

# The Anchor



## The Great Lakes Restoration Branches Magazine/Newsletter

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Fall 2014



### 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**

**“For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; while it is said, today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts ...” Hebrews 3:14, 15. May we continue to be steadfast in faith, study, prayer, testimonies and endure to the end.**

**(Reported by Wendy Holmes)**

**We decided to change it up a bit from previous years. In the past we have held our annual Rummage Sale on Memorial Weekend, but this year we thought we would try having our sale on Algonac’s “Yard Sale Trail” weekend August 8-9.**

**Starting early on we collected and gather up goods that we no longer need or use. It piles up quick we notice. lol. We started set up on Tuesday and finished up by Thursday so we would be all set for Friday morning. Friday Elaine King, Val Bradley, myself and my friend Debra Andriths set up all of our fresh baked goods and had customers right off the bat. Our very first customer who came all the way from Lapeer Mi. says she loves to come to Algonac and start there with the sales. We had a steady flow and sold a fair amount of stuff along with quite a bit of baked goods. Weather was extraordinary for Michigan, lol, lots of sunshine!! We were pleasantly surprised to get a visit from Connie & Dick Burns, they made our day!! Talked with several people from**

Algonac as well. Some were repeat customers, some new that didn't realize we were there. Also met a nice neighbor from down the street from our church. Her name is Buffy and she is quite involved in the local community and we decided that she and I should keep in contact so that we can become more involved in our Algonac Community to reach out. She stayed about an hour and talked extensively with us. We had a great first day!! Arrived early Saturday morning with Elaine King, myself and Alexis Parker and had more fresh baked goods to put out. Homemade brownies are a good seller!! We also had a nice surprise visit from Hod & Nina Powers along with special visitor Rita from Germany! Nina brought in her famous Pineapple Upside Down cakes!! They sold within an hour of her bringing them in. It was another beautiful day in Algonac, lots of sunshine. Alexis decided it would be a great day for a Lemonade stand so we set her up with Lemonade and Kool-Aid and she did quite well! We met an awesome little guy about 2 and he was very talkative and latched on to Elaine like they were bffs, lol, he walked around the sale hand in hand with Elaine and picked out a favorite toy...a big white Teddy Bear to take home. He also enjoyed some Kool-Aid and then his parents took him over to the park to play afterward and he was one happy little dude! Our baked goods dwindled down to not much left and we managed to get rid of a major amount of clothing by offering a bag full for \$2 and that went over very well. Debra Andriths arrived in the afternoon in time to get us some much needed lunch. We were famished. We reenergized and after selling a few more goods, we packed up and took our left over stuff to the local Goodwill. What few baked goods we had left we sold on Sunday after service. We had a wonderful weekend and look forward to our next Holiday Bake Sale and Rummage sale coming up between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Will keep you updated on that!

(Reported by Todd Moses)

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> was our annual outing to the Sanilac Congregation for a shared service, pizza potluck and hayride through the country roads. This year was no exception to a blessed day. The sanctuary was filled with saints for the 11am service. The basement barely held everyone as we enjoyed our variety of pizzas from Pizza Hut followed by the indulgence of some ice cream and sweet toppings. Once everything was finished at the church, the saints drove out to Barb & Barent's and loaded up on 4 wagons of hayride fun! The weather cooperated and we stayed dry on our relaxing and enjoyable ride, pulled by a couple of Barent's tractors. At the end of the day, we enjoyed the cider, homemade cookies/treats and the fellowship of those we love. Thank you Sanilac for a wonderful day and for always working at building those memories & friendships, that stay with us for a life-time.

On September 20 several of our saints were able to attend Book of Mormon Day at the Oakwood Restoration Branch. Very interesting and informative classes were taught by Elder Tom Essenmacher ("The Mosiah Boys") and Elder Dave Teeple ("Nephi and Lehi's Missionary Trips"). Elder Barent Eliason gave two power point presentations on various Book of Mormon evidences. The Algonac ladies were in charge of the luncheon and appreciated the help of the ladies from Oakwood and Sanilac. As always, the day ended with a drawing for fantastic Book of Mormon-themed gifts. Many thanks once again to Barent and Barb Eliason for organizing this event and to the Oakwood branch for hosting it!

(Reported by Todd Moses)

The Conference of Restoration Elders held their annual priesthood retreat on September 20-21, 2014 at the historic Kirtland Temple. Todd Moses & Eric

Eliason attended from Algonac, along with Jay Havener and Shaun Turner from Oakwood. The weekend focused on the shortcomings of Christ's priesthood as leading slothful lives and the need to focus our time and abilities on the Lord's work. The conference was well attended and the Spirit that was present within the worship services and fellowship times was uplifting.

Eight of our Algonac women attended the Ladies Day Luncheon on October 4. We met at the Pt. Huron/Sarnia branch at 10:30 a.m. Sherry Purcell brought the devotions and her theme was steadfastness. She read a number of Scriptures and talked about being steadfast in faith, studies, prayer life and service to others. She also mentioned being steadfast in our friendships. She read the life story of Ann Scott Davis from the book, "33 Women of the Restoration." We then sang the hymn, "With a Steadfast Faith" and we all formed a circle and joined hands while Sherry offered a closing prayer. It was a beautiful worship and the Spirit was felt. From there we headed to RIX's on the Rocks ... a nearby restaurant on the water. The tables were set up so we all faced each other (thanks to Wendy and Elaine!) and it was wonderful to see each other's smiling faces! We enjoyed delicious food and had a relaxed, fun-filled visit with each other. We then headed to "The Atrium Café" for yummy desserts and more laughter and fun. It was such a blessing to spend time in worship and fellowship with our sisters in Christ. Thanks so much, Sherry, for organizing this wonderful ladies day out! Hope we can do it again soon!

Algonac's Bethany Moses and Josh Pirt attended the Older Youth Retreat at the Pt. Huron/Sarnia branch October 17 - 19. The new directors, Shaun and Michelle Turner, were assisted by Jay and Kathi Havener. The theme was "The Joy of the Lord is my strength," and classes were

based on the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of John. There were also classes on Lehi's vision of the rod of iron. As always, they enjoyed swimming at the YMCA and the traditional "Capture the Flag." Bethany said the weekend would not be complete without that activity! On Sunday the youth had their own prayer and testimony service prior to the 11:00 service, which they took part in by singing two songs. Bethany stated that she will really miss Jay and Kathi, but continues to look forward to new experiences at future retreats. A big thanks to all who assisted with this retreat and to Jay and Kathi for their many years of dedication to the youth.

#### News and Notes:

- In August Hod & Nina Powers had another visit from their German "kids," Rita and Thilo Bender. The Sunday they came to our branch we celebrated Rita's birthday at our pot luck luncheon. We gave her a "card shower" and all enjoyed some Red Velvet birthday cake that Nina brought in.
- Jim and Val Bradley would like to thank the saints for all the cards, calls, and especially the prayers on Jim's behalf during (& after!) his extended hospital stay early in September. He was greatly blessed and is healthier than he's been in a long time!
- Dakota's Got Talent 2014: The performers lined up on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in Dakota's Auditorium to wow the audience and impress the judges. There were 18 acts that were chosen from earlier auditions to perform at this junior class fundraiser to raise money for Prom 2015. Bethany Moses played the

piano and sang the hit song “All of Me” by John Legend and took first place in the competition. Dakota’s got talent, and so does Bethany ... congratulations to our star performer!

- On Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bethany Moses was inducted into the National Honor Society, along with 138 other new members to make the Dakota Chapter 241 members strong. The members commit to uphold the four pillars of character, service, leadership and scholarship throughout the year, completing 40 hours of school & community service while keeping at least a 3.50 GPA. Bethany also had the distinct honor of being chosen to perform at the induction ceremony, and she sang the Broadway-styled song “Don’t Forget Me” from the first season of Smash. We are so proud of you, Bethany!
- Dakota High School’s Mixed Varsity Choir was selected to sing at the fall Michigan conference for the American Choral Director’s Association. The choir performed at the First Presbyterian Church in Flint, Michigan on Saturday, October 25th for a state-wide audience of choral directors and vocal musicians. The choir was selected based upon the consistency of excellence demonstrated over the past 3 years and is under the direction of Todd Moses. Their literature took the audience on a journey of joy, sorrow, fulfillment, faith and satire with Moses Hogan’s spiritual “Music Down in My Soul,” David von Kampen’s “In a Railroad Station,” Frank DeWald’s “Sea & Shore”, Dr. Stuart Scott’s “Amazing Grace” and Sam Pottle’s “Jabberwocky.” Bethany Moses

also had the honor of singing the opening solo for Amazing Grace. Congratulations to Todd and Bethany Moses for these outstanding honors and achievements!

Prayers would be appreciated for Wendy and Tim Holmes and family, Elaine Harm, Connie Burns (back surgery on Dec. 9), Gary and Marge Holmes, Ray Moses, Nina Powers, Kelli Williams, Bruce and Barb Krinkie, Elaine King and Jean John. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

Atlanta Branch By: Mark Ouderkirk

Hello Saints,

The beautiful fall colors are about gone, and thoughts of Thanksgiving are here. We have so much to be thankful for. Indeed The Lord blesses us with abundance. He is mindful of our every need. DC 83:13c.

We have enjoyed the guest ministry of two brothers from Oakwood. In September Elder Mick Ruch blessed us with both music and the preached word. In October Elder Graham Fishwild made the long drive, and delivered a sermon for our hearing. Both messages gave inspiration to our little group. We thank the Oakwood branch very much for the sacrifice of sending these fine priesthood to us.

We have experienced both bitter departure and joyful arrival this fall. Tonya Couture died in an automobile crash. She leaves behind two young sons. It is a difficult loss for her family, and the branch. Emma Grace

arrived from the courts of glory a couple weeks back. The proud parents are Heath and Jessica Slater. Now Connor has a baby sister. Both mom and baby are doing well.

May we pray for our nation as a change of the guard takes place. May God bless our efforts to do HIS will...  
HE always does.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING Nov. 27<sup>TH</sup> 2014**



**Let us remember those less fortunate than us!**

**Theodore Roosevelt**

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.

**George Washington**

It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor.

**Garden City By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild**

What a wonderful day it was on Sunday, August 10, when four young ladies of our congregation were confirmed members of the church. Alyssa Ely and Paige Ely were confirmed by Elder Rex Monarch, assisted by Elder Jeff Stoker. Jordan Brooks and Brooklyn Brooks were confirmed by Elder Jeff Stoker, assisted by Elder Rex Monarch. Each new member

was presented with their own copy of the Church Member's Manual. A number of family members were present for this special occasion.

On Sunday, September 14, Casey Sil-lanpaa was baptized by Elder Rex Monarch. Many of Casey's family members were present to witness this special day. Guest minister, Elder Todd Yaney from the Algonac Branch brought the message of the hour. Following the service everyone enjoyed fellowship during pot-luck. On Sunday, September 28, Casey was confirmed by Elder Rex Monarch, assisted by Elder Carl McKiddie. After his confirmation, Casey was presented with a Church Member's Manual by Rex.

**Kirtland Temple Trip (Submitted by Carl McKiddie)**

After going through the "Kirtland Temple Slides" last year in our Sunday school class and waiting on the wonderful snowy weather and then torrential rains we had this year, a small group from The Garden City Restoration Branch were able to travel to Ohio and tour the Kirtland Temple and its surrounding historical sites. We were blessed with beautiful weather, great fellowship, and the Lord's sweet Spirit as we went through the Visitor's Center, Whitney Store, Kirtland Temple, and beautiful gardens around the temple. There is a peaceful spirit there that touches the soul. If you have not had the chance to visit Kirtland, Ohio and tour all the historic sites you should find the time. It is our history, and a testimony of the faith of those who have gone before us.

**Outreach** - Karen Rintz, along with several others worked to put together some hygiene bags to donate to the “Homeless Angels in the Motor City”. They were able to put together thirty-one backpack hygiene bags and twenty-eight Ziploc hygiene bags to pass out to those facing the nights in the streets. Karen is also currently collecting clothing, shoes, hats, scarves, blankets, and household items to donate.

**New address for Ivan Jones:** Southwood Lakes, 1255 N. Talbot Rd., Room 2237, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N9G 3A4 (Phone number 519-967-2364)

Many thanks to our guest ministers over the past three months - Elder Fred Brown Sr., Elder Todd Yaney, and Elder Bob Ruch. Your ministry is always greatly appreciated.

**Oakwood** By: Kathleen Modders

O Lord, with each new day, help our branch to be strong and continue to trust you. Bring into our eyes and heart an honesty that sees our true situation and finds support in your goodness and guidance. Let us see release from our addiction and a renewed joy in living from this day forward. Amen

Often, there is no time set aside in a busy schedule to enjoy a Wednesday night service. In August Oakwood had a campfire service in which we invoked the spirit of God and were thankful of his creation, sitting around a campfire singing hymns and listening to a message of God while under the stars of Heaven, getting warmth from a glowing fire. It was a true blessing to all who attended.

If you don't use faith, it will become weak, like a muscle that you have not used before. It gets stronger as you exercise it.

Rex Monarch was a guest speaker at Oakwood during September. His words of our Lord touched our congregation. Listening to the words he spoke you can't deny the use of his faith. His words were strong! Bringing the Lords words to us and allowed everyone to take part in the spiritual blessing that God gave to him to enable him to speak to us. We thank God for the bountiful blessings we enjoy on a daily basis.

The older youth spent their fall retreat at Port Huron this year. Oakwood attendees were Brandon and Chad Embree, Nick and Joe Brown, Jackson and Reese Nagy, Drew Vandenberg, and Parker Mervyn. The adults attending were Michelle and Shaun Turner, Kathi and Jay Havener, Helen Brown, and Tracy Stokes. The theme was “The Joy of the Lord is My Strength” based on John Chapter 15.

We will be welcoming a new member to our branch on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Miss Julia LaRowe will be entering the waters of baptism with Priest Shaun Turner performing the ordinance of baptism and Elder Jay Havener and Elder Mick Ruch confirming.

The Priesthood went to Kirtland for their annual retreat. The theme was “Motivating ourselves to do the Lords work.” Elder Todd Moses, Priest Eric Eliason, Elder Jay Havener and Priest Shaun Turner attended. It grows each year with more men, next year try to participate, you will be blessed with great fellowship and many lasting memories and new friendships.

This year's Men's retreat was at Oakwood with around 20 in attendance. The theme was “Where Are You, Men of Zion.” They discussed the spiritual aspects to our families, brothers and the church.

The younger youth will be coming together for their fall retreat at Oakwood this year. Betty Lou will be guiding them through a weekend of spiritual lessons and fellowship throughout the weekend;

ending in the blessing to us with the children's ministry of music during the Sunday Service.

With the holiday hustle and bustle in the midst it can stretch our schedules quite thin. The one thing we should always make time for is our faith. It's important to put your faith first because without it we'd be lost. Our Youth will be blessing our branch in doing a service project to give thanks for all the church does for them throughout the year. They will be putting on a Thanksgiving Luncheon the last Sunday of November. They come together, prepare a feast, and make a beautiful day for the whole congregation; inspiring each one of us to continue in our own works for the Lord.

The congregation during the month of November collects moneys and non perishable food for our food baskets for a few of our own in need. Priest Chet Slagor organizes this each year, for one of his many works for our Lord.

Julie Fox is the head of our Military donations this year. We donated many items to ship to those brave men that fight for our country. May God bless them with the courage and strength to continue in their day to day struggles of being in the United States Military.

*Tis the season to be jolly....*The Women's Christmas Tea Party at Oakwood will be hosted by Michele Turner this year. We all look forward to a nice time spent with our church friends and family through the lord, to honor his birth, during a celebration as we sing songs, eat food, and have fun with our annual tradition of a white elephant gift game. *Fa la la la la, la la la la.*

Whether it be celebrating the birth of Christ or the joyous occasion of a family coming together, take time to honor your faith. Without Christ there would be no Christmas and without his blessings we would not be able to come together as a family. We will be celebrating the birth of Christ with our annual Children's pro-

gram on December 21<sup>st</sup> where they will reenact in their own way, the birth of Jesus.

On New Year's Eve we will once again have a Safe Night Party at Oakwood. Where we eat pizza, take the Christmas decorations down, then play games, watch movies and enjoy each other's company for a fun night to bring in the New Year.

Don't forget to check out our website at [www.oakwoodrestorationbranch.org](http://www.oakwoodrestorationbranch.org)

Our upcoming birthdays of the members of Oakwoods congregations are: 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, 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, 03/04 Jamie Moore, 03/06 Brandon Embree , 03/10 Heather Mervyn, 03/14 Chet Slagor, 03/15 Bryan Hardwick, 03/18 Cody Ruch, 03/25 Derrick Embree, 03/28 Beth Everhart, 03/29 Jamie Modders, 03/29 Cheryl Slagor

Always remember to make Sunday church services a commitment that cannot be broken. Think of all the things you are blessed with in life and consider that as enough reasoning to devote time to your faith of Jesus Christ. Your faith will help keep you grounded during the holiday rush, and remember He is the true reason for the season.

**Otter Lake** By: Susie Daggett

Otter Lake Branch

We are very proud of John Daniels for graduating last spring. Congratulations John!

The family recently celebrated Bonnie Sutton's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday with a surprise party. It was very well attended and there was a lot of yummy food. Bonnie is a treasure to everyone who knows her. Susie & Doug Daggett are the proud grandparents of Natalie Mae Daggett. Brittany & Dan are enjoying her immensely. She was born October 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 lbs., 4ozs. 19.5 ". Her grandparents think she is the most beautiful baby in the world!

We recently had a family night with an auction, music, a meal of hot dogs and shish kabobs. The money raised from our auction went to our general fund. We were very pleased to meet Kevin Powers new bride Analyn.

Our Sunday School class is studying "Fit for the Kingdom" by Kim Augenstein. It is a large book and we've recently made it past the part on what not to eat and are thrilled to start the section on things that are healthy. We are learning a lot and trying to implement what we are learning.

Thank you to our visiting priesthood, Shaun Turner, Gary Holmes, Dave Teeple, Fred Brown Sr., Jay Havener, Tom Essenmacher, Bob Harris, Graham Fishwild, Brian Daggett, Ed Smerer, Kurt Fishwild and Ed MacDonald. Also a special thank you to Doug Daggett and Bill Sutton, our priesthood, who give many messages and serve week after week.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS Dec. 25<sup>TH</sup> 2014**



Remember the Reason for the Season!!!

### George Matthew Adams: The Christmas Heart

Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.

Port Huron By: Sharon Smearer  
Hello Saints,

Welcome to God's most Masterful painting of the Earth! Fall.

In August, Rock Stevens, owner of the Atrium Cafe, & Ice Cream Parlor and Joe Ann Burgett spoke of the History of the Fenian Raid. Which they told of Civil War veterans, many of them Irish, were thwarted in a planned invasion of Canada in 1870. They also, dressed in costume of the era.

The Finance committee met to discuss the Profit and Losses from January thru September.

On September 16, we have been having Nutritional Classes, taught by Donna Hamilton and her daughter, Tracy Hamilton, they started every Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. unless vacated. We have been told about certain Vitamins and Minerals and Fragrant oils that we could be taking and using for better Health. How to limit our salt, caffeine, and alcohol and our serving sizes.

We also had Sylvia Ludington, from "Amazing Alkaline Water" from Marysville, Mi. last Tuesday telling us about Alkaline Kangan Water and what this water has done for people in regards to their health problems. At our last class, Mitchell McCleary, Donna Hamilton's grandson, had a prayer over our evening. Then he read some scriptures about the Demons we have in our lives and our bodies and foods: such as gossip, envy, lust, loneliness, smoking, witchcrafts and sorcery and the chemicals that are in and on our foods and other things that keep us from God and his son, Jesus. The classes were very informative and we hope All would take heed to what we eat and do to our bodies and polluting of our earth that we are doing and not aware of.

On September 28, 2014, Arianna Britz and her friend, Sarah Miller gave their Mexicali Mission Presentation of their trip to Mexico, to our Branch. Very nicely done!

Our two candidates, Betty Milett and Owen DeBell, that were baptized by Priest John DeBell (Grandfather) on July 13, 2014 were confirmed on October 5, 2014 by Elders David Teeple and Ron Giles. Our congregation welcomes them into God's Church.

We have had two babies that we have been praying for: Baby Luc who is doing so much better. We call him our "Miracle Baby." Our other baby is Baby Bradley who was waiting for a bone marrow transplant and stem cell donor for two years. Bradley battles a rare form of leukemia called juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia, or JMML On Sept. 19, 2014 baby Bradley and his parents traveled to St. Joseph, Mo. and met his donor, Braden Srock, his wife Sarah, and their one year daughter, Brooklyn. Bradley was saved by Braden Srock and his willingness to donate his bone marrow and stem cells.

The Lord has been good to all.

The Book of Mormon Day was held at Oakwood's Branch, September 20, 2014. The Theme was, "Miraculous Ammonite and Nephi and Lehi Missionary Conversion". The guest speakers were Elder Tom Essenmacher: Mosiah Boys, Elder David Teeple: The Brother Prophets and Elder Barent Eliason: Power Points. Evidences of Murals at Bonampak that tell the Book of Mormon stories in stone. Very interesting! Can hardly wait until next year to hear what the Archaeologists have discovered. A potluck lunch was served and a drawing at the end of the day, of Book of Mormon gifts.

It is with sadness that we have to report that on Sept. 20, 2014, Heather Dailey, wife of Jason Dailey from Canada has passed away. She will be deeply missed by her husband, Jason and his brothers, Mark and Delphine Dailey and David Dailey and his parents, Glen and Mary Dailey also her parents, Ron and Paula Campbell and her brother, Jason and Cheryl Campbell all of Canada.

Told to me by Sherry Purcell:

"For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ."

Colossians 2:5

"Steadfast in Christ," was the theme for the thumb area women's get together held Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m. in Port Huron. Sixteen women from Algonac, Sanilac, Port Huron and Independence, Mo., met to engage in worship, enjoy a luncheon and great fellowship.

Sherry Purcell, from Port Huron, presented the theme talk, reminding the women to hold fast to our wonderful restored gospel. Share it with others, testify of God's many blessings and endure to the

end. Following the worship service, the ladies enjoyed lunch at Rix's on the Rocks, followed by yummy desserts at the Atrium Cafe and Ice Cream Parlor. It is always a pleasure to share with one another and be united in our love and dedication to our Christ and each other, your dear sisters in Christ.

Our Congregation hosted a Spaghetti Dinner - Hootenanny, Saturday, October 11, from 5-8:30 p.m. Although the group was small, the food was exceptional, dessert bar, delicious and the entertainment, foot stompin fun! Our thanks to a great kitchen crew, Brian and Cathy Daggett, Roy and Sue McAllister, Connie DeBell, Barbara Teeple, Donna Hamilton and Sherry Purcell. Beautiful fall decorations graced the dining room made by the creative hands of Jennifer Milette. Musical arrangements were presented by the awesome and talented, Bob Harris, Bill Hering, Gary Holmes, Eldon Preston and Scott Bolt. A skit by Jack Tynan, Eldon Preston and Scott Bolt tickled our funny bones. A heartfelt thanks to all that attended. Proceeds were donated to our Building Fund.

Thank you to Sherry Purcell for telling me about the two events.

Our Congregation hosted the Junior and Senior Youth Retreat, this Fall, Oct.17-19. A potluck lunch was served and enjoyed by all. We were very glad to have so many of the Youth attend. We know that they are the future generations of the Church.

Our thanks to Kathi Havener, Shaun and Michelle Turner and all the others who took part in this weekend. We are sure you All will be blessed. Your singing was grand! We hope the youth that attended had a spiritual experience. A Big Thanks to everyone!

We had a Halloween Party for young and old, costumes, different stations that had Bible stories told at and surprises given. Shelly Miller read a story that kept everyone's attention. The children bobbed for apples and also poked a pumpkin. All were given a chance to pick a real pumpkin from the pumpkin patch of Joe and Jennifer Milette to take home. Evan Kercher did a tuba solo. All enjoyed the fun, pizza, pop, cider and doughnuts on Saturday Oct. 25, at 4 p.m.

Have a wonderful and safe, rest of the year.

[Sanilac](#) By: Kathleen Palmer

"I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Summer always goes too fast, especially with this summer's weather. Crops were planted late with a late harvest also expected. Bill & Kathleen Palmer took a trip to Tennessee with the highlight of the trip being the splendor of the Smokey Mt. National Park. The Lord's creation is marvelous.

September was a busy month for our little branch. On September 14<sup>th</sup> our church was filled with saints from the region. Elder Jim McLeod gave the message & the Johnson family provided the ministry of music. After church we enjoyed the annual Pizza Party then off for the hayride at the Eliason farm. Thank you to Barent Eliason & Lowell Decker for driving the tractors again this year. Thank you also to the women of the branch for the homemade cookies & cider enjoyed following the hayride.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> the annual Book of Mormon Day took place. A very special word of appreciation to Bob Harris, Bill Sutton & Kerry Horton for helping set up on Friday. Thank you to the Oakwood Branch for hosting the event again this year. Priesthood teaching for the day included Barent Eliason, Tom Essenmacher & Dave Teeple. We are grateful to our priesthood who take time to teach us the things we need to know. A potluck served by the Algona Branch was enjoyed as well as much fellowship. To end the day many Book of Mormon gifts were given away.

A very special lady of our branch, Ella Haynes, celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday!

Bill & Kathleen Palmer were off again this time to Arizona to visit family. They attend football games coached by their grandson as well as a baby shower then off to Branson Missouri to visit friends there before coming home.

Our church family has grown over the past few months with the addition of Don & Renae Tomanek & children. Braden Radaback was also confirmed on October 5th by Hod Powers & Barent Eliason.

Bev Miller, Barb Eliason, and Mary Lee Cove from our branch enjoyed the worship service at the Port Huron Branch. Sherry Purcell is commended for her preparation for the day. A luncheon was also enjoyed. As for the men of our branch, our pastor, Barent Eliason, attended the men's retreat at Oakwood. Keith & Julia Albriecht had their son Mattias blessed on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Mattias grandparents are Dora Gutierrez & Lowell Decker. The message was given by Elder

Wayne Bartrow with special music by a friend of the family, Ron Bertrel. Many friends & family enjoyed a dinner at the church following the service.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the harvest with our annual Harvest Home Dinner after church. Tom & Janine Essenmacher were surprised with a beautiful Amish quilt by the members of the branch for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary & in appreciation for their service to the branch. Our friends Andy & Anna Yoder also played a special part in this event. We may be few in number but we have great love for one another.

For a small branch we have many talented young people who share their gifts at church as well as school. Rebecca Bradley with her flute, Gary Desjardins with his trumpet & Emma Desjardins with singing.

Our church continues to be blessed with visiting ministry. Thank you to Bob Harris, Kerry Horton, Hod (Nina) Powers, Gary (Marge) Holmes, Jim (Jean) Mcleod, Brian (Cathy) Daggett & Wayne (MaryLou) Bartrow. May we all be looking forward to the seasons ahead as we ponder the courage of the Pilgrims & the gift of our Savior coming to man.

**Jan1st 2015 Happy New Years**



**T.S. Eliot**

**“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.”**

**Anyone with new Email/phone/other info that you want published please send it to Jim Bradley @ [zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net) !**

## **Regional Activities for the next quarter**

**SAT. DECEMBER 13, 2014 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR @  
ALGONAC RESTORATION BRANCH  
CHRISTMAS ITEMS, CRAFTS, BAKED GOODS**

**All are invited!**

### **From The Editor's Desk:**

**PRIESTHOOD**: Any priesthood members that are willing to team up with another p.h. member and travel to the **Atlanta MI branch-Dowagiac MI branch** or the **Lima OH branch** for preaching and visitation please contact Jay Havener at 1-248-628-9702. **These Branches are in dire need of outside ministry!!!**

**Reminder:**

- ✦ **As we enter into this Holiday Season-Thanksgiving thru Christmas**-*let us* remember those less fortunate than ourselves and do our best to help those in need, especially the widows, orphans, single mothers and those unable to care for themselves. God Bless you in your endeavors!!

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.

Send to:

Jim Bradley  
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Romeo, MI 48065  
1-586-752-5965 Home  
1-586-876-3227 Cell

Email to: [zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net) **Email is highly preferred**