

The Church of Steadfast Love



A mission/development congregation of the ELCA located within Compass Housing Alliance

Special points of interest:

Join Hands Day at Lutherwood

Synod Assembly

Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders

Hector Diaz

Hector has been a long term member of the Church of Steadfast Love and has gone on many of our trips, a willing and happy participant. When I think of Hector I always think first of his gift of cheer. No matter what life has thrown at him he has always accepted it graciously and shone a positive light upon it. He just does not allow things to get him down. In March he learned that his mother had passed away.

He was upset that he had not been able to see her before she died, always planning to make a trip, but unable to go for one reason or another. Knowing it to be the right thing to do, he packed up his bags, secured a ticket for the next day, and left for a home he had not seen in 23 years. His positive attitude, and his trust that God will provide, allowed him to step out into the unknown confident that no matter what happens he is the Lords.

I will miss Hector's gift of grace and words of wisdom, is quick smile and his chuckle, but I am proud of him too for making a hard decision without regret,



Above-Hector saying goodbye.

Left-Hector giving the "thumbs-up" at El Camino de Emaus' 3rd year anniversary celebration.

looking to the needs of others. We sent him forth with our prayers. May he go blessed in order to be a blessing.



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Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia

March 17th was the annual Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia. It makes for an early morning and a long day and still people signed up to go in order that their voice might be heard and to learn a little more about the working of the political machine. We had a good time, bonded over a flat tire, were inspired by good speakers, and filled with hope despite the difficult economic times. I was a little worried as John and

David went missing, they ended up joining a different group un-awares and marching at the front of their rally. After that they went to lunch on their own, and talked to their legislatures. The picture to the right is a picture of a rally seeking justice for the poor and under-privileged. Which we took part in briefly between education and speaking with our legislatures.



Rally for justice!

Synod Assembly

This years' synod assembly took place on May 13th and 14th in Lynwood at the Convention Center. Jorge Soto and Dean McBee went as congregational delegates. It was the first time for each of them.

This is what Dean had to say, "What I got out of it was that as churches get older we must find new ways to adapt, to reach out to the older population, so that the older population doesn't fade away. We talked about this at one of the



Jorge, Bishop Boerger, and Dean



Pr. Kristy, Dean, Jorge, Pr. Darla

worship seminars that talked about uniting music with the sermon." "I enjoyed hearing about the chicken hatchery in Ethiopia, and I liked learning about all the successes with

HIV/Aids treatment in Africa." Since our return Dean has been reading over the constitution of the church and checking out the website to follow-up on the break-out sessions. We did enjoy our time worshipping together and learning more about our brothers and sisters around the world.

Join Hands Day at Camp Lutherwood

On what appears to be, for this year anyway, a typically wet day in May (the 7th) we headed off on our biannual trek to the North. David started the day on the right note for us with prayer, and we arrived in good time to take on our project of removing rotting siding from the laundry room and putting up new siding. We spent some time collecting tools and then set to work.

We gave up trying to stay dry after the first few minutes and instead took turns taking warm-up breaks. I did not hear one complaint during the day. In fact we had some laughs and we all tried to contribute whatever gift we might have, whether it be carrying ladders, measuring, cutting, or pounding nails. During a delicious lunch we dried out a bit and were gifted with Lutherwood sweatshirts to help with warmth. The rain stopped after lunch, we finished our project and one more small job. Peter, Corey and Nicole did a great job of making us feel welcome and important.



Above-Phil, Jeff, Pr. Kristy, David, and Amado sporting our new sweaters and feeling much warmer on lunch break at Join Hands Day.



Left-Amado pointing out what needs to be done.

Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders



Dr. Gowan, John and Jeff before the lecture getting to know each other.

Wednesday, May 18th, we gathered for church a half an hour early in order to get to the Seattle Central Branch, in time for a reading by Teresa Gowan from her book, Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders: Homeless in San Francisco. The event was especially meaningful in that our own members were so involved. Jeff did the planning and the hard work of getting things lined up, John helped with bringing things together and Jonathan played guitar, to soothe us after long days. Dr. Gowan shared excerpts from her book and allowed time for questions and answers. Her ethnographic descriptions were quite stirring and resonated with crowd bringing laughter at times and heartache at others. She also projected pictures from her study as she read that helped to illustrate her thought provoking readings.



Jonathan welcoming the attendees with beautiful, and relaxing music.

Junious and the Hat

“It was fun, the first time I have ever done anything like that. I asked Pr. Kristy to make me a hat, and she told me to make my own, and I didn’t know how so she showed me and when I got into it, it was nice and I liked it. Now I am working on a scarf that I probably won’t get back to until the Fall and then I am going to make some gloves. I picked the colors because of the Raiders and those are my



colors: black, grey and white. Go Raider Nation!” Junious is a quiet and sensitive person most of the time and sometimes he’s loud, like when listening to the games. “Making the hat helped me to focus, concentration is not easy for me, and has been an issue my whole life.” Since making the hat Junious has had three requests for a hat and an offer to purchase. “The hat is nice and warm, it gets you warmed up in a hurry when it is really cold, it is nice and I have been trying to find a beanie like that for awhile so I just had to make my own. I was amazed that I could accomplish something with my hands, or make anything period. I feel good and motivated to try other new things.”

(The loom and yarn were made available by a generous donor.)



Junious just beginning his hat on a round knitting loom.

Above right-wearing his hat!

David

David continues to use his abundant energy (when not doing his math homework) for the good of the larger community. This quilt was gifted to another church member who wanted to be able to give something to a friend, for his new baby. He made great advances from his first quilt and the new-to-us sewing machine was also a key factor.



David finishing his second quilt and adding the finishing embroidery accents.

“I was amazed that I could make anything with my hands, or make anything period. I feel good and motivated to try other new things.”

-Junious

The Church of Steadfast Love

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Physical Address:

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Come Worship With Us!



Wednesdays and Sundays
at 6:30

Dinner is at 5:30
Dial '05' to attend
Pr. Kristy Daniels

Check it out:

Compass Housing Alliance

www.compasshousingalliance.org

Lutheran Public Policy Office

www.lppowa.org

Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center

<http://camplutherwood.org/>

Opportunities to Serve and How You Can Help

Here are some ways that you can partner with our ministry:

1. Pray for us
2. Come and worship and learn more about our congregation and about the issues surrounding homelessness.
3. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kristi Weber to serve meals or volunteer in other ways (206) 357-3108.
4. Advocate with Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) for affordable housing, prison reform, immigration rights and many other things that effect our congregation and our community.
5. Invite Pr. Kristy to your congregation for Adult Education, to preach or lead worship.
6. Become a supporting member of our congregation. Call Pr. Kristy for more details. (206)357-3112.
7. Share the wonderful story of this congregation.
8. Organize a sock or hygiene drive at your church or school for the Compass Housing Alliance clients.
9. Share this newsletter with a friend.
10. Order a shirt !

Thank you for your prayers and support!



David and Amado saying "Thanks!"

Phone: 206-357-3112

E-mail: PastorKristy@compasshousingalliance.org

www.compasshousingalliance.org/get-involved-now/thechurch-of-steadfast-love/