

# Chicken Scratch

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## Renewal Weekend

This May we will have a Jubilee Renewal weekend and we are hoping that you will come and enjoy fellowship. We have gotten to the 50th weekend and want to celebrate the occasion. Weekend will be May 29-31. Please watch your email for further updates and information.

## What is a Share Group?

Have you thought about joining or hosting a share group? It's a great way to get to know more Koinonians.

We currently have 3 groups. 2 women's study groups and 1 co-ed social/activity

However we need a men's or co-ed study group, if you are interested in joining/ hosting a share group please contact me at 719-635-9815. Please text or leave a message.

Thanks!

Terrie Biava

## Layleader Letter SCK 49

*Hello Koinonia Family!*

Jean LaVan here. I am blessed to be Lay Leader for SCK-49.

To share a bit about myself, first the answers to the questions I'm used to getting: No kids, I have never been married, no pets, and I work with computers. I am a Colorado native born to Nevin and Betty LaVan and was raised in the county just east of Pueblo. I've had the blessing of growing up in the church and so have always known about God. Thankfully, I have gotten to know him personally and have been learning and growing in my faith walk with him.

I got my bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems at University of Southern Colorado (now Colorado State University – Pueblo) and then moved to Colorado Springs for work and have stayed ever since. I was fortunate enough to get a master's degree in Computer Science from Colorado Technical University in 2000, which made me eligible to be a college hire (again) in 2002 at my current company when I was laid off from a previous one. God has woven together work opportunities for me within the same

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company ever since. As each one has ended, He has pointed me to another. It's been so cool to experience how He has provided and see what he's had to teach me along the way.

I was introduced to Koinonia in May 2016 when Suzanne Starling invited me to SCK-38. I have been blessed to be part of the SCK Kommunity including serving on many weekends and as Treasurer on the SCK Continuance Board and gotten to know wonderful people that I consider chosen family.

I am so looking forward to SCK-49! The theme for the weekend is "**Joy**". I believe the Lord gave me the theme of **joy** because it seems to be sadly missing in society; especially right now. It can be easy to get wrapped up in the highs and lows of life and bogged down in temporary things that we lose sight of the amazing **Joy** that God has for us.

Our scripture for the weekend is Isaiah 12:2-3: "'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.' With **joy** you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

Doesn't that make you smile and want to sing for joy? What keeps us from doing that? I'm thankful for the journey God's taken me on so far and am excited to share what God has taught me along the way. I can't wait to see He what does with the SCK-49 weekend!

Be on the lookout for the large and small joys God has for **you**!

May the peace **and joy** of the Lord be with you always!

Jean LaVan

SCK-49 Lay Leader

## **Assistant Layleader SCK-49**

Diane Gonzales has been around Koinonia for almost 30 years. She loves the fellowship and mutual encouragement belonging to this multi-denominational group has provided. Early in her walk with this organization, she joined a Koinonia singles share group – the support from that small cell group brought her through a really tough time. And, from that bible study group, she and her now-husband were among the couples that formed and married and began having children - all in about the same time frame! Rick and Diane have been married since 1993, have two grown children (they are empty nesters now) and have attended Rocky Mountain Calvary Church since 2000 when they moved to Colorado Springs from Denver. Diane is a real estate agent, founding member of Amare-The Mental Wellness Company, and new Superhost of their very own Airbnb! In her "spare" time, she mentors newly recovering alcoholics, is the Pre-K Board Member (that is the person who takes care of the new registrations for Koinonia) and enjoys spending time with her husband. ALL glory goes to God for the many changes, updates and enhancements to her life throughout her life!

Diane Gonzales

SCK-49 Assistant LayLeader

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## **Introduction to Board member Suzanne Starling**

Hey there, this is Suzanne Starling. As a new board member, I was asked to write a little about myself. First, my background. My father was in the Air Force so I had what I consider the privilege of moving around the country for his assignments and an assignment in Germany (I was much too young to really remember much though). My dad retired in Albuquerque, NM when I was 12. I stayed in NM through college (Go Lobos!) I love my NM roots and my answer to the NM State Question "Red or green?" is usually "Christmas!" I married an Air Force helicopter pilot when I was in college. We spent 19 years moving around the country and a brief time in the Philippines and Okinawa. Our last assignment together brought us to Colorado Springs in 1997. Life doesn't always turn out the way we planned and our marriage didn't last. I am thankful for the experiences and the places we saw. I am also thankful for God's faithfulness to me since I became single. I have worked for Lockheed Martin for 23 years in many different roles ranging from software developer to integration and test engineer. My current role has a fancy title that begins with the word Cyber. That means I help ensure that the projects that I support follow good practices when it comes to securing information and computers. It's a job I love and an extension of my military heritage. I am active in women's ministry at my church and serve as a co-leader of a small group.

My Koinonia journey began ten years ago when I was invited to SCK-20. I have to admit I was a bit cautious at first but time

after time I felt God calling me back to serve on team. I have served in many positions and the Koinonia Community has become dear to my heart. I was Lay Leader for SCK-39 in 2015, My theme was "Restore the Joy" which ties in with Jean's theme for SKC-49. I became Mentor Coordinator on the SCK Continuance Board in July of 2019. I help keep continuity for the weekends by maintaining the team manuals and arranging mentors for each weekend. It's a joy to me to be able to serve the greater Koinonia Community this way.  
Suzanne

## **Inspiration from Marcia Nelson-Polston**

Dear Koinonia Family,

My Name is Marcia Nelson-Polston and I am one of the Spiritual Directors for Southern Colorado Koinonia and Colorado Koinonia. I am celebrating my 22<sup>nd</sup> year with Koinonia this month (February) at SCK 49. My first weekend was K-74, in February 1998. I was invited by my good friend Marge Costillo. She was my assistant for a women's support group that I was running. Marge went to a Koinonia retreat about a year before me and invited me to go on one. I was hesitant as she was not able to share much with me, so wasn't sure what I was getting myself into. During that year I saw Marge grow spiritually more than I had ever seen her grow. I knew that something had been changing her. I finally agreed to go and quite frankly thought I was going to a time share presentation at first. Hahahahhah. But quickly learned that God was very much a part of the weekend. The

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turning point on my weekend was my mail bag. I had been given a special word from the “Holy Spirit” and as He does things, 75% of my letters contained that word “The Best is Yet to Come”! I knew that He had brought me to a special group of people called Koinonia. After that I recommended and even helped to pay for each of the ladies in my support group to go on a weekend. And they in turn grew. I grew so much myself, I am still growing in Him. I always say that God pours so much of Himself into the weekends that the bad stuff in our lives gets pushed out.

I have seen a lot of changes over the years and many people have come to stay or just to enjoy the weekend with God. Each weekend is different but each and everyone is so special. I have seen people’s lives turned around during these weekends. God does so many miracles that it is hard to count. God stretches each one of us and gives us the opportunities to use the gifts that He has given us, even ones we didn’t know we had. This is an extended family. Some of my best friends are a part of Koinonia and each weekend provides an opportunity to meet new family members.

One of my Life sayings is “Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much”. I want to Encourage each of you to adopt this into your Life.

The theme for this weekend is “Joy” Jesus gives us so much joy in our lives. There are hard times that come, but if we can keep our heads up and our eyes on Him, He will give us His Joy and Strength! Thank you for letting me share,

Be blessed every day!

Marcia Nelson-Polston

**What New Koinonians have to say:**

**Finding True Christian Community**

Written by Andrea Archer

SCK-48 (Oct. 2019)

It all started when my friend, Macki Jones, heard my heart for deeper community. I am in an unusual transition. Both of my parents have passed away and that means I am released to engage with the body of Christ in a deeper way. Over the last two years, since my mom died, who was my second parent to leave earth, I have had a deep longing to become connected with fellow believers. Macki invited me to my first Koinonia weekend last October. I feel in love with the purpose of Koinonia. The intention is to love others right where they are in their lives. The level of acceptance is incredibly high.

Personally, I experienced a lot of acceptance. My first small group meeting, on Friday evening, consisted mostly of me sharing my deep heart aches and feeling heard! Even though my trials may be different than others, there was still compassion offered to me. And I received it with an open heart!

The whole weekend, which had the theme of “Broken Together,” come true in my life. I felt that the sadness that I carried was allowed to have a voice. As the sadness and hurt were released, I was able to relax and hear with greater clarity how God’s love works in broken people. I am a broken person who is called to love others with the awesome compassion God has given me.

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Before I attended the retreat for SCK-48, I was desperately hungry for connection. Since October 2019, I have felt connected to the Body of Christ. I accepted the call to co-lead two share groups. One group meets monthly for dinner. I co-lead this with Jean LaVan (Assistant Lay Leader for SCK-48). The second group is an activities/hang out group which is open to all Koinonians all the time. We organize activities generally twice a month. I also attend a third share group that meets almost weekly. (We study a book together and pray for one another.) God was, and continues to be faithful to bring authentic people into my life that love God and love each other. Since I started hanging out with fellow brothers and sisters who seriously love God, I have felt heard, valued, appreciated, and above all else, loved!

The activities/hang out group is co-lead with Jeff Causey (Lay Leader for SCK-48). We pray that God directs us to organize activities that our fellow Koinonians would like to participate in. If you are interested in participating in the activities group, please let us know. If you would like to host an event, we welcome your ideas. They could include: BBQ, simple hike at Garden of the Gods, free day at a museum either in Colorado Springs or Denver, game day at someone's house, or a drive to the mountains. If you are interested in attending this group please notify either one of us: Jeff Causey - [causeyco@msn.com](mailto:causeyco@msn.com) or Andrea Archer – [andreaa@q.com](mailto:andreaa@q.com) Jeff and I have stepped out in faith as we trust God to direct our paths. We hope to create opportunities for our brothers and sister to

come together to have deeper fellowship with one another.

## What Koinonia Has Brought My Life

My name is Cheryl and I attended my first Koinonia retreat this past fall (and to be really precise it was SCK 48 :) ). I really didn't know what to expect going into this retreat but my friend Macki sponsored me and I know she has been so blessed by being a part of this community of believers over the years. What I did know though, was I was in need of belonging to a community and to tangibly experience the sweet love of God and others.

The Koinonia retreat was truly beyond what I could even think up. I was going through a lonely period in my life and honestly just felt bruised from life and our society that can sometimes feel so cold and impersonal. What most impacted me on this retreat was the love and warmth I experienced from brothers and sisters in the Lord I didn't even know and the deep thoughtfulness and prayer that went into every aspect of this retreat. I felt my bruised up, protected heart begin to open and heal and really receive the love that was being poured out to me and others. There were so many sweet and joyful surprises throughout the weekend and I just tried in a sense to lean back and receive all God had for me.

It is so healing to be accepted for who you are and truly come together in unity and love. I am very thankful for this new family of brothers and sisters in the Lord and will be serving on my first retreat coming up this very weekend. I am forever grateful for

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this precious group of people and that I belong to this family and now have the privilege to serve along side with. May God receive all the glory!

## Inspiration from Jenny Lambardi

SueEllen Borthwick sent this article from Jenny Lambardi. SueEllen said, "It was such a blessing and really expressed the JOY that this weekend is all about."

As many of you know, I have been writing a book called, "Winging It," that talks about my life story, and the relationship between suffering and hope (with more of a emphasis on hope). It is in part based on a favorite Scripture of mine: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar up on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary; walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31), but Friday night as I was again feeling horrible and about to be admitted to the hospital once again, I thought of a similar verse found in the Psalms, "He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His Truth shall be your shield and buckler" (Ps. 91:4). I was sharing my story with a nurse in the emergency department, and I said the one reason I was grateful for my struggles was because it had kept me close to God, in that when I feel crummy I just surround myself in the protection and comfort of His wings. It's a special place to be. I find myself resting there, being still. It may be when I'm physically or emotionally unwell, but I still treasure this special place to rest. For that reason, I do not regret the struggles. I know it won't be forever, and if I

get the opportunity to share with some people, whether it be strangers at the supermarket, health workers at the hospital, or friends on Facebook, I am happy to share that "the joy of the Lord is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). In reference to a famous quote by Dr.. David Jeremiah (which may have originally been coined by C.S. Lewis,) "There's a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is about what's happening...", and I may not be happy about what's happening in the moment, but I still have joy, because "... joy is about [comes from] Jesus!"

Jenny Lambardi



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## Kalendar

Post Ultreya SCK-49

March 7

Starting at 930 am

Sunrise UMC

2655 Briargate Blvd.

Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Bring your cup, name tag, musical instrument and come out welcome out new family and fellowship.

Bowling

April ,2019

Starting at

Harmony Bowl(could change)

Renewal Weekend

May 29-31

Starting at 5 pm on the 29st

Cathedral Ridge

1364 Co Rd 75

Woodland Park, CO 80863

Kommunity Breakfast Fellowship

May 31, 2020

Starting at 6 am

Cathedral Ridge

1364 Co Rd 75

Woodland Park, CO 80863

Bring your cup, name tag, musical instrument and come out and fellowship with other koinonians.

Palanka Party SCK-5?

October 24, 2020

Starting at

TBD

Bring your cup, name tag, musical instrument and come out and help make

Palanka for the new Koinonians and prayer over the team.

SCK-5?

Oct 30-Nov 1, 2020

Starting at 5 pm on the 30th

Cathedral Ridge

1364 Co Rd 75

Woodland Park, CO 80863

Maninatas

Nov 1, 2020

Starting at 6 am

Cathedral Ridge

1364 Co Rd 75

Woodland Park, CO 80863

Bring your cup, name tag, musical instrument and come out and welcome the new koinonians to the family.

Post Ultreya SCK-5?

Nov 14, 2020

Starting at

TBD

Bring your cup, name tag, musical instrument and come out welcome out new family and fellowship.

Weekend Dates for 2021

SCK-5?

Feb 20-22, 2021

SCK-5?

May 14-16, 2021

SCK-5?

Oct 22-24, 2021

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<b>Southern Colorado Koinonia</b>			
<b>Treasurer's Report for January 2020 - General Fund</b>			
<b>TREASURER'S CORNER</b>			
<i>Southern Colorado Koinonia</i>			
Starting Balance - as of 01/01/2020			\$ 5,790.00
<b>Income:</b>	Donation for Sunrise UMC (Oct 2019)	55.00	
Income Total:		<u>\$ 55.00</u>	
<b>Expenses:</b>	#1429 Cathedral Ridge SCK 49 2nd Payment	2,280.00	
	Transfer to open new PayPal account	100.00	
	#1428 Donation to Sunrise UMC	55.00	
	#1430 Cathedral Ridge SCK 50 (Deposit)	500.00	
Expenses Total:		<u>\$ 2,935.00</u>	
Ending Checkbook Balance - as of 01/31/2020			<u>\$2,910.00</u>
Ending Bank Balance - as of 01/31/2020		\$ 6,245.00	
Discrepancy between Bank and Checkbook (uncleared items):		\$ (3,335.00)	
Uncleared checks:	#1427 Cathedral Ridge SCK 51 (Deposit)	500.00	
	#1429 Cathedral Ridge SCK 49 2nd Payment	2,280.00	
	#1428 Donation to Sunrise UMC	55.00	
	#1430 Cathedral Ridge SCK 50 (Deposit)	500.00	
Resolved Discrepancy to:		<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Final Reconciled Balance:</b>			<u><u>\$2,910.00</u></u>
Respectfully submitted by:			
Jean LaVan, Treasurer			



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<b>Southern Colorado Koinonia</b>			
<b>Treasurer's Report for January 2020 - Scholarship Account</b>			
<b>TREASURER'S CORNER</b>			
<i>Southern Colorado Koinonia</i>			
Starting Balance - as of 01/01/2020			\$ 1,082.96
<b>Income:</b>			
Income Total:		\$ -	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Expenses Total:		\$ -	
Ending Checkbook Balance - as of 01/31/2020			<u>\$1,082.96</u>
Ending Bank Balance - as of 01/31/2020		\$1,082.96	
Discrepancy between Bank and Checkbook (uncleared items):		\$ -	
Resolved Discrepancy to:		0.00	
<b>Final Reconciled Balance:</b>			<u><b>\$1,082.96</b></u>
Respectfully submitted by:			
Jean LaVan, Treasurer			

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