

OLYMPUS COVE CONNECTIONS

From the editor...

On January 1st, I turned a day older than the age my father was when he died over 24 years ago. I have thought of this often in the years since he passed. I often think of the many ways he influenced me and how I live my life, and my faith journey. As January 1st approached, I considered how it also fell on a day we associate with new beginnings. My dad was one who helped me see the the inspiring example of Christ to see the many ways we can be reborn, and create a new way of seeing and living in the world. Often, Christ acknowledged what was so in a person's life or how they saw life. And then he invited them to see in new ways

something more, something greater. The invitation usually somehow involved setting aside the former way of living, or seeing the world. Christ came to do away with the old way, and to invite us into a new way. It is not often comfortable or easy to set aside what is familiar, and step into what is new. I am so grateful I got to see my dad practice that, and help me practice learning discernment with the kind of discomfort that can lead to growth, and greater faith in the presence of God. I constantly feel deep gratitude for having him for my dad. Now I add to that my gratitude to be alive even longer than he was, and able to continue to practice letting go of old ways when God inspires me to step into a new, deeper and more expansive ways of following Christ's call to comfort, mourn with, bear burdens, and love one another. I saw my dad have a great impact on making this world a better place for many people by letting this guide his day to day thoughts and actions. I feel the world needs this from me and each of us, more than ever.

Happy new beginnings 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 Bart Warner "Thoughts for a New Year"

As I sat down by Gary Crocker in Elders Quorum last Sunday and asked him how he was doing, he responded, **"How could I be doing any better – living in these modern times – with every convenience I could imagine, having the blessings of the Restoration and living on this beautiful mountain and being in this great ward! How could life be better than this?"**





January Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

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
 10 - John Evans, Jeffrey Poore
 11 - Megan Murdock, Susan Smith
 12 - Joshua Hart
 13 - Cooper Madsen
 17 - Seth Sunderland
 21 - Marsha Atkin, Mickleen Thomas
 22 - Annie Smith
 23 - Lou Edelman
 25 - Michelle Davidson
 26 - Sandra Hartley
 27 - Beck White
 31 - Luke Hamblin, David Strong
 February 1 - Mark Langheinrich, Rich Smith
 3 - Jeff Wadsworth
 4 - Euan Lamprecht
 5 - Ann Crocker
 6 - Esther Sapp
 7 - Kim Roberts
 9 - Gabriel Phillipps

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.

His response reminded me of one of my favorite books about History/Geography & Demographics, written by Peter Zeihan – “**The Accidental Superpower – 10 years on**”. I don’t know what Peter’s religious beliefs are (if any), but I believe he unknowingly makes the best case I have ever heard for the earth having “**Divine Design**” as part of our Father in Heaven’s Plan for us. He goes through the geography of each continent and country – showing how its’ geography has been a dominant factory in its history, success and demographics.

Then he shows how those factors have affected each country’s **history and future!** For example, Russia has been invaded five times – partly because it has no natural barriers on its borders to protect it. That is a big reason Putin is attempting to regain Ukraine – to acquire natural barriers.

America, however, has the **best natural geography** to protect itself in the world. Huge oceans on the East & West, & friendly countries North & South. It has coastlines that are perfect for ports. It has mountain ranges in the East and West to provide water for farming in the Midwest, which has amazing topsoil that has been scraped down and deposited from Canadian glaciers. Then it has the Mississippi river to transport the crops to the Gulf coast. It also has enough energy & mineral reserves to supply whatever is needed to truly make it the “**Promised Land**”!

Utah is the “**heart of the melon**” of this great country - regarding protection & natural resources. It has almost every mineral found in the world. The Oquirrh Mountains have produced over \$4 billion minerals making it the richest mountain range in the world! And each county has its own unique resources. I could go on and on, but this remote desert has “**blossomed like a rose**” and become the promised land that the tribe of **Joseph was promised they would inherit.**

To top it off – in the “**top of the mountains**”, the Savior’s Church has been restored as promised and is now spreading throughout the world. **We don’t have to spend 90% of our time finding food, water, heat & shelter like those who have lived in the past 6,000 years had to do.**

Our challenge is to figure out what part we are to play in this Grand Plan with all the resources and knowledge we have been given. Our Father in Heaven has revealed to our prophets what those responsibilities are: 1. **To teach the gospel to the world,** 2. **To strengthen the membership** and 3. **To move forward the work of salvation for the dead.** It’s an exciting time to be living on the earth and be part of the Plan! As I contemplate all of these blessings it makes me realized that this next year, even though there are lots of distractions and things I want to do, **I need to spend more of that “extra time” that I’ve been**

blessed with to be part of these three great initiatives to help prepare

for the Saviors return! Happy New Year!

Bart Warner

Ward Christmas Program -

Thanks and gratitude to all who helped arrange and present the wonderful Christmas Program for Ward Sacrament Meeting on December 21. Special thanks to Stu and Kathy Peterson, who wrote the inspiring program, designed the decorations in the chapel, and arranged for all those who participated. It was a beautiful time of honoring the Christmas Story.

Relief Society Temple Trip for January 15 - Thank you, Susan Smith for this information.

Please make an online reservation for the January 15, 10:00 am session in the Draper Utah Temple. All are welcome to meet at the church at 8:30 to carpool. Thank you, sisters, for the love you feel for service in the temple. All are enthusiastically welcomed!

Worship through Sacred Music - Hymns for this month.

Please raise your voices and sing!- from Chorister Jody Hansen

I am so grateful that, with the help of Craig Clifford, Mike Hansen and support of others in the ward, including the bishopric, we have been able to add copies of the newest hymns recently released by the church, to the new hymn folders in the chapel. Please take a moment to look at the gospel app or church website, and listen to the new hymns. They are wonderful, and we can look forward to adding a wonderful spirit to our meetings.

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.

January 11 - 136, 193, 117, 149

January 18 - 1051, 190, 142, 218

January 25 - 1015, 1008, 108, 109

February 1 - 1041, 181, 115

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.

February 7— Walter & Peggy Plumb and Jeff & Cathie Randle.

February 14— Kim & Robyn Roberts and Brad & Sara Romney.

February 21— Dean & Kristin Sapp and Steve & Shannon Scott.

February 28— Jeff & Rebecca Simmons and Rich & Liz Smith.

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 Old Testament 2026.

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)