Niles Four Flags Pathfinder Club May Events
by April Hughes

The Pathfinder Club has a busy May in store as we begin to wrap things up this year. We would like to remind you to please come and support the Pathfinders by attending the annual Dinner Under the Stars Fundraiser. Join us for delicious meal on Sunday, May 5, from 4-6 p.m. in the school gym. The menu includes a baked potato bar with a variety of fixings, gluten-free barbeque soy curls, salad, dessert, and more. There will also be kid-friendly options such as macaroni and cheese and “ants on a log.” Tickets cost $7 per person for ages six and older, $2 per person for ages 3-5, and children under three years old are free. Please RSVP by calling Janessa Howell at 269-240-7112 or via email: niles4flagspathfinderclub@gmail.com.

We would also love to see our church family join us for Investiture at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 10, at the church. Investiture is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of all of the kids in Eager Beavers, Adventurers, and Pathfinders. The Pathfinders have been working throughout the year on many activities that are designed to build their character through Bible study, community service, nature study, and more. The evening will include worship, a challenge to the youth, and the presentation of insignia (pins, honors, awards, etc.). We encourage you to attend and show your support for all of our youth.

The Pathfinder Club will be heading to the Michigan Pathfinder Fair at Camp Au Sable from May 17-19. We have been so blessed to have the support of the church with food donations to help defray the cost in the past. Thank you for your generous support again. A "Pathfinder Food Needs List" has been sent out via email. If you are able to donate food items, please do so by following the directions in the email. Please send a confirmation to Deputy Director April Hughes at fuzzy_bear2004@yahoo.com (or call 269-462-1662) so that the list can be updated.

In anticipation of the Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee in 2014, we have scheduled an information meeting on Wednesday, May 22, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the gym. It may seem too early to have a meeting such as this. However, we plan on purchasing tickets for this event this coming fall (before they sell out). As a result, the Pathfinder staff feels it is very important to meet with parents and discuss the Camporee, costs, scheduled fundraisers, and more. The end of the meeting will focus on a family night with games and refreshments. We are asking that parents plan on attending this meeting with their Pathfinder. This meeting is also for parents with children that are planning to join Pathfinders this coming fall or in fall of 2014, if you are interested in having your child attend Camporee. Questions? Please email niles4flagspathfinderclub@gmail.com.

We want to give a huge thank you to all of you for your continued support throughout the year! The club is blessed to have such a wonderful church family.
Racing to Grow

Everything is racing to grow this Spring! With the right temperature, sunlight and moisture, every plant takes all the opportunity to maximize its total development. It’s as if every plant instinctively recognizes that winter is over.

Spiritual winters can end too, with the right hot temperature (no lukewarmness anymore), Son-light (from the Son of righteousness) and the moisture from the Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit. Imagine the opportunity every Christian can take to maximize their growth with God’s Spiritual Spring.

Peter cheers on this maximizing growth when he ends his letter with, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ . . . ” 2 Peter 3:18. We are designed for constant growth.

Take the opportunity to grow now and turn on your temperature for spiritual things as you bask in the Son-light and soak in the Latter Rain this spring.

Blessed blessings.

Pastor Darrel

Niles Caterpillars Adventurer Club News
by Laurel Gaudin

April was a very busy month for Adventurers! We finished our curriculum on April 15. On April 21, we sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts at Advance Auto Parts in Niles. A great big thank you to those who came out to buy them, and to the guys at Advance Auto Parts who allowed us to use their sidewalk. We raised nearly $300! We have a few of the doughnut certificates left if anyone would like to purchase them. On April 22, we earned our First Aid Helper award. Thank you to Erica Hippler for teaching the award, and to Nevaeh and Hævann Hippler, who assisted her. We also have a special thank you to Don Hughes and Josh Kay from SMCAS, who brought an ambulance to the school so the kids could visit an emergency facility and find out what types of emergencies they treat. The kids really enjoyed getting to go through the ambulance and the "elevator ride" on the stretcher. I hope you will come out to Investiture on Friday, May 10, at 6 p.m. when the kids will receive the pins they have earned all year!

April 28 rounded out our month with Adventurer Fun Day. Four families made the early morning trip to Great Lakes Adventist Academy and joined Adventurer families from all over Michigan, totaling more than 400 people in attendance! The day started with a parade which parents, especially those who had just finished a long drive, were grateful for because it burned off some of that extra energy. After the parade, we listened to a story told by an Indian Chief who looked a lot like Pastor Ken Micheff. Then the clubs were split into four different groups represented by a creature from nature. It was appropriate that the Niles Caterpillars were Butterflies for the day. The groups rotated between four stations. There was an interactive Bible story, and we became the children of Israel. We left Egypt and passed through the Red Sea with strict instructions not to touch the walls of water so they wouldn’t fall down on us. Then we traveled through the dessert eating manna and drinking water from a rock before arriving at the border of Canaan. At the next station, Dr. Atkins taught us about rocks, how to classify them, and what the different kinds of rocks can be used for. We even got to hold the rocks, and one brave Pathfinder who was helping out tasted a rock, which happened to be pure salt! The sun came out just in time for lunch, and we were able to enjoy a picnic lunch on the lawn. (continued on page 5)
Meet Our New Member

April Hughes
by April Hughes

April Hughes has lived in Michigan most of her life. Her family lived in the Cayman Islands for a few years because her dad was a pastor. They moved back to Niles in the mid 1990s. She has been living in Niles for the last 17 years.

Since she has been actively involved with the Niles Four Flags Pathfinder Club for a while, April has been coming to the Niles Westside church on and off over the years and attending other church social events. This year she began attending more frequently and decided to transfer her membership.

April is a Marketing Coordinator at the Cass District Library. Her favorite hobby is reading. She enjoys camping, walking, and working with kids. When she has time, April also likes making cards, paper quilling, and occasionally knitting.

Welcome to the Niles Westside family, April!

Guests in God’s House
by Dorothea Sarli
(reprinted from the February 2009 Niles Westside News)

The party. The cold, blustery wind pushes you into the house as the heavy, oak door closes with a gust behind you. You eye with admiration the expansive entryway of this generously appointed home. You have been looking forward to this party for weeks—you’re new in town and hoping to make some friends. You see a pile of coats on a nearby chair, and you add yours to it. Sounds of laughter and talking draw you into the living room where a group of people are enjoying a movie. Since the couches and chairs are occupied, you find a seat on the plush carpet and immerse yourself into the movie. When it’s over, everyone else gathers in little clumps all over the room to laugh and talk. You realize that you are the only one there who doesn’t know anyone. You feel more and more uncomfortable, and finally you find your coat and slip quietly outside.

Could this really happen? I know this story would never happen at your house, but sometimes it happens at God’s house. Is it possible that we could be so distracted with our friends that we neglect our guests? One Westside member described his first few visits to our church. “My wife and I visited the church three weeks in a row and not one person spoke to us. We decided that we would give it just one more try.” Fortunately, someone was friendly that Sabbath, and our church has benefitted from their fellowship and leadership ever since.

Aren’t we a friendly church? Of course we are! Our friendships mean a lot to us, and we make a point to truly connect with our friends at church. We just need to include our guests in the warmth of our circle.

How do we fix this? All we need is for every church member to greet and get to know just one person every Sabbath.

But the greeters already do that. Actually, they don’t. Our greeters are a first-rate team, but they don’t have time to focus their attention on any one person or family. If they did, they would miss others. Guests need someone to get to know them and draw them into our fellowship. Show them the children’s divisions, the rest rooms, invite them to the Saturday night social.

I’m shy. Let someone else do that. Hey—we all feel that way at least sometimes. But being friendly doesn’t usually hurt as badly as you think it’s going to! We need everyone’s help.

What do I say? Just smile, shake her hand and say, "My name is Dorothea, and I don’t think I’ve met you yet." Then you might say, "Is this the first time you’ve come, or do you come frequently?" Find out where they’re from, what they do for work, and just get acquainted. Introduce them to someone else in the church that has similar interests. If you can, invite them home for lunch.

What if it were your daughter? Imagine that your adult daughter lives in a faraway state and hasn’t been to church in many years. One Sabbath morning, she decides to check out the local Adventist church. How would you want those church members to treat her? That’s exactly how we need to treat every guest who comes through our doors.

Let’s do it. Go ahead and start. Next Sabbath. Find one person you don’t know, and introduce yourself. It’s not that hard, and it will make a huge difference to the guests in God’s house.

Welcome Guests
With the smell of spring in the air, now is a great time to choose a book and read it outside. Those of us who love to read know how wonderful it is to curl up in a chair with a good book, but have you tried reading outside in the shade, where a book seems to come alive? With the wind, birds, and insects flying around making the sounds of nature, it is not hard to place yourself in the midst of the stories. And speaking of stories, this next book for the month of May is riveting:

*HIM BIG GOD DAY… and Other Remarkable Sabbath Stories* is a collection of true stories about God’s faithfulness to those who honor His holy day. These stories will take you from the Kalahari Desert to cold and barren prison cells; from tribal wars in Rwanda to military barracks in French Guiana; and from classrooms to family living rooms as they remind you that God blesses those who determine to follow Him. Stanley Maxwell has worked and traveled around the world, gathering stories about the Sabbath and about the God who showers His children with blessings.

Just a reminder that DVDs can only be checked out for one week, and books are for two weeks. You are more than welcome to bring the DVD or book back and renew it for another week if you are not finished with it, but please, for our record keeping, bring it back for renewal. The library is still asking for donations to complete the *Love Comes Softly* series in DVDs and a couple of series in the books for teens.

Recently, the Beyond Books club had a game night. Members brought games from home, and they played a variety of them. One of their favorites was *Apples to Apples, Bible Edition*. They had a great time and hope to do another game night again. An ice cream social was also greatly enjoyed by all members. Dr. and Mrs. Peshka graciously allowed the club to meet in their home. Members all brought a few toppings, and they had fun creating different sundaes with the many creative toppings. Beyond Books will meet again on May 2 and 16, at 3 p.m., at the Niles Westside Church.

---

**Community Garden**

What a change from last year–spring has come in right on time, and it looks like the bad weather is over. But Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana weather can be tricky and deceiving. We could still get a very hard frost and even snow. DON'T plant now–hold off a little longer, at least until May 15, preferably until May 30. That does not include cold weather plants like broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce, which can go in the ground any time in May. Just watch for a frost and make sure you cover them. Small hoop houses work perfectly for this kind of potential late frost, and they are easy to make.

Most of us do not like to use ANY kind of chemical on our soil or plants. One totally natural way to keep the weeds from getting a foothold is to pasteurize (rather than sterilize) your garden or raised bed. When you sterilize something, you are killing off everything and anything remotely alive. This is not always good–there are a lot of nutrients and good microorganism in the soil that your plants need to thrive. By pasteurizing, you are not killing off all microorganisms but eliminating many diseases, weeds, and their seeds. To pasteurize a garden, get two sheets of clear plastic. Lay the first piece down on the ground or over your raised bed touching the soil, then seal the edges all the way around so that no air flows on the soil itself and to create a closed controlled environment. Then place bricks, or something equivalent in size and height, around the garden on the plastic to create a space between the two pieces of plastic. (Do not let the two pieces of plastic to touch anywhere in the garden or raised bed.) Now once the bricks are laid, put the other piece of plastic over the bricks and garden and seal the edges just like the first one. Now just wait. If your garden is in direct bright sun all day long, your garden will be ready in 2-3 weeks. If you only get 6-8 hours of sun each day, then give it 3-4 weeks, maybe even five weeks. Pull out the dead weeds and plant your garden.

The church garden still has lots of room for any families wishing to grow their own food this year. The requirement is simple: you have to have a willingness to grow and care for your garden plot. Room in the garden will be based on the need and size of the family. Each family will be responsible for planting, weeding, caring for and harvesting their own plot. That way they can schedule the best times for them to work in the garden—only care for what you have planted. The only cost is a share in the water cost, which will be based on individual water usage. However, if you do not care for your garden plot, and it becomes overrun with weeds, we will come in and clear the plot space of all plants. If you would like to try your hand in growing your own food, there is plenty of room left. Just call Kerry & Chiare Frazier at 574-271-4229 between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m., and we'll get you started.
Welcome, New Members!

April Hughes from Village Adventist Church, Berrien Springs, MI
Terry Housam was baptized on April 20.

Farewell to Our Member:

Barbara Wright-Bom to Dowagiac Adventist Church, Dowagiac, MI

Our Sympathy to Lorraine Thames and Family on the death of Lori Thames on April 3.

Our Sympathy to the family of Marilyn Duis, who passed away on April 11.

Fellowship Lunch: Sabbath, May 11, in the gym, after second service. Please go to www.perfectpotluck.com and under “Find a Meal,” enter in the following information: Coordinator Last Name: Sowder, and Password: ConVErSe. Then click on “Let’s Go” and choose what item you plan to bring. Click on the line available under that item, then enter the name of the dish you will bring. Then enter your name and e-mail address on that line and click on “sign up” to bring the item(s).

Women’s Night Out: Thursday, May 16, at 5:30 at Olive Garden in Mishawaka. RSVP to Kathy Dockerty.

Remember the Battle: We are engaged in an intense battle with good and evil, Christ and Satan. There are great losses that take place, especially through tragedy. This Memorial Weekend, Sabbath, May 25, between 5-6 p.m., we invite anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one in unexpected tragedy to come join us for our first “Remember the Battle” service. If you want more information, please contact Pastor Darrel at 269-605-7895.

Bonfire Vespers: Sabbath, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapel in the Woods (park in the field not far from the church, off of Union Street/Arbor Drive). Watch for more details. You are welcome to come early to walk the trails, which are always available. Children should always be accompanied and supervised by adults.

School Expansion Update: It’s official! We will be adding two classrooms (one for 5th & 6th grades, and one for music, art, etc.) onto the school. This is exciting news, and an opportunity to handle our continued growth! We are in the process of looking for a new teacher for 5th & 6th grades, and plan the following classrooms for next year: Kindergarten & Kindergarten + (5 & 6 year olds), 1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, and 7th & 8th. We are still raising funds for the addition—every little bit helps! You can also order/buy gift cards from the school and support the building project with the rebates! Please pray that we are able to break ground on Friday, May 31—the last day of school. Thank you for your support of Niles Adventist School!

Adventurers continued from page 2

After lunch, the butterfly group went to the gym and participated in games and activities from sit-ups, jumping jacks and seeing how high you can jump, to freeze tag where the parents were it! Our last station was lizards. We earned our Lizard Award as we learned about the different kinds of lizards and participated in a craft. We even got to bring our patch home with us! After saying thank you to all those who worked to make Fun Day possible, and singing “Happy Birthday” to Pastor Craig since he had turned 51 the day before, we packed up and headed for home. What a great way to complete the month of April!
Outdoor Education

For three days in April, Miss Beardsley’s fifth grade class got to spend time up at beautiful Camp Au Sable for Michigan Conference-wide Outdoor Education. The three-day adventure was an opportunity to learn more about God through nature. Every day introduced new lessons that the students enjoyed. One of the favorite classes was the live animal presentation with bats, owls and sugar gliders.

Another favorite was the team building class where different obstacles had to be overcome as a team. They also enjoyed learning about birds and how to find them. Then they put their skills to the test when they took a long nature walk. Everyone had a good time and hope to get a chance to return to Camp Au Sable for a week of summer camp. Here are some comments from Miss Beardsley’s students:

Jalen: “I had fun at Camp Au Sable. One of the fun things we did was team building. When I went home, I said I would remember camp for my life.”

Wambui: “Two of my favorite activities were team building and birds. At team building, our station leader gave us different challenges that we had to complete as a team, and at birds, we learned about birds and then learned how to use binoculars.”

Deven: “I love Camp Au Sable because they have good food. They also have a nice lake. You sleep in cabins and they have a gift shop. They are nice.”

Keren: “As you know, 5th grade went to Camp Au Sable. We got to see a barred owl, sugar glider, white tree frog and a fruit bat in Biodiversity Live. We also did ecology, journaling, and art. I love team building! Yup! You are going to love Camp Au Sable (a lot).”
Upcoming NAS Events

Week of Spiritual Emphasis - April 30 - May 3
Basketball Game - Thursday, May 2, 6 p.m.
Grades 7 & 8 Music at Niles Westside - Saturday, May 4
Gift Card Orders Due - Tuesday, May 7
Bike-A-Thon - Friday, May 10
NAS Music at Niles Westside - Saturday, May 11
School Board - Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Soccer Game - Thursday, May 16, 6 p.m.
Gift Card Orders Due - Tuesday, May 21
Spring Concert - Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.
Spring Picnic - Friday, May 24
No School - Memorial Day - Monday, May 27
Kindergarten Graduation - Wednesday, May 29, 6 p.m.
8th Grade Graduation - Thursday, May 30, 6:30 p.m.
Last Day of School - Noon Dismissal - Friday, May 31
Ground Breaking for School Expansion - Friday, May 31

Bike-A-Thon

On Friday, May 10, NAS is planning a Bike-A-Thon to raise funds for bikes for pastors in the Ukraine. Students are looking for sponsors (either per lap or a lump sum). Contact the school if you would like to donate.

“Men love to wonder, and that is the seed of science.”
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
May Calendar of Events

1. Pathfinders (gym) .......................... 6:30 p.m.
2. Praise Prayer Meeting .......................... 7 p.m.
3. National Day of Prayer Event (Niles City Hall) .. 12 p.m.
4. Bible Study .................................. 2 p.m.
5. Beyond Books Club .............................. 3 p.m.
6. Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker ........ 8:30 & 11 a.m.
   Music by NAS ........................... 2nd svc
7. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ......... 8 a.m.
8. Pathfinder Dinner Under the Stars (gym) ...... 6-6 p.m.
9. Adventurers (gym) ............................ 6 p.m.
10. Women's Bible Study ..................... 10:30 a.m.
11. Elders Meeting .............................. 7 p.m.
12. Midweek Manna ............................. 7 p.m.
13. Pathfinder/Adventurer/Eager Beaver Investiture .. 6 p.m.
14. Music by NAS ................................ 2nd svc
15. Fellowship Lunch (gym) .................. after 2nd svc
16. Sunshine Band at Riveridge Manor .......... 2:30 p.m.
17-19 Happy Mother's Day!
   Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ......... 8 a.m.
   Adult Volleyball (gym) ..................... 7 p.m.
   Adventurers (gym) .......................... 6 p.m.
   School Board Meeting (school) .......... 7 p.m.
   Midweek Manna .............................. 7 p.m.
   Pathfinders (gym) .......................... 6:30 p.m.
   Prophetic GPS ................................ 7 p.m.
   Bible Study .................................. 2 p.m.
   Beyond Books Club ......................... 3 p.m.
   Women’s Night Out (Olive Garden, Mishawaka) 5:30 p.m.
18. Walt Williams, Speaker ................. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
19. Newsletter Items Due ......................... 8:30 & 11 a.m.
20. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ......... 8 a.m.
21. Adult Volleyball (gym) ..................... 7 p.m.
22. Finance Committee Meeting ............. 7 p.m.
23. Women's Bible Study ..................... 10:30 a.m.
24. NAS Spring Concert (gym) ............. 6:30 p.m.
25. Midweek Manna .............................. 7 p.m.
26. Pathfinders (gym) .......................... 6:30 p.m.
27. Prophetic GPS ................................ 7 p.m.
28. Bible Study .................................. 2 p.m.
29. NAS Spring Picnic ............................. 8 a.m.
30. Joseph Kidder, Speaker ................. 8:30 & 11 a.m.
   "Remember the Battle" Memorial Service .... 5 p.m.
   Bonfire Vespers (Chapel in the Woods) .... 6:30 p.m.
31. Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ......... 8 a.m.

No School at NAS - Memorial Day

1. Church Board Meeting .......................... 7 p.m.
2. Midweek Manna .............................. 7 p.m.
3. NAS Kindergarten Graduation (gym) .... 6 p.m.
4. Bible Study .................................. 2 p.m.
5. NAS 8th Grade Graduation ............. 6:30 p.m.
6. Last Day of School, Groundbreaking for School Addition

Samuel Storie 1
Gus Bell 2
Michael Luzadder 2
Nancy Rader 2
Kim Ross 2
Heidi Beardsley 3
Jessica Carlsten 3
Larry Prelog 4
Tim Salvini 5
David Williams 5
Matthew Grooms 5
Benjamin Nichols 5
Michael Taylor 6
Gabriel Detweiler 6
Colleen Staniszewski 7
Sharon Willis 7
Candida Chole 10
Timothy Dockerty 10
Nathan Reitz 12
Mark Howell 12
Dumisani Manda 13
Erica Bennett 13
LB Garrett 14
Amanda Boothby 14
Frank McCalment 15
Olivia Sutton 15
Zachary Gray 15
Keegan Murphy 16
Josephine Prouty 16
Wende Davis 16
Jacquelyn Barney 17

May 2013

Services

First Worship Service
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.

Midweek Manna
Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Sabbath School
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

Prophetic GPS
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Second Worship Service
Saturdays, 11 a.m.