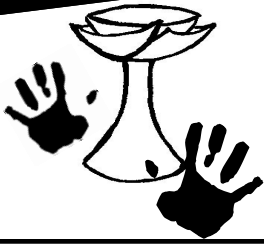


WORSHIP



COMMUNITY OF HOPE, UCC

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!
WORSHIP SERVICES | EVERY SUNDAY
AT 6:00PM



Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor



Dear Companions,

I am truly amazed at how quickly this year together in ministry has passed. As I write this, I am reminded that it was one year ago yesterday that I was ordained at College Avenue Congregational UCC in Modesto, CA, and tomorrow will be one year since I left California on my journey to be with you here in Tulsa. August 10 will be one year since my official arrival as your Pastor!

I am amazed and yet I am also deeply humbled as I look back over the times we have shared. For me, and for many of you, this has been a year full of firsts. From my (and many of yours) first “white Christmas” to my first excessive heat warning. From the sound of my first tornado siren to the sound of my first Carolina Wren. From the joys of my first worship service among you as your Pastor to the joys of representing you as we received a Community Service Award from the Barony of All Oklahoma. From the shared grief of leading my first memorial service as your Pastor, to the joy of celebrating my first same-sex Commitment Ceremony as your Pastor. The list is seemingly endless.

But I am utterly convinced that the “firsts” of the past year, are, if you’ll pardon the redundancy, only the first of many. I believe there is still so much we have to share together, so many blessings we will be able to experience together, so many joys, and, yes, even some pain. For I believe, as our denomination and this community boldly proclaim, God is still speaking! I believe, as the promises we shared at my arrival stated, “Behold, (God) is doing a new thing. Can you not perceive it?” I believe this community is not only listening to that still-speaking voice of God, that we are not only perceiving the new ways in which God is “doing”, but that we are acting on that voice, and we are moving forward with those new things.

I am now, as I was one year ago, utterly blessed, honored, pleased, humbled, and excited to be your Pastor. Thank you all for the many ways you encourage one another (and me) to live into our promises to be Companions on a journey, to be the kin-dom of God, and to bring the message of a relevant, progressive faith to those hurting and in need around us.

Surely, God is in this place!

AUGUST 1
LUKE 12:13-21
HIROSHIMA DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE
BOB LAWRENCE
PREACHING
COMMUNITY MEAL
FOLLOWING

AUGUST 8
PERSONS-IN-CARE
SUNDAY
TRACY MEGLI
PREACHING

AUGUST 15
NICARAGUA MISSION
TEAM PRESENTATION

AUGUST 22
LUKE 13:10-17
BOB LAWRENCE
PREACHING

AUGUST 29
LUKE 14: 1, 7-14
BOB LAWRENCE,
PREACHING

A SHORT STORY FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

by Penny Fruth

One Sunday it fell to a member of the Worship Team to do the Communion Meditation. It was Immigration Sunday and this member told a sad story about racism but said.....even though we can't control what happens outside our dear Community of Hope, we can know that whenever we share this simple meal together around our not-quite-round table, we are safe from the ugliness that might confront us outside. She broke the loaf of bread of our simple meal and held up the broken made whole chalice." Afterwards, she was feeling pretty darned good about how well communion went until Julie Trainum

pointed out that she didn't say "broken made whole chalice" as she intended. Instead she said "broken but whole chalice" that sounded much different spoken and profoundly changed the description of our chalice.



The moral of this story is to not take ourselves too seriously and to remember to laugh at our mistakes. In my case that opportunity comes often.

BEVERLY'S CROCHET AND KNITTING SOCIETY UPDATE



Due to the heat there was no July meeting of Beverly's Crochet and Knitting Society. Since no date has yet been set for the dedication of her bench, a meeting has been scheduled for 6:30, Tuesday, August 10th at the Schmidt farm. Let's meet for fun and whatever may transpire. Swimming is encouraged, as the sun will be off the water and it's a good time to cool down. Then we can schedule a group trip to the dedication of the bench when a date is known. See you the 10th!

MEDITATION CLASSES ARE BEING OFFERED AT COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Seven Means of Meditation is a class on forms of meditation and how they are used separately or together to reduce stress, improve health, grow control over habits and more. This free class begins August 23. To reserve, call 494-8886.

Contact Information:

Steven Hall, 494-8886
3171 E. 26th St.
Tulsa, OK 74114

Steven Michael Hall is certified to teach meditation and other classes in the Keys to Enlightenment series. He has practiced meditation for 25 years from several disciplines and has found this series to be the most widely applicable and most complete in its explanation of the processes. This system fits for beginners and those with advanced experience and offers keys to understanding progress.

Hall's experience includes being authorized by Louise Hay to teach her materials in the late 1980s. He has helped lead classes on Silva Mental Dynamics, studied with Ramtha for four years and studied many personal growth programs. He currently leads the Coming Out Workshop, offered through Oklahomans for Equality.

Steven Michael Hall is a native of Oklahoma, born in Okmulgee. He is a professional portrait photographer, specializing in location projects. He is a past president of the Tulsa professional association, INPPA, and past president of Up With Trees, among other groups. Hall graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Journalism, Public Relations in 1973.



(Classes will be happening at Community of Hope, but participants still need to contact Steven to register!)

HIV MINISTRIES UPDATES

By Gary Meadows/HIV Ministries Chair

The HIV Ministries Team met on July 15th. Those present were: Gary Meadows, Tim Beauchamp, Karla Mae, Gay Phillips, Bob Lawrence and Penny Fruth.

We discussed the Kaiser Grant and the fact that it is up for renewal, which Gay Phillips is taking care of that for us. We also discussed Tables To Go and how to get more volunteers for the delivery. Tim and Karla are going to ask some of the recipients if it would be possible for them to come to the Church and pick up their baskets. It is also time to evaluate and figure out if we want to keep all the recipients that we are now serving or let some of them go and put new ones on the list. Rev. Lawrence is

checking with Tulsa Cares to find out about a family in dire need there and we are going to cut back one family.

Opportunities:

- We need someone in the community to volunteer to help with getting computers put together. If you, or you know of someone who can put computers together, please have them email: gmtulsa@hotmail.com
- The Retreat has been planned for October 29th through the 31st at Camp Christian! If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please have them email: gmtulsa@hotmail.com

TABLES-TO-GO MINISTRY UPDATE

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

Hello COH companions! I'm writing you from hot and humid Dallas, Texas but I trust our plans to have our drivers pick up the Angel Food boxes at the First Evangelical Lutheran church at 1244 South Utica Ave. will go just fine. I've been coordinating the delivery long distance as we had a little mix-up this last weekend and got our delivery date wrong. That has been resolved, but I've been forced to return to Dallas for business and can't

physically be in Tulsa for this month's delivery. The good news, of course, is that my co-director, Carla Mae, will still be there to help out. Also, our pastor, Bob, has been an enormous support for us in getting this organized this month. Thanks Bob!

I'm sure things will work out. G-d always seems to resolve problems, big and small, at COH through mutual cooperation. See everyone soon!

FEAST WITH FRIENDS UPDATE

By Bob Lawrence, Pastor

Thanks to the work of the HIV Ministries Team, we had a very successful Ole'-Fashioned Country BBQ dinner here at Community of Hope on Saturday, July 24. After dinner, we joined with all the other "Feasts With Friends" throughout Tulsa for a dessert extravaganza at the Community Center at Centennial Park. All of the evening's festivities were a part of the 1st Annual "Feast With Friends" fundraiser for Tulsa CARES, which is Tulsa's largest provider of support services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the Tulsa area.

Our dinner consisted of pulled pork, BBQ brisket, cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, and baked potato skins. Thank you to our volunteer chefs, Ken Vonada, Chuck Pearce, Gary Meadows, and Carla Mae Shupe.

At the dessert extravaganza, we were presented with a



gift basket for having the "Feast With Friends" dinner with the largest number of attendees (18). Thank you to all those who organized, cooked, attended and just generally had fun. And all for a great cause!

2010 UCC COALITION FOR LGBT CONCERNS NATIONAL GATHERING: “ANY BODY, EVERYBODY, CHRIST’S BODY”

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

Advocacy & Empowerment was the workshop effort provided to the conference where our Minister for Justice & Witness had the chance to facilitate along with other panelists a presentation regarding issues of immigration, awareness and advocacy when speaking truth to power, where our neighbor is actually invited and welcome to the table -Equipping and Empowering Ourselves as witness and advocates together, with one another!

The overall theme of this year’s National Gathering was Any Body, Everybody, Christ’s Body, following up on the Accessible to All (A2A) resolution passed by the 25th General Synod in Atlanta, GA, calling on UCC congregations and instrumentalities to be physically, spiritually, and emotionally open and affirming to people with disabilities.

This conference tried to address these issues specifically, and in the wider context of living out God’s extravagant welcome to all. There is still a long journey ahead of us to really be the ACCESSIBLE church we could all be. If you are interested in figuring out some "access" venues at COH for all, let your Minister for Justice & Witness know. Together we can do a lot!

Geoffrey Black our UCC President and General Minister spoke at the Banquet for the 25th anniversary of the pas-

sage of the Open And Affirming (ONA) resolution at General Synod XV.

The celebration included recognition of new ONA settings and some of the pioneers of the the Coalition’s early efforts within the denomination.

Our General Minister and President of the UCC,

(Geoffrey Black) helped us envision a church living in a state of growth and plenty, instead of fear and disintegration. It is that future of the uniting and United Church of Christ that he encouraged us to feel as possible and present. It was an outstanding event that filled us with hope and encouragement for a church that welcomes ALL.

May the joy of our COH witness to the local and national realm, be the bridge for US ALL -THE CHURCH to be a place where our voices speak up, are heard and actions take place!

Check our National Coalition's information at:
<http://www.uccoalition.org/>



SOUTHERN REGION YOUTH EVENT: ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL— TEARING DOWN INEQUALITY, BUILDING UP HOPE

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

This past June I was able to join our UCC Southern Region Youth, ages 13-18, from across the Southern Region for fun, service, music, learning and worship!

The United Church of Christ HIV/AIDS Network (UCAN) through your Minister of Justice & Witness was able to lead workshops to entitled, “Lead, Empower, Deliver: What Youth Can Do To Stop HIV.”

The Health and Wholeness Advocacy office (HWA) works with Global Ministries (GM) and other offices in Wider Church Ministries (WCM). So along with our COH's leadership in providing HIV/AIDS/STD's work-

shops I was able to have a WCM/GM materials in the exhibit space, along with HWA/UCAN!! Plenty of conversations of why the United Church of Christ gives out condoms sparked, teens, adult leaders engage in conversation of how to empower through knowledge (knowledge is power!)

Young people of all races are among those with the highest rates of HIV infection, as well as other STDs/STIs Peer leadership helps to create awareness, reducing risks and preventing the spread of HIV. Find out what you can do!

Check out our national UCAN - United Church of Christ HIV/AIDS Network at: <http://www.ucc.org/ucan/>

FUND RAISER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Show-Stopping Case of the Missing Nun Nabber is looking for volunteers for the performances on

Wednesday, August 11 (Dress Rehearsal 6:30 pm)

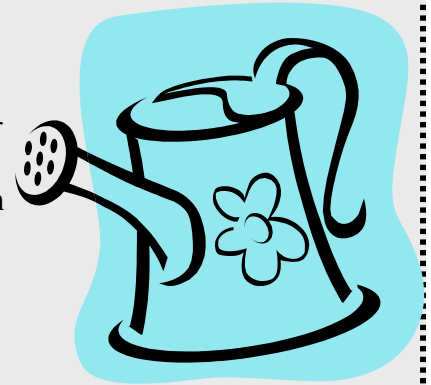
and **Saturday, August 14th** (Performance 6:30 pm). Both performances will be at Trinity United Methodist Church. The Saturday performance will be a dinner theater, so we are looking for talented people help to cook and serve. We also need

people to help with publicity and ticket sales for both performances. Please let Lizette know if you are interested in this fundraising effort where 100% of all proceeds go to COH. Thank you Tracy Megli for arranging this!



TIME TO BRING YOUR NEWSPAPERS

Thank you to those who have been saving their newspapers for use in our Neighborhood Garden. It is now time to bring your newspapers for the gardeners to use! Please place them on the pallets that are located near the garden area (and be sure to secure them with the supplied bricks so that they don't blow away). The newspapers will be used to line the raised beds as an environmentally sound weed preventive, and the extras will be shredded and used in the creation of organic mulch. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact Tess Trainum-Tucker.



ROMERO CENTER REVIEW

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

Have you ever wondered where your Panasonic, Target, Walmart electronics come from? In order for US to grow as individuals and as a human family, there is a theologically-based need to cross borders and understand the root causes of our need to have and accumulate more.

Last May I was able to be at the Romero Center in San Diego, California where those of us who attended learned borders will not disappear. There we also realized that borders do not have to divide or separate US from the world.

Borders can be privileged meeting places. Through my/our immersion opportunities, through the UCC Women's Consultant we were invited to view or observe the border and reflect theologically considering the border communities as places of great importance and as markers that enable us to recognize and respect the differences that make us who we are as individuals and societies.

How to meet the needs of these underserved communities is a common challenge that San Diego and Tijuana, and US and our purchase power and voice must face and advocate for together. For more information visit: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/centro-romero/>

UCC WOMEN'S CONSULTANTS FALL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

Where's the HOPE?

When: SEPTEMBER 10-11-12, 2010

Where: White Memorial Camp, Council Grove, KS

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Elaine Blanchard (West Central Women's Consultant partner) is a gifted Biblical Storyteller, UCC pastor, keynote speaker, humorist and entertainer. She brings new insights into the Scriptures and can also speak on women's issues and the process..

If interested please contact Rev. Lizette Merchán at (918) 747 6300 or revlizette@cohope.com

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Community of Hope
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.

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pastor@cohope.com

[*Bob is also available on Facebook (CoHope Pastor) and Twitter (CommHopePastor)*]

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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.