



COMMUNITY OF HOPE UCC

NOVEMBER 24TH, 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES | EVERY SUNDAY AT 6:00PM



ADVENT IN FOUR VOICES

November 28

Peace

Armin Schmidt

December 5

Joy

Lizette Merchan

December 12

Hope

Julie Tucker-
Trainum

December 19

Love

Joe Bessler

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 25
6pm

December 26

CHRISTMAS

Bob Lawrence

Dear Companions,

I am writing this the day after our Reunion Sunday (which was a truly wonderful experience of giving thanks for what our companions have built over the years here at Community of Hope) and a couple of days before the Thanksgiving holiday. Although the time in which I am writing this is focused on giving thanks, this newsletter won't be received by you until after the period of Advent has begun.

Being in a season of thanks while writing and planning for a season of expectation and hope got me thinking about the correlation between the two, and how that might be understood as a part of our spiritual practices. Many of us experience great frustration at the rising commercialism that seems to have totally replaced the Advent season. This year, it seems even more noticeable as the stores have gone from Halloween to Christmas overnight, with no regard for Thanksgiving at all.

How might the commercialism of the holiday season be different if we took the time to actually experience a season of thankfulness before entering a period of expectation? What does it say about our intention of being thankful when a day of thanks is overshadowed by the sales that happen the next day? How much time do we actually spend on Thanksgiving giving thanks in comparison to how much time we spend figuring out which store we will hit first in the morning? How many of us cut short a day to focus on thankfulness so we can get to bed early enough to be at the stores by 5 the next morning?

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Emmanuel, or God with us, I invite you to join me and take some dedicated time to be thankful for all that you have been given, for the many ways that others have given to you, and for the ways in which you have been able to give to others before you move into the holiday period.

Rather than looking forward to the time when the Christmas decorations come down, why not spend some time being thankful for all that surrounds us? Even if your Christmas decorations are already up, even if you've already completed all your shopping, it's not too late.

What are you thankful for today?

Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor



NICARAGUA MINISTRIES UPDATE

by David Hoot, Nicaragua Mission Team

INTERNATIONAL GIFT FAIR REPORT

The International Gift Fair, held November 13 and 14, was a great event. The Nicaragua Store had a great location at the 'head' of the room. Thank you to Lizette, Bob, and Sarah (Connie and Armin's granddaughter) for helping during the weekend. We collected right at \$1,000.00 for our Nicaragua Projects and also for the Marriage Equality Lawsuit support.

NEW COFFEE IN THE NICARAGUA STORE

We now have Organic Breakfast Blend in the Nicaragua Store. It is the most popular coffee that Equal Exchange sells. The coffee is a blend of medium roast and french roast beans providing a sweet and vibrant full body taste. It is from small farmer co-ops in Latin America. We have both whole beans and ground varieties. The price is \$7.00 for a 12-ounce package.



NEW ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS IN THE NICARAGUA STORE

Julie Tate, our Administrative Assistant, has created two new alternative gift cards for your holiday shopping pleasure. One is for our Brick By Brick project to raise money for a new home for a family in Chacraseca, Nicaragua. The other is for our School Scholarship project to provide primary school scholarships to children in Chacraseca. These make great gifts

for folks that already have everything they need or for folks that you just don't know what to get for them. The Brick By Brick card is \$25 and the School Scholarship card is \$40.

RECENT VISITORS FROM CHACRASECA

We had the pleasure of having three of our companions from Chacraseca visiting Tulsa recently. Dr Daisy, Elba, and Julio attended worship with us on October 31st and then visited several other partner groups and organizations. They attended a class at

Langston University and the Community Health Connection.

The students at Langston have already collected a truckload of medical supplies for the clinic in Chacraseca. The trio attended JustHope's

annual Wine to Water event where over \$15,000 was raised for various projects throughout Nicaragua. Lizette served as interpreter for the group during several meetings during their stay in Tulsa. Dr Daisy, Elba, and Julio were great ambassadors from Chacraseca and showed us how our partnership empowers us both.

FAIR TRADE MINI-FAIR AT LANGSTON

We have been invited to have the Nicaragua Store at Langston University during the week of November 29th-December 3rd. They would like to have the Store there from 4pm to 7pm to take advantage of the large number of students who attend evening classes. Lizette and David will be coordinating our participation.



VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.COHOPE.COM
OR ON FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/COHOPE



FIESTA

TAKES A

SIESTA



The fiesta originally planned for December 4th has been postponed until sometime in early 2011. Stay tuned!

TABLES-TO-GO MINISTRY UPDATE

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

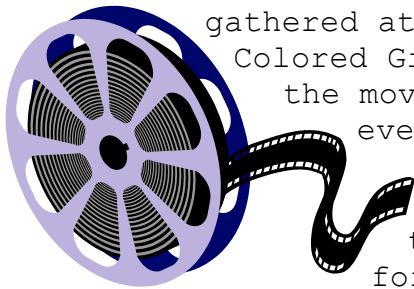
As one of the Tables-to-Go co-directors who will be stepping aside after December's delivery to let someone else fill the position this next year, I just want to say what an honor and privilege it has been to work with so many wonderful companions, along with our Tables-to-Go families, to make this ministry a success. I would be tempted to stay another year, but I

have had to do way too much traveling between Dallas and Tulsa, at the last minute, this past year for that to be feasible. Logistically, it makes more sense for someone who is in town more to serve as directors. Carla Mae and I still hope to support this particular ministry in other areas, besides co-directing it, and look forward to handing it over to other capable hands this coming year. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve. It has been a blessing!

FRIENDS OF BEVERLY GO TO THE MOVIES

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

Friends of Beverly Duffield took a break from their crocheting needles and other crafty endeavors, and spent a night at the movies. The group gathered at Hollywood Theaters for a complimentary showing of "For Colored Girls Who have Ever Considered Suicide"—a heavy topic, but the movie was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Hollywood, it was an evening of fun and fellowship.



Officially known as the Knitting and Crocheting Society, the group will meet again on December 14th. Stay tuned for details for that Tuesday evening. It's sure to be a fun one, and all are invited. Crocheting needles or other handicrafts are certainly not required—so we hope you'll join us!

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE

From Betsy Edwards, Finance Team

As we approach that time of year known as the "Season of Giving" when we receive requests for help from all sorts of groups and organizations, let us remember our "home" - Community of Hope. As you reflect on your gift giving, remember all the gifts that you have received from Community of Hope. If you made a pledge for 2010, please complete it, if at all possible. We thank you for all your gifts, but especially the gift of yourself. Peace and Blessings, from the Finance Team.



A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

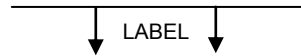
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We are a multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, accessible to all, just
peace church where God is still speaking!

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.