

OLYMPUS COVE CONNECTIONS

From the editor...

I enjoy visiting creche exhibits, and seeing the way an artist will tell the story. What medium will they use? How many characters will be included? What do they look like? Are the animals and clothing specific to the artist's culture?

I have seen beautiful sets of figures that are made from the finest materials, with idealized figures and faces, placed out of reach, to be viewed behind glass or other barriers. The story of birth is glorified, beautiful, calm, untouchable.

A few days ago, I saw several nativity sets made by artists from Kenya. They had to create the figures from whatever materials they could find – recycled aluminum cans and juice containers, oil barrels, bits of rag and wood. The one I really noticed was made of mud and dung. The sets that have touched me the most are ones where I see how the maker has brought whatever they have, whatever they are, to the story of a birth that impacted so many. These figures made of mud and dung moved me a great deal.

Birth is messy. Even though I birthed my children in the ideal and sterile setting of a modern hospital, it was messy and painful and risky. Along with that there was dawning realization that what my life had been, was now gone, and a completely different way of living began.

This is what birth is. Any kind of birth – of a biological or adopted child, of a new idea, of a new

phase of life, a new relationship, a different home or job, a new level of faith, of a new paradigm. A birth is the beginning of something new, and the ending of something past. This is opposition in all things – each birth, or renewal, also involves a type of death or ending of what was.

Christ was born into the world to fulfill, to complete the old law. And to bring the new law, the law of love. The story includes the rejoicing of those beyond the mortal perspective – angels who could see how transformative this could be. I think they were so excited, they called upon humans to witness this birth of a new way, of God being among us because our Heavenly Parents love us, and invite us to experience that love. Not because of power, or force, or authority – only and always because of love for all. I am so grateful for this season where I am constantly reminded of new life that is present with that Godlike love.

Merry Christmas to all.

Thank you to all who helped with this issue. Please send me information for the ward newsletter. My phone is 303-902-7062 and my email is hansen_home@comcast.net. Thank you for your help!- Jody Hansen



Inspirational Thought - by Bishop Randle

Dear Ward Family,

I



December Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

December 11 - Olivia Heiner
 13 - Todd Hamblin
 14 - Craig Clifford
 15 - Nanette Benowitz
 16 - Roger Knight
 25 - Liz Phillipps, Lisa Tecklenburg
 26 - Meghan McComas
 28 - Marylin Dahlstrom, Sophie Sunderland
 29 - Rachelle Birkinshaw
 30 - Derek Cornaby, Chelsea Gardner
 31 - Kjerstin Phillipps
 January 4 - Abigail Moss, Kristin Hart
 5 - Julie Zabriskie
 6 - Brett Stephens
 7 - Genevieve Romney, Jack Fredrick, Jack Cannon
 8 - Susan Wagstaff, Kristin Sapp
 9 - Jessica Winward

Please notify me of any preferred nicknames or proper names for the birthday list. I will try to update the official birthday list to honor that.

hope you are having a wonderful Christmas season. I am continually inspired by our ward. Your faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ and your dedication to His Church are a great example to me. This season reminds us to be kind, to look out for one another, and to extend grace, just as our Savior does.

Elder Patrick Kearon teaches us that Christ's Church is a place of new beginnings and fresh starts, where grace is continually extended to us. He said, *"New beginnings are at the heart of the Father's plan! Fresh starts are the mission of the Son! New dawns, new chapters, and new chances are the simple core of the gospel's good news!"*

I hope that during this season you are reminded of how deeply the Savior loves you and that the opportunity for a fresh start is always available through Him.

May your friends, loved ones, and all those you meet feel the Savior's love through you.

With love and gratitude,

Bishop Randle

Ward Relief Society Temple Trip for December 11 - Thank you, Susan Smith for this information.

Please make an online reservation for the December 11th, 9:30 am session in the Jordan River Temple.

All are welcome to meet at the church at 8:15 to carpool. Thank you, sisters, for the love you feel for service in the temple. All are enthusiastically welcomed!

Ward Christmas Activity - Thank you, Robyn Roberts for the photos! The Ward Christmas Party on December 6th at 6:00 was a wonderful gathering. Thank you to all who made this activity such a success. The appetizer table, the decorations, the set up and clean up, the potluck dishes, the incredible performances, and all the coordination...Thank you!



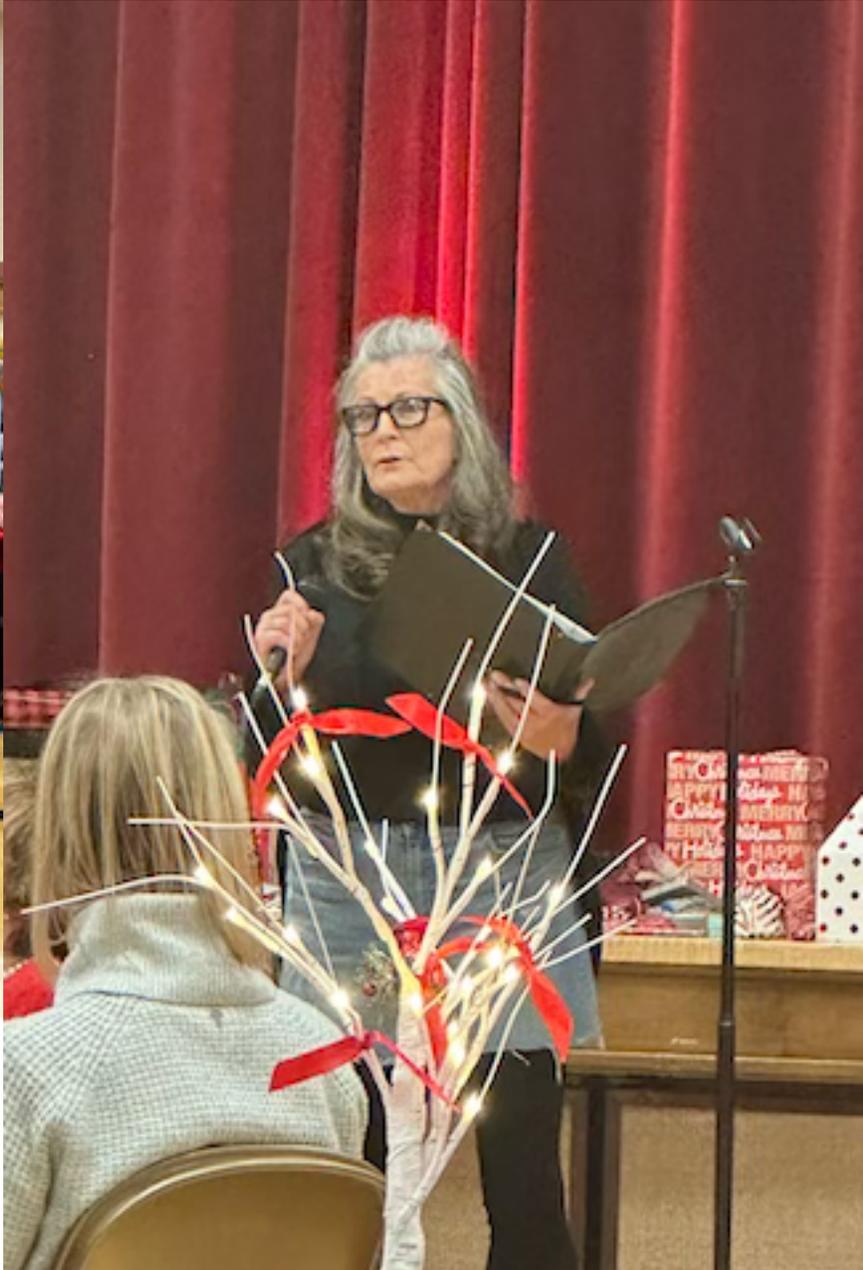












**Worship through Sacred Music -
Hymns for this month.
Please raise your voices and sing!- from
Chorister Jody Hansen**

Please join us in song as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! Some of the hymns this month may be new to our hymn book, but they have been a part of Christmas hymn selections for many years, even centuries in different traditions around the world.

I realize new or unfamiliar hymns can be difficult. We will have opportunity to learn some new hymns with more frequent repetition, in an effort to become more familiar with practice. I am hoping that when we sing a new hymn several times in the weeks after they are introduced, more of you will feel comfortable joining in singing.

I really appreciate the willingness of so many to sing new and not yet familiar hymns. It is wonderful to hear old favorites we have not sung in a while, as well as learn the new, beautiful additions.

I invite you to please take a look, and possibly play the recording of any that are unfamiliar to you. You can pull the recordings up on the Gospel App under Sacred Music/Hymns for Home and Church. I love to hear you participate when we worship through song.

December 14 - 1203, 194, 210

December 21 - 213, 195, 201, 202, 203, 204, 209

December 28 - 214, 178, 218, 217

Ward Assignment for Church Building Cleaning - Thank you Warren Wadsworth!

The following families are scheduled to help clean the church in December. We will begin each Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., unless the church is scheduled for another activity such as a funeral or a family gathering. The alternate time for cleaning will be 4:00 p.m. If you cannot attend on your scheduled Saturday, please arrange to have someone take your place.

December 6 — Stuart & Briana Larson and Matt & Katie Lowe.

December 13 — Mitchell & Courtney McBeth and Aaron & Cynthia Moffett.

December 20 — John & Holly Morris and Brad & Sarah Moss.

December 27 — Travis & Megan Moss and Stuart & Kathleen Peterson..

Temple and Family History resources -

We are here to help you. Temple & Family History Leader Lynn Collins 385-272-5969. Consultants: Karen Collins 385-272-4094, Gail McComas 801-580- 5468, or Alison Wilde.

Mt. Olympus Stake Family Search Center - located at the Millstream (north) building

Family History Center 2025 Hours

HOURS

Sundays - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Mondays - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays - 10 am - 12 noon

Thursdays - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Missionaries... We really appreciate the service of our full time missionaries. Please send any messages or news from them so I can include a few things in the newsletter.

Dear Stake Family,

The Adult Religion class with Armand Johansen will continue on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the stake center chapel.

Brother Johansen will teach from Come Follow Me - The Doctrine & Covenants 2025.

We hope you will join us in person or online! And please feel free to pass this information on to anyone else who would be interested in being uplifted and learning with us.

[Click here for the YouTube Live stream.](#)

FYI: Those who are unable to watch the class during the live broadcast can view it later at the same link as above.

-Temple Recommends - Contact a member of the Bishopric for a phone interview. The stake interview can be arranged with one of the Stake Executive Secretary's (Andrew Olson)
Stake Temple Recommend Interviews: Standing time on Sundays from 1:30 to 2:30pm (the 4th Sunday is skipped)