Sabbath, September 8

Speaker: Ron Whitehead
(well-known youth speaker/leader from the Center for Youth Evangelism)

Place: Adventist Frontier Missions
(10652 Rangeline Rd., Berrien Springs)

Time: 10 a.m. – afternoon/evening

Bring: Comfortable chair/blanket & food for fellowship meal

Wear: Casual clothes

More Info: Contact Pastor Darrel – 269-605-7895
In the truths of His word, God has given to men a revelation of Himself; and to all who accept them they are a shield against the deceptions of Satan. It is a neglect of these truths that has opened the door to the evils which are now becoming so widespread in the religious world. The nature and the importance of the law of God have been, to a great extent, lost sight of. A wrong conception of the character, the perpetuity, and the obligation of the divine law has led to errors in relation to conversion and sanctification, and has resulted in lowering the standard of piety in the church. Here is to be found the secret of the lack of the Spirit and power of God in the revivals of our time. .

- True Revival: The Church’s Greatest Need
  by Ellen G. White, pg. 20

Renovating a House of Prayer

Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves. Mark 11:17

Stealing what belongs to God! Leadership and church members stealing from God? What and for whom is the purpose of coming to church? What happens at church in our conversations and interactions, even our prayers? A den of thieves is a very strong expression! Making the sacred sacrifice a mundane and common practice and focusing on the exchange of money, the price of doves and the guilt of having to pay more to get the best peace all stole from every worshiper the core understanding of whom God truly is: Mercy, Love and Grace! In our sophistication, we pride ourselves that we are way beyond the den of thieves! Are we when our conversations are mostly not about God but about ourselves? Are we really not stealing from God when, even in a renovated church, we practice the same aggression (actively or passively) toward those we avoid? We just steal in a sophisticated way (‘Let’s play the Devil’s advocate in Sabbath School.’) from what God should be the focus of.

A house of prayer is a place where God is the focus and where He is freely accessible to all nations. A house of prayer has no jealousy, pride or self-righteous distractions. A house of prayer is a place where the soul can find its desire fulfilled through contact with its creator. No racism, xenophobia or hatred toward another that erects barriers that prayer for all nations ought to dismantle. Jesus did not even let others use the temple as a shortcut to carry any vessel through (Mark 11:16) as prayer is more important than anything.

I have been convicted that we need more prayer than ever before, and during our renovation process I have a desire for more prayer from myself, my family, my church family and God’s will to be done through His Spirit. So every Tuesday evening between 6-7 p.m., I will be in the House of Prayer seeking the Lord for His blessings. If you wish to join me for five minutes to 30 minutes and plead with the Lord for His mercy, grace and love, I invite you to join me anytime on Tuesday evenings.

May God’s house truly become a House of Prayer for all nations!

Blessed Blessings, Pastor Darrel

Church Renovation Update

Thanks to everyone who has, and is still continuing, their contributions to this project financially, physically or prayerfully. We are almost there! We hope to have the sanctuary as complete as possible after our Outdoor Church Experience at AFM and ready for the 15th of September. The only thing we will be waiting for is the pews that are scheduled to arrive at the end of October. The Lord has been good to us as we have gone through a major renovation.

Some of you have asked, “Why did we have a dedication service before we were complete?” The dedication service was for our re-entrance into the place that we have previously dedicated to the Lord already. We had only one historic opportunity to walk over from the gym for the very first time, and wanted it to be a dedication of our lives as the building had already been dedicated. We will enjoy a special ‘Thanksgiving’ service when it is all completed.

Please continue to pray, not just for the project, but for our personal renovated living.

- Pastor Darrel
Meet Our New Member

Lucas Family
by Gina Meekma

Teressa Lucas and her twins, Brian and Emily (age 5), recently moved back to Niles, where Teressa grew up. She lived in Buchanan for eleven years, and transferred her membership to Niles Westside from the Paw Paw, Michigan, Adventist Church in April.

Teressa enjoys coming to Niles Westside. Emily and Brian have really enjoyed Sabbath school and are excited about having new friends at Niles Adventist School, where they are in Kindergarten.

Teressa, Brian, and Emily enjoy spending time together and with family and friends, as well as with their cats Buttercup and Junior. Teressa attended Niles Adventist School from 2nd - 8th grade. Her sisters, Melody Edwards and Dawna Luzadder, are also Westside members.

Welcome to the Niles Westside Church Family, Lucas Family!

Niles Caterpillars Adventurer Club
by Laurel Gaudin

We are so excited that Adventurers has started! This year is going to be even more fun than last year. Laurel Gaudin, Louise Demler, Susan Sluiter, and Tami le Roux are our returning staff. They are joined this year by Gina Meekma, Jenn Cook, Keegan Murphy, Linda Murphy, Melanie Taylor, and Nicole Gray, who are our new staff. We gratefully welcome them!

Our first meeting was a lot of fun. We played games and got to know each other and our new teachers. We have twenty-one kids registered so far, and several more that have expressed interest. It’s exciting to see our group growing! So far we have five Eager Beavers (Kindergarten), five Busy Bees (1st Grade), two Sunbeams (2nd Grade), four Builders (3rd Grade), and five Helping Hands (4th Grade). We are happily accepting new members, so it’s not too late to sign up. Our next meeting is Monday, September 10, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The Michigan Conference Adventurer Family Camp is September 7–9, so if you are interested in going to that please let me know ASAP. We have six families planning to go!

Our Adventurer Family Blessing Service will be on Friday, September 28, at 6 p.m. This is a beautiful service where we follow the example of the Israelite fathers and place a blessing on our children to open the Sabbath. The blessing includes the qualities we appreciate about our children, as well as our hopes for their present and future. Each family has the opportunity to bless their children, and then the church family is invited to join in the commitment to nurture our families and children. This year we will be having a potluck and fellowship with our Blessing service as well. Please bring food and join us at the Family Blessing Service, and pray God’s blessing on our families as they commit themselves again to each other and to our Lord.

Upcoming Church & School Events

Pathfinder Camporee - September 14-16 at Camp Au Sable

Michigan Blood Drive - Thursday, October 18, from 2-7 p.m. at NAS Gym

NAS Fall Festival - Sunday, October 28, from 4-7 p.m. at NAS Gym

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection Week - November 12-19 at NAS Gym

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Photo by Michael Jakobsons

Prayer Meetings
Starting again in the Sanctuary with the 1st week of September, 5th at 7 p.m., with the 1st Prayer & Praise interaction with the Philadelphia Church in our new Sanctuary. We will continue each after that with a journey through prophecy, between Daniel & Revelation, with Pastor Darrel le Roux.

Don’t tell God how big your problem is. Tell your problem how big your God is.  
- Owen Orr

Outdoor Youth Adventure Trip
by Fred Boothby

The Youth Group from Niles Westside Adventist Church left early Wednesday morning on August 8 for a five-day Outdoor Adventure Trip. Those five days were packed with adventures including rock-climbing, caving, and swimming in waterfalls, with trip stops including Sandrock, AL; Trenton, GA; and Foster Falls, TN.

In all, twenty-five people went including youth and staff. This year’s Outdoor Adventure Trip was similar to the trip taken two years ago with the addition of the caving opportunity being added to this year’s trip.

Last year the youth took a three-day trip to Devil’s Lake State Park, WI. Each Outdoor Adventure Trip gives youth the opportunity to have fun experiencing and exploring nature in new and exciting ways. In addition to having fun and staying safe, a primary focus is to provide youth with a high impact spiritual experience as well. This year’s morning and evening worship thoughts focused on character development. On Sabbath morning, the youth flooded the small community church of New England, GA. Each year provides a new opportunity to explore and experience new adventures.
Church Family News

**House of Prayer Time:** Starting in September, between 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, the church will be open just for prayer. Normally there is a meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., and Pastor Darrel invites anyone who wishes to embrace this time for corporate prayer, from personal needs to evangelism in February - anything pressing within the soul. You may wish to come in for five minutes as you pass by or take that hour to pour out your soul to God.

**Baptisms:** On Sabbath, September 15, at 5 p.m., Linda & Michael Murphy will be baptized at the church.

**Communion:** Sabbath, September 22. We will only have one service, at 11 a.m. as we celebrate together.

**New Church Officers:** School Board: Jason Hippler (2012-2015) and Melanie Taylor (complete 2010-2013 term); Safety Committee: Tom Stiles, Leader; Head Elder: Sue Fattic; Head Deacon: Fred Hebard; Plant Administration Leader; Pastor Darrel le Roux; Pathfinders: Director: Marlin Sluiter. Deputy Directors: Janessa Howell, April Hughes (Village Church Member); Deaconess: Jacquelyn Barney; Deacon: Donovan Bredenkamp

**Women’s Night Out:** Sunday, September 16, at 5:30 p.m. at Ho Ping Chinese Restaurant (on 933 in Roseland). Please RSVP to Kathy Dockerty (269-782-8567 or kadockerty@yahoo.com).

**Ice Cream & Scavenger Hunt Social:** Saturday, September 22, starting with vespers at 7:15 in the gym. Bring your favorite ice cream topping. Ice cream is provided. We will also have fun with a scavenger hunt.

**The Annual Niles 4 Flags CROP Hunger Walk** will be on Sunday, September 23. Please contact Esther Jones (269-845-5770 or occesther@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a walker or if you would like to sponsor a walker this year. Thank you for your efforts in relieving hunger locally and around the world. So far, the following people are walking and could use sponsors: Stan & Sandy Smith; Randy & Leslie Dowell; Prouty Family; Denise & Joe Kidder; Hippler Family; Kathy Dockerty; Koenigshof Family, Pastor Darrel le Roux; Esther & Charles Jones.

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Sex Offenders, the Church & Our School

With the recent story that many of you may have read in the newspapers concerning Leslie Anthony and an incident that happened on the school premises during summer vacation, we want to draw your attention to the following facts and invite everyone to collaborate together for our children’s protection.

In Leslie Anthony’s instance, he was arrested for a number of things, and the top of the list was the fact that he never registered, notified his community or any of the church or school leadership, that he had a record as a sex offender. The incident that occurred was during the school’s summer vacation at a church training event which Leslie attended. He was reported to the police by the minor’s parent as having indecently exposed himself. He was incarcerated immediately for these and other offenses.

As a church, we totally condemn such behavior and have taken disciplinary action against Leslie, who at that time had been a member for six months. The church board has recommended to the next church business meeting, where this action can only take place, to discontinue his membership in the Seventh-day Adventist church. We are also supporting the victimized family through their ordeal.

In collaborating together for our children’s safety, please note the following:

1. Those who regularly work with children in the school and church (teachers/aides/children’s Sabbath School leaders/Adventurer & Pathfinder leaders, or anyone nominated to work with kids 0-15 years) undergo background checks every three years.

2. We appeal to all parents to know where, and who, your child is with at all times.

3. We appeal to all adults to keep an eye on our kids as they grow up as part of our church and school family.

4. Don’t leave your home without asking for the Lord’s protection for you and your family for that day.

We invite you to contact the church or school leadership if you have any other concerns or need clarity on anything mentioned here.

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Carolyn Baltazar
New Art & Spanish Teacher

**NAS is happy to welcome Mrs. Baltazar to our staff!**

Carolyn Baltazar was born in Canada, but lived most of her life in Florida. After many years of sunshine and the beach, she decided that she was tired of not having seasons, and headed to Union College in Nebraska to do her undergraduate degree. While she was there, the opportunity to head over the ocean to go to school in Spain came up, and so she left and studied at the Adventist College in Sagunto, Spain, from 2005-2006, and then again in 2008 for an additional semester. It was there that she met her Portuguese husband, Tiago, who was studying at the seminary.

Carolyn had originally been an Art Education major, but was not yet ready to go into teaching (as all of her family members are also teachers!). Carolyn changed her major to Spanish, and she graduated from Union College in May 2008 with a BA in Spanish and minors in Art and Religion.

Tiago and Carolyn were married in July 2008, and two weeks later moved up to Berrien Springs. Tiago went to school at Andrews University, and Carolyn brought home the paycheck for three years. It was while she was working as an Administrative Assistant, and taking her free classes at Andrews University, that she re-found her love for teaching. She finally acknowledged that God put this desire on her heart for a reason, and so she started taking Elementary Education classes again.

Last year God took them to Greenwood, Indiana, for Tiago to do his internship in School Psychology. Carolyn was blessed to find a job working as a Special Education Paraprofessional at a public elementary school there, and learned a LOT. The experiences she had teaching there strengthened her desire to be a teacher, and so she will be starting a Teaching Certification Program in October 2012.

This summer, through some strange and very obvious God-influenced events, Tiago was offered a job in Berrien Springs, and they moved back up here. The job posting at Niles Adventist School was sent to her in an email from a friend. Since it looked like such a perfect fit, and that God was answering her prayers, she couldn’t ignore it and immediately sent in her resume to be considered for the two positions.

Working at a public school did teach Carolyn a lot, but at the end of the day she would always come home and be so frustrated that she could not talk about God to the kids who really needed to hear about Him. Her real desire was to work at an Adventist school, and she is thrilled and humbled that out of all the applicants, NAS chose her! Carolyn has a lot of fun things planned for this year, and can’t wait to see what God has in store, not just for her, but also for all the kids/families/staff at Niles Adventist School.

Carolyn’s passions include pottery, teaching, camping, reading, and seeking after God in creative new ways.
September NAS Events

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

Parent Meeting - Thursday, September 6, 6 p.m.

Potluck Supper & Worship at Weko Beach - Friday, September 7, 6 p.m.

School Board Meeting - Tuesday, September 11, 7 p.m.

Career Day - Thursday, September 20

Fall Spirit Week - September 24-28

Fall Picnic - Friday, September 28

6th Grade NAS Music at Niles Westside - Saturday, September 29, at 11 a.m. Service

Scrip Gift Cards: We keep some gift cards on hand, such as Walmart (save 10¢ through the end of December on gas with plastic gift cards, but not the ScripNow! eCards), Target (reloadable), Meijer, Speedway (reloadable), Marathon, Olive Garden, and Panera. Many other cards can be ordered, and there are also a number of cards available as eCards. Please contact the school office for more info, or go to www.ShopWithScrip.com, and use our code AL8ELD988L1 to sign up to order online. It’s easy to pay online also, using your bank account with PrestoPay. This is a great way to help the school earn money for different projects!

RADA Cutlery Fundraiser

NAS students are selling RADA Cutlery! Check out all RADA has to offer by seeing a catalog at the school or visiting www.radacutlery.com/fundraising and clicking on the catalog link towards the bottom of the page. You will find a wide selection of kitchen cutlery (knives), utensils, stoneware, cookbooks, soy wax candles, and quick mixes, all at an affordable price. Proceeds go to support Home and School activities and projects such as bathroom updates, Fall Festival, pancake breakfasts, etc. To order, please contact Erin Dockerty (who really, really likes her own RADA knives) at 269-487-8313 or erinlindockerty@yahoo.com or stop into the school office to take a look at a knife or catalog. This fundraiser runs from September 6 - 21. Don’t miss your opportunity to support your school!
September Calendar of Events

1st  Joseph Kidder, Speaker. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
2nd  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). 8 a.m.
3rd  **Labor Day - No School at NAS**
4th  House of Prayer Time. 6-7 p.m.
     Elders Meeting. 7 p.m.
     Midweek Manna. 7 p.m.
5th  Praise Prayer Meeting (Philadelphia Church). 7 p.m.
6th  NAS Parent Meeting (school). 6 p.m.
7th  Potluck, Worship & Baptism - Weko Beach. 6 p.m.
7-9th Adventurer Family Camp (Au Sable)
8th  Outdoor Church (AFM). 10 a.m.
     Ron Whitehead, Speaker (AFM) - 1 svc
     Fellowship Lunch (AFM). after 2nd svc
     Sunshine Band at Riveridge Manor. 2:30 p.m.
9th  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). 8 a.m.
10th Adventurers (gym). 6 p.m.
11th House of Prayer Time. 6-7 p.m.
     School Board Meeting (school). 7 p.m.
     Midweek Manna. 7 p.m.
12th Pathfinders (gym). 6:30 p.m.
     Prayer Meeting. 7 p.m.
14-16th Pathfinder Camporee (Camp Au Sable)
15th  Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
     Murphy Baptisms. 5 p.m.
16th  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). 8 a.m.
     Women’s Night Out (Ho Ping, Roseland). 5:30 p.m.
17th  Women’s Bible Study. 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
     Adventurers (gym). 6 p.m.
18th  House of Prayer Time. 6-7 p.m.
     Finance Committee Meeting. 7 p.m.
     Midweek Manna. 7 p.m.
19th  Pathfinders (gym). 6:30 p.m.
     Prayer Meeting. 7 p.m.
22nd  Communion - 1 svc. 11 a.m.
     Vespers, Ice Cream & Scavenger Hunt Social. 7:15 p.m.
23rd  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). 8 a.m.
     Niles Four Flags CROP Walk
24th  **Newsletter Items Due**
     Adventurers (gym). 6 p.m.
25th  House of Prayer Time. 6-7 p.m.
     Church Board Meeting. 7 p.m.
     Midweek Manna. 7 p.m.
26th  Pathfinders (gym). 6:30 p.m.
     Prayer Meeting. 7 p.m.
28th  Potluck & Adventurer Family Blessing Svc (gym). 6 p.m.
29th  Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
     Music by NAS
30th  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park). 8 a.m.

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**September 2012**

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**SERVICES**

- **First Worship Service**
  Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.
- **Second Worship Service**
  Saturdays, 11 a.m.
- **House of Prayer Time**
  Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
- **Sabbath School**
  Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.
- **Midweek Manna**
  Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- **Prayer Meeting**
  Wednesdays, 7 p.m.