

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Looking Back, Looking Forward

At this time of year, it is good to look back and assess the year just ended. We also look forward with hope and resolve for the new year ahead. What a wonderful year we had had in 2019, and 2020 is filled with possibilities and opportunities.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

So many good things were accomplished in 2019 as we focused on following Jesus and as we worked on the goals in the Area Plan. I have continually been amazed, grateful, and humbled by the tremendous people we have in the Akron Stake and how much the members love our Heavenly Father and His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Here are some of the highlights for 2019 from our efforts on the Area Plan Goals:

Temple Work

- 512 members submitted ancestors names for temple ordinances (an increase of 60 from 2018)
- The number of active temple recommend holders increased

Missionary Work

- Number of new converts increased to 53 in 2019
- Number of missionaries increased to 35 in 2019 (21 new missionaries called to serve in 2019)
- We now have 22 proselyting missionaries, two young service missionaries, and 11 church service missionaries

Ministering

- Ministering interviews increased (over 60% for brethren and over 80% for sisters). Go Sisters!

Youth

- 95 youth submitted ancestor names for temple ordinances – great!
- 113 youth attending seminary
- Number of young men holding the priesthood increased

Of course, these are just a few of the wonderful things that were measured as part of the Area Plan. There were thousands of kind

acts of “pure religion” that are recorded in our hearts and in heaven. May God bless each member of the stake for those Christ-like acts of service and love.

ANTICIPATING 2020

We look forward with excitement for the new year and the new decade.

The First Presidency has asked us to focus on the following for 2020:

Basic Gospel Principles

- Loving God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves
- Having faith in Jesus Christ and embracing the gift of His infinite Atonement
- Repenting daily and partaking of the sacrament in order to have the Holy Ghost with us
- Strengthening home-centered and Church-supported gospel learning

Priorities to further the work of salvation and exaltation

- New Children and Youth Program
- Gathering Israel on both sides of the veil – “Greatest work on the earth today”
- Conducting effective ministering interviews
- Rejoice in the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the 200th anniversary of its commencement; continue to use the revealed name of the church

As a stake presidency, we will do our best to focus on these items in 2020 and invite each member of the stake to join in the invitation of our Prophet and the First Presidency.

We will continue to focus on the Area Plan and invite/challenge each member to read from the Book of Mormon daily, as invited by our prophet.

May God bless each member of our stake as we seek to follow Jesus and strive to become like Him.



President Coburn

Upcoming Dates

- Saturday, January 11 - YW Brunch/Tallmadge 10 am-noon
- Sunday, January 12 - Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults Broadcast 8-9pm. For all young adults (ages 18 through 30), whether single or married, and students who will be finishing high school or the equivalent by the end of August 2020 are invited to participate.
- Sunday, January 26 - Akron Ward Conference
- Sunday, January 26 - Standards Night/Tallmadge 6-7:30pm
- Sunday, February 2 - Fast Sunday
- Tuesday, February 4 - Temple Recommend Interviews with stake presidency member/Medina 6:30-7pm. No appointments needed.
- Saturday, February 8 - Stake Youth Leadership Training/Tallmadge 10am-noon
- Tuesday, February 11 - Temple Recommend Interviews with stake presidency member/Tallmadge 6-7pm. No appointments needed.
- Saturday, February 15 - Quad Stake Dance/Cleveland 7-10pm
- Saturday, February 22 - Women's Conference/Tallmadge 9am-1pm
- Sunday, February 23 - Ashland Ward Conference
- Sunday, February 23 - Face to Face for Youth Broadcast 8-9pm

RELIEF SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

by Sister Lisa Kay, Stake Relief Society First Counselor

When my oldest was a Sunbeam, he loved going to Primary. But when we traveled, he was nervous about attending a class where he didn't know the teacher or the students. At the Sunbeam class in Auburn, California, a kind woman bent down to greet him lovingly. Sister Stewart gently spoke with Alex for a moment and then invited him into her class. When I picked him up, Alex was beaming. He told me all about his new friends and their lesson. Fast forward eight years, where this time, my youngest and I walked towards the Auburn 1st ward Sunbeam class. I was delighted to see Sister Stewart still joyfully teaching Sunbeams. She smiled, spoke to Carter, and invited him into class. When I picked up Carter after class, he was equally happy to have made new friends and to be taught the gospel by Sister Stewart. She was a light to my boys in a frightening time.

Jesus Christ taught in the Sermon on the Mount,



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16) In December, many of us took part in the Light the World initiative to transform Christmas into a season of service. We had the opportunity to follow the example of Jesus Christ by ministering to others as He did. We can continue to follow our Savior's example and light the world every day throughout the year through acts of love and kindness.

President Russell M. Nelson, in his 2018 Devotional to the Youth, invited them to stand out. Be different. Be a light. He said, “It is my testimony

that when we follow through with whatever the prophet of God asks us to do, the way will be opened and lives will be changed.” I know this is true for adults as well as youth. I have seen it in my life and in the lives of others as we strive to follow the prophet, we will be blessed, and we can be a light to those around us.

MISSIONARY UPDATES



CHANCE KIBUBUTA

Dec 2019 - Dec 2021

**Nevada Las Vegas
Mission**



KELLIE HERRON

Jul 2018 - Jan 2020

**Brazil Santos
Mission**

Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh,
Director



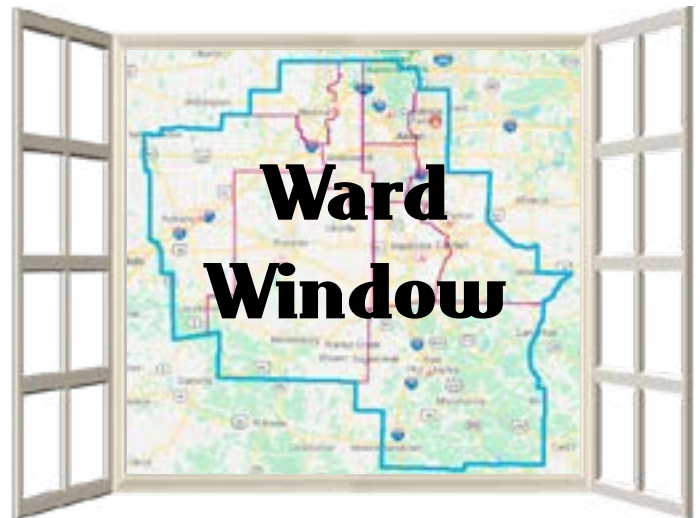
Happy New Year to everyone! It is at this time of year that we often set a list of goals or resolutions before ourselves. We at the Family History Center would like you to consider one more, 52 Ancestors for 52 Weeks. We would like you to accept the challenge to spend some quality time on one of your ancestors each week. Learn about them and add those memories to Family Search, and if possible, post pictures in their gallery, or give them eternal blessings by completing their work in the temple.

Think about what it will mean to you and to them at the end of the year to have spent time with 52 different ancestors during the year. Participating in this would be a great achievement to hang on your heart at year's end. Enjoy the challenge and join us in this wonderful adventure for 2020! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeanne Peugh at the Akron Ohio Family History Center.

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER SPECIALS



Sister Deb Carter, Elder & Sister Wolter 440-526-4057
6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Suite C, Brecksville, Ohio 44141
Wed-Thurs 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Be sure to look for this column throughout the year to see what has been happening throughout the stake as each unit shares something special.

February - Medina
March - New Philadelphia
April - New Portage
May - Tallmadge
June - Wadsworth
July - Wooster
August - Akron
September - Ashland
October - Canton
November - Easthill
December - Massillon

Self-Reliance Corner

by Sister Diane Burgoon,
Stake Self-Reliance Specialist

There is a virtual self-reliance class starting in January - Starting and Growing My Business. If you currently have a business that you would like to expand or have a desire to start a new one, this class will help you get started. Join others in getting and giving support as you work toward your dream of owning your own business. To register, contact Sister Burgoon (330-430-9912 or diane.burgoon@yahoo.com) by January 17th if you are interested. The date and time will be determined by class.

For all virtual classes, you will need access to a computer with a camera, microphone, and internet. If you need help with this requirement, please reach out to your EQ/RS president or bishop.

For more information on becoming or helping others become more self-reliant, see: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/self-reliance/blog>

The Lord has declared,

"It is my purpose to provide for my saints."

(D&C 104:15)

North American Northeast Area Plan



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.