Praise & Dedication Service for Our Church Renovation

We warmly invite you, especially if you have been a member of Niles Westside, to participate in our special dedication service on Sabbath, August 18. A special breakfast is planned in the Niles Adventist School gym at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a chair to sit in at breakfast, since most of the church and school’s chairs will be at the church. A “walk over” to the newly renovated sanctuary is scheduled for around 10:45 a.m. Come share, with prayer and praise for God’s wonderful providence, in our special dedication service.

When undertaking such a large project, even with the best plans, unforeseen things happen that could help to develop “the patience of the saints.” One of the unknown happenings in this project is that the pew fabric is back ordered at the fabric mill. The fabric should be available at the beginning of October, and we will have our pews fitted in the sanctuary toward the end of October/first of November. Even without the pews, however, the renovated sanctuary will be beautiful! The church board took an action to purchase some more comfortable black chairs to use in the sanctuary until the pews are completed. We will also need to supplement with chairs from the school. After the pews arrive, we plan to use the black chairs in the Sabbath School classrooms, for future evangelism, and at school functions. We believe that this is a good investment for the future.

Currently we anticipate completing this project below the $180,000 projection. We have many people to thank for this, but right now we are most grateful to Jason Hippler, who is coordinating the physical implementation of this project. If you have skilled experience in any area that you believe could assist us with renovating the church, please don’t hesitate to let Jason or Pastor Darrel know of your availability, as there are other projects that need to be done after this major project is completed.

We are truly blessed to be a part of this church family, and we anticipate the enjoyment of fellowship and worship together in a renovated sanctuary and “renovated” body of believers. - Pastor Darrel
The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.

In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God’s word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God’s blessing is not bestowed. And by the rule which Christ Himself has given, “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16), it is evident that these movements are not the work of the Spirit of God.

- True Revival: The Church’s Greatest Need
  by Ellen G. White, pg. 19, 20
Kelli Coffen
by Gina Meekma

Kelli Coffen turned twelve in July, and will be a sixth grader at Village Adventist Elementary School this fall. She is the daughter of Ron & Jenni, and has a six-year-old brother, Christopher, who will be in Kindergarten at Niles Adventist School this fall. The Coffens live in Niles.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, Kelli moved with her parents to this area nine years ago. Her parents transferred from Wichita South Adventist Church to Niles Westside in 2004.

Some of Kelli’s interests are drawing, playing sports, electronics, and “family night,” where members of her family take turns choosing something to do that night, such as board games, eating out, playing on a playground, etc.

Kelli was baptized into the Niles Westside Church on June 30 at the end of Junior Camp week at Camp Au Sable by Pastor Alden Ho. She wanted to be baptized because she loves Jesus and wanted to give Him her life. She also wants to show others that He loves them too.

Natasha Makumbe
by Gina Meekma

Natasha Makumbe lives with her mother, Soneni, and her seven-year-old sister, Natalie, in Buchanan. She is eleven and will be in the sixth grade at Niles Adventist School. Her sister Natalie will be a second grader at NAS. Natasha was born in St. Joseph, Michigan. Her mother is originally from Zimbabwe, and transferred to Niles Westside from Pioneer Memorial Church in 2008.

Going to the beach, reading, cooking, and singing are some activities that Natasha enjoys.

Baptized by Dr. Joseph Kidder in Lake Michigan on July 13, Natasha wants to do God’s work, help people, and spread the Good News to everyone. She asks for prayers that she will do God’s will, and for her family.

Victoria Meekma
by Gina Meekma

Victoria “Tori” Meekma was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, and shortly thereafter moved with her parents, Chip & Gina, to Shawnee, Kansas. They moved back to this area in 2003 and have been members of Niles Westside since 2005. Tori will be a sixth grader at Niles Adventist School and is eleven years old. Her brother, Mitchell, is eight. He will be a third grader at NAS. The Meeekmas live in Buchanan.

Activities that Tori enjoys include reading, cooking, sewing, knitting, gardening, riding horses, drawing, and writing.

Tori was also baptized by Dr. Joseph Kidder in Lake Michigan on July 13 because she wanted to make a commitment to follow God.

Welcome to the Niles Westside Church Family, Kelli, Natasha, and Tori!
Vacation Bible School 2012
by Tonya (Hippler) Snyder

The Niles Westside Church’s outreach to the children in the community, VBS, was hosted from July 16-20. In case you weren’t one of the 100 or so volunteers who gave their time to help run this extraordinary event, here is the rundown. Nearly 200 children were asked to pretend that they were captives of Babylon from the twelve tribes of Israel. The audience was conveniently captive in Babylon during the same time as one of the most famous captives of the Old Testament—Daniel. Daily, we heard stories about Daniel’s famous adventures while serving in the king’s court.

These captives were introduced to Babylon from the very beginning as they walked in the church hallway and were greeted by pillars, arches and classic “Babylonian” decor. Song service, led by Denise Kidder and her young praise team, included the theme song for the week, Through It All, among other uplifting favorites. To help set the tone, a short drama was performed by some outstandingly hilarious characters—Chris and Angie Shuler, and Steve Prouty. After that, the groups were divided (by tribes) and sent to various activities by our worship leader, Heidi Beardsley.

Break out activities included snack and tribe time, led by Jenni Coffen; drama by “drama mama” himself, Doug Taylor as Daniel (and his awesome co-star, Jamie Bennett as Ashpenaz); crafts (led out by several “crafty” ladies); and activity time, headed up by Joelle Ashley. The group was then reunited for a final round of songs and a mission highlight by Joseph Kidder, Glenn Russell, and Sarah Burton.

For the week, participants were asked to donate money to send other kids their age in Lebanon to Friendship Camp (like FLAG Camp). It was a wonderful experience for the participants to hear about a country that is located close to where ancient Babylon was located, and to reach out and help those in need around the world. It was close, but the boys ended up winning the “giving competition.” $1,305.75 was donated toward this cause!

Participants ranged in age from almost four to twelve years old. There were numerous preteen and teenage helpers, and they were amazing in all they assisted with. They also provided good examples for the younger children to look up to. A simple thank you is quite inadequate as compared with the copious amount of time and energy that goes into planning and performing this event. When you see them (especially co-leaders Erica Hippler and Gina Meekma), be sure to thank one of the many volunteers that helped out with this event, and sign yourself up to participate next year!

Thank you, Niles Westside, for providing such a quality religious event for our children to participate in and learn more about their Savior!
It’s hard to believe that August is here already! July sped by leaving nothing but heat and a week’s worth of rain. Yet our garden is looking great despite the challenges of this last month. We have some very bittersweet news about one of our gardening families. The Hutchinsons, who have been great supporters of the garden from the beginning, are moving to Ohio. Sam and Laura, your cooking, as well as your contributions to the church, school, and garden will be greatly missed. Maybe you will start your own church/school garden at your new church home next season.

The heat this last month was crippling to most farmers in our area, as well as the rest of the nation, and the national news is calling it one of the worst droughts in history for this regional area. On the other hand, small farmers and home gardens are thriving due to the availability of water. Yet we can still have issues to deal with concerning the heat. Plants can become over stressed because of the heat, which can make them susceptible to disease and insect attacks, such as powdery mildew, tomato blights, and sun scald on peppers. Powdery mildew will attack most vining crops with this much heat. There are many ways to solve this problem, and each gardener will have to choose the best method for themselves. There is a lot of information online and at your local library. Tomato blight is from uneven watering schedules. Now we cannot (for the most part) always predict the rain or how much each of us will receive, so a consistent watering schedule is the best way to prevent this. Over watering as well as under watering is a direct cause of tomato blight, which consists of cracking, splitting and spotting. Sun scald is caused by direct sun on the fruit, which can be easily solved with some cover, such as shade cloth or even mosquito netting, something where the light can still get through but at a much reduced level. The peppers that do get sun scald are not bad. If you allow them to ripen, you can just cut the spot out and the rest of the pepper is consumable. Green beans and peas have already slowed down or stopped all together. Now is a good time to replant, as they both come on so fast you can get two full healthy crops a year.

Our church garden, as well as our own personal gardens, can be used as a powerful tool to opening the door to the sharing of our Lord Jesus. Most all gardens have an over abundance of one or more vegetable that have been planted, and most of us give what we have left over to family and friends, to the school, or an organization. I would like to present a challenge to us all, that is to take our extra abundance and give it to those who live around you in your neighborhood or down the street, give to those you have never met. Put together a basket or bag, add a couple of tracts or just write a positive message from the Word of God.

The impact you can make with such a small gesture could be enormous, even though you may never see it or know it while you are here on this earth. Our Lord promises us that if we will do these things using the tools He has given us, feeding the hungry, or just the simple kindness to a stranger, your garden will produce abundantly for that purpose.

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Niles Caterpillars
Adventurer Club
by Laurel Gaudin

Adventurer (for grades 1-4) and Pathfinder (for grades 5 and up) Registration is on Wednesday, August 15, from 4-6 p.m. during Niles Adventist School’s registration. Hope to see you there!

Niles Westside’s Adventurer Club is in great need of assistant teachers because there is a huge interest in our club, including from other churches. Our teachers will need back-up! If it sounds intimidating, Adventurer Workshop is coming up at Camp Au Sable from August 17-19, and they have wonderful seminars to help give ideas and equip Adventurer leaders for the year ahead.

The Workshop is open to anyone who is interested in attending, whether you are a parent just wanting to see how things work, an individual interested in becoming involved with this ministry but not ready to commit to it yet, or (my personal favorite) someone who is excited and passionate about being involved with Adventurers! Child care is not provided during meetings. The cost is $50/adult, which includes lodging and six meals. Please contact me with any questions at lagaudin@yahoo.com or 269-240-7780, as we need to register for workshop ASAP.

I also want to remind our returning Adventurer families, as well as inform our new families, that Adventurer Family Camp is coming up from September 7-9, and we need to start getting an idea of who will be attending so that we can begin planning for that event.
Welcome New Members!
Kelli Coffen was baptized on June 30 at Camp Au Sable. Natasha Makumbe and Victoria Meekma were baptized in Lake Michigan on July 13.

It’s a Boy! Congratulations to Claudine & Jason Bayles, sisters Claudine, Tina, and Melissa, and brother Charles! Jaden Christopher Bayles was born on July 11. He weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 19 ½ inches long.

It’s a Girl! Jesse & Elizabeth Boomsliter, and big brother Liam, welcomed Charlotte Belle Boomsliter to their family on July 21. She weighed 8 lbs 12 oz. Best wishes!

Farewell to our Friends! Sam, Laura, Ty, Ajay, Tony, and Abby Hutchinson have moved to Mount Vernon Academy, where Sam the new Food Service Director. Their presence and contributions to our church will be greatly missed! Their new address is 527 Wooster Rd., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050.

Our Sympathy to the family and friends of Daniel Q. Minter II. His family wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks to Pastor le Roux, Walt & Carol Williams, Bruce & Linda Bauer, and the Niles Westside Adventist Church for their prayers, encouraging visits and songs during their precious husband/father/grandfather’s illness. He fell asleep for the final time on Sabbath, June 30, surrounded by his entire family as they sang hymns. They look forward to that great day when Jesus comes back when they can be reunited with him. A memorial service at the Niles Westside Church will be announced at a later date. - Leslie Dowell (daughter) & Dan Minter (son)

Nominated Positions:
School Board - Home & School Leader: Staci Fagal
School Board Member-at-Large: JB Garrett (complete 2010-2013 term)

Fellowship Lunch: Sabbath, August 11, at Rangeline Park in Berrien Springs (take Old 31 North toward Berrien Springs, turn left on Rangeline Rd., take first right into the park).

Church Renovation Update: We plan to mostly empty the containers and put things back in the church on Sunday, August 12, from 9-11 a.m. Children's SS leaders should also take anything of theirs that is at the school back to the church that day also. We invite all the Sabbath School departments to take this opportunity and get their classrooms in order, even though the classrooms will not be used on August 18. Thank you!

Women’s Night Out: Sunday, August 19, at 5:30 p.m. at Villa Macri (Toscana Park, Granger, IN). Please RSVP to Kathy Dockerty (269-782-8567 or kadockerty@yahoo.com).

Canoeing Social: Sabbath afternoon, August 25. Watch for more details and a sign-up sheet from the Social Committee.

Mark Your Calendar:
- Sabbath, September 8 - Outdoor Church at Adventist Frontier Mission (Rangeline Road, Berrien Springs)
- Sabbath, September 22 - Communion (one service)

Vegetarian Labels: Niles Westside recently turned in 800 Worthington, Loma Linda, and Morningstar labels and earned $40, and 475 Cedar Lake labels, which brought in $23.75, for a grand total of $63.75. These funds are for Sabbath School Investment, which has started new mission projects in the US. Benton Harbor has been a recipient in the past. Thank you for taking the time to clip the bar codes. - Carol Williams

“God has given us two hands: one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.”
- Billy Graham
Mrs. Jenni Coffen
Afternoon Pre-K & Kindergarten Teacher

NAS welcome Mrs. Coffen to our staff of dedicated teachers!

Mrs. Coffen grew up in Bloomingdale, Michigan. After graduating from Andrews University in 1995, she moved to Spencerville, Maryland, where she taught for three years. A wonderful bonus of moving to Maryland was that she met Ron Coffen—they attended the same young adult Sabbath School class. They married in 1996, and in 1998, they moved to Wichita, Kansas, where Ron completed a psychology internship, and she taught until their daughter Kelli was born. They moved to Niles in 2003 and became members at Niles Westside in 2004. A son, Christopher, joined their family in 2006. In her spare time, Mrs. Coffen enjoys walking, reading, vacationing in nature, and spending time with family and friends.

What Mrs. Coffen most enjoys about teaching is the way a class becomes a family, and the opportunities to get to know the students and their families. She also loves being able to be creative and present lessons in a fun, engaging way. She is humbled by the opportunity to be involved in young people’s lives and touch their lives for eternity. Mrs. Coffen says she is very honored and excited to be part of the NAS family!

School supply lists are on our web site under the classroom links.

Sign up for our gift card fundraiser program! Get more information at registration and at www.shopwithscrip.com.

Upcoming NAS Events

Registration - Wednesday, August 15, 4-6 p.m.

School Board Meeting - Wednesday, August 15, 7 p.m.

First Day of School - Monday, August 20, 8:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Free Breakfast!

Teacher Dedication - Sabbath, August 25

Labor Day Weekend (No School) - August 31 & September 3
August Calendar of Events

1st       Praise Prayer Meeting (Philadelphia Church) . . 7 p.m.
4th       Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker (1 svc) ......... 11 a.m.
5th       Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............. 8 a.m.
5-8th     Teachers Convention (TN)
6th       Church Board Meeting (school) ............... 7 p.m.
7th       Elders Meeting (school) ....................... 7 p.m.
8-12th    Outdoor Adventure Youth Trip
11th      Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker (1 svc) ......... 11 a.m.
Fellowship Lunch (Rangeline Park) ............ after 2nd svc
Sunshine Band at Riveridge Manor ............ 2:30 p.m.
12-15th   Pastors at Camp Au Sable for Meetings
12        Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............. 8 a.m.
13th      Women's Bible Study (Childcare provided) . . 12 p.m.
15th      School/Pathfinder/Adventurer Registration . 4-6 p.m.
School Board Meeting (school) ............... 7 p.m.
18th      Breakfast (gym) ............................. 9:30 a.m.
Dedication Praise Service (church) .......... 10:45 a.m.
19        Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............. 8 a.m.
Women's Night Out (Villa Macri, Granger) . 5:30 p.m.
Nominating Committee .......................... 7 p.m.
20th      First Day of School at NAS ................. 8:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Newsletter Items Due

1st       Finance Committee .......................... 7 p.m.
2nd       Pathfinders (gym) .......................... 6:30 p.m.
25th      Ivor Meyer, Speaker ...................... 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Teacher Dedication ............................. 2nd service
Canoeing Social .................................
26th      Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ............. 8 a.m.
27th      Adventurers (gym) .......................... 6 p.m.
28th      Church Board Meeting ...................... 7 p.m.
29th      Pathfinders (gym) .......................... 6:30 p.m.
31st      No School at NAS (Labor Day Weekend)

Niles Westside News