



Mount Pleasant, Michigan Ward Chapel

Photo by Jim Gilbert; August 21, 2005

Mount Pleasant, Michigan Ward
40th Anniversary Reunion
June 24th and 25th, 2006



Photo by Jeff Manning – Spring 1976

Phase One of our building program

mt. pleasant phase 1

Here's the Meetinghouse in 1976. This was phase 1 and it was dedicated as such in the early spring of 1976. I believe the dedication took place during ward conference. Looking forward to the reunion. – Jeff Manning

Ward History

HISTORY OF THE Mt. Pleasant Ward Midland Michigan Stake

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints held its first meetings in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in 1965-6 as a dependent Sunday School of the Midland Ward.

In the Spring of 1966, a Dependant Branch was organized in Alma, Michigan, with meetings being held in the basement of the Bank of Alma. Jay H. Shurtliff was the president of this new branch, with David M. Reid and 1st Counselor, and Monte L. Higgins as 2nd Counselor. A year later the Alma Branch became independent. Under the leadership of President Shurtliff, members held many fasts to bring strength to the branch, and several families moved into the Branch and new converts were added to the Branch membership.

In December, 1968, the Branch was relocated to Mt. Pleasant where meetings were held in the Vowles School Building. In February, 1969, the Branch was made into a Ward with Richard H. Headlee called as its first Bishop. David M. Reid was called as First Counselor with Sherwood E. Bridges as 2nd Counselor. O. David Rogers also served as a Counselor. At this point the Ward consisted of members from Isabella, Clare, Mecosta, and parts of Gratiot and Newaygo Counties.

When Bishop Headlee moved his family to the Detroit area in 1970, Arlen D. Beck was called as Bishop, with Sherwood E. Bridges as 1st Counselor and O. David Rogers as 2nd Counselor. Fund raising for a new building that had begun under Bishop Headlee continued. A building site was purchased and negotiations began to build a 1st Phase building. Robert Jellison and David Brant also served as Counselors to Bishop Beck.

Frank A. Eldredge was called as Bishop on June 24th, 1973 after Bishop Beck moved to the Detroit Area. David A. Brant was called as 1st Counselor and Roy Killinger as 2nd Counselor to Bishop Eldredge. Construction of the new building began in the fall of 1973. In August of 1974 the Ward began to hold their meetings in this Phase 1 building. At this time membership was about 300 members.

Sherwood E. Bridges was called to be Bishop on January 30th, 1977 with William C. Low and 1st Counselor and Jack A. Ware as 2nd Counselor. Richard Hardy also served as a Counselor to Bishop Bridges. The second phase of the building was begun in April 1977 and completed in November 1979. The Ward held an open

house to celebrate the building's completion with an organ recital on the new pipe organ. The pipe organ was purchased with donated funds and installed by Jack A. Ware. Melvin Dunn, a Salt Lake Tabernacle Organist, was brought in to play an organ recital to celebrate the building opening with the public invited to attend. The building was paid for in March 1980 and dedicated in September, 1980. George Romney, Regional Representative, and former Michigan Governor offered the dedicatory prayer and addressed the congregation. At this time membership stood at about 300, due to the creation of the Big Rapids and Clare County (now the Harrison) Branches. Each of these units had their origins in the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

Thomas A. Martin was ordained Bishop on Nov. 16th, 1980 and served for two years. Monte Higgins, John Forester, David Brant and David Reid each served as his Counselors.

Jack A. Ware was ordained Bishop of the Mt. Pleasant Ward on Sept 26th, 1982. During his administration the Ward continued to grow, and construction began on Phase III of the building. Bishop Ware died in 1985 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Prior to his becoming Bishop, Jack Ware operated a Seventy's Bookstore in the Ward to raise money for the missionary program. He was also instrumental in starting the Ward's successful Family History Center (then called a Branch Genealogical Library), and was the moving force behind the acquisition of the pipe organ.

David M. Reid, one of Jack Ware's counselors was called an ordained Bishop on May 26th, 1985. Monte Higgins, William C. Low, Daniel Morrison and Joesph Barden served as Counselors to Bishop Reid. During Bishop Reid's tenure, Phase III of the building was completed. President Wayne M. Hancock of the Midland Michigan Stake dedicated the building.

Roger L. Hammer was ordained Bishop of the Ward of February 14th, 1988 and served until February 1991. William C. Low, Kevin Moore, David Kaiser and Robert Wheeler served as his counselors.

Robert L. Wheeler was ordained Bishop on February 10th, 1991 and served until his release in March 1996. Counselors serving under Bishop Wheeler included Robert T. Becker, Jr., Charles R. Clarke, and Roger L. Henrie. In March 1996 just prior to the release of Bishop Wheeler, the Alma Branch (now the Ithaca Branch) was created from the Ward with Joseph L. Barden serving as its first Branch President.

Bishop Wheeler was succeeded by Robert T. Becker, Jr. who as ordained April 28th, 1996 and served until December 1998. Counselors to Bishop Becker included David A. Kaiser, Roger L. Henrie, Richard L. Shepherd, and Robert Marshall.

Bishop David A. Brant was called as Bishop on December 6th, 1998 with William C. Low as 1st Counselor and Roger L. Hammer as 2nd Counselor. It was during Bishop Brant's term of office that the Detroit Michigan Temple was dedicated. Bishop Brant served as Bishop longer than any other Bishop in the history of our Ward.

Anton Jensen was ordained Bishop on October 30th, 2005 with Jerry G. Dimaria as 1st Counselor and Scott R. Bingham as 2nd Counselor. Bishop Jensen serves at the present time.

Much of the Ward's growth and success has been due to the dedication of many of its individual members who have served so diligently to help the Kingdom of God roll forth.

This has ever been the trademark of our Church. Although this history lists the Bishops and their counselors in the Ward, the success of the ward has been due largely, to its many members who serve tirelessly. From the dedicated teachers, to the auxiliary and Priesthood leaders, each member participates and sacrifices to help others and the Ward to grow. Since its inception as a Ward, the Church has sponsored a Boy Scout Troop and has produced many Eagle Scouts. It's Family History Center, open to the public for many years, has provided a free source of information and assistance to members and non-members alike in researching their genealogy. Of special significance to the Ward has been in the influx of students and faculty and staff at Central Michigan University, who have provided a constant stream of dedicated individuals and families to strengthen the Ward. We have also been blessed with many converts who have joined our ranks and added strength to the Ward. Many of our young men and women have sacrificed their personal time and funds, to go throughout the world and preach the gospel wherever they were called to go. Although many of our members have moved to other areas, each one of them will have a special place in their heart for the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

Written by Robert L. Wheeler

Relief Society History

SHORT HISTORY OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN WARD RELIEF SOCIETY

SISTER ISABEL REID—ALMA: According to the sisters that furnished the following information, the original membership of the Mount Pleasant Ward came from the Midland Michigan Ward which belonged, at the time to the Lansing, Michigan Stake.

Sometime during 1964 several sisters, members of the Midland Michigan Ward, living in the town of Alma and surrounding areas, got permission to hold Relief Society Homemaking meetings in their area. The reason being that the monthly Homemaking meetings were held in the evening in Midland and the sisters had to drive quite a distance in the dark to get there. This original group met in the different homes of the sisters in Alma, Farwell and other nearby towns.

The whole program of the Relief Society was introduced officially in Alma, Michigan on January 4, 1965 when four members of the Midland Ward Relief Society went to Alma and presented the January Theology lesson at the home of Sister Mae Marcy. There were six sisters present. On the same day there was a discussion about the possibility of organizing a Relief Society in Alma.

On January 17, 1965 Bishop Boyd Stock of the Midland Ward went to Alma to the home of Sister Isabel Reid to organize the Relief Society. Sister Reid was called, sustained and set apart as Coordinator of the Alma Relief Society under the direction of Sister Marilyn Witt, Midland Ward Relief Society president. Sister Margaret Jellison was called as the secretary-treasurer. It was decided that two of the four weekly meetings would be held in Alma and two in Midland. The homemaking meeting would always be held in Alma. That same evening Sister Marcy gave the visiting teaching message for the month of March and the visiting teaching partners were presented. Sister Carolyn Kitchen says, "When Sister Marilyn Witt was the president of the Relief Society of the Midland Ward and I was her counselor, we went occasionally to Alma to help the sisters with their visiting teaching. I would go with one sister and Sister Witt would go with another one so that we could not only show them how visiting teaching was done but also to become familiar with the Alma sisters."

By October of 1965, all the Relief Society meetings were being held in Alma. They already had four visiting teaching districts. By the end of 1965, the Alma Relief Society had fourteen members. On September 11, 1966 Midland Ward Bishop Robert C. Witt presented Sister Isabel Reid three Visiting Teaching Stake

Awards for her excellent job in organizing and conducting the visiting teaching program in the Alma area.

MARGARET JELLISON: In the summer of 1966 a Dependent Branch of the Midland Michigan Ward was organized in Alma with Brother Jay Shurtliff as President with David Reid and Monte Higgins as counselors. On October 30, 1966 President Shurtliff called Sister Margaret Jellison as Relief Society president of the Alma Branch with Louise Shurtliff and Karen Quarnstorm as counselors and Isabel Reid as secretary.

Some of the sisters in attendance were Isabel Reid, Louise Shurtliff, Kathy Brant, Sadie Higgins, Margaret Jellison, Gloria Colthorp, Karen Quarstrom, Mae Marcy and daughter, Sis. Hegel and daughter, Joyce Failing, Hazel Vining, Sis. Rosemysel, Sis. Bradford and her two daughters, Sis. Darla Bullis and others. The Alma Branch held its meetings in the basement of the Alma Bank building. The Relief Society meetings were still being held in the homes of the sisters. They operated in this manner for two and a half years.

MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN: A note written by Sister Carolyn Kitchen says, "Later in 1967 when I was the president of the Relief Society in the Midland Ward, I went with my counselor Barbara Brewer to Mount Pleasant to the home of Sister Louise Shurtliff and we organized the first Relief Society group there. I think that Sister Jellison was the president of the Dependent Relief Society of the Alma Branch. That was a historic event and I was thrilled to be able to be present." We couldn't get more information about who was put in charge of this Dependent Relief Society in Mount Pleasant.

GLEDA CHEW: On November 26, 1967 Sister Gleda Chew was called as President of the Relief Society with Louise Shurtliff and Carmelita Meyers as counselors and Isabel Reid as secretary. The sisters in attendance lived now not only in Alma but also in the towns of Ithaca, Breckenridge, Farwell, Harrison, Mt. Pleasant and others. The Relief Society meetings were still being held in different homes of the sisters but eventually they met more often in the house of Sister Jellison. Besides their weekly meetings, the sisters had social activities, fund-raising dinners and bazaars.

ANN BRIDGES—MOUNT PLEASANT: On November 3, 1968 Sister Ann Bridges was called president of the Relief Society with Ellen Kay Bleak and Marjorie Rogers as counselors and Margaret Jellison as secretary. The Bridges family was from Utah and had been living only one week in Mount Pleasant when Sister Bridges was called. Due to the increase and shift in population, the Alma Branch was moved to Mount Pleasant in December of 1968. President Shurtliff made arrangements for the members to meet in the Vowles Elementary School building.

In late February of 1969 the members of the Farwell-Clare area were combined with the members of the Alma Branch and the members living in Mount Pleasant to organize the Mount Pleasant Ward with Brother Richard Headlee as Bishop. Sister Bridges continued to be president of the Relief Society through the transition from the Alma Branch to the Mount Pleasant Ward. She was released in 1971.

MARY HEADLEE: On February 21, 1971 Sister Mary Headlee was called as president of the Relief Society with Marilyn Beck and Gloria Colthorp as counselors and Margaret Jellison as secretary. We couldn't get more information about this period because by the time this information was being compiled the three sisters of this presidency had moved away.

COLEEN GRIGG: Sister Coleen Grigg was called as president with Ruby Fair and Pamela Rogers as counselors and Kathy Brant as secretary. Later on, Sister Marilyn Beck replaced Sister Fair, and Sister Gloria Colthorp replaced Sister Pamela Rogers. The sisters couldn't find a date for the period of this presidency. Sister Pamela Rogers remembers that she was only 19 years old, just married and she felt that she was too young to be part of the Relief Society presidency. She remembers that they had several bazaars and that they were still meeting in the Vowles Elementary School building.

BIRGITTA ELDREDGE: Sister Birgitta Eldredge was called by Bishop Arlen Beck on December 10, 1972 with Pamela Rogers and Myra Comer as counselors and Kathy Brant as secretary. Until then, the sisters had been meeting in the evening. Due to this fact, some of the sisters that lived far away from Mount Pleasant couldn't come. Therefore, Sister Eldredge decided to have the meetings in the morning. Because the Vowles School building was not available in the mornings, they secured a room in the Seventh Day Adventist Church building. They also organized a nursery and the sisters took turns taking care of the children. The sisters remember that Sister Eldredge, who was from Sweden, had been attending the Swedish Branch in Salt Lake City, Utah before moving to Mount Pleasant, therefore her English pronunciation was not very clear. Her counselors remember how they used to tease her because she would start praying in English and finish in Swedish.

KATHY BRANT: In 1973 Sister Kathy Brant was called by Bishop Frank Eldredge with Birgitta Eldredge and Mari Low as counselors and Pat Ball as secretary. Sister Brant changed the Relief Society meetings back to the evening. They were still meeting in the Vowles Elementary School Building. The main goal for this presidency was to increase their visiting teaching percentage. They were very successful and at the Christmas Dinner of 1973, which was the last activity in the Vowles School, they honored the visiting teaching sisters for their tremendous effort in reaching every sister in the Ward. The Mount Pleasant Ward

had the largest geographic area of any Ward in the Stake; this made it very difficult to visit every sister due to the long distances they had to drive.

It was during this presidency that the Ward meetings were moved from the Vowles Elementary School building to the first phase of the meetinghouse in August of 1974. A main characteristic of the Ward at this time was the several cultures represented among the members: Swedish, Finnish, Mexican, Japanese, Korean and Samoan. At one time, during a testimony meeting, several sisters from these countries gave their testimonies in their own languages. At the first Christmas activity held in the Meetinghouse in 1974, the program was about how Christmas was celebrated in the countries from where these sisters had come from. Sister Brant was released in January of 1975 because of the difficulties she was having with pregnancy of her daughter Sarah.

PAT BALL: In June of 1975 Sister Pat Ball was called as president with Mari Low and Vivian Flint as counselors and Linda Hoddy as secretary. Later on, Kathy Brant and Judy Crowley were called to replace sisters Low and Flint, and Sister Jean Griffith replaced sister Hoddy.

Sister Ball organized several dependent Relief Societies, in Clare with Sister Myra Comer in charge, in Farwell-Harrison with Sister Annette Rogers in charge, in Alma with Frances Case and Margaret Jellison in charge, and in Big Rapids with Sister Smith and Sister Stewart in charge. Also, at that time, the Stake presidency instructed Sis. Ball to organize a separate Relief Society meeting for the Central Michigan University students (Young Adult sisters). The members of the presidency took turns traveling to supervise these dependent groups.

The main goal for this presidency was to foster compassionate service among the sisters. Sister Ball challenged every sister to become a friend of another sister she didn't know very well. Many sisters accepted the challenge and this brought a period of friendship, love, and understanding among the sisters of the Ward. In the second year of this presidency the sisters were challenged to give each other, their families and friends "gifts that couldn't be wrapped". This challenge brought about much compassionate service rendered in the Ward.

It was during this period that the Big Rapids area was separated and became an independent branch within the Grand Rapids Stake.

During Sister Ball's presidency the first phase of the Mount Pleasant Meetinghouse was dedicated on April 11, 1976. It should be clarified that the Ward services had been held there since August of 1974, but because the construction of the first phase was not finished, the Meetinghouse hadn't been dedicated.

In November of 1978 Sister Ball was released. The Ball family had bought a small farm in Ionia, Michigan. Two weeks later Sister Ball was called as Relief Society president in the Ionia Branch.

NANCY WHEELER: In 1978 Bishop Sherwood Bridges called Sister Nancy Wheeler as President of the Relief Society with Mari Low and Elia Ware as counselors and Isabel Reid as secretary. Later on Sister Janett Newcomb replaced Sister Ware who was called to the General Board of the Stake Relief Society as Welfare Specialist. Shortly afterwards, the Clare, Farwell and Harrison areas were merged to become the Clare County Branch.

Sister Wheeler kept the CMU students (Young Adult sisters) and Alma dependent groups. The Alma sisters continued to have their own homemaking meetings for a while, but later they joined the Mount Pleasant group. During Sister Wheeler's presidency the Church Welfare Program changed, instead of buying goods at the store, the Church Welfare truck would come to Midland on a monthly basis. Also, the consolidated meeting schedule was introduced; this ended the CMU student and Alma dependent groups. Now everybody met in Mount Pleasant. The second phase of the Meetinghouse was finished and dedicated on September 26, 1980.

Sister Wheeler, who was very young, tried to create a cheerful atmosphere to help to draw the sisters close together. Sister Low was older than her and Sister Ware was older than both of them. They organized many socials, opening socials, closing socials, anniversary dinners, Christmas dinners, talent shows, you name it, they did it. Sister Wheeler had everybody jumping, screaming and laughing in a "Mock Olympics", and Sister Low organized an excellent presentation of the Readers Theater piece "To Sarah". During this period they held the last bazaar organized by the Relief Society, from then on, the bazaars were organized by the Activities Committee. They had a Visiting Teaching-Home Teaching competition. Whichever of both groups would get 100% visiting done, the other group would cook and serve a dinner for everybody. The women lost but somehow Sister Wheeler managed to get the priesthood to cook and serve the dinner. Some of Sister Wheeler's favorite expressions were "watchamacallit" and "millions", "trillions", and "zillions"; therefore the Relief Society was functioning and counted by millions, trillions, and zillions. Sister Wheeler was released on June 21, 1981.

ISABEL REID: In June of 1981 Sister Reid was called by Bishop Sherwood Bridges with Louise Shurtliff and Vivian Flint as counselors, and Ruth Martin as Secretary. Eventually, these counselors were replaced by Sisters Eunice Way and Mary Barden. Linda Neville replaced Sister Martin as secretary. During this presidency it was decided that for the Relief Society Anniversary program of 1983, a history to highlight the Relief Society of the Mount Pleasant Ward as it evolved through the past years up until then. The goal was to find as many as possible former presidents and their officers in order to invite and honor them during the

Anniversary program. Sister Judy Crowley and Elia Ware were assigned to research the facts, find, and identify those faithful sisters that were still living in the area.

NOTES ON THE PRECEDING INFORMATION: The main source of information for the above history was Sister Margaret Jellison who got in contact with several sisters, among them, Isabel Reid, Carolyn Kitchen, Myra Comer, Kathy Brant, Pamela Rogers, Louise Shurtliff and others. The result was this brief history of the Relief Society of the Mount Pleasant Ward from its inception up to 1983. It was prepared in conjunction with a program held on March 2, 1983 under the direction of Sister Isabel Reid. Several of the former presidents and officers were in attendance.

This information was gathered and compiled by sisters Margaret Jellison, Judy Crowley and Elia Ware. It was re-written by Elia Ware for the 40th Anniversary Reunion of the Mount Pleasant Ward held on June 24-25, 2006. Bill Low provided additional editing. Bill Low gathered information for some subsequent history (see below) of the Mount Pleasant Ward Relief Society.

It will be noticed that the 40th Anniversary of the Mount Pleasant Ward is being counted from the summer of 1966 when the Alma Branch was organized with Brother Jay Shurtliff as president and Brothers David Reid and Monte Higgins as counselors. Yet the Relief Society had been functioning officially in the area since January 4th 1965, one and a half years before the organization of the Ward. This fact makes the Relief Society a pioneer of the Mount Pleasant Ward.

SOME ADDITIONAL HISTORY OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT WARD RELIEF SOCIETY SUBSEQUENT TO 1983

MARY HARDY: Mary Hardy served as Relief Society President subsequent to Sr. Reid. Her Education Counselor was Mari Low.

SHELLY WALKER: Sister Shelly Walker was called by Bishop Reid in 1987 or 1988. Her counselors included Connie Morrison, Kay Martin, Heidi (Henrie) Wilson, Barb Kaiser, and Marissa Zamudio. Some of the highlights of this presidency include the beginning of the linger longer program with soup and bread once a quarter, hosting the stake women's conference in Mount Pleasant, and extensive decorating (with the help of Sister Rene Sharrar) for Stake Harvest Balls.

MARLENE SHEPPARD: Sister Marlene Sheppard was called to the office of Relief Society President by Bishop Hammer in 1989 or 1990.

MARISSA ZAMUDIO: Sister Marissa Zamudio was called by Bishop Wheeler to serve as Relief Society President. Counselors in this presidency included Ann Bridges, Debbie Joy, and Shelly Walker.

MARY HARDY: Mary Hardy was called as Relief Society President by Bishop Becker. Her counselors were Mari Low and Rene Sharrar.

MARI LOW: Sister Liisa Marjatta (Mari) Low was called and sustained as Relief Society president in 1999 and served in this calling till 2002, while her husband served in the bishopric. Several sisters supported her in this calling as counselors and secretaries. These include Sadie Higgins, Marissa Zamudio, Louise Shurtliff, Irene Graham, Deanna Marshall, Signe Anderson, and Katherine Terrill. In addition to weekly meetings and welfare service to local families, this presidency concentrated on humanitarian service. Making school kits, leper bandages and quilts and collecting used children's book were some of the activities that were done to profit the local women's shelter and church wide humanitarian service program.

IRENE GRAHAM: Sister Irene Graham was called to be Relief Society President by Bishop Brant in 2002. Irene has been able to serve with her daughter, Sarah Bloomfield, as her constant Education Counselor for four years. She's had two Home, Family and Personal Enrichment counselors: Marissa Zamudio, and presently Gwen Henrie. Brooke Loucks, and Becca Hansen have served as secretaries. This presidency has been instrumental in bringing about a couple of new programs in the Relief Society in the ward. The Literacy Challenge was introduced and has been a huge success in helping the sisters set goals of reading lessons, scriptures, the Ensign, and praying, among other things, to get points for the March auction, it is always a hoot. A new tradition of a fall Relief Society retreat to Brant's cabin at Higgins Lake began as well. The sisters have gathered together to share a meal and talents, and enjoy each others' company away from families for a sleepover, and some great conversation. The Enrichment program has changed this year (Jan. 2006) church wide from monthly to quarterly meetings with activities in between that fulfill the sister's needs. This is proving to be a great blessing and we've been able to plan uplifting and successful nights. This presidency has done much to push each endowed sister to attend the temple as often as possible. One of the ways this has been implemented is two sisters' temple trips that take place the Saturday after each General Conference. These trips have been a blessing to many sisters who don't get the chance to travel to Detroit often, and take in more than one session.

A HISTORY OF THE MT. PLEASANT WARD BUILDING PROGRAM

By Sherwood Bridges

This is the story of the sacrifice and dedication required by a small congregation of saints to finance and build the building as it now stands in 2006. The pictures are the only ones that I happened to save. I am sorry they don't better represent the total building effort.

THE FIRST PHASE BUILDING

The first phase of the Mt. Pleasant Ward Meetinghouse was begun under the leadership of Bishop Richard Headlee [1969 - 1970] and Bishop Arlen Beck [1970 - 1973]. It was finished under the leadership of Bishop Frank Eldredge [1973 - 1977]. It was a time of financial hardship for a new, struggling and small ward. There were many financial burdens that seemed to come about at the same time. First there was the assessment to build the Washington DC Temple followed closely by an assessment to build the new Midland Stake Center. We also needed to find land for the Mt. Pleasant Ward building and we needed to construct a building. Under the existing financial program the Church used at that time, it seemed an insurmountable task for such a small group of people.

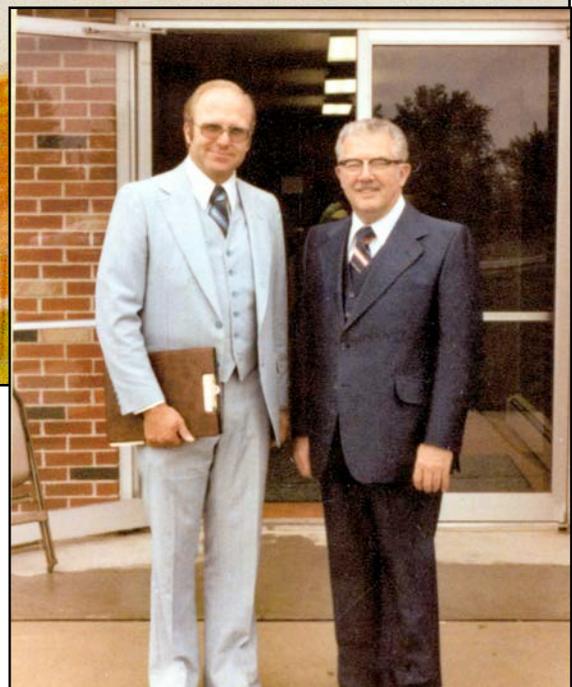
We paid for the temple assessment and that seemed easy. Next, the Midland Stake Center came in way under the estimated cost [a true miracle] so that burden was much lighter than expected. All of the locations that we investigated for the Mt. Pleasant building were very expensive and we just didn't know how we were going to pay for it. Then the developer of the property where the building now stands thought that a church would be a good neighbor and would enhance the value of his development and so he sold us the three acres at a price we could pay. The Church acquired the property in 1970 at a cost of \$27,000 with the local share being \$8,100. We were starting to see that the Lord was making this all possible in his own way.

When it came time to construct the building, an experiment was underway in Michigan to bypass the building department of the Church and construct adequate but more economical buildings. It was a good try but the Church finally had to step in to complete the project. The net result for the Mt. Pleasant Ward was a larger than normal first phase building, built at a lower cost. Non-the-less, the first phase building was constructed at great sacrifice of time and money on the part of the Ward members. The final monetary costs for the first phase building was \$144,000 with the local share being \$43,200. It was dedicated on 11 April 1976 by Elder Russell C. Taylor, our Regional Representative.



THE SECOND PHASE BUILDING

In January of 1977 I [Sherwood Bridges] was called to be the Mt. Pleasant Ward Bishop succeeding Bishop Frank Eldredge. My counselors were Jack Ware and Bill Low. By that time the first phase building was inadequate to serve the increased membership of the Ward.



We were holding classes in the kitchen, custodial closet, the boiler room, in members homes who lived close by, and in vans in the parking lot.

We set out to learn what it would take to build the second phase. The Church Building Department gave us a preliminary estimate of \$330,000 with the local share being about \$96,000. There were about 12 to 13 active families in the Ward who were regularly employed and there were a few college students with limited means. The arithmetic was daunting. Non-the-less, the Ward Priesthood approved going forward with the building project and we started the fundraising process in August 1977.

It should be noted that the Church financial program at the time also included Tithing, Welfare assessments, Fast Offerings, Budget assessments [to pay the ongoing expenses associated with the Ward operations], Missionary funds as well as the Ward Building fund. Many of the members of the Ward were first generation members who had no Church experience with such financial obligations. For all it was a test of faith. The financial load was in excess of 20% for many of the Ward members. Many fund raising projects were undertaken such as bazaars, pizza projects, etc. Even though most worked very hard, it became evident that most of the building fund was going to have to come directly from the wallets of the members

Bishop Bridges, left and Jack Ware, counselor in 1977. Bill Low must have been taking the picture.

THE PIPE ORGAN

Counselor Jack Ware was a former technician for the pipe organ in the tabernacle in Salt Lake City. He was now lobbying for a pipe organ to be installed in the new addition. A pipe organ would add significant cost to the building addition. The members of the Ward Priesthood approved the purchase of the pipe organ in December of 1977. [See the separate article "Why There is a Pipe Organ in the Mt. Pleasant Michigan Ward"]

Fund raising continued until we had accumulated half of the preliminary estimate. This was the trigger point where the Church in Salt Lake City determined that we were serious about the project and approved the hiring of an architect to draw the plans and make the final estimates of costs. Ron Adams of David Snapp and Associates was hired as the architect. The final drawings were prepared and the estimated cost was increased to \$400,000 plus the extra cost of the pipe organ estimated at \$20,000. The local share for the building was then estimated at \$130,000 plus the local share of the pipe organ projected to be \$15,000.

It was a most discouraging time for the members of the Ward. It seemed that the small cadre of Ward members could not possibly fund the building addition. This was also a time of energy shortages and accelerated inflation. Many combined Priesthood and Relief Society meetings were held wherein the members searched for ways to decrease the cost of the building or find better ways to fund it.

We did our arithmetic and one by one, I, as Bishop, interviewed each family and gave them their suggested financial share of the building. They were all staggered by the numbers but I had been taught by Bishop Headlee, while I was his counselor, that "for us mortals 2 plus 2 equals 4. For the Lord 2 plus 2 equals anything He wants it to be" and that is the promise that I made to each family. Many of the Ward members rose to the challenge and committed themselves to the suggested contribution but no one had that kind of money. The whole project appeared economically impossible for the small group of Saints in the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

Just as we were about to give up in despair, the bishop of the Midland Ward, Bishop Palmerville, sensing our distress, invited our Ward members to Midland for a party and promised to help us financially and morally. It was like throwing a life preserver to a drowning man. It was a great evening and all we had to do was prepare the entertainment and they would do the rest. It was a moral boost and several members of the Midland Ward helped us financially.

Revived, we kept moving forward. I, as Bishop, was convinced that we needed to move forward as



At the Midland Ward Party for the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

Monte Higgins in drag and Bishop Bridges

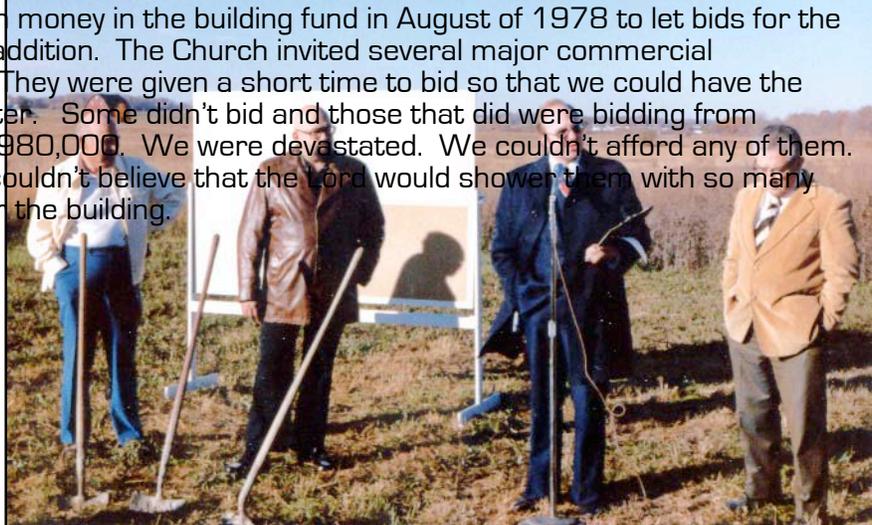
quickly as possible or inflation [which was then running in excess of 15%] would add even more cost to the building. The founder of the Michigan National Bank, Howard Stoddard, had left some money in trust to his heirs to assist the members to build buildings in Michigan. We were fast approaching the winter of 1978 - 79 and the architect had warned me that there would be a three or four month turn around time for the laminated arch beams that would make up the structural skeleton of the building. I petitioned the Stoddard Trust to see if they would contract and pay for the laminated arch beams so that we could have them in time to close in the building before winter. They consented to do so even though we had not yet raised enough money to contract for the addition. That helped reduce our local financial share.

Then it began. Ward members started coming in to tell me of miracles in their lives when somehow money became available to them. They paid their commitments and the building fund grew. It was amazing to watch the miracles that came to peoples lives as they made the impossible commitments and invited the Lord to work in their lives. In my own family's case, I received an offer to sell some farm property that I owned in Idaho. It was manna from heaven.

One story is worth retelling. There was a young couple with two little girls living in the Ward. The brother was going to graduate school and they were living on the rent they received from an old house they had converted to student housing. The house was located close to the Michigan State University Campus in East Lansing. We suggested that their contribution to the building fund be \$3,500. They were really quite angry that we could even suggest such an amount. They assured me that they had no room in their household budget for any contribution much less \$3,500. I asked them if they would commit to the amount with the understanding that the Lord would have to provide it. They struggled with the decision for several weeks but finally they came into my office and said that in the unlikely event that they were blessed with such a windfall, they would give it to the Church but they were quite certain that it wouldn't happen.

A short time later the sister called me at work and said that they had to see me and right now. I pulled into the Church parking lot and there was the whole family in smiles. We had to go into the Bishop's office where the brother laid out \$3,500 on my desk in crisp, new bills. They couldn't wait to tell me this story. They told me about an old, detached garage on their property in East Lansing. It had been condemned by the City of East Lansing as being a hazard and they were to have torn it down but hadn't done so. There was an elderly widow living across the street who was still driving her car at age 92. The widow was backing her car out of her garage one day when somehow her accelerator stuck wide open. She came careening across the street, missed all the traffic, cleared their rental house and crashed through the condemned garage. She wasn't hurt and the insurance settlement on the garage was exactly \$3,500. One of our more dramatic miracles.

We finally had enough money in the building fund in August of 1978 to let bids for the construction of the building addition. The Church invited several major commercial contractors to submit bids. They were given a short time to bid so that we could have the building closed in before winter. Some didn't bid and those that did were bidding from \$590,000 to a high bid of \$980,000. We were devastated. We couldn't afford any of them. The members of the Ward couldn't believe that the Lord would shower them with so many miracles and then not deliver the building.



The Ground Breaking Ceremony

Left to Right: Otto Greenwald, Contractor; Ted Zolti, Mayor of Mt. Pleasant; Sherwood Bridges, Bishop; and Jack Ware, Counselor.

No local contractors had bid on the building, so hat in hand I went to each one and asked why they didn't bid. Many were busy and three said that we hadn't given them enough time to work up a bid. I asked them if they would now submit a bid and Otto Greenwald said that he would. Otto was an experienced contractor and his company had built many of the church buildings in Mt. Pleasant. It became apparent that he was not to be hurried. He finally gave us a bid in October of 1978. It was for \$445,000, more than we had planned for, but close. His was the only bid and it was accepted by the Church.

We had our ground breaking ceremony in November 1978. The members gathered on a cold Saturday morning to celebrate the actual beginning of the construction on our long planned-for addition.



The Digging Dolls

Left to Right: Judy Crowley, Pat Ball and
Kathy Brant.

WHY THERE IS A PIPE ORGAN IN THE MT. PLEASANT MICHIGAN WARD

By Sherwood Bridges

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has long had a strong musical tradition. When the Tabernacle in Temple Square was first built, there was a pipe organ in it. Granted, it was small in the beginning but increased in size over the years until it became one of the largest pipe organs in the world. Its association with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir gave it even more stature in the musical world. In 1952 a convert to the Church, Jack Ware, was hired to be a technician for that organ. As time went on Jack built, installed and maintained other pipe organs in the various wards and stakes in the intermountain west.

About the same time electronic technology was developed that made possible the electronic organ. They ultimately became less expensive to purchase, install and maintain than pipe organs whose technology was centuries old. Apparently some wards and stakes got carried away with trying to out do each other to see how many ranks they could have in their pipe organ. Finally, President David O. McKay put an end to the whole issue by banning the purchase and installation of pipe organs in the buildings of the Church. Electronic organs were to be used from that time forward. For the purists, this was a catastrophe. Jack Ware was one of them.

Fast forward to 1978 in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. The members of a small LDS ward are going through the process of adding on to their little first phase building. Jack Ware is now a counselor to Bishop Sherwood Bridges along with Bill Low. Preliminary plans are being drawn and the members are facing a big financial burden. It should have been predictable but I didn't see it coming. We were in a Bishopric meeting one day when Jack said "We just can't put an electronic organ in our new chapel." I said patronizingly "You know Jack that President McKay took care of that 15 years ago. Much as I would like to have a pipe organ in our new chapel, that is against the current policy of the Church". Well that didn't end the subject. The next thing I know Jack is talking up the idea among the members of the Ward.

Most of the Members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward were new converts and they all loved Jack Ware. He taught them in institute if they were college students, or he taught them in the hallways as he sold them Church books, or he taught them in firesides, or he taught them on a bench on the campus at the University. The members also knew that most of us in leadership positions had been prayed into the Ward so they were getting used to the concept of the Lord intervening in the lives of the members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward. Now Jack was teaching them that our church services could be much more impressive and spiritually focused if we just had a pipe organ.

Meanwhile, I am busy trying to cope with all the duties of a new bishop when Jack suggested one day that the Ward fast and pray to change the policy of the Church concerning pipe organs. He reasoned that if it would be OK with the Lord then it should be OK for the members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward. What could I say? So I instructed the members of the Ward that if they would like to join the effort to change the policy of the Church concerning pipe organs, that would be OK with me. I also admonished that they should not forget that we were facing a huge financial burden with the upcoming building addition and that a pipe organ would only add to that burden. And so it came to pass that many of the members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward of Zion started fasting and praying every Sunday that the LDS Church would change its policy regarding pipe organs and that the Lord would open a way so that the Mt. Pleasant Ward could have one.

About that time we met as a bishopric with the head of the Church Building Department in Salt Lake City. He laid out the policies and guidelines we were to follow as we prepared for our new building addition. Jack spoke up and asked if it would be alright if they just left off the decorative grill work normally used to house the speakers for the electronic organ. The brother reiterated that the policy of the Church did not allow pipe organs in the chapels. We said we knew that but if possible, we would like to leave the grill work off and if we wanted it later we would add it with a change order.

Jack still had his contacts in the general music committee of the church and so he lobbied them a bit. It seems that there were petitions from other wards and stakes to change the policy as well. I am not sure what all the machinations behind the scenes were. All I know is that about two months after the Ward started its fasting and praying routine I received a

phone call from the head of the Church Building Department. He said "Bishop! Did you know something I didn't know? I just received a letter signed by President McKay authorizing the Mt. Pleasant Ward in the Midland Michigan Stake to install a pipe organ in their new chapel and that the Building Department should plan for it accordingly."

You can't imagine the excitement in the next sacrament meeting as I related the information I receive in that phone call. The members were truly seeing the hand of the Lord In action. I think the most exciting part of the whole experience was that a little ward in the mid-west had acted to change the policy of the whole Church. I am not sure that was totally true but I could not say it wasn't. Of course we still had to pay for it.

We received a packet of guidelines for units wishing to install pipe organs in their units. The guidelines were more designed to be obstacles than facilitators. It was evident that any unit that was going to have a pipe organ was going to jump a lot of hurdles. The one that I was most concerned about was the cost. The Church would participate in the purchase to the extent that it would have cost if an electronic organ were installed. There were strict guidelines concerning the size that an organ could be. Five ranks was the maximum size for a pipe organ in a ward building. Stake buildings could have up to 11 rank organs. Both were quite small. We were given a list of three manufacturers to choose from. The only one that was even close to being affordable was the Wicks Organ Company in Highland, Illinois.

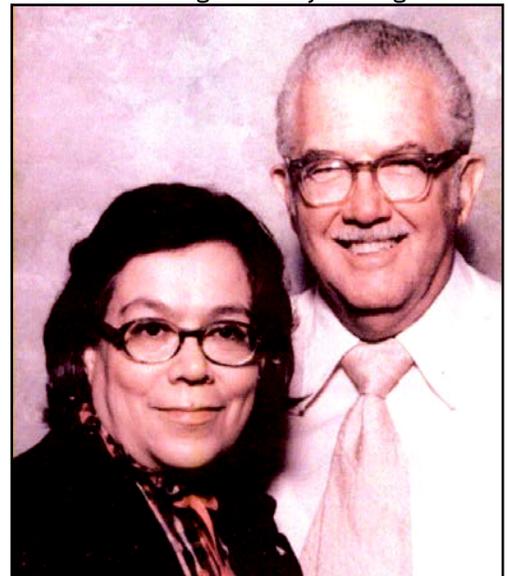
It turned out that the President of the Wicks Organ Company knew Jack Ware from his tabernacle organ days. He was most anxious to please us because he saw a big market opening up for his company. We visited the factory and they pretty much allowed Jack to make the choice of voices and design the organ. Jack, of course, found five ranks to be a bit limiting so he designed the organ with eight rank capability even though it would be supplied with only five ranks of pipes. The Church approved the design.

A cost of about \$20,000 was arrived at and with the extent the Church was willing to participate at, the local cost was determined to be \$15,000. I let Jack and the members of the Ward know that the organ could in no way jeopardize the building addition itself. The cost of the organ was to be entirely borne by those members that wanted the organ badly enough to come up with the money over and above their contribution to the building fund and other obligations. Our Stake President, Robert Witt, expressed the concern of the Stake Presidency with this development. I assured him that the organ would not be allowed to jeopardize the building.

It wasn't long after that the final costs were determined for the complete addition. It left us all in shock. I informed Jack that we were going to need several miracles if we were to pay for the building let alone a pipe organ. I told him that I could not in good conscience, ask the members to shoulder the additional burden. It think that Jack anticipated that move and so he asked that I ask the priesthood and Relief Society sisters if they would sustain Jack and Elia Ware in donating the organ with the understanding that they would also carry their share of the building commitment. All Jack wanted from the members was to find him two pianos to tune per week for two years and he could pay for it.

It was a very somber meeting as we went over the detailed costs of the building. People were trying to figure out how in the world they were going to be able to meet their commitments. Then I asked them if they would sustain Jack and Elia Ware in donating the pipe organ. The members couldn't believe it. Jack simply told them to find the pianos for him to tune and life would be good. He then reiterated his mantra that "the Lord likes to put money in my pocket because he knows that I will use it to do his work." Gradually, hands were raised and promises made that "we will help you Brother and Sister Ware." The best part about that day was that I heard no more murmuring about the building addition. It was as though everyone was thinking that if Brother and Sister Ware can do all that they have committed to, we can do our part.

It wasn't to be that simple. Inflation was raging and Martin Wick, the president of the organ company called one day in December and told us that he could not hold his costs down



Jack and Elia Ware

and that the cost of the organ would be increased by 25% on the first of March. If we could pay for it before that, the current bid would be honored. That was two months not the two years that Jack was counting on to tune his pianos.

Then came the miracle. Several members came forward and the organ was paid for except for the allowance that the company made for us to transport and install the organ. It looked like we could make the deadline if we could get the Church Purchasing Department to issue the purchase order in time.

The Purchasing department said that they could not issue the order unless we had 100% of the purchase price in cash. Jack finally called Martin Wick and told him that it looked like we would not be able to make the deadline and so we would not be able to buy the organ. Mr. Wick said that he could solve that problem and sent us a bank draft for \$2,700 the amount of the allowance. The Church purchasing department found it all to be irregular but finally consented to cut the order.

We all breathed a sigh of relief until the Purchasing Department called me back and said that they could not issue a purchase order for an organ to be put into a building that that didn't exist or was authorized. I insisted that they find a way and for them to quit being obstructionists. I let them know that we were working as hard as we could to fulfill our duties and it was time for them to do the same [I may not have been as kind as I should have been]. They did find a way and issued the purchase order.

As the building was nearing completion, Jack Ware, David Reid and I went to Highland, Illinois and brought the organ home in a van and a U-Haul trailer. A week later it was installed and Jack was working hard to get it voiced and tuned in time for our open house and recital on the 9th and 10th of November, 1979. Jack made arrangements to fly Melvin Dunn, one of the tabernacle guest organists and his personal friend, to Mt. Pleasant to help him fine tune the organ and give the recital.



Melvin Dunn tuning the pipes

The Mt. Pleasant community turned out in number to the recital and open house. Brother Dunn gave a nice recital and the people studied the exhibits about the Church and expressed their welcome and satisfaction for our new presence in our city. It was truly a coming of age for the Church in Mt. Pleasant. We were invited to participate with other churches in ecumenical projects that served the community. All because of a new building and a pipe organ. It couldn't have happened without the encouragement and support of Jack and Elia Ware.

It would be a nice story if it ended here but it did not. Jack was not through yet. The organ was still primitive and Jack was determined to bring it up to par. There were few big pipes in the original organ. Big pipes cost a lot more than little ones. Many of the voices "borrowed" from the existing big pipes for the low, bass notes so no matter which of the ranks that were being played, the low notes pretty much sounded the same because they were using the same pipes.



Melvin Dunn and Jack Ware at the organ

MY FRIEND JACK

By Sherwood E. Bridges

***Prologue:** This story takes place in the Central Michigan area and begins in the early 1970's. Mt. Pleasant, Michigan was and is a college town and home to Central Michigan University, CMU. The city population was then about 20,000 and the university student body was about 16,000. Central Michigan is a rural farming area with many trees and a lush, green landscape. It is also distinguished by its high humidity, short, pleasant Spring seasons, hot and humid Summers, gorgeous Autumn foliage and hard, cold, and long Winters.*

The presence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was relatively new to the Central Michigan area. The Mt. Pleasant Ward was created in 1968 and its membership consisted mostly of new converts to the Church and a few more experienced members of the Church, mostly from the West, and most of them were new to the area. It is those more experienced members of the Church and how they got there that becomes the nucleus of this story.

In 1968, a small branch of the Church was meeting in a bank building in Alma, Michigan, a small town about 15 miles South of Mt. Pleasant. The congregation was very small and Jay Shurtliff, a professor at CMU was the branch president. Jay determined that the only way to have a complete church experience for the members of this little branch was to have enough members to run the full program of the Church. In March of 1968, the members of the Alma

Branch began fasting and praying every Sunday for more members to come into their branch. In the Fall of 1968, families started moving into the area. Suddenly, there were enough people to form the Mt. Pleasant Ward. In truth, that little branch prayed up a ward in about two months. The Bridges family was one of those reluctant, new arrivals as I accepted a professorship at CMU.

For one reason or another, many of those initial pray-ins, as we called them, did not stay and so we went back to fasting and praying again, pleading with the Lord to send us more, experienced members of the Church, which he did. This is where our story begins...

The Ware family comes to Central Michigan.

One day in about 1973, I received a phone call from the chairman of the Music Department at CMU. He said that he had received an application from a man in Utah for the position of Piano Tuner for the Music Department. He noted that the man had been the Tabernacle Organ Technician for several years which interested the music department very much. He assumed that the applicant was a member of the LDS Church. Knowing that I was a member of the Church, he wanted to know what he could tell the man about the status of the Church in our area. I told him that we had many wonderful opportunities available and to bring them along. Not long thereafter, the elder's quorum president came into my office and reported that some of his elder's quorum had just moved a family by the name of Ware into a house not far from the university. He was really puzzled by that fact that they came with a lot of wheat, many gallons of Utah water in milk jugs, and many boxes of books.

Bishop Eldredge and I went to meet the family and I was assigned as their home teacher. The family then consisted of Jack, Elia, Mary, Paul and Joseph. Hortencia, a shy, pretty Mexican girl, was also with them for a short while. We later learned that she was David's fiancé.

The family was welcomed into the ward and Jack and Elia were quickly put to work. It quickly became apparent that this was not a typical Mormon family from Utah. As they gradually began to trust me, their history as a family began to unfold. Home teaching visits were educational and mind blowing for me. I marveled at the way Elia and her family had joined the Church in Mexico City, how Elia and Jack met and married soon after the death of his first wife, Iona. It was the first time I had ever heard of someone passing the sacrament before he was a member of the Church. [Apparently, when Iona took Jack to Church for the first time in Los Angeles, they asked him to pass the sacrament not knowing that he was not a member.] I was truly amazed that Elia had learned English so well, that she did her best to raise Iona's family, adopted two of her own boys, obtained her bachelors and masters degrees at BYU and she became a wonderful gospel doctrine teacher in our ward.

After a few months, Jack and Elia let me know that they weren't at all thrilled about being in Michigan, but they knew they were there because the Lord wanted them to be there. They told me that their real desire was to move to Mexico. Apparently they had tried to move there several times and had even left 14 year old David at Benemerito de los Americas, a new school the Church formed just outside of Mexico City. David was at that time serving a mission.

Home teaching the Ware family...

Each month as I would visit the Ware family, they would ask me what they were to do in the Church. They were very much aware that the Lord had sent them to Michigan and they wanted to be obedient, do what the Lord would have them do in Central Michigan, and then move to Mexico, where the weather was much warmer and where their heart was. Each month I would assure them that they were doing the Lord's work and making a valuable contribution to the ward. They were carrying major responsibilities in the Ward and the people were beginning

to accept, appreciate and love them. Jack was an ordained Seventy and was called as a stake missionary. He was also teaching an institute class for the college students. Elia was teaching in the Relief Society and Sunday School. They were really pitching in and working hard and making a significant contribution. At any rate, my answers did not seem sufficient for them. Each month they would become more and more insistent that I tell them what they were really supposed to be doing so they could do it and move to Mexico.

One night, I was greeted at the door by two very determined people who, more or less, demanded that I tell them what they were supposed to do. I could only repeat my unsatisfactory answers for that was all that I knew. Then I said that if they wanted to know more, they would have to inquire of the Lord because He was the one who really knew. They were willing to do just that.

We decided that the Bridges and Ware families fast for two days and meet at the Ware home on a Friday night and break our fast with one of Sister Ware's wonderful Mexican dinners. Our children were not too thrilled with the idea of a two day fast but they did it. Friday evening we all gathered in the Ware's living room and each one of us, in turn, prayed for divine knowledge and guidance for the Ware family so that they would know what to do, so they could do it and then move to Mexico.

It turned out to be a grim experience. Our prayers seemed to bounce off the ceiling and there was neither light, knowledge, guidance or even comfort forthcoming. We broke our fast with Elia's wonderful tacos and burritos but it was a quiet and pensive evening. The whole evening was most frustrating for all of us.

A personal revelation for me.

We went home and retired early and I am afraid I murmured to the Lord that night in my prayers. Suddenly, in the middle of the night I found myself sitting up in my bed having as close to an open vision as, I suppose, a man gets in this life. I foresaw that I was going to be the Bishop of the Mt. Pleasant ward, something I certainly never aspired to be. Jack Ware and Bill Low were to be my counselors! It was a profound and baffling experience. We had just called a new bishop of the ward and I certainly wasn't prepared for such responsibility. What am I to do with this bit of fore-knowledge. I certainly can't tell anyone about it. All I could do was to resolve that I better get my act together. So now I had an answer to our fervent fasting and prayer but it wasn't to be of much help to Jack and Elia because I certainly couldn't tell them about it.

Jack's personal revelation.

The next Monday morning, Jack came bounding into my office and exclaiming "I found out why we are here." I thought, this should be interesting. "So what did you find out, Jack?" "Well, you have a grandfather who has had his 'Calling and Election Made Sure' and he sent me here to help you." "Help me do WHAT?" "I don't know, just help you." "Hmmm."

A grandfather who had his 'Calling and Election Made Sure', That was something to contemplate. I only knew one set of my grandparents, my grandfather and grandmother Bridges. They were wonderful people; but they never quite got around to going to Church so I doubted that they had their 'Calling and Election Made Sure'. I never knew my mother's parents as they died in 1916 and 1919, respectively. I called my mother in Idaho and asked her if, by any chance, her parents had received their 'Calling and Election'. She exclaimed "How did you know that? Only Mary [my mother's sister] and I knew about that and we have not told another living soul! How did you know that?" I told her part of the story [not the bishop part] and asked if her father would have done such a thing. She thought that he certainly would have. That gave me

something to consider about my relationship with a grandfather I never knew and knew very little about.

Helping me...

The next couple of years were very difficult. I had some spiritual changes to make in my personal life if I was to be called to such a responsibility. I was also trying to complete the home I was building. There were many new responsibilities at work and then there were Elia and Jack. They were ever present 'helping me.' They didn't know what to help me with but they didn't let that stop them. They were constantly putting a book in my hands to read or a photo copy of some article they thought would help me. They shared personal stories and faith promoting narratives, and, and, and. It was almost more help than I could cope with.

The Ward needs a building addition.

One evening Jack and Elia came over to our unfinished home to let me know that they were fasting and praying for me. They also said that they felt inspired that the ward needed more building than the little first phase meeting house we were meeting in so they announced that we must start the process to build the next phase. I acknowledged that we did need an addition to our building but that it was hardly part of our stewardship to start taking action on what was the bishop and stake presidents responsibility.

Bishop Eldredge was getting help too.

At that time I was spending most of my time traveling around our large stake as a high councilor and so it was rare that I spent any Sundays in Mt. Pleasant, therefore, I wasn't always aware of just what was going on in the ward. One day Bishop Eldredge came to my office to talk to me. He noted that the Ware's had a full court press on to build a new building and neither he nor his bishopric, were contemplating that possibility. He was at a loss as how to handle it. I just smiled and told him to enjoy the ride.

The call...

Some two years later the time came when the Stake President called me into his office. He said that the Lord had a new calling for me. I said, "Yes, I know. Jack Ware will be the first counselor and Bill Low will be the second counselor." President Witt looked at me in amazement and asked "Has the spirit been whispering to you?" "No president, not whispering. It's been keeping me awake for two years!"

President Witt wanted to know what I felt the priorities would be for my tenure as bishop. I told him that we needed to add a new phase to our meetinghouse among other things. He acknowledged the need but wondered if we had the financial ability to pay for it with such a small number of active families. I really felt we had little choice for we were using a van, a neighbor's house, the boiler room, and a janitor's closet for classrooms and interviews.

A pipe organ?

As we met, as a new bishopric, to lay down the goals for our administration we started considering the needs for a new addition to our building. Jack immediately pointed out that it wouldn't be right to put one of those synthetic, electronic organs, in our new chapel. He felt that only a pipe organ would be good enough for our ward and building. Knowing that Jack had been the Tabernacle Organ Technician for a number of years, I knew Jack was expressing his bias. For 15 years the church policy had been to not to permit pipe organs in chapels and stake centers.

I told him that a pipe organ would be nice but that he and I knew very well what the Church policy was. But Jack was determined not to let the issue rest.

Sometime later, when the time came for us to go to Salt Lake and meet with the brethren in the Church Building Department, I found myself asking them to leave out the grill and case work planned for on the front wall of the chapel [so we could make room for a pipe organ if it was ever decided to put one in]. The Church architect sensed what we had in mind and said “You know we don’t put pipe organs in the churches anymore.” We acknowledged that we knew that.

Frankly, I had way too many things to do as bishop to worry a lot about the pipe organ. Not so for Jack. He figured if the Lord could move the Bridges and the Ware families to Central Michigan, he could probably handle a change of policy in his own Church. At Jack’s insistence, we made it a matter of fasting and prayer as a bishopric to see if that would be an appropriate item for us to pursue. I later found out that Jack had quietly asked several members of the ward to join us in our prayers and fasting. He talked up the advantages that a pipe organ would contribute to the worship experience in our ward.

The Church changes its pipe organ policy!

That was not the extent of Jack’s efforts. He still knew most of the people who were on the general music committee. He called them and lobbied for them to consider changing the existing Church policy. They were sympathetic but knew that President McKay had put the policy in place. Then the day came when I received a phone call from the head of the building department who said, “Bishop, what can you tell me about this letter I just received from the prophet. It says that we are going to put a pipe organ in your new building addition. How did you do that?” The members of our ward were so excited when they heard the news, realizing that through the efforts of their fasting and prayer, our little ward in Michigan was instrumental in changing the policy of the whole Church.

Now for the hard part, paying for the building and a pipe organ

Changing Church policy is one thing, as extraordinary as that was. Paying for a pipe organ and a building addition, was something else. It was the last of the 1970s. Inflation was running high and there were only about 15 families who were going to have to pay for it all and several of those were college students. Our share was projected to be from 90 to 100 thousand dollars. The pipe organ would be in addition to that so we were looking at about \$150,000 for the ward to fund. The Church Music Department gave us approval to go shopping for an organ. They limited us to a small, five rank organ [a rank is a series of pipes that make up one voice of the organ]. Jack called the Wicks Organ Company in Southern Illinois and told them what he had in mind for the organ.

Beating inflation.

We were pushing hard to get the contracts issued on the building to get ahead of the high inflation rate which was running about 20% at that time. The first bids for the building addition were much higher than estimated, as much as two or three times. We were all just devastated. It was so much more than we could possibly afford. We could only reject all the bids. After much fasting and prayer on my part, I set out to find a local commercial builder that would give us a bid on the building at a price that would be possible for us to pay. One local contractor gave us a better bid but it was still higher than estimated and, of course, the pipe organ was in addition to that. We were so discouraged. The members had already committed all they had and then some. Something had to give. I concluded that it had to be the pipe organ.

Sorry Jack, we just can't afford a pipe organ

In our bishopric meeting the next Sunday morning I said, "Jack, as much as I would love to have a pipe organ for our ward, it's just not possible with the costs we are facing. We will be fortunate indeed if we can just pay for the building." We scheduled a joint Relief Society - Priesthood meeting for that afternoon to discuss the financial status of the building. Jack said, "Ask the members if they will sustain Elia and I if we donate the balance of the money." That amounted to about \$15,000 that had not yet been raised for the organ. I knew that the Wares didn't have that kind of money. Jack proposed that if the members of the ward would find two pianos a week for him to tune for the next two years he could earn enough money to complete the organ. He again repeated his oft quoted phrase "The Lord likes to put money in my pocket because he knows it will go to do his work."

The members of the ward were so discouraged with the whole, seemingly impossible, building project. When I told them that I didn't see any way that we could pay for the pipe organ, they understood but they didn't understand how the Lord would help them change the policy of the Church and yet not make a way to pay for it. I then offered Jack's proposal and asked them how they felt about sustaining Brother Ware if he and Elia would donate the cost of the organ and the help that they would need to pay for it. Jack also assured the members that the Ware's would also pay for their share of the building. Jack's proposal turned out to be a wonderful thing for the whole building project. The members were stunned as they realized what the Ware's were offering to do and slowly, ever so slowly, they raised their hands in support of Brother and Sister Ware. After the meeting several of the members came up and put their arms around Jack's shoulders and said "We'll help you Brother Ware". The reason that that moment turned out to be so important was that I didn't hear any more complaints about the cost of the building when they saw the sacrifice Brother and Sister Ware were willing to make.

The pipe organ was still not to be easily obtained

Jack made an agreement with the organ company to transport and install the organ for a credit of \$2,700. The rest of money, for our share of the organ, was miraculously collected in just two months instead of two years. Then the Wicks Organ Company notified us that there would be a 25% price increase in February to compensate for inflationary costs they were experiencing. We prepared our application for the organ and sent the money to Church Headquarters in Salt Lake so that they could quickly issue a purchase order for the organ and before the price increase. Then the other shoe dropped. The Purchasing Department of the Church would not issue the purchase order until we had 100% of the money including the transportation and installation. We just couldn't raise the additional funding. We found ourselves back on our knees petitioning the Lord for help with this problem.

Jack was impressed to call Martin Wicks, president of the organ company to tell him of our problem and see if they could adjust the price of the organ to compensate for the transportation and installation costs. Mr. Wicks said that he couldn't do that but that he was willing to send us a bank draft for the \$2,700 because he knew and trusted Jack Ware. We quickly sent the check to Salt Lake so they could issue the purchase order before the price hike went into effect.

Faith and Sacrifice

We now had a pipe organ but still didn't have enough money to pay for a building to put it in. We couldn't see how we were going to pay for the project but we pressed forward having the faith that the Lord wanted this building built and so we put it in his hands as we did all we could do. We scheduled bazaars and other fund raising events. We, as members of the ward, contracted with the Church to do the painting and the landscaping. A member of the Church in

the Detroit area purchased the laminated arches for us. Even the members of the Midland Ward [our neighboring ward] pitched in to help. Gradually, the financing came together and the contract was issued for the construction of the building. There were so many outright miracles visited upon the members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward as they sacrificed everything they had, and more, to make that building a reality.

As the members sacrificed, the Lord was doing his part unbeknown to us. The money we had already raised for the building, was in a Church account in Salt Lake that was paying 20% interest. By the time the building was completed, that interest made up the additional costs so the project cost to the ward members, exactly equaled the original estimate. It was a real trial of faith for the mostly convert members of that little ward, and certainly for its bishop. But for Brother and Sister Ware, it was just a manifestation of how the Lord works with his children to accomplish their righteous desires and to do his work.

The Organ

When the building was nearly finished we rented a UHAUL trailer and drove to Highland, Illinois, brought the organ home and installed it. Our stake presidency were not at all sure that the pipe organ was a good idea, because of the additional cost, but that organ did so much to build the spirituality and faith of the members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward and they were and are so proud of it. It is a beautiful instrument and it wouldn't be there today if it were not for the work and faith of Jack and Elia Ware.

Bishop Ware

A few years later Jack Ware became Bishop of the Mt. Pleasant Ward and he was impressed that the ward building needed yet another addition to include a cultural hall, additional classrooms and a family history center. The financial requirements for the local members share had changed from 30% to 4% since the last addition to the building and so financing was not such a daunting challenge. Under the new rules, the building addition depended on having an average attendance of 175 persons per week at sacrament meeting, for three months. Bishop Jack charged each family to bring an additional family to sacrament meeting for three months. Many less active members responded to the Bishop's call and many are still active in the ward.

Bishop Ware also invited the Presbyterian Church's bell choir to play for the ward in one sacrament meeting. The choir and their guests added to the count. He also brought in the Central Michigan University Choir to perform a Christmas program for us. The remarkable part was that more of our own members came to hear these performances, enough to qualify for the new building addition. So the Mt. Pleasant Ward was then qualified for a full featured building.

More Pipe Organ!

Then Bishop Jack took me aside and revealed his plan for adding to the pipe organ. It seems that when he specified the organ originally, he designed it for eight ranks of pipes even though only five ranks were authorized. It turns out that the three additional ranks would cost more than the whole rest of the organ because they were all the large pipes that were not in the original organ. Bishop Jack quietly solicited more funds from those of us who he could persuade to contribute to the organ fund. In truth, Jack kept tuning pianos to personally pay for most of the extra three ranks. One day Bishop Jack called me and said he had raised the \$50,000 necessary to purchase the pipes, he had paid for them and had them made. Then he said, "The pipes are in Detroit, and you will have to pick them up today." It never occurred to Jack that I may have had other commitments that day. He didn't worry about such things. So I had my secretary clear my schedule and we made a trip to Detroit that day and brought home three ranks of pipes and many partial ranks of big pipes which ended up in my basement until the newest

addition to the Mt. Pleasant Ward Meetinghouse was completed.

The third phase of the building was nearing completion when Jack died. He and I had planned to build the casework and install the extra three ranks but it was not to be. When Elia left Mt. Pleasant and moved to Utah, she put all she could into the organ fund to help pay for completing the organ. The day she left she instructed me to "Finish the organ, Jack expects us to complete his pipe organ." I promised her that I would see that it was finished. We finally gathered enough funding so that I could contract with a company to complete the project and so today, the Mt. Pleasant Michigan Ward Building has the Jack Ware Memorial - Eight Rank Pipe Organ. It is an enduring legacy of a man who understood that the Lord would support the desires of righteous individuals bent on doing the Lord's work, even if it was in their own unique way.

The Sunday School President

One story will illustrate how Brother Ware often sought unique solutions to the problems encountered when serving the Lord.

While I was serving as Bishop, Brother Ware was my counselor responsible for the Sunday School. We desperately needed a new Sunday School President and had been fasting and praying for inspiration on whom to call to the position. We had so few capable people to choose from and we were particularly short of available priesthood members. We struggled and struggled trying every way we could to rearrange our major callings in the ward to move a capable person into that leadership position. No matter what we did, we couldn't make it work without creating a worse problem in another organization. We found ourselves on our knees again pleading with the Lord for help.

We went through our list again and there still seemed to be no solution. Then Jack suggested Eunice Way, a fairly recent convert, a single woman and a university professor. We all chuckled except Jack. He said that not only was she competent but that she had the ability to turn the organization around and make it function well. We all agreed to that but reminded Jack that she didn't hold the priesthood. Jack had been reading the Sunday School Handbook and he pronounced that nowhere in it could he find the requirement that the President of the Sunday School had to be male or hold the priesthood. I got out the handbook and observed the same thing.

I said I would need more guidance than the handbook so I called Church Headquarters and asked for the Office of the Sunday School. A secretary answered and I inquired if it were appropriate to call a woman to be a Sunday School President. She paused and said that no one had asked that question before. She felt that it was a question that only the General President of the Sunday School could answer and that she would have him call me. I knew that Dr. Russell Nelson was the General President and was also a famous heart surgeon. I hesitated to bother him but his secretary assured me that it was ok and that he would call as soon as he could. Sure enough, 15 minutes later he called and I explained our dilemma. He thought about it for a minute and could see no reason why it wouldn't be appropriate to call a qualified woman to be our Sunday School President, so we did.

About a week later our stake president called and was perplexed that we had done such a wrong headed thing. He ended up calling Dr. Nelson and then congratulated us on our inspiration. Eunice was an excellent president and all went well until an apostle, Mark E. Peterson, heard about it. He was very upset about the whole thing and released the General Presidency of the Sunday School and made the Sunday School organization a function of the priesthood. That was the status until the April General Conference of 2004 when a General Presidency of the Sunday School was re-inaugurated. Our poor stake president took a lot of heat from Elder Peterson over this issue, but he gave us all the support he could. I kidded Jack that he was always getting me into trouble with his unorthodox solutions to our problems. I think he relished that role.

A postscript: I did find some vindication when Dr. Russell Nelson succeeded Elder

Peterson on the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Jack found so many other ways to leave his mark on the members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward. He was particularly concerned that the members, most of whom were converts to the Church, really understood the history and doctrine of the organization they belonged to. There are many college students and others who owe their testimonies and strong foundation in the Church to Jack Ware and his institute classes. Jack, being a convert to the Church himself, realized the importance of reading about the history and doctrines of the Church. He had a large library of such books and set out to inform and educate the members of the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

Jack's Bookstore

One of the first things that Jack did, when they came to Michigan, was to set himself up as the local LDS bookstore. He commandeered a couple of closets in the hallway of the Church and became a book dealer for Bookcraft and Deseret Book. He would commonly be found in the hallway in front of his bookstore closets, showing the members, as they came to meetings, the latest and greatest in his store. He would share the latest nuggets he had found in his own reading and would encourage members to develop their own libraries at home. The closets were left unlocked on Sunday's so the members could browse his collection. We all found ourselves going home with books that we would not have bought otherwise, often without payment. He just said "pay me when you can". I'm sure many still owe him for their books. He did not run his bookstore for profit. He felt he was providing a source of information necessary for the eternal progress of the members of the Ward.

I always knew when Jack needed to have an inventory reduction sale for a pile of carefully selected books would appear on my desk in the Bishop's Office. He would assure me that I needed these specific books in my personal library and he also knew that I could not resist a well discounted price. He would point out why these particular books were important to my exaltation. Some of them even were. Unfortunately, I haven't had the time to read them all yet but I still have hope of doing so. I have no idea how much 'Jack's Bookstore' cost the Ware family finances but I am sure it was many thousands of dollars over the years.

Hymn books

Periodically, as the hymn books in the chapel would become worn or marked up, a new set would quietly appear, embossed with the name of the Mt. Pleasant Ward. The old hymn books would be on a table next to Jack's Bookstore with a sign encouraging members to take them home for their Family Home Evenings.

Religious art work

Jack decided that the walls in the various hallways, classrooms and offices in the meetinghouse were plain, uninspiring and uninviting. One day Jack called me and wanted me to come and haul some pictures to the church and to help him hang them. He took me to one of the local framing shops where we picked up a whole van load of classic, religious art prints, most of which depicted biblical stories. Jack and Elia had selected each print, purchased the lot and had them framed. I have no idea how much all those prints cost but it was a significant amount. He just said that it was important that the children and members be surrounded by inspiring and uplifting religious art. I had to admit that they added a great deal to the sacred atmosphere in the meetinghouse. Once again, he reiterated that the Lord liked to put money in Jack's pockets because he knew it would go to do the Lord's work. Ironically, this is the same artwork that is now standard in today's meetinghouses.

The storage shed

The Church supplied us with lawn tractors, snow blowers and etc. but didn't make any provision for housing them securely. Jack organized the high priests of the ward to build a storage shed. We built the shed and Jack taught us how to lay the brick on it so that it matched the church building.

The Family History Center

Bishop Ware wanted to include a Family History Center in the third phase of the church building. Unfortunately, we did not qualify for one because there was already a center in Midland, just 30 miles away. Bishop Jack had me design two classrooms with a folding door between them and some desks on either side. Then Jack passed the hat to the members of the High Priest's group to purchase microfilm readers, cabinets and the standard set of microfiche reference materials. Suddenly there was a full Family History Center in Mt. Pleasant. It became a wonderful missionary facility because more non-members used it than members of the Church.

Elia the helpmeet

So far, we've focused mostly on Jack, but without Elia, most of what he accomplished would have been impossible. She was and is a dynamic, moving force in her own right and, with Jack, they made the perfect team, working so very hard to do the Lord's work. Jack was the champion of the long shot. He loved working against the odds to do what he thought was right, even if his view was non-traditional. There is little question that Michigan provided the opportunity for Jack and Elia to blossom and contribute in ways that they could hardly have done had they stayed in Utah. The Church in Michigan benefited greatly from their service. They were and are a blessing to us all.

Jack's last days

About the time when Jack retired from the University, he started having trouble sleeping and experienced frequent panic attacks. Dr. Wood thought that he was experiencing some emotional problems associated with retirement. The medications didn't help much so I told him that I was going to take him to the University of Michigan Hospital for a second opinion. When Dr. Wood was asked for a referral, he decided to order a Cat Scan which showed a large tumor in Jack's brain. We were sent to St Mary's Hospital in Saginaw, it having the best cancer clinic around.

They removed the part of the tumor they could but testing showed that he had a very virulent, viral form of cancer and that there was little they could do about it. Once again we pleaded with the Lord to spare our dear brother's life but it wasn't to be. Through much prayer Jack and Elia gradually came to understand how it was going to be and made their peace with it. Jack put his affairs in order and went home. Elia would often call for another blessing which was always fervently given. Then came the day when, as I prayerfully prepared to administer to him once again that it became clear to me that I was to bless and release him. When I told Jack and Elia that, they both nodded in ascent. They knew it too.

And so it came to pass that one of the most unique friends I have ever known, moved on to other venues where I am sure he is touching peoples lives on the other side of the veil, in his own unique way. I and my family have been greatly blessed for having known my friend Jack. Via con Dios mi hermano.

**Current and Previous Ward Members
who responded to writing a short Family Activity and History Page**

Mt. Pleasant, MI, Ward 40th Anniversary Reunion

**Marilyn Beck family
(and husband Paul Weitz)**

I was excited to learn about Mt. Pleasant Ward's 40th Anniversary. My husband, Arlen D. Beck, was Bishop when we were raising the funds to build the Chapel, but we moved before it was completed. He died in 1992 in a car accident, but I know he will be there in spirit.

My present husband, Paul Weitz, and I do plan to attend. I look forward to seeing many old friends and reliving so many wonderful experiences. I taught at the high school when Dave Brant was there. I wonder if he is still teaching, or if he is retired like me.

Here is the information you requested:

1. As I stated, my husband, Arlen D. Beck, died in 1992. I remarried in 2005 to Paul Weitz, who moved to Georgia from Vermont. He is a retired chemical engineer who had worked at Gulf Stream in Savannah, Georgia. Paul has three children -- a son, Paul who is a Veterinarian in Minnesota; a daughter, Trina, who works for the Forest Service in Dillon, Montana; and a daughter, Heidi, who lives in Portland, Oregon. Paul has two grandchildren, Ian and Hannah. I was an Education Specialist at the Georgia Department of Education for 18 years and taught at a local university on the side. I have my own education consulting business now, but I'm not working at it full time. After our family left Mt. Pleasant, we moved to West Bloomfield Hills for a time, then moved to Dallas, Texas, and then to Atlanta, Georgia. My husband was vice president at Southland Life Insurance and then Sun Life Insurance Company. We were members of the Roswell Ward where we mainly worked with the single adult program and taught the Gospel Doctrine class.

Children:

Bryan C. Beck - died of cancer in 2003. He had previously served a mission to Iceland. He was a graduate of Georgia Tech, and was employed as engineer at Honeywell in South Bend, Indiana. He also taught at Purdue University. He was married to Linda Whisler, a native of Sparks, Nevada. Linda works for the school system, and recently remarried to Al Jellum. Bryan and Linda have four children: Melia Beck Darm - married and lives in Virginia; Bryan Cole Beck, Jr. - attending college in Indiana; Disa Beck - attending college in Virginia; Kalyn Beck - a senior in high school in South Bend, Indiana

Michael Beck - lives in Dallas, Georgia, where he works for Home Depot and does landscaping on the side. He served his mission for the Church in Japan. He attended Utah State College and Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. He has a son, Chris, who recently got married and now lives in Woodstock, Georgia.

Susan Beck Davis - lives in Hayesville, North Carolina, with her husband, Tommy Davis. She is employed by State Health Department of North Carolina, mainly doing case management for recovering drug addicts and their families. Susan and Tommy have no children.

Tracy Stephen Beck - lives in Petaluma, California, with his wife, Kelly Pack Beck. He works for Berkeley University in Oakland, California, overseeing computer operations. Tracy served his mission for the Church in Japan also. He is considering taking a job at Church Headquarters in Salt Lake City. Kelly runs a parent education program in Petaluma. Tracy and Kelly have four children:

Stephen - attending high school	Ashley - attending high school
Matthew - attending middle school	Kirsten - attending elementary school

2. We moved into Mt. Pleasant Ward around 1966-67, when we had church in the basement of a bank in Alma, Michigan.

3. We moved out around 1975-76.

4. Callings - Wow, we all did everything! This is when we went to church twice on Sunday, plus once a week to MIA, Primary, and Relief Society. My husband was Bishop for most of the time we were there, but before that he had not been very active in the church. What a surprise to have to make so many changes in just a short period of time. I remember that Dick Headley would call on Sunday to see if he could get Arlen to go to Priesthood meeting with him. If Dick asked him to go, Arlen went! I taught in Relief Society and in Sunday School.

5. All of our children were born in Price, Utah.

6. Ward memories - I do have many wonderful memories, but the one that sticks out in my mind is when our ward participated in the Fair at Island Park. We made and sold Tacos. What a hit that was. It seems the folks in Mt. Pleasant had not eaten Tacos before and they just couldn't get enough of them. We cooked around the clock. Some people I remember working with are Ann and Sherwood Bridges, Sadie and Monty Higgins, Mary and Dick Headley, the Killinger family, and many more. Another memory is attending Stake meetings in Saginaw, Michigan, especially on cold, snowy days. Sometimes my husband and I would pass each other on the road, coming and going to Saginaw. The most special memory is seeing the fruition of a dream to build a chapel in Mt. Pleasant. We moved away

before it was completed, but we were able to go back once to see it and attend church there.

7. Unfortunately, I lost many of my photographs during the course of moving from state to state.

I look forward to the anniversary reunion. Congratulations!

Marilyn S. Beck

2780 Lake Crest Drive; Sparta, GA 31087; 706-444-7667

**Robert and Joan Becker
family**

Joan and I are sorry we cannot get up for the 40th reunion, the date is only 3 days before our youngest son Blake returns from his mission to Argentina – many things to get done prior to that. I will follow the format you sent in the letter:

1. Currently Joan and I are living in Williamsburg, Virginia. I have accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent for Operations for the Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools. Joan is working as a receptionist in a doctor's office. We have lived here since August of 2005. I am serving as High Priest Group Leader and Joan is the Compassionate Service Leader in the Williamsburg Ward.

Our oldest daughter, Brigitte, was married in January to Steve Dumont in the Boston Temple. Steve's daughter Kelly was sealed to them on their wedding day making it a very special day. They reside in Sanford, Maine where Steve works in his families' construction firm and Brigitte has been working as a long term substitute teacher in the same school Kelly attends. She has also been giving voice and piano lessons.

Our son Bob married Emily Anderson in the Salt Lake Temple in November 2004, they live in Sandy, Utah. Bob is finishing his science classes and preparing to take the MCAT exam with an eye to entering medical school. Emily will graduate in December with her degree in community health.

Our daughter Brittany married Dan Jagoda in the Mt. Timpanogos Temple in December 2002. She and Dan have a one year old daughter, Savannah. The currently are living in Beijing, China, they will be in China for 18 months as part of Dan's masters program in international business – we miss them!

Our youngest, Blake, is currently serving in the Argentina Bahia Blanca mission, he will be returning on June 28, 2006, we are very excited. He has had many wonderful opportunities while serving, his recent assignment of Branch President has been his most growing experience, yet very rewarding.

2. We moved into the Ward in June of 1990 and moved to Battle Creek in March of 1999

4. Joan served as a Counselor in and President of the Young Women's', as well as Education and Enrichment Counselors in the Relief Society.

I served as Young Men's President, 1st Counselor to Bishop Wheeler, High Council, Seminary Teacher, and Bishop from April of 1996 to December of 1998.

I remember the great Youth trips to the Nauvoo and Palmyra pageants. The wonderful Youth Conference where the Stake Youth went to Kirtland and were able to hold a testimony meeting in the Kirtland Temple. There were many basketball games played on Saturday mornings with great fellowship. I remember the exceptional spirit of Laura Barden and how she touched my heart, she had such an incredible spirit about her, when you spoke to her she just glowed and was able to communicate spirit to spirit. I have great memories of hoeing beets at the Stake Welfare Farm. My greatest memories are of the people who made up the Mt. Pleasant Ward and how loving you felt there. I honestly feel like my heart was touched by every member of the Ward. I remember the great service project the youth did for the Shurtliffs, and how grateful they were, how they loved the youth and the youth loved them. From the "it's a small world" it was fun to find out that Sister Barb Kaiser was a senior at Box Elder High School while I was a teacher there.

Robert T. Becker, Jr.

Assistant Superintendent for Operations

Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools

597 Jolly Pond Road; Williamsburg, VA 23188-7328: 757/565-3838

Zac & Crinker Bell

Hi,

We are Crinker (Kojima) and Zac Bell, former CMU students who lived in the ward in the early and mid 70's.

We plan to attend the reunion and hope to see some of our old friends.

Z & C

**Scott & Robyn Bingham
family**

The Bingham family (Scott, Robyn, Ryan, Ty, and Grace) moved into the Mt. Pleasant ward August of 2004.

We live here presently. Scott works for Unified Brands in Weidman.

Scott has been in the Sunday school presidency and is currently in a counselor in the Bishopric. Robyn is the Enrichment leader in Relief Society. We enjoy being part of such a great ward!

**David & Kathlene Brant
family**

Dave & Kathy Brant moved to the Mt. Pleasant area in June of 1966 after Dave was discharged from the United States Army. They bought a 40 acre farm 5 miles south west of Mt. Pleasant. Dave began attending CMU and Kathy worked at the Student Book Exchange. At that time the church had a dependent branch meeting in the basement of the Bank of Alma in Alma. They attended evening sacrament meetings in Midland. Several families moved into the Mt. Pleasant area that summer including the Higgins, Shurtliffs, and the Quarntroms. The dependant branch soon became an independent branch with Jay Shurtliff called as the Branch President. Dave was soon called to serve as the finance clerk under Jay. Kathy taught primary.

The Mt. Pleasant area grew and we were joined by other strong families... the Bridges, Headlees, Becks, Bleaks, and Griggs, as well as other move ins and converts. Because most of the membership then resided in the Mt. Pleasant area the branch was moved to Mt. Pleasant and we met in the Vowels Elementary School where Sadie Higgins was a teacher.

Richard Headlee was called as the Bishop. Arlen Beck and Steve Bleak were called as his counselors. At that time Scout troop 648 was chartered and Dave was called as scout master. He served three years in this capacity. Kathy began teaching the Mutual age girls in what was then called Mutual.

She used an old Beehive hand book she had from when she was of Beehive age. Dave served in several bishoprics and on the High Council until 1982 when he was

again called as scoutmaster and served 15 years in this calling until he was called as a counselor in the Stake Young Men's Presidency. He was called to serve as bishop near the end of 1998 and served in that calling until Nov. of 2005. His counselors were Bill Low and Roger Hammer for the duration of that calling. Right now he is enjoying taking two of his grandchildren to nursery and has been working on the ward 40th reunion.

Kathy served as a Primary teacher, Relief Society teacher, Relief Society Pres., Relief Society Secretary, Primary Counselor, Young Women's teacher, Stake Relief Society Counselor, Stake Junior Sunday School Coordinator, Ward Young Women's Pres., Stake Young Women's Pres. Mt. Pleasant Ward Family History Director, and is currently serving as a Relief Society teacher.

The Brant's added six children to their family. Deanna Jane (Marshall) in 1970. Eugene David and Robert Anthony in 1973. Ryan Daniel in 1974. Sarah Lynn (Henrie) in 1975. And Christine Louise in 1980. They also have 12 grandchildren (adding number 13 in Sept., 2006), and they have 2 great grandsons.

Sherwood and Ann Marie Bridges family

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRIDGES FAMILY IN THE MT. PLEASANT WARD - 1968 TO 1996

THE CALL TO MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN

The Bridges family in 1968 consisted of me [Sherwood], my wife Ann Marie and our four daughters Terilyn, Carin, Dyana and Jenifer. We were living in Tremonton, Utah and I was commuting to Logan where I was teaching while completing my doctorate at Utah State University. It looked like I could ease into a tenure track there and so our lives seemed to be set. One day in March of 1968, I was working in my office at USU when I had this overwhelming prompting to start looking for a job and NOW! I prepared a short resume. I obtained the addresses of some job openings around the country and took them home to Ann Marie to prepare and mail. She wanted to know what in the world this was all about and I couldn't answer her except to tell her that I felt prompted to do so.

I interviewed for several positions around the country and even had some nice offers. But most of them were east of the Mississippi River and we certainly did not want to go there. One day I received a phone call from Dr. Harold Telfer, Chairman of the Department of Secondary Education at CMU. He offered me a tenure track position sight unseen. I was amazed and the salary was the lowest offer I had received. Non-the-less, we went to look at the job, bought a house and accepted the position even though Michigan is definitely east of the Mississippi River. It was all quite bewildering for us.

The real estate market in Tremonton was terrible but we put a small sign in the window of our house and it sold right away. By this time we should have been aware that something larger than us was happening. The saints in our Ward in Tremonton were certain that we were completely mad to take our little family out from under the eaves of the temple and thrust them into the riot torn state of Michigan. [There were major riots in Detroit in 1967]. At our farewell, our friends announced that they had it figured out and that Ann Marie was going to be the Relief Society president [knowing that she had little use for the organization] and that I was going to be the bishop. We discounted their predictions and I

further stated that it would be a very cold day when the Lord was desperate enough to call me as bishop.

At the end of August we were on our way to Michigan with two U-Haul trailers. We arrived in Mt Pleasant on Labor Day weekend in 1968. We found the members of the Church were meeting in the basement of the Alma Bank in Alma, Michigan. There was a very small dependant branch [dependant on the Midland Ward]. Jay Shurtliff was the Branch President with Monte Higgins and David Reid serving as counselors. The members of the Branch were so pleased to see us and asked us why it took us so long to get there. More bewilderment for us.

Several other families arrived within a few weeks and they received the same greeting from the members of the Branch. On the next Fast-Sunday one of the elderly sages of the Branch, Sam Chew, rose to bear his

testimony and to inform all of us new-comers why we were there. None of us new-comers were particularly pleased to be there, but there we were having come from many different places. The Headlee's, the Beck's and The Bleaks were among the newly arrived families. Anyway, Br. Chew told us that under the direction of President Shurtliff, the members of the Branch, beginning in March, had been fasting and praying every Sunday for new members to come and strengthen the Branch so they could have the full program of the Church for their children. So now we knew what it was all about!

Incidentally, Ann Marie was called to be the Relief Society President the second week we were in the Branch. My first calling was to teach our only priest, Doug Headlee in the men's restroom. [It took the Lord much longer to prepare me to be the Bishop. I was ordained Bishop 30 January 1977, which was, incidentally, the coldest day on record in the mid-western United States.]

So many families joined us that the Alma Branch became the Mt Pleasant Branch in November because that is where most of us new-comers settled. In January 1969 the Clare-Farwell saints were joined with the Mt Pleasant Branch to form the Mt Pleasant Ward with Richard Headlee called as the first Bishop, David Reid as first counselor and Sherwood Bridges as second counselor. David Brant, Robert Jellison and Steve Bleak were called as clerks.

A SUMMARY OF OUR CALLINGS

Ann Marie Completed her bachelors and masters degrees at CMU and was employed by CMU as an instructor and administrator.

She served the Ward as Primary, Relief Society and Sunday School organists and choristers; Relief Society and Primary teachers; Ward Librarian; Early Morning Seminary Teacher; Ward Music Director; Ward Choir Director; Young Women's Counselor; Relief Society Homemaking and Education Counselors; Relief Society President and Primary President [two times].



The Bridges Family as we were when we first arrived in Mt Pleasant - 1968.



The First Mt Pleasant Ward Bishopric

Front Left to Right: Sherwood Bridges, Bishop Richard Headlee, David Reid.

Rear Left to Right: David Brant, Robert Jellison, Stephen Bleak.



She also served in the Midland Stake as Stake Activities Committee Chairman; Stake Relief Society Board Member and Stake Relief Society President.

Sherwood was employed as an assistant professor and then as an administrator at CMU.

He served the Ward as a Young Men's Counselor and Teacher; Activities Committee Chairman; Counselor to Bishops Headlee and Beck; Gospel Doctrine Class Teacher; Melchizedek Priesthood Class Teacher; Institute Teacher; Physical Facilities Representative; Home Teacher and Bishop.

He also served in the Midland Stake as Stake Young Men's President, High Counselor [two times]; Stake Physical Facilities Representative, Stake Physical Activities Chairman; Stake Sunday School President and Stake Executive Secretary.



RETIREMENT

We retired from CMU in January 1996. We sold our home and moved to Monroe, Utah where we built our retirement home. We then served a mission in Monterrey Mexico. We are currently serving as home and visiting teachers and as the Stake Family History trainers. Ann Marie is also the Stake Family History Consultant and Ward Organist



A BRIEF BIO OF OUR FAMILY

Terilyn [Teri] married David [Nick] Mead in the Washington DC Temple while living in Mt Pleasant. Nick is native of Mt Pleasant who joined the Church, served a mission in Holland and was married while a member of the Mt Pleasant Ward. Nick completed his bachelors degree at CMU. They are the parents of three sons and one daughter. They now live in Smyrna, [suburban Nashville] Tennessee.



Teri & Nick Mead at the Washington DC Temple.

Carin completed her bachelors and masters degrees at BYU. She married Kent Hadley in the Atlanta, Georgia Temple. Kent served a mission in Peru. They are the parents of three sons, two daughters and four grandchildren. They now live in Highland, [suburban Provo] Utah.



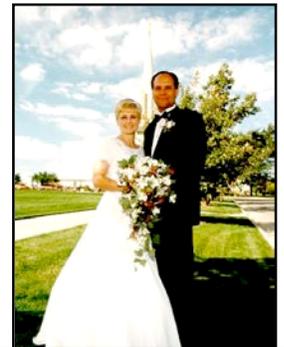
Carin and Kent Hadley at the Atlanta, Georgia Temple.

Dyana married Rick DeVries in the Washington DC Temple while living in Mt Pleasant. Rick is a native of St Joseph, Michigan he joined the Church while living in Mt Pleasant. Rick served a mission in Peru and was mission president of the Oakland, California Mission. Rick completed his bachelors and MBA degrees at CMU. They are the parents of four sons and two daughters. They now live in Adrian, Michigan.

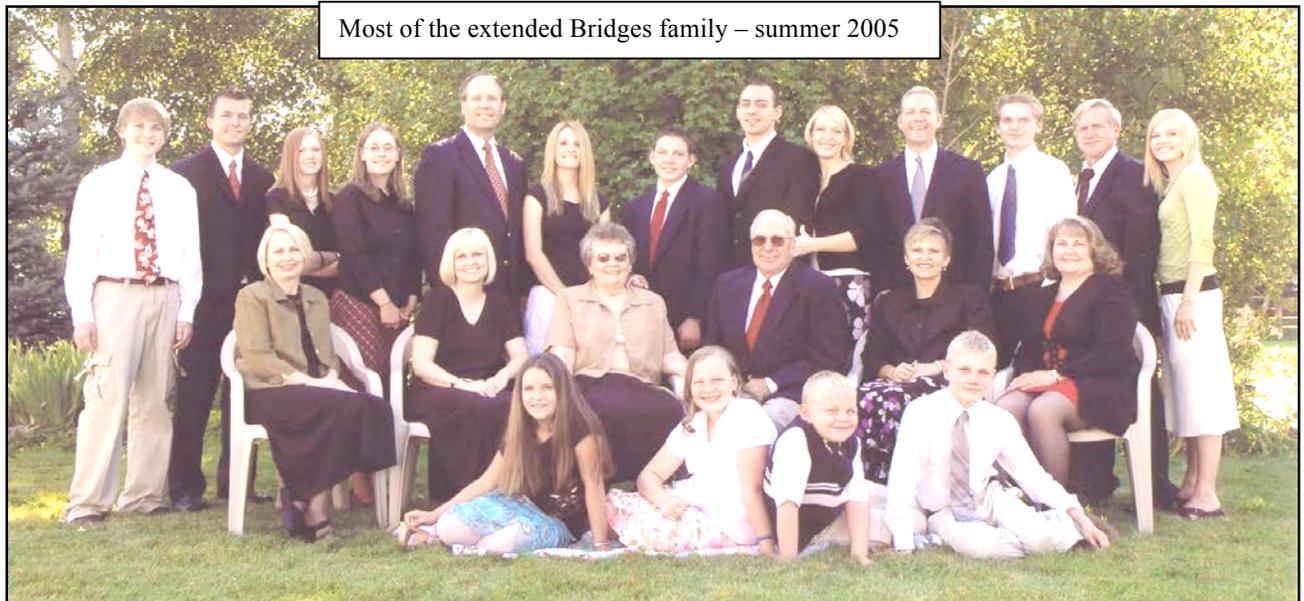


Dyana & Rick DeVries at the Washington DC Temple

Jenifer completed her bachelors degree at CMU. She married Wayne Boren in the Jordon River Utah Temple. They are the parents of two sons and four daughters. They now live in South Jordon, [suburban Salt Lake City] Utah.



Jenifer & Wayne Boren at the Jordon River Utah Temple



Most of the extended Bridges family – summer 2005

Mary Ann Carter (Ware)

family

Attached is a brief rundown of how I fit in to Mt. Pleasant Ward history. I am also attaching a current picture of my family. I do have some snapshots of a couple of things that I did while in the ward, but I have to sort through my pictures to find them. I will send them on if I can get to them.

I'm so glad Mt. Pleasant is having a get together and I would love to come, but have already committed myself to other things this summer and probably won't be able to get away. I would love to contact anyone from the area so pass out my email if someone asks.

Thanks,
Mary Ann Carter (Ware)

My name is Mary Ann Carter (maiden name Mary Ware). I am single/divorced and have four grown children, 3 girls and one boy. We are all active in the Church where we live and we love the gospel.

I first moved to Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in October 1973 with my parents, Jack and Elia Ware, when my dad was hired as a piano technician for CMU. When we first arrived there, we lived at 409 E. High, down the street from the Shurtliff family, and later moved to 1015 S. University, near campus, so my dad could walk to work. I remember how Bro. Shurtliff would kid us that he had prayed us there.

I attended all four years of high school at Mt. Pleasant High and would occasionally run into other youth church members in the halls, such as the Bridges girls, Carla Shurtliff and Dave Ball. I was also friends with some of the girls from Big Rapids.

I left Mt. Pleasant in June 1977, after I graduated from high school, to attend BYU. I married a year later and moved to Kansas. During the last 28 years I've lived in Kansas, Alaska, and Texas, raising our four children. Circumstances were such in 2004 that I divorced and am now preparing to study Horticulture at Michigan State. I will be taking a detour to Alaska to work for the summer (2006) before I move to Lansing in the Fall. My children are grown and pursuing their own endeavors and I am ready to seek new opportunities. I worked mainly in the education field the last 12 years I was in Kansas.

I have fond memories of my youth in Mt. Pleasant. We had a good youth group and did a lot with each other. I participated in stake girls basketball tournaments, attended stake dances, went on youth trips to the Washington D.C. temple and to Hill Cumorah. I attended girls camp, participated in the Road Show productions a few times and studied both home study and early morning seminary in our ward. I

babysat for the Brant and Eldredge families, remember cutting our own Christmas trees each season, and attending firesides in members' homes.

One Sunday morning, I recall that some of the girls in our youth group had stayed over night at our house—probably after a dance on Saturday night in Midland. We were discussing the girl to boy ratio and how there was a shortage of boys. My mom, Elia Ware, volunteered the idea that maybe we needed to pray for boys to be sent and so we did in our group morning prayer before church. We arrived at Church that morning to discover that a new family, the Tripps, had just moved into our ward and had several young men our age in their family. All us girls looked at each other in amazement! Of course some of us quickly began getting to know these young men.

I do remember when we first moved to Mt. Pleasant that our ward met in the gym of an elementary school on Sundays. Soon there was talk of building our own chapel. Land was purchased and the building effort began. I contributed in a small way towards the building of the first phase of the church. I remember working in the women's bathroom and helping sand wood trim that was going to go up on the walls of the hallways and Sunday School room where we later held our Sacrament Meetings. After the first phase was complete, my Young Women class contributed money to plant a peach tree on the north side of the property, though I don't think it survived. To get some income while the first phase was being built, the remaining vacant land on the property was used to raise corn. I spent hours out in the field weeding and later picking the corn from the stalks during one summer.

While in high school, I was asked to serve as Primary chorister. I enjoyed this calling very much. I think I also helped teach in Primary also. Sometimes I would attend Relief Society Enrichment night with my mom because they were so interesting. I tasted stir-fried rice for the first time at one gathering where they talked about Japan.

I remember several Fast and Testimony meetings also. I shared my testimony for the first time in one of those meetings. While in the Mt. Pleasant ward I remember my dad, Jack Ware, my brother Paul, Bro. Bridges and others stand and share theirs also. The members helped build my growing testimony.

My mom and dad worked hard to fellowship, strengthen, and encourage all the members of the growing ward during our time in Michigan. Because of their activity, I was very involved as well. It was a spiritual growth opportunity I would not have had, had we stayed in Utah. I still remember many of the youth, adults, and teachers I had during that time and think of them fondly.

I would love to correspond with members from the ward or stake. Below is my current address and cell phone number. Letters will be forwarded to me when I leave for Alaska the end of April. God bless.

Mary Ann Carter (Ware)
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Frank Eldredge and Birgitta Eldredge family

Some Memories of Mt. Pleasant Michigan Ward.

The Eldredge Family with their three children arrived in Mt. Pleasant during the last week of August, 1972. They left Mt. Pleasant in August, 1979.

Bro. Eldredge began his employment with C.M.U. and was soon made the Ward Mission Leader. He and 4 other brethren were all guided by the Spirit to move to Mt. Pleasant some of them were Seventies.

Sister Eldredge was soon called to be RS President. She served faithfully in that calling,

There were many good families in the ward that shouldered serious responsibilities. The 3-fold goals of the Church were actively pursued. Before our arrival Bro Shurtliff had been Branch President. When the Branch was made a Ward Bishop Beck was called to the leadership position. After Bro Eldredge had been in the Ward for a time he was called to be First Counselor in that Bishopric. Later on Bp. Beck accepted a new position with his employment and moved to the Detroit area. Bro. Eldredge was called as Bishop early 1973. It was a new challenge for him and his family. This is always true to some extent for each Bishop and family.

Bp Frank Eldredge had Bro. David Brant as his First Counselor and Roy Killinger served as Second Counselor

We held our services in the local grade school. We were in sore need of a formal chapel in which we could meet on a continual and effective basis. After a time it was arranged that a first phase chapel was to be built. The members of the Ward through both donations and service projects (including some all night inventory projects for Zody's) raised much of the 30% required to build the chapel. Sister

Eldredge baked many sets of Swedish sweet rolls and other pastries to sell for a support to the building fund effort. Most of the families sacrificed much to reach the dream of having our own chapel.

The ward included a rather large geographical area. Up to Clare on the north, Down to Alma on the south, a few miles to the east and all the way to Big Rapids on the West. The home teaching was a truly wide-spread matter.

Finally, the first-phase building was being erected. The congregation of the Mt. Pleasant Ward was getting a real chapel and a visual presence in the community. As the Mt. Pleasant Ward was growing and becoming ever more seasoned, members from outlying areas were being prepared by the Lord to establish Branches of the Church and eventually Wards in their own right.

When the Eldredge Family departed in August, 1979 we had an additional child, our daughter Emilie, for a total of four children. Since our departure over 25 years ago, we have thought often about our great friends in the Mount Pleasant Ward. It was truly a privilege and a great blessing to be the Bishop of this ward for over three years.

Birgitta and Frank Eldredge -- eldredg435@msn.com or f_eldredge@yahoo.com

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Birgitta and Frank Eldredge
1972 – 1979

What wonderful memories we have of our time in Michigan and the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

First of all, we met the most loving members and became close friends with many. Our children grew up in Mt. Pleasant and have very good memories of their teachers in Primary, Sunday School and Scouts. Especially John our son, he talks about and deeply appreciates so much of what Bob Wheeler taught and guided him. He praises him often.

We think often about our wonderful Home Teacher, Bro. Shurtliff. He who sat down with our children and related stories about the Gospel. He listened to them and one day gave them a “diamond in the rough” and explained the great meaning behind it.

The Homolas were also great teachers and we loved them for it. We have continued to keep in touch with the Brants who we became very close with, and had our children growing up as friends. We certainly shared many good times with

them. We will never forget the Wares – we still keep up our contact with Elia Ware and some of their children here in Utah. We made many good friends including Lowes, Killingers, Crowleys, Higgens, Jellisons, Becks, Rogers, Comers, Reeds, Larsons, Cases, Voltzs, Hardys, and Bardons – all of them and many more make up some very wonderful memories we took with us to Utah. We love you all.

We loved and grew in the hardships and sacrifice with all the other members in supporting the building of the first phase Chapel. Some of these efforts included participating in all night inventories at the Zody's department store and baking sweet rolls and other pastries to sell as a fund raiser. We remember the mother of all garage sales held in the Bridges garage. When we opened the door there was a horde of buyers waiting in line to cart off the goods. We did everything possible to raise funds to build our very own chapel. We had a meager income and four children to feed, but we did everything we could to help. We were privileged to participate with every member in that noble effort.

We look back today and thank our Heavenly Father for that time in our lives. We feel as if we had served a mission. It was really living, full of love and it was truly meaningful as we could all show love to our fellow mankind. It was really service to our Father in Heaven. We were all very blessed as a result.

Remember the time we raised corn? Picked it? Cooked it and cut off the kernels into freezer bags for food storage? We did it as a large group – told stories and laughed a lot. The corn was delicious. It is with a smile on our face that we remember Mount Pleasant.

Finally, we had to leave and move on in the pathway of life. It was time for our children to really know their grandparents before it was too late. We returned to Utah.

Frank was Bishop for about 3 years and on the High Council for about 3 years. Sister Eldredge was R.S. President for a time and a Primary Teacher. She loved it and all of the sisters as well. Her English was not as good as she would have liked, but she did her best to compensate. Sister Eldredge remembers while R.S. President of receiving a strong prompting to visit an older sister in the Ward, a Sister Luce. She and her counselor went to visit her, she lived far away and in a small, simple cabin by herself. When they arrived, they found her sick and bedridden. She was in dire need of help and had prayed fervently for someone to come to her aid. She needed care, food and firewood to keep her little wood stove going. Sister Eldredge was very grateful that the Holy Ghost had prompted her and that she had heeded the prompting or things could have gone badly for Sister Luce. We really are our sister's keeper - our brother's keeper.

Our children are all grown and married. They have provided us with much joy in the form of 10 ½ grandchildren. (two boys, eight girls and one yet to be determined). We love the grandparent role. It gives us happiness and an occasional chance to lend some positive reinforcement to the upbringing of these children of God.

We are now located in Saint George, Utah. We no longer cut grass nor shovel any snow. Frank has an interesting employment using his research skill. Birgitta is a very effective family history consultant. We have worn a pathway in the I-15 freeway while driving back and forth to Northern Utah to see the grandchildren where six of them live. Four others live close by in Hurricane, Utah.

Love you all and THANK YOU for all you did for the Eldredge Family while we lived in Mt. Pleasant!!

Frank and Birgitta Eldredge

Joyce Failing family

Greetings; Our family joined the church in 1965 due to the New York World Fair . Missionaries came from the Midland Ward to teach us the Gospel. Maynard , Joyce and daughter Cindie wwere baptized in the font in Saginaw as Midland didn't have the new church built yet. We attended the dependent Alma Branch of the church in the basement of the Bank of Alma for several months. We lived in the Lansing Stake at that time and later we became part of the Midland Stake. Bro. Shurtliff became our Branch President. Some of the families we remember are the David Reid family, Robert Jellisons, Keith Marcys, Monte Higgins family, The Shurtliffs, Margaret Hinton and daughters, and Sis. Butcher and girls. At this time we lacked priesthood leadership we also had no one to play the piano. Pre. Shurtliff asked the Branch to have a special Fast That the Lord would send us members that we could become an Independent Branch as many of the Midland folks had to help us every Sunday. In a short time Bro. and Sis. Chew returned from a mission of building churches in Canada. Guess what? Bro. Chew was a Seventy and Sis. Chew was a music teacher. Pretty soon there were several families . The Headlee family moved into the Branch with 9 children and they were all very talented. They were working at Morbark and brought 3 other families with him. WOW! then we all moved to Mt.

Pleasant and met at a school until a new church building was built. The Failings and Chews were then asked to go to Greenville, Mich. to help build up the Saints there. Its been fun to see how the church with such humble beginnings has now grown to several Wards. We remember David Brant when he first joined the church he was so bashful he would hardly talk. Now look at him a bishop! The Lord has surely blessed the Saints in this area. We are so thankful to be members of this great church. We have 4 generations of members now. One of our sons and a grandsons have gone on a mission. Maynard and I served a mission in Nauvoo and was there during the building and dedication of the beautiful temple. We know of a certainty that Joseph Smith was a Prophet and restored the church! Thanks for letting us share some of these special things with all of you. We submit this letter and testimony humbly in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Joyce Failing

Jim and Nancy Gilbert family

Jim and Nancy Gilbert family

Our family moved to the Mount Pleasant Ward in October 1998 after Jim retired from the United States Navy with 23 years of active duty (19 years of submarine duty). Jim's last duty station was at Naval Submarine Base San Diego, California where he had been stationed for ten years.

We moved to Mount Pleasant, and to the Mount Pleasant Ward, with four of our seven children: Meredith (15), Kenneth (14), Chelsea (10), and Robin (8). Jim's sister had found us a house 15 miles northwest of Mount Pleasant in the Farwell school district, but well within the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant Ward. After living in San Diego for ten years Jim and I were looking forward to quieter country living with a lovely home on two acres.

Meredith and Kenneth immediately started Seminary, attending with the youth from the Clare Branch; and both Meredith and Kenneth graduated Seminary having attended three and four years respectively with the Clare Branch Seminary Program. Meredith graduated in 2000 and Kenneth graduated in 2002. Meredith attended Brigham Young University at Provo for one year before she married in

the Salt Lake Temple to Hernán Hooker. Hernán is a very outstanding young man from Lima, Peru. He served his mission in Iowa and graduated from BYU Provo, Utah. Meredith and Hernán now live in San Diego, California. After completion of Seminary and High School, Kenneth enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Corpsman in the medical field. After his release from active duty, Kenneth is home and again a part of the Mount Pleasant Ward.

Our daughter Katherine graduated from Ricks College in July 2000 with an Associates Degree in Arts and Sciences; and came home that year to attend Central Michigan University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Arts in August 2003. Katherine is now living in Provo, Utah where she is employed full time.

Our daughter Anne graduated from Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah in April of 2002 with a Bachelors of Arts Degree; and came home that year to find employment in the Mount Pleasant area. Anne has recently moved to San Diego, California to be closer to our son Moroni and his wife Jenna, and to Meredith and Hernán Hooker; both living in San Diego, California.

When Chelsea was ready for Seminary she completed one year with Clare Branch and then we transferred both Chelsea and Robin to Mount Pleasant Schools where Chelsea attended Seminary with the Mount Pleasant Ward youth, as Jim and I were both working in Mount Pleasant. Chelsea has graduated from Seminary this year (2006) and will attend Brigham Young University – Idaho this fall at Rexburg,, Idaho. Chelsea is also in San Diego, California looking for summer employment and to be closer to her brother and sisters. Robin is 16, will be a junior this fall and has two more years of seminary to complete.

While living here in the Mount Pleasant Ward Meredith and Chelsea both completed their Young Women Recognition; and Robin is well on her way to completing her requirements for the Church's Young Women Recognition award. Also, Kenneth completed and earned his Eagle Scout Award. Meredith, Chelsea, Robin and Kenneth all served on the Stake Youth Committee and represented the Mount Pleasant Ward youth for most of the past eight years. Robin still serves on that committee.

While here in the Mount Pleasant Ward, Katherine served in the Primary nursery and as the Ward representative to the Stake Young Single Adult committee. She kept the Ward YSA apprised of Stake and Regional activities with email and bulletin board postings, scheduled and organized Ward YSA Family Home Evenings and activities, and was largely involved in the Ward's Institute of Religion program at Central Michigan University with the many other young single adults that attended.

Also, while here in the Mount Pleasant Ward, Anne has served as substitute Sunday School teacher, and as the Merry Miss Teacher (young women 8-11) for the Ward Primary. Anne started about a year and a half ago with two young ladies in her class and recently there are six young ladies now in the Ward Merry Miss program. Anne really enjoyed serving in that capacity and brought scrap booking, crafts, brought in father's to show their skills, and had other recreational activities to keep the young ladies actively involved in the Ward Merry Miss program.

Nancy has enjoyed many callings here in the Mount Pleasant Ward. She has served in the Relief Society, as Primary President, and now serves as a counselor in the Ward Young Women's program. She has had a lot of joy in serving in these callings, and also, a lot of personal growth. Her biggest challenge, and most rewarding, was to serve in areas where her children were participating, and to have more time with some of her children as she served the Lord in his various callings.

Jim has served in many callings while a member of the Mount Pleasant Ward. In the past eight years Jim has served as Membership Clerk, Ward Clerk, Young Men's President, and again as Ward Clerk. Jim has really enjoyed serving in these various callings and working closely with the Bishopric and Ward members. Jim has also documented much of the Ward activities for the past 8 years, on film, and has placed a compact disk in the Ward Library to archive our unit and organization activities. Although not a calling, Jim has recently enjoyed working again with Bishop Brant, Bishop Wheeler, and other committee members on the Mount Pleasant 40th Ward Reunion, and his part in putting together a Ward book to commemorate this activity.

Warm Regards,

Jim and Nancy Gilbert and family

**Troy and Sarah Henrie
family**

Here is our info, along with the info of Greg Martin.

Probably needs spell checked.

Troy

1) Troy Henrie married Sarah Brant in 1996 in the Chicago Temple. Just prior to getting married Troy had just returned from a mission in England London South, while Sarah had just returned from attending BYU Hawaii. We moved back to Mt.Pleasant in 2003 to start up a Chiropractic clinic. We have three children; Madalynn is 7, Gracie is 5, and Jesse is 2.

- 2) Both Sarah and Troy were raised in the Mt. Pleasant ward along with their families. Sarah was born in the Ward boundaries, while Troy moved with his family from Utah at the age of 4.
 - 3) We moved from the ward to attend BYU right after our marriage in 1996, and moved back in 2003.
 - 4) Right now Sarah is the Activities director in the ward, and Troy is the Young Men's President. Sarah has also spent some time serving in the Nursery shortly after moving back to Mt. Pleasant.
 - 5) Our two daughters were born in Downers Grove Illinois while Troy was attending Chiropractic school. Jesse, our son, was born in Alma hospital in 2004.
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**Roger and Bettie Henrie
family**

FAMILY OF ROGER AND BETTY HENRIE

IN MT. PLEASANT WARD

By Betty L. Henrie

June 2006

Our 22 years in Mt. Pleasant were some of the greatest years of our lives. There are many sweet memories of being in such a great ward and of knowing so many wonderful people.

The Henries moved to Mount Pleasant, Michigan in July 1977. After moving across the country in a big yellow truck full of furniture and a blue station wagon full of children, everyone was tired. But they were also excited to see the green landscape, the small college town, and to know that a ward existed.

Roger came to Mt. Pleasant to teach in the Geography Department at Central Michigan University, after finishing years of schooling at BYU and University of

Utah, and after having taught 1 year at the U of U. He had come out earlier and had met the people at the CMU Geography Department. He had looked around town and was sure that the family would love the town as much as he did. It was a big move but after finding a house in town and getting all of the children registered into school, the Henries settled in.

David our oldest son was a junior at the high school, Heidi a sophomore, and Roland was a freshman. Ruth was going into 7th grade at West Intermediate, and Derrek was in the 4th grade at Fancher elementary.

Troy was 4 years old when we moved to Mt. Pleasant. Betty enjoyed having him home for the first half of the year. Then it was discovered that an assistant professors salary was inadequate for a large family. It was decided that either Roger would have to get a second job at McDonalds or Betty would have to go to work. She began working at Central Michigan Community Hospital. In about four months, she quit to be home with the children in the summer.

When September came along, the children went back to school, and Troy was enrolled in kindergarten. Betty began working at Pleasant Manor Nursing home. While she worked, Louise Shurtliff took care of Troy, after she picked him up from kindergarten and watched him until the older children came from school and got him. For the first year, Betty worked nights and arrived home just in time to get the older children to early-morning Seminary.

Roger found that preparing for classes and developing new courses required a lot of time.

Bishop Bridges told us that before we moved there, the youth had been making it a matter of prayer to pray young people into the ward. On our first Sunday at church, he said that the young people of the ward set and counted as our 4 boys and 2 girls walked into the chapel. The word was passed around that the prayers really did work.

Our family was made to feel right at home in the Mt. Pleasant Ward. The members proved to be very friendly and caring. Our older children fit in well with the great youth and leaders of the ward. A number of families had children going to Mt. Pleasant High School, including the Bridges family, the Hardy family, the Shurtliff family, the Spurgeon family, the Strong/Morrison family and others. They provided a great group of faithful friends. Our younger children made good friends with the Ware family and others. Ward and stake activities were very important.

The children had many great leaders in the ward, including seminary teachers. One funny story was when Ann Bridges was teaching seminary in her home. All of the boys would show up and fall asleep, except Markus Low. So she decided to try a

different approach. She baked cinnamon rolls and had them in her kitchen. Ann continued giving the lesson, talking like telling a parable. Then she said that for those who are awake, there are cinnamon rolls in the kitchen, and those who are asleep will miss out. Markus got up and got him one. Troy smelled it, looked around, got up, and got one. She felt it was a good lesson. We don't know if everyone got a cinnamon roll that day or not.

As the years passed, the Henrie children grew up and graduated from high school. All four boys served missions. David served in Chile, Roland in Fresno, California, Derrek in Oakland, California, and Troy in London, England. Our two daughters married return missionaries. Dennis Wilson served in Argentina and Mark Montross in Italy.

All of the children married faithful people from Michigan. Five were married in the Washington DC Temple, and one in the Chicago Temple. They remain active in the church. Two of our sons with their families have moved back to the ward. A lot of appreciation goes to the leaders and teachers who lived in Mt. Pleasant Ward who helped our family along the way.

Roger and Betty Henrie were blessed with the privilege of serving in the ward. Roger taught Gospel Doctrine class, served as Sunday School Superintendent, served as Young Mens President, High Priest Group Leader, and was the ward Mission Leader. He was also called to serve the Bishopric under Bishop Bob Wheeler and Bishop Robert Becker. He says that his greatest spiritual memories came from serving as a stake missionary and doing home teaching.

Betty did not have time for much of a calling for the first few years in the ward. She worked at the nursing home, five days on and three days off. So for 5 weeks straight she could not make it to church. One day the Bishop called her to write letters to the missionaries serving from the ward. That turned out to be a good way for her to not feel totally inactive. Eventually, her work schedule changed to just 5 days a week, and it was possible to hold a calling.

Betty served as a Relief Society teacher and as a Primary teacher. Then she worked in the Stake Relief Society as the Secretary under Ann Bridges and later on the Stake Relief Society Singles Board. Roger and Betty served as the ward Young Adult leaders. The Young Adults meet at their house for about a year and half, where fireside meetings were held every Sunday night.

Betty worked in the Young Women as an advisor to the Laurels under Kathy Brant. Then she served in the Stake Young Women as Secretary under Kathy Brant, with Nancy Wheeler as one of her counselors, and Linda Jensen as the other counselor. Then under Bishop Wheeler, she was called to be the Relief Society President, with Ann Marie Bridges serving as one counselor and Mary Hardy as

the other counselor. At that time we made many baptismal clothes for the ward. Sister Filmore and her husband made the R.S. table cloths.

Roger and Betty moved to Utah in 1999 and make at least one, if not two trips a year back to Mt. Pleasant. We are happy that we have two of sons and their great families living in the ward. This also gives us a chance to see again our good friends in Mt. Pleasant Ward. We lived here some 22 years, and it will always be like returning home.

Monte and Sadie Higgins family

A brief history of the Monte and Sadie Higgins Family.

We moved to Mt. Pleasant in June of 1964 after Monte graduated from Ferris State College in Big Rapids. We moved there when the people were still going to Midland for Sacrament Meeting. We just started holding Sunday School in the basement of the Bank of Alma building when we moved there.

Shortly thereafter, the Alma Branch was formed with Jay Shurtliff as the Branch President, David Reed as the 1st counselor, Monte Higgins as the 2nd counselor and Bob Jellison as the clerk. We started holding all of our meetings in the basement of the Bank of Alma. Split schedule in those days meant 2 trips from Mt. Pleasant to Alma instead of one morning trip to Alma and one evening trip to Midland.

The branched thrived and flourished with most of the members coming from the Alma area. President Shurtliff asked for a special fast and prayer day for more members to lesson the load on those currently there. We had a big influx of new members but most of them moved into the Mt. Pleasant area. It was decided to move the meetings to Vowles Elementary School (where Sadie taught) in Mt. Pleasant. This meant much less travel for those living in Mt. Pleasant, but more for those living in Alma. As the membership grew, the small branch was made into a Ward with Richard Headlee as the new Bishop.

In such a small branch/ward, everyone gets to do many things. Monte has been in the branch presidency, several bishoprics as counselors and executive secretary. Played piano in primary. Elders quorum president, Stake High Counselor, Elders and sunday school teacher. Sadie was Primary President, S.S teacher, primary counselors in other presidencies, Stake Jr. S.S. Coordinator, Stake Relief Society, cubmaster, primary teacher, R.S. teacher/counselor. Both worked on activities committees. You name it, one or the other of us has done it.

Our first son, Lawrence (Larnie) was born there when it was the Alma Branch. Our second son (Loren) and third son (Jason) were born there after it became the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

We moved to Albuquerque, NM in June of 2000 after both Monte and Sadie retired. In February of 2003, we moved to Rio Rancho, NM where we currently live.

We have 2 sons living here in Rio Rancho.

Loren (wife Jenny) lives 5 miles from us and have a 2 year old son, Liam. Jason (wife Cari) lives 7 miles from us and have a 4 year old daughter, Marley. We get to babysit with both grandchildren (sometimes together but most often separately) from time to time.

Jason works as Sr. Surveillance Officer at Route 66 Casino. He has responsibility for surveillance and compliance for the whole casino and has 8-10 employees he has responsibility for. He enjoys his work, but is sometimes frustrated with the politics of it (join the crowd). Jason's wife, Cari, teaches 6th grade math in Rio Rancho after getting her degree from University of New Mexico. She enjoys here work. Marley (Marlaina) goes to pre-school 2 days a week and is signed up for 3 days a week next year. She really likes it.

Loren works as a technician for Noritsu. The company makes photographic developing equipment like that found in the one-hour photo shops. Loren installs and maintains machines in New Mexico and western Texas. He likes his work, but sometimes gets tired of the long drives involved with some of the far away locations. Jenny works full-time as a mom and part-time for a local nursery/garden center. She seems to enjoy both jobs. Liam is our little red-headed Irish boy. He was born on St. Patricks day, his doctor's name was Patrick McGinnes, his name is Liam (a good Irish name). He has red hair and is the sweetest, most active kid in town. We love both he and Marley and look forward to time spent with them.

Larnie lives with his family in Marietta (a suburb of Atlanta). His wife, Susan is a full-time mom. Larnie is currently the ward organist and elders quorum instructor. Susan is the young women's president. They have three children, Alexander (13 soon to be 14), Taliesen (Tali) just turned 10 and Dallin is 7. He will turn 8 this fall and will be baptzsed. Larnie owns his own graphic design business and has 16 employees. He enjoys his work and church callings.

We are happy and still active in the gospel. Since moving out here, we were called as Stake Missionaries and worked in a small branch about 70 miles from here with the full-time missionary couple. We grew to love the people there and enjoyed our service. We have also taught in sunday school, visiting teaching, home teaching,

ward activities chairpersons, and as primary teachers. Monte is currently the ward music chairman and plays the piano for priesthood. Sadie is the ward humanitarian leader.

Cardel and Rosanna Jacobson family

Cardell and Rosanne Jacobson

We were one of the seven families that were “prayed into the ward” in 1977. We didn’t particularly appreciate being moved out of our comfortable place in Milwaukee. But we came to love Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, and have fond memories of the four years we spent there. We hope you have a great and rambunctious time celebrating the 40th anniversary. We wish we could join you, but unfortunately we won’t be able to attend.

Some time in March of 1977 we got a call from Bishop Sherwood Bridges. He called to “invite” us to contribute to the ward building fund—five months before we planned to arrive. I (Cardell) had taken a position in the sociology department at Central Michigan University, but I was not due there until August. Mike Homola, a graduate student in the department had let Bishop Bridges know we were coming.

We were one of the seven families who came to the ward that late summer. Our understanding was that the ward needed a larger building and wanted to get the numbers up so that Salt Lake City would approve it. Back then the ward had to raise 50 percent of the costs.

We arrived in a little different way than the other six families, however. We moved by boat. We loaded up the moving van in Milwaukee, drove it to the dock in downtown Milwaukee, and loaded it on to the ferry that ran to Michigan. Oh. We also took the kids and the red station wagon that looked just like the one the Hardys drove. After arriving on the Michigan side, we had a relatively short two-hour drive to Mt. Pleasant.

We bought the house at 912 Hopkins, about a quarter mile from the church. You know—on the curve where all the cars from “The Cabin” crash into the barrier. But the house became something of a hang out on Sunday evenings when people would stop by going or coming from church. We often made pancakes for dinner on Sunday evening after our Sunday afternoon naps. Everybody who came by got pancakes whether they wanted them or not and whether they were our Mormon friends or neighbors who happened to stroll by. One of our university friends, not

understanding that I had invited people to drop by and report home teaching, started answering the door for us saying “welcome to the pancake house.”

Our family grew and flourished there. Jenni was our oldest, nine years old when we arrived. Justin followed her at age seven, and (Jon) Taylor was just two. Jordan our youngest was born there in Mt. Pleasant in 1978.

We were there just those four short years while the funds for the church were being raised and the building constructed. Yes, I remember painting. That big power sprayer was fun, but I fear a run or two may still be there in the paint (don't look; listen to the speaker!). The staining of the rear of the chapel was little scary. I had never been on a ladder that high before. When the chapel was done, we were released from that calling. We moved to Provo-Orem area where we have lived the past 25 years.

I (Cardell) loved roaming around campus and encountering members of the ward: Sherwood Bridges and Bill Low in the library. Jay Shurtliff in the rusty art building (where he got me started carving wood). (Does that wisteria still grow on their old house?) Jack Ware (where I learned about organs and music).

Rosanne was a stay at home mom, but she started graduate school in library science while there. She subsequently finished the degree at BYU and has been the librarian at Orem High School for the past twenty years.

Our contacts to the ward have diminished with time, as have our memories. The one thing that remains is the fondness we have for the ward there. We would love to see any of you who venture near our new neighborhood.

Cardell and Rosanne Jacobson
1422 Springdell Circle
Provo, Utah 84604.

**Dave and Barbara Kaiser
family**

MT. PLEASANT WARD MEMORIES

Kaiser Family:

After leaving Mt. Pleasant, we lived in Orem, UT for almost 2½ years. We then built a new home in north Provo, where we currently reside. David is on the

faculty at BYU. Barbara is a part-time special needs seminary teacher. Dave serves as the ward clerk. Barb was recently released as the Relief Society president, and currently serves as the nursery leader.

Our family has grown a lot in the six years since we left Mt. Pleasant. Josh served a mission in Uruguay, which had a very significant impact on who he has become. Josh married Carly Coons in the Mt. Timpanogos temple in August of 2004. Carly is from Highland, UT and she served a mission to Honduras. Josh and Carly became parents to Blaine Spencer Kaiser in June of 2005. Carly is expecting their second baby next December. Carly graduated from BYU in April 2006 with a degree in biology. Josh is also attending BYU and majoring in Marriage & Family Relations. He aspires to be a seminary teacher and a marriage and family counselor.

Meggin attended Orem HS for two years and graduated in 2002. She competed on the track and tennis teams. Her senior year, she was a member of the state champion sprint medley team. Meg attended BYU, majoring in elementary education. She recently completed her student teaching, and graduated in April 2006. Meggin was married to Adam Marchant in the SLC temple in June 2005. Adam is from Salt Lake and served a mission in Mexico. Adam is also attending BYU, and will complete his Masters in Accounting in April 2007. He is completing an accounting internship in Denver this summer, then he and Meg will move there next year to take a job with that accounting firm. Meg has a teaching job in Alpine school district for next year while Adam finishes school.

After moving to Provo, Ashleigh attended Provo HS and graduated in June 2005. Ash was concurrently enrolled in cosmetology school during her senior year, and graduated from that program last November, and got her cosmetology license. Ashleigh attended the BYU semester in Nauvoo this past winter semester and had a great experience. (Meg also had the opportunity to attend the semester in Nauvoo.) She is now working at the BYU barbershop/salon (she currently works in the MTC, giving missionaries hair cuts) and has another job in the mall. Zach is in 7th grade in junior high. He is on the school chess team, and has played basketball for several years. Zach is a Deacon and was recently called as a counselor in the quorum presidency. Zach is a currently a Star scout.

Matt is in 5th grade. He has also been playing basketball. Matt is in the Webelos den. He enjoys drawing and playing all kinds of games.

Our family moved into the Mt. Pleasant ward in August 1988, when Dave accepted a faculty position at CMU. We left in June of 2000.

Barbara was called into the Relief Society presidency within just a few weeks after we arrived in Mt. Pleasant. She served in a wide variety of callings, but most of her time in MP was either as the Primary president or as a counselor in the Primary presidency. A couple of months after our arrival, Dave was called as counselor to Bishop Roger Hammer. He also served as a counselor to Bishop Bob Becker, and was the executive secretary for Bishop Bob Wheeler. Other callings Dave had

while in MP included Young Men's president, High Priests group leader, and physical facilities representative (during 1999-2000 when the building was renovated).

When we moved to MP, Josh was starting 1st grade, he graduated from MPHS just before we moved. During our time in Mt. Pleasant, Zachary was born in 1992. Mathew was born in 1995.

We have great memories of our years in Mt. Pleasant, mostly the wonderful people we had opportunity to get to know and who impacted our lives. We remember the great youth temple trips and the trips to Church historical sites. So often it was our big brown van, the Becker's red van, and the Wheeler's blue van traveling together on those trips. Often the Lows or the Hammers were also driving their van. (Though the year we rented a big van and drove all the kids to Chicago was very memorable.) On one of our trips to Nauvoo, Bob & Bobby Becker, Josh & Dave shared a room. Bob was snoring so loud, that Dave went out and slept in the van.

We remember the GREAT Chicago temple trip when several of us in the ward went together and everyone did their work for members of their family. Being able to work and assist during the Detroit temple open house was a great experience and opportunity.

When we used to have Sunday School music practice, on fast Sundays, Monte Higgins would take requests from the congregation. Some of the youth of the ward used that as an opportunity to "stump the organist". You could always count on Troy Henrie choosing "If You could Hie to Kolob". Since that time, that has actually become one of our favorite hymns.

Dave remembers working on Bobby Becker's Eagle project, putting in a bridge in Island Park, and putting in the HUGE trees that Bob Wheeler arranged to be donated for Josh's Eagle project at the Recreation center. Bob and Nancy Wheeler were GREAT scout leaders. Bob and his version of Chi-chi-cha was a classic! The father & sons campouts at Camp Neyati will always be remembered. Did the menu ever change??

Meggin and Ashleigh enjoyed the summertime "dance lessons" given by Christianne Wheeler and Maija and Lisa Low. They had a ball with that. It was fun to watch the girls share their talents teaching those younger kids something they loved. Even the Wheeler boys and Josh got into the recitals, Adam performing in some dances, and Josh and Andy as MC's and joke tellers. It was a lot of simple family fun.

Barb remembers aerobic exercise classes held in the cultural hall. It was filled with women, some with young children in tow and others who were single. Shelly

Walker was a great aerobics teacher with all of the latest “moves”. Renee Sharrar also taught the classes for awhile pulling out some great moves of her own. When we didn’t do aerobics, we walked around the gym to get our exercise. Nancy Wheeler always had the latest and greatest ideas for weight loss dietary alterations. She was the “diet guru”.

Mari Low was constant and true and a great leader in all she did. Nancy Wheeler’s bigger-than-life activities as the Homemaking counselor and later with Kathy Brant in stake callings will never be forgotten. The extra mile wasn’t “extra” to them. It was the norm.

For a couple of years, Barb worked in the young women organization. One of the most difficult tasks she did was to attend girls camp. As she is not the camping sort, it was a particular challenge. She remembers Bob Wheeler (Bishop at the time) coming to camp. Upon seeing her, he made a comment to the effect of, “What have they done to you?” It struck her as funny that she wasn’t alone feeling like the, “one of these things that just doesn’t belong here.”

The home and visiting teaching routes were really something. It took the better part of a day to accomplish the task every month. The journey was worth the time and effort. We were able to get to know some awesome people and feel gratitude in living and sharing the gospel with our brothers and sisters.

Barb will not ever forget the sleepy teenaged young men and women that came to early morning seminary. John Ball was as cheerful and happy as a person could be at 6:15 and Anissa Zamudio was his opposite. She regularly told him to “cheer down”. Of course, the famous seminary “auctions” were the events that all the students looked forward to twice a year. They also liked the oral “test days” as the reward for correct answers came in the form of candy being thrown at them.

One particularly memorable seminary morning stands out. When we arrived at the building to have seminary, the building had been left unlocked. There was also a car in the parking lot that was running and had its park lights on. Everyone, including Sis. Kaiser, were scared to go in. Andy Wheeler showed up a few minutes later and was informed of the situation. He was matter of fact and said that we were all acting stupid. He opened the door and went in. Everyone else followed and seminary proceeded as usual that day.

Darlene Bassett will forever be remembered as the best nursery leader ever. She was awesome. She had some serious creative talent and used it in everything she did. She came up with some amazing schemes and decorations for special events. The ward just wouldn’t have been the same without her.

We very much appreciated the special relationships we developed with the Higgins. Monte and Sadie were assigned to be our home teachers, but they became much, much more than home teachers. Before their own children starting having children, they were anxious to be grandparents. Because our families were out west, Monte and Sadie asked if they could be our “adoptive” grandparents. The extra mile efforts of Grandpa and Grandma Higgins filled a very special role in our children’s (and our) lives.

Going beet hoeing at the church farm will always be a “special” memory of our time in Michigan. The kids, including Bob Becker, always had a way to make the work seem fun. Some of those larger weeds became pretty good javelins! Remember when Bishop Wheeler got pulled over on the way home from beet hoeing (rather muddy and disheveled as typical after that activity) and the officer was concerned about all empty beer cans in back. Of course Bob was just being his typical thrifty self and was getting them for the deposit return!!

The ward talent shows and stake road shows were always fun. Especially memorable was the road show that was a spoof of “Tool Time”. Dale & Susan Hunt wrote an awesome script. Dave was “Tim” and Bob Wheeler was “Al”. Of course Mel Ross was the one who ‘stole the show’ with his rendition of ‘Rome is Burning’.

Floating the Chippewa was a great 4th of July tradition. We started it as a bishopric activity with Bishop Hammer and then after a few years, it expanded to become a fun activity for the entire ward. The High Priests’ New Year’s Open House at the Bridges was always looked forward to. After we completed our second home, it became very special for us to host the ward members for our holiday open house.

The 12 years we spent in Mt. Pleasant were both challenging and fulfilling. It seemed that the old adage, “rest is for the dead” was really true. We often felt overworked, but felt the hand of the Lord, creating in us something more than we knew we were capable of. We learned so much as we were stretched and pulled to our limits. Those experiences are inextricably intertwined with who we have become. The memories, and especially the relationships with our friends in Mt. Pleasant, will forever be a part of us.

**Roy and Cathy Killinger
family**

Presently, we live near Lakeview on our organic centennial farm raising small grains and soybeans; bro. K. retired after 22 yr of church employment, then drove

school bus for 7, and is now retiring again - well, he is Treasurer for our Township as well as treasurer for the Flat River Conservation Club and Committee Chairman for the local scout troop.

Sis K. is now a school custodian. Our children: Linda & Dan Atkinson (James, Michael, Christine, Jacob) live in Colo. Springs, Carol & 'J' in Saginaw, Chris & Jeanette (Tajia and Devin) in Spanish Fork, UT, Charley & EmmyLou in Springville, UT, and Ted & Leslie in Murray, UT.

We went to Mt. Pleasant to CMU in 1962 and were found by Bishop Arlan and Marilyn Beck in 1970; bro K. went to work then for the insurance co. which Richard Headlee was President of and after many sets of missionaries were sent, we were baptized in 1971, sealed in Provo Temple in 1972 with our girls (Linda 8 and Carol 6); Chris, 1st son, was born 1976; we moved to Saginaw in 1977 where 2 more sons (Charley and Ted) were born; in 1982 we moved to our farm at Lakeview.

Callings in Mt. Pleasant: S.S. Pres., counselor in bishopric, assistant scoutmaster, Stake S.S. counselor

Primary sec/pianist, YW Beehive teacher, S.S. teacher, Primary counselor, Stake S.S. music leader

Well, I remember being in the Ward Road Show. We used the elementary school for Sunday meetings, so needed a place to practice and Bro. Monte Higgins offered the TV studio he worked in. O.K., but one day at home we caught a glimpse of some pretty strange people on TV doing some kind of 'show'--guess who. Don't remember if it was the brethren in tutu's year, or the "It's Not Nice to Fool Mother Goose" crew. Both years were a riot!!!

I remember the 5000 square mile home teaching routes, the Sunday evening firesides, the scouting programs, the students Family Home Evenings, taking the missionaries to lots of activities, and beet hoeing—when Brother Brant and the rest of our ward were usually done before the rest of the Stake got to the farm. I remember taking an occasional trout to Sister Luce on the way back from the Pine River, and wild strawberry shortcake with Comers on the way back from somewhere up North. And tuning pianos with Jack Ware; and loading and moving (either in or out) new families all of the time; sweet corn, beets and string beans; building stake centers and the Mt. Pleasant Chapel,

Jeff and Anita Manning family

1. I am married and have two sons. My wife is Anita Manning, we were married August 2, 1977 in the Salt Lake Temple. My oldest son, Jerry Armstrong Manning is turning 26 years old the day after the reunion ends. He is married to Heather Manning (4.5 years) and they live in Chicago, IL. My younger son, Peter J. Manning is married to Jessica Manning (1 year) and they have a son born January 1, 2006; Jonathan Michael Manning. Jessica has a four year old daughter, Brianna Mae Hubbard. Peter is serving in the Army in Iraq and Jessica, Jonathan and Brianna live with us while he is away.

2. I joined the LDS Church in Mt. Pleasant, MI back in 1976. I just celebrated my 30th anniversary in the Church on April 16th. I was only in the Mt. Pleasant Ward during my "investigation" of the Church and for 3-4 months after joining the Church.

3. I left the Mt. Pleasant Ward in early August, 1976 when I completed my Masters at Central and moved home to the Boston area and then on to Salt Lake City where I met Anita.

4. I only remember serving as a home teacher and giving one talk before I left. Since leaving I've served twice as Elders Quorum President, Ward Clerk, as a Seventies Quorum President and Senior President of the Seventies Quorum, Ward Mission Leader and Stake Mission President, Stake High Council, Counselor in three Bishoprics, High Priest Group Leader (currently), and Temple Ordinance Worker (currently) and Temple Asst. Shift Coordinator (currently).

5. None (of course); I wasn't married then.

6. My conversion was somewhat humorous. I was an agnostic and was trying to prove to some LDS friends that their church and religion was not true. The missionaries were a bit frightened to deal with me. Ultimately it was Sherwood Bridges who confronted my opinions and positions and lead me to pray about the truthfulness of the Church. Within 1 year of my baptism I saw Sherwood Bridges and Jack Ware at General Conference in Salt Lake City. They were shocked to see me sitting on the stand in the Tabernacle with the General Authorities. I was serving as an auxiliary security officer for conference and was spelling President Kimball's bodyguard while he attended to supervisory duties behind the stand. Sherwood, of course, went back to Mt. Pleasant and told everyone that I was the Prophet's bodyguard (which was technically true for a brief period of time).

I have stayed in touch with Sherwood over the years. Also with Jerry Armstrong - who was also instrumental in my conversion. I live in the same ward with Steve

and Kay Bleak. So anyone who knows and remembers them should let me take their picture so I can bring it back for them.

7. I do have at least one picture of the ward building from 1976 when it was a phase one meetinghouse. Let me know if you don't have any of that era and I can email it to you.

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Rob and Deanna Marshall family

The Rob Marshall family has lived in the Mt. Pleasant Ward since we were married February 12, 1992. We have two children Caleb and Kyle (age 5) with a new baby on the way in September. Rob moved here from the Williamston Michigan ward to marry Deanna. He has been involved in the primary, scouting program, bisopric, stake young men's presidency, and as the ward finance clerk. Deanna has been a life long member of the ward. She has held callings in the nursery, young women's, Stake girl's camp director, and many areas in primary including Primary president, and as a counselor in the presidency twice, along with a stint in the Relief Society. Deanna has grown up with the ward and the phases of the church building. Her earliest memories of attending church were going to the Hannah Vowels Elementary on Crawford street for meetings. She was so proud of the first phase (now the Primary room) and thought it was so big! She was baptized in the faunt after meeting with Bishop Bridges across the HUGE bishop's desk. (It seems so regular now....) She also remembers the huge sacrifices that the ward members made to put in the chapel and the pipe organ. She ate endless bowls of bean soup to help stretch the family' s budget so we could contribute to the ward building fund. (She really hates bean soup by the way!) She also remembers the Relief Society sisters standing outside staining miles of wood work walnut brown. Her mom, Sister Mari Low, and Sister Brigitta Eldredge are just three she recalls. And what an exciting time were the ward bazaars. They were done to help raise money for the building. I'm sure it was a lot of work for the adults, but Deanna loved looking at all the yummy baked goods, jewelry and pottery by the Shurtliff family, and the vast array of quilts and handiwork made by the sisters. She loved the yummy luncheons with Sister Reid's homemade chicken noodle soup being a favorite! Deanna even got to serve up the tasty pies with Sister Linda Nevills. It made me feel close to everyone and to the beautiful chapel. Finally, the third phase

was added and we had our very own cultural hall (aka gym) and a real kitchen! It was an exciting time when we were able to host stake dances on the red carpet (no wood then!) and have everyone over to see our building! I am thankful to have been raised with our church building. I try to treat our chapel and church building with respect and reverence because I saw the huge sacrifices that were willingly made year after year by the saints in the Mt. Pleasant Ward to see their dream of having their own place of worship become a reality.

Greg Martin

Info from Greg Martin, Daryl Martin's second to youngest son.

1. Tell us about your family presently.

The Greg & Chelsey Martin family currently resides in Monticello, Utah. Greg is the Assistant City Manager and Chelsey is a stay-at-home mom. We have five children, four boys and a girl, and another girl on the way. We have lived in Monticello for almost three years and have also lived in Kansas, Texas and Colorado since graduating from BYU in 1999. We enjoy the beauty of the area and the close proximity to the Monticello Utah Temple.

2. When did you move into the Mt. Pleasant Ward?

I moved into the Mt. Pleasant Ward with my parents and brothers and sisters in 1976. I am part of the Darrell & Ruth Martin family, the seventh of ten children, and grandson of Jack & Elia Ware, a former bishop of the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

3. When did you leave the ward?

I left the ward in 1989 after graduating from Mt. Pleasant High School. I went to Brigham Young University for a year and then left on my mission, the Utah Provo Mission, Spanish Speaking, from the Mt. Pleasant Ward. Roger Hammer was the bishop and Wayne Hancock was the stake president at the time.

4. What callings did you hold?

Standard teenager callings, home teaching junior companion, aaronic priesthood quorum presidencies, etc.

5. Names of children born while in ward?

None, but my brother Stephen and sister Kristina were born in Mt. Pleasant.

6. Tell us about any ward memories, anecdotes or humorous incidents.

I remember the "Pixie Program" around Christmas (like Secret Santa today) was lots of fun. Numerous ward parties and functions, like the 4th of July at the Ried's

home in Shepherd. The addition of the new chapel and cultural hall was an exciting time. Roger Henrie was a faithful home teacher. Jay Shurtleff was the seminary teacher I remember best. There were so many good people, too many to list.

Ruth Martin

I just found the letter on the Ward reunion. I didn't get any information on my family sent. Sorry!! I am planning to be there, as is Steve. I don't know about Kristina. Steve said he had not gotten the letter, so maybe Kris did not either. My sister Mary is coming also, but i think she has been in contact with someone already. See you Saturday.

Ruth Martin

Tom and Maria Mink family

Here is some history for Tom and Isabel and myself!

1- We moved here in June of 1996..(Tom and I) to pursue the Physician Assistant program. (Started PA program the next year!!)

2- The callings we have held are as follows:

Tom: Young Men's President, Elders Quorum 2nd Counselor, Gospel Doctrine Teacher (currently)

Maria: Primary Presidency 2nd Counselor, Young Women's 1st Counselor, Seminary Teacher, Sunday School Teacher (16-17 year olds), - Nursery Worker, Young Women Specialist, Activity Committee Leader.

3- We both work at the hospital and have been there since we have lived here.

4- We have 1 daughter (Isabel) who was born January 10, 2001. We have grown to love this ward immensely! It has become our family away from family!

I will send a separate e-mail containing pictures that I have of ward events! Tom, Isabel and I will all be at the reunion!!

Elia O. Ware

Dear Mt. Pleasant Reunion Committee,

I am a little late with the information you require for the Mt. Pleasant Ward 40th Anniversary reunion. I had a major surgery and I am still recuperating, I will send such information, I hope it gets there on time.

I found a short history of the Mt. Pleasant Ward Relief Society that we put together for a Relief Society Anniversary Program many years ago, I don't know if you are interested in it. I would like to send it through the mail but I don't have an address to which send it. Please let me know to whom and where to mail it along with my personal information.

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the reunion. I am in no physical condition to travel.

Elia O. Ware
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Provo, Utah 84601
elia.ware@comcast.net

**Robert and Nancy Wheeler
family**

Bob arrived in the Mt. Pleasant Ward in 1972 to attend CMU. Nancy arrived in Mt. Pleasant just after Bob left to serve his mission in 1974. After Bob returned from his mission, he and Nancy were married in the Washington DC Temple. They have three children born in the Ward; Christianne, Andy and Adam.

Christianne is now married to Matt Marshall. They live in the Washington DC area while Matt attends law school at George Mason University. Christianne has graduated from CMU and received her Masters from Wayne State University and is currently a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Physician's Assistant at Children's Hospital in Washington DC. They have two dogs—Wilma and Lucy. Andy is attending Brigham Young University after serving his mission in Carlsbad

California (Spanish speaking). Adam graduated as Salutatorian at Mt. Pleasant High School and is also now attending BYU in Provo, Utah and is working hard to get his degree.

After graduating from college Bob took a job as a District Executive with the Boy Scouts, but after a few years switched to banking where he has worked for over 25 years. He now works as a mortgage lender at FirstBank in Mt. Pleasant. After raising our children as a stay-at-home mom, Nancy now works as Administrative Assistant for the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation. Bob and Nancy both have Stake callings at this time.

Bob's first contact with the Ward was bumping into Monte & Sadie Higgins and Bill Roy Comer down at the Taco Booth at the Isabella County Fair his first week in town. Since then the Ward has had many other fund raisers including Pizza Sales, the Mormon Handicraft Bazaar, sweet corn sales and others. We no longer raise money in that way, but the memories linger. There were fun times, good friends and close fellowship.

As the ward grew it was exciting to see the progress of both individuals and the Ward building; from meeting in Vowels school, to our own phase one building (the primary wing), to a chapel and finally the building as it stands today. As nice as our building is, it is the people who have made it special. It is the special memories of the missionaries, college students and others who have come and gone who have made Mt. Pleasant a great place to live and raise a family.

Don and LaDeana Wilke family

My name is Don Wilke, and I was baptized into the Mt. Pleasant Ward on March 31, 1973 by Bob Wheeler. I was a member of the ward until college graduation in May 1973. While a member of the ward I served as a primary teacher, and as the Midland Stake YSA chairman (along with Sharyl Boyce [now Morgado]). I left the ward to serve as a missionary in the Arizona Tempe Mission. After returning from my mission, I attended school at BYU, where I met and married my wife, LaDeana Carn. We have 4 children:

- Nathan (age 25), attending BYU pre-optometry major
- Camille (age 23), serving as a missionary in the Dominican Republic
- Mark (age 20), currently home earning money to attend college
- Valerie (age 16), High School student and all-around sweetie

My most humorous memory while a member of the ward concerns the construction of the initial Mt. Pleasant ward building (David Brant; contractor...). At the time

members were allowed to assist in the construction of our buildings, and I remember many enjoyable hours staining chair rails, etc. One evening while placing P.A. system wiring in the attic crawspace, I slipped, and fell through the ceiling, straddling one of the ceiling joists. Although we quickly replaced the drywall, the location of the repair just outside the multi-purpose room was faintly visible for many years.....

I have wonderful memories, love and gratitude for the members of the Mt. Pleasant ward who loved and accepted me, taught me the gospel, and invited me into their homes; Bob Wheeler, Eldridges, Bridges, Shurtliffs, Lowes, Volz's, Comers, Rogers and many others now gone nurtured me and my testimony, and taught me what it means to be a Latter-day Saint and humble follower of Christ. I look forward to seeing you all again.

Don Wilke
5319 Concord Crossing Dr.
Mason, OH 45040

Pictures of past Ward Members



Mary Ann Carter (Ware) family

Pictures of current Ward Members



Robert and Nancy Wheeler, Andy



Marissa Zamudio



Gary and Irene Graham



Mary Fay and David Terrell



Renee Sharrar



Sue and Richard Bigford



Troy and Sarah Henrie



David and Cathy Brant



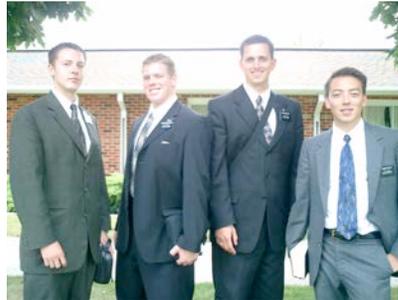
Chelsea, Melvin, Emily Ross



Jennifer Daniels



Markus Low



Elders
Elder Jolly



Larry Dean



Joseph and Julia Reed



Juanita Myers



Chieko and Mark Marshall



Zak and Brooke Loucks



Liisa and Bill Low



Bretta and John Goggen



Jim and Nancy, Robin, Anne, and Chelsea Gilbert



William and Joseph Terrell



Deborah Black



Doug and Mary Headlee



Clayton and Julie Spencer



Lillian Nonnenmacher



Ronald Crowley



Louise and Roger Hammer



Sean and Dawn Washburn Family



Dawn and Sean Washburn



Washburn children



Tianna Willson, Dee Retig,
And Janeane Willson



Anton and Cathy Jensen
and family



Anton and Cathy Jensen



Judy and Ron Crowley



Marlene Byers



Louise Shurtliff



Lucy Nance



Steve Martin



Willa and Paul Prin,
Paul, Will & Elliot



Juli and Ruben Villahermosa
Kyla, Jaya, and Lyza



Scott and Robyn Bingham
Ryan, Ty, and Grace



Deanna and Rob Marshall
Caleb and Kyle



Claire and Jerry Dimaria
Kathyn and Jessica



Maria, Isabelle & Tom Mink



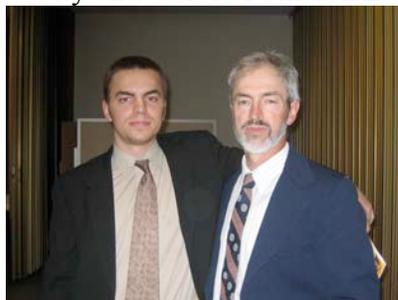
Christine Brant and daughters



Sally and Gerald Pomerantz



Robert and Emily Summers



Erick and Dennis McNerney



Virginia and Salvador Villahermosa



John Pilling



Elder Brandt and Elder Knotts

Miscellaneous Pictures



Trip to Nauvoo, Illinois, August 2001 – Gilbert family



Detroit Temple, Sealing – September 2001 – Marshall Family



Julie Spencer CMU Graduation – December 2001



Detroit Temple Trip, December 2001 – Nancy & Katherine Gilbert



Young Women Activity – Bretta Goggan and Emily Ross, February 2002



Primary Activity Day, We Learn about the Temple - February 2002



Youth Temple Trip – Detroit Michigan Temple – February 28, 2002



Open House – Kenneth Gilbert and Preston Maloney – June 1, 2002



Eagle Project – Kenneth Gilbert – June 15, 2002



Trip to Nauvoo, Illinois, June 14, 2002 – Gilbert family



Mount Pleasant Youth at Prom – November 15, 2002



Hernán and Meredith (Gilbert) Hooker, Salt Lake Temple Marriage – December 20, 2002



Eagle Scout Presentation – Kenneth Gilbert – May 1, 2003



Knopp family at Hill Cumorah Pageant, Palmyra, New York – July 15, 2003



Dimaria family at the Gilbert home, August 4, 2003



Trip to Nauvoo, Illinois, Gilbert family – August 29, 2003



Ward Baptism – September 28, 2003



Seminary – Early Morning with Zak Loucks – October 24, 2003



Ward Activity, Bretta and John Goggen – November 9, 2003



Richard and Sue Bigford family at the Gilbert's – June 23, 2004



Ward Youth Temple Trip – Detroit Michigan Temple – July 17, 2004



Ward Picnic – July 24, 2004



Young Women's Activity – March 17, 2005



Combined YM/YW Activity – Broom Hockey – April 6, 2005



Special Olympics – CMU – June 4, 2005



Special Olympics – CMU – June 4, 2005



YW's overnight – June 22, 2005



YM/YW Annual Higgins Lake Activity – July 12, 2005 – Bishop Brant



Merry Miss Achievement Days – July 27, 2005



Merry Miss Activity – October 12, 2005



Young Women Activity – October 12, 2005 – Robin Gilbert



Merry Miss Activity – November 9, 2005



Merry Miss Activity – February 1, 2006



Youth Temple Trip – Detroit Michigan Temple – February 25, 2006



Merry Miss Activity – March 1, 2006



Young Women's Activity – March 18, 2006



Young Women Recognition Night – March 22, 2006



Merry Miss Activity – April 9, 2006



Jenkin's children with dog – at Gilbert's home – May 7, 2006



Merry Miss Activity – with Brother Jenkins – May 24, 2006



Special Olympics – CMU – June 3, 2006



Chelsea Gilbert and OJ Acklin's Graduation Open House – June 7, 2006-06-23



OJ Acklin's Open House – Graduation - June 7, 2006

Outdoor Pictures of the Mount Pleasant Michigan Ward Chapel

