

The Chicken Scratch



February 2023

Southern Colorado Koinonia's vision is to provide a Christ –centered environment that encourages individual Christians to expand their potential as followers of Christ. Koinonia's focus is on sharing Christ in their families, their churches, their work and their communities. We believe in the power of prayer and in the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

SCK-51

SEEK HIM, FIND HIM AND LIVE FOR HIM

By Kim Mersman, Lay-Leader for SCK-51

God works in amazing ways! Ellen Scheier was our new lay-leader for SCK-51. She was so stoked and was ready to take the challenge on; however, due to illness God set a new trajectory for Ellen and for me. As Ellen stepped down as lay-leader, the SCK Board requested that I step up to fill Ellen's position. A whirlwind of questions and God talk arose as I pondered "should I take on this weekend or not". God stepped in with a special Word:

Acts 17:26-28

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the Earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times, and the boundaries of their dwellings so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being.

This scripture pulled me into the realization that God has already appointed each and every one of us for such a time as this very moment. Hesitation only limits God. He wants us to live, move and have our very being acting in His Will. The "YES" to being SCK-51 Lay-leader is one of Seeking Him, Finding Him and Living for Him.

The Weekend is March 24 – 26, 2023 at Quaker Ridge Camp and Conference Center, 30150 Colorado 67, Woodland Park, CO 80863

As lay leader, I would like to INVITE YOU to participate in any or all of the following activities:

1. March 18, 2023, Palanka Party, Sunrise UMC, 2655 Briargate Blvd, Colorado Springs CO 80920. The Party starts at 9:30 and ends by 12:30. Believe it or not, you can help even if you are not creative. Would love to see you!
2. March 24-26 Prayer Wheel. The prayer wheel is open to everyone who would like to take time out to pray for the weekend. I would encourage all of you to participate in this time. I find it not only benefits the weekend, but I find it is a blessing to the individual prayer warrior as well. God loves it when we communicate with Him.
3. March 24-26 SCK51 – possibly you feel called to come as a renewal or maybe you would like to invite a new participant and join them on the weekend. Prayerfully consider coming on the weekend – would love to have you there.
4. March 26, 2023, Mananitas – Early Morning wake-up at the camp with praise and worshipping Jesus. The serenade for Mananitas begins at 6:00 - the fearless lay-leader will be available by 5:30 - Would love to see you perky morning SCKer's!

5. April 15, 2023, Post-Ultreya, Sunrise UMC, 2655 Briargate Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. The Post-Ultreya is a time to share with others the highlights of SCK51 and meet any new Koninians. Please bring snacks and goodies. We will start at 9:30 and end by 12:30.

Please pray for our new participants and for the success of SCK-51's team. Thank you!

Come Join SCK-51

March 24-26, 2023

Theme: Seek Him, Find Him and Live for Him

Scripture: Acts 17:26-28

Quaker Ridge

30150 State Highway 67

Woodland Park, CO

The cost for SCK-51 covers two weekend nights and 6 meals for \$200 plus \$5.00 for photo, if you want one.

See application on last page of this newsletter.

Registration is due Thursday, March 9th.

Lazarus- Beloved of Jesus

Part I

By Brad Beall

The story of Lazarus becoming sick, then dying and being resurrected is one of the most famous NT stories. It is found in John chapter 11. New Testament scholars consider it one of the seven milestone (theologically important) miracles performed by Jesus.

Here is a simple outline of the Lazarus story:

Lazarus, who lives in Bethany with his sisters Mary (who poured oil and wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair) and Martha (yes, that Martha), becomes sick. In their concern for his welfare the sisters send a message to Jesus asking him to come to Bethany.

Jesus who was in Galilee at the time did not respond to the request. He delayed for two days. When he again heard how sick Lazarus was he decided to go to Judea. His disciples were shocked as Jesus had just fled Judea after being threatened with stoning. This was the confrontation on Solomon's Porch where he upset the religious leaders when he would not reveal who he was. When the decision to return to Judea was final, Thomas (yes, that Thomas) says to the other disciples "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When they arrived in Bethany of Judea, two miles north and east of Jerusalem, he is confronted by Martha and then Mary with the same statement. They both said "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." John 11:21 and 32.

When Jesus sees the love and care of the whole host of visitors, both from Bethany and also Jerusalem he is moved. The biblical verse says "he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled". This then leads to the famous shortest verse in the bible "Jesus wept". John 11:35. Jesus then goes to the tomb and calls Lazarus, after 4 days to come out which he does. Jesus then directs the people to unwrap Lazarus from the grave clothes.

I want us to consider just several small parts of this story.

The first is the request by Mary and Martha for Jesus to come and help. Was this not a prayer? We have a sick brother and we need you to perform a healing so that he might live. Jesus did not answer their prayer. The scripture says that if two or more pray God will listen, God will come and be in their midst. Jesus intentionally stayed in Galilee. He did not come, he did not heal.

Jesus was moved by the love and care of Lazarus's community. They were people who lived and loved within the covenant of God. Their witness of love was so powerful that "Jesus wept" at their pain and their loss.

Yet probably the most powerful statement in the whole story was made by Martha (yes, that Martha) when she confronted Jesus about not answering her prayer. Jesus tells her that he is "the resurrection and the life." When Jesus asks her "do you believe that?" her answer is the most classic statement of faith.

She and Mary had just prayed a prayer in faith which Jesus intentionally did not answer. He did not show up, there was no healing, there was nothing. It appears that he was too busy with his disciples up in Galilee to listen to her prayer. She could have been hurt; she could have felt unloved by God. I am sure the temptation to feel that she was unworthy was right there in front of her. She did not fall into any of those traps. She answered Jesus by saying "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world".

What a fabulous lesson for us. Jesus knew what he was up to; he is the Lord, the resurrection and the life. Martha knew that he loved her and cared for her; she lived and rested in his love.

(Part II will appear in the June 2023 Chicken Scratch.)

OUTREACH COORDINATOR NEWS

As your New Outreach Coordinator for Southern Colorado Koinonia, I feel amazingly blessed by the community. My first function was those Happy Birthday Cards that are sent out monthly. I had no idea that we have so many cards that go out every month. Keeping track of all of you is definitely a daunting task; however, one that touches me in many ways. To address the cards, many memories flash back for me regarding each one of you. I remember when has become a game I now play as I address those happiness cards. We have had so many good memories in the Koinonia community.

My next task was Christmas Caroling. With all the restrictions around the nursing homes, I wasn't quite sure how we could get through the red tape. However, God's love came through. SCK, with the help of Friendship AOG Church, was able to set up visits on December 17 with Sunny Vista Living Center, Springs Ranch Memory Center, Edna Reimer's Home and B.L. James' Home. During caroling we were given the opportunity not to just sing, but to pray over some individuals and deliver prayer clothes that were made by the homebound ministry at Friendship. After caroling we met back at Friendship AOG Church for hot chocolate, hot cider and Christmas Treats. Everyone felt not just the fun of the excursion, but the joy of touching those who are homebound and may not have anyone to love on them during the Christmas Season. Such a blessing!

Outreach is now looking at projects for Easter. If you are interested in helping, feel free to reach out to me – I can always use extra hands with projects and cards.

May God Bless You – your sister-in-Christ,

Kim Mersman
719-499-4506

Share Groups

A share group is a small group of folks who meet on a regular base to share what God is doing in their lives. A share group could be a Bible Study, music group or community service project. Groups generally meet once a week to once a month. If you are interested in hosting or participating in a share group, please contact
Kim McGough– kimsmil@msn.com or 719-243-0340.

Bible Study

(Focus is on prayer and trusting God.)
Meets: Every Thursday evening at 6:30pm
Contact Peggy Taylor @ 719-339-5803

SCK Activities Group

Meets: Once a month
Activities include: Birthday celebrations, camping, dinner, Christmas lunch, hot springs.
If you have other ideas for activities, please share your thoughts.
Contact Andrea Archer @ 509-869-1770

Hello Koinonia Family!

I have been asked to share a bit about SCK-50 from the Lay leader perspective. It was my honor and privilege to head the weekend at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Oct 2022. Our theme was Holy and the Scripture for the weekend was 1 Peter 2:9 *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*

We felt His Presence, and saw His Hand throughout the weekend!

The small group report backs showed us what a difference being God’s special possession can make in our lives. And how when we realize our status as His chosen people, we can walk boldly into the world and talk about His Love and Holiness.

Through the talks, the groups, and the special surprises, His Holiness surrounded us with His Grace and Love, and our Lord definitely showed us how we are chosen, royal and set apart for Him! My quick summary of the talks:

He showed us that He loves us no matter what – we could “Come as you are” – the message of the first talk. And the second talk spoke to our hearts –He knows us, do we know Him? With our third talk, we felt his presence move in and around and through us - with his Grace, he prays for us and works in us! And sometimes he allows difficulties and troubles into our lives so that he can shape us and give us His piety. And to further our holiness, the Lord gave us His love letters and challenges us to read His Word and taste and see that He is good! Are we then getting into action and making a change in the world (and not letting the world in to change us!) When we allow God to shape us and carve away all that is not Him, we find we are better equipped to participate in all of our communities. We need one another to grow in our spiritual walk and especially to commune with Him. And finally, the more we know him, the more we are able to surrender to His Love, the more secure we are in Him!

During SCK 50, I was able to just spend time absorbing His Existence. For me, when I spend time in His Presence, just soaking in all that He is, I get filled. I am changed, I am satisfied, I am whole. I need nothing. I have no fear. Because He *IS* and I am *with* Him, my spirit, soul and body can be who He created me to be, and do what He places in front of me, in the way He wants me to do it. By abiding in Him, I am able to access His Power – right here, right now. I can freely “praise Him

who called me out of darkness into his wonderful light” and acknowledge that it is His beautiful light that draws the world to Him.

In Him and for Him,
Diane Gonzales
SCK-50 Lay Leader



Koinonia Kommunity Kampout

Monger's Property near Victor, Colorado

Koinonia Kampouts are for both the experienced and the amateur camper

The entire family and friends are welcome

Please save the dates

- 4th of July Weekend - Friday June 30th-July 4th
- Labor Day Weekend - Friday September 1st- 4th

Got camping gearFantastic!!!

Don't have camping gear....no worries....let us know..... many have camping gear to share

Tents and Camp Trailers welcome

Male/Female portable toilets provided

Kommunity Fire Pit, Kommunity Meals, Axe Throwing, Hiking, Games, Kamp Fire songs, worship and more....

Come for the day, 1 night, 2 nights, or 3 nights

For more information contact Irene Fick 720-690-1505



Kalendar

SCK-51 Palanka Party

March 18, 2023
9:30am to 12:30pm
Sunrise UMC, 2655 Briargate Blvd
Colorado Springs CO 80920.
Believe it or not, you can help even if you are not creative.

SCK-51

March 24-26, 2023
Theme: Seek Him, Find Him and Live for Him
Scripture: Acts 17:26-28
Lay Leader: Kim Mersman
ALL: Skip Newman
Quaker Ridge
30150 State Highway 67
Woodland Park, CO
Cost: \$200

SCK-51 Mananitas

March 26, 2023
Starting at 6:00am
Lay Leader Kim Mersman will meet Mananitas at 5:30pm.
Quaker Ridge
30150 State Highway 67
Woodland Park, CO
Bring your cup, name tag, musical instrument and come welcome the new Koinonia family members.

SCK-51 Post Ultreya

April 15, 2023
9:30am to 12:30
Sunrise UMC,
2655 Briargate Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80920.
The Post-Ultreya is a time to share with others the highlights of SCK-51 and meet any new Koinonian folks. Please bring snacks and goodies.

Koinonia Kamping

Monger's Property near Victor, Colorado
4th of July Weekend
Friday June 30th-July 4th

SCK- Annual Picnic – July (Most likely 3rd Saturday of July)

Includes Silent Auction, Picnic and Vote on New Board
Location and Date: TBD

Koinonia Kamping

Monger's Property near Victor, Colorado
Labor Day Weekend
Friday September 1st- 4th

SCK-52

Lay Leader: Skip Newman
Sept 22-24, 2023
Quaker Ridge
30150 State Highway 67
Woodland Park, CO
Cost: TBD

Southern Colorado Koinonia Continuance Board Members 2022-2023

Sue-Ellen Borthwick- Co-Chair
Diane Gonzales – Pre-K Registration/ Co-Chair
Andrea Archer – Communication Coordinator
Larry Borthwick- Spiritual Director
Jean LaVan- Treasurer
Kim Mersman- Outreach Coordinator
Sharon Taylor- Mentor Coordinator
Sherri Bell- Secretary/Ultreya Coordinator
Kim McGough- Share Group/Home Team Coordinator
Skip Newman – Music Coordinator

Southern Colorado Koinonia

Treasurer's Report for December 2022 - General Fund

TREASURER'S CORNER
Southern Colorado Koinonia

Starting Balance - as of 12/01/2022 \$3,638.21

Income:

SCK-50 New Participant 80.00

Income Total: \$ 80.00

Expenses:

CO Sec of State - Periodic Report 10.00

Expenses Total: \$ 10.00

Ending Checkbook Balance - as of 12/31/2022 \$3,708.21

Ending Bank Balance - as of
12/31/22 \$3,708.21

Discrepancy between Bank and Checkbook (uncleared items): \$ -

Uncleared checks:

Resolved Discrepancy to: 0.00

Final Reconciled Balance: \$3,708.21

Respectfully submitted by:

Jean LaVan, Treasurer

Prayer Wheel for SCK-51

If you are interested in participating on the wheel prayer, please sign up.

<https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/xlgjv>

Southern Colorado Koinonia - SCK- 51 Registration Form

Koinonia/ *coy-no-nee-a* (Greek) *n: a gathering*. We invite you to be a part of a Koinonia Weekend. The Koinonia Weekend is a gathering of people from different communities for learning, sharing and inspirational experience in Christian living. Its purpose is to share God's love of each person and the depth of that love for us as expressed through Jesus Christ. Koinonia is a multi-denominational Christian community that uses prayer, fellowship and the sharing of common experiences to help an individual feel acceptance in the kingdom of God. In feeling this acceptance, an individual, can focus on becoming a better Christian and an active member of his/her own church.

The Koinonia Weekend is an experience to be lived. It is filled with many things – singing, worship, and laughter, but most of all it is filled with joy. Within 44 hours of the Weekend, a group of strangers evolve into a true Christian community. The Weekend is structured around a series of talks by laypeople and clergy. The talks cover such topics as God's grace, study of His word, Christian action, and other subjects relevant to laypeople. After each talk, there are small group discussions.

Two to three people will share a room, so *Earplugs are recommended*. Men and women are in different rooms, so couples should pack individually.

Please make your check payable to "Southern Colorado Koinonia" and mail to SCK (address is below) or return to your sponsor with your registration form. This covers the retreat, two nights lodging in a beautiful mountain setting, six meals, group photo and Christian fellowship. The check will be cashed upon receipt. If it is necessary to cancel your registration, please cancel by 8:00 p.m. the Sunday, 2 weeks prior to the weekend for the full amount to be refunded to you. Early registration is suggested to be received by SCK at least 20 days prior to the retreat. Any questions should be directed to your sponsor.

Early Bird Registration of \$200.00 is due no later than **Thursday, March 9, 2023** two (2) weeks prior to the weekend. **Registration is an additional \$75 if received after the Early Bird date.**

Mail registration form with check to:

Southern Colorado Koinonia, P.O. Box 75221, Colorado Springs, CO 80970

Web Site: koinonia-sck.org

SOUTHERN COLORADO KOINONIA - 51 REGISTRATION FORM

ONE NAME PER FORM—PLEASE PRINT

Date: _____

Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (Cell Y / N)

Work Phone: (____) _____

Address, City, State Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Birthday: ____/____ Sex: F ___ M ___

Contact information is used for Koinonia purposes only. Koinonia is a "No Strings Attached" group, and NO soliciting is permitted. **May we include the above information in a participants list?** Yes ___ No___

Need a Sitter? N ___ Y ___

Church Affiliation: _____

Do you have any special needs? (ie: dietary) _____

Registration for (Weekend date): 3/24 - 3/26, 2023 Applicant's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____
