



Community Of Hope UCC

February 28, 2011

Worship Services every Sunday at 6:00pm



Road Trip With Jesus!

March 6
"Reconciliation"

Wednesday,
March 9
6pm
Ash Wednesday

March 13
"The Road Trip
Begins: Wilder-
ness"

March 20
"First Stop: A
Visit With Nico-
demus"

March 27
"Second Stop: A
Well in Samaria"

Many of us gain a deeper understanding of God by paying attention to nature and Creation. Growing up in California, I have come to realize, has given me a different perspective on God than the natural environment of Oklahoma. It is not better, it is simply different.

The recent blizzard and record-breaking temps and snowfall have helped me see that a little bit more. The natural environment here in Oklahoma has shown me that regardless of what happens in the world around us, there is a sense of stability in the land and vegetation. The seasons may cause the trees in my yard to change, or the flowers in my garden to die back, but each spring, the trees bud and leaf, and the flowers bloom again. I have found a fickleness in the weather that mirrors the fickleness of life as one house is destroyed in a tornado while the house across the street is unscathed.

On the morning after the recent blizzard, it seemed as if my neighbors' homes had all moved closer to mine, as the property line distinctions disappeared under a beautiful blanket of white. No lawns, no sidewalks, no streets. There was a direct and continuous connection between my front door and my neighbor's front door.

In California, between earthquakes and a lack of distinct seasons, the stability that one finds in nature is the realization that it takes deep roots and a stable foundation to handle the continually changing landscape. Because many trees maintain their leaves year-round, and plants that are annuals in Oklahoma are perennials in California, the changes we see are in the ground beneath our feet. Rivers dry up in late summer, only to become swirling torrents again in spring; grasses and wildflowers dry up and blow away and return to their glory for only a few weeks out of the entire year.

Many of you have seen the iconic picture of what is referred to as "The Lone Cypress"—a wind-swept cypress tree that has been clinging to a bare rock outcropping overlooking the Pacific Ocean near Monterey for over 100 years. That cypress tree, like many similar trees, flowers, and native grasses, has found a home in an otherwise inhospitable environment. These living examples of tenacity have sunk their roots into otherwise impervious solid walls of granite and are able to find sustenance and stability in a hostile environment. Eventually, these plants will work their way so deep into the rock that they will actually cause the rock to crumble, thereby making room for more plants to grow.

All of these various expressions of God-in-nature also remind me of the work of Community of Hope. We may experience periods of growth and high attendance followed by winters just huddled against the weather, but each spring... We may be in a fairly inhospitable environment, but we have sunk our roots deep into the rock and are slowly breaking it open to allow room for more growth, for more...

How do you see God in the natural environment? How can we mirror that here at Community of Hope?

Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor



**Save the
Date!**

K/O Women's Fellowship Spring Assembly | APR. 7. 8. 9 & 10

(Come and stay for all or part of the Assembly! Get involved!)



NICARAGUA Ministries Update

by David Hoot, Nicaragua Mission Team

IS THIS THE YEAR...
that you go to Nicaragua? It is time to plan the annual trip to our partner community of Chacraseca, Nicaragua. If you are interested in going or have questions about the trip, now is the time to contact David Hoot, 918-747-8928 or david-hoot@hotmail.com. The team usually goes in July.

CONCERT FOR CHACRASECA

Jean and Jim Strathdee, longtime friends of Community of Hope, will be coming to Tulsa on



Jean and Jim Strathdee

Wednesday, April 6th, to perform a concert for our partner community of Chacraseca, Nicaragua. This will be co-sponsored by COH and JustHope. We sing many of the songs today in worship by the Strathdees, "You are the Light of the World" and "Walls Mark Our Boundaries", for example. It will be a wonderful event. Mark your calendars now because it is going to be a wonderful event.



Leadership Development Series

Starting in March, we will be offering a Leadership Development Series taught by various companions and other members of the Tulsa community. The purpose of this series will be to look at what makes a good leader, and how leadership works at Community of Hope with our various teams, ministries and task forces. More information will be made available via the Weekly Call as we get ready to start this series.

The sessions will be open to anyone and everyone, whether you are currently serving in a leadership role or not.

National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

When: March 6-12, 2011

Purpose: To bring national attention to the AIDS epidemic in the United States and the extraordinary role faith communities can play in addressing the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

For More Information: <http://www.nationalweekofprayerforthehealingofaids.org/>

Daylight Savings Time Returns!

Please remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour for the return of Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, **March 13!**



Take a Road Trip with Jesus!

Join us this Lent season as we take a road trip with Jesus. We will journey with Jesus and his disciples from his temptations in the desert all the way through to his arrival in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. On the way, we will spend time in worship visiting with various people

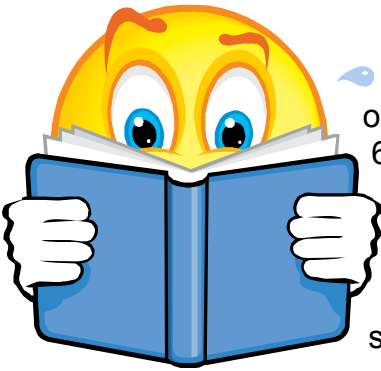
who encountered Jesus: Nicodemus, the woman at the well in Samaria, the blind man, and Lazarus.

We want to encourage you to journey with us as we attempt to understand what it might have been like to actually be one of Jesus' followers at the time he was alive. Our goal is to experience Jesus anew by trying to live as if we don't know "the end of the story." What might a road trip with Jesus to Jerusalem be like if we didn't know the cross was waiting? Or if we didn't know Easter was coming?

(Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 9 and ends with Easter on April 24.)



Book Study for Lent



To deepen our understanding of what it might have meant to be one of Jesus' original followers, we will share in a book study together on Tuesday evenings at 6pm (starting Tuesday, March 14 and ending on Tuesday, April 19). We will be reading the newly-released "Jesus Diaries" and look, together, at what Jesus means to us today. To be sure we have enough books for everyone, please let Bob Lawrence know (email pastor@cohope.com or call the church office) as soon as possible if you would like to be a part of this study group. Each session will be independent, so you do not need to attend all sessions.

Call to Community Meeting

We will have a Community Meeting on Sunday, March 6 starting at 3:30pm. The meeting will be in the Community Room. We will be looking at three issues:

- **Presentation of proposed mission/ministry evaluation process.** At our Community Meeting in February, 2010, the decision was made to form a task force that would develop a process to allow us to evaluate existing mission/ministry work as well as new mission/ministry work on a regular basis. The task force that has been working on this will be presenting their proposed process for approval by the community.
- **Approval in change of budget year.** The Coordinating Council is recommending that we change our budget year from January 1 through December 31 to July 1 through June 30 of each year.
- **Approval of temporary budget.** For a variety of reasons, we have not been able to adequately prepare a budget for our current fiscal year (January 1, 2011 through December 31 2011). The Coordinating Council is recommending that the community approve a temporary budget that would cover the period from January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011, and that a new budget be prepared and presented for approval by the community before June 30. (If the change in budget year is approved, the budget presented in June will be for a full year. If the change in budget year is not approved, then it will be for the remainder of the current budget year.)

Detailed information on each proposal, including justification, will be posted to the church's web site as well as to the church's facebook page by February 28, and links will be provided in the Weekly Call. If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Bud Abbott, Chair of the Coordinating Council.

Disciples and UCC Immigration Conference

Inspired by the general theme “Turning Walls Into Tables,” Disciples and UCC constituents met at Iglesia Cristiana Casa De Oracion in San Diego, California, from February 10-13, 2011, for a Border Conference with the purpose of learning about and engaging in issues of immigration policies and border ministry.

Seventy participants from the United States and Mexico gathered to reflect on the challenge that the US/Mexico border reality and the immigration laws represent for the church; learn from specific ministries on both sides of the border that address those issues; and experience firsthand the border reality, including a visit to various humanitarian projects on the Tijuana side of the border.

At the conclusion of the conference, participants produced a statement calling the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to be more welcoming of all migrants by learning more about the borderlands; oppose the militarization of the border; provide humanitarian assistance to immigrants; speak out against economic practices that disrespect human life; advocate for righteous national immigration reform; speak out against anti-immigrant attitudes, especially those against the undocumented; build relationships through im-

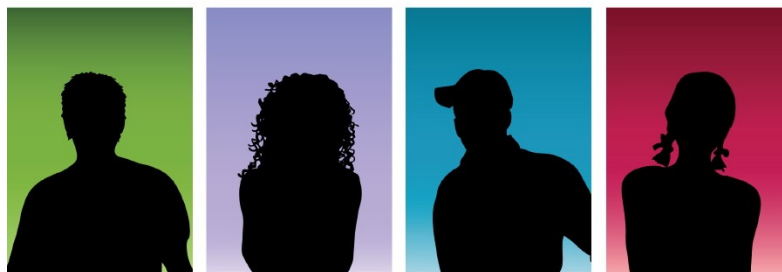
mersion experiences on both sides of the border; review our assumptions and language regarding the “other” and what it means to be “American” ... and even “Christian;” and provide resources needed to make immigrant pastors and congregations full partners in ministry. As part of the statement, participants confessed that as “part of the body of Christ” we have failed to live out the words of Jesus, to love God, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:41), and to offer hospitality to strangers as we would Christ (Matthew 25:35).



The Border Conference was jointly sponsored by the Disciples/UCC Global Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, and Disciples Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries. For more information about the conference please contact Rev. Jennifer Riggs, jriggs@dhm.disciples.org, or Rev. LaMarco Cable, lcable@dom.disciples.org.

Young Adult Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing

This event will be held May 5—8, 2011 at the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH. Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED) is a training program offered by UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. It offers a scripturally-based curriculum that provides theological and socio-cultural grounding for doing justice work, leadership skills and support to local churches and UCC members who seek tangible ways to move our world towards a vision of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world.



This event is geared specifically for young adults between the ages of 19 and 30. The program is adapted to account for the variety of settings in which young adults live and thrive. It will also help them discern and plan where and how they will utilize the Justice LED program.

Complete form and return by March 25, 2011 to Burdk@ucc.org or mail to:

Kelly Burd
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland Ohio 44115



pat humphries & sandy o

emma's revolution

*"Bold, profound, moving, hilarious
and transformative."*

Award-winning, internationally
touring songwriters in the
tradition of Pete Seeger,
Phil Ochs and
Holly Near.

Friday,
March 4th
7pm

Purchase tickets online at www.OpenTableUCC.com

Benefit Concert for OpenTable UCC, Owasso

UCAN!

The mission of UCAN (The United Church of Christ HIV and AIDS Network) is to build a network of people, congregations and organizations within and beyond the United Church of Christ for care giving, education and prevention in response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic by:

- Providing technical assistance to help congregations and other settings of the church start and build their capacity and programs;
- Offering training in the use of the UCC's comprehensive HIV and AIDS curriculum, Affirming Persons, Saving Lives, as well as other HIV and AIDS educational resources;
- Giving leadership for education and information on public policy concerns; and
- Prioritizing its work to bring critical presence to those most affected by HIV and AIDS in the United States and throughout the world.

UCAN Stop AIDS E-News is the new HIV and AIDS e-newsletter published by the United Church of Christ HIV and AIDS Network (UCAN). By subscribing to this e-newsletter, you can receive updates on what the UCC office for HIV and AIDS Ministries is doing and what UCAN and Global Ministries' partners are doing, as we work together in response to the global AIDS pandemic. Please visit <http://www.ucc.org/ucan/> for more information.

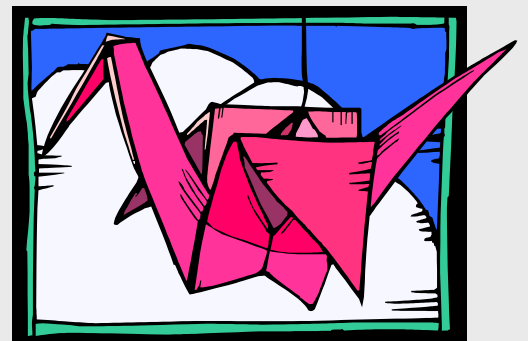
Tai Chi Chih! (Joy Through Movement!)

Tai Chi Classes Being Offered at COH

When: Saturdays at 1pm

Where: Community of Hope, Sanctuary

Contact Church Office For More Information!

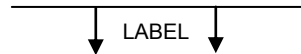


A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Community of Hope
A SHALOM BASE COMMUNITY

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Tulsa, OK 74114-4837



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Organization
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Tulsa, Oklahoma

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

COMMUNITY MEETING

Sunday, March 6, 3:30pm

Agenda:

Approve mission/ministry evaluation process

Approve change in budget year

Approve temporary budget



CONTACT COMMUNITY OF HOPE STAFF:

Rev. Bob Lawrence: pastor@cohope.com

Rev. Lizette Merchan: revlizette@cohope.com

Tracy Megli: music@cohope.com | Julie Tate: admin@cohope.com

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.