

The Anchor



The Great Lakes Restoration Branches Magazine/Newsletter

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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**

“Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.”
Psalm 95:1, 2

We are very thankful for this beautiful, bounteous season and for the opportunities we've had to meet with the saints (near and far) for worship and fellowship

throughout the year. We truly have many reasons to sing praises unto the Lord, and we are grateful.

Some of our Algonac saints were able to attend the annual Book of Mormon Day at the Oakwood Restoration Branch on Saturday, September 28. Our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes, had the opportunity to teach one of the classes this year. We really enjoyed it, along with the other classes taught by Elder Ed MacDonald and Elder Dave Teeple. It's always exciting learning more about the history of the people and places in the Book

of Mormon. It was also interesting viewing Barent's power point presentations on new archeological findings and evidences that support the Book of Mormon. Of course, the delicious pot luck luncheon and fellowship was enjoyed! We realize this event involves much prayer, study, and preparation on the part of many. We appreciate all who participated, and especially thank Barent and Barb Eliason and the time and effort they put forth each year to help make this day a big success.

October 4 – 6 eight of our Algonac women (Val Bradley, Connie Burns, Marilyn Canham, Marge Holmes, Wendy Holmes, Elaine King, Nina Powers, and Kelli Williams) attended the regional Fall Women's Retreat at Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds. The theme was "Breathe on me Breath of God," and we felt like the Lord definitely breathed His Spirit on us throughout the weekend. Algonac's Kelli Williams and Nina Powers brought the morning devotions on Sunday and our pastor, Gary Holmes (along with Priest Bob Harris), brought the guest ministry on Sunday. We are thankful for them and all of the teachers and others who participated and supported this retreat.

On Sunday, October 13, a large number of our Algonac group had the pleasure of attending the annual worship and fellowship gathering hosted by the Sanilac Restoration Branch. We appreciated the inspiring message preached by Elder Dave Teeple, and the beautiful ministry of

music shared by the Johnson family. Our own Todd Moses was the pianist and we always enjoy his special talent. We then were treated to a delicious pizza and ice cream sundae lunch (what's not to like!) before heading over to the Eliason farm. We were pampered by Barent and Lowell Decker as they took us on an extra-long hayride this year. We enjoyed the beautiful fall weather while bouncing along in the wagons talking, laughing, and taking photos. Afterwards we enjoyed cider, cookies and great fellowship. Many thanks to Barent, Barb, and the Sanilac saints for hosting this fun fall event again this year!

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, we witnessed the baptism of Marilyn Canham at the Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch. Elder Ray Moses presided over the service and Priest Tim Holmes gave the opening and closing prayers. We enjoyed the special music that was performed by Scott Bolt and the keyboard talents of Kim Gilchrist. Elder Hod Powers gave the Charge to the Candidates and then Marilyn was baptized by Elder Gary Holmes. Priest Eric Eliason ended the service with a Charge to the Congregation. It was a beautiful service and many were there in support of Marilyn. We are grateful to Pt. Huron for the use of their beautiful sanctuary. The following Sunday Marilyn was confirmed into the church by Elder Jim Bradley, assisted by Elder Hod Powers. We were thrilled to "officially" welcome Marilyn into our church family and we will keep her in our thoughts

and prayers as she begins her new walk in Christ.

On Saturday, October 26, Val Bradley hosted a 70th (already?) birthday celebration for Jim. In addition to their families, it was attended by the Algonac church family and long-time friends. There was much food, fun and fellowship. Jim and Val appreciated everyone's presence and are very thankful for the joy they bring into their lives.

Prayers would be appreciated for Dick and Connie Burns, Marge and Gary Holmes, Nina Powers, Tim Holmes, Kelli Williams, Bruce and Barb Krinkie, and Jean John. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

Atlanta Branch By: Jessica S. Joles Slater

Throughout the fall, the NMRB has been delighted to welcome guest ministers, share in potlucks and welcome back members who have not been able to attend regularly. However, we recognize winter is approaching as some of our members prepare to depart for warmer climates. We pray that Elder Howard LaLone and his wife Sue have an uneventful trip back to Florida.

While we continue to do our best to worship together, our little branch's membership has been struggling with many health issues that cause our members to be unable to attend services; we

ask that you keep us all in your prayers.

As always, we invite anyone who is in the area to come and worship with us. We also ask that you are mindful of the following individuals who are in need of prayer:

Christiane - Undiagnosed severe pain
Dillon Chapman - Cancer
Tonya Couture – Personal issues
Dan Finch - unspecified
Cliff Goodfellow – Cancer
Dixie Goodfellow – Health problems
Elder Lee Hittle - Severe health problems
Dolores Howard – Joint pain
Mark Howard - unspecified
Matt Howard – Back pain
Gary Joles – Cancer
Rachel Peel - MS
Janelle Peters – Spots on kidney
Kaitlyn Peters - Pregnancy
Mabel Peters - unspecified
Jim Ross – Eyesight
Willy Ross – Broken hip and Alzheimer's

Thank You and God Bless

Garden City By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

It looks so beautiful outside with all of the colored leaves. Some have already fallen and soon the trees will be bare. It's nice to see

the seasons change and to see God's hand in the world all around us.

During Sunday school, our congregation has been studying about the Kirtland Temple and our church's history during that time. We are looking forward to a congregational trip to the Kirtland Temple sometime in the near future.

A Children's Retreat was held at the Port Huron branch on October 25 – 27. Several children and youth from Garden City attended. The theme was "With an Eye Single to the Glory of God". Classes were taught by Elder Dave Teeple. The children, their parents and many congregations have been raising money to purchase water filters for people in developing countries. The cost of one water filter is \$75. So far the branches have raised enough money to purchase 16 filters! Please continue to collect funds as this project is ongoing.

Many thanks to Karen Rintz who has been working with volunteers from the Garden City branch to make lap blankets for seniors. What a warm, cozy treat that will be for the seniors in our area this winter.

Sunday, November 3, was a very special day for our congregation. Karen Rintz and her son Nathan Costello were both baptized. Karen was baptized by Elder Carl McKiddie and Nathan was baptized by Priest Bill Sutton of the Otter Lake branch. Karen was confirmed by Elders Carl McKiddie and Rex Monarch. Many family members were able to witness this special day along with the Garden City members.

Congratulations Karen and Nathan!

Many thanks to the guest ministers who have preached at Garden City the past few months: Elder Fred Brown Sr., Elder Brian Daggett and Elder Bob Ruch. Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas with family and friends.

By: Betty Lou Newman

"With an eye single to the glory of God" was the theme for Children's Fall Retreat at Port Huron. Activities and classes focused on that scripture during the weekend. "Give of your best to the Master" was sung for the Ministry of Music on Sunday. Other special music was shared by Caleb and Grace Johnson, and Ethan and Megan Fishwild.

Campers enjoyed hearing Book of Mormon stories read by older youth and adults dressed in costume. Each received a book of those stories to add to their library. After the New Testament stories were read, competitive games added fun and challenge.

The CIT's studied Brother Henry Schaefer's book, "Lo I am With You Always". It is his testimony of finding Christ's church – the complete church with no missing parts. To help them remember, a Hershey bar with a missing part was compared to a complete bar. Each received a Hershey bar. Thank you Brother Teeple.

The delicious food (turkey dinner), the games, campfires, classes and administrations made up a complete weekend experience for campers of all ages who were able to attend.

Service Project: The Retreat Team was able to send a check to purchase 16 water filters. This years' Service Project is to provide water filters for countries where polluted water is a leading cause of death. Thank you to each of you that added to that total. We will continue to work on this project and will update you after winter retreat in 2014.

Oakwood By: Kathleen Modders

Oakwood will be changing Pastors on January 1st. Elder Mick Ruch will be serving for the next six months. Please keep him and his service to God in your prayers. We have a new priesthood member! Shaun Turner was ordained to the office of Aaronic Priest. Shaun and his wife, Michelle, and their children, recently moved to Whitelake and now attend Oakwood Restoration Branch. They are quickly getting involved with the branch. We look forward to what they will bring to our branch, and are excited to welcome them into our church family. We would also like to welcome the LaRowe family, Bob and Tracey, along with their children Julia, Alec, Sydney, and Taylor. They recently transferred to Oakwood from Garden City, MI. Anyone in need of our DVD outreach program or know anyone who is in need of our DVD's please let Dennis Smith know. (248-628-1491) We will be glad to

add them to the mailing list. We almost have 200 in the outreach program, and it's still growing. Dennis is doing a wonderful job and is adding to it daily! Please keep him and Mike Danicki in your prayers; Dennis to continue adding and Mike to produce the DVD's and mail them out. It's a big job and the two of them are a blessing to all of us.

Oakwood is in the process of putting a website online. It should be up and running by the end of November! Our outreach program will continue to grow. All sermons will be accessible on that website as well. Many thanks to all involved in this project. It will be a blessing to our outreach program. Pat Edwards passed away in September. Please keep Harold and their family in your prayers that they might be blessed with comfort and strength during this difficult time.

Our Regional women's retreat was, as always a success. On October 5th we all met for the weekend in Vassar, MI at the Wesleyan Wood Campgrounds. Oakwood attendees were Kathi Havener, Julie Fox, Bonnie Murphy, Tracy Stokes, Dawn Modders, Kathleen Modders, Michelle Turner, Helen Brown, Kim Gilchrist, and Shawn Ruch.

The younger youth retreat was held at the Port Huron branch in October. Betty Lou Newman took charge once again and led the

children for a weekend of fellowship> we are truly blessed to have her lead our younger youth.

On November 2nd, the Havener family added a daughter-in-law to their crew. Joshua and Andrea Havener were married and are now beginning their life together. Please keep them in your prayers for a long and happy life together. During October we had a few hospital stays within the branch. Gloria Smith fell and broke her hip, which led to hip surgery. Dale Day fell at home and spent several days in the hospital recovering. Helen Smith went through cataract surgery. Please keep Gloria, Dale and Helen in your prayers during this trying time in their lives.

Priest Chet Slagor and his wife Cheryl once again are heading up a Food drive this year. He works hard all year collecting food and money to help the needy. He is such a blessing; please keep them in your prayers, to continue with this service and for the families in need as well.

In October, Mike and Kathleen Modders hosted another Cedar Point trip. It was very eventful. Everyone met at the Church for breakfast, ate and said a prayer for a safe trip. We left on time for the three hour ride in the Modders-mobile (Bob and Dawn's Motor home) with Mike Modders, Shaun Turner, and Matt Mervyn driving, we fit 34 people in 3 vehi-

cles! Two popped tires before we even hit Ohio was quite the shock! But everyone arrived at Cedar Point safely, had a great time, and arrived back at the church at 3 a.m. What a long day, but totally worth every second! The kids had a blast riding the rides and enjoying the "Halloweekend" events as well.

Also in October (which happened to be the next day) our congregation attended the Annual Hay Ride at the Sanilac Branch, hosted by Elder Barent Eliason and his wife Barb. As always it was a wonderful event filled with a beautiful service, a Pizza and Ice Cream party, followed by the hayride. In November the youth will be putting on a Thanksgiving Lunch as a service project. It's a wonderful way for the children to give back to the branch as they decorate the church, prepare the meal, and clean up afterwards. Everyone is always blessed to be able to have a lunch together and give thanks for all that God gives to everyone. Eloise Boat turned 90 this year! Happy Birthday Eloise!

Upcoming Oakwood Birthdays:
12/02 Bob Ruch, 12/04 Ty Millen,
12/06 Drew Vandenberg, 12/08
Parker Mervyn,
12/09 Helen Brown, 12/19 Samantha Pollard, 12/25 Laurie MacDonald, 12/26 Mick Ruch, 12/26 Jonathon Modders, 12/27 Marissa Wilson, 12/30 Autumn Turner,

01/01 Bev Ruch, 01/06 Virgil Struble, 01/09 Dustin Michael
01/10 Brenda Fishwild, 01/12 Glenda Smith, 01/17 Kim Gilchrist,
01/26 Don Tomanek, 01/27 Stacy Ruch, 01/28 Ed MacDonald, 01/28 Reese Nagy, 02/09 Steve Ruch,
02/14 Fred Brown Sr., 02/19 Deanna Smith, 02/28 Joey Brown.



Thanksgiving

What does Thanksgiving mean to you? I hear one boy say, "It means a big dinner." I think we all agree with him. Who does not welcome and enjoy a good dinner! I hear Mary say, "Thanksgiving means a day off from school." I guess you are right too. School is not such a charming place that girls and boys are unwilling to have an occasional holiday.

Now I am going to ask some of the older people what the day means to them. There is a young woman. She is a stenographer. She says, "Thanksgiving means a day away from the office. I am at the office every day except Sunday, and I do appreciate, now and then, a day that is really my own." Yonder is a traveling salesman. What does Thanksgiving mean to you? He says, "It means a day at home. Last year I spent one hundred and sixty-nine nights away from home.

I have three children. I should like to see them every day. There are times when many days pass and I do not see them. Thanksgiving week I plan to be at home."

There are others I could ask. Each has his answer. But Thanksgiving has a special meaning for us. It is the Harvest time. I have here an apple. Isn't this a beautiful apple? What color! Who mixed the paints, who handled the brush to give such color to this apple? God. He, in his infinite love and wisdom, has provided, through the unflinching laws of nature, for the growth, sweetness, coloring and beautifying of all the products of the fields. This apple is but one of many kinds of fruits.

Praise, then, is the great meaning of Thanksgiving. God, our heavenly Father, sends us every good gift. From his bountiful hand come our daily and nightly mercies. We should praise him every day. But the day for the united chorus of praise is Thanksgiving.

[Otter Lake](#) By: Susie Daggett

Hello all!

The Otter Lake branch is very proud of our senior John Daniels. He played on the varsity football team for North Branch High School on the defensive and offensive line. Their team made the playoffs for the 3rd time in their history. John was also the tallest player at 6'6".

Gerri Broughman recently had a second surgery on her back hoping to relieve her pain. She had to have the surgery without any anesthesia because she only has one lung working at 40%.

Please keep her in your prayers. We want to thank our guest ministry for helping out. We couldn't do it without you.



“For the Man Who Hated Christmas”

By: Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years or so. It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas.

Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it.

Overspending... the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma.

The gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears.

It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids - all kids - and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition.

One year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home

had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

Editor's Note: This true story was originally published in the December 14, 1982 issue of Woman's Day magazine.

It was the first place winner out of thousands of entries in the magazine's "My Most Moving Holiday Tradition" contest in which readers were asked to share their favorite holiday tradition and the story behind it.

The story inspired a family from Atlanta, Georgia to start The White Envelope Project and Giving101, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating youth about the importance of giving.

Sanilac By: Kathleen Palmer

SUMMER IS OVER AND FALL IS IN THE AIR. THE FALL COLORS HAVE BEEN BEAUTIFUL AND

MAKES US MARVEL AT GOD'S CREATIONS.

AUGUST WAS CHURCH RE-UNION AND MANY FROM OUR BRANCH STAYED THE WEEK. THOSE WHO STAYED WERE BARENT AND BARB ELIASON, RANDY, GARY AND EMMA DES JARDINS, MISSY, PAIGE, MADDY AND SYDNEY PARKER, DENISE AND AUBREE RICH, KYLE AND JOHN ROSS. IT WAS A WEEK OF MANY INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES, CLASSES AND WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP AND FUN.

A BABY SHOWER WAS HELD FOR AUBREE RICH AT THE CHURCH. THERE WERE MANY WHO ATTENDED AND ENJOYED THE DELICIOUS LUNCH AND CAKE MADE BY HER GRANDMOTHER. GAMES WERE ENJOYED BY ALL. THE DECORATIONS WERE DONE BY DENISE RICH AND WERE ADORABLE. GOOD JOB DENISE. AUBREE RECEIVED MANY BEAUTIFUL GIFTS FOR THE BABY.

BILL AND KATHEEN PALMER LEFT SEPT. 24TH FOR A WEEK IN BRANSON, MO AND THREE WEEKS IN ARIZONA. WHILE THERE THEY ENJOYED TIME WITH THEIR GRANDSON, RYAN, WHO TEACHES AND COACHS FOOTBALL AT SUPERIOR, ARIZ. THEY ATTENDED THREE OF HIS GAMES ALONG WITH THEIR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, GRANDDAUGHTER AND GREAT GRANDSON, WHO ALSO VISITED RYAN FOR A FEW DAYS. THE WEATHER WAS BEAUTIFUL AND THEY WERE BLESSED WITH PERFECT WEATHER FOR THE CAR TRIP HOME.

TOM AND JANINE ESENMACHER DONATED THEIR TIME TO LANDSCAPE AND PRESSURE WASH THE CHURCH. THEY DID A FANTASTIC JOB! THANK YOU BOTH. WE ALSO HAD A PUMPKIN GROWING IN THE VINES ON THE RAMP. WHO GOT THE PUMPKIN? JANINE OR GARY?

ON SEPT. 24TH , LOWELL DECKER AND DORA GUTIERREZ DAUGHTER, JULIA, WAS MARRIED TO KEITH ABRECHT. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL AFTERNOON WEDDING FOLLOWED BY AN OUTDOOR RECEPTION. EVERYTHING WAS BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED TO FIT THE JOYFUL OCCASION.

BARB ELIASON HAS HAD A ROUGH SUMMER RECUPERATING FROM BACK SURGERY AND RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS. SHE IS FEELING MUCH BETTER NOW. THE LORD TRULY ANSWERS PRAYERS.

OCT. 4-6TH WAS WOMEN'S RETREAT AT WESLEYAN CAMP GROUNDS. MISSY PARKER, KERRI DANIELS AND MARY LEE COVE ALL ATTENDED. IT WAS REPORTED ALL HAD AN AWESOME TIME. IT ALWAYS IS WITH VAL BRADLEY AND KATHI HAVENER IN CHARGE OF PLANNING FOR THIS SPECIAL WEEK END. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AS YOU PLAN THESE SPECIAL RETREATS.

SEPT 27-29TH , THE MI BOOK OF MORMON WEEKEND WAS HELD AT OAKWOOD. ON FRIDAY NIGHT, BARENT ELIASON WAS IN CHARGE OF GIVING THE MESSAGE. ON SATURDAY GARY HOLMES, ED MCDONALD AND DAVE TEEPLE PRESENTED BOOK OF MORMON EVENTS TO WHICH BARENT ELIASON PRESENTED THE FINDINGS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO GO ALONG WITH THESE EVENTS. THERE WERE SIX CLASSES. MORNING AND AFTERNOON CLASSES WERE HELD FOR THE CHILDREN. BEV. RUCH, BEV MILLER AND DEBBY DES JARDINS TAUGHT THOSE CLASSES. THERE WAS A POTLUCK LUNCH AT NOON, WHICH WAS AWESOME AND ENJOYED BY ALL. THERE WERE BOOK OF MORMONS AND PLAQUES GIVEN AWAY. ON SUNDAY THE DIFFERENT BRANCHS HAD BOOK OF MORMON SERMONS. GOD NEVER CLOSES ONE DOOR WITHOUT

OPENING ANOTHER. THERE IS SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS WEEK END POSSIBLE.

ON OCT. 3RD ., AUBREE RICH AND JUSTIN KURTANSKY WELCOMED THEIR NEWBORN SON, BRENDON MICHAEL JOSEPH KURTANSKY. HE WEIGHED 8LBS. 8 OZS AND WAS 22 INCHES LONG. HE HAS LOTS OF BLACK HAIR. PROUD GRANDPARENTS ARE LLOYD AND DENISE RICH.

THE ANNUAL SANILAC PIZZA AND HAYRIDE PARTY WAS HELD ON OCT. 13TH. OVER 100 PEOPLE ATTENDED. THE BRANCHS ATTENDING WERE ALGONAC, PORT HURON- SARNIA, OAKWOOD, OTTER LAKE, AND ST. JOHNS. GARY AND MARGE HOLMES DID A GREAT JOB WITH THE PREWORSHIP. DAVE TEEPLE GAVE A WONDERFUL MESSAGE. MUSIC BY THE RON JOHNSON FAMILY, WHO SANG, WAS BEAUTIFUL. TODD MOSES PLAYED THE PIANO AND PRESENTED AN INSPIRATIONAL MEDITATION ARRANGEMENT. EVERYONE WENT DOWNSTAIRS AFTER THE SERVICE TO ENJOY PIZZA AND ICE CREAM. IT WAS NOTED THAT KELLI WILLIAMS PITCHED IN AND BECAME THE OFFICIAL SUPER DOOPER ICE CREAM SCOOPER! WAY TO GO KELLI. THEN EVERYONE PROCEEDED TO GO TO THE BARENT AND BARB ELIASON FARM FOR THE HAYRIDE. THERE WERE FOUR WAGONS, TWO TRACTORS AND BARENT ELIASON AND LOWELL DECKER AS THE DRIVERS. NOW ONE PERSON , I WON'T SAY WHO, BUT I THINK HIS NAME WAS "JAY" THOUGHT BARENT TOOK A WRONG TURN AND FORGOT HIS WAY HOME. NOT TO WORRY, BARENT JUST MADE THE HAYRIDE THREE MILES LONGER!!! LOTS OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, COOKIES AND CIDER MADE THIS A WONDERFUL END TO A BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY.

TOM AND JANINE ESSENMACHER WERE THE COOKS AT THE PORT HURON-SARNIA YOUTH RETREAT ON OCT. 25-27TH. A BIG THANKS OF APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO MAKE THESE RETREATS POSSIBLE FOR OUR YOUTH. OUR CHILDREN ARE SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CHURCH AND WE ARE SO BLESSED TO HAVE THOSE WHO GIVE OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS.

A BABY GIRL WAS BORN TO JOHN RICH AND JEANA SEXTON. SHE WAS BORN PREMATURE WEIGHING 4LBS 11 OZS AND WAS 19 ½ INCHES LONG ON OCT. 23RD. SHE IS AT THE NEO NATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AT PORT HURON HOSPITAL. HER NAME IS PAISLEY. SHE IS DOING WELL AND THEY HOPE TO BRING HER HOME SOON. LLOYD AND DENISE RICH ARE THE PROUD GRANDPARENTS. UPDATE: PAISLEY CELIA IS NOW HOME AND DOING WELL.

WE ALWAYS LIKE TO THANK OUR VISITING PRIESTHOOD FOR THE INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES THEY BRING TO US. THEY ARE PRIEST BOB HARRIS, ELDER GRAHAM FISHWILD, ELDER DALE DAY, ELDER BRIAN DAGGETT, ELDER GARY HOLMES(MARGE), ELDER DAVE TEEPLE AND ELDER WAYNE BARTROW(MARY LOU).

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PROVIDED MUSIC FOR CHURCH SERVICES. IT IS TRULY AN INSPIRATIONAL WAY TO WORSHIP OUR LORD. ALSO TO THOSE WHO DO OUR WORSHIP SETTINGS. THEY ARE ALWAYS SO INSPIRING AND PLEASANT TO LOOK AT.

ALSO OUR OWN PRIESTHOOD ELDER BARENT ELIASON AND PRIEST TOM ESSENMACHER, WHO ARE THERE FOR US, FEEDING THEIR FLOCK WITH MESSAGES INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR AUGUST4-RANDY DES JARDINS, 13-PAIGE PARKER, 28TH-AVERY CARPENTER, 31ST-MADDY PARKER. ANNIVERSARY 12-WAYNE AND MARY LOU BARTROW.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SEPT. 6TH-JOHN ROSS, 8TH-DORA GUTIERREZ, 13TH LOWELL DECKER, 18TH -BOB SMITH, 26TH-ELLA HAYNES, ANNIVERSARYS, 3RD -BILL AND KATHLEEN PALMER, 28TH -TOM AND JANINE ESSENMACHER AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY OCT. 31ST. TO DAN MILLER.



A Year of Time

...Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2014 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really

have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

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

From The Editor's Desk:

Anyone having 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.

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