

The Anchor



The Great Lakes Restoration Branches Magazine/Newsletter

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Winter 2012



News From Around the Region

Algonac-Atlanta-Dowagiac-Eckerman-Garden City-Lake Mission-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

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6) What great encouragement to move out in faith in this new year and diligently seek to serve Him!

Bethany Moses attended the fall Youth Retreat at the Port Huron/Sarnia branch November 11 – 13. Nine people attended. Jay and Kathi Havener were in charge. Tom and Janine Essenmacher were the cooks. Classes were taught by Tom & Janine, Fred Brown Sr., Fred Brown Jr.,

and Dave Teeple. They talked about sin, how it’s always in your life ... how to get rid of it and avoid temptations that come your way. Kathleen Modders was in charge of the crafts/activities. Bethany said the most fun activity involved the parking lot and hide and seek. (Guess you’ll have to ask her about that!) She also said that everyone involved did a great job and the whole weekend was a wonderful experience.

On Friday, December 2, quite a number of our group met at Dimitri’s Town and Country restaurant in Chesterfield for our annual Christmas celebration. The food was wonderful and we enjoyed great fellowship together. Our Women’s Leader, Nina Powers, gave each of us a

prayer stone that had pretty flowers painted on it. The women presented Nina with an appreciation gift for all she does for us throughout the year. As always, Marge and Gary Holmes gave each family a calendar for the new year. Marge writes in all the "special dates," which include birthdays and anniversaries of all our members and their families. We appreciate that so much!

(As reported by Connie Burns and Wendy Holmes)

The Algonac ladies held our very first Christmas Craft/Bake Sale on Friday, December 9, and Saturday, December 10. It was a Very Snowy day! We opened up our sale at 9 am eagerly anticipating our first customer's arrival.

The very first blessing we received was to have a nice couple join us for the day. They drove all the way from Croswell in pretty heavy snow just to bring their crafts to sell. We had several calls from crafters wanting to rent space, but as we were limited, we chose this couple. Nancy and her husband Butch had several different handmade items to offer. Of course they supported our Bake Sale, as we did theirs, as well.

Not one car came in the parking lot. Needless to say, we were disappointed. Lunch time rolled around and our meals were ordered. Connie offered a prayer over our lunch and included our sale for God's Glory and not ours. After our lunch was almost over-low & behold the cars started to flow in. That was a good lesson learned for us! **START THE DAY WITH PRAYER!**

Our "guest crafters" Nancy & Butch, shared with us their experience in attending another church's craft show. They rented a space at "A Church" and enjoyed the people there. So after talking it over, they started to attend that church. Once they inquired as to what was required to become "members," they were told, and I quote from Butch "We are not taking new members." They were beside themselves. We had the door

opened for us! Our faith was shared and we extended an invite to our church. It would be nice to see them again. Prayers will be offered for them.

Saturday...WOW! You wouldn't believe it; one very kind lady purchased 24 of our coffee mugs which had teas, candy & cocoa mixes inside. She was taking them to a Senior Center with her children to pass them out to the elderly. What a wonderful gift she is not only passing along to the elderly, but also to her children, to know the true meaning of "giving."

With our first Christmas Craft show completed, we wish to thank all of our church members at Algonac for their overwhelming support ... not only to those that donated their time and baked goods, but also those that bought some goodies! Perhaps next year we will be blessed to have other members of our branches visit us. Who knows, you just might see us in the spring!

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11, our Algonac members gathered at the Port Huron/Sarnia branch for a Baptismal Service. We had the pleasure of witnessing the baptisms of four new members into Christ's church! Our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes, presided over the service and also gave the Charge to the Candidates. Elder Ray Moses gave the Charge to the Congregation. Priest Tim Holmes offered the prayers. Barb Krinkie was our pianist and Port Huron's Scott Bolt brought the ministry of music, which added so much to the service. Bruce Krinkie and Alyssa Marcangelo were baptized by Elder Hod Powers. Daynna Harm was baptized by Priest Eric Eliason and Lisa Marcangelo was baptized by Elder Todd Moses. We were blessed by God's Spirit throughout the entire service. It was thrilling to witness such a beautiful sacrament and to welcome these new members into our Algonac church family! Our prayers are with them and their families as they seek God's will in their lives.

On Saturday, December 17, the children of our congregation met at the church for the Christmas program rehearsal, followed by a party. After rehearsing, they had fun making gingerbread houses, eating yummy treats and opening gifts. Thanks to Kelli Williams, Todd Moses and Amy Nagy for the time and effort they put into working with the children and helping them make great memories!

The Children's Christmas Program was held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 18. We were treated once again to a wonderful pageant, directed by Kelli Williams and performed by the children. Todd Moses was the narrator. Bethany Moses portrayed Mary and Brianna Morrison portrayed Joseph. Alyssa Marcangelo, Dayna Harm, and Ava Nagy portrayed the kings. David Harm and Miles Marcangelo portrayed the shepherds. (Twins Briggs and Bryer Eliason were to portray the sheep, but they were sick and couldn't make it. We look forward to seeing them in next year's pageant!) The angels were portrayed by Brianna Morrison, Alyssa and Miles Marcangelo, Dayna Harm, and Ava and David Nagy. Various Christmas hymns were performed by Bethany Moses, Brianna Morrison, Liz Moses, the Algonac Quartet and the "angels." The program ended with three songs performed by the Algonac youth, including "Ring Those Bells," where they sang and played the handbells ... an Algonac favorite! A gift was presented to our pastor (& his wife) Gary and Marge Holmes. Kelli also presented gifts to Todd Moses and Amy Nagy for their help with the program. A BIG thank you to Kelli Williams (& helpers) for all the time and effort they invest in teaching and training the youth of our congregation! Following was a wonderful sermon by Elder Todd Moses. The service also included the confirmations of our newest members. Dayna Harm was confirmed by Elders Hod Powers and Todd Yaney.

Alyssa Marcangelo was confirmed by Elders Todd Moses and Hod Powers. Lisa Marcangelo was confirmed by Elders Hod Powers and Todd Moses, and Bruce Krinkie was confirmed by Elders Raymond Moses and Hod Powers. Again, we welcome them all to our Algonac family!

On Wednesday, December 28, we held our annual Candlelight service, which is a combination of celebrating Christmas and welcoming the new year. Gary Holmes told about the birth of Christ through various Scriptures taken from the four gospels. Todd Moses read the story "Silent Night," which told of Christ's birth in a simpler way. Special music was performed by Gary Holmes and Ray Moses. Gary played the guitar and sang "What Child Is This?" and Ray sang, "O Holy Night." What a beautiful ministry they both shared through their gift of music! We ended the service by forming a circle, lighting our candles and relating a Christmas tradition that we love or our hopes for the new year.

A big thanks to our guest ministry this past quarter. Elder Jay Havener (we missed you, Kathi!) was with us in December and Elder Fred Brown, Jr. (Melanie, Joe & Nick) in January. We enjoyed seeing them and their families and appreciated their ministry.

On January 2, a Memorial Service was held at the Bower-Rose Funeral Home in Marine City for Todd Yaney's mom, Jane. Todd did the Eulogy and through laughter and tears, shared many stories about his Mom and family. Other members of his family also shared their memories. We learned she was a very strong person, full of grace. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and a beautiful person ... inside and out. Gary Holmes assisted at the service. A funeral service was held for her the following day at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Marine City. Some family members

(including Tina) did readings and Todd and Liz Moses brought the ministry of music. Our hearts go out to Todd and his family and we are keeping them in our prayers.

On January 7, a Funeral Service was held at the Pollack Randall Funeral Home in Port Huron for Rachel Stone. She was 103 years old and a stalwart in the church for many, many years. Elder Hod Powers was in charge of the service and Liz and Todd Moses sang. Elder Gary Holmes officiated at the graveside service and Todd, Liz, and Ray Moses sang. Rachel lived a very good, active, long life and will be missed by so many. Our prayers are with Larry and Chris Stones, and David, Deana Pirt and family.

Brianna Morrison helped out as a counselor at the Children's Retreat in Garden City January 20 – 22. Betty Lou Newman was in charge. The theme was "the Lineage of Christ" and this retreat covered Abraham through King Solomon. Brianna said that she enjoyed helping the kids make cards for all the adults that helped out. Betty Lou was surprised when they presented a card to her, also. (Evidently she told them not to make one for her.) The children also took part in the service on Sunday through the ministry of music. Brianna said she really enjoys being a counselor at these retreats. She stated that it's fun helping kids learn new things.

News and Notes

- Congratulations to Daynna Harm for being named "Student of the Month" in December at Fair Haven Elementary School. Keep up the good work, Daynna ... we're proud of you!
- Congratulations to Eric, Cory, Briggs and Bryer on the addition of Ames Chase Eliason, the newest member of their family! He arrived

on December 30 and weighed in at 8 lbs., 9 oz. What a wonderful way to end the year! We are so happy for all of you!

- Performing News:

Todd Moses held a Fashion Show on November 7th with students from Dakota's choir program as a fundraiser for their trip to Broadway New York. He even had the chance to model a couple of outfits himself at the show. The evening was a lot of fun and a great success and both his mom and Bethany won fabulous raffle baskets.

Bethany Moses was one of 116 students that auditioned for the Chippewa District Idol Jr. competition. She was selected as one of 26 middle school finalists to perform in the Idol Jr. show. Over 500 people filled the auditorium and voted for their favorite performers and Bethany won the competition with her performance "The Wizard and I" from the Broadway musical "Wicked". Congratulations, Bethany, we weren't surprised ... we've always know you were a star!

Todd Moses took 21 events from his choral program to District Solo & Ensemble on January 27th. Five of the events were chamber ensembles. One ensemble received an excellent rating while the other four received superior ratings, with the top group getting a perfect score! All 5 ensembles qualify for State S&E along with 8 of the 16 soloists.

- Prayers would be appreciated for Dick and Connie Burns (Dick had back surgery and is still recovering), Jerry Ward-cancer (Liz Moses' Dad), Gary and Marge

Holmes (Gary is recovering from knee surgery), Barb and Bruce Krinkie, Nina Powers and Kelli Williams. Also, please continue to pray for Todd Yaney's family and Deana Pirt and family.

What a wonderful season it was! We enjoyed celebrating our Savior's birth and the many opportunities we had to come together for worship and fellowship. In spite of the cooler temperatures, may our hearts be warmed by God's Spirit and may the days be bright with the light of His love. As always, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Jim Wregglesworth – Complications from strokes

Eleanor Wregglesworth – Gallbladder surgery

Clauda Fisher – Stroke at age 41

Becky Howard – Back surgery

Danna Howard – Guidance and direction

Brian Howard – Guidance and direction

Karol Thamm – Guidance and direction

Marvin Torsh – Guidance and direction

Elder Lee Hittle and the Dowagiac, MI

Branch – Elder Hittle continues to suffer severe health problems and the congregation has been unable to meet regularly.

The Northern Michigan Restoration Branch invites anyone who is in our area to stop by and worship with us.

God Bless

Atlanta Branch By: Jessica S. Joles Slater

As spring approaches the Atlanta Branch is pleased to announce that our small branch is expanding. On January 11, 2012 Connor Alexander Slater was born to Heath and Jessica Slater. Connor was 6lb 6oz and 19 ¼ inches long at birth. He is a healthy and happy baby.

The Atlanta Branch would also like to introduce Douglas Hale. Doug, who is the husband of member Heather Hale, was baptized and confirmed by Elder Harry Hyde on February 5th. It is wonderful to see Doug's commitment and joy at joining the church. Please join us in welcoming both Doug and Connor to our branch.

We ask for prayers for the following:

Christiane – Undiagnosed severe pain
Lillian Benac – Continues to reside in a care facility and asks for prayers for her affliction

Feb. 14th Valentines Day



Garden City

By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

Greetings to our fellow saints from the saints at Garden City!

In July, Ethan Fishwild was baptized by his father, Elder Kurt Fishwild. He was confirmed by his grandfather, Elder Graham Fishwild, assisted by Elder Kurt Fishwild. Ethan was glad to have many of his relatives there to witness his baptism and confirmation.

On October 1st, Becky Tytgat was married to Luc Tremblay. Becky is the daughter of Ken and Gwen Tytgat and the granddaughter of Glen and Vivian Carnahan. Becky's Uncle Tom (Carnahan) and his family came from Missouri so that Tom could preside over the ceremony. Best wishes to Becky and Luc!

On December 18th during the Sunday School hour, the children and youth of the congregation presented different parts of the Christmas story while dressed in costume. The adults rotated through "stations" where the children read or told the Christmas story. The children then asked questions of the adults about the information that they presented.

During the Christmas Break, The Fishwild Family (Kurt, Susan, Megan and Ethan) were blessed to be able to travel to Brazil for 10 days to visit Susan's sister and her family who are temporarily residing there. They were able to see some of the sites including the Christ statue on the hill in Rio de Janeiro.

Congratulations to Amber Hiller who had a baby boy named Chance on January 10th.

In January, a Children's Retreat was held at Garden City and several children of the branch attended including Alyssa and Paige Ely, Megan and Ethan Fishwild and Alicia Crouch. Madison and Paige Carnahan acted as C.I.T.'s for the weekend. The children learned about the lineage of Christ. They also had fun times swimming and at campfire. The children are looking forward to the next retreat, which will be held in April.

Many thanks to the ministers who provided guest ministry to the saints at Garden City for the past months – Bob Ruch, Mick Ruch, Gary Holmes, Fred Brown Sr., Fred Brown Jr. and Jay Havener.

Our sister Janice Wright has recently had health concerns and has been hospitalized several times. We would like to thank you for the many prayers offered on her behalf. Thanks also for the prayers and support offered to her family.

March 11th Daylight Savings



April 8th Easter Sunday

April 1st Palm Sunday



People Waving Palms to Jesus



Jesus is Alive!

Oakwood By: Kathleen Modders

- On Christmas morning we had a beautiful baptismal service, with Heather Mervyn being baptized by Elder Mick Ruch. Heather wanted to be baptized on Christmas morning because her mother, Chris Mervyn, was also baptized on a Christmas morning several years ago. Welcome Heather!



The Last Supper



- Older Youth retreat is coming to Oakwood Branch the weekend of March 23 – 25. Registration forms are available in this issue of the newsletter. Please fill yours out and return to Kathi and Jay

Havener ASAP so they can plan for food and activities. **PARENTS: GET YOUR KIDS SIGNED UP! THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 7- 12. BRING A FRIEND OR TWO WITH YOU!!**

· The last Sunday of every month, Oakwood Saints have a continental breakfast potluck at 9 a.m. to leave the cares of the world behind and enjoy breakfast and morning fellowship. This has been our practice for many years, as well as singing Happy Birthday to all those celebrating birthdays during the month. Birthday folks drop enough pennies (or in some cases folding money!) into our "purple pig" to represent their age. At the end of the year, Kathi Havener empties the pig, and the money collected is used for Sunday School supplies. Anyone missing during their birthday month can still join in the fun the following month...and they get to eat some really great breakfast food, too!

· We've got it covered! We just added two new bulletin boards to our hallway, which Bonnie Murphy and Bev Ruch so graciously decorated for us. This will help us keep our information organized by Women's Dept. news, Priesthood news, Youth news, and Branch life (we've got some great pictures!)

· We would like to welcome Elder Mick Ruch to the Oakwood Branch Pastorate. Mick will begin his first-ever role as a pastor on July 1. Special thanks to Elder Bob Ruch who served as one of our pastorate team for many years. Currently Elder Jay Havener serves as pastor, and Elder Graham Fishwild is set to begin his six-month rotation January 1.

· Proud parents Andy and Laurie Danicki, proud grandparents Helene and Tom Danicki, and proud uncle Mike Danicki welcomed Jonah Andrew Danicki into their family on Wednesday January 11, 2012, at 1:51 a.m. Jonah came into the world at 8 lbs. 12 oz. and 20 inches long!!!! Congrats to all.

· Welcome to Caylee Hamann, here visiting from Missouri for 11 months while she interns at Harper Hospital(s) as a Registered Dietician.

· **WOMEN, SAVE THE DATE:** October 5 -7. The 2012 Fall Women's Regional Retreat will be held in Vassar, Mich., at the Wesleyan Woods Camp. Make plans now to attend, and hold this weekend up in your prayers that we might once again have a blessed weekend in Christ's Spirit with lots of learning, laughs, and love.

Happy Birthday to our Oakwood members:

March Birthdays: Mar 4: Jamie Moore, Mar 10: Heather Mervyn,

Mar 10: Sarah MacDonald, Mar 14: Chet Slagor, Mar 18: Cody Ruch, Mar 21: Debbie Michael,

Mar 23: Sammy Hoover, Mar 28: Beth Everhart, Mar 29 :Jamie Modders,

Otter Lake By: Susie Daggett

Elder Bob Sutton was elected as our new pastor for the year. We are looking forward to this NEW YEAR with a lot of prayers, hope and excitement. Hoping that some of the things we talked about in our business meeting might lift the spirits and create a new passion for our congregation as well as any who come into our branch.

We have planned a soup supper at the church this Feb 10th @ 6:00pm. Then we will have a signup sheet with one slot available per month for a member to sign. The person who signs will then set the date and time for everyone to gather at their home for an evening of fun and fellowship. This person will also

determine if it will be a simple snack night or plan a potluck, letting everyone know what they are going to bring. Also whoever signs up for this glorious time will have the honor of inviting whoever else they would like to join us in their home! We need to set aside some time to slow down and pull out of the rat race that keeps us way too busy.

We would like to thank all of the guest ministry and their families who have blessed us with their presence over the last few months... Until next time
Thank you,

Sanilac By: Kathleen Palmer

And blessed are all the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
Matthew 5:11

November was a very busy month for our congregation. We have been really blessed with many wonderful talents and they are being used to glorify God.

On November 12th, we had church cleaning day and on Nov 16th was setup for our annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale, which was held on Sat. Nov. 19th from 8a.m. to 4p.m. The bazaar was very successful and all of us enjoyed being with one another and talking to all who came. We really appreciated those of you, who traveled so far to come to our bazaar; we always look forward to seeing each and everyone.

Barent and Barb Eliason traveled to Missouri to be with Barb's mother and their family at Thanksgiving. Wayne and Mary Lou Bartrow celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary and Thanksgiving with their two daughters and sons-in-laws and grandchildren at Orlando, Fla. They went to Disney World and SeaWorld and had a wonderful time together.

On Nov. 11-13th, Tom and Janine Essenmacher traveled to Port Huron for the Zion's Youth Retreat. They do all the

cooking for the children. They also teach classes. Thank you Tom and Janine for taking the time to spend with our youth. Gary DesJardins was going to go, but broke a bone in his hand just the day before the retreat. He is doing fine and healing nicely.

December is always a calendar full of things to do. On December 7th, we had a family night at 6 p.m. We decorated the church together and then enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship together.

Gary DesJardins received a #1 rating on Dec. 3rd at a solo ensemble. He received a medal. We are proud of Gary. Gary is a seventh grade student at Peck Schools and plays the trumpet.

The Christmas Program was held Dec. 11th at 9:45 p.m., under the direction of Dora Gutierrez. The theme was, "The Gifts of Christmas." Thank you to all who did the readings. Dora Gutierrez, Mary Lou Bartrow, Gary Des Jardins, Debbie Des Jardins, Janine Essenmacher, Julie Essenmacher, Barb Eliason and Kathleen Palmer. The men's choir sang. The women's choir sang and our two little angels, Avery Carpenter and Emma Des Jardins participated by bringing up gifts of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy while poems were read. They both sang, "We wish you a Merry Christmas." to end the program. Thank you Dora for a very special Christmas program.

On Dec. 14th, the Peck school bands presented their Holiday Concert. Gary Des Jardins played his trumpet and Madyson Van Brande played her flute. They were dressed in their uniforms and the girls in long dresses. It was very impressive and the music was wonderful.

A Christmas Candlelight service was held Dec. 14th at 7 p.m. Elder Barent Eliason was in charge. The story of Christ was told through the scriptures. Each person read scriptures from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Hymns were sung and the whole service was very spiritual and special.

Barent and Barb Eliason traveled to Missouri to be with family for Christmas. While they were there, Barb's mother Jane was hospitalized with pneumonia and complications. She spent time in the hospital and a nursing home. It was such a blessing and comfort for Jane that Barent and Barb and her family could be with her until her passing. May the Lord continue to comfort and be with all her family and friends as they grieve her passing. Our prayers go out to you.

Barb and Barent Eliason are grandparents again. Congratulations to Eric and Cory Eliason for the birth of their son Ames Chase on Dec. 30th. May the Lord continue to bless your family.

January brought more mild winter weather. It makes a person wonder what is in store for Feb and March! We are now into the New Year of 2012.

Tom, Janine and Julie Essenmacher and Gary Des Jardins attended the Children's Retreat at Garden City on Jan. 19-21. A good time was reported by all. Thanks again to all those who use their time and talents for these youth. A special thanks to Mary Lou Newman, who puts these youth retreats together.

Gary Des Jardins is playing 7th grade basketball at Peck High School. He is doing well and really enjoys playing. He plays two nights a week and his cousin Jarrett, a senior at Deckerville Schools, plays two nights a week. Opposite nights. Needless to say it keeps grandparents Bill and Kathleen Palmer on the go all week.

We changed our women's meeting, men's Bible study and prayer service to Thursday nights at 7p.m.

We had our women's meeting and Bible study on Feb. 2nd. Mary Lou Bartrow taught the month's lesson on Peace and Peacemakers from the book, "Fruits of the Spirit." Thank you Mary Lou for making our lessons so special.

We changed our Mother/Daughter Banquet from April 28th to May 5th. The theme is, "Welcome to our Garden." We invite all to come.

Thank you to Janine Essenmacher and Kathleen Palmer for the lovely and spiritual worship centers.

We are so thankful for the visiting priesthood, who travel a great distance to bring us the message of God. Elder Leo Carroll, Priest Bob Harris, Elder Hod (Nina) Powers, Elder Ed McDonald and Elder Jim (Jean) McLeod.

Happy Birthday to Nov.7-Gary Des Jardins, 13th-Aubree Rich, 19th-Kathleen Palmer, 27th-Sydney Parker, 30th-Barb Eliason, Dec.14th-Ken Parker, 20th-Bill Palmer, 27th-Shelly Carpenter, 21st-Johnathan Rich, 30th- Mary Morris(celebrated her 92nd birthday) Jan.6th-Bev Miller, 9th-Steve Parker, 14th-Tom Essenmacher, 18th-Denise Rich, 29th-Emma Des Jardins(celebrated her 5th birthday)

Thank you to all who shared their talents with special music-Kerri Daniels, Barent and Barb Eliason, Bob Harris, Emma Des Jardins, Denise Rich, Wayne and Mary Lou Bartrow, Gary Des Jardins and Kathleen Palmer. Our pianists Barb Eliason, Dora Gutierrez and Mary Lou Bartrow. To our Priesthood Elder Barent Eliason, Elder Wayne Bartrow and Priest Tom Essenmacher. We appreciate your ministry. How wonderful to be fed the Word of God.

Opportunity to Travel to Nauvoo This Summer!

**Mark your calendars!
July 20-22, 2012**

Last reunion it was asked if there was any interest in traveling by bus to Nauvoo and visit church historical sites. There was a great response. Now is your opportunity! Currently I am working with Marten Garn from the Charlotte Saints Church of Jesus Christ (they have a bus) to finalize this trip. More information is to follow, but if you want to go, please drop me a line at ojhavener@gmail.com to let me know. **Space is limited!**

Part of the trip will include a pageant produced by the LDS Church called a Tribute to Joseph Smith. Here is a description of the pageant:

The Nauvoo Pageant celebrates the legacy of the early Latter-Day Saints.

Narrated by Parley P. Pratt, the pageant emphasizes the prophetic mission of Joseph Smith and honors the sacrifice, faith and courage of the Saints who gave their all to build a city and a temple to their God.

The pageant is filled with authentic hymns and folksongs, lively dances and tender moments that share the joy these early Saints found in living Christ's gospel. Through words taken from journals, sermons and historic records of the period, the pageant invites all to feel the powerful testimonies of these faithful Saints.

Details of the trip (i.e. cost, time and place of departure, lodging, etc.) will be provided soon, but please let us know if you want to go. Our goal is to make the trip as affordable as possible.

Zion's Youth Spring Retreat For grades 7 - 12 March 23 – 25, 2012

Hey guys,

It's time for another fun, spirit-filled older youth retreat! Please come and bring your friends. We will have great fellowship, awesome classes, and good food! Please plan on gathering at Oakwood Restoration Branch on Friday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. Parents can join us for church and potluck on Sunday morning.

The cost of the retreat is \$30.

What to bring:

- Scriptures
- Sleeping bag, pillow, or other bedding as desired
- Appropriate clothes and Sunday dress clothes
- Appropriate swim suit (plan on wearing a tee-shirt if your suit is questionable) and gym clothes
- A great attitude

What to leave behind (or turn into the staff once you get here):

- Video games
- Cell phones
- iPods

The enclosed registration form must be mailed to Jay and Kathi Havener by October 29. We need to know how many are attending so that we can make the proper arrangements. Questions? Call us at 248-628-9702 or email us at kathihavener@gmail.com.

See you at the retreat!

Jay and Kathi

Church Address:

Oakwood Restoration Branch
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Anyone with new Email/phone/other info that you want published please send it to Jim Bradley @ zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net !

Regional Activities for the next quarter

April 27, 28 & 29 Children's Retreat @ Port Huron

**Zion's Youth Retreat
Oakwood Restoration Branch
March 23-25, 2012
Registration Form**

Camper's Name: _____ **Branch** _____

Address:

Phone: _____

Parent or guardian: _____

Parent address if different from your own:

Emergency contact phone:

Health insurance information:

Health insurance company:

Group insurance number:

_____ (camper's name) has my permission to attend the Zion's Youth Retreat, and the retreat staff has my permission to provide or seek any medical care should it become necessary.

Guardian's Signature:

List any known allergies:

List any medications currently taken:

I will abide by the retreat rules and respect the Retreat Staff's choices and decisions during the weekend. I will exhibit good Christian conduct.

Camper's Signature: _____

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

Grandpa's Hands

Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was OK. Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled, and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

**They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.
As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.
They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.
They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.
They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son.**

**Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.
They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle.
They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.**

**They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.
And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.**

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

**But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home.
And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."**

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home. When my hands are hurt or sore I think of Grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.