



# COMMUNITY OF HOPE UCC

OCTOBER 25TH, 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES | EVERY SUNDAY AT 6:00PM



**SUNDAY NOV. 7**  
**Friend-Raising**  
**Sunday**  
**Luke 20:27-38**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 14**  
**Luke 21:5-19**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 21**  
**Reunion Sunday &**  
**Companioning**  
**Ritual**  
**Luke 23:33-43**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 28**  
**First Sunday of**  
**Advent**



With the cooler temps, and the changing of the leaves, it looks like autumn is slowly returning. The shorter days mean less time outside and the gradual returning to various projects around the house that help with that 'nesting' instinct. We seem to be a little more interested in just staying home, enjoying good food with family and friends, maybe watching a movie, or just sitting around sharing the stories of "how I spent my summer vacation." And we frequently find our thoughts and plans turning to the various celebrations and gatherings of the upcoming holiday season. As this newsletter is being prepared, I will be doing similar things with my family and friends back in California as I return to celebrate my high school reunion.

One of the reasons we come together as a community of faith is to mark these seasons of our lives with those who have significance in our lives, with our "companions on this journey." This month will give us some more opportunities to celebrate, in community, the changing of the seasons, and the honoring of each other's lives.

Our denomination is having a special "Friend-Raising Weekend" the first weekend of November, and Community of Hope will be using this as an opportunity to invite others to share this journey of faith with us. On that first Sunday, which is also our monthly community meal, you are encouraged to bring your friends with you to worship. As Community of Hope has celebrated from its beginning, our companions on this journey are found in various places in our lives, not only among the companions at Community of Hope. So, we encourage you to bring your friends with you to worship that Sunday evening and allow us to celebrate together our many and varied companions on the different journeys of this life.

Another way we will honor this season is by having a special "Community of Hope Reunion" focus in worship on Sunday, November 21. On that Sunday, we would like to invite all who have been a part of Community of Hope over the years to come together for a special worship service honoring the connections we have been able to have with one another. As we prepare for that week's individual Thanksgiving holiday celebrations, we will take time to honor and thank those who have shared a portion of their journey with us, and who have helped to share Community of Hope's vital message of a progressive, inclusive faith. We will also celebrate those who have recently joined us on this journey by having a Companioning Ritual as we all covenant together to be companions. This will be a great opportunity to see long-time friends that you may not have seen in a while, and to make connections with new companions.

On the last Sunday of November we will begin our Advent celebration as we journey together into an understanding of what incarnational love is all about.

Please join us in November as we honor the seasons of our lives.

*Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor*



## NICARAGUA MINISTRIES UPDATE

by David Hoot, Nicaragua Mission Team

### LANGSTON UNIVERSITY (Tulsa) PRESENTATION

The Nicaragua Store will be at a Social Justice seminar on Friday, October 29th, from 7:30am to 5:00pm. David will be making a presentation at 11:00am about "Nicaragua: Social Justice Through International Partnership".

### NICARAGUA VISITORS

We will have two visitors from Chacraseca joining us in worship soon. Elba will be with us on Sunday, October 31st, and Dr. Daysi will be with us on Sunday, November 7th. They will be visiting the United States for the Wine to Water event sponsored by Just-Hope on Thursday, November 4th. Our contribution of support for their visit will be to offer hous-

ing, meals, transportation, and sightseeing. The details of their needs are still being finalized. Keep an eye on the Weekly Call for updated information. If you are able to assist with any of the hosting needs, please contact David.

### UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED

A new account has been established to collect donations for a university scholarship for a student in Chacraseca. The 'seed money' for this account was the 'leftover' funds from the recent mission trip. The team was frugal and budgeted their funds well and had a little over \$300 remaining after the trip. This money was from the personal donations from the team members for their travel expenses. They were given the option of receiving a refund, donating to an existing Nica-

ragua account, or establishing a new account for a project. The group unanimously voted to establish a new University Scholarship account since this was one of two needs presented to the team while they were in Chacraseca. While this

account is not a part of our already established Nicaragua commitments for 2010, it is available to anyone who would like to add to it. The current cost for an annual university scholarship is \$600. Please contact David if you have any questions about this.

### INTERNATIONAL GIFT FAIR

The annual IGF will be Saturday and Sunday, November 13 and 14, at Fellowship Congregational Church, 29th and Harvard. This is a great way to begin your holiday shopping while supporting FAIR TRADE. We will need volunteers to staff the COH Nicaragua Store during the event. Please contact David if you are able to help with this project.

### FAIR TRADE COFFEE PRICE INCREASE

Effective November 13th, the price of Equal Exchange coffee will increase \$1.00 per bag. This reflects the increased price for coffee beans around the world. This is the first price increase in over 6 years. Please know that the farmers are continuing to receive a fair price for their products. Support a just marketing system by purchasing FAIR TRADE goods.



## GARAGE SALE UPDATE

from David Hoot and Rev. Lizette Merchán-Pinilla

Our Fall garage sale went well and we collected **\$547.22**. The proceeds will be used for all of our various ministries here at COH and beyond our walls, too. Many thanks to everyone who donated items for us to sell. Thanks to everyone who purchased items during the sale. And a HUGE thank you to the volunteers who helped us make it happen: Terry, Mary, Nancy, Brad, Shirley, Steven, and Phillip. Thank you to Beverly for continuing to let us use her storage building to hold items until the next sale. Thanks to Fellowship Congregational Church for loaning us tables to use during the sale. And thanks to Steve and Mark for collecting our leftovers to distribute to various social services groups around the area. See you next Spring!





**SAVE**

**THE**

**DATE**



**OUR NEXT FIESTA WILL BE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, FROM 6:00PM TO 9:00PM. THERE WILL BE FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO ALL OF OUR VARIOUS MINISTRIES.**

## **JUSTICE AND WITNESS WITHIN**

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

To be witness of our world within calls us to be present and aware of what is going on with us, around us, and within us. We have to listen and continue to be mindful of the ways in which we are a presence and can actually influence positive-just change!

As Community of Hope, UCC's Minister of Justice & Witness each one of you -companions, friends and allies help me craft the ways you inspire and inform what this ministry -our ministry is all about, as well as for the endless possibilities ahead with your support, engagement, help and feedback! Lately a lot of awareness has been at the top of my/our work within! Just to name a few:

- Along with Maxine, we provide a safe space to children during worship, help/support with worship team efforts, with Tables 2 go, with our Nicaragua partners locally and globally, provide pastoral care, preach and teach to the ways we all

continue to straddle the waters of inclusiveness.

- I've been involved in presentations about Cultural competency (working in a diverse society) at OSU Graduate Students, a conversation at Youth Services with young adults about LGBTQ & their faith, as well as for planning an Ethics & Boundaries workshop through our partnership with the Tulsa Hispanic Resource Association this Fall.
- Community of Hope, UCC successfully provided a series of six (6) Liturgies in Spanish for 2010 and two (2) sermon efforts in English for our National UCC.org website.

At the United Church Of Christ Kansas - Oklahoma Conference my/our presence as Fair Trade store facilitator/volunteer, as proponent of the Immigration Resolution in Solidarity with Immigrants & the Southwest Conference which actually passed!! and as presenter for Our Vital Ministries in Justice & Wit-

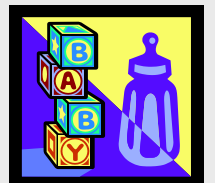
ness Ministries (combined efforts of COH, UCC and the Justice & Witness Commission of the K-O conference) All of this involvement has created an environment for Making Trade Fair, a voice for all, and of vitality for our local and conference churches, Amen!

I was also interviewed by a local Hispanic/Latin@ TV and radio station for our fall HIV/AIDS retreat and Hispanic/Latin@ HIV/AIDS Awareness Day as part of all of the events and celebrations of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated every year September 15 to October 15. All of our HIV/AIDS retreat information has been translated, and distributed to agencies and providers in Spanish. I am also providing support for the Tulsa Young Professionals—Diversity Crew for an upcoming local and nation wide survey of how Tulsa welcomes and is perceived by locals and others. May the joy of working and serving within be of inspiration to you for your involvement as we all share what we have been given with one another!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2010**

**WE WILL BE HAVING A BABY-SHOWER FOR JODI'S BABY GIRL. BRING YOURSELF, A THOUGHT, A PRESENT AND A FOOD ITEM AND WE'LL BE OPENING UP GIFTS AT OUR COMMUNITY MEAL!**



# I CAN'T [HEAR] YOU!

YOUR talents to remind us of all time classics we have sung at Community of Hope for the last 17 years. The worship team is busy compiling a booklet of Community of Hope's favorite non-hymnal music to make it easier and less bulky to sing such songs during worship. We are planning on calling this song-book "A Joyful Noise." If you'd like to help out with that process by going through the hundreds of song sheets we have in our church files, going through suggestions from companions of new songs we might add, and then figuring out a good way to make "A Joyful Noise" available during worship, please contact Tracy Megli, our Director of Music. Let us know which hymns you'd like to hear again, and/or more often!

Companions, Friends and Allies we need YOU and



## FRIENDS OF BEVERLY—SEW WHAT?

The gathering that affectionately calls itself the "Beverly Duffield Crocheting Society" met recently in the home of Terry, Liz and Mary. Although it has been reported that not much crocheting occurred that evening. No scarves were knitted, no buttons were replaced on blouses—hardly a handicraft project was touched. Those in attendance were having too much fun catching up with one another over dinner. And we all agreed



that that is just what Beverly would like for us to do!

Fellowship can grow anywhere two or more have gathered. Surely some of you Peter-Paul-and-Mary fans remember the lyrics, based on a Bible

verse, that "wherever two or more of you have gathered in God's name—there is love." It happens in church, outside of church, wherever companions have gathered. We hope you'll join us for our next gathering. Women or men, crocheters and non-crocheters, friends of Beverly—all are welcome here. Date and place of the next gathering will be announced soon. Watch for it!

## K/O CONFERENCE REPORT

*by David Hoot*

I had the opportunity recently to represent Community of Hope as a delegate to the Kansas/Oklahoma Conference annual meeting. This year it was held in Wichita, Kansas. The Nicaragua Store was represented also as a part of their Fair Trade Market. It

was a great experience meeting folks from throughout the conference and sharing fair trade information with many of them.

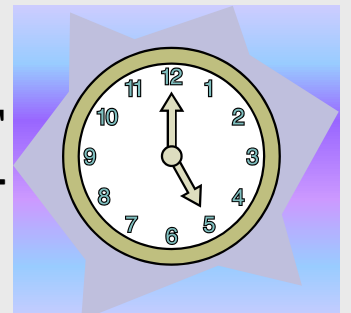
Over \$300 in fair trade merchandise was sold! The business side of the meeting included

the passage of three resolutions: how to resolve conference bequests when the donor's wishes are not known, participating in the Equal Exchange UCC Fair Trade Coffee program (we already do this at COH), and supporting our brothers and sisters in Arizona as a result of recent immigration legislation. Next year's meeting will be in Topeka, Kansas. Plan to attend!



# [TICK, TOCK | DON'T FORGET!]

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME | SUNDAY, NOV. 7TH AT 2A.M.—



# DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS!

## VISIT COMMUNITY OF HOPE ON THE INTERNET!

Our newly re-designed website: [www.cohope.com](http://www.cohope.com)



**BECOME A FAN OF COH ON FACEBOOK:**

[www.facebook.com/tulsacohope](http://www.facebook.com/tulsacohope)

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT JULIE M. TATE ON FACEBOOK:**

[www.facebook.com/cohopeadmin](http://www.facebook.com/cohopeadmin)

**PASTOR BOB LAWRENCE ON TWITTER:**

[www.twitter.com/CommHopePastor](http://www.twitter.com/CommHopePastor)

## COORDINATING COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, OCT. 17TH, 2010

by Penny Fruth

Worship started a little early on Sunday, October 17—3:30 p.m. instead of 6:00. That's when the Coordinating Council met this month. The Shalom Candle was burning brightly when Lizette opened the meeting with a story. It might seem as if a meeting dealing with the day-do-day functions of Community of Hope could really be a worship experience but, because of the people there, it was.

- Bud was the encourager. He made sure each person was heard and affirmed their ministry.
- Lizette expressed gratitude for all the tasks accomplished.
- Betsy, without complaint, used one of her many skills to keep COH financially informed.
- Beverly, in a strength borne of deep affection, helped us to see the way to begin a task, is simply to start.
- Geraldine is the memory of our group as she reminded us of our history.
- Karl came, carrying his memories of a long history of supporting those living with illness.
- Ty has a humor that lightens any room even when he is quiet.
- Bob reminded us we are always in community and he is glad he is a part.

- David brought his love for people in Chacraseca and made them come alive for us who live so far away.

- Brian brings his bravery and vision that made it possible to begin an important project.

- Ken remembered what a person at the Day Shelter told him, "You don't just bring us food. You nourish us."



Worship can't be confined to just one area or gathering. We carry it with us always.

1. Eleven people present for the first Sunday meeting.
2. A \$600 University Scholarship fund for one person in Chacraseca was created.
3. The future of Friends Nourishing Friends will be evaluated before 2011.
4. An international organization ([www.350.org](http://www.350.org)) has recognized the Community Garden.
5. A new team has to be found to be in charge of Tables to Go.
6. Donations are below budget.
7. Electrical problems made it necessary to close the nursery.
8. Website needs to be updated and a team is needed to determine rules for discussion and for the posting of photos.
9. A new member directory was asked for.

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

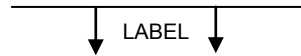
**Community of Hope**  
**A SHALOM BASE COMMUNITY**

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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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*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.*