



Photo by Kristin Russell – Fall 2012



Photo by Jeff Manning – Spring 1976
Phase One of our building program

MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN WARD CHAPEL

**MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN WARD
50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION
JULY 23 AND 24, 2016**

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 I 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 begin 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. The Bishopric was later reorganized with Derrek Henrie as 1st counselor and Jim Melton as 2nd counselor. On April 15, 2010, Jim Melton was called as 1st counselor and Jared Peless was called as 2nd counselor.

Derreck Henrie was ordained Bishop on September 19, 2010. Jim Melton was 1st counselor and Jared Peless was 2nd counselor. On November 13, 2011 Jared Peless was called as 1st counselor and Clayton Spencer was called as 2nd counselor. On February 3, 2013, Clayton Spencer was called as 1st counselor and Jonathon Russell was called as 2nd counselor.

Jared Peless was ordained Bishop in November 2013. Jonathon Russell was called as 1st counselor and Steve Harrast was called as 2nd counselor. In September 2014, Steve Harrast was called as 1st counselor and Mark Marshall as 2nd counselor.

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. Its 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

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 Quarntorm 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 mem-

bers 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 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.

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. 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.

DEANNA MARSHALL: I served as RS president under Bishop Anton Jensen from August 2006 to whenever Louise started! (I think it was sometime at summer's end 2009 or 2010, but I can't remember the exact moment. I had 2 babies while I served as RS president, so my memory is short!) My counselors were Bretta Goggan 1st -education counselor, Claire DiMaria 2nd-homemaking counselor, and Sarah Bloomfield secretary. We created a program for sisters to set personal goals for scripture study, personal prayer, visiting teaching, RS meeting attendance, etc. and sisters earned charms for a RS charm bracelet. As a presidency we tried to focus on establishing a personal relationship with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. We also emphasized the idea that we are truly sisters and need to support and reach out to one another. There were many service oriented homemaking meetings held. It was an amazing experience for me, and I truly learned to rely on my counselors, give them responsibilities, and trust them, myself, and the prompting of the spirit to meet the needs of the sisters in our ward.

LOUISE HAMMER: Louise Hammer was called as the Relief Society President of the Mount Pleasant Ward by Bishop Anton Jensen in September of 2009. She served until April of 2014, and worked with Bishop Henrie and Bishop Peless. She had several sets of counselors: Chieko Marshall, Kimberly Vanderpool, Kathy Jensen, Becca Lowrance, Gwen Henrie and Brynn King. Aimee Peless and Sarah Cassavaugh served as secretaries.

Bringing service into Relief Society was an important aspect of her tenure. The presidency set a goal of completing and donating 100 quilts in one year to the local hospital and charities. It was a monumental task, and when the year was complete, 113 quilts had been donated. Many sisters gave their time and effort to help, and monthly activities were held to support the completion of the project. A weekend quilting activity was planned, with sisters tying 24 quilts from a Friday night to a Saturday afternoon. A bell was rung and chocolate distributed with every finished quilt. Later, nursing covers were made and donated to the hospital. File folder games were made and donated to local children's preschools. Humanitarian Aid donations were made yearly to Woodland Hospice, the Soup Kitchen, Women's Aid Services, the Red Cross and local food pantries. Sister Hammer also encouraged ward participation with the Community Compassion Network and two events were scheduled where more than 50 Ward members helped distribute food to the needy. A service challenge was issued to all sisters, and they were encouraged to write down their activities. Two jars were filled with slips of paper of service. Near the end of her calling, she joined with a group of other churches concerned about the homeless. The Isabella County Restoration House was born and the Mount Pleasant Ward provided meals and overnight help, while collaborating with other churches in the community.

A highlight was the presentation of "The 10 Virgins" musical play in March of 2011, as part of the Relief Society birthday celebration. Many hours were spent preparing costumes, music and rehearsing. Sisters who had never sung in front of an audience cheerfully volunteered to participate. Nearly 100 sisters from the Mount Pleasant Ward and the Ithaca Branch were in attendance. It was a memorable experience for all who participated and watched. Kimberly Vanderpool made many of the costumes, Louise Hammer played and taught the music, and Neil Vanderpool directed the play. Participants were Tami Melton, LaDean Anderson, Julie Spencer, Jean Bess, Kristin Russell, Lori Martin, Helen Bess (Anderson) Misty Wright, Dawn Bohjanen, Danielle DeGriselles and Audrey Smart (Tanner).

The presidency was dedicated to holding monthly meetings as well as yearly Visiting Teaching Conferences. Classes were taught in areas of preparedness, family history, missionary work, homemaking skills, with always a service project at the beginning or end of the meeting.

BRETTA GOGGAN: Bretta Goggan was called as Mt. Pleasant Relief Society President in March 2014, with Gwen Henrie as First Counselor, Sarah Bloomfield as Second Counselor, and Sarah Cassavaugh as Secretary. Marlene Byers was called as Relief Society Secretary in January 2015, when Sarah was called to be Primary Secretary. Service projects have included some for Christmas Outreach and the Women's Shelter in Mt. Pleasant, as well as Sole Hope (solehope.org) and Days for Girls (daysforgirls.org).

Bishop Jared Peless has been Bishop during this time, with Steve Harrast and Mark Marshall as First and Second Counselors.

**Mt. Pleasant Ward Remodeling Projects Following Phase 3 Dedication:
Primarily Completed 1999/2000**

Chapel:

Refinished pews and chairs on the stand from red to muted red/purple upholstery

Added sound proofing panels on walls to enhance the acoustics

Replaced carpet

Curtains/drapes replaced

Added ranks to the organ

Light fixtures were replaced

Cultural Hall:

Put a wood floor in the gym to replace the carpet

Primary Room:

Dark paneling was replaced

Building:

Storefront glass entryways added

HVAC modifications made

Sisal wall and chair railings added

Exterior/Grounds:

Landscaping was modified

Concrete walks/curbs added to existing

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRIDGES FAMILY IN THE MT. PLEASANT WARD – 1968 to 1996 and BEYOND

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.

I was offered a professorship at CMU which after much prayerful deliberation we decided to take. 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 dependent branch [dependent on the Midland Ward]. Jay Shurtliff was the Branch President with Monte Higgins and David Reid serving as counselors.

Several other families arrived within a few weeks that added members to 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 of 1968, 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 then we knew what it was all about!



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

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.



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.



The Bridges Family in the mid 1980s
Left to right: Terilyn, Carin, Sherwood,
Ann Marie, Dyana, Jenifer

A SUMMARY OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE IN MICHIGAN

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].

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 [twice]; 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 in Mt Pleasant and moved to Monroe, Utah where we spent four years building our retirement home. We then served a CES mission in Monterrey Mexico. Upon our return we served as home and visiting teachers and for ten years we served as the Stake Family History trainers in the Monroe Utah Stake. Ann Marie served In the Relief Society and was also Ward and Stake Organist.



We have traveled a fair bit and in our wanderings we found Lake Havasu City, Arizona where we have a home and where we spend our winters. It came time to downsize and simplify our lives in 2010 and so we sold our home in Monroe and moved to Springville [suburban Provo], Utah where we now live in a 55+ community and where we spend our summers.

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 obtained his bachelors degree at CMU. They are the parents of three sons, one daughter and four grandchildren. They now reside in Bell Buckle, [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 11 grandchildren. They now reside 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 and he joined the Church while living in Mt Pleasant. Rick served a mission in Peru and in 2000 was called to be the mission president of the Oakland, California Mission. Rick completed his bachelors and MBA degrees at CMU. They are the parents of four sons, two daughters and five grandchildren. They now reside in St Joseph, Michigan.



Dyana & Rick DeVries at the Washington DC Temple

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



Jenifer & Wayne Boren at the Jordan River Utah Temple

AS WE LOOK NOW



Terilyn, Carin, Dyana, Jenifer



Sherwood & Ann Marie

MONTE AND SADIE HIGGINS

We (Sadie and Monte) moved to Mount Pleasant in June of 1966. At that time we were members of the Midland Ward and attended a dependent Sunday School in the basement of the Bank of Alma. All rooms in the basement (including the restrooms) were used for classes. We all went to Midland for evening Sacrament meetings. Shortly after that, the Alma Branch of the Lansing Michigan Stake was created with Jay Shurtliff as Branch President. David Reid was the First Counselor. Monte Higgins was the Second Counselor and Bob Jellison was the Clerk. We started holding all three Sunday meetings in the basement of the Bank of Alma.

Fundraising activities in those days (so we could contribute to building funds) included: Picking up and removing stones from the acreage donated by Brother and Sister Keith and Mae Marcy. The stones had to be removed every spring (ground frost forced them to the surface) so that we could plant, raise and harvest navy (or white) beans for sale. Members would show up early on a Saturday morning and walk along beside Brother Marcy's tractor-towed wagon and toss the stones (usually about softball to cantaloupe size) into the wagon.

Eventually President Shurtliff suggested the Branch members fast and pray for more growth. Our prayers were answered; however, the growth happened in Mount Pleasant (courtesy of hirings at Central Michigan University). The Ward then moved its meetings to rented rooms in Vowles School. The Gym was used for Sacrament/Sunday School and various classrooms were used for classes. Land was purchased on Crawford Road and a First Phase building was constructed. At that time the Church purchased more land than was needed, but the Ward members utilized the excess land as a fundraising project.

The Mount Pleasant Ward members planted, grew and harvested sweet corn and sold it to area supermarkets (Ric's and Westside IGA). We also did inventory at Zody's/Yankee store as a fundraiser. Members congregated at 9:00 pm and counted everything in the store until about 2:00 am. We were paid for our efforts. An additional fund-raising effort included making and selling tacos at the county fair at Island Park. One year, the river rose over its bank and we had to walk around on pallets to stay out of the water. We even had Clarence Tuma (owner of the Ember's) buy one of our tacos and remark how good it was. We also made and sold pizzas with members turning out to assemble the pre-ordered pizzas in the gym of Vowles School and then deliver them.

In the early days, it was not unusual for active members to hold multiple positions in the branch/ward organization. Often sisters taught in Relief Society and Primary, led music, did visiting teaching, and taught Sunday school at the same time. Brothers worked with Scouts, hoed beets at the Stake Farm, taught Sunday school and priesthood and home teaching. Being a small unit, members were very close and felt like a family. Ward/branch activities were held often. If anyone needed help, basically the whole branch/ward family turned out to help them. Some home/visiting teaching routes often stretched 100 miles or more, yet almost all families were visited each month.

Back then, the Church encouraged participation in building funds. For Mount Pleasant Ward members that included building funds for the local Ward building, the Midland Michigan Stake Center, the Washington D.C. Temple, the Chicago Temple, and the Detroit Temple. We even had a special building fund for the pipe organ. Bishop Ware moved here from Salt Lake City to work for CMU. He was a technician for the Tabernacle organ. He insisted that our building would have a pipe organ. Salt Lake would only provide their share of funds to purchase an electronic organ like all the other wards have. So we had the building fund, collected enough money, and Sherwood Bridges traveled to bring the pipes and other stuff back here and some of us got to help install it. What a project, and one we were all proud of.

Fun activities were the norm. The Ward that plays together stays together. The Ward organized youth Temple trips to Washington and we caravanned down, stayed in motels, and did youth baptisms. The youth would be given their own money each day for meals and such and one of them, who shall remain nameless (but sounds a lot like Cece Grant), ordered a virgin Pina colada at a semi-fancy restaurant, drank it down like a Sprite and spent most of her dinner allowance for that. There was also a Ward organized caravan to Nauvoo and Carthage for the youth. A youth canoe trip down the Chippewa in the middle of winter was also had. Ward campouts at the Boy Scout Camp on the river west of town were also had. Ward talent shows, dinners, dances, Roadshows and other activities were also popular.

The Higgins family lived there from June of 1966 to June of 2000. Sadie taught in the Coleman and Mount Pleasant, Michigan School Systems. She spent 37.5 years in classrooms on the Navajo Reservation, Coleman, Michigan and Mount Pleasant. Monte spent 34 years working for Central Michigan University for the public television station.

Our three sons were born in Alma and Mount Pleasant. Larnie, our oldest son went on a mission to Sacramento California. He enrolled at BYU and was hired after his first year of classes by Discovery Channel in Bethesda, Maryland. He now lives in Marietta, Georgia with his wife (Susan) and three children (son, daughter, son). He is the owner/president of Planet Studio, a graphic design firm in Atlanta, Georgia with 16 employees. Susan was a stay at home mom when the kids were young, now she is the office manager for his business. Their oldest son, just graduated from the University of Georgia.

Loren Higgins graduated from CMU with a fine arts degree with an emphasis in photography. He spent two years as a missionary in the Bordeaux France Mission. He is now the director of the forensic photo lab for the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). He also spent two years as a crime scene investigator for the APD before they asked him to return to the photo lab. He lives in Rio Rancho with his wife Jenny, who is a licensed paramedic in Albuquerque, and young son, Liam.

Jason Higgins moved to New Mexico after marrying Cari in Mount Pleasant. He attended school at Central New Mexico Community College and got a degree in Business. He is now the director of surveillance for a large Native American casino in Bernalillo, New Mexico. He has two children, a boy and a girl. Cari teaches school for Rio Rancho Public Schools. We get to see our three grandchildren here often. The ones in Georgia maybe 2 or 3 times a year.

Sadie and I were called as Stake Missionaries when we first moved to Albuquerque. We spent 24 months working with the full-time couple from Magna, Utah. In addition to working there 3 to 4 days per week, we attended church in Estancia, New Mexico (50 miles away) every Sunday. We taught in Sunday School. Monte played the piano for Sacrament Meetings and Priesthood. Sadie taught Relief Society. We taught Temple Preparation classes, and filled in where needed (almost weekly in a small branch).

After moving from Albuquerque to Rio Rancho, New Mexico, we were called as Church Service Missionaries (CSM) and served for 31 months helping members with financial problems to create and manage budgets. When we were released from the CSM position, they called us to do the same thing for the Stake. In the local ward, Monte served as Ward music chairman and Sacrament meeting chorister. He also played the piano for Priesthood. We were also called to work in the Primary (Nursery Leaders). Sadie taught Primary and was Visiting Teacher Coordinator. We were also Ward activities chairmen.

Enough about us. We are still alive and well, active in the Church, and have fond memories of our time in Mount Pleasant and all our great friends there. You are often thought of and missed.



EILEEN SCHUBRING

It is thrilling to be a part of the Mt. Pleasant Ward 50th anniversary. I was not in the original group of families from Utah who joined up with the few scattered Mt Pleasant members that met in a bank each Sunday. When this small, humble, faithful group of saints fasted and prayed for members, I became part of the group that was prompted to hear what they had to say. Longtime friend Clark Volz and his wife first presented the Gospel plan to me and were soon joined by Ann and Sherwood Bridges and family. Being in the middle of my college education and early 1970s life style, I was curious but had only a small interest. With the intensity of their beliefs, their sincere interest in my behalf and welfare and their daily prayers, I finally agreed to take the discussions.

At that time, the Eastern religions of karma and reincarnation were of interest to me because of the ideas of “existing” prior to this mortal life. Thinking I was about to drop a religious bomb on everyone, before we had even an opening prayer at the first missionary discussion I announced that “I knew I had existed before.” It became very quiet for a few moments and then one of the Elders said, “As a matter of fact, you did exist before this mortal life and this is how it happened”. I don’t think that is what they planned to discuss that evening, but that is what we talked about.

I liked my new friends. The Mormons were few, but it seemed like I was always bumping into them. Frank Eldridge and Jay Shurtliff were my instructors, I worked at the library and saw Sherwood Bridges nearly every day and I ended up working for Ann. Jack Ware was in the Music Department, I ran into him once a week. However, I still enjoyed keeping company with my non-Mormon college friends. At one point I thanked all of my new Mormon friends, and said I was not interested in their Church..... but still they fellowshipped me. One night I listened to a tape Clark brought over about “Floyd Weston’s Testimony, Seventeen Points of the True Church”. I found the blue Book of Mormon, with Moroni on the cover buried among my other college textbooks, dusted it off and opened it to the first few pages. There were the verses with a promise from Moroni 10:4-5. It seemed appropriate that I get on my knees, and then I read those verses and asked if all this was true and went to bed. The sweet feeling of truth came over me and the next morning I knew the peace that truth brings.

It took 18 months. I became a Mormon in June 1975. With deep gratitude, I will always remember those special members in Mt. Pleasant who thought of me. You have made a difference in my life.

DAVE AND KATHY BRANT

Dave and 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 dependant 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 independant branch with Jay Shurtliff as branch president. Dave was soon called to be the finance clerk because of his experience with finance schooling in the service. Kathy was called to teach primary. Her class was held in the lounge area of the women's restroom.

The Mt. Pleasant area grew and we were soon joined by other strong families that included the Bridges, Headlees, Becks, Bleaks, and Griggs. We were also joined by other move ins and converts. As most of these families came from the Mt. Pleasant area the branch was moved to Mt. Pleasant where we met in the Vowles elementary school where Sadie Higgins was a teacher.

Richard Headlee was called to become bishop of the Mt. Pleasant ward. At that time scout troop 648 was chartered and Dave was called as scout master. He served 3 years in this capacity. Kathy began teaching the MIA girls in what was then known as the Mutual Improvement Association.

Dave served in several bishoprics and on the high council until 1982 when he was again called as scoutmaster. He 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 November of 2005. His counselors were Bill Low and Roger Hammer for the duration of that calling.

Kathy served as a primary teacher, Relief Society teacher, Relief Society President, Relief Society Secretary, Primary Counselor, Young Women's teacher, Stake Relief Society Counselor, Stake Junior Sunday School Coordinator, Ward Young Women's President, Stake Young Women's President, and ward Family History Center director.

The Brant's added 6 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 (Cluley) in 1980. At this time they have 26 grand children (expecting number 27) and 9 great grand children.

Dave and Kathy have recently served as nursery leaders and primary teachers. Dave is currently serving in his 45th year of scouting as an assistant scout master. He is also District Advancement Chairman. Dave is still in the building business which he began in 1970. He has spent a great deal of time and energy the past few years working on geneology and becoming involved with historical societies. He has 7 patriot ancestors and has enjoyed learning about them. He is serving as commander of this areas Sons of the Union and 1st vice President of this area's Sons of the American Revolution.

About a year and a half ago the Brants decided they needed to down size. They built a very small home back next door to where they raised their family on Lincoln Road. Dave still enjoys his horses and gardening. This down sizing has allowed both of them to enjoy more time with their family; especially grand kids. Kathy teaches fourth Sunday Relief Society and appreciates only having to prepare once a month because it takes her all month. :) She also loves spending time at Higgins lake in the summer and listening to digital books. She has also joined with some of the ward sisters in traveling to the temple each month. They have also traveled to several of the church historical sites. They call themselves the "Temple Gang."





THE LOWS

We, Bill and Mari Low, moved to Mt. Pleasant in July of 1973. Bill had just completed work on a PhD at BYU and started work for Central Michigan University. The LDS Ward met at Vowles School at the time, but the following Spring work began on the initial LDS Church-owned building in Mt. Pleasant.

Our oldest son, Markus, was two years old when we moved into the Ward. Our other three children were born in Mt. Pleasant--Paul in 1973, Annalisa in 1978 and Maija in 1980. Maija was the first baby to be blessed in the newly completed chapel added in the second phase.

In the 43 years our family has been in the Ward, we have served in very many callings—too many to list. Of them all, Bill’s favorite was teaching the High Priest’s group. Mari has held just about every calling a woman can have in the ward, except for Sunday School teacher, Scout Committee Chair person and Seminary teacher. Markus has been initiating the testimony meetings, has rang the Sunday school bell faithfully for many years and likes to teach the Gospel Essentials class.

Paul now lives in Virginia, is a geologist and finds all kinds of other interesting things to do. Annalisa lives in Anacortes, Wa with her husband, and works as a Kindergarten teacher. She is actively running races and loves to hike with her husband. Maijaleena, our math nerd, lives in Denver area, is an actuary and a competitive runner. She and her cyclist husband love their 3 dogs.

Bill retired 10 years ago and states he is “trying to return the earth to its paradisiacal glory”, ten acres at a time. Mari just can’t give up working yet, and spends a couple days a week writing prescriptions for all the good stuff.

Bill recalls: I think it was 1977 or 78 when we began construction on the chapel. Our local ward’s share of the cost was to be about \$120,000. The Church Building Department would pay the rest. But, that local share was very large for such a small group of people—about 20 families that could contribute. Some of those families were students and had very little with which to contribute. Our family contributed as much of it in labor as we could. For instance I (Bill) did all of the staining of wood trim in the chapel. Some things, e.g. the arches, organ box, and pews came pre-stained, but I did everything else. I remember the evening when I stained the trim for the platform upon which the organ rests. The light was poor; the lighting wasn’t yet installed and we only had a few portable shop lights by which to work. The organ was well over my head and poorly lit—so it was hard to get the color of the trim to match the color of the organ. I returned several days later--after the trim had been varnished and installed—to find Bishop Bridges and Br. Ware looking at the organ and trim. I had gotten the trim a lighter hue than the organ box and Bishop Bridges wanted to take it back down and have it redone. But, Br. Ware said, “Let’s leave it, I like the contrast”. Bishop Bridges deferred to Br. Ware and it remains a lighter hue today.



JOHN & BRETТА GOGGAN

John and Bretta were married October 31, 1995 after graduating from CMU in May 1995. Missionaries found them through door-knocking the next month. Bretta initially tried to gently push them off, stating John had an important work deadline of December 31st. Luckily, the missionaries remembered and returned in January 1996 to teach the discussions.

When John and Bretta were married in a Methodist church, they had asked the minister to change the “until death do us part” wording to “forever” (and he did). They always believed that marriage and families are forever, so learning about the Temple and eternal families made sense. The Word of Wisdom made sense too. Bretta occasionally drank coffee in college before joining the

church to stay awake for studying and exams. John had told her “when we graduate, you are not drinking coffee any more” (which is the first and last “bossy” thing she can recall him saying to her).

The Goggans were baptized on March 6, 1996 and sealed November 1, 1997. They have served in many different callings, currently as Ward Clerk and Relief Society President. They live in Weidman with their cats and their membership has always been in the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

ROB & DEANNA MARSHALL

My name is Deanna Brant Marshall and I have spent all of my life in the Mt. Pleasant Ward. My earliest memory is of attending church at Vowels Elementary just down the street from the church. I remember attending sacrament meeting in the 1st phase that is now the primary room. (It seemed so much bigger then!) We had lots of pancake dinners and ward socials served there from the first kitchen that is now a storage closet.

As we worked toward adding the 2nd phase, consisting of the chapel and classrooms, I remember the sacrifices the members made to fund the project. Our family ate countless meals of navy bean soup which I dislike to this day. Every stray dollar went to the building fund.

The 3rd phase (gym and accompanying rooms) came along just as I was old enough to attend dances. I was so proud of that cultural hall even though the floor was covered in red carpet. We hosted our first stake dance there, and it was so much fun.

As the years have flown by I have been influenced by so many members. We have a unique ward that constantly changes due to students and professors at CMU. People like the Wheelers, Henries, Eldredges, Lows, Higgins, Wares, Brants, Shurtliffs, Martins, Bridges, Rileys, Hammers, and countless others taught me and helped build my testimony. They gave of their time to take me and other youth to our temple district of Washington DC to perform baptisms. Does any one remember the CB handle of the flying blue nun Tom Martin used for our Ford van? Brant cabin youth swim days were a big hit. Also the Brants hosted mud football in there field for the youth every year. It was a great tradition! People were always willing to step up and help out.

As an adult I see many of these same people influencing my children for good. Many people that are newer to the ward selflessly give of themselves as well. They too give of their time and talents to help grow my children's testimonies.

I met Rob Marshall at a tri-stake dance on February 12, 1988. My dad drove a van full of 7 young women to the Lansing stake center in a blinding snow-storm. Rob and I were married for time and all eternity on February 12, 1992 in the Chicago temple. He had just recently completed his mission in the Netherlands and Belgium from 1989-1991.

It has been exciting to see each of my children baptized by their dad in the same baptismal fount as I was baptized by my dad in 1978. I love that my dad attends scout camp with his grandsons, just as he did for his sons and other young men.

We have a strong heritage in the Mt. Pleasant ward. Whether we have been here since the beginning, or for a few weeks, we all can do so much good. The Robert Marshall family consists of Rob and Deanna, along with our children: Caleb 15, Kyle 15, Colin 9, Regan 7, and Caden 5. We are expecting a new baby at the end of the year.

We feel truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful ward.



DERREK & GWEN HENRIE

We moved into the ward in August of 2004. Derrek had previously moved into the ward as a child in 1977.

- Derrek has served as Home teacher, Elders quorum president, as a counselor in the bishopric, as a high councilman, as bishop and currently as stake president.
- Gwen has served as a visiting teacher, counselor in the relief society presidency, ward activities chair, seminary teacher, young womens presidency counselor, stake girls camp assistant director, and currently in relief society presidency
- Drake has served in scouting
- Erika has served in primary
- Abby has served in nursery and primary



Abigail, Gwen, Jared, Hailey, Derrek, Colleen, Clark, Drake and Erika Henrie

Drake is 25, married to Erika on April 20th 2013, and has one son: Clark 9 months. Jared Henrie is 23 yrs old and attends BYU-I. Abigail is 20 yrs old and attends BYU-I. Colleen is 18 yrs old, just graduated MPHS and will attend BYU-I this fall. Hailey is 15 yrs old and a sophomore this fall at MPHS.



Betty Henrie-- with Drake, Derrek and Clark. Betty lived in the ward with her husband Roger for 20 plus years.

TROY & SARAH HENRIE

Troy moved to Mt. Pleasant with his family from Utah when he was 5 years old in 1978. His dad, Roger Henrie, took a position at CMU teaching Geography. He is the youngest of 6 kids. His mom, Betty, worked as a Ward Clerk in the health care field at Pleasant Manor which is now the Laurels. Betty served in the Primary presidency and the Young Women's Presidency and Roger served in different callings including the Bishopric. Roger and Betty retired in 2000 to American Fork Utah. It was returning home for them but for Troy Mt. Pleasant would always be home.

Sarah was born and raised in the Mt. Pleasant Ward. Her parents, Dave and Kathy Brant, also served in many different callings including Young Women's and Primary Presidency's and Dave in the Bishopric and as Bishop. Troy and I were friends growing up in the Mt. Pleasant Ward together. We shared the same circle of guy and girl friends and attended Ward and Stake activities together. We were always friends and even went on one date as teenagers. Troy left for his mission to London in 1994 the same year that I left to attend BYU Hawaii. We had both previously spent some time in Idaho and Utah working on our educations. When Troy left for his mission I wrote him a "Good Luck" letter thinking we would catch up again in 2 years. BUT, he wrote back...and then I wrote back...and that was how it went for the next 2 years sharing our lives, experiences, and spiritual growth during this great time of life. I was home in May of 1996 when Troy returned from his mission and after 2 weeks we were engaged. We were married in the Chicago Temple August 8th, 1996. We will have been married 20 years this summer. We lived in Utah and then Chicago while Troy got his education as a Chiropractor. We four kids; our oldest Madalynn is 17, our next child is Gracie who is 15, our oldest boy is Jesse who is 12 and our youngest is Sam who is 9. Our two beautiful girls were born while living in the Chicago area, while both boys were born in the ward.

Over the years we have had several different callings of course. Sarah has spent a lot of time in Primary with different classes including Nursery. She is now serving in the Young Women's Presidency. Troy has spent time as the Young Men's president, Sunday School president, Seminary teacher and is now serving as Elders Quorum president. We love the Mt. Pleasant Ward, it is our home.



Jesse, Gracie, Troy, Madalynn, Sarah and Sam

SHAWNA KINNE (NÉE REVOLDT)

I am 24 years old. I have been sealed to my husband Adam, 31, for 4 years and we have a 2 year old son, Elias. We've recently moved into a house in Ionia, Michigan and attend the Portland Branch in the Lansing Stake. I'm now the 2nd counselor in the Relief Society for my branch and Adam is the Elders Quorum President while Elias loves spending time in nursery.

I lived in the Mount Pleasant ward from August 2010 to May 2012. I attended Central Michigan University and during my first tour of the campus when I became a student I spotted the missionaries, broke from the group and grabbed their number. I had known about the church and wanted to be a member for years, and at 18 in the Mount Pleasant ward I was finally baptized in October 2010.

I served as a Nursery worker, one of the best callings ever! Every ward and branch I go to now I talk about nursery as my first calling, hoping they put me in with little kids again. It worked when I was in the Midland 1st ward and they put me in Sunbeams, another one of the best callings ever. I'm so grateful for my time in the Mount Pleasant nursery, especially now that I have a nursery aged child of my own. Before the Mount Pleasant Ward, I had never spent any time babies or toddlers, so the experience was a big help.

The YSA in Mount Pleasant was huge when I joined and for my first college spring break some of the other members took me on a church history and temple trip through Illinois and Ohio. We went to the temples in Chicago, Nauvoo, and Columbus, and visited Kirtland and Carthage as well. It was a great way to do temple work and learn more about our history, especially as a brand new member just starting to get to know the culture of the church. Best spring break ever!

I met my husband in the Mount Pleasant Meetinghouse. He was from the Midland 1st ward but Mount Pleasant was pretty much YSA central. On Friday, January 14th 2011 Mt. P had a YSA glow-in-the-dark volley ball event for Outreach in the gym. That is where I first met Adam. The moment I saw him I got butterflies and of course I wanted to be on his team. When they were numbering us off for sides I tried to switch positions with my friend so I'd be on Adam's team and get to know him better. I didn't explain "So I can be with the cute guy!" so she kept switching back and I ended up running to the end of the line hoping I might be on the right side anyway. Nope. It's okay though, because at a fireside 2 days later he asked for my phone number and the rest is history.

For my endowment and wedding, the Hammers of the Mount Pleasant ward (Sister Louise and Brother Roger) played a big role. Sister Hammer was my escort for the endowment in Detroit and Brother Hammer was a witness for the sealing in Chicago. He had always been my Home Teacher and she was my Visiting teacher for a time, both making me feel welcome and acting as ward parents since before I was baptized. I had the best ward family in Mount Pleasant and my life has been forever changed for the better because of the time spent there with the wonderful people who made the ward an incredible place to be. My YSA siblings, the class teachers, the event organizers, the music makers, the bishop who cared and his brother who helped my husband propose, I'm grateful for them and the experiences they gave me. Mount Pleasant will always be my 'Home' ward because of them.





THE JENKINS

Jenna, Jerry, Matthew, Chantel, Rachel Josh



THE LOWRANCES

Becca, Steven, Bindy



NATHAN AND MARIAH ROGERS

Our family moved here in October 2007, when Ethan was 5 months old. Blake, Ella and Clay were born into this ward. My callings here have been: Young Women counselor, Nursery teacher, Primary President, Young Women Advisor, Nursery leader, Primary Secretary, Primary second counselor. Nathan has been: Sunday school teacher 12/13 yr. olds, YM 2nd counselor, YM 1st counselor, Varsity Crew leader, High Council, Primary Teacher





TOM AND ROSEANNA RILEY

Tom and I were married at the Lansing Stake Center on November 29, 1969. We have five children: Gary (45), Christina (41), Amy (38), Bryan (36) and Phillip (33). We moved to Mount Pleasant in 1980.

Past callings for Tom include Counselor in the Elders Quorum, President of the Elders Quorum. In the past, I served in Primary. Currently, Tom is the Ward Employment Specialist and I am the Librarian.



THE WEISSENS

Katie, Mindy, Noah, Brian, Nathaniel, Jenny



LOANNA GRUBB

I moved to Mount Pleasant about 2 1/2 years ago from Lansing. My daughter and son-in-law are Tom and Roseanna Riley. My present calling is a Visiting Teacher; in my old ward I had several callings.

MAYNARD AND JOYCE FAILING

We lived in Mount Pleasant before the Ward was organized. Maynard joined the Church in 1965 and attended the Alma Branch. The Alma Branch moved to Mount Pleasant in 1966. We met in the elementary school. Richard Headly and several families moved to Mount Pleasant and formed a new unit. We drove 40 miles to church, had some great times and many blessings in Mount Pleasant.

In 1970 we were asked to go to Greenville and help the branch there. Maynard was called as Branch President and served three years. He was called on the High Council and served five years. We served a full-time mission in Nauvoo, IL in 2002-2003, a wonderful experience. We sent our son, Jared on a mission to Guam and South Pacific. Our grandson, Peter, served a mission to the Vietnamese people in San Francisco, CA.

Maynard has served as a 1st and 2nd counselor in the Bishopric for 18 years. My wife, Joyce, and I have been married for 63 years. We have 3 children, 15 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. We live on the farm of Carson City and raise cattle, horses, hay and grandchildren.



DELL AND SUSAN HUNT

Dell and I were in the Ward about 16 years ago and were the Activity Chair people for the ward. We had lot of fun doing many ward activities and a roadshow from back then. We left and moved to Jackson as Susan found a job working for Washtenaw County Government IT as their Telecommunications Manager maintaining their phone system and all telephony needs. Dell went to work for the City of Ann Arbor in the Court System. After having their son Benjamin in 2006 within a few years they moved back up north to Mt. Pleasant for Dell to go back to school and be closer with Susan's family. Dell will graduate in August 2016 with his Bachelors in Business Administration with a focus on Graphic Design and Social Media. He has already found employment in that field as a Marketing Communications Manager however they are currently buying a home in Mt. Pleasant. Their plan is to settle in Mt. Pleasant. Susan homeschools Benjamin and manages their home business manufacturing and distributing their Snapshots Across America game with other products in the works. The picture of our family was taken when we went to Indianapolis for the Indianapolis Temple open house.



Cub scouts doing a service project, raking leaves for one of our ward members.



Cubscouts learning about Forensics and finger printing from Officer Browne of the Mt. Pleasant police department.



CHUCK & PEGGY NORISEZ



BILL & SARAH BLOOMFIELD

Bill and Sarah Bloomfield and infant daughter Rachel moved into the Mt. Pleasant Ward April 2002. We moved to Mt. Pleasant for Bill to attend graduate school at CMU and to be near Sarah’s parents Gary and Irene Graham. Upon graduation, he was offered a job position as a School Counselor in Vestaburg, and we stayed in the area. We have had three more children since moving here: Hannah, Jack, and Ike. Sarah accepted a position as a Registered Nurse at the Woodland Hospice House in Mt. Pleasant in 2011. We still live in Mt. Pleasant and love the Mt. Pleasant Ward.

Bill has served as a counselor in the Young Men’s presidency, as an Assistant Scout Master, as a Primary teacher, Sunday School teacher, and as Executive Secretary. Sarah has served in Relief Society presidencies, the Primary presidency, as a Primary teacher and chorister, and as Family History Director. Currently Rachel and Hannah are both in the Young Women’s organization. Rachel is a YW pianist, and Hannah is serving in the Beehive presidency. Jack and Ike both attend Primary and love their Primary teachers.



**PRIMARY NATIVITY PROGRAM
20 DECEMBER 2015**

Ethan Rogers, Jack Bloomfield, Lukas DiMaria



**YW IN EXCELLENCE
18 NOV 2015**

Hannah Bloomfield, Emma Russell, Kate Peless



Kent Marshall, Max Mink, Ike Bloomfield



JAMES AND JEAN BESS

James, Jean, Steven, and Helen Bess moved into Shepherd within the Mount Pleasant Ward boundaries on March 1st, 1996. We were welcomed in a very warm manner as the people of the ward helped us move into the house we still live in today. The following year, Ryan was born to us in July of 1997 which made our family complete. We were less active although we did attend occasionally. Our real contact with the Church was through our Home and Visiting Teacher married team of Clayton and Julie Spencer, when they moved into Shepherd Village. This would later be a challenge for them that they did not back away from. We are thankful for them and their willingness to put up with us. Dave Brant was the bishop at the time and he often extended warmth and love to us through his visits. But for ten years we were stubbornly inactive.

We continued our on again off again relationship with the Church, and even attended some other churches, but none felt right for us. Then Steven, Helen and Ryan were asking a lot of questions about religion and God and wanted to be baptized in a church they were attending with some school friends. But in 2005, Elders Adam Hightower and Brandon Brant came into our home and retaught the Gospel lessons to all of us. So, with the ward makeup at that time, two great and wonderful Missionaries, and three eager children, Jean and I decided that it was time to recommit ourselves fully to the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So on June 25th, 2006 Jim was able to baptize all three children, which unknown to us was scheduled at the same time as the previous Ward Reunion. What a great and spiritual day that was!

There have been many fun times during those years for our family: Girls high adventure down the Chippewa River; Girls camp; Scout Camp; LDS Encampment; Scout high adventure through Pictured Rocks; Christmas Pixie program; Choir; Linger Longers; Valentine's Day decorating; Priesthood BBQ's; Pies for guys; and too many to list or remember.

Our family is genuinely grateful to be members of this ward, to those that built it in the early years, to those who have moved through, to the current members, and to those who insisted on a pipe organ. All of it makes this ward truly unique and special.

MARLENE AND LAURA BYERS

At the end of August 1998, Marlene journeyed from Jackson, Michigan to "up North" to her brother's home in Farwell, and began working and taking graduate classes at CMU. While living in Farwell, she attended the Clare Branch in Harrison, but often visited the Mount Pleasant Ward as Susan (her sister) and Dell lived in St. Louis and served as activity coordinators. After graduating from CMU in May 2001, she continued working at CMU and moved to Mount Pleasant. Susan and Dell moved back to Jackson for a few years, and now they are back in Mount Pleasant.

After a long search, Marlene finally bought a house in July 2010, and Laura and Howard (her parents) moved in with her a few months later. This had been the plan for several years. They stayed in Jackson to take care of Laura's mother, and she passed in the summer of 2008 at the age of 104. It took a couple of years of packing, garage sales, etc. to get ready for the move, but they finally made it, and they loved it here. Howard passed away suddenly in 2013. Now it is just Laura and Marlene. We are blessed to have family close by. We enjoy our quiet, peaceful, nevertheless busy lives.

While living in the Mount Pleasant Ward, Marlene has served in Primary, Sunday School, and Relief Society; worked in the Family History Center and the Materials Center; and prints the Sunday program. Laura and Marlene have also served as a visiting teachers.

The Hammer Family

Roger and Louise Hammer moved to Mt. Pleasant, MI in August 1987 to take a position on the faculty of the Health Sciences department at Central Michigan University. Roger had just completed his Ph.D. from BYU in Exercise Physiology and this was his first job after graduation. Louise says that as they pulled off the highway into Mt. Pleasant she felt as if she was coming home. They came to Michigan with two children, Austin (age 2) and Mari (age 4) and moved into student housing in Kewadin Village where new faculty were allowed to stay. When they went to pick up the key to their apartment they noticed a picture of an LDS temple on the wall of the supervisor's apartment. They were thrilled to meet Phil Peet and his family. Word that Roger had played volleyball on the BYU team preceded his arrival and he received his first calling as Stake Volleyball Director before the first Sunday even rolled around. Within two weeks of his arrival he was called as Elder's Quorum president and in October was interviewed to be bishop and was called in February 1988. He was released in February 1991 and called to the Stake High Council where he served for six years. He later served as counselor to Bishop David Brant for seven years and as Varsity Coach/Venturer Advisor for seven years. Two more children were born to Roger and Louise, Adam (1988) and Emily (1991).

Louise was called to work in the Relief Society on the Homemaking Committee under President Kay Martin. She then was called to serve in Nursery, and for the next 15 years served in Primary as a counselor in the presidency, chorister, and pianist. During this time she also served as organist and choir pianist. In 1995 she was called as the Young Women president by Bishop Bob Becker and served for 3 years. She briefly taught in Relief Society and then was called to be ward music chairman, organist, and choir pianist. From 2004-2009 she served in the Stake Young Women's presidency. A month after she was released she was called to be the Relief Society President by Bishop Anton Jensen and served until 2014. Shortly thereafter she was called to serve in the Stake Relief Society Presidency and currently serves as the Young Single Adult Advisor with Roger.

The Hammer children thrived in the Mt. Pleasant ward and made many friends. Both Adam and Austin earned their Eagle Scout awards with the assistance of John Goggan, Scout Master. Austin was called to serve a mission to the Seoul West, Korea Mission from 2005-2007. Adam served in the Taipei, Taiwan Mission from 2008-2010. Mari earned her Young Women's Medallion in 2000, and Emily received hers in 2006. One of the most memorable experiences for the Hammer family was the Stake Pioneer Trek in 2006. Roger and Louise served as "Ma and Pa" and Emily and Adam were children on the trek. It was a humbling experience to push ourselves to the extreme in hot, humid conditions. Adam helped push every cart up heartbreak hill until well after midnight and ended up in the hospital with dehydration, along with several other youth. He was able to recover and complete the trek with his family. Some of the events were: catching live turkeys and then preparing them for a meal, a dance with live music, skits, testimony meeting, and a quiet reflection time.

In all Mt. Pleasant ward has been a wonderful place to raise our family, make great friends and develop leadership skills while learning how to serve one another.





GARY AND IRENE GRAHAM

Gary, Irene and daughter Wendy moved into the Mount Pleasant Ward on June 27, 1997 from Fort Wayne Indiana. Both Gary and Irene were born in Michigan - Gary in Isabella County and Irene in Ogemaw County. We both graduated from Mount Pleasant High School. Gary also graduated from Central Michigan University with Bachelor Degrees in Physics and Math. We married December 22, 1962. We were introduced to the Church in Fort Wayne, IN by stake missionaries and joined January 8, 1971. We left the Mount Pleasant area in August 1967 and returned 30 years later after Gary retired from GTE Data Services. We have 26 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Wendy was 15 when we came back to Mount Pleasant. She is the youngest of seven children: 3 sons and 4 daughters (none were born in this area), but Sarah and Bill Bloomfield and their four children live in the area, and in our ward. Wendy received her Young Women's Recognition medallion while living here.

Irene has served as a counselor in Young Women, President of Young Women, a counselor in Relief Society and Relief Society President; a nursery leader, a Primary teacher to the CTR-5 class, the Ward FHC director, and is presently the Laurel adviser in Young Women. I also serve in the Detroit temple. Gary served as a membership clerk for several years, He passed away April 8, 2013.



JOSH AND ALYSSE HILL

Alysse and I are currently living in Lake Linden, Michigan, and working as physical therapists for a local hospital system in Houghton in Hancock. We will be traveling to Scotland in September, a trip that has been on Alysse's bucket list since she started Highland dancing!

Alysse lived in the Mount Pleasant ward from 2009-2014. I lived in the Mount Pleasant ward from 2012-2014. We were both attending CMU for physical therapy. We served as YSA FHE coordinators for a year.

I met Alysse in the summer of 2012 and began going to church with her in the fall. I was baptized April 6, 2013. We got married on August 9, 2014 in Nelson Park with Bishop Peless presiding. We loved our time in the Mount Pleasant and FHE's with the YSA!



PAUL & JODEE ROGERS

JoDee, Ainsley, Oaklee, Paul



DON CLYNICK



THE DIMARIAS

Claire, Jessica, Jerry, Kathryn, Lukas



THE DEFRIEZES

Curtis and Vener



THE BYRDS

Alexandria, Vanisa, Kelvin, Pharoah, Egypt, Zaire, Kenya at 2016 Hoe Down



DARLENE BASSETT

with nephew Gage



THE CROWLEYS

Judy and Ron



THE BIGFORDS

Susan, Simone, Richie, Rachel, Leann Dunn, Kaylee, Richard



THE HICKEYS

Rickey and Natalie



THE CASSAVAUGHS

Nick, Sam, Sarah, Daniel



THE HAMMERS
Roger, Louise and Adam



THE PRINS
Paul, Thomas, Willa



THE DICKINSONS
George and Tira



JANE MACDONALD



THE KISELLS
Brian, Desmond and Erin



THE DONAHOES
Candace and Cashell

THE RUSSELLS

Cailin, Emma, Madelyn, Kristin, Jonathon, Amelia, Hope
 We moved into the ward in August 2008 when Jonathon got a job at CMU as a Graphic Design Assistant Professor. While we have lived here, Jonathon has served as a Ward Clerk, counselor in the Bishopric, and Seminary teacher. Kristin has served as Primary Music Leader, Young Women President and counselor in the Stake Relief Society. All the of the 12 & up Russells participate in Ward Choir. Amelia was born in MP in 2009. Emma was baptized in 2011 while Anton Jensen was Bishop. Madelyn and Cailin earned their Young Women Recognition medallions in 2012. Hope Russell was baptized in 2015 while Jared Peless was Bishop.

Some favorite memories include hiking with the Young Women for their Girls Camp precertification - behind the church building, through the nature preserve and into Chippewaters Park, our pizza fundraisers, picking raspberries at Mari and Bill Low's, then making jam, and Secret Grandmothers. Also - the bike-enthusiasts Bishopric!

We also have loved playgroup when our children were small: meeting with other ward moms at Papa's Pumpkin Patch, going to the "beach" along the Chippewa River by Island Park, meeting at McDonalds Park, at church, and in each other's homes. We have enjoyed Ward Choir, eating some delicious snacks before practices and performances, and meeting at Christmas time for carolling and singing - this last year we brought our instruments and sang along with piano, pipe chimes, jingle bells, guitars and ukeleles.



Emma at her baptism with Bishop Jensen



Hope's baptism with her dad



Aimee Peless, Mari Low, Kristin Russell at YW New Beginnings 2015



Abby Jensen, Rachel Bigford and Madelyn volunteering at Special Olympics in 2013



Gracie Peer and Cailin in Christmas Carol skit at youth roadshow 2013



Amelia with her primary teacher, Roberta Rahlf in 2016

THE PELESSES

Jared and Aimee Peless moved into the ward in Dec 2004 with our children, Hannah and Kate, now ages 15 and 13. Over the next twelve years, we would add three more children, Jackson (10), Emma (7), and Lincoln (5). When we first moved into the ward, we felt like we were home. We have served in many capacities over the years and have come to love our ward family through this service.

- Jared has served as Cubmaster, 11 Year-old Scout Leader and Primary teacher, Young Men's President, Bishopric Counselor, High Counselor, and is currently serving as Bishop.
- Aimee has served as Primary pianist, Primary Counselor and President, Ward Organist, Choir Pianist, Relief Society Secretary and Additional Meeting Coordinator, Nursery Leader, and currently serves as First Counselor in the Young Women's organization.
- Hannah has served as Beehive class president and is serving as a counselor in the Mia Maid class pres. Kate is serving as counselor in the Beehive class presidency.



We have lots of fond and fun memories of our ward. We remember one Sunday coming to church ready to perform the Primary Program only to be stopped in the hall by Bishop Henrie telling Aimee that the power had just gone out. He asked if we should consider cancelling the program and sending everyone home. We decided to go on with the show. We told the kids to shout, but they were barely audible, except for when singing. It was a memorable day!

We also recall watching in curiosity as the Bishopric's eyes wandering up to the ceiling and discussing something during Sacrament meeting. At some point, they announced that there was a bat in the light fixture, just so no one would panic. Surely a number of people were squirming uncomfortably after that. The poor, exhausted animal, finally was rescued by Richard Bigford and released back into the wild after church was over. And no people were harmed.

Michigan is famous for its winters and icy roads, but this storm took the cake. One morning as I (Aimee) was preparing to go to Ward Council, I noticed the roads were pretty icy. Wondering why the Bishopric hadn't cancelled meeting when the road was literally a sheet of ice, I decided to continue on. Just as I was pulling out of the driveway, I saw Neal Vanderpool pass by. That bolstered my courage a little, thinking if he was out, it would be ok. It was not ok. It was a white knuckle drive all the way. When I slid into the parking lot, I asked Brother Vanderpool about it. He said he almost rolled down his window to tell me to stay. It turns out the roads were clear when the Bishopric arrived and the rain came down and froze while in their earlier meetings. They had no idea. Our ward council meeting turned into a phone tree cancelling church for the day. As a side note, when we contacted the Elders to tell them the news, they invited themselves over for lunch. We loved them and had them over. They missed our driveway, tried to pull off the road to turn around and got stuck in the snow. After some attempts to get them out, we had to call our neighbor, who graciously drove his truck down and pulled them to safety.

The first ward activity after Jared was called as Bishop was the Ward Christmas Breakfast. It was scheduled for a Saturday morning. We received a call that morning about an hour before the activity was supposed to begin informing us that the power was out. And, seeing that the whole activity depended on being able to cook pancakes at the church, he had to make a decision. Not a total crisis, but he started to understand what it was to be the one everyone looked to in a crisis. In the end, it was decided to shift everything to Sunday as a pancake linger longer the next day. It was great!

There are so many memories we could share, but don't have the space. We loved participating in the Mount Pleasant Festival Children's Parade for several years. We enjoyed serving with our community through the Mobile Food Pantry, Christmas Outreach, and the Isabella County Restoration House, as well as making donations to a variety of local service organizations. We helped sew 100 quilts in one year to donate to local organizations under the direction of Kimberly Vanderpool and the Relief Society. Jared participated with the Young Men in high adventures to Isle Royale, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Canoe Trips on the Rifle River and Au Sable River for the Michigan LDS Encampment. Boys also participated at Manitou Island for Michigan LDS Encampment in 2015. We have loved our ward temple trips, including the primary and youth. What a blessing to see our ward family together at the Detroit Temple!



ROBERT AND NANCY WHEELER

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 in the Colorado Denver 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 married to Matt Marshall and they have four children: Riley 7, Jonah 5, Elijah 4, and Oliver 3 months.. They live in Farmington Hills where Matt works in a software business with his brother and Christianne works as a Pediatric Surgical Physician's Assistant at Mott Children's Hospital at the U of M in Ann Arbor. They have a busy life with the four boys and there is never a dull moment. They return to the ward frequently to visit with family and friends.

Adam just moved back to the Ward from a 5 year period working for Salvator Ferrigamo Store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, California. He took the job after graduating

from Brigham Young University. He now lives just outside of Mt. Pleasant with his dog George and works at the CMU RC, a business that helps incubate and assist new businesses in the area.

Andy served his mission in Carlsbad California (Spanish speaking) and returned home to graduate from CMU. He worked for WCZY Radio Station as their Sales Manager and has had other sales positions also. Andy passed away in December, 2015.

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 38 years. He now works as a mortgage lender at Mercantile Bank of Michigan in Mt. Pleasant. He will be retiring at the end of the year (2016). After raising our children as a stay-at-home mom, Nancy now works as the Office Manager for the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation. Bob currently serves as the High Priest Group Leader and Nancy is the Nursery Leader in the Ward.

The Wheelers have enjoyed working and serving in the Ward over the years. It has been enjoyable to watch their own children and others grow up and has been special to meet people as the ward has grown over the years. We love the people here and miss those that have either moved way or are no longer with us. The Mt. Pleasant Ward will always hold a special place in our hearts.



MARISSA ZAMUDIO

I came to CMU as a student and since I was a member, looked for the church which at the time was a branch.

I married here in Mt Pleasant. My husband is not a member. I have two wonderful daughters, Alicia and Anissa and both participated in church activities throughout their school years. Anissa served a mission in the Louisville, Kentucky Mission. They both have many fond memories of their years growing up in the Mt Pleasant Ward. Alicia currently lives in Florida and Anissa is in the Salt Lake City area. My husband and I have become permanent Mt Pleasant residents! :)



ROBERTA RAHLF



MARK & CHIEKO MARSHALL

In August of 1999 as a recent convert to the Church, Chieko Terakawa traveled from Hyogo Prefecture in Japan to finish her Master's program at Central Michigan University. At that same time Mark Marshall from the Midland II ward had just finished his mission to the Japan Nagoya Mission. The David Brant family took Chieko in as a home stay for a short period of time as her assigned dorm room was unexpectedly cancelled. Chrissy Brant (Daughter of Dave and Cathy Brant) and Christianne Wheeler (Daughter of Bob and Nancy Wheeler and whom later married Matthew Marshall of the Midland II ward) were asked to give Chieko a tour of CMU campus. Not sure of her English language skills they invited Christianne's boyfriend's little brother who just got home off his mission from Japan to come along as a translator if needed. Yada yada yada, one thing led to another, Mark and Chieko were married in the Oakland California Temple on January 4, 2001.

In their time in the Mount Pleasant ward since 2001 Mark has served as a Seminary teacher, Nursery leader, Primary teacher, Youth Sunday School teacher, Young Men's Presidency Counselor, Scoutmaster and currently as 2nd counselor in the Bishopric. Since 1999 Chieko has served as a Ward Missionary, Primary worker, Nursery Leader, Youth Sunday School teacher, Counselor in the Primary Presidency, Counselor in the Relief Society, and now as the Primary Pianist.

Mark and Chieko continue to reside in the Mount Pleasant ward and have three children. Yoshiya (Josh)(11) was born on October 12, 2004, Mari (9) was born on October 9, 2006 and finally Kentaro (Kent)(6) was born on November 29, 2009.



JIM & TAMI MELTON

We are the Meltons: Jim, Tami, Ben, Spencer, and Daniel Melton. Jim is in his 9th year of teaching in the CMU College of Business. Tami works hard mostly at home, but also teaches violin at the Suzuki Music Studio of Mt. Pleasant. Ben is 13, Spencer is 10, and Daniel is 3 years old (and was born in Mount Pleasant in 2012). We love travelling, soccer, music, trying all kinds of food, and being with extended family (though they live far away). We love being a part of the Mt. Pleasant Ward! We moved here in May 2007.

Jim has served as a Bishopric counselor (under Bishop Jensen and Bishop Henrie), and currently high counselor under Pres Henrie

Tami has served as Ward Choir director, and is currently Primary President

Since our very first Sunday, we have always felt like a welcomed and important part of the Mt. Pleasant Ward family. That is a comment that we have heard by many. We love that about the members of our ward and try our best to personally emulate that same loving spirit when we see a new face at church.

I will always treasure the memories of our annual Ward Temple Trips, where we spend the morning with the children in the stake center next door while parents are able to attend the temple together.

Mari Low and Kristin Russell helped us in 2015 (also in 2014) put together an wonderful Christmas nativity, which the whole ward was able to attend in the last part of the third hour of Sunday meetings.



TIRA AND SIS



LINDA BRITTON



THE BIGFORDS

Katherine and Charles



THE NOACKS

Keanna, Salli, and Caleb



THE SHEPPARDS

Ed, Vivalea, Leah Marlene, Vivica Emma



MARLENE SHEPPARD

I (Salli Noack) moved to Michigan in 1983 and went inactive. In 1990 I became active again. Married now with a non-member husband. I became active in the Mt. Pleasant ward. We broke into the Ithaca branch. After several years we moved back into the ward boundaries. This time I came back to the ward with two kids. My daughter now 15 Keanna. And my son almost 13 Caleb. My husband Jerry comes out more than ever with the missionaries encouragement. This has been a wonderful Ward family ever since I became active again and continues to be a wonderful Ward.

ANTON & CATHY JENSEN

Anton & Cathy Jensen and their family moved into the Mount Pleasant Ward in 1996, during the 30th anniversary of the ward. Anton grew up in Idaho and Cathy primarily in Ohio and Tennessee. They met and married while at BYU and lived in New Jersey for a few years before coming to Mount Pleasant. Anton earned BA and PhD degrees at BYU and is a professor of organic chemistry at Central Michigan University. Cathy earned BS and MS (in Microbiology) degrees at BYU and is a stay-at-home mom. When they arrived in Mount Pleasant they had three children (Kimberly, Adam, and Christopher) and one more on the way (Michael). Since moving to Mount Pleasant they have been blessed with six additional children; Melissa, Abby, David, Elizabeth (Stillborn), Amy, and Stacey.



Front row: Amy, David, Melissa, Abby, and Stacey. Back row: Cathy and Anton.
(Ice Cream Shop in Sylvester, MI)



Kimmy, Andrew, and Elliot



Adam & Krystal



Christopher



Michael

Kimberly, Adam, Christopher and Michael have all graduated from Mount Pleasant High School. Michael was valedictorian of his class. Kimberly went to BYU and graduated in chemistry education. While there she married Andrew Haddock from Minnesota and they currently have one child (Elliot) and live in Minneapolis, MN while Andrew is preparing to begin his third year of dental school. Adam graduated one year after Kimmy and also went to BYU. After a year at school he was called to serve in the Columbia Bogota South Mission, where he served for two years. After his mission Adam married Krystal Cook from Mapleton, UT. They currently live in Orem while Adam finishes up a degree in economics at BYU and Krystal works as a local school teacher. Christopher also went to BYU for one semester before serving for two years in the California Anaheim Mission (while waiting for a visa) and the Brazil Campinas Mission. He has been home for about half a year and is back at BYU studying chemistry. Michael left on a mission to the Salt Lake City East Mission immediately after high school. He has been serving in Salt Lake for about a year now, mostly in Burmese and Nepali refugee branches in the community of South Salt Lake. He also plans to attend BYU upon completion of his mission. This September, Melissa will be a senior, Abby a junior, David in 8th grade, Amy in 5th grade, and Stacey will start Kindergarten. From Michael on, their children grew up entirely in the Mount Pleasant Ward. Their three older children spent nearly all of their lives in Mount Pleasant (Kimmy was only four when then moved in).

Anton currently serves as young men's president in the Mount Pleasant Ward and previously served as Ward Clerk, Stake Mission Secretary, Ward Mission Leader, Elder's Quorum President, Ward Executive Secretary, Bishop, Institute Teacher, High Counselor, and 2nd Counselor in the Stake Presidency. Cathy currently serves as 2nd Counselor in the Stake Primary Presidency and has previously served as a Youth Sunday School Teacher, Ward Missionary, Nursery Leader, Primary Teacher, Counselor in the Primary Presidency, and Counselor in the Relief Society Presidency.

Mount Pleasant has been a wonderful place for their family to live and grow up in. When Anton was applying for jobs before moving to Mount Pleasant he had intended to apply for the position at CMU but accidentally missed the date that he needed to send the application in by. However, Cathy felt very strongly that they needed to apply to that job in Mount Pleasant anyway, which he did. The rest is history. They are happy to have called Mount Pleasant home for the last 20 years.

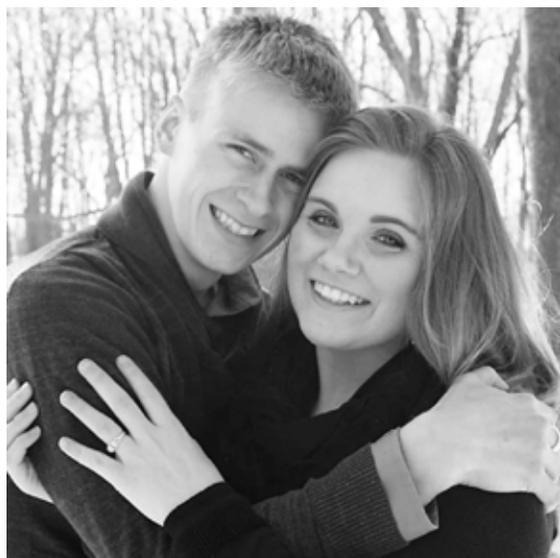
CLAYTON & JULIE SPENCER

Clayton has taught at Farwell Elementary School since 1999. He has taken numerous graduate courses from Central Michigan University. Julie has been the Gratiot Conservation District Administrator since the fall of 2011. She has recently published her second novel and is working on several more. Virginia is 23, married to her high school sweetheart John Mrazek, lives in Novi, MI where she is a graduate student studying psychology at Wayne State University. C.J. (Clayton Jr.) is 17, a senior at Shepherd High School where he has taken a few college courses, runs cross country and track, and works at the Maple Creek Golf Course in Shepherd. Chelsea is 15, a junior at Shepherd High School where she has taken a few college courses, is on the pom team, and is currently enrolled at the MJ Murphy Cosmetology School in Mt. Pleasant.

Clayton moved into the ward in the fall of 1991 as a freshman at Central Michigan University. Julie moved into the ward when she was baptized on January 26, 1997. The two met at church three weeks later. They dated and then Clayton proposed to Julie on December 28, 1997 (in the Relief Society room). They were married in the Toronto, Ontario Temple on March 6, 1998. A reception of about 200 guests was held the next day at the Mt. Pleasant Ward building. C.J. and Chelsea were born while in the ward.

- Clayton has served in the Primary, Young Single Adults, Stake Missionary, Elders Quorum Presidency, Ward Mission Leader, Executive Secretary to Bishop Jensen, Stake High Council, Bishopric Counselor to Bishop Henrie, and currently on the Stake High Council.
- Julie has served in the Nursery, Stake Missionary, Achievement Days Leader, Webelos Leader, Primary Presidency (two times), Choir Director, and currently a Youth Sunday School Teacher.
- Virginia has served in the Beehive and MiaMaid Presidencies.
- C.J. (Clayton Jr.) has served in the Deacons, Teachers, and Priests Quorum Presidencies.
- Chelsea has served in the Beehive and Mia Maid Presidencies.

Ward memories: There are too many to pick from. Our wedding reception, many baptisms, many baby blessings, many testimonies born from the pulpit on Fast and Testimony Sunday, ward picnics at the park, ward camp-outs, ward building renovations (primary room re-done and the red carpet changed to purple carpet), road shows (Rome Improvement & Christmas In July), Pinewood Derby races, Ten Virgins Musical Performance, mobile food pantry, and the bat in the chapel light fixture incident (to name a few).



AUDI GRUESBECK

I am currently a part of the YSA at Mount Pleasant. I am also the only member of my family. However, as of August 5, 2016, I will be married to my soon-to-be husband in the Detroit Temple. He will then be coming to the Mount Pleasant Ward. I joined the Mount Pleasant Ward on December 6, 2014 when I was baptized in the church. I have only had one calling so far in my time in the Mount Pleasant Ward and that is YSA Representative for the Mount Pleasant Ward to the Midland Stake.

Some of my best memories are seeing the YSA grow spiritually and being able to form amazing friendships that go far beyond just hanging out with people at church. From baseball games, tubing, board games, road trips, camping, group messages, movie nights, bonfires, and disc golf we are quite the little crew. One of my favorite things to do with the YSA is to play sardines in the church with them during our Outreach activities. It is fun jumping out and scaring people because it gets some pretty great laughs going. Especially for Rachel Bigford who we say has "lost it" when she ends up literally rolling on the floor laughing! Another memory is when we made waffles for Institute instead of pizza as usual. We now have our waffle filing cabinet in the primary room that I am sure very few people know about... =) Or the time that Leanna was blowing up a balloon too hard and she actually passed out from it! We bond over the funny things clearly =)

STEVE AND MICHELLE HARRAST

The Harrast family (Steve, Michelle, Terrell, Heather, Mary and Andrew) moved into the Mt. Pleasant Ward in the summer of 2008. We count the Mt. Pleasant Ward as one of our greatest blessings while living in this area.

Steve started teaching at Central Michigan University as an Associate Professor in Accounting in the fall of 2008. He has served in scouting and as a counselor in the bishopric. He is an accomplished competitor in running events and triathlons and often shares spiritual lessons learned from these challenging sports.

Michelle has served as a counselor in YW's, SS teacher and Scout Committee Chair. She enjoys supporting these young men in their scouting advancement~ it is a great program where boys grow into service-oriented young men. She began working at Dr. Troy Henri's office in January, 2009 as a massage therapist. She enjoys incorporating health and wellness habits and eats lots of vegetables :)

Our oldest son, Terrell completed his LDS mission in fall of 2008 to San Diego, CA. He met his wife Erin Haynes in our ward's Young Single Adult Program. They were married in the Detroit Temple in June of 2010. Erin completed a doctoral degree in Physical Therapy at CMU. They now live in Lincoln City, OR. Terrell served in scouting and in primary in the Mt. Pleasant ward. Children really enjoy being around both Terrell and Erin because of the unconditional love that they freely share with others.

Our second born Heather, met her husband Steven Spiel, while attending BYU-Idaho; they were both in the music program. Heather studied violin performance and Steven studied composition. They were married in the Rexburg, ID temple in May of 2010. They have two children; Olivia June and Jacob Ott. They live in Durham, NC where Steven works in the tech industry as a programmer and web site developer. Heather enjoys motherhood and is a wonderful mom to our grand babies. She also teaches violin part time.

Our third child, Mary began attending MPHS as a freshman. She served in various YW's leadership roles and earned her YW award. She served an LDS mission to Scottsdale, AZ, June 2013-Dec. 2014. She performed the violin in a variety of venues and was Homecoming Queen at the High School in fall of 2011.

Andrew began 3rd Grade at Vowles Elementary. He has served in YM's and scouting leadership positions while in the Mt. Pleasant Ward. He earned his BSA Eagle Rank in June 2016. His service project was at Deerfield Nature Park where he helped coordinate the building of 11 steps in the disc golf course to prevent erosion. He has competed on the MPHS varsity cross county, track and soccer teams.

As we are transplants without family nearby, the Mt. Pleasant ward members quickly became our family and we've appreciated the service and friendship shared during these past 8 years.



Heather with baby Jacob



THE TERRELLS

Mary, William, Dave



THE PANDLS

Jeff and Amanda Pandl have been in the Mt Pleasant Ward since January 2016. They have two girls: Zoey (3 years old) and Emmy (1 year old).



THE ELDERS

Tolman, Lowder, Tubagus, Mafile'o



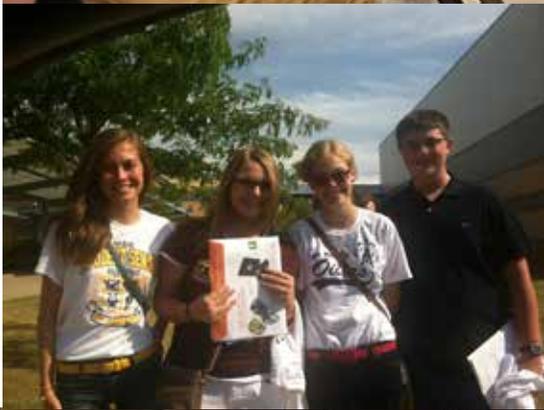
THE O'NEILLS

Tylor and Catherine

THE PEERS

Sam, Lorien, Gracie, Hannah, Benjamin, Sarah

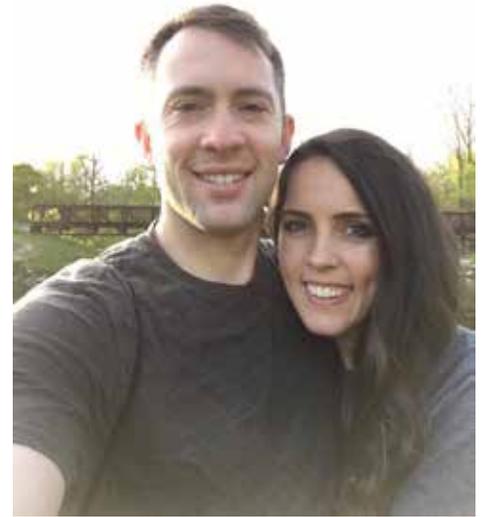
The Peer family moved to Mt. Pleasant in the summer of 2012 for Sam to complete a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. at Central Michigan University. He served for several years as the Executive Secretary and now is in Primary. Lorien's education is in Web Design and Development and happily serves as the Ward Organist and Choir Director. They have four children: Gracie, a senior at Mt. Pleasant, Hannah, a 4th grader at Fancher, Benjamin a 1st grader at Ganiard, and Sarah, who was born shortly after their move here, will start Pre-School this fall. They have learned to love being Michiganders and will greatly miss the lakes, trails, cool weather, and all of the friends they've made when they move next year!





THE YSA'S

Adam Hammer, Analisa Contreras, Lindsey Welch, Leanna Dunn, Justin Bates, Rachel Bigford, Richie Bigford, Audi Gruesbeck



THE TILMANS

Sam and Alyson



THE MINKS

Tom, Max, Isabel, Maria



THE THORNOCKS

Abbey, Melanie and Spencer



1988 GIRLS CAMP



1989 YSA



1989 PRE-GIRLS CAMP



1989 PRE-GIRLS CAMP



1989 WARD CHRISTMAS DINNER



1989 WARD CHRISTMAS DINNER



1989 MUTUAL ACTIVITY



1989 MUTUAL ACTIVITY



1989 MUTUAL ACTIVITY



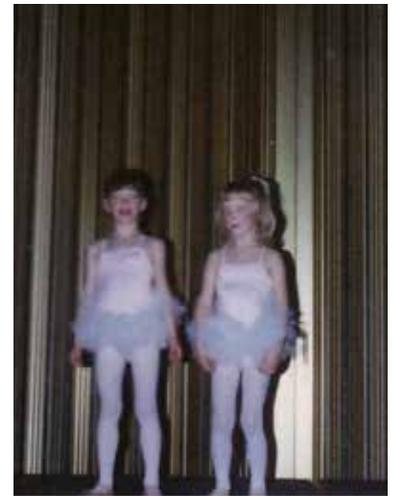
1989 JOY FAMILY

1990 TALENT SHOW (BELOW)





1990 TALENT SHOW



1990 TALENT SHOW



1991 PRE-GIRLS CAMP



1991 YOUTH TEMPLE TRIP



1992 GIRLS CAMP



1997 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



1997



1998



1998 RS BIRTHDAY



1998 YSA DANCE



1998 YSA DANCE



1999



1999 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



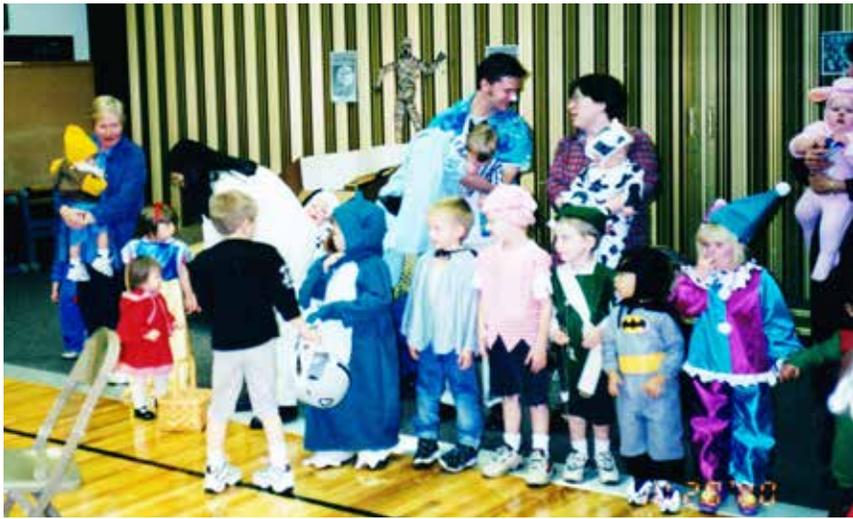
1999



1999



1999



1999



2001



2001



2001



2001



2001



2001



2001



2001



2001



2001 RELIEF SOCIETY PICNIC





2000 The Road Show: "Home Improvement!"



2002 Ward Christmas Party



2002 Ward Road Show: "Christmas in July"



2004 Turkey Bowl (Thanksgiving Day)



2004 Ward Picnic in July: Dee Retting, Gilberts, C. Spencer, V. Martinez, Norisezs, R. Sharrar, M.F. Terrell



2004 Ward Picnic in July



2009 Bishopric Temple Trip

- J. Russell - clerk,
- C. Spencer - Exec. Sec.
- D. Henrie - 1st counselor
- A. Jensen - Bishop
- J. Melton - 2nd counselor



2003 primary program rehearsal



1982 Bishop Jack Ware with Elia Wares



2003 primary Christmas bells



1997 youth temple trip



2006



2002 Jerry DiMaria, Mel Ross, Anton Jensen



2006 Ron Crowley, Dave Brant, Gary Graham, Irene Graham, and Rob Marshall on Stillion's roof



2005 YW NEW BEGINNINGS



2006 M&M WARS



1999 YOUTH CONFERENCE - KIRTLAND



2008 ACTIVITY DAYS GIRLS



2009 CHILDRENS PARADE



2011 YOUTH



2011 YW SECRET GRANDMOTHERS



2011 FOOD PANTRY HELPING HANDS





2011 TEN VIRGINS MUSICAL



2011 YW NEW BEGINNINGS



2012 WARD PANCAKE BREAKFAST



YOUTH AT BRANTS CABIN 2013



2014 YW CAMP PIZZA FUNDRAISER



2014 YW NEW BEGINNINGS











2014 TREK



2014 YOUTH MURDER MYSTERY



2016 WARD LUAU



**BISHOP PELESS
WILEY
WILDTOOTH**



**KRISTIN RUSSELL
SONGBIRD**



**ELDER LOWMAN
MIRACLE
MAN**



**CHIEKO MARSHALL
SURE SHOT**

**CAN YOU
FIND THESE
WANTED**

**WARD
MEMBERS
AND HAVE
THEM SIGN
THEIR
MUG SHOTS?**



**VANISA BYRD
ONE EYE**



**TOMMY MAY
DYNAMITE**

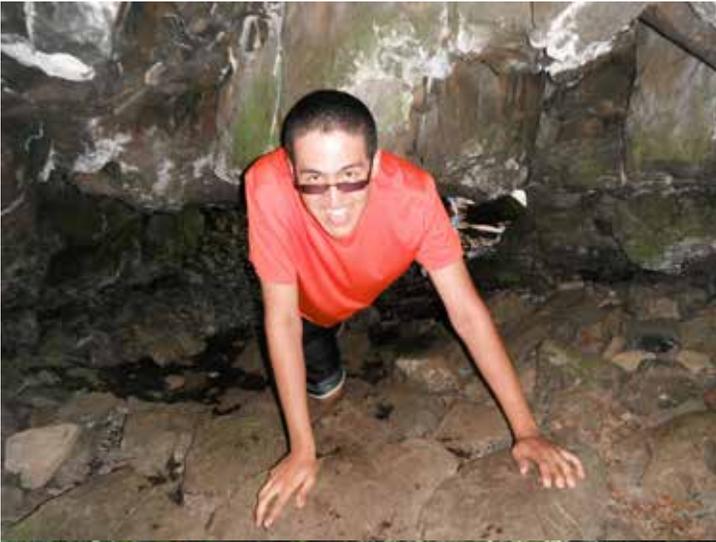


**ELDER LOWDER
DO GOOD**



**THE KISSELL POSSE
THE DUST DEVILS**

2016 WARD HOE DOWN



**ISLE ROYALE
HIGH ADVENTURE
2013**





**MOUNT PLEASANT WARD
SCOUT TROOP
2015-16**





**ANDREW HARRAST
EAGLE PROJECT:
11 STEPS AT
DEERFIELD
NATURE PARK
2015-16**





I KNOW THE
SCRIPTURES

ARE TRUE

2016 PRIMARY THEME

