Summer Youth Trip
by Tori Curtis

There are many perks to our own Niles Westside Youth Department. Not only do the teens enjoy fun-filled events such as boating on the lake, beach vespers, game nights, community projects, and other activities planned by their heavily involved leaders, but additionally, once a year, the group sets off to remote locations for their Summer Trip.

In the last four years, they have traveled to one of two locations – Sandrock, Alabama, and Devil’s Lake, Wisconsin. The locations of these trips are centered around the availability of rock climbing – a favorite aspect of the trip among the majority of the youth and leaders – around the camp sites, though that was not the only activity enjoyed. This year, the group headed toward Devil’s Lake for the second time with nine youth and six adults. With a smaller number of people this year, only three separate vehicles were required to make the five-hour trek up to Wisconsin.

Setting off at around 8 a.m. on a mid-August morning, the group arrived at their campsite in the early evening. A climb had been planned for that day, but that was soon cancelled after a sudden rainstorm began.

Though they were forced to cancel the climb, the youth and adults were not dissuaded and readily headed up the trail that evening to see the rocks they would be scaling further into the week.

Thankfully, the storm wasn’t too loud, and the youth were still able to enjoy song service and worship that evening.

Unfortunately however, the rain continued to pour down throughout the night and eventually grew into heavy thunderstorms that were powerful enough to knock over a few trees. Everyone was safe the next morning, and the water damage to the tents was fairly minimal.

Nevertheless, everyone was ready for the rain to stop so that the real fun could begin.

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The next day, there were only a few sporadic showers, which allowed for the activities to commence. After breakfast, a group went to Devil’s Lake for some kayaking while others trekked up the rocks for climbing.

At about noon, everyone regrouped back at the campsite (which had to be moved that day because of scheduling conflicts). Once sack lunches were made, the youth piled into the cars for the short drive to Pewit’s Nest – a small park that surrounded a gorge, a popular site for locals in the area. Some enjoyed wading through the creek and climbing down waterfalls, while others stayed up top and enjoyed hiking through the beautiful sites the park had to offer.

Once the group returned to camp for supper, a few were still up for some climbing and scaled the rocks until the sun went down.

With Tuesday being the youth’s last full day at the site, full advantage was taken. Immediately after breakfast, the entire group went back up to the rocks to climb. After a couple climbs, a few were tired and went back down for lunch and to rest a bit. But some stayed up on the mountain and climbed into the late afternoon.

To close out the day's activities, the group headed down to Devil’s Lake for the last time. While a few took out the kayaks, some played yard games on the shore and still others took a walk around the lake.

Though the trip was short, several fond memories were made. While the youth were able to enjoy several activities that aren’t readily available where they live or go to school, they were also able to bond with each other as well as gain a spiritual blessing from the nightly worships on topics such as Faith and the Sabbath.

As usual, despite the many setbacks at times, the Youth Trip was enjoyed by everyone that went.

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**Determined Relationships by the Spirit**

One of the greatest gifts poured out on the human race is the Holy Spirit Himself. “But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you ....” (Acts 1:8) This will affect every relationship you will ever have in this world. It is also designed to witness what God can determine with you. The power designed to embrace us by the Holy Spirit is sufficient for every relational battle or embrace, conflict or contentment—in short, everything for all relationships you will have. How else can we ever be enabled to resist the devil in such a way that he will flee from us? (James 4:7) How will we have selfish free relationships with anyone or be prepared to stop existing (die) for someone else without the Holy Spirit? What other power, but the Spirit’s determined fruit, is able to produce relationships of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self control? (Galatians 5:22,23)

Relationships are really determined by who is controlling your heart, mind, soul and strength. What spirit is evidenced within your life? An unforgiving spirit is not the same as a wounded spirit battling to forgive, as the one is indifferent and “care-less,” while the other wants to surrender to God’s power. Because the Holy Spirit desperately cares about you, you will fight the greatest of all battles: the battle to surrender self to this Spirit determining power.

Who’s controlling your relationships will also be the one controlling your heart, mind, soul and energy. Be empowered by the Holy Spirit for every relationship, starting with those closest to you.

Pastor Darrel

P.S. You may want to join us with our prayer meetings about the Holy Spirit, starting on **September 4** at the church.
Meet Our New Members

Villwock Family
by Jody Villwock with Gina Meekma

Mike, Jody, Eli (6) and Noah (4) Villwock live in Buchanan. Elijah just started first grade in Mrs. Denise Kidder’s class at Niles Adventist School, and he is very excited about going to school all day long instead of just a half day. Noah is anxiously awaiting his turn to start Kindergarten at NAS next year.

Mike and his family are from this area. He grew up in Berrien Springs with his mother, Karen, and younger sister, Melissa, and with his dad, Don, and younger sisters, Megan and Melanie. He grew up at his mother’s nursery and garden center in Harbert, Michigan. He also spent a lot of time on his grandparents’ farm, Villwock’s Farm Market, just south of Berrien Springs.

With a family tradition in the agriculture and horticulture fields, it is no surprise that Mike is continuing in his family’s footsteps. Mike is the Manager of the Arboretum & Grounds at Andrews University, while also using his expertise for his small, private business, Garden Creations.

Jody was born and raised in Marshfield, Wisconsin. She transferred from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire to Andrews University during the blizzard in January 1999. She met Mike during the summer, and they started dating that October. Jody graduated from Andrews University in 2001. After working as an international project coordinator in Green Bay, Wisconsin, for three years, Jody moved back to Berrien Springs in 2004 shortly after the couple became engaged. Jody began working as a Financial Aid Advisor at Andrews University in August of 2004, and now is the Perkins Loan Manager for the university. She and Mike were married on January 29, 2005.

Mike is an avid golfer and is teaching the boys the life lessons that golf has to offer. Jody enjoys cooking and baking, often with littler helpers who enjoy licking the beaters. They enjoy gathering as a family to cheer for the Green Bay Packers during the NFL season. They also enjoy playing board games and electronic games together, as well as traveling and camping. They’re always ready for a good road trip!

The Villwocks transferred their membership from Calvary Road to Niles Westside in August 2013 because they really appreciate the family-oriented atmosphere, as well as the wonderful Sabbath school classes for the boys, the church family, and the school. They look forward to serving God in whatever ways He calls them to at Niles Westside and NAS.

Welcome to the Niles Westside Church family, Villwocks!

The library is continuing to raise money for more cabinet space for their DVDs, CDs, etc. They already have $1,000 and need to raise about $4,000 more.

If you would like to donate toward the new cabinets, please mark your tithe envelope “Library Cabinets.” Thank you!

New to Our Church Library

❖ Where God and I Meet (4th Quarter Sabbath School Companion Book) by Martin Pröbstle. A scarlet thread runs throughout the Bible. It is the concept of redemptive blood. Jesus’ beautiful and terrible death on the cross is central to the story of that scarlet thread, but there is more to the story, which includes the sanctuary.

❖ Jacob (Family Bible Story) by Ruth Reading Brand. Thrilling elementary-level stories for kids, along with simplified versions for tiny tots. Illustrations, maps, and photographs of artifacts from ancient times included.
Niles Caterpillars Adventurer Club
by Tami le Roux

Our Adventurer club got off to a great start this year. At our first meeting, we played games, learned about our classes, and enjoyed some “getting to know you” time. In addition to that, we had our induction with a special altar and ceremony to welcome the new Adventurers to the club. We are looking forward to September 9, which will be our first curriculum meeting, as well as some of the fun awards we are planning, including the Build and Fly award, which is all about planes and flying things.

If you are thinking about joining, we still have room for you! Join us as we strengthen our families, pointing them to Jesus and encouraging each other on Monday, September 9, in the NAS gym at 6 p.m. Contact Tami le Roux (Director) at nwcatertpillars@gmail.com or 269-425-2161 for more information.

Pathfinder Camporee and Induction
by April Hughes

The Pathfinder year has started! Registration is still open for new and returning Pathfinders in 5th - 12th grades. Join us at our weekly club meetings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights in the Niles Adventist School gym. This year will be filled with fun activities and events!

The first event is the Michigan Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Au Sable! The club will be headed to Grayling from September 13-15 for an exciting weekend filled with spiritual applications, nature study, and more. Please watch for a food list to be posted and consider donating something to help offset the expense for our club. We greatly appreciate the support provided by our church family.

The second event we are looking forward to is the Pathfinder Induction Ceremony. We want to invite family, friends, and church members to attend the ceremony at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 20, at the church. This special candlelight ceremony is a beautiful way to welcome new members into our club. We would love to have many people in attendance to show their support for each of our new inductees and our club as a whole.

We have many other fun activities planned in September too. Our Pathfinder theme this year is “Ready.” We want to be ready for Jesus’ soon return and to be ready to share Jesus with those around us. We have a wonderful journey ahead of us this year. Are you ready?

Thank you for your consistent prayers and support. Please email niles4flagspathfinderclub@gmail.com with any questions, or call Director Janessa Howell at 269-240-7112.

Spread love everywhere you go; to show love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes our offering something beautiful to God.
— Mother Teresa
Welcome New Members:

- **Lance Clark** from Burlington Adventist Church, Burlington, MI
- **Katie Maerz** from Great Northern Adventist Company, Whitefish, MT
- **Adam & Eva Keating** from La Porte Adventist Church, La Porte, IN
- **Nick Moore** from Spokane Linwood Adventist Church, Spokane, WA
- **Jody & Michael Villwock** from Calvary Road Community Church, Niles, MI

Farewell to Our Friends:

- **Brenda & Richard Bayley** to Edwardsburg Adventist Church, Edwardsburg, MI
- **Aileen Hyde** to Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, MI
- **David & Nancy Penno** to Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, MI
- **Bernita & Richard Rorabeck** to Village Adventist Church, Berrien Springs, MI
- **David Williams Sr.** to Deltona Adventist Church, Deltona, FL

Prayer Meetings on the Holy Spirit: On Wednesdays from 7 - 8 p.m. in September and October, we will go through a study on the Holy Spirit. Some topics that will be discussed include “What happens to my relationships when the Holy Spirit leads me?” “How do I know that the Holy Spirit is leading me?” and “What about the human race is the Holy Spirit mostly interested in?”

Leadership Workshop: Sabbath, September 7, including a fellowship lunch for leaders. This exciting workshop will share a new vision for Niles Westside and inspire leaders. All leaders (heads of departments and team members), please take note of this planned workshop, especially for you and your spouse (since we support each other in ministry). Starting with a great fellowship meal right after church, we plan to have our afternoon workshop from around 2 - 5 p.m. in the school gym. Childcare will be provided in one of the classrooms. Prepare with prayer and determination to finish God’s work through His Spirit. Please contact Pastor Darrel if you have any questions.

Cardmaking Class & Women’s Ministry Intro: Sunday, September 8, from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the church. Are you interested in learning how to make a handmade greeting card or just looking for an opportunity to make a card to give to that someone special? Don’t miss this Fall-themed cardmaking class hosted by Sandy Smith. Women of all ages are welcomed to attend. The Women’s Ministries team will also be there to share our new theme and some of the fun events we have planned. Looking forward to seeing YOU there!

Fellowship Lunch: Sabbath, September 14, after second service. We will meet at the park on Rangeline Road in Berrien Springs (just off of Old US 31). Please bring extra food and join us!

Women’s Night Out: Thursday, September 19, at 5:30 at Noodles & Co. (Main St, Mishawaka - across from Panera Bread). Please RSVP to Kathy Dockerty (kadockerty@yahoo.com or 269-782-8567).

The annual Niles 4 Flags CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, September 22. Contact Esther Jones (269-845-5770 or occesteem@yahoo.com) if you would like to be a WALKER or a SPONSOR for this year’s CROP Walk. Remember, 25 percent feeds hungry people in our community, 65 percent can be allocated toward ADRA, and Church World Services uses the remaining 10 percent to feed hungry around the world as well.

Sabbath School Quarterlies: With technology supplying free information, we plan to cut our budget in half this coming quarter. We invite you to explore the app for smart phones, tablets, and computers. Visit your app store for a free download of the “Sabbath School” app or go to www.ssnet.org for lessons and other great information. With the app, you can make notes like the paper hard copy, but the verses and other information are more readily accessible.
**Blood Drive**

**Michigan Blood Drive**

Tuesday, September 17, from 2-7 p.m. at Niles Adventist School. Save lives by giving blood! Contact Denise Kidder (269-357-3250) to sign up.

**Gift Card Fundraiser**

Walmart, Amazon.com, and iTunes are among the gift cards that are on the ScripNow list! Curious what that means? It means you can buy and print these and other gift cards from your home computer! Want to find out more? Contact the school office for more information on this fundraiser that can also help with students’ tuition. There are many gift cards that can be ordered, some that can be reloaded, and some that can be ordered as e-cards (ScripNow).

You can sign up to order online at www.shopwithscrip.com (Code for NAS: AL8ELD988L1). Paying online is available with PrestoPay. See www.glscrip.com or the school office for a list of participating retailers. Family and friends can sign up too!

**Rada Cutlery Fundraiser**

Back by popular demand, Rada Cutlery and other items are available from NAS students. Ask them to see a catalog, or visit www.HelpOurFundraiser.com, account # 504028, password: cutfund.

Thank you for your support of Home & School!

**Parenting Seminar**

Sunday, September 22, from 6-8 p.m. at Niles Adventist School

You are invited to an **adults only** Parent’s Night Out featuring “The Parent’s Toolbox,” presented by Joey & Carla Link on Sunday, September 22, from 6-8 p.m. in the school gym. This will be an interactive, informative evening of practical Biblical parenting instruction. Authors of the new book *Why Can’t I Get My Kids to Behave?*, Joey & Carla have a fantastic blog called “Parenting Made Practical” (www.parentingmadepractical.com).

Come at 5:30 to browse the Mom’s Notes Bookstore. Pre-registration is preferred. Register (including for childcare - $2 for each child up through grade 6/age 12) at www.nilesadventistschool.org. Contact Erin Dockerty for more information (erinldockerty@yahoo.com or 269-487-8313).
Upcoming NAS Events

September 2 - **No School - Labor Day**

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

September 10 - School Board, 7 p.m.

September 12 - Parent Night, 6 p.m.

September 17 - MI Blood Drive, 2-7 p.m.

September 19 - Career Day

September 22 - Parent’s Night Out/Parenting Seminar, 6-8 p.m.

September 23-27 - Fall Spirit Week

September 26 - Football Game, 6 p.m.

September 27 - Fall Picnic

September 28 - Music at Niles Westside (Select Choir)
September Calendar of Events

1  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ..................... 8 a.m.
   Adult Volleyball (Niles Riverfront Park) ............. 7 p.m.
2  Labor Day - No School
3  Midweek Manna ........................................ 6 p.m.
   Elders Meeting ...................................... 7 p.m.
4  Pathfinders (gym) ...................................... 6:30 p.m.
   Praise Prayer Meeting (Niles Westside) ............. 7 p.m.
5  Bible Study (Pastor’s Office) ......................... 2 p.m.
   Beyond Books Club .................................. 3 p.m.
6  NAS Beach Vespers (Weko Beach) ..................... 6 p.m.
   Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker ...................... 8:30 a.m.
7  Vespers, Ice Cream Social/Scavenger Hunt (gym) .... 7 p.m.
   Leadership Potluck & Workshop (gym) ............... 12:30-5 p.m.
8  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ................... 8 a.m.
   Cardmaking Class/Women’s Ministries Intro ......... 2:30 p.m.
   Adult Volleyball (Niles Riverfront Park) .......... 7 p.m.
9  Adventurers (Curriculum - gym) ....................... 6 p.m.
10  Women’s Bible Study ................................ 10:30 a.m.
11  Midweek Manna ........................................ 6 p.m.
12  School Board Meeting (school) ....................... 7 p.m.
13-15  Pastor Darrel le Roux, Speaker .................. 8:30 a.m.
       Elder Jay Gallimore, Speaker ..................... 11 a.m.
       Fellowship Lunch (Park on Rangeline Rd.) ....... after 2nd svc
       Sunshine Band at Riveridge Manor ............... 2:30 p.m.
15  Newsletter Items Due
   Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ................... 8 a.m.
   Adult Volleyball (gym) ................................ 7 p.m.
16  Adventurers (Award - gym) .......................... 6 p.m.
17  MI Blood Drive (gym) ................................ 2-7 p.m.
   Midweek Manna ....................................... 6 p.m.
18  Finance Committee Meeting ......................... 7 p.m.
19  Pathfinders (gym) ...................................... 6:30 p.m.
20  Prayer Meeting ........................................ 7 p.m.
21  Bible Study ........................................... 2 p.m.
22  Beyond Books Club .................................... 3 p.m.
23  Women’s Night Out (Noodles & Co, Mishawaka) ..... 5:30 p.m.
   Pathfinders Induction ................................ 7 p.m.
24  Hinsdale Men’s Chorus Vespers ...................... 7 p.m.
25  Sunday Sunup Runners (Plym Park) ................... 8 a.m.
   CROP Hunger Walk ................................... 7 p.m.
26  Parent’s Night Out with Joey & Carla Link (gym). 6 p.m.
   Adult Volleyball (Niles Riverfront Park) ........... 7 p.m.
27  Adventurers (Curriculum - gym) ...................... 6 p.m.
28  Women’s Bible Study ................................ 10:30 a.m.
   Midweek Manna ....................................... 6 p.m.
29  Church Board Meeting ................................ 7 p.m.
30  Pathfinders (gym) ...................................... 6:30 p.m.
   Prayer Meeting ....................................... 7 p.m.

September 2013

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Services

First Worship Svc
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.
Midweek Manna
Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Sabbath School
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Second Worship Svc
Saturdays, 11 a.m.