

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

E VOICE

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CAMPUS MINISTRY BORDER EXPERIENCE

My editorial comments this month are going to be featuring the **Campus Ministry Border Immersion Experience, January 5-9, 2011**. Five students from New Mexico schools spent five days in El Paso learning about immigration and border issues. Comments in this article were gathered by Anne Morawski, the Campus Pastor at UNM. It is clear to me, your editor, that if you do not live on the border, you are far less able to understand the complexity of border and immigration issues, much less find solutions to the problems.

The following are comments from students who participated in the Border Immersion.

In four days in El Paso, we met dozens of people who shared pieces of themselves. We worked with and played with children and helped on various service projects. By the end of the trip it was hard to leave and I can only say that I was able to make a difference in their lives but more than that, they made a lasting impression on me.

One woman adopted a child who needed extensive medical help, including a kidney transplant. Her story was tragic but hopeful. It showed how much she had survived on the strength of her faith.

Even after living in Las Cruces, meeting the people at Cristo Rey and the community organizations they are involved helped me understand the complexity of the border issues. Everyone I encountered as part of this journey serves as an example of what it means to put faith into action.

We visited La Mujer Obrera, a coop formed by garment industry workers in El Paso who lost their jobs when companies moved the factories to Mexico. These women were amazing. They took control of their situation in practical ways and started a day care center, a restaurant, a market, a cultural education program, nutrition and health care programs, a housing project and other businesses and community programs to revitalize the neighborhood. Foremost, these women changed the way decisions were made. They found new ways to empower women.

On behalf of New Hope Lutheran Church, I would like to thank Anne Morawski and her group for taking their time to engage in this experience and sharing it with us. I pray that each of us will come away having learned something and especially to reinforce our work on the Border.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday Worship Services	9am and 11am
Sunday School	10:15
Finance Meeting	Feb. 2, 6:30pm
Outreach Meeting	Feb. 3, 7:00pm
Congregational Meeting	Feb. 6, 10:10am
Seminar to discuss "A New Kind of Christianity"	Feb. 12, 9am - 3pm
Church Council Meeting	Feb. 13, 12:15pm
Future/Property Meeting	Feb. 23, 7:00pm

PRAYER REQUESTS

We start off the New Year with several among us that are still struggling with health issues. **Leila Budnovich** is continuing her chemotherapy and seems to be tolerating it well. She was in church on Christmas Eve with her family as well as another January Sunday. Her spirits are great even though she knows the course of treatment is long.

Jake Jacobs has completed his radiation therapy and is regaining his strength at home. It will be good to see him return to church when he feels strong.

Ursula Holmes was in church recently. Even though she is confined to a wheel chair, Ursula's spirit is great. Keep up the good progress, Ursula.

Rahjay Herrera came through her latest spine surgery with flying colors! She has an incision about six inches long on her back but that did not keep her away from church within a week of surgery. Keep her in your prayers for healing so she can look forward to a better quality of life at her young age.

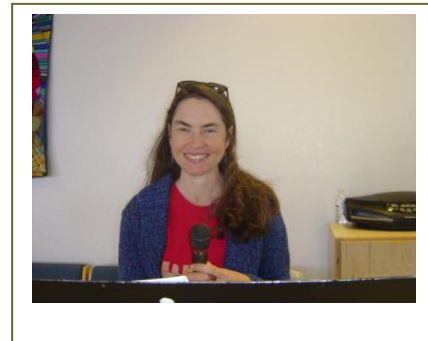
Clarence Mladek was in Providence Hospital for five days observation for suspected stroke. He is now home resting. Get well soon, Clarence!

Your Church Family Focus

SUSAN HERNANDEZ

Susan was born of Lutheran parents in Boston, Massachusetts. Her Mom was Canadian and her Dad was born and raised in New York City. Susan moved to El Paso when she was six and graduated from Eastwood High School and UTEP with a degree in music. She has one brother who lives in El Paso with his wife and son. She has been teaching orchestra for over 23 years. Her first 12 years were at Andress High School and she is in her ninth year at Franklin High School. Susan has been in the El Paso Symphony for 24 years.

She met her husband Miguel at Mt Hope Lutheran Church in El Paso. They have been married for 23 years. She and Miguel have been at New Hope for ten years and both are very passionate about welcoming and outreach ministries. Susan is also active in worship planning, music and the youth



Program. She is presently Vice President on the Church Council. Susan's and Miguel's selfless contributions to the church as a whole can not be over-stated. You often see both of them cooking for a church breakfast or brunch or accompanying the youth on a community outreach event. Miguel will also speak from the pulpit about his walk with Christ periodically. We are so blessed to have them as a part of our church family.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

THRIVENT CHOICE

If you haven't already made your THRIVENT CHOICE please consider New Hope as one of your recipients! You can take care of this online at thrivent.com or over the phone at 800-847-4836 and say "thrivent choice". If you are unsure of whether or not you have received thrivent choice dollars you can call the El Paso office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans at 565-1010.

New Hope's congregational advocates are Geoff Gannon, Howard Swan, Karen Miller and Genon Devaney. Thank them for their work. Also in case you didn't know, Kathy Hamblen and Virginia Walker are local chapter board members and Howard Swan will serve on the board in 2011.

Choice Dollars Expiration Date Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year. For example, you can direct Choice Dollars designated to you in 2010 until **March 31, 2011**. New Hope members who are also members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who may have dollars to give go online before March 31st at thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836 and say "thrivent choice". New Hope is among the many choices of recipients you can choose to direct your dollars!

*"If we could first know
where we are...we could
then better judge what to
do, and how to do it."
Abraham Lincoln*