

The Anchor



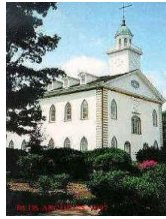
The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

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Issue 94

Winter 2016



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

**"Trust in Him at all times, ye people;
pour out your heart before Him: God
is a refuge for us." (Psalm 62:8)
God is our refuge and strength, the
only one we can truly trust and rely**

**on, especially in these times of turmoil
and confusion. Praise His name!**

**The Home Ministry Program was
reinstated in our branch recently.
Priest Eric Eliason and Elder Gary
Holmes have started visiting our
Algonac saints. They plan to visit the
homes of each of our members several
times throughout the year. Their
visits have been well received and the
fellowship and ministry they bring has
been a blessing to all of us!**

**Our branch business meeting was held
on November 8. Elder Gary Holmes
graciously agreed to continue in the
role of pastor. Since everyone was**

doing such a good job in the positions they held, we voted to retain and support them as they continue their responsibilities in this new year!

Thanks to Wendy Holmes, Tina Yaney, Connie Burns, and Wendy's friends Debra and Tom, the Fellowship Hall was all set up and decorated in a festive manner for the start of our Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale on Friday, December 4. The carols were playing and the fresh aroma of coffee, hot cocoa and baked goods permeated the air. We were ready to roll! Wendy Holmes, Marilyn Canham, Connie Burns, Val Bradley, Kim Gilchrist and Angie Elkins helped out at the Bazaar. We had lots of clothes, Christmas decorations, books, knickknacks and baked goods to choose from. The food items went rather quickly - especially Connie's gluten-free goodies! Tina Yaney and family did another craft item for our sale this year. A cleverly decorated wooden sign - one side spelled out "Happy Thanksgiving" and the other side spelled out "Merry Christmas." It was a great contribution! A number of "regulars" showed up on the first day. It was interesting to hear the stories many of the customers shared with us. One woman was thrilled about a Christmas ornament that was inscribed with "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." She bought it to give to her grandson who moved into an apartment and is on his own for the first time. She said he just became a Christian and would really love it! Another customer is a local in the community and works in a Group Home. She bought quite a few bags of clothing to distribute to the residents in the Home. Even our own members found some "treasures" for themselves or others. Marilyn was very excited to find three old movies that she'd been wanting for a long

time. A neighbor that had attended Friday's sale came back in on Saturday with a box of donations for us. One gentleman came in and stated that he'd been having a bad day. We gave him a coffee, and chatted with him for a while. He thanked us when he left and said he felt much better. That's really what it was all about ... bringing cheer to others. We did well with the sale financially, but more importantly, we reached out to those in our church community and tried to show them God's love. A big thank you to all those who helped out with the sale, to our women who contributed baked goods or other items, and especially to Wendy Holmes for organizing this annual event. God bless you all! FYI: The next sale will be at our branch on July 1 - 4, during Algonac's Pickerel Tournament. We'd love to see you there!

Close to 30 people attended our Algonac family Christmas gathering at Dimitri's restaurant on Friday, December 11. The food was delicious and we had fun visiting and laughing with each other. Our Women's Leader, Nina Powers did a reading taken from a Christmas card that was sent by our pastor, Gary Holmes and his wife, Marge. Then Kelli Williams read a Christmas poem that was written in '93 by Irene Smith (Val's Mom). Nina had printed out the poem on pretty paper and gave each couple a copy to take home. She also presented each of the women with a tealight candle with a Scripture verse from Ephesians on it. She gave each of the men a booklet entitled, "Hope ... Choosing Faith Instead of Fear." The women presented Nina with a book and a gift card as a token of our appreciation for all she does for us throughout the year. Before leaving, the women exchanged gifts and enjoyed seeing what each one

received. A great spirit of love and fellowship prevailed throughout the evening and we felt truly blessed!

The Children's Christmas Program, directed by Kelli Williams, was held on Sunday, December 20. The story, "A Donkey in the Living Room" was narrated by Brianna Morrison, Bethany Moses, and Todd Moses. Some of the older students narrated their own parts in the story as well. The pageant was somewhat unique this year, as it included a lot of the stable animals. The costumes (& children) were really cute, and we were advised in advance to refrain from laughing, due to the seriousness of the program. The part of Mary was played by Daynna Harm. Joseph was played by Briggs Eliason. David Nagy was a wise man and Miles Marcangelo was a shepherd. Ava Nagy and Alyssa Marcangelo played the part of angels. Ames Eliason played the part of a donkey, Laurel Yaney played the part of a cow, Bryer Eliason played the part of a camel, and the part of a sheep was played by Addie Yaney. We had a live "baby Jesus," played by our newest little one, Vivian Yaney, who really touched our hearts! Throughout the pageant there were many musical numbers. The music was directed by Todd Moses, assisted by Bethany. The children sang many of the Christmas carols and hymns. In addition, special music was performed by Gary Holmes and the Algonac Quartet. Bryer Eliason read the poem, "Ring those Bells," and then the children performed it on the handbells. A lot of effort went into the program and we are grateful to Kelli, Todd, Bethany, the students, and their parents, who made it possible for them to participate. Our congregation was blessed! Following the program, Elder Gary Holmes brought a

marvelous Christmas message of love and hope to us at the 11:00 service.

The Blessing of Vivian Autumn Yaney (daughter of Joel and Nicole) took place on Sunday, December 27. She was blessed by Elder Gary Holmes and assisted by Elder Todd Yaney (grandpa). Her family stood with her during the blessing and we all felt God's Spirit during this wonderful sacrament.

Our annual Candlelight service was held on Wednesday, December 30. Elder Todd Moses was in charge. Many of our saints took part and our candles were lit throughout the entire service. The invocation was brought by Elder Todd Yaney. Readings were presented by Tina Yaney, Amy Nagy, Elaine Harm, and Val Bradley. Various Scriptures from the book of Luke giving an account of Christ's birth were read by Elder Gary Holmes. Christmas hymns were performed by Bethany Moses, Gary Holmes, Jake Hill, Ray Moses, and the Moses trio. In his message to us, Elder Todd Moses related a story called "50 Cents and Love." It was about how hard work, a heart for love, and using our talents can bring ministry to others in our world. He challenged us to think about what gifts we have and how we can use them to help others in this new year. The congregation also sang several hymns and the benediction was brought by Elder Gary Holmes.

In January we started up our Men's and Women's meetings again. We meet at the church once a month on Wednesday evening. The men are continuing to study the ordinances & sacraments of the church, under the direction of Elder Gary Holmes. Led by Val Bradley, the women are studying the book, "Traveling Light" by Max Lucado. After our respective

meetings, we meet together for snacks and fellowship. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to draw closer to our Lord and to each other and we would encourage all to come and join us!

News and Notes:

- **Vivian Autumn** was born to Joel and Nicole Yaney on November 16. She weighed 7 lbs., 9 ounces. What a cutie! Congratulations to the parents, siblings Lauren and Adeline, grandparents Todd and Tina Yaney, and great grandma, Elaine Harm. We are so happy for all of them!

Baby Vivian



- **Outreach to our Algonac community** included providing four families with turkeys and the fixings for Thanksgiving. In December we were able to provide numerous Christmas gifts for three children and various gift cards for groceries, toiletries, etc. for the family. We also were able to donate gloves and warm winter socks to local shelters.
- **Steve Williams** hosted a wonderful surprise 50th birthday dinner party for Kelli at Louis' Chop House on January 31. Most of our

Algonac saints were on hand to celebrate and wish her well. We shared a delicious meal, yummy chocolate "bumpy" cake, lots of laughter, and great fellowship! Kelli means so much to us and it was an honor to celebrate with her.

- **Congratulations to Bethany Moses**, who recently starred in the production of *Mary Poppins* (the Broadway Musical version) at Dakota High School. Naturally, she portrayed the leading role of Mary! She has been in 5 other Dakota productions and six outside musicals. As she is now a senior, this was her final Dakota musical, which made it truly special. Quite a large number of our Algonac saints had the honor and pleasure of seeing her in this show. It was such a fun production and everyone involved did a great job, but Bethany was definitely the STAR, in every sense of the word! She was fantastic and we are so proud of her. We wish her much success in future endeavors and pray that she will continue to use her God-given gifts for others to enjoy.

Bethany Moses as "Mary Poppins!"



Prayers would be appreciated for Tim and Wendy Holmes, Dick Burns, Liz Moses & her parents, Elaine King (& her Mom), Todd Yaney's Dad, Cliff, Kelli and Steve Williams, Ray Moses, Elaine Harm (hip surgery in April), Nina Powers, and Bruce and Barb Krinkie. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

Garden City



By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

Greetings from the saints at the Garden City Restoration Branch. November 13 to 15, a Children's Retreat was held at Garden City. The guest minister for the 11:00 Sunday service was Priest Peter Peterson from the Kirtland Restoration Branch. A delicious potluck was held after the service.

2015 Fall Retreat at Garden City -

Submitted by: Betty Lou Newman

Campers and adults gathered for a weekend apart from the world.

Scripture reading, prayer and fasting prepared each for the time of classes, songs, stories, and testimonies. The older youth were able to practice their CIT skills and assist the campers with a variety of activities. They also enjoyed learning more about the church while reading the novel "Birds of a Feather" by Joseph Anthony.

Ephesians 6:11 – 17 was the theme for the classes. Putting on the "full armor" of God was emphasized and how to connect that scripture to their lives at home, at school, and in the world. Hymns like Onward Christian Soldiers, Soldiers of Christ Arise, and God Is Marshalling His Army, took on new meaning as the lessons developed the meaning of the commandment.

During the weekend, Sister Janine Essenmacher shared a testimony (see below) about the theme of "Put on the full armor of God". See you February 19 – 21, 2016 for Winter Retreat at Port Huron. Come learn more about "The Life of Jesus". If you are older,

you are welcome to come and learn leadership and training skills. The CIT's will also read the book "Joseph Smith and His Progenitors" by Lucy Mack Smith.

Sister Janine's Testimony as shared with campers and adults at retreat:

"While Brother Tom and I were in Utah last fall, we visited the L.D.S. bookstore in Salt Lake City. As I was in the section with pictures, two caught my attention. One had a young man and the other had a young lady. Each was looking into a mirror but the reflection in the looking glass did not show the clothes they were wearing (white shirt and dress pants, white blouse and skirt). It showed them wearing the full armor of God! I said to Tom that we must get these for when Betty Lou does a retreat about this. We purchased them and a few other related items. When we arrived home, there was a message from Betty Lou asking us if we could each teach a class at the Fall Retreat. The theme for the weekend classes was 'Put on the whole armor of God' from Ephesians 6:11 – 17. What a reassurance."

Other News:

It is with sadness that we share of the passing of Elder Jack West (no picture available) at the age of 86, on January 29, 2016. Jack and his wife Virginia (Gini) attended the Garden City Restoration Branch for many years before moving to Lake Isabella, Michigan. Jack is survived by his wife Gini, his sons David and Eric, daughter Diane, step-sons Stephen, Michael, Ronald and Scott, twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Please keep Gini and the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our new pastor for 2016 is Elder Jeff Stoker. He was set apart during our February 7th service by Elder Carl McKiddie and Elder Kurt Fishwild.

Thanks to the guest ministers Priest Peter Peterson and Elder Tom Essenmacher who provided ministry to our congregation over the past few months.

Outreach at Garden City:

The congregation sponsored two families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were purchased and gifts were given for Christmas.

On Saturday, February 13th, Garden City Branch is once again sponsoring a "Free Store" where people can find clothes, housewares, baby items etc. Free lunch will also be provided.

In the near future, Karen Rintz and her Outreach Team are also hoping to make "Military Michigan Boxes" with items such as gum, books, socks etc. to send to troops in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia.

March 20th Palm Sunday



Otter Lake



By: Susie Daggett

My King

by Alli DeLand

My King, my beautiful King
Had a crown of thorns for me
My King, the most beautiful King,
Is more than something to believe.

More real than words themselves,
My astonishing King,
Loves more than I'll ever understand,
Truly loves me!!

Everything & more,
Creating all and in-between,
What a true comfort,
My loving King!

Thoughts by Janet Pallmig

Time goes by like raindrops falling from the sky.
In this past year (2015) could you count all your blessings? Absolutely not. We are blessed by our going to bed and getting up in the morning, and the time in-between and all our endeavors from sunrise to sunset. We as a congregation have done so much to help others. Which brings to mind Erica Hall, Alli's friend and her age soon to be 21 that had cancer. When I saw her at Christmas, she was cancer free and the picture of health. Then there is Claire, who has had 3 surgeries, full body cast and brace. She is good, doing remarkably well. The Lord knows what is in our hearts but other people need to hear because it helps them and gets them thinking. Write down a testimony & read it if you have to, but be accountable to your Heavenly Father. Be touched by His everlasting love.

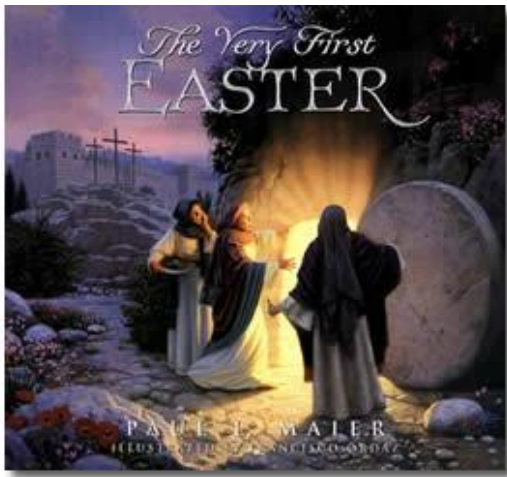
We had a nice Christmas program on December 20th. We look forward to the Christmas program every year where everyone participates. Our woman's leader Janet Pallmig was

able to give out some food baskets for the holiday season.

We have had to cancel service a couple of times because of the weather. The one Sunday Bill Sutton got to church to set up and couldn't get up the driveway because of the ice. Our pastor Doug is on a temporary work assignment in Midland. It will be through March. He has to work so many weekends also, so the visiting ministry is very helpful.

Thank you to our visiting ministry Shaun Turner. We are looking forward to Ed Smerer and Gary Holmes in the upcoming months. Remember to call Bill Sutton back if you are willing to have the Sunday morning message at our congregation. We appreciate the visiting ministry tremendously.

March 27th Happy Easter



Oakwood



By: Kathleen Modders

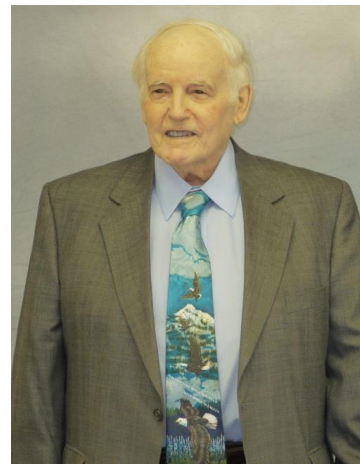
In Loving Memory Of Glenda Smith



Heavenly Homecoming Nov. 1, 2015

She was a dedicated handmaiden for the Lord and will be missed by her family and friends.

Elder Norris MacDonald



Heavenly Homecoming Nov. 29, 2015

“Pray always and I will pour out my Spirit upon you and great shall be your blessing...” D&C 18:6a

November 29th, Norris MacDonald passed away. He was an Elder in the church. He will be missed by his family and friends.

2 Nephi, Chapter 6:35

35 And the righteous shall have a perfect knowledge of their enjoyment, and their righteousness, being clothed with purity, yea, even with the robe of righteousness.

November 29th, Baby Blessing:
Edward MacDonald's Great Grandson, Bentley Patrick Carl. Proud parents Jared Carl and Sydnee McConnell. Blessing was performed by Elder Edward MacDonald and Assisted by Elder Mick Ruch.

3 Nephi, Chapter 8:12;23-26

12 And it came to pass that he commanded that their little children should be brought. 23 And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them. 24 And when he had done this he wept again, and he spake unto the multitude, and saith unto them, Behold your little ones. 25 And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about; 26 And they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record is true, for they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself;

December 5, Christmas Party directed by Michelle Turner. All participants were Helen Brown, Cheryl Vallad, Tracy Stokes, Michelle Turner, Dawn Modders, Cheryl Slagor, Shawn Ruch, Kathleen Modders, Mallory Johnson, Ruth Ann Hulse, Helen Danicki, Connie Burns, and Kathi Havener. Lunch provided

by Sponsored tables (Helen & Cheryl and Kathleen & Mallory) Craft shared by Michelle (homemade body wash) and Ministry was given by Shawn Ruch. (Reading of the coming of Christ from the book of Mormon and we sang along with a beautiful piano renditions of Christmas hymns.)

December 13th, Oakwood's Youth Christmas Program; directed by Chris Vandenberg. Children involved were Joe Brown, Jonathon Modders, Jackson, Reese and Cruz Nagy, Heather and Parker Mervyn, Drew Vandenberg, Julia LaRowe. Cole Vandenberg and Lexie Parmenter were in charge of the computer and video's played during the program.

December 24th, Candlelight Christmas Eve services.

Matthew Chapter 2:1-8

1 Now, as it is written, the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise. After his mother, Mary, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 2 Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 3 But while he thought on their things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a vision, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost. 4 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. 5 Now this took place, that all things might be fulfilled, which were spoken of the Lord, by the prophets, saying, 6 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, (which, being interpreted, is, God with us.) 7 Then Joseph, awaking out of his vision, did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his

wife; 8 And knew her not until she had brought forth her first-born son; and they called his name Jesus.

Chapter 3:1-2 1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is the child that is born, the Messiah of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child, with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh

December 31st, New Year's Eve Safe Night Party. Directed by Kathleen and Mike Modders, those in attendance were Bob and Dawn Modders, Jonathon Modders, Mallory Johnson, Mick and Shawn Ruch, Tracy, Bob and Julie LaRowe, Chet and Cheryl Slagor, Matt, Christine, Parker & Heather Mervyn, Dustin Michael, Helen, Thom and Mike Danicki, Kim and Keith Gilchrist, Tracy and John Stokes, Jay and Kathi Havener. We enjoyed pizza, Hotdogs and brats, with popcorn chips and salsa, sparkling grape juice for a toast to the New Year. Desserts and more desserts.

January 10th Church canceled due to the weather.

February 6th Women's Department went on a ministry outing to Lima, Ohio. Those in attendance were Lynnette Daniels of Otter Lake, Michelle Turner, Tracy Stokes, Shawn Ruch and Kathleen Modders. The Priesthood accompanying us were Elder Mick Ruch and Priest Shaun Turner. Michelle Turner taught a

class on love, and had a craft prepared for the ladies to make. Kathleen Modders and Shawn Ruch were in charge of the end of the night devotions. For the Church Service on Sunday at Elder PJ Fought house Shawn Ruch, Tracy Stokes, and Michelle Turner prepared the morning devotions. Elder Mick Ruch presided over the service and Priest Shaun Turner spoke the message of the hour, and Elder PJ Fought prayed during the service. Many laughs and heartfelt fellowship was had by all during the three hour drive to and from Ohio.

Mark Chapter 12:35

35 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

February 21, 2016 Baptism: We will be having a new member! Amanda Ruch! Congratulations Amanda... One more soul saved, it's a happy day!

2 Nephi, Chapter 13

7 And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water. 8 And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfill all righteousness in being baptized by water? Know ye not that he was holy? 9 But notwithstanding he being holy, he sheweth unto the children of men, that according to the flesh, he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments; 10 Wherefore, after he was baptized with water, the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove. 11 And again: It sheweth unto the children of

men the straightness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them.

Upcoming birthdays: 03/04 Jamie Moore, 03/06 Brandon Embree, 03/10 Heather Mervyn, 03/14 Chet Slagor, 03/18 Cody Ruch, 03/20 Lilly Konkle, 03/25 Derrick Embree, 03/28 Beth Everhart, 03/29 Jamie Modders, 03/29 Cheryl Slagor, 04/01 Michael Ruch, 04/03 Gloria Smith, 04/08 Don Everhart, 04/08 Emma Turner, 04/09 Christina Mervyn; 04/29 Andrew Konkle, 04/14 Dennis Smith, 04/15 David Mueller, 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, 05/15 John Stokes, 05/17 Sydney LaRowe, 05/18 Tracey LaRowe, 05/22 Mike Danicki, 05/27 Eric Slagor.

Port Huron-Sarnia Branch



By: Sharon Smerer

Greetings Saints:

I forgot to mention that our Church hosted an indoor picnic for the Blue Water League of the Blind in September. David and Barbara Teeple and John and Connie DeBell helped cook the hot dogs and Priest Bob Harris said the prayer over the food. Everyone else brought a dish to pass. Fun time for all!!

We had a short Business Meeting, to elect officers for the coming year and to go through the budget.

We start out with guest ministry from High Priest Paul Gage from Missouri and Deacon Jacob Roberts from Missouri. They were on their way to Windsor, Ontario to meet with the Saints. High Priest Paul Gage gave a sermon on, "Are You Prepared and Repent and ask Forgiveness." He also, handed out a tract called, "Father's Love Letter," by Barry Adams. An intimate message from God to You.

The next guest ministry was from Elder Robert Ruch from the Oakwood Restoration Branch. He gave his sermon and also included three musical selections. Very good message and singing. It was good to see and visit with Bob and Beverly and share our Thanksgiving Potluck after the church service. Always good food and great fellowship. Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and a special day with family and friends.

Our Prayers are for All the Restoration Branches.

Our very own two young ladies, Gillian and Olivia Bolt were in two wonderful back-to-back performances, November 13-15 held at Port Huron Northern High School. Gillian was in "Heaven Can Wait," a Millionaire Mayhem and Olivia was in "Death by Dessert," a Murder Mystery. Gillian and Olivia are the daughters of Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughters of John and Barbara Tynan. What a talented family, their singing and acting. Great Job Girls!! This was presented by Port Huron Northern Drama Club. Brief dessert buffet between shows. Directed by Renee Barr.

Eight couples went over to Sarnia, Ontario on November 13th to visit with our Canadian Church families, Don and Sandy Dailey, Bill and Helen Allison and we met at Brian Dailey's home. After a brief visit we went to the Wharf, for Fish and Chips and met Glen and Mary Dailey. It is always nice to visit and have fellowship with the Saints. Great Fish and Chips!!!

On November 16th our Congregation took part in the holiday season as volunteer bell ringers for the Salvation Army. Our assigned spot this year was outside of Carson's, inside the mall.

In Loving Memory Of Gretta Clark



Heavenly Homecoming Nov. 20, 2015

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Gretta M. Bachus Clark, age, 104 passed away peacefully at her home, Friday, November 20, 2015. Our congregation hosted a Celebration of the Life of Gretta, held on November 28, 2015. Sharon Warner and David Clark both gave talks about growing up in the Clark home and reflections of their Mother, Gretta. Sue Fagan sang two hymns that Gretta must have requested before she passed; "In the Garden and The Old Old Path." Sue is Sharon Warner's, daughter and Gretta's

granddaughter. Elders Don Dailey and David Teeple did her eulogy. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our condolences to the Bachus and Clark and Warner families for your loss.

We also send condolences to the families of J. Norris MacDonald who passed away November 29, 2015, from the Oakwood Restoration Branch. Our prayers are for his wife, Shirley, and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and their families. Also, condolences to Dennis Smith and his daughters and their families for the loss of his wife, mother and grandmother, Glenda, who also attended Oakwood Restoration Branch.

We pray that Barbara Teeple doesn't fall. She has broken her foot and her kneecap and has been healed from all injuries. Hey!! Praise the Lord!! David and Barbara have gone to their Arizona home. We pray that they both have a Healthy, and a Safe, New Year and enjoy the warmth.

We had Bruce Reid do our Ministry of Music on November 29, 2015. He sang, "Thank You Lord," by Rick Nelson and "Over The Next Hill," by Johnny Cash. It is always nice to hear music that can minister to our very souls. Thank you, Bruce.

Our Ladies were invited to the Wadham's Grove Community of Christ Church to their Annual Advent Tea., December 3, 2015. The theme this year was, "The Different Items and their Meanings of Christmas." We had the welcome by Joyce McNeil and we all sang the, "Song of Christmas Blessing," tune of Edelweiss, for the blessing of the food. We had many delicious candies, desserts and coffee, tea varieties and water. We finished the program with

a reading, "This Christmas," and we all sang, "O Come All Ye Faithful." Thank You, ladies for inviting us.

We have hosted the Blue Water League of the Blind, Christmas Potluck Party, and Lion's Club on December 3, 2015. Priest Bob Harris gave the blessing over the food. They ate and held drawings and handed out Christmas gifts. Then they had Jim Dell and partner do several Christmas carols and other music for their entertainment.

We also hosted on December 11, 2015, a Christmas Party for the Foster Children of our area. Marnie DeBell was in charge of getting donations of plain, baked sugar cookies for the children to decorate. Also, donations of gifts cards to Meijer's, Taco Bell, McDonald's, etc. to be given to teenaged children in Foster Care. They had a well-attended bunch of children and teens and had a lot of good fun.

During December we had Ministry of Music done by Avery and Gillian Bolt. Daughters of Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughters of John and Barbara Tynan. Very pretty voices from our young ladies.

Jennifer Milett, also held the Sunday School Christmas Program. The Children did a few Readings. Jennifer Milett also has been our Christmas decorator throughout our Church. This year Jennifer added to our Family Christmas Tree, ornaments for our sisters and brothers that are spending Christmas in Heaven, with bells and bows. "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his (her) wings." Very nice and thoughtful, we appreciate everything that you have done for the Sunday

School children and for our congregation. Thank you, Jennifer.

Gillian Bolt played the bass flute Sunday during the 50th annual Community Carol Sing at the Salvation Army in Port Huron, Mi. She is a senior at Port Huron Northern High School. She is the daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughter of John and Barbara Tynan.

Our condolences to the families of William Warren Pease, who passed away January 17, 2016 in Bad Axe, Mi. Services were held January 21, 2016 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Hope, Mi. Surviving Warren is his son, Michael Pease of Warren, Mi.; a brother, Fred Pease and his wife Carolyn of Fort Gratiot, Mi.; a sister, Esther Hunter of Port Huron, Mi. and a sister-in-law, Mildred Pease of Port Hope, Mi. He was preceded in death by a sister, Lois Kaufman-Kerr and two brothers, Nelson "Hank" Pease and Robert Pease.

Book of Mormon Foundation is presenting a "Book of Mormon Retreat," for ages 17-24, at Odessa Hills Campground, January 29-31, 2016. Directors: Mark & Jamie Bendorf.

Register online at WWW.BOMF.ORG or call the foundation 816-461-3722.

Betty Milett that attends the Brown City Elementary has qualified for the Triple 90 Club.

Brown City Fourth and Fifth graders, with their English and Language Arts teacher, Joanne Fuhrman has created a popular incentive program to encourage her students to read more. "For a student to earn a place in the Triple 90 Club, he or she must achieve an average end of the month score of

90 percent in quality, read 90 percent of his or her goal in quantity of material, and he or she must do 90 percent of his or her reading in his or her individual range of difficulty," said Fuhrman. Betty agreed. "I really like it. It's fun! I love reading and this makes me want to read more." Betty's favorite reading is non-fiction, as well as mystery and adventure books. Betty is the daughter of Joe and Jennifer Milette and grandparents are John and Connie DeBell.

Scott Bolt played his guitar and sang in January for our Ministry of Music.

I would like to wish everyone a Healthy New Year to You and Your Families.



By: Kathleen Palmer

“Wherefore, ye must press forward with steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and love of God and of all men.”

11 Nephi 13:29

November brought the end of daylight savings time.

We had our annual business meeting and election of officers on Nov.8th at 10:00 A.M.

On November 22nd, three young ladies were baptized. Elder Jim McLeod baptized Emma Des Jardins and Avery Carpenter. Brandy Tomanek was baptized by her uncle Priest Michael Daniels. Elder Jim McLeod had the sermon and Kathleen and

Emma sang for the special music. The whole service was very special and we all look forward to the confirmation of these young ladies, who have chosen to serve the Lord as members of Christ's church. We all enjoyed a delicious Harvest Home dinner after the service.

Barent and Barb Eliason traveled to Missouri to be with their family for Thanksgiving.

We had our annual family night on Dec.22nd. We enjoyed a light meal and then decorated the church for Christmas. It is always a special time of working together and fellowship for all of us.

A confirmation service was held on Dec.6th. Emma Des Jardins was confirmed by Elder Barent Eliason and Elder Jim McLeod. Brandi Tomanek was confirmed by Elder Jim McLeod and Elder Barent Eliason. They both were presented with Book of Mormons and certificates of baptisms. The girls were served their first communion. What a very blessed time for them and our congregation. Priest Michael Daniels gave a very inspirational message.

Dec. 22nd brought the Christmas program at 10 am. The theme was “Let us Tell the Story of Jesus” under the direction of Kerri Daniels. A beautiful backdrop of the manger scene was in place for all those to participate in telling the story of Jesus birth. Julia, Gary, Mattias, Becca, Kaden, Maddy, Emma, Don, Sydney and Avery all were part of the story. Those singing special music were Kerri, Katheen, Michael, Emma and Dora. A special instrumental duet was presented by Gary and Maddy. Thank you to all for this very beautiful and blessed event. Elder Jim McLeod gave the Christmas message during the church hour and the Bell choir, under the direction of Kerri Daniels, played a song. When the service was over, we all enjoyed a delicious meal and

opened gifts. The Lord has been so good to us. We are a small congregation with many God given talents to use to serve Him.

A very beautiful candlelight service was held Dec. 16th with about thirty people attending. Elder Barent Eliason was in charge. We all sat around the tables decorated with candles, which were lit after each had read a scripture from the Book of Mormon leading to Christ's birth. Maddy Parker and Gary Des Jardins participated in the annual Peck High Schools Christmas Band Concert. Sydney Parker and Emma Des Jardins were in their Peck schools Christmas program.

Julia Albrecht was honored by the Sanilac County Great Start Collaborative. The "Make a difference award."

She has provided quality child care at a number of events to allow parents to concentrate on programs. Congrats Julia for going above and beyond in your work.

Our Women's department is studying the "Go Ye and Teach" slides under the teaching of Barb Eliason. The men

even joined us for the study. We were given study books to prepare for the class in March.

Gary Des Jardins played first chair trumpet in the Oakland University Honors Band in Jan. He also is first chair trumpet in the Sanilac County Honors Band. He will be playing Feb. 7th first chair trumpet in the Tri County Honors Band and has two solo pieces.

We are so proud of our youth and their talents and for sharing these talents.

We are so blessed to have the priesthood from other branches to bring their inspirational messages to us. Elder Jay Havener (Kathi), Elder Gary Holmes (Marge), Priest Bob Harris, Elder Brian Daggett (Cathy), Elder Hod Powers (Nina) and Elder Ed McDonald.

We would like to thank our pianists Barb Eliason and Dora Gutierrez for the great job they do. Also to Kim Gilchrist, who travels a long way to play for us. God bless you all.

Ladies, please mark your calendars for Sat. May 14th at noon for our annual "Mother/ Daughter Banquet." The theme is "Loving Hands Garden."

Regional Activities for the next quarter

(Please mark your calendar for these dates!!!)

- **Regional Women's Retreat, April 30th @ Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch**
- **Mother/Daughter Banquet, May 14 @ Sanilac Restoration Branch**

From The Editor's Desk:

Any branch having deaths, births, weddings, grad ceremonies or special events of interest to the region, please attach a digital picture with info. Also, anyone having new email addresses & phone numbers please send them to me zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net