

# The Anchor



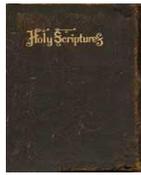
The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

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## News From Around the Region

“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

### Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day; and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted." (Psalm 89:15, 16)

On August 30 our Algonac branch hosted the "5th Sunday Service." Elder Todd Yaney preached an inspirational sermon and the special

music ministry was brought by Todd Moses. There was a good turnout and we look forward to meeting and sharing with the saints again.

On Sunday, September 13, our pot luck meal was extra special. We celebrated Tim Holmes 50th birthday and Brianna Morrison's graduation from Port Huron North High School. There were very cool cakes for each of them and we watched them open special cards and gifts. We wished them well and enjoyed celebrating these important milestones in their lives.

Priest Eric Eliason was able to attend the Kirtland Priesthood Retreat on September 19 and 20. The theme was "Priesthood Commitment." Eric reported that there were several informative and timely classes about

the responsibilities of priesthood and how to magnify your calling. The classes were held at the Kirtland Restoration Branch, where they were also served a delicious meal on Saturday evening. Both a prayer service and a testimony service was held in the Kirtland Temple. Eric said he always enjoys being in the temple. "It's the house of the Lord ... the most sacred place on earth," he stated. He would highly recommend and encourage other priesthood to attend this annual retreat next year.

Only a few of our women (Connie Burns, Marge Holmes and Val Bradley) were able to attend the Regional Women's Retreat at Wesleyan Woods campgrounds on October 2 - 4. The theme was "This Little Light of Mine ... I'm Gonna Let it Shine." The evening began with a Friday Night Buffet offering a wide variety of tasty appetizers and snacks to munch on. That was followed by a mixer, which was led by Connie Burns. We played several fun games that brought much laughter and great fellowship. We especially enjoyed the "Abbreviated Phrases" quiz, which really made us think. She also gave out cool prizes to the winners. It was such an entertaining evening and it brought us closer together. We had some excellent teachers (Fred Brown, Sr., Kathleen Palmer, Dawn Modders, Lynnette Daniels, Shawn Ruch, Kathi Havener) throughout the weekend and classes were taught on Emma Smith, Ruth, and Queen Esther and the ways in which they let God's light shine in spite of the obstacles in their lives. We also had classes and discussions on the "bushels" (fear, self-consciousness, too busy, lack of faith, pride) that we hide our light under and about how we can be a light unto the world. We enjoyed Devotions each morning (Sherry Purcell, Michelle Turner) and an

uplifting Praise Gathering led by Sherri Johnson. On Saturday evening we enjoyed popcorn (Kathleen Modders) while watching an inspiring movie, "Do You Believe?" That was followed by a fun campfire (led by Kathi H.) where silly songs were sung and tall tales were told. We appreciated the very special ministry of Elders Gary Holmes and Fred Brown, Sr. as they presided over our services on Sunday morning. We really felt the Lord's Spirit as we sang praises, took communion and shared our testimonies with one another. The weekend was truly a good experience. May the Lord continue to be with our restoration women as we seek to shine His light in this dark world.

On Sunday, October 11, fourteen of our saints were able to attend the service and hayride at the Sanilac Restoration Branch. We heard a great sermon by Priest Bob Harris and the special music was performed by the very talented Moses trio (Todd, Liz & Bethany). The church was packed and it was good to worship with so many saints. Following the service we enjoyed pizza and ice cream sundaes (made to our liking!) in the fellowship hall. Afterwards we headed over to the Eliason farm for a hayride. The weather couldn't have been more beautiful and we enjoyed the scenic ride through the countryside. There was much laughter and camaraderie and we were able to relax in the very capable hands of our wagon masters, Barent and Lowell. When the ride was over, Barb and crew were waiting back at the house with cider and a wide array of cookies and treats. Yum! It was the perfect day for this autumn activity and we are grateful to Barent, Barb, and the Sanilac Branch for hosting another wonderful event!

**Reported by Connie Burns:**

On Oct. 17, there were a few of us from the Algonac Branch that attended the Youth Hoe Down at the Oakwood Restoration Branch. Among the few were Gary & Marge Holmes, Dick & Connie Burns, and Hod & Nina Powers.

Gary shared a few songs, as did Connie. Kim Gilchrist and Connie sang a duet together. Kim and Connie each sang their own song.

There were many more that shared in their talents. Shaun & Michelle Turner are the Youth Leaders of Oakwood. They put their heads together and set up a nice evening which included dinner, games, and entertainment.

Picture this...Jay, Shaun & Michelle behind a huge bull's eye and in your hand you have a pie. What do you suppose you should do with that \$1.00 pie you purchased? Well let's just say this, they didn't look like themselves after many pies landed in the bull's eye.

Tracy Stokes made apple pies to be auctioned off to the highest bidder to take home. And some pie quarters cost the buyer \$1.00 to enter in the pie eating contest. "On your mark, get set, go"! Pie was flying all over. Many of the entree's needed a tissue for their noses after they declared a winner. However, there was one entrée that took "pie eating" to another level. When 'GO' was said, this person took out a fork from his pocket and started eating it with such great poise. This was the first time I've seen someone eat with a fork at a pie eating contest. By the way..."How was the pie Mick?"

A raffle was also offered. For a \$1.00 you could purchase a ticket for different items that were hand made. You put your ticket(s) in the container of which you wanted a chance to win.

If your ticket number was called you would win that item.

I extend a great Thank You to Oakwood for hosting this event and for all who came to support our youth. Remember, we'll be our church's voice to their peers. Also, possible future leaders themselves. May God be with you.

The Algonac Branch has taken 4 families under their wings for passing out Thanksgiving Meal Baskets. Included in those baskets were all the fixings and trimmings for a family feast. We also enclosed a \$20 Kroger's gift certificate in each basket. I wish to say thank you to the members of Algonac for their extreme support in making this happen.

"For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness." (Psalm 18:28)

We are thankful for the opportunity to do community work for the Lord. Happy Thanksgiving!

Wendy Holmes

Community Service Coordinator

It's that time of year when we start to have many items on our 'to do' list. And before you know it, time is running out. You ask yourself, "What will I do...how will I ever find the time...when is your band concert...I have wrapping to do, but when?" Are these some of the questions you ask? When will you find time to BAKE? We might be able to help you out with this task, and make it a bit easier on you.

The Algonac Branch is having their Annual Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale. on Dec. 4th & 5th. The hours are 10:00am- 4:00pm.

Hope to see you there.

For more information contact: Wendy Holmes

## News and Notes:

- The first part of August, Val Bradley flew to Tulsa, OK, with her sister to attend her nephew Tim Carter's wedding. It was wonderful being able to participate with her family in that very special event. Tim now has someone to share his passion and his calling. They both work for Samaritan's Purse and are based in South Sudan, Africa. Jim and I are both so happy for Tim and his wife, Shanna, and wish them God's blessings in their new life together.
- Hod and Nina's "kids" Rita and Thilo Bender were here for a visit for two weeks in August. As always, we enjoyed spending time with them and really feel as if they are a part of our Algonac family!
- The end of September Bonnie and Jeremy Tracy treated Sherry Cargill to a 16 day trip to England (Jeremy's birthplace). Sherry said it was a phenomenal vacation and they got to see all the wonderful attractions and landmarks while there. However, she said as amazing as everything was, the very best part of the trip was just spending quality time with her amazing sister and brother-in-law. We're so happy for all three of them ... that they finally had a chance to get away, relax, and just enjoy each other's company!
- Dave Nagy's mother, Lillian, passed away on October 22. A service was held for her at the Gilbert Funeral Home in Algonac. Following was a

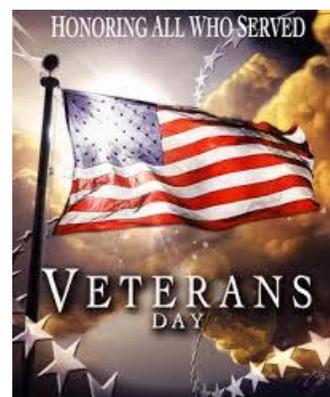
dinner in her honor at Big River Grille. Prayers for Dave, Amy, and family would be much appreciated.

- Elaine King's Mom had a stroke, so she went to Texas to spend time with her and to help care for her. She will be there indefinitely. She really misses her grandson and her church family and could really use prayers, cards, etc. Her temporary address is: 2178 CR 900, Princeton, TX 75407.

Prayers would be appreciated for the Nagy family, Tim and Wendy Holmes, Elaine Harm, Elaine King (& her Mom), Kelli and Steve Williams, Ray Moses, Cheryl Cargill, Hod and Nina Powers, Kevin Powers, and Bruce and Barb Krinkie. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

**[Please see Tim Holmes Story/Testimony on page 15.](#)**

## Veterans Day 11/11/2015



**Please remember our veterans!!!**

## Garden City



**By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild**

It's so nice to see the fall colors and enjoy some cool autumn weather. Please keep the following people from Garden City in your prayers: Margaret Baltzer, Laura Hiller, George and Joyce Black, Janice Wright, and Loretta McKiddie.

Congratulations to Kim Considine and Carl McKiddie who were married on Saturday, August 29th by Elder Jeff Stoker. Wishing you many happy years together.

On Sunday, September 27th, High Priest Paul Gage from Missouri was the guest speaker at Garden City. A potluck meal with good fellowship followed the preaching service. Deacon Jacob Roberts accompanied Brother Paul on his trip to Michigan and to Ontario, Canada.

A funeral service was held for Elder Richard Ziegler on Saturday, October 3rd in Toledo. Richard passed away on September 27th at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife Helen, their daughter Debbie, and their son Tom. Richard will be missed by the Garden City congregation.

Two members of the Garden City Branch attended the Youth Retreat at Oakwood on October 16th to 18th. The theme of the weekend was Stewardship and the youth held a Hootenanny on Saturday night with games, music, food, fun and fellowship.

## Outreach at Garden City:

On Saturday, October 17th, Garden City hosted a free store for anyone who was in need of clothing, linens, and home goods. Free lunch and haircuts were provided. Thanks to Karen Rintz for organizing this event. The congregation will be "adopting" a family at Thanksgiving and at Christmas. How wonderful it is to be able to share with others in our community and surrounding areas. Happy Thanksgiving! May we remember all of our many blessings during the coming Holiday Season.

## Otter Lake



**By: Susie Daggett**

We would like to welcome Deacon Kerry Horton to our branch. He is a welcome addition and we look forward to worshipping with him. Clare Grant, daughter of Krystal and Rick Grant, continues to need prayers after her extensive surgery to correct her hip. Terry Broughman is a new dad! He welcomed his daughter November 8<sup>th</sup>. Terry is Janet Pallmig's son. We joined the Oakwood branch for two services recently to take advantage of their visiting ministry from Missouri. We were blessed to hear Aaron Smith and Paul Gage speak. Thank you to our visiting ministry. Kurt Fishwild, Gary Holmes, Bob Harris, Brian Daggett, Jim Bradley, Steve Ruch, Ed Smearer, Fred Brown Sr., Jay Havener, Tom Essenmacher, and Hod Powers have all blessed us

with the message this year. We look forward to Dave Teeple and Shaun Turner who will be visiting in the coming months.

## Happy Thanksgiving



### Philippians 4:6



### Oakwood



By: Kathleen Modders

The Zion's Youth had their fall Retreat on October 16 - 18. The theme was "Be a Good Steward". The group focused on what it means to be a Good Steward and how to apply those principals in our relationship with

God, his son, and one another. In the spirit of stewardship, the youth threw their first annual Harvest - Hootenanny Party. They worked very hard to create a beautiful and spiritual environment for all of the families of the Michigan Regional Restoration branches to come together, sing, eat, and play. There was a pie eating contest, a raffle, and even an opportunity to throw pies at Jay Havener, Shaun Turner, and Michelle Turner. For a buck a pie...who's got change for a hundred? Jay definitely brought a lot of cash to the table in that event. All of the proceeds that were donated are being applied to the Youth Ministries regional fund. Although we had a modest turnout for the Zion's Youth Retreat, the Lord truly blessed everyone that was involved. A special thanks to Tracy Stokes and Helen Brown for all of the delectable delights they bring to the table, Lynette Daniels, Michelle Turner, and the Oakwood Branch for making the church available to the youth, and all of the families that continue to support the Zion's Youth and the First Annual Harvest Hootenanny Party. We hope to make this a tradition and we pray that more of the region can come together and fellowship more often.

On August 5th the Regional Service was held at the Algonac Branch. Oakwood attendees were Jay and Kathi Havener.

On September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> was the CRE Kirtland Priesthood Retreat. Oakwood attendees were Shaun Turner and Jay Havener. The theme was magnify your calling. They had classes during the day on Saturday then at night they had a Prayer & Testimony service. On Sunday morning they had the service in the Kirkland Temple. Shaun Turner, Eric Eliason and Jay Havener drove down together (I was told they had a

lot of laughs and some good story telling during their drive to and from Kirtland!) During their free time on Saturday afternoon they went to Johnson farm, a Church historical site.

On September 26<sup>th</sup> Book of Mormon Day was held at Oakwood, with a special guest speaker, David Brown. A big Thank You to Barent and Barb Eliason. Oakwood attendees were Chet Slagor, and Helene helped in the kitchen. Mike Danicki was there as well and recorded it.

October 2-4 was the Regional Women's Retreat at Wesleyan Woods. Ten women from Oakwood participated in this year's retreat held in Vassar, Michigan. Kathi Havener, Shawn Ruch, Bev Ruch, Bonnie Murphy, Helene Danicki, Tracy Stokes, Michelle Turner, Kathleen Modders, Dawn Modders, and Julie Fox. The theme was "This little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let It Shine!" and we were ministered to by the Good Spirit all weekend. Friday night, Connie Burns led us all in fun games, and later, we told funny stories around a campfire. Thanks Tracy Stokes for making the fire! Shawn Ruch taught a class on letting our light shine, and Kathi Havener led a discussion on how to identify personal barriers in our life that keep us from letting our lights shine. Dawn Modders taught a class and she shared the story of Ruth and Naomi. Michelle Turner brought our devotions on Saturday morning. We were blessed to have Elders Fred Brown, Sr. & Gary Holmes with us all weekend for spiritual guidance. Everyone received a beautiful glass vase decorated for fall that had a candle to remind us of the theme. Saturday night we enjoyed popcorn (thank you Kathleen Modders) and a movie. It was a wonderful weekend!!

On 10/11 was the Sanilac Branch Annual Hay Ride. Oakwood attendees included Kim Gilchrist with her nephews, Mike and Helene Danicki, Shaun, Michelle, Emma Turner and Brandon Embree with Paige Carnahan, Matt, Christina, Parker and Heather Mervyn with Dustin Michael, and Mike & Jonathon Modders. After attending the service there was pizza for the luncheon afterwards. The fun continued at Barent and Barbs house with cookies and apple cider. A sincere thank you to the Eliasons for putting this wonderful event on for everyone.

Oakwood had two guest speakers this quarter: October 18<sup>th</sup> from Missouri - Elder Aaron Smith and he brought April Kaullen. On November 1<sup>st</sup> was High Priest Paul Gage and he brought with him Deacon Jacob Roberts. There was also a potluck afterwards, for all of us to visit with them.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> we had a Costume Party. It was put on by Kathleen Modders with the help of her kids Jonathon and Mallory. It was Spooktacular! There was food, oh so much food! It started off with a Costume Contest, and then Kathleen created some fun games that everyone participated in! From a Tic - Tac - Toe Tournament, Bingo, a Memory game( find two alike), Pass the Pumpkin and so much more. Many people attended! The LaRowe Family, Mick and Shawn Ruch, Kim Gilchrist with her brother and nephews, Chet and Cheryl Slagor and they brought Dustin Michael, and Parker and Heather Mervyn, Kathi and Jay Havener, Tracy and John Stokes, Lynnette Lyndsay and John Daniels, Connie Burns, Julie Fox and Carolynn Kilgore and Mike Modders and Kathleen's Sister Heidi Killbreath with her two children Miah and Jacoby.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Glenda Jo Smith passed away. She was a true servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! She was a sweet, loving, and wonderfully kind woman who will be dearly missed.

In November our devoted youth cooked a huge Thanksgiving dinner for the Branch as a service project to say a HUGE thank you for all the church does for them throughout the year.

In December will be the youth Christmas program. They take charge of the Service and tell of the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior.

We have a New Year's Eve Safe Night party on December 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm to midnight. You name it, and it's happening that night! Pizza Party, Popcorn and a couple of Movies, Board & Card Games, the Wii, so much fun, fun, fun and then some more fun!!!

Upcoming Birthdays: 12/02 Bob Ruch, 12/04 Ty Millen, 12/06 Drew Vandenberg, 12/08 Parker Mervyn, 12/09 Helen Brown, 12/23 Amanda Leader, 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, 01/17 Kim Gilchrist, 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, 03/18 Cody Ruch, 03/25 Derrick Embree, 03/28 Beth Everhart, 03/29 Jamie Modders, 03/29 Cheryl Slagor.

## Port Huron - Sarnia Branch



By: Sharon Smerer

Our Branch had a short business meeting to vote on the budget. Everyone approved the budget.

Condolences to the family of Ada Turney who passed May 21, 2015, also, to the family of Cynthia Pace who passed July 27, 2015, also, to the family of Darryl Dugas who passed August 12, 2015, also, to the family of Constance "Connie" Marshall who passed September 11, 2015 from St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families.

One of our main air conditioners had a problem in July. It has been repaired.

On August 16, 2015 we had a slide presentation of a Missionary Trip of Mexicali, Mexico by Jason and daughter, Ariana Britz. The Theme: "Jesus Use Me." Jason and Ari went to an Orphanage and a Men's Disability Center in Mexicali, Mexico on one of their days. They chose, V. I. B. E. S.; which means, 1. Various 2. Individuals 3. Becoming 4. Emanuel 5. Servants as their T-shirts slogan.

Ariana and Jason said, they both had Teams that had Worship, Prayer and Music every day. Jason - Painted tree bases with lime to keep the bugs away. A Park in the Community needed trash picked up, so his team worked at cleaning the Park. There was a Tent

City called, “Barnum Guys and Gals,” they had skits and crafts for the men. Ari said there is a web site on Facebook that shows kids not with their parents, but worshipping, singing songs, doing crafts with beads and games. The Building Team built one home while there in a week. There was a Key Ceremony and blankets were donated and also money.

In loving memory of Cesar Soto who died at age 13, of Muscular-dystrophy. Ari and Jason wanted to dedicate this slide presentation to their friend Cesar Soto.

Ari made him prayer beads and she gave it to his family. We are proud of Ari and Jason for going and helping those families and the Community of Mexicali, Mexico. We pray that those families will be blessed by God.

Book of Mormon Day was held at the Oakwood Restoration Branch on September 26, 2015. The Instructor was David B. Brown of the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team from Independence, Missouri. Also, David’s brother and Neil Steede were present to ask questions of the new findings. There were classes for the younger children morning and afternoon. They had a nice fall table decorations and we had a delicious Potluck. Thank you to the Sanilac Restoration Branch ladies for arranging the soups and the potluck dishes.

The Times Herald on September 30, 2015 showed three women, one being, Gretta Clark who is 103 years young. Her birthday is November 16. I’m sure she would love to receive a card, note or letter of “Best Birthday Wishes.” Gretta is also the youngest at heart at the Blue Water Lodge.

On October 2 - 4, 2015, the Women’s Retreat was held at the Vassar Wesleyan Camp Grounds. The theme was “This Little Light of Mine,” and was attended by Sherry Purcell.

As told by Sherry Purcell:

A wonderful loving, guiding spirit emanated throughout the weekend. Interesting and informative classes led by Elder Fred Brown Sr., Kathleen Palmer, Dawn Modders, Lynette Daniels, Shawn Ruch and Kathi Havener were appreciated by all. Saturday night twenty women sat enthralled watching the movie, “Do You Believe.” Sunday morning a dedication and communion service was held with Elder Fred Brown, Sr. and Elder Gary Holmes officiating. A big thanks to Kathi Havener and Val Bradley for organizing the retreat.

Jane Hering had a birthday and to surprise her, all the girls and ladies and some men at church wore hats in honor of her birthday. Jane wears hats every Sunday that she comes to Church. Her family came and took photos, what a wonderful lady and a great day. She was really surprised.

Evan Kercher was nominated for Homecoming King. He wasn’t King, but was made a Prince. He escorted his Mother, Chris Kercher during halftime. Evan is a senior at Northern High School. His grandparents are John and Connie DeBell.

Betty Milet, was named student of the week from Brown City Elementary School in October.

William and Jane Hering celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a party given at the Trinity Lutheran Church by their daughters Candace (Philip) Maranzano, Julia (Billy Weaver) Payionk, Kelly Willoughby and Mary Bawal. They have nine

grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. They were married on October 27, 1955. Bill retired from the G. T. W. RY in 1994 after 46 years and they have kept busy since with selling antiques, auctioneering, and music. They live in Port Huron Township with two dogs and a cat. We wish them good health, and many more years together.

The following members of our branch have been honored recently at Port Huron Northern High School's Academic Award Assembly for maintaining a grade point average of at least 3.5.

Olivia Bolt (Sophomore)  
Gillian Bolt (Senior)  
Alexis Parmenter (Junior)  
Evan Kercher (Senior)  
Ariana Britz (Junior)

At the end of this newsletter, it is with sadness that I must report the death of Priest Loren Reid who passed away on October 30, 2015. Please pray for his sons, Bruce and Wayne (Jackie) Reid and family, his sister, Jeanea Torrey and family and Sherry Purcell and her siblings. Our condolences and prayers are for all the families.

## Merry Christmas



## Remember The Reason For The Season

## Sanilac



By: Kathleen Palmer

### 2 Corinthians 9:11

“Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”

What a beautiful fall we have had. The Lord has blessed the farmers with awesome weather and a bountiful harvest.

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, we had a rededication service of our church. It was purchased in 1994. Elder Jay Havener gave the special message. The services were filled with testimonies and history of how the church was acquired and of all the special events thru the past years. Emma Des Jardins sang for the special music. A delicious pot luck dinner was served after the service. We had wonderful fellowship together. A special wood cross was donated by the Gutierrez family for the outside front of the church.

Elder Barent Eliason took on the task of clearing the tree line around the church lot. He and his bulldozer did a lot of work taking down all the brush and dead trees. The Amish cut some of the big dead trees and Nick Bradley and Gary Des Jardins helped load the wood into the truck. The wood was donated to an Amish lady and her ten children. Thanks to all for making our church surroundings look great!

Our youth group has been active under the direction of Dora Gutierrez, Stacey Bradley, Debbie Des Jardins and Missy Parker. They have had special cleaning days at the church

and selling candy bars and candles as projects to raise money for going to retreats and camps. They went to see the movie War Room and have pizza. The girls have had a worship service as well as the boys. It is such a blessing to see these youth work together to serve the Lord.

Priest Mike Daniels had been in the hospital with a leg problem. The Lord has truly blessed him as he is back at church. We missed you Mike.

Book of Mormon Day was held at the Oakwood Restoration branch on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. The Hill Cumorah Expedition team presented Archeologist Evidence for the Book of Mormon. Elder Barent Eliason introduced Dave Brown, who did three segments and Neil Steede did one. Priest Mike Danicki from Oakwood branch, did a remarkable job of taping for the DVD's. If you would like a DVD of this special day contact Barent Eliason. There were ten present for the all-day children's classes to learn of the Book of Mormon. The Sanilac women provided soup along with all the potluck dishes. There were many delicious desserts. To end the day there were many Book of Mormon gifts given away. Among these were B of M t-shirts, plaques and a liahona. There were many positive comments about this very special Book of Mormon Day.

Barb Eliason and Kathleen Palmer attended the Fall Regional Woman's Retreat at Wesleyan Camp grounds on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> for part of the day. We both enjoyed the time with everyone. The room was decorated so pretty for fall. We each were given a pretty decorated vase with a candle, representing the theme, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." The singing was led by Sherri Johnson and Elder Fred Brown, Sr. gave a very spiritual and meaningful message. Thank you Kathi Havener and Val Bradley for all you do to

make this special fellowship possible and to all those who have a hand in making this event a memorable one. The annual Sanilac Hayride was held on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a full church on this day. How wonderful to have so many come. Priest Bob Harris brought the inspirational message. We were blessed with beautiful singing by Todd, Liz and Bethany Moses. Thank you Todd for playing for the service. When the service was over, we all enjoyed pizza and ice cream. Then off to the Eliason farm for the hayride. With the wagons full they all enjoyed a long ride. Barent Eliason and Lowell Decker were the tractor drivers. Upon the return cookies and apple cider was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who came and Barent and Barb for hosting this fun time.

The Peck band had a Halloween band concert. Maddy Parker played the clarinet and Gary Des Jardins played the trumpet. It was a delightful fun concert with everyone in their costumes. Josh Bradley also plays a saxophone at Sandusky schools. Sydney Parker and Emma Des Jardins were all dressed in their costumes for the Halloween parade at Peck schools.

Gary Des Jardins finished varsity football at Peck school for the season. Good luck to Nick Bradley as he prepares for the varsity basketball season at Peck High School.

We are so proud of Becca Bradley as she passed her C. N. A. test.

We are still practicing and playing the Bells under the direction of Kerri Daniels.

We are always so grateful to the priesthood, who travel to our little church, to bring the gospel message. They are Elder Gary (Marge) Holmes, Elder Jay (Kathi) Havener, Elder Brian (Cathy) Daggett, Priest Bob Harris and Deacon Kerry Horton. Thank you.

Prayers of comfort go out to Dennis Smith and family and friends. Glenda was a very special lady and will be sorely missed.

Prayers of comfort also to Denise Rich and family for the loss of her step mother Marion Wilson.

Thanksgiving is coming soon and we wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving.

**Happy New Year**



## AUSTRALIAN RESTORATION NEWS

### Tamworth News

*submitted by Sr. Bev. Wilkinson*

Greetings from Tamworth.

Members met at 93 Glen Garvin Drive, the home of Deacon Roy and Sr. Daphne Schubert for family Worship, Class Worship Service on Sunday 30th August 2015. Elder Peter and Sr. Helen Archer gave the family Worship. Elder Peter welcomed us in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour and Sr. Helen read "Safety with the Lord". For our class we are studying "Translations of Joseph Smith, 6th Angel". In the Worship Service Bro Peter read from Mark 12:47-50 The widow's mite who gave all to the Lord "Yea even all her livings". Peter said "the Lord has supplied everything we need, we owe him everything". Bro Peter then read 1st Timothy 4:12 "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in purity". He said "Take heed we speak only the doctrine and principles of Christ". Elder Peter admonished us to pray always and read 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 14:12 "Ye must not perform anything unto the Lord, save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul. Bro. Peter closed by saying "Put on the whole amour of God, and pray always".

Wednesday 16th September members met for Prayer Service, praying for all those on our prayer list. In our testimonies we thanked our Lord for all our blessings and spoke of God's goodness to us.

Jonathan Page Bro. Jonathan Page has a severe dislocation of his spine and requests prayers and to be put on the Prayer List. Jonathan is waiting for more information from his Doctor about an operation.

Bob and I presented the Family Worship on Sunday 20th September, Bob welcomed us and gave the Opening Prayer. I read "He was born in a Manger, Died on the Cross, and Lives forevermore" by Sharon Warner.

Elder Peter presided over the Sacrament Service and said we have come here today to partake of the Sacrament. We have come with one heart and one mind, in love and unity, humbly following in the footsteps of our Lord who came to do the will of the Father. We are created beings, spiritually created before coming to earth and created in God's Image. We must be clean, because no unclean being can dwell in the presence of God. Peter spoke on images. Do we see the image of Christ in our countenance? Elder Peter then served the Sacrament.

Congratulations and best wishes to Rachel Waters and John Todd who were married on Saturday 5th September 2015 in Townsville.

And also to Sharon Edwards and Ivan Barbero who will be married on Friday 25th September 2015 in Brisbane. We wish you all a blessed and happy life together.

We extend our Congratulations to Luke Scott and Bec Young on their Engagement and wish them a happy engagement party on the 4th of October.

Birthday for October

Gabrielle Waters 24th October

Newcastle News

*submitted by*

*Sr Gianna Loyd*

In August my sister & I were doing a few shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child to be sent to Fiji. They are still recovering after the devastating cyclone earlier this year. It will be sure to brighten a few children's faces at Christmas.

On Sundays in August we have been listening to sermons from Zions Outpost in Park City Kansas. We can listen & feel that we are part of the service: lots of good preaching and our son, Priest Josh Loyd, had a couple of sermons we have listened to and they were very encouraging. I do ask prayers for my parents Don & Nina, as my father is in pain with a fracture in his hip, bursitis and has myelodysplasia; not producing enough red blood cells. Till next time take care.

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Victoria News

*submitted by Elder*

*Murray Broughton*

Hello everyone, this is my first Australian News contribution from our Kelvin View Branch.

We are thankful for a place, people to meet with, and for the word of God and His Holy Spirit, which gives us understanding, guidance, help and comfort, and increases our faith to strive to be the people that he wants us to be. We thank the organist Sr. Elma Grayden and Srs. Betty Broughton and Delma Broughton for the flowers that they do alternately.

Sunday 22-Aug.Text: "A Choice land above all the Lands of the earth." Ether 1: 29;--Even unto the land of promise which is choice above all other hands, which the Lord had preserved for a righteous people. What so ever nation shall possess it, shall serve God or they shall be swept off. When the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.

Sunday 29-Aug.—Sermon theme was "Gather my Saints together unto me, those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice". We went later to Benalla and had a communion service with Bro. Larry Faderson

Sunday Sept.6--Communion service. Theme "Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus". Phil. 2:5.

Sunday 13th Sept.---Sermon Theme: based on John ch.2; "I know Life Everlasting; The Wonder of His words".

Sunday 20th Sept.--Preaching service; Texts: Rev.2: 20-26; and 2 Nephi: "Feast upon the words of Christ, for he had the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye shall do."

We have bible study on Wednesday at 2pm at our home. Please remember the sick in your prayers. We administered to Bro. Dirk Waasdorp in Shepparton and also to Bro. Geoff and Sr. Elma Grayden.

Bro. Neville Broughton's birthday was Sunday Sept.13. and he couldn't be in a better place than at church.

In the Philippines, 3 people have passed away since July; included is the father-in-law of Sr. Anadhel, a member of the church, and Sr. Corazon Naraval who is no longer suffering or in pain.

**Birthdays:** Brother Geoff Grayden's birthday is on the 18th Sept. and we wish him all the best of good health.

Harry Broughton's birthday is on 24th Sept. We wish him a happy birthday.

**Congratulations to:** Bro. Luke and Rebecca on their engagement, from Kelvin View congregation

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*Submitted by Sr. Vivian Garner, South Australia.*

May the words of this of this prayer/poem written many years ago by Bro. Colin Dunn who passed away just recently serve as a memorial to him.

*Lord, let us use you as our strength. Lord, let us use Thee as our wealth.*

*Lord, as we comfort each other as a family on earth,  
We pray that your comforter will dwell with us,  
and may our love for Thee and each other be eternal.*

**Please include in your prayers the following people who are in need of a blessing in health.**

Geoff & Elma Grayden , Gwen Whately, Adrienne & Robert Windsor, Mary Dunn, Audrey Kerswell, Murray Broughton, Alma & Janice Kerswell, Jared Murray. Harry Broughton, Dirk Waasdorp. Don & Nina DiRico Jonathan Page

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**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST RESTORATION BRANCH.**

17-19 Juers Street, Kingston, Queensland. Pastor: Elder Alma Kerswell. Phone 07 3800 1151

**Branch news and announcements for Kingston Branch..**

**Birthdays.** *Happy Birthday Wishes to the following people on their Special Day in October.*

10<sup>th</sup>. Linda Kerswell, 13<sup>th</sup> Troy Olsen, 28<sup>th</sup> Samuel Kerswell

**Donations.** It is time once again for branch members to make our annual donation for distribution in the Philippines to aid the Philippine sick, poor & needy. Bro. Murray & Sr. Delma Broughton will utilize this money on their next visit to help meet s few of those needs. Donations to be paid to our treasurer Priest Luke Scott by the end of October.

**Closure of Treasurer's Books for our Financial Year.** The finance books for the current year will close on 31<sup>st</sup> October for the Financial Report to be compiled in preparation for the AGM. Anyone with outstanding accounts against the current budget will need to submit their account for payment before that date.

**Working Bee.** Our thanks to the 13 willing workers who turned up and painted the fences. One young lady went home with a blouse more patterned than when she arrived when someone's paint brush missed the fence. **Bereavement.** We extend our

sincere sympathy to the family of Lenore Ballard who recently passed away. Lenore was a lovely lady, who, with her late husband Reece Ballard, chose to remain with the organization now known as Community of Christ. Elder Noel Rowlett conducted the service.

### **My Story/Testimony**

By: Timothy S Holmes

Dear Saints,

As some of you know but many of you do not, I suffer from a disease called “Hidradenitis Suppurativa” HS for short! A little bit of quick information before I begin my story... Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic skin disease. It can occur in one or multiple areas of your body. HS usually develops in your armpits, groin, and anal area. It causes long-term skin inflammation and can be very painful. Symptoms include; Blackheads and red, tender bumps, called abscesses. The abscesses get bigger, break open, and leak pus. Tunnels that form under the skin. Scarring. No one knows for sure what causes HS. Because it occurs after puberty, hormones likely play a role. The person’s immune system also seems to play a role. It is possible that HS develops when the person’s immune system overreacts. HS begins in the hair follicles (where hair grows out of the skin). Like every day acne, HS forms when the hair follicles clog with bacteria and other substances. It is possible that HS develops in people who have an immune system that overreacts to the plugged hair follicle. Lifestyle also seems to play a role. It seems that smoking, being overweight, or taking lithium may trigger HS. These things do not cause HS. If a person is susceptible to getting HS, any of these could make HS appear for the first time or worsen existing HS. Although the exact cause is still unknown, dermatologists have learned the following from studying HS: It is not contagious. Poor hygiene does not cause HS. About one-third of people who get HS have a blood relative who has HS. AND... worse of all, It is INCURABLE! My story begins when I was 16 years old, I developed 2 abscesses, one behind my left ear and another under my right arm and within 2 days grew to the size of an egg, I was taken to the clinic and suffered the first of many traumatizing events in my long 35 year journey of dealing with this disease! I had to endure the pain of having them cut open and drained which meant squeezing as much puss out as they can and packing the wound with gauze strips which had to be repeated daily for a week! The pain was so bad that my mom and a nurse had to sit on me to keep me down on the table! After that first incident, I was referred to Henry Ford Hospital for further treatment and so begin the long list of doctors that I have seen since then! At that time I was diagnosed with “Severe cystic acne” and was given 2 different antibiotics to take which I did for some time with little success! After a couple months trying that, the Dr. said that there was a new drug out that has been having great successes in treating this disease called “Accutane” and he recommended that I try that so I did. The treatment required me to take this 3 times a day for 20 weeks (5 Months)

returning weekly to have blood test to monitor the levels of certain things to make sure it was not hurting my kidneys or other things in my body! After the first course (20 weeks) although the acne I had on my face and back had eased up some, it did nothing for the big cystic I was getting, we went back to the antibiotics I was taking before for a couple of months with the same result so the Dr recommended that I try Acutaine again, he said that a few patience tried it a second time with some luck so we tried another 20 week course with the same results! Then back on antibiotics for a while with little or no improvement! Then the Dr. said that there had been a couple people that had 3 courses of Accutane although rare he suggested I try it again so another 20 weeks with the same outcome, The acne was better but I was still getting large cysts now under both of my arms and in my groin area which still required to be lanced and drained in the manner I mentioned earlier, I went back on antibiotics for a while and then the Dr. I was seeing left Henry Ford Hospital so I was left without a Dr. At that point I was very discouraged about the treatment I have had over the past 5 years with seemingly no answers and still suffering, at this point I still was not diagnosed with having HS, the fact was that many Dr.'s have never heard of HS let alone how to treat it so I discontinued seeking treatment for it and just addressed it when it was necessary by draining them myself or when they got too big trips to the Dr.'s and ER's to have them drained! I continued down this path for about the next 5-6 years with numerous trips to my family Dr. for my groin and under my arms till my right arm got so bad that I got a huge cyst and actually got blood poisoning and was admitted in the Hospital to have it drained and intravenous antibiotics to cure the blood poisoning. After that, I was referred back to Henry Ford Hospital and the head of dermatology and he is the one that actually diagnosed me with HS some 15 years after my first incident! He was the one that first told me about the disease and that there was no cure and the only way to treat it was with surgery to remove the sweat glands! He referred me to a plastic surgeon that said he could do surgery on it and remove all the skin and sew it back up and it would be as good as new! That surgery went well and after about 3 weeks, it was doing pretty good and we were hopeful for a full recovery! I continued to have trouble with my left arm and groin with many trips to the Dr.'s to have them drained but my right arm seemed to be doing better! We discussed the possibilities of doing surgery to remove the sweat glands but decided that at that point we would see how it progressed and although there was no cure, there were some things that seem to help relieve and lesson the occurrences of outbreaks in others but that some things worked better for some and some things worked better for others. Over the next 5 years I tried many different things but nothing seemed to work, then one day, I got a cyst under my right arm, the one that I had surgery on, and it bled into that area and it became twice the size as before and was more painful than it was before so that kind of made me rethink the surgery option and I again became discouraged and discontinued seeking treatment from any Dr. I had decided that this was the hand that I was dealt and that I would just have to deal with it as it comes! I continued to have numerous outbreaks and spent many hours suffering with the pain some days not even being able to get out of bed! Meanwhile, I had met a girl named Wendy when I was 19 years old, we became good friends and after 10 years

of courtship, we were married! By that time I was 30 years old! Wendy had an idea about my condition but not until we were married and started to live together, did she really see the affect HS was having on me! Of course she was concerned and started asking a lot of questions about it and I just told her that it was incurable and that I had to deal with it, but that was not an answer that she could accept so she started to do some research on it! In the meantime, the disease kind of let up under my arms but started to appear more in my groin and on my buttocks and down the left side of my leg! We have seen countless Dr.'s from oncologists to infectious disease Dr's to wound care specialist, even going so far as going to Florida to see a Dr that Wendy saw on the TV show The Dr.'s who is actually the one who led us to where we are now! U of M Medical Center and a Dr. Burney. After meeting him and having him evaluate me, I had two choices, One, continue on as I have been and eventually, it would get so bad that it would probably disable me and I would have to have surgery that would be much worse or... Two, have surgery now, remove what we can and try to get ahead of it! Well, after my experience with the last surgery, I was very hesitant about doing it again so I went home to think about it. I prayed a lot about what I should do and I made another appointment with the Dr. to look at some before and after pics for other surgeries he performed But he forgot to bring them! He assured me that if he removed the area that was affected it would not come back in those areas! I was still very apprehensive so we scheduled surgery for 6 months down the road, hoping and praying that in that time, a miracle would happen and I would not have to endure the surgery! I prayed heavily along with many others on my behalf but the only answer seemed to be the surgery! With each passing day I became more concerned and scared about going thru with it! I made another appointment with the Dr. so I could see the pictures of the other surgery's he has performed because after the last visit and he explained what the procedure would entail, all I could vision in my mind was being skinned alive and left there to heal! Unfortunately, that visit did nothing to remove that vision from my mind; in fact, it just reaffirmed how I thought about it and quite frankly, I was more scared than ever! I continued to pray about it but I knew that this was my only option! I can't say I felt like Jesus in the garden for he was going to his death but I did ask my heavenly father to take this cup from my hands if that be his will but I knew I had to endure! I was administered to by the elders of the church and many people were praying for me, I had surgery on Sep 28th; they removed about an 8X10 area on my left buttocks and down the side along with an area between my legs and a baseball size area on my right buttocks all which was left open to heal, the first couple of dressing changes I was sedated but after 2 days, I had to shower and remove the dressings myself and making a bowel movement was very hard because the area they removed was very close to my anus! I must admit that the first time I saw what they did, I broke down and cried! It was very scared about what lay ahead! After 7 days, 4 of which I could have nothing to eat, I had another surgery to graft skin that they took from my right thy and the back of my left leg onto the 8 X 10 area on my left side, the rest was left open to heal. Both surgeries went very well! In fact, the skin graft took 95 to 99% which was basically unheard of! Usually they see 50 to 60% I know god was looking out for me and heard all the prayers that the

saints were saying on my behalf! I want to thank everyone that prayed for me and sent me cards and well wishes! I could certainly feel all the love that was sent my way! The next 4 or 5 days were very hard; the place where they took the skin for the graphs was very painful to say the least! In fact, of everything I have gone thru with this disease, this definitely hurt the most! The pain at times was more than anything I have ever experienced in my life but the lord gave me the strength to endure! My hospital stay lasted 3 ½ weeks and most of the time, Wendy was right there by my side even staying overnight with me in my room! Thank you honey, you're the best! I must also say thank you to all that had a hand in my care (and there were many) they definitely did all they could to see that I was as comfortable as could be and that I had everything I needed during my stay! They all were great! I have been home for 3 weeks now and am healing up very well! Wendy is doing my twice a day dressing changes and I have a nurse here twice a week to make sure it is doing well and I am feeling better every day! I cannot sit on it yet so I am still not able to work, do not know how long I will be off yet but I do not go back to the Dr.'s until January but I hope I can go back to work ASAP! Probably another month I hope! I would like to thank all the saints for everything they have done for us and all the support and love that you have given us! The cards while I was in the hospital sure made me feel loved! The nurse said that she had never seen so many cards and pictures in a patents room before and that made me feel very special! We would also like to thank our Algonac congregation for all the love and financial aid they have given to us! Since I have not been able to work since the surgery and have no insurance to cover my lost wages, we are very grateful for the assistance! We could not make it without it! Thank you all and may God bless you!

## **Regional Activities for the next quarter (and beyond)**

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

**Dec 4th & 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Annual Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale – Algonac Restoration Branch**

**Any questions/concerns, please contact Jim Bradley at [zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net)**