

Community Coffee Club – 2014

Our Club closed out 2014 (and our 12th year) with two orders in December totaling \$815 – a record, thanks to the *10,000 Villages* sale -- bringing the year's total to \$4837. This is down from \$5680 in 2013 due to the Club's web order form being off-line. As of January 2015, the web site is back on-line and greatly improved: www.nku.edu/~longa/coffee/order.html

Members and friends of our 3 Presbyterian sustaining churches (Union, Ft Thomas, and Covington Community of Faith) joined by members of Mt Washington PC, Florence Methodist and St Paul's UCC purchased 330 pounds of coffee, nearly all organically grown by small farmers and their families on the highlands of Latin America and Africa. We also bought a record 38 cases (102 pounds) of delectable chocolate bars and cocoa, and 7 cases (42 boxes) of tea, also certified organic.

By combining individual orders in a non-profit "club" and buying through the Equal Exchange Interfaith Program, we enjoy fresh coffee, chocolate bars and other specialty products at or near Interfaith wholesale prices while supporting small co-op growers and their families using environmentally friendly methods. And we avoid shipping charges. The farmer benefits! The earth benefits! We benefit!

The Club is nonprofit. There is no membership fee. We buy directly from Equal Exchange in West Bridgewater, MA, mostly wholesale by the case. Everything that we order is passed on at our wholesale cost with the exception of bags of coffee, which are marked up \$0.35 to help cover the extra retail cost of partial cases.

The plan is simple: the Club submits an order each month, timed for member pickup at church on the first Sunday of the following month. The order deadline is the third Sunday of each month. Church friends submit their orders to their church coordinator or at the Club's web site by the order deadline. On-line orders are IOU with the member responsible for timely payment.

Equal Exchange is a Fair Trade organization that buys directly from small-scale farmer cooperatives, owned and run by the farmers themselves. Because its farmer partners are paid above-market prices for their crops, they are able to make investments in community projects, educational programs, and technical training. These cooperative organizations also help keep rural communities healthy and strong, and keep local cultures vibrant. Equal Exchange is also committed to supporting sustainable farming methods that help green the earth through reforestation, natural resource conservation and organic practices.

The Presbyterian Coffee Project is an Interfaith Partner of Equal Exchange. For each pound of fairly traded coffee, chocolate, tea, and foods purchased through the Presbyterian Coffee Project, 15 cents goes to the PCUSA Small Farmer Fund, which supports an agricultural development program in Haiti. In 2013 Equal Exchange generated \$117,000 for the Small Farmer Fund through its 12 Interfaith Partners, including \$16,114 for our Haiti fund. That's on top of the Fair Trade premium included in every FT product!!! Other Interfaith partners include United Methodist Committee on Relief, Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief Services, and United Church of Christ.

In addition to our faithful support of Equal Exchange during 2014, our Club provided air fare to a NKY pastor that enabled her to join a small delegation to the coffee lands of Nicaragua. This transformative hands-on experience was under the auspices of Equal Exchange and the PCUSA "Enough for Everyone" program. Our funding was made possible by a grant from the Cincinnati Presbytery to the Club.

To all those who have participated in the Club during this past year, we thank you on behalf of the small farmers. **"Small Farmers. Big Change."**