

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

“Dad, do you know how to take care of us?”

When I was a young father, I decided to take my three oldest sons on a camping and fishing trip. They were young boys at the time, ranging in age from about five to ten years old. It was early in the spring, and my sources told me that the fishing was excellent at a particular lake about an hour from our home. With great anticipation from my young sons, we set out on our trip, loaded with our fishing and camping gear.

We arrived in the early evening and decided to get an early start on fishing. Rather than set up our camp first, we went straight to the fun stuff ... fishing. Sure enough, the fishing was excellent. We caught and caught and caught. We hardly noticed the time slipping by until darkness was upon us.

As the sun went down and darkness set in, the weather started to turn unseasonably cold. A cold front was coming in. In the dark, I hurried to make a tasty campfire dinner. It was getting colder. We had not brought clothing that was warm enough for this cold front. My boys were shivering. After setting up our tent in the darkness and rolling out the sleeping bags, we hurriedly jumped in to warm ourselves. My seven-year-old's feet were very cold, and I worked to get them warm by holding them against my body and lightly rubbing them. At that moment, he asked me a question that I will never forget. He looked imploringly at me and said,



President Coburn

“Dad, do you know how to take care of us?” I smiled inside, but he was very serious. He wanted assurance that he would be okay.

Like my son, we all want assurance that we will be okay. We want to know that our Father lives and knows how to take care of us. I testify that He does. This does not mean that bad things won't happen to us. They will. We live in an imperfect existence. This world was simply not designed to be a perfect existence. That would defeat its purpose.

But in this imperfect world, God has given us the plan to return safely back to Him. First, He teaches us and gives us guidelines and commandments. I like to think of the commandments as “instructions for happiness and peace.” Then He invites us to follow Him and to make commitments and covenants to do so. He then promises us blessings, both in this life and throughout eternity through the grace and atonement of our Savior.

I love the scripture in 1 Corinthians 2:9: “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

I testify that our Father knows how to take care of us and that by following His plan we find joy in this life and unimaginable blessings in the worlds to come.

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Upcoming Dates

- Sunday, January 13 - LDS Child Loss Group/Stark's home, 230 Cherry Hill Dr, Wadsworth 7 p.m.
- Sunday, January 13 - Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults 8-9 p.m.
- Sunday, January 27 - Youth Standards Night/Tallmadge 6:30-8 p.m. for all youth ages 12 and up and their parents.
- Sunday, February 3 - Fast Sunday
- Saturday, February 9 - Quad Stake Youth Dance/Cleveland 7-10 p.m. for all youth ages 14 and up at the Cleveland Stake Center
- Sunday, February 10 - LDS Child Loss Group/Stark's home, 230 Cherry Hill Dr, Wadsworth 7 p.m.
- Saturday, February 23 - Youth Ice Skating/Activity Alice Noble Ice Arena in Wooster 2-5 p.m. for all youth ages 12 and up.

RELIEF SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

The Akron Stake Relief Society presidency was reorganized on December 30, 2018. The outgoing presidency was released with a vote of thanks for their dedicated service - Denna Coburn/president, Gretchen Pavkov/1st counselor, April Talley/2nd counselor, and Leah McConnell/secretary.



A new stake Relief Society presidency was sustained with Kristin Center from the New Philadelphia Ward as stake Relief Society president, Lisa Kay of the Canton Ward as 1st counselor, Alice Hauser of the Wadsworth Ward as 2nd counselor, and Laura Perkins of the Wadsworth Ward as secretary.

Sister Kristin Center was born and raised in Illinois. When she was two, her parents joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As a young adult, she and her family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where she met John Center at a young single adult Christmas party. She was working for National Steel and he was a student at Ohio State. They were married in 1974 and have six children and 13 grandchildren, with one more on the way.

She loves animals and has three dogs, four cats, 12 chickens and a duck on her 95-acre farm in Harrison County. Her passion is for quilting, reading, and gardening.

She has been an early morning seminary teacher, Relief Society president, Young Women president, and has served in various other stake and ward callings. She returned from a three-year mission to the Utah St. George Mission 2 1/2 years ago. Prior to the mission, she served as an assistant to the matron in the Columbus Ohio Temple where she now serves as an ordinance worker.

The Church and her family have been her life. Her testimony and conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ is her strength.

Sister Lisa Anne Kay was born in Northern California and grew up in the foothills of the Sierras. The oldest of five children, Lisa went to BYU where she graduated with a degree in Communications with an emphasis in print journalism. While there she met her husband Ed, and they were married in the Seattle Washington Temple. They started their marriage in Georgia, and after a move to South Carolina, they were blessed with their first son, Alex. A job opportunity for Ed brought the family to Ohio in 1995. Lisa and Ed adopted their second son, Carter, in

2000. While the kids were growing up, she spent her time volunteering at school and scrapbooking. Lisa has served in many callings, with her latest being ward Relief Society president. She loves to read and is looking forward to serving the sisters of the Akron Stake.

Sister Alice Leona Jones Hauser was born in Denver, Colorado, and lived in various states as a child. She spent most of her grade school years in Ames, Iowa, and her high school years in York, Pennsylvania. At BYU she met her husband Michael and followed him to California to support him through medical school. They are the parents of six children, who were mostly raised in Syracuse, New York, where Michael did his residency in cardiac anesthesia. The Hauser family moved with their two youngest sons to Hinckley, Ohio, ten years ago. After 30 years of being home with children, Alice went back to school soon after arriving in Ohio and finished her RN. She worked in the NICU at Hillcrest Hospital for five years and is now devoted full time to her passion for fine art and works in oils. She has served in the Wadsworth Ward in the Primary and Relief Society. Michael and Alice are grandparents to 16 children. They love to travel to various rivers where Michael can fly fish and Alice can paint en plein air or study with other artists. They are both devoted to family history and ministering to their living family. Alice's favorite passage in the Book of Mormon is in 3 Nephi 22:10: "For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

Sister Laura Perkins and her family moved into the Wadsworth Ward nine years ago, making it the longest she's ever lived in one area. "It's easiest to say that I grew up a Navy brat and moved around a lot - mostly by beaches. That's probably the reason why I feel a trip isn't a vacation unless it's by water." After her dad's full-time navy work, her parents moved the family to Utah and then eventually to the Akron Stake when she was in high school. It was here that she became friends with a large group of youth in this stake, many of whom she keeps in contact with today. She went to LDS Business College in Salt Lake where she earned two degrees, and after enrolling at BYU, met up with one of those friends from the Akron Stake - Matthew Perkins. He had just come back from a mission in Ecuador. They were married not long afterward and now have three wonderful children.

Easthill YSA Branch

by Kelly Smith

The YSA know how to have fun and get into the true meaning of Christmas. This past month we attended the Quad Stake Christmas Ball hosted by the Kirtland Stake. We enjoyed an evening of dressing up and dancing the night away! For



Christmas Ball photo booth fun



an FHE activity this month we headed up to Kirtland to see nativities from all over the world. We took a tour from the Visitor Center sister missionaries. They helped us focus on our Savior and the miracles He performed for the early saints as well as the miracles He performs for us today. We were able to Light our Faith and learn

how to better Light the World with the knowledge we gained. We are grateful for the chance to enjoy activities together and meet new faces! We are excited for the New Year and look forward to seeing and meeting many more YSA. Sacrament meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Tallmadge Building in 2019.



NORTH AMERICA NORTHEAST AREA PLAN 2019

AREA VISION

As beloved children of God, we will follow the covenant path by receiving ordinances and keeping covenants that lead to eternal life, and invite family, friends and neighbors to do the same.

Deepen conversion to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and the restored gospel.

1. Prayerfully study the Book of Mormon every day.
2. Honor the Lord's Sabbath by renewing covenants at church and worshipping and teaching in the home.
3. Worthily hold a current temple recommend.
4. Minister to others spiritually and temporally.

Gather scattered Israel on both sides of the veil.

1. Pray daily with greater faith to have personal missionary experiences.
2. Invite and help others to "come and see" our sacrament meetings, baptismal services, and family and church activities.
3. Find and take the names of ancestors to the temple and perform their ordinances.

Strengthen the conversion of children and youth.

1. Participate in seminary.
2. Find and take the names of ancestors to the temple and perform their baptisms and confirmations.
3. Prepare to receive temple ordinances and fulfill covenant responsibilities.

Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh, Director



As we approach a new year with the anticipation of bigger and better things ahead, we often look inward to our need to recommit to a higher plane, with goals and desires of personal improvement. As you do, the Akron Ohio Stake Family History Center invites you to consider your ancestors who are looking for this year to be the year you find and engage in the work of helping in their salvation. Think of the difference you can make in their lives and progression. Think of the greatness that can be found in this new year for them...and for you. The Family History Center will be expanding its hours and opportunities for classes, training, and help in all areas of research this coming year. Please contact Jeanne Peugh at 330-631-3225 for more information or to request family history help.

2019 GOALS

- Register on JustServe.org
- Download JustServe App
- Look for service opportunities
- Get out and SERVE

JUSTSERVE

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER SPECIALS

Happy New Year! It is exciting to be in a new year, where we have the opportunity to set new goals, and to follow our prophet in our meeting schedule and in studying the scriptures. The new year is also a great time to assess your food storage and check to be sure that none are out-of-date. This is the time to start food storage if you haven't before. Remember to think about what your family is able to eat and be wise in your purchasing. Don't go into debt, but do a

Elder and Sister Juhasz and Elder and Sister Carpenter little at a time when money is available. If you have any questions, feel free to call us. Our missionaries are here to answer any questions that you might have. We are open on Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will come in on a Saturday if you have a large order. The number for the Home Storage Center is 1-440-526-4057.

Our sale items for the month are as follow. Please be sure to notice the ending dates.

