

# The Anchor



## The Great Lakes Restoration Branches Magazine/Newsletter

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Fall 2011



### 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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### **Algonac Branch By: Val Bradley**

“For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11) What a joyful season we are entering ... a time of gratefulness and of hope!

On August 3, our Algonac group met at a park in Marysville for a potluck meal, fellowship, and an opportunity to visit with Hod and Nina Power’s “kids,” Rita and Thilo who were visiting from Germany. While there, we celebrated Rita’s birthday and Gary Holmes’ band played and sang. All who attended had a great time.

A “Work Day” was held at the church on Saturday, September 10. The sanctuary was repainted, renovations were started on the bathrooms, and there was a general fall clean up. A big thanks to those of you who give of your time and work so hard to help make our branch a beautiful place to worship in!

On Sunday, September 11, our Algonac Branch was invited to worship and fellowship with the saints at the Sanilac Restoration Branch. Elder Todd Moses was the guest pianist and the Algonac Quartet (Ray Moses, Todd & Liz Moses, & Val Bradley) sang two music specials. Priest Tom Essenmacher gave a

wonderful sermon on key points from our Church Member's Manual. It was very enlightening and a good reminder of the duties, responsibilities and privileges that we share as members of the restored church. After the service we were treated to pizza and ice cream sundaes ... what's not to like? We then headed over to the Eliason farm and Barent took us all on a wonderful hay ride. The weather was great and we enjoyed God's beautiful nature, laughter, and flying hay! Afterwards, we shared in great fellowship at Barent and Barb's home, along with yummy treats! Thanks again, Barent, Barb, and the Sanilac branch for including us in this wonderful annual event.

(As reported by Wendy Holmes)  
On Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> Marge & Gary Holmes celebrated their 50 year wedding anniversary with a family dinner at Lucky's Steakhouse. Then on Sunday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> a celebration with family, friends, food & music was given by their kids at Ravenswood Hall in Port Huron. Friends from as far away as Florida showed up as well as relatives from up north! There was 50 years worth of friends that came to share in the celebration, many they hadn't seen in years! The musical entertainment was provided by Gary's band, The VooDoo Drs. Food was delicious! A beautiful homemade cake was made by a friend of their daughter Laura. They even fed each other a piece of the cake, without incident! They really enjoyed the day visiting with so many friends and family! There were quite a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren there to enjoy as well. But the biggest surprise of the day was when their kids gifted them with an Alaskan cruise, something they both have wanted to do for quite some time. They plan on taking their celebration cruise in May of 2012. It truly was a celebration of love! We wish

them many more years together blessed with Love!!

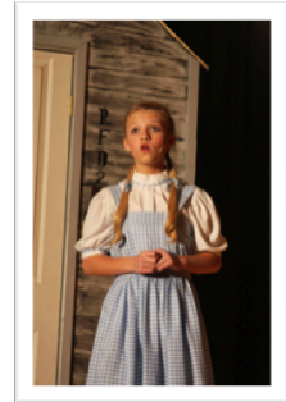


Hod & Nina Powers and Gary & Marge Holmes attended the annual Book of Mormon Day at the Oakwood Branch on October 1. Brianna Morrison also attended and helped out as a teacher's assistant that day. Neil Steede and Don & Pat Beebe were there from Independence. Archaeologist Neil has been working on an expedition in Mexico all year and shared some amazing discoveries. Nina enthusiastically relayed some of the information to the rest of our Algonac group the following day. She stated that she wishes she and Hod could go on the next archeological expedition, as the research and what they are uncovering is fascinating! She said that EVERYONE should definitely attend this event next year! A big thanks to Oakwood, Barent and Barb Eliason, and all others who gave of their time and efforts.

October 14 – 16 nine of our Algonac women (Elaine Harm, Nadine Moses, Val Bradley, Connie Burns, Wendy Holmes, Elaine King, Marilyn Canham, Nina Powers, and Kelli Williams) were able to attend the fall Women's Retreat at the Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds in Vassar. The theme was, "I Have Found the Glorious Gospel." The weekend began with our annual Tea, which was presented by our Algonac ladies (& friends!). Following the Tea, Kathi Havener split us up into small groups and she had us ask each other a number of questions. The answers prompted some

interesting discoveries and discussions and helped us get to know one another a little better. Devotions were given during the weekend by Dawn Modders, Denise Rich (& friends), which really helped set the tone for the retreat, as did the singing of many of our “old gospel hymns,” led by Sherri Johnson. Our guest speaker was sister Sally Cornish, from Independence. She taught three different classes on Emma Smith. It was evident that she has diligently studied Emma’s life for many years. Through her excellent storytelling skills, we learned so much about Emma. With much passion and enthusiasm, she really brought her story to life! We were so thankful for her willingness to give of her time and talents. On Saturday evening, we were treated to a “Fun Fest” that was organized by Algonac’s Connie Burns. She led us in several fun activities that brought much laughter to all. One activity involved drawing on the walls with a paper bag over our heads. (You had to be there!) The mixer was followed by a movie about Emma Smith and her life, which backed up most of what we heard in Sally’s classes. We always appreciate Kathleen Modders helping us out with all the technical aspects of that. We really appreciated the pastoral ministry of Elders Mick Ruch and Jay Havener during the weekend. The retreat ended with a Dedication Service on Sunday. Mick gave a wonderful talk on fellowship and the steps we need to take to encourage one another and draw closer to the saints and to our Lord. The ladies then had the opportunity to pray and/or share their testimonies. After the service, everyone pitched in and helped clean up and pack up, then we shared a meal and fellowship together. I think everyone hated to leave the grounds. We were so grateful that the Lord’s Spirit was with us the entire weekend and we look forward to the next retreat!

**We’re Off to See the Wizard!** Bethany Moses starred in a local youth production of “The Wizard of Oz.” She played the part of Dorothy with other talented kids from the Greater Northern Macomb/St. Clair area. The musical ran on October 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Richmond Aud for full audiences. Bethany enjoyed yet another production, got reacquainted with some old theater friends and made new ones too!



### **News and Notes**

- In September Val Bradley had the pleasure of traveling to Independence, MO with two of her sisters to take part in her sister and brother-in-law’s (Sharilyn and Vince Truba) celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A very special ceremony was held at the Buckner congregation where they renewed their vows, followed by a wonderful reception. Not only did Val get to spend some quality time with her sisters, but she also got to visit with many of the saints that she attended church with at the former Troy congregation years ago.
- On October 21 Brianna Morrison helped out as a counselor at the Oakwood Youth Retreat.
- Prayers would be appreciated for Todd’s Mom, Jane Yaney (cancer), Gary and Marge Holmes, Jean John, Nina Powers (eyes), Dick Burns, Tim Holmes, Kelli Williams,

Barbara & Bruce Krinke, and Jim Bradley.

We have really enjoyed the beautiful fall season and all the opportunities we've had to meet with the saints. We are so fortunate to be a part of God's restored church. Our weather is turning cooler and we are starting to prepare our homes and our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Christ. As we decorate and buy gifts for each other, may we always remember the first Christmas and the miraculous gift of the Christ child and the hope and love that He brought into our world. As always, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

### Nov.24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day



### Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Time ends



Set clocks back one hour!

### Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day



#### Oakwood By: Kathleen Modders

Once again we thank all who were involved in the older and younger youth group retreats. On November 17- 29 Oakwood's older youth attended the Senior High Fall retreat at the Port Huron Branch. Kathi and Jay Havener were in charge. Tracy Stokes and Helen Brown were the cooks. The teachers were Eric Eliason, Dave Teeple, Jay Havener and Kathi Havener. And Dan Daggett and Kathleen Modders were the counselors. Everyone had a great time, we attended the YMCA in Port Huron where they were able to swim and use the water slides, it was probably the nicest YMCA we have ever been in. On Sunday during church Scott Bolt led the older youth in the ministry of music and we also enjoyed seeing Terry get baptized by Dave Teeple. Thank you to the Port Huron Branch for allowing us to stay the weekend at your church. Those who attended were Paige and Madison Carnihan, Brandon Embry, John Daniels, Jonathon Modders, Alexis Paramater, Dustin Michael, Nick Brown, Jackson Nagy, Cole Vandenberg, and Andrew Tomanek .

We want to thank Mrs. Betty Lou Newman for directing our younger youth retreat at the Oakwood Branch. We would also like to thank all who were involved in the retreat for the younger youth.

Charlotte branch held a youth sponsored event on Saturday October

29<sup>th</sup> that 28 members of the Oakwood branch attended. There was so much food, a coffin full of candy, a spooky barn, cornfield maze, and a hayride; we all had a lot of fun. We had a great time and we are hoping to see their youth come and join us for our camps and retreats.

Woman's retreat was October 14-16 at Wesleyan Woods in Vassar, Michigan. Thank you to Val Bradley and Kathi Havener who put it on every year. The theme this year was The Glorious Gospel. We were blessed to have Sally Cornish come from Missouri to speak about Emma Smith. Friday night we were given a tea party put on from the women from the Algonac Branch. Saturday morning we were blessed with a beautiful devotion by Dawn Modders. Then classes were taught throughout the day. Kathi Havener led the women to get to know other members outside our comfort zone, numbered us off, we sat with and shared with each woman what we liked most about each person at the table, it was a blessing to get to know one another. Sunday morning was capped off with Elder Jay Havener and Elder Mick Ruch who led devotions and our Sunday Service. We are so grateful to everyone who participated in the success of the weekend. There were about 50 ladies who joined us for the weekend. Oakwood women who attended were: Kathi Havener, Shawn Ruch, Julie Fox, Helen Brown, Chrissie Vandenberg, Tracy Stokes Bonnie Murphy, Helene Danicki, Dawn Modders and Kathleen Modders.

October 30 Annual Hayride in Sanilac branch. Thank you to the Sanilac Branch for having us and putting on a pizza lunch after the service. We thank Barb and Barent Ellison for providing the hayride, and the wonderful doughnuts and cider afterwards.

11-19 Sanilac Bazaar 4 carloads of women went to support the event. We always love to support this event, they put on a beautiful display of items to buy.

September 17 Cedar Point was a great day with the youth. Thank you to Wendy Nagy for driving 6 kids; and thank you to Bob and Dawn Modders for loaning the motor home so Mike Modders could drive all of the rest of the kids. Everyone had a great time.

August 20&21 was an older youth canoe trip at the Nagy family Cabin. Many thanks go to Wendy for loaning out her cabin so the youth could enjoy fellowship and a good time. Thanks go out to all the adult helpers, Kathi & Jay Havener, Mike & Kathleen Modders, Mike Danicki and Nate Daniels. Older youth who attended were John Daniels, Jonathon Modders, Dustin Michael, Nick Brown, Joey Brown, Jackson Nagy, Cole Vandenberg, and Andrew Tomanek. We did have a little bit of rain, but that didn't deter us from going down the river. Kathi started the trip with us, we all thought we were going to see her go in the water again, but her back started to hurt so she had to get out and walk back, she saw a bear, thank God she wasn't eaten!!! Anyway, she left Jay in the canoe by himself so he was the last one to get to the lunch place. We were all waiting for him and when he pulled up he was explaining about Kathi having to walk back, and when he was trying to get out of the canoe, his foot got caught and we all got to see him get flipped into the water. What a sight to see, although I'm sure Jay didn't find it very funny, the rest of us were giggling about it for quite some time.

August 30 & 31 Shipshewana women trip was a great success. We all met at Kathi and Jay Havener's House and carpooled. We stopped to have breakfast at the Cracker Barrel. Once we arrived our first adventure was a tour of the museum, we also went to an Amish play and a meal which was fabulous; then went back to our hotels to get a good night's sleep. Once we woke up in the morning off to the flea market we all went. At lunch time we divided up, some stayed at the flea market, some went down town

to shop in the little shops, and some went on a driving tour of the Amish Quilts. Then we drove home. What a great two days packed full of laughter, fellowship, food and driving, lots of driving!

November 20 our Jr. Church youth put on a Thanksgiving meal for all members. Special thanks to Fred and Helen Brown, and Kathleen and Mike Modders who did the cooking. Not only did Fred carve two whole turkeys, but he washed most of the dishes too! Helen and Fred were a huge blessing. The kids did a wonderful job setting the tables and doing all the little jobs needed.

12/18 Children's Christmas program is going to be tackled by Bev and Bob Ruch this year. It will be such a great blessing to see what they have in store for us this year

12/31 is our New Year's Eve Safe Night pizza party at Oakwood (6pm to midnight). Video Games, Movies, Board and card games too. We all have a very fun time at this event, everyone is invited. Please come and share the night, with a safe environment, food, and so much to do. Celebrate our new year's beginning!

Special thanks to Chet & Cheryl Slagor for the organization of Thanksgiving baskets this year they were able to help 7 families from Oakwood. It's a lot of work getting all the food collected, packed and delivered to the families in need.

Happy Birthday to our Oakwood members:

December Birthdays: Bob Ruch: Dec 2, Ty Millen: Dec 4, Drew Vandenberg: Dec 6, Parker Mervyn: Dec 8, Helen Brown: Dec 9, Doris Mueller: Dec 16, Claren Carroll: Dec 20, Jesus Christ: Dec 25, Laurie MacDonald: Dec 25, Mick Ruch: Dec 26, Jonathon Modders: Dec 26, Marissa Wilson: Dec 27

January Birthdays: Bev Ruch: Jan 1, Debbie Stevens: Jan 3, Virgil Struble: Jan 6, Dustin Michael: Jan 9, Brenda Fishwild: Jan 10, Glenda Smith: Jan 12, Stacy Ruch: Jan 27, Edward Macdonald: Reese Nagy Jan 28

February Birthdays: Suzanne Konkle: Feb 4, Steve Ruch: Feb 9, Fred Brown Sr.: Feb 14, Norris MacDonald: Feb 15, Liz Richmond: Feb 16, Deanna Smith: Feb 19, Edna Fisher: Feb 21, Joey Brown: Feb 28

**IF YOU HAVE DIRECTORY CHANGES, PLEASE SEND THEM VIA EMAIL TO KATHI HAVENER.**

## **Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**



'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,  
HE LIVED ALL ALONE,  
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF  
PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY  
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,  
AND TO SEE JUST WHO  
IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT,  
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,  
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS,  
NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE,  
JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,  
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES  
OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES,  
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,  
A SOBER THOUGHT  
CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT,  
IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,  
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER,  
ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING,  
SILENT, ALONE,  
CURLLED UP ON THE FLOOR  
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE,  
THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,  
NOT HOW I PICTURED  
A UNITED STATES SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO  
OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?  
CURLLED UP ON A PONCHO,  
THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES  
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,  
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS  
WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD,  
THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,  
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE  
A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM  
EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,  
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS,  
LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER  
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,  
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE  
IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT  
BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,  
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES  
AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED  
AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,  
"SANTA DON'T CRY,  
THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,  
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,  
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,  
MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER  
AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,  
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT,  
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS,  
SO SILENT AND STILL  
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED  
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE  
ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,  
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR  
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER,  
WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,  
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA,  
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH,  
AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND,  
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

This poem was written by a Marine stationed  
in Okinawa Japan. The following is his  
request.

I think it is reasonable.....

"PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favor of  
sending this to as many people as you can?  
Christmas will be coming soon and some  
credit is due to our U.S. service men and  
women for our being able to celebrate these  
festivities.

Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of  
what we owe. Make people stop and think of  
our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed  
themselves for us. Please, do your small part  
to plant this small seed."

[Otter Lake](#) By: Susie Daggett

**Congratulations to Lynnette  
Daniels! She finished her nursing  
school and passed her test and is  
now a Licensed Practical Nurse.  
Way to go!**

We are very sad to report the loss of Ethel Smelser. She was Janet's mother.

Lindsey Daniels was able to attend her first youth retreat this fall. Lynnette Daniels and Bonnie Sutton were able to attend the woman's retreat. They enjoyed learning about Emma Smith from Sally Cornish.

Thank you to all of our guest ministry we've had the last few months including Leo Carroll, Dave Teeple, Mick Ruch, Kurt Fishwild, Bob Harris, Dale Day, Gary Holmes, Jay Havener, Ed MacDonald, Kreg Levorgood, and Fred Brown Sr. Thank you.

### Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Day



### Port Huron By: Cathy Daggett

The members of the branch attended the annual Sunday church service and picnic at John & Connie Debells house again this summer. It was great fun with a cookout and swimming in the Debells

pool. In October we gathered again at the home of Joe & Jennifer Millet for a hay ride and pumpkin picking.

On December 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a Christmas tea and cookie exchange at the branch, for details contact the Women's leader, Sharon Smerer.

In August we had the pleasure of having our dear sister Marguerite Harper home from her daughter on the east coast. While Marguerite was here she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. In November another dear sister of ours Greta Clark will also be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We feel very blessed to have these wonderful women in our branch.

Sarah Tynan, daughter of Judy Tynan and granddaughter of Jack and Barb Tynan graduated from high school this summer and will now be attending Equestrian College.

In September we added another member, young Jack Tynan was baptized and confirmed. Jack is the son of Jason and Carrie Britz and the grandson of his namesake Jack and Barb Tynan.

#### School Honors:

Congratulations to Andrew Kercher who won the Julian S. Rammelkamp Junior Scholarship in History and the Ned S. Garvin Scholarship in Philosophy.

Andrew's brother Evan is a member of the National Jr. Honor Society. Andrew and Evan are the sons of Chris Kercher and grandsons of John & Connie Debell. Congratulations to Avery Bolt who is a member of the National Honor Society and her sister Jillian Bolt is also a member of the National Jr. Honor Society. Avery and Jillian are daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughter of Jack and Barb Tynan.

Congratulations to Alexis Parmenter who was chosen to participate in a program for advanced and gifted students and was accepted to an advanced college preparatory program through Northwestern University. Alexis is the daughter of Gordon and Jessica Parmenter and granddaughter of Brian and Cathy Daggett.

**Sanilac** By: Kathleen Palmer

I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God giveth the increase. (I Corinthians 3:6, 7)

We are now into August. It has been a very warm month, which has been very good for the crops that had a late start. Let's remember to always thank God for all blessings.

Bill and Kathleen Palmer left Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> for a month-long trip to Arizona. They visited their grandson Ryan, who is a teacher and football coach at Superior Schools in Arizona. They also attended three football games, of which Ryan's team won two. They then went to Sedona, which is beautiful with red mountains and lots of greenery. It was very scenic. On the way home they stayed for four days in Branson, MO. It was a wonderful trip, even though the temperatures were as high as 114 degrees!

September brought the annual Hayride and Pizza Party for Algonac and Port Huron branches. Todd Moses was pianist for the church service and a quartet consisting of Todd, Liz and Ray Moses and Val Bradley sang. The ministry of music was beautiful. Priest Tom Essenmacher had a very special sermon. There were about 60 present to enjoy the service and afterwards pizza and ice cream. The hayride and cookies and cider at Barent and Barb's farm was a fun time. Thank you, Barent and Barb.

Gary Des Jardins broke his arm and had to have it surgically set. He had a bicycle accident. He is doing fine now and the cast is off.

Barent and Barb Eliason took a ten-day tour of Ireland Sept. 16 – 24. They had a fantastic time and had many wonderful pictures to show everyone.

October is the time we see the beautiful change of color of the leaves. It always seems so short of a time to take in this scenic creation.

October 1<sup>st</sup> was the 2011 Michigan Regional Book of Mormon Day at Oakwood. Neil Steede, Ph.D., was the guest archaeologist along with Don and Pat Beebe from Independence, MO. The two amazing tunnel discoveries under the Temple of the Sun and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl at Teotihuacán was presented. Neil has been working on the expedition all year. There were classes for the children and a potluck lunch. There were many from our branch who attended. A big thank you to Barb Eliason, Janine Essenmacher, Dora Guterrez, Debbie Des Jardins, Betty Lou Newman, Bob Harris and Lynette Daniels for teaching the children's classes.

There were ten from our branch who attended the Women's Retreat at Vassar Campgrounds. Julie Essenmacher, Nellie Haynes, Denise and Aubree Rich spent the weekend. Denise Rich had Sunday morning worship service. We all enjoyed Sally Cornish's interesting classes on Emma Smith. We all learned a lot and Sally is very informative and has a very special way of presenting her knowledge about Emma Smith. Thank you Val Bradley and Kathi Havener for all your efforts and time in putting this Women's Retreat together.

Tom and Janine Essenmacher had an accident on their way to the Fall Children's Retreat October 21<sup>st</sup>. They were very blessed that it wasn't worse. They were unable to be there for the dinner, which they had prepared, but did get there later for the rest of the weekend. Gary Des Jardins was planning to go, but hurt his Achilles tendon, so wasn't able to attend. Tom and Janine reported that it was a very special weekend for them and the children. Thanks Tom and Janine and

Betty Lou Newman and all who put these retreats on for our youth.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Oakwood Branch, Otter Lake and Hartland Branches enjoyed a hayride and pizza and ice cream party. There were about 50 present. The message, brought to us by Elder Mark Burnard, was very special. We also enjoyed the ministry of music by the Oakwood Youth Choir and the younger children, who sang for the introit. After we ate, everyone went to Barent and Barb's farm for the hayride, then doughnuts and cider. Yum! Thanks again to the Eliasons for a great time.

Gary Des Jardins and Maddy Parker played their instruments for the Halloween concert at Peck in October. They were all dressed in their costumes and the music was great. Good job, Maddy and Gary. We are proud of you!

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Norris McDonald took his son's place to preach. It was a miracle the Lord gave brother Norris the strength to bring the message and he spoke of miracles. What a very special service.

Our women have been busy preparing for our annual Christmas Bazaar, Bake Sale and Luncheon on November 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We would love to see many of you there!

Barent Eliason was invited to Charlotte to speak on "Christ in America." He had the Sunday School hour and the 11:00 a.m. service. The large youth choir sang and it was beautiful.

Dan and Bev Miller visited their son in Illinois and their daughter and family in New Jersey.

Bill Day traveled to Washington D.C.

We would ask for prayers for our shut-ins: Ella Haynes, Esther Marky and Ken

Parker. Visits are always welcome. The talents of many are enjoyed by all. The worship centers that were created by Barb Eliason and Nellie Haynes were beautiful and spiritual. Thank you.

Thank you to the Sanilac Choir, Mary Lou Bartrow and Kathleen Palmer for their ministry of music.

Dora Guitierrez, Barb Eliason and Mary Lou Bartrow are our pianists and do a beautiful job with the ministry of music.

We truly are blessed to have such wonderful priesthood who are there to bring the gospel message to all of us. They are being blessed and so are we. Thanks to all of the priesthood who travel to our little church to bring the Word of God to us all. Bob Harris, Hod Powers (Nina), Jay Havener (Kathi), Ed McDonald, Jim McLeod (Jean), Norris McDonald (Shirley) and Mark Burnard (Twyla).

#### Birthday Celebrations:

August: Randy Des Jardins (4<sup>th</sup>), Nicolas Bradley (8<sup>th</sup>), Paige Parker (13<sup>th</sup>), Avery Carpenter (28<sup>th</sup>), Maddy Parker (31<sup>st</sup>)  
September: Dora Guitierrez (8<sup>th</sup>), Lowell Decker (13<sup>th</sup>), Bob Smith (18<sup>th</sup>), Ella Haynes (26<sup>th</sup>)  
October: Dan Miller (31<sup>st</sup>)

#### Anniversary Celebrations:

August: Wayne and Mary Lou Bartrow (12<sup>th</sup>)  
September: Bill and Kathleen Palmer (3<sup>rd</sup>), Tom and Janine Essenmacher (28<sup>th</sup>)

To all ... have a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

## **The Road of Life**

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him. But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on!

Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!" I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure, and when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand. I gained love, peace, acceptance and joy; gifts to take on my journey, My Lord's and mine. And we were off again.

He said, "Give the gifts away. They're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but he knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten, scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

**And when I'm sure I just can't do it anymore, He just smiles and says... "Pedal."** (Author Unknown)

Anyone with new Email/phone/other info that you want published please send it to Jim Bradley @ [zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net)

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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**Email is highly preferred**