

The Anchor



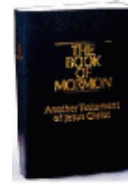
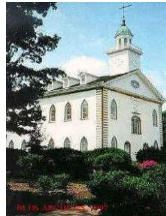
The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

Vol. 4 - 35

Issue 100

Summer 2017



News From Around the Region

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

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

Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

comforting to remember that God will be with us if we keep the faith and turn to him. We can feel secure in Christ, knowing that in the end, the Lord will be victorious.

On Sunday, May 28, we had a very special service. William “Liam” Claude Doak (parents, John & Sara) was blessed by Elder Hod Powers (Uncle), assisted by Elder Todd Moses. What a wonderful sacrament to witness! Liam’s grandparents are Kim and Keith Gilchrist, and great grandparents are Barb and Bruce Krinkie. We will keep baby Liam (and family) in

“And inasmuch as ye are humble and faithful and call on my name, behold, I will give you the victory.” (D&C 101:13e) With all the unrest in the world, and through all of our personal trials and hardships, it is

our prayers as he grows and matures.

On Saturday, June 3, we had a spring cleanup at the church. Lots of chores were done inside and outside to beautify our church. We purged and cleaned the kitchen, storage rooms and classrooms. Overgrown brush and vines from the edge of the property were removed, which was a big job. We shared a pot luck lunch and enjoyed good fellowship while we worked together.

On June 18, there was a special Father's Day service and picnic at Beebe Street Park in Richmond. Elder Todd Moses gave the sermon and brought the ministry of music along with Liz. Thankfully, the rain stayed away ... only a few sprinkles during the service. However, Todd did have to compete a bit with some joyful birds. There was a robin's nest right above his head in the rafters at the front of the pavilion. 😊 There was a variety of yummy dishes brought by various families for the pot luck lunch. The kids did an art project with Kelli and the day ended with a piñata full of fun and treats for the kids.

(Reported by Elaine King)
Our Algonac rummage and bake sale was held June 30 and July 1.



Wendy Holmes, Elaine King, Connie Burns, Elaine Harm, and Val Bradley helped out at the sale on Friday. On Saturday Wendy Holmes, Elaine King, Marilyn Canham and Val Bradley assisted with the sale. Tina Yaney, Amy Nagy, and Elaine Harm brought in extra tables for our use, which we really needed to display all the goods... thank you! As always, we had tons of gently-used clothes, knick-knacks, CD's, DVD's, dishes and what not for sale. Kelli donated lots of jewelry and clothes ... many of them new or in excellent condition, and they were a big hit! The women made delicious baked goods, including whoopee pies from Elaine Harm, which sell out every year. We had lots of shoppers. Tina Yaney stopped in with her two oldest granddaughters, Laurel and Adeline. Nina Powers also stopped in with her pineapple upside down cake, which sold out before she left the church! Sherry Purcell from Pt. Huron came by with her cousin, Connie, and on Sat., Kathi and Jay Havener from Oakwood stopped in. We had many repeat customers and some came back multiple times throughout the sale. We had good conversations with many of them ... one lady was new to the Algonac community and we welcomed her to the area and talked a little bit about our church. Several customers asked about a date for our next sale ... said they enjoy our event better than others in the area and hate to miss it! We had a successful sale and feel it is a great opportunity to make our presence known in our church community. A big thank you to Wendy Holmes for organizing this sale and to all who lent their

support by donating their time, items, baked goods, or stopping by to shop.

Sunday, July 9, Eric Eliason was ordained to the office of Elder. It was a very special day for our Algonac church family! It started with special music by Kim Gilchrist and the Eliason brothers, Briggs, Bryer, and Ames sang a heartfelt hymn, "This God is the God We Adore." Our pastor, Gary Holmes, spoke about the significance of this occasion and explained what was about to take place. Eric Eliason was ordained to the office of Elder by Elder Todd Moses, assisted by Elder Todd Yaney. The sermon was brought by Elder Don Cutshall (Cory's Dad) of Oak Grove, MO. He shared a testimony that bore witness of Eric's calling. He brought a wonderful message and read passages from the D & C which explained the Melchisedic priesthood. He spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the office of Elder. He said we all must have faith and rely on our Father at all times. We need to have loving, compassionate hearts towards others and we need to know our Master's voice so we can come when He calls. We were so pleased to have Eric's parents, Barent and Barb, and his brother, Barry in attendance, along with Cory's parents, Don and Edie Cutshall, as well as other friends from out of town. In addition, most of the Sanilac Restoration Branch was there. We had a delicious pot luck meal after the service, which gave us an opportunity to visit with all who came to share this special day with Eric. Our prayers are with him, Cory and family as he takes

on the responsibilities of this new area of ministry.

(Reported by Todd Moses)

Reunion 2017: The saints enjoyed gathering together July 24 – 30 at Wesleyan Woods Campground in Vassar for our family camp reunion. This year's theme was "Be Still and Know That I am God." The week was filled with wonderful worship and activities to grow closer together to all those in attendance. Elder Doug Smith and High Priest Steve Bohall were our guest ministry and were greatly appreciated for the Spirit they presented to the people. The saints of Algonac were once again busy in the Lord's work throughout the week, from leading song services, teaching classes, directing the choir, running the canteen and even playing in the bell choir. Even though not all our loved ones were able to attend, the experience was strong and strengthened everyone there – allowing each to bring the Spirit of the Lord back to his/her congregation.

(Reported by Cory Eliason)

This year's Vacation Bible School, directed by Kelli Williams, took place August 7 – 11. Our Algonac Branch had a very blessed week. The theme was, "Mighty Fortress: In Jesus the Victory is Won!" The children learned about how Jesus gives us the victory over many things in life, if we are but faithful unto Him. The week was full of smiles from Todd and Miss Kelli's

fantastic puppet shows at the start of each day. Cory Eliason taught the daily lessons to both the younger children (the “littles”) and the older children (“the bigs”) this year. Nina Powers assisted her with the older kid’s class. The kids had snacks pertinent to the daily stories specially created by Elaine Harm and Nadine Moses. Tina Yaney led the craft time with creative and fun art projects for the kids. Miss Kelli had a jam-packed recreation time with awesome activities. Todd and Liz Moses led the kids in singing praises (enthusiastically) to the Lord each day and let the children play unique musical instruments. The church was decorated with a castle theme and the children had a very special time together all week!



On Sunday morning, August 13, Kelli Williams gave a presentation on the previous weeks’ Vacation Bible School. It began with an opening prayer by Briggs Eliason. Kelli stated that all the week’s classes and activities were centered around the theme, “Mighty Fortress: In Jesus the Victory is Won!” The Bible lesson the kids seemed to enjoy the most was the story of Joshua and the walls of Jericho (especially Christopher – just ask Grandma Elaine King!). Kelli shared a little bit about each class and activity and thanked everyone who helped

out and participated. She said she was especially grateful for Cory this year as she did double duty. Not only did she teach two classes, but she built a castle (with drawbridge!) that the children absolutely loved! Teachers Cory and Nina shared what they enjoyed about their classes/students. Liz directed the kids as they sang two of their favorite songs they learned this year: “King of the Jungle” and “Joy is the Flag.” Each child shared one thing they learned during VBS and one of their favorite things they enjoyed during the week. The presentation ended with a puppet show that was given during the week.



Vacation Bible School Puppet Show

It featured Rainbow (parrot), Rose (skunk) and Peter (little boy). It was called “Jesus Wins the Victory” and was about Jesus being the king of our souls. Puppeteers Kelli and Todd Moses did a great job and as always, the adults enjoyed it just as much as the children. We are so thankful for Kelli, Todd, and all those who lead, teach, and care for the children in our church family!

News & Notes:

Bethany Moses spent 8 weeks this summer in the Adirondack

Mountains in upstate New York working as a cabin specialist at Camp Echo Lake. She was in charge of thirteen 9-year-old girls, taking care of them for seven weeks and loving every moment of it. They took part in a number of activities, including archery, dance, golf, soccer, gymnastics, hiking, volleyball, campfire, sailing, water skiing, science technology engineering and mathematics activities, textiles, gardening, and overnight trek excursions, and many more. Bethany learned so much about herself and so many life skills to use in the future. She had an absolute blast and will most likely do this again next summer. We missed Bethany while she was away and are so happy to have her back with us once again!

Todd Moses has completed his 24-year career as a music educator in the public schools and has begun a new chapter as the Director of Choral Activities and Instructor of Music for Macomb Community College. This position creates new opportunities and different challenges to expand his abilities in teaching music. It also creates an entirely new schedule, which allows a greater amount of flexibility, which Todd hopes translates into more time for his family and the activities for the church. Congratulations, Todd ... we wish you the very best in this new endeavor!

Prayers would be appreciated for Tim and Wendy Holmes, Dick & Connie Burns, Elaine King, Kelli Williams, Ray Moses, Elaine Harm, Jim Bradley, Gary & Marge Holmes, Nina Powers, Bruce and Barb Krinkie, and Joy Muir. We are keeping you and your

congregations in our prayers, as well.

Garden City



By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

Reunion was once again a wonderful week with time to worship, visit with fellow saints, learn during classes, and have fun times during recreation. Many thanks to the visiting ministry of Elder Doug Smith and High Priest Steve Bohall. The classes and sermons brought forth by these men were both informative and Spirit-filled. The theme was "Be Still and Know That I Am God" and this theme was echoed through the beautiful Ministry of Music brought forth by the choir, bell choir, and solos. During the week, there were four baptisms and we are so happy for these new members. Thanks to Mick Ruch and the reunion committee for all of their hard work planning the 2017 reunion.

A Weekend to Remember!

(Submitted by Betty Lou Newman)

"Make new friends

But keep the old.

One is silver

And the other's gold."

That is exactly what happened when twenty youth joined together for the Younger Youth Spring Retreat at Port Huron, Michigan. Campers travelled from Ontario

and Michigan to Port Huron for the May 5-7, 2017 weekend. With three new campers and three guests from Independence, Missouri joining us, we were assured we would make “new friends” but would keep the “old friends” from past years.

Sharing testimonies from their personal lives and teaching classes about the Aaronic and Melchisedic priesthood offices were our guest ministers, High Priest Paul Gage and Elder Jack Hagensen. They also related short accounts (ZAPS!) about men, women, and children as found in the scriptures. Sister Leila Hagensen quietly shared some of her testimonies. We eagerly listened as she also talked about the “Daily Manna” devotional written by her sister.

The time between classes was for singing and playing games. Most of us now know the books of the Old Testament by singing them to the tune of Yankee Doodle, and Onward Christian Soldiers is our marching music for the New Testament! Our labelled garden gloves reinforced the priesthood office names. Yes! We are to use our gloves and remember the words on them that match those in the foundation of Christ’s church.

The seven CIT’s also studied “The Ministry of the Deacon” and added a copy of that book to their church library for future reference. Throughout the weekend, we were encouraged to do as the song “O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E” says – do

exactly as the Lord commands (and do it joyfully!).

It was a full weekend – full of healthy and delicious food, full of action, singing, and fun, and full of spiritual manna and experiences. We completed the weekend by “singing for the Lord”. Special thanks to leaders Bill Sutton, Kerry Horton, Riley Hall, Sherri Johnson and Tracy Stokes.

Other News:

On Sunday, June 4, during the 10:00 hour, the Charlotte Youth Choir presented a musical to the congregation. The energy of the youth, their beautiful voices and the message they brought was uplifting. A potluck meal was served following the 11:00 service so that we could spend time meeting and visiting with the Charlotte youth and their leaders. Many thanks to the youth, their families and the leaders who made this presentation possible. To celebrate Children’s Day, June 11, the Sunday School youth designed their own t-shirt. They also each received a card with a gift of money which brought happy faces.

“Come Ye Apart” – Erie Beach Camp 2017

It was another chance to “Come ye apart” and to “make new friends”, but “keep the old”. Indeed “one is silver and the other gold”. Campers and leaders gathered together from 4 states and Ontario to share a week away from Babylon and its influences. The following are statements written by leaders and CIT’s about Erie Beach 2017.

Jason Howard (Camp Pastor): Due to events out of our control, the start of the week was a bit rough and we ended up being short staffed. We were missing teachers for two days of classes, a crafts teacher, and a cook. Through many prayers, and willingness by all to pitch in, and help whenever needed, we had a phenomenal, Spirit filled week. Through the week, we were able to gain first-hand knowledge that God is listening, and he cares. We prayed as a group for a concern on one camper's heart, the next day we received confirmation – not only that the prayer was heard, but also answered. As these young ones grow, I hope they never forget this testimony, that stepping out in faith brought them to a knowledge of the truth. Thank you again to the campers and staff for a very spiritual, rewarding week. Remember to always let the light of Christ shine through you. You never know who it will touch.

Activities: Campers spent this week playing lots of fun games, with materials covered in our classes. Bowling, with priesthood offices on each pin, was a good way to remember the offices, while dice were rolled to remember the different gifts of the church. “Yard-zee” helped to teach the principles of the gospel. They also completed a set of scripture hunts which gave them experience and qualified them to earn “scripture belts” to add to their bookmark. In the woodworking class, campers and

CIT's made a side table/magazine rack.

Backwards Day: This year the campers, CIT's, and adults enjoyed bringing back an old favorite, “Backwards Day”, on Friday. This day started with a campfire and ended with our morning walk. Of course, everything in the middle was mixed up too, and everyone was a little confused, and surprised by the changes this brought to the day! The question is, were we more tired, or less?

Experience of a New Camper: First of all, I love the environment of the campground, the priesthood, and the lessons we have had, and the thinking that was led by the Spirit. The thing I enjoyed most is that I sincerely felt I was closer to Him, God. All of these things would not have happened without all of the efforts of all of these people and the guidance of God.

Oakwood



By: Kathleen Modders

In June:

6/18 Oakwood hosted its annual Father's Day Breakfast. Helen Brown, Kathi Havener, Julie Fox and Kathleen Modders cooked breakfast for the congregation to honor the men of the branch.

In July:

7/2/17 The setting apart of the 6-month Pastor: Elder Jay Havener: May the Lord lead, guide and direct him in every possible way to let his light so shine.

7/9 Guest Speaker: Elder Brian Mundy from Missouri

7/9 – 7/19 Zion's Older Youth Camp was held at Woodlands Campground Association in Hale, MI. A few words from Shaun Turner; Co-Camp director this year: This year was the most spiritual year at camp that I have seen since Michelle and I have been the youth directors. The responsibilities that I had did not even feel like responsibilities, except for managing the schedule! This was the first year at camp that I acted in the office of Elder, since I was ordained to that office on the very first day of camp. This definitely changed my perspective spiritually, which I did not completely anticipate. During camp I taught two classes, led two campfires, counseled, performed administrations and administered a schedule nobody seemed to pay attention to ;) I also witnessed the kids grow together, trust, and open up to one another as the week progressed. The Lord not only poured out His spirit, but attended the campfires with His angels. Incredible! I cannot wait for our next retreat. And a few words from Michelle Turner Co-director: Camp 2017 was amazing! I had the privilege of teaching the 6, 7 and 8th graders. We learned about Babel, the Jaredites, not talking to the Lord for 4 years, Brother of Jared getting talked to by God for 3 hours. Coming to the promised land and then leaving the Lord and then their destruction. Then we went on to the Nephites Lehi

preaching in Jerusalem, Lehi taking his family and fleeing to the Wilderness. Traveling for many years, Nephi building ships, coming to the promised land, and the Lamanites turning black, Nephites becoming more evil than the Lamanites, The Nephites destruction. Moroni burying the plates, we studied the 13 colonies and read their laws based on freedom of religion. Then we went to the Bible and did a treasure hunt of truth. Brother Brian Mundy taught this adventure. We learned about baptism like Jesus. Then we learned about Zion. Why it's so important and how we can prepare for it. Then during campfires, we were blessed with the Holy Spirit, Paige, Lindsey, and Susie led us in songs. Our priesthood opened the doors for the Holy Spirit... It was a loving strong family that left those grounds. I pray we all journeyed to a new beginning of our life! Oakwood attendees: Shaun & Michelle Turner, Camp Directors, Amanda Ruch and Tracy Stokes, were our Camp Cooks, Kathleen Modders, Camp Counselor, Crafts & Log Book. Campers were: Chad Embree, Emma Turner, Gustavo Servin, Haven Trottier, Miah Berard, Heather Mervyn, Jaime Servin, Parker Mervyn, Other attendees were: Elder Doug Daggett was our Camp Pastor, along with Susie Daggett, Camp Counselor, Elder Eric Ellison was a camp Teacher, Elder Brian Mundy, Teacher, Lynnette Daniels our Camp Nurse, Paige Carnahan: Camp Counselor and Recreation, and campers, Lindsey Daniels, Sammy Dufort, and Bryan Hardwick.

7/24-30 Great Lakes Restoration Branches Reunion of 2017 was held in Vassar MI, at Wesleyan

Woods Christian Campgrounds. As always Elder Mick Ruch did a fantastic job, with the help of the reunion committee members and teachers all taking part of the week in Zion we all enjoyed. There were four Baptisms; two of which were Oakwood's. Samantha and Gustavo Servin are new members of Oakwood. Samantha was Baptized by Elder Shaun Turner and Gustavo was baptized by Elder Brian Mundy. May God be with them always.



**In August:
8/6/17 Baby Blessing: Logan James Daggett, blessed by Elder Doug Daggett, and Elder Fred Brown Sr. Parents: Dan and Brittney Daggett, Grand Parents: Mark and Twyla Burnard and Doug and Susie Daggett.**



8/19 Cedar Point Trip Sandusky Ohio. Kathleen chartered the Trinity Cedar Point Bus for Six Oakwood attendees; Kathleen Modders, Joshua Johnson,

Christina Mervyn, Parker Mervyn, Jaime Servin and Samantha Servin. Everyone had a fun time. On the way home, everyone fell asleep! It was a super long day, but equally fun!



Church Renovation: After 20 years of wear and tear of the carpet and pews, the facilities committee brought to the congregation a vote to get new carpet throughout the church. The old pews have been taken out, and will be given to different places and people. The new pews are going in the week of 8/21/17. It will look fantastic once everything is put in. Two weeks in a row we used the folding chairs. It's quite a change from the old look.

Upcoming Events:

September:

9/10 Branch Picnic at Oakwood, Outside service will begin at 11:00

a.m. and potluck picnic will be immediately following at 12:00 p.m.

9/16 Kirtland Temple Priesthood Retreat. Contact information is Jay Havener.

October:

10/6-8 Women's Retreat at Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds in Vassar MI. Theme will be Joy to the World.

Upcoming Birthdays:

08/26 Sandy Kline, 08/28 Melanie Brown, 08/28 Mark Wilson, 08/30 Jordan Moore, 09/01 Dawn Modders, 09/05 Bill Hulse, 09/11 Lilah Konkle, 09/15 Eloise Boat, 09/19 Graham Fishwild, 09/21 Raven Franks, 09/22 Jann Wilson, 09/22 Michelle Turner, 09/26 Shaun Turner, 10/02 Taylor LaRowe, 10/07 Ryan Wilson, 10/08 Helene Danicki, 10/08 Fred Brown Jr., 10/13 Alec LaRowe, 10/14 Ruth Ann Hulse, 10/18 Marc Hanna, 10/23 Debbie Millen, 10/25 Shawn Ruch, 10/26 Sara Ruch, 10/27 Teri Hanna, 11/04 Ryan Hanna, 11/08 Nick Brown, 11/13 Bob LaRowe, 11/14 Brennen Colley, 11/20 Cole Vandenberg, 11/24 Jared Carl, 12/02 Bob Ruch, 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

Otter Lake



By: Susie Daggett

Greetings from the Otter Lake Branch!

Samantha Dufort was baptized by Doug Daggett at reunion. She is the daughter of Charity and Tim Dufort and granddaughter of Bill and Linda Sutton. Also at reunion Bill Sutton baptized his granddaughter Sydney Parker, daughter of Missy and Steve Parker from the Sanilac branch.

Susie & Doug Daggett have officially moved. Our house sold to the first person that looked at it. We have found a cute rental down by Battle Creek. Doug will continue as the pastor of Otter Lake for now.

Doug was honored to bless his grandson Logan Daggett August 6th at the Oakwood branch. He was assisted by Fred Brown Sr. Doug & Susie Daggett, Lynnette and Lindsey Daniels and Samantha Dufort were able to attend the Older Youth camp. The week was filled with great classes, great food and blessings from God. One day a big storm was coming right for us. Some of the campers did not want their fun time at the swimming pond interrupted so they stopped on the way to the water and did a circle prayer. Susie was looking at her weather app and was able to see the storm break in two and go around us. She took screen shots of her phone to show the campers and staff. One of the campers said "Of course, we prayed!"

We are very thankful for our visiting ministry.

Port Huron-Sarnia Branch



By: Sharon Smerer

Happy Summer Saints:

We have a "Slugger" in our Congregation, his name is Lowell Milett. He had a three for three home runs. Brother David Teeple wants to be his agent. He played for Trombley Excavating. Lowell is from Brown City, Mi. Lowell is the son of proud parents, Joe and Jennifer Milett and grandson of John and Connie DeBell who are also proud of his achievements. Lowell's team went undefeated, so a perfect win. Congratulations Lowell and also to your teammates!!!

Lydia, Owen and Elise DeBell ran a 5K River Run in Marysville, Mi. Sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice. Lydia won a third-place medal and Owen and Elise came in 4 seconds within each other. Great job, everyone. The DeBell children have some pretty awesome parents, Jim and Marnie DeBell. Yes, the grand-parents, John and Connie DeBell, are pretty proud of their grandchildren.

Evan Kercher escorted his date to her Prom. She looked very lovely in a sleeveless gown of green with gold brocade bodice. Evan is the son of Christine Kercher and

grandson of John and Connie DeBell. Evan cleans up pretty good, nice suit!!

Ariana Britz was escorted to her Prom. She too looked lovely in a black lace bodice and a long black skirt. Ariana is the daughter of Jason and Carrie Britz and granddaughter of John and Barbara Tynan. Looking sharp Ari!!

Our graduates this year are Ariana Britz and Alexis Parmenter. Our congregation is very proud of your achievements. We will continue to pray for both young ladies as you further your education. Best wishes to you both.

High Priest Paul Gage has asked for prayers for our Evangelist Patriarch's, Mike Ballantyne and Vernon Darling. They have had some health issues and could use some thoughtful prayers. If you would like to send them a card their addresses are on the bulletin board in the hallway. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Brother David and wife Barbara Teeple are living in Buckeye, Arizona. In May, they spent four days on the Navajo reservation. They visited families along with Elders Joe Hale, Brian Mundy, Kevin and Chuck Humphrey and Ray Lane from Missouri. Many of the Saints have not had anyone from the church visiting for quite some time and they were very receptive and welcomed us with open arms. We had a wonderful Sacrament service Sunday, May 7, 2017, with Elder Brian Mundy speaking and Elder Joe Hale presiding. They are planning a

Reunion on the reservation in Pinon, Az., the second week of July and the Saints there are very excited. We would love to have many of the Saints attend. Alexis Parmenter and Adrienne Slossar were named at SC4 to the President's Honor List for Winter 2017. Alexis is daughter of Jessica Parmenter and granddaughter of Brian and Cathy Daggett. Adrienne Slossar is daughter of Kirk and Heidi Slossar and grand-daughter of Larry and Debbie Scheffler. To be named to the list, students must have taken at least six credits during the semester and earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Our congregation is proud of your achievements, as well as, the parents and grandparents.

Zion's Youth Camp was at Woodlands Campground in Hale, Mi. this year, for youth ages 12-18 years. We pray that Shaun and Michelle Turner and all the other teachers and priesthood had a fun, and spiritual week. and enjoyed the teenagers.

Our congregation wants to congratulate Ellie Kercher in finishing EMT school. She received a scholarship at McLaren Hospital from the CEO and chairmen of the scholarship board. Yeah Ellie!! One step closer to having your Registered Nurse degree.

Erie Beach Camp for children, born in 2009 or are going into grade 3 by September 2017, and CIT's was July 16 - 22, 2017. Hoping everyone had a fun and spiritual experience. We hope Betty Lou Newman and all her teachers and CIT's had a

wonderful week with your children.

Elise DeBell was baptized by her grandfather, Elder John DeBell on July 22, 2017 in the AuSable River at Roscommon, Mi. Elise is the daughter of Jim and Marnie DeBell and granddaughter of John and Connie DeBell. The confirmation will be soon.

We had a Baby Blessing on July 23, 2017, Aaliyah Marie Hamilton, daughter of Toni Sue Hamilton and granddaughter of Donna Hamilton. She was blessed by Elders Ed Smerer and Ron Giles. Avery Bolt sang, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" and her Dad, Scott Bolt played the guitar. Later Scott Bolt sang, "The Blessing" and played the guitar. So cute and she didn't make a sound. What a beautiful baby girl. Our prayer is for Aaliyah and Toni, all the love and care that God has for both of them.

July 24-30 Great Lakes Regional Reunion held at Wesleyan Woods Conference Center and Campground at Vassar, Mi. The guest ministers were High Priest Steve Bohall and Elder Doug Smith from Missouri, and Elder Fred Brown, Sr. and other local Priesthood. The Old Bookman, Paul Ludy taught the Adult afternoon class about the churches history, and also, with his wife, they ran the selling of the books. Also, High Priest Steve Bohall, and Elder Doug Smith taught the morning adult classes. Elder Eric Odida and his wife Pamela were not able to come from Kenya, Africa, because of the unsettling in Africa. The messages which we heard

were very thought provoking and uplifting.

Betty Milett, age 11, took part in Street Art during Brown City Days festivities. She did a chalk painting on the Main Street of Brown City, Mi. She even made the front page of the Sanilac County News on June 14, 2017. Betty is the daughter of Joe and Jennifer Milett and granddaughter of John and Connie DeBell.

We have many people that we are praying for and we hope that we can make a difference in their lives.

Hope everyone enjoys the rest of your summer and be safe.

Sanilac



By: Kathleen Palmer

**Humble yourselves in the sight
Of the Lord and He shall lift you
up.**

James 4:10

May was our annual Mother/Daughter Banquet. The theme was “Loving Angels.” We all loved preparing for this special event. We would like to thank Kerri Horton for all the work he did on the landscaping and helping us out. Also, Deana

Pirt for all her help with the decorating, flowers and the special give away gifts she brings each year. Our program consisted of solos sang by Kerri Daniels, Denise Rich and our special angel Emma DesJardins. They all sang like angels. The children came in dressed like angels and passed out written blessings from their purses. These were handed out and read by those who received them. Poems were read by the women. Humorous readings were read by the women about things children say. A blue sky with clouds was hung on the wall with a billowy cloud floor with an angel, flowers and a beautiful harp, provided by Denise’s friend Sharlene Hendricks. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch which was served by Mike Daniels, Kerri Horton, Gary DesJardins, Josh Bradley and Randy DesJardins . We would like to thank each and everyone who came to the banquet. All who came received beautiful gifts and flowers. We are so blessed to do this each year. Next year’s theme is “Grandma’s Pantry.” Come find out what this might be all about. Also, I hear there is to be a surprise visitor!!!!

Gary Desjardins graduated from Peck High School May 21st. He is going to WYO TECH in Blairsville, Penn. In Sept. He will be studying auto and light diesel mechanics and also a course in

management. An open house was held for him on June 11th. We all wish you the best in this next step of your future. God Bless you.

We had a Father's Day/graduation potluck party on Sunday June 18th. Gary DesJardins was honored as our graduate for 2017. Denise Rich presented a wonderful Father's Day program with all of us participating talking about our fathers. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal and great fellowship.

On July 9th, there was no church services at our church so all could attend Algonac Branch for the ordination of Eric Eliason to an Elder. He is the son of Elder Barent and Barb Eliason. Eric's brother traveled from Missouri to be with his parents and family for this very blessed time.

Brandi Tomanek, Brian Hartwick and Emma DesJardins traveled to Erie Beach for children's camp July 18-22. Sarah and Emma Eliason came with their uncle Elder Jason Howard to attend camp also. Jim and Jean McLeod drove Barent and Barb to the camp to see their granddaughters and had a very special time. The children said they had a very spiritual and fun filled week. Thanks to Debbie DesJardins, Jean McLeod and Gary DesJardins for taking the

children to and from camp. Also to Barent and Barb Eliason for the use of their van. It is so very wonderful that this camp can be provided for our children. Thank You Betty Lou Newman and all your staff who make this possible. God Bless you all.

Denise Rich, Justin, Aubree, Brendon and Sequoia Kurtansky, Missy, Maddy and Sydney Parker all stayed for the week for the Great Lakes Regional Reunion campgrounds at Vassar. Many from our branch went every day for classes and services. The feedback was this was the best reunion ever. The classes and services were spiritual and full of special messages. "Be still and know that I am God." Sydney Parker was baptized by her grandfather, Priest Bill Sutton in a very beautiful baptismal service. She was confirmed by Elder Barent Eliason and Elder Shawn Turner. God Bless you Sydney. Brandi Tomanek sang twice at the reunion. Once as a prelude and the other in the talent show. She sang the Old Old Path and Books of the Bible. It is so wonderful when our youth share their talents.

We would continue to ask prayers for Barent and Barb Eliason for their health issues. They are improving because of faith and prayers.

Mary Morris, mother of Kathleen Palmer, had liver cancer and gallbladder surgery. She is 97 years old and recovering very nicely. Thanks for your prayers.

Maddy Parker had an auto accident and we are so thankful she is all right. She is truly blessed that her injuries were not worse and she is here with us now.

William Palmer, husband of Kathleen Palmer, has been diagnosed with colon cancer and has to have surgery. Your prayers would be appreciated.

Sept 23rd is the Book of Mormon Day at the Oakwood Restoration Branch from 9am to 3:30pm. There will be children's classes from k-6. The theme is Archaeological Evidences for the Book of Mormon. Guest speakers are Archaeologist, Neil Steede and David Brown. This is the 25th anniversary of the Book of Mormon Day. A potluck dinner will be served with Kathi Havener in charge along with the Oakwood members. It is sad that this will be the last Book of Mormon Day. They are so informative of what is happening in our world with the discoveries being made to support the Book of Mormon. Barent and Barb Eliason have been in charge of this for the past 25 years and have done such a wonderful job of presenting this very

informative day for all to learn. It is a lot of work for them to put this on every year and health issues have been an issue. So, let's all thank them for making the Book of Mormon Days so special for all these years. Also thanks to all who are a part of this day. The speakers and all who participate to make this day a memorable one. We have been blessed by the Lord to have been able to do His work in this area.

The priesthood who travel to our branch to bring the Lord's message, are very much appreciated. They are Jay (Kathi) Havener, Gary (Marge) Holmes and to our own priesthood who bring us the gospel messages. We are truly blessed by all of you.

It takes many working together to make our branch what it is. We have many talents that are being used and this makes our Lord so pleased.

We at Sanilac wish all of you a very colorful fall and to the farmers a great harvest!

Regional Activities for the Next Quarter

**Sept. 16, 2017 – Priesthood Retreat
@ Kirtland Temple**

**Sept. 23, 2017 (Sat.) - 25th Anniversary Book of Mormon
Day @ Oakwood Restoration Branch, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**Oct. 6 – 8, 2017 Regional Fall Women’s Retreat
@ Wesleyan Woods Campground, Vassar, MI**

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