

**WORSHIP**



**Community Of Hope, UCC**

***GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!***

Worship Services | Every Sunday  
at 6:00pm



*Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor*

Dear Companions,

This time between Easter and Pentecost is one of my favorite times in the church year. As I shared in my Easter message, I believe that resurrection is a process, or a journey, that doesn't really find its meaning until Pentecost. The stories of the lives of the disciples after Easter are full of a gradual awakening within them of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. They move from fear, to a longing for the familiarity of their lives before Jesus, and then finally into an understanding that resurrection had meaning *only* if it brought a change in their lives. I believe that if we strip the past two thousand years worth of "extra" meaning that has been added to the events between Easter and Pentecost, we will find a story very similar to our own lives... lives spent sharing a journey.

The post-crucifixion stories start out with the disciples hiding behind locked doors, fearful that the religious leaders would come after them next. Suddenly they experience Jesus in their midst. Even after such an amazing experience, the next stories show the disciples returning to the lives they knew before they met Jesus. They had just spent three years of their lives wandering through the countryside in and around Jerusalem and Nazareth, then abandoned the man they had been following and left him alone to die. After his death, they experienced him in new ways, and yet, they still didn't understand what it all meant and had returned to their nets as if the past three years hadn't changed anything.

Or, at least they *tried* to return to their previous lives. After an exhausting period of attempting to return to their lives as fishermen, and catching nothing, they again experience Jesus in their midst. Jesus attempts to remind them that he had called them to a dramatically different life, not to return to their old ways.

But they still didn't quite understand what all this meant.

It wasn't until the experience of Pentecost that the disciples finally begin to understand Jesus' message of a reversal of expectations, of God's penchant for doing something new, of the power of the Spirit to bring to life an awareness that "the kin-dom of God is at hand."

This "reversal of expectations" is our worship theme for this period of journeying through resurrection into the birth of something new in our lives, as individuals and as community. The journey of Community of Hope is mirrored in the journey of the disciples from Easter to Pentecost. Come share this journey with us!



**April 25th, 2010**

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
6pm : Acts 9:36-43  
*Life-giving Acts*

**May 2nd, 2010**

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
6pm: Rev 31: 1-6  
*Imagine*

**May 9th, 2010**

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day  
6pm: Acts 16: 9-15  
*Disciples Together*

**May 16th, 2010**

Seventh Sunday of Easter  
6pm: Acts 16: 16-34  
*Breaking Chains*

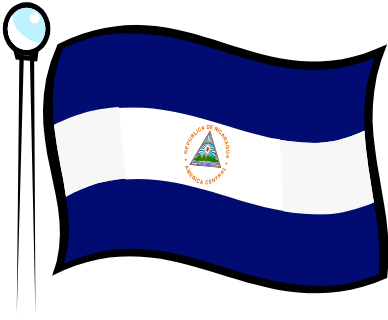
**May 23rd, 2010**

Pentecost Sunday  
6pm: Acts 2: 1-21  
*Gathered and Scattered*

**May 30th, 2010**

Trinity Sunday/The Sunday After Pentecost  
6pm: Prov 8: 1-4, 22-31  
*Wisdom Calls*

# NICARAGUA MINISTRIES



## NICARAGUA TRIP DEADLINE APPROACHES

The last day to sign up for the upcoming trip to Nicaragua is Wednesday, May 19th. If you are thinking of going, have questions, or you would like to join the team...please contact David Hoot at davidhoot@hotmail.com or 918-747-8928. All are welcome.

## GARAGE SALE REPORT

Our recent garage sale went well and we received \$846.46 that will go towards all of our ministries. Thank you to our many helpers: Mary, Liz, Terry, Betsy, James, Fellowship Congregational Church, Steve and Mark, Barb, Penny, Shirley, and Jenny. See you in the Fall!

## OUR VOICES LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY: SEXUALITY EDUCATION ADVOCACY TRAINING

The Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT) is an annual collaboration between the Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ, Advocates for Youth, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Through workshops on community organizing, advocacy and anti-racism/anti-oppression, all of us -SEAT participants from all religious/spiritual communities got to advocate for comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education in our schools and communities. The four day training/lobbying effort was a great opportunity for Community of Hope, UCC, and Oklahoma, to actively advocate with our D.C. legislators and become a voice of support for a more comprehensive-responsible sexuality education for all.



## INSTALLATION WEEKEND PACKED WITH MEMORABLE EVENTS!

Charging him to "lead us to be that transformed church – [one] that faces outward more than inward – that cares passionately and powerfully for those who have little voice," the Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister for the UCC in Connecticut, commended the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black in his role as the UCC's General Minister and President at his installation service held April 17, 2010. The service, attended by more than 500 UCC and ecumenical delegates from around the nation and world, was the culmination of a celebratory weekend marking the transition of the UCC's seventh national leader. Held at The Federated Church (UCC) in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Black's installation comes nine months after he was elected by the UCC's General Synod as General Minister and President.

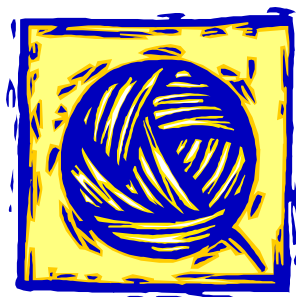


will be used to further goals set by the General Minister and President.

"You have come to us at just such a time as this," Crabtree concluded after listing the many ways in which the UCC is facing current challenges, "when we need your leadership – your vigorous leadership." Crabtree pledged the UCC's support to Black's wife, Patricia, saying, "Please know that this church loves you and know the sacrifice you are making." Held in conjunction with the joint board sessions of the UCC's covenanted ministries, the weekend's festivities began with a celebration dinner and fundraiser for the UCC's strategic initiative fund. The dinner raised \$35,000 – exceeding the \$25,000 goal – for monies that

"Not just to tell others about the UCC, which we should and must do, but to be a vanguard of reintroducing people to a still speaking God. To a God who will reach, refresh and inspire those who are just about ready to give up on religion all together."

## BEVERLY DUFFIELD CROCHET AND KNIT SOCIETY



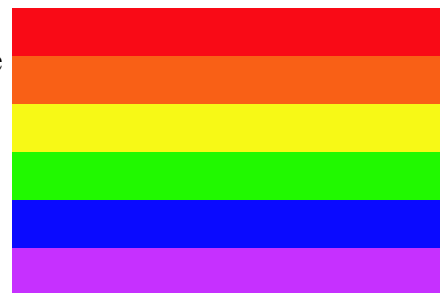
Beverly Duffield Crochet and Knit Society met April 6th in spite of dire weather predictions. Ten attended and a fine time was had by all. New crafts are coming out and conversation is not lacking. Tuesday, May 25 we will gather at Jenny &

Lizette's home! **All are welcome** and invited. This is a fun activity and **work is not required.**

## TULSA PRIDE 2010

*CENTENNIAL PARK: JUNE 4TH AND 5TH*

The 2010 Tulsa LGBT Pride Parade is Saturday, June 5, 2010. The parade steps off at 6:00 PM from Brady & Boulder ending at Centennial Park (6th & Peoria) the site of the Tulsa 2010 Pride Festival. **Stay tuned for COH's effort coming Up SOON!**



## SUPPORT HIV PREVENTION BY GOING TO DINNER

Community of Hope, you can help support a local non-profit HIV prevention agency that you have supported for years just by going out to eat. On April 29, 2010, Health Outreach Prevention Education (H.O.P.E.) will host Dining Out for Life 2010. All you have to do to participate is go out to eat for lunch, dinner, buy some chocolates or get some coffee. The participating restaurants will be giving 25% or more of your purchase to H.O.P.E.



**Dine Out, Fight AIDS**

This year's event will take place at various restaurants around Tulsa including: Baxter's Interurban Grill (dinner), Caz's Chowhouse (lunch), Cosmo Café (dinner), Dalesandro's (dinner), Dilly Deli (dinner), El Guapo's Cantina (dinner), Elote Café and Catering (dinner), India Palace (dinner), Keo (lunch), KoKoa at Utica Square (all day), Lambrusco'z To-Go (dinner), McNellie's Public House (dinner), Shades of Brown Coffee & Art (all day), White Lion Pub (dinner), Yokozuna (dinner).

Additionally, Whole Foods Market has made H.O.P.E. the 'Bag Refund Recipient' from April 12- May 9. Customers receive \$0.10 cash back for using reusable bags at Whole Foods Market and can opt to donate to H.O.P.E. during the dates above.

So, get a group of friends together, have a great dinner, have great fun and support HIV prevention. Oh, and don't forget the chocolates and the coffee all day long. Thanks for supporting H.O.P.E.!

## A MESSAGE FROM CHUCK AND GARY:

One year ago, Emma proudly delivered Benjamin over to their new family. In this year she has had a unique opportunity to finish school and grow up some. She also got married after Christmas. Now Emma and her husband, Josh are living in Okmulgee so that Josh can attend school. He is working towards becoming a journeyman. Emma has also completed her nurses aid program and is working at the hospital there. She plans to start LPN school this fall. And Ben is doing great. He and his family are sharing with Emma as much as possible. She sees him a couple of times a month.



## ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS: A report by Timothy Beauchamp

I was blessed to attend the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC from March 19 to March 22nd as a UCC scholarship recipient. Before I continue to describe this incredible event, I must thank Karen Spradlin, Justice & Witness Organizer, Kansas/Oklahoma Conference, Sandy Sorensen, minister for communications and media advocacy, and Michael Fisher Jr., intern for policy advocacy, for all their help to those of us visiting and advocating for positive change. I would have been lost without Michael's guidance and constant updates. Karen provided me a lot of helpful information and support getting to and from the conference.

I am fortunate to be a founding member of two UCC churches in the Tulsa area, the UCC Community of Hope in Tulsa, founded by Reverend Leslie Penrose and currently pastored by the Reverend Bob Lawrence, and UCC Open Table, a sister church founded by Reverend Melinda Foster in Owasso, OK. Both churches are experiencing a lot of challenges dealing with the broken immigration system, and we have been searching for ways to alleviate the suffering of those who are victims by our nation's unfair and inequitable system. Ecumenical Advocacy Days had some wonderful workshops dealing with those very issues.

As a child, I lived on a temporary basis for several years in the Dominican Republic as my father was the late major league professional baseball player and coach, Jim Beauchamp. Dominican Republic shares the same island of Hispaniola as Haiti and, although the Spanish colonized side of the island is a little better off than the French Haitian side, it is a third world nation. I've often said, "Dominican Republic is definitely third world and if there was such a thing as fourth world then Haiti would be it."

Some of my earliest memories are of playing in the sugar cane fields there and coming upon deplorable scenes of abject poverty stricken villages of "camposinos" (country workers) that would rival those of "Save the Children" commercials. In fact, I befriended many

poor children, played with them, and we developed our own "Spanglish" language to communicate. This early exposure sensitized me to the plight of the poor.

Children can not rationalize or develop justifications for why some can eat, have shelter and other's can not. Adults can not adequately explain to children why their little friends have to suffer, and are unable to prevent the seed of the just idea from being planted that if some suffer so much while others enjoy prosperity then the system is inherently wrong, unfair, and unsustainable. I consider it a blessing I experienced those things at such an early age because it has made me an advocate for the poor, and drawn me to the social justice ministries of the United Church of Christ. For those interested, a very interesting history of Hispaniola can be found here.

It is always important to note the history of a place when considering why we have collective responsibility to our brother's and sister's in far away places, not to mention it is just the right attitude to have period. For instance, I often used the scourge of slavery to explain to some who have objected to our nation's responsibility to the people of the island of Hispaniola. Many of the people, living on that island today, would not be there if their ancestors had not been brought there, against their will, because of the evil institution of slavery. "Our nation has collective culpability and the responsibility in directly allaying the problems of people who still experience the negative consequences from that unjust and evil institution. Sure, slavery existed before the United States, but our nation exacerbated the problem and Hispaniola made a convenient way station for slaves to be shipped to our shores.

The Community of Hope is involved in ministries in Nicaragua and is plugged directly into the move to have our nation reform its Monroe Doctrine approach and change its unfair economic policies that feed the problem rather than create solutions for our neighbors. The UCC Open Table in Owasso is a startup church, but we've already

been discussing and attempting to reach consensus on our future mission work.

One of the ideas that is very popular is doing HIV mission work in Africa!

I attended the "Latin America" track, and as a member of the LGBT community, I chose to attend the optional "Intersection of Human Rights, Immigration Policy and the Lives of LGBTQ People." UCC Rev. Michael Schuenemeyer gave the "Welcome, Introductions and Opening Prayer." Geronimo Desumala provided some great information on the "Uniting American Families Act" and all of the speakers offered ways in which we could assist in helping to ensure LGBT families are included in immigration reform.

There was so much good information at the conference, it is hard to condense it down to one article but I was especially grateful for the focus on the drug war in Columbia and its negative consequences.

Coming from a state where our legislators are known, not only for their political conservatism, but also their supposed focus on fiscal responsibility the facts we were armed with to support arguments in favor of immigration reform that appealed to that focus was invaluable. Did you know:

- "Last year the government used almost \$2 billion of U.S. taxpayer dollars to detain over 340,000 immigrants in a patchwork of privately run jails, federal facilities and county cells."

- "There is broad agreement that the system needs to be changed. 2/3 of Americans support a path to citizenship for 12 million 'undocumented' workers"

- "Faith communities all over the map are calling for reform: UCC, UMC, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Roman Catholics, Evangelicals, state councils of churches around the country."

- "The current system allows unethical employers to take advantage of hard working, undocumented workers." This

causes the undercutting of workers who have already immigrated via legal channels.

- "The congressional budget office estimates \$66 billion new income and payroll taxes if we had dealt with this in 2006."

- "Aside from the untold cost to find, round up and deport the 12 million undocumented workers, A Perryman Group study showed that mass deportation would shock local economies resulting in \$1.8 trillion in annual lost spending. These are folks who are earning and spending here in the US."

The system is broken and it is time for

us, as faith communities, to act and continue to ask our legislators in Washington, DC to do the right thing. We need to be the change we want to see in the world. It is the right thing to do and I urge my brothers and sisters in the United Church of Christ to focus their attention to this very important issue.

Another exciting opportunity was to hear the keynote speaker, Sister Helen Prejean, of "Dead Man Walking". I purchased BOTH of her books, and there was a very small line in order to get her to sign our books. I pretended to think she was Susan Sarandon and she replied in her deep Southern drawl, "Oh, honey, you men are ALL the same... if you ever met Susan Sarandon, you'd melt like

"buttuh!" Her keynote words deeply inspired me to continue to focus on those less fortunate with the idea that it is in their brothers and sisters in Christ where they will truly find the Kin-dom of God!

Thank you, UCC for the opportunity to attend such a phenomenal event.

Unfortunately, I've already received a disappointing letter from one of my legislators regarding the advocacy I've done on this issue but I know it is a journey and I refuse to be disappointed. I will gather up my truth and continue to work and march forward in working towards a better future for all God's children. I know you will too!

## THE LANGUAGE OF GOD

The weekend also saw the UCC launch its new viral ad "The Language of God" and begin distribution of its new semi-annual publication "StillSpeaking Magazine." After initially confusing YouTube's counting mechanism because of a high volume of requests, the viral ad had registered at least 85,000 views as of Monday morning at YouTube and Vimeo combined.

"The success of our new advertisement and the overwhelmingly positive response to StillSpeaking Magazine has added a high note to the weekend's activities," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, UCC director of communications.

"Geoffrey's installation and these significant communications goals will certainly be a memorable time in the life of the UCC."

### 3RD ANNUAL COH TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT!

**Where/When:** Saturday, MAY 1<sup>st</sup> at Fellowship congregational, 2900 S. Harvard

**Cost:** \$12.50 – individual; \$100.00 – for a full team of 8 players

**Time:** DOORS open at 6:30; GAME starts at 7:00 pm.

**Tickets:** Contact COH @ 918-747-6300 or tulsacohope@yahoo.com

**The effort to host this highly entertaining evening is the same whether there are 3 teams or 20 teams. So, to maximize the benefit to our Community, you should consider gathering a team, or joining an existing team, and come out and enjoy the evening. All funds raised will be used to support the ministries of COH, some of which include:**

• "Tables to Go", a monthly delivery of Angel Food baskets to 10 extreme low income families.

\* "Friends Nourishing Friends", a hot meal served at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless served on the 29th of each month.

\* **Two annual educational and spiritual "retreats"** for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.

\* **Translation services**, specifically health care related, to Spanish speaking individuals in Tulsa and through the National UCC.

\* **Annual trip to Chacraseca**, Nicaragua to build a home and provide educational materials for children.

**Be sure to pick a team name and come early to decorate your table! Snacks and refreshments will be available for donation (This is a fundraiser!)**



A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

# Community of Hope

A SHALOM BASED COMMUNITY

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We are a multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, accessible to all,  
just peace church where God is still speaking!  
Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

## THE BULLETIN BOARD

**SAVE THE DATE!**

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**MAY 2, 2010**



*The first Sunday in May, May 2nd, has been designated Immigrant Rights Sunday within the UCC. Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries are urging congregations to lift up immigrants on this day: to learn about their concerns, honor their contributions to our country and communities, and listen to hear where God is leading us regarding issues of immigration. There are millions of immigrants and stories about strangers who reside near our local UCC churches. Immigration Sunday is an opportunity to learn their stories and share them.*

Our vision is to be a community of faith, committed in the way of Jesus to the struggle for justice, compassion, and life-giving spirituality for all people; and our mission is to witness, in and through our life together, to the good news that the way of God is in our midst...and the journey is our home.