

The Anchor



The Great Lakes Restoration Branches Magazine/Newsletter

Vol. 4 - 7

Issue 72

Fall 2010



News From Around the Region

Algonac-Atlanta-Amherstburg-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

Editor: Jim Bradley – Algonac Branch – 1-586-752-5965 or email at zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net

The Grand Lady of Algonac: Mary Cargill 1935 - 2010



A True Handmaiden of the Lord

In Loving Memory: Elder John Moses 1910 - 2010



In his own words: "I'm just an old plow-handle preacher!" Amen John...Amen!!!

A Man Called of God – He will truly be missed

Algonac Branch By: Val Bradley

"Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God." (II Corinthians 9:11)
We definitely are enriched and praise God for our bountiful blessings, especially at this beautiful time of Thanksgiving.

On August 4, Gary Holmes and his band played at the park in Marysville. It was a Wednesday evening and many of our Algonac group attended. Everyone shared a picnic supper and great fellowship.

On Sunday, August 15, Elder Jay Havener from the Oakwood Branch preached a wonderful sermon. We enjoyed his ministry and the potluck meal following the service. It gave us a chance to fellowship with Jay and Kathi. We enjoyed seeing Lisa & Doug Tracy and family, who were visiting from California. We also had a chance to visit with Hod and Nina's "kids" Rita and Thilo

Bendler, who headed back to Germany that afternoon.

Our dear sister, Mary Cargill was received by her Lord on August 31. The funeral service took place on September 3 at Harold W. Vicks Funeral Home in Mt. Clemens. As a prelude, "Amazing Grace" was played on the bagpipes. It was very touching. Scripture readings and prayers were offered by Elder Fred Brown, Sr. and Elder Fred Brown, Jr. brought a heartfelt Eulogy. Elder Dale Day shared a wonderful message of hope. The ministry of music was sung by Todd and Liz Moses and many of Mary's favorite hymns were sung by the congregation, as well. The whole service was a wonderful tribute to Mary, who was loved by all. The service at the cemetery was done by Elder Gary Holmes. Following was a delicious luncheon and good fellowship at Sycamore Hill Country Club. Everyone had a chance to visit with the family and reminisce about their

relationship with Mary. She was a beautiful lady (inside and out!) who loved the Lord and her family and will long be remembered for her kindness, gentleness, and sense of humor. We miss her very much!

A few of our members were able to attend the Book of Mormon Day at the Oakwood branch on September 11. Algonac was in charge of the luncheon (thank you Nina Powers and Elaine Harm for overseeing that!). As always, Neil Steede had many good things to share about the new developments of archeological findings in Central America. Thanks to all who participated in this event, to Barent and Barb for organizing it, and to our hosts, the Oakwood branch!

On September 19, our branch (along with Port Huron/Sarnia and Otter Lake) met for worship and fellowship at the Sanilac Restoration Branch. Elder Todd Moses brought an inspirational message and Scott Bolt brought the very special ministry of music. After consuming a pizza and ice cream lunch, we went to Barent and Barb Eliason's farm for our annual hayride. Much fun was had (especially by the kids), as they ambushed the adult's wagon with hay! We were then treated to cookies, doughnuts and cider back at the house. Many thanks to Barent and Barb for hosting this wonderful event!

We had a workday at the church on Saturday, September 25. Many chores were completed, including hooking up our stove and exhaust fan and installing new cabinets in the kitchen. Some drywall work was done in the sanctuary, also. There was a potluck lunch afterwards. Thanks to all who gave of their time and efforts.

On October 10, our guest minister was Elder Rex Monarch, from the Garden City Branch. We really appreciated his ministry and his wise words of counsel. We had a potluck

meal following the service and enjoyed the opportunity to visit with him and Judy.

Our Algonac ladies Elaine Harm, Val Bradley, Wendy Holmes, Elaine King and Marilyn Canham attended the Fall Women's Retreat at Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds the weekend of October 15. This year's theme was "Where There's a Shadow, There's a Light." We began the retreat with a Tea that was put on by our branch (with help from our friends!). The theme was "The Fabric of Friendship." We used old quilts for tablecloths and the centerpieces were oil lamps and fall leaves. We presented a short program, then served tea and a huge array of scrumptious treats, which were contributed by all of the ladies. We gave each of the women bookmarks to take home and there were 4 giveaway items this year. A beautiful quilt (donated by Kathi Havener) and a teapot, poster and oil lamp (donated by Barb Eliason). Thank you to all who helped make the evening a success! Our guest minister and teacher of two of our classes on Saturday was Elder Jay Havener. (Fred Brown, Sr. planned on being with us, also, but was ill. We missed you, Fred!) We really enjoyed Jay's classes, especially the monologue he did portraying Peter and the class on Nehemiah. Class #3 on Saturday was taught by Kathi Havener. It was very unique and something I think all the women could relate to. We listened to a tape on the book, "Hope for the Flowers" which was followed by a discussion. Kathi gave us each caterpillar and butterfly stickers and encouraged us not to be afraid to venture out of the shadows, climb towards the light and become the beautiful creatures that God created us to be. That evening (for the first time ever!), we had movie night. We enjoyed watching "Fireproof" and really appreciated Kathleen Modders work & expertise in getting the DVD to play! We're grateful for Sherri Johnson who led the Praise Gathering and we also appreciated

the musical talents of Denise Rich and Jay Havener. A big thanks also, to all the ladies who planned and participated in the Devotions (Sherry Purcell, Lynnette Daniels, Nellie Haynes, Denise Rich, Tracy Stokes, and Michelle Turner). As always, we ended the weekend with a Dedication Service on Sunday. We appreciated Jay's sermon on blind spots and the various testimonies that were shared. It was such a wonderful weekend and I think that all who attended enjoyed worshipping, studying, singing, and laughing together. The Lord definitely blessed us and we thank all those who attended and participated for shining their light!

Our dear friend and brother in Christ, John Moses, passed away on October 16. The funeral service was held on October 20, at the Kaatz Funeral Home in Richmond. In a moving tribute to brother John's life and ministry, Elder Bob Ruch touched everyone with a heartfelt Eulogy. Elder Gary Holmes brought a message of hope to those gathered to pay their respects to brother John. Todd & Liz Moses did a beautiful job as they brought the ministry of music for the service. Several family members gave touching memories of life with John. Elder Leo Carroll brought the invocation and benediction. Following the service at the graveside, which was brought by Elder Gary Holmes, family and friends were treated to a lovely luncheon at Maniaci's Hall in Richmond. Great fellowship was had as they visited with each other and shared stories. Brother John cast a giant spiritual shadow in the Great Lakes Region and will be greatly missed. Though he is no longer with us, his ministry will continue for generations in this area because of the spiritual influence that he fostered among our people. We are thankful for the memories that he left us with.

Sunday, October 31, was a very special day for the Yaney family. Following a beautiful, fitting solo by Todd Moses, was the blessing of baby Laurel Lynn Yaney by (Grandpa) Elder Todd Yaney, assisted by our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes. What a wonderful ordinance to witness and be a part of! Then the message was brought by Elder Hod Powers, which he dedicated to his father-in-law, John Moses. He left us with this thought, "What legacy do we leave for our children and those we associate with daily?" We all need to play a part in nurturing and witnessing to baby Laurel as she grows and matures. Our love and prayers are for her and her family.

News and Notes

- On August 22, Laurel Lynn was born to Joel and Nicole Yaney. She weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz. and was 20" long. Congratulations to them, along with proud grandparents, Todd and Tina Yaney, George and Carol Spanier, and great grandma, Elaine Harm. We are so happy for all of them! Laurel is such a doll and it's exciting having a little baby in our midst once again.
- Congratulations to Brianna Morrison, who is a member of the Junior National Honor Society and also on the Student Council at Richmond Middle School. We are proud of you, Brianna ... keep up the good work!
- Prayers would be appreciated for Dick Burns, Tim Holmes, Kelli Williams, Ray Moses, Marge Holmes, Elaine Harm, Barb Krinkie, Jean John, and Jim Bradley. Please also keep the Moses and Cargill families in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

We enjoyed all of the fall activities and the opportunities we had to meet with

the saints. May each of you have much to be grateful for at this season of Thanksgiving. As always, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Garden City By: Judy Monarch

Guest Ministry: Elder Mick Ruch & Shawn, also Elder Graham Fishwild & Brenda. Thank you all so very much for the giving of your time and ministry to our branch. We love you all!

Prayer Requests:

Margret Baltzer-health; Patty Ciambro-health; Dianna Flynn-cancer treatment, Mike Hintz-rare blood leukemia; Don/Nancy McKiddie-health.

Baptism's/Confirmation's

Robert Russell LaRowe was baptized August 15th by Elder Rex Monarch and Confirmed August 22nd by Elders' Rex Monarch and Carl McKiddie. Paige and Quentin Carnahan were both baptized at Erie Beach Canada during the Children's summer camp July 22nd by Elder Carl McKiddie. They were confirmed into the church October 3, 2010 at the Essex County Canada branch by Elder Carl McKiddie and Assisted by Elders Glenn Carnahan and Kurt Fishwild.

Megan Fishwild is in 5th grade this year and is playing trombone with her schools band. She will be participating in the marching band, which will perform at the Windsor Christmas Parade and the Toronto Wonderland Parade! She will also be performing during the holiday concerts at school. Congratulations Megan!

Sarah Monarch would like to thank everyone for their fasting and prayers on her behalf. She has gained 6 pounds YEA! She has also received an acceptance letter

from U of M Ann Arbor and will be starting this winter.

Nov. 11th Veteran's Day



Who Has Given More?

It started as casual small talk; catching up on life events since our last encounter. The conversation turned to a new topic, one I will never forget. This friend of mine, a mother, with a son serving our country in special operations began to share with me his recent experiences.

She described a situation where her son while under attack, was with his comrades moving toward their objective. Unknowingly, he stepped over an IED. He was fortunate; however his friend was not so lucky.

The impact was immediate, his pain more intense than anything he could describe. All he knew was that he was in a different place; wondering to himself, "Is this what dying feels like?" The next thing he remembered was hearing a slight groan coming from nearby. Looking over his shoulder he noticed it was his friend, lying on the ground. It seemed at the time as though lower half of his body was missing. "Could this be; am I still alive?" He thought. Rubbing his eyes, checking with every sense he could muster. Yes, it is my partner, then sudden reflexes kicked in.

Getting up quickly and anguishing over the intensity of his newly realized pain, he made his way to what he now hoped was only a bad dream. Unfortunately his friend was real; it was not a dream. Everything

was in disarray; nothing made sense at all. What was part of their world just a minute before was now gone. How could this happen, it was in the flash of an eye. What went wrong he thought to himself.

As he bent over to help, the immediate fear of knowing everything was real hit. Instinct kicked in, all the years of training were paying off. He knew he was his friend's only hope. This dying soldier needed his full attention. His legs were gone; blood was rushing out of his body everywhere. It would be only minutes; maybe seconds and his life would be over.

Grabbing anything he could find which could be used as a tourniquet, he miraculously stopped the bleeding. After waiting for the gunfire to subside, he picked his friend up off the ground leaving a pool of blood where he lay. He carried him off to safety.

As this friend of mine ended her story, she shared that her son saved the life of his comrade that horrible day. He was awarded with a medal of honor and recognized for saving this soldier in record time. Oddly enough, this story, while nearly unbelievable, is not the one that has changed my understanding.

This story is about what I saw, felt and experienced as this loving mother expressed these words of praise. We stood face-to-face. I listened staring into her eyes witnessing a miracle. For a moment, her eyes became the window to her soul. Tears appeared creating a brilliant shimmering glow. No longer was there a physical appearance but a clear radiant projection into eternity. I could see directly into her soul; I could feel the beat of her heart!

I ask you, "Who gives more serving our country?" The brave men and women who are willingly giving the ultimate sacrifice?

Perhaps, hard to argue another way, but for me I know differently now.

This mother, fully engaged in the life of her children, knows without question that her son is doing what he wants, what he believes, what is necessary. He will sacrifice all if required; knowing it is his duty, sensing it is what he was born to do. She lives for nothing more than to know of his safety. Combat and all that comes with it are a part of their lives now.

This friend and mother of a soldier lives everyday with two objectives. First, she awakes every morning offering words of prayer for the safety of those who have dedicated their lives to protect ours. Knowing now more than any other time, there is a Creator and this Divine source will help, even if it is only to comfort. Second, as she retires to bed each night, she thanks God for another day passing with "the black car" not driving up the driveway delivering news from the field.

We praise and honor those who serve our country. We pray for their safety and well-being. We know with certainty, it is our freedoms they protect. For me, I know now, after looking into the soul of a mother, there are some who give more. They, the mothers, will argue differently; I know better.

To the mothers of our service men and women, "Thank you!" We are with you praying for the protection of your children and for your peace and safety, hoping your rewards in life will be all that you yearn for.

We personally acknowledge you for giving more than I could give, more than I had known possible and more than what has been described as, "the ultimate sacrifice."

We know mothers will remain noble; may peace, comfort and understanding be yours.

Let those you have brought into the world receive recognition, love and respect. May the hope and inspiration we receive from you be given back tenfold; it is we who have benefited through your gift.



After prayer and fasting and a farewell feast, the Pilgrim Fathers left the City of Leyden, and sought the new and unknown land. "So they left the goodly & pleasurable city," writes their historian Bradford, "which had been their resting place near 12 years, but they knew they were pilgrims & looked not much on those things, but lift up their eyes to the Heavens their dearest country, and quieted their spirits."



Remembrance Day-Canada

On November 11 Canadians wear Poppies and gather at war memorials across Canada to pay tribute to those who died in war. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the time the Armistice of World War I was signed in 1918, we observe two minutes of silence to remember. As we continue to fight the war on terrorism, it is important to remember and teach about the wars in which so many Canadians died.



Thanksgiving:



The First Harvest Home in Plymouth: by W. DeLoss Love Jr.

When, after many vexing days upon the deep, the pilgrims first sighted the New World, they were filled with praise and thanksgiving. Going ashore they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven. And after that, whenever they were delivered from accidents or despair, they gave God "solemn thanks and praise." Such were the Pilgrims and such their habit day by day. Great suffering and want marked the first winter in the New World. Hunger and illness thinned the little colony, and caused many graves to be made on the near-by hillside. The spring of 1621 opened. The seed was sown in the fields. The colonists cared for it without ceasing, and watched its growth with anxiety; for well they knew that their lives depended upon a full harvest. The days of spring and summer flew by, and the autumn came. Never in Holland or England had the Pilgrims seen the like of the treasures bounteous Nature now spread before them. The woodlands were arrayed in gorgeous colors, brown, crimson, and gold, and swarmed with game of all kinds, that had been concealed during the

summer. The little farm-plots had been blessed by the sunshine and showers, and now plentiful crops stood ready for the gathering. The Pilgrims, rejoicing, reaped the fruit of their labors, and housed it carefully for the winter. Then, filled with the spirit of thanksgiving, they held the first harvest home in New England.

For one whole week they rested from work, feasted, exercised their arms, and enjoyed various recreations. Many Indians visited the colony, amongst these their greatest king, Massasoit, with ninety of his braves. The Pilgrims entertained them for three days. And the Indians went out into the woods and killed fine deer, which they brought to the colony and presented to the governor and the captain and others. So all made merry together.

And bountiful was the feast. Oysters, fish and wild turkey, Indian maize and barley bread, geese and ducks, venison and other savory meats, decked the board. Kettles, skillets, and spits were overworked, while knives and spoons, kindly assisted by fingers, made merry music on pewter plates. Wild grapes, "very sweet and strong," added zest to the feast. As to the vegetables, why, the good governor describes them thus:

"All sorts of grain which our own land doth yield, Was hither brought, and sown in every field; As wheat and rye, barley, oats, beans, and pease Here all thrive and they profit from them raise; All sorts of roots and herbs in gardens grow - Parsnips, carrots, turnips, or what you'll sow, Onions, melons, cucumbers, radishes, Skirets, beets, coleworts and fair cabbages."

Thus a royal feast it was the Pilgrims spread that first golden autumn at Plymouth, a feast worthy of their Indian guests.

All slumbering discontents they smothered with common rejoicings. When the holiday was over, they were surely better, braver men because they had turned aside to rest awhile and be thankful together. So the

exiles of Leyden claimed the harvests of New England.

This festival was the bursting into life of a new conception of man's dependence on God's gifts in Nature. It was the promise of autumnal Thanksgivings to come.

Oakwood By: Kathleen Modders

Wedding Announcements: Congratulations to Becky Smith she is now happily married to Christopher Humphrey and living in Portland, Oregon. They were married on October 10, we all wish her great happiness and we miss her at the Oakwood branch.

Baptisms: On February 28, Jordan Michael Moore, Mary Lee Fry, Rosa Lee Duvernois, and Viva Kathryn Dorr were all baptized. At the reunion: Michael Daniels, Autumn Turner, Kenneth and Janice Burrows, Drew Vandenberg and Reese Nagy were all baptized. Welcome to all our Oakwood new members.

Upcoming Birthdays: Nick Brown 11/8, Helen McNeil 11/14, Dawn Stephens 11/16, Jacob Havener 11/17, Cole Vandenberg 11/20, Parker Mervyn 12/8, Helen Brown 12/9, Doris Mueller 12/16, Theo Servin 12/18, Clareen Carroll 12/20, Laurie MacDonald 12/25, Mick Ruch and Jonathon Modders 12/26 and Marissa Wilson 12/27.

The following Oakwood women enjoyed a beautiful "no stress" women's retreat at Wesleyan Woods campground during the weekend of October 15: Kathleen Modders, Dawn Modders, Kathi Havener, Chris Vandenberg, Helen Brown, Julie Fox, and Tracy Stokes. Elder Jay Havener was the guest minister. Elder Fred Brown Sr. was also scheduled to attend but couldn't due to a bout with a cold and flu. We missed you Fred!

The retreat started off with a beautiful tea party and program arranged by the Algonac branch. The tea's theme was "quilts," and the tables were decorated with beautiful quilts and oil lamps. The program talked about how our lives were similar to quilts in that the fabric of our lives was woven with many patterns, such as a variety of people and experiences make us who we are. It was wonderful. Thanks Val, Elaine Harm, and crew!

This year's retreat theme was "Where there's a shadow, there's a light." Jay did a monologue on the Apostle Peter and also taught a class about how God can use ordinary people even on dark and cloudy days to do great things to bring people into the light. Kathi Havener started her class by asking, "Are all shadows bad?" We were reminded that shadows also give us restful shade. She gave a class about caterpillars and butterflies and hope.

Later Tracy Stokes made a fire in the fireplace, and we watched the movie "Fireproof." It reminded us of that even in bad situations, we should still have hope because with God all things are possible.

Saturday, October 30 Oakwood had a fall family night completed with games, food, and costumes.

Otter Lake By: Susie Daggett

Congratulations to Rick and Krystal Grant on the birth of their son Landon who arrived August 15th. Congratulations also to the grandparents Penny and Don Deland, brother, Aiden, Aunts Josie and Allie and Great Grandmother Janet Pallmig. Melanie Broughman has joined the Air Force and is in basic training in Texas. We wish her luck and our prayers are with her.

The Sutton family is looking for someone to stay with Grandma Vera. She is 98 years old and needs a little help. Contact Bonnie Sutton for more information.

Thank you to the Utica Branch for donating audio equipment, Sunday school supplies, and books.

Thank you to the visiting ministry we have had recently. They include Richard Burns, Gary Holmes, Leo Carroll, Dave Teeple, Jay Havener, Bob Harris, Kurt Fishwild, Fred Brown Sr., Mark Burnard, Brian Daggett, Todd Moses and Bob Ruch.

Merry Christmas 2010



Gift of the Magi

A short Christmas story by O. Henry



"The Gift of the Magi" is a short story written by O. Henry. In the classic Christmas tale, a young couple that can barely afford their one-room apartment each sells a precious possession to buy a gift for the other one. The story beautifully illustrates how physical possessions have little value in the grand scheme of things and pale in comparison to the value of love.

A brief outline of one of Gift of the Magi

The Gift of the Magi is the story of Mr. and Mrs. James Dillingham Young, otherwise known as Jim and Della. It is Christmas Eve and all the money that Della has scrimped and saved for Jim's gift totals one dollar and eight-seven cents.

The Young's are very poor; a point that the narrator quickly establishes by describing the shabby estate of their apartment and by the mention of a salary that has shrunken from \$30 a week to \$20 a week. Della has humiliated herself by haggling at the shops and managed to scrimp away 60 cents of the \$1.87 in pennies.

Della has a fit of self-pity as she tries to determine how to buy Jim a worthy gift when suddenly she jumps up and views herself in the pier glass. She lets down her glorious hair; hair that is the pride and joy of both Della and Jim. According to the narrator, Della and Jim have two possessions that are the treasures of the household, Della's hair and Jim's watch, which is an inheritance from his grandfather. The narrator underscores the value of these treasures by saying that King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba would be jealous of them despite their own immense wealth.

Quickly, before she loses her nerve, Della leaves the house and sells her hair to Mne. Sofronie for \$20. Then she races around town looking for the perfect gift. She finds it in a platinum watch chain, which she pays \$21 for. She hurries home and suddenly realizes what she has done. Della prepares supper and tries to fix her hair so that Jim will not be too upset by her appearance.

When Jim comes home, his response is none of the responses, which Della had anticipated. He seems dumbstruck but Della cannot figure out why. Finally, after assuring her that he loves her no matter what, Jim gives her the gift he bought for

her. It is a pair of tortoise shell combs that Della has long coveted. Della is thrilled but her joy is quickly followed by sorrow as she realizes she has no hair to wear the combs in. She resolves her feelings by telling Jim that her hair grows fast.

Suddenly, Della remembers her gift to Jim, which she quickly presents to him. Jim's response is to smile and tell Della that he sold the watch to buy the combs and that perhaps they should put their gifts up and save them for a later time.

The narrator closes the account with a short homily about how the gifts of Della and Jim are as wise as the gifts that the magi brought Christ (the magi being the first givers of Christmas gifts) because their gifts were given out of surrendered treasures and a loving heart.

Sanilac By: Kathleen Palmer

It is not the greatness of our faith that moves mountains, but our faith in the greatness of God.

In August, we had a Gospel Workshop. The day began with devotions by Dora Gutierrez and Debbie Des Jardins. Adult classes on principles of the Gospel and Adventures in Mexico were taught by Barent Eliason. The children were taught by Eric Eliason and Denise and Aubree Rich. We had a nice lunch after which family pictures were taken by Bill Dale for our yearly calendar. Then recreation with Denise and Aubree Rich. We then enjoyed singing many hymns led by Mary Lou Bartrow and Denise Rich. At 5 p.m. we all enjoyed pizza and then there was a talent show with Carol Hoeldtke in charge. We then adjourned with a wonderful day of worshiping, learning and fellowship with one another.

On Sunday we had guest speaker Fred Brown, Sr. and after, a potluck dinner, which was a surprise party for Bill and

Kathleen Palmer's 50th wedding anniversary. A delicious meal and beautiful anniversary cake (made by Carol Hoeldtke) was enjoyed by all. The branch then presented a beautiful king size handmade quilt to Bill and Kathleen. It was really appreciated.

August 22nd Bill and Kathleen Palmer's children put on an Open House 50th wedding anniversary party with family and friends attending. A lovely lunch and beautiful anniversary cake was served. There were many pictures for everyone to look at. A good time was had by all.

September 11th many from our branch attended Book of Mormon Day, held at Oakwood. Neil Steede talked about the Bethlehem Star and new developments of archeological finds in Central America. A lovely potluck dinner was served by the Algonac Branch. The children enjoyed classes that provided learning and crafts.

September 19th brought the annual church service and pizza, ice cream and hayride with Algonac, Port Huron-Sarnia and Otter Lake Branches attending. There was special music by Scott Bolt and a wonderful message given by Todd Moses. After eating we went to Barent and Barb Eliason's for the hayride. When everyone returned from the fun-filled ride, there was cookies, doughnuts and cider. Barb even had to bake more cookies. What a wonderful aroma of fresh-baked cookies! Thanks Barent and Barb for a wonderful time!

October 10th we welcomed the Oakwood Branch for a special day of worshiping and fun. We all enjoyed the ministry of music put on by the children under the direction of Bonnie Murphy. Steve Ruch had a wonderful message. After church we proceeded downstairs for pizza and ice cream. Then we all went to Eric and Cory's for the hayride. After the hayride, Eric and

Cory had refreshments for all. Thanks Eric and Cory for this special time.

On October 15 – 17, Nellie Haynes and Denise Rich attended the Women's Retreat at the Wesleyan Woods campgrounds in Vassar. The theme was "Where There is a Shadow, There is a Light." Our branch had the Saturday morning worship service. A wonderful weekend of worshiping and fellowship was had by all.

On October 12th, Kathleen Palmer had thyroid surgery. She is doing well and received a good report. Thank you for all the prayers on my behalf.

Barent Eliason had an accident with his bulldozer. He didn't realize how bad he had been hurt. He ended up in the hospital, with blood clots. He is miraculously recovering to good health. The Lord has a work for him to do.

The Sandusky High School band received #1 ratings for their marching performance at Lakers High School football stadium on October 11th. Aubree Rich is a member of this band. Way to go Aubree! She plays the trumpet along with other instruments.

Our annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale is November 20th, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A light lunch will be served. We are all looking forward to a great day.

Thank you Barb, Nellie, and Cory for the beautiful and inspirational worship settings for August, September and October.

Thank you to the visiting priesthood, who give of their time to bring their ministry. God bless you all. Jim (Jean) McLeod, Leo (Clareen) Carroll, Fred (Helen) Brown, Sr., Dale Day, Todd (Liz) Moses, Graham (Brenda) Fishwild, Steve Ruch, Bob (Bev) Ruch and Brian (Cathy) Daggett.

Birthdays:

August 4, Randy Des Jardins

August 8, Nicholas Bradley

August 13, Paige Parker

August 21, Jim Negaard,

August 28, Avery Carpenter

August 31, Maddy Parker

September 8, Dora Gutierrez

September 13, Lowell Decker

Sept. 18, Bob Smith

Sept. 26, Ella Haynes

October 6, Eric Eliason

October 31, Dan Miller

Anniversaries:

August 12, Wayne and Mary Lou Bartrow

Sept. 3, Bill and Kathleen Palmer

Sept. 29, Wayne and Carol Hoeldtke

On October 31st, a youth Halloween party was put on by Dora Gutierrez, Debbie Des Jardins and Nellie Haynes. The children and adults all had fun, decorating cookies and pumpkins, bobbing for apples and then dipping them in caramel and sprinkles. A delicious lunch was served and enjoyed by all. Thank you Dora, Debbie and Nellie for making this fellowship possible.

We from the Sanilac Branch wish each and everyone a very blessed Thanksgiving. We all have much to be thankful for.



I'm walking along a dry riverbed in California and it's a beautiful day. The future stretches out ahead, in the valley, hills and mountains that surround me. The past is there too, but today I prefer to walk forward: to live "in the now", and truly see

all the good things in the world. The air is warm and dry. Fleecy clouds float high in the bright blue sky, and the sunlight glitters and shines off the houses and cars in the distance. People walk and ride bicycles on the bike path that follows the river. They talk and point, and laugh together, as they enjoy the day off from work. What a beautiful and peaceful scene it makes!

My heart is suddenly full of joy as I remember that it is New Year's Day. A day to start afresh and to I feel overwhelming gratitude for the gift of life that God has given me. I pass by a man and his son, a toddler sitting on the "lofty" wooden fence by the path, but held safely in his father's arms. His face is a study in pure joy and wonder, as he looks out over the miles of sandy wash, green hills, and towering mountains of his brand new world. It is the beginning of a beginning, and tears gather in my eyes with the power and sweetness of this simple thought. A man sits on a rock and gazes into the distance. He looks sad and forlorn, as the breeze blows by and makes the leaves flutter on the tree next to him, in this lonely scene. I am reminded of other days in the past when sadness and hopelessness were my only companions. I say a silent prayer for him, and profound thanks, to God, for me. Then I walk on.

A young couple crouch next to a "bicycle built for two" that has thrown it's chain. As they look up, I grin and say "Happy New Year. Darn-it"! They grin and laugh, and wish me the same. It is a simple thing, but for a moment we have become one with the world and a sudden joyful exhilaration takes my breath away. An old woman leans on a fence post, looking into some other time. She doesn't seem either happy or sad, just gazes into the past, or maybe the future. I wonder what her ageing, but still lovely eyes have seen, in the time that she has spent in this world. Where has she been? What amazing things has she

witnessed? A lifetime lays hidden behind her eyes. A feeling of timeless peace flows through me and all fear of what the future may bring drains away. I thank her with my thoughts, and move on.

time is right. I know that whatever the New Year will bring, there will be joy, and enough treasures of "now" to help me through the hard times that we all must face. Happy New Year!

I am almost home. I walk by a stand of young trees swaying in the wind. A loud burst of cheerful chirping and tweeting erupts from the little grove, and I can't help but laugh out loud, at the "bird party" going on next to me. As I reach home, go inside, and close the door, I say another thanks to God for the gift of "now". It has taken a long time to find it, and although I can't seem to keep it with me, all of the time, I know how to open the door again, when the

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

Nov. 12, 13 & 14 Children's Retreat @ Garden City

Nov. 20th Christmas Bazaar @ Sanilac 8:00am-4:00pm

Nov. 20th Hootenanny @ Oakwood HAS BEEN CANCELLED!!!

From The Editor's Desk:

STUART HAMBLIN

Back in the 50's there was a well known radio host/comedian/song writer in Hollywood named Stuart

Hamblin who was noted for his drinking, womanizing, partying, etc.

One of his bigger hits at the time was "I won't go hunting with you Jake, but I'll go chasing women."

One day, along came a young preacher holding a tent revival.

Hamblin had him on his radio show presumably to poke fun at him.

In order to gather more material for his show, Hamblin showed up at one of the revival meetings.

Early in the service the preacher announced, "There is one man in this audience who is a big fake." There were probably others who thought the same thing, but Hamblin was convinced that he was the one the preacher was talking about (some would call that conviction) but he was having none of that.

Still the words continued to haunt him until a couple of nights later he showed up drunk at the preacher's hotel door around 2AM demanding that the preacher pray for him!

But the preacher refused, saying, "This is between you and God and I'm not going to get in the middle of it."

But he did invite Stuart in and they talked until about 5 AM at which point Stuart dropped to his knees and with tears, cried out to God.

But that is not the end of the story. Stuart quit drinking, quit chasing women, quit everything that was 'fun.' Soon he began to lose favor with the Hollywood crowd.

The radio station ultimately fired him when he refused to accept a beer company as a sponsor.

Hard times were upon him. He tried writing a couple of "Christian" songs but the only one that had much success was "This Old House", written for his friend Rosemary Clooney.

As he continued to struggle, a long time friend named John took him aside and told him, "All your troubles started when you 'got religion,' Was it worth it all?" Stuart answered simply, "Yes."

Then his friend asked, "You liked your booze so much, don't you ever miss it?" And his answer was, "No." John then said, "I don't understand how you could give it up so easily."

And Stuart's response was, "It's no big secret. All things are possible with God." To this John said, "That's a catchy phrase. You should write a song about it."

And as they say, "The rest is history."

The song Stuart wrote was "It Is No Secret."

"It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

With arms wide open, He'll welcome you. It is no secret, what God can do..."

**By the way ... the friend was John Wayne. And the young preacher who refused to pray for Stuart Hamblen?
... That was Billy Graham.**

Jesus is still in the business of changing lives ...

Ed.- I know this to be true because I walked the same path as Stuart Hamlin did and after I got on my knees in 1977, God changed my life too! He'll do it for you if you just ask Him in all humility to help you change your life. JDB

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.

Email is highly preferred

Send to:

**Jim Bradley
69250 Campground Rd.
Romeo, MI 48065
1-586-752-5965 Home
1-586-876-3227 Cell**

Email to:

zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net