

The Anchor



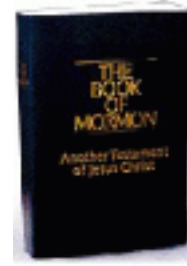
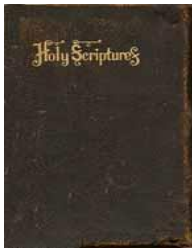
The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

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Winter 2015



News From Around the Region

Algonac-Atlanta-Dowagiac- Garden City- Lima-Oakwood Otter Lake-Port Huron-
Sanilac-St. Johns

“By faith all things are fulfilled: Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God which hope cometh of faith maketh an Anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.” Ether 5:3b-4

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Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

**In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5, 6)
May we allow the Lord to teach and mold us as we seek His guidance and direction in this new year.**

On Sunday, November 23, the youth took part in a Thanksgiving program under the direction of Kelli Williams. There were readings done by preschoolers Addie & Laurel Yaney and Briggs, Bryer & Ames Eliason. A reading, “Thanksgiving Prayer” was recited by Ava & David Nagy, Dayna Harm, and Alyssa & Miles Marcangelo. Various Scriptures were read by

Bethany Moses. Nina Powers and Cory Eliason also did readings. Bethany performed a solo, a hymn of Thanks and the children sang a number of songs as well. The children each shared what they were thankful for. Some of the things they mentioned included family, pets, Jesus and monkeys (not necessarily in that order!). At the end of the program the congregation was also invited to share what they were thankful for. We were really blessed by the efforts of all who took part in this program and are especially thankful for all the precious children in our church family!

(Reported by Elaine King)

On December 13th the Algonac branch held our annual Christmas Bazaar and bake sale. Wendy Holmes, a good friend, Debra Andriths, and I went to the church a few days prior to the sale to decorate and set everything up. We hung beautiful Christmas bulbs from the ceiling and the tables looked very inviting filled with holiday gifts and goodies. We had quite a variety of Christmas goods to sell. Our Algonac women did an outstanding job on the homemade baked goods. We had cookies, bread rolls and cakes galore and everything was wrapped in festive red and green ribbons and bows. We had our Christmas music on and lots of snacks to munch on. We were like Santa's little elves getting ready for our sale. Saturday came and Wendy and I got to the church at 9 a.m. to ensure we would be ready to open by 10 a.m. Kim Gilchrist from Oakwood branch came and set up an event table to help get her side business up and running. We didn't have as many customers as in the past, but those who came were spectacular and we did rather well in our sales. The three of us had a great day together just visiting and serving the Lord. There were a few customers who stood out. One lady who came got the chance to speak to Wendy and they shared similar situations. We all know Wendy and Tim Holmes suffered a terrible loss this past May with the passing of

their son Joshua Parker. This customer had also suffered the loss of several family members this past year to the same terrible disease. She and Wendy were able to share their grief and comfort each other. They were sad, but also uplifted knowing our Lord and Savior would get them through their terrible times. Another lady who attended our sale recently lost her husband. She was feeling sad when she arrived, but after an uplifting conversation with us, she was smiling by the time she left and was thankful that she came in. She was just looking for a homemade cake ... something for her family member's birthday the next day. We exchanged hugs and she left feeling much better than when she came in. This is the reason Wendy and I do this each year. It is not to run to the bank with lots of cash. We want to have a presence in our Algonac community. We want to share our love for our Lord and offer comfort and minister to those in need. We want to give a big thank you to Kim for joining us this year and extend our offer to come do so in our future sales. Much love and thanks also, to all who supported this endeavor. We hope to see you next year!

Elaine King and Wendy Holmes

On December 17 our Algonac Family Christmas celebration was held at Dimitri's restaurant in Chesterfield. We had a private room, which made the gathering even more special. The ladies did an ornament exchange, which is always fun. Our Women's Leader, Nina Powers, gave all the women a pretty silver tree ornament and the men were given a booklet, "Finding Peace at Christmas." We then presented our sister Nina with a book and a gift card to one of her favorite restaurants, in appreciation for all she does for us. There was a good turnout and everyone enjoyed the great food and wonderful fellowship.

Saturday, December 20, Kelli Williams, Todd Moses, and Amy Nagy met with the

youth at the church for the Christmas program rehearsal and party. At the end of the practice they asked Kelli ... what about "Come On, Ring Those Bells" ... aren't we going to sing that? Kelli thought they were probably tired of that song, so hadn't planned on including it in this year's program. Needless to say, the kids set her straight! After rehearsal, they made hot cocoa bags and enjoyed pizza and salad. They also presented "Miss Kelli" with a gift in appreciation for all she does for them. They truly are "her kids" and she loves them all!

The Children's Christmas program took place on Sunday, December 21, under the direction of Kelli Williams. They reenacted the story of "The Little Drummer Boy." Briggs Eliason had the honor of playing the part of the little drummer boy. Brianna Morrison was the narrator. Bethany Moses was Mary and treated us to a solo of "Breath of Heaven" (Mary's song). The Wiseman were played by Bryer Eliason, Miles Marcangelo, and David Nagy. Ava Nagy was one of the angels, and Alyssa Marcangelo played the part of the very special angel who came to Mary. We only had one shepherd this year, played by Ames Eliason ... but what a cute shepherd he was! The youth sang "Away in the Manger" and "We Three Kings." Gary Holmes played the guitar and sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Liz Moses also sang a solo and Todd Moses was the pianist. And of course, at the end of the program, the kids joyfully Rang Those Bells! We were all blessed by the time and effort put forth by Kelli, Todd, and Amy, and of course, our wonderful youth! Afterwards, Kelli presented our pastor and his wife, Gary and Marge Holmes with gift cards as a special appreciation from our congregation. At the 11:00 hour we were ministered to by Elder Todd Moses as he brought out various Book of Mormon references to the coming of Christ. He ended by gathering the children around the rostrum and reading from a children's story book.

Our annual candlelight service was held on December 30, conducted by our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes and Elder Todd Moses. The welcome and invocation were brought by Elder Gary Holmes. The service began with the reading of a poem, "Traveling Back to Bethlehem" and that is where Gary and Todd took us that evening. We could experience Christ's birth through scriptures Gary read from Isaiah and Luke. Todd read to us from the story book, "Bright Christmas: An Angel Remembers." Ray Moses sang, "O Holy Night" and the congregation sang many Christmas hymns throughout the presentation. Towards the end of the service, we were asked to light our candles while Gary shared the following: "Christ came to earth to be the light of the world. We as His followers have been called to be His light unto others. As we light these candles this night, how may each of us increase our light and become a stronger Christian?" We were then asked to share at least one thing we wanted to accomplish in the new year. Gary closed with the poem, "Now."

Don't wait until tomorrow, do all you can today ...

For yesterday has vanished, and tomorrow is far away.

Just look to the Lord for guidance, for peace, for love – then pray.

Because now is the accepted time, do all you can today.

Just put aside all worry, and help someone in need ...

The poor or those disabled, just perform some special deed.

Forgive, as you've been forgiven, help those who went astray,

Because now is the accepted time; Do all you can today.

The benediction was offered by Elder Todd Moses.

Our congregation started up our women's and men's meetings again in January. The men are continuing their study of the

book, "Ordinances and Sacraments of the Church," led by Elder Gary Holmes. The women are starting a new study of the book, "Storm Sisters ... Friends Through All Seasons" by Afton Rorvik, led by Val Bradley. It's a Biblical study of how we can support our sisters in Christ through life's storms. About knowing how to ask one another for help; weeping with those who weep; offering and accepting wise counsel; supporting each other in good times and bad.

The Lord blessed our congregation this past year and we were able to pass along those blessings to others. We had the privilege of funding four scholarships and giving financial assistance to many in our Algonac community. We also were able to make a donation to the Algonac Food Pantry.

News and Notes:

- After living in Canada for a number of years, Jeremy and Bonnie Tracy will be moving to Michigan soon. They just bought a lovely home on the water in St. Clair Shores. They will be close by Bonnie's sister, Sherry Cargill, and will be able to assist her in the care of their Dad, J.D. We welcome them back to our area! New address as of April 11:
27330 Lane Street
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
- Eric and Cory Eliason and boys traveled to Missouri during the Christmas holidays to spend time with family and friends.
- Thilo and Rita Bendler were here once again to visit with Hod and Nina Powers during the Christmas season. We feel like they are a part of our family now also, and our congregation enjoys spending time with them while they are here.

- Our sister, Elaine Harm, is back at her place in Florida for the winter. The Lord blessed her, but she is still not fully recovered from her recent back surgery and could really use our continued prayers. We miss you, dear sister!
- It's been good to see our sister Connie Burns back at church. She was in pain for years and had a very serious back surgery in December. She is doing much better, but she and Dick could use our continued prayers.

Prayers would be appreciated for Wendy and Tim Holmes and family, Elaine Harm, Dick and Connie Burns, Gary and Marge Holmes, Ray and Nadine Moses, Nina Powers, Kelli Williams, Jerry and Cathy Ward (parents of Liz Moses), Bruce and Barb Krinkie, Elaine King and Tim and Louise John. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

Atlanta Branch



By: Mark Ouderkirck

Greetings from Northern Michigan Restoration Branch.

We are getting along fine this winter. As usual some are gone for the winter months. We have low attendance during this time of year, but the Lord continues to bless us...the doors are still open.

Our pastor Harry Hyde has had some surgery and received a wonderful blessing from our Heavenly Father. He is back on his feet and wishes there was more snow for cross country skiing.

The prayers of the saints are always appreciated, as we also remember our brothers and sisters who are spread across the miles.

Mosiah 2:49 But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish...

Garden City



By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

Outreach at Garden City (submitted by Karen Rintz)

The Garden City Outreach group teamed up with The Homeless Angels in the Motor City's toy drive and collected unwrapped and unopened toys for kids of all ages. The generosity of the Garden City and Oakwood Restoration branches resulted in 4 boxes filled with toys. These toys were used at a Christmas party (held by The Homeless Angels) for families who were struggling and needing some help giving their children Christmas presents. There was food, music, and a Santa visit to pass out toys to the kids.

The Garden City Outreach was also able to collect enough money to adopt three families for Christmas. Three single moms each having two small children were provided with Christmas presents to put under their tree.

Other News at Garden City

Doris Jones (wife of Ivan Jones, mother of Betty Lou Newman) passed away on December 6, 2014 at the age of 94. The funeral service was held in Windsor, Ontario. Please continue to keep Ivan in your prayers.

New address and phone number for Ivan Jones:

Ivan Jones - 2400 Sandwich West Pkwy. Suite 328, LaSalle Ontario, N9H 2S8

Phone number (519) 967-7087

A Christmas play and program were presented by the children, youth and adults of the congregation on December 28 at 10:00. The program used the story of the Wise Men as its basis. Poems, hymns, and scriptures were shared by the adults while the children, dressed in costumes, acted out the story.

Many thanks to our guest ministers the past few months: Elder Doug Daggett, Elder Jay Havener, and Elder Todd Yaney. We appreciate your ministry.

Several youth from Garden City attended the recent retreats at Port Huron in October and Oakwood in November. They are looking forward to the next Children's Retreat coming up in February (Garden City) and Zion's Youth Retreat in March (Oakwood).

Prayers are requested for: Richard Ziegler, Helen Ziegler, Margaret Baltzer, Janice Wright, Carl McKiddie (surgery February 10)

By: Megan Fishwild-
On the weekend of October 17 – 19, fourteen campers arrived at the Port Huron

Branch for a weekend youth retreat. The theme was joy, a fitting one for an occasion when the church's young people meet. The way the phones were handed in for the weekend with only minimal reluctance shows how much these teens value a weekend like this. In between classes on the theme of joy, meals were eaten, (thank you to our wonderful chefs – Tracy Stokes and Helen Brown!), a trip was made to the YMCA for a swim and some exercise, and some may have caught a few zzz's. The campers were upset when they learned that their long-time leaders, Brother Jay and Sister Kathi Havener, would be "retiring" but will never stop being eager for the next retreat. After an inspirational service and a delicious potluck, the campers said goodbye – for now. So as Brother Shaun Turner and Sister Michele Turner take over, the campers have a message to the new leaders. "More retreats!"

February 14th Valentines Day



Oakwood Branch



By: Kathleen Modders

We are once again back on the Reunion 2015 trail. Please pray about this. We have the following classes at Reunion - Primary, Intermediate, Middle School, High School, and adding Young adults (H.S. graduates to 30ish) If you would be willing to teach or help in any of these

classes, please call: Shawn Ruch (248) 884-2475. The committee would especially like Aaronic Priesthood men to teach the oldest 3 classes. Registration: Save the date!! Monday, July 27 thru Sunday, August 2, 2015. Great Lakes Regional Reunion is just around the corner. It's not too early to think about attending for the week, a few days or even a day. Registration questions? Contact Helene Danicki at (248) 651-3208 or helenedanicki@gmail.com

Our upcoming events at Oakwood are:

Military Box packing day. Saturday, 2/14 at 10 a.m. in Romeo. Julie Fox is in charge.

We have Multi branch Women's gathering for soap making and hygiene bag assembly to be distributed to the homeless at the Garden City Branch on 2/28/15. Please come help or donate items for bags. Thank you in advance ladies. Contact person is Kim Gilchrist.

Walk for Wishes walk-a-thon will take place on May 2nd 2015 Julie Fox is in charge.

There will be a reprinting of the Three-In-One Restoration Scriptures from Cumorah Books, Inc. & the Scripture Committee

announce the forthcoming publication of a new Three-In-One.

Changes made to the Oakwood's Church Offices: Book Stewart: Julie Fox Recording Secretary: Kathleen Modders Woman's Leader: Shawn Ruch.

On April 5th, EASTER SUNDAY, there will be a Family Photo Shoot 10 am- 10:45 am & after 12 pm ... 12 pm - (for all) and then Kid's Fun Time - Egg Hunt with a Bunny (for the youth) Come and get your family picture taken!

On June 14th, will be our Annual General Squire's Park Service at 10 am 12 pm with a Potluck Lunch to follow the service. After the lunch we will be having a soft ball game everyone is invited to come and share in the activities.

Congratulations to Julie LaRowe in becoming Oakwood's newest member! 11/30/14 Priest Shawn Turner performed the Ordinance of Baptism and Elder Jay Havener and Elder Mick Ruch confirmed the baptism. Congratulations Julie LaRowe.

There were four funerals these past couple of months at Oakwood. Helen Smith passed away on 12/16/14, Helen McNeil 1/4/15 , Doris Hill 1/11/15, and Doris Thrift on 11/22/15. They were very well loved and will be missed by all.

Oakwood Christmas Party had a new twist this year. Its success was due to all of the awesome sisters who came and participated. The guest speaker Jenny Gale spoke of getting healthier and how for 2015. All who attended were blessed when she shared her talent for music by playing some beautiful Christmas songs. Everyone then walked into the dining hall where five of our sisters decorated and shared some of their favorite Christmas treats. Each table had its own theme and decor. Just when we thought the fun would end we played games and won prizes. Let me just say, it's surprising how many people know all the Christmas songs when just two words of a song were given to guess. Next year we might

have to get some more challenging music.

Julie Fox was in charge of the Christmas military box packing in November in Romeo Michigan. People who attended were Carolyn Kilgore her granddaughter Karen and Tony Rintz. Karen's mom and, brother, and sister-in-law also attended with Julie. There were over 650 boxes that went overseas that day for Christmas to the troops. The women's department donated money toward postage.

Our book study group, (women's meeting) is reading "Tell My People" by Walter Weldon. Shawn Ruch heads up the class each month.

Kathleen and Mike Modders started the year off for our first Jr church of 2015. We had 5 kids in attendance, Heather and Parker Mervyn, Emma Turner, Chad Embry, and Julia LaRowe. Started off with a prayer and testimony service and Mike spoke about the good Samaritan then Kathleen lead a Valentine's craft about verse John 3:16. We invite all children to attend the next ones. Save the dates, 11:00 am Fellowship Hall 01/25 project: Valentine's Day, 02/22 project: Saint Patrick's Day, 03/22 project: Easter, 04/26 project: Mother's Day, 05/31 project: Father's Day, 06/28 Project: Independence Day, 07/26 Project: Labor Day, 08/30 project: 9/11 Patriots Day, 09/27 project: the Fall Season, 10/25 project: Thanksgiving Harvest, 11/29 project: Christmas, Jesus Birth, 12/27 project: New Year 2016 / Resolutions.

On the weekend of March 6, 7, and 8th the Zion's Youth will be gathering together at the Oakwood Restoration Branch in Ortonville, MI for their winter retreat. The theme will be "Let your light shine". There will be worshipping, singing and good, clean fun. Grace Centers of Hope and the Oakwood Restoration branch will be benefiting from a service project performed by the youth. After a full day of work, worship, and recreation the youth will be swimming and spending the rest of their energy on the basketball courts at the Lapeer Recreation Center. Anybody who

is interested in coming please contact

Shaun or Michelle Turner @ 616-951-

2138/ 616-881-6309

On February 4th Shawn Ruch gathered the Oakwood women together and made Valentines.

Upcoming Oakwood Birthdays: 03/04 Jamie Moore, 03/06 Brandon Embree, 03/10 Heather Mervyn, 03/14 Chet Slagor, 03/18 Cody Ruch, 03/25 Derrick Embree, 03/28 Beth Everhart, 03/29 Jamie Modders, 03/29 Cheryl Slagor, 04/01 Michael Ruch, 04/03 Gloria Smith, 04/08 Don Everhart, 04/08 Emma Turner, 04/09 Christina Mervyn, 04/14 Dennis Smith, 04/15 David Mueller, 04/18 Chris Vandenberg, 04/20 Chris Nagy, , 04/24 Jackson Nagy, 04/26 Rebecca MacDonald, 05/06 Jay Havener, 05/08 Harold Edwards, 05/12 Mary Richards, 05/13 Noame Holcomb, 05/15 John Stokes, 05/17 Sydney LaRowe, 05/18 Tracey LaRowe, 05/22 Mike Danicki, 05/27 Eric Slagor

Don't forget to check out our website at www.oakwoodrestorationbranch.org

March 8th Daylight Savings Time



Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour!!!

Port Huron Branch



By: Sharon Smerer

Winter Greetings!

We pray that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that your New Year will be a safe and growing spiritual experience in 2015 with God's love and understanding by your side. Because without Him we are nothing.

We want to welcome to our church family, Henry David Fagan, born Nov. 4, 2014, Poland. He is the son of Tyler and Jackie Fagan and Grandparents, Terry and Sue Fagan and Great-grandparents, Clyde and Sharon Warner and Donald and Lorraine Fagan and Great-great-grandparent, Greta Clark.

Our church hosted the Older Youth this fall and we were pleased to have them. They are the future of our Church. We also had a Potluck after the Sunday service. Thank you for coming, we hope to see you ALL again soon.

We are saddened when any of our people's family members pass away. We like to send our condolences to Bob and Kitti Harris and Skip and Shelly Miller with the loss of their son, James Scott Harris and their Mother, Marion Grace Miller. Our thoughts and prayers go out to both families and we pray for God's Comfort to be by your side through the coming days.

We held our Fall Financial and next year's Budget Meeting for the year. Election of Officers was also held and our presiding Elder is Elder David Teeple. All other officers are the same as before. We were glad when we were told of the "Call of Priest," to our congregation, was accepted by Loren Leo Reid. We all welcomed his call and he was Ordained, November 26, 2014.

The Port Huron Northern Performing Arts Center put on "The Curious Savage." It was a comedy in three acts presented by the Port Huron Northern Drama Club. Our very own, Gillian Bolt performed in the comedy. She is the daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughter of John and Barbara Tynan.

Told to me, Sharon Smerer, by Gillian Bolt: "The Curious Savage" is a wonderfully comedy show, with some serious undertones that could make you laugh and cry all at the same time. The show opens with a group of residents of The Cloisters, a sanitarium, waiting for someone to arrive. That someone is Mrs. Savage, a widow, and stepmother of her late husband's three children. She is also the inheritor of her husband's 10 million dollar fortune. Mrs. Savage decided to begin a Happiness Fund in her husband's name to make people's dreams come true. This, along with many seemingly out of character actions by Mrs. Savage, are what prompted her stepchildren to place her in an institution. While staying at the Cloisters, Mrs. Savage gets to know the residents in her ward.

They are a sweet and caring group of people, who like the safety and security that the Cloisters provides. They each begin to care deeply for Mrs. Savage, and quickly welcome her into their little family. Mrs. Savage in turn learns to love their little quirks. After placing their stepmother in the care of the Cloisters, the three Savage children expect to have the fortune placed under their control, but they are

sorely disappointed. Mrs. Savage has hidden all the money somewhere and will not relinquish it. She sends each one of her stepchildren on a little trip to find the stash, on which they make fools of themselves. When they come back demanding to have the money, she finally shows them where it is: It had been with her the whole time. But then the lights are turned out by one of the residents (who has given up electricity for Lent) and when the lights are turned back on, the money is gone. It is decided that each resident will be searched, but before they can all be checked, one of the attendants, Ms. Willie, comes into the room with a bucket of smoldering paper. It is the money. The three Savages leave in defeat, assuring their stepmother that she will be in charge of her own affairs. Mrs. Savage is now free to go wherever she would like, so the residents say their goodbyes, with their own, personal "I Love You" to part. But then Mrs. Savage realizes she doesn't want to go at all. The Doctor who has overseen her case convinces her that she doesn't belong at the Cloisters; she doesn't need to be sheltered like the rest, so she decides to leave after all. Ms. Willie brings her things, along with an envelope; inside the envelope is all of Mrs. Savage's money! Ms. Willie tells her that she took it when the lights went out, and just burnt up some newspaper in the bucket. Mrs. Savage departs, and the scene ends with a view of how each resident Mrs. Savage has grown to love, sees themselves in their sheltered life.

On November 30, 2014, we had three candidates who chose to be baptized into Christ's Church. They were Dustin Dubey, son of Terry Hamilton and grandson of Donna Hamilton; D. Mason Powell, son of Tracy Hamilton and grandson of Donna Hamilton; and Christopher Snyder. They were all baptized by Elder David Teeple and confirmed by Elders David Teeple and Brian Daggett and assisted by Elders David Teeple, Ron Giles and Brian

Daggett. The congregation welcomes the new members into Christ's Church.

Our Ladies were invited to an Advent Tea on Saturday, December 6, 2014 by the ladies of Wadhams Grove Community. We were given several types of Teas to select from and also several desserts. Everything was very tasty and a very nice program of music done by all. Thank you for the treats and program and fellowship. We were given a poinsettia ornament and a milk chocolate candy.

On December 6, 2014 the Starlites Dance Teams won their first competition at Hazel Park, Mi. Parents and Grandparents, Larry and Debbie Sheffler are glad of their winning. The congregation is also, happy for their winning.

On December 21, our Sunday School Students showed the Congregation an Introit doing Sign Language to the Hymn of, "Silent Night", sung by Josh Groban. We were very pleased to view what the children had learned and done. We want to thank Jennifer Milett for her direction with the children. They will remember doing sign language for a long time and who knows, they may help someone out some day.

Also, the Bolt family, Avery, Gillian and Olivia sang, "What Child Is This," accompanied by their Dad, Scott, on the guitar. Very nicely done, girls your voices blended very well and Scott and Amy should be proud of their daughters singing ability. Later, Gillian with her Dad, Scott, sang, "O Holy Night". They all do such a wonderful job of singing, and playing, what a gift from God and an added blessing to our Congregation.

The Adult Sunday School Class has finished reading, "Into the Latter Day Light" by J. J. Cornish. Elder John Tynan gave us copies of a few letters from J. J. Cornish to Charles Whitford, who is the grandfather to Mrs. Jane (Whitford) Herring. Lyman Whitford who was men-

tioned in chapters twenty and twenty-five is her great-grand father. I will place these letters within our Church's History Books. They are planning on studying, "The Story of the Church," by Inez Smith Davis in January.

Happy New Year!! 2015

Our pastor, Elder David Teeple had asked the Priesthood to do a two or three minute talk on the Beatitudes for Communion Sunday: Deacon Scott Bolt, spoke on Heart, His Heart is Pure and Create in me a clean heart. Elder Brian Daggett, spoke on Mercy, have patience and forgive. The story of the Good Samaritan and Matthew 18 of the Parable of 7 times 70 times of forgiveness. Priest John DeBell, spoke on Meek, be humble and strong in the Faith. Meek is definitely not weak. Elder Ron Giles, spoke on Poor in Spirit, blind to see, deaf to hear, lame to walk. God poured out everything. Christ prayed and he gave spiritual strength.

Priest Bob Harris, spoke on Revile and persecution. People say we are a cult and don't believe in Christ. Tell them what you believe. We are persecuted sometimes and so was Christ. We have promises and conditions, and we have to choose wisely. Priest Loren Reid, spoke on Peacemakers, He ask the young people to read the book of Matthew. Thousands of people are thirsting for the Word of God. The Lord's Prayer, says forgive others, visit the sick, feed the homeless, and give to those who thirst. Do what God wants us to do. Elder John Tynan, spoke on Christ delivered His message, He fulfilled the Gospel. He taught with great authority. Ye are the salt of the earth. Don't hide your light under a bushel, show your light to the world. With God's help we may have Eternal Life. Elder Ed Smerer, spoke on The Word was given by Christ to everyone. Believe on His Words that I AM. Keep His Commandments and read the scriptures.

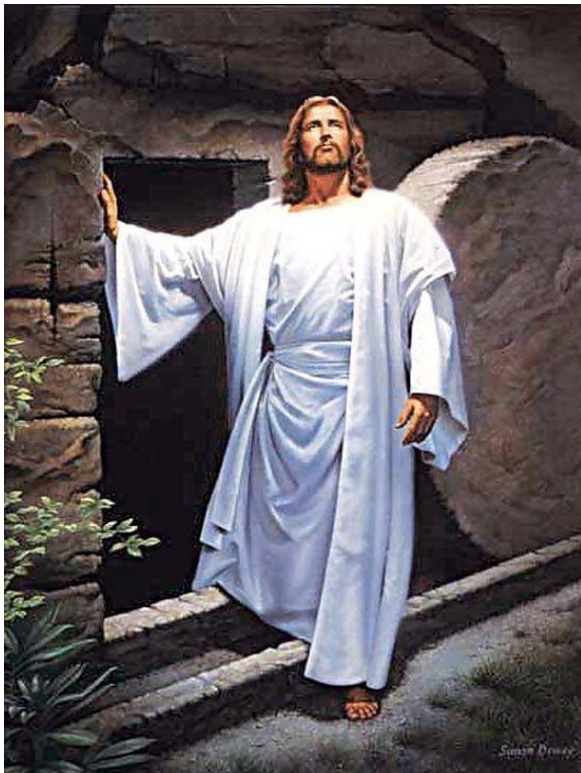
We started the year with Dining at Bob Evans after our Sunday Communion Service. This is one of our Community Fund-raisers.

We would like to send our condolences to the family of Larry and Debbie Scheffler and family with the passing of his Mother, Roberta Scheffler on January 5, 2015.

March 29th Palm Sunday



April 5th Easter Sunday



Sanilac Branch



By: Kathleen Palmer

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing. John 15:5

On Nov. 7th we had our annual Harvest Home Dinner. The meal was delicious and fellowship was wonderful. After the meal, a beautiful Amish quilt was presented by the church and friends to Tom and Janine Essenmacher for their dedication, hard work and service. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make this annual event so special. Our little church is so blessed with so many God given talents.

Barent Eliason was in charge of the Christmas candlelight service on December 16th. Each person would light a candle after they read scriptures from the Book of Mormon telling of the events leading to Christ's birth. When all scriptures were read, the lights were turned off and the light reflecting from the candles was beautiful as we sang the closing hymn.

Emma DesJardins and Sydney Parker were in the Peck School Christmas program. They did a great job.

On December 17th, Gary DesJardins played his trumpet and Maddy Parker played the clarinet in the Peck Band Christmas concert. The music was wonderful.

On December 3rd we had family night at the church to decorate for Christmas. We

all enjoyed a chili dinner and had fun making our church look special.

The Christmas program was put on by Kerri Daniels. The nativity scene included the children and adults. They were dressed in costumes and we even had animal costumes for the younger children. A nativity back drop, painted by Kerri, was very effective. There were Christmas solos, duets and the children sang songs. It was a very spiritual and special program. We so appreciate the time and effort put into this program to make it a very memorable time together. When church was over, we went downstairs to enjoy a delicious meal, fellowship and passing out gifts. Over 48 enjoyed this time together.

Barent and Barb traveled to Missouri to enjoy Christmas with family and friends.

On January 18th Mike Daniels was ordained to the office of priest by Elders Barent Eliason and Hod Powers. May the Lord continue to bless you Mike, as you serve the Lord and His people.

Our little church in the country is so blessed with so many talents to bring us all together to glorify the Lord.

The worship setting is always decorated so beautiful and meaningful. Our priesthood, teachers and piano players are always appreciated.

A very Happy Birthday and Anniversary to all those who celebrated Nov., Dec., and Jan.

We are so blessed to have the priesthood come from other branches to bring us the gospel message. Thank you Deacon Kerry Horton, Elder Graham Fishwild, Priest Bob Harris, Elder Kurt Fishwild (Susan, Megan and Ethan), Elder Hod Powers (Nina), and Elder Brian Daggett (Cathy).

Our annual Mother/Daughter Banquet is May 16th. The theme is, "Anchors Away." All are invited to attend and see what we are up to this year!

April 15th Tax Day



Dear Saints,

At our last regional priesthood meeting, we decided to continue to hold 5th Sunday services again this year. What is a 5th Sunday Service, you may ask? Four times in a calendar year there are 5 Sundays in certain months. Our area branches have volunteered to hold evening services for the region during the month when there are five Sundays. This will provided the Saints in our region the opportunity to get together outside of reunions, retreats, and camps for worship and fellowship.

Each month this year that there are 5 Sundays, one of our branches will host an evening worship for the region. Here are the dates and branches that will hold 5th Sunday services at 6:00 P.M.:

March 29th – Sanilac Branch

May 31st – Oakwood Branch

August 30th – Algonac Branch

November (probably an alternative date due to Thanksgiving Holiday) – No Branch has volunteered (How about it Garden City – maybe a 4th?)

The regional priesthood encourage the Saints to participate. We are told in the scriptures that the Saints should gather together often. This should not only apply to our gathering often in our branches but also gathering together often as a region to strengthen our relationships within the Church and to exhibit that we are unified in our efforts to build up the Kingdom of God.

I personally hope to see a good representation from all the regional branches at all of our 5th Sunday services. I believe it will benefit us in many ways including:

- Learning what is happening in each of the branches (special events, programs, etc.)**
- We have the opportunity to hear sermons from priesthood we don't often get to hear in our own branches**
- We can become aware of needs in each of the branches (who needs to be remembered in prayer)**

Please take these opportunities to get to know your brothers and sisters a little bit better.

In Gospel Bonds,

Elder Jay Havener (Regional Priesthood Chairman)

Regional Activities for the next quarter (and beyond)

(Please mark your calendar for these dates!!!)

- **February 20 – 22nd Children’s Retreat at Garden City Restoration Branch: Contact Betty Lou Newman for information**
- **February 28th 10:00am – 3:00pm Women’s Workshop/Community Outreach Project at Garden City Branch – The women will be learning how to make soap. They will also be putting together personal hygiene bags to be donated to area homeless shelters. For more info. contact Karen Rintz at (734) 883-5733 or Kim Gilchrist at (248) 978-2552**
- **March 6 – 9th Zion’s Youth Retreat at Oakwood Restoration Branch: Contact Shaun and Michelle Turner for information**
- **March 29th – Regional 5th Sunday Service at Sanilac Restoration Branch 6:00 P.M.**
- **April 6th – 185th birthday of the Restored Gospel. (How are you going to celebrate?)**
- **April 25th – One Day Regional Women’s Retreat at Oakwood Restoration Branch. Theme: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ...” Contact Val Bradley or Kathi Havener for information**
- **May 16th Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet @ Sanilac Branch. Theme: Anchors Away!**
- **July 6th – 11th Zion’s Youth Camp (Contact Shaun and Michelle Turner)**

- July 19th – 25th Children's Camp (Contact Betty Lou Newman)
- July 27th – August 2nd Great Lakes Regional Reunion at Wesleyan Woods Conference Center, Vassar, MI. (Contact Helene Danicki – Registrar)
- September 19th – 20th CRE Kirtland Priesthood Retreat (More information to come)
- September 26th Book of Mormon Day at Oakwood Restoration Branch (Details to come)

From The Editor's Desk:

Anyone having new email addresses, phone numbers, articles or historical facts (that would be of interest to everyone), etc. please send them to me for future use. Please keep them to one page or less, as space is very limited and expensive. Thank you.

Send to:

Jim Bradley
69250 Campground Rd.
Romeo, MI 48065
1-586-752-5965 Home
1-586-876-3227 Cell

Email to: zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net

Email is highly preferred

Great Lakes Restoration Branches
2015 Spring Women's Regional Retreat

I heard the voice of Jesus say...



Where: Oakwood Restoration Branch
When: Saturday, April 25
Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: Freewill donation
Contact: Val Bradley
(victoriangalval@aol.com or (586) 202-3351)