

# WILLOW CANYON 1st WARD

JANUARY 2014 THEME - COME UNTO CHRIST AND BE PERFECTED IN HIM

Four years ago the youth went to the Echoes of Christmas at Liberty Park for a combined activity. It is a live, musical nativity where a shepherd guide takes the group from scene to scene depicting various characters and locations from the nativity story. It is dark and cold in the park but the shepherd guide carries a small torch and walks at the front of the group to lead the way. I was impressed by the activity and took my family the next night so we could enjoy it together. This is a tradition that we have maintained since then. It has provided us a good opportunity to focus on the Savior during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

This year as we followed our shepherd guide I noticed that after each scene, as we prepared to move to the next, the shepherd would say in a loud voice, "Come. Follow me." Scene after scene the same words, never varying. Obviously this was not by accident and was meant to reinforce the words of The Good Shepherd.

Moroni offers us much the same invitation in Moroni 10:32.

"Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God."

Many of us were invited to a party or two during the Christmas season. While that invitation was for a one-time event, this invitation from Moroni is for us to participate in an eternal process, the process of being perfected in Christ.

Fortunately, we don't have to accept this invitation without knowing what it entails. The process is neatly summarized by Moroni. We commit to "deny yourselves of all ungodliness... and love God with all your might, mind and strength" and if we do those things then "his grace is sufficient for you that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ."

There are many further instructions given on how to accept this invitation within the scriptures. The 4th article of faith tells us of the first steps in the process, those being "First, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, second Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Lowell D. Wood, in April 1993 general conference said, "The process of being perfected requires that we receive special instruction, make sacred covenants, and receive the highest ordinances of the priesthood. These blessings are available only in the temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Individuals who come unto Christ must come to his temple."

Moroni also invites us to deny ourselves of all ungodliness. This means to submit our will, wholly, to the will of the Father. Of this process, President Ezra Taft Benson stated: "Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends, and pour out peace." (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988, p. 361.)

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Mosiah 3:19 states, "For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father."

It is our natural selves that desires to keep a reserve rather than give everything to God, but given the promises pronounced by President Benson, why would we? As the Savior taught his twelve apostles during His life, "and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt. 10:39) I would argue that we can "lose" our lives by losing ourselves in the service of God. Then will we "find" our true potential and "becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord" and "be perfected in Him"

I have had the opportunity to lay tile in several locations in my house. Each time the tile is laid I am appalled at my horrible craftsmanship. The gaps between the tiles are not perfectly even, nor are the lines, but they are probably good enough. I then lay the grout. It fills in all of the gaps and makes my uneven tiles look acceptable.

Colossians 3:14 says, "And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness." I think of charity as the grout of my life. I will not be perfect in this life. My actions are like the imperfectly laid tile. I do my best. I try to have charity to fill in the uneven gaps and lines left by my imperfect actions. In the end, I wait for the Master carpenter to take my life, my work, my will, everything I have and make it perfect through His infinite atonement.

Let us each accept the invitation to come unto the Savior and be perfected in Him by continually seeking to do good, having the pure love of Christ, making and keeping sacred covenants, and "relying wholly upon the merits of Him who is mighty to save." (2N31:19)

Your bishopric.

## YOUNG WOMEN

"The Young Women's presidency would like to express how grateful we are for all the young women in the ward. Their example of hard work through personal progress, girls camp, Young Women in Excellence, and service has been a blessing to observe, and we look forward to what the coming year will bring. These girls have beautiful testimonies and a powerful resolve to choose the right. We thank all their parents who help facilitate their activities in the church, and again thank the young women for their hard work and positive attitudes.

Happy Birthday to Nina Ellis and Winona Hoff!"

## FAMILY HISTORY - INDEXING

Need Family History help? Natalie  
Nielson-Riep 801-440-2799

## TEMPLE SEALINGS

Our ward has made arrangements with the Draper Temple to do sealings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please try to arrive 30 minutes early.

( Our January appointment is  
Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> )

## MISSIONARY ADDRESSES

### **Elder Bruce and Sister Vivienne Sullivan**

Spain Madrid Mission  
Calle Fuerteventura 4, 2, Office 8B  
28703 San Sebastian de los Reyes  
Madrid  
SPAIN

**Rachel Jean Bierman** (It has been requested that you not put Sister due to mail being stolen)

Missouri St Louis Mission  
1850 Craigshire Rd Ste 205  
St Louis, MO 63146

### **Hermana Emily Lloyd**

Mision Chile Concepcion Sur  
Casilla 3560  
Concepcion,  
CHILE

### **Elder Gary and Sister Susan Johnson**

Tennessee Nashville Mission  
Welfare Resource Center  
107 Twin Hills Drive  
Madison, TN 37115

### **Elder Zach Rigby**

110 Oak Park Dr. Suite B  
Irmo, SC 29063

## RELIEF SOCIETY

The year 2013 has come and gone and it has been a wonderful year in Relief Society. We have a great group of teachers who faithfully prepare and present their lessons, and keep us informed, enlightened and encouraged. We really appreciate our staff of teachers and those who help them and those who come faithfully each week to be taught.

We are sad to lose Jennifer Mitchell to the Primary. She will be a great asset to them. We thank Nancy Williams for teaching and encouraging us with Visiting Teaching this past week. Visiting Teaching is a lifeline from the sisters to the Bishop and in some cases the only contact some sisters have with their neighbors and the Church.

It truly is a blessing and opportunity for us to visit with, and teach to, and learn from our sisters. We are very grateful for all those who faithfully fulfill this calling each month, and we encourage all sisters to make it easy for the Visiting teachers to come to visit us.

We wish each sister a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR and please know that as a Presidency, we love and appreciate each one of you

A REMINDER OF OUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE STAKE CENTER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SING IN THE STAKE WOMENS CHOIR, THEY PRACTICE EACH SUNDAY EVENING AT 8:00P.M. AT THE BUTTERCUP CHAPEL. THEY WELCOME ANY SISTER WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THEM.

## PRIMARY

Theme for 2014: Families are Forever

January Theme: Heavenly Father Prepared a Way for Me to Return to His Presence

January Scripture: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)

We are so excited for a new year in Primary. We would like to welcome Sister Ailyn Thompson as our Primary President and Sister Lynn Jensen as the new Second Counselor. We would also like to welcome Sarah Jones and Jennifer Mitchell as new teachers. We also want to thank all of the teachers that continue to teach and serve the children. It is an honor to be able to work with your children in primary.

For the new year, we would like to challenge the children to learn the scriptures for each month. On the last Sunday of each month we will be giving each child a card with the monthly theme and scripture on it for the next month. We would appreciate it if the parents (or children) could please put these in a place where they will see them all the time (such as on the refrigerator), and maybe this will help them review and memorize the scriptures. We will put a ring on them so that the children can add a new card each month and at the end of the year they should have 12 cards (plus the cover card). We have the children say the scripture in primary opening exercises each week so it will be helpful to have them learn them. Thanks so much for your help with this.

January Activity Days for Young Girls:

1/7 - Family History/Pedigree Charts

1/28 - Mini Donut Snowman

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The American Red Cross computer site ([www.redcross.org/](http://www.redcross.org/)) contains valuable information pertaining to every kind of emergency preparedness. One of the items is the Emergency Contact Card which you may consider important to carry in your wallet or purse.

Disasters often make it difficult to stay in touch with loved ones. The American Red Cross [Safe and Well website](#) is a central location for people in disaster areas in the United States to register their current status, and for their loved ones to access that information. It helps provide displaced families with relief and comfort during a stressful time.

The Safe and Well website is easy to use: (1) If you are currently being affected by a disaster somewhere in the U.S., click [List Myself as Safe and Well](#), enter your pre-disaster address and phone number, and select any of the standard message options. (2) If you are concerned about a loved one in the U.S., click [Search Registrants](#) and enter the person's name and pre-disaster phone number OR address. If they have registered, you will be able to view the messages they have posted.

[Safe and Well](#) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is accessible in both English and Spanish.

## WARD AND STAKE EVENTS AND NEWS

- \* HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2014
- \* STAKE YW NEW BEGINNINGS - JANUARY 14TH, 7 PM
- \* SCOUTING DISTRICT KLONDIKE DERBY - JANUARY 24TH AND 25TH, ALL DAY BOTH DAYS.
- \* WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE STAKE CENTER.
- \* CONGRATS TO:

Scott and Jennifer Anderson had a baby boy.

David and Shelly Glauser had a baby girl.

Mike and Kara McLeskey had a baby boy.

## BIRTHDAYS



### January 2014

- 4 Doris Mendenhall
- 10 Mont Deming  
Natalie Nielson-Riep
- 12 Manette Murri  
Zander Olsen
- 14 Kendon Riep  
Zach Rigby
- 15 Chyrrel Cook  
Brenda Rodgers
- 18 Kirk Arnold
- 19 Lora Lee Holt
- 20 Warren Schmidt
- 22 Donna Strong
- 23 Kathleen Barnhart  
Martin Strong
- 24 Chandler Glauser
- 26 Holly Miles
- 27 Marie-France Arnold  
Charity Wilcox

## CUB SCOUTS

Pack meeting will be on January 17th, at 6:30 PM in the stake center primary room. Families welcome.

## EMPTY NESTERS

A special thanks to Annette Webster who hosted our annual Christmas Potluck. It was wonderful.

Our January meeting will be the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm with Manette Murri hosting. We will read from Talmadge's "Jesus the Christ", chapter 35 "Death and Burial" and then have refreshments. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month and welcome any Empty Nesters to join with us.

## CHOIR

Join with us this year. We will meet each Sunday at Mary Bye's at 1:00 pm. All ages and skill levels welcome. The only requirement is that you love to sing

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

DATE FOR FEBRUARY WILL BE JANUARY 28TH.  
PLEASE FORWARD YOUR AUXILIARY INFORMATION TO ANDREA MARX AT:  
[sistermarx@gmail.com](mailto:sistermarx@gmail.com)

It is desired that all the auxiliaries contribute to the newsletter.