



5101 South Dayton

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

www.hopechangeslives.org

WORDS OF HOPE

Connect with Our Staff

Pastor Don Bird	Lead Pastor	Don.Bird@hope-umc.org
Pastor Stephanie Price	Pastor of Discipleship	Stephanie.Price@hope-umc.org
Donna Brady	Office Manager	Donna.Brady@hope-umc.org
Lauren Boyd	Director of Communications	Lauren.Boyd@hope-umc.org
Matthew McGarrity	Treasurer	Matthew.McGarrity@hope-umc.org
Nancy Duncan	Membership Secretary	Duncans888o@gmail.com
Craig Laumann	Interim Chancel Choir Director	Lau4@comcast.net
Cheryl Saborsky	Organist and Pianist	Saborsky4pianos@msn.com
Kate Stapleton	Director of Children's Ministries	Kate.Stapleton@hope-umc.org
Colin Armstrong	Youth Director	Colin.Armstrong@hope-umc.org
Ashley Hastedt	Childcare Coordinator	Ashley.Hastedt@hope-umc.org
Robyn Maxum	Director of PDO and Preschool	Robyn.Maxum@hope-umc.org
Courtney Taylor	Director of PDO and Preschool	Courtney.Taylor@hope-umc.org

March and April 2017

Bird's Eye View

The season of Lent is upon us again. A season of 40 days in which we look deep within ourselves, repent of our sin, and renew our promise to follow in the Way of Jesus. We are called to go deeper in our discipleship – the journey to become more like Jesus and assist others to do the same.

In the times of Jesus, disciples were common. Rabbis, teachers of the Jewish faith, had followers. They had disciples that would follow them around, learning from them, listening to their teachings, watching how they lived, and being taught from the Holy Scriptures. It was an honor to be called to follow and learn from a rabbi.

There is a common image used to describe a disciple...they have really dirty feet! If your feet were really dirty, it meant that you were following your rabbi very closely, so closely that as your teacher walked in front of you, the dust from his sandals would cover your own feet.

Christian discipleship is the journey we go through to make sure that we are walking as close to Jesus as we can. So much so, that every part of Him begins to cover our lives.

We are being encouraged during Lent to follow Jesus closely every day of this holy season. To embrace the opportunities we have each day to get our feet dirty. We have daily moments to be Jesus in the lives of others. To take this journey, we need to be willing to try something new. To open our hearts to learning from Jesus and each other. To hold each other up when we get tired and weak. To commit to walking in the Way that leads to life. This journey is not always easy and it isn't always a straight path, but it is well worth the walk.

Do you want to take a walk with me?

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Don

Finance Committee

2016 was a good year for finances at Hope Church. We ended the year spending about \$4,500 more than the income we received. That is about 0.6% of our total budget of around \$700,000. In 2015 the deficit was about \$19,000. As we look ahead there are still some question marks in our budget for 2017. There are still a few families/individuals that we hope will make an estimate of giving (pledge) for 2017. The Stewardship Team set a target of \$600,000 in total pledges for 2017. While that was an ambitious goal we presently have received pledges that total less than we received in 2016. We hope we can close that gap. If you haven't provided your estimate of giving we hope you will do so.

The Administrative Council is planning for two significant fundraising events that year that will support our mission as Hope Church and includes engaging the surrounding community as participants. In 2016 we succeeded in raising \$14,000 from our fundraising efforts. We hope to achieve our fundraising target in 2017. There is also good news from the Trustees as we were able to complete the roof repair from hail damage with available resources. That included a generous contribution of \$25,000 from PDO. In addition, we have a new property insurance carrier and our deductible has been reduced from about \$73,000 to \$5,000. That change makes it much easier to look ahead knowing that we will not be as financially vulnerable when another major hail storm passes through.

In the interest of transparency and to help Hope members become better informed about our financial picture we will mention a few other budget highlights. The Trustees continue to find savings in the costs of operating our substantial building structure. They have achieved some particularly significant savings in energy/utility costs. Nevertheless it still requires about 15% (about \$100,000) of the budget to maintain our building, 2/3 of which is more than 30 years old. That amount doesn't include anticipated future costs of replacement furnaces, air conditioners and other outside structural maintenance. However, we also have the good fortune to have the Hope Pre-School Program that contributes about \$38,000 each year to help offset building and utility costs. In addition, they have contributed tens of thousands of dollars in building upgrades over the years. We are also compensated for building usage by outside groups. Those funds help the Trustees meet operation and maintenance priorities.

Finally, in 2016 the staff and our ministry teams all lived within the budget amounts allocated to those teams. In fact, there was a combined savings from all programs and teams of about \$20,000.

As the people of Hope we rely on our building as a place to gather and from which to plan and execute our work in the community and the world. The building at the corner of Belleview and Dayton is also a place where others in the community gather for a variety of reasons. Some of those who enter for one reason will discover there is good reason to stay and get involved. We also depend on our dedicated staff to provide spiritual leadership and support our Sunday and weekday, inside and outside activities. Finally, like any good enterprise it also takes our time, talents, gifts and service to succeed. Although we don't like to dwell on finances and budgets it is our giving that helps make Hope the place from which we can transform the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

THE PATH PARTICIPANTS LIVING OUT THEIR FAITH

My service commitment is to volunteer to sort medical supplies at the Project Cure warehouse in town. I chose this because I think it is something I can do to be helpful here in the metro area. I have invited some friends to go with me so that together we can do something to help the less fortunate. The Path teaches us that a fruitful service should bring us happiness while it meets a need in the world. It will give me joy to spend time with friends while we do a task that should support a great need in places that have very few medical supplies.

Cindy Wiant

This spring, I have committed to doing marketing and administrative work for the nonprofit ALIGHT, Alliance to Lead Impact in Global Human Trafficking. For my first two Path service projects, I focused on my family and our church. This time, I wanted to go outside my immediate community and help people with different social, economic and geographic backgrounds. ALIGHT works to help survivors of human trafficking get the legal aid they need. Learning and growing in the Path has given me confidence to go outside my immediate circle, as well as the support from my fellow mom members for when difficulties arise. **Melissa Trujillo**

YOU'RE INVITED!

MARCH 14, 11:00-1:00 p.m. Hope UMC

Program: A Call to Community

Presented by Ruth Shroyer. This is an opportunity to examine the different communities we are a part of and to discuss how to encourage others to seek meaningful communities in their lives. **Bring a salad or dessert to share.

For more information contact True Morgan, true.morgan@comcast.net.

MARCH 18, 9:00-2:00 p.m. at First UMC of Castle Rock.

Mile High Pikes Peak UMW Spiritual Day

Program: Finding Your Way: Pilgrimage as Spiritual Community

Presented by Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes. There will be a potluck salad luncheon. For more information contact Betty, 720-951-1171, bludlam@wyoming.com.

APRIL 21-23, Spiritual Retreat at YMCA Estes Park

Theme: Using holy imagination to make God's difference.

The Spiritual Leader will be Dr. Diana Loomis, McCurdy Ministries Director of Development/Church Relations. Stay tuned for more information in our weekly Hope Happenings Emails.



Lenten Message series: *One Day. One Life. One Way.*

Hope Church invites you
to choose ...

To make a difference for
Jesus in the world.

Lenten Journey 2017

Lent is a season of repentance and self-reflection as we grow in our relationship with Jesus. This year we will focus on how the last day of Jesus's life models for us the Way to live our own. Throughout our Lenten journey, we will be invited to practice living like Jesus each week with a specific mission opportunity and personal experience.

During Lent, Hope is partnering with Centro Humanitario, a day laborer organization in Denver. Every week we invite our congregation to bring a donation of the following items to support this organization: March 1 or 5: Work gloves, March 8 or 12: Work masks, March 15 or 19: Protective eye wear, March 22 or 26: Smart wool socks, March 29 or April 2: Work shirts, April 5 or April 9: Protective ear wear.

You are invited to bring your donations to a Wednesday Soup Supper (6:00-7:00 p.m.) or a Sunday morning worship service. Together, as we follow in the Way of Jesus during the last day of His life, we will make a difference in the lives of others by focusing on one day, one life, one way.

Starting Point is an opportunity for you to discover more about the ministries of Hope Church and how you can become more deeply connected to the life of the church or become a member of our community of faith!

Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, **April 19 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Childcare is provided. Please email Pastor Don Bird at don.bird@hope-umc.org or go online to sign-up, or just stop by!

WELCOME TO HOPE'S NEWEST MEMBERS!

It is always a joy when we are able to welcome new members to Hope Church. When new people join us, new gifts and talents enhance the ministries of the church and we are reminded of our own promise to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

We are blessed that the following families are joining us in this journey of life and faith:

Gary and Cara Rudolph: transfer of membership

Dave and Heather Mahnken (Gregory, Aubrey, and Eli): transfer of membership

Lenten Season at Hope Church

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Ash Wednesday Service
Noon in the Hope Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 8, 2017
2nd Lenten Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 22, 2017
4th Lenten Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
6th Lenten Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 8, 2017
Children's Ministry Easter Egg Hunt
9:30 a.m. on the Hope Church Lawn

Friday, April 14, 2017
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
7:30 p.m. in the Hope Sanctuary

Sunday, April 16, 2017
Easter Morning Worship Service
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Hope Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
1st Lenten Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
3rd Lenten Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 29, 2017
5th Lenten Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 9, 2017
Palm/Passion Cantata Sunday
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Hope Sanctuary

Saturday, April 15, 2017
Holy Saturday Service
6:00 p.m. in the Hope Friendship Hall

Sunday, April 16, 2017
Easter Morning Potluck Brunch
9:30 a.m. in the Hope Fellowship Hall

Lenten Booklet

For details on Soup Suppers, our Mission Focus, and our worship services - please pick up a Lenten Booklet at the Welcome Center or check it out on our website!

Easter Morning Potluck Brunch

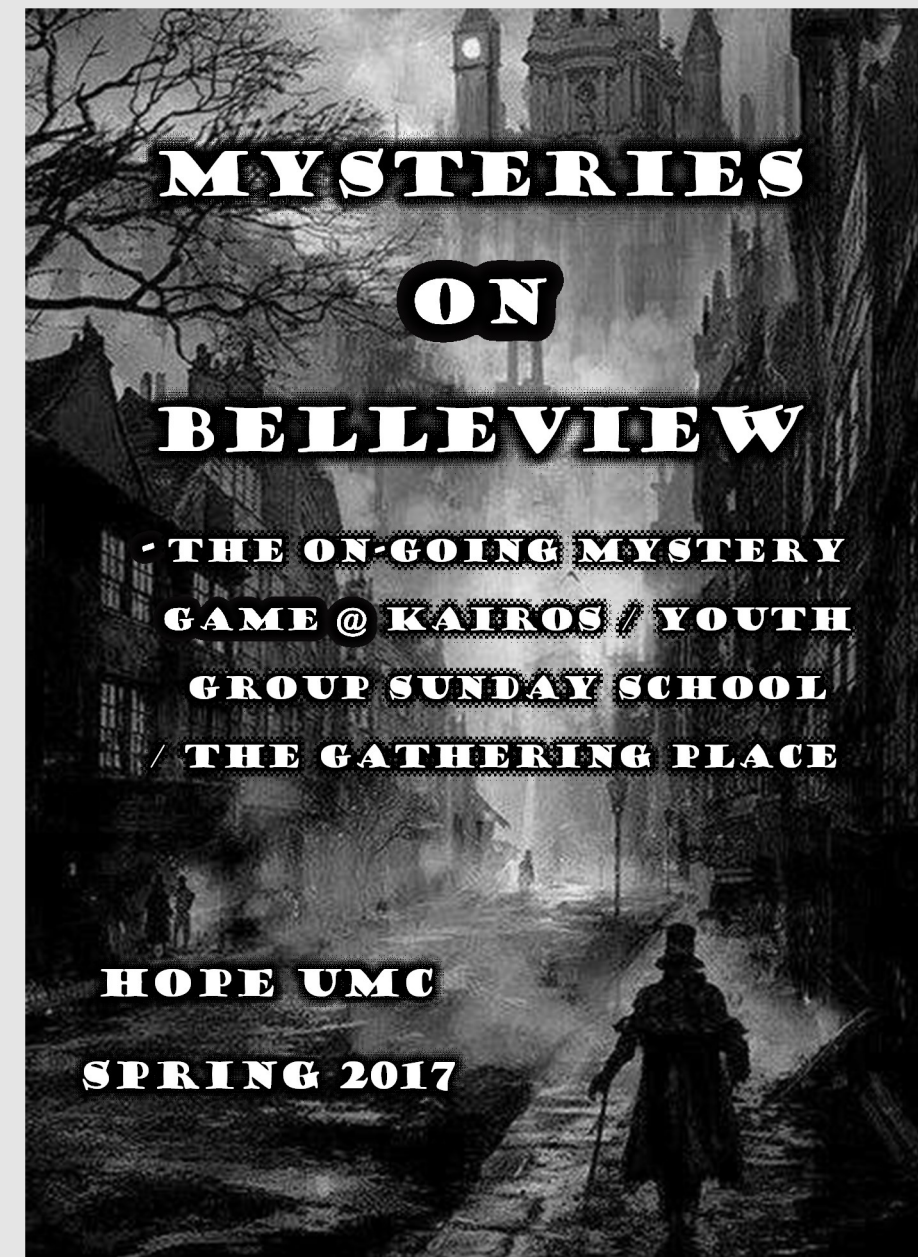
April 16, 2016
at 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

We want to share our love and fellowship with everyone who attends on Easter Sunday! So please bring a dish and join us between services for Easter Morning Brunch or drop one off for our guests to enjoy! Contact Jane Uylaki for more information
juylaki6@gmail.com.

Easter Lilies and Spring Flowers

Each Easter we cover the Sanctuary in lilies and spring flowers, because Christ is Risen! If you would like to purchase a flower in honor of or in memory of someone, please fill out an envelope at the Welcome Center with the pertinent information and put it and \$12 in the wooden lock box. The deadline is Monday, April 10.

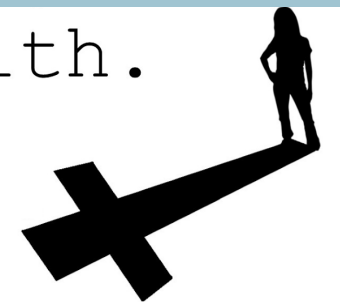
For more information, contact Trudy Garred,
trudygarred@comcast.net, 720-389-9558.



FAITH FAIR

On April 23 the Hope Confirmation class invites you to join them in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:45 a.m. and 11:45-12:30 p.m. for a Faith Fair. Thirteen of Hope's youth will be sharing with us issues of faith that are close to their hearts. Hope Church is invited to support our youth as they grow in their faith and as they take the risk to share their faith with us!

faith.



HOPE YOUTH MINISTRIES IS HAVING A VERY UNIQUE SPRING! DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS??? PASTOR DON HAS BEEN TAKEN! BY A GROUP HAS TAKEN HIM BACK-IN-TIME!!! JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL 9-WEEK MYSTERY (TWILIGHT ZONE-ISH) PROGRAM CALLED MYSTERIES ON BELLEVIEW WHERE WE ARE GOING ON A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME TO FIND HIM! THIS WILL TAKE PLACE AT YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY SCHOOL, KAIROS, AND THE GATHERING PLACE! ALONG THE WAY WE WILL TRAVEL TO MANY PLACES AND MEET AN INTERESTING TIME-MACHINE ROBOT KNOWN AS "SASHA," AND TRAVEL TO QUITE A FEW WELL KNOWN BIBLICAL PLACES. IF YOU LIKE LIVE ESCAPE ROOMS AND/OR THE TWILIGHT ZONE THIS JOURNEY FOR YOU! GOD SPEED TO OUR BELOVED PASTOR AND THOSE WHO WILL BE SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW FOR HIM!

For more information on Youth Ministry at Hope, please contact Colin Armstrong at
colin.armstrong@hope-umc.org

Kate's Korner

Our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a light brunch and then do the egg hunt. We ask for a donation of a dozen candy (or toy/coin) filled eggs per child.



There will also be a sign-up for brunch donations. Look for the sign-up near the Welcome Center starting March 19. Eggs can be dropped off starting April 3 or brought to the egg hunt on the 8.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 13-17 this summer. Registration for church members will take place in March.

Forms will be available on March 6 and need to be turned in by April 3 to assure a spot. Open registration for non-members will be Thursday, April 14. VBS is for children age 2 through entering 6th grade.

If you have any questions, please contact **Kate Stapleton** at kate.stapleton@hope-umc.org with any questions.



Hope PDO and Preschool Scoop

- School is going marvelously!
- We had a very successful registration in January. We have a few openings in 1's, Pre-K.
- KidSight (a project of the Lions Club of Colorado) will be offering a free eye sight examination in March.
- Spring Break will be March 27-31.
- We will be having our bi-annual Scholastic Book Fair in April. This is a BOGO (buy one get one free) book fair!
- We're having so much fun; graduation will be around the corner!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Each week, we have three adult Sunday School classes : **Bible Basics, Come Alive Spirituality, and Faith Says**. On March 26, **Bible Basics** will begin a new study of *The Case for Christ* .

On March 5, **Come Alive Spirituality** begins a new study of *The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus* . **Faith Says** looks at new contemporary issues each week.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THESE WONDERFUL CLASSES!

THE LAND BLOG

All of us are governed by cycles that we don't create. Whether it's the school year or the fiscal year, the work schedule or the football season, we live in cycles that are mostly out of our control. Today, of course, most of our cycles are created by other human beings. In developed nations, we live in engineered environments that free us from the limits of the natural world. We're not tied to light and darkness, or even to natural seasons. We have light whenever we want it, hot or cold water on demand. We eat fresh vegetables all year. My car is heated and air conditioned. My iPhone is always within reach.

I'm not opposed to any of this; I like climate control and hot showers and an internet connection. But it does have its drawbacks. I find that I can become too easily divorced from the rhythms that both govern and nurture me. I can start thinking that I'm in charge; that the ability to exert control over the world is a sign of virtue and accomplishment, rather than the gracious gift of a loving God. This is nonsense, of course. Ultimately, none of us are in control of the rhythms that keep us alive. "Harvesting food more efficiently doesn't make it grow faster," said a rancher I once knew. "Cattle don't succumb to production schedules or economies of scale."

Living in a time before artificial light, before globalization and corporate agriculture, early Christians recognized the need to live within meaningful cycles, and to acknowledge the rhythms that hold us. So at least in the northern hemisphere, our liturgical calendar mirrors the natural seasons. Our hope is born in the darkest time of the year; resurrection takes place as the earth itself is raised. One of the privileges of being part of The Land project is that we are creating a faith community rooted in both natural and liturgical cycles. Even now, to worship there, to stand on the undeveloped ground and share the communion bread and cup, is to remind ourselves of how a community rooted in those cycles can nurture us. To love those rhythms, to mark our lives by them and hear God speak through them, can both ground us and free us. That's my hope for The Land.

Fourteen years ago, I lived in a small valley, where my house had an east-facing picture window. Each morning, I began my prayer time just before dawn in front of the window. For more than a year, I watched the location of each sunrise: traveling south to north and back, turning at the solstice, the cycle starting over. God's creation holds us. We are given life, and invited to give life in return. As T.S. Eliot put it, maybe that's servitude, or maybe it's freedom. Maybe it's both.

Andy Dunning

Leave a Legacy of Hope

Every year the vast majority of Americans who die do so without a valid Last Will & Testament. For the past three decades the numbers ranged between 70 and 80%. This statistic is surprising since a carefully prepared Will can minimize costs related to settling an estate. What is it about the preparation of one's personal wishes - the purpose of the Last Will & Testament – that Americans avoid in such resounding numbers? Here are some reasons courtesy of a brochure from the United Methodist Foundation of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

A Will is costly. A few hundred dollars may be a small price to pay when compared to the costs of having no Will at all. In some cases, heirs can end up bearing the brunt of out of pocket costs for settling an estate. Careful planning often saves money.

Too little property to merit a Will. Every day people die possessing more than they realize. A modest home or investment can enjoy significant growth in value before death. Where no Will exists, the state law determines distribution.

Life gets in the way. This may be the most significant reason. No one really plans to die and no one enjoys planning to die. Sometimes our day-to-day routine prohibits us from considering a Will. It is the "I'll take care of it later" attitude.

Having a Last Will & Testament ensures that your wishes are met. Some consider a pledge or 'tithes' to their church as part of one's estate planning. Each of us has the opportunity to make a gift or bequest to our endowment fund that can strengthen Hope United Methodist Church for future generations. Our endowment fund is permanent, we only use the interest or earnings to further Hope's mission and purpose. The principal is never spent. Such a gift serves Hope in perpetuity. Interest from the endowment can be used for special purposes as needs arise.

If you would like more information about this exciting part of our ministry, please contact the church office or Charlie Ledbetter, Chair, Endowment Committee.



DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?

We are starting a Knitting/Crochet Ministry at Hope. If you'd like to knit blankets for babies and those in need of something cozy, please contact Nancy Duncan, duncans8880@gmail.com, 303-347-1981.



Katie Burns

Cellist/Educator

As of February 2017, Katie Burns has joined the Hope United Methodist Church Community to offer cello lessons to learners of all ages.

Studying cello performance at Butler University under William Grubb and the Lamont School of Music with Matthew Zalkind, Katie has presented four full-length recitals including repertoire from the Baroque through the Modern era. As an accomplished orchestral cellist, Katie has played for various musicals, ballets, operas, film recordings, and season concerts since 2003, serving as principal cellist for the Lamont Symphony Orchestra as well as the Butler

Symphony Orchestra. Katie's true passion as a cellist lies in performing chamber music. As a member of the Vero String Quartet (2010-2012) she intensely studied and performed major works of the string quartet repertoire, playing at several venues throughout Indianapolis. Katie's experience as a chamber musician brought her to two seasons of the Zodiac Chamber Festival and Academy where she spends two weeks collaborating on standard repertoire as well as premiering new compositions throughout the south of France. Katie is currently a member of the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra.

Katie received her Master of Music in Suzuki Cello Pedagogy at the University of Denver under the tutelage of Carol Tarr, president of the Suzuki Association of Colorado and former board member for the Suzuki Association of the Americas. In addition to her private cello studio, Katie also has the pleasure of serving as a Teaching Artist for El Sistema Colorado and a group class teacher for the Highlands Ranch Elementary Orchestra Program and Denver Talent Education. Through these organizations, Katie hopes to bring quality cello instruction and music education to as many young people as possible, regardless of socioeconomic status. Katie is very excited to expand her business to the Greenwood and couldn't be happier to partner with Hope Church in this new venture!

Katie has classes available at her Hope Church location. For more information contact Katie at kdburns11@gmail.com, 630-903-0856 or visit KatieBurnsCello.com.

WHY NOTS SOCIAL GROUP

We have a blast and would love to have you join us! Here are some of the fun things we've recently done: attended a free concert of the Denver Brass, created master works in oil paint at Sip and Paint, and watched the movie called *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*.

In March, we will go to Boulder for another free event, a tour of Celestial Seasonings Tea Factory and to the Leaning Tree Western Art Museum. In April, we will attend the play *Chinglish* at the Aurora Fox Theater.

In May, we will see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in Boulder. June is game night!

Don't miss out! Join us!! For more information contact Hal Wright, 303-662-9674, letsgonowg674@msn.com.