

# The Anchor



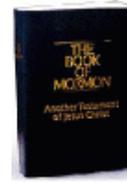
The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

Vol. 4 - 36

Issue 101

Fall 2017



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## 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

Joy Muir Born: Dec. 9, 1935 – Heavenly Homecoming: Sept. 14, 2017



Our beloved friend is now in Paradise sharing her joyful spirit!

## Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

**“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thessalonians 5:18) It is easy to be thankful at this time of year as we contemplate the abundant blessings of God’s beautiful earth, our full pantries, our families, and our friendships. May we always be mindful of all His blessings throughout every season of our lives.**

**On September 14 we lost a very dear sister in Christ, Joy Muir. She has been a part of my life for many years. I attended church with her and her family years ago at the old Troy congregation, and maintained a close friendship with her ever since. In the early 90’s she and family moved to Independence, MO. However, Joy always had a soft spot for Michigan, and the Saint Clair River, in particular. Every summer she would return here to a cute little cottage on the river, which she called her “happy place.” She loved being there and it brought her much peace and happiness. As often as she could (whenever she was in town), she attended our Algonac church services. We were so happy she could be a part of our church family. Last summer she invited our branch to join her at the cottage for a pot luck meal after church one Sunday. We set up**

**tables outside and enjoyed seeing her beloved freighters pass by on the river. What great fellowship we shared that day! She loved the Lord, her family and friends, and will long be remembered as a faithful servant, one who brought joy to all who knew her! We miss you, Joy, but know you are now in the ultimate “happy place.”**

**(Reported by Eric Eliason)**

**Four of our priesthood members (Hod Powers, Kevin Powers, Gary Holmes, and myself) were pleased to attend the Kirtland Priesthood Retreat on September 16 and 17. I noticed there were more Michigan priesthood in attendance this year than usual, which was nice. The theme was “Charity – The Pure Love of Christ.” The class on Saturday morning was taught by Seventy Richard Neil, followed by small discussion groups. Lunch was provided by the Kirtland Restoration Branch. The afternoon consisted of a communion service in the Branch, with a wonderful message brought by Elder Eric Odida. An evening service was held in the Temple. The retreat ended with a service in the Temple on Sunday. What I enjoyed most about the weekend was the Prayer and Testimony services. Time spent in the Temple is always special to me. It is inspirational and uplifting and I am always filled with God’s Spirit while there.**

**A few of our Algonac members had the privilege of attending Book of Mormon day on September 23 at the Oakwood Restoration Branch. The theme was “Archaeological Evidences for the Book of Mormon.” Guest speakers were archeologist Neil Steede and David Brown of the**

Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Independence, Missouri. Elder Barent Eliason led the morning worship service. Adult classes taught by Neil and David covered various subjects, including the Ammonites move to Jershon, the legacy of King Lamoni's older half-brother, recent finds at various sites, and the great sign in heaven. Through slides and sharing of their knowledge, experiences and testimonies, they showed much insight and inspiration regarding the Book of Mormon, it's history, and recent findings. Children's classes were taught throughout the day by Pat Beebe, Barent Eliason, Kathleen Palmer, Denise Rich, and Barb Eliason. At noon, a delicious pot luck lunch organized by Kathi Havener was served, and each of the branches contributed by bringing food. Yum! This was a very special Book of Mormon Day, as it was a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. At the close of the day there was a drawing and many of the attendees received wonderful Book of Mormon mementos. A special acknowledgement was given to Barent and Barb Eliason, who have planned, directed, and executed this event for 25 years. Elder Jay Havener presented them with a plaque in honor of all their years of service. A big thank you to Oakwood for hosting these events, and to Barent and Barb for their dedication and faithfulness over the years.

On October 6 – 8 close to 40 women in the Great Lakes region attended this year's Fall Women's Retreat at Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds. Seven of our Algonac women (Val Bradley, Connie Burns, Marilyn Canham,

Wendy Holmes, Elaine King, Nina Powers, and Kelli Williams) were able to attend. It was directed by Kathi Havener and Val Bradley and the theme was, "Joy to the World." The conference room was decorated beautifully with fall décor and lots of "joy" plaques and banners. Kathi (with Jay's help!) created wonderful centerpieces for each table using recycled tin cans from reunion. She painted them and Jay drilled holes in each one that spelled out the word "joy." Kathi put candles in them, which turned them into cool luminaries. Very clever ... great job, guys! Also, Connie Burns set up a darling display on one of the tables that included a little toy truck with pumpkins, and a tree with fall leaves. Very festive! The retreat began on Friday evening with fun games led by Kathleen Modders. She split us into two teams and really had us hopping as we tried to complete a series of challenging game puzzles and finish before the opposing team. We appreciate all the time and effort Kathleen put into this. We had a lot of fun and also learned some interesting things about women in the Scriptures in the process. The winners were awarded prizes. We snacked throughout the evening and shared great fellowship. The weekend Devotions were brought by Lynnette Daniels and Sherri Johnson. There was a good spirit with each of them as they shared the Scriptures and what was on their hearts. It is always a good way to start each morning of the retreat. On Saturday morning we enjoyed a spirit-filled Hymn Sharing session. Five women (Julie Fox, Denise Rich, Grace Johnson, Denise Carter, Sharon Smerer) discussed one of their

favorite hymns. Some of the things they shared were either about who wrote it, the story behind it, or a personal testimony or experience of what they liked most about the hymn. Following their talk, we all sang the hymn together. It is always uplifting raising our voices together in praises to our Lord. The first class "What is Joy" was taught by Shawn Ruch. We discussed the differences between joy and happiness. By reading Scriptures and sharing thoughts, we received clearer insight on what brings us true joy. After lunch a class on "Choose Joy" was taught by Elder Fred Brown, Sr. We learned that we can choose and experience joy in spite of our circumstances, as emulated by the apostle Paul and others throughout the Scriptures. We are to use our testimonies to enrich the lives of others. We need to forget about ourselves and concentrate on bringing joy to others! The last class of the day was "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come," taught by Elder Fred Brown, Jr. We learned the history behind this hymn, that it is about the second coming of Christ and that the Lord came to bring joy to all. Through Scriptures and testimonies, we were reminded that God chose us to be here at this time and place, in this day and age. He told us that women play an important part in the building up of the Kingdom and that our gifts are to be used to edify others. If we love God and put Him first in our lives, that will bring joy to us and to others. We then had a fun craft session led by Kathi Havener. We made beautiful Christmas tree ornaments from vintage cookie cutters. There was a wide variety of ribbons and embellishments for our use. We

learned that some of us are more "crafty" than others, but there was a lot of laughter and fun as we worked together. After dinner we had a talent show, with Connie Burns as our emcee. Among those who shared their talents were Sherry Purcell, Grace Johnson, Kerri Daniels, Kelli Williams, Connie Burns, Denise Rich, Kathi Havener, and Val Bradley. There was a mix of serious and comedic acts. Connie did an excellent job as emcee, and presented each participant with a cool certificate thanking us for sharing our God given talent and bringing joy to our sisters in Christ. The evening ended with a campfire around the fireplace, led by Fred Brown, Jr. There was much laughter as we started out with fun, silly songs and various skits. The evening ended with more serious songs that brought us closer together and we felt God's Spirit among us. Great job, Fred! The retreat ended with a Dedication/Renewal service on Sunday morning. We enjoyed the inspirational messages and testimonies shared by Elders Fred Brown Sr. and Jr., as well as the prayers and testimonies offered by the women. There was such a warm, loving spirit throughout the entire weekend and we felt the Lord's presence among us. Thank you again to Elders Fred Brown, Sr. and Fred Brown, Jr. for the knowledge, insight, and special ministry they brought to us. We are also grateful to all the women who supported this retreat through their presence, prayers and participation. May the Lord continue to fill your life and spirit with His joy and may we always seek to share that joy with others.



**Congratulations to Analyn Powers who recently obtained a certified Nurse's Aide certificate from Macomb Community College! We are proud of you, Analyn, and wish you the best as you pursue a job in the field of Nursing.**

**Prayers would be appreciated for Tim and Wendy Holmes, Elaine King, Kelli Williams, Ray Moses, Elaine Harm, Jim Bradley, Gary & Marge Holmes, Nina Powers, Bruce and Barb Krinkie, and the Muir family. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.**

**Atlanta Branch**



**By: Jessica S. Joles Slater**

**It is with great joy that I again represent our little branch here in the North Country. This past year has been a time of great joy, as well as, great sadness.**

**It is with great thankfulness that our branch has been allowed to grow with two families moving north and joining our congregation. Please help us to again welcome: Terry and Brenda Burleigh and Bob and Tracy LaRowe (with daughter Julia). We cannot thank the Lord enough that he has seen fit to bring these saints to our door.**

**Along with this joy, we must also remember those we have lost this past year:**

**Mabel L. Cadotte, 69, of Vanderbilt, passed away Saturday, June 3, 2017 at McLaren Northern Michigan in Petoskey.**

**A resident of Vanderbilt for the past 6 years, moving from the Cheboygan area, Mabel was born July 2, 1947 in Saginaw, the daughter of Floyd and Helen (Burgess) Wilkins. On May 5, 1972 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, she married Edward Cadotte, who preceded her in death in 1996. She loved to cook, bake, and especially spend time with her friends and family.**

**Surviving are her children, Clarence "Butch" (Beth Farmer) Swinehart of Siler City, North Carolina, William Groce of Truth and Consequences, New Mexico, Dawn Silverthorne of Clare, Jerry (Johanna) Groce of Cheboygan, Edward (Karla) Cadotte of Newaygo, and Tanya (Ray Woodford) Cadotte of St. Ignace, her friend and longtime companion, Larry Peters of Vanderbilt, her step children, Dallas Sweet, and Randy Peters, both of Cheboygan,**

**Cliff (Janelle) Peters of Onaway, Chad Peters and Mandy Peters, both of Cheboygan, and Chris Peters of Rexton, 52 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren, two brothers, Joe (Cheryl) Wilkins and Jay Wilkins, and two sisters, Ruth (Mike) McQuiston, and Lila Wilkins, and many nieces and nephews.**

**She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Edward, her sister and close friend, Karen Barber, and a brother, Floyd Wilkins, Jr.**

**Visitation was held on Thursday, June 8, at the Nordman-Christian Funeral Home in Cheboygan. The funeral service was held on Friday, June 9, at 11:00am, with the family greeting friends beginning at 10:00am, at the Church of Christ Restored, 1200 Sand Road, Cheboygan, Michigan. Apostle Harry Hyde officiated, and the burial was at Pinehill Cemetery in Cheboygan.**

**Ila Mae Ross, 89, of Lachine passed away Friday, October 20, 2017, at Tendercare Alpena.**

**Ila Mae Torsch was born in Green Township on February 14, 1928, to the late Fred and Lena (Brandenburg) Torsch. On March 22, 1952, she married Willis Ross of Alpena. Following their marriage, they lived on Wisner Street in Alpena until 1965 when they moved to a hobby farm in Long Rapids. He preceded her in death on March 19, 2015.**

**Mrs. Ross was a graduate of Alpena High School and**

**Alpena County Normal and received further education from Central Michigan University. She taught in county schools in the Wilson, Green and Maple Ridge townships for nine years and in the “new” consolidated Maple Ridge School for two years. Ila was a member of the Community of Christ Church in Lachine and served as a 4-H Leader.**

**Surviving are her two sons, Jim Ross of Long Rapids, Bill (Sarah) Ross of Alpena; three grandchildren, Brittni (Ethan) Faber of Renton, WA, Nicole Ross, Ty Ross, both of Alpena; sister, Arlene (Ray) Chase; and a brother-in-law, Don Howery. Mrs. Ross was preceded in death by 7 siblings, Nephi, Alvin, Enos, Harding, Marvin, Margaret and Christine. Visitation took place at the Community of Christ Church in Lachine on Saturday, November 11, at 2 p.m. and the memorial service was at 3 p.m. with Elder Kendall Sumerix officiating.**

**Larry Peters obituary information is pending as we have just been notified of his passing.**

**The NMRB would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the visiting ministry we have received this past year. Our congregation greatly appreciates the sacrifice you have made to travel to Northern Michigan to minister to us. Your dedication and commitment have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you (in no particular order): Doug Daggett, Mick Ruch, Bill McLeod, Fred Brown Jr. and Rex Monarch. I apologize if I have forgotten anyone.**

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

**John & Norma Pontius** – John suffers from Alzheimer’s  
**Terry Burleigh** – eye problems  
**Bethney Stump** – head injury  
**Shawn Clay** – pancreatic infection  
**Anne Ostenskowski** – blood clots  
**David Ouderkirk** – direction  
**Dixie Goodfellow** – health problems  
**Willis Penfold** – Cancer  
**Eleanor Wregglesworth** – health problems  
**Elder Howard LaLone** – Parkinson’s  
**RuthAnn Ormsbee** – foot amputation  
**Wayne Berry** – cancer  
**Arla Gable** – dementia  
**Adella** – unspecified  
**Beth Brooks** – cancer  
**Randy Veihl** – logging accident took half his face  
**Dolores Howard** – joint pain

Thank You and God Bless. Please stay safe this winter.

### Garden City



**By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild**

Over the past few months we have said goodbye to four members of our branch. In September, Sister Carolyn Kilgore moved to Colorado to be near family. Sister Janice Wright and her son Bobby also moved in September. They are living with Janice’s son

Steven in Georgia. These saints will be missed by us all.

### New Addresses:

**Carolyn Kilgore**  
P.O. Box 1246  
Cortez, CO 81321

**Janice and Bobby Wright**  
5163 Galbraith Circle  
Stone Mountain, GA 30088

Margaret Baltzer passed away on October 4, 2017 at the age of 68. Margaret was born in Kentucky and later moved to Michigan. She married Ron Baltzer (Deacon at Garden City) in 1969. They have two sons, Ron “Chip” Baltzer (Elder, Missouri) and David Baltzer (Deacon, Garden City). Margaret enjoyed listening to the CD recordings of the 11:00 services at Garden City as her health did not permit her to attend the past number of years. Please keep the Baltzer family in your prayers.

Rally Day – On Sunday, September 17, our congregation celebrated Rally Day during the 10:00 Sunday School hour to recognize our children. Each child was given a certificate by their Sunday School teacher. We had a hymn sing and then played various board games and activities in small groups to review and learn more about our church including the priesthood offices. We also sang the songs many of the children know to memorize the books of the Old Testament and New Testament. At the 11:00 service we had a guest speaker, Elder Fred Brown Jr. and then shared in fellowship after the service with a congregational potluck.

Guest Ministers - Many thanks to our guest ministers over the past few months – Elder Fred Brown Jr. in September and Elder Jay Havener in October. Elder Tom Essenmacher will

be our speaker in November. We really appreciate the time and effort these men put into preparing to preach at our congregation.

Prayers – Our Garden City Prayer List is posted monthly on our website which is [gardencityrestorationbranch.org](http://gardencityrestorationbranch.org). Please pray for those listed.

Women's Group (Submitted by Betty Lou Newman)

As part of our “service”, we continue to reach out to our missing sisters. The CDs of Sunday’s service and a bulletin with personal notes added are mailed out weekly. The prayer list and priesthood schedule are included monthly. We appreciate the assistance of Deacon David Baltzer who is our “mail man”.

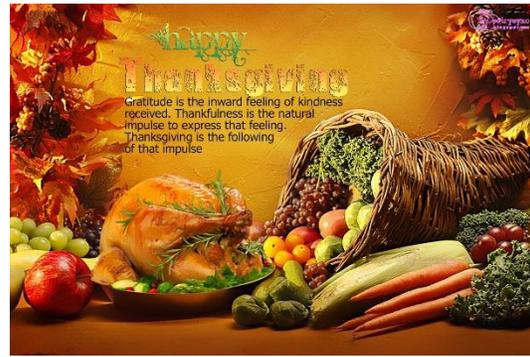
Prior to her departure, Carolyn Kilgore was presented with a wall hanging entitled “Never Alone”. Due to her quick departure, Sister Janice Wright received a pair of magnifying glasses after her move to Georgia. Both ladies continue to minister in their new locations.

Secret Sister names have been revealed with no one guessing who had been sending the notes/cards etc.

A special thank you to the ladies (and men too) who use their stewardship of time to clean the church. Thanks for letting your love “shine” through.

The women will continue to set aside Wednesday for our group prayer and fasting.

**Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**  
**Happy Thanksgiving**



**Oakwood**



By: Kathleen Modders

**In August:**

Colin Connell, of Lapeer, MI was baptized at his daughter’s home on Amy Court, Oxford Township on August 20th in the presence of his daughter and extended family. He was baptized by Elder Reginald Nelson of Jackson, MI and confirmed by Elder Jay Havener. Colin was born on July 1, 1938 on a farm in Gatestown, MI.

**In September:**

September 10, Guest Speaker Elder Rex Monarch opened with a scripture reading from Psalms 24: 1-4 The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, - Rex Spoke about building the Kingdom, the warning for those that turn away and harden the hearts, it was preached by our Savior Jesus Christ, He blessed and healed and told his disciples to go and preach and teach the Kingdom of God. He quoted President George

Washington in 1789. His first inaugural address. “Since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious (favorable) smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained.

September 10, branch picnic. Priest Mike Modders and a few men set up a tent and tables and chairs outside, along with some outdoor games. They grilled hamburgers, brats and hot dogs on the grill, and we fellowshiped together after the church service. The weather was beautiful. Approximately 45 people were able to stay for the lunch. It was a great day.

By Kathi Havener: Approximately 90 people attended Book of Mormon (BOM) Day at Oakwood Restoration Branch on September 23, 2017, to hear testimonies and exciting new evidences of the gospel. It was also a bittersweet event, because it marked the last BOM Day in the Great Lakes Region that Barent and Barb Eliason from the Sanilac Restoration Branch would help direct. For the past 25 years, Barent and Barb have brought a strong, vibrant witness of their travels to BOM lands and shared their many adventures and artifacts with us. Elder Jay Havener surprised the Eliasons with a plaque to commemorate their 25 years of service as “special witnesses of the Book of Mormon.” During the luncheon, special cakes honoring the couple were also served. Archaeologist Neil Steede spoke on the Great Sign in Heaven, based on the prophecies given in the book of Revelation, and David Brown from the Hill Cummorah Expedition team spoke on the migration patterns of the BOM people. It was truly a wonderful day!



September 16, Kirtland Temple Priesthood Retreat. Those in attendance from Oakwood were Elder Jay Havener, Elder Mick Ruch and Elder Shaun Turner.

**In October:**

“Joy to the World, the Lord has come!” was the theme of this year’s Great Lakes Restoration Branches Fall Women’s Retreat, held Oct 6-8, in Vassar, Michigan. It was a beautiful fall weekend, with temperatures reaching near 80 degrees. The large conference center was decorated with colored leaves and “Joy” signs everywhere, reminding the women that “Joy is always possible.” Val Bradley from Algonac Restoration Branch and Kathi Havener from Oakwood Restoration Branch once again directed the retreat. Thirty-six women from seven restoration branches participated including Shawn Ruch (Oakwood) who taught the first class about the difference between happiness and joy, Kathleen Modders (Oakwood) who created and led a carefully crafted game night about women in the Bible.

Others shared through morning devotions, and some gave a testimony of or spoke about the history of their favorite hymn, which we then sang. Saturday afternoon, Kathi led everyone in creating Christmas ornaments out of old fashioned metal cookie cutters. We have some very creative gals! Elders Fred Brown, Sr. and Fred Brown, Jr. (Oakwood) were the weekend's guest ministers. They each taught a class about the different aspects of Joy, which included lots of great personal testimonies. Saturday night, Fred Jr. led us in a fun campfire around the fireplace. Both Freds were in charge of the final dedication/prayer service on Sunday before we broke camp. We thank them for sharing their warm ministry with us. Women participating from Oakwood included: Kathi Havener, Shawn Ruch, Kathleen Modders, Tracy Stokes, Bonnie Murphy, Helen Brown, Beth Everhart, Deanna Smith, Julie Fox, Helene Danicki, Amanda Ruch, Raven Franks, and Dawn Modders.

10/27-29 Elder Shaun Turner and his wife Michelle took the kids on a trip to Kirtland, Ohio to share some church history with the older youth. Teaming up with the Charlotte Branch was a great experience. They provided a bus for transportation so everyone was able to ride together for the trip. Oakwood attendees were: (Adults) Counselors: Elder Shaun Turner, Michelle Turner, Cook Tracy Stokes, (Youth) Heather and Parker Mervyn, Emma Turner, Chad Embree, Cruz Nagy, and Jaime, Samantha, and Gustavo Servin. Otter Lake Attendees: (Adults) Nurse Lynnette Daniels (Youth) Lindsey Daniels, Sammy Dufort; Sanilac Branch: (Youth) Josh Bradley and Bryan Hardwick. Charlotte Branch: (Adults) Counselors: Mary Garn, Kim and Leslie (Youth) Zac, Aston, Harley,

Danica, Hailey. Kirtland Branch (Youth) Gabriella, Canada Branch: Paige Carnahan.

Older Youth Retreat by Paige Carnahan. This past weekend I helped out at the Older Youth Retreat and we went down to Kirtland with them. We had good turn out with 17 kids all close in age. We did a lot that weekend in learning about the temple and what our church history is. I'm going to talk about our trip to the temple and my experience there that weekend. When we got to the temple we went inside their visitor center and they showed us a clip about the temple. Well at the end of the clip/video they had, they started playing the song "The Spirit of God, Like A Fire is Burning" and during the song some of our counsellors started singing the song with the music. To me it put a smile on my face and I joined with the singing of that hymn with them. It was such joy I had, being a part of it all. On behalf of everyone that went, we'd like to thank the Kirtland Branch for allowing us to use their building. And that we all had a great weekend learning and growing closer to each other and God.

Older Youth Retreat by Elder Shaun Turner. The Zion's Youth ventured their way down to Kirtland, Ohio for the fall retreat. Fortunately, we had the privilege of utilizing the Tour Bus that the Charlotte Branch owns so that the kids could fellowship and get acquainted with one another.

On the way to Kirtland, Lynette Daniels hosted an ice breaker so the kids could get to know one another better and to break the ice, so-to-speak. It was tough getting them started, but when they realized that candy was involved we almost had 100% participation. Overall, the kids loved the opportunity to be able to

travel together. Since there were no electronic distractions to and from Kirtland, the kids had to bide their time with talking to one another, [shocking]. A special thanks to Marty and Lesley Garn for providing the transportation the driver (Marty) and the fellowship.

Elder Jason Webster and the Kirtland restoration Branch welcomed us to their house of worship, which we called home for the weekend. It was a comfortable and welcoming environment. Our special thanks to our brothers and sisters at the Kirtland Restoration Branch.

Our troupe toured Kirtland Temple, the quarry, and the LDS Historical village. It was wonderful to see all of the sites and hear the stories of all of the early Saints and their struggles to bring about the Restored Gospel and Christ's Church in these latter days. It provided an opportunity for the kids to discuss the trials and obstacles that came with being obedient to God. Several of the youth were surprised at how self-sufficient the Saints were and how much they depended upon one another.

Sunday, the youth led the 10 AM song service with a song that Marty Garn and Kim Gilchrist worked with the youth on. Zachary Carlson led the prayer and testimony service and shared some of his own stories of how the Lord has worked in his life. The Kirtland congregation shared and sang with us. There was a beautiful spirit present that knit our hearts together in brotherly love. All were blessed.

In November:

Upcoming events: Annual Thanksgiving dinner on the 19th, put on with the help of the youth for a

thank you for all the activities they get to do throughout the year.

Upcoming Birthdays:

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, 01/09 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: Lynette Daniels  
Hello from Otter Lake Restoration Branch. We had two of our youth, Lindsey Daniels and Sammy Dufort attend the older youth weekend retreat to Kirtland in October and it was awesome!! Thanks to the Charlotte branch and Marty Garn for driving their tour bus it was so much fun, such a spirit-filled weekend!! Thanks also to Shaun and Michelle Turner for all you do in organizing such awesome adventures!! Lynnette Daniels attended the Women's retreat in October, always leave with such an amazing spirit!! Thanks Kathi Havener and Val Bradley for all you do, it is so deeply appreciated!  
Our pastor Doug Daggett and his beautiful wife Susie have moved and have a new address, 16439 Mercury Drive, Climax MI 49034. Lynnette and Lindsey Daniels have moved as

well, and their new address is 74 Deerfield Pines Drive North Branch MI 48461.

We also had a Family night with lots of donations for an auction. It's always a good time!

Would also like to thank all of the priesthood who give of their time to come and share the word of God with us! You inspire us with your devotion to God's calling!

Praying for you all!! Love and prayers from your family at Otter Lake Restoration!!

## **Dec.25<sup>th</sup>, 2017** **Merry Christmas**



## **Port Huron-Sarnia Branch**



**By: Sharon Smerer**

**Happy Fall, Saints:**

Our Fall colors are not as showy this year. Maybe it is because it has been a warmer summer and our cold snap came a little later. Not sure, but what colors we do have are very pretty. It

shows us that God is still in control of the earth's beauty.

Before Reunion, High Priest Paul Gage informed us about two of our Patriarchs, Mike Ballantyne and Vernon Darling. They would not be attending our Reunion because of ill health. Paul Gage gave me their addresses, which are as follows:

**Mike Ballantyne**  
**10203 S. Outer Belt Road**  
**Oak Grove, MO 64075**

**Vernon Darling**  
**2501 SE Owings St.**  
**Oak Grove, MO 64075**

They could use prayers or a card from the Saints. We pray for a speedy recovery.

Elder David and Barbara Teeple are living in Buckeye, Arizona. They took part in the 2017 Navajo reunion and would like to share the following article which appeared in the July-September issue of Tidings of Zion. The Navajo reunion was held July 12-16. They were joined in Pinon, Az. by Mark Clement, Tom Carlson, Jim Jones, Pete Hughes, Jim and Alicia Negaard, and Eugene and Mary Jane Story, all from Missouri, and Awilda Thomas and David and Barbara from Arizona. We enjoyed a wonderful Spirit. The Saints were very responsive, and each day the numbers increased. We began each day with a prayer service, and there were many wonderful prayers and testimonies offered. The service was followed by a study class focusing on our theme, "Drink the Living Water." Campfires each evening were fun, and we all enjoyed the songs, and the testimonies. Wonderful things happened, and we rejoice that God provided blessings even beyond our expectations. Special

thanks to Mae Ayze for her help getting things together. Each day the children made crafts and played games that helped them to understand their part in "Drinking the Living Water." They enjoyed their time together. There were several administrations on Sunday, along with the blessing of two children. Some of us will be returning in a couple of months to meet with the Saints again. There is a couple that want to get married and be baptized. Please keep the Navajo Saints in your prayers.

Elise DeBell was confirmed on August 27, at our church by Elders David Teeple and John DeBell(Grandpa). Parents of Elise, are Jim and Marnie DeBell and grand-parents are John and Connie DeBell.

We want to remember our Saints in Ontario, Canada who have had a real struggle in getting over to share with us their ministry. So, I want to express to Helen Allison, a Happy Birthday on Aug 4th, she is 80 years young. Also, her husband, Bill Allison, had a Happy Birthday on Aug. 28th, he is 83 years young. Together on Aug. 31st they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. A very special year for them and we wish them both many more years together. We love and miss you all very much.

Don, Sandy and Brian Dailey, too, has had a difficult time getting over to have ministry with us, because of their health. Don had fallen and it affected his back and legs. When he was feeling better, Sandy took a really bad fall, and she received a nice shiner and a cut on her forehead. She will be going to the Lung Specialist next week. We hope and pray that all goes well. Brian was to have his eye exam last Tuesday. So, our prayers go out

to all our Canadian Saints. We miss and love them very much.

Donna Hamilton is doing much better. She fell at her home and broke her hip. We're glad she is doing so well. We are also keeping her in our prayers.

Gillian Bolt was in a play, Aug. 11-13, Port Huron Civic Theater presented the, "Wizard of Oz" at the McMorrin Theater. Gillian is the daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughter of Jack and Barbara Tynan.

In September, Elder Ron Giles had some surgery and he is doing much better. He is back at church and we are blessed to have him. We pray for Ron and his wife, Millie and for their health to be better each and every day. Also, in September, Elder Jack Tynan had surgery on one hip and on November 7<sup>th</sup> had surgery on the other hip. He is recovering nicely and will be starting rehab soon. We pray for continued healing for Jack and for Barbara's health, also.

Terry Fagan had hip surgery and all went well and he is now looking forward to the other surgery in December. Great News, Terry. Praying for good news as well in December.

Priest Bernard Pearl, who attends our Branch occasionally had been in the Romeo Nursing Home for a fall he had taken. We are glad to see Bernard back again. We enjoy the input that he contributes to the adult Sunday School class.

I want to say "Congratulations" to Emma DesJardins, daughter of Randy and Debbie DesJardins from Brown City, Mi. and the Sanilac Restoration Branch. Emma was the winner of the

girls 20" bicycle and helmet, which had a drawing that the Sanilac County Drug Task Force announced the winners of the D.A.R.E. program which had a display at the Sanilac County 4H Fair. We are proud of our youth when they enter contests and participate. Way to go Emma!!

Because of the Houston, Texas area Saints being in the Hurricane this September, some have asked how they weathered the storm. High Priest Paul Gage emailed me to let us know that Brother Paul Frinsthal has been in phone contact with the pastor, who is Elder Bill Fehmer of the Houston Restoration Branch. He said all the Houston Saints were okay and had not been flooded, due to living in higher or further away areas. Brother Bill Fehmer indicated that the Houston Restoration Saints were helping others as much as possible. Continue to pray for all the people in the areas affected by the hurricanes, Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, as well as those in the areas affected by the many fires in the western part of the USA.

Charlene Burgett has been in charge of Nar-Anon held at our Branch every Monday night at 7:00 pm. A program called "The Addict's Mom, Light of Hope," was held on Sept. 9, from 3pm-8pm at the Pavillion in Pine Grove Park. Hoping they had a good turnout.

Alexis Parmenter graduated this June, Class of 2017 and our Branch was invited to the graduation party on Sept. 10, that was held at her grandparents' home, Brian and Cathy Daggett at Riley, Mi. Those who went had a nice time, good food and great fellowship. She is the daughter of Jessica Parmenter. We pray for Alexis while she continues her education at SC4.

September 17 was a day of celebration for David Matthew Shamblin III. He was baptized by his uncle, Elder John DeBell and confirmed by Elders David Teeple and John DeBell at our church. We started out with Betty Milett playing a prelude on her horn, then we had quite a few scriptures read by various Saints that pertained to the baptism and confirmation. Then in between we had different Saints singing hymns. Matthew, son of Nichole Shamblin and grandson of Chase(Skip) and Michelle(Shelly) Miller. We had a potluck after the service which is one of Matt's favorites. Also, it was to honor David and Barbara Teeple as they were to return to Arizona.

We would like to express our sincere sympathies to the family of Joy Muir, from Independence, Missouri and also, to the family of Joann Hauff, from Marysville, Mi. along with the Decker families. We would like to express our sincere sympathies to the family of Nan Perley from Port Huron, Mi. Our prayers go out to all the families, we pray that they will all be comforted and have God's peace in the days to come.

September 21, 2017, our church hosted the Blue Water League for the Blind for their Summer picnic. Priest Bob Harris gave the blessing over the food and they grilled hot dogs and kielbasa and everyone brought a dish to pass. Good food and fellowship was had by all. They are a friendly group of people. We were glad we could meet their needs.

September 23, 2017, was the Book of Mormon Day. The theme was "Archaeological Evidences for the Book of Mormon. It was also Elder Barent and Barbara Eliason's 25th Anniversary of bringing the

awareness of the Book of Mormon, that Jesus Christ is in the Book of Mormon and He was in the lands with the people of the Book of Mormon. We had Neil Steede, Archaeologist and David B. Brown from Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Independence, Mo. as guests. They spoke and showed slides on the Ammonites moving to Jerushon and the Legacy of King Lamoni's Older Half-Brother. After lunch, Elder Jay Havener presented to Barent and Barbara a plaque with thanks for their bringing 25 years of knowledge and awareness of the different steles, tombs and hieroglyphic paintings of the Kings and peoples of the Book of Mormon. A bouquet of flowers was given to Barbara. Barent and Barbara spoke of enjoying their many trips to different places in Mexico and their appreciation for the willingness of the Saints to travel in some areas not so good. Afternoon classes were on the recent finds at Dos Pilas, Aquateca and Naranjo, also, the Great Sign in Heaven. Many new things to think about everytime that we have come together. Our Branch wants to thank Barent and Barbara for all they have done to bring awareness of the lands and peoples of the Book of Mormon. We appreciate you more than you know. Our Thanks!

We would also like to wish a speedy recovery to Larry and Debbie Scheffler and to Marge Holmes. We are very thankful that Bob Harris and Roy McAllister's cancers are in remission. Our prayers go out to all and hope God blesses you with the desires of your heart and for your health needs. We want you all to know that GOD LOVES YOU!

Andrew Kercher, chief assistant curator at the Dearborn Historical Museum has brought awareness of Sgt. Thomas Henry Sheppard of

Marlette, Mi. a Civil War veteran. Andrew and a lady from the Marlette Historical Society and Rep. Shane Hernandez from Port Huron, Mi. is seeking to posthumously honor A Civil War hero with a medal who carried the Union Flag at the Battle of Gettysburg and captivity. Sgt. Sheppard was captured during the action and spent 505 days in a Confederate prison of war camps. He was able to keep the Flag concealed from guards during his captivity, at times wrapping it around his body beneath his clothing. The Flag returned home with Sgt. Sheppard in 1866, according to the news release, riddled with 72 bullet holes. It is on display at the Dearborn Historical Museum. In 1884, former Union Gen. Black Jack Logan was seeking the vice presidency. At a campaign whistle-stop in Marlette, Mi. Logan related his favorite story about a Union soldier who had wrapped a battle flag around his body to keep it safe from his Confederate captors. Sheppard identified himself as the soldier and said, "He had only two things of value, his farm and the Flag and he would sell the farm before giving up the Flag." A true Patriot. The Flag was made by the women of Marlette, Mi. "It's one of the gems of our collection at the museum," Andrew Kercher said.

Andrew and the lady from Marlette's Historical Society and Rep. Shane Hernandez went before the Senate Committee of the Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security in Lansing, Mi. this past month. Rep. Shane Hernandez let Andrew know that a concurrent house resolution has passed the Michigan legislature asking U.S. Congress to move on pushing for Sgt. Sheppard to receive the Medal of Honor, which can only be awarded by Congress. We are currently in talks with our U. S. Senators, as well as

Dearborn's U. S. Rep. Debbie Dingle, to see what we can do. Andrew will be going to Washington D. C. in a couple of weeks to meet with them. Andrew is son of Christina Kercher and grandson of John and Connie DeBell. Good Luck to Andrew Kercher and we hope you are successful!!

Within the Britz family, Jack Britz, received a Varsity Tennis letter. He was the only freshman to receive one. He attends Port Huron Northern High School. Way to go Jack!! Cameron Britz, will be graduating from Western Michigan University in the spring with a degree in Marketing. Our prayers go out to our young adults in getting a better education. Nice job Cam!!

Ariana Britz has been accepted into the Business program at Grand Valley. Go Ari!!

These sons and daughter are Jason and Carrie Britz' children. They also have two more girls, Alexandria and Adalia and a grandson, Adam. Jason Britz is finishing his Bachelor's degree through online courses and starts it out with straight ("A's). Looks like Jay is one smart person! They are also grandchildren and son-in law of Jack and Barbara Tynan.

The Great Lakes Restoration Branches, Fall Women's Retreat was held at Wesleyan Woods Campground, Vassar, Mi. on Oct. 6-8. The theme, was "Joy to the World." Certain ladies were asked to tell what their favorite hymn was and why. I was asked and I chose, "There's an

Old, Old Path," by Vida E. Smith, Yates. We all may have an old path that we like to walk down. But once in a while, we have trials in our life paths. We need to put our faith and trust in God and His Son, Jesus. Because THEY will never leave us. This was also the last time my brother, Ben and I sang this song at Crosswell R.L.D.S. Church. Years after my brother Ben went into the U.S. Army and he got married and had two sons and then died of a massive heart attack. Many Saints have had this hymn played at their funeral. When other people have heard and sang this hymn they say, what a beautiful hymn. I would like to thank our guest ministers, Elders Fred Brown Sr. and Fred Brown Jr. for their knowledge, thoughts, and special ministry. We truly want to thank Kathi Havener and Val Bradley for taking the time to get the women together and in letting God speak to them, in their selecting the theme, ministry, worship, study, and the fellowship and laughter with our sisters in Christ. Our craft was to decorate a metal cookie cutter. May God continue to bless you both.

We want to express our appreciation to Amy Bolt for her 30-year service as a nurse at McLaren Hospital, Port Huron, Mi. Thank you, Amy, for your kindness and TLC and understanding toward the families. You could be that Angel unaware and a great witness.

Lydia DeBell is in the Freshman Regiment marching band at Marysville High School and loves it. They received a 1 at MSBOA on Oct. 10. So, did Port Huron Northern and Port Huron High School, and Junior Varsity of Marysville High School. Lydia is also a freshman helper for the Viking Regiment and is going to Ford Field with them on Nov. 4.

Owen DeBell is working on rank advancement and various merit badges for Boy Scouts. He went to summer camp at Cole Canoe base. Elise is a Junior Girl Scout and is working on various badges. She also joined the safety patrol at her school. Jim and Marnie DeBell are the proud parents of these three children. Proud grandparents are John and Connie DeBell.

Matthew and William Shamblin just finished their first season playing Flag Football in the SONS League. They both really enjoyed learning the game and their team had a great record with only one loss. Sons of Nichole Shamblin and grandsons of Chase(Skip) and Michelle(Shelly) Miller.

## Sanilac



**By: Kathleen Palmer**

Mary Barbara Morris  
(Kathleen Palmer's mom)

**Born: Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1919**



**Heavenly Homecoming:  
Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**She will be greatly missed, and our prayers go out to Kathleen and family!**

## Regional Activities for the next quarter

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Christmas Rummage & Bake Sale at the Algonac Restoration Branch**

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

# *Ladies Tea Luncheon & Exchange*



**Save The Date**  
***Saturday March 10, 2018***

***Arrival 11:00am, Lunch at 12:00pm***

***Port Huron/Sarnia Branch  
1404 Garfield St.  
Port Huron, Michigan 48060***



***The Giving Tree***

**"The price of anything is the amount of Life you exchange for it".  
Proverbs 17:8**

***Further Information To Follow***

***If you have any questions, contact Sherry Purcell (810) 982-2193***