Pathfinder Camporee
by April Hughes

As many of you know, the Niles Four Flags Pathfinder Club attended the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee, Forever Faithful, in August. The experience was awesome, and I believe it was a blessing to everyone in attendance. The daytime activities ranged from being fun and educational to doing volunteer outreach projects. Our club members enjoyed pin trading throughout the week and meeting people from all over the world.

Throughout the week, we enjoyed many activities including going to the EAA Museum (Experimental Aircraft Association), watching the Ryan and Friends puppet show featuring Chico the Lion, playing on the obstacle course, earning a variety of honors, and enjoying authentic Italian pizza.

The evening programming was wonderful as we watched the story of Daniel unfold each night through a live play. We also enjoyed music and talent acts each evening too. We were especially blessed to see one of our Pathfinder members, Diamond Hawley, baptized at the camporee. All in all, the week was packed with fun experiences, learning opportunities, and decisions for Christ.

On our way to Oshkosh, a tire blew out on our trailer. A large coach bus stopped to offer us assistance that turned out to be a group from Washington, D.C., also traveling to the camporee. It buoyed our spirits that another Pathfinder club stopped to encourage us, even though they didn’t have the tools that we needed. With some ingenuity and borrowed tools from our traveling companion, we were able to change the tire. Our driver, Dean Snow, had to carefully drive up on a slanted cement block to get the trailer off the ground to change the tire. God watched over us as we continued on to Oshkosh, where we replaced some other worn tires for the return trip home.

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Ready to be Called a “Fundamentalist?”

I was having a conversation with an openly self-declared “Christian-evolutionist” recently in Nevada, and my mind began to wonder what the outcome of this conversation would be. Once people know that I’m a pastor from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a host of topics and opportunities normally emerge.

Quickly the conversation indicated that there were incompatible world views. To him, I am a fundamentalist because I believe in a literal six-day creation, while he believes in comfortably harmonizing creation and millions of paleontological beginnings. The common ground we had was Jesus Christ. Some areas we explored were What was Christ’s purpose in coming into this world? and What does salvation have to do with a world that is constantly evolving into an improved species?

Our conversation ended with an agreement to focus on Christ, no matter what. Yet it left me wondering at the ease it is to label someone as a “fundamentalist,” with all the worst impressions. Should I have been defensive, ashamed (as it’s so unpopular to be labeled a fundamentalist with all the suicide bombings/extremists), or was I at peace with knowing in Whom I believed and resting on His truth, understanding that He received the worst labels too?

Be joyfully blessed,

Pastor Darrel le Roux

Pathfinder Camporee cont.

We take the lessons from camporee with us as we plan this new Pathfinder year and focus on being Forever Faithful. This year we welcome new and returning Pathfinders. We will be having our Induction Ceremony to welcome our new members on Friday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. As always, we are extending an invitation to our church family to attend this program to show support and encouragement to our new members.

Our club is also excited to be participating in the CROP Hunger Walk this year. This annual event raises money to end hunger in our local community and around the world. The Pathfinder club will be walking at this event on Sunday, September 21. If you would like to sponsor a Pathfinder club member, please contact Director Janessa Howell at 269-240-7112 or via email at niles4flagspathfinderclub@gmail.com.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the camporee this year! God is Forever Faithful to us and answered all of our prayers, including items being loaned to us for the week, safe travels, and monetary donations to cover expenses.

Please continue to keep our club in your prayers. We are currently looking for adult volunteers that are interested in helping us at Wednesday night meetings. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Janessa Howell.
Meet Our New Members

Taylor Family
by Laura Taylor with Gina Meekma

Just over a year ago and shortly after they were married, Timothy & Laura Taylor moved to Berrien Springs, where Tim is attending Andrews University to get his Masters in Divinity degree. Tim is from Sacramento, California, and Laura is from Damascus, Oregon. A pastor for the Florida Conference, Tim is also a mobile app developer.

The Taylors joined Niles Westside in August 2014 because they loved the friendly atmosphere of the church members and recognized a church where they could grow in Christ. They especially enjoy spending time with the youth in the church.

Welcome to the Niles Westside Church family, Laura and Tim!

by Phyllis Shupp, Church Librarian

We still have a need for a couple more people to sew birthday book bags for the library kids. Thank you to those who have volunteered. Many hands make light work, and the library staff appreciates any help we can get making them. They have been really popular with the children, and it’s so much fun to see them pick out “their” bag. Because there are a variety of bags to choose from, that makes it more special.

Here are a few of the interesting books in our library:

Hope Rising, by Kim Meeder, is a compilation of stories that meshes the worlds of horses and people, where the two species find common ground. From a mistreated horse to an emotionally starved child and back again, where a stream of love revives their barren places. In the presence of unconditional love, a mute girl speaks for the first time. Many more inspiring stories are in this one book.

Into the Mud, written by Christine Jeske, is a book about AIDS patients, malnourished babies, and child soldiers. Through her account of ordinary individuals in South Africa, the author shows that things are changing into something new, something holy.

For the Kindergarten/Primary youth, we have a new book called Blaze Finds a Friend. Tommy has a friend down the road who has a pony of his own. The pony’s name is Blaze. Sometimes Tommy gets to ride it and help take care of it. So, now that Tommy knows how to care for a pony, do you think he will get one of his own?

For the Primary/Junior youth, we have a group of series books called Wonder Wits. One of the titles is Gadget Hero. Luke and Sophie go to a Gadget Fair to find a story for the school paper. They notice small signs in strange places around the building saying “Thanks.” So, what do you think is up with that? Come check the book out and find the answer to the mystery yourself!
Why Is Our Adventurer Club Important to the Church?
by Tami le Roux

Satan loves attacking families. Just look at the divorce rate, the anger and fighting, the lack of communication, and the lack of love. Look at how TV portrays families with backtalk, disrespect and drama. This is not the ideal for your family, and it is not how God wants your family to be.

But the Adventurer Family Club offers you something that can help! Once a week we offer a family date night, a time where worship, games, crafts, and learning are all provided and organized for you. All you need to do is show up and start building memories with your child or children. We offer this special time to families in our area who are looking for ways to encourage their kids in good values and who are looking to bond with other families with the same goals. At this once a week meeting (Mondays from 6-7:30), we offer times for you to participate in worship, to actively complete an award as a family, to enjoy family-oriented games, and for you to dig in God’s word together too.

Adventurers is also an excellent outreach opportunity in which we invite and welcome anyone who would like to join! It’s a great place for you to invite your neighborhood families to, and is a relaxed way to share and learn about Jesus, all while strengthening families.

Please support your Adventurer Club! We would love for you and your family to join us in building family memories. If you do not have children of Adventurer age (preschool through 4th grade), please feel free to make a donation in the tithe envelope marked Adventurers. We will also be having some fun fundraisers soon, so be on the lookout for these ways to support our Adventurer Family Club! Most of all, please pray for us as we help to build stronger families.

For more information, please contact Tami le Roux (269-425-2161 or nwcaterpillars@gmail.com).
Church Family News

Welcome New Members!

Diamond Hawley was baptized at the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, WI, on August 13.

Jose Hernandez from Arvada Adventist Church, Arvada, CO

Ruth Miller from Fletcher Adventist Church, Hendersonville, NC

Jason, Jody, Sabrina and Sean Seigal from East Salem Adventist Church, Salem, OR

Farewell to Our Friend:

Colleen Staniszewski to Loganville Adventist Church, Loganville, GA

The afternoon Women’s Bible Study has moved to Tuesdays and will resume Tuesday, September 9, from 2-3 p.m. at the church. Join us each week as we study the Women of the Bible while sharing and learning effective study tools. For more information, contact Tami le Roux (269-425-2161) or Jenn Cook (269-845-5585).

Outdoor Worship: Sabbath, September 13, at 9:30 a.m. at our Chapel in the Woods, followed by a fellowship lunch there also. To accommodate the elderly or those unable to attend church outdoors, we will have first service at the church. Except for Cradle Roll, which will meet in the regular classroom for Sabbath School, Sabbath School and second service will be at the Chapel in the Woods. Our theme for the day is Under Construction, as we explore how God is still working with us. For more information, contact Pastor Darrel. Please bring lawn chairs, and food for a Fellowship Lunch. Casual attire. If it rains, we will meet in the church.

Fellowship Lunch: Sabbath, September 13, after Outdoor Worship, at the Chapel in the Woods. Please bring extra food and join us!

Women’s Night Out: Thursday, September 18, at 5:30 p.m. at Ho Ping, Bell Plaza in Niles. Please RSVP to Kathy Dockerty (269-782-8567 or kadockerty@yahoo.com).

Footprints of Jesus: For those in grades 4-8 who want to be baptized, join me for an exciting journey called Footprints of Jesus, in preparation for one of the most important decisions in your life-baptism. We will meet weekly (when there’s school) on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. at the school. If you have any questions, please contact me at 269-605-7895 or evergreen4me@gmail.com. - Pastor Darrel

Hinsdale Men’s Chorus Concert Vespers: Sabbath, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Niles Westside. Join us!

CROP Hunger Walk: Sunday, September 21. (Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church.) Funds raised from this walk help feed hungry people in our own community (25%) and around the world (75%). If you sponsor a walker, you can also choose to have ADRA be the benefactor of the majority of your tax-deductible gift. Checks (made payable to CROP Walk) and cash are accepted. Contact Esther Jones (occesther@gmail.com or 269-845-5770) to walk or sponsor one of the following walkers: Niles 4-Flags Pathfinders, Lauretta Mann, Sue Mann, Sue Rose, Sandy & Stan Smith, Pagaja Family, Prouty Family, Snow Family, Kathy Dockerty, le Roux Family, Barney Family, Regina Mack, Denise & Joe Kidder, Esther & Charlie Jones.

Ice Cream Social & Scavenger Hunt: Saturday, September 27, at 7 p.m. in the gym. We will start with vespers, then have a fun scavenger hunt game (bring items that you think might be called for), and end the evening with ice cream. Bring your favorite toppings--ice cream will be provided.

Women’s Ministries Kick-off: Sunday, September 28, 2-4 p.m. We will make a craft and share with you the Women’s Ministry events we have planned for the next nine months, as well as a new twist on Secret Sisters, with its new name—G.A.L.S Group.
Miss Beth Thompson - New Art Teacher
by Beth Thompson

Elizabeth (Beth) Thompson was born in Iowa and has enjoyed art since she was young. As a child, she would spend her afternoons drawing at her grandmother’s kitchen table with her older sister, Becky. Throughout primary and secondary school, Beth worked to develop and hone her artistic skills, culminating in projects that lead her to pursue a degree in Art Education. In 2009, she followed her subject area to Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. Upon arriving, she focused on studying art entirely and put her educational pursuits on hold. While studying art, Beth participated in various competitions and art-related outreach opportunities. In 2012, she traveled to the country of Jordan and worked on a community service mural project with Andrews University and Jordan Youth for the Future.

Part-way through her studies, Beth realized that teaching art was something that she was still passionate about and soon began taking Art Education classes. She worked at the daycare on campus so that she could gain insight into the elementary and secondary aspects of her K-12 degree. In December of 2013, Beth graduated with a BS in K-12 Visual Art Education from Andrews University and has been blessed to find work locally in both art and education. In the spring of 2014, she had the opportunity to substitute teach for the art class at Niles Adventist School and enjoyed working with the students and faculty. At the end of the 2013-2014 school year, NAS offered her the position of Art Teacher.

Beth has many new and exciting projects and activities planned for the coming school year that will be fun and engaging for all age groups. She is elated that she was chosen for this position and given the opportunity to enrich the lives of children through art while being enriched herself. It is a solemn and important task to be entrusted with the minds and hearts of the NAS children, but with God’s leading and inspiration, it will be a great opportunity to open minds to the beauty of creation and our Creator.

Welcome to NAS, Miss Thompson!

Tuesday, September 16, 2-8 p.m. at NAS

Be a hero—contact Denise Kidder or Michael Jakobsons to sign up and donate blood!

Parents’ Night Out
Sunday, September 21, 6-8 p.m.

A parenting seminar will be held in the gym called Taming the Lecture Bug, and there will be a traveling Christian bookstore also. The presenters, Joey & Carla Link, have a blog and website at www.ParentingMadePractical.com. The Mom’s Notes Bookstore will open at 5:30 p.m., so plan to come early!

See www.nilesadventistschool.org for more information and to RSVP, especially if you need childcare (up through grade 6) for $2 per child. Space is limited for childcare. Invite your friends. Everyone is welcome!
“If you look at the world, you’ll be distressed. If you look within, you’ll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you’ll be at rest.”

—Corrie ten Boom