Vacation Bible School 2014
by Gina Meekma
Photos by Keegan Murphy & Greg Wise

This July 14-18 at VBS, we had around 150 excited kids attend, and more than 75 wonderful volunteers!

The theme was Weird Animals, and each day we learned about a different unique animal that God made, including an axolotl, leafy sea dragon, star-nosed mole, tenrec, and a frilled lizard. There were skits and Bible stories that reminded us that even when you’re left out, even when you’re different, even when you don’t understand, even though you do wrong, and even when you’re afraid . . . Jesus loves you! The music we sang at the opening and closing programs will remind us all about God’s love for years to come.

On Sabbath, the closing program included special music by the kids who attended, an overview of the week and mission, a skit and Bible story for the kids, a slide show of the activities during the week, a special sermon by Pastor Darrel, and a potluck lunch at the Berrien Township Park.

Mission: Our mission this year was to help foster kids by raising money for pillows ($5 each) and blankets ($15 each) to give them when they have to leave their homes. This year, White’s Residential & Family Services was the recipient of the money we raised. They help restore troubled children, teens and families, and they have an office in South Bend. See their web site at www.whiteskids.org for more information.

Kids were encouraged to earn money to bring for the mission. There was a friendly competition between the girls and boys to see who could bring in the most money. We raised a total of $714.65, with the boys bringing in more money than the girls.

Crafts: Kids enjoyed doing five different crafts/activities in the gym. They made a prayer journal, a sun catcher cross, decorated sunglasses in fun and unique ways, decorated pillow cases (to either keep or donate to the foster kids), and tied fleece blankets for foster kids.

Bible Stories & Skits: Each day the children loved experiencing familiar Bible stories told in fun and different ways. Skits also got the main points across in ways that attendees won’t soon forget.

Cont. on page 2
Have you ever wondered if God intended to hurt you? Would godly sorrow for sin be the result of God’s hurting you or you becoming more like Him? Either way, we can say that God intends, designs and plans for our happiness and nothing less. Why do we put God in the center of our agonizing, and often yet unanswered, “Why’s?” Maybe because there is no one else that is able to hold us together with purpose of a future. Maybe, because God is the center of our life, He is the first to be questioned in our twisted hurts.

Right in the midst of a most devastating exile, “the prophet of doom” (for those unbelieving) becomes the prophet of hope in Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (ESV).

What plans does God have for a hope for our future? It is clear that God permitted Israel to go into exile, and it is clear that God will give them a hope and a future. This tension may be difficult to balance as we grapple to understand God, even to the point that it sometimes may appear as though the present is forgotten.

Can we really know for certain what God’s plans for welfare, a future and hope are? It may be that only those who know the certainty of God’s plans for our welfare, our future and our hope, can truly live beyond this world!

Wake up every morning knowing that God has plans for you. Align yourself with those plans and be at peace as you passionately peruse God’s future for you, knowing that it will always include being in His presence!

Be joyfully blessed,

Pastor Darrel le Roux

VBS cont.

Games: Kids of all ages enjoyed playing games that went along with the Bible point for the day. Thankfully the weather cooperated most of the week, with only a little rain. Temperatures were unusually cool that week also.

Snacks: As usual, we had yummy and creative snacks to eat—always a favorite part of VBS. The snacks and mission time were scheduled together and held in the gym.

Thank you to all who donated toward VBS this year!

Your generosity helped make this a memorable week for kids and staff alike.

Thank you also to the many wonderful volunteers that helped out at VBS, and to those who worked behind the scenes getting everything ready! All of your effort, time, and patience paid off and are very much appreciated. Thank you for showing Jesus’ love to all of the families that attended VBS!

We look forward to seeing everyone again next summer—July 13-17, 2015.

August 2014  Niles Westside News  2
Meet Our New Member

Terry Housam
by Terry Housam with Gina Meekma

Terry Housam lives in Buchanan with his wife of nine years, Hope. He has two sons: Gerald Housam (one child) and Matthew Housam (wife Tara and one child). Hope has two sons also: Danney Hyche (two children), and Darrell Hyche (two grandchildren).

Hope was born in Missouri, but she has lived in this area for 63 years. She met Terry, who was born in Niles and has lived here all of his life, at work.

Terry was baptized into the Niles Westside church in April 2013 after attending the iPerceive meetings (February 2013) with Hope. They love the friendliness of the Niles Westside church family, as well as the Pastor, his family, and his dog Buddy. Hope also plans to be baptized in the near future. They both desire to be closer to God.

A retired engineer, Terry enjoys carpentry, CNC (computer numeric control), and computers. Hope is a retired phlebotomist who enjoys gardening and flowers.

Welcome to the Niles Westside Church family, Terry & Hope!

What Are We Doing?
by Tami le Roux

It’s August and soon school will be starting! This means that soon Adventurers will be starting too, and we are SO excited for the new year ahead. We are planning a lot of fun for all the Adventurers and know that none of you will want to miss out on any of it. Here are some of the awards we are planning for this year:

Trees – September
Spotter – October
Acts of Kindness – November
Bead Craft – December
Fruits of the Spirit – January
Country Fun – February
Sewing – March 9
Fitness Fun/Gymnast – March 30
Geologist - April

We will also be doing some great fundraisers this year – our fall bulbs, Krispy Kreme, and a booth at the Fall Fest – to name a few.

Registration for Adventurers will be on Monday, August 18, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the school. Adventurers will meet on Monday nights starting on August 25, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. in the school gym.

We are praying for each of you – our Niles Caterpillar Adventurer families. See you for Adventurers soon!

If you have questions, please contact Tami le Roux (269-425-2161 or nwcaterpills@gmail.com).
The Pathfinder Club needs your help! We are all excited about our trip to the International Pathfinder Camporee from August 11-17, but we still need some funds for food. Please mark a tithe envelope “Pathfinder Food.” Thank you!

**Schedule at a Glance**

- **Wednesday, August 6**: Final International Camporee Info Meeting, 6:30 p.m., NAS
- **August 11-17**: Forever Faithful International Camporee, Oshkosh, Wisconsin (leave NAS early in the morning on August 11)
- **Wednesday, August 20**: First Meeting of the School Year/Registration, 6:30 p.m., NAS

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.

Questions? Please contact Pathfinder Director, Janessa Howell at 269-240-7112 or via email: niles4flagspathfinderclub@gmail.com.

---

**Pathfinder Car Wash on July 13 at Walgreen’s in Niles**
*Photos by Rod Snow*

**Tie-dye Honor on June 29 at NAS.**
*Photo by Janessa Howell*

**Enjoying a snack at VBS.**
We missed those members who couldn’t attend the Beyond Books Club pool party on July 24! We had an awesome time at the Patterson’s pool, ending with worship and a haystack supper. Thank you, Sheila and Dave, for being so generous with your pool!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 7, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the church. We will be discussing what we would like to do throughout this year, so come with LOTS of suggestions. Remember, this is YOUR club, so we need your input! Bring some games to play. See you then!

Are you aware that we have a whole shelf at the church library devoted just for activity books and things to do with your children? We also have many good parenting books. And to ease your mind on what to serve guests on Sabbath, we have many recipe books with delicious suggestions waiting to be checked out.

- **Awesome Dinosaurs** by Discovery Kids has interesting facts about these amazing animals. This book is filled with more than thirty pages of statistics on dinosaurs, their eating habits, sizes, weight, and much more. It also has quizzes so that you can test your knowledge of dinosaurs.

- **America the Beautiful** by Dr. Ben Carson. In this book, Dr. Carson helps us understand what is good about America, where we have gone astray, and which fundamental beliefs have guided America from her founding into preeminence among nations.

- **Bible Detective** is a fun way to learn about people and objects from ancient times. Children can have hours of fun looking for people and animals.

- **Up from Slavery**: This is a documentary beginning in 1619 showing how ten million African men and women were brought against their will to the New World. Incredibly detailed historical reenactments show the stories of slavery and their epic struggle for more than 400 years.

There may be a time when you wish to acknowledge the death of a loved one, an anniversary, a birthday, or simply a book that was an inspiration to you. We would like to invite you to do that by donating a book in their/your name. We have labels that we can attach to the inside cover that would identify the reason you are donating and your name.

Please always feel free to come and ask questions, make a suggestion, or just browse the shelves.
**Welcome New Members!**

Nathan Reitz was baptized on July 12 at Warren Dunes State Park.

Laura Taylor from Sunnyside Adventist Church, Portland, OR

Timothy Taylor from Sacramento Central Adventist Church, Sacramento, CA

**Farewell to Our Members:**

Gregor & Lynn Staniszewski to Loganville Adventist Church, Loganville, GA

**Our Sympathy** to the family of Florence Wood. She passed away on July 29.

**Fun Family Activities:** Thursday, August 7, is Free Admission Day at Fernwood Gardens. Meet at 11 a.m. at the entrance. Bring a sack lunch, and we can eat together then walk the trails. It will be a fun time for all ages.

On Sunday, August 10, there’s a guitar concert at Fernwood at 4 p.m. (Free admission after 3:30 p.m.) We will meet on the grassy area. Bring a blanket/lawn chairs.

**Fellowship Lunch:** Sabbath, August 9, after second service at the Berrien Township Park on Rangeline Road in Berrien Springs. Please bring extra food and join us!

**Women’s Night Out:** Thursday, August 21, at 5:30 p.m. at Noodles & Co. in Mishawaka. Please RSVP to Kathy Dockerty (269-782-8567 or kadockerty@yahoo.com).

**Canoeing:** Sabbath afternoon, August 23. Contact Bob Benner (269-684-3478 or bobbenner@ymail.com) to RSVP and for more information.

**Communion:** Sabbath, August 30, at 11 a.m. We will only have one service so that we can all celebrate Communion together.

**NASDAQ Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 18</td>
<td>Registration, 4-6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 20</td>
<td>First Day of School 8:10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 18</td>
<td>School Board, 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 28</td>
<td>Parent Orientation, 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Are you spending your time on the right things?**

*Because time is all you have.*

—Randy Pausch
Mrs. Jody Seigal – New 2nd & 3rd Grade Teacher
by Jody Seigal

Jody Seigal has spent her whole life in Oregon. She grew up in Pendleton and then moved to Salem when she was 17. Jody met her husband Jason while attending Columbia Adventist Academy. They dated for four years while Jody finished high school and began working on her teaching degree while Jason finished college. Jody attended Walla Walla College, then transferred to and graduated from Western Oregon State College. She took her first job teaching Kindergarten at Livingstone Adventist Academy a year after marrying Jason. It was such a good school that she stayed for twenty years.

While teaching at Livingstone, she and Jason had three children—Sherry, 17, will be a senior at Indiana Academy; Sabrina, 14, will be a freshman at Andrews Academy; and Sean, 11, will be in the 6th grade at NAS. As tall as Jody is, she will soon be the shortest member of her family.

Outside of school, Jody loves spending time with her husband and children. She is also drawn to animals. Her family has three little dogs and one cat. She loves playing with animals, sitting quietly petting them, reading stories about them, and looking at pictures of them. She is very thankful that she married a man who also enjoys children and animals.

Jody has worked on several committees for both the North American Division and North Pacific Union. These committees have added to her experience and passion for teaching in Seventh-day Adventist Schools. Her favorite committee was developing the current NAD Kindergarten curriculum. This committee helped her grow both spiritually and professionally.

While Jody was in the 3rd and 4th grades, her mother suggested that she would make a great teacher. Jody thought about it and decided that she would love to be a teacher. From then on, she never wavered from her dream. As the first class of Kindergartners walked through the door, she fell in love with the children and teaching. Jody has discovered that teaching is her passion whether it is 5-year-olds, 7-year-olds or even adults. She enjoys watching children try new things. Their eyes light up when they understand something new. She especially enjoys problem-solving—figuring out different ways to help children understand difficult concepts.

This spring Jody was looking for a new challenge. Michigan Conference provided her with the opportunity to interview at a few of their schools. The school that really made her ears perk up was Niles Adventist School. Her grandparents, Harry and Merle Johnson, attended the Niles Westside church for several years and loved it. Her aunt and uncle, Ron and Frances Johnson, were members at the Niles church for many years. She felt God’s presence as she interviewed at NAS. She continues to see God actively involved in finding them a home, providing a school with a great principal and amazing teachers, and a church family that is very open and welcoming. She is so glad to be here in Michigan.

Welcome to NAS, Mrs. Seigal!

August 2014

Niles Westside News