



# COMMUNITY OF HOPE UCC

AUGUST, 27TH, 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES | EVERY SUNDAY AT 6:00PM



## SERMON SERIES ON "THE SEVEN SECRETS"

**AUGUST 29**  
**TRANSFORMATIONAL  
WORSHIP**

**SEPTEMBER 5**  
**APPRECIATIVE  
INQUIRY**

**SEPTEMBER 12**  
**STRATEGIC VISION**

**SEPTEMBER 19**  
**HOMECOMING  
SUNDAY  
TRANSFORMATIONAL  
COMMUNITY**

**SEPTEMBER 26**  
**CHURCH MARKETING &  
COMMUNICATION**

Dear Fellow Travelers,

At the recent New Church Leadership Institute that I attended in Atlanta, I heard from over a dozen excited and exciting new church leaders; people who have personal experience with bringing a renewed, progressive message to people looking for hope. There were numerous "ah hah!" moments for me as I heard from people I have long admired, and others I had never heard of (even one of my mentors from seminary was there) share their thoughts on progressive renewal of the Church.

But, there were also many "yeah, we know!" moments as many of the things we are already doing were reinforced. I even had the opportunity to share with the people at the conference (almost 200) some of the great things we are doing here, including our Neighborhood Garden, our evening worship schedule, and our commitment to "outside our walls." The conference was more about changes to the way we communicate our message, rather than changes that need to happen to our message. I came home with many ideas for ways in which we might be able to more effectively "get the word out" about the vital message of radical inclusivity that is at the heart of everything we do.

Bishop Yvette Flunder, pastor of City of Refuge UCC in San Francisco (and one of my mentors in seminary), shared her 12-step program of recovery for the progressive church. Most of her steps are things we already do here. I believe her first step is one that we at Community of Hope understand and live deeply: "Radical inclusivity is, and must be, radical!"

The theme of the conference was "The Seven Secrets". Over the next seven Sundays, starting this Sunday, August 29, my reflections will focus on each one of those seven secrets. (For more information on the seven secrets, see my article in this newsletter.)

During these waning days of summer, and through the fall, we will continue to dialogue about what we want our missions and ministries to be for the next two years, and, from those discussions, build a budget that will support our work. As we continue this process, there is a quote from the conference that I believe should help guide our thoughts. It is from Tom Brackett, an Episcopal priest and leader in the progressive renewal movement: "Mission is not an activity of the church—it is an attribute of God. It is not the Church that has a mission; it is God's mission that has a church."

Please come join us for these critical discussions that are already happening in worship, as, together, we seek God's mission and how this church can help.

*Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor*



## FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

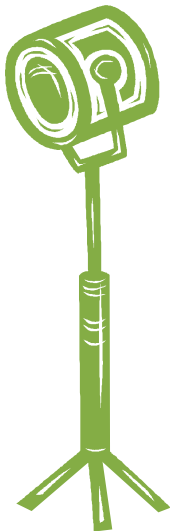
by Penny Fruth

Sunday, August 1, 2010 there were three things happening at Community of Hope. It was the Community Meal, the Sunday the Nicaragua Team returned to Tulsa, and the Sunday we were blessed with four children—Ken Vonada's two grandsons and Dean Knight's two children. Ken's grandsons are rough and tumble kind of boys from Tishomingo, OK who had skinned knees and poison ivy outbreaks on their arms. Dean's children are from the city and more quiet. After the meal Ken and Dean were visiting with one another and the kids were running here and there. . . . in and out. It was hard to tell who was from the city and who was from the country. Tracy Megli was waiting until it was time to go to the airport to meet the Nicaragua Team at 10:45 p.m. As it got dark and the kids were winding down, Tracy noticed that one of the children was smiling and he immediately ordered the child not to smile, but instead of not smiling, all four of the children started smiling. Tracy used his most commanding voice, but still. . . . they were smiling. "OK" he said, "we are going to play the Thumbs Up

game." For those of you not familiar with that game, half of the group put their heads on the table with their thumbs up. The other half touches their thumb and the person touched, puts their thumb down. Then the person tries to guess who it was that touched their thumb. If the person guesses correctly, s/he gets to stand up. It is a simple game but Tracy made each session different with lots of teasing and creative talk. Phil Holmes joined the game as well. Soon it was time to pick up our folks at the airport and the church was locked up around ten o'clock. For those of you who left right after the meal that night, you missed the most important part of the worship service—seeing Tracy, Phil, and the four kids playing, laughing, and being kind to one another until their differences were non-existent.



## COORDINATING COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



by Penny Fruth

1. Community Garden has 171 friends/fans on Facebook
2. Four Americorp candidates were interviewed but none interested in HIV. One more possibility.
3. David Hoot will take the Nicaragua Store to the UCC Kansas/Oklahoma Conference the end of Sept and the first of October. He will also talk about Fair Trade issues there. Rev. Bob Lawrence and Rev. Lizette Merchan will also be attending.
4. TCSL wants a more prominent sign in front that gives their information and they are will to contribute money to accomplish that goal.
5. The Dinner Theater at Trinity UMC was successful.
6. It is urgent to update the sound system but because of the cost, a community meeting will be held in the future to present the details. There are people from TCSL and COH in place that will investigate what is needed to accomplish this goal.

**THIS JUST IN...**

**SAVE THESE DATES!**

**Oct. 16- Fall Garage Sale**

**Nov. 13 and 14- International Gift Fair**

**Dec. 4- Fiesta Fundraiser**

**AND DON'T FORGET: NEW ITEMS IN THE NICARAGUA STORE!**



**New items from the team's most recent trip are being unpacked and displayed in the Store. Drop by to check out the new fair trade merchandise.**

## NICARAGUA MINISTRIES UPDATE

by David Hoot, Nicaragua Mission Team

Five companions from Community of Hope traveled to our partner community of Chacraseca, Nicaragua from July 24 to August 1. It has been an annual tradition for the last 12 years. We go to visit old friends and make new friends, too. Our primary project each trip is to assist with building a new home for a family. We worked side by side with the family members during the week. Three of our team members went to the schools two days and read books to the children. One team member spent the day at the community's health clinic assisting the nurse with various duties.

These activities were all very educational to the team members. We also had the opportunity to visit some of the families that we have worked with in years past. It is always fun to 'catch up' with them to see how they are doing and to learn what changes have occurred since our last trip. One afternoon the group toured the local block making factory and the new community library. These are both



modest facilities but wonderful additions to the community. Our last day in Chacraseca saw us celebrating with the family at a house warming fiesta for them and their neighbors. About 80 people attended. We furnished food, drinks, door prizes, and two piñatas (one for the girls and one for the boys). Lots of fun for everyone. Our last day in Nicaragua included a trip to Managua's fair. The main attraction for us is the numerous local artists who come to sell their work. We buy many arts and crafts from them (fair trade) and bring them back to Tulsa to resell. It was a terrific trip. Please consider joining the team next year. All are welcome.

Most of the funds for this trip, and our ongoing commitments for elementary school scholarships, are raised by the companions at Community of Hope. However, this year, we also received a generous donation from the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need fund, which is supported by an annual offering taken in all UCC churches, including Community of Hope.

## TABLES-TO-GO MINISTRY UPDATE

By Timothy Beauchamp/co-director, Tables-to-Go

Another delivery to our gratified customers has come and gone thanks to our community effort! This past two months has been a challenge for me as I have not been able to personally oversee the deliveries. I know when I accepted the position I mentioned my top concern as being the fact I am often out of town, and I definitely appreciate the invaluable help I receive from my co-director, Carla Mae Shupe, and all those other

companions who step up and continue to help us make "Tables-to-Go" a successful ministry.

The next delivery date will be: **Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 09:00 am**

Again, we appreciate ALL donations of food, cleaning supplies, toiletries and your time and gas to deliver the Tables-to-Go baskets!

## BEVERLY'S CROCHET AND KNITTING SOCIETY UPDATE

by Connie Schmidt

We had a gay old time—that's what we promised to say when asked how we would report the last meeting of the Beverly Society. Everyone made it out to the pool, if not in it. There was lots of laughter and the joy of relaxing in the water. We decided to try for one more swim on the second Tuesday of September which will be the 14th at 6:30. Mark your calendar now. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided, but bring a sandwich as Connie isn't cooking, and Armin can't. At that time, we can plan for Halloween and more fun. Whatever happened to the Knitting and Crocheting? Well, it's still available!

## NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY!

The Hoover Neighborhood Association is having a block party on Saturday, September 18 from 11am-2pm. (The church is located in the Hoover Neighborhood Association.) There will be lots of fun and festivities for all ages, and this will be a great opportunity to meet some of the people that live in the neighborhood around the church. We will have an information table to let our neighbors know about Community of Hope. If you're interested in assisting with the information table, please contact Bob Lawrence.



## HOMECOMING SUNDAY

On **Sunday, September 19th** we will have a "homecoming" celebration in worship. Our goal is to get as many people as possible to join us so we can celebrate our recent accomplishments and begin planning of our fall programming. There will also be a Fabulously Festive Feast after worship. Join us for this chance to visit with long-time friends and make new ones!

# JUSTICE & WITNESS COMMISSION OF THE KO-CONFERENCE

by Lizette Merchán-Pinilla, Mstr. of Justice and Witness

The purpose of this position is: "Building relationships within and among Oklahoma and Kansas churches empowering congregations and individuals to put their faith into action through works of social justice. The organizer will be a point of contact for local churches as well as a facilitator to local and national organizations."

Karen Spradlin began working as the J&W Organizer for the K-O Conference in January 2008. This position was created following events in 2007 when the J&W Commission (formerly the Peace and Justice Task Force) received grant money to coordinate educational forums in Oklahoma about low wages, poverty and the call for people of faith to be involved. But the position of Justice & Witness Organizer is still in formation. The work is focused on any and every issue of social justice. Presently, this is a quarter-time contract position. Monies are being raised to support the position and have come from associations, congregations, endowments and individuals within the conference. At this time, funding is not coming from the conference budget.

## DRAG SHOW FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT HIV MINISTRIES

**Drag Show Fundraiser!**

Some of the participants in our most recent HIV retreat will be holding a fundraiser to help offset the costs of our fall HIV retreat. The fundraiser will be a drag show (featuring at least one performer from the retreat) at TnT's Bar (21st and Memorial) on Saturday, September 4, starting at 10pm. There will be a \$4 cover. Proceeds will be used to create a scholarship fund for people to attend our fall HIV retreat.



Since January 2008, Karen Spradlin has been the heart, mind and muscle who has put our faith into action – connecting the issues that matter to all – from our local, to conference to national level. Along with her husband and two daughters, she recently accepted a position in the Washington D.C. area. The Justice and Witness Commission (JWC) is thankful for her dedication, passion and true call for social justice that create systems of connectivity from our local church to our association and conference, leading to a national exchange.

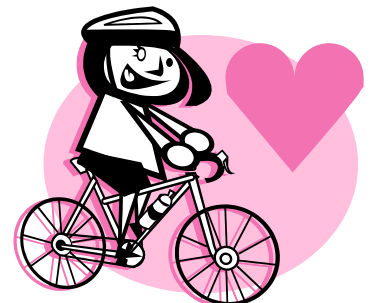
Along those lines, the JWC contemplated several options to continue giving life to a position that has become critical to the life and commitment to our wider view of a just church to the world. The JWC has entered into an interim partnership with Community of Hope, UCC in Tulsa, Oklahoma to continue Karen's passion along with the hope of a shared interconnectedness that we – in the K-O conference – need to be reminded of often. We are all invited to be part of the process of working together to continue these initiatives: Attend meetings of your board of outreach or social justice committee to explore new activities or projects, facilitate a social justice resource for your church and/or your local community, connect with national organizations that are working on issues in your areas of interest and/or meet individually with anyone interested in getting more involved.

Also, please consider serving on any of the following committees of the Justice and Witness Commission: Planet Earth Committee, Disaster Response Committee, Accessibility Committee, Esperanza Committee, Rural Life Committee and/or LGBTQ Task Force. And, as Karen says: "By working together, our collective action has the power to do great deeds!"

For more information don't hesitate to contact me at: [revlizette@cohope.com](mailto:revlizette@cohope.com)

## DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL BENCH FOR BEVERLY DUFFIELD

The Tulsa Bicycle Club and friends of Beverly Duffield will dedicate a bench in her memory at **4:00 PM on Sunday, September 12**. The bench is located across from the entrance to the Case Community Center in Sand Springs River City Park. It is just south of where the River City Park Trail intersects with Wekiwa Road. There is parking at the Community Center, but you are encouraged to ride your bikes. However, in the event that you drive please keep in mind that Wekiwa Road is being rebuilt and is one way east bound from the Community Center to Highway 97. The best way to get there from Tulsa is to take the Keystone Expressway to the first exit west of Highway 97. Cross over the Keystone and follow Wekiwa Road back east to Case Community Center.



# VOLUNTEER TO HELP COMMUNITY OF HOPE!

One of the benefits of having so many things going on here at Community of Hope is that we have lots of places for you to share your gifts and many ways for you to help share the message of Community of Hope.

In particular, we need urgent help in the following areas. If you are able to help out, please contact Bud Abbott or Karen Boland (Co-chairs of the Coordinating Council), or Bob Lawrence, our Pastor. Please keep in mind that all of our volunteer commitments are for one calendar year at a time. So, all we need you to commit to at this time is to serve through the end of 2010. (Of course, if you wish, you are also welcome to volunteer again for 2011.)

**Finance Team** – We need 2 people with basic computer skills to help with the data entry of our financial information (contributions received, bills to be paid, checks issued, etc.). These volunteers do not have to have any financial experience. If you can balance your own checking account, you have all the skills we need! With 2 people assisting, each person will only have to work 1-2 hours per MONTH. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Edwards, Chair of the Finance Team.

**Building & Property Team** – We need 2-3 more people to help develop building use policies and procedures, prioritize maintenance projects for our building and surrounding property, and supervise companion volunteers and paid contractors who perform maintenance on our building and property (with the exception of the Neighborhood Garden, which is self-sufficient). The members of this team are NOT the people that need to perform the maintenance work, they simply need to identify projects, recruit volunteers (or paid contractors), and work with the Coordinating Council to obtain any necessary funds. Please contact Bob Lawrence if you have any questions about the responsibilities of this team.

Outstanding projects that we need this team to address are: develop building use agreements for groups and individuals using our facility, including pricing and contracts; investigate installation of a security system/intercom to create a safer work environment for staff; recruit volunteers to finish various work projects around the church; develop an emergency response team in case of building-related emergencies (fire, utility outage, etc.); investigate ways of making our front entrance more accessible to those with mobility challenges; investigate possible installation of a protective awning over our front door; on-going liaison activities with the Neighborhood Garden leaders; develop and maintain logs of persons with keys to the building; set up long-term maintenance goals for our build-

ing and property, including long-range plan for building and parking expansion; investigate improved access to the property from Yale Avenue; establish maintenance guidelines for our property (including mowing schedule, plant, garden and tree maintenance, etc).



Our building and surrounding property is a very large asset that we hold in community. The building is in use every day (and multiple times on most days) as part of our ministry “beyond our walls”, and is also the work place for our staff. It is very important to the groups that use our building, as well as our staff who spend a good portion of their lives in our building, that we have people to help us properly manage this vital aspect of our ministry.

Again, this team is not the group who mows the lawn or paints the bathrooms. This team is a much-needed policy- and procedure-making team that is needed to develop and maintain a process for being responsible stewards of the gift of our building and property. Please consider joining in this vital ministry.

**Personnel Team** – We need 2 more people to provide personnel support to our staff on behalf of the companions. This team is responsible for developing and maintaining job descriptions and performance expectations for all staff members (Pastor, Director of Justice and Witness Activities, Administrative Assistant, and Music Director). We already have a set of personnel policies and procedures, which this team is responsible for ensuring are followed (and updated, as needed). This team is also responsible for helping the Pastor fill any job openings, and is responsible for providing all staff members with an annual performance evaluation (in accordance with our personnel policies). The volunteers on this team do not have to have personnel or supervisory experience, as long as you are willing to learn. Sue Barton, who has been on this Team since Community of Hope started, has plenty of experience to share, and Bob Lawrence has lots of experience in personnel and management in a corporate environment. Between those two, the volunteers on this team have a wealth of knowledge and experience to help them learn. The time requirements will vary depending on when annual performance evaluations happen for each staff member, as well as any future position vacancies.



Outstanding projects for this team involve setting up and managing an evaluation process for all of our employees. None of our staff members have received a performance evaluation in

(“Volunteer” continued)

over two years.

**Website Team** – We need 2-4 more volunteers to help with the design and upkeep of a new website for Community of Hope. The members of this team are responsible for coming up with ideas for the design of our website and, once the new website is up and running, will help Julie Tate keep the information on the site current and interesting. You do not need to know anything about programming because Julie Tate will be responsible for the programming of the site. All you have to do is help us dream of what the site should look like! If you have any questions about this team, please contact Bob Law-

rence. This team will probably meet only 2-3 times to design the website, and then work individually on updates.

**Audio/Visual System Team** – We need 1-2 more people to help look at a major upgrade of our sound system that will allow us to record our services to DVD, upload our services to the web, and provide for easier use of video and other visual presentations during worship. This is a short-term team that will be meeting only until a recommendation is implemented (after approval by the companions). Previous experience with sound or video presentation systems would be helpful, but is not required. If you’re interested in helping out, please contact Tracy Megli or Bob Lawrence.

## WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY?

by Lizette Merchán-Pinilla, Mstr. of Justice and Witness via California Newsreel ([www.unnaturalcauses.org](http://www.unnaturalcauses.org))

Health equity is a new idea for most people. It’s not hard to grasp, but it does require us to reframe the way in which health differences are usually presented and perceived. But health equity concerns those differences in population health that can be traced to unequal economic and social conditions and are systemic and avoidable – and thus inherently unjust and unfair.



Most of us can readily see how air pollution and toxic waste might harm health. But social structures can also get under the skin and disrupt our biology. Epidemiologist Michael Marmot put it this way: "Real people have problems with their lives as well as with their organs. Those social problems affect their organs. In order to improve public health, we need to improve society." Tackling health inequities requires widening our lens to bring into view the ways in which jobs, working conditions, education, housing, social inclusion, and even political power influence individual and community health. When societal re-

sources are distributed unequally by class and by race, population health will be distributed unequally along those lines as well. One way to understand what Marmot calls the “causes of the causes” is to ask new questions:

**Conventional question:** How can we promote healthy behavior? **Health equity question:** How can we target dangerous conditions and reorganize land use and transportation policies to ensure healthy spaces and places? **Conventional:** How can we reduce disparities in the distribution of disease and illness? **Health equity:** How can we eliminate inequities in the distribution of resources and power that shape health outcomes? **Conventional:** What social programs and services are needed to address health disparities? **Health equity:** What types of institutional and social changes are necessary to tackle health inequities? **Conventional:** How can individuals protect themselves against health disparities? **Health equity:** What kinds of community organizing and alliance building are necessary to protect communities?

Stay tuned as Community of Hope, UCC, the K-O Conference, Justice & Witness Commission embark on a partnership with our local, state and national initiatives to become the change we want to see in this world.

## RIDE THE ARC

by Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor

Danielle Girdano is doing a solo “endurance bicycle ride through the middle of America to raise awareness and shift attitudes towards justice for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people by furthering the dialogue about faith-based barriers to full civil rights.” She will be riding over 5,000 miles and will be in Tulsa on Labor Day Weekend. **Saturday, September 4** at 6pm she will be at a special reception at the Equality Center (4th and Kenosha). She will join us for our worship service on **Sunday, September 5**. Watch for more details in the Weekly Call.



The mission of Ride the Arc is to “publicize the need for equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gender (GLBT) people; raise awareness about the high GLBT suicide rate; address faith-based barriers to full civil rights; and promote affirming places of refuge. Every mile of the ride will carry messages of hope, love, and inclusion that will save lives and move people closer to justice.”

# REFLECTIONS: THE SEVEN SECRETS

by Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor

I recently attended the New Church Leadership Institute (sponsored by the Center for Progressive Renewal, a ministry of the United Church of Christ) from August 9-13 in Atlanta, GA. The theme of the conference was “The Seven Secrets” and was designed to highlight seven “secrets” necessary for the renewal and development of progressive Christian communities.

The Seven Secrets are: Appreciative Inquiry, Strategic Vision, Church Marketing & Communication, Ad-MINISTRY-tion, Transformational Mission, Transformational Community and Transformational Worship. We will be talking about all seven secrets in worship for the next seven Sundays (starting Sunday, August 29 ), but I wanted to share some quotes from the presentations:

- “There are two types of churches: the existing church and the emerging church. The existing church has members, the emerging church has disciples.” – Steve Sterner
- “People choose their church long before they join it.” – Steve Sterner (he mentioned that most people take 3 years to develop enough of a relationship with a local church to actually start attending)
- “In the Information Age, people are drowning in words, while gasping for a breath of air to give them the hope they need. They will join a church where that happens.” – Steve Sterner
- “Everyone gets somewhere in life. The rare person gets somewhere on purpose.” Cameron Trimble
- “New media is the impetus of new Reformations.” – Ben Guess
- “Marketing is proclaiming the good news that we know in a clear, desirable way.” – Mike Piazza
- “We need to believe we CAN change the world.” – Cameron Trimble
- “Our message does not appeal to the majority and never will. Stop trying to force it. People need us to be boldly progressive.” – Mike Piazza
- “There are a million reasons why people don’t come back, but only one reason they will: value.” – Richard Reising
- “Transformational worship is about moving it down 18 inches from the head to the heart. Worship is not meant to inform; it is meant to transform.” – Mike Piazza
- “If your existing congregation is your ‘customer’ in worship, you’re dying.” – Mike Piazza
- “Never allow a lack of funding to stop a worthwhile ministry.” – Coy James
- “The church has never been ‘the ends’; it is one of the means to the ends.” – Tom Brackett
- “Our goal is to midwife the work of the Spirit in a world longing for the transformational hope of the Spirit.” – Tom Brackett
- “The Bible is a member of the Community with as much right to speak on a particular issue as any other member.” – Doug Pagitt
- “Too often, the church has become an artificial preservative to keep historic truths alive beyond their shelf life.” – Troy Brosnick
- “Worship changes people into people who change the world.” – Troy Brosnick
- “To follow Jesus is not to believe in the resurrection, but to believe you are the location of resurrection.” – Troy Brosnick
- “Radical inclusivity recognizes, values, loves and celebrates people on the margin; it recognizes the harm that has been done in the name of God; it creates ministry on the margins on purpose; it does not wish to imitate or change the mainline church, but rather longs to BE church.” – Yvette Flunder



**A Congregation of the United Church of Christ**

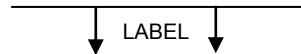
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**A SHALOM BASE COMMUNITY**

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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

## CONTACT COH STAFF:

**Rev. Bob Lawrence**  
pastor@cohope.com

**Lizette Merchán, Mstr. of Justice and Witness**  
revlizette@cohope.com

**Tracy Megli, Music Director**  
music@cohope.com

**Julie M. Tate, Administrative Assistant**  
admin@cohope.com



Please join us for our celebration  
**3rd Birthday - Open Table UCC**  
**2nd Birthday - Food for Kids Owasso**

Backpack Program



Eliminating food insecurity  
and hunger one child at a time

**Saturday, Aug. 28**  
Worship 5 pm  
Birthday Party 6 pm  
Come and sign up to  
volunteer this school year

*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.*