

# Tahoe North Ward Unit No. 18473 2021 Ward History



Submitted by:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Barton'.

Bruce Barton, Bishop

## TAHOE NORTH WARD HISTORY FOR 2021

### Baptisms

Aria Webster was baptized on Jan. 3, 2021 during a COVID spell. We were only able to have close family but it was a wonderful service. She was baptized and confirmed by her father, Levi Webster.

Scout Costamagna was baptized on Jan 27, 2021 by her brother, Oscar and was confirmed by Elder Shepherd.

Mariela Ramirez, a convert, was baptized on Apr 1, 2021.

### Temple

We held a temple prep class for 7 members of our ward, Rosa Rodriguez, Judy Carter, Keith Haddock, Emily Isom, Alejandra Arellano, Carol De La Rosa, and Mariela Ramirez.

Rosa Rodriguez, a convert in 2020, went to the Sacramento temple on Dec 18, 2021 and took out her own endowments. Several members of the ward accompanied her and it was a truly spiritual experience for Rosa and all who went with her.

John Rogers was called as the Ward Temple and Family History leader.

We had two young men activities focused on temple work. One activity we helped the young men get set up in Family Search and get their family trees going. The second activity was indexing.

### Missionary Work

We have 4 missionaries serving in our ward:

Mark and Ann Tanner are serving in the Europe Area office, Ann as Mental Health Advisor and Mark working for Humanitarian. They started their mission Aug 2, 2021.

Tim Taggart is serving a senior service mission as a FamilySearch Records consultant. He started his mission on Nov 1, 2021

Lisa Ruch is also serving as a FamilySearch Records consultant. She has been serving since 2017.

### Callings

The bishopric was changed on Aug 8, 2021. John Rogers was released as 2<sup>nd</sup> counselor and Jeremy Page was set apart as 2<sup>nd</sup> counselor.

Rebecca Palmer was called as Relief Society President on Jun 13, 2021.

## Young Men

Oscar Costamagna and Trevor Legare were ordained Priests in the Aaronic Priesthood on Jan 26, 2021.

Aaron Vargas was ordained a Teacher on Feb 14, 2021.

We had a young men camp at the end of June 2021. We spent 3 days at Jackson Reservoir, close to Truckee. We camped on the lake shore and did wake surfing, fishing, and hiking. All young men attended Aiden Anderson, Trevor Legare, Oscar Cosamagna, Aaron Vargas and Caymen Webster.



## Young Women

This year we were able to get together a little more frequently than last year. Some of my very favorite events were Human Hungry Hungry Hippo, Cake Mix Cookies, Witches Night Out and the Nutcracker.

What a crazy night of Human Hungry Hungry Hippos. A take on the children's game, one player laid down on the scooter holding the basket and acted as the hippos mouth to try and drag back as many balls as they can. Another player on that same team pushed and pulled the player laying on the scooter by their legs to help them get the balls. Hilarious.

We got creative with the basic cake mix. Add whatever you like, and you can come up with about any flavor with just a few ingredients. Fun and yummy.

I have a thing for Halloween. This year we spent one night decorating witch hats and then we spent a night on the town. Witches Night Out.... Pizza and laughs. What a fun night.

For Christmas this year we took the youth to see the Nutcracker Ballet. It was a beautiful night.

The opportunities to get together weren't many and we miss the girls so much. We pray that we see each other more often for fun nights with friends.





## Primary 2021

Our primary did not meet in person until April of this year, because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We were cleared to return to “second hour” classes and started up as instructed. It was actually a little difficult to get back in the swing of things and attendance was spotty for many families at first. We wore masks in primary until about July, which made learning new songs somewhat difficult.

In the summer we had some staffing changes in the primary. Connie Malfa moved and was released as a CTR teacher; Rosa Rodriguez was called as her replacement. Cheryl Donovan became the pianist and Annie Costamagna was added to the presidency. Unfortunately, Brother Dell Rowley passed away suddenly in October and left his Valiant class and the rest of us bereft. Sister Judy Lamphere accepted a calling as a replacement. Several primary families moved out this year, and we had one new addition.

Primary activities were somewhat less frequent this year due to the challenging circumstances. One of the most fun activities was a jet ski day at the beach with Judy Carter in Tahoe Vista. All primary kids over 8 were invited and it was really a good time. Primary was also in charge of the annual Harvest Festival in October, and the children fully participated in the ward Christmas party as well, especially the piñata.

Our primary program in Sacrament Meeting was on October 17, 2021. The focus was on “The Love of Jesus Christ” and all of the children participated with several speaking parts and musical numbers.

We felt the love of the Lord and the warmth of his blessings in our primary this year. Through difficult circumstances we learned, sang, played, and prayed together and strengthened our testimonies in Jesus Christ and his gospel.



## **Relief Society**

The Tahoe North Ward Relief Society has always been a truly special group of sisters, but never was this more evident than during the 2020-2021 pandemic. COVID-19 forced us to communicate and help each other in new and unique ways. When Rebecca Palmer was called as president in the summer of 2021, she was not only new to the presidency, she was also new to our ward. She had the challenge of getting to know the sisters during a time when face-to-face contact was discouraged to prevent spread of the virus. We all had to work together to make sure no one was forgotten. During this time the Presidency was very aware of the value of the Ministering Program and how much each sister in our Ward is needed and loved.

On top of the pandemic, the summer of 2021 was one of the worst wild-fire seasons on record. We were surrounded by the Dixie Fire and the Caldor Fire. The heavy smoke and unhealthy air quality forced us to cancel all outdoor activities which made it almost impossible to get together for any social activities. Our neighbors to the northwest in Quincy were devastated by the fires. We did not hesitate to collect many of the essential items that they needed and deliver them each week. We had overwhelming support from everyone in the Ward.

## **Rosa Rodriguez Temple Endowment**

It was important and exciting for me to receive my endowment especially after going through the endowment classes taught by Sister Phyllis Rogers and Brother John Rogers who assisted.

As a member of Tahoe North Ward the Reno Temple was my choice, but the temple was closed, so on December 18, 2021, I traveled with my escort Sister Rogers, Brother Rogers, and Sister Cheryl Donovan to the Sacramento Temple. Also, attending was Bishop Bruce Barton, Sister Stephanie Barton, Sister Valerie Page, Brother David Orgill and Sister Janet Orgill. Brothers and Sisters not able to attend wished me well and kept me in their prayers. I was so grateful for all who attended and those who supported me at a distance.

My endowment experience was as if fireworks were going off in my soul and pure love exploded in my heart, mind, spirit and soul. To make covenants with God and to be in His presence brought tears of joy and I was speechless feeling ever so humble. To this day and forever I will cherish the experience and feelings.

After my endowment Sister Rogers sent me a quote and it gave me a reverent understanding of my experience.

*“To the man or woman who goes through the temple, with open eyes, heeding the symbols and the covenants, and making a steady, continuous effort to understand the full meaning, God speaks his word, and revelations come. The endowment is so richly symbolic that only a fool would attempt to describe it; it is so packed full of revelations to those who exercise their strength to seek and see, that no human words can explain or make clear the possibilities that reside in temple service. The endowment which was given by revelation can best be understood by revelation.”*

--Elder John A. Widtsoe (1872-1952)



## Deaths

We had two deaths in the ward:

Brian Stevens passed away in July 2021. A service was held at the Tahoe North Ward chapel on July 24, 2021.

Dell Rowley passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in Oct 2021. Services for him will be held in April, 2022.

## In Memory of Dell Vern Rowley. 1942 - 2021

It may seem unusual to find a memorial to a ward member in the history of a ward, particularly this ward, the Tahoe North Ward.

But on October 30, 2021, the Tahoe North Ward lost an exemplary member, a true Saint.

Dell Vern Rowley was a member of the ward for many years. His gregarious nature and friendly smile will long be remembered. Dell loved the Lord and he loved and was devoted to his wife, Shirley, and their three sons. He also loved his country and proudly served in many crucial organizations, including the Army, the Border Patrol, and more than 20 years in the FBI as a Special Agent and then as a Supervisor, retiring in 1998. Dell and Shirley moved to Incline Village after his retirement. He was actively involved in community service, as well. He was a mentor in the Incline High School “We The People” program for many years training youth to love the Constitution and the freedoms we enjoy in this land. He was also a dedicated member of the Incline Village Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He loved learning, teaching and serving others.

Dell will be remembered for his unselfish service in the Tahoe North Ward. He served for many years as the Gospel Doctrine teacher and loved that calling. He served as a counselor in the bishopric with Bishop Gary Lewis and loved that opportunity to serve. His most recent calling and the one he loved "the most" was teaching the 11 year old CTR class. In truth, Dell loved every opportunity he had to serve and will be remembered well for his love and devotion.

Some of our fondest memories will be the stories Dell told. He was a gifted writer and journalist. These were not made up stories, they were stories from his life. Consider the story about the young man who was rather rebellious in his youth and was given the choice by a judge jail or the Army. Wisely, Dell chose the Army. While in the Army on a troop ship heading for the Far East, Dell read the Book of Mormon for the first time. It changed his life. Although he had grown up in an active ranching family in Montana, as a youth he was not particularly interested in “church.” Reading the Book of Mormon changed his perspective for the rest of his life. He had a deep and abiding testimony of the Savior and the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon and of the Prophet, Joseph Smith, and of each prophet who served

thereafter. And who can forget his story, assisting in digging a grave in solid rock with family members for a family member... using dynamite!

Dell leaves us with a legacy of love and devotion to the Lord and his neighbors. Dell was a valiant minister long before that became the title of our service. He often spoke of following a prompt from the Spirit taking him to a place he hadn't planned to go... but resulting in his rendering needed service or companionship to someone in need.

Dell's passing was sudden and unexpected, befitting someone who was transferred to minister somewhere else.