they will tell you what they have found while they digested the pages of the books in the school library. Come meet the greatest composer of all times, Mr. B.

May 7-11 is Teacher Appreciation Week!

The Sky’s the Limit at Niles Adventist School!

School Round-Up
Thursday, May 10
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Prospective Pre-K (age 4 by September 15) through 8th grade students are invited to student visitation day at NAS. Students can come meet the teacher, participate in classes, make new friends, and get a free lunch!

Please RSVP to 269-683-5444 or secretary@nilesadventistschool.org.

Parent Meeting
6 p.m.

Parents are invited to an informational meeting that evening, where they will learn more about the school, teachers, benefits of multi-grade classrooms, and the enrollment process. There will be a drawing for free registration fee, and activities for the kids.

SchoolStore.com: Now you can support NAS when you shop online. Go to www.schoolstore.com, and search for “Niles SDA School,” then click on Merchants to see which online stores will donate a portion of your purchase to the school. Go to the store’s web site (via SchoolStore) to purchase your items.
Upcoming NAS Events

Basketball Game - Thursday, May 3, 6 p.m.

School Round-Up - Thursday, May 10, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Parent Meeting - Thursday, May 10, 6 p.m.

Spring Concert - Thursday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Soccer Game - Thursday, May 24, 6 p.m.

Spring Picnic - Friday, May 25

Memorial Day (No School) - Monday, May 28

Kindergarten Graduation - Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. (gym)

8th Grade Graduation - Thursday, May 31, 6:30 p.m. (church)

Last Day of School (noon dismissal) - Friday, June 1

Gift Card Fundraising

Contact the school office for the complete list of gift cards available for your favorite restaurants, shops, hotels, and even airlines. The next orders are due on May 7 & 21. We do keep a number of gift cards on hand, including Walmart, Meijer, GFS, Speedway, Marathon, Shell, and Olive Garden.

The school has made over $600 so far this school year, just by people buying gift cards through us at face value. This is an easy way to help the students and school!
May Calendar of Events

1st
- Elders Meeting ............... 7 p.m.
- Midweek Manna .............. 7 p.m.

2nd
- Pathfinders (gym) .......... 6:30 p.m.
- Praise Prayer Meeting (Philadelphia Church) ... 7 p.m.

5th
- David Penno, Speaker ....... 8:30 & 11 a.m.

6th
- Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ........ 8 a.m.
- Nominating Committee Meeting ........ 8 a.m.
- Cardmaking Class ........... 2:30 p.m.
- Herzberg Baby Shower (gym) .......... 5 p.m.

7th
- Women’s Bible Study .......... 10:30 a.m.
- Adventurers (gym) ............. 6 p.m.

8th
- School Board Meeting .......... 7 p.m.
- Midweek Manna ............... 7 p.m.

9th
- Pathfinders (gym) ........... 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Meeting ............... 7 p.m.

10th
- Niles Adventist School Round-Up ...... 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Parent Meeting (NAS) .......... 6 p.m.

11th
- Adventurer/Pathfinder Investiture ........ 6 p.m.

12th
- Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker ...... 8:30 & 11 a.m.
- Fellowship Lunch (gym) ....... after 2nd svc
- Sunshine Band at Riveridge Manor ...... 2:30 p.m.
- Bonfire/Volleyball Social (woods/gym)... 7:30 p.m.

13th
- Happy Mother’s Day
  - Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) .......... 8 a.m.
  - Women’s Bible Study ........ 10:30 a.m.
  - Adventurers (gym) .............. 6 p.m.

14th
- Baptismal Class (NAS) .......... 6 p.m.

15th
- VBS Meeting ................. 6 p.m.
- Finance Committee ............ 7 p.m.
- Midweek Manna ............... 7 p.m.

16th
- Pathfinders (gym) ........... 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Meeting ............... 7 p.m.

17th
- NAS Spring Concert (gym) ...... 6:30 p.m.

18-20
- Pathfinder Fair (Camp Au Sable)

19th
- Joseph Kidder, Speaker ....... 8:30 & 11 a.m.

20th
- Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ........ 8 a.m.
- Women’s Night Out - Aladdin’s Eatery ...... 5:30 p.m.

21st
- Newsletter Items Due
  - Adventurers (gym) .............. 6 p.m.
  - Baptismal Class (NAS) .......... 6 p.m.

22nd
- Church Board Meeting .......... 7 p.m.
- Midweek Manna ............... 7 p.m.

23rd
- Pathfinders (gym) ........... 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Meeting ............... 7 p.m.

26th
- Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker ...... 8:30 & 11 a.m.
- Couples’ Corner ................ 4:30 p.m.

27th
- Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ........ 8 a.m.
- Bob Pfeifle Memorial Service ...... 3 p.m.

28th
- Memorial Day - No School at NAS

29th
- Midweek Manna ............... 7 p.m.

30th
- NAS Kindergarten Graduation (gym) .......... 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Meeting ............... 7 p.m.

31st
- NAS 8th Grade Graduation .......... 6:30 p.m.

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Niles Westside News

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