

# OLYMPUS COVE CONNECTIONS

## From the editor...

I look forward to beginning Holy Week this year with a special Sacrament Meeting Program on Palm Sunday, and the Messiah Fireside later that afternoon. I love being able to participate in the stake choir to prepare for that fireside. At the first practice last Saturday, our director reminded us to not pronounce the “s” at the end of all the plural words in the lyrics, because even a few “s” sounds that are not exactly in sync can overwhelm the sound of the music and the vocal blending of the voices. Most of plural words occur in the chorus “Surely, He Has Borne Our Griefs”, and the



plural words are griefs, sorrows, transgressions, iniquities, wounds. As we practiced singing these words without the “s” at the end, I thought of how I had felt the power of Christ’s atonement in my life, grateful that I had been inspired to experience the transformative power of At-One-Ment in that Christ became one with all and each of us, feeling the depth and height of all things with us, and he did it because of love. Then he asks me to learn the same kind of love, that I can learn to experience that kind of oneness, connection with each and all, because of love. I saw that kind of oneness when I changed plural words to singular. There is not a plural of griefs or sorrows that inflict many individuals when there is the at-one-ment Christ taught us. The grief, or sorrow, or iniquity, or wound of any one is the grief, sorrow, iniquity or wound of all. And the salvation, redemption, healing of one is the salvation, redemption, healing of all - for there is no end to the love of God. It is both confronting and comforting for me to feel drawn to experience and practice that kind of love, especially when I struggle to justify reasons to only love some, and not others. And God continues to patiently invite me to see that if there is anyone I do not love, I miss out on completely experiencing how infinite Gods’ love is. The events of Holy Week continue to call me to take that on in deeper ways. I am grateful to be able to do that with this good ward family.

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 Jeff Wadsworth

### Easter Message -

On Good Friday in 1613, the poet John Donne found himself riding from London westward toward Wales on a business trip. Traditionally, Good Friday is a day when the Christian world remembers the Crucifixion. It is a holy day in the Christian calendar, a solemn time when Christians are supposed to set aside worldly affairs, go to Church, fast, pray, and reflect on the Savior’s suffering and death.



## March Birthdays

### Happy Birthday!

March 9 - Laurie Bird, Dawn Daybell, Scott Evans, Raymond Sudbury, Tiffany Young

10 - Jennie Ferguson

11 - Aaron Moffett

12 - Sylvie Andrews, Karen Collins, Alison Wadsworth

14 - Christian Feinauer

16 - Nathan Callister, Elaine Daybell, Jared Madsen, Jennifer Stagg

17 - Katie Lowe, Karen Peterson

18 - Kim Joong Yul

20 - Anna Stagg

23 - Roan Hardin

25 - Susan Dahlstrom

26 - Beverly Frank, Benjamin Moss

27 - Kim Jong Im

28 - Bethany Callister

30 - Keith Romney, Alison Wilde

31 - John Birkinshaw, Natalie Fredrick, Carrie Stephens

April 1 - Jacob Boyden, George Fishler, Brad Romney

2 - Melanie Decker, Sara Romney, Bart Warner

5 - Isabelle Davis, Judy Hanks

6 - Mimi Silverstein

9 - James Goodwin, Rebecca Simmons

10 - Nate Fredrick, Emma Johnson

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.

Donne devoted Good Friday in 1613 to his business obligations rather than to his religious duties. This circumstance became the occasion of one of the finest devotional poems in English entitled "Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward."

In the poem, Donne laments, "I am carried towards the West / This day, when my soul's form bends toward the East." Then, he engages in a moving meditation on the Crucifixion. Donne travels in his mind from Wales back across the years to the foot of the cross. He can scarcely bear to look upon the agony there, as he imagines the Son of God "humbled below us." Donne sees in his mind "those hands, which once spanned the poles, / And tuned the spheres," now "pierced with those holes"; "that blood," which is the source of eternal life, "made dirt of dust"; and "that flesh which was worn / By God for his apparel, ragged, and torn." Such a spectacle "made Christ's own lieutenant, Nature, shrink; / It made his footstool crack, and the sun wink." How then can Donne look upon Christ's face in agony? How can he watch his God die? Yet Donne forces himself to turn his imagined gaze up to Christ's face on the cross. As he does so, he imagines the Savior turning His gaze upon him, John Donne, a scandalously sinful man who was notorious for having been often carried by "pleasure or business" westward into worldly ways when his soul should have inclined eastward toward the Savior. There follows this conclusion, in which Donne pleads to be purified:

Though these things, as I ride, be from mine eye,  
They are present yet unto my memory,  
For that looks towards them; and thou look'st towards me,  
O Savior, as thou hang'st upon the tree.  
I turn my back to thee but to receive  
Corrections, till thy mercies bid thee leave.  
O think me worth thine anger; punish me;  
Burn off my rusts and my deformity;  
Restore thine image so much, by thy grace,  
That thou may'st know me, and I'll turn my face.

Brothers and sisters, like Donne, all of us need the Savior to burn off the stains and rusts we accumulate in mortality. And we, too, must look to Christ to re-form by grace what we have de-formed by sin. May this hope for wholeness point our westward-wandering souls eastward toward a garden, a cross, and an empty tomb.

A final thought, as I have contemplated the last hours of the Saviors life and particularly in the Garden of Gethsemane, I realized that He entered that garden three times to pray alone. What I hadn't noticed was that twice He re-entered knowing perfectly well what it felt like, that suffering that caused the greatest of all to tremble because of pain and to bleed at every pore. Such was His perfection and love for each of us.

## Relief Society Birthday Celebration

Celebrate the birthday of the largest women's organization in the world - The Relief Society, with dinner and a broadcast at the Stake Center. March 17 at 6 pm.

### Relief Society Temple Trip for March 19 - Thank you, Susan Smith for this information.

Please make an online reservation for the February 19, 9:30 am session, or 9:45 initiatory in the Jordan River 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!

### Stake Messiah Fireside -

All are invited and welcome to come to hear the Stake Choir sing selections from the Messiah at the Stake Center. This will be a wonderful way to begin Holy Week.

The Messiah Fireside will be on Palm Sunday, March 26 at 4 pm.

### Please come and join the Stake Choir for the Messiah Fireside performance.

The Mt. Olympus Stake is again holding a special fireside featuring selections from Handel's Messiah on Palm Sunday – March 29 at 4pm. This will be a powerful way to kick off the Easter Holy Week. **We invite you to participate and you're welcome to bring others who would like to participate in this special event.** All rehearsals and the fireside will be held at the Mt. Olympus Stake Center at 4176 South Adonis Dr. (3950 East). If you can't make all the rehearsals, please still come to those that work for you.

#### Schedule

1. Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 9 a.m. – **choir rehearsal**
2. Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 9 a.m. – **choir rehearsal**
3. Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 9 a.m. – **choir and orchestra rehearsal**
4. Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 9 a.m. – **choir and orchestra rehearsal**
5. **Sunday, March 29, 2026 – Messiah Fireside. The fireside will be at 4pm.**

### Activities for Seniors - Thank you to Robyn and Kim Roberts for arranging these.

Seniors, We are so lucky & blessed! Here are a few March Dates you might want to be aware of.

Mark your calendar now if you are interested...

Tues. 3/17/26 St. Patrick's Day

Tues. 3/17/26 Relief Society 1842 Birthday celebration w/dinner & broadcast, 6 p.m.

Tues. 3/24/26 Senior Lunch Bunch, 11:30-12:30 at the ward. Lunch provided.

Sun. 3/29/26 Palm Sunday "Mix & Mingle" after Sacrament Meeting hosted by Marsha Smith & her team.

(Single Seniors—Please mark Wed., 4/22/26 at 6:30 p.m. for a special night together w/more details to come.)

Please let us know if you have any questions or need a ride to any of these events. – Kim & Robyn

### Worship through Sacred Music -

#### Hymns for this month.

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

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.

March 15 - 1014, 177, Music number, 84

March 22 - Ward Conference - 220, 176, 116

March 29 - Palm Sunday Special Program - 69, 194, 200

April 5 - General Conference

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

The following families are scheduled to help clean the church in April. 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.

April 4th— General Conference— no cleaning.

April 11th— Jonathan & Jennifer Stagg and Kyle & Marilyn Taft.

April 18th— Jeff & Alison Wadsworth and Bart & Liz Warner.

April 25th— Stake Conference— no cleaning.

### Missionary Updates -

I was thrilled to receive an email update from Chariece Hillery. She is serving in the France Lyon Mission. From Chariece...

My mission has been blessed by spending time with the amazing young missionaries who serve the Lord with faith and diligence, looking for miracles every hour as they find, teach, and baptize those the Lord has prepared to accept the gospel. The Lord is hastening his work in Europe and the Lyon mission has seen record-breaking numbers of new friends and baptisms. In July a third French mission will be created. Several weeks ago there was an online meeting with all the missionaries in both current missions with the couple called as leaders of the new Paris South mission. The new mission will include the Paris South, Nancy, Rennes, Bordeaux, and Toulouse stakes, so missionaries assigned to those stakes on July 1 will be in the new mission.

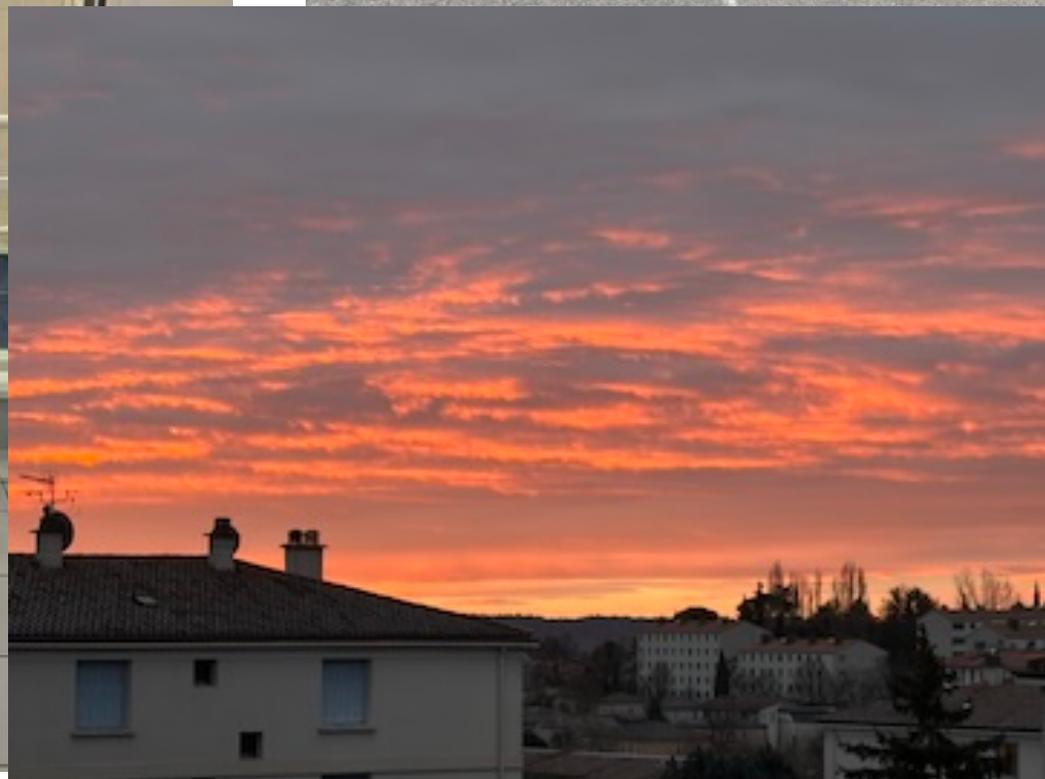
Part of my assignment in Member/Leader Support is to help missionaries so they can be free to do their work. I try to solve problems with apartments and transportation and support them by attending baptisms. Since the Manosque Branch meets in an office building, we travel 40 minutes to Aix-en-Provence for baptismal services. I spent a lot of time in Marseille in January emptying and closing one apartment and approving a new one.

The largest part of my service is in helping members (and others) with family history. I began with a less active sister who told me how she found the church. As a young girl, her mother sent her to church with a neighbor because her mother thought the church was "intelligent". I was taking notes as we talked on the phone (I should point out that she speaks some English!) and the Lord opened my ears to understand enough of his name to find her neighbor in FamilySearch. Josianne knew he had died a few years ago, but with the help of senior missionaries who are collecting the history of the church in France we learned that his son is a member of the Aix-en-Provence Ward.

I was able to help Josianne submit over 250 members of her family for temple work (I am hoping her ancestors will help her come back to church!) One sister in the branch is preparing to be sealed to her deceased husband and I have been visiting with her mother and helping to extend her family tree. I have also helped the non-member agent who finds apartments for missionaries untangle her family stories (we finally found her Polish ancestor after discovering that he changed his name from Donkowsky to Donahue!)

I hope to set up a monthly family history class at the library in Manosque. They have book clubs and game days, so I'm hoping that the library leaders think a family history group is a "bonne idée"!

I have served here without a companion since November, going forward the best I could with the Lord's help and my limited French. Two weeks ago the Lord sent a young Tahitian sister to be here temporarily. She needed to get her feet back under her and the Lord prepared a place for her in Manosque with branch members that knew her as a child, others that knew her because they served their missions in Tahiti, a recently returned missionary from the Paris mission who knows her sister, and her best friend from home serving in Aix-en-Provence. Last night was a food adventure making her grandmother's banana crepes! For anyone curious about my mission journey, I try to post a weekly update at [charliecchillery.blogspot.com](http://charliecchillery.blogspot.com). My email is [charliec@gmail.com](mailto:charliec@gmail.com). Please reach out to say "Hello" or if you have family history questions I might be able to help with.



[Link to the livestreams for Sunday Meetings -](#)

[SacramentMeeting.OlympusCoveWard.org](https://www.SacramentMeeting.OlympusCoveWard.org)

[ReliefSociety.OlympusCoveWard.org](https://www.ReliefSociety.OlympusCoveWard.org)

[EldersQuorum.OlympusCoveWard.org](https://www.EldersQuorum.OlympusCoveWard.org)

[SundaySchool.OlympusCoveWard.org](https://www.SundaySchool.OlympusCoveWard.org)

[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 2026 Hours

HOURS

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

Wednesdays - 10 am - 12 noon

[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)