

# The Anchor



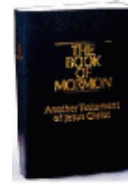
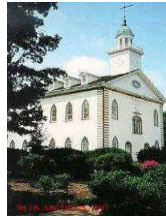
The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

Vol. 4 - 32

Issue 97

Fall 2016



---

---

## 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

### Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.” (Psalm 100: 4, 5)

We praise the Lord and thank Him for this beautiful fall season, our church family, and our freedom. We pray, more than ever before, that God will be with our leaders, bless this nation, and heal our land.

Bethany Moses from our branch attended the Young Adult event in August, led by Jay and Kathi Havener. The group went to Frankenmuth Splash Village for a day of fun and fellowship. Bethany reported that they went on water slides many times and went swimming and hot tubbing. She said it was a ton of fun and she really enjoyed spending time

with her young adult church friends.

On September 4, our Algonac church family was invited to attend a very special party for Elaine Harm celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! It was hosted by her family and took place at the Italian American Cultural Center in Clinton Township. There was a huge crowd of family and friends on hand to wish her well. We partook of a delicious luncheon (& birthday cake!) and enjoyed the opportunity to visit with her and all those who attended. She is such an important part of our church family and we enjoyed such a good spirit of fellowship. Tina Yaney stated that her Mom was very happy and grateful that so many friends and family were there to share with her and that it is a special day she will cherish forever. We all love you, Elaine, and pray God will bless you for many years to come!

Several of our members met at the church on Saturday, September 10, for a fall work day. We painted, organized, cleaned, and helped to restore our church building. At noon, we broke for lunch and fellowship. We managed to have some laughs and enjoyed each other's company while we continued to work throughout the day. A big thank you to all our saints who were able and willing to participate in this labor of love.

On September 17 & 18 four of our Algonac priesthood (Eric Eliason, Gary Holmes, Todd Moses, and Kevin Powers) attended the Priesthood Retreat in Kirtland. The theme for the weekend was "Sanctify Yourselves That Your

Minds Become Single to God" (D & C 85:18). Eric reported that the weekend began on Saturday with great classes (including a history lesson on the Temple) and a communion service at the Kirtland Restoration Branch. In the evening a prayer service was held in the Temple. On Sunday morning, a testimony service took place in the Temple before they headed home. Eric Eliason stated, "it was a good time to draw apart from the world ... a great reminder of what we (the priesthood) need to be doing – going before the Lord in constant prayer." Todd Moses commented: "To have the opportunity to lead songs and offer a prayer from the front of the Kirtland Temple is truly a blessing. The sound of a room full of priesthood men singing praises to our Lord is breathtaking!" "The testimonies were fantastic ... very inspiring," stated Kevin Powers. Gary Holmes said: "It was refreshing and uplifting being with all the other priesthood members. The Temple holds such a rich history ... you feel His abiding Spirit the moment you enter the sanctuary. Both the prayer and testimony services were such spiritual experiences. I want to make sure to attend this retreat again next year!"

A few of our saints were able to attend the Book of Mormon day on September 24 at the Oakwood Restoration Branch. They enjoyed guest speakers Neil Steede, David Brown, and all the teachers and others who assisted in the day's activities. They said there was a delicious Mexican meal made by Dora Gutierrez and others from the Sanilac branch. Thanks to Oakwood for hosting

and to Barent and Barb Eliason for organizing and planning this event.

Approximately 35 women attended this year's Great Lakes Region Restoration Branches Fall Women's Retreat. It was held at the Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds October 7 – 9. There was a good spirit among the women as they worshipped, prayed, sang, studied, and laughed together. The theme was "Light for our Vessels," which was taken from the story of the Brother of Jared in the book of Ether. The tables were decorated with antique ship lanterns and "glowing stones" that each of the ladies took home as a reminder of our theme. Our weekend started with fun, food (always!) and fellowship on Friday evening. We enjoyed popcorn and cider while watching the movie, "Miracles from Heaven." We are grateful to Kathleen Modders for getting the DVD up and running for us! Saturday's schedule began with a morning Devotion presented by Denise Rich and her friend, Darla Bowen. They shared a wonderful story and testimony from the Daily Bread publication. After breakfast, we had a hymn-sharing session. Six of the ladies (Sherri Johnson, Lynnette Daniels, Sherry Purcell, Kim Gilchrist, Denise Rich-filling in for Barb Eliason, and Grace Stager) shared the history and/or testimony about their favorite hymn. After each one, we sang the hymn together as a group. We really enjoyed the wonderful stories and experiences brought by each one. We had four different classes throughout the day, all taught by our special guest minister, Elder Jay Havener. The classes were all based on the

experiences of Jared, the Brother of Jared (& the Jaredites) and their journey to the Promised Land. He shared his knowledge and insight regarding their experiences, how we can relate it to what we are going through now, and apply those lessons to our daily journeys in this day and age. Saturday afternoon Kathi Havener led the group in a craft session on making pumpkins from canning jar rings. We faced a few challenges while spray painting the rings outside, but everyone was a good sport. It was a fun project and we all loved the results. After dinner Connie Burns was in charge of Game Night. Once again, she came up with some interesting, fun activities (loved the "Soul Sisters" concept!). We learned some interesting things about each other, while having fun and it drew us closer together. She had great prizes for us, most of them hand crafted by her. We ended the day with an indoor campfire (thanks for building the fire, Tracy!) led by Kathi Havener. In addition to singing songs, lots of embarrassing stories were shared. No worries ... what happens at retreat, stays at retreat! Sunday morning Devotions were presented by Kelli Williams about blessings. At the end, she handed out Scripture cards to each of us, with a personal message from her on the back. We ended the retreat with a dedication/renewal service presided over by our brother Jay. He brought a wonderful message about how the Lord showed His finger to many throughout the Scriptures and how His finger touches us even now. In different ways and at different times in our lives, His Spirit touches us and

guides us still today. We can't let the shadows overcome us ... we need to follow His light and shine it for all we meet to help bring about His Kingdom. We are so thankful for the ministry of Jay and all the ladies who attended and participated in our retreat! We know the Lord was with us and pray that as His handmaidens, we will continue to prepare, seek His Light for our vessels and let it guide us on our journeys.

A number of our Algonac members attended the service and hayride at the Sanilac Restoration Branch on Sunday, October 16. Elder Jay Havener of the Oakwood branch brought an inspirational message. Todd Moses, from our Algonac branch, was the pianist. The talented Johnson family (St. Johns branch) brought their very special music ministry. Their beautiful harmonies blessed us all. After the service, we met downstairs for our traditional pizza and ice cream lunch. Yum! Then the group headed to the Eliason farm for the infamous hayride. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed visiting with Barb, as she isn't able to get out much these days (we're praying for her!), having cookies, cider, and fellowship before heading home. We are grateful to Barent, Barb, and the Sanilac branch for hosting this wonderful annual fall event!

Prayers would be appreciated for Tim and Wendy Holmes, Dick Burns, Elaine King, Kelli Williams, Ray Moses, Gary & Marge Holmes, Nina Powers, Dave Nagy, and Bruce and Barb Krinkie. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

## Garden City



**By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild**  
(Submitted by Judy Monarch)  
Sarah Monarch, daughter of Rex and Judy Monarch, married Casey Sillanpaa at 4:00 in the afternoon on Saturday, August 20, 2016, at the Cobblestone Farm venue located 10 miles south of Traverse City, Michigan. Her father, Rex, had the privilege to marry them and was also able to walk Sarah down the aisle thanks to Fred Brown Jr.'s assistance at the beginning of the ceremony.



**Mr. & Mrs. Sarah & Casey Sillanpaa**

After the ceremony, there was a fun filled day with family and friends that gathered to help celebrate. The wedding had a country picnic theme that included a pig roast, bean bag toss games, pictures taken in costume, a DJ and huge dance

platform. A bon-fire for roasting marshmallows was also provided. There was even a keg of root beer and vanilla ice cream for root beer floats that the kids/adults seemed to enjoy. The weather seemed to cooperate for most of the wedding. There was that torrential down pour of rain during dinner, but everyone was in the tent so no problem there. Immediately after dinner it cleared up, the sun returned and everyone evacuated the tent to enjoy in the festivities. Some even witnessed a double rainbow in the sky. The weather did not seem to stop anyone from celebrating and sharing with Casey and Sarah on their special day.

While checking out of our hotel the next morning, we were informed another wedding a few miles up the road experienced high winds, hail, and torrential rain which led to their tent collapsing during their dinner. We thank God for his blessings in keeping everyone safe.

#### Fall Cleanup

On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> there was a “Fall Cleanup Day” at the church. Twelve volunteers worked outside to remove bushes and trees and perform various other outdoor cleanup tasks. The weather was great and the volunteers had lunch together at the church as well. “Many hands make light work.” Thanks to all those who helped on this day.

#### Outreach (Karen Rintz)

There was a “Free Store” held at the church on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was in support of “Angels in the Motor city.” It was a successful day with many volunteers giving of their time to

help out. A free hotdog lunch was provided to all.

Garden City Branch will be collecting toys for a Christmas Party for “Angels in the Motor city” to give to low income families on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Unwrapped toys for all ages are welcome.

#### Guest Minister

Many thanks to Priest Shaun Turner for being our guest minister on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. A potluck was held after the 11:00 service. We were glad that Shaun, his wife Michelle, and their daughter Emma were able to stay and fellowship with us.

**November 24, 2016**  
**Happy Thanksgiving**



#### Oakwood



By: Kathleen Modders

The Zion's Youth witnessing weekend was a great success in October. Although our numbers were small, we were mighty! Each one of the youth was assigned a ministry team who stayed at the

homes of the Saints in the Oakwood area Friday night. They spent time sharing testimonies, praying, and sharing in God's word with their ministry team. This allowed the teams to connect on a more personal and intimate level so that they would be united in faith. On Saturday, we had some time for worship and classes that the teams mutually took part in. After lunch, we sent the teams out to bring ministry to the Oakwood families in the area. Some of those families were active members and others were shut-ins who cannot make it to church on a regular basis for personal reasons. Overall, we had a great time, and the families that involved themselves in the Witnessing Weekend were very positive and felt the blessings that came from their desire to serve. The Zion's Youth staff is always looking for opportunities for our youth to exercise their faith by serving their church and communities. If you think that your branch could benefit from a witnessing weekend from our youth, please contact Shaun and Michelle Turner for details. Special thanks to Brian Mundy from the Missionary Branch in Buckner, MO, for attending and bringing ministry to our youth.

Julie and Tara Fox packed Christmas boxes for the military Saturday November 5, 2016. Julie will also do *Wreaths across America* in December again, where semi-trucks full of wreaths are brought in to decorate the graves of all soldiers at the National Vet's cemetery in Holly. If you are interested in helping with the wreath's this year, please contact Julie Fox.

Edna Fisher passed away 10/28/16. She was a member of our congregation until she moved to Texas a few years ago. She will be missed by her family and her church family members. May our Lord bring peace to the family in their time of grief.

In memory of Elder Robert Harry Ruch: He passed away 4/30/16. He was 84 years old. He was one of the organizers of the Oakwood branch. He brought much ministry of music to our branch: Solos with piano and organ accompaniments, a member of the Oakwood Boys and the Oakwood Four. He held many Hootenanny's at the branch, where he shared his talent with us. He was a part of the Pastor Trio for many years. He is now with our heavenly father. He is missed by everyone. We are all very blessed to have had him in our lives.

The Family Tree of Elder Edward MacDonald is getting bigger! Great-Great Grandmother Shirley MacDonald, Great Grandparents Elder Edward MacDonald, and Candy MacDonald, along with Grandparents Jamie and Mike Moore, share happy news: their granddaughter/ daughter Rebecca Lynn and Josh Gerwolds were married November 4, 2016 with newly born baby girl Payton Marie on August 30, 2016.



Rebecca & Josh Gerwolds

**And that's not all! Their grandson/son Jared Carl and Sydnee have a little boy, Bentley Patrick Carl, born on September 12, 2015 and are expecting a little girl on December, 2016. Congratulations to all the new members of the family!**



**Jared, Sydnee & Bentley Carl**

**We were honored with two guest speakers this quarter: on October 16, Elder David Teeple and Elder Brian Mundy on October 23.**

**On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Barb and Barrent Eliason, from the Sanilac branch came to Oakwood and put on our annual Book of Mormon Day. Sharing the Lord's work is a great work, and we are blessed to have them. They decorated the sanctuary with artifacts and gave away many prizes. We can't thank them enough for sharing with all the branches.**



**Kyle & Shelby Burnard  
Aug. 7, 2016**

**On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Kathleen and Mike Modders took the youth on a fun filled day to Cedar Point. Brandon Embree with friend Logan Evans, Jonathon Modders, Raven Franks with friend Anthony, Christina and Parker Mervyn, and Joshua Johnson. Also in attendance from Canada were Paige Carnihan, Deanna, Joshua, and Rachel Pirt, along with two friends Erin and Nathan, and from Otter Lake, John Daniels.**



**The weekend of August 26<sup>th</sup> was a wet and stormy one! Kathi and Jay Havener planned to kick off the new Young Adult group with a weekend canoe trip up at the Nagy cabin in Grayling...but the weather didn't cooperate...so they took everyone to Frankenmuth Splash**

Village for a day of inside wet fun! Julie Fox, Brandon Embree, John Daniels, Bethany Moses, and Cole Vandenberg all had a great time! The group is planning on getting together each quarter. Next up is ice skating! Stay tuned for dates and details!

On October 16<sup>th</sup> the Sanilac Branch had the annual Hay Ride and Pizza party! Elder Jay Havener from the Oakwood branch delivered the sermon. Thank you to the Sanilac Branch for your generous hospitality and lots of great fellowship and pizza!

On October 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Kathi Havener and Val Bradley once again led the annual Great Lakes Regional women's retreat at Wesleyan Woods campground. About 35 women attended this year, with Kathi Havener, Bonnie Murphy, Kathleen Modders, Tracy Stokes, Amanda and Shawn Ruch, Michelle Turner, Julie Fox, Helen Brown, Cheryl Valad, and Kim Gilchrist attending from Oakwood. The theme was "Light for our Vessels," and Elder Jay Havener taught a series of classes from the Book of Mormon related to the Brother of Jared getting the stones to light the barges. Each woman received a "glowing" stone to take home as a remembrance. The women made cute pumpkins out of canning jar rings and enjoyed a Christian movie with popcorn and cider Friday night. Connie Burns had fun games and great prizes for us Saturday night. Special thanks to Kathleen Modders who showed the movie, Tracy Stokes who made our campfire Saturday night, and Kim Gilchrist who shared her testimony and led us in her favorite hymn, "The Spirit of

God Like a Fire is Burning!"

Upcoming birthdays are: 11/04 Ryan Hanna, 11/08 Nick Brown, 11/13 Bob LaRowe, 11/14 Brennen Colley, 11/20 Cole Vandenberg, 11/24 Jared Carl, 12/04 Ty Millen, 12/06 Drew Vandenberg, 12/08 Parker Mervyn, 12/09 Helen Brown, 12/23 Amanda Ruch, 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, 02/04 Suzanne Konkle, 02/09 Steve Ruch, 02/14 Fred Brown Sr., 02/19 Deanna Smith, 02/28 Joe Brown

### Otter Lake



By: Susie Daggett

Greetings from the Otter Lake Branch!

We joined Oakwood October 23<sup>rd</sup> to hear the guest ministry of Brian Mundy. We were also closed October 16<sup>th</sup> because most of our branch was attending a wedding up north. Those not attending the wedding joined other congregations for the Sunday service.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> Jillian Rose Broughman was blessed by Elder Doug Daggett assisted by Elder Ed Macdonald. Her parents are Terry Broughman and Karen Sison.



Pastor Doug Daggett has accepted a new position in his company as an instructor. His new position will be in Marshall Michigan. He will be commuting for the time being which is 120 miles each way, we would appreciate your prayers for safe trips.

We are very thankful for our visiting ministry Gary Holmes, Brian Daggett, Ed Smerer, Fred Brown Jr., Jay Havener and Dave Teeple. We are looking forward to Rex Monarch, Gary Holmes, and Fred Brown Sr. later this year.

(Submitted by Kerry Horton)  
Family Outing/Fund Raiser 9/10/16  
& Bonnie Sutton's Birthday Party  
Church of Jesus Christ Otter Lake  
Restoration Branch

Not sure how to start this story. So here goes. See if I can't put it in some kind of perspective order.

We, Priest Bill Sutton and I, Deacon Kerry Horton, met this young man, Deacon Jacob Roberts, at Erie Beach Camp in Canada this year, along with High Priest Paul Gage and Elder Leo Carroll who were there for the week to teach and visit. In conversation, found out Jacob, Paul, Leo and about 15 others were working on going to Australia in September for a month to do missionary work. They were looking for ways (not asking) to raise money to go. This got Bill and I to thinking. Ok keep all the above in mind, because I'll be back to this money thing.

Now to Otter Lake Branch. Each year around the latter part of August, first part of September we have a family night. Music, food, activities, auction, and a lot of fun. So, we (the congregation) put our heads together and decided to do a fundraiser to see if we could

raise some money for the mission. Our auction usually raises about \$300-\$500. Money is usually used for the needy.

So, on Saturday, September 10, plus, Sunday September 11 was Mrs. Bonnie Sutton's birthday. Party started around 2pm, ended about 8pm. So, we combined the two. Put the word out about the family night.

Boy, did we have a party! Along with a very heavy rain, had to take the big tent down right in the middle of the rain storm (all was good). We had in attendance 3 for sure, maybe 4 of the congregation, and people from as far away as Pennsylvania. All total around 75-85 people showed up for Family Night and Mrs. Bonnie Sutton's birthday.

We furnished hot dogs and some drinks, but every time somebody came in they were carrying one arm full of food, some two arms full. We could have very easily fed 200 people with all the food we had.

We started off with an opening prayer on the food and event by Priest Bill Sutton. Ate till we couldn't eat anymore. The flies helped themselves. They were really, really bad. Then we had birthday cake. This was supposed to be a surprise. That didn't work! Ate some more.

Remember I said keep the missionary mission in mind. Well here we go, the fundraiser/auction part of this get together.

People brought items they were donating: pictures, homemade bread, homemade doggie treats, biscuits, all kinds of gently used items. Then we had a live auction sale, 3 auctioneers came along, fun was had by all at the auction sale.

Between the auction and donations we were able to raise over \$1000.00 for their cause. The Lord answered!

The rain dampened it a little (no live music, too wet) but all was full of fun. Look for us to do this again next year 2017. Thank you for all the support in continuing to help build the way for a better world and striving to build Zion. Look forward to seeing you all next year 2017. Watch for a time and date in your congregation bulletin.

## December 25, 2016 Merry Christmas



### Port Huron-Sarnia Branch



By: Sharon Smerer

Happy Fall Everyone:

The Great Lakes Regional Family Reunion was held on July 25 - 31 at Wesleyan Woods Campground in Vassar, Mi. Another successful camp with:

Seventy Richard Neill, High Priest Paul Gage, and Elder Brian Mundy as our Guest Ministry. The Theme this year was, "All Glory Be To God." On Tuesday, High Priest Paul Gage spoke on I Kings and Luke 2:8-11, 13 & 14 also Sections 81, 83 and 86. The message was very powerful.

We have a lot of repentance to do, and condemnation to the believers, that we shouldn't treat the Gospel lightly and keep the Word of Wisdom. "And all Saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel, and marrow to their bones, and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; and shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint; and I, the Lord, give unto them a promise that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them." Amen. (Sec.83-3c,d) I heard good reports of people getting their cup refilled. Amen and Amen.

Elder Barent Eliason also had slides about the new discoveries about the Book of Mormon times. The music was fantastic throughout the week.

Our church and other churches in the community had a, "National Night Out," on August 3, 2016 from 6 - 8 p. m. We were out in our Church yard meeting with our neighbors and hopefully making some new friends. If, you were in the area, please stop by and say, "Hello," and shared an ice cream treat with us.

August 7, 2016 was the Robert Ruch Memorial Invitational Golf Tournament. It was the

23rd. annual event, twenty men played. They went Sunday after church services to Bay Valley in Bay City, Mi., then they went to Clare, Mi. to check into the Doherty Hotel. They golfed at The Tamaracks and Snow Snake, Harrison, Mi. and finished at Eagle Glen in Farwell, Mi. A great bunch of fun and fellowship with the men.

We have had some special out of town speakers: B. J. Schultz from, Independence, Mo. and Elder Doug Daggett from, Mt. Morris, Mi. We have had some awesome singers: Bruce Reid, Scott Bolt, David Teeple and his sister Phyllis Fiedler from St. Joseph, Mo., and Eldon Preston. Thank you to all for the spoken word and for the beautiful music.

Ariana and Adalia Britz attended Port Huron Northern's Homecoming Dance this September 2016. They both looked fabulous.

On September 18, 2016, Elder David Teeple wanted us to read Ezekiel 33, Luke 17, and Amos. He also requested that when we look into our mirrors each day to ask ourselves If not me, who? If not now, when?

Book of Mormon Day was Saturday, September 24, 2016, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Oakwood Restoration Branch, Ortonville, Mi. Guests Speakers were from Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc., David Brown and Neil Steede, Archaeologist. They showed presentations on Connecting the Dots from Yaxchilan to Palenque, Palenque and the Wisemen, The Celestial Star Chart at

Teotihuacan and the Recent finds at Teotihuacan.

Always a good learning experience and fellowship with everyone and always good food. We want to thank the Sanilac Restoration Branch for the Mexican meal and for all others for their desserts. Our thanks to all who helped make it a very successful day. Thanks, to David Brown and Neil Steede and Barent and Barbara Eliason.

On September 25, 2016, the Priesthood took about 3 minutes each to talk on the Spiritual Gifts, I Corinthians chapter 12. Those that took part were Elder Brian Daggett, Elder John DeBell, Elder Ron Giles, Priest Bob Harris, Elder Roy McAllister, Elder Eldon Preston, Elder Ed Smerer and Elder David Teeple.

October 7, the Great Lakes Restoration Branches Fall Women's Retreat took place from Friday night at 6 p.m. until noon, Sunday, October 9. Was held at the Wesleyan Woods Campground, Vassar, Mi. The theme this year was, "Light for our Vessels," The incredible story of the Brother of Jared's Faith. As told to me by Sherry Purcell:

Two ladies from our congregation, Jane Ann Goodwine and Sherry Purcell attended the whole weekend at Vassar, Mi. Connie DeBell and Barbara Teeple drove there for the Saturday activities. Jane Ann and Sherry reported good fellowship and fun flavored with a beautiful loving spirit, flowing among the women. Truly spiritual lives were enhanced.

Highlights, "Miracle of Heaven" movie, Friday night, Elder Jay Havener's classes about

the Jaredites and the Lighted Barges. A Jar Ring Pumpkin was their craft and on Saturday night a campfire. All the good food! Being united as handmaidens for the Lord. A heartfelt thanks as always to Val Bradley and Kathi Havener for these retreats.

Sean Tynan, son of John and Judy married Kelsey Morley on Friday, October 14, 2016 at the Como Park Conservatory Sunken Gardens in St. Paul, MN. His brother, Corey was best man and his sister, Sarah was a bridesmaid. Sean and Kelsey met when they were both attending Michigan State University. Best wishes to them in their wedded bliss. Sean is the grandson of John and Barbara Tynan.

Betty Milett may only be in 5th. grade but has completed her second year being included in the Port Huron Northern High School Marching Band! Betty was Maria in last year's show, "Maria and the Matador," and was the Newsboy in this year's show, "Swingtime". The band received a first Division rating this past month at Memorial Stadium in Port Huron, MI. the MSBOA Marching Competition and received a second-place trophy in Alma, Mi. at the marching invitational. Betty is the daughter of Joe and Jennifer Milett and granddaughter of John and Connie DeBell. Also, Olivia Bolt participated in the Port Huron Northern's Marching Competition at Alma, Mi. and Memorial Stadium, Port Huron, Mi. Olivia is the daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt and the granddaughter of John and Barbara Tynan. Port Huron High School Marching Band was also well represented by freshman marcher, Austin

Shamblin at the MSBOA competition at Memorial Stadium, Port Huron, Mi. They received a first Division rating. Austin is son of Nichole Shamblin and Dave Shamblin and the grandson of Michelle and Chase Miller.

We also want to recognize Lydia DeBell for being inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Marysville Middle School on October 4, 2016. Also, her brother, Owen DeBell received two merit badges from Boy Scout Troop 216 in Marysville: one for Marksmanship and the other for Aviation. and their sister Elise DeBell is a member of the Safety Patrol at Morton Elementary School in Marysville, Mi. Lydia, Owen and Elise are son and daughter of Jim and Marnie DeBell and the grandson and grand-daughters of John and Connie DeBell.

Congratulations to all our youth from the Port Huron Restoration Branch!!!

And finally, congratulations to Andrew Kercher for being hired as the Director of the Dearborn Museum. He is the son of Chris Kercher and the grandson of John and Connie DeBell.

#### Food for thought:

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of his local newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard probably 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I cannot remember a single one of them. So, I think that I am wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by preaching sermons at all. This started a real

controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: “I have been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals I would be physical dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church, I would be spiritually dead today.”

Remember:

When you are down to NOTHING, God is Up to SOMETHING. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.

We wish Everyone Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you next year!



By: Kathleen Palmer

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

If you want time to go by fast, sign up to do the newsletter. Time just flies by! Thank you, Jim Bradley, for the terrific job you do putting the newsletter together.

The month of August was beautiful summer weather. The crops look great and the farmers

are getting ready for the Fall Harvest.

Thank you Barent Eliason for the wonderful job you do keeping our church lawn mowed and to those who planted the colorful flowers. Barb Eliason is still having problems with her back and has been pretty much housebound. She is still having tests to pinpoint the problem. We all continue to pray that she will be well soon. Barent Eliason also has had some health issues and we pray, he too, will be able to have the procedure he needs to correct it. We all are happy Renae Tomanek is doing well and is recovering from her injuries suffered in an auto accident.

Our branch was blessed to have been able to contribute to a fund raiser for Stacey Bradley’s mother, Jackie Coddington, who has cancer. She is undergoing treatment and we wish her the best.

The Book of Mormon Day was held at Oakwood Restoration Branch on Sat. Sept. 24th from 9 til 4. This is an annual event put on by Elder Barent and Barb Eliason. The day was well attended. Guest speakers were Neil Steede, archaeologist and David Brown both from the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team Inc. They presented slides and handouts on connecting the dots from Yaxchilan to Palenque, Palenque and the Wisemen and much more. There were classes for children K-8 grade. Thank you to Barb Eliason, Debbie Des Jardins, Bev Miller, Denise Rich and Kathleen Palmer for teaching these Book of Mormon classes and to Elder Barent Eliason for coming into each class to tell of the archaeological discoveries pertaining to the teachings. A

delicious Mexican meal was put on by the Sanilac branch (with Dora Gutierrez as the main chef). We all enjoyed delicious desserts provided by all the other branches. After the meal was finished, the program continued. Names were drawn at the end of day for many beautiful plaques, Book of Mormons, pictures and more. Thank you Barent and Barb for these precious gifts. It was a day of learning and fellowship discovering new updates, recent finds and truth about the people in the Book of Mormon, which is a second witness to the Bible. God bless all who made this day possible and to all who attended. Oct. 7th -9th was the Women's Retreat at Wesleyan Woods Campground. The theme was, "Light for our Vessels." Denise Rich and her friend attended for the week end. Denise did the devotions for the morning worship. It was reported to be a fulfilling and blessed weekend. These weekends are always very special. It takes a lot of work and time to put these weekend retreats together. Thank you Val and Kathi and to all who make it possible for this retreat to be one to remember.

Peck High School senior and Junior bands put on a Halloween concert. Maddy Parker and Gary Des Jardins participated. They looked so neat in their costumes and the music was great. Some scary!

Sydney Parker and Emma Des Jardins are playing 4,5 and 6th grade basketball this fall. They both are in 4th grade and doing a great job! Their team won by 2 points in overtime against Brown City team. They were elated with excitement over this win!!

Brandi Tomanek sang a solo," The Old Old Path", for a church special and did a wonderful job. It is her favorite song.

We are so proud of our youth. Thanks to Dora and Gary for having Junior church once a month for our youth.

October 16th brought our annual Hayride and pizza party. Elder Jay Havener gave an inspiring message and the very talented Johnson family sang two very beautiful songs. We are all so appreciative to all who came to our little church for this special day. We all went downstairs after the service and enjoyed pizza and ice cream and to fellowship together. Then to the Eliason's for the hayride and cookies and cider. Since Barb has not been able to attend church because of her back problems, she was delighted to see everyone. Thank you Ron, Sherry, Grace and Caleb for singing your songs to her. I might add we woke up to rain in the morning and weren't sure there would be a hayride, but the Lord provided. The rain stopped and all enjoyed the day.

Our church would like to thank the priesthood, who travel to bring the Lord's message to us. Elder Jay Havener (Kathi), Elder Ed Mc Donald, Priest Bob Harris and Elder Keith Dabbs.

We are thankful for our own priesthood for all they do and the inspirational messages they bring to us.

Also to all those who share their talents, clean the church, do Sunday worship, teach classes, decorate worship table, our pastor, our treasurer, printing of the bulletins every Sunday etc. It takes all of us to do the work of the Lord and keep our church functioning to do His work in a

small branch. Let's give the praise and glory to our Father in Heaven, who has given us the desire and talents to be able to worship together in His house. We of the Sanilac Restoration Branch wish each and every one of you a very special THANKSGIVING and A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!

**January 1, 2017**  
**Happy New Year**



**Regional Activities for the next quarter**

December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale  
Algonac Restoration Branch  
Contact: Wendy Holmes

**From The Editor's Desk - Contact info:**

Jim Bradley  
69250 Campground Rd.  
Romeo, MI 48065  
Email to: [zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net)