

# The Anchor



**The Great Lakes Restoration Branches**

**Magazine/Newsletter**

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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**

**Elder Ray Moses  
March 2, 1934**



**Heavenly Homecoming  
April 17, 2018**

**Our beloved Elder Ray Moses, a long-time member at Algonac and lifetime warrior for Christ!!!**

## Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

**“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 15:13)**

**On Saturday, March 10, thirteen of our Algonac women attended a Ladies Tea and Luncheon Exchange at the Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch. There was a total of 39 women in attendance, including women from the Algonac, Oakwood, Pt. Huron/Sarnia, and Sanilac restoration branches, along with a few non-members. The event began in the sanctuary where we were greeted and welcomed by Sherry Purcell.**



**Kelli Williams then gave a wonderful Devotions centered on “Giving from Your Whole Heart.” She read several poems, we sang a hymn, and she shared a story of “The Truest of Friends.” It was very heartwarming and inspirational! At the end of the Devotions, we all formed a circle and she presented each one of us with a special hand-crafted card that she made, which came right from her**

**heart to us! Nina Powers closed with a prayer. We were then ushered into the fellowship hall. What a treat for the eyes as we saw the tables beautifully adorned with lovely centerpieces, pretty china, etc. There were special bookmarks at each place setting for the ladies, handcrafted by Connie Burns. There were three tables end to end in the center of the room, filled with tons of food, arranged on lovely vintage china and glass serving dishes. We even got to drink our tea from antique cups and saucers! The menu luncheon consisted of chilled strawberry soup, fresh tossed salad and fruit bowl, redskin potato salad, veggie tray, puffed spinach rollups, assorted pinwheel and tea sandwiches, and more! What a feast! After lunch we were treated to a great program, which was organized by Connie Burns. We took a “Fashion Flair” quiz, which tested our knowledge of what the Victorians wore “back in the day.” One of the ladies actually answered all 17 questions correctly. Then we found out why. She was a costume designer! Connie Burns then did a segment about the hankie ... where it came from, how it was used by women to convey certain messages, etc. She also shared a testimony about a hankie in her family that has been passed down by the women from generation to generation, and each one carried it with them on their wedding day. What a heartwarming story! Val Bradley then led the ladies in an activity called, “What’s in your Purse.” They were asked if they carried specific items in their purse and then a scripture verse was read to correspond to that item. The main idea was that we should worry less about all the physical things we carry around to get us through each day, and more about the spiritual things we should have with us and use**

throughout the day to draw us closer to Christ.

When we first arrived at the church the “gently used” items we brought with us were placed on a “Giving Tree.” At this time in the program, Connie Burns called each of our names and we read a “wisdom quote” (about giving), then we were able to choose an item from the giving tree to take home with us. There were a few twists in this game as most of us then had to trade our chosen item with someone else. In spite of all the trading going on, it seemed the ladies were pleased with the special item they were able to take home with them in the end. After all the fun and games, we were treated to a wide array of delicious desserts, artfully arranged and displayed on more vintage serving pieces. The desserts included almond tarts, scones, cream puffs, mini chocolate eclairs, brownies, mini cupcakes and cheesecakes w/toppings, shortbread cookies and more. The event ended with a closing statement by Sherry Purcell thanking everyone who came, assisted, and participated, followed by a benediction by sister Nina Powers. A big thank you to Sherry Purcell and the Port Huron/Sarnia branch for hosting this wonderful event, and to Connie Burns for all her hard work planning the menu, program, etc. Thanks also to all the ladies from the Port Huron/Sarnia and Algonac branches who contributed food, helped out in the kitchen, or assisted in setting up beforehand, or cleaning up afterwards. It was truly a delightful afternoon spent in worship, fun, and fellowship with our dear sisters in Christ!

A new initiative has been started in our branch. Each month we will be focusing on a different theme. The focus for May will be, “Keeping the Sabbath Holy ... Sanctifying Our Lives.” Each of us received a handout to remind us of ways to keep the

Sabbath holy. (i.e. rest, worship, glorify God, confess our sins, walk uprightly) We were also given Scripture verses to study that back up these commandments and encourage us to draw closer to Him.

We now have a children’s choir at Algonac, led by Cory Eliason. They brought the ministry of music on April 22. They sang, “Father I Adore You, Jesus Loves Me, and Jesus loves the Little Children.” We truly enjoyed their ministry and look forward to hearing them again!

Algonac Children’s Choir



Last month we said goodbye to a very good friend, brother in Christ, and long-standing member of our Algonac Restoration Branch of Jesus Christ’s Church. Elder Ray Moses passed away on April 17. Visitation was held on Monday, April 23, at the Kaatz funeral home in Richmond. While there we were able to view a wonderful slide show collage of Ray (put together by his son, Todd), with various family members and friends over the years. A memorial service was held the following day. The Eulogy was brought by grandson Alex Moses, and a Message of Hope was given by Elder Eric Eliason. Special ministry of music was brought by granddaughter, Bethany Moses, who sang his favorite hymn, “In the Garden” and another selection by a family friend, Jake Hill. Prayers were offered by Elder Hod Powers and Elder Gary Holmes. Immediately following was a committal service at the Memphis

Cemetery. Our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes brought a short message and Elder Eric Eliason offered the closing prayer. Family and friends then met at the Community of Christ church in Richmond for a wonderful meal and fellowship, where we had a chance to offer further condolences to the family and recall many fond memories of our dear brother Ray. Our hearts and continued prayers go out to our sister Nadine and family. We are happy that Ray is at peace and his suffering is over, but we feel a great loss and will all miss him so much.

(As reported by Elaine King)

Eighteen ladies (including children & friends) attended the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet at the Sanilac Restoration Branch on Saturday, May 5.



Two of our dear sisters, Nina Powers and Val Bradley were ill and not able to attend this year and we missed them both. We held them up in prayer, along with all others who could not attend due to health or other reasons. We were pleased that Val's sister and niece were able to join us, along with Marge Holmes, her daughter Laura, and granddaughters, and also a good friend of Kelli's. Overall, there was quite a large turnout of beautiful ladies with their daughters, and those without daughters came with other family members or friends. Most of the ladies wore unique aprons, in keeping with this year's theme, "Memories of Grandma's Pantry." The church was full of talk and laughter as we arrived. The Sanilac ladies greeted us warmly and there were beautiful pots of spring flowers

everywhere! The tables in the fellowship hall were decorated with lovely flower arrangements and little gift bags filled with special goodies for each of the ladies. The food was delicious, as always! The women outdid themselves with the menu, and the men graciously served up a meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, green beans, mixed fruit, and bread. There was a wide variety of yummy desserts, as well. Afterwards we all gathered in the sanctuary for a wonderful program. There were stories shared, poems read, songs sung, and funny skits presented. Calamity Jane (aka Kathleen Palmer) made a return visit this year, as she read a story to the children. She was hilarious, as always, and had everyone in stitches! Everyone did an outstanding job! After the program each person's name was drawn and they were able to pick out a special gift to take home as a memento. Included in these items were vases, mugs, old kitchen utensils, plaques, and even an old table that Amy Nagy chose. A big thanks to all our Sanilac sisters for all the time and effort they put into this event! May the Lord bless them for the ministry they brought to all of us!

We had a wonderful service on Mother's Day. The Eliason boys (Briggs, Bryer, & Ames) sang, "Thy Word is a Lamp Unto my Feet" for the music ministry. Our pastor, Gary Holmes, gave the sermon. He shared the history of Mother's Day and how it came to be celebrated. He stated that our mothers have probably done more for us than anyone else we've known, and they give us their unconditional love. He spoke about his own mother and his wife, Marge, and the impact they've made in his life. He also shared Scriptures regarding mothers. He stated, "Let's honor our mothers, remember them, and see if we can't influence today's young women to be



committed, strong, and faithful and to raise their children accordingly.” After the service our Sunday School Director, Kelli Williams, and the children did a short presentation. Kelli’s class (Ames, Addie, & Vivian) sang a song. Ava Nagy read a children’s story. Bethany Moses read a poem, “Intermediary,” about a mother’s work. The children handed out carnations to all the ladies. The children also gave handcrafted cards and gifts they made with love to their Moms. All the ladies in the congregation were given lovely bookmarks.

#### News & Notes:

The beginning of April Todd and Tina Yaney traveled to Iceland. They said they really enjoyed seeing all the geothermal features: geysers, volcanoes, and hot pots. Also, the glaciers and huge icebergs that broke away from the glaciers and washed up on the beach. They noticed that the people were very friendly and helpful, and they enjoyed their time away.

Our dear sister Elaine Harm is back home after spending some time at her place in Florida. She was missed, and we are so happy to have her back among our church family once again!

In April Analyn Powers traveled to the Philippines to visit family. Kevin was able to join her for the last week of the trip. (He experienced some health issues during his travels, but the Lord blessed him.) While there, priesthood members were able to administer to baby Gian (Analyn’s nephew), who has epilepsy. Please continue to pray for him.

Just a reminder ... Junior Church takes place at 11 a.m. the second Sunday of each month. The kids are learning a lot and having fun in the process!

Prayers would be appreciated for Elaine King, Jim Bradley, Nina Powers, Nadine Moses & family, Kelli Williams, Gary & Marge Holmes, Kevin Powers (blood clot), Analyn Powers (job), and Bruce and Barb Krinkie. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

#### Garden City



**By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild**

Happy Spring! Hopefully some beautiful spring weather will have arrived by the time this newsletter reaches you.

Thank you to Elder Fred Brown Jr. who was our guest minister on April 29. We appreciate your ministry Brother Fred.

#### Baptism

We are very happy to welcome a new member to the Garden City Branch. On Sunday, April 22, Nicholas Allison (8 years old), was baptized by Elder Carl McKiddie. He was confirmed on Sunday, May 6 at a special service at 10:45.

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

#### Older Youth Retreat – March 23-25 (Submitted by Israel Dabbs)

The Youth retreat to Charlotte was an experience for me and everyone else who attended. There were quite a lot of us, a grand total of twenty-one kids. The theme for the retreat was Fruits of the Spirit. We participated in a lot

of fun activities having to do with the theme. We also did devotions before we went to sleep, I enjoyed being able to engage with my friends and talk about the word of God. But my favorite activity was going to the town or recreation center's pool (I forgot which) and swimming! We all enjoyed splashing in the nice cool water. One of the pastors there (Pastor Doug) shared testimonies with us and spoke with the influence of Christ. Sunday eventually came and we all knew that we would return to our normal lives the next day, some of us not seeing each other until the next retreat. But we were filled with the joy of having new memories and stronger relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Easter Program – Sunday, April 1

(Submitted by Betty Lou Newman)

“Few in number yet delighting in the truth which makes us free”. Following Easter hymns and an invocation, the members of the branch did delight in the “truth that makes us free” as they shared in the Easter story. Comments and scriptures were heard in answer to questions about the contents of the mysterious Easter eggs. There were the quiet, sad answers of “nails,” “spear,” and “crown of thorns” and the uncertain, puzzling answers of “dice,” “cloves” and “sponge” followed by the happy, triumphant answers of “It’s empty!”, “heart,” and “pom pom.”

Helayna (4 years old) gave the answer as each egg was opened and then Nicholas read a comment about the object. The comment was reinforced by two accounts which were read from the gospels. After the presentation, a hymn, and benediction, gifts were presented to the youth. The older ones received “The Parable of the Lily” for their church library. A book entitled “What’s the Best Thing About Easter?” was read aloud and the

younger ones received a copy. Neither Easter eggs, Easter candy, baby animals, springtime, nor new clothes is the best thing about Easter. Jesus Is!

#### Younger Youth Retreat (Submitted by Betty Lou Newman)

Bring on the challenges! That is what the thirteen youth did at the Younger Youth Retreat at Port Huron, April 13 – 15, 2018. They met all but one challenge with enthusiasm and endurance.

The Kingdom Way classes, taught by Elder Rex Monarch, challenged them to find the promises of God in the scriptures (the condition and the blessing). They used the text and workbook “The Kingdom Way” by Ronald K. Smith. It was Paul Ludy’s “Voices From Church History” that confronted them with the facts of the early church. They not only learned about tarring and feathering endured by the early Saints but also about the miracles and blessings God provided. With each story, they added more information to their church history posters.

The fellowship continued with singing and learning scripture verses. Scripture belts were awarded as they progressed through each level. Congratulations!

It was easy to accept Brother Tom Essenmacher’s food challenge. The words, “For your dining pleasure” were always followed with delicious, nutritious meals.

The church novel “The Unwilling Saint” by Ruby Tinkham caught the attention of the CITs as they followed Ann through her struggles after discovering and identifying with the R.L.D.S.

It was the challenge of TIME that we weren’t able to meet. “Time” stopped the CITs from completing their novel study and “time” did not

allow the campers to complete the church history activities. But the “time” we were given was filled with learning, sharing and fellowship.

Next Step: Erie Beach Camp, July 15-21, 2018.

### **Oakwood**



**By: Kathleen Modders**

Clarence Leo Carroll Jr. passed away at his home in Independence, Missouri on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. Leo was born April 21, 1937, at 8:45 am, in Charleston, Missouri. Continual prayers are requested to lift up his loving wife, of 51 years, ten months and 26 days, Clareen Janice Green Carroll. Leo was blessed, as an infant, on July 4, 1937, in Saint Joseph, Missouri by Elders Vimton M. Goodrich (his grandfather) and H.C. Timms. He was baptized, of the water, into the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on June 23, 1946 at Saint Joseph, Missouri by G.C. Snapp and received the Laying on of Hands for the Gift of the Holy Spirit, on the same day by Elders R.D. Perton and W.E. Poague.

**Elder Leo Carroll: April 21, 1937**



**Heavenly Homecoming: March 7, 2018**

He served in the ministry of the Church, being ordained to the Office of Priest on July 23, 1963 by Elders Ervin Fenn and Maynard Peterson, in Carson, Iowa and to the Office of Elder November 26, 2000, at the Oakwood Restoration Branch in Oxford, Michigan by Elders Robert Ruch and Dale Day. Leo remained strong and diligent in the Faith until his life here was finished.

On April 23-25 the Older Youth Retreat was held at Charlotte Church of Jesus Christ. Elder Shawn Turner and wife Michelle organized the retreat joining the two groups in a worshipful weekend, the theme involved the Fruits of the Spirit. Elder Doug Daggett and wife Susie, Lynnette Daniels and Kathleen Modders all pitched in to help.



Michelle and Shaun will not continue as Directors for the Zion's Youth. Is there anyone that would like to be the new directors? It would be very unfortunate if the youth did not have a camp this summer. Please consider volunteering for this wonderful ministry, the rewards far outweigh the burdens.

Five Oakwood sisters traveled to Port Huron on Saturday, March 10th to participate in a wonderful regional women's tea and luncheon hosted by the Algonac and Port Huron congregations.



**Dawn Modders, Julie Fox, Raven Franks, Kim Gilchrist, and Kathi Havener had so much fun playing games, listening to stories, laughing, and enjoying great fellowship. Kelli Williams started the day off right with special motivational thoughts about love. The food was amazing, and Connie Burns really outdid herself as MC! Thank you, Algonac and Port Huron ladies, for a wonderful day!**

**The month of April we've had many saints step up to provide services needed by others. Some even made dinners and brought them to sister Bev Ruchs home so her daughter, Evelyn, could focus on therapy and doctor appointments on those days. A Thank you goes out to all who helped. Many hands makes light work.**

**Rachel Miller & Zac Club stayed at the Oakwood Branch on April 20 -24 Friday – Tuesday. Elder Ed MacDonald and sister Shawn Ruch along with other Oakwood saints helped organize the welcoming of the students from the CPRS Schools very own Zac Club from Independence, Missouri. They were to arrive on Saturday around 7:00 p.m. where Shawn had prepared a meal for them but unforeseen car issues arose which caused them to miss dinner by about five hours. They were able to rent a vehicle and take the car to a repair shop, thank the Lord, and arrived at Oakwood near midnight; with sister Shawn waiting patiently for them to arrive to greet them. Sister Shawn prepared meals for them throughout their stay at the Oakwood Branch.**

**Saints were blessed for Sundays 11 o'clock hour service as the Zac Club provided a testimony and song service; afterwards enjoying their company during the potluck lunch. Elder Shaun Turner and Michelle led the Zac Club to the Suncrest Medical Facility where they gathered as many of the elderly folks living in the assisted home into their recreation room to share more testimonies and songs with them. They arrived back at the church on Sunday night as Mike Modders picked up pizza and we enjoyed a pizza party with them. Sister Kathleen Modders provided an indoor campfire song service and was able to enlist some help from Lynnette Daniels and Michelle Turner to assist her in singing songs, with Priest Mike Modders ending the night with a testimony and prayer, accompanied with a few of our own youth, Lindsey Daniels, Emma Turner, and Samantha, Gustavo and Jamie Servin. The following day The Zac Club volunteered their services to two of Oakwood's own, in need of help. Half the group was taken by Elder Ed MacDonald to sister Shirley MacDonald's home where they did yard work and Shirley shared a few testimonies with them. The other half of the Zac Club were taken to Bev Ruch's house by Elder Mick Ruch and Priest Mike Modders to help with yard work and window cleaning. After the service projects, Priest Mike Modders and Kathleen led the Zac Club to Port Huron to visit the lighthouse on one of the Great Lakes of Michigan.**





They were so excited to take off their socks and shoes and each and every one of them put their feet in the extremely cold waters of Lake Huron. They were able to see one of the Big ships go by, and watch the waves splash against the shore. Oakwood women provided 21 dozen cookies to our visiting Zac group to enjoy the entire weekend. When the Modders team came back from Port Huron with the Zac Club Shawn had dinner waiting for them. After dinner, sister Kathleen Modders made each one of the kids a Campfire Song Book so they could decorate and take home. Elder Mick Ruch then led the group to the Lapeer Recreation Center where they were able to take showers and swim for awhile. They came back and were able to eat a snack and relax for the rest of the night to end their stay with us. Tuesday morning they headed back to Missouri.



On Sunday, April 21st Chet and Cheryl Slagor's 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration was shared with the branch. They were able to give a speech to the congregation after the service about how they met and how the Lord touched their lives together. They met each other at church. They were sweethearts from a very young age. And the church from the very beginning, was a big part of their life together. Activities like the home visiting teams on Mondays and Tuesdays involved the women's circle and the men going out and about. On Wednesdays Cheryl played the organ for the Youth choir. On Thursdays every week they

both attended the Adult Choir for the church. Then every Friday was clean the church night. Once a month they attended a Family Night Church service at their branch. They helped with other activities like the Zions Youth Club. Then on Sundays they attended the 9:45 morning worship, the 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Class, along with the 11:00 O'clock hour service. They also came back to attend the 6:00 p.m. service every Sunday night and afterwards the Zion's League would meet, which they were a part of as well. They grew close together and they loved the lord together and they were determined to do their best in whatever they would do for the church. The lord has blessed them with fifty years together. Congratulations to the beautiful couple, Chet and Cheryl Slagor!

What a wonderful day we had on Saturday, May 5th, at the Detroit Zoo! Once again, Oakwood's "Modders Marauders" walked to raise money for critically ill children through the Michigan Make-A-Wish Foundation. This year's team included Kathleen Modders, Joshua Johnson, Raven Franks, Mary Wilson, and Julie Fox.



We couldn't have done it without the help of our donors. Thank you to everyone that helped us raise almost \$1000.00! Thanks for helping grant the wishes of critically ill children. Their families really appreciate the smiles you bring to their children's faces. With more than 6,000 registered walkers, the 20th

**Annual Walk For Wishes - Southeast Michigan** has already raised more than \$430,000 and counting, putting them on their way to reaching their goal of granting wishes to more than 450 Michigan kids this year.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**May13**, is the Mothers Day Luncheon lead by Priest Mike Modders will be organizing the annual cookout for the women and everyone of the congregation.

**May14,15&16** is the Younger youth retreat.

**May19** Oakwood will have our Spring Cleanup Day at the Church.

**June 17** will be our annual Fathers Day breakfast put on by the ladies of the branch.

**July 23-29** is Reunion! Save The Date everyone. Theme is "Thy Kingdom Come." Bring your pennies for the Camp Store. And the T-Shirts this year will be NEON Orange.

**Upcoming Birthdays:** 06/06 Bob Modders, 06/06 Gage Slagor, 06/11 Matt Mervyn, 06/12 Bonnie Murphy, 06/14 Kim Slagor, 06/16 Beth Fabian, 06/17 Kathleen Modders, 06/24 Shirley MacDonald, 06/25 Chad Embree, 06/27 Cruz Nagy, 07/03 Mike Modders, 07/06 Brad Millen, 07/08 Joshua Johnson, 07/09 Twyla Burnard, 07/20 Kathi Havener, 07/20 Mallory Johnson, 08/02 Julie Fox, 08/05 Candy MacDonald, 08/06 Jaime Servin, 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

## **Port Huron-Sarnia Branch**



**By: Sharon Smerer**  
**Happy Spring, Saints:**

We received a Thank You from the Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative - OLHSA for the contributions of money and also the hygiene supplies that our Branch donated to the youth who were being transitioned to a family.

We want to thank our Missionary Elders Kevin Humphrey, Tom Ridels, Doug Smith, Val Brotherton and Chris Capps and Eric Woolery. Also, the ladies who went were Anita Brotherton, Sylvia Powell and Marilyn Middleton to conduct a women's retreat and for spreading the Gospel to Australia, Kenya and Rwanda, from March 6 through May 8. God bless these individuals.

Owen DeBell won first in the District XVI High School Band Festival at Fraser, Mi. for his flute playing on March 1, 2018. On March 4, Lydia DeBell won first in the Viking Jr. Guard and second place over all at Stoney Creek High School at Rochester Hills, Mi. She also has won a medal. Owen and Lydia are children of Jim and Marnie DeBell and grandchildren of John and Connie DeBell. Terrific job Owen and Lydia!

The Starlites dance team went to the Jamfest Dance Super Nationals, at St. Louis, Mo. and won the National Title in March. The Starlites will return later this month for the Team Champion Dance Nationals in

Chicago, Il. before traveling to Florida in May. Brianna Slossar said, "Because we won the National Champion title in Lyrical. The best feeling was being chosen to represent varsity at the Dance Summit National Dance Championships at Walt Disney World in May." Some of the girls are Abby Slossar, Allison Slossar, Brianna Slossar and Adrienne Slossar which are all granddaughters of Larry and Debbie Scheffler. We wish you safe travels and good sportsmanship.

March 10 the Port Huron-Sarnia and Algonac Branches invited the Ladies to a Luncheon and program at our Branch. We had a variety of foods including gluten free and an array of yummy desserts.



Devotions were brought by Kelli Williams and prayers by Nina Powers, and we played a couple of games, and had a Giving Tree Exchange. We brought a necklace or scarf, etc. and placed them on the tree, then we went up and took something off the tree. Then we had to read an instruction and would end up giving what we chose to someone else. Everyone received something. Thanks to Sherry Purcell, Carrie Britz, Connie Burns, Val Bradley, Kelli Williams and Nina Powers and all the ladies behind the scenes who made the food and desserts. Also, a big thank you to Jennifer Milette and Connie DeBell for decorating the tables. Everything looked lovely, everything tasted good, especially the desserts and we enjoyed

everyone's company. See you in the Fall at the Wesleyan Woods Campground in Vassar, Mi.

The students from Marine City Cardinal Mooney Catholic School had a competition on Mock trials, to look at the Legal Process. There were two teams, A and B and the Mock Trial was held in Judge Cynthia S. Platzer's (the program chairwoman) St. Clair County Courtroom. For students involved in the mock trial program, it is the culmination of months of preparation and study. Cardinal Mooney is one of two St. Clair County schools that have added a class built around the mock trial program, teaching the legal process, courtroom terminology and stand of ethics and professionalism. Team B won and are advancing to the State finals on March 24. Our very own Celeste Parmenter took part in this. She is the daughter of Jessica Parmenter and granddaughter of Brian and Cathy Daggett. Great job Celeste!

Some of the local students took part in the nationwide Walkout to honor the Parkland, Florida shooting victims. Port Huron Northern students, Marysville High School and Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School. We certainly should be praying for the families of the victims shot that day and for all our students everywhere.

Olivia Bolt starred as Rose Alvarez in the Port Huron Northern Drama Club, "Bye, Bye Birdie." She not only sang, but also danced. (Her mother wasn't aware that she knew how to dance.) She did a wonderful job through all seven performances. She also did the make-up on the other actors and actresses. This makes Olivia's seventh production on stage.

Olivia says,” It’s the comradery and the silly, spontaneous moments that happen during rehearsals and in the dressing rooms that I will miss the most. I will always remember the feeling of my first curtain call as a lead character. What’s the next chapter? SC4 next year, and then? Who knows!”

The Starlites Dance Team won again in Chicago, Il. now they are going to the Worlds in Florida. The different age groups doing dances in their own divisions. This includes Abby Slossar, Allison Slossar, Adrienne and Ava Slossar. All of which are the grand-daughters of Larry and Debbie Scheffler. Great Job Girls! Best of luck in Florida!!

It is with great sadness that Patrick J. Kercher passed unexpectedly on April 1, 2018 at Myrtle Beach. S. C. He is survived by three adult children, Andrew, Ellie and Evan Kercher. We will continue to keep the Kercher family in our prayers.

The Youth Retreat was held at our Branch and there were about eleven children present.

The children were learning about Joseph and Emma Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and Church History. They had to find scriptures in all three books for a quiz, “Who Am I?” We want to thank Betty Lou Newman, Kerry Horton, Tom Essenmacher, David Baltzer, and Sherri Johnson and Riley Hall, CIT’s and all the children. We thought the children did a fantastic job singing on Sunday and we enjoyed sharing with all, for our potluck after the 11:00 service. We especially want to thank William Riley Hall for putting in a new faucet in our kitchen. The children this year are saving “Box Top” labels to assist the Lakota (Sioux) Children of St. Joseph’s

Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Monetary donations are always welcome. The youth will count it at each retreat and a check will be sent to the school. Last year they helped in the Philippines with water filter projects, and tuition for their schools, repairing church buildings and building houses. It sounds like we could spare a few box tops or buy some items on their list or give a donation.

In April the ladies resumed their third Thursday, for lunch out with the ladies from our Branch and the Wadham's ladies. This time we met at Lynch's Irish Tavern. Sherry and Maggie presented five ladies who had a birthday from January through April with a hand cream, book mark and a few chocolate candies. Thank you to Sherry and Maggie for their thoughtfulness. We met at the Cracker Barrel on May 17 at 1 pm.

We want to thank Bruce Reid, Scott Bolt and family, Sue Fagan and Jack Tynan for their singing talents. They have all been blessed by God. Thank you to Sue for getting them together to sing for our congregation.

Bob and Kitti Harris and Larry and Debbie Scheffler still could use prayers with their health issues. Bob and Larry are fighting courageously with cancer. We would hope for a cure to come as soon as possible for all who are suffering.

A Father and Daughter Dance was held in Brown City, Mi. and Joe Milette and his daughter, Betty had a fun time.

Andrew Kercher is the Dearborn Historical Museum Curator and he, along with a lot of other men, played “Ain’t She Sweet” at an outside Banjo Concert at the Museum. There was



quite a few family, neighbors and friends in attendance and it sounded real fine.

Cameron Britz, a Western Michigan University, College Graduate, graduated on April 28, 2018 with a Bachelor's in Marketing. We are so proud of your achievements. He is the son of Jason and Carrie Britz and grandson of John and Barbara Tynan.

### **Sanilac**



**By: Kathleen Palmer**

**The fruit of the spirit is love, joy,  
peace, longsuffering, gentleness,  
goodness, faith, meekness, temperance  
against such there is no law.  
Galatians 5:22-23**

Perhaps we will have spring and summer for a longer season this year, as it has been so slow getting here. Mother Nature has been different this year! We have many Blessings to be thankful for. The flowers are blooming and beautiful, the grass is green and the leaves are green and full. The crops are just about all planted.

On Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, we had a Valentine pot luck dinner. We all enjoyed a great meal and fellowship after the service.

Peck Elementary school 5<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band, under the direction of Stacey Bower, had their first performance concert on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Emma Des Jardins played the flute

and Sydney Parker played the clarinet. They all did well for their first concert.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Barb Eliason, Jean Mcleod and Denise Rich all traveled to Port Huron to attend the Ladies Tea and Luncheon Exchange. The devotions and program were very special. They so enjoyed the delicious luncheon. A big thank you to Algonac and Port Huron ladies for putting this on for all. So great to fellowship with our sisters.

April 1<sup>st</sup> was Easter Sunday. We enjoyed an early morning breakfast and fellowship before the Easter Service. Elder Eldon Preston gave the communion message. The choir sang for the special. We all have so much to be thankful for that Christ gave His life so we can be forgiven of our sins and that He arose and He lives today!

The childrens retreat was held April 13-15<sup>th</sup> in Port Huron. Emma Des Jardins and Josh Bradley attended. They studied about the Prophet Joseph Smith and his wife Emma. They enjoyed crafts, swimming and good food. They reported that they had a fun, awesome time! This retreat was going on when we had a winter storm. Thanks Kerry Horton for getting Emma and Josh safely home and to all those who make these retreats possible.

It was a busy time for our women and men getting ready for the Mother/Daughter Banquet on May 5<sup>th</sup>. There was cleaning and painting to be done, but had to hold off outside work as weather would not cooperate. To top it off, the day before the banquet we had no electricity! We prayed a lot and the Lord saw to it that we regained electricity just in time. We missed those who could not attend because of sickness and lack of

electrical power. The theme was "Memories of Grandmas Pantry."



We decorated with spring flowers in older containers and lace. Also a pie server, which was over a hundred years old. An older rocker, a butter churn, oil lamps, and many other antique items, and a beautiful window scene that Denise Rich created. The men served the dinner of chicken, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, green beans, corn, relish tray, cottage cheese and peaches. Delicious assorted pies were served as dessert. Thank you to Kerry Horton, Randy Des Jardins, Eldon Preston and Barent Eliason, who directed the ladies as to where to park their cars. When the meal was finished, we went upstairs for the program. The invocation was given by Teacher Kerry Horton and everyone was welcomed by Kathleen Palmer, and the program went forth. Debbie Des Jardins presented Denise Rich, Barb Eliason and Kathleen Palmer with kind words and gifts in appreciation for all the work and effort they put in to make the banquet and program possible. It was appreciated by each one of us. Our thanks to each of the Sanilac women for all your help and support. Thank you to Deana Pirt, who comes every year to help and brings gifts to be given away. Denise sang "A song to Mothers." Poems were read by Debbie Des Jardins, Jean McLeod, Rebecca Bradley and Janel Preston. There was a storytime for the children and a fun skipping jumping poem. Our Sanilac women sang, "I Love

Thee." There was a true story about the "Blue Dish." Also, a true story about the rocking chair. We Sanilac women had a Kitchen Chat with a surprise visitor, none other than our own Calamity Jane. What a calamity she is! Everyone wanted to know where she got her hair done as she explained that was why she was late. She brought her granddaughter, "lil Squirt" for the chat. It escalated from there as the Sanilac women all chatted about humorous things and Calamity sang her famous "Don't Fence me In." It was a fun time of laughter, tears, and good fellowship. The ending prayer was said and everyone received a gift to take home with them. We are so blessed by the Lord to be able to present our Mother/Daughter Banquets each year and a great big thank you to all who attend and support us. Our theme next year will be, "Springtime in Jerusalem." The date will be announced at a later time.

We want to thank Elder Gary Holmes who along with his wife Marge, brought us the gospel message. Many thanks also to our own priesthood. We are being fed the gospel and this makes us stronger to carry on God's work.

We at Sanilac wish each and every one a blessed and safe Summer.

**For information or assistance with the Newsletter contact-**

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### **Service Project:**

We'd like to encourage the youth to look beyond their "wants" in this land of plenty and put others first, as the scriptures repeatedly tell us. One way to do that is to clip and save "Boxtops for Education" logos from General Mills products, and "Project A+" labels from participating Tyson products, to name a few. When a branch (or individual) has collected these items (or to find out more about this project), they may contact Kerry Horton (810-358-8088) or Betty Lou Newman (519-734-1097). This newest project will help assist the Sioux children of St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota.

### **Elder Jay Havener from Oakwood:**

#### **Where the Scriptures Fall Short**

Like a map of Arizona that discloses the location of the Grand Canyon and provides accurate directions as to how to get there, the scriptures function likewise. Just as a map of Arizona provides this information, it cannot describe the experience of standing on the rim of the canyon and experiencing the glory and beauty of that place.

The scriptures describe what took place on the Mount of Transfiguration, they tell of the healing of the blind man and the woman with the issue of blood. They tell of Paul's experience on the road to Damascus and describes Peter walking on the water. Those are all good things. For many it is enough to hear or read of those things.

But for me, it is not enough. I want to feel what the blind man felt as the mud was washed from his eyes and he saw for the first time! I want to feel the feelings of the woman as she experienced 12 years of her captive life slip away and she knew she was forever healed. I want to have the same experience of Peter as he stepped out onto the water and felt the firmness under his feet where there should not have been! I want to experience the power that was resident on the Mount of Transfiguration and the power that changed Paul on the road to Damascus!

Just as a map of Arizona cannot touch the experience of standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon; the doctrine distilled from the scriptures cannot touch the personal revelation of experiencing Christ Jesus first hand. That experience would be enough for me!

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

**July 15 -21: Younger Youth Retreat  
Erie Beach Camp**

**July 23-29 Great Lakes Restoration Branch's Reunion @  
Wesleyan Woods Campground**