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enjoys a Christmas
meeting.



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Taking Historic Paths...



Heather Frey's Nauvoo internship later helped her to embrace church employment.

...into Bright Futures

By Greg Clark

You find them in congregations, mission centers, International Headquarters...many places with hard-working Community of Christ leaders.

They're young, old, male, female, but they have one thing in common: a summer spent in small Midwestern towns.

There, they learned about themselves, the church, and the Spirit.

Learn More

about Internships

For more information on internships, fellowships, or volunteering at a Community of Christ historic site, please contact Lachlan Mackay at LMackay@CofChrist.org or (217) 453-2246.

And many took the first steps down a road that

has led to careers of service and leadership in the church.

Simply put, the internships at properties supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation changed their lives.

During their internships, they developed skills, gained confidence,

See Leaders on Page 3

Contemplations from Liberty Hall

Stephen K. Smith, an innovator, brought seemingly non-stop energy to Lamoni, Iowa, and Liberty Hall, a property supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation. Though he loved his work, he and his wife recently left Liberty Hall to pursue family opportunities. In early January, he wrote this reflection.

By Stephen K. Smith

This is my last day as director of Liberty Hall Historic Site in Lamoni, Iowa. It has been a joyous and inspiring experience, following the footsteps of so many illustrious members of the Liberty Hall family.



Liberty Hall was the home of Joseph Smith III and his family. It is one of the church's lesser-known his-

toric sites, and yet—in its own way—it is perhaps the most important. Four president-prophets of Community of Christ lived in this house: Joseph Smith III, Frederick M. Smith, Israel A. Smith, and W. Wallace Smith.

Lamoni was established by members of the church, who had been authorized by Joseph III to find a gathering place for the Saints. It was the Reorganization's first zionic community, and after more than 130 years it continues to operate. It is not sectarian. It is a *signal community*, giving expression to concepts of Christian community in a secular setting.



Graceland University, founded in 1895 and sponsored by Community of Christ, remains a vital part of the community. It continues to express the church's emphasis on learning in conjunction with faith. It is an educational home for church young people, for future church leaders, and for members and non-members alike, who form its worldwide community.

Joseph III moved the headquarters of the church to Lamoni in 1881. It remained there for over a quarter of a century. During that time it grew from infancy to adulthood. In 1871 the church had a membership of 6,903 members and a budget of \$1,376.42. By 1916 membership had grown to 78,326, and the budget had reached \$567,290.29. The church matured into a worldwide Christian presence.

Kirtland is important. The Doctrine and Covenants and much of the inspiration it contains came forth there. The Temple represents the church's spiritual heritage and continues to foster spiritual endowment.

Nauvoo is important. It represents great potential and hope

Liberty Hall Post to Cindi Wilson

Cindi Wilson is joining the Community of Christ Historic Sites team as site director at Liberty Hall in Lamoni, Iowa.

She fills the spot vacated by Steve Smith

On the Web

Learn more about Liberty Hall at the foundation website: www.historicsitesfoundation.org.

gone terribly awry, resulting in a great schism. It led the church into the wilderness, from which emerged the Reorganization.

But Joseph Smith III, Liberty Hall, Lamoni, and Graceland form much of the foundation of what Community of Christ is today. It is where we grew up, reevaluated and remolded our theology. It is where *community* is expressed in concrete and inclusive terms.

So in many ways, it is the church's most important historic site. I pray it will become an integral part of our educational and inspirational effort to know and appreciate ourselves and our call

Leaders

Continued from Page 1

and made memories. Here are the stories of four former interns who work at International Headquarters in Independence, Missouri.

Art Smith Apostolic Assistant

In the summer of 1990, Art's father put him on a plane and joked with him not to find a wife during his internship at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois.

So much for Dad's advice.

That summer Art met a pretty intern named Laura Horning. A year later, just a week before beginning another internship, this one in Kirtland, Ohio, Art and Laura were married. "I tell people our honeymoon was at the Kirtland Temple," he said.

Before he boarded the plane to his internship, Art had gone through a "not-so-great" first year in college. "I was looking for a new path." He found it.

The result? "Good luck finding another historic site intern whose life was more turned around."

That's because he fell in love with Laura, and much, much more.

"I fell in love with church history and a different way of thinking about church theology."

When he first arrived at Nauvoo, things started moving rapidly. "I think it was baptism by fire," Art said. "I just remember feeling pretty lost and not sure what was in store."

He soon found out. He took a couple of tours and soon found himself *giving* tours. And taking classes for college credit. And spending time at the Red Brick Store. And growing in knowledge about church theology, church history, and church museum and



Art Smith, now an apostolic assistant, fell in love with church history and his future wife while interning in Nauvoo.

historic-site management. It was a lot for a young Canadian to take in.

"This was a new level of representing the church to people outside the church...and how we connected who we were with who we are today. That challenge of being there representing the church in that kind of way was a unique and formative experience. I don't think you could overstate the significance of that.

"This really expanded my perspective on things," he said, explaining that his faith shifted from becoming centered on Joseph Smith Jr. to becoming centered on Jesus.

"For me it was a whole new adventure of independence. I'm passionately interested in church history. You have to know where we came from and our genetic code. So this was an opportunity to understand myself better."

Though Art found great value in the internship as a young adult, he pointed out that adults of all ages can serve as volunteers. He said you'll never know where it will lead.

"It had never occurred to me that I might work for the church. The first time that ever crossed my mind was at that historic site."

Diane Martin Presiding Bishop's Office

When Diane Martin headed to Nauvoo for an internship in 1980, she knew she'd face a lot of challenges. She just never dreamed her fear of heights would be among them.

So she never pictured herself on an extension ladder, scraping paint and putty on the back side of the Nauvoo House, three floors up.

But if the repeated trips up and down that ladder formed her worst experience as an intern, the best was dressing up in period costumes while working in the summer kitchen and other places.

"We would chop the wood, build the fire, cook pies and stuff," she said. "We'd spin wool and make candles as if we were living in that period so when tours came through people could see us

See Leaders on Page 4



While interning at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Diane Martin enjoyed baking in the summer kitchen and demonstrating how to make candles for tour groups. She now works in the Presiding Bishopric's office.

Leaders

Continued from Page 3

doing the work and we could explain what we were doing.”

She also was excited to be among the first interns to work in the Visitors Center and give tours through the Red Brick Store, where so many important meetings in church history took place.

“I enjoyed the historical part. I enjoyed sharing with people about something important to me like the history of my faith. I feel I walked away...with a whole new understanding, a lot more depth about not just the history of the church, but the people of history.”

That’s not all she received from the experience. After growing up in small Nevada, Missouri, and going to a small congregation, “I felt my church was so small.”

The internship changed that.

“It gave me a foundation or desire to be part of something bigger. Going to Nauvoo helped me know how broad the church is and inspired me to be part of it.”

That inspiration, Diane said, is important not only to young adults, but to the church.

“I think young adults struggle with church involvement. It’s the first time of being on their own.

And I think keeping them connected at that age is a huge benefit to the church. It continues to connect years later.”

Diane is still connected. She’s returned to Nauvoo several times and has visited other sites. In addition, she suggested to her husband that he might enjoy volunteering at Kirtland.

“I told him, ‘I think you’ll love it.’ And he does love it. It’s been an awesome experience for him.”

Awesome enough that his volunteer-trip total now stands at three and counting.

Heather Frey Human Resource Ministries

As a young adult, Heather says, she was far from outgoing. The thought of working with groups of people was daunting. The closer she got to Nauvoo, the greater the apprehension.

“By the time I got there, I was having doubts,” she said. “I was going to have to give tours. What was I thinking?”

The fears in that summer of 1997 didn’t last long. The staff, especially Alma Blair, taught the interns what sort of questions to expect and helped develop Heather’s confidence.

“It was a good experience for me, talking to large groups of

people,” Heather said. “By the end of the summer I had it down pat.”

Her confidence and self-assurance even survived her worst day on the job, though she admits feeling a bit embarrassed.

She was standing atop the levee behind the Nauvoo House, speaking to a tour group. She took one step too many backward. The next thing she knew, she was being rescued by a guy on the tour after falling down the back of the levee.

But she got through that red-faced moment. And she glows about other experiences.

“I think my very best day was my very last day before I was going home to go back to school. My parents were picking me up. They got there early. My little sisters were with them, and I got to give them a tour.”

Besides learning new skills and growing in confidence, Heather experienced another benefit during her internship.

“My grandmother lived in Nauvoo at the time and was a senior volunteer. Getting to learn about church history, spend the summer in Nauvoo, and spend more time with my grandmother seemed like a good idea. It was nice knowing somebody there, especially somebody who invited

you over for dinner now and then.”

Like many others, she describes her internship as life-changing. The instruction in history took on new meaning because she was walking in the very places it happened.

“For me it helped to understand and confirm why I was a member of this church. When I went to college I wasn’t going to church much at all. But after Nauvoo I was in church every Sunday.”

Years later, that experience helped guide her when she considered employment with the church.

“When the position came open, that was one of the first things that came to mind, what a great summer experience that was.

“There are a lot of things you consider when coming to work for the church. It requires a lot of sacrifice, but other things make up for it. The atmosphere in Nauvoo, the atmosphere here at International Headquarters, was a big draw.”

Kent Parker Customer Service

When Kent Parker headed to Kirtland in the summer of 1981 he was just coming back from a three-year hitch in the Marines, who drilled in him “that your faith should be in yourself and your team.”

“Kirtland took me beyond that. It helped me realize there was something more than Kent Parker. There was a deeper sense to creation than I’d ever expected. That was an awe-inspiring thing.”

He quickly learned, Kent said, that some behavior patterns in the Marines were not acceptable at a church site. Kirtland, however, quickly wrapped him in its arms, and he grew in the embrace.

“I had some deep spiritual experiences there,” Kent said, “including a special blessing by an



Kent Parker’s internship at the Kirtland Temple “helped me solidify my desire to tell the story.”

evangelist in the Lower Court Sanctuary of the Kirtland Temple. But I also found out how much work is involved in cleaning those beautiful windows.”

Sounds like a metaphor for many things involving ministry.

“The best experience there was participating in a play after tour hours. You had to dress up in costumes, sing, all sorts of things. This was after guide hours. We’d guide at 9 a.m. and finish up with the play at 10 at night. I was Sidney Rigdon, one of the early church leaders.

Kent loves stories, and the story of the Kirtland Temple, helped him focus on his faith.

“I had a certain fire and passion. My family goes back seven generations. But it wasn’t so clear

Help Fund Internships

To help fund internships at Community of Christ historic sites, 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.

to me the history involved Kent. Kirtland helped to focus that.

“It helped me solidify my desire to tell the story...Kirtland helped me to realize there’s no need to dread. God’s on God’s throne, and there’s reason to be excited.”

But there was even more to Kirtland. There was a glimpse into his future.

“In the Lower Court I had an ‘aha! moment’ that let me know the day would come when I would be a seventy. It was really quite an awakening summer for me.

“I learned that family isn’t bound by blood, but it’s bound by the Holy Spirit, and it grows exponentially.”

Spoken like a true seventy.

Opportunities

Stories like these are commonplace. Lachlan Mackay, who leads the Joseph Smith Historic Site, sees them every year. As a former intern, he knows the deep impact internships create. That’s why he works for the church.

But the internships don’t just change young adults; they change the church, too.

“It would simply not be possible to operate Community of Christ historic sites without dedicated volunteers, interns, and fellows,” Lachlan said. “They are the primary link between the church and 100,000-plus visitors.

“The internships strengthen the connection between young adults and the church, and better prepare them to live the life of a disciple.”

Barbara Walden, another former intern, has built a career as executive director of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation. She also appreciates the benefits of young adults.

She says the internships “emphasize a message of training tomorrow’s church leadership with an understanding of our past. It’s a cross-generational message.”

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Nauvoo Eagerly Awaits Its Summer Dig

By Greg Clark

One good dig deserves another.

After an absence of decades, archaeological digs have resumed at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois. And because efforts in the summer of 2012 were so encouraging, another dig is planned for the summer of 2013.

"I am thrilled that we can again offer hands-on history," said Lachlan Mackay, director of the historic site. "Our understanding of life in 1840s Nauvoo has been informed in so many ways by the work of dedicated volunteers digging in years past.

"Those who departed from this world so long ago continue to speak to us through the objects they left behind."

Paul DeBarthe worked in Nauvoo in the 1970s and 1980s with Dr. Robert Bray of the Univer-

How to Help

To learn more about helping with the 2013 excavation, please contact Lachlan Mackay at (217) 453-2246 or LMackay@CofChrist.org.

sity of Missouri. Paul recently retired and returned to Nauvoo in June with his wife, Rina. They hoped to identify the site of a double log cabin where Lucy Mack Smith and Joseph Smith Sr. lived. They found the cabin, mentioned in Joseph Smith III's memoirs, on the southeast corner of Main and Water Streets.

But that was just a small part of the dig. And DeBarthe had a lot of help.

Students and faculty from Brigham Young University surveyed several sites, using ground-penetrating radar in an attempt to

locate foundations, wells, out-houses, and other features.

Their efforts led to the excavation of several test pits by students, historic-site interns, local volunteers, reunion attendees, and campers. In addition, a core of dedicated volunteers spent almost four weeks, trowels in hand, though temperature often topped 100 degrees.

They discovered artifacts spanning modern times, the 1840s, and thousands of years ago. Findings were encouraging enough to persuade Paul to plan a more thorough exploration this summer.

Of course volunteers will be needed. Housing and training will be provided. "I have every expectation," Mackay said, "that the impact of this new crop of volunteers will be significant in the life of the historic site.

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Continued from Page 6

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Foundation Prepares for World Conference

The Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation is preparing for the church's World Conference, beginning April 13.

The foundation will supply educational materials, artifacts, and resources to visitors, who will come from 50 nations. Look for the foundation booth in the World Peace Village. In addition, guided tours of the Flournoy House and the F.M. Smith Study near the Temple will be available daily from noon to 2:00 p.m.

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

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Volunteers Needed

To volunteer at a historic site, contact Lachlan Mackay at (217) 453-2246 or at lmackay@CofChrist.org.

Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation

P.O. Box 338
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Fall Bus Tour Now Taking Reservations

The Historic Sites Bus Tour has proved so popular that another trip is set this fall.

The event will run from October 8-17. Highlights will include stops at historic sites in Nauvoo, Illinois; Kirtland, Ohio; Plano, Illinois; and Lamoni, Iowa.

Other stops will feature sacred sites in Palmyra, New York; Niagara Falls; and the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Stops also will include a historic Shaker village in Massachusetts and the Oneida Community Mansion House.

For more information, contact Barbara Walden at (440) 477-9562 or bwalden@cchsf.org.

“Journey Stories” a Hit in Telling the History of Nauvoo

By Greg Clark

The Smithsonian received a rousing reception when it came to Nauvoo, Illinois.

“Journey Stories,” a traveling exhibit that focuses on why we and our ancestors came to America, last fall enjoyed a six-week run in Nauvoo. Complementing the exhibit, the community formed two exhibits on local history and offered numerous other programs.

The exhibits stemmed from efforts to recognize differences among the many groups that have called Nauvoo home. New relationships and agreement that the past is important were keys to receiving “Journey Stories.” Now groups are striving to learn and share each others’ stories while hoping for a better life.

The groups include several types of Latter Day Saints, Icarian descendants, Germans, Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, agnostics, atheists, and others.

Lachlan Mackay, director of the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, explained that the importance of the project surpassed the desire to entertain visitors. It involved the ability of groups to get along.