Living Jesus Series
by Sue Fattic

Living Jesus—experiencing the person, presence and power of Jesus. This outreach seminar was our next step in crafting a fresh approach to evangelism. The seminar was designed both to bring revival to our own members and outreach to our community. The meetings were Friday evening, Sabbath morning worship, and Sabbath evening for three weekends in April.

Each Thursday evening volunteers transformed the NAS gym into an attractive seminar venue. On Friday and Saturday evenings participants were seated at round tables whose centerpiece was an attractive and tasty treat provided by the special events team. There was also a table host/hostess at each table to facilitate a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

The format for each evening’s meeting was a brief introduction with prayer, a scripture reading, a twenty minute presentation by Pastor Darrel and a ten minute opportunity for round table discussion led by the table host/hostess. This sequence was repeated with a second presentation that complemented the previous topic. The meetings typically lasted just a little more than an hour.

The first Sabbath evening, we had a bit of a surprise when the electricity went off midway through the first presentation. There was a quick scramble in an attempt to locate circuit breakers, but it eventually became evident that there was a power outage to that entire part of Niles. But with Pastor Darrel’s rich experience from pastoring in South Africa, he was undisturbed by the lack of lights, microphone or PowerPoint, and he kept right on sharing his message with a flashlight and his Bible.

At the close of the final meeting, Pastor Darrel asked for feedback regarding how the meetings had impacted people. A number of individuals responded; here are just a couple of responses. One attendee compared it to a half-time pep talk by the coach to refocus and reenergize the players. Another mentioned that the meetings had caused them to reconsider their priorities and the importance of making Jesus the focus of their life.

A life changing experience with Jesus is clearly the greatest thing we have to share with our community.

Photo by Tami le Roux
Spring Into Colorful Action

One of the gifts of spring is the inspiration and witness of action. Birds are suddenly alive with cheerful active sounds and flights. Flowers burst into colorful life through the once frozen ground. The change in Michigan is dramatic as we witness one week looking a brown/gray soggy winter and the next is firmer green spring. The warm sunshine inspires stretching muscles that were resistant in the white of winter. We are now living in color once again, and I can’t help recall what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Timothy 4:8, “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

This world may be heading for its worst winter yet, as we see the love of many growing icy cold and the earth itself groaning and shaking for its deliverance. But the colors of godliness should not be underestimated. “The life to come” will burst into magnificent colors yet unseen or experienced. Always will we live in full colors after this horrid winter of earth’s final history of sin. No physical training can get you to walk in those colors to come. No earthy coaching or amount of gym training can move you into that world. But godliness is able to hold onto the promises now, as it propels us into the fullness of life to come. Godliness, unlike physical training, has value for the present life and the life to come. Where should our energy be spent? What activity should absorb our energy for training us for a world to come? What, but godliness, guarantees life in unfading color?

I invite you to spring into the action of godliness. It has the full colors of the person, presence and power of Jesus that makes the world of difference. Take intentional time to enjoy the colors of your godly spring!

Meet Our New Members

Seigal Family
by Anke Pagaja with Jody Seigal

The Seigal family is especially dear to our Niles Westside Church because they are also an integral part of Niles Adventist School. In fact, their primary reason for joining us on Sabbaths in worship is because Jody joined our fabulous teaching staff in August 2014. They felt welcome from the first time that they stepped into our church. “Everyone is so friendly,” Jody says. We are delighted that the Seigal family is part of our church family.

Jason and Jody will have been married for twenty-two years this June. Be sure to wish them many more blessed years together! They met at a Fall Festival at Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Washington. Jody was a Junior at the time, and Jason was home from college for the weekend. They began dating that following summer.

Jason and Jody have since been blessed with three wonderful children. Sherry (18) is about to graduate from Indiana Academy and will be headed to college. Sabrina (15) just finished her freshman year at Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs. Sean (12) is also part of the NAS family as a 6th grader.

The Seigals moved to Niles from Salem, Oregon. In their previous church, Jason served as a deacon, and Jody held several church offices that varied from Sabbath School Secretary to Elder. As a family, the Seigals enjoy reading, playing games, listening to music, and especially playing with their dogs.

Take a few minutes to get to know the Seigals when you see them in the sanctuary or in the church and school hallways. We are so blessed to have them here at Niles Westside!

Welcome to Niles Westside, Jason, Jody, Sherry, Sabrina and Sean!
by Jenn Cook, Women’s Ministries Leader

It is such an amazing blessing to have the Michigan Conference Women’s Ministry team host their annual Women’s Retreat up at beautiful Camp Au Sable. This year’s theme was “Rest . . . in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.” The guest speaker was Tami Milligan, who is a pastor’s wife, inspirational speaker, and nurse. Her passion is to encourage women that if they are in Christ, they will find the rest that they need. And she accomplished just that with the Spirit-led presentations that she shared with the hundreds of women who were able to attend this year’s Women’s Retreat. Over the weekend, she shared with us presentations on how to REST: Recognize and Evict Stinking Thinking. Her message had something for everyone!

The weekend was full of fun, bonding (have to say those late night cabin talks with the ladies can get quite interesting and insured for lots of laughing and giggling!), and of course the wonderful spiritual blessings through numerous presentations and seminars. Seminar topics included the following: The Privilege of Prayer; From Darkness Into Light (a talk on domestic violence); Hands on Card Making Ministry; Don’t Read Your Bible, Study It!; Surviving & Thriving in a Spiritually Mismatched Marriage; Essential Oils & Natural Remedies; and Put Your Feet Up: Meal Planning for a Restful Week. Other activities included shopping at the ABC and camp store, a movie and popcorn in our PJs on Saturday night, games, hay ride, walks around the lake, and visits to the nature center.

If you were unable to attend this year’s Women’s Retreat, or even Women’s Retreats from years past, the Niles Westside Women’s Ministry does purchase a copy of the audio presentations from the weekend, which are available in our church library for anyone interested in listening to the presentations and seminars. And the hand outs from this year’s retreat can be found at the Michigan Conference Women’s Ministry website.

Each year we have had more and more ladies from Niles Westside joining together to attend the Women’s Retreat. It is such a wonderful way to connect with each other, to take a break from our daily tasks (yes, husbands and children, you can survive the weekend without us!), and to grow closer to Jesus. Michigan Conference Women’s Retreats always take place the three first weekends in April. Next year’s theme is “Faith Not Fear,” and we hope to see you there!

Formerly Known as Beyond Books Club by Phyllis Shupp, Church Librarian

It’s been a fun and busy year for us! Our last meeting of this school year was on May 21.

Parents: It’s been a true blessing for us to be a part of your children’s lives this year. Thank you for allowing us to be to know how special and unique each one of them is! We still need old car or house keys for a craft that we will be doing in the fall.

Kids: This summer we will be planning on next year’s activities, and we promise that they will be good ones! We’re going to miss you kids. Have a good summer! And remember, we will be waiting at the door for you in the fall. - Miss Phyllis, Miss Alma, and Miss Lauretta

| Faith Under Construction |

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver
Adventures with the Adventurers
by Anke Pagaja

It is with a great sense of achievement that we watch the year draw to a close for the Niles Caterpillar Adventurers Club. We have all worked so very hard to achieve our awards and have learned many things in exciting, new ways.

The sewing award was so much fun as the children were able to use a real sewing machine, and learn all about tailoring and making things for themselves. All the kids got to have a turn, and the time seemed to fly past way too quickly.

One of the “funnest” (Busy Bee Club member) nights this year was when the Andrews gymnasts came to teach the Fitness Award. It was exciting to jump, tumble, roll and run. Laughter and joy filled the gym as the kids were able to play their hearts out and get rewarded for it. Teamwork was evident when the Caterpillar Club went outside for their mile long run. It took several circuits around the parking lot. Parents and staff, as well as the kids, cheered and encouraged each other along to finish, and finish strong. Everybody had a wonderful time.

You should have been there for the Geologist Award! When learning about this award, the kids were able to see the many beautiful stones that can be found, what they are called, and what they could be useful for. They made beautiful crafts to go with them. Peter & Shari Lyons even had a fun experiment and demonstration that the kids could experience for themselves. If you have children that are in the age group for the Adventurer Club (age 3 up through grade 4), you need to seriously mull over the idea of joining next school year. A lot of effort and love is put into providing the kids with a fun-filled evening with their friends and families. The kids are learning something new every week about this world that their Creator made for them, the love that He has for them, and the community of family.

Every club meeting ends with games that brings all the age groups together. The gym is filled with happy, laughing children. It culminates in the prayer circle where each child can bring their joys, sorrows, and even silent prayer requests to the feet of Jesus. It is heartwarming to hear their requests for more snow, more sun, thanks for a found kitten, or healing for family members. The Niles Caterpillars Adventurers Club is the perfect place where for your family, our family, and Jesus to get together.

Contact Tami le Roux (nwcaterpillars@gmail.com or 269-425-2161) for more information about joining our club in the fall. We meet on Mondays from 6-7:30 p.m.

Pathfinder Happenings
by April Hughes, Deputy Director

April was a fun month for the club. One of our club members, Reilly Gaudin, was baptized! We are so happy for her. Please keep all of our young people in prayer as they continue to develop their personal relationships with God. The club also had a great time hiking at Love Creek Nature Center and enjoyed a bonfire following the hike. We had six visitors attend the Experience Pathfinders meeting, and we hope to have them join our club this fall. As we wrap up the Pathfinder year, things get even busier in May.

May’s Pathfinder Club events include Investiture, Fair, and Pathfinder Sabbath. We hope that you were able to join us on Sabbath, May 9, at 3 p.m., for our Investiture program. This special ceremony was a celebration of what all of the club members in Adventurers and Pathfinders accomplished this year. The club members received their awards, honors and other insignia at this event. We also shared testimonies from the year and one of our Area Coordinators, Dan Johnson, gave a special talk that challenged our youth.
The Pathfinder Club then went to the Michigan Forever Faithful Pathfinder Fair from May 15-17 in the North Woods of Camp Au Sable. This special weekend is where Pathfinder ministry in Michigan is celebrated and evaluated. The Michigan Conference leaders and club leaders across Michigan strive to have a fun weekend that is filled with learning experiences but most important, a weekend where Pathfinders experience the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Some fun events that we participated in included a Drill and March activity on Saturday night, and a rescue the perishing relay activity on Sunday.

An important upcoming event is Pathfinder Sabbath on May 23. Our theme is Forever Faithful. We pray that everyone will be blessed by the music, stories, testimonies, skit, and more that will be shared at this special Sabbath program. There will be a time for members of the congregation to share personal testimonies of God’s faithfulness during the service. So, if you have a story you would like to share please feel free to do so during that time. It is our earnest prayer that everyone will leave the program feeling blessed and refreshed.

Thank you all so much for your tremendous support of our Dinner Under the Stars Fundraiser in March! The dinner raised approximately $2,200 toward the purchase of a trailer for the Pathfinder Club. With additional funds that the club has already raised, we are happy to announce that we will be purchasing a new trailer in the near future. We are all so grateful to have such a wonderful and supportive church family. It is because of your support that the Pathfinder Club ministry has been able to stay so strong in our church. We can’t thank you enough!

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

---

by Phyllis Shupp, Church Librarian

We have a great selection in our library! Check these books out:

- **For the Youth:** Adventures in Odyssey CDs by Focus on the Family titled The Green Ring Conspiracy. This series begins with a small plane crash outside of town. The mystery deepens when a backpack filled with money... check these out to see what the clues are and solve the mystery!

- **Primary/Juniors:** You will enjoy Surprise at Yorktown, an Imagination Station book from Focus on the Family. It’s like traveling through history and witnessing the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. The trouble starts when a secret plan is found in a den by Beth and Patrick. Discover how this mystery unfolds as they struggle to escape from an enemy camp...to save their country.

- **Parents** may find Magic Kingdom a very interesting documentary. It examines the underlying content and story lines of some of today’s most popular cartoons. Are these “magic messages planting seeds of dissension into our minds causing us to rebel against the kingdom of God?”

- We have a new DVD in our library by Steve Wohlberg on Earth’s Final Crisis, what you must know to survive. Subjects covered are the pending global crisis, pending false miracles from “spirits of devils,” explains the pending global enforcement of the “mark of the beast” as a false solution to the crisis, and finally, the Good News of an eternal future of love and joy provided to you through the grace of Jesus Christ.
A Family Drama DVD: The Pledge is about a New York City teenager that found out he was going to move from the city where he was born and lived all of his life. After moving to a sleepy West Virginia town, his frustration builds until he’s caught committing a crime. He’s sentenced for vandalizing a WWI memorial statue. At first he is resentful that he has to do community service at a veteran’s residential home until he finds himself bonding with a wounded soldier.

If you are a member of the Niles Westside Adventist Church, then we encourage you to sign up at our library in the foyer of the church. We are open from right after Sabbath School until 11:30 a.m. We would love to see you!

Church Family News

Welcome New Members!

Brandon & Lacey Koleda from Petersburg Adventist Church, Petersburg, VA

Farewell to Our Member:

Kimberly Cruz to Stevensville Adventist Church, Stevensville, MI

Our Sympathy to Rhonda Peak and family on the recent death of her cousin, Mark Farenick.

Our sympathy also to Trisha Robertson and family on the recent death of her grandmother, Louise Benson.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Gregory Caleb Barney (Brandywine High School), Jacquelyn Barney (Bachelors of Arts - Social Work, Major in Community Service from Sienna Heights University), Mark Kent (Andrews Academy), Lauren Bell (Andrews Academy), Salisa Hebard, Sherry Seigal (Indiana Academy), Dustin Hamilton (Jameswoods High), and all of our other graduates.

Concert at Niles Westside: The anticipation of Christ’s return has inspired and motivated faithfulness throughout the centuries. “His Return” is our glorious hope. Come be inspired and encouraged with this hope at this Family Concert on Sabbath, May 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Bonfire Social: Sabbath, June 6, at 6 p.m. at the Chapel in the Woods. What to Bring: Hot dogs, etc. to cook over the fire, and whatever other food you want to eat. Bring roasting sticks also. S’mores and hot chocolate will be provided. You are also welcome to come early to walk the trails, which are always available.

Vacation Bible School: July 27-31. Lots of volunteers will be needed. Please contact Erica Hippler (jande_hippler@yahoo.com or 269-876-7690) or Gina Meekma (gmeekma@gmail.com or 269-845-8870) to volunteer. Watch for more information.

7th & 8th graders picked up trash along Chicago Road in Niles for a Bible Lab in April.

Photo by Michael Jakobsons
On April 17, the Kindergarten class participated in Bendix Woods County Park’s Volunteer Plant-a-Sapling Day. Working together with park staff and other volunteers, we planted pine saplings to replace trees that have been lost over time. In our classroom we have been learning about pioneers planting trees in the prairie, so being able to plant trees while helping the park was especially meaningful.

Photo and Caption by Jenni Coffen

Of Mice & Mozart Spring Concert
Tuesday, May 19

6th grade student with his Social Studies Fair project board on April 26. Photo by Denise Kidder

Congratulations, NAS Graduates!

Kindergarten Graduation on Tuesday, May 26, at 6 p.m.:

Isis Frantz  
Jack Hill  
Camille Joseph  
Alexa Leonor  
Isabel Prouty  
Jared Sanchez  
Noah Villwock  
Mason Zindoga

8th Grade Graduation on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m.:

Taylor Johnson  
John Kent  
Nathan Mangena  
Jordan Petty  
Genevieve Prouty
NAS Bike-A-Thon Fundraiser for Bikes for Pastors in Ukraine on May 8. More than $1,000 has been raised so far!

NAS soccer game between the 6-8th graders and parents/staff on May 14.

*Photo by Denise Kidder*