

# Garden Park Ward Newsletter

September 6, 2020



Dear Garden Park Ward,

I recently made a trip to North Salt Lake to visit a piece of property that had belonged to my great-grandfather Bennett Peterson. Bennett joined the church in Mississippi as a young man and followed the missionaries that taught him back to Utah. After several years of saving, he managed to buy a rocky, raw piece of land. Improving that piece of land became his life's work. Over decades he cleared the land, built a home, developed irrigation systems, and planted fields, an orchard, and a vineyard. Bennett's first wife Addie May had five children before her untimely death. Bennett remarried, and his second wife Florence had 11 more children. Together, they built a thriving, productive farm through relentless, hard work.

One day, while Bennett and Florence were away, one of their daughters tried to use kerosene to help start the kitchen fire. The can of kerosene exploded and burned the house to the ground. The house had to be rebuilt, so Bennett and Florence took a loan for \$5000, offering the 120 acre farm as collateral. The timing of the mortgage could not have been worse. A year into repayment, the Great Depression began, and earning the money to repay the loan became exceedingly difficult. Bennett, Florence, and their children poured everything they had into their work, struggling to save the beautiful home and farm they had built out of nothing.

In the midst of the effort to save the farm, Bennett was called on a full-time mission to the Southern States. I can hardly imagine a more insensitive and illogical decision by church leaders. With seven children still at home including a baby, and facing the very real threat of losing the farm, Bennett truly could not afford to leave home.

It's incredible to me that Bennett and Florence decided he should accept the call. He served a fairly unremarkable mission, with no convert baptisms. The only noteworthy success was reuniting with some of his extended family in Mississippi and gathering some genealogical records. And his sacrifice and service produced no financial miracles of the kind we like to hear. With Bennett gone, more mortgage payments were missed, and the Petersons lost the farm.

When I first heard about Bennett's mission call, I could not believe the audacity of the church leaders who extended the call at such a difficult time. I've since come to understand what an inspired call it was. It gave Bennett and Florence a chance to reflect on where their treasure was. It allowed them to hit pause in their frantic effort to hold on to material possessions. They probably would have lost the farm either way, and when they eventually did, they had already demonstrated to themselves, their children, and the Lord that there were things they valued far above their farm. In the end, losing the farm wasn't devastating for the family. They knew the things they truly treasured could not be taken away.

At times I find myself getting caught up in "the thick of thin things," chasing after material possessions and accumulating accomplishments. But three generations later, Bennett's and Florence's decision still inspires me and gives tangible meaning to Matthew 6:19-21. "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" During this strange and challenging time, I hope we can all find success in keeping our hearts fixed on the treasures that have true eternal worth.

Warmly,  
Randy Peterson and the Garden Park Ward Bishopric

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*"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." John 8:12*

## Relief Society

Hello Dear Sisters,

I hope this message finds you healthy and well. As always we are ready and willing to help with anything that you may need, please never hesitate to reach out to us. As I sit down to write this message a post I recently read on Instagram keeps popping into my head <https://www.instagram.com/comefollowmedaily/>. Instead of paraphrasing or rewriting it in my own words I thought I would just share the whole post here.

"In the scriptures, I am struck by the phrase "paths of righteousness." (1 Nephi 16) . It is plural. There are many covenant-keeping ways to get back to God. To show our devotion to Him. Look at the people of Ammon: They showed their love for God by laying down their weapons, And God consecrated their righteous choice for their good. Then, look at their sons. Just YEARS later. They showed their love for God through picking up their weapons and fighting for their families and their religion. And God consecrated their righteous choice for their good. Exact opposite choices. Exactly right for those people. Obviously, we must keep the commandments. But how we keep them looks differently for every person. Who are we to judge the working mom when you feel strongly you should stay at home? the couple who feels their family is complete when you feel strongly you should have many children? the family that keeps the sabbath day holy VERY differently than you have felt directed to have your family keep the sabbath day holy. We can all be like Helaman, who, even when he was being attacked on all sides, said "I would not suffer them that they should break this covenant which they had made, supposing that God would strengthen us, insomuch that we should not suffer more because of the fulfilling the oath which they had taken." (Alma 56:8) . May we faithfully support rather than critically judge. PATHS of righteousness. Your path can be right for you. Theirs can be right for them. God can consecrate both. And if God can support both, so can we."

I hope you all have a wonderful week and know that you are loved.

Amy Furstenau and the GP relief society presidency



We are thrilled for the Curtis family who welcomed sweet baby girl, Ruth Anne, to their family on August 24th.

Congratulations to Olivia, Tanner & big brother Bennett!

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## Young Men

Reminder to continue working in your individual Personal Development Guide Book, which contains the following topics:

1. You Have a Purpose
2. You Are a Precious Child of God
3. You Can Follow the Savior
4. A Pattern for Growth by:
  - Discover what you need to work on.
  - Plan how you will do it.
  - Act on your plan in faith.
  - Reflect on what you have learned.
  - Consider creating goals in each of the four areas to keep your life balanced.
    - Spiritual
    - Social
    - Physical
    - Intellectual

With love,

Quorum Advisors Jess and Samuel, and Activity Specialists Hunter and Sean

### **Quorum Zoom Meetings**

#### [Quorum Activity](#)

Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

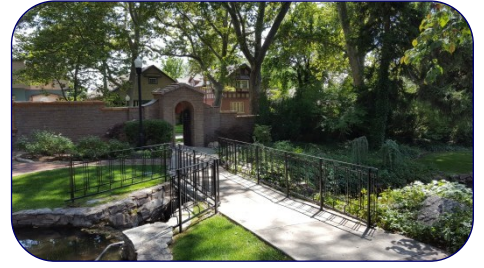
#### [Quorum Meeting](#)

Sunday, September 13th at 1:00 p.m.

*★Links will be sent through the quorum text chain as the dates draw closer★*

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## Ward Joint Zoom Meeting

This week's meeting is sponsored by our Relief Society and features Emily Merchant as our presenter.

**September 6, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**

Read: [Come and Belong](#) by Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98319278898?pwd=MW1xTW5VZFFFN1QxcHNLTE1DcU56dz09>

Meeting ID: 983 1927 8898

Password: 063893

If you're having challenges connecting to Zoom here's a link to a tutorial to help get connected  
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>.

We miss you and hope to see you on our Zoom meetings!

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 2—Kelly Morgan Watson

September 4—Joan Liong

September 4—Rick Waltman

September 4—Savannah Watson

September 5—Heather Feil

September 5—Gabe Goorman

September 5—Casey Gunnell

September 6—Kai Jensen

September 7—Katie Curtis

September 7—Scarlett Williams

September 8—Anna Christiansen

September 8—Rafael Mena

September 8—Ronald Miller

September 9—Daniel Guertler

September 10—Lisa Paulsen

September 11—Aubree Johnson

September 12—Kristine Orton

September 14—Izzy Vaifo'ou

September 15—Catherine Thorpe

September 16—Gabriel Johnson

September 16—Lynne Van Dam

September 18—Rachel Callister

September 18—Cynthia Levinthal

September 20—Patrick Donohoe

September 20—Jessica Patch

September 20—Missy Taylor

September 21—Preston Curtis

September 22—Grayden Gaykowski

September 25—Rachel Orton

September 27—Tammy Castleforte

September 27—Nicholas Hammond

September 29—Brittany Hailes

September 30—Brandon Bennett

September 30—Natalie Peterson

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## Ward Announcements

- ◆ **We need your help taking turns to lock up our grounds!!!!** Please contact Doug Bunker if you might be able to join him on the ward lock-up list. Please call him at 801.910.7128, or email him at [dougbunker9@gmail.com](mailto:dougbunker9@gmail.com).
- ◆ The Bountiful temple is performing live ordinances *by appointment only*. Please refer to the [church website](#) for more details and updates on ongoing changes.
- ◆ **Sacrament Administration** from our Area President, Elder Holzapfel: "The sacrament can be offered to families who have not had the opportunity in their homes . . . The First Presidency has authorized the administration of the sacrament at least monthly." The sacrament may still be blessed and passed by your own family members that are able to do so. If you would like the sacrament brought to your home, please contact Relief Society President Kathy Younker (801.971.1504) or Elders' Quorum President Doug Bunker (801.910.7128), and they will help make arrangements for you to receive it.
- ◆ Although Garden Park Ward building is closed for ward activities, we understand that families occasionally use the gym for their family activities of fewer than 10 people. When using the ward building for family activities please bring a garbage bag from home and take home with you any trash that you may create, i.e. wrappers, paper towels, etc. We do not want garbage to accumulate while we are not on our normal cleaning routine. The bathroom under the stage may be used if necessary. Please wipe down all door knobs, and surfaces that you touch with the wipes on the kitchen counter, before and after use. Thank you for keeping each other safe.
- ◆ Temple recommends continue to be available. Even though temples are currently closed, our Stake Presidency is encouraging all to keep their recommends current. Recommend interviews are being held by phone at this time, both at the ward and stake level. If yours is expired, please contact Mark Hindley at (801) 599-8175 to set up a phone interview with the Bishop.
- ◆ There are many great resources available at [churchofjesuschrist.org](http://churchofjesuschrist.org) for enlightenment and studying the gospel.