

## Community Stuff

### Happy 9th Birthday Scum!

Our 9th Birthday was on 2/2!  
We are very thankful to God for the community He has given us and the ways we have been able to serve Denver these past 9 years.

11th St Gallery First Friday  
Opening - 2/6 7pm - 11pm  
"Brothers" a screen-printing show by Stephen and Jonathan Till.

February Women's Event -  
Valentines Weekend  
We will be shopping at the best thrift stores in Denver and then grabbin' coffee at Breakfast King. Keep your eyes out for more information... flyers will be at the Scoop soon!

The Onion Group is back!  
Wednesday Evenings at  
7:30PM Contact Josh Cook  
at: [jrcook1@gmail.com](mailto:jrcook1@gmail.com) or  
Mollie Richardson at:  
[mollie.richardson@gmail.com](mailto:mollie.richardson@gmail.com)

Moms' Group  
For young moms who'd  
like to hang out  
together with the  
kiddos! Contact Scarlet  
Wetherby at  
[sswetherby@yahoo.com](mailto:sswetherby@yahoo.com)

## SOTEC Staff News

Did you know you can find out random facts about us on the website?!  
[www.scumoftheearth.net](http://www.scumoftheearth.net) - our names are on the left side of the page.

You can find out things like...

Ben and Joshua both really enjoy The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis.  
Jesse, Jessi and Kimberly all love the movie Shawshank Redemption.  
Josh and Tim (alright... he is now a former staff person but...) are Sigur Ros fans.

## What's an Ebenezer?

It means... "God has led us this far" in Hebrew. An Ebenezer is usually a memorial to remind people where God has lead previously. It is a way to remember when remembering is hard. God has been so faithful to Scum of the Earth Church this last year in the purchase of 935 W. 11th Avenue and in our transition there, we want to create our own Ebenezer.

Will you help us? We need poetry, stories, art work, and memories of raising money and purchasing the building. Contact Kristi Spitzer at [kristiannsawyer@hotmail.com](mailto:kristiannsawyer@hotmail.com) to ask questions or submit entries.

### On Sunday nights...

...it's a good idea to walk to and from your car in a group if possible. If you'd like someone to join your on your stroll after service just as at the Scoop in the back of the sanctuary.

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### From Pastor Michael A. Sares...

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:2-5

These verses are not about suffering, really. Rather they are about hope - but suffering is where our minds go when we read them. Perhaps that is because there is so much suffering in this life. Perhaps it is because the idea of rejoicing during suffering is so alien to us. "What kind of a whacko God tells you to rejoice in suffering?" we ask ourselves. We conclude that God is either out-of-touch with our pain or enjoys our pain since it does so much good. Neither of those conclusions are correct. He knows what it is to suffer - Jesus proved that on the cross. The miraculous thing is that God could make anything good come out of suffering at all. Those who suffer in Christ end up putting all their hope in him. There is simply nowhere else to go. He responds to our hope by filling our hearts with amazing love (see above).

Jesus' words on the cross show a supernatural love for friends, enemies and God in the middle of great suffering. "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing," and, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit," are some of his dying words. The great hope in suffering is that we will begin to love God and others as Jesus loved; and that is a good reason to rejoice.

In His name, Mike

