

The Anchor



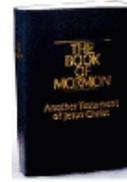
The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

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Spring 2016



News From Around the Region

Algonac- Garden City- Oakwood - Otter Lake-Port Huron-Sanilac

“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

In Loving Memory

**Elder Robert H. Ruch - A Warrior for the Lord Jesus Christ
Oakwood Restoration Branch**



Born Dec. 2, 1931

Heavenly Homecoming April 30, 2016

Our hearts and prayers go out to his lovely wife of 58 years Beverly Ruch, their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and the entire Ruch family.

Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (I Peter 1:3)

We praise God at this beautiful season of rebirth and renewal and are grateful that through Christ, we have the hope of life eternal!

A few of our Algonac men (Eric Eliason, Hod & Kevin Powers) were able to attend the Priesthood Retreat at the Oakwood Restoration Branch on February 27. The retreat was led by Shaun Turner, assisted by Eric Eliason. The theme was "A Charge to Keep I Have." It was reported that the men enjoyed a day of great classes, wonderful ministry and fellowship.

On March 27, under the direction of Kelli Williams, the children took part in an Easter program. Bethany Moses offered the opening prayer. Ava Nagy did a scripture reading from Mosiah. Briggs Eliason did an "Easter Day" reading. The children sang, "Jesus Loves Me." The younger children then took part in a reading. One at a time, they each held up letters spelling out "Easter." As they held up their letter, Kelli stated what each one stood for. The song "Hosanna" was performed by Ames, Briggs, and Bryer Eliason and Addie and Laurel Yaney. The reading "My God is a Good God" was done by Ava and David Nagy, Alyssa and Miles

Marcangelo, and Daynna Harm. Kelli and Todd Moses did a reading entitled, "The Burden." It was stated that no matter how heavy or cumbersome our burdens are, we usually have no desire to trade what we are going through for someone else's burdens. And no matter what our burden is, if we turn it over to the Lord, He will help us bear it.

Members of the congregation were then given stones and post-it notes and were asked to write down a burden that they would like to be rid of and place it on our stone. We were then invited to bring our stone (burden) up to the altar and place it beneath the cross. Bethany Moses sang, "He Lives." The program ended with the congregation singing the hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

We were very blessed and encouraged by the message that Kelli, Todd, and the children brought to us that morning. Our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes brought the sermon at the 11 a.m. service. He began by singing, "Because He Lives," and started his sermon by stating, "without Easter, Christmas wouldn't mean a thing ... Christ would have just been another good man!" He read from the book of Mark about how after Christ's resurrection, many did not recognize Him. Are we the same today? Do we hear Him ... do we recognize His voice when He speaks to us? We need to read, study, and experience positive proof that He lives today ... we need our own testimony. We appreciated his wonderful message of the hope we all have in Christ.

Liz Moses Dad, Jerry Ward, passed away on March 24. The funeral service was held on March 30. Our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes, presided and brought a great message of Hope. Elder Hod Powers gave the Eulogy. A choral group, made up of some of Todd's former music students

(including Bethany), sang two musical numbers, “Requiem” and “Sing Me To Heaven.” They sounded like a choir of angels and added so much to the service. Also, Jake Hill, a good friend of the family, sang a solo. During a time set aside for reflections, Todd Moses shared some warm memories of his father-in-law. There was also a short chapel service at the cemetery where members of the Dept. of Defense bestowed military honors and the choral group sang a final song. Afterwards family and friends shared a wonderful meal and fellowship with Liz and her family at Sycamore Hills Banquet Center in Macomb. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers continue to be with Liz and her family.

**In Loving Memory
Jerry Ward
(Liz Moses’ father)**



**Birthdate Nov. 22, 1928
Heavenly Homecoming March 24, 2016**

On April 30 several of our Algonac ladies (Connie Burns, Wendy Holmes, Marilyn Canham, Cory Eliason, Nina

Powers, Nadine Moses and Val Bradley) were able to attend the Great Lakes Restoration Branches Women's Retreat, directed by Kathi Havener and Val Bradley. There were over 30 women who attended from the various branches. It was held at the Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch. Connie DeBell and the ladies in her branch did a marvelous job of hosting! The tables were decorated beautifully and reflected the theme, which was Hope. We were treated to a delicious luncheon and refreshments throughout the day. Great job, ladies! We began the day with morning devotions, brought by Connie Burns and the Algonac ladies. It was centered on the 23rd Psalm and all the promises and hope it brings to us. We enjoyed three wonderful classes taught by Cory Eliason (Algonac), Sherri Johnson (St. Johns), and Denise Rich (Sanilac). Through various Scriptures, stories, poems, songs and testimonies, we learned how to find hope in this troubled world, how to hang onto hope during our personal trials, and ways in which we can offer hope and encouragement to others. Very enlightening and inspiring. We had an opportunity to share in fun and fellowship during an afternoon session of making Blessing Jars. Kathi and Val explained the meaning and purpose behind the jars and suggested that we fill them with whatever was meaningful and encouraging to us. Kathleen Modders (Oakwood) brought various materials and supplies and helped us decorate our jars and make them look pretty. The retreat ended with a dedication/renewal service presided over by Elder Brian Daggett (Pt. Huron/Sarnia). He brought an uplifting message of hope and many of the women shared personal testimonies which helped to strengthen and encourage us. During the service we also enjoyed a duet,

“Because He Lives” sung by Sherri and Grace Johnson. We are so thankful for all who attended and participated in this retreat. The Lord's Spirit was with us and we were grateful. May we all continue to encourage one another and share with others the hope we have in Christ.



Thanks to the Port Huron/Sarnia Branch for hosting our women's retreat!

Moses Family Updates:

Musicals: February held 9 performances of Mary Poppins for Bethany Moses at Dakota High School. Thank you to everyone that was able to come out and see the production. After much dedication from the cast and many hours of rehearsal, the show was a great success. Bethany was weary of flying, but once she was harnessed and took off for the first time, she found it to be fun! She is currently in rehearsal for her next show, “You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.” This is a small cast of 6, in which Bethany plays the role of little sister, Sally Brown. The show is running at the Snug Theatre in Marine City and will have 12 performances in late May / early June.

Band & Choral Festivals: As

Bethany's senior year comes to a close, her band and choir activities have continued in excellence. This year, she sings in both Women's Varsity Choir and Mixed Varsity

Choir and plays her French horn in Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Each group received the highest ratings possible at District Festivals, with the Women's Varsity Choir earning a perfect score from all 4 judges! Both choirs and Wind Ensemble continued on to the State level, where they all received 1st Division Ratings! Congratulations on a great year!

Band & Choir Destinations: This was also a traveling year at Dakota for the music programs. Bethany had the opportunity to perform in Orlando, Florida with Dakota Bands at Disney World. They had an outdoor concert at Epcot and then a recording session at the Disney studios to create the sound track to some movie scenes. Then, she traveled to New York City with the Dakota Choirs and performed on the stage of the Broadway Theatre. This was an adjudicated performance where the choir received Superior Ratings from all three Broadway judges. They also had a clinic with instructor and Broadway star Jeanne Lehman, whose most famous role was Mrs. Potts from Beauty and the Beast.

College and Scholarships: After much matter of prayer, Bethany Moses has decided to follow her passion within teaching and plans to attend Macomb Community College to begin her studies in music education. She is the recipient of the Barbara Maier Scholarship for future teachers and was the first place winner in the St. Clair Shores Community Chorus Vocal Scholarship. In addition, she has been accepted into the Macomers Show Entertainment performing ensemble and granted a Macomb Scholarship for her studies. Congratulations and best wishes on your future plans!

News and Notes:

- Shortly after our dear sister Elaine Harm returned from her winter stay in Florida, she underwent hip surgery. The surgery was successful and her recovery is going well, also. She is using a cane and walker, but is up and around already. She is grateful for all the thoughts and prayers. We are so happy to have her back with us and will continue to pray for a complete recovery for her!
- April was the month of the young child, and on April 30, Kelli Williams and her preschool & childcare sponsored the first St. Clair County Kite Day! The children made kites, decorated kite cookies, did face painting and various crafts, etc. They also received lots of free goodies from many area sponsors. Of course one of those sponsors was Nina's Arctic Queen ... they gave every child a small ice cream cone! The event was reported in the Times Herald and appeared on video, with Kelli as the spokesperson. It was so successful, that they will host it again next year. Congrats, Kelli ... great job!



(Josh is the Man in Black looking like a gladiator - go Josh!)

- Joshua Pirt is a member of Irish Iron, a robotics team from St. Patrick's Catholic High School in Sarnia. His team won the Toronto regional competition, which enabled them to compete in a worldwide competition that took place in St. Louis the end of April. With the help of sponsors, eight students from the 20 member team (including Josh) made the trip, where they competed against the world's best robotics teams. 75 teams competed and St. Pat's finished 25th in its division. It was quite an accomplishment considering it was the first time the high school's robotics team competed. It's extremely hard to make it to that level, as the teams must win many regional events along the way. They are already thinking up ideas to enter for next year's competition. Congratulations, Josh! Great job ... we are proud of you!

Many of our saints had the honor of attending the funeral service for Bob Ruch at the Oakwood Branch on May 4. Elder Mick Ruch officiated and did an excellent job of honoring Bob and the life he lived. At the close of the service many friends and family had the opportunity to share testimonies and warm memories of Bob. We witnessed such a good spirit and an outpouring of love for Bob. He will be long remembered as a strong man of faith who fought the good fight and endured to the end. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bev and her family.

**Angela Elkins
Algonac Branch**



**Wayne State University,
Mike Illitch School of Business
Graduating Class of 2016,
Magna Cum Laude**

- On May 5 Angie Elkins graduated magna cum laude from Wayne State University, Mike Illitch School of Business, with a degree in Accounting. Congratulations on all your hard work, Angie! We wish you the very best in all future endeavors.
- Todd Yaney recently ran the Borgess "Run For the Health of It" marathon in Kalamazoo. He was able to finish a 1/2 marathon, in spite of a leg injury. Congratulations Todd ... great job!

Prayers would be appreciated for Elaine Harm, Tim Holmes, Dick Burns, Liz Moses & her family, Elaine King (& her Mom), Todd Yaney's Dad, Cliff, Kelli and Steve Williams, Ray Moses, Nina Powers, Lisa

Marcangelo's Mom and Bruce and Barb Krinkie. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

Garden City



By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

Happy Spring! It's so wonderful to see the spring flowers, green grass, buds, and so many blossoms. Many thanks to our guest ministers the past few months: Elder Jay Havener from Oakwood and Elder Doug Daggett from Otter Lake.

Women's Group (Betty Lou Newman)
The ladies have enjoyed participating in a variety of activities. The study groups are using the exercises in Barbara Wilkinson's book – Exercises in Growing Spiritually – to enrich their own spiritual lives. Study, fasting and prayer are the starting points. Some women have reached out to provide meals and fellowship as part of our "service" as well as sending church bulletins with a note or card to those who missed the worship service. On Saturday, May 9th, a group of ladies had the opportunity to become better acquainted as they met to learn how to knit a decorative scarf. Thanks to Sue Stoker for teaching the ladies how to make these pretty scarves. May we continue to grow and to support each other and the priesthood.

Children's Retreat at Oakwood (Betty Lou Newman)

Few in number yet delighting in fellowship of each other was apparent at the Children's Spring Retreat. Our theme was Jesus Came to America and our goal was to connect Jesus' Judean ministry and life with the account of His life as found in III Nephi. When he was born there...what happened here? When he was crucified there...what happened here? Three elders taught our four classes and reinforced the connections with scriptures. Do you know who saw Jesus in Judea after His resurrection? The swim, the medals, the church talk and oh yes, even the Easter cookies made with vinegar (gall), salt (tears), egg whites (life), sugar (Christ' love is sweet) and the pecans we beat with wooden spoons (like Jesus was beaten).....all focused on Jesus. The cookies went in the hot oven, the oven was turned off and sealed up with tape. Yes, the cookies were hollow when we ate them the next morning. They were delicious too! It was a weekend of learning for our CITS as they continued to work through the book Joseph Smith and His Progenitors.

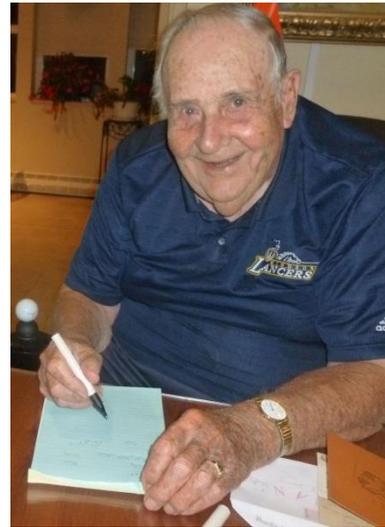
See you at Erie Beach Camp July 17-23. Registrations are in the mail.

Outreach: (Karen Rintz)

Eight "Blessing Boxes" were filled by volunteers and sent to military bases overseas and shared with those in the Army, Marines and Navy. The boxes were packed with love, prayers and a variety of items that the military men and women would enjoy (bubble gum, snacks, puzzle books etc.).

On Saturday, April 30th, a "Free Store" was held at the Garden City Branch through "Angels in the Motor City" and many people were able to find items they needed. Thanks to Karen and all of her volunteers for their outreach in the community.

**In Loving Memory
Ivan Jones
Garden City Branch**



**Born February 29, 1920
Heavenly Home Coming May 12, 2016**

(96 yrs. old pictured writing cards, notes and letters to the Saints, friends and family-something he loved to do)

Memorial Day May 30, 2016



**Take Time to Remember Those Who
Serve and have Served to Keep This
Nation Safe and Secure Our Liberty.**

Otter Lake



By: Susie Daggett

Continued prayers requested for little 4 year old Clare Grant. She just had another surgery on her hip, removing a metal plate. She was given too much anesthesia and had to have chest compressions twice during the surgery and was in recovery for 7 hours before they could let her go.

Doug and I are happy to be celebrating 35 years of marriage on May 30th.

Doug Daggett was recently off work for 7 weeks after he passed out from his heart pausing. He is feeling much better and is back to work. He is very thankful for all of the prayers.

We are very thankful for our visiting ministry Ed Smerer and Jeff Stoker. We are looking forward to Gary Holmes and Brian Daggett coming up this month.

We appreciate the visiting ministry so much.

Oakwood



By: Kathleen Modders

2/21/16 Baptism: Amanda Kay Ruch by Fred Brown Jr. Confirmed same day by Mick Ruch and Fred Brown Jr.

3/25/16 Good Friday Service was held.

3/27/16 Easter Service was quite special this year. Jay Havener directed an Easter Story from the perspectives of those who witnessed Jesus' gaze from a table laden with the Passover feast, in a garden, down from an Old Rugged Cross, at an empty tomb, and on a desolate stretch of road between Jerusalem and Emmaus. It was a Theatre production which is a lot like radio, it was of the mind and the stage set, and scenes were established through dialogue of some of the central characters of the passion week. Cast included: Narrators: Mick Ruch and Fred Brown Jr.; Peter: Jay Havener; Cleopus: Mike Ruch; Disciple: Jonathon Modders; Maid of the High Priest: Amanda Ruch; Pilate: Chet Slagor; Claudius the Centurion: Shaun Turner; Claudius's Wife: Amanda Ruch; Mary Magdalene: Shawn Ruch; Joanna: Kathi Havener; Disciple on the road to Emmaus: Jonathon Modders; Cleopus on the Road to Emmaus: Mike Ruch. Special music was provided by Julia LaRowe, Oakwood 4, Jay Havener and Kim Gilchrist.

Poem: Does your Jesus still hang on the cross? The smell of vinegar sour on His breath? A crown of thorns pushed low on His brow? Painfully hanging near death? Does your Jesus still hang on the cross? Broken and bloodied and spent? Ready to give up the ghost? For those who refused to repent? Does your Jesus still hang on the cross? Beaten and mocked with contempt? Death at the hands of a mob Screaming "Crucify!" as Mary wept? Why keep him nailed to the cross? When the rock has rolled away? Jesus has fled the dark tomb. And speaks to us today. Jesus is not dead! He lives for a sinner like me. His empty tomb is my symbol of hope, That we'll live eternally!
By Kathi Havener

Egg Hunt and Family Photos by Kathleen Modders

4/30/16 Elder Robert Harry Ruch passed away. He is now with his heavenly father. He will be missed by everyone.

4/30/16 Regional Women's retreat at Port Huron: Oakwood attendees Kathi Havener, Bonnie Murphy, Helen Brown, Kathleen Modders, Ruth Ann Hulse, Dawn Modders, Helene Danicki, Mary Jones and Suzanne Konkle. Directed by Kathi Havener and Val Bradley

4/22-26/16 Children's Retreat presented "The Life of Christ" in scripture and song. In short His Life; Jesus Came; visitors and gifts for the baby Jesus; Growing up'; His Baptism; The calling of the Twelve; The Ruler; Your Light; A House; The Children; The Wedding; Jesus' Friends; Gethsemane; The Cross and The women. It was a wonderful presentation of His life. Directed by Betty Lou Newman

5/7/16 Once again, the Walking Witnesses were at the Detroit Zoo helping to grant wishes. The Make-A-Wish foundation grants life changing wishes to Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions. The Walking Witnesses team members were Julie Fox, Dawn Modders, Robert Modders, Raven Franks, & Tara Fox. Last year the team was in the top 6 for donations in their category. Directed by Julie Fox

The Zion's Youth had a great retreat in March. Doug and Suzie Daggett attended the retreat providing ministry to the youth through fellowship and instruction. Our kitchen staff, Tracy Stokes and Shawn Ruch, provided much needed

nourishment with delicious meals and desserts. Doug Daggett, Michelle Turner and Kyle Burnard provided support through teaching and fellowship.

Overall, the kids enjoyed fellowship, recreation (at Lapeer Recreation Center), and worship. It was a wonderful experience for both the youth and the staff. We always look forward to coming together and worshipping through service and fellowship. Directed by Shaun and Michelle Turner

Save the date: Zion's Youth Camp will be on July 10 - 16, 2016 at Bethel Youth Camp in Hawks, MI.

Women's department: The ladies are discussing the book "Traveling Light" on the 3rd Wednesday's of each month. Directed by Shawn Ruch.

5/ 20-22 A trip to Kirtland to learn about our church history directed by Kathi Havener. Women attending are Shawn & Amanda Ruch, Helene Danicki, and Chris, Michelle Turner, Paige Carnihan, Tracy Stokes, Lynnette Daniels, Kathi Havener, Raven Franks, Mary Jones, Helen Brown, Cheryl Slagor, Kathleen Modders, Kim Gilchrist, and Wendy Holmes.

Youth News: Emma Turner ice skated in a "Frozen Enactment." Dustin Michael took a test for the Navy and did so well the Air Force is calling him to Join them! Derrick Embree was pre-commissioned for the ROTC and is receiving his school paid for and will be a commissioner officer in the armed forces. Graduating this year and open house dates are: Brandon Embree 6/5/16; Marissa Wilson 6/12/16; Joe Brown 6/25/16; Dustin Michael 7/2/16; Jonathon Modders 8/6/16

Coming soon:

6/12/16 Annual General Squire Park Service and Potluck starting at 10:30 a.m.

7/25-31/16 Great Lakes Regional Reunion contact Mick Ruch

9/24/16 Cedar Point Trip directed by Kathleen and Mike Modders

Upcoming Birthdays:

06/06 Bob Modders, 06/06 Gage Slagor, 06/11 Matt Mervyn, 06/12 Bonnie Murphy,
06/14 Kim Slagor, 06/16 Beth Fabian, 06/17 Kathleen Modders, 06/18 Julia LaRowe,
06/24 Shirly MacDonald, 06/25 Chad Embree, 06/27 Cruz Nagy, 07/03 Mike Modders,
07/06 Brad Millen, 07/08 Joshua Johnson, 07/20 Kathi Havener, 07/20 Mallory Johnson,
08/02 Julie Fox, 08/05 Candy MacDonald, 08/09 Bernard Pearl, 08/11 Wendy Nagy,
08/17 Tracy Stokes, 08/18 Hannah MacDonald, 08/26 Sandy Kline, 08/28 Melanie Brown, 08/28 Mark Wilson, 08/30 Jordan Moore

Independence Day July 4, 2016



Port Huron - Sarnia Branch



By: Sharon Smerer

Greetings Saints:

We begin with, isn't it nice to finally see the green grass, spring flowers and new buds on the trees. Thank You God!!! Without You, we are nothing.

Congratulations to Lydia DeBell; the VFW hosted their annual Patriot's Pen contest. This year's topic was "What Freedom Means to Me." All participants' entries were judged by the VFW May O'Brien Post No. 8645. Casie Paul won first place and Lydia DeBell won second place for Marysville Middle School. Their winning essays advanced to further competition at the post level, where Casie placed first and Lydia placed third overall.

Lydia is the daughter of Jim and Marnie DeBell and granddaughter of John and Connie DeBell.

February 7, 2016

Our Congregation had the pleasure to listen to Elizabeth Dewey sing an introit and Ministry of Music, "Amazing Grace" without accompaniment. She is a freshman at Port Huron Northern. She has a beautiful singing voice. We wish her the best for her future.

On February 19-21, 2016
Youth Retreat grades 3 through 7

We again hosted the Youth Retreat; we will also have a Potluck luncheon after the 11:00 service to fellowship with our Youth and their families. Their theme this weekend "The Life of Christ." They all did a fantastic job, singing and reading their parts. We hope they will come back again at a future time. Thank you to Betty Lou Newman and the helpers and also the cook and her helpers.

Our condolences to the families of Annabelle Davis who passed away Feb. 14, 2016 in Lansing, Mi., also to the families of Don Hering who passed away March 13, 2016 in Port Huron, Mi., also to the families of Joyce Smerer who passed away April 15, 2016 in Port Huron, Mi. also to the families of Jill Loxton who passed away April 25, 2016 in Detroit, Mi. We were sorry to hear of Elder Robert Ruch who passed away April 30, 2016, of Oxford, Mi. We will keep all these families in our prayers during their bereavement. Time heals all, with the help of the Lord. On February 27, 2016 A one day Men's Priesthood Retreat was held at Oakwood Restoration Branch. We pray that the men who attended were filled with the Holy Spirit. May God continue to bless our Priesthood each and every day.

The Starlites Competitive Dance teams enjoyed a successful Saturday at the Showcase America Unlimited Michigan State Dance Championships in Hazel Park, Mi. The Starlites youth team placed first overall in Jazz, Lyrical and Hip Hop after receiving High Superior ratings. The team was also first in the Pom category and received an Ultimate Star rating as well as the High Point Trophy. Youth captain, Abby Slossar was first in the Leadership Division. The team members include Allison and Brianna

Slossar, daughters of Heidi Slossar and granddaughters of Larry and Debbie Scheffler.

Betty Milett, is in Brown City, Mi. Fourth Grade Elementary Reading Competition, "Battle of the Books." The fourth graders took fifth place. Betty is the daughter of Joe and Jennifer Milett and granddaughter of John and Connie DeBell. Good for you Betty!!

The Zion's Youth Winter Retreat for grades 7-12, was March 11-13, 2016 and was held at the Oakwood Restoration Branch. The theme for the retreat was "Love like Christ." They hope to have a Community Project similar to what they did last year, with Grace Centers of Hope. There was a good turn out and learning experience.

The Brown City Cub Scout Pack 327 recently held its annual Pinewood Derby. The Scouts created a custom car out of a block of wood. The cars were then raced on a track. Trophies were given out for each troop's fastest and best looking car. Lowell Milett took third place winner. Lowell is the son of Joe and Jennifer Milett and grandson of John and Connie DeBell. Way to go Lowell!!

The Port Huron Northern Drama Club presents, "Singin' in the Rain." Gillian Bolt, a senior, is Lina Lamont, a screen queen with a screeching voice fit for the silent era. In the movie, Selden dubs her voice for Lamont's as Hollywood transitions from silent movies to talkies. Gillian said, she didn't mind playing the bad guy: "At first, I was like, "Oh, no. I'm the bad guy," but I've fallen in love with the character." Olivia Bolt, a sophomore, also danced and sang. These girls are the daughters of Scott and Amy

Bolt and granddaughters of John and Barbara Tynan. Great Job Girls. I'm sure we will see or hear of your many acting debuts.

Ariana (Ari) and Adelia(Addie) Britz this year have went on the Mexicali Mission Trip. For many years, Ari has gone with other students from Faith Lutheran and many other churches, through Octane Ministry to Mexicali, Mexico. We hope they will be safe and return to us and show us what they did for the people there in Mexicali, Mexico this year.

Ariana and Adelia are the daughters of Jason and Carrie Britz and granddaughters of John and Barbara Tynan.

We have had several singers for our Ministry of Music. The Bolt Family, Bruce Reid and Robert Ruch. They all do a fine job and their voices all blend and sound great.

Andrew Kercher, has graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Masters Degree in Historical Preservation at Ypsilanti, Mi. Andrew is the son of Christine Kercher and grandson of John and Connie DeBell. Congratulations Andrew!! We hope yu have a good Summer, up at Fort Michilimackinac.

Our Branch hosted the 2016 Spring Women's One Day Retreat on April 30. The theme was "HOPE," from the scripture Romans 15:13. We were greeted by Kathi Havener and Val Bradley, then we went into the sanctuary for Devotions by Connie Burns. We thank Sherry Purcell and others for their prayers, thoughts and testimonies and singing.

All the ladies enjoyed the classes by Cory Eliason, Sherri Johnson, Denise Rich, the fellowship with one another and the food and decorations. A big

thank you to Connie DeBell, Millie Giles and Sharon Smerer and all those who contributed the delicious cakes, cookies and muffins and other foods. We also want to thank Kathi Havener, Val Bradley, and Kathleen Modders for the Blessing Jars. I'm sure we will certainly be reminded as we place our Blessings in the jars, each and every day. We want to thank Sherri and Grace Johnson for their singing of "Because He Lives." Very Beautiful. We took a moment to pay respects to Elder Robert Ruch's passing by singing, "The Old Rugged Cross," which he sang at the hospital before he passed. We also want to thank Elder Brian Daggett for his ministry and the good spirit he brought to our retreat. May we continue to encourage and lift one another up and share with others the Hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

Greetings to Everyone from Arizona: Barb and I have been enjoying the warm weather and sunshine out here. While we sure miss our brothers and sisters, as well as our immediate family, it is not hard to take sunshine and warm weather every day. We were fortunate enough to have John and Connie DeBell come to visit and we crammed a lot of sightseeing in while they were here. What a great time.

Barb and I have been busy with our church family out here and I was fortunate enough to hold cottage meetings with two different families. We baptized a young mother and son and blessed three other children in that family. We also baptized three teenagers in a Navajo family. I will be going to the Navajo reservation in Pinon towards the end of May to meet with some families up there. We were told that many families have not had the sacrament in several years and that there are quite a few people interested in baptism.

Depending on how things go in Pinon we should be home early July and will look forward to seeing many of you. God Bless.
Elder Dave Teeple

Sanilac



By: Kathleen Palmer

For the kingdom of GOD is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Romans 14:17

We had a Valentines potluck dinner in Feb. after the communion service. We all enjoyed great fellowship and delicious food.

Our first junior church services were held March 20th at 11:00 a.m. in the church basement. Ages 13 on down participated. This will be held every third Sunday of the month. Thank you to Dora and the young women for getting this started. Deacon Gary Des Jardins gave the message and Emma Des Jardins sang.

On March 24th at 7 p.m. Elder Barent Eliason was in charge of the Maundy Thursday candlelight service. Each read scripture pertaining to the Easter story. We had about 30 in attendance. It was a very special and spiritual service.

On Easter morning, we all enjoyed a delicious Easter Sunday breakfast. A surprise 85th birthday party was given after church, on March 13th, for Elder Barent Eliason. We wanted it to be a surprise but “someone” kind of gave it away. We all had a wonderful time celebrating his birthday. He has and still does give so much of his time

for all of us. He truly is a servant of God.

Bill and Kathleen Palmer traveled to Daytona, Fla and Nashville, Tenn. for most of April. They visited her sister at the Villages before spending two weeks at Daytona.

Jim, Stacey, Josh and Kaden enjoyed a trip to Myrtle Beach. Josh, who doesn't like the water, even went on a fishing boat trip!

A surprise 40th wedding anniversary was held for Barent and Barb Eliason. There was a special cake made that had “John Deere” on one side and “Red Wings” on the other! Go figure!!! A delicious dinner was prepared by the young women. A good time was had on this very special occasion. Dora read a very special letter prepared by Debby Des Jardins from their wedding.

Emma Des Jardins and CIT Gary Des Jardins attended the Spring Retreat at Oakwood. Thank you to all who help put this on for the children.

Five women from our branch attended the Regional Women's Retreat at Port Huron April 30th. Our own Denise Rich gave one of the lessons. A wonderful spiritual time was reported by all who attended. These retreats are all very special. Bless all of you who work to put this together.

Emma Des Jardins and Sydney Parker participated in the Peck Elementary talent show. Emma sang the cup song and Sydney did the cup part. They came in third. Good job girls!

Gary Des Jardins and Maddy Parker had their spring band concert at Peck High School.

Josh Bradley is on the Sandusky Honor Roll. He also placed second in the National Geographic Bee. Josh also received a #1 rating at the Sandusky solo assembly playing his saxophone.

Kaden Bradley participated in the kindergarten Pigs opera at Sandusky Elementary School.

Gary Des Jardins received first place trumpet in the Sanilac County Honors Band concert and also first place trumpet in the Tri-County Honors band concert. He also placed second in the discus and won the shot put.

Emma Thompson was accepted into the Peck National Honor Society.

We are so proud of our youth and their accomplishments. May the Lord continue to bless them.

We would like to especially thank the priesthood who travel to our little branch to bring us God's message, Elder Jay Havener (Kathi), Elder Gary Holmes (Marge) and Elder Ed Mc Donald.

Sanilac wishes each and every one of you a very special and blessed spring!

Regional Activities for the next quarter

(Please mark your calendar for these dates)

July 1st, 2nd & 4th (Friday, Saturday & Monday) , 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Rummage & Bake Sale

Algonac Restoration Branch

Contact: Wendy Holmes

July 10th – 16th Zions Youth Camp

Bethel Youth Camp, Hawks, MI

Contact: Shaun & Michelle Turner

July 17th – 23rd Erie Beach Children's Camp/CIT Leadership Training Camp

Contact: Betty Lou Newman/Kerry Horton

July 25th – 31st Great Lakes Regional Reunion

Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds

Contact: Mick Ruch

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