



HARVEST TIME UPDATE

WINTER 2008

WWW.HARVESTTIME.CC

From Rose



Dear Friends,

I am writing to you from my cell at the Immaculate Heart monastery in Big Sur, CA. It has been my practice recently to come here at Christmas time. In the silence, in the rhythm and love expressed through the Divine Office, and in the beauty of nature, I find it easy to see and to listen

Today, I am writing to share with you what I see unfolding at Harvest Time. Enclosed is an update which consists of a series of reflections. The update begins with a piece by Sharon Pavelda, a member of Harvest Time's Board of Directors. I am putting it first because when I received it, I felt like the umpire at home plate pointing to the call at third base. Sharon, in this moment, seems to be holding with clarity the overall vision of what is emerging. From home plate, I point to Sharon's call and tip my Red Sox Cap (our infor-

mal HT uniform) to her.

Following Sharon's piece are several other reflections and images, each of which conveys the experience and wisdom of the author or artist. In addition, I am including a brief update on our finances and upcoming programs. Taken together, I hope these reflections will provide a window into the heart of what is emerging at Harvest Time.

I also want to let you know that we are currently needing to do some fundraising. In addition to our ongoing operational and program expenses, we continue to have financial commitments to our partners in Haiti. This year, we will have the additional expense of a consultation with Be Present. We would love to share more details about our upcoming programs and needs with those of you who are open to that conversation.

It has been our practice in the past - coming out of discussions with many of you - to ask for permission to have that conversation. It has also been our practice to make it easy for people to say no. In this moment, I hope to continue that commitment by asking those of you who

are open to consider making a financial gift to Harvest Time to contact me.

From there, we will set up a phone call which may include time for catching up, prayer, and discussion of Harvest Time's intentions and needs for 2008. Together, we will welcome whatever questions, emotions, wisdom get stirred up in the process. We will also listen for the Spirit's guidance - which may come to us through each other or perhaps in a surprising way. If clarity is not immediately present, we will take time for prayer in our separate locations and talk again. Throughout the process, we will welcome clear no's and trust that Spirit-led gifts can be a source of delight and even hilarious laughter.

It is time for me to return to silence. As I delight in this place of rest and renewal, please know how grateful I am for your willingness to be on this journey with money - which is a journey of ongoing conversion - and to allow your resources and lives to become instruments of love. I wish you many blessings for the new year.

With love,
Rose

WINTER UPDATE 2008

- ◆ *From Rose*
- ◆ *Reflections on Harvest Time*
- ◆ *Financial Update*
- ◆ *Looking Forward*



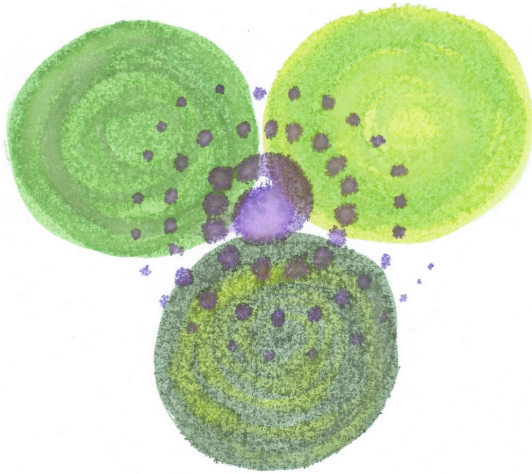
HARVEST TIME STAFF

Rosemary Feerick
Companioning Programs
650-560-9631
rferrick2002@yahoo.com

John Engle
Haiti Partnerships
202-236-6532
john@johnengle.net

Greg Rasmussen
Office Support
715-282-6608
office@harvesttime.cc

Crop Circles by Sharon Pavelda



“BEING ABLE TO
 SHARE
 AUTHENTICALLY
 WITH OTHERS WHO
 INTIMATELY KNEW
 THE JOYS AND
 WOES OF UNUSUAL
 WEALTH WAS
 MAKING IT
 POSSIBLE TO OPEN
 GREATER FLOWS
 OF LOVE AND
 FREEDOM THROUGH
 OUR LIVES AND
 RESOURCES INTO
 THE WORLD. “

The sudden resignation of a beloved member of an organization, even for the best of reasons, even under the best of circumstances, can feel like a death in the family. The entire system is sent swinging and everything seeks rearrangement. When co-director, Bryan Sirchio, resigned from Harvest Time just as a new board was taking shape, it became clear that our learned ways of coping, such as overwhelm and overwork, were not what we wanted. We have been struggling with strong feelings and miscommunication, but we have also been hearing the gentle invitation to be still and to listen for guidance. We have been tenderly reminded that Harvest Time is God’s work among us and within us, and that all is well.

The willingness of Harvest Time staff and board members to love each other in the beautiful mess of the spiritual journey in creative, respectful and deeply playful ways has continued to be a great gift and we are grateful. During an added board meeting yesterday that met via a conference call, I was imagining us all in the ‘power suits’ we had clothed ourselves in for

this special session. There we were, in pajamas and heavenly jewels, watery head-dress, red shirts and Celtic greens, scattered across the country from Oregon to Florida, yet ready and willing to take the next step together.

Suddenly, I felt lifted up for an aerial view that made me laugh! What I saw were lovely, glistening fields, ready for harvest, in which shining Crop Circles had mysteriously been made. Do you know what I’m talking about? Remember the science fiction movie, *Signs*, about these phenomena? Large patterns, mostly circles, seem to suddenly appear in the midst of traditionally planted fields of ordinary crops. No one claims to have made them, and indeed, their scale and design seems to have been made from a non land-based perspective. Some people are convinced only aliens from outer space could have made them!

The ones I ‘saw’ also formed a pattern that could only be seen from above, and viewed from my vantage point were not only beautiful, but also strangely enlightening. There were three large circles composed of many smaller circles that were distinct and yet dynamically interdependent. The pattern looked familiar: Trinitarian, Celtic? By looking at the pattern, I thought I could understand Harvest Time’s work in the world in a new way.

The first circle seemed to be made up of the groups of wealthy Christians who had come together through the invitation of the Spirit to find companionship on the narrow path. Being able to share authentically with others who

intimately knew the joys and woes of unusual wealth was making it possible to open greater flows of love and freedom through our lives and resources into the world. Joyful experiments of commonwealth and mutual giving grew out of a growing trust in the security of God among us, Christ incarnated in the midst of community. Hilarious revolts were beginning! The intimidation of ironclad rules is evaporating as new definitions of “Trust Fund” bring a never imagined freedom to our decisions. “Fiscal Responsibility” is converted into the “Ability to Respond with Money” from the place of God’s extravagant love for us and through us to all of creation.

The dynamic circles within this Crop Circle are the groups that currently meet twice a year in Boston, in Atlanta, and in California. The group that meets in California is also known as The Beloved Community and has been meeting for seven years. There is interest in a group emerging in Philadelphia and another in Montana as staffing and the Spirit allows.

The second Crop Circle is composed of the organizations serving people of unusual material poverty in Haiti with whom Harvest Time is partnered. They face the life and death reality of destitution caused by centuries of oppression and exploitation. In the face of the evils of grinding poverty, there is, nevertheless, among the people there a hard-won wisdom and vision that fuels grassroots initiatives for lasting change. The old models of philanthropy and well-intentioned giving, while pro-



Crop Circles (continued)

viding temporary relief, have often worked against the deeper structural changes that provide self-respect and sustainability. The old ways of being in relationship that prevent people from having enough while others have too much and creation gets destroyed in the process are no longer possible. Harvest Time is called to stand in the gap with the rich and the poor as the old ways die and the new is just being born. It stands wherever the cries of the poor and the cries of the rich can be heard with equal compassion and understood to be the longing of hearts wanting to live into God's economy of abundance and shared grace where all have enough. Haiti is the crucible where three existing organizations are currently completely dependent on Harvest Time's financial support for survival, one depends on Harvest Time for a fifth of its budget, and three receive funding as donations are made available. All of these organizations are involved in the arduous and life-giving work of moving from dependency into mutuality. This transformation is deeply nurtured in the respect that grows out of relationships of people who recognize each other as beloved children of the same heavenly parents. It is rooted in reverence for the abundant creation that was given equally for all of them to share and sustain.

John Engle is our staff member that holds this amazing place of hospice worker/midwife in the heart of the profound social and spiritual change that is happening in Haiti. Our partners are the Boston Youth Association, Saint Thomas Elementary

School, S.P.A.R.E. and Circles of Change. Fonkoze, DOA/BN and Saint Martial College receive donations from Harvest Time after our commitments are made or when we receive gifts designated for them.

The Haiti Partnerships Crop Circle looks promisingly porous to me. There is a wide welcome in it for any who feel drawn to join in the "not knowing/not fixing" relationships that transform us all. Standing in the gap between races and classes and genders in utter humility is to stand in the redemptive powerlessness of God's mercy. If this description sounds to you like equal parts terror and joy, this Crop Circle might be calling your name.

The third Crop Circle shimmers with a verdant green light. This is the circle where the land itself is a clear participant since it is a circle of circles that have come together with the land to experience healing across generations. With the kind of cross-pollination familiar to the movement of the Holy Spirit among us, a farm in Mississippi that had been owned by the same family for seven generations was joyfully released into the care of the Beloved Community, which happily gave it to Harvest Time. Harvest Time was asked to find a group or organization committed to the work of reconciliation and healing with the earth and each other, and to offer the land into their keeping. Emails, letters and word of mouth spread the word. When correspondence and conversations resulted in four organizations and one individual with visions for the land, the participants knew it was

time to meet in Mississippi and listen to what the land wanted.

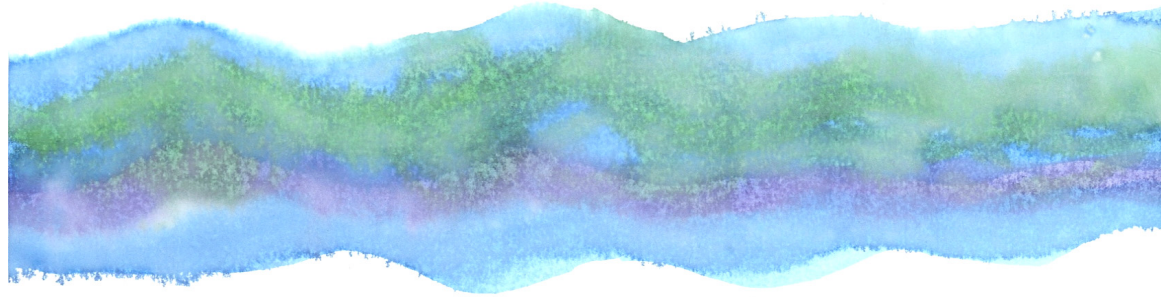
Harvest Time facilitated the three-day gathering hosted by the Beloved Community and attended by representatives of Common Fire of New York, Be Present of Georgia, Community Wholeness Ventures of North Carolina, and The Young People's Project based in Mississippi. As a participant of that gathering, I can report that the land held healing for all of us in ways beyond our wildest imaginings. The stories are just beginning to pour out of that first gathering, but what has begun there is a work of grace, embodied by people willing to stand together in the mess of racial, social, ancestral and gender divisions, rich and poor together, receiving the sacred gift of Holy Earth. I felt like I had been invited to a picnic in the Promised Land, and when I got there, I realized it was a family reunion, and I was being welcomed home to my true nature in my rightful place in Nature.

I see Harvest Time sitting in the heart of these Crop Circles, holding the place of witness, companion, and servant. She is letting down Her hair, turning on the music, and breaking open the jar of Nard to celebrate the incarnation with a delicious foot rub.

He is doing Fake Tai Chi, calling the bank to set the captives free, and having lunch with his beloved enemies. They are resting under a rented tent, resting, as the heron, rising from the riverbank, leads them in evening vespers.

"...WHAT HAS
BEGUN THERE IS A
WORK OF GRACE,
EMBODIED BY
PEOPLE WILLING TO
STAND TOGETHER
IN THE MESS OF
RACIAL, SOCIAL,
ANCESTRAL AND
GENDER DIVISIONS,
RICH AND POOR
TOGETHER,
RECEIVING THE
SACRED GIFT OF
HOLY EARTH."

River Reflection on the Harvest Time Atlanta Gathering, Nov. 2007, by Randall Mullins



“AWAKEN OUR
HEARTS RIVER,
BLOOD OF GOOD
NEIGHBORS, FLOW
IN AND OUT OF OUR
HEARTS AND THEN
MAY OUR MONEY
FLOW ALSO WITH
HOPE, INTENTION,
WITH WILD TRUST IN
GOD...”

River flows full. The Chat-tahoochee was flowing during every moment we were together and in moments when we are not together.

We are also in the River. That river is ours. It is us. I forget. We forget. But the flow goes on in us. I belong to rivers. I am a river. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God. There is a river whose currents make glad the life of creation.

Flowing in us - spirit finding its way to the words we need to say and to the words we need to hear. We are with each other's flow, the flow of life through Woodruff Park and the streets of Atlanta, Port-au-Prince and every city

in the world where the lives of the poor flow and suffer and await the awakening of the rest of us.

Awaken our hearts river, blood of good neighbors, flow in and out of our hearts and then may our money flow also with hope, intention, with wild trust in God, that you can take it to where it needs to go, flow rivers of my heart and I will give you the people and the places that will help you keep on flowing. We are flowing only when we flow with one another. We are flowing all the parts of the river flowing. Money wants to flow, money in our hearts, wants to flow, wants to join creation in the movement of all things heal-

ing and seeking a way.

Seeking a way - like waters in the rivers seeking the ocean, going toward the ocean, our lives are already seeking a way to flow home toward the great ocean of Love that holds everything.

I don't understand this, but I trust this and I belong to a creation that is always on the move, always unfolding, evolving, becoming.

With money, we can create blocks or we can create openings, rivulets of life into the places where there was little or no life before.



The Journey by Juanita Mangan-Van Ham

*The Journey,
soulful, confusing,
explore, listen, integrate,
an open heart emerges.
Wisdom*



Conference Calls by Rosemary Feerick

Back in theology school, they didn't teach us about creating community over the conference call line, but in June I knew that's what we had to do. Bryan's resignation sent a shockwave of grief, uncertainty and opportunity through this little organization. I knew in an instant that there was no way I could serve as the director of Harvest Time without getting some community around me fast. Sure I believe in the Holy Spirit and its ability to show up to sustain me in a pinch, but that same spirit is the one that has been teaching me that desperado individualism does not set us free.

So I set up call after call with an incredibly willing board and staff. Together, we grieved and talked fundraising, salaries, budgets, visions – step by step working through the powerful emotions and emptiness that comes with losing a dear friend in this work - waiting for the hole in

our hearts and the organization to turn into an opening through which new life could be born.

I knew back then what I still know now – that attempting to align money with the Holy Spirit and the God of justice and extravagant love – especially at the organizational level – is nearly impossible without spiritual friends.

I knew for instance that the only way that Bryan and I were able to trust in God's abundance as our fundraising plan was because of each other. Sure we had moments of panic wondering where the salaries or wires to Haiti would come from – but we rarely panicked together. When one of us said, "what are we going to do about fundraising" with that edge of urgency that we agreed was not the way, the other would remind us to do what we know – pray, be transparent, playfully wel-

come our fears, let people know what we were up to and what our needs were, listen for the voice of wisdom, and trust.

That is just one example of what I knew I had lost and what I knew I must find.

So I logged onto free conference dot com time after time through the month of June, gathering our board and staff so we could find our way. And in our separate locations we wept, felt gratitude, listened, dreamed, and strategized. And slowly a new voice started to emerge. It was not the voice of Rose or even our board chair. It was the voice of a circle capable of holding grief, uncertainty and gift in the wisdom of Christ. It was the voice of a circle capable of birth.

What a gift to work with a board and staff that is serious about call.

A Circle of Change in Jacmel, Haiti by Judy Bork

It was a day and a meeting that was evidence of the tremendous progress that had taken place with the Boston Youth Association. This Association had been made up of young men and women in Cite Soleil. Working with them was often dangerous, frustrating and disappointing. Most people would have given up. Don McClanen and Bryan Sirchio did not. Both put their heart and soul into working with this group. When Bryan took over from Don, he was instrumental in taking the relationship between Harvest Time and the Boston Youth Association (BYA) from one that was of a parent/child to one of adult/adult.

In the meeting that I attended in December, unlike the former one I had been a part of three years ago, the members were very professional, dignified and serious. Now these men and one woman were working to create positive change in **their**

world. They were **Haitians helping Haitians**. They were even advising a team of people from the United States who were creating a Haiti Clinic. Their advice to them was invaluable. One cannot enter the world of Cite Soleil on one's own, especially if one is white and thinks that they know exactly what is needed (the usual demeanor of well-meaning folks who want to help).

Not only did I see their professionalism, I also witnessed them working together on a budget. Others were there to assist, but not there to insist. They were taking responsibility in ways I had not witnessed in my last two visits. This group had been transformed by the intensely hard work of Bryan and John Engle and others who were determined, many times at their own peril, to change the focus of Harvest Time's Haiti Partnerships from assistance with funds, to helping Haitians have self

respect, honor in their work and power that stemmed from a truly life-changing place.

I felt honored to have witnessed the fruit of the work on all sides and was filled with hope, pride, expectation and joy. It is sometimes rare to get to see the fruits of one's labor, but that day, in that meeting, the fruit was tangible, ripe and real.



Bryan Sirchio, Judy Bork and members of the Boston Youth Association, December 2007

The New Paradigm of Work: A Holy Longing By Howard Thurston

“...IT MAY BE THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL WORK IS TO ENCOURAGE AND, AS POSSIBLE, RESPOND TO THIS HOLY LONGING, WHICH IS BASICALLY A DEEP DESIRE FOR HEALING OF THE EARTH AND ALL HER INHABITANTS.”

Three years ago I founded New Paradigm Engineering, a consulting engineering practice dedicated to asking deeper questions concerning the ecological, economic, and social dimensions of building design and construction. I am currently in the process of stepping aside from this work, knowing that I long to spend my time and energy addressing deeper questions still. I am convinced that what are necessary are nothing short of radically different paradigms with regard to what we value as a society. Green and sustainable construction should be the standard (unfortunately, such is not often the case), but I find myself thinking about those fundamental assumptions, often unquestioned, that drive business as usual, with the resulting disintegration of our communities and damaging results to other life forms and our earth home.

My involvement in Harvest Time’s work to find caretakers for a former family farm

in northeastern Mississippi presented me with an opportunity to begin to re-imagine the work that I do. Indeed, it became clear to me that the time spent in preparing for a gathering of interested parties, traveling to the land, and spending two days there in this most sacred work was indeed an important, perhaps even a fundamental aspect of the new work that I long to do. I was amazed to find, among the groups interested in the Mississippi farm, that the work that we all do is remarkably similar, even though the specifics vary considerably. The common element seemed to be a commitment to being in the world differently, operating under entirely different assumptions. I think we all shared what I will call a holy longing.

Not surprisingly, during this time I have been and continue to be confronted by the many demons that seek to convince me that I should get back to doing practical work,

and stop frittering away my time on some idealistic notion of finding some “higher calling.” I recently told a friend, in jest, that all I really wanted was, simply, to participate in fundamentally shifting the collective consciousness of my society. Although she understood that humor allowed me to speak to the enormity of the longing in my heart, her response was that I shouldn’t joke about that, because that is precisely the work that is to be done. In essence, my friend told me to take that longing seriously.

It is becoming clear to me that this new paradigm that I seek is less about finding the right work to do, and more about companionship with others who also long for other ways of being in the world. In fact, it may be that the fundamental work is to encourage and, as possible, respond to this holy longing, which is basically a deep desire for healing of the earth and all her inhabitants.



*Harvest Time saved my life.
And is destroying life as I
knew it.
It's terrifying.
And it really is good news.*

Howard Thurston

From left to right; Howard Thurston, Lee Van Ham, Randall Mullins, & Sharon Pavelda in Corinth, Mississippi, October 2007.



Our Finances *A Financial Update*

“WE KNOW THAT
THE LOVE AND
BLESSING THAT
ACCOMPANIES A
GIFT IS REAL
REGARDLESS OF ITS
SIZE. AND SO WE
RECEIVE ALL OF
THESE GIFTS WITH
GREAT GRATITUDE.
THANK YOU.”

**Total Budget
For Fiscal Year
2007-2008:
\$553,575**

On October 1, 2007 we began a new fiscal year. With that came some shifts in how we are working with our budget. In the past, we have separated our money into two categories that we referred to as “operations” and “distributions.” This year, as we reflected on our budgeting categories, we realized that we needed to make some shifts in order to reflect more clearly what we are up to as an organization and how much it costs for us to do our work. At this point, we understand that our work is being embodied in three different ways:

Operations: \$178,750

Creating and maintaining a healthy and sustainable organization
Includes administrative expenses and fees, mailings, upcoming consultation with Be Present (see more on page 8) along with Greg’s salary and benefits, half of Rose’s salary and all of her benefits.

Companionship Program: \$65,425

Companioning people of wealth and nurturing circles of wisdom and support
Includes all retreat costs, resources such as books and CD’s that we share with people in our network, half of Rose’s salary, and the fees for facilitators of Atlanta Circle.

Haiti Partnerships: \$309,400

Partnering with grassroots organizations in Haiti
Includes funds to support the work of our partner organizations along with John’s part-time salary and expenses. Our total commitments for this fiscal year which ends on September 30, 2008 break down as follows:

Boston Youth Association: \$99,000

BYA is a small group of people who grew up in Cité Soleil (one of the poorest and most violent neighborhoods in Port au Prince) who are organized to help others in their community.

S.P.A.R.E. (Sponsorship Program Aiding Relationship and Education) \$74,800

Helps some of the poorest children and adults in Port au Prince to advance themselves through formal education. Students in SPARE maintain regular contact with their individual sponsors in the US.

St Thomas Elementary School \$71,600

Provides elementary education and meals for 140 of some of the poorest children living in Cité Soleil, an impoverished community in Port-au-Prince.

Circles of Change \$21,200

A network of Haitians who train teachers and leaders to facilitate a participatory education method.

Partnership Coordinator \$37,700

Includes John’s part-time salary and expenses, including six trips to Haiti.

More details about our Haiti Partners are available on our website and in our November 2007 newsletter, also available on our web site;
www.HarvestTime.cc



Gratitude

Several years ago, we invited people in our network to consider supporting one month of what we now refer to as our operations and companionship program. The hope was to be able to build a base of support that would enable the staff to companion people in our network around their journeys with money without any “hidden agendas.”

At the moment, we are blessed to have five individuals/families who consistently support Harvest Time with gifts that amount to a month or more of our operations and companionship program (currently \$20,500) and three individuals/families who make gifts that cover about half of that. Though many of these gifts were initially requested for our operational expenses, most of these now come to Harvest Time as undesignated gifts, allowing us the freedom to apply the funds toward whichever program is in need. In terms of our Haiti Partnerships, there are currently four individuals/family foundations who regularly support dimensions of our Haiti Partnership Program.

In addition, we receive gifts of many other sizes regularly – including some that come every month – from people in our network who have been supporting us with steadiness and grace for years. We also receive occasional and sometimes surprising gifts that come according to the Spirit’s leading and as circumstances allow.

We know that the love and blessing that accompanies a gift is real regardless of its size. And so we receive all of these gifts with great gratitude. Thank you.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

650-560-9631
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
207 Washington Boulevard

HARVESTING FOR JUSTICE - THAT ALL MAY HAVE ENOUGH

HARVEST TIME

Looking Forward; An Invitation

As we turn toward 2008, we are excited about what is emerging. As the year begins, we are in the midst of becoming an organization that is firmly rooted in a model of working together that seeks to listen to the voice of community and the Spirit. At the same time, we are continuing our core practices: talking about money and our deepest longings in an atmosphere of extravagant love; partnering across historical and economic divides; loving each other in the mess; doing our best to say yes to the invitations Jesus extends; being real about the places where we continue to say no or not yet; making time for silence and being in nature; honoring our bodies; exploring our creativity through art and remembering to play.

A core place where this work happens is in relationship. These relationships happen in a variety of ways - from phone calls and emails, to personal visits, to the Companionship Circles that Harvest Time calls.

Throughout the year, the latter will meet in Atlanta, Boston, Santa Cruz, and Mississippi. In addition, during the next month, we expect to call a Haiti Discernment Circle (we will be sending an invitation to join this circle shortly).

Another place of our being together is on our trips to Haiti. Friends who desire to open their hearts to the realities of Haiti and to meet our partners there are invited to join us on these trips. In 2008, John Engle will travel to Haiti April 3-5, August 7-9, and December 11-13. Please contact John if you would like to learn more about traveling to Haiti.

In house, during January and February we will engage in a consultation with Be Present (www.BePresent.org), an organization skilled at supporting individuals and organizations that are dedicated to social justice. We invited the support of Be Present after reviewing our organizational history at our

July board meeting and coming to see that we have made some mistakes, specifically around issues connected to race, class, gender, and power. We have asked Be Present to help us strengthen our ability to work through the emotions and unconscious assumptions that get in the way of authentic relationship and partnerships of mutuality across historical, cultural and economic divides. If you would like to learn more about Be Present and/or Harvest Time's consultation with Be Present, please contact Rose at 650-560-9631.

If you are not already involved in one of the above programs or in personal relationship with a member of our staff, we invite you to contact us. Being together and sharing the realities of our faith and our money journeys, continues to be a source of joy, hope, and deepening freedom. We invite you to join us!