

The Anchor



The Great Lakes Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

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Spring 2017



News From Around the Region

Algonac-Atlanta-Dowagiac- Garden City- Lima-Oakwood Otter Lake-Port Huron-Sanilac-
St. Johns

“By faith all things are fulfilled: Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God which hope cometh of faith maketh an Anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.” Ether 5:3b-4

Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

“And as many as believe on His name shall receive of His fullness. And of His fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through His grace.” (John 1:16) This season is a wonderful reminder of God’s gift

of love, mercy, and grace, which He has bestowed on all of us!

On April 16, the children presented an Easter program, directed by Kelli Williams. Kelli gave the welcome and the opening prayer was offered by Nina Powers. Throughout the program special readings and scriptures were shared by Kelli, Bethany Moses, Nina Powers, Todd Moses, Cory Eliason, Ava Nagy, and David Nagy. Each of the children held up a letter to spell out Easter, and stated what each letter meant: E (For Easter, here today), A (For Angels, near the tomb), S (For Stone, which

was rolled away), T (For Tomb, found empty that day), E (For Early Morning, the women are glad), R (for the Risen Lord, no reason to be sad). Briggs and Bryer Eliason and Laurel Yaney shared a poem, "Easter is Really for Jesus." We all sang, "Jesus Loves Me; Easter Tells Me So." David Nagy, Bryer, Briggs, and Ames Eliason, Laurel and Addie Yaney took part in "Who Does Jesus Love." The congregation recited the scripture John 3:16. The program ended with the children singing "For God So Loved the World," with the congregation joining in at the end. We're always thankful for the effort that goes into these programs and the way the children minister to us all. That was followed by a wonderful service, which began with Todd Moses (on the keyboard) and Bethany Moses (on the French horn) in a powerful introit, "Crown Him with Many Crowns." The Moses Trio did a beautiful music special "Because He Lives." Our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes, brought a very inspirational Easter message. He read from the 24th chapter of Luke, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" The women at the open tomb and the disciples on the road to Emmaus all had a hard time believing that He had risen. He had prepared them, walked with them, ate with them, they'd seen all the miracles He had performed, and yet they still doubted! Do we still doubt today? If not, shouldn't we be sharing this gospel message of the risen savior with others more often?

The Great Lakes Region
Restoration Branches Spring
Women's Retreat was held at the

Algonac Restoration Branch on April 29. The fellowship hall was decorated beautifully with spring flowers, umbrellas hanging from the ceiling, lovely centerpieces on each table, etc. Thank you Connie Burns, for all your hard work and creativity! The uplifting morning devotions were brought by Sherry Purcell and Sharon Smerer, from the Pt. Huron/Sarnia branch, which was the perfect way to begin our day. Kelli Williams then sang, "Amazing Grace," which was beautiful and heartfelt. The first class, "What is Grace?," was taught by Val Bradley. She gave various definitions of grace, the best one being, "the unmerited favor of God." She spoke about the concept of grace, shared many Scriptures, and related stories and examples of grace. The next class was "Our Response to Grace" taught by Elder Todd Yaney. He reminded us that grace is not a "get out of jail free" card. He led us through several exercises that caused us to really think about grace in a different way. We need to treasure God's grace ... use it, appreciate it, don't squander it. We enjoyed a delicious luncheon of chicken salad sandwiches on croissants and homemade soup. Kathi Havener led a fun craft session. We made several refrigerator magnets with the grace theme. It was a simple craft that allowed us time to laugh and visit together. The last class of the day was "Grace in Action," taught by Deana Pirt. Before she started her class, her daughter, Rachel, felt led to share a song with us. Deana told us about a number of women who influenced her over the years and exhibited qualities of grace, including her grandmother. She also shared a

number of clips from movies/shows of people in this day and age who are good examples of grace in action. We then took a dessert break and enjoyed some yummy, home baked treats. Our day ended with a Dedication/Renewal service presided over by Elder Todd Yaney. He gave an inspiring talk and many of the women shared testimonies relating to our theme on grace. We appreciated all who supported this retreat by their presence, prayers, and participation.

Our Algonac saints, family members, and friends had the honor of attending a 90th birthday celebration for Hod Powers (AKA: the Ice Cream Man) on May 6. It was given by Nina, Kelli & Steve, Kevin & Analyn and Thilo & Rita (who surprised him and flew in from Germany the day before). It was held at the building they own behind the Queen. It was decorated beautifully with all kinds of ice cream paraphernalia, and there were lots of beautiful photos displayed of Hod, Nina, family and friends over the years. There was an ice cream truck made of cardboard and the kids (or adults!) could get their photo taken in it with Hod. They also had face painting available for the kids and they even had a DJ on hand! The food was delicious, and of course there was ice cream (with all choices of toppings) and a huge cake that looked like a big ice cream cone! There were over 250 people in attendance, and lots of laughter, fun, and memories shared. We all love Hod and can hardly believe that he is 90 years young! May God continue to be with him and bless him in this next season of his life!

90 Years Young!!!



Hod Powers

On May 13, eleven of our Algonac women attended the Mother/Daughter Banquet held at the Sanilac Restoration Branch. The theme was “Loving Angels” and their presence was felt everywhere! There were beautiful flowers, and angel décor all throughout the church, including wonderful centerpieces on the tables in the fellowship hall downstairs. The pretty sky backdrop and harp in the sanctuary was a very nice touch! We were so happy to see Barb Eliason there and our prayers continue for a complete recovery for her and Barent. The banquet began with a delicious luncheon (served by Randy DesJardins, Kerry Horton, Gary DesJardins, Mike Daniels, & Josh Bradley), along with a plethora of scrumptious desserts. The program began with a warm welcome by Kathleen Palmer. Lynnette Daniels did a reading about angels. Kerri Daniels sang, “She’s an eagle when she flies,” and the Sanilac women did “An Angel Left Her Wings.” Emma DesJardins sang, “In the Garden”

and sounded like an angel with her pure, sweet voice! The children, dressed as angels, each carried a purse and handed out written sayings about blessings to women in the congregation, which they read out loud. Of course the program wouldn't be complete without a little humor. A group of women recited various cute sayings by children. Denise Rich sang a beautiful solo, "In My Daughter's Eyes" to her granddaughters. She then related a moving testimony of an experience that her Mom (Yvonne Stolicker) had regarding an angel years ago. We all sang a hymn and then Debbie DesJardins gave a tribute to their church family "angel" Dora Gutierrez, who passed away in February. She was a sweet lady who did so much for others and will be missed by so many. The Sanilac women then sang "Kiss an Angel Good Morning." At the end of the program, there were angel gifts for everyone ... they are always so generous and thoughtful! A big thanks to our Sanilac sisters for all the hard work, time and effort the put into this wonderful annual spring event! We can't wait to peek into Grandma's Pantry next year!

We enjoyed a wonderful Mother's Day service on May 14. The Moses Trio brought the beautiful ministry of music as they sang, "Thy Word is a Lamp Unto my Feet." Our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes, inspired us once again by the great message he shared. He mentioned specific mothers in our Scriptures. He stated that even Jesus, as He was suffering on the cross (for our sins) was worried about His mother and asked John (the beloved) to look after her in

His absence. He also mentioned how the mothers of the sons of Alma taught them about Christ, about freedom, responsibility, and about trusting God to protect them. He also mentioned Lucy Mack Smith and Emma Hale Smith. After the service, Kelli shared her feelings about motherhood and then had the children come up front and take carnations to all the mothers/ladies in the congregation. We are so thankful for Kelli and the mentoring she brings to all the kids in our church family! Also, our pastor's wife, Marge, gave all the ladies printouts of a wonderful article entitled, "Important Women in the Scriptures." Thanks, Margie!

News & Notes

-The Moses family traveled to Provo, Utah in April to visit BYU as a possible future place of education for Bethany Moses. The trees were in full bloom and the weather was in the 70s by day and 40s by night ... absolutely beautiful. Along with visiting campus, the family had the opportunity to take in a couple of university concerts, do some sightseeing, shop at the local stores, and take a hike up a mountain to a glacial out wash. It was an activity-packed 4 days, just to bring a red-eye back to Detroit and then needed a rest from the so-called "vacation."

-Many of our saints had the opportunity to see Bethany Moses take part in Clintondale Community Theater's production of Disney's musical, "Beauty and the Beast" at the Clintondale Performing Arts Center. She played the lead role of Belle on

May 6, 19, and 20. She did a marvelous job, as always, and we are so proud of her!



-Bethany Moses rounded out her first year of college with a blow-out show at Macomb Community College: the Macomers' Spring Extravaganza. It was a fantastic show filled with excellent vocals, dazzling choreography and exciting theatrical lights. The evening closed out celebrating the retirement of the Macomber director, Mr. Harvey Kahl, with a number of alumni singing a tribute to his years at Macomb. This brought alumni from all different years, including married alumni like Todd & Liz Moses. So the Moses family was on the Macomb stage together, performing once again. Congrats to all of you!

-Todd Yaney recently ran in a half marathon in Mississauga. From there, he and Tina traveled to Ottawa, Quebec City, and Kingston. They said it seemed like traveling to France without leaving North America! They had a great time just walking around and enjoying old world charm and history. They stated that it's always fun to interact with different people from all around the world.

-We are so happy to have our sister, Elaine Harm, who was

“wintering” in Florida back with us once again. She had been missed! However, she had knee surgery shortly after her return and still needs our prayers during her recovery.

-Ava Nagy auditioned in a band competition (clarinet) and won a scholarship to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. She will be attending for 10 days the end of July. She was also recognized for having straight A's all year.

Congratulations, Ava ... we are proud of you! We are also proud of David Nagy, who was on the honor roll this year. They also completed a competitive swim. Congrats again, to both!

-Adeline Yaney graduated from pre-K and will begin kindergarten in the fall. Laurel Yaney was in her first spring choral concert and did a wonderful job! Congrats to both of them! Both girls will be participating in dance recitals and an end of year gymnastics fun meet. They (along with Vivian) are the daughters of Joel and Nicole, and the proud grandparents are Todd and Tina Yaney. We are proud of the girls and they bring such joy to our church family!

-Elaine King will be undergoing total knee replacement of the left knee on June 6, at McClaren Pt. Huron hospital. Starting in March of 2014, she's had a number of surgeries on both knees, and things have not gone well for her. She could really use prayers for her physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial condition.

Prayers would also be appreciated for Tim and Wendy Holmes, Dick & Connie Burns, Elaine King (knee

surgery), Kelli Williams, Ray Moses, Elaine Harm, Jim Bradley, Gary & Marge Holmes, Nina Powers, Bruce and Barb Krinkie. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.

Garden City



By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

Happy Spring! How beautiful it is with the bright green grass, the pink and white blossoms, the tulips and other pretty spring flowers.

Younger Youth Retreat: (by Betty Lou Newman)

Come out of Babylon was the theme for the Younger Youth/Children's Winter Retreat. Classes and games showed us how to be in the world but not of the world. We learned how we have gradually become a part of Babylon and how to identify and separate ourselves from the "idols" of the world.

The CITs once again read with Sister Sherri and discussed a church novel, "The Solid Rock". It was written as a missionary tool to help others find and investigate the teachings of the Reorganized Latter Day Saint Church.

Good food (Mark and Linda Clapham), campfire fun (Kerry Horton), sharing stories (Grandpa Riley and Grandma Peterson), and showers and swimming at the Livonia YMCA made a complete

weekend. Our next retreat will be over by the time you read this. May 5 – 7 are the dates for Spring Retreat at Port Huron. Our guest ministry: High Priest Paul Gage and Elder Jack Hagensen (and wife Leila).

Zion's Youth Retreat at Garden City

Our congregation was blessed by the energy and ministry of youth the weekend of March 10 to 12. The youth shared prayers, testimonies and ministry of music at the 10:00 service. They also provided ministry of music for the 11:00 service. Thanks for sharing your talents and your testimonies with us.

Easter

Our branch held a Good Friday service on April 14 at 2:00. Our pastor, Elder Jeff Stoker, presided and also read several scriptures and readings called "The Cross" and "The Nail". The "Thoughts for the Hour" were brought forth by Elder Carl McKiddie. There was a good spirit throughout the service, and a season of prayer, a hymn and benediction closed the service.

Women's Group and Sunday School:

 (by Betty Lou Newman)

The ladies were invited to gather to the church on April 6 to remember and share together the 187th anniversary of the church. After we snacked on hot cross buns and apple cider, we cleaned out the kitchen drawers, cupboards, and appliances. "Sharing Sisters" will continue to remember their (secret) sister with a friendly card, a note, or a small gift for special occasions (e.g., birthday, anniversary, holidays).

Names of "sharing sisters" will be revealed in August.

We continue to reach out to our absent sisters by sending the Sunday bulletin with a brief personal note added.

Thanks to the Sunday School youth, daffodils, tulips, birds and a bee decorate our bulletin board for April. Our friendly "BEE" reminded us to "Be cheerful" (A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: Proverbs 15:13). The April tree buds became beautiful leaves to shade and shelter our new birds. May reminds us to "Be obedient". "Be truthful" will be our June reminder.

We are still collecting coins for tuition for the Philippine church youth who are in need of tuition for school.

It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Becky and Luc Tremblay on the birth of their baby boy! Easton Tremblay was born on April 26 and weighed 8 lbs. 2oz. Happy grandparents are Ken and Gwen Tytgat.

Guest Ministers

On April 30, we were blessed by the preaching ministry of Priest Eric Eliason. Thank you to Eric, his wife Cory, and boys Briggs, Bryer and Ames for visiting us and sharing in a potluck meal after the service.

May 29th Memorial Day



Oakwood



By: Kathleen Modders

In March the Priesthood and their wives and widows were invited to a catered dinner at the church. Those in attendance were Mick and Shawn Ruch, Amanda Ruch, Kathleen & Mike Modders, Bev Ruch, Sandy Cline, Chet & Cheryl Slagor, Shaun & Michelle Turner, Shirley MacDonald, Ed and Candy MacDonald, Kathi & Jay Havener, Mike Danicki, Noame Holcolmb. On EASTER SUNDAY - A day we set aside to honor the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. During the service Elder Mick Ruch shared with us the journey Christ went through in becoming our Savior. After the service; out in the entry way of the church, Easter pictures were taken!

The regional women collected shoes for an outreach project organized by Cory Eliason in Algonac ... *gently used* shoes for men, women and children and delivered them April 29th. Thank you, Cory,!

In March the regional young adults had a pizza and card party at Oakwood where several "young" adults, led by Jay and Kathi Havener enjoyed a fun evening of fellowship and lots of laughs. This group is for young adults who are out of high school to "30-ish". We will have an activity several times a year for this age group. Those attending the pizza party included: Jay and Kathi, Mike and Kathleen

Modders, Jonathan Modders, Amanda Ruch and her friend, Cole Vandenberg, Joe Brown, Mike Danicki, and Raven Franks.

In April Port Huron organized an "Essential Oils of the Bible" class with great success. Shawn Ruch, Kathi Havener, Julie Fox attended from Oakwood. We learned of the oils of the bible, and made body scrub and burlap book marks. It was very informational and interesting. Thank you Port Huron ladies for putting this event on! Team Modder's Marauders walked for Make-A-Wish on Saturday, May 6th. We chose the team name to honor Bob Modders, who was unable to walk with us this year. The team consisted of Bob Modders, Ravens Franks, Kiersten McGrath, Tara Fox and Julie Fox. Bob was a virtual walker and our inspiration. The team raised \$920.00 with the help of many saints in various branches. We couldn't have done it without you! Thanks from the bottoms of our hearts.

Dawn Modders has been trying to get Bob Modders moved to Suncreast Nursing home where Otter Lake's one and only Lynnette Daniels works. And that happy day finally came. He is now in room 272. If you have the time, go visit him, or send a card! He is still on a long road to recovery, taking one day at a time.

In May the annual "Mother Daughter" ladies luncheon was hosted by Sanilac - Oakwood ladies attending were Kathi Havener, Julie Fox, Kathleen Modders, Helen Brown, Carolyn Kilgore, Bonnie Murphy and Tracy Stokes. Of course they made a pit stop at the Mennonite store! Eight women from the Oakwood congregation enjoyed the Spring Women's Retreat held at Algonac

Branch on Saturday, April 29th. Attending were: Helen Brown, Bonnie Murphy, Kathi Havener, Julie Fox, Shawn Ruch, Amanda Ruch, Helene Danicki, Bev Ruch, and Kim Gilchrist. The theme was Amazing Grace, and Val Bradley taught the first class that explained what grace is. Kathi had us make cute "amazing" magnets for an afternoon craft. Elder Todd Yaney taught a very thought-provoking class on grace and also presided over the closing service. Deana Pirt gave a wonderful class on concepts of contemporary grace...and the food was amazing too!!

05/14 "Mother's Day" and the 90th Birthday for Mary Richards combo luncheon where 45 people attended. The Men of the branch prepared a dinner. Mike Modders, Jonathon Modders, Chet Slagor, Shaun Turner, Mike Ruch, Chad Embree Brandon Embree, Joshua Johnson and John Stokes grilled steak, pork and chicken, had a baked potato bar and a salad bar with a variety of veggies. And Birthday cake to boot! They cleaned up everything! Women's day off! It was fabulous!!!

5/20/17 A few of Oakwood's ladies went on a road trip to Clinton Township to support Bethany Moses at the musical "Beauty and the Beast". She was of course, absolutely amazing! Bringing to life, Disney character Belle!

Dustin Michael, son of Christina and Matthew Mervin, arrived at the Navy Base in Great Lakes, Chicago, for Military Service on March 27th where he survived eight weeks of boot camp! He's now trying to pass his PT which is a mile and a half in 10 min. He's struggling; and needs our

prayers, his last attempt was 13:31 minutes.

Dustin's address is:
SR MICHAEL, DUSTIN
SHIP 06 DIV 158
3510 ILLINOIS ST
GREAT LAKES, IL 60088-3119

Jackson Nagy is graduating this year! Oldest child of Wendy and Chris Nagy! Congratulations and may your next journey be a Great Adventure!

Guess who's coming back to MICHIGAN? Joshua Havener and his lovely wife Andrea. Jay Havener left from Bishop International Airport on the morning of May 23rd to help them travel back home. There is no limit what great parents do for their kids!!! Welcome back Josh and Andrea!

Mike & Amanda Ruch had their one year anniversary on May 23rd! Congratulations to both of them!
Upcoming events:

06/18 Father's Day Breakfast ladies will be cooking a hearty breakfast to honor the men of the branch.

Summer Older Youth Camp: July 9- 15

Woodlands Campground
Association
Community of Christ
318 S. Sage Lake Road
Hale, MI

Contact: Michelle & Shaun Turner

Summer Younger Youth Camp:
July 16 -22

Erie Beach Contact: Betty Lou Newman

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, 09/01 Dawn Modders, 09/05 Bill Hulse, 09/11 Lilah Konkle, 09/15 Eloise Boat, 09/19 Graham Fishwild, 09/19 Raven Franks, 09/22 Jann Wilson, 09/22 Michelle Turner

Otter Lake



By: Susie Daggett

Greetings from the Otter Lake Branch!

Susie & Doug Daggett are the proud grandparents of Logan James Daggett born to Brittany and Dan on March 1st. He was eager to get here and arrived over 3 weeks early at 6 lbs. and 9 oz. He is healthy and growing fast.



Doug's new job is going great but unfortunately we are going to have to move. We just put our house on the market and will be moving soon.

We are very thankful for our visiting ministry Brian Daggett, Ed Smerer, Fred Brown Sr, Kurt Fishwild, Jim Mcleod, Gary Holmes and Bob Harris.

Submitted by Susie Daggett

Testimony submitted by Kerry Horton Sunday 10:30am 4/2/17:
Behold I say unto you, that those who so believe in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ, it shall be granted him, and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth. Book of Mormon 4:84

Blessings from on High

The love of my life, my Lord and Savior, tells us, if we have a testimony, tell it or I the Lord will remove it from us. Well, here is yet another blessing bestowed upon me.

It's been a very hectic week gone by, I work in the management area of the Lapeer Skating Center in Lapeer, Michigan. The manager of the center's father had been on hospice for at least 7-10 days, passed away Friday morning of 3/31/17. (All the dates in this play an important role.)

We are on spring break at the center, it will be open every day starting Saturday 4/1/17- Sunday 4/9/17, plus throw in there an all-night skate Tuesday 4/4/17 at 9pm until Wednesday 4/5/17 7am. I know just enough about the manager's job to get in trouble. Important note of information that I need to tell, I give you all these dates so you can see how many hours we're on

our feet moving all the time on concrete floors. Me and cement floors DO NOT get along. Cement is a killer on my lower back and legs. Foot wear, back braces, etc. do no good. So I will use smelly old Icy Hot, Biofreeze, etc. it helps a little. Now these products used leave a very warm, sometimes hot area they are used in. I try not to use them when working around other people. Now pretty much every time I go to work there I ask the Lord (prayer) to help with the pain to be relieved.

Now back to this particular Saturday still on 4/1/17, first Saturday of spring break. I already knew was going to be long 10am-11pm so I petitioned the Lord early in the day for help to keep the pain from my lower back, just above the waist line. That also is the area that I apply the smelly Icy Hot.

I started the day shortly after and had mild pain. That's normal. I can live with that. Now I did not use the Icy Hot today. When I left at 4:30 pm for supper I prayed again for help, the pain was very bad, I needed 4-5 more hours of help. I returned at 6:15pm for the evening session. I was working, when all of the sudden the whole area of my lower back became very warm (almost hot), it felt like someone had their hand pressed right on the spot of pain. This went on for the entire 4-5 hours I needed to work. The pain TOTALLY disappeared with my entire back pain free. Every time I thought about that pain being gone and the warmth I said a silent thank you to my Lord with a smile on my face.

The Lord still answers prayer today, tomorrow and forever. He never changes.

Matthew 7:12-13 Say unto them, ask of God; ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and unto him that knocketh; it shall be opened.

Port Huron-Sarnia Branch



By: Sharon Smerer

Greetings Saints:

Winter we hope is gone for now and Spring has again, out done it self with the beauty of flowers, green grass and the birds singing and new growth coming out on the trees. God is alive and well when you can see and hear of his creation. May you all be about your Father's business and spreading His word(seed). To proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of us All.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Priesthood for their spiritual words that uplift us and also give us things to think about. I want to thank everyone who plays music and sings at our congregation. You all, are truly talented, which is a gift from God.

In February, we had a Potluck of Broccoli, Chili and Potato Soups and different Salads. It was yummy good. As always, the Saints are good cooks.

On February 4, 2017, Lydia DeBell, went to West Bloomfield High School, West Bloom-field, Mi. to a Winter Guard competition for the Marysville Vikings Color Guard Circuit, they won First place in WTG Junior Guard, in their Division. Way to go Lydia! Lydia is the daughter of Jim and Marnie DeBell and granddaughter of John and Connie DeBell.

Charlene Burgett, is leading a NAR-ANON Family Group. She is in charge of a 12 step program, for Families and Friends of Drug and Alcohol addiction. Which is held at our Branch every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. The NAR-ANON Family Group is primarily for those who know or have known a feeling of desperation concerning the addiction problem of someone very near to you. Please call Charlene Burgett at 810-334-4867 if you have any questions.

Our condolences to Lacey Kennedy Drew's family in the loss of their baby girl, Kennedy Alexandria Drew. A thank you from her aunt Sherry Purcell:

A heartfelt thanks to all my church family and friends for the prayers on behalf of my niece, Lacy Drew and family. Kennedy Alexandria Drew went back into the loving arms of the creator on the day she was born, February 9, 2017. Sherry

We want to send condolences to the family of Marvel "Rose" Hendry. Rose and husband, Robert(Bob) were the caretakers of the Blue Water Reunion Grounds for many years. She passed away on February 15, 2017.

The Younger Youth Winter Retreat was held at the Garden City Restoration Branch, in Garden City, Mi. during February 24-26, 2017.

Congratulations to Ariana Britz for getting into the "Top 20" of her class. Ari attends at Port Huron Northern High School. Way to go Ari!!! Your Church Family is very proud of your accomplishments. Ari's parents are Jason and Carrie Britz and granddaughter of John and Barbara Tynan.

Port Huron Northern Drama Club presents, "Li'l Abner" on March 16 - 19, 2017. Al Capp's "Li'l Abner".....a musical in two acts based on the comic strip series. Produced by special arrangements with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Directed by Rene Barr. Our very own, Olivia Bolt was Mammie. I heard Olivia did a fine job. Olivia's parents are Scott and Amy Bolt and granddaughter of John and Barbara Tynan.

In March 19, 2017, Elder David Teeple showed pictures of the Navajo Tribe in Pinon Arizona. It was very interesting to see that the Navajo Tribe believes in the Great Spirit and Mother Earth, and also in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that David and Barbara are able to bring a ministry to the people in Pinon.

Marysville Intermediate School's Color Guard, Lydia DeBell and her classmates that are in the Color Guard program won 2nd. place in the State at Saginaw, Mi. in April. Lydia is the daughter of Jim and Marnie DeBell and grandparents are John and Connie DeBell. Now

Lydia is on Marysville's Track Team and she had her first meet, the end of April.

Nathan LaFrance had a Birthday and now he is "17" years old. Happy Birthday Nathan. God Bless You!

On April 22, 2017 our Branch hosted an "Essential Oils of the Bible," with a special speaker, Gigi Hutchinson-Hale and her Mother, Nicole. Gigi told us the importance of these oils and their uses in our everyday lives. We made a bookmark out of printed burlap and a tie of leather with a dap of oil. Then we made a facial scrub of sugar and coconut oil and either lemon or peppermint oil. Fun time by All! After we did the projects then we sat down to a fabulous luncheon. We want to thank Carrie Britz and Sherry Purcell for this fun time. We had 22 women and 2 men, what a learning day. If frankincense and myrrh oils were good enough for Jesus as the Gifts the wise men brought to Jesus, they surely must be good enough for us. We would like to thank, Gigi and Nicole and the Algonac ladies and Oakwood ladies for coming and sharing with us.

Sherry Purcell, Jane Ann Goodwine and Sharon Smerer went to the One Day Women's Retreat held at Algonac Restoration Branch on April 29. The theme was "Amazing Grace." The morning worship was done by Sherry and Sharon. Special Music, was done by, Kelli Williams which she sang acapella, "Amazing Grace". Then we had classes by Val Bradley, "What is

Grace?" Todd Yaney, "Our Response to Grace" and Deana Pirt, "Grace in Action." I want to thank Val, Todd and Deana for their take on, "Grace." Kathi Havener showed us how to do our craft, which was a clear rock and words, amazing grace or cross, love, etc. placed on the bottom. Then you let it dry and place a magnet on the bottom of the clear rock.

We then went back into the sanctuary for our Dedication/Renewal Service with Elder Todd Yaney. We hope everyone would not miss an opportunity to do what you can or witness for your Lord and Savior. We thank you Val and Kathi for the dedication you both have for the Ladies Retreats. Thank you to the Algonac Restoration Branch for the delicious breakfast food and the soup and croissants and light refreshments and later the desserts.

Our Branch hosted the Younger Youth Retreat May 5 - 7, 2017. The theme was, "Life's Greatest Adventure is Finding God's Commands and Following Them." Scripture comes from Jeremiah 29:13, "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Thank you to the teachers, CIT's and the guest ministry, High Priest Paul Gage and Elder Jack Hagensen and wife Lila from Missouri. A special thank you for all you do, Betty Lou Newman for the Younger Youth's Retreats. The planning, getting teachers and choosing the date and where to have the Retreats. We want to thank Tracy Stokes for cooking for our guests and the children. Thank you to Kerry Horton for

making sure the campfires went well. We hope the children had fun and a spiritual awakening. We hope the children made new friends and also reunited with old friends. May God Bless the children until they meet again. We pray for safe travels for High Priest Paul Gage and Elder Jack and Lila Hagensen back to Missouri. Bless You All!

Starlites Dance Team placed 14th in World Competition in Orlando, Florida. There were around 3,500 athletes there from all over the world. There were 40 different countries represented and they took all four of their routines. Which are Pom, Contemporary Lyrical, Hip Hop and Jazz. The Senior Dance Team, and Adrienne Slossar who is grand-daughter of Larry and Debbie Scheffler. Congratulations to All the girls!

Now we can look forward to the Summer months and enjoy the warmer weather. See you at Reunion. Which is held at the Wesleyan Campgrounds in Vassar, Mi., July 24-30, 2017. Guest ministry will be Elder Doug Smith, from Odessa, Missouri and Elder Eric Odida and his wife, Pamela, from Kenya, Africa. Our theme this year is, "Be Still and Know that I Am God."

[Sanilac](#)



By: Kathleen Palmer
"For I know that my Redeemer
liveth, and that he shall stand at
the latter day upon earth."
Job 19:25

Here we are in Feb. Time does fly. Barent and Barb Eliason have been having their share of health problems. Barent is recovering from his strokes and Barb had back surgery Feb. 2nd. She ended up having a bad infection under her incision, which put her back in the hospital. She had to go to Marlette hospital two hours a day for six weeks of antibiotics thru a pic line in her arm. She is doing much better now. Barent is doing better also. They still need prayers which are very much appreciated.

Feb 14th, brought much sadness to our little branch. Our dear sister Dora Lee Gutierrez passed away. She was very involved with the youth of our church and loved to plan potlucks. She also did the church bulletins and always was volunteering to help out. Dora loved music and played the piano for church services when she could. Dora loved her family very much. She is survived by her daughter Julia (Keith) and two grandchildren, Mattias and Isabel, just born in January. Also a very close friend Debby DesJardins and Emma DesJardins, who Emma called Dora her second mother. Dora was a very special person, who loved the Lord with all of her heart. She touched so many of us and touched our hearts. We miss you Dora.

Gary and Emma DesJardins attended the Garden City youth retreat in Garden City. They always enjoy these retreats.

Thanks to all who make these retreats possible to teach them of the Lord.

We had a Maundy Thursday service on April 13th at 7:00 at the church. Many attended and read scriptures leading to Christ's death on the cross. Elder Barent Eliason was in charge. Candles were lit as each scripture was read. We then had communion. It is always a very spiritual experience.

On April 16th, we had an early morning breakfast after which, we enjoyed a special Easter program. Denise Rich was in charge and did a beautiful job. We all participated. We then had the Easter Service with Elder Elden Preston giving a very inspirational message. There was ministry of music by the women's choir. It was a very special Easter service.

April 22nd we all got together to clean the church in preparation for the Mother/Daughter banquet. The banquet is May 13th. The theme is "Loving Angels." We all enjoy putting this on every year and appreciate the support all of you give us. The Lord truly works with us as we work together to prepare for this event and enjoy the time spent together.

Emma Des Jardins was honored at two separate ceremonies at Peck School for Student of the Month awards. She received a medal for safety and a medal for honesty. Keep up the good work Emma, we are proud of you.

Denise Rich, Bev Miller and Mary Lee Cove all attended the Spring Women's Retreat at Algonac

church Sat. April 29th. They reported having a wonderful spiritual time and great fellowship. Also the food was delicious and the desserts were scrumptious! Thank you to all who put this retreat together. You truly are appreciated.

Gary Des Jardins is graduating from Peck High School May 21st. He plans on going to WYO TECH in Pennsylvania in Sept. He will be studying auto and light diesel mechanics and also a course in management. He also is completing a welding course and will have his degree by the end of June. Way to go Gary, we are proud of you and pray for you as you follow your dreams.

We truly appreciate the priesthood who travel to our little church to bring us the gospel message. Jay Havener (Kathi), Gary Holmes (Marge) and Todd Yaney (Tina). May the Lord continue to bless you as you spread His word.

Also to our own priesthood who are there for us. We thank the Lord for you and the inspirational messages you bring to us.

We wish everyone a very safe and happy summer.

July 4th



Everyone have a safe and fun filled 4th but remember that this holiday reminds us of God's Blessing us with Liberty & Freedom!!!

Regional Activities for the next quarter:

Rummage/ Bake Sale – Algonac Restoration Branch

Fri. June 30th & Sat. July 1st

Contact: Wendy Holmes

Summer Older Youth Camp – Woodlands Campground Assoc., Community of Christ, 318 S. Sage Lake Rd., Hale, MI

July 9 – 15

Contact: Michelle & Shaun Turner

Summer Younger Youth Camp – Erie Beach

July 16 – 22

Contact: Betty Lou Newman

Great Lakes Restoration Branches Reunion

Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds

July 24 – 30

A Joint Branch Crafts Table has been set aside for donations from each Branch, to contribute to the Reunion Fund. Please contact Kim Gilchrist, Wendy Holmes, Connie Burns or Elaine King about donations...they should be donated with a price tag attached at least one (1) week before reunion for those not attending reunion and those attending can just bring the donations with them.

From The Editor's Desk - Contact info:

Newsletter Correspondants: Please supply digital pictures with your reports for any special occasions.

Please keep me updated with any email address changes.

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