Vacation Bible School

July 27-31, 2015
9 – 11:45 a.m.
Ages 4 – 12 (6th grade)

Niles Westside Seventh-day Adventist Church
1105 Grant St.
Niles, MI 49120
269-683-5998

Please pre-register now at www.nileswestside.org/vbs.

Invite your friends and neighbors to VBS!
Feel free to share the event from our Facebook page.
Dependent on God

Blessed is the one who is totally dependent on God. They are the ones who truly experience the workings of God's providence in their lives and know the sweetness of His presence. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Like a little child that could not safely survive without their parents protective presence, so we too are God's children needing His protective presence in our daily lives. Little children cannot see the dangers of fire, knives, or boiling water. Their curiosity and sometimes stubborn determination can place them in severe danger. Neither can they understand why bad things happen to good people or the hatred of evil, as darkness hates light. Their survival and success is dependent on knowing that their parents love them and want the best for them and will do everything in their power for their good. This is our success too—faith, faithfulness and friendship with God. It is a dependence on God, no matter what! Find out from your heavenly parent how all thing work together for your good. Through your dependent faith, trusting faithfulness and companionship of friendship with God, be totally blessed as He is, has and will, work all things out for your best!

Meet Our New Member: Ruth Miller

If you go to the early morning service at Niles Westside Church, you will meet Ruth Miller, faithfully attending as often as she can. Ruth has been a member since September 2014, after moving here a year ago to be closer to her family and friends. “This is such a friendly church,” Ruth says. The main reason that she is a part of the Niles family is that “the church is only three miles from where I live, and someone is always ready and willing to give me a ride.” Ruth is so grateful to her Westside family, because she can come and worship on all the Sabbaths that she is able.

Ruth lived in Berrien Center, Michigan, for over twenty years. “I was more independent then,” she muses. Ruth then moved to South Carolina, where she lived for a little over twelve years. She moved there because of the warmer weather, believing that this would be gentler on her health. She enjoyed living there, but moved back to this area and now lives at Woodland Terrace in Niles. Ruth has been widowed twice—her second husband fell asleep in Jesus in October 1998. Recently she has needed a little more help, and she wanted to be closer to her two children: daughter Margaret, her eldest, and her son, Howard. She also has numerous grandchildren with whom she enjoys spending her time.

Ruth has been a Seventh-day Adventist since she was 26. “That’s a long time ago,” she laughs. She has always been active in the church. In her home church in North Carolina, she helped coordinate a ministry that reached out in friendship to the Jewish people in hopes of spreading the gospel to them. She learned Hebrew in the process and took the Bar Mitzvah four years ago at age 80.

Though she does not currently hold an active office in the church, Ruth has always enjoyed spreading the love of Jesus. She has left the
New Member cont.

United States more than fifty times to travel abroad, many of those trips mission trips to far away places. She speaks fondly of the evangelistic meetings that were held in India where she was the main speaker, as well as the one that she helped preach at in Cuba. She is a Master Guide and was involved in Pathfinders for a number of years as well.

An avid reader, Ruth also loves researching her family history. She has traced her family tree as far back as 1635, to a heroic puritan Englishman that helped rescue over two hundred Native Indian women, men and children. She is very proud of her past. In her spare time, she loves to paint and especially to garden. She has many potted plants and grow boxes. She goes to an exercise group six times a week and tries to walk as often as she can. She also enjoys watching DVDs.

When you see Ruth at Niles, take a few minutes to chat and say hello. What a joy it is to have her at Niles Westside!

“Faith does not struggle; faith lets God do it all.”

—Corrie ten Boom

A Life of Stewardship

by Walt Williams, Stewardship Leader

C W & Catherine really wanted to help with the new church building fund in Rocky Mount, but what could they give? As new Adventists in the 1950s, CW had recently lost his job over Sabbath work and was desperate to provide for his wife, daughter and son. Young, strong and creative, he considered their small four-acre property. The clapboard homestead, already over forty years old, wasn’t much to brag about, and the cleared land offered little. They couldn’t add another mortgage against the property. Then it occurred to CW that perhaps the acre of virgin pine timber might be valuable. So with the help of another man and the local pastor, they begin cutting the tall stately trees with a crosscut saw and snaked them out of the forest with the pastor’s Packard. The logs were transferred to a local sawmill where they were cut into lumber which was used for the church construction. Volunteers worked countless hours late into the night to slowly build the Lord’s house that still stands as a testament to creative stewardship.

This is my personal heritage, as CW and Catherine were my parents. Their courageous example lives in my heart today. I’m sure such history finds a parallel in Niles Westside’s background. Once a commitment is made to be faithful, there is no telling the immediate as well as long-term results. Giving is more than just meeting an immediate financial need. It is about faithfulness to God’s prompting rather than neglecting His still small ‘voice.’ He speaks through every opportunity to do something tangible. But personal giving is more. It includes an opportunity for God to miraculously work in replenishing what we sacrifice for His kingdom, thus strengthening our faith. But there is more. Giving establishes an example whose influence far exceeds our wildest imagination. Who knows about future generations inspired by our example. And there’s even more. We become participants in the gospel work Jesus allows us to partner in!

I believe Niles’ giving history demonstrates an amazing record of potential. I believe our future will out-distance our past. Imagine with me the goal of paying off all of our financial obligations by the end of this year! What if each member covenanted with God to sacrificially give to make that happen? What a testimony service we would offer to God. I believe God intends to do much more for us than we can even imagine. I know He continues to work miracles. How about you?

I’m always deeply impressed with the giving that occurs in our church. When you see the weekly financial report, imagine how each dollar represents commitment and sacrifice for Jesus. Think of our privilege and the impact of our combined contributions. I want to commend what has already happened in our church finances. Think of all God has allowed us to do in just the last five years. What an impact for Niles ministry! Only Jesus knows your love gifts and what sacrifice it has cost. On behalf of His kingdom — THANK YOU! I know blessings will follow your faithfulness because He has promised: “Inasmuch as you have done this for the least of these, you have done it to Me.”
Books from Pacific Press

July Book of the Month: Packy, Pokey, Sally is a book for younger children and has three stories in one book. Each story is sure to be loved by the little ones, and to teach them Godly values. Sale price: $11.24 in July at the Adventist Book Center (ABC) in Berrien Springs.

Note: Whenever you shop at www.AdventistBookCenter.com, please use this code to benefit our local church: 44140.

August Book of the Month: A Time to Forgive is the story of Shannon Bigger, daughter of the author, Darold Bigger, who was brutally attacked and murdered. The author recounts his struggles—what he was thinking and feeling—and the breakthrough that gave life value again. He also takes an in-depth look at forgiveness and love. Dr. Bigger chooses to use this experience to help others learn to forgive. This book would appeal to most adults who wonder how they can go about living out forgiveness in their lives. Sale price: $12.74 in August at the ABC.

Vacation Adventuring
by Tami le Roux, Director

Are you having a fun summer? My family is having a busy summer, with traveling to General Conference Session, visiting Sea World, and a couple of national parks. It has been a truly memorable summer so far.

While at GC Session, I saw lots of people wearing Pathfinder hats, Pathfinder uniforms, and Pathfinder and Adventurer shirts. I did not bring our Adventurer shirts, so we felt kind of left out. But then I remembered that had I packed our Adventurer bags—the ones we got from Fun Day. We used those bags for our towels and water at Sea World. I pray that we were a witness to those around us as we were at the park, that people could see that we lived our Adventurer law. Are you living the Adventurer law?

Join us for Adventurers for kids age 3—grade 4 during the school year on Monday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. Adventur-
Pathfinder News
by April Hughes, Deputy Director

We are getting prepared to begin a new Pathfinder year! Registration will be held on Sunday, August 16, from 4-6 p.m. (at NAS during school registration). The Pathfinder Club is open to kids and teens in grades 5 through 10. The club enjoys a variety of activities throughout the year to help members develop their personal relationship with God, learn more about nature, develop life skills, serve the community, and more.

Our first club meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the Niles Adventist School gym. We will also register new members at the first meeting. Parents are encouraged to come to the first meeting if they have any questions, need to fill out any paperwork, or need to order uniform pieces for their child.

We are also looking for dedicated staff members to help at the Wednesday night meetings and other events. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Director Janessa Howell (269-240-7112 or niles4flagspathfinderclub@gmail.com). The annual Pathfinder Leadership, for staff and TLTs only, is taking place at Camp Au Sable from August 28-30. We strongly encourage new and returning staff and TLTs to attend. We need to register attendees from our club by August 19. There is a fee to attend. Please contact us for more information.

We are excited about the new Pathfinder year, and we ask that you please continue to pray for our club. Jesus Christ is our Master Guide, and we want to follow where He leads us. If you have questions about Pathfinders, please contact Janessa Howell.

The Lord’s Library
by Phyllis Shupp, Church Librarian

New to our library:

Daring to Ask for More
by Melody Mason

The spokesman looked at the king in astonishment and asked, “How can you grant such an outrageous request?” The king replied, “...He’s the first man that’s really made me feel like the king I am. For only I can grant such a request!”

If prayer is “the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse,” then Melody Mason’s new book is long overdue. This book is precisely God’s strategic appeal to this generation living on the edge of eternity. What are you praying for?

About the Author: Melody Mason has a passion for prayer and for helping people to develop a genuine walk with Jesus. Besides working with her local church conference prayer ministries, she leads out in prayer initiatives for the General Conference’s Annual Council and other official church events.

Note: 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 on Sabbaths from right after Sabbath School until 11:30 a.m. We would love to see you!

Church Library Needs: The library needs to have changes, and the best way to do that would be to automate the present system. If you would like to make a donation, please mark your tithe envelope “Library Software.” Your support is very much appreciated.

Visit our Library
Welcome New Member!

Eunice Jensen from Caldwell Adventist Church, Caldwell, ID

Farewell to Our Members!

Patricia Scott to Village Adventist Church, Berrien Springs, MI
Bradley & Lori Yensho to South Bend Adventist Church, South Bend, IN

It's a Boy! Don & Lorraine Hilliard have a new great-grandson that was born on May 31. Ethan Isaac weighed 7 lbs 5 oz and is 19 inches long. Congratulations!

Our sympathy to Donna Wamsher, whose husband, Harold, passed away on June 12. Our sympathy also to Rory & Richard Makungu. Rory's father passed away in early June.

Ryan Watson Concert: Join us on Sabbath, July 18, at 8 p.m. at Niles Westside for a sacred concert by singer/songwriter Ryan Watson. Ryan’s love of music spans his lifetime, and his passion for Jesus shines through as he sings and plays. Bring a friend and worship Jesus as Ryan shares his music and ministry! For more information about the concert, contact Rodrick Snow (rodricksnow@gmail.com). For more information about Ryan, visit his website at www.ryanwatsonmusic.com.

Open House for Susan Nutt: You are invited to celebrate Susan’s 70th birthday on Sunday, July 19, from 2-4 p.m. in the Niles Adventist School gym.

Women’s Night Out: Thursday, July 23, at 5:30 p.m. at Red Robin (Mishawaka). Please RSVP to Kathy Dockerty (kadockerty@yahoo.com or 269-782-8567).

Vacation Bible School: July 27-31. Lots of volunteers are needed. Please contact Erica Hippler (jande_hippler@yahoo.com or 269-876-7690) or Gina Meekma (gmeekma@gmail.com or 269-845-8870) to see how you can help.

VBS Items Needed: We need to borrow the following items: Christmas trees, hiking/climbing gear, two-man tents, snow shoes, icicle lights, and flag banners – Erica Hippler (jande_hippler@yahoo.com or 269-876-7690)

Women’s Brunch/Shopping Trip: The Woman’s Ministries Team would like to invite you to brunch at Hob Nob in Niles on Sunday, August 16, at 9 a.m. For those that would like to go shopping at the University Park Mall, there will be a shopping trip afterward with car pooling available. You can choose one or both items that you want to do. This is a good time to have a social with ladies and to get some school shopping done. Hope to see you there. Please RSVP to Regina Mack (269-313-1748 or on the Women’s Ministries Facebook page). Invite your friends!

Jaime Jorge Concert: Friday, August 28, at 7 p.m. at Niles Westside. Jaime’s forceful, expressive mastery of the violin has delighted audiences around the globe. He has dedicated his talents to sharing the love of God through sacred and classical concerts and special appearances the world over. See www.jaimejorge.com for more information.

Canoeing Social: Sabbath afternoon, August 29. Watch for more information.
Mrs. Taylor works with NAS student Keren Acosta, using the new coordinate plane wipe-off boards. These boards, which were ordered using Martin’s Advantage points, will be used for guided practice when Mrs. Taylor is instructing graphing of ordered pairs in math.

Photo by Gina Meekma

Easy Ways to Support NAS:

1) If you shop at Martin’s Supermarket, sign up for an Advantage Card.
2) If you shop at Harding’s, sign up for an eScrip Community Card.
3) Collect/turn in (at NAS or Niles Westside) Spartan bar codes
4) Collect/turn in BoxTops for Education
5) Collect/turn in Labels for Education
6) Amazon Smile - http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-4652390. Shopping Amazon this way gives 0.5% rewards to NAS for qualifying purchases. It is the regular Amazon, but includes rewards for the school. If you use a Scrip shopping card to pay, the school will get even more.
7) Buy Scrip shopping gift cards from NAS—designate where a portion of the rebate will go (tuition, school project, etc). eCards (ScripNow) and reloadable cards are always available. Order shopping cards from Gina Meekma (secretary@nilesadventistschool.org), or better yet, sign up to order online at www.shopwithscrip.com (Code for NAS: AL8ELD988L1). Paying online is available with PrestoPay. We do keep a number of shopping and gas cards on hand, as well as a few restaurant cards.

NAS Calendar

Sunday, August 16: School Registration, from 4-6 p.m.
Thursday, August 20: First Day of School (free breakfast), from 8:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Saturday, August 22: Teacher Dedication at Niles Westside, 11 a.m. service
Thursday, August 27: Parent Orientation, at 6 p.m.
Vida Welch - 1
Miranda Hawley - 2
Janice Rush
Kelli Coffen - 3
Olivia Constable
Tami le Roux
Isaiah Detweiler - 7
Douglas Fattic
Bong Kim
Kalvin Koenigshof - 8
Jarrod Brown - 9
Isabela Constable
Barbara Fox
James Mann - 10
Susan Nutt
Steve Sowder
Jaden Bayles - 11
Celeste Schumaker - 14
David Irwin - 15
Gerry Yoder
Jenni Coffen - 16
Sheila Patterson
Justin Luzadder - 17
Seth Rogers - 18
Dustin Hamilton - 19
Crystal Wilson - 19
Jason Kidder - 20
James Ringler
Charlotte Boomsliter - 21
David Patterson
Bobbie Brelowski - 22
Dean Snow
Brian Lucas - 23
Emily Lucas
Christopher Carlsen - 24
Christina Fattic
John Peterson
Nathaniel Chung - 25
Christopher Coffen
Eunice Jensen
Nadia Makumbe
Tracy Richter
Stephanie Kidder - 28
Michael Ruedinger
Rett Fagal - 29
Nathan Horvath
Ella Taylor
Mark Cook - 30
Geneva Lintz - 31

Frank Chole - 1
Erica Hippler
Seth Wiedemann
John Franklin - 2
Helen Hemminger
Bryn Salvini
Marcella Cole - 4
Jennifer Cook
Tess Navalon
Joe Lawrence - 6
Donna Ruedinger
Fred Hebard - 7
Justin Demler - 8
Nathan Dennis
Linda Murphy
Virginia Cummings - 9
Stephen Grooms - 10
Lorraine Hilliard
Dan Johnson
William Navalon
Casey Scameheorn
Andrew VonMaur
Jeremiah Manda - 11
Virginia Szucs
Aubrion Franklin - 12
Salisa Hebard
Ethan Hermenitt
Kris Sutton
Charles Jones - 13
Richard Robbins - 15
Douglas Adams - 16
Cassandra Chole - 17
Jason Hippler - 17
Kathy Wright
Patricia Hawley - 19
Lauren Leonor
Chip Meekma
Susan Constable - 20
Jose Hernandez - 21
Gerald Hawley - 22
Jillian Panigot
Robert Acosta - 23
Alma Carlsen
Diamond Hawley
William Liu
James Giver - 24
Delbert Hunt
Brandon Koleda
Jean-Paul Robertson - 26
Angela Simmons
Stanley Smith
Thomas Timm
Shiulie Mondol - 27
Jennifer Payne
Cathryn Leonor - 28
Corina Irwin - 29
Mark Kent
Kenneth Stout - 30
Leonard Chitekwe - 31

Skit on Pathfinder Sabbath—May 2015

Photo by Rodrick Snow