

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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*****Anyone with an address of “Isolated Saints” please contact Dennis Smith!!!*****

Algonac Branch By: Val Bradley

“Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

Throughout this past quarter, we enjoyed celebrating the Lord’s birth and all the services and festivities of the season. We are grateful for this season of stillness and the chance to rest and reflect on all the good gifts the Lord has blessed us with and the new opportunities we have to serve Him.

On November 18, our Thanksgiving Children’s Program was presented, under the direction of Kelli Williams. Eric

Eliason gave the opening prayer. Kelli read a Thanksgiving poem. The children dressed in either pilgrim or indian costumes and gathered around a harvest table. Alyssa Marcangelo, David Nagy, Bethany Moses and Brianna Morrison played the part of pilgrims. Miles Marcangelo, Ava Nagy, and Briggs and Bryer Eliason played the part of indians. They talked about the history of Thanksgiving and various ways to observe the holiday. Each of the children stated what they were thankful for, which included family, food, shelter, friends, and their environment. The congregation sang a Thanksgiving Psalm, to the tune of “Joy to the World.” The program ended

with the reading of Psalm 100 by Cory Eliason.

Friday, December 7, was our annual Christmas celebration. This year we met at The Apple Orchard Inn in Romeo. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal and great fellowship. Marge Holmes presented each family with a 2013 calendar with all of the birthdays and anniversaries of our Algonac saints written in. Nina Powers gave each of the women snowman or santa mugs and she gave the men booklets by Norman Vincent Peale, entitled, "Amazing Promises – 31 Promises That Can Change Your Life." The women presented Nina with a special gift to thank her for all she does for us throughout the year. We ended our evening together by singing a couple of Christmas carols, including, "Joy to the World."

(As reported by Elaine King.)
Algonac Branch held their annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale December 14th & 15th. A big thanks to all the sisters who helped out by making goodies and crafts. Wendy Holmes, Elaine King & Connie Burns, along with the assistance of a friend, Debra, made it to church on Wednesday prior to the sale to set up and decorate the fellowship hall. It looked fabulous. Debra was also our first sale of the weekend. Wednesday and Thursday the goodies began coming in - cookies by the dozen, breads, brownies galore & so much more. We had a Grannies Attic this year for the first time which held many Christmas items & such. We got this idea from the sisters in Sanilac. (Val, Wendy, Marilyn & I had gone to their craft show back in November.) It went very well, so we plan to include this in years to come. Thanks for the great idea, Sanilac ladies! As you are going through your attics, basements and garages this spring, please put aside special items for us for both the spring rummage sale & Christmas Craft sale.

On Friday we opened the doors at 10am. We had many customers that day. A woman called the church to ask for help as she was going to be homeless as of Monday. We put her in touch with the right people to help her. It just so happened that our customer from last year who helped out at the local Al-Anon Center came in while we were looking for their number. We were right in the middle of looking all over for a number we just had and now could not find and up the driveway rides Charlie on his bike. We met Charlie last year - he is a 20+ years recovering alcoholic who likes to help people in Algonac. The Lord sent him to us as he knew this lady who called needed help. Later that day Charlie's wife Bonnie came in also to buy lots of baked goods and we let her know that whatever did not sell from Grannies Attic, we would again donate to her cause. While she was there, we had a very nice conversation about miracles. Bonnie believes her son had a miracle when she dialed a wrong number which turned out to be the right number. Her son had transferred to Washington with his job and took his wife and children with him. After they got there they discovered that the state made it legal to have and smoke marijuana. He realized it was not the environment in which he wanted to raise his family. Her son wanted to transfer back home but had not been there for one year, which is company policy. So he sent his wife and children home while he stayed in Washington. The number that Bonnie mistakenly called happened to be the daughter of the plant manager of the Boeing company her son works for in their home state. They talked about openings and such and there is a good chance he will be home with his family soon. God was working there for sure. On Saturday we again opened at 10 am. A lady who lives in town and goes to a local church stopped by. She asked about our church and what we believe in. Wendy did a spectacular job explaining our beliefs and how the Restoration Branch of Latter

Day Saints came to be. I was very impressed and hope that some day I too will be able to explain as easily as she did. We talked about ways to help and she informed us of a new women's shelter that just opened in Marine City. Wendy and I will look into it and have the information on hand for any future calls regarding needs in the area. We would like to extend thanks to our sisters from the Port Huron Branch, Sanilac Branch and Oakwood Branch for supporting our sale. Also, thanks again to all the Algonac sisters who helped, especially Connie, who is always a very big help. We had a successful sale, and more importantly, a chance to be a presence in the community. We love the opportunity we have every year to meet the people of Algonac, hear some wonderful stories, and witness to our neighbors. Please come out and join us for our next sale, to be held over the Memorial Day weekend!

Sunday, December 16, was a great day for our Algonac church family. Baby Adeline Marie Yaney (daughter of Joel and Nicole) was blessed at the 11:00 a.m. service. The blessing was performed by Elder Gary Holmes, assisted by Adeline's proud grandpa, Elder Todd Yaney. Adeline was quiet and stared up at Gary throughout the entire prayer. It was very touching and we are thankful for this beautiful ordinance. Our thoughts, prayers, and support are with Adeline and her family. Later that afternoon, a Baptismal Service was held for Ava & David Nagy (David & Amy's twins) at the Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch. Elder Hod Powers presided, Elder Jim Bradley brought the Charge to the Candidates, and Priest Tim Holmes brought the Charge to the Congregation. Todd Moses played for the service and also brought the beautiful ministry of music. Ava and David were baptized by their uncle, Elder Todd Yaney. As always, it was a wonderful ordinance to witness and the Lord's Spirit was present. There were many relatives

and friends on hand to offer their love and support. We are so happy for Ava and David, and welcome them to our church family! We will pray for them as they continue to learn and grow in the faith. We are thankful to the Pt. Huron saints for the use of their beautiful sanctuary.

On Wednesday, December 19, we hosted a pot luck dinner in honor of some dear saints from Australia, who were in town visiting Gary and Marge Holmes. We enjoyed good food and great fellowship with Elder Peter Archer, his wife, Helen, and their son, Elder Danny Archer. At the Prayer & Testimony service which followed, all three of them gave wonderful testimonies. They shared how they came into the church and told about the ministry they are involved in. We all fell in love with them. They are very humble servants and it's evident how much they love the Lord.

Our Christmas Children's Program was held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 23, under the direction of Kelli Williams. The story of the nativity was told through the eyes of Clopper, the donkey, who was at the scene when Jesus was born. The donkey (puppet) was played by Bethany Moses. Brianna Morrison was the narrator. The part of Mary was played by Daynna Harm and David Nagy played the part of Joseph. The angels were portrayed by Ava Nagy and Rachel Pirt, and Miles Marcangelo was a shepherd. There were three very cute sheep ... Laurel Yaney, and Briggs and Bryer Eliason. The congregation was surprised and delighted with the addition of a "live" baby Jesus this year. The part was played by baby Adeline Yaney. She was such a doll and didn't fuss the whole time! Throughout the play, musical numbers were performed by Gary Holmes, Todd Moses, Liz Moses, and the Algonac Quartet. The congregation sang a couple of Christmas hymns and the children also performed a number of

songs. These included Away in a Manger, Twinkle, Twinkle Great Big Star, Christian Kids Rejoice, Jingle Bells, and Ring Those Bells. We especially love the last one, as we enjoy watching the kids enthusiastically ring the bells! They ended with singing, "We Wish you a Merry Christmas." The children then gave a gift to each family. It was a tree ornament (a cloth pouch), and we were requested to fill it with written words that bring peace, hope, joy, love, or a wish we may have. We were told to hang it on our tree and look at it each Christmas to come. The congregation presented Marge and Gary Holmes with a potted evergreen tree with gift cards on it to thank them for another year of wonderful ministry and leadership. A big thanks to Kelli, Todd Moses, and all the children who took part in this presentation. We were really blessed by their dedication and participation.

Our annual Candlelight Service was held on Wednesday, January 2. Elders Gary Holmes and Todd Moses were in charge of the service. It was a chance to celebrate the gift of the Christ child, along with welcoming in the start of a new year. Select scriptures were read from Luke 2 and from chapters 9 and 59 of Isaiah. Gary Holmes played the guitar and sang, "O little Town of Bethlehem" and Ray Moses sang, "O Holy Night." Poems were read by Elaine Harm, Kelli Williams, and Nadine Moses, and a number of hymns were sung by the congregation. At the end of the service candles were lit and the saints shared their hopes for the new year. Pastor Gary Holmes left us with the following thoughts:

"This coming year, 2013, is full of uncertainty and turmoil. Worldwide unrest is greater than at any other time in history. This nation seems headed in the wrong direction and the condition of the church is weakened and scattered. The challenges we face are great, but the promises are greater. How we respond to the challenge of the future will determine

our fate both now and in eternity. How will you meet the future?

Prayers would be appreciated for Bonnie (Cargill) Tracy, Dick Burns, Marge Holmes, Nina Powers, Kelli Williams, Bruce and Barb Krinkie, and Jean John. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

Atlanta Branch By: Jessica S. Joles Slater

In the last three months the NMRB has experiences several high and low points. We were greatly saddened by the passing of Elder Jim Wregglesworth. Jim's funeral was held December 5th and was attended by many friends and family. Jim will always be remembered for his dedication to the church. He was our pastor, friend and brother and he will be missed. Following is his obituary:

Ralph "Jim" Wregglesworth, age 77, of Tower, died on Saturday December 1, 2012 at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey. The son of George and Hilda (Bowles) Wregglesworth, Jim was born in Onaway on November 24, 1935. He married Eleanor H. Styes on February 18, 1956 at the Tower R.L.D.S. Church.

A lifelong resident of the Onaway area, Jim was well-known in the community. For many years he worked as a lumberman with his brother, Richard, and their father, cutting pulpwood. Jim also was quite skilled at repairing chainsaws. Eventually, Jim started his own business, Ralph's

Repair, and worked around Northern Michigan as an appliance repairman. Ralph retired in 2008.

A longtime member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, Jim served as Pastor for more than 30 years, first in Onaway and more recently at the Restoration Branch of the RLDS Church in Atlanta. Jim was a talented musician, playing the guitar and banjo, as well as singing. He loved being accompanied by Eleanor on the accordion and enjoyed "Pickin' and Grinnin' Get Togethers". An avid fisherman, Jim knew all the best fishing holes in the area. He also enjoyed watching Westerns and cooking shows. His quick wit and wonderful sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

Surviving is Jim's wife of nearly 57 years, Eleanor Wregglesworth of Tower; son, Jim Wregglesworth of Tower; daughters, Crystal (Richard) Thompson of Petoskey and Carla (Scott) Walker of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; five grandsons, Jake, Shawn, Joshua, Lucas, and Jonathan; and one great granddaughter, Emma. Jim is also survived by his brothers, Brian (Debbie) of Wasilla, Alaska, Richard (Leota "Boots") and Terry (Marion), both of Onaway; sisters, Carol (Dale) Latsch and Leora (Mark) Dean, both of Onaway; as well as

numerous nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Charles Wregglesworth.

Visitation will be held at the Onaway Community of Christ Church on Wednesday December 5, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the funeral service beginning at 1:00 p.m. Elder Harry Hyde will officiate. Jim's final resting place will be at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Tower. Contributions to honor the memory of Jim Wregglesworth should be given to his family to help with expenses.

With Jim's passing, Christmas seemed quiet and somehow it seemed fitting that Christmas services were cancelled due to weather and illness.

On a high note, Priest Mark Ouder Kirk married Kim Kangas of Newberry, MI on December 15th. The wedding was officiated by Elder Harry Hyde with the assistance of Elders Doug Daggett and Howard LaLone. The wedding was a small private affair held at the NMRB. The wedding was followed by a potluck reception where we were delighted to meet and become acquainted with Kim's family who traveled from the UP to attend. It was wonderful that Elder Doug Daggett could stay the weekend and give the Sunday sermon.

As winter continues to have northern Michigan in her icy grips, our branch hasn't been as active as usual. 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:

Christiane - Undiagnosed severe pain
Tonya – Guidance and direction
Lillian Benac - Continues to reside in a care facility and asks for prayers for her affliction
Cliff Goodfellow – Cancer
Elder Lee Hittle - Severe health problems
Dolores Howard – Joint pain
Mark Howard - unspecified
Janet LaDuc – Marriage problems
Brad Ormsbee – Heart and stomach trouble
Ruth Ann Ormsbee – Severe health problems
Cliff Peters – Guidance and direction
Jim Ross – Eyesight
Willy Ross – Broken hip and Alzheimer’s
Niki Walters – Hearing

God Bless

Garden City By: Kurt & Susan
Fishwild

Greetings to our fellow saints from the saints at Garden City!
On November 11, 2012, Greysen Mancilla Salas was blessed by Elder Carl McKiddie, assisted by Elder Rex Monarch. Greysen is the son of Jessica McKiddie and the grandson of Carl McKiddie.
The children at Garden City presented the story of the Wise men and the young boy Jesus on December 30, 2012. The story was told in song, readings and a short play. Some of the adults also participated with scriptures and poems. One of the messages of the program was that the Wise men came when Jesus was a young child, not a baby.
In January, Tom Carnahan (Missouri) was in a serious car accident when he was hit by a drunk driver. He was badly injured and has a broken vertebra. Tom is the son of Glen and Vivian (Connie) Carnahan. He appreciates the continued prayers of all of the saints as he recovers.
January 18 – 20, 2013, several children and C.I. T.’s (Counselors in Training) from

Garden City attended the retreat at the Oakwood Branch. The children learned about Elijah and Elisha and their connections. They enjoyed classes, swimming and campfires. A number of the children and youth from different congregations contributed to the 11:00 service through the ministry of music (piano, violin, trumpet). The Retreat choir also sang several songs for the congregation during the service. The children continue to collect money to assist the saints in the Philippines. It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Justen Kilgore on January 26, 2013. Justen was the son of Carolyn Kilgore. He attended the baptism of his mother Carolyn last September at the Garden City Branch. Please continue to pray for our sister Carolyn during this difficult time.
Many thanks to the guest ministers over the past three months: Elder Fred Brown Jr., Elder Ed MacDonald and Elder Doug Daggett.

Oakwood By: Kathleen Modders

The Oakwood women ended the year with a great Christmas party that included lots of good food and fellowship. Sister Kathi Havener had us drawing Christmas trees on paper on top of our heads and feeling around in Santa’s hat to determine what household items were hidden inside...We also had a wonderful lunch, followed by our annual white elephant gift exchange, finishing the great fellowship with a Christmas song service where we sang “Joy to the World” (of course!) and many other Christmas favorites.!

Oakwood ladies traveled to Algonac in early December to attend the Algonac Christmas Bazaar and support our dear sisters in that area of the Lord's vineyard. We enjoyed visiting with our sisters and buying yummy treats, eating yummy treats, and eating yummy treats, and eating yummy treats, and...

Also in December, Kathi Havener led a joint Zion's Youth Retreat – Older Youth Retreat (for post high school youth led by Sarah Monarch) at the Garden City Branch. The Garden City Saints baked hundreds of cookies for a local homeless shelter, and the youth decorated them for Christmas. This was a wonderful outreach activity coordinated by the Garden City Saints that we were all blessed to participate in. Saturday night, the kids enjoyed swimming and basketball (and showers!) at the local YMCA, and then all drove through Hines Park looking at the Christmas light display.

Wendy Nagy and Chris Vandenberg led the children in our annual Christmas play. We were all truly blessed watching the kids portray characters from the nativity as they told us the story of the night baby Jesus was born. Afterwards, we had a great Christmas dinner, and

Santa even stopped by to share in the festivities! Great job Wendy, Chrissy, and kids!

Kathleen and Mike Modders hosted a New Year's Eve safe night party at Oakwood Church where we enjoyed pizza, played games, watched a movie, and saw the old year out and welcomed the new year in with our loving church family. Everyone had a great – and safe time!

January 18 - 20, Sister Betty Lou Newman led a retreat at Oakwood for the region's younger youth, with approximately 22 youth attending. Oakwood youth included Autumn Turner, Bryan Hardwick, and Heather Mervin. Elder Ed MacDonald also taught five stewardship classes that weekend, on various stewardship responsibilities. The youth provided the special music for the church service, and all enjoyed a nice potluck lunch. Thanks Betty Lou for all your outstanding work with the kids!

The Oakwood youth are hosting a Valentines banquet fundraiser at Oakwood, Saturday night, February 16, complete with a spaghetti dinner followed by a fun program in the sanctuary.

Throughout 2013, the Women's department is collecting new underwear for the needy through a program called Love Inc. Bev Ruch and Bonnie Murphy volunteer at the center every week, and they are leading this very important outreach activity for Oakwood.

Kathi and Jay led the Zion's Youth Retreat for junior and senior high youth February 8 – 10 at Oakwood. Twenty kids across the region participated with Nick Brown, Reese and Jackson Nagy, Drew and Cole Vandenberg, Parker Mervyn and Dustin Michael, Drew Tomanek and Ashley Ward, Raven Franks, Chad and Brandon Embree, and Jonathan Modders attending from Oakwood. We missed Joey Brown and Kyle Burnand who were both ill and couldn't attend, and Dan Daggett who had to work. Other adult staff included Tracy and John Stokes, Julie Fox, Jay and Kathi Havener, Shaun Turner, Kathleen Modders, and Joshua Johnson. Matt and Chris Mervyn also helped with the sledding and recreation center activities. The theme was "It's all about your heart," with Jay and Kathi teaching classes about witnessing and concepts from the book of Ruth. Saturday was a beautiful day, and the kids enjoyed sledding in the afternoon and hot chocolate and cookies when they

returned to the church. Later that night, they went to the Lapeer Community Center and played basketball and swam (and took showers!). The youth provided special music Sunday morning with Gary DesJardins beautifully playing "Jesus Loves Me" on his trumpet. They all did a great job, and we enjoyed a great potluck after the service.

Turkeyville, here we come! Kathi Havener is organizing a Turkeyville dinner theatre outing for the Oakwood Saints on March 16 where we will attend the musical comedy "Amazing Grace."

Julie Fox is once again leading the efforts for the Walk for Wishes fund raiser sponsored by Oakwood, to be held the first Saturday in May at the Detroit Zoo. This charity grants youth with incurable diseases trips to such places as Disney Land, or other wishes they may have. It is a wonderful thing to make a difference in a child's life! We thank God that we are in a position to help, and we invite all Saints and friends in the region to join us in this fundraiser. Please contact Julie Fox if you would like to participate in this Walk for Wishes fundraiser. It's a great day to enjoy the zoo, get a free lunch and t-shirt, and make a difference to a family in need!

Shawn Ruch is recovering very well from her knee replacement surgery. Both she and Mick were very blessed!

Upcoming birthdays: 03/04 Jamie Moore, 03/06 Brandon Embree, 03/10 Heather Mervyn, 03/14 Chet Slagor, 03/15 Bryan Hardwick, 03/18 Cody Ruch, 03/23 Sammy Hoover, 03/25 Derrick Embree, 03/28 Beth Everhart, 03/29 Jamie Modders, 03/29 Cheryl Slagor, 04/01 Michael Ruch, 04/08 Don Everhart, 04/08 Emma Turner, 04/09 Christina Mervyn, 04/11 Renae Tomanek, 04/14 Dennis Smith, 04/18 Chris Vandenberg, 04/20 Chris Nagy, 04/24 Jackson Nagy, 04/26 Rebecca MacDonald, 05/06 Jay Havener, 05/08 Harold Edwards, 05/12 Mary Richards, 05/13 Noame Holcomb, 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 Shirley MacDonald, 06/25 Chad Embree, and 06/27 Cruz Nagy.

Sanilac By: Kathleen Palmer
Sanilac News submitted by Janine Essenmacher for vacationing Kathleen Palmer who is in warm Florida with husband, Bill, on a well deserved vacation.

Mosiah 11:125 Yea, blessed is this people, who are willing to bear my name; for in my name shall they be called; and they are mine.

In November our little branch hosted a big Bazaar with the addition of Grandma's Attic. It was very successful thanks to the efforts of our members as well as the support of the Restoration Branches & our community. This year was our last bazaar which ends a long tradition for the Sandusky Branch. Thanksgiving reminded us how much we have to be thankful for. Our pastor & his wife do leave the flock once in awhile. We were glad Barb & Barent were able to go down to Missouri to enjoy Thanksgiving with family & friends.

In December our little church was filled with much fellowship, joy & praising as we anticipated the celebration of our Savior's birth. One evening we decorated the church followed by a family pizza night & desserts. Barent was in charge of our Wednesday night candlelight service highlighting the Book of Mormon account of Christ's birth. At the end of the service we held hands & prayed in the glow of candle and Christmas tree light. A spirit of peace filled our little church. The next Sunday Tom & Janine were in charge of our Christmas program. We gathered around the Christmas tree to hear the Inspired Version account of the birth of Christ. We sang the Christmas carols as they fit into the story. Following the church service we shared a meal with conversation & gifts to go around. Our pastor & his wife again left the flock (two months in a row is a record) to fly to Missouri to share Christmas with family & friends. Unfortunately, the weather did not co-operate & when they circled KCI Airport they were sent back to Detroit and then onto Flint. Barent, a man of faith & determination with a praying wife by his side, decided to drive. The journey was quite an adventure that only they can tell although there are probably two versions. In January our little church lost one of its beloved members, Esther Markey. Barent

& Kathleen were privileged to be asked to participate in the funeral service. Barent shared the responsibility with Harlow Elsholt of the C of C. Kathleen, accompanied by Barb on the piano, sang "In The Garden" & "Beyond the Sunset", which were two of Esther's favorite songs. Tom, Janine, & Gary DeJardins attended Winter Youth Retreat in Oakwood. The children provided the music for the Introit with Gary playing his trumpet. Old Testament stories were shared with the focus on Elijah & Elisha.

We would like to thank all the visiting priesthood who drive the distance to share their ministry with us. We would especially like to thank Kim Gilchrist for coming to play the piano & her daughter, Samantha, for singing. Your talents were a gift to us. Thank you for all your prayers for Barent through his surgeries & for Dora Guitierrez through her illness with continued dialysis.

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

Regional Activities for the next quarter

May 18th 2013 Women's Retreat @ Port Huron/ Sarnia

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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