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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MICHIGAN MEMO

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Due to COVID-19, events on the schedule are subject to change.

AUGUST

- 12-14 iShare Conference, GLAA
- 19-21 Adventurer Leadershop, Camp Au Sable
- 26-28 Pathfinder Leadershop, Camp Au Sable

SEPTEMBER

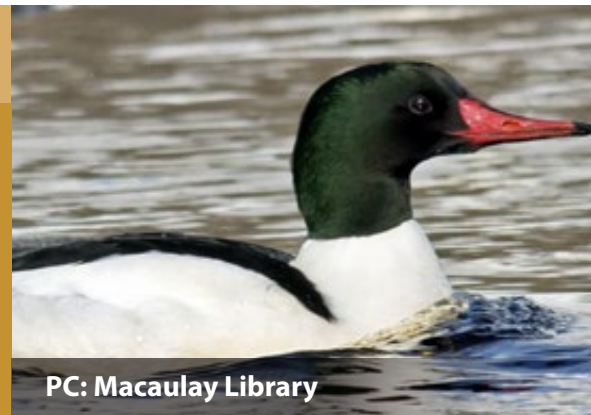
- 9-11 Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Au Sable
- 9-11 UP Camp Meeting, Camp Sagola
- 11-15 Golden Years Retreat, Camp Au Sable
- 14-18 GLAA Home Leave
- 16-18 Pathfinder Camporee, Camp Au Sable
- 23-25 Family First (Location?)
- 30 – Oct 2 PCM Retreat, Camp Au Sable
- 30- Oct 2 TLT Squared, Camp Au Sable

MICHIGAN MEMO is a monthly publication of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for its constituents. Andy Im, editor; Beth Thomas, acting assistant editor; **Seminars Unlimited**, layout, design, and print. Comments may be submitted by emailing communication@misda.org.

NATURE NUGGET

Swimmer's Itch

By Dr. Gordon Atkins,
 Camp Au Sable Naturalist



PC: Macaulay Library

If you have ever had it, you know it's not much fun! Swimmer's Itch is caused by a microscopic parasite in the water that burrows into your skin and causes a red, itching, burning rash. The parasite lives in lakes and is transferred from lake to lake via the feet and feathers of any of the three species of Mergansers. Common Mergansers are often mistaken for Loons, which also live in the lakes of northern Michigan.

What is so interesting is that while most of the lakes around Camp Au Sable are contaminated with the parasite that causes Swimmer's Itch, our Lake Shellenbarger does not have Swimmer's Itch. This blessing from God comes in the form of an unlikely summer hero – the Canada Goose!

Here is how it works. Mergansers arrive on Lake Shellenbarger as soon as the ice begins to melt, however it's too cold for the Swimmer's Itch parasite to survive. A few weeks later the Canada Geese

arrive and when they start to set up their nesting territories, they become very aggressive and drive off the Mergansers from the lake. Thus, there are no Mergansers on our lake during the warm summer months when Swimmer's Itch would likely spread!

The benefit of no Swimmer's Itch in our lake does come with a cost. Those at the waterfront know what I mean. Since the geese hang around the beach area, it's possible you might step in some goose poop on your way to go swimming! I guess it's a small price to pay for a lake that is free from parasites!

The Christian life can have similar "costs and benefits." Sometimes we might blame God for things that happen in our lives that we don't like—kind of like stepping in the goose poop. But in the big picture, those things in our lives that we might not understand now, may turn out to be a blessing in disguise. I am glad that God is in control and has everything worked out.



AJA students standing next to the delicious desserts for the bake-off.

Adelphian Junior Academy and Evangelism

The head and not the tail." Pastor Daniel Ferraz says this motto, drawn from Deuteronomy 28, underlines the whole purpose of Adelphian Junior Academy (AJA), the school associated with the Holly church. It highlights the renewed efforts of both the church and school to reach the community.

In a recent sermon titled "Heads or Tails," Ferraz stated his belief that the church school is our most effective evangelistic tool. "Not just because we hope to baptize our children, but because our school events bring non-Adventist parents, grandparents, and community members onto our

school and church premises like nothing else. We are focused on aggressively advertising our school and church events to the public through door hangers, word-of-mouth and social media. We want to mingle and socialize with people, gain their confidence and friendship. We feel energized that the Lord is leading and blessing our efforts," says Ferraz.

Why not use the school as an engaging outreach project? AJA is located on a busy road close to the church, surrounded on all sides by large neighborhoods. Recognizing their prime location, the school and Holly members combined time

"The church school is our most effective evangelistic tool, says Ferraz, "not just because we hope to baptize our children, but because our school events bring non-Adventist parents, grandparents, and community members onto our school and church premises like nothing else."

and resources to put on two major community events.

"An Evening with a Scientist," featured Ben Roy, a science instructor at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. When not teaching, Roy travels to various schools combining the

– EDITORIAL –

"It is our hope that through the activities and study of Pathfinding, we may help young people in their Christian walk and assist them in their development into an outstanding Christian leader."

By Craig Harris,
Club Ministries Director



THE FRONT LINES

Have you ever been on the front lines of a ministry where you field challenging questions of faith, failings and fulfillment? Have you opened yourself to new, sometimes uncomfortable situations, yet find that you have grown to more fully understand your purpose as a Christian through those circumstances?

It may have been a phone call from the nominating committee; it may have been the Holy Spirit working on your soul, encouraging you to take an active role in the mentoring of young people. Somewhere along the line, many devoted Christians have accepted the call to the front-line ministry of Pathfinding!

The Basics

The Pathfinder Club is a worldwide youth organization sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, although young people of any religious persuasion, or none at all, are welcome and encouraged to join. The target group is young people in grades five to 10. Voted into existence by the world church in 1950, Pathfinders has grown exponentially over the past seven decades. There are roughly 2 million Pathfinders in 60,000 clubs in over 180 countries around the world.

It's called a club because you join because you want to, not because it's required. Being a Pathfinder (including

staff) is supposed to be fun and exciting. If it's not, then something is wrong. New members become official at a special ceremony called Induction.

Club activities provide opportunities for the young people to learn Christian values, develop self-discipline, make

If the Adventist Church in America had kept its own children over the last 150 years, there would now be 9 million Adventists in North America, rather than 1 million. NAD Report, 1999

friends, acquire skills and hobbies, learn teamwork and leadership skills, and come to love and serve all of God's creation, including mankind.

Pathfinders do this during weekly or bimonthly club meetings, monthly camp outs, Sabbath and Sunday field trips, outreach activities, and during Conference-wide events such as fairs and camporees.

The Pathfinder Club uses two learning curricula: Honors and Investiture Achievement. A third,

the Teen Leadership Training (TLT) curriculum, trains teens in club and church leadership.

Honors are lists of learning activities related to a specific field of study such as stamp collecting, swimming, or sewing. If you were a Scout as a child, then Honors are like Merit Badges. Honors are available in over 350 areas of study. General categories include Arts & Crafts, Health & Science, Household Arts, Nature, Outdoor Industries, Spiritual Growth, Outreach, Heritage, Recreation, and Vocations.

Individual honors can require anywhere from hours (Dogs) to years (Teaching) to complete. Honor tokens (felt patches) are issued to a Pathfinder when they complete the Honor.

Investiture Achievement is a highly developed curriculum of learning in six levels: Friend, Companion, Explorer, Ranger, Voyager, and Guide. Typically, a level is earned each year. Completion of an Investiture Achievement level is awarded at a special ceremony near the end of the year called Investiture. All 28 Fundamental beliefs are taught in these six levels.

Why Do Pathfinders?

It is our hope that through the activities and study of Pathfinding, we may help young people in their Christian walk and assist them in their development into an outstanding

Christian leader. In a more fundamental way, we simply want to provide these wonderful young people with a safe place to fellowship and grow closer to Jesus. At the core of this all is the Pathfinder Pledge and Law

Pathfinder Pledge

By the grace of God, I will be pure, kind and true. I will keep the Pathfinder law. I will be a servant of God and a friend to man.

The Pathfinder Law

The Pathfinder Law is for me to keep the morning watch, do my honest part, care for my body, keep a level eye, be courteous and obedient, walk softly in the sanctuary, keep a song in my heart and go on God's errands.

We Want Them!

Many young people feel that adults do not like them. Sometimes they even question if their own parents like them. Most adults send out these vibes because they feel that the young people do not like them, and so starts an ever-descending spiral of misunderstanding, frustration, and pain. We are committed to a different course.

We want our members to know that they are loved and we look forward to having them around. That's one reason we have such a full calendar. We want them to know that we are going to look out for them, we are ready to listen to them, to care for them, and guide them.

The Pathfinder program is not for spectators. It is intended to be an active program. That means more than lots of things on the schedule, it means a minimum of sitting, a minimum of lectures, a minimum of indoor stuff. It should be out and about. And in an important aside, all members,

"Christ method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with the men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" *The Ministry of Healing, p. 143*



Every Monday morning, the Michigan Conference staff meets for worship and prayer. Here is the list for the following dates. Please join us as we pray for these churches and ministries.

AUGUST 2

Grand Blanc/Holly
Pastor Daniel Ferraz

Adelphian Jr Academy
Holly ACS Center

AUGUST 9

Clio/First Flint
Pastor Malcolm Douglas

First Flint SDA Elementary
First Flint ACS & Food Pantry

AUGUST 16

Fenton/South Flint
Pastor Donald Sparks

South Flint Food Pantry

AUGUST 23

New Haven/Port Huron
Pastor Curt Dewitt

New Haven Children's
Food Pantry

AUGUST 30

Livingston/Waterford
Pastor Todd Ervin

Lapeer/Orion Oxford/
Otter Lake

Pastor Victor Vaughn
Lapeer ACS Center

including adult leaders, should study, explore, play, and pray with their Pathfinders. Everyone participates.

Most of all, the Pathfinder program is a mentoring ministry. A ministry focused on connecting young people to Christ. All these activities, while good in and of themselves, are part of the program for a higher reason. We are not talking about learning objectives or mandated skill sets, we are talking about root purpose:

To lead our young people to the foot of the cross

To enable them to lead others to the foot of the cross

To keep them connected to, and obedient to the Lord who died for them on the cross

To encourage a lifetime of exploration, learning, leadership, and service

To provide them with caring, Christian, life mentors

If you would like to learn more on having a Pathfinder or Adventurer club in your local church, email charris@misda.org. We have trained, experience leaders who will help you get started in this front-line ministry.

**Several of the excerpts were taken from the Basic Staff Training Workshop Resources, written by Glen Milam.*



One Family, United in the Lord

By Judy Klein,
Communication

WILSON, MI—Life-changing decisions take time. Al and Angel Nelson, and their sons, Justin and Anthony Cary, were recently baptized as the result of six years of study, growth, and mentorship.

In 2016, the Nelsons attended a prophecy seminar held by Jacob Gibbs in Escanaba, driving all the way from Wilson. They had lingering questions when the meetings ended so Gibbs invited them to his small group and began studying with them every Monday.

After the series, the Nelsons continued to attend the Bethlehem Covenant Church on Sundays, and attend church on Sabbath in Escanaba. “We went to church two times a week for about a year,” says Angel. She was a Sunday school teacher and a deaconess, and Al was treasurer. However, in December 2015, they realized that they couldn’t keep attending both churches. “We couldn’t teach these things in Sunday school anymore,” Nelson says. They told their pastor of their decision to leave, and in 2016, they began attending the Wilson church on Sabbath. Angel was baptized in 2017, and Al in 2020.

The Nelsons’ two sons had two very different reactions to their parents

new faith. Justin, their youngest, came to almost every small group meeting. Their older son, Anthony, believed his parents were crazy, and told them so. Angel began to pray for her two sons, especially for Anthony—she prayed that he would be reached. And he was.

Tom Hubbard, who took over the Wilson and Escanaba churches after Gibbs’ departure, explained that Anthony, a logger, suddenly found himself listening to 90.9, a Strong Tower Radio channel. Angel explains that he learned a lot from Doug Batchelor. “The change in my son after understanding the Bible is amazing,” Angel says. Anthony now has a better connection with his brother, Justin, too. Anthony’s was the first baptism in the newly built Wilson church.

As for Justin, at first, his reaction was similar to his brother’s. Angel explains that he has a hard time accepting things he cannot see. Justin asked many questions in the beginning, but he continued to be positive, and to pray. He was baptized in 2019, in Lake Superior.

Accepting Jesus and being baptized changed Justin. “Everyone can see the change in Justin’s personality,” Angel explains. Justin was so enthralled with his new found truth that he began giving Bible studies to his online friends with whom he would play

video games. One of the friends he studied with flew all the way from Oregon to attend his baptism. Justin met and married a lovely Adventist woman this year and they now live in Kansas.

As for Al, he was baptized in 2020 at the mouth of the Two-hearted River. Gibbs and Hubbard stood on either side of him, and lowered him into the watery grave together. One family, complete in the Lord.

Celebration would not be complete without taking time to appreciate each of the elements that contributed to the Nelson’s and Cary’s journey. First, and most importantly, intentional friendships. Angel explains that the Gibbs had been good friends *before* the meetings, and small group studies. The Gibbs and the Nelsons would go on camping trips along Lake Superior, or spend the weekend together in nature. “We enjoyed their company,” Angel says, “and their values... how they’re reverent to the Sabbath and their love for the Lord.”

Second, evangelism. Whether it be seminars, campaigns, Bible studies, or Strong Tower Radio. When Hubbard spoke of Anthony’s conversion experience, he said, laughingly, “I think [Anthony] has listened to more Strong Tower in two weeks than I have in a lifetime.” The evangelism

can look different, but when a soul is connected to it and thirsts for the Word, decisions are made.

Third is the small group, where relationships are created, both with each other, and with the Lord. “I think it’s important for people to

know,” says Hubbard, “that in soul winning you can’t just give people a series of Bible studies and then they’re going to come into the church. It’s a lot of relationships, too!” Angel also commented on the impression the small group had on her. “You could always tell they cared,” she said.

Fourth, and most importantly: prayer. The Hubbards and Gibbs prayed for the Nelsons and Carys, and Angel prayed for her husband and her sons. No ministry is complete without the power of prayer, and no soul is won to the Lord without someone first having prayed for them.



“A volunteer sorting through the books at the store.”



“Director Laura Meyer (left) showing Collette Newer (right) the homeless care packets.”

“There’s lots of work to do. Food must be bought for the clients, and grants for food and supplies must be written, and there’s the thrift store too!”

ACS Center Steps Out in Faith and Makes a Difference

Berrien Springs, MI—Neighbor 2 Neighbor is a self-supporting ACS center, sustained by its own thrift store, run and operated by 4 employees, and over 100 volunteers. Some volunteers are non-Adventist. This is significant, because according to Laura Meyer, director of Neighbor 2 Neighbor (N2N), volunteering is a ministry for the volunteers, and the volunteers are a ministry themselves.

Many of the volunteers who work at the center are dedicated to the work. They come in on weekends and holidays. Meyer reports that when she stopped by on 4th of July, there were at least ten volunteers hard at work. Many volunteers are widows, or are grieving, others are from the court system, serving mandatory community service. N2N finds a place for all of them, and mentors them. Often, we brush aside the opportunity to work with non-Adventist volunteers, but we need to refocus

our mindset. Not only can you be a blessing to them, but non-Adventist volunteers can bless you as well!

Andrews University is just around the corner from N2N’s facility, and up to five social work students volunteer to handle client case files. Without all of the work of the volunteers and students, N2N’s work would be impossible.

There’s lots of work to do. Food must be bought for the clients, and grants for food and supplies must be written, and there’s the thrift store too! Thousands of pounds of donations are received, sorted, tagged, priced, put out to sell, and then taken back if unsold after two months. Each month’s merchandise is tagged with a different color so staff and volunteers can keep track of inventory. Meyer and her volunteers have a recycling system for clothes that cannot be used.

The thrift store is open Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. Client services are open on the same days from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

When clients arrive at N2N, they are greeted by a smiling receptionist, and then whisked into an assessment room, where their needs are discussed with a volunteer or social worker. They are then given according to their needs. Meyer allows them to choose food that they need, so that they will use it. Meyers uses the example of rice and beans, an ethnic food that some people do not know how to cook without, but a food that others do not know how to cook in the least! Each client also gets two vouchers for the thrift store, which is good for two pieces of furniture, and fifteen dollars’ worth of towels and linens. The client is also given a gift certificate worth thirty dollars for each member of their family. This can be used on clothing, shoes, belts, and purses, and can be

(continued on page 6)

(ACS Center Steps Out in Faith and Makes a Difference)

received every three months.

This means that children can be outfitted for school, and for the seasonal changes. In addition, in the winter, they may allot a little more money to each client, as coats are more expensive.

Some university students struggle to make ends meet, and Neighbor 2 Neighbor helps students too! If students need a desk, lamp, and a desk chair, they can receive these items for free. A lot of seminary students and international students are very poor, and they are also eligible for food and clothes.

Due to N2N's well-known location, Feeding America has partnered with Neighbor 2 Neighbor to have food drives in the parking lot. There have been three since the pandemic in 2020, and Meyer reports that there will be more.

N2N has been blessed with a wonderful facility, and Meyer is making good use of it. "We have space," she says, and Meyer and her team will let anyone from the community use that space for anything that is appropriate. It takes time and work to plan, which makes it difficult for the team to utilize the space as they could: "Planning is a lot of work," says Meyer, "but we can use the space!" Planning takes more time than they have, but partnering with local groups means that the space can be used as a blessing to the community.

The space is often utilized for classes such as drug recovery programs, financial literacy, or counseling. A quilting

group even uses the space. Another benefit is that some community members are intimidated to go onto campus for counseling, but because N2N is such a well-known community help, it is less intimidating, and community members are more willing to come into facility for programs. Chelli Ringstaff, ACS director, comments that N2N has "cultivated a safe place" for the community.

At the moment, the facility is under construction. There will be a second room for community meetings, which will be soundproof, for confidential counseling.

The construction began in 2020, with the new thrift store. N2N was in a rough place. They had used all of their income, and depleted their reserves, but they still needed a new parking lot, as well as the rest of the facility being renovated.

Meyer and her team were convicted to step out in faith and go ahead with renovations. "It was a big step of faith," says Meyer, "but if we didn't step out ahead, it wouldn't be faith. If we had it all worked out, it wouldn't be faith."

They stepped out in faith, and the Lord blessed. The parking lot was provided by a large donation from a member, and money poured in from the surrounding churches. The Lord showed Meyers and her team that He was in control, and that they had nothing to fear for the future.

By Communication Staff

TRANSITIONS IN LEADERSHIP



Tom Hubbard is the new Associate Ministerial Director for the Michigan Conference. Previously, he served as pastor for the Wilson and Escanaba churches.



Amie Hubbard is the new secretary for Family Ministries.



Cheryl Bernard has joined the conference family as the new Children's Ministries secretary.



Brianna Kittleson is now serving as the new Public Campus Ministries secretary.

(Adelphian Junior Academy and Evangelism)



wonder of science with the principles of God's creation. Roy presented AJA's Week of Prayer in mid-April. His demonstration on Thursday evening was open to the public. Church members and students distributed flyers in neighborhoods and libraries; posted on social media; and invited their friends and neighbors.

Roy and his assistant, veterinary technician Debra Rivera, kept the crowd's attention with their exciting hands-on science experiments. One such demonstration used a device called a Rubens Tube, where flames rose out of a tube connected to a microphone. When a participant sang into the microphone, the flames surged up and down the tube in accordance to the intensity of the singer's voice.

Another simple experiment, but one that drew much applause, was the complete free-floating of a screwdriver in midair with nothing but air pressure from a vacuum to hold

it up! In between exhibitions, Rivera walked around with interesting animals, including a corn snake and a pair of hissing cockroaches.

Approximately 135 attended, 40 of which were non-school and non-church members. Three science kits were given as prizes, and each guest family took home a gift bag with an AJA school handbook, Adventurer and Pathfinder Club information, and details on the upcoming VBS program held at AJA this year.

The second event took place June 5. This was a kickball tournament with a picnic and dessert bake-off. Again, both church and school members worked hard to involve the community. Posters, flyers and personal invitations were handed out around the neighborhood. They also invited local law enforcement, including Police Sergeant Legant from the Holly Police Department, who graciously attended. Festivities began at noon. With a 70 percent chance of rain, many began praying earnestly for the Lord to hold the rain.

Well over 100 attended, with families from the nearby neighborhood joining the kickball games. One community mom of two, while playing kickball, asked an AJA student where they went to school. When told that this was their school, the mom responded, "How cool!"

Visitors were invited to share in the picnic fellowship and learn more about AJA. One family received a requested tour of the school, with interest in enrolling for the next year. As the rain held to a light drizzle, many prayers of thanks rose heavenward.

With the continued team effort to utilize AJA as missionary headquarters, the academy and the Holly church will be rewarded two-fold. First, church members can see the significance of the school both for its outstanding Christian education and for its unique ability to serve the people surrounding it. Second, as a shining example of Christian love, and with increased enrollment, AJA will continue to be a witness, encouraging the surrounding community members and their families to join the greatest community of all: God's. "It's personal," says Pastor Ferraz. "That's Jesus' method."

By Kristin Wittenbach,
Holly Church Member