

# Stake News

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January/February 1985

## Stake Conference Scheduled

Stake Conference will be held February 23 and 24. Presiding will be Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone of the First Quorum of the Seventy and President of the North America Southeast Area. The theme of the Saturday night session will be "Obedience and Sacrifice Bring Forth the Blessings of Heaven." The following meetings are scheduled:

### Saturday, February 23

- 4:00 pm Priesthood Leadership for all stake, ward, and branch priesthood executive committees.
- 6:00 pm Saturday Evening Session for all adult members of the stake 18 and older.

### Sunday, February 24

- 8:00 am Special meeting for single members, 12-25 years of age, YM and YW Presidencies, Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies.
- 10:00 am General sessions for all members of the Stake and their friends.
- 12:20 pm Special meeting for single adults 25 and older, Relief Society Presidencies, All Quorum Presidencies, Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies, High Counselors.

## Festival of Lights

If you didn't see the Festival of Music and Lights at the Stake Center in December, you missed a beautiful sight. Approximately 40,000 miniature lights in white, blue, green, and pink decorated the trees and shrubs around the building, and spotlights accentuated the nativity and other areas. Classical and sacred Christmas music could be heard coming from the building all day and during the evenings.

Programs of Christmas music and narration were presented during the two weeks prior to Christmas. The Tallahassee Second Ward Choir, under the direction of Jackie Clawson, presented John W. Peterson's "Night of Miracles." The Rickards High School "Singers" gave a program with David Busby directing. Marvin Goldstein presented a piano medley of Christmas carols and secular numbers. This was held in the chapel, and nearly every seat was filled. All of the other programs were presented outdoors in the front of the chapel as the weather was unusually warm. The Tallahassee First Ward Choir presented "Night of Miracles" with Jeannie Fordham directing. Third Ward Choir and Youth Choir gave a program under the direction of Nell Tucker and Sylvia Caruthers. The Leon High School "Melodears" presented a program of varied music. A family ensemble with Jeannie Fordham and her daughters, Carla Moller and Debra Fordham, combined voice, oboe, flute, and drums for a variety of musical talent. "Mr. Krueger's Christmas" was shown in the chapel after each program.

Members of the Tallahassee wards portrayed Joseph and Mary and the two shepherds in the live nativity scene. Couples representing Joseph and Mary were Becky and Bary Crittenden, Darnell and Tom Russell, Bill and Cleo Miller, Betsy and Tom Rhames, Paige and Richard Rothaus, and Lorinda and Richard Snow. The shepherds were portrayed by Mike Brown, Jim Léger,

### AREA PRESIDENT TO

### VISIT STAKE CONFERENCE



Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone, who will be visiting our stake during the upcoming stake conference, was appointed president of the North America Southeast Area this past summer when the First Presidency announced a change in the administration of major geographic areas of the Church.

The North America Southeast Area is one of 13 such divisions--7 in the United States and Canada and 6 in other parts of the world. Members of the First Quorum of the Seventy serve as members of Area Presidencies. The administrative change follows a general pattern of Church government, brings a combined wisdom to decisions, and provides flexibility in meeting challenges of growth. The Area Presidencies are accountable to the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve for building up the Church and regulating its affairs in their respective areas.

Elder Featherstone was called to be a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy in October 1976; from 1972 to 1976 he was second counselor in the Presiding Bishopric. His other callings have included stake president, member of the General Priesthood Missionary Committee of the Church, stake high counselor, counselor in a bishopric, stake mission president, and leader in the boy scouts. His great love for young people and the outdoors was frequently illustrated by his boating trips with the scouts down the Salmon River.

Elder Featherstone has been active in business, community, and civic affairs. Having served as corporate training manager of Albertson's food company, he has also chaired the Supermarket Institute's National Produce Executive Committee.

He is married to Merlene Miner. They have seven children--six boys and a girl.

## Stake Married's Conference

The Annual Stake Marrieds Seminar, which is scheduled near Valentine's Day each year, will be held Saturday, February 16 from 12:30 to 6:00 pm. All marrieds and single adults 18 and over are encouraged to attend. Topics will include "Communication: My Spouse As My Best Friend," and "Development of Love," with workshops on parenting, single-parenting, and grandparenting. A snack will be served. The cost is \$3.00 per couple (or \$1.50 per person).

## Stake Presidency Message



by Charles H. Madsen, Jr.  
First Counselor

When the Lord placed us here upon this earth to experience our probationary period, He knew that we would face many trials and difficult times as we learned and developed. To give us the strength we need to face the trials of this life, He provided helps that guide us in our decision making. All members have received the gift of the Holy Ghost to inspire and direct along the paths of righteousness. He allows us to communicate directly with Him through prayer on our part and inspiration and revelation on His. In His great wisdom, He also placed us in family units to give us companionship and love. Through our families we are able to escape from the everyday rigors of earthly living and gather around us those with whom we share our love, our warmth, and our desires.

As with any great blessings the Lord gives to us, families also bear great responsibility. Each member of the family must contribute to the overall welfare of the unit to insure that the proper environment and attitude is maintained. Children should honor their parents, not only through their direct courtesy to them, but by participating in outside activities that might bring credit to their parents, and avoiding those that might bring discredit or embarrassment.

Parents should realize that when they take on the responsibilities of rearing children, all else becomes secondary. Elder A. Theodore Tuttle of the First

## Primary

by Nadine Gairns  
Stake Primary Secretary

November 3, 1984 was an important day in the lives of the Blazer boys. A very special Priesthood Preview program conducted by the stake presidency was presented for all Blazer A boys and any Blazer B's who did not attend last year and their fathers or a male "priesthood holder substitute."

The Priesthood Preview is a program designed to strengthen each boy's commitment to preparing himself to receive the priesthood.

One event focused attention on the Christlike qualities that the boys are developing. Other activities consisted of inspirational talks, educational games, and motivational activities.

The program was opened by a greeting from Richard L. Chapple, Stake President. A talk was given by Quitman Branch President, James Moody, on "I Can Help My Son Prepare to Receive the Priesthood." Walt Moody gave a talk on "I Can Prepare to Receive the Priesthood." Sister Barbara Canova of the stake Primary presidency was in charge of the activity "Priesthood: Power to Serve Man." Talks were also given by President Charles H. Madsen and President Paul Nicholson. The boys enjoyed a filmstrip "A Boy and the Power of God." ❖

Quorum of the Seventy counseled us that "The decision to become parents means to put first the obligation to be baby-sitters, trainers, discipliners, supervisors, etc.," that the responsibility as parents "comes before social climbing, personal selfishness, propriety, pleasure, even a tidy house." The Lord Himself commanded that we should "teach our children to pray and walk uprightly before the Lord." The love and innocence of a little child cannot be replaced by any other treasure on earth. Parents should constantly strive to develop their children into faithful servants of our Father in Heaven.

When President David O. McKay said that "no other success can compensate for failure in the home," he was not talking to parents alone. Every family member contributes to the success or failure of the family unit. Parents (especially fathers) take the lead in providing spiritual activities such as prayer, scripture reading, and family home evening. However, the children should make every effort to be available for these sessions and bring a spirit in tune with the activity. All family members should be prepared with their assignment and ready to participate with enthusiasm.

It has been said that there is no blanket road to success. But one knows that success in the family can be helped by following some basic procedures:

1. Daily family prayer
2. Scripture study
3. Weekly family home evenings
4. Periodic interviews by family head
5. Expressions of love toward family members
6. Loyalty toward family
7. Family attendance at meetings
8. Respect for all family members

The home should be a prototype of the celestial kingdom evidenced "by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; by kindness, and pure knowledge, . . . Reproving . . . when moved upon by the Holy Ghost. . ." (D&C 121:41-43).

The key to celestializing our homes is adherence to the commandments so our actions may be directed by the Holy Ghost. It is probably impossible to keep the Holy Ghost when we are disciplining in anger, or using means that take away free agency from our children. External control brings rebellion; righteous motivation brings self-control.

May we have the proper spirit and true love within our homes is our prayer for all our stake.

## Bainbridge

by Jan Mulford  
Bainbridge Branch Public Communications Director

Folks in Bainbridge have been eating and eating and eating. Of course, that's not a bad thing to do this time of year.

We all admired the Christmas decorations at the Stake Center, and we are hoping that our budget will grow healthy and strong so next Christmas we can start to decorate our grounds.

Relief Society is going to be wonderful this year. We are starting off right by serving snowflakes in January.

Our single folks are becoming a more active and healthy unit. We are looking forward to riding the Florida Belle this spring. We are continuing the square meal deal each Monday.

Ya'll come see us.

## Young Women



by Peggy Dransfield  
First Counselor  
Stake Young Women Presidency

On January 5, 1985 the Stake Standards Night for all girls ages 12-18 and their mothers was held at the Stake Center.

One entered the cultural hall through a living room, complete with rugs and furniture. The cultural hall had a special, sacred feeling. On stage, there was a large white model of the Salt Lake Temple, with lighted trees surrounding it. Around the cultural hall were displays of wedding dresses.

The meeting began with an opening song by the Thomasville Young Women. Sister Cherie Garr welcomed everyone and introduced our guest speakers, Sister Pat Brock, Sister Alice Packard and President Richard Chapple. Sister Brock recounted experiences from her college days, showing that mothers could understand because they were young and in school once, too. Sister Packard gave practical suggestions for keeping the standards and counseled the girls to have fun when they date. President Chapple talked about how we project what we are by our dress and attitudes. Each speaker was able to help those in attendance to realize that temple marriage and living a life worthy of going to the temple should be their goal.

Janice Tucker, dressed in a wedding dress, and Greg Whitcomb, in a white tuxedo, sang "I Promise" at the end of the program. Renee Anderson played the piano for their duet.

Many thanks go to Marion Whitley and her committee--Diane Meresse, Dee Durrance, Nell Tucker and Sylvia Caruthers--for the beautiful decorations. A wedding cake made by Donna Tucker, and a delicious punch made by Nancy Vass was served for refreshments. Gayle Hardee provided piano music for the prelude and during refreshments.

A special thanks goes to everyone who participated in the Standards Night. Our hope is that each young woman in our stake realizes just how special she is and that each will set high goals in order to reach her potential.



## Relief Society

by Ann Nicholson  
First Counselor  
Stake Relief Society Presidency

The new year is underway! We have probably all done some self-evaluation, set a few goals, and started to work. I love beginnings!

Your stake board has been busy planning, and we are looking forward to a full year with ward conferences, leadership meetings, visits to the wards and branches, and special events. We know these will help us draw closer to our sisters in the Stake so that we can truly "strive together" in love.

THE BIG SPECIAL EVENT of the Relief Society year is the Stake Women's Conference on Saturday, March 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our theme is "A Lovlier You." It will be a very feminine affair with a catered luncheon, special decorations, fashion show with wardrobe planning emphasis, and a few very different costumes. Many talented sisters have been working and planning for months to make it really special. We hope it will entertain as well as give practical ideas. Tickets will be sold through the local Relief Society presidencies.

Because the luncheon is catered, we must know two weeks ahead how many will attend. Therefore, no tickets will be sold after March 9 and none will be sold at the door. Be sure to make your plans and get your tickets now! You won't want to miss it. Bring your non-member friends! It should be a perfect activity for friendship. The tickets are only \$5.00 per sister. We hope it will be an occasion you'll always remember. See you there!

## NEW BISHOP



Reynold D. Meyer was called as the new bishop of the Tallahassee Second Ward. He succeeds N. Richard Anderson, Sr. who is moving to Washington DC.

Bishop Meyer, 27, is an attorney with the State Department of Transportation. He married the former Michelle V. Lamarque in the Logan Temple in 1980, and the couple is expecting their first child in February. Sister Meyer is also a lifetime member, born in England and raised in Canada.

In his testimony, Bishop Meyer expressed his personal assurance of the Lord's call. He spoke of being prepared for this calling through the promptings of the Spirit and how at first he didn't believe it. Immediately prior to this call he served as a primary teacher; other Church callings have included assistant scoutmaster, seminary teacher, and elders quorum president. Bishop Meyer served a mission in the Papeete Tahiti Mission from 1977-79.

As bishop he would like to cultivate friendship among the members and instill dedication to the Lord. He will be assisted by counselors Roger W. Lunt and Doyle C. Alley.



## Scouting News



L to R: Bill Canova, Fred Williams, J.T. Little

Fred Williams became an Eagle Scout, boy scouting's highest rank, in a court of honor held December 28. Fifteen-year-old Fred is the son of E. Leslie and Joyce Williams. The Williams family, now living in Tampa, were long-time members of Tallahassee Second Ward and this is where Fred completed his work toward the eagle rank. Like an eagle returning to the nest, Fred returned to Tallahassee for this important event.

For his eagle project, Fred went to Madison County, Florida and documented a graveyard. He took down dates and names and logged the catalogue with local genealogy societies and the Church. "That graveyard is where my great-great-great grandfather is buried," Fred explained.

Only a small percentage of all scouts attain the eagle rank. This is the second for the Williams family as Leslie Williams, Jr. is also an Eagle Scout, and he presented the eagle award to his brother at the court of honor. This was the second eagle court in the stake in 1984.

Achieving the Eagle rank has been a goal for many years, Fred says. "My brother was an Eagle before I ever started in scouts; he set a good example for me."

Fred's plans for the future include attending Florida State University and majoring in accounting. Will being an Eagle Scout help him in the years ahead? "It sure looks good on your resumé."

Fred was helped on his trail to Eagle by many leaders in the Tallahassee area, including Cub Scout leaders Karen and Joe Torgeson, Webelos leaders Sonny Blanton and R.J. Monti, Blazer leaders Bobby Guris and George Fish, and Scoutmasters Bill Canova and J.T. Little.



### NEW SCOUTING LEADER CALLED

Brother John Thomas (J.T.) Little IV has been called as the new Tallahassee Stake Scouting Coordinator. Brother Little is married to Sonja (Sunny) Marie Newcome, and they have three children: John Thomas V, age 10; Brian, age 8; and Lucinda, age 4. Brother and Sister Little were baptized into the Church in 1979.

Brother Little was born in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida when he was 16 years old. He graduated from Stranahan High School where he managed the track team. He served in the Air Force as a Minuteman 3 Missile mechanic.

Brother Little's Church callings have included ward athletic director, teacher's quorum advisor, elders quorum first counselor, and now stake scouting coordinator.

One special experience he related was when he received a special award made by his scout troop. It was a rounder, a leather insignia, made just for him. On the front it was inscribed "To Our Wonderful Scout Leader" and on the back were the initials of 22 boys (and he told us the name of each one).

In his new calling, he wants to organize and encourage more and better scouts. Brother Little is proud of the two scouts in the stake who attained their eagle rank in 1984 and looks forward to seeing five boys become eagles in 1985. He says that our strength is in developing our youth. "Scouting gives a positive ground to build on. It needs to be fun, organized, have strong leaders and to build a strong foundation now to develop the leaders of tomorrow."

Good luck in your new calling!

## SEMINARY ♦♦♦

by Jackie Taylor  
Seminary Student  
Tallahassee First Ward

My seminary class, as well as the rest of the Church, has spent the year studying and learning about the New Testament. We meet Monday through Friday from 6:10 to 7:00 a.m., except when there are teacher's planning days or holidays. When there is no school, then we miss seminary, too. There are about 99 of us in the stake, and all are early morning seminary. There are about 250,000 seminary students in the Church.

While studying the New Testament, it's interesting to see the differences and similarities in the styles of writing of Christ's life through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Not only do we study the New Testament, but we may also have special lessons and/or films on such things as tithing, morality, and missionary work, just to name a few. Yearly requirements to graduate from seminary include learning 40 scriptures and where they are located, reading the book we're studying (in this case the New Testament), and having at least 80% attendance at class meetings.

This year has been a really fun and informative year for me, and my knowledge of the New Testament (so far) has increased greatly. Our teacher, Sister Jackie Stone, is a very loving, fun, and PATIENT young lady. She is an excellent teacher and studies hard to be fully prepared for her lessons. She is greatly loved, appreciated and respected by all her students.

Seminary takes a lot of time and dedication which may cause some people to make some sacrifices like getting up early, studying the scriptures, and being there when sometimes you don't feel like it. But in the end it is worth any sacrifices you make because it prepares you to face life on a day-to-day basis and it prepares you with the greater knowledge that you will need for those missions that you will later have in life.

(Editor's Note: Jackie Taylor is a senior at Florida High, where she is involved with many activities including chorus and school play. She is first counselor in her Laurel class.)



# TALLAHASSEE II

by Barbara Young  
Tallahassee II Public Communications Director

The Young Men and Young Women of the Tallahassee Second Ward are keeping busy--to say the least. And many of their activities are taking place in or near the kitchen. In December they catered the Stake Single Adult Christmas Dinner, serving a beautiful and delicious dinner of chicken divan, homemade rolls, carrots, salad, and peppermint ice cream dessert. On January 18 the youth held an Oyster Roast behind the Stake Center with oysters, hot dogs, chili dogs and hot chocolate for sale. If you would like a sample of their growing culinary skills, come to the Marrieds Seminar on February 16. The Young Men and Young Women of the Second Ward will cater the Stake Marrieds Seminar, serving homemade soup and pie. The money from all these activities will go into the Ward budget to be used for youth activities and temple trips.

In addition to their edible efforts the youth helped in a community improvement project on February 9, planting trees to beautify Apalachee Parkway. Groups from many organizations were represented. The Second Ward is proud of the youth and their accomplishments. And remember, if you need some good food, call the Second Ward youth.

## Family Preparedness



by Lois D. Davis  
Home Production and Storage Resource Specialist  
Tallahassee First Ward

Shortly after moving, my friend J. found herself jobless after a short-term employment. She decided to use the food storage that had followed her on her moves. And use it she did. Shortly after her new employment, all that she had left of her original supplies was half of a gallon can of freeze-dried green beans. Had she had a complete supply for herself and two children, she would have been able to weather the period of unemployment easier and with more independence.

As it was, she was able to maintain a measure of independence. I think it was with a touch of pride she told me they had "started eating whatever we had; when green beans were what was left, we had a couple meals of just green beans."

The major disasters occur rarely, in fact sometimes so rarely that we forget to be prepared for them. We read of blizzards in the North, drought in Ethiopia, volcanoes and earthquakes (elsewhere, of course). Then we speak of flooding, tornadoes, and hurricanes which come closer to home. But closer still is to see the personal disasters that could hit any one of us.

My friend J. had been divorced many years, and her unemployment is an example of the "personal disasters" that we can anticipate and prepare for. Death of a spouse, divorce, disability, and long-term illness can all rob the family of income. Ask yourselves "What can we do to temper the effects of these?"

Get an early start on your garden by planting cooler weather crops now and starting others in containers. Children love starting seeds in paper cups and egg cartons. In this respect, I am like a child also, for I love watching the baby plants, making their start on my window sill. Also the time is ideal for fruit trees, grape and berry vines.

## Branch President's Corner

by Patrick E. Lightcap  
Madison Branch President

As the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints grows, the wards and branches are the growing edge. This edge is sharpened by the missionaries and members cooperating in the mission of the Church. As we pray together, plan together, and work together, we begin to be truly aware of our responsibility in this age--to prepare the world we know for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes when we use the word "world," we allow our thinking to go elsewhere, to areas other than where we live. That frequently becomes an excuse to think that missionary work is something that happens somewhere else and is done by someone else. But the reality is that "the world" where missionary work takes place is the immediate environment around each member. It is this close, personal world of friends, neighbors, and associates where we each have a responsibility to help prepare others for the coming of the Savior.

In the Madison Branch we have a responsibility to Madison County, Florida. Our missionaries are busy teaching. They are a part of our weekly PEC meeting, keeping the leadership informed of their progress and needs. We are attempting to respond, through the promptings of the Holy Spirit, to those souls whom our Heavenly Father has already prepared to hear the gospel. We are seeing more families allowing the missionaries in to share Jesus Christ. We are having more non-members requesting priesthood blessings as they exercise their faith. We are seeing our community being receptive to the restored Church.

As we each become more aware of our personal role in missionary work, may we pray about it daily, closely listening to the Spirit. May we have what it takes to open our mouths--expressing our love to our friends and neighbors, and family--by sharing with them the love of Jesus Christ found in the gospel. As each branch and ward develops this vision, the Church will continue to bring others to the point where they can decide what they must do with the truth.

Remember, most of us in the branches are converts to the Church--we had the opportunity and responsibility to make a choice. Let's commit ourselves to be a part of the 1985 program giving that same opportunity for choice to at least one of our neighbors, friends or associates. How great shall be our joy as we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit.

### News From The STAKE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

#### Gold and Green Ball and Laurel Presentation

March 9, 1985 7:00 to 11:30

Theme: "An Evening in Paris."

#### Roadshows

1985 Theme - "If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It"

#### Stake Presentations

Friday and Saturday, April 12th and 13th, 7:00 p.m.

Script deadline - February 28, 1985

Directors meeting with Sister Linda Hall  
February 2, 1985, 2:00 p.m.

## Madison



by Lisa Cavanaugh  
Madison Branch Public Communications Director

Miss Amy Dale Kinard, 11, of Lee, won her division of the Annual Miss Christmas Beauty Pageant held December 16 in Madison. The fifth grade Lee Junior High student is the daughter of Dale and Mary Kinard of the Madison Branch.

Amy's beauty, poise and appearance won her a tiara, and large trophy as she was recognized.

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New members in the Madison Branch are Tommy Greene and Mark Courterier.

## Genealogy Library

by Alicia L. McMahon  
Stake Genealogical Librarian

The search for your missing relatives is more than just collecting their names. In the process, you may absorb an amazing amount of history, geography, and even some law. I don't think anyone can follow the trail left by his ancestors and not become interested in the time in which they lived.

The course of your rummagings may take you to odd places. Nowhere is the transitory nature of the existence of man brought home to me more than in an old graveyard which lies forgotten on a hillside. While gravestones tell very little about the history of your relative, they can give you the dates of two major events in his life--birth and death.

The task of ambling through cemeteries in search of an ancestor can be made easier if you can take elderly relatives with you. They can help you piece together the relationships that existed between the people buried there. While they may not remember much at home, sometimes when they are confronted with a gravestone, a small door to the past will open in their minds and the memories will return.

If no relative is left, you yourself can figure out and later prove, from other records, many relationships which you need for your family history. Don't overlook cemeteries in towns that border on the town in which your people lived. Boundary lines change and land which was once in one town now belongs to another.

There are many books compiled of gravestone inscriptions. Approximately twenty cemeteries in Leon County have been done. There are many remaining, and much valuable information is being lost each year as cemeteries are vandalized and gravestones destroyed. If you would be interested in helping fellow searchers find their lost relatives and save a wee bit of local history, come join me copying gravestone inscriptions.

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For those waiting for an update in resource material, the Genealogy Library expects the new IGI to be in by the end of February.

## Missionary Calls...

Best wishes to the following young men who have been called to serve as a full-time missionaries.

**Michael Rudd** (Quincy)  
California Anaheim Mission

**Leslie Williams** (Tallahassee II)  
Taiwan Taipei Mission

**Kurtis Teare** (Quincy)  
Sweden Stockholm Mission

## ...and Releases

The following individuals recently returned from full-time missions. Welcome home!

**Marty Guris** (Tallahassee II)  
Chile Vina Del Mar Mission

**Bruce Covington** (Bainbridge)  
Washington Spokane Mission

**Jay Clark** (Tallahassee II)  
Netherlands Amsterdam Mission

**Mark Fordham** (Tallahassee I)  
Tennessee Nashville Mission

We also wish to welcome home **Sister Daisy Smoke** of the **Tallahassee Second Ward**. She returned some time ago from a mission in the **Washington DC Temple**.

## Cairo

by Kati Walker  
Cairo Branch Public Communications Director

On December 13, the Cairo Branch Young Women stuffed 50 Christmas bags for the foster children of Grady and Thomas counties. The girls contributed candy to supplement items donated by the local Pizza Hut and McDonalds. The Cairo Branch Young Men and Scouts from Troop 312 donated small stuffed animals which were also placed in the bags as Christmas gifts for the children. The bags were returned to the Foster Parent Association to be distributed at the annual children's party.

On January 22, the Cairo Branch Relief Society began a dancing/exercise class. Sister Margaret Harding teaches the class and members of the community have been invited to attend. The class meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

On January 23, the Relief Society held a Visiting Teaching Workshop. Three special awards were given: Sisters Linda Holt and Kathy Taylor received the "Extra Miler Award" for visiting teaching and Sister Linda Johnson received the Outstanding Visiting Teacher Award.

## The View

### from the Pews



It may take more money to be Mormon than some people think.

I'm not talking about tithing; that belongs to the Lord anyway, and since it's a fixed percentage of income it's equally hard for everyone to pay it. Fast offering for less well-to-do costs nothing, and local budgets are attuned to members' needs. However, there is sometimes concern with the other expenses -- scout camps, youth conferences, trips to the temple, etc. -- those worthwhile expenditures that seem to be beyond the means of some of our members.

Latter-day Saints are famous for their industriousness, and statistics show that we are better educated than most people. This combination of hard work and education means that most are financially stable, somewhere in the range of middle class. But maybe because that is so, it might make it harder for those who are not so affluent. An elders quorum president should probably not assign a brother a home teaching route without considering that he may not have a car, or enough money to buy gas for it. A Relief Society president should be careful about asking a sister to bring a certain dish to a social without considering that the ingredients might cost that family most of their weekly food budget.

In addition, it is not always possible to identify those without extra means by looking at them. A family may be able to live from the garden and wear hand-me-down clothes just fine, but coming up with a large amount for a youth temple trip may be another matter. If there are two children in the family, it may be cause for despair.

What can be done?

The Church is aware of this problem; they have issued directives about keeping the costs of activities down and priced items from the Church Distribution Center virtually at cost. For example, a set of scriptures, softbound with the new footnotes and topical guide, costs less than \$10.00.

Locally, leaders can be sensitive and thoughtfully plan activities that keep costs to a minimum. Activities can be paid for through local budget assessments. One excellent idea as a budget fundraiser is an auction, where those with little cash to spare can auction their talents to those with the ability to pay. Thus everyone can participate and contribute.

Temple trips are a major expense to some families. Some people don't have cars that can make it to Atlanta and back in one piece; others may not be able to afford to pay a babysitter. While every ward and branch has shining examples of people who trade babysitting and share rides, such efforts are usually among friends and those who are outside the mainstreams of Church society may not have the resources, social or monetary. Perhaps quorums and Relief Society can take more initiative to organize rides and babysitting; members can help by letting such leaders know when they will be going up so that others can go along. Then we can make the temple truly available to all.

While we have discussed actions that church leaders can take to help people cope with the costs of being an active church member, certainly the ultimate responsibility rests with those in need. With helping

hands all around them, people should speak up when they need something.

Sometimes people suffering adverse financial situations feel guilty or embarrassed. They look at their well-to-do righteous neighbors and think, "If only I had more faith, I wouldn't be in this situation." Perhaps these people need to realize that the Lord meets our needs in many ways, and we need to graciously accept his blessings, whether in the form of manna from heaven or a home teacher's helping hand.

Our church is made up of people from all socioeconomic levels. Let us all be more sensitive so that all are made to feel comfortable and welcome. In our parking lot new luxury cars and rusty machines barely able to run are parked side by side, and I wouldn't want it any other way.

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**Editor's Note:** "The View From the Pews" is an opportunity for members of the stake to present their opinions, either favorable or critical. Articles will be edited at the discretion of the editor, printed anonymously, and should be submitted to the STAKE NEWS, 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304.



## Book Briefs

by Suzanne Meik  
Seventies Bookstore Representative

The Gospel Doctrine class in Sunday School is studying the Doctrine & Covenants this year, and so I wanted to let you know of some books in the Seventies Bookstore that may help you in your study of these scriptures. Daniel Ludlow's 2-volume set Companion to Your Study of the Doctrine & Covenants offers historical and doctrinal information that will prove invaluable. These volumes provide a complete reference work for the students and the teachers. Bob Millet has compiled and written some essays on the Doctrine & Covenants in his book Hearken, O Ye People. The Doctrine and Covenants: Our Modern Scripture, by Richard Cowan, has been reprinted. For children, you could use Story of Our Church for Young L.D.S. by Emma Marr Petersen and Doctrine and Covenant Stories published by the Church.

When you want to take a break from all this reading and studying, play one of the many games available at the Bookstore. We have a good supply of "Jots & Tittles" and "Celestial Pursuit" for you trivia lovers. Also many games to play with young children that will teach them about the prophets, choosing the right and character building. One game we have, "Count Your Blessings" is for children 8 to adult and involves buying and selling property, collecting "rents" and "pay days" but the only way you win is by getting "blessings" and receiving the gospel.



### GARDENING TIP

Prepare your soil now by removing leftover debris from the past season. Add dolomite lime by sprinkling like sugar on a doughnut. (Do not lime Irish potato beds.) Have potatoes cut and ready and plant by mid-February. It's time to plant sugar snap peas, onion plants or sets, and English peas. If you want green onions for salads, plant them 2 inches deep; for bulbing onions, plant 1/2 inch deep. Now is the time to start tomatoes and peppers from seed.

## Community Involvement: *Making a Difference*

At the last stake conference, President Paul Nicholson said, "People say that we Mormons take care of our own. That's a compliment, but also a condemnation." He urged us to reach out into the community and extend ourselves more.

With increasing frequency and urgency, Church leaders have been encouraging us to become involved in our communities and to become an influence for good. We at the STAKE NEWS looked around the stake for some good examples of Latter-day Saints who were active outside the Church.

As with everything they ask us to do, our stake presidency is already setting a good example. President Chapple teaches fathering classes for the Education in Childbirth Association. President Madsen served on the board of the Tallahassee Area Problem Pregnancy Service, and was instrumental in starting their volunteer counselor program. President Nicholson is a Gadsden County Commissioner; and participates in several community groups.

Here are some more good examples of people around the stake who are involved in various causes that improve the quality of life in their towns. They manage families and careers and Church callings and still find time for community service. Of course, this isn't everyone -- we know there are lots more of you out there -- but this is just a sampling of what can be done and an opportunity to share ideas.



### MOULTRIE

Moultrie's most recently elected City Councilman, **Alton J. "Butch" Parrish**, is also our first counselor in the branch presidency and a successful advertising agency owner and executive.

Brother Parrish expressed a genuine enjoyment of working with people and added, "Just as with Church work, when you're doing something you really enjoy, you don't really consider the time element."

With a background in public administration of seven years in Kissimmee, Florida and four years previously with the City of Moultrie as an appointed administrator, Brother Parrish felt he had something to offer the community.

Having resigned the appointed administrator's position in 1977 to pursue further development of his advertising agency, the Colquitt Shopper, Brother Parrish was called as Moultrie's Branch President and gained further invaluable experience in administering to the needs of the people.

Running and winning against an incumbent Councilman on last May's election marked Brother Parrish's return to local public administration, a job he never really left.

With two required meetings of the Council per month at two to three hours each, and one to two special meetings per week ranging three to four hours and handling five to seven calls from the public each week, time must become a factor. However, Brother Parrish feels that when priorities are in order and Church and family come first, then the Lord will provide the time to serve our fellow man.

(Contributed by Wendell Allegood)



### QUINCY

You wouldn't think a small panhandle town like Quincy would have much culture, but the Quincy Music Theater presents musicals several times a year. And many Latter-day Saints have been behind the footlights and backstage.

The group is currently in rehearsal for "The Pirates of Penzance," and the cast includes **Iwan Teare**, stake clerk, and **Ann Nicholson**, counselor in the stake Relief Society presidency. **Connie Rudd**, **Christa Rudd**, **Joan Hall** and **Michael Nicholson** have all been involved with the group. Rehearsals last eight weeks, with two to four nights of rehearsal per week.

"It's such fun," Sister Nicholson explains. "I've gotten to know a lot of delightful people in the community." Brother Teare adds, "They know we're Mormons and have learned to accept us. They worry about what to serve us, and I believe they would come to our defense if someone criticized the Church."

Is it any wonder the Quincy Ward placed first in roadshows two years in a row?

### PERRY

**Franklin Murray** is the Branch President in Perry. He is also a member of the Perry Police Auxiliary. He has been doing this for more than eight years: providing security at parades and football games, riding with the police, volunteering approximately 16 hours a month. "He enjoys it," Sister Murray explains; "He likes working with people."



### BAINBRIDGE

Mormons are taught, among other things, to do missionary work, be civic minded, select and support good candidates for office, stand against evil and do good continually. One mother of five in the Bainbridge Branch is a prime example of success in these areas.

**Toni Brough** was born in New York and raised in Ohio. She attended BYU where she met and married Daniel R. Brough. Toni is strong-minded and strong-willed. When she believes something should be changed, she works to accomplish that goal. Therefore, the PTO now meets monthly rather than three times a year, pornographic magazines have been removed from the local Inland Station Stores, a questionable public officer has been replaced with a more worthy one.

"Politics really is my thing," says Toni. She is not as active in politics as she was in younger days,





but during the fall elections, a very impressive and informative letter expressing her political views was published in the Bainbridge and Albany newspapers. The author of this article received more than one phone call from people who wanted to commend Toni for this item.

She joined the La Leche League and participated in that organization for several years "for missionary reasons." I have heard many comments such as, "You're a Mormon? You must know Toni Brough; her boys go to scouts with my boys," or "Oh yes, the Brough kids are on the swim team with my kids." The five Brough kids, who are also involved with tumbling, dancing, music, and little theatre, give Toni many opportunities for missionary work.

(Contributed by Jan Mulford)



#### CAIRO

Sister **Terri Watts**, Cairo Branch Mia Maid Advisor, is currently serving as Chaplain of the Mitchell County Elementary School PTO, a position which she has held for two years. According to Sister Watts, "I love my children and want to be a part of what they do. Serving in the PTO is an excellent way to share my religious beliefs."

**Cindy and Charlie Butler** (Primary organist and Young Men President, respectively) are involved in a community organization called PARENTS IN ACTION. This group was organized in Cairo one year ago to combat drug and alcohol abuse in school-age children. The group meets and plans activities for teen-agers and activities for entire families in settings that are free of alcohol and drugs.

**Kathy Taylor** (First Counselor, YW Presidency) is the den mother for Cub Scout Troop 312. This troop consists of nine boys, ages 8 - 10, of whom seven are not members of the Church. This troop of Cub Scouts has been active in learning about themselves, their families and their genealogy. They have also done many community service projects, which include: making litter sticks and litter bags and picking up litter in the park; and decorating and delivering a Christmas tree to an elderly woman. Sister Taylor says that her greatest reward is "to see them grow. If I can teach anything to instill good goals in these boys, I will be happy. My goal for the troop this year is to have all nine boys be able to say the prayer at the end of a cub meeting."

President **Gary D. Taylor** (Cairo Branch President) is the Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 312 in Cairo. This troop has 14 scouts, with only two of these scouts being members of the Church. President Taylor is offering a great service to the community and to the individual boys of this troop, by serving them so faithfully.

Sister **Anne Walker** (Cairo Branch Relief Society President) voluntarily serves as a genealogy specialist at the city library one Saturday each month. During this time, she answers questions and aids in research for local citizens.

We truly have some great examples of community service workers in our branch. It seems that some of the busiest people are the ones that go the extra mile to serve their fellow men.

(Contributed by Kati Walker)

#### TALLAHASSEE

**Marion F. (Buck)** and **Sylvia E. Caruthers** of Tallahassee Third Ward are involved in several community activities and enjoy their association with them. On Mondays they can be found carrying Meals on Wheels to shut-ins in the Frenchtown area. This is a part of the Senior Citizen Planning Council of Leon County. More than 1800 meals are prepared each day at the Center, which includes Meals on Wheels, congregate meals and those delivered elsewhere in the county. Meals are free, but donations are accepted. If anyone would like to give a couple of hours each week to help deliver these meals they can call 385-2131.

Each spring this couple volunteers to work at the Tallahassee Open at Killearn Country Club.

Another worthwhile project is tutoring adults to read and write. This is part of the Council of Volunteer Reading Tutors, of which Sylvia is president. Since 1978 she has been tutoring once a week and finds it very rewarding, especially when a student can read a whole page without help. Sylvia is also a member of the Retired Officers' Wives' Club and is a patron of the Tallahassee Symphony.

Buck is a member of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, sponsored by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. He helps people to prepare their income tax forms. He is also Treasurer of the local chapter of the Air Force Association, and he was chairman for the State Convention held here in 1982. He is also a member of the Retired Officers' Association.

Buck presently serves as Stake Auditor and Mission Fleet Vehicle Advisor for the Florida Tallahassee Mission. In this capacity he gives defensive driving classes and examinations to all incoming missionaries. Sylvia presently is serving as Ward Music Chairman, and she says, "It's the best job I ever had."

**Lynda and Ken Bergstrom** are co-presidents of the PTO at Carolyn Brevard Elementary School. They have been active in the PTO for several years, and Ken, a Tallahassee Police Department officer, has been "Officer Friendly" for the school for two years. One goal is to raise money for playground improvements; another has been to increase participation of other parents, especially minorities.

Lynda was den mother in Tallahassee First Ward and had many non-member boys from Carolyn Brevard in the den. She is currently the Relief Society Secretary.

#### VALDOSTA

The women of Moody Air Force Base are enjoying activities planned by **Mary Helen Mertz**, Valdosta Ward, during her tenure as activities chairman of the Officer's Wives Club last year. Sister Mertz organized more than 20 interest groups focusing on activities ranging from cross-stitch and crochet to bowling and bridge. She explains the need for such activities, "In the military you are each other's family, because we're so far from our true families. So these groups help the wives get acquainted, share knowledge and build friendships." She added, "Of course, we've had the Church wherever we went, but not all military families have that luxury." Sister Mertz is a school teacher; husband Gene is a lieutenant colonel at Moody Air Force Base and they have one son, Andrew, 10.

# Moultrie

# CALENDAR

by Wendell Allegood  
Moultrie Branch Public Communications Director

The Moultrie Branch had one of its most spiritually uplifting Sacrament Meetings recently when the Primary organization presented its Christmas program Sunday, December 16. Some 20 Primary children took part in the program. Primary president and program director, Edris Parrish, credited the dedicated efforts of the individual children and the able assistance of her counselors and teachers with contributing the most to make the program the highlight of the Christmas season for the Moultrie Saints.

Sister Parrish directed the children in a superbly presented program with help from assistant musical director, daughter Holly Kay Parrish and first counselor Irene Godwin, who played piano. When the congregation was invited to join with the children in singing the concluding hymn, "I Am a Child of God," the presence of the Spirit was so overwhelming, hardly an adult had enough voice left to participate.

Children participating in the program were John, Jared, Andrew and Liza Godwin, Natasha Parrish, Bo Jackson, Timmy Burnette, Alice Roberts, Heather Wilkes, Robin and Crystal Whisnant, Joshua, Tyson, Juan, and Travis Smith, Caje and Angie Roberts, Misty and Jody Wayne Terry, and Rachel Leigh Cooper.

## February

- 16 Annual Married's Seminar (12:30 - 6:00 pm)
- 16 Stake Valentine's Dance - 7:30 pm
- 23-24 Stake Conference
- 24 Single Adult Fireside



## March

- 3 Student Ward Conference
- 8 Gold and Green Ball and Laurel Presentation
- 12 Stake News deadline
- 17 Quincy Ward Conference
- 23 Stake Women's Conference/Luncheon
- 24 Monticello Branch Conference
- 29 High Priests Quorum Meeting and Social, 7:30
- 30 Regional Basketball Tournament
- 31 Bainbridge Branch Conference



## April

- 6-7 General Conference
- 7 Easter
- 12-13 Roadshows
- 19 Youth Dinner/Youth and Young Adult Dance



CAR  
NEEDS  
REPAIRS



CHILDREN  
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HAVE  
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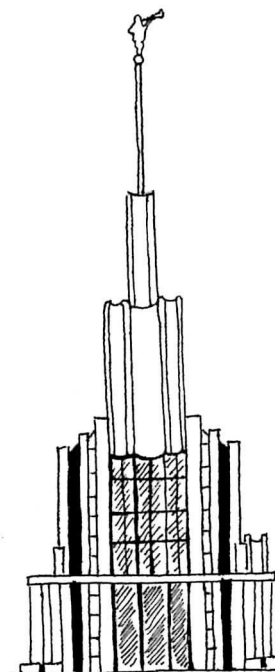


CAN'T  
FIND  
BABYSITTER



LOST  
RECOMMEND

*The game of life can be  
hard sometimes, but you  
can be a winner!!*



## New Members

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in our stake during November and December:

**Apalachicola:** Joan Aldrich

**Bainbridge:** Robert Kelly, Janet Rentz, Todd Thomas

**Cairo:** Steven Luce

**Madison:** Thomas Green, Jr.

**Monticello:** Daniel Taylor

**Moultrie:** Tammy Williams, Vera L. Drst

**Tallahassee I:** Phoebe Lee Alford

**Tallahassee III:** Aaron Lassen, Ruben Daniel, Marvin Atchley, Misty and Shane McClanahan, Deborah Owens

**Tallahassee Student:** Daniel Wells, Kelly Hurley, Patricia Nicoll

**Valdosta:** Jessica Peacock

The deadline for submitting articles for the March/April Stake News will be March 12. Submissions can be mailed to STAKE NEWS at 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304, or they can be left in the Stake News box in the stake office.

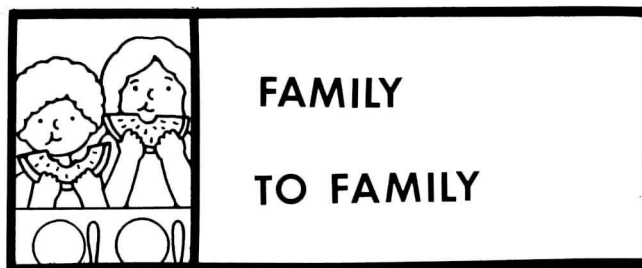
### FESTIVAL con't

Keith Clemons, Tom Edmonds, John Maynard, Glenn Maynard, Paul Sparkman, Byron Fain, and Ross Gowan.

Many people made it all possible: all those from the Tallahassee wards who wrapped trees and bushes with the hundreds of strings of lights; Max Sweat who was in charge of broadcasting the music and of operating and maintaining the lights on a daily basis; John Morgan (with help from wife Sue) and Lloyd Martin, in charge of the electrical installations and conduit; Sylvia Caruthers, who was in charge of the musical programs, Bob Kerns, who did the sound work for the musical programs; the stake public communications network, in charge of publicity; Janice Larsen, who was responsible for coordinating the live nativity; Donna Tucker and Nancy Sushereba, who made the costumes for the live nativity; Buck Caruthers, who built the stable; Kristina Booth, in charge of showing the VHS film; Larry Brock, who made the signs; and Bill Clark, who supervised the project.

The community began to enjoy the celebration from the very first week. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 people came through the parking lot to view the lights, and many stayed to hear the programs. Some even walked in from the street to view the sights and sounds. One such university student was seen sitting on the planter outside the chapel and asked, "Do you mind if I just sit here and listen to that beautiful music? Everything is so beautiful here. I have not had the Christmas spirit at all this year until I walked up here to see the lights and heard the music. Thank you so much; it is so beautiful, so wonderful; I am so grateful!"

This festival was a most wonderful way for us to share the spirit of Christmas with our fellow Christians, and we hope this will be a yearly tradition.



When our next issue reaches you, it will be spring, and families who spent the winter huddled in front of the fireplace will head outdoors. Family outings are always such fun. What does your family do? Is there a fun park or inexpensive museum nearby? Is there an activity you enjoy that others might like to try? This is a big stake, and our friends in Georgia may not realize what is available on the coast near Apalach -- and vice versa. Please share! Send to Stake News, 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304.

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The rates for advertising in the Stake News are as follows:

**"Newsletter Sponsors"** (back of the newsletter - including typesetting) \$10 per block/per issue. Those who advertise for one year (six issues) will receive a discount of one free issue, or \$50 for the year.




**"Classifieds"** - \$1.00 for first 3 lines and 50 cents for each additional line.

Please mail business card, or words on paper to STAKE NEWS, 2310 Oxford Rd., Tallahassee, FL, 32304 or call the Childers at (904) 575-2117.

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