ZION'S PATZ

Since 2005, a publication of the

Church of Jesus Christ Oak Grove Restoration Branch

Volume 19, Issue 5 September/October 2023

"... and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths ..." Isaiah 2:3

THE BOOK OF MORMON READING CHALLENGE

Many in our branch have taken up the challenge from our youth to read the entire Book of Mormon in one year (2023). Out of a total of 89 names (all ages) listed on the chart, there are currently 32.6% that have completed the challenge! Each has received a certificate of achievement from the Zioneers & Zion's League youth group.

The rest have received a "Note of Encouragement" to KEEP GOING – YOU CAN DO IT!

The goal for the year is to have 75 people read through, as challenged by our youth. Remember: You can also "listen" to the whole Book of Mormon at the following link: https://centerplace.org/hs/bm/

SERMON SNIPPETS (Listen to full sermon at OGRB.org)

High Priest Marlin Guin was the guest speaker at Oak Grove on Sunday morning, August 13, 2023. He read from Alma 16, where the Word of God is compared to a seed. (vs 144-162...)

When we KNOW the Word we can RESPOND in joy, happiness, knowledge, power and authority.

Brother Guin asked: Are we prepared? Do we believe? Are we instruments in God's hands declaring HOPE in Christ?

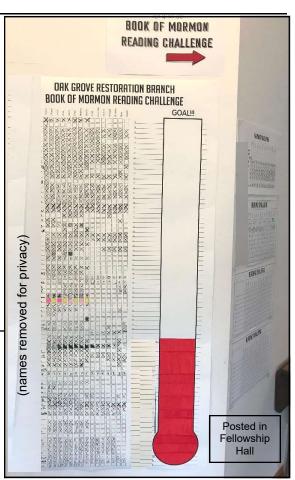
Let us participate in the work! Be together! Bear witness of Jesus in bold and courageous ways!

VOICE of WARNING: We MUST repent! [Things through history have caused scattering and destruction: 1) idols, 2) sexual perversions, and 3) killing their own children.] Are we any better today? REPENT!

Doctrine and Covenants 45:2

"Hearken, **O ye people of my church** and ye elders, listen together, and **hear my voice** while it is called today, and harden not your hearts; ... I will show unto you how the day of redemption shall come and also the restoration of the scattered"





IN THIS ISSUE

A Word from the Pastor	2
POZ Summer Series CMRB Fall Youth Retreats	3
OGRB Vacation Church School Report and Pics	4 5
Women's Dept. Kick-Off	6
Freeze Point Upcoming Events	7
INSERTS	

- Worship Schedules
- Leadership/Color Page
- August Bulletin Insert

A Word from the Pastor

Every Needful Thing

--- by Charlie Booth, Associate Pastor

Our branch theme for September and October is **Establish a House of God**. The main scripture reference is from the Doctrine and Covenants, as given in the year 1832.

"ORGANIZE YOURSELVES; PREPARE EVERY NEEDFUL THING, AND ESTABLISH A HOUSE, EVEN A HOUSE OF PRAYER, A HOUSE OF FASTING, A HOUSE OF FAITH, A HOUSE OF LEARNING, A HOUSE OF GLORY, A HOUSE OF ORDER, A HOUSE OF GOD..." D&C 85:36B

Those early Saints took this instruction to heart as they worked diligently to obey God's commandments.

Similarly, when our branch first began meeting in the Oak Grove Civic Center on January 11,1989, our people took this scripture to heart. While a number of those faithful Saints have since passed on, their legacy has not. They expended great effort, especially from 1989 through April, 1994, when the first special service was held in our present building. That was followed by a baptismal service in July; then the first formal worship service was held in the evening on August 14th.

Every needful thing was planned as our present "house" was being designed and built. If you review the scripture above, you will see that it is now a house of prayer, fasting, faith, learning, glory, order and—above all—a house of God.

The following is a quote from our branch pictorial directory printed in 1999:

"Our members expressed desire to have room for gatherings with other Restoration branches, as well . . . That the building be utilized throughout the week for a broad range of ministries for all ages. The fellowship hall and kitchen were designed with these goals in mind. The basement, though not currently finished, is designed to further outreach beyond the walls of the building itself to the community. Outreach became the central theme of our plans as the design for our new church building began to take shape." It is well to remember and honor those who have gone before—their planning, preparation, sacrifice and work. But it is absolutely vital that we look at where we are now—in the present and plan, prepare, sacrifice and work with a clear vision of our future.



Quoting again from the 1999 directory:

"When one enters the sanctuary, one's eyes are drawn to the stained glass window above the rostrum, which depicts a descending dove, representing the Holy Spirit. The design of the walls behind the rostrum represents hands reaching upward toward heaven, completing the symbolism which reminds us that as we reach upward toward the Heavenly Father, He will bless us with His Holy Spirit. Truly, He has blessed us in our branch."

OGRB Pastorate

Presiding Elder:	Mark Nunn
Associates:	Elder Mark Griffin
	Elder Jeremy Lidberg
	Priest James Bullard
	Elder Charlie Booth

DID YOU KNOW ? September 21, 2023, marks the 200th anniversary of the date when Joseph Smith, Jr., was visited by Moroni and shown the location of the plates of the Book of Mormon.

POZ Summer Series — by Mark Nunn

The Pastors of Zion (POZ) hosts a series of worship services during the summer months. For ten weeks in June, July and August special evening services are held at the Waldo Restoration Branch. What a wonderful opportunity for members of all the Restoration Branches in west-central Missouri (and outlying areas) to come together to share in worship and fellowship.

One of the challenges we face at Oak Grove is the difficulty many of our members have attending evening services at Waldo due to the distance and the late hours. This becomes a point of discussion among the Pastorate every year as we try to ensure that all members have an opportunity to worship on Sunday evenings. The questions that come up are:

1. Do we cancel services at Oak Grove to support the summer series at the risk of eliminating the opportunity to worship for those who can't go to Waldo?

2. Do we hold services at Oak Grove at the risk of drawing people away from supporting the summer series?

This year we tried something different. We continued to hold services at Oak Grove in which we projected the livestream of the summer series, including the pre-worship song service, for the members in attendance to receive the special ministry of the series (except for when Oak Grove hosted portions of the series and for the final youth service). Aside from some early technical issues, it has appeared to be well-received. For the first several weeks there was an average attendance of about 30 members. This number diminished in the last few weeks as some families went on summer vacations.

As is usual for the summer series, the ministry was very spiritually uplifting. The 30-minute song services always invited the spirit in a unique manner —lifting up our collective voices in songs of praise and adoration. Each of the designated ministers were led by the spirit to bring the Gospel message with the light of Jesus Christ for our spiritual growth.

A particularly powerful message on "Hope" was given by Elder Doug Smith on June 25th. Go to this link to watch his sermon:

https://livestream.com/waldoavenue/ events/10891937

In fact, I have personally heard ministers referencing Doug's message on four occasions during subsequent sermons and testimonies. However, it would be well worth your time to go to the Waldo Restoration Branch website to listen to ALL of the sermons again. https://livestream.com/waldoavenue

We are called to gather unto Christ to receive His Spirit and to rest in Him. This gathering takes many forms, the first of which must take place in our hearts, such that the hardness thereof might be eradicated. Another form is gathering as a body in one heart and one mind, focused upon Jesus Christ so that we can share in His Gospel of love with one another in words and deeds. The reunions, retreats, all-Branch worship services and the summer series afford us wonderful opportunities to share in the kingdom building of Zion.

May the Lord continue to bless the Oak Grove Restoration Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ in its ongoing spiritual growth.



Vacation Church School 2023

Our Oak Grove Restoration Branch (OGRB) Vacation Church School (VCS) was held at the church Monday thru Friday, July 10 thru 14, from 9:00am to noon, with a program and refreshments on Friday evening at 7:00pm. (We're pretty sure attendance to the program was somewhat less due to a big thunderstorm which moved through the area that evening!)

Director Debbie Norman and VCS Pastor Elder Dennis Heater greatly appreciated all of the VCS staff (17+) that shared their gifts and talents in teaching and interacting with the children—even during registration and snacks—as well as all of the families that brought their youth (27-28 most days) to partake in VCS learning and fellowship.

The Jr-Sr High class was the largest, and they had perfect attendance all week. (They were especially fond of snack time—showing up for a treat in the kitchen up to three times every day!)

The evidence of God's plan for His creation—our VCS children—shone brightly through the week: theme class, Scripture class, activity lesson, craft class, and music class, all related to each daily theme:

Monday: God is Real

Tuesday: God's Word is True Wednesday: God's Promises Are Sure Thursday: God's Kingdom Will Come Friday: God Calls You to Follow Him

Our Great God

Leaders/Helpers:

- Theme Class: Elder Mark Nunn
- Scripture Class: Synthia DeBarthe
- Activity Lesson: Alicia Lavigne
- Craft Class: Jennifer Cool (Helpers: April Smith, Delores Champ Heater, Sheri Nunn, Mick & Becky Ballantyne)
- Music Class: Debbie Norman
- Skits: Debbie Norman
- Registration: Kristen Davis, Sheri Nunn
- Snacks: Leslie Mitchell, Karen Story, Edie Cutshall, Crystal Lavigne

DAILY THEME SCRIPTURES

MONDAY

Mosiah 2:4 (Alma chooses to believe that God is real after listening to Abinadi's preaching.)

"For we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things..."

WEDNESDAY

Doctrine and Covenants 140:5d (God does not change; His promises are sure!)

"...but my word shall not fail, neither will my promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure."

TUESDAY

Doctrine and Covenants 83:7b (Absolute truth does exist; cannot just trust our feelings to lead us.)

"For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

THURSDAY

Psalms 46:5 (God's Kingdom will come again! Remember the true story of Enoch and the City of God.)

"For Zion shall come, and God shall be in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her right early."

FRIDAY

Matthew 16:25-26 (God loves all of us and calls us to follow Him! Love God, and love one another.)

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments."

VCS DAILY THEME LESSONS

- 1. All of creation shouts to us, "God is REAL!"
- 2. Archaeological evidence supports Scriptures in the Bible and the Book of Mormon.
- 3. God promises: I will always love you and I have paid the price for your sins.
- 4. Scriptures tell about Zion: a specific place, people gathered from all over the world, place of safety and preparation for Christ's return, place for the willing and obedient, God's priesthood to be endowed with great power, a holy temple, Enoch's city will return to earth, Jesus will be King in Zion 1,000 years!

5. "Faith Walk" of eight theme-related stations help us remember to follow Jesus:

- [1] Follow Him because He loves us. [2] We need a Savior. [3] Repent and be Baptized.
- [4] Be willing to obey. [5] Be guided by His Words. [6] Forgive, love and serve others.
- [7] Endure to the end. [8] When you follow Jesus—you have a reward.

DAILY ACTIVITY LESSONS

Obstacle Course and Game—"Why Believe in God"

"God's Word is a Compass" Challenge

Bowling for Promises

Rainbow Scavenger Hunt (outside)

Bean bag toss, nerf guns, fig bars decorated to look like Bibles -- remember God's Word is sweet!

God's Word is sweet

CRAFTS

Origami blinking eye.

Painted precious promise wooden treasure chest.

Promise cards to keep and read often placed

in the treasure chest.

Rainbow Promise Bottles

Blessing Bags for the homeless to put our love into action. Scriptures say it is like "doing it unto Jesus."

WWJD/HWLF bracelets or backpack clips (What would Jesus do? He would love first.)

SONGS

Creation Calls Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet Standing on the Promises Onward to Zion I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Sing Alleluia to the Lord (sign language of song presented by Jr-Sr High Class)

SKITŠ

Jr-Sr High Class presented three skits during the week at morning worship. Friday evening program: Come, Follow Me









Women's Department News — by Lisa Postlethwait

Women's Department New Year Kickoff September 2023 – August 2024

This year we will be focusing on studying. Studying is an individual activity but

it can build unity. Sometimes when I read an old familiar scripture, I will have a new understanding about what God is imparting through the verse. When I then talk about



that new understanding with others, who have also read that same scripture, I learn that perhaps they already know what I have discovered. Maybe they can share some insights or testimonies that they have received in their own life relating to the scripture we are discussing. Sometimes the insight I share is new to the other person. In the end we are all blessed because we have read the scripture and talked about it together.

Each month there will be a calendar available with a monthly theme based on a hymn and a scripture verse for each day. I am asking each of us to (1) place this calendar on the refrigerator, or . . . (2) each day please look up and read the scripture and review the words of the hymn, (3) then just think about what you have read. (4) IF you want to go a step further you may get a notebook and write the scripture down, (5) and then IF you want to go another little step further write one sentence about what the scripture and the hymn mean to you.

September Hymn: Redeemer of Israel (scriptures—accepting the task set before us)

October Hymn: God Will Take Care of You (scriptures—God's care and keeping of us)

CALENDARS MAY ALSO BE PRINTED FROM THE OGRB.ORG WEBSITE—WOMEN'S PAGE

Consider this: In addition to the daily scripture please take time to read and think about the monthly hymn. What is it focused on? What is the theme of the song? Perhaps it would be good to try and memorize the hymn, too!

The Women's Department theme for August 2023 was "Salt, Light and Witnessing." The hymn for the month was "Are You Witnessing for Him?" The calendar is available on the women's department table under the bulletin board on the south wall of the fellowship hall. All of the scriptures have something to do with witnessing, salt or light.



NOTE: I do suggest using a physical book for scripture study because it is good to make notes in the margins or cross references; but, as a study aid, I frequently will use my phone (internet) to go to:

http://www.restoredgospel.com/Scriptures1/ Main_study.php

This website has many different study options. It is possible to look up scriptures using <u>The Inspired</u> <u>Version</u> or <u>The King James Version</u> or a side-by-side comparison of the two versions. There are many different versions of <u>The Book of Mormon</u> as well as <u>The Doctrine and Covenants</u>. An alternate online scripture resource is <u>https://www.latterdaytruth.org</u>, a site which provides audio scriptures as well as pdf versions of the written scriptures, but it lacks a good search function.

DC 85:36a Therefore, verily I say unto you, my friends, . . . seek learning even by **study**, and also by faith.



The Freeze Point — by Susan Freeze

Luke 14:16-20: "Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many, And sent his servants at suppertime, to say to them who were bidden, Come, for all things are now ready. And they all, with one consent, began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife; therefore, I cannot come."

When I get busy, I am not sure why the first thing I drop is my prayer time in the morning. It is probably the most important time of my day. Just as the scripture above indicates, my reasons seem "reasonable." After all, were those "reasonable reasons" to miss a great supper?

My summer started like this: First, I had physical therapy; so I would go straight to my exercises in the morning. I had eight weeks of that, but I thought I would weave my morning time with God into that. Somehow that didn't happen. Second, the garden needed attention; at least I could pray while I worked in the garden. Third, I got sick; our summer hadn't gotten along very far yet-I just had to go into survival mode.

As I reflect back on the last eight weeks, my problem is that I missed opportunities to feast with

the Lord. He invites me over and over. I have His Word at my fingertips and yet I get distracted so easily. I found myself praying the other day that He would speak to me, but then realized it had been weeks since I had even opened the scriptures.

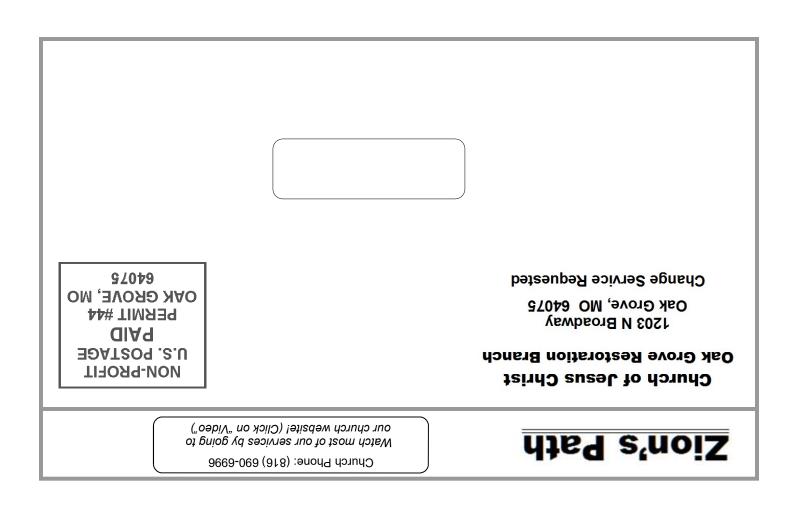
Again, as I read this scripture, I realized that I really wanted to go to a great supper with Him, but sometimes I just didn't make the time. I don't always make the Lord a priority in my life. I don't know why. I know there are blessings in store if I would. I know I will be less irritable, and I will feel calmer and collected when facing life.

My goal is to set up new priorities before more time passes. I want to monitor the intent of my heart. If I don't have time to spend quality time with God in the morning, but I do have time to hit the snooze button twice, why not spend that 10 minutes in prayer for the day? Then, after the day flies by, why not take time at the end of the day to be thankful and express gratefulness for my blessings? Making God a priority in my life blesses me over and over. I am tired of making excuses.

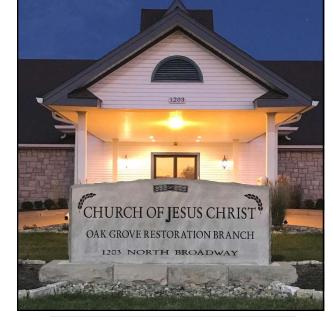
I want to go to the feast!

<u>2 Nephi 14:4</u> "Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do."

	Upcomin	g Ev	ents
Sep 3	Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm Priesthood Class 5:00pm	Sep 19 Sept 22-	Women's Fall Study Class 10:00am -24 Kirtland Temple Priesthood Assembly
Sep. 3	Zion's League/Zioneers & families game night and cookout following the evening service 7:30-10:30pm	Sep 30 Oct 1	Congregational First Aid/CPR Training Priesthood Devotion 4:45pm Priesthood Class 5:00pm
Sep 5 Sep 9 Sep 9-10	Women's Fall Study Class 10:00am Women's Day Trip to Jamesport, MO 0 RWC Women's Fall Retreat/Odessa Hills	Oct 8 Sep 26	Potluck after Morning Service Priesthood Meeting after Evening Service Women's Fall Study Class 10:00am
Sep 10 Sep 12	Potluck after Morning Service All Branch Gathering at Lexington 6:00pm Women's Fall Study Class 10:00am	Oct 14	Women's Department Prayer Breakfast Zion's League/Zioneers Cooking Competition and church cleaning 4-8:00pm
Sep 16 Sep 17	Workday at Church Priesthood Class 5:00pm Priesthood Meeting after Evening Service	Oct 15 Nov 11	Priesthood Class 5:00pm OGRB Thanksgiving Dinner Zion's League/Zioneers Skating Party at Rink Ratz in Blue Springs 4:30-8:30pm
Sep.	17 Song Service and Campfire at OGRB 6:30pm (snacks after)	Dec 9	Women's Department Christmas Party



"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)



THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE.
Tell wave mainthe are friends and familial

website: www.ogrb.org

9:00 am

9:15 am

10:30 am

6:30 pm

7:00 pm

Sacrament

Service

1st Sunday of each month 8:00 am Priesthood **Prayer Service** 9:00 am Time of

Quiet Meditation

9:15 am

Prayer Service

10:15 am

Song Service

10:30 am

Sacrament Service

6:30 pm

Worship

Schedule

Sunday Morning

Early Worship

Church School

Sunday Morning

Worship Service

Sunday Evening

Worship Service

Wednesday Evening Prayer

and Testimony Service

Tell your neighbors, friends and family!

Youth Page September-October 2023

Back to School

On Sunday, August 13, 2023, there was a Back-to-School celebration during the potluck after the morning worship service. Goodie bags with edible treats and other needful things were handed out to "teachers" and "students" alike. Some of the students were interviewed, and were asked what they wanted to do when they "grow up." There were also trivia questions of interest to all in attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy the activities!

(The event was planned and implemented by Flip and Susan Freeze.)

Basketball ** Basketball ** Basketball

Whenever our youth have time following a Sunday evening service or a Wednesday prayer service, they can usually be found playing basketball on our outdoor court at the church.



JR/SR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES Recently we have had three guest teachers who presented interesting subjects.

Priest Mick Ballantyne: The Lectures on Faith Elder Phillip Freeze: Repentance

Elder Charlie Booth: Spiritual Gifts

Sunday School Pre-Class Gathering — by Susan Booth

For the past six weeks, our youth and children's classes have met "all together" with Elder Mark Griffin just prior to Sunday school classes.

The bonus "coming together" concept was introduced by Todd and Crystal Lavigne. The classes assemble in the large area in the lower level immediately following the morning early worship every Sunday (except the first Sunday each month when we have Sacrament service). There is usually a welcoming talk, a scripture and/or a song. Over the span of six weeks, Mark has encouraged everyone to think of "one word for the day" to focus on. The following words have been offered, and it is so interesting how the classes and the sermon that day often repeat that same word! JOY – HOPE – FAITH – LOVE – PRAISE – CHARITY We look forward to what may be shared next!

Zion's League & Zioneers Group — by Joseph Bullard

On Saturday, August 26, 2023, there was a get-together at Mike and Valerie Lidberg's home.

We started out just talking and then we started playing kickball, and then we started to play volleyball, and then we got tired and ate dinner—tacos and burritos.

Then almost everybody played basketball, so all of us joined in. We went back to their barn and had a campfire, where we had prayers and testimonies—and, if you ask me, it was a little hot. Then when it was time for the parents to come to pick us up we played basketball again.

It was all amazing and I loved it!







Father/Son Breakfast

On Saturday, August 12, 2023, the annual Father/Son Breakfast was presented by the Women's Department. It is always well-attended, as the men and boys may fill up on bacon, sausage, eggs, pancakes and more. This year, the theme was "Fishers of Men," and the Women's Department created a watermelon "whale" complete with a broccoli tail and fruit (see pic).

In addition, attendees competed in building construction paper "fish" which were then launched into the air, propelled by custom rubber band/paper cup assemblies. The highest flight was achieved by Jeremy Lidberg.



THE BOOK OF MORMON READING CHALLENGE Vlany of the youth in our branch are reading/hearing the scriptures! Whether on their own, with family or stening to an audio version of The Book of Mormon the excitement is contagious!

Church of Jesus Christ -- Oak Grove Restoration Branch AREAS OF MINISTRY 2023 – 2024

Pastorate:	
Presiding Elder	Mark Nunn
Associates	Jeremy Lidberg, Mark Griffin, Charlie Booth, James Bullard

Church Building Coordination:

Building Committee	Eric English, James Bullard, Mick Ballantyne, Dennis Heater,
-	Becky Ballantyne, Todd Lavigne, John Davis
Safety Committee	Mike Lidberg, Charlie Booth, Craig Hill, Rick Turner
Schedule/Reservations/Mainter	nance Dennis Heater

Cleaning Recruiters Don & Debbie Norman

Volunteers are needed weekly to clean the church. Please sign up!

Treasury/Finance/Temporal Assistance:

Treasurer James Bullard Assistants Larry Green, Brian Holmes, Phillip Freeze Oblation Assistance Pastorate Emergency Food Pantry/Supplies....Chris Allen (Leader), Crystal Lavigne (Coordinator) Temporal Service Projects Coordinator.... Mick Ballantyne

Missionary/Pastoral Care (Home & Community):

Prayer Requests	Pastorate via email pastorate@ogrb.org & via phone Betty Lamb
Zion's Call Editor	Debbie Norman
Meals on Wheels	Ed & Karen Story and Bill & Jane Jones
Missionary Team	Aaron Smith, Don Norman, Lyle Smith, Danny Hight, Vim Horn
Pastoral Care Team.	Mark Nunn, Mike Ballantyne, Gerry Bird, Charlie Booth, Hal Chadwick,
	Don Cutshall, Dennis Heater, Vim Horn, Bill Jones, Lyle Smith, Ed Story
Aaronic Ministries	James Bullard, Duane Anderson, Mick Ballantyne
Women's Department	Lisa Postlethwait
Senior Adults	Mark & Sheri Nunn
Music	Rachel Horn
Library/Book Steward	Cindy Green
Audio/Video Coordinator	Don Norman
Fun & Fellowship	Phillip & Susan Freeze
Gathering & Greetings	April Smith, Kristen Davis

Youth Activities:

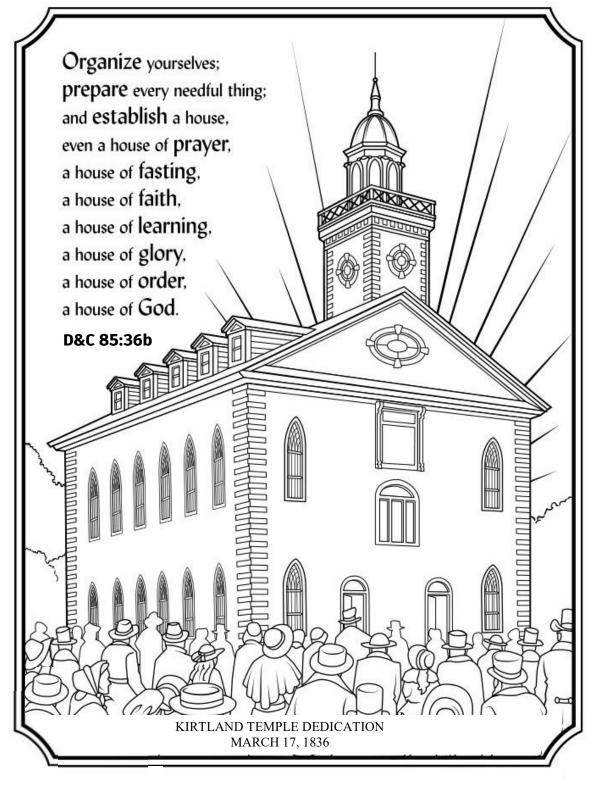
Church School Directors	Pastorate
Junior Church Directors	Mark & Tammy Griffin
Zioneers (Jr. High)	Mike & Valerie Lidberg
Zion's League (Sr. High)	Mike & Valerie Lidberg

Administrative:

Historian	Synthia DeBarthe, Sheri Nunn
Secretary	Delores Heater
Recorder	Gena Martin
Bulletin Typist	Connie Spivey
Publicity (Website & Zion's Path Newsletter) Charlie & Susan Booth	

Corporate Officers:	Danny Hight (President), Hal Chadwick (Vice President),
	James Bullard (Secretary/Treasurer)

COLOR PAGE



2023-2024 Theme: Repent and Come Unto Christ

Sep-Oct Theme: Establish a House of God Nov-Dec Theme: Of Such is the Kingdom of God