Mountains of Fun at VBS

by Gina Meekma with Erica Hippler

More than 150 children and 80 plus volunteers spent a week in July learning more about the Bible and God at our Everest Vacation Bible School. After songs and a skit at "Base Camp," there were other fun activities such as Mountaintop Mission & Treats (stories about Nepal's earthquake victims, and snacks); Imagination Station (crafts); Glacier Games; Bible Expeditions (stories about Elijah); and the closing program, Summit Celebration.

The kids learned that God has the power to provide, the power to comfort, the power to heal, the power to forgive, as well as the power to love us forever and to take us home with Him to heaven.

Our fundraiser this year was for ADRA (Adventist Development & Relief Agency), to help the earthquake victims in Nepal. The boys and girls kept up their tradition of friendly competition, and together raised more than $1,500 for family shelters for Nepal!

We would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers, those who made or loaned us props and helped decorate, and everyone who had a part in making this year's VBS a success! You impacted these children's lives for God and helped make memories that they won't soon forget.
His Face is Your Light

We don’t often consider just how, and how much, God wants to bless us. When God wants you to be the light of the world, He will stream that light from His presence. A double blessing takes place: you experience His face, and you are considered worthy to be His light in a dark world. Look at the incredible blessings God wants His people to experience in Numbers 6:24-27 (considered by some as the Old Testament’s “Lord’s Prayer”):

The LORD bless you, and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.

This is an incredible blessing that God initiated and promised for everyone who came to the Sanctuary for Salvation. This blessing the priests were to pronounce on the people. God’s very name would be upon them, and then they would surely be blessed. Look at this blessing a little closer, and discover the intimacy of the Godhead moving closer to bless us.

Firstly, you are simply blessed by being kept. He keeps you, it’s not your job, but His as we can’t keep ourselves. We are kept for His soon return as He delightfully forgives you and presents you faultless before His presence with exceeding joy (Jude 1:24, 25). You are victor over sin and Satan. Please note how excited God is to keep you, preserved in a restored state, for His unveiled glory.

Secondly, in a kept-in-Him state, His face shines upon you so that you, like Moses, reflect His glory to the world. You are His light to a dark world as you wonder at His grace.

Thirdly, He not only shines on you, but lifts up His countenance, in an active and delightful Creator-God way. He is now well pleased with you and gives you peace. Heavenly peace, not as the world gives it, but as Jesus said: “My peace I leave with you ....” Here the deepest desire of the human soul is met: Peace. This peace is to be pleased with God and be pleasing to God. Peace is the expression of that very extraordinary experience.

To have God’s name on your forehead, sealed for an eternity to be with Him, you will seek Him in the sanctuary with all your heart. Seek this blessing today.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

“A pastor never gets to say “I’m off duty”. Never gets to punch out at 5. Never gets to have a normal schedule. We don’t know how many sleepless nights they spend on their knees praying for their church. How much opposition they face. How many family opportunities they miss to meet with hurting people. We can’t carry their burden for them but we can do what the Bible tells us to: Pray for them. Encourage them. Support them. By blessing them we will only be blessed in return.

Thank you, Pastor Darrel le Roux and Pastor Bill Dudgeon!

Hope Housam, Pastor Darrel, Pastor Bill, Elijah le Roux, and Mitchell Meekma on August 8 at Weko Beach.
Meet Our New Members: Payne Family

by Anke Pagaja

Our church family continues to grow, and we are so blessed to meet new families that have decided to make Niles Westside their new home church. Meet the Payne family. You can often see their smiling faces in the Kindergarten and Cradle Roll classes...and if the church library is open, they are exploring all the new books that are on display.

Jennifer hails from Maryland, and Jason is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. They met at Mt. Aetna Camp in Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1995, where they were both summer camp staff. Jason and Jennifer both graduated from Andrews University in 1998. They have been married for seventeen happy and blessed years. Their children, Juliana (age 5) and Alistair (age 2), have since completed their happy family. Before they decided to move to Niles two years ago, they lived in Hagerstown for thirteen years.

Jason is co-owner of a Camp Registration Software Company called UltraCamp. Jennifer is a high school English teacher by profession, but she is currently a stay-at-home mom. She plays the piano and sings with the praise team, something that she loves to do. She also enjoys doing for almost twenty years. She also helps teach in the Kindergarten Sabbath School at Niles Westside.

Alistair is very much into trucks, cars, trains, planes, reading and singing...there is never a dull moment. His older sister, Juliana, is fascinated with all things nature, especially owls. She loves to read ferociously. She also plays the violin and the piano. She is in Kindergarten at NAS. Jennifer has a love for music, art and literary culture. Traveling is another great interest of hers. As for Jason, he enjoys playing board games and participating in water sports. He also has a passion for comedy. As a family, the Paynes love to spend time together traveling and in nature and the outdoors.

Members since February 2015, the Paynes decided to join Niles Westside because of the family atmosphere, especially the vibrant and active Sabbath School programs for their children. They also appreciate how closely the elementary school across the parking lot is very much a part of the church as a whole. Vida Welch, Jennifer’s mom, is also a Westside member. The Payne family loves to make new friends! Introduce yourself, get to know them, and give them the warm Westside welcome!

The Lord’s Library

by Phyllis Shupp

Our library is open immediately following Sabbath School and remains open until 11:30 a.m. We invite you to come and check us out, and see what new DVDs and books we have to offer. We have several new titles in which you may be interested.

God’s Not Dead--When an atheist philosophy professor plans to forego dusty arguments in his class, he insists the new students declare that God is dead. Unable to do this, one student, Josh, is challenged to defend his faith and prove to the class that God’s not dead. Against all odds, Josh stands up for his faith and takes on the challenge.

Prophecy Foundations--A revolutionary Bible study brings end time prophecy to life through a rich, interactive, multimedia study experience. This DVD is brought to you by Amazing Facts.

For our Junior teens, we have Nancy Rue’s book titled, Sorry I’m Not Sorry. This book deals with the problem of teen bullying and how one mean girl’s acts forced her to attend mandatory counseling and volunteer at an art summer camp for underprivileged kids. See what happens to Kylie as she makes bad decisions which make it difficult for her to get back in school.

We have eight DVDs for the youth titled Stepping Stones. One of them is “Little Red Wagon,” which is based on actual events. Moved by the images of families whose lives were uprooted by Hurricane Charley, 8-year-old Zach Bonner uses his trusty wagon to collect essential items that will help the relief victims. When the media spotlights his actions, how does Zach use this added attention to raise awareness of the homeless youth in America?
Acts of Kindness
by Denise Scroggs

Acts of Kindness by Niles Westside started as an idea during a walk through our neighborhood. A house at the end of the street had the appearance of neglect. Shrubbery was overgrown, gutters coming down, windows had paint peeling, and yet someone lived there. There had to be a story behind that house.

The story was that a lady lived there, caring for her elderly handicapped mother. When asked if she would mind if some help was given to her yard, she excitedly accepted the offer. When the Junior/Earlteen Sabbath School was contacted about helping, they willingly accepted the request. A Sunday was spent cleaning out brush, raking leaves, and chopping down small trees. When that Sunday was over, the desire for more Acts of Kindness grew.

Next, the church family became involved and took on a major project of siding the house of Hope & Terry Housam. Although it took most of the summer, the project was completed by several dedicated, mission-minded men. It was a beautifully finished job.

This is the mission work to the community and church family around us. As the Lord brings opportunities, the Acts of Kindness will continue to show God’s love just as Jesus did, meeting the needs of people where they are.

Bulbs
by Tami le Roux, Director

The Adventurers are running a Bulb Fundraiser until Monday, September 28, and this got me thinking about how bulbs work. We are often focused on the outward appearance of things, the pretty, the new, the fancy or shiny. But how often do we focus on the ground which some of these stem from? When you get ready to plant bulbs, it is best to know what your bulb will need to flourish – does it need sandy soil, or moist, loamy soil? Does it need lots of water, or a drier climate? These may sound like mundane questions, but if you put an orchid bulb in a wet climate, it will not bloom. If you put a tulip bulb in a dry, air-based medium, it too will not bloom. Blooming is a delicate procedure.

So, how does this fit with Adventurers (besides the fundraiser)? Well, if parents do not give their children what they need to make their soil rich and water-fed, how can they bloom? Children need food, shelter, love, and guidance – we all agree to those. But what about their spiritual soil? Are you making sure that they are fed from the Bible daily? Are you making sure they can absorb the nutrients in the Bible that you are sharing? Make time to read the Bible together and share what the passage says to you. Make time to talk about heaven and Jesus daily. Let’s help our kids be planted in the Kingdom so that they can bloom and spread Jesus’ love too!

If you would like to order bulbs, please see any Adventurer or go to http://groups.dutchmillbulbs.com/niles caterpillaradventurerclub.php.

Having fun at Adventurers with teacher Regina Mack. Photo by Tami le Roux
Our Pathfinder Club has doubled in size this year! We have around thirty members this year, and we are looking forward to officially welcoming all of our new members into the club at this year’s *Induction Ceremony* on Sabbath, September 12, at 2:30 pm, 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.

As we continue planning events this year, we are reminded about our theme. This year the Michigan Conference Pathfinder theme is “Spot On!” The theme focuses on one of our Pathfinder laws, “Keep a level eye.” Keeping a level eye teaches Pathfinders to not lie, cheat or deceive others, and teaches them to despise dirty talk and evil thinking. We enjoy planning worships and activities that emphasize the theme throughout the year. One special event that will focus on the theme is the Michigan Pathfinder Camporee. The camporee is a yearly event where clubs from all over Michigan get together for a fun and spiritual weekend campout in the North Woods of Camp Au Sable. This year the camporee takes place from September 18-20. Please keep Pathfinders from all over Michigan in prayer during this special weekend event. The Holy Spirit works on the hearts of our young people, and some are moved to make decisions for baptism during this special weekend.

The club will also be working on the nature honor “Bogs and Fens” this year. Staff members were happy to learn that Mud Lake Bog is located in Buchanan. Having a bog so close gives us a wonderful opportunity to explore and learn about this unique ecosystem in person. We are planning a field trip to the bog on Sunday, September 27, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

In October we will be working on our Annual Food Drive. The club will be collecting non-perishable food items for local area families in need of our support and love. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please bring non-perishable food items to church by Sabbath, October 31. There will be a designated drop-off area to leave donations. The club will be collecting donations throughout our local community too. Please keep this annual project in your prayers. It is our hope that families will be blessed and will see God’s love in action.

We would like to thank our church family for everything you have done to help us purchase our new Pathfinder trailer. It’s here, and we couldn’t be more excited! Thank you again. It wouldn’t have been possible without you.

Please keep our club in your prayers. Thank you for your continued support of this important youth ministry. If you have questions about Pathfinders, please contact Director *Janessa Howell* at 269-240-7112 or via email at niles4flagspathfinderclub@gmail.com.

---

**Faith Under Construction**

*Faith Under Construction* kids’ club needs volunteers who can devote time about two afternoons a month to be actively engaged in activities with the youth of our church. We can use people with varied talents! Contact *Phyllis Shupp* (269-641-7080 or in the church library in the foyer) for information. Thank you!

Our first meeting is Thursday, September 17, from 3 -4:30 p.m. at the church.

---

*Pastor Darrel* with *Nathan Mangena* on August 15 at Weko Beach.
Church Family News

Welcome New Members!

Hope Housam, Elijah le Roux, and Mitchell Meekma were baptized at Weko Beach on August 8, 2015.

Nathan Mangena was baptized at Weko Beach on August 15, 2015.

Grace and Lillian Dockerty, and Nevaeh and Hevanna Hippler were baptized at Weko Beach on August 22, 2015. (see picture below)

Farewell to Our Members!

Heidi Beardsley to Wichita South Adventist Church, Wichita, KS

Ashley & Allyn Birth to Milo Academy Adventist Church, Days Creek, OR

Timothy (TJ) Cherry II to Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, MI

Rebecca & Brendan Cross to Atlanta North Adventist Church, Atlanta, GA

Jamie Howell to Dakota Conference Adventist Church, Bismarck, ND

Andrew von Maur to Village Adventist Church, Berrien Springs, MI

Our sympathy to to Denise Kidder on the death of her father, Walt Lofftus, in August.

It’s a Boy! Congratulations to Jessica & Chris Carlisen, as well as big sister Tahlia, on the birth of Magnar Areli Carlisen. He was born on September 3 at 12:13 a.m. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 20 inches long.

New Web Site: We are in the process of setting up a new church web site. Please visit it at www.nilessda.org. It is a work in progress, so there will be some broken links and information that’s not totally up-to-date. Please bear with us and give Pastor Darrel or Gina Meekma any feedback.

Journey in Romans: One of the most amazing gospel-focused books of the Bible is the book of Romans. For eight weeks, Pastor Darrel will journey through the highlights of the book of Romans, starting on Wednesday, September 9, from 7-8 p.m. If you enjoy knowing Jesus more and want to live inspired by His presence, you will want to attend.

Baptism: On Sabbath evening, September 12, at Weko Beach at 6:30 p.m., Adeléna Fagal will be baptized. Everyone is invited to attend. (No entrance fees after Labor Day.)

CROP Hunger Walk: Sunday afternoon, September 27; 2:30 p.m. registration at the First United Methodist Church, Oak St, Buchanan. Help us feed hungry people in our community as well as around the world! It’s not too late to be a Walker or sponsor a Walker from the following list: Stan Smith, Esther Jones, Lauretta Mann, Pagajas, Sue Rose, Sue Mann, Snows, Barneys, Proutys, Jakobsons, Kidders, Kathy Dockerty, Curtis’, Seth Wiedemann, and Regina Mack. If you have questions or need further info, please contact Esther Jones (269-845-5770/occesther@gmail.com).

It’s a Girl! Congratulations to Amanda & Fred Boothby, big sister Chloe, and big brother Oliver (as well as grandparents, Dan & Carol Minter; and great grandparents, Frank & Marilyn McCalment), on the birth of Alexa Kate Boothby! Born on August 10, she weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 inches long.
Mrs. Koleda, New Art Teacher
by Lacey Koleda with Gina Meekma

Lacey Koleda is one of the latest additions to the NAS teaching staff. She has been married to Brandon Koleda for thirteen years, and they have two girls, Ellia (8), a second grader at NAS; and Avery (7 in October), a first grader at NAS.

Born in Niles, Lacey Edwards then moved to and was raised in the Berrien Springs area. Niles Westside was her first church until the age of six. She married Brandon in 2002, and they lived in Burlington, WA; Collegedale, TN; Williamsburg, VA; Petersburg, VA; and Chester, VA, where he served in pastoral ministry. A burden for their families and a desire to “put down some roots” brought them back to Berrien Springs last summer. They recently purchased Lacey’s grandparents’ home in South Bend, IN, where they plan to move this fall.

As our new art teacher, Lacey brings a wealth of experience working with youth. She was a gymnastics instructor at Andrews University for six years; a task force dean at GLAA for one year; a summer camp counselor at Mt. Aetna Camp in Hagerstown, MD; a Pathfinder leader; a Sabbath School teacher; a VBS leader; and an art teacher for R.A. Lewis Adventist School in Petersburg, VA. She has also homeschooled her daughters.

What Lacey loves about teaching is “seeing another person light up when they discover something new or get excited about something inspiring. I’m passionate about helping others to see the beauty of the world around them, and to appreciate the uniqueness of different people, cultures, and artistic expressions.”

Lacey’s interests and hobbies include interior design, sewing, upcycle crafting, furniture refinishing, painting, antiquing, thrifting, writing, reading, biking, hiking, camping, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family.

Fun Facts: Lacey is the oldest of seven children. She was homeschooled for four years and was a gymnast for fourteen years. She’s been a licensed Cosmetologist for over fifteen years. Her sister is also her sister-in-law (married to Brandon’s brother). She has been on four mission trips outside of the US and traveled to eleven other countries. She has yet to see only five of the fifty U.S. states.

Welcome, Mrs. Koleda! We’re glad that you’ve joined the NAS family!

Michigan Blood Drive: Tuesday, September 15, from 2-7 p.m. at NAS. Please call the school (269-683-5444) to sign up to donate blood.
Bob Benner — 1
Corbin Corzine
Lillian Dockerty — 2
Loretta Howell
Rachel Storie
Betty Tacy
Bill Fagal — 3
Magnar Carlsen
Michael Jakobsons — 4
Peggy Nannay
Lisa Babcock — 6
Tahlia Carlsen
Christopher Corzine
Sharon Martin
Donovan Bredenkamp — 7
Cherie Stiles
Aaron Simmons — 8
Allyn Birth — 9
Camille Joseph
Nicholas Leonard
Rhonda Peak — 10
Aidan Salvini — 11
Breanna Wood
David Stratton — 12
Jody Villwock
Susan Mann — 13
Mary Hall — 14
Robert Leonard
Donald Winter
Anabel Dockerty — 15
Peggy Woodruff
Jeremy Ball — 18
Fred Boothby

Carl Burton — 19
Vonnie Danless
Kathy Herbel
Tammy Prelog — 20
Tara Staniszewski
Leah Stratton
Darlene Wood
Anna Bell — 21
Nadim Bibi — 22
Karla Dennis
Susan Fenner
Shayne Williams
Lorraine Thames — 23
Chris Hermenitt — 24
Gerald Siebold
Caleb Detweiler — 25
Emily Hermenitt
Mervyn Medina
Lynnette Bojter — 26
Peggy Cain
Kami Duis
Lindsey Storie
James Weiser
Gabe Scameheorn — 27
Melanie Storie
Jean Wood
Colleen Bell — 28
Kim Birdsell
Steve Carlsen
Naomi Joseph — 29
Aaron Bradford — 30
Anna Cook
Steve Simmons

Olivia Bredenkamp — 1
Maria Stears
Edward Beitzel — 2
Drew Evans
Donald Harris
Karen Hemminger
Myung Kim
Richard Huff — 3
Garikai Moyo
Jack Hill — 4
William Shupp
Tom Stiles
Althea Joseph — 5
Nancy Sears
Penny Hainey — 6
Jody Seigal
Donna Wamsher
Paul Williams
Dallas Ellis — 7
Krista Ellis
LeAnna Herbel
Roger Hobson — 8
Pamela Beitzel — 9
Sonya Granvold
Soneni Makumbe
Steven Mann
Stewart Cross — 10
Layton Peak
Jessica Nave — 11
Timothy Wright
Janelle Bennett — 12
Lana Lechner
Erin Dockerty — 13
Tara Carlsen — 14
Kaitlyn Dulemba — 16
Lauri Priest
Leilah Coe — 17
Cali Demler
Jodi Krol
Kiera Lyons
Deven Ellis — 18
Arlene Hughes
Kimberly Bom — 19
Justin Howell
Esther Jones
Donna Stout
Daniel Stout
Jamie Howell — 22
Ashlynn Loenser
Robert Benjamin — 23
Rebecca Cross
John Kring
Rodrick Snow — 24
Louise Demler — 25
Kaleb Teat — 26
Jim Nave — 27
Richard Kerr — 28
Avery Koleda
Asher Prouty
Jessica Carlsen — 30
Anthony Duis
Lauretta Mann — 31
Dorothy Metzger

VBS Photos by Greg Wise and Keegan Murphy