

## **Dinner & Diversity 2014**

*Celebrating Our Roots, Empowering Our Future*

January 27, 2014

Location: Treasuring Christ Church

Courtney Hodgson had a few announcements to start the night:

- **THNA Mission**
  - We are dedicated to improving the quality of life, sense of community, and pride in our urban neighborhood by:
    - Enhancing safety and security
    - Building community by joining together in a common cause
    - Promoting neighborhood beautification
    - Collaborating with city and civic organizations
  
- **Purpose of Dinner & Diversity**
  - The Thompson-Hunter Neighborhood is rich in history and diversity, and that's something that we want to celebrate. For the past several years, we've gathered at this event to gather as neighbors to get to know one another better, see where we've been, and talk about where we're going as a neighborhood.
  
- **Treasuring Christ Church**
  - Treasuring Christ Church graciously let us use their building for the evening. All donations tonight will be given to the TCC to say 'thank you' for the time they've taken to help us set-up and for being gracious hosts.
  
- **Upcoming Event Announcements**
  - Dessert & Neighborhood Meeting on February 17th at 6:30 PM at Mt. Sinai Church, 301 S. Swain St.
  - Donuts & Neighborhood Clean-Up on March 15th at 9:00 AM at Davie St. Park

Glenda Graham blessed the meal and everyone enjoyed chili, rice, chips, cornbread, dessert and coffee. After dinner the kids went into another room for games and coloring with a few adult volunteers.

Lindsay Jordan led the adults in the **Tree of Community Activity**:

- Everyone received four post-it notes. Each one represented a different component of a tree and was a metaphor for components of our neighborhood:
  - **ROOTS**: something valuable we learned from our family
  - **TRUNK**: some of the most important features of a strong, healthy neighborhood

- LEAVES: personal talents, skills, or gifts we could share with the community to strengthen the neighborhood
  - COMPOST: the most challenging, problematic things in the neighborhood.
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- We wrote our ideas on the corresponding post-it note and shared what we wrote with a few neighbors, discussed a few in the large group and then placed the post-its on a tree on the wall. Take a look at the pictures of the tree:  
<http://www.thompson-hunter.org/gallery> (Dinner & Diversity 2014).
  - See all of the ideas that were shared:  
<https://docs.google.com/a/thompson-hunter.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=dGhvbXBzb24taHVudGVyLm9yZ3x0aG9tcHNvbi1odW50ZXItbmF8Z3g6MTZjMTQ2NGYwYWWRiYjU0ZA>.
  - It was great for everyone to share their values, their ideas of what makes a great neighborhood, the challenging things they face in our neighborhood and the gifts and talents they are willing to share. We are such a diverse neighborhood and it was great to celebrate our diversity!