

The Review

of Benet Hill Monastery



VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2 / 3190 BENET LANE, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80921-1509 / Spring 2010



In and through the creativity of nature
the boundless LOVE of the
CREATOR SPIRIT
is bringing the world to BIRTH

- Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

-Redpath



New Staff Members

A Message from Anne Stedman, OSB Prioress

*“What we believe in anguish and doubt
The iris proclaims in simple purple tones;
What we do not see, the chickadee confirms
In its flight to the feeder;
Life, life everywhere, sacred everywhere.”*

Catherine de Vinck

The snow has receded and sprouts of crocus and tulips are emerging; our beloved forest floor cover of kinnikinnick is greening with small pink blossoms about to appear. Our first spring living in our new Monastery at 3190 Benet Lane has begun; the Easter Season is alive and well in our hearts, our daily prayer and Eucharist with and for you, and the revitalization of our ministries.

It is a blessed time of fruition for our Scripture, Centering Prayer and Benedictine Spiritual Formation Programs. We give special thanks to our Sister Diane Liston who designed and directed our four year Scripture Program for twenty-seven years. Her love and understanding of Sacred Scripture has been passed on to her cadre of six excellent teachers and multitude of students over these many years. Lorie Waugh, who has worked with Sister Diane for several years and has a masters degree from St. Louis Aquinas Institute, has been chosen to direct the Scripture Program. A new feature of Scripture studies will be on-line classes in the fall.

There have been times during this year of transition, both living and ministering in the Black Forest area, that have been filled with ‘anguish and doubt’; yet life abounds thanks to each of you -- our volunteers and donors. You helped us move; you have supported us financially and have embraced the quiet ministries of phone, cleaning, cooking, stuffing envelopes, and hanging banners... We cannot express our gratitude in words alone; so please know that we petition our God for untold blessings for you and your families daily.

New life is also being birthed in our revitalization process of ministry. Sandra Kinchen, who first took part in our Centering Prayer Program -- first as participant and then as a certified instructor -- has been hired to help strengthen our various ministries. Sandy brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise from her business, facilitation background and deep spirituality.

Retreat ministry has been an integral part of ‘Benet Pines’ since 1975. This ministry perhaps best exemplifies the key elements of our mission: hospitality, community, and openness to all cultures and faiths. Women and men of all faith traditions have consistently affirmed the warmth and ‘going the extra mile’ of our Sister Josie Sanchez, who served as director for the last six years. Presently, our Sister Mary John Thomas is being assisted by Eileen Beuler as together they recreate another facet of our ministry and vision of being ‘radical signs of God’s love and compassion.’ Eileen also brings a wonderful background of business and love of the ‘gift of retreat ministry.’

Again we are grateful to you, our families and friends; and ask for your continued support for us and for these three women who will be journeying with us in our commitment ‘to minister out of our scarcity.’



New Staff Additions



*Sandy Kinchen
Director of Ministries*



*Lorie Waugh
Scripture Studies Director*



*Eileen Beuler
Retreat Coordinator*

2010 Graduates Congratulations!



Centering Prayer

Top: Tish Meaner, Susan Panaro, Sr. Ana Cloughly-Facilitator, Monika Schmidt
Not Pictured: St. Paul's Church Centering Prayer graduates.

God made us to be
the gardeners
of Paradise
-Thomas Merton



Scripture Studies

Above, Front row: Randy Barrett
Back row: Pat Romero, Sister Michelle Micek, OSF
Below left to right: Joann MacDonald, Kay Mahan, Juliete Pattullo, John Guarriello



Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program Colorado Springs

From top clockwise: Erin Nevers, Marvin Pritchard, Joyce Pike, Jim Graven, Suzie Swenson, Don Simpson, Linda Boyles, Dale Brooks, **Bottom left:** Sr. Mary Colleen Schwarz-Facilitator, **right:** Patty Degen-Coordinator



Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program Denver

Front row: Linda Brown, Donna Contreras-Wetherbee
Second row: Sr. Marilyn Carpenter-Coordinator, Jo Ann Evans, Michelle Sisk, Terrilynn Towns, Linda Freund
Back row: Carol Anderson, Mary Garvin, Karen Eck



Development Office

by Rose Ann Barmann, OSB, Development Director

Mission of Development

The Development Office of Benet Hill Monastery exists to raise funds, provide support and assist in the overall enhancement of the Vision, Mission and Ministries of the Monastery. This purpose is only made possible through the kindness and generosity of our families, friends and benefactors who support us in our works through their prayers and donations.

End of the Year Financial Report

“We need friends, friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, and console us in times of pain,.. the more able we are to receive the different gifts our friends have to give us, the more we are able to offer our own unique but limited gifts.” -Bread for the Journey

OUR COMMUNITY OF BENET HILL truly understands and experiences the importance of your friendship and the gifts that you contribute to our community. Your constant support by way of your friendships and prayers give evidence that we as a community do not exist for ourselves alone. We are given the gift of our Benedictine charism for the purpose of being a monastic presence in our world which needs the comfort of a beloved, hospitable community. In living our call “TO SEEK GOD IN COMMUNITY,” you, our families and friends, are collaborators in helping us to be faithful to that seeking. Through our fidelity to monastic tradition, we lift you and all your loved ones in daily prayer, reaching out in life-giving ministries that feed the body, mind and spirit.

Note: The charts below show your financial gifts of 2009 which provide assistance in fulfilling our monastic mission to our community and world. We are ever grateful for your presence, prayers and support.

Sources of Giving

53.3%	Donations	\$705,142
3.3%	Grants	\$44,206
42.6%	In-Kind Donations	\$564,157
.8%	Sale of Property	\$10,599
100%	TOTAL	\$1,324,104

Outstanding Pledges to the Capital Campaign as of December 31, 2009: \$525,000

Gift Distribution 2009

4.7%	Sister's Retirement	\$62,117
3.1%	Education, Ministry, Special Needs	\$40,964
36.4%	Capital Campaign	\$482,315
	Operating	\$738,708
	Donations	\$174,551
55.8%	In-Kind	\$564,157
100%	TOTAL	\$1,324,104

*Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as you ever can.*
-John Wesley



Sr. Ana Cloughly explains the Benet Hill **Herstory** mosaic to guests of our monthly Open House.

It is in giving that we receive

-St. Francis

*Seek always to do some good somewhere.
You must give some time to your fellow man.
For remember, you do not live in a world all your own.*

- Albert Schweitzer

St. Benedict directs his followers "to live by the work of their hands." We at Benet Hill have continuously lived by the work of our hands and through the help of the many hands of our volunteers. Thank you for giving of your time and talent so graciously and working with us to carry out our Benedictine mission. We could not do all that we do without your presence in our lives. God bless your generosity.

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*Jane Eisenach
Scripture Instructor*

*"I hear the rhythm of the silence
I see the light in each one's eyes
I smell the sweetness of life breathing
I taste His body and His blood
In love I come to all my senses
And feel my feet on sacred ground"*
-Tish Meier
Centering Prayer Retreatant



A Day in the Life...

Compiled by Gina Berger from the Sisters

SISTERS THERESE O'GRADY, OSB, MARY JANE VIGIL, JOAN LUKE SILVERSTEIN, AND ANA CLOUGHLY gathered for a Lenten Formation Retreat on March 1st. The theme was Chapter 49 from the *Rule of Benedict, On the Observance of Lent*. "Prayerful movement attuned our bodies to the presence of God."

SR. MARILYN CARPENTER, OSB serves on the Federation Council of St. Scholastica. The council met in Atchison, KS on March 12-14 to set the agenda in preparation for the General chapter held June 2010. The Federation of St. Scholastica consists of 22 Benedictine Communities including Benet Hill Monastery.

SISTERS ROSE ANN BARMANN, ANA CLOUGHLY, AND EVANGELINE SALAZAR attended the

Emerging Christianity Conference. Speakers Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, Brian McLaren and Suzanne Stabile encouraged and challenged us to see places of liminal space as opportunities for transformation into a deeper Christ consciousness.

BENET HILL MONASTERY hosted the *Conference of Religious Treasurers (CORT) Region XIII* April 9-13, 2010. Nationally known guest speaker Constance Neeson presented a workshop on government programs. The treasurers made a donation of \$300 to the Diocese of Mandeville in Jamaica to assist our Sister Naomi in her ministry.

ANN MICHARD AND PEGGY MEANEY, our new affiliates, along with Mary Vanek traveled from Massachusetts, Virginia and Texas, respectively, to celebrate the Triduum with us.

Federation of St. Scholastica Chapter Meeting

by Marie Therese Summers, OSB

The Federation of St. Scholastica will gather in Atchison, Kansas from June 18 through June 24. Sister Anne Stedman will be joined by the elected delegates from the community; Sister Mary Colleen Schwarz, Sister Marie Therese Summers and Sister Marilyn Carpenter, (Federation Council) will round out the Benet Hill delegation.

The theme of this Chapter is:
Listening Turns the Soul to God.



Book Review by Lucinda Green

Benedict's Dharma: Buddhists Reflect on the Rule of Saint Benedict

Edited by Patrick Henry

How do Buddhist contemplatives interpret and relate to Christian principles offered by the Rule? Four Buddhist teachers reflect on various chapters within St. Benedict's Rule. Each teacher represents a particular school within the Buddhist tradition, Zen, Theravada, Tibetan and Taiwanese. This adds layers of flavor to the interpretation of themes common to all contemplatives. Freedom, Forgiveness, Discipline, Spontaneity, Tradition, Adaptation, Leadership and Humility are explored.

More than anything, I found the style of the book most interesting. The Rule is included as an appendix and is a most substantive part of the work. The language and intent of the Rule is very straightforward, providing guidance in practical and pragmatic ways.

The reflections, on the other hand explore nuances, comparing and contrasting similarities and differences between themes universal to both Christian and Buddhist

contemplative life.

As stated by the editor, the reflections are presented as "a tapestry of the written essays and substantive conversations." There is a quality of intermingling present while reading the book. It is as though one were part of a small group touring a garden replete with various sections of foliage. As the tour progresses, observations are shared, comments are made and conversations shared.

As you leave the garden, you are left with a richer experience than had you toured the garden alone. Impressions linger and you are left to both ponder and savor the experience.

Dr. Lucinda Green, founder and Buddhist Dharma teacher of Rocky Mountain Insight, a Vipassana Meditation Center in Colorado Springs, CO, is the author of *Pathway to Freedom: Applying the Teachings of the Buddha*. www.rockymountaininsight.org and www.lucindagreenphd.com





Alumnae Profile *by Sandy Damron*

A friend of mine died a couple of weeks ago. She was involved in local politics, and that's how I knew her. When I arrived at her funeral, I saw Mrs. Lohman, who was my Benet Hill bus driver. As we chatted about the old days, we discovered that another of my "political" friends had also been a bus driver at Benet Hill, and

her daughter was an alumna (1976, I believe). It led me to reflect on how an individual or an institution can have a far-reaching impact on so many lives.

I attended Benet Hill for two main reasons: first, my grade school was Sacred Heart, where Benedictine nuns ruled, and strongly encouraged girls to attend Benet Hill, and second, I won a scholarship, which helped my less-than-wealthy parents to afford the tuition. It was fortunate for me, because I was a chubby, glasses-wearing, geeky girl. I'm not sure how well I would have fared in the less rarified air of St. Mary's or Palmer. As it was, I thrived in an environment without the dual threats of boys and clothing competition, and a place where intellect was cherished, and college attendance was assumed.

Debate taught me to think on my feet, Latin (four years!) gave me an appreciation for the classics, and a grounding in languages that has served me well over the years. It's also been very handy in trivia contests. Sister

Alice Marie never succeeded in instilling in me a love of poetry, but her gentle firmness taught me more than I knew about managing people. And all of the nuns served as role models on living a life of service while maintaining personal strength and intellectual curiosity.

Politics is a funny place for a music-loving, number-crunching, slightly shy Catholic school graduate to end up, yet here I am. Being El Paso County Treasurer has been a terrific experience, and I look forward to my next challenge of Clerk & Recorder. I try to keep in mind that far-reaching impact all of us can have. I treasure my friends from Benet Hill, many of whom I've recently reconnected with. I also treasure those teachers who remain at Benet Hill. Some of them have known me since I was 11 years old, and I often think of them (and refer to them) as my "maiden aunts."

Many experiences in my life have shaped who I am today, but it started at Benet Hill, where I became a strong and independent woman. Living in Colorado Springs enables me to carry that heritage with me, and remind people I meet of the school "high upon the hill above the plains." It may have existed for only a few years, but it empowered a sizeable number of women who are now having their own far-reaching impact on other lives. And that is a fine legacy.



To our Benefactors and Friends

Our Benet Hill Monastery /Ministries have been richly blessed with the generous support of our friends, families, alumnae, benefactors; businesses, foundations, organizations and churches that have contributed to our community and our Capital Campaign from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. In spite of these challenging economic time, we are greatly blessed by your generosity. Your gifts have come to us in many forms: donations, memorials, bequests, trusts, appreciated stock, trust income, in-kind services and items. All your gifts, regardless of size, are treasured and we humbly accept them as expressions of your love, friendship and support of our Benedictine Mission/Ministry. May all good gifts be showered upon you and your loved ones.

Every effort has been made to list all donors accurately; however, if your name has been omitted or misspelled, please contact the Benet Hill Development Office (719) 633-0655 x131. Corrections will appear in the next issue of the Review.

We are called to do something beautiful for others.

-Mother Teresa

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who care for our Sisters and ac-
cept Medicare.*

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Oblate Profile

by Sr. Katherine Wawersich



*Sr. Francine Stallbaumer witnesses
Patricia Farish sign her Final
Oblation*

In early March our Oblate friend, Maria Molnar from Copenhagen, Denmark, returned to Colorado Springs to visit family and Benet Hill friends. Maria joined the community for Holy Week and much of the Lenten season. A gifted singer, Maria is an oblate of the Abbey of St. Hildegard of Bingen in Germany.

On Sunday, April 18, during Solemn Vespers, Patricia Farish made her final oblation as an oblate of Benet Hill Monastery. After several delays along her journey, Patricia rejoices in final oblation.

During the same ceremony six candidates from the Denver area were blest as oblate novices: Linda Brown, Jesse Brown, Chris Crook, Jon Wallace, Joanne Buchanan-Brown, and Bobbi Siersma. Each was given a Benedictine medal and *Rule of Benedict* to study and pray with in the coming year. Please keep them in your prayers.



*Front Row left to right: Patricia Farish, Linda
Brown, Joanne Buchanan-Brown, Bobbi Siersma
Back Row: Jesse Brown, Chris Crook, Jon Wallace*

News for the Academy Alumnae

Dear Alumnae,

We are starting an
e-newsletter for Alumnae. If
you are interested in joining the email
group please send your email address to
mkunkel@benethillmonastery.org. We
are also looking for people to contribute
news, updates on addresses, deaths,
what's happening, holiday greetings,
adventures in travel, family life, articles
or tips. Anything you think fellow
alumnae might find interesting. Please
send ideas to Sr Lucile at benethill@juno.com or Sandy Kinchen at bhmc@benethillmonastery.org. Remember the
Academy Reunion this summer will
be **July 17-18** at our new home in Black
Forest.





1980 Class Reunion weekend July 17-18, 2010

Make plans now to join fellow classmates in the beautiful Black Forest setting of Benet Pines.

Catch up with old friends, renew friendships, make new friends. See what the Sister's have been doing here at the new monastery.

Reunion participants will be able to enjoy Picnic in the Pines activities.



We need you to make it great.
Reservations being accepted NOW at
www.benethillmonastery.org

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SAVE
THE
DATE

Picnic in the Pines
July 17th, 2010 11am - 3pm

SAVE
THE
DATE

Come one, come all! Families, friends and neighbors are invited to celebrate with us at Benet Pines this summer for a day of music, food, and fun.

TICKETS: \$100 Families (same household) / \$25 Individual / Children under 5 FREE

🌲 **New Horizons Combo Band**

🌲 **Antique Car Show Carriage Rides**

🌲 **Bounce House/Treasure Hunt**

🌲 **All-You-Can-Eat BBQ**

🌲 **Nature Walks**

🌲 **Pony Rides**

🌲 **Beer/Wine/Beverages**

🌲 **Games for all ages**

🌲 **Parking/Free Shuttle**

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES AND WORKS OF THE BENET HILL SISTERS

For more information, and to buy tickets on line, visit:

www.benethillmonastery.org

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Benet Pines is situated in a rural woodland setting of Black Forest