

MARCH 2023

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

International



Heritage Region (Central) Community of Hope

LENTEN QUIET DAY

Ruah Center at the Villa de Matel in Houston

Thursday, March 30

10am-3pm, lunch included

Suggested donation: \$25

Contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org

for information and to RSVP (by March 20).

Jeanette Easley, Executive Director of Ruah, will guide our group initially and then you will be free to explore the many wonderful spaces available in which to read, pray, meditate, refresh, and recreate. The grounds and chapel are especially beautiful and conducive to contemplation.



Sisters of Charity
Labyrinth



Sisters of Charity
Roof Garden



Sisters of Charity
Cloister Walk



Sisters of Charity
Grounds



"Leaning In" Series

1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH | MARCH-AUGUST | 12PM US EST ON ZOOM

Mar 4, 2023

Creating Community through Circle of Care

Apr 1, 2023

Communities rooted in Benedictine spirituality

May 6, 2023

Debriefing Workshop

Jun 3, 2023

Expanding the Definition of Pastoral Care

Jul 1, 2023

Meet the Board of Directors

Aug 5, 2023

Spiritual Gifts

Contact us at (210) 305-8066 or event.registrations@cohinternational.org

[Register here: "Leaning In" Facilitator Exchange Series](#)



A Reflection on “Taking our Ministry of Presence into the World”

KAREN MURPHY-GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GAINESVILLE GA

How are we living in the world with our ministry of presence? Are we making eye contact and smiling at the person that passes by us in the grocery store? Are we asking the server at our table what his or her name is and how they are doing? As a distraught friend weeps, are we offering a hug: an embrace in silence?

The other day I passed a stranger on a busy downtown street. I greeted him with eye contact and asked him how he was doing. His face lit up as he responded, “Well, and you?” He made my day, and I else, and I by him. We were present if only for moments.

How are we living in the world and being present?



*Save
The Date*

COHI 2023 Conference

All Saints Episcopal Church

Atlanta, GA

October 19-21



Coincidence or God-incidence

PAM PIEDFORT - ST. GEORGE CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO TX

POETRY BY KATHERINE JINKS

At a Shrove Tuesday talent show, I was explaining my association with COHI to a woman sitting beside my daughter and me. She said something like, "Oh, I was commissioned in Community of Hope at St. Luke's Church in Houston around 1995." Cut to my open mouth and eyes wide! Many expressions of shock went through my mind, including I'm sure, "Is this a coincidence or a God-incidence?"

I had met Kathy a few times when visiting my daughter's church St. Nicholas Hill Country. I knew she had been my granddaughters' pen pal during COVID lockdown. I didn't realize until that moment that Kathy and I had yet another connection.

My new friend Kathie (Katherine) Jinks, as it turns out, was on the talent show program to share her poetry. I was so moved by the Lenten feel of her pieces that I asked if I could share them in the newsletter. They come from her journals written on the dates given. Thanks for sharing, Kathie.

Journaling 3-17-09

Sparrows compete for a piece of cracker too large for one bird to carry away.

One chips a bite while another jockeys for the remaining whole.

They fly at each other chirping sparrow epithets, asserting sparrow dominion for the cracker prize. When I walk over, they scatter in a momentary act of unity. Cracker in hand, snapping it into sparrow size portions, I hear the echo, "This is my body broken for you."



Journaling 2-12-13

BROKEN not shattered or separated

BROKEN not damaged or reduced

BROKEN not disrupted or disconnected

BROKEN not out of order or interrupted

BROKEN like waves break: defining the shore & ocean

BROKEN like news breaks: altering reality

BROKEN like dawn breaks: renewing a promise

BROKEN like a smile breaks: saying more than words

BROKEN like clouds break: concentrating the light

BROKEN like an eggshell breaks: revealing it's true self.



Welcoming New COHI Board Members!

SARAH ROBERTS - COHI PRESIDENT

We are excited to welcome Willie Bobo to the Community of Hope International Board of Directors as Chair of the Communications Committee!

Willie attends St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Working in the industry of Medicare product insurance, Willie often finds himself inside nursing homes and the homes of the sick, lonely, and poor. It was in those moments he heard his calling to be there and help others however he could. Community of Hope training was the answer he was looking for, and it changed his life. After going through the training in early 2022, Willie's passion for COHI and helping others was ignited. Willie joined the Under the Bridge mission at St. James to help feed the hungry, took the Community of Hope facilitator training, and attended the annual COHI conference. Willie's mission is to help Community of Hope grow globally.



We are excited to welcome Aimee Bostwick to the Community of Hope International Board of Directors as Chair of the Curriculum/Charism Committee!

Aimee has served in The Episcopal Church as a professional lay minister for nearly 30 years. Her love of the Church and her desire to serve began when she was a summer camp counselor at Camp Hardtner, an Episcopal camp and conference center in Louisiana. That summer began a journey of ministry in the Church that has led her to serve as a youth minister, diocesan youth coordinator, and director of

programs for a large parish in Austin, Texas. Aimee also served on the board of FORMA. She now serves as the Coordinator of Community and Spiritual Life at Kanuga in Hendersonville, NC. Each step along her journey, Kanuga has been a place of transformation and preparation for the next step along of her vocational path. Aimee is thrilled to be joining the board of COHI where she feels much of what she has experienced as a professional lay minister seems to meet in the vision and mission of this community from its contemplative practices to lifting up the ministry of lay people in the church. Aimee is completing her Masters of Spiritual Formation from the Seminary of the Southwest. In her free time, she loves hiking, dancing to live music, and being with her family and friends around a campfire.

We are excited to welcome Joe Merlino to the Community of Hope International Board of Directors as Chair of the Membership Committee!

Joe is principal of Emergent Mission, a consulting and coaching firm based in Albuquerque, NM that works with Episcopal faith communities in the areas of institutional advancement and fundraising. His specialty is delivering interpersonal engagement strategies that address the need for funding with the call to nurture meaningful value-added relationships that engender a deep appreciation for participating in God's mission through giving. Joe grounds his approach in the theologies of mission, relationship, pastoral care and stewardship. He is an advocate of lay leadership, lay pastoral ministry, lay

discernment and connecting the meaning of faith and the relevance of the Episcopal tradition with fellow Christians' search for meaning and purpose. Prior to forming Emergent Mission, Joe spent 30 years working in the for-profit sector in executive and business development roles focusing on growth strategies, program development and member experience, which we feel makes him uniquely qualified to chair our Membership Committee. Joe holds a BS in Systems Analysis and Design from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA and an MA in Practical Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.





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has been released!
Please check with your
regional rep. for more
information.**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**Tell us about books & blogs you like, ways
of reaching care-receivers, and training
ideas that work!**

DEADLINE: 3/31/2023

Email Pam Piedfort at pamelapiedfort@gmail.com
to share your story!
