

# The Anchor



## The Great Lakes Restoration Branches Magazine/Newsletter

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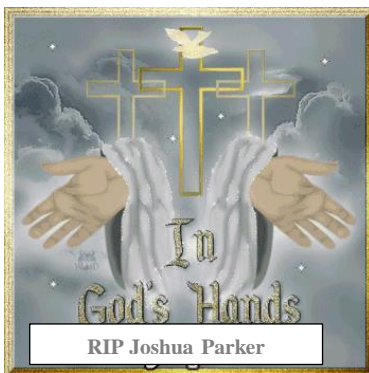
### News From Around the Region

Algonac-Atlanta-Dowagiac-Eckerman-Garden City-Lake Mission-Lima-Oakwood  
Otter Lake-Port Huron-Sanilac-St. Johns



**“By faith all things are fulfilled: Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God which hope cometh of faith maketh an Anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.” Ether 5:3b-4**

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**“But my word shall not fail, neither will my promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure.” D & C 140:5d** What a wonderful season to enjoy the rebirth and renewal of the earth and of our hearts as well, as we celebrate the risen savior. We are so thankful for the promise of eternal life through Him!

Dear Saints,

On behalf of The Holmes/Parker Family, we would like to extend our gratitude for the outpouring of thought's, prayers, card's and support for us at the loss of our son Joshua! Words cannot express the loss that is in our hearts, but it is very comforting to know that there are so many out here praying for us at this time! And with our strong faith in God and the love and support from ALL our brother and sisters, we will persevere!

R.I.P Joshua Orville Parker 1984-2014 You will be missed but NOT forgotten!!

Sincerely,

Tim & Wendy Holmes

### Algonac Branch

By: Val Bradley

On April 20, under the direction of Kelli Williams, a children's program entitled "Easter Blessings" was presented to the congregation. All the children were called up to the front of the sanctuary and Kelli read the story, "The Legend of the Easter Egg." Then the children handed out empty plastic Easter eggs with a blank slip of paper inside. We were instructed to write a message that we wished for someone in the congregation to receive. (Such as: patience, health, hope, faith, peace, forgiveness, healing, love, wisdom, etc.) The children collected the eggs and then randomly passed them out again. We each received a new egg with a message in it. We were reminded that this was a message someone in the congregation wanted us to receive and that they would be praying we would receive that blessing. Kelli then read from Ephesians 6:10-24 and the children sang two songs ... "Do you Know the Son of God?" and "Don't You Know That Jesus Died?" We then all sang together the hymn, "Beautiful Zion." During the program, Kelli also shared with us a blessing/testimony she received when she was preparing for this program. She was filled with the spirit and the following words and scripture are what came to her: "I did not die for you to doubt. I did not suffer for you to lose hope. I did not rise again for you to lose joy. Have faith

as a mustard seed; believe in me through your trials and pain and suffering. I know many of you long for a healing, for an answer to your trials ... to know why. That cannot always be known, but what is known is I am with you always. I will never leave you. I understand your hurt, your pain, your sorrow, your longings. Please have faith in my death and resurrection ... have faith in my coming again. Have faith in me and all will be well. I love you, Jesus." What wonderful words of hope and encouragement for us to remember at this beautiful season of hope and renewal! The good spirit continued into the next service and began with Ray Moses singing, "He Could Have Called 10,000 Angels." It was very inspirational and we really enjoyed his music ministry. Elder Gary Holmes brought the message of the hour. He shared the story of the risen savior from the book of Luke. He stated that you will never see photos or images in our churches of Christ on the cross because we don't worship the dying Christ, we worship the risen Savior! He reminded us that in order to be effective witnesses, we must have our own personal testimonies that Jesus lives ... and He calls each of us to witness for Him!

On Saturday, April 26, the Algonac ladies hosted a Spring Women's Retreat in our branch. Thirteen of our women participated in the day's events. Connie Burns and Amy Nagy used their creative

talents by setting up and decorating the tables and the church. Our theme focused on God's Promises and the tables were decorated in bright rainbow colors with pretty spring flowers as center pieces. They also had various Noah's Ark décor displayed throughout the church. Great job, ladies! We enjoyed the morning devotions brought by Barb Eliason and Debbie DesJardins with the assistance of Connie DeBell and Sherry Purcell. We then had a song fest led by Liz Moses. She taught us a new "old" song, "Standing on the Promises" which we enjoyed singing, along with all the traditional hymns. The first class was taught by Connie DeBell and she did a marvelous job! She took us on a journey of God's promises in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Some of what she touched on were God's promises to Adam, Noah, Lehi, Moroni and Joseph Smith. She handed out bookmarks she made with a poem about God's promises printed on it. She also handed out small cards with a Scripture printed on each one to remind us of some of the blessings God has promised us and has in store for us. Thanks for all the time, effort and preparation you put into your class, Connie! The afternoon classes were taught by Kathi Havener and Val Bradley. They got all the ladies involved and had discussions on promises, covenants, and commandments ... the definitions and how they might differ from each other. They were asked to look up and share scriptures on each one. Kathi led us in a rousing song of "Rise and Shine (Noah's Arky Arky)" and handed out darling Noah's Ark pins. They were also asked to look up a promise from the scriptures that was close to their hearts ... something that they drew strength from or that was comforting to them and share it with the group. Val handed out bookmarks with Bible promise scriptures on it. They were then asked if they had ever made any promises to God. They were given index cards and were asked to write out at least one promise or

covenant that they would like to make to Him ... and then try to do everything in their power to keep it. As always, the retreat ended with a dedication service. Priest Eric Eliason was in charge of the service and we really appreciated his special ministry, the good spirit he brought and the testimonies the women shared. A big thank you to the Algonac ladies for providing the great morning snacks, delicious luncheon and yummy afternoon treats! They worked hard in the kitchen with the food prep, serving and cleanup. It was an honor and privilege to host this retreat and we know the Lord was with us. May we all continue to stand on His promises, resting in the assurance that they cannot fail.

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, our Algonac saints met at the Pt. Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch for the baptismal service of Miles, son of Randy and Lisa Marcangelo. (We thank Pt. Huron for the use of their beautiful sanctuary.) The service was presided over by Elder Gary Holmes and Todd Moses was our keyboardist. Priest Eric Eliason brought the Charge to the Candidate. He read scriptures from the Bible and Book of Mormon. He explained how Christ set the example for us by being baptized by John the Baptist. He stated that repentance and baptism are just the beginning for Miles in his walk with Christ and that he knew that the angels in heaven were rejoicing for the decision he had made that day. Miles was baptized by Elder Todd Yaney, who also taught his pre-baptismal class. Scott Bolt shared his musical talents by singing a beautiful spirit-filled song that he wrote. Then Elder Hod Powers brought the Charge to the Congregation. He spoke about Miles having reached the age of accountability and now will have to answer for his sins, so is in need of repentance, like the rest of our members. He said that the parents will also be accountable if Miles is not taught about Christ in their home. He stated that Miles

is our child now as well (in the family of God). The experiences he has in church can either make or break him and it is our responsibility to continue to nurture and teach him. Our prayers are for Miles and his family and we support him in his new walk in Christ. The following Sunday Miles was confirmed at our 11:00 service by Elder Hod Powers, assisted by Elder Todd Moses. We are so happy for you, Miles ... welcome to our Algonac church family!

in church again ... yay! Jim and Val are grateful for all the cards, calls, and especially the prayers on his behalf during his time of recovery.

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

### News and Notes

- Congratulations to Kelli Williams, who was named "Super Star of the Month" at work recently. She was recognized for all her hard work, dedication, caring and compassion. We know she is passionate about what she does and is well-deserving of this honor. We were not surprised ... she's always been a "super star" to us!
- Congratulations to Marge and Gary Holmes on the birth of their great granddaughter, Charlotte Quinn Taylor, daughter of Nichole and Larry (& sister Trinity). She was born on March 9, and weighed in at 7 lbs., 2 oz., 19 ½" long. How exciting ... we are happy for the whole family!
- Todd, Liz, and Bethany Moses took an exciting trip to Hawaii in April. Under Todd's direction, his Dakota High School choir was invited to perform at Pearl Harbor. What an honor! While there, they were able to do some sightseeing, which included seeing the U.S.S. Arizona memorial and touring the battleship U.S.S. Missouri.
- We are so happy to have our sister, Elaine Harm back with us once again! She was in Florida for the winter. She sure was missed!
- After a month of being laid up due to a fall, Jim Bradley is finally back

### Atlanta Branch By: Jessica S. Joles Slater

It is my sad responsibility to report that we have lost a beloved member of our branch. Cliff Goodfellow passed away on March 10<sup>th</sup>, following complications from cancer. Following is his obituary:

Clifford James Goodfellow  
Feb. 24, 1943 - Mar. 10, 2014

Clifford J. Goodfellow, age 71, of Black Lake, died at Tendercare Health Center in Rogers City on Monday March 10, 2014. The son of Wilber J. and Delores (Berlin) Goodfellow, Clifford was born on February 24, 1943 in Detroit. On September 10, 1966 he married Dixie Lee Davis in Troy, Michigan.

After 30 years of employment, Cliff retired from General Motors where he had worked on the assembly line

and in the tool crib. In 1996 shortly after retirement, Cliff and Dixie moved from Utica to Black Lake. Cliff loved Northern Michigan and Black Lake where he had spent a lot of time as a teenager. He enjoyed nature and God's awesome woodland creatures. Cliff also enjoyed boating, woodworking, and fixing automobiles. He had a heart of gold and with his giving spirit would help anyone in need. He was known for keeping his neighbors, friends, and even strangers "plowed- out" during the winter months. Cliff was never one to sit still and always had somewhere to go or something to do. He was a member of the Restoration Branch of the RLDS Church in Atlanta.

Cliff is survived by his wife of more than 47 years, Dixie Goodfellow of Black Lake; his adopted daughter, Sirena Gibson (Paul Alband) and grandson, Jesse Alband, of Sterling Heights. Preceding Cliff in death were his parents.

Cremation arrangements were in care of the Chagnon

Funeral Home. Donations to honor the memory of Clifford J. Goodfellow should be made to Hospice of the Sunrise Shore or the Restoration Branch of the RLDS Church (Atlanta).

It is also my sad duty to report that our dear Ila's sister, Christianiane (who has been on our prayer list) has also been called back home.

Our branch has also received some exciting news. We would like to welcome new members Kamara and Braylyn Cottrell. Kamara and Braylyn were baptized and confirmed on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The girls are the granddaughters of members Gary and Virginia Joles. Additionally, Jessica Joles Slater is expecting again and is due the first week of October.

As the snow melts, we look forward to seeing our members return from their southern adventures and we look forward to having visitors join us for services.

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:

Dillon Chapman - Cancer  
Dixie Goodfellow – Health problems and bereavement  
Vera Hoffman - Ulcer  
Dolores Howard – Joint pain  
Brian Howard – Direction  
Mark Howard - Shoulder  
Matt Howard – Back pain  
Gary Joles – Cancer  
Rachel Peel - MS  
Larry Peters - unspecified  
Mabel Peters - unspecified  
Willy Ross – Alzheimer's

Thank You and God Bless



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

How lovely it is to see the green grass and the tulips! Hope all of you are enjoying the spring after a long, cold winter.

In March, some members of the branch got together to fill 100 "Go To" bags. These bags are for members of the congregation to keep in their vehicles to give to the homeless. The "Go To" bags include items such as water bottles, snacks, a comb, soap, a toothbrush etc. Many of these bags have already been distributed. There is a garage sale planned for the future to raise money for other outreach projects.

On Easter Sunday, the children along with some adults presented a program at the 10:00 hour. The program included scripture readings by the adults and a drama/poem presented by the children. There was also a game "I have. Who has?" which tested the adults' and children's knowledge of the Easter story.

Friday, April 25th to Sunday, April 27th, a Children's Retreat was held at Garden City. The children learned about being wise stewards. They were given a goal to "change one thing in their life" when they return home. The children are now looking forward to their week-long camp at Erie Beach, July 20th – 26th.

Five women from the Garden City Branch attended the Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 26th.

Reported by Judy Monarch – The theme for the Spring Women's Retreat was "The Promise Keeper" which was hosted by Val Bradley and Kathi Havener at the Algonac Restoration Branch. Our first class which was taught by Connie DeBell (Port Huron/Sarnia) was about the Bible and Book of Mormon Promises. Sister Connie did a wonderful job. Our second class was taught by Kathi Havener (Oakwood), God's Promises-

The Latter Days and our third class taught by Val Bradley (Algonac), Standing on His Promises. We all agreed the ladies did a wonderful job and we were truly blessed with great classes, fellowship, and food.

Approximately 15 of the saints have been gathering at the church for a Book of Mormon class on Friday nights. All are welcome to attend. If you would like more information, please contact Elder Carl McKiddie.

Saturday, May 10th, the congregation gathered to do a spring clean-up at the church. Lunch was provided. Thanks to all those who helped!

Many thanks to the guest ministers who have preached at Garden City the past few months: Elder Mick Ruch and Elder Jay Havener. We enjoyed fellowshiping with these men and their wives during delicious potluck meals.

**Oakwood** By: Kathleen Modders  
It was a long, hard, cold, snowy winter and, Spring is finally in the air!

On Saturday, April 26th, ten women drove to Algonac from Oakwood to the regional women's retreat. Bonnie Murphy, Kathi Havener, Julie Fox, Helen Brown, Glenda Smith, Deana Smith, Kathleen Modders, Dawn Modders, and Tracy Stokes. Kathi taught a class on "A promise, a covenant, and a commandment-- What's the difference? We all had a great time. As always Val and Kathi put on a great retreat.

On Saturday May 3rd, Dawn, Bob, Bonnie, Julie, Kathi, Kim, and Helen Smith represented Oakwood in this year's "Walking Witnesses" for the Make A Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to terminally ill children. We raised more than \$2000.

On Easter Sunday, after the service the children had an egg hunt with a special

bunny friend. Andy had a family photo shoot for all who wanted their picture taken.

Coming up we are having our Squire Park service with a softball game afterwards. Always fun to play, and/or cheer for the players.

We are having a rummage sale, fundraiser, on June 19th-21st from 9 a.m. to 4pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All proceeds will be going for the Annual Older Youths' Cedar Point trip. We might even be making it an overnight trip if we can earn enough money, so come to Oakwood and BUY, BUY BUY!!!

Each month on Sunday mornings our women's group meet and have been studying "Tell My People" by Walter Weldon.

For Mother's Day, Mike Modders headed up a group of guys to cook the women a steak and chicken lunch. They had the whole dining hall decorated with flowers; it was a great lunch for all.

On Sunday, June 15th the women will be cooking a Father's Day Breakfast for the Men, it gets bigger every year! I can already smell the waffles and sausage biscuits and gravy.

Our Senior High Camp this year will be in Alpena; its a little further, but the grounds are beautiful and we know the kids will love it.

Kathi and Jay Havener will be directing the camp again and we all are very excited to spend the week in Zion!

Reunion is right around the corner. We are counting the days till July 28th - August 3rd where we can rekindle old friendships and become one in a week long journey living in Zion.

Upcoming Birthday's for Oakwood are...

05/06 Jay Havener, 05/08 Harold Edwards, 05/12 Mary Richards, 05/13 Noame Holcomb, 05/15 John Stokes, 05/22 Mike Danicki, 06/02 Kerry Horton, 06/06 Bob Modders, 06/11 Matt Mervyn, 06/12 Bonnie Murphy, 06/14 Dale Day, 06/17 Kathleen Modders, 06/24 Shirly MacDonald, 06/25 Chad Embree, 06/27 Cruz Nagy, 07/03 Mike Modders, 07/04 Jay Thrift, 07/06 Brad Millen, 07/08 Joshua Johnson, 07/14 Pat Edwards, 07/20 Kathi Havener, 07/20 Mallory Johnson, 07/25 Doris Hill, 08/01 Ken Burrows, 08/02 Jan Burrows, 08/02 Julie Fox, 08/05 Candy MacDonald, 08/09 Bernard Pearl, 08/11 Wendy Nagy, 08/17 Tracy Stokes, 08/18 Hannah MacDonald, 08/26 Sandy Kline, 08/28 Melanie Brown, 08/28 Mark Wilson, 08/30 Jordan Moore, 08/31 Gladys Kirylo

### Otter Lake By: Susie Daggett

The family of Penny Deland celebrated her milestone birthday with a surprise party at Forest Township Hall. They pulled off the surprise which is always a great feat. There was great food, music and fellowship which we enjoyed.

Bill Sutton was in the hospital after a mild heart attack. He received stents and is feeling much better. Please keep him in your prayers as he has other health concerns.

Nate Daniels and Juli Ann Combs are joining in wedded bliss on May 17th. We wish them a lifetime of joy.

Thank you to all the visiting priesthood. We couldn't do it without you.

### Port Huron By: Sharon Smerer

Greetings Saints! Spring has finally arrived.

Nathan LaFrance's Basketball team came in second place. Way to go Nathan!

Lydia DeBell and Betty Milette both sold Girl Scout Cookies this year. Yum!!

Our pastor and wife, David and Barbara Teeple went to Missouri and Arizona for a little "R and R" for the remainder of the winter. From what I understand they had a very enjoyable time in the warmer climate.

Our Branch is enrolled into Kroger, Meijers and Bob Evans to get Community Rewards Programs. These stores and restaurant will donate to our Branch a certain percentage of every months of the total bill.

Held at Rochester High School on February 01, 2014, was the MSBOA District XVI Solo and Ensemble Festival, we had Olivia Bolt from our Branch; she did a piano selection and she received a 1st. Division. Way to go Olivia!! Olivia Bolt is daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughter of John and Barbara Tynan . We as a Church Family are very proud of our Youth.

Update: On behalf of Bob Harris, he is in remission at this time, and we are so thankful but we still would like prayers for him and his wife, Kittie.

The Children's Winter Retreat was held at Garden City Restoration Branch, February 7 - 9, 2014. All the youth that attended had a fun and learning experience.

Also, the Teens Winter Retreat was held at Oakwood Restoration on February 21 - 23, 2014. They were to go sledding and skating and make use of the snow and cold weather.

In March, Jason Britz of Port Huron was named to the 2013 dean's list at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill. He is studying to be a leader. Our Church, is very proud of your achievement.

Our Church was saddened by the deaths of two of our ladies in March: Leah F. Burggett, Ernst, Grace and Anna Marguerite (Breckon) Brookins, Coop, Har-

per. We are still asking for prayers for their families. Leah came to church with her daughters, Charlene and Jo-Anne Burggett; and Marguerite was one of our (102 yrs. young)members who was a faithful Saint and could play the piano and sing our Hymns all by heart. She played for her Great-Grandson, Mitchell McCleary's wedding.

Gillian Bolt had painted a picture which was displayed at Studio 1219, 1219 Military St., Port Huron, Mi., until April 29, 2014. Studio 1219 hosted the art contest for the Congressional Art Exhibit for 2014, which Representative Candice Miller posed with Gillian Bolt for a nice photo.

Categories for entries include painting, drawing, collage, print, mixed medium, computer generated and photography. Yea, Gillian!!

April 19, 2014, our Branch had a night of Learning, Games, Music and History, and Food.

We first had Jennifer Milette tell us about Herbs and Oils. She has a friend that told her about a book, "The Complete Book of Essential Oils and Aromatherapy" by Valerie Ann Worwood. Jennifer told us she has been using the oils, for her family for their rest, illnesses and other things. Jennifer showed us two boxes of oils with different scents. Jennifer says, she uses them externally and beside their beds.

Then Priest John DeBell gave the blessing on the food. We had pizza and crazy bread with sauce, chips and pop. For dessert we had a chocolate peanut butter Easter egg.

We played games from the 1800's, such as Ball and Jacks, Pickup Stixs, Tiddly-Winks, Marbles, Checkers, Snakes and Ladders, Chess and Backgammon. Then Andrew Kercher was dressed in clothing from the 1800's. A Hat, Breeches, Coat and a Shirt that also serves as underwear, and a Vest, and Long Stockings and Shoes. Andrew played a couple of tunes



on his fiddle and flute. Andrew during the Summer works at the Fort Mackinaw and does reenactments of the 1800's. He tells the story of the Fort and lights the Cannon. This concluded our evening of fun and fellowship. All 33, had a great time. We could have had more fiddle music from Andrew, maybe next time.

April 20, 2014, our Branch had several hymn selections for our Easter Service that also went along with Elder David Teeple's slide show of the Crucified and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Those who took part were Sue Fagan, Eldon Preston, Jack Tynan, Carrie Britz, Scott, Gillian and Olivia Bolt and we had our Bell Ringers, which consisted of our Youth. It was a very nice program. Everyone enjoyed the music and the slide show.

The girls from our church that participated in the May 4 Starlites Competitive Dance Team are: Ava, captain, Abby, Allison and Brianna Slossar. Junior team members were captain, Adrienne Slossar and Ashley Blais. The girls are the daughters of Heidi and Kirk Slossar and Holly and Nick Blais and the grandparents, are Larry and Debbie Sheffler. The Starlites who train at the Huron Physical Arts Center in downtown Port Huron are also sending teams to the U. S. Finals National Dance Championships in Virginia Beach, Va. The Starlites tiny, mini, youth and junior teams all qualified for that competition, and will be among 1,700 teams at the event. We hope you arrive safely and perform great and return back home safely. GO GIRLS!!

As told to me by: Sherry Purcell about the Spring Women's Retreat held Saturday, April 26 at Algonac Restoration Branch. Those who attended from our Branch were Barbara Teeple, Sherry Purcell and Connie DeBell. The theme "The

Promise Keeper" led to interesting discussions and thought provoking group interactions. Connie and Sherry helped the Sanilac women with their Opening Worship Service by each reading poems. Liz Moses engaged the ladies in Songs of Praise. Connie DeBell presented the first class, Bible and Book of Mormon, Promises. Her class proved to be very interesting with many examples of God's promises to man given in the Scriptures.

A delicious salad, soup luncheon followed with lots of laughter and good conversations.

Kathi Havener and Valerie Bradley also provided afternoon classes relative to the theme that was very informative. A yummy dessert bar divided the above classes.

The retreat drew to a close with a very moving dedication, prayer and testimony service that Priest Eric Eliason presided over. For the sisters of the District it is always so good to greet each other once again for love and fellowship. And again to get our spiritual cups refilled, and to feel closer in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Our thanks to Kathi Havener and Valerie Bradley for all their hard work in putting together a fine program for the ladies.

We had an Ordinance on April 27, 2014 of a Child's Blessing of Cruz Trinity McCleary, parents of Mitchell and Heather McCleary and sister Cali Rain McCleary. Cruz was blessed by Elders David Teeple and Ron Giles. Elder David Teeple ask some of the Congregation for Prayers for Cruz and his Parents. The Grandparent of Cruz is Tracy Hamilton and Great - Grandparent is Donna Hamilton. Ministry of Music was sung by Scott Bolt.

A child is a Blessing, A gift from Heaven above, A precious little Angel, to Cherish and to Love.

The Spring Children's Retreat was held at Garden City Restoration Branch April 25 -

27, 2014. Their theme was on, "Stewardship." The class topics were: Time, Money, Earth, Talents and Our Body. A great theme and classes for the Campers to learn for now and the future. A total of 17 campers and six CIT's attended,. Tom and Janine Essenmacher were the cooks, great food and fun, by all who attended,. Celeste Parmenter and her Grandfather, Elder Brian Daggett were from our Branch who attended.

In the afternoon, April 27, 2014, our Branch hosted the Baptism service for the Algonac Restoration Branch.

**Sanilac** By: Janine Essenmacher for Kathleen Palmer

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11

Our little branch has had trials as well as blessings since the last newsletter. On February 11<sup>th</sup> our pastor, Elder Barent Eliason, had a major stroke & was hospitalized at St. Mary's in Saginaw. He initially had difficulty speaking with decreased sensation & weakness on one side of his body. Barent has been blessed & continues to progress in his healing through the God given talents of the people we call doctors as well as the administration of the Elders & the prayers of His people. The Eliason family asked that their appreciation be extended to the saints for the visits, calls & prayers on their behalf. With the Lord's blessing Barent continues to minister in his part of the vineyard.

In February & into March we had to cancel some services due to the cold temps, snow & wind. It was a long winter for most of us but Bill & Kathleen Palmer

were able to get some relief in Florida & Janine, Tom & Julie Essenmacher in Arizona.

April was a busy month for our little branch. Barent was feeling well enough to lead the Maundy Thursday service. Each person was able to read a passage from the Book of Mormon. This year Emma DesJardins, kindergarten, was able to read a small part with a little help from Grandma! As is tradition, our branch enjoyed breakfast together at the church prior to Easter services. Barb Eliason & Debbie DesJardins attended the Women's Retreat. They presented the morning worship, the theme was The Promise Keeper. Thank you to all the women who plan this event each year.

Tom & Janine Essenmacher & Rebecca & Joshua Bradley attended the younger youth retreat in Garden City. The weekend focused on the types of stewardship. Thank you, brother Mick Ruch for teaching our youth to be good stewards of their time. Brothers Bill Sutton & Bob Harris have been faithful in attending these retreats & were missed due to health issues. We later found out that brother Bill was hospitalized & had a cardiac stent. He says he is feeling better than he has in a long time. Brother Bob felt well enough to preach at our branch & announced he is free of cancer at this time. The Lord continues to bless His faithful priesthood. On April 27<sup>th</sup> Brendan Kurtanski was blessed. When Brendan is in church everyone seems to smile a little more. A meal was served following the service for the Rich & Kurtanski family.

We are a small branch but the Lord has blessed us with many talents. The women of the branch have displayed exceptional worship centers over the quarter. We

have enjoyed trumpet solos by Gary DesJardins. We have heard him go from squeaks & sputters to beautiful melodies over the years. To brag just a little, Gary was recently the only one from Peck High School to be chosen for Tri-County Band & plays second chair for the Sanilac County Band.

We want to thank Kim Gilchrist for coming to play the piano for us. Our branch continues to be blessed with visiting priesthood who come the distance in response to God's call to Feed My Sheep.

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

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

**July 28<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reunion @ Vassar MI**

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

Anyone having articles or historical facts (that would be of interest to everyone), etc. please send them to me for future use. Please keep them to one page or less, as space is very limited and expensive. Thank you.

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