



Carole M. Stephens
First Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency

Carole Manzel Stephens has always had a respect for sacred and holy things. That reverence began when she was a young girl, as her family was sealed in the temple following her mother’s conversion to the gospel.

“I didn’t understand all that was happening,” said the new first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency. “But I knew it was special. I was old enough to remember the temple was a sacred place.”

Born in March 1957 to Carl L. and Forest Manzel, Sister Stephens was the third of nine children and grew up in Ogden, Utah, USA. She remembers well the examples her parents set of service, sacrifice, and what it means to make family and the Church their top priorities.

“The gospel was everything to them, and they showed us by example what Christlike service is,” she said. “They taught us what service means—how to really serve.”

As her parents served in different capacities, they included their children. It was during those times that they developed friendships with each other—something that she and her husband, Martin “Marty” Stephens, have tried to do with their own six children.

She and Marty met while attending Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, where she studied early childhood education. They were married in April 1976 in the Logan Utah Temple. Sister Stephens said she and her husband have been a great “tag-team” over the years as they have supported each other in different assignments, including her callings as stake and ward Relief Society president, counselor, and teacher; ward Young Women president; ward Primary counselor, teacher, and Cub Scout leader; seminary teacher; and Church-service missionary.

“In all the busyness, we have found a lot of joy and happiness,” she said. “We include our children and grandchildren in our service. Because of that, we have developed strong family relationships as we serve together.” ■



Linda S. Reeves
Second Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency

Linda Sheffield Reeves learned in her youth from her stalwart convert mother to turn to God in times of adversity and to strive for excellence as taught by her father.

“I had a strong testimony early on in my life because of challenges that helped me spiritually to mature quickly,” she said.

Sister Reeves was born in Los Angeles, California, USA, in August 1951 to Elbert Jolley and Barbara Welsch Sheffield. She remembers looking up at the starry sky as a 13-year-old at Young Women camp and offering a simple, heartfelt prayer: “Father, are You there?”

“I was enveloped in His Spirit, the knowledge of His presence and reality, and His love for me,” she said.

Sister Reeves met Melvyn Kemp Reeves in her ward in Pasadena. They dated while attending Brigham Young University after his mission. They were married in June 1973 in the Los Angeles California Temple and became the parents of 13 children.

Amid trials, Sister Reeves has held to her testimony of the Atonement, especially after the death of her 17-year-old daughter, Emily Michelle, in a car accident in 2005.

“Adversity is a great teacher,” she said. “Adversity builds us and prepares us for future service in the kingdom, in our homes, and in our community, and to become an instrument in the Lord’s hands.”

Prior to her call to the Relief Society general presidency, Sister Reeves served with her husband as he presided over the California Riverside Mission from 2008 to 2011. She has served as a stake Relief Society president, ward Young Women president, Primary chorister, and Sunday School teacher.

Sister Reeves graduated from BYU in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in special education. She has many passions, including art, music, photography, family history, and missionary work. She isn’t afraid to speak her mind, especially when it comes to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone she meets. ■