

# THE FORUM

**Kirtland:**  
Temple  
celebrates  
Christmas



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Historic Sites Foundation



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## Wade Takes Foundation Reins

By Greg Clark  
Karen Graham Wade is obsessed with time. She works in the past, lives in the present and fervently focuses on the future.

In short, she was the perfect person to take

over the presidency of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation at the beginning of the year.

She inherits leadership of an organization that supports numerous properties, but more

importantly, seeks to preserve church heritage and educate people as they head into the future.

So when asked to consider which century

*See Wade on Page 6*



*Emma Smith (Cathy Loving, center) helped provide context for the 2014 fall tour.*

## *Fall Bus Tour to Add New Stops, Insights*

By Greg Clark

A hymn seen by some as another anthem for Community of Christ is the driving force behind an upgraded bus tour offered this fall.

The tour will blend old and new while giving deep insights to church heritage and a greater understanding

of how our movement relates to broader US history.

Oh, one more thing: Like its predecessors, the revamped and expanded fall bus tour sponsored by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Found-

*See Bus Tour on Page 7*

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 2014 Sing the Sacred Story! Bus Tour

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# Taking a Walk on an Old, Old Path

By Greg Clark

Early on, Dan Gregory never doubted what he wanted to do with his life. Now he's steering others down the same path.

Gregory, who grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, knew he'd like to work for Community of Christ someday. He figured a good step toward that goal would be to spend a summer as an intern.

Welcome to the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois.

That summer in 2005 was key in Gregory's development. He learned about himself, history, and theology. And the experience assured him he was heading in the right direction. In 2008, when he graduated from Graceland University, he started working as a youth minister for the Lamoni-Heartland USA Mission Center. In May 2013 he became the mission center's associate president.

"My experience at Nauvoo led me to encourage other young adults and say, 'Hey, I think this would be a good fit.' Several have gone on to intern at Nauvoo and Kirtland, and they've really loved it."

One of the biggest benefits for young adults, said Gregory, 28, is an expanded perspective.

"Too often we're kind of wrapped up in ourselves, our own experience of time, and culture, and theology. Looking back at our history grounds us with something different from ourselves. It reminds us we're not just a snapshot; we're part of a journey."

Barbara Walden, executive director of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, points out several other benefits.

"Professionally, young adults acquire lifelong skills in public speaking, tour management, team

building, and community outreach while serving at the historic sites," said Walden, herself a former intern. "For many, the personal benefits are a highlight of the summer experience. Benefits include things such as life-long friendships, passion for church history, and a greater appreciation for Community of Christ mission and vision."

Lach Mackay, the Nauvoo site director, pointed out other benefits: a weekly stipend, up to six hours of credit through Graceland University, furnished housing, utilities, and training.

A fringe benefit: Gregory greatly appreciated bonding with the seven other interns. "We became very good friends, and I'm still in touch with some. I actually performed a guide's wedding last fall."

He said that when he first arrived at Nauvoo, "it was a little daunting. But they were very welcoming." That summer "we would guide during the day and go to class at night."

That made for long days, but Mackay expressed how important the interns are.

"We would be overwhelmed at Kirtland and Nauvoo by the crush



of visitors during the summer months if it were not for the help of our young-adult summer interns and fellows," he said. "They are extremely important, not just because they increase our staffing levels, but their high energy levels increase significantly the vibrancy of the historic sites. Their curiosity and intellect help us—and our visitors—understand the story of the church in new ways that are meaningful to the rising generation."

Gregory has only good things to say about his experience.

"It reminded me of the importance of place and story. That's what guiding is all about. It's telling stories and helping other people discover their own stories."

## Foundation Mourns Don Albro

Don Albro, a stalwart backer of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation and the properties it supports, died early this year.

Albro was famous for much more than his love for church and history. He was renowned for the crab bisque he made for staffers, beautiful singing voice, and passion for ministry.

He spent three stints as director of historic sites (spanning 1992-2005) before he joined the foundation board. The importance of the sites is reflected in a personal testimony: "My years at the historic sites are etched in my soul."

### Time to Volunteer

Serving as a volunteer at properties supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation is rewarding, essential, and uplifting.

For more information, contact Lachlan Mackay at [lmackay@CofChrist.org](mailto:lmackay@CofChrist.org) or (217) 453-2246.

## Wade

*Continued from Page 1*

she spends the most time in, she doesn't even hesitate before answering.

"I'm a futurist, so it's the 21st century. A real problem with history is that so many people look at history as dwelling in the past, frequently idealized or romanticized. I want to live today because I'm excited about tomorrow."



She faces no shortage of challenges. Among them: increasing financial support, leading a board enmeshed in change, and helping people understand the importance of heritage

as the church moves into the years to come.

Thing is, Wade sees no challenges; she sees opportunities.

"I'm very much a glass half full person. I see so many opportunities, and in order to reach that vision, it's very definitely going to be a team effort. I'm looking at ways to better engage not only current board members, volunteers, and field representatives, but to reach out to new groups who might not have understood before how important history is to moving forward."

She certainly has a lot of sup-

port. Jeff Naylor, the immediate past president who remains a board member, says she has the skills to move forward.

"Karen is a leader, first and foremost, by consensus-building. She wants good buy-in in whatever decision needs to be made. That means she places a high value on communication and on collaboration."

Barbara Walden, the foundation's executive director, also sees many positives.

"Karen is knowledgeable, engaging, and enthusiastic. Her biggest challenge will be pacing herself among all of the exciting opportunities that lie before us. Like Jeff, Karen is forward thinking and isn't afraid to branch out into areas where we have never trod. She has the confidence and unconditional support of the staff and her fellow board members."

She also has a wealth of professional experience. Wade, who joined the board in about 2007, has served since 1986 as director of the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum in Industry, Calif. It focuses on the history of the Los Angeles region from 1830 to 1930.

"We are a history museum, but we have much the same goals (as properties the foundation supports) of working hard to change programming for new generations and new audiences. The challenge is adjusting how we

interpret history based on emerging trends."

Wade also has personal experience. She dates her family's church involvement back to the 1840s in Nauvoo, Illinois. Also, she says her mother served as executive director of the Jackson County Historical Society and the 1859 Old Jail Marshal's Home in Independence, Missouri. Also, her mother once was a Restoration Trails Foundation board member.

In addition, her father worked for Herald House, and he often took her as he visited reunions. When she was 5 or 6, she attended one of the last reunions on the Temple grounds in Kirtland, Ohio. She talks of her experience there in her board biography.

"...I have the most vivid memories from that week at the Temple. I not only was awed by the beauty of its architecture, I was overwhelmed by the significance of its history. Now, each time I return to the Temple's grounds, I am reminded of why I value the church's historic sites: They provide a link for me between our past and future."

But don't get the idea that Graham is one-dimensional. She owns a degree in art history, loves to travel, and is especially fond of Mickey Mouse. She gets an annual pass to Disneyland, which she visits frequently. Given her focus on the future, she must just love Tomorrowland.



# Bus Tour

Continued from Page 1

dation also will offer some spectacular fall colors.

The “old” will include stops at several historic sites—many of them new to the tour experience. The “new” will include a theme borrowed from a song in *Community of Christ Sings*, the most recent church hymnal. The theme: “For Everyone Born: A Place in the Story.”

New stops will include the Women’s Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, NY; the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio; museums, memorials, and monuments in Washington, DC; the Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania; Colonial Williamsburg, in Virginia; and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello in Virginia.

Familiar attractions will include the Kirtland Temple and Spiritual Formation Center in Ohio; the sacred grove and Hill Cumorah in Palmyra, NY; the historic Plano Stone Church in Illinois; the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois; and Liberty Hall in Lamoni, Iowa.

It’s all happening because of inspiration spawned by the hymnal and history.

“The hymn, ‘For Everyone Born,’ seems to be capturing peo-



Hill Cumorah is among the tour stops.

ple in the church, like the ‘Spirit of God’ and ‘Redeemer of Israel,’” said Barbara Walden, executive director of the foundation. “It was as though the tour came right out of the hymn.

“There’s diversity. Why don’t we lift up women’s church history, the African-American experience, and pursue peace with the pacifists’ experience?”

The event will run October 19 through November 1. The cost is \$1,699 per person double occupancy, or \$2,499 per person for single occupancy. The price will include transportation, lodging, tour fees, class materials, and most meals.

Reaction from board members was unanimously supportive and enthusiastic:

- **Donna Steele Wendling:** “I’m ready!”
- **Andrea Read:** “I’m very excited by this theme and think it will excite a lot of new people and attention.”
- **Karen Graham Wade:** “I think we’ll have the longest waiting list we’ve ever had.”
- **Alma Blair:** “We’re part of a larger world and larger community. This would be a great opportunity to broaden our thinking about history.”
- **Sally Roth:** “It’s great to mix it up and will create additional stories that will make it relevant.”

Walden noted that the tour often does more than provide a good time; it brings change. “When people hear the story of the church...They become more invested. They return to their congregations, preside over Heritage Day, teach Sunday school, and learn to see the church differently.”

Music has played a key role in earlier tours, and Walden said that will continue, though it also will broaden in scope. “We could still incorporate music: slave spirituals, suffragette songs, civil-rights songs, as well as hymns.”



## Sign up to Enjoy New Fall Tour

To sign up for this autumn’s bus tour and learn more about our heritage, go to [HistoricSitesFoundation.org](http://HistoricSitesFoundation.org). Click on the story and follow the instructions to register. You’ll be glad you did!

## Make a Donation, Aid Preservation

*Preserving and sharing church heritage and telling the sacred story of our journey is a privilege and a responsibility.*

*To help the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation fulfill that mission, call (217) 453-2246 to make a donation.*

*Another alternative is to send donations to P.O. Box 338, Nauvoo, IL 62354.*

*You also can donate at [www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org](http://www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org).*

## Volunteers Needed

*To volunteer at a historic site supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, call Lachlan Mackay at (217) 453-2246 or e-mail him at [lmackay@CofChrist.org](mailto:lmackay@CofChrist.org).*

## Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation

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Nauvoo, IL 62354

# New Board Members Arrive; Naylor Ends Strong Run

By Greg Clark

The Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation recently said farewell to two board members, hello to two more, and elected new officers.

The departing members were Alma Blair and Tom Morain, both of whom had shown their love of history in many ways. In their places, Peter Smith and Seth Bryant have joined the board.

Another key change came when Jeff Naylor ended November's board meeting in Plano, Illinois, by quoting the late Carl Mesle, a long-time Boy Scout leader.

"You always leave the campsite in better shape than you found it."

And with that statement Naylor

turned the board presidency over to his elected successor, Karen Graham Wade. He'll remain on the board's Executive Committee as immediate past president.

Naylor, who began serving as president in 2009, left to accolades from other board members.

"I want to thank you again for responding and your leadership," said David Ettinger, himself a former board president. "It was courageous leadership. This whole organization is completely different than it would have been if you hadn't taken leadership."

During Naylor's presidency the board boosted financial support, hired an executive director, refined the budget, and set firmer expectations and procedures for the foundation and board.

"I've been so appreciative of the dynamic leadership," Wade said. So was Mark Scherer, who led a standing ovation after say-

ing, "I would like to extend. . . deep, deep appreciation for your efforts in recent years."

Naylor thanked the board, adding: "I do want to say how much I've appreciated the trust you've placed in me."

He moves, knowing the foundation's campsite is looking good.

## Board Officers

Executive officers elected at the November board meeting of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation in Plano, Illinois:

President, Karen Graham Wade; first vice president, Tim Baller; second vice president, Sally Roth; secretary, Andrea Read; treasurer, David Ettinger; past president, Jeff Naylor.