This month at a glance:

2—Adult Faith Development
   Conversations with Victoria Capon
11—Interweave Meeting
14—Travelling 2nd Fridays
15—Deadline for Worship Associates Application
16—Social Action Luncheon
19—MUUvie Night
21—Friday Music Night
22—UUCP Council Meeting
30—UUCP Congregational Meeting

Look for more details on each of these events and opportunities throughout Horizons, as well as in Compass and Sunday announcements.

Worship Associates

Share the Journey! Grow the Spirit! Join with a group of members, our music director, Connie Jahrmarkt, and our minister, Susan Frederick-Gray, to explore the meanings of worship and to design and lead UUCP Sunday services by becoming a Worship Associate. Applications are now being gathered for participation in the program.

On our website—under “sermons”—you’ll find a program description and information about expected time commitment and qualifications for participation. The application form is also at the website. Applications are due (by email to worshipassociates@phoenixuu.org, by mail or to the UUCP office) to Susan Goldsmith by Sunday, January 16.

We expect eight to ten associates to be named by early February. A full Saturday training will be scheduled in early March and associates will begin participating in services later in the spring. If you have questions or would like to have a conversation, please call or email Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray or WA Coordinator Susan Goldsmith.

President’s Report

Lately I’ve been reflecting on the role of the UUCP Board, and how it has been evolving from a tactical decision-making body into a strategic force for driving our congregation mission. The Board, now, has four major responsibilities: to discern what this congregation is all about (mission and values); to create major strategies we will use to drive our mission; to lay out policies to be used by staff in pursuit of our mission and daily organization management; and to monitor and evaluate the key activities in our congregation.

On January 30, we will hold our semi-annual congregational meeting at 12:30 PM in the Sanctuary. At that time the Board intends to provide an update on how we are carrying out these responsibilities. Some of the updates may take the form of a written report that will simply be available for your perusal, but not necessarily discussed in detail. Instead, I hope to spend most of our time talking about the “open questions” that the Board is facing—the big questions that we grapple with as we try to keep focused on our future. Examples would be “What do we think/feel about the implications of continued membership growth?” or “How can we encourage more spiritual growth?”
The format of the congregational meeting may be slightly different, too. I will preside at the meeting but we will attempt to make clearer the responsibility that the minister and other staff have for operational results. You may hear less from me and more from staff members during the part of the meeting where we cover that. Planning for the meeting is just getting started now, and my intention is to make the meeting interactive and meaningful. At its best, the meeting should inform the Board of your thoughts and feelings about the future we are facing together.

Something else that is happening right now is conversation about the future Board membership. Some of our members are finishing their terms in late May. That seems like a long way off now, but thankfully our Nominating Committee is beginning to plan ahead. What kind of new Board members do we need? Who is willing to serve? As these questions are discussed, I encourage you to think about them too. If you are considering a greater leadership role in the congregation I encourage you to attend the Lay Leadership Development Day on Saturday, February 5. This is an opportunity to learn about congregational leadership and explore your own level of skill. Talk to any current Board member or Nominating Committee member about your interest—we’re happy to help you explore the options for more involvement.

When I think about the desired qualities of “new” Board members, I think of two things. One, the person must be comfortable with intangible results and abstract thinking. We are not micro-managing committees and making tactical operational decisions. We are looking more and more into the future, and assessing the implications today of what we want to do and be. Second, this thought from Dan Hotchkiss, in his book “Governance and Ministry,” resonates with me: boards function best when they don’t just give people what they want, but they teach people to want something new. We can grow and develop in ways that are relevant and meaningful if we have the leadership to discern the direction in which to go. That is my hope for UUCP.

Paula Kulina
UUCP Board President
Minister’s Musings

A reporter for the Arizona Republic called me today and asked, given another year with a terrible economy, what message I would offer at Christmas. Here was my answer to her:

In this season, after another difficult economic year, there are three really important messages I hear in the Christmas story:

We are not the first to face these types of obstacles, and we are not alone in the struggles we face.

Christmas calls us to give of what we have that others might have enough. Christmas calls us to care for our neighbors in need, as we would care for ourselves.

I tell people the story of Jesus’ birth is the story of hope being born into the world in the most unlikely of places.

Let me say more about these:

First, the Christmas story tells us of people surviving terrible obstacles. A few years ago, when the economy crashed, it took millions of jobs with it. If you are out of work, it is not because of your own failure. The story of Mary and Joseph making the journey to Bethlehem is a story of a poor family, forced into circumstances they did not choose, doing their best with what they have—and finding through their efforts that they had enough. People all over our country, all over our world, are living this story tonight—a child born into poverty, a family doing their best with very little. Some say ‘God doesn’t give us more than we can handle.’ It doesn’t always feel that way.

But one miracle of the Christmas story, and a miracle we see even today, is the strength of the human spirit to persevere and find hope in the face of struggle, poverty and injustice. The Christmas story reminds us of our own strength and the courage that resides in the human spirit.

Secondly, before all the commercialization, Christmas was a holiday for family and community. The season calls us to give so that others might have enough. I ask those who are doing well to give—as generously as they give to their own families—to help others who are struggling. And I tell those who are struggling to let their friends, their families, their congregation know. Together we do have enough to help one another, but we have to be willing to let others know what we need—and we have to be willing to open up our hearts to those in need.

And finally, at the heart of the Christmas story, is the message that God was born into the world in the most unlikely place—born to a poor, young couple finding shelter in a barn. The story tells us that the hope for the world was born into poverty, in a stable surrounded by farm animals. At the heart of this story is the truth that hope and joy are not about money, they are not about success, or material goods—they are about love. The Christmas story tells us that even in the midst of times of greatest struggle and vulnerability, hope abides, love abides—and beckons us forward like a bright star in the distant sky.

As we say goodbye to 2010 and welcome 2011, my hope for all of us is that we might grow more strongly rooted in the relationships in which we live our lives—in relationships of care, of family, of community. May we find ways out of isolation and into community. May we find ways out of fear and notions of scarcity, to love and generosity. May the challenges we face today, give us strength and the opportunity to make things better for those who come after us.

Happy New Year,
Susan
Greetings from You Music Director!

This month I asked Jerry Whalin to write about making music at UUCP. Jerry’s participation in music at UUCP has greatly added to the diversity of the music program. It has been wonderful working with him while I have been the Music Director. We all look forward to more music making together.

Connie Jahrmarkt

WHY MAKING MUSIC AT UUCP IS IMPORTANT TO ME

For 45 years, I have been a part of our congregation’s growing music program: singing in the choir, playing clarinet and piano, and composing. After almost every service, people tell me they enjoyed the choir or other music. My participation in UUCP music is mutually beneficial: it allows me to give to others, to make their lives happier; it also helps me to feel better about myself, because I know that I am appreciated.

Connie Jahrmarkt has been our music director since November 1997. Under her leadership, our music ministry has grown considerably in both quality and scope. This ministry includes not only the Congregation Choir, but also the Family Choir, Soulful Sundown Band, and sound volunteers.

It also includes our Outreach Music Ministry, which allows us to make music to ease the hearts of shut-ins. This ministry is related to the compassionate work done by Unicare. I am proud to present Outreach Music Ministry; it is open to all, and it promotes our First Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Jerry Whalin

SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER

NEW YEAR’S OPPORTUNITY

Sometime in December, Tish Gauntt approached me to ask if one of the UUCP groups to which she belongs, the Poetry Coffeehouse, might take a turn greeting people at the front door. What a great idea! Of course! Members of the Poetry Coffeehouse are now signed up for Sunday, January 9, and they’re going to have fun helping our Welcoming Ministry folks. If you’ve ever wondered what the Poetry Coffeehouse is all about, you’ll be able to identify some of that group’s members at the door on the 9th and then talk to them after the service. Pretty neat, huh?

At UUCP, we encourage activity groups, covenant groups, and yes, even our busy committees, to consider ways that they can, as a group, serve our congregation or the wider community. Our New Day Center monthly meal preparation is certainly one area that would welcome and benefit from a month’s “ownership” by various groups within our congregation. Our Social Justice Director, Sun Principe, surely has other service ideas for your group. I definitely welcome (and dare I say challenge?!) any group to contact me and sign up for a Sunday—or even one Sunday a month—to be part of our Welcoming Ministry. Greeting at the front door before services is about as fun and easy a service opportunity as you can find!

Why should your activity group, covenant group, or committee consider taking on a service project? Obviously, to be of service is part of our UUCP covenant. To be of service in small and large ways is part of what we do and who we are as Unitarian Universalists. In addition, participation in service opportunities builds community within your group. Volunteering together enhances your group’s visibility so that others who might be interested in joining you can actually find you, talk with you in person, and discover whether or not your group is right for them.

Service is generally a “win-win” experience. What can your activity groups, covenant groups, and committees do to be of greater service in 2011? Make service your prayer.

Namaste,
Linda Lawrence
Membership Coordinator
From the Staff...

Pathway to Membership
Date Change

Our next Pathway to Membership (PTM) series will be offered in February. The first session will be held from 9:00-10:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 6, in the Johnson Room. The second part of the series is scheduled for a Sunday evening this time: Sunday, February 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m., also in the Johnson Room. The second session includes a special message from our minister, a potluck dinner, and a joining ceremony. For more information, please see the Membership pages on our website: www.phoenixuu.org or contact our Membership Coordinator.

Please note that free childcare is available during both sessions but you must request it at the time you register. To register for PTM, please contact the UUCP office or sign up at the Welcome Table on a Sunday morning. Looking forward to getting to know you better and giving you an opportunity to learn more about UUCP!

From Your Social Justice Director

The ending of one year and coming of a new year has always caused a time of reflection for me. Today I am thinking about all of the ways that a new year appeals to me and gives me hope, that in this new span of time, we may work together in new ways toward creating justice in our communities.

This is a congregation that loves justice and we have a lot going on.

Where will you join us?

Our Social Action committee has a long and rich history of being active allies in our community locally, nationally and internationally. We have luncheons every month with a guest speaker who is engaged in social action. We also have a monthly meeting where you can drop by and get informed. Find out what is going on in social action and how you can help.

We have a fabulous new Interweave group. Interested in LGBT issues and community? Help spread the news that we are a welcoming, affirming congregation with much to offer LGBTQ people and allies. Come to an Interweave meeting.

We have a brand new group forming: “AZ UU Immigration Justice Coalition.” This is a great project for those who want to volunteer from home as we can do a lot statewide via email and conference calls.

Want to flash mob for justice? Send me your info and I will put you on the call list for fast responders to Stand on the Side of Love.

Support UUSC? Purchase Coffee, chocolate or gifts from our Social Action table in the rear of the sanctuary.

Want to help Eritrean refugees? Come to a meeting or event and find out what you can do to help.

Want to talk about what is going on in regard to justice that promotes the inherent worth and dignity of all people? Then look for our “Coffee & Justice” events where we will chat over coffee.

There are many small ways that we can do justice and love kindness. One way is “speaking the truth with kindness.” Not everyone has an easy time of it at holiday season or in general. Let us remember those who have silent and invisible struggles. Let us offer the hand of kindness to one another as a way to do justice and walk humbly with love.

Many blessings to you in this new and hopeful year,
Sun Principe
Social Justice Director, UUCP
justicedirector@phoenixuu.org

To subscribe or receive Horizons via email, please submit your contact info at the visitors’ desk or email administrator@phoenixuu.org.
Adult Faith Development

MARK YOU CALENDARS!

Beginning January 2 at 12:30 in Annex C, the AFD committee is sponsoring a bimonthly conversation on some of the more challenging questions, like “What is the purpose of my life?” These conversations are open to any and all who want to wrestle with questions of meaning and purpose.

MUUVIE NIGHT: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19

We will be watching The Corporation, followed by a spirited conversation with Rev. Paul Langston-Daley. He asks the question, “How can civic institutions help to bring balance to the ‘psychopathic leanings’ of the American corporations?” The Corporation Filmmakers Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott explore the genesis of the American corporation, its global economic supremacy and its psychopathic leanings, with social critics like Noam Chomsky and Milton Friedman lending insight in this documentary. With their merciless quest for profit and insatiable aim to sway every aspect of culture, conglomerates’ inner workings are scrutinized to draw conclusions about “business as usual.”

Couples’ Workshops

Couples Enrichment workshops are starting in February, sponsored by Right Relations Ministry and AFD.

A series of 6 workshops for same-sex or mixed-sex loving adult partners who wish to enhance their committed long-term relationships. Participants will:
- Nurture the health of their relationships
- Learn skills to build and strengthen healthy relationships
- Benefit from the wisdom and experience of other participants
- Interact and communicate more effectively with their partners
- Strengthen their UU identity

Leaders: Joan Gale and Bill Snowden
Dates & Time: Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
February 3, 10, 17, 24 & March 3, 10, 2011
Cost: $10 for six workshops

Should you need it, please request childcare when you sign up.
Contact: JoanGale1@cox.net or 623-225-7656

Share the Plate

On Sunday, January 16, 2011 all undesignated collections will be donated to Circulo de Amigas as part of our Share the Plate program. Circulo de Amigas, founded by UU Pat McCully of California, has sponsored the education of more than 157 girls in the remote mountain town of Jinotega, Nicaragua. Our UUCP Congregation has actively supported Circulo de Amigas by sponsoring young girls in their studies since 1998, donating funds to improve the girls’ houses and even traveling to Jinotega to set up a computer classroom in the school and visit with our girls and their families. Our first sponsored student, Xiomara, has now graduated advanced studies and teaches school. Currently we sponsor Jaritza and Lisbeth. In addition, individual members of UUCP have also sponsored students.

Jaritza, our sponsored girl since 2001, has graduated from high school and is now attending nursing school in Jinotega. Lisbeth is going into her fourth year of high school and passed all her classes last year.

The collection this month will go toward meeting the increased educational needs of Jaritza and help provide a path out of poverty for Jaritza and Lisbeth and their families and to support the Circulo de Amigas project in Jinotega. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere and is in great need of our support. Circulo de Amigas depends entirely on sponsorship and personal donations.
Ministry and Committee Reports...

If you would like to know more about the Share the Plate Program or submit an application for an organization to be considered for future donations, please see the UUCP website or contact a member of the Share the Plate Committee: Paula Kulina, Larry Thwing or Judy Lambert.

Covenant Groups at UUCP

Covenant groups provide a structure for members to minister to each other. Groups consist of 6-10 people and are led by trained lay people. Members meet twice a month initially, for a total of 5 months. Covenant groups encourage people in their spiritual growth and help them develop relationships of substance and depth. Registration for Covenant Groups is ongoing. Please contact Natalie Summit at covenant-groups@phoenixuu.org for more information.

Eritrean Refugee Initiative

The ERI Christmas Box Project was a huge success. Generous donors claimed all 18 boxes before the second service on Sunday, December 12. Additional donors offered to bring extra items. On Sunday, December 19, volunteers in five cars loaded boxes overflowing with necessities and holiday goodies and delivered them to 53 refugees.

ERI volunteers are teaching beginning English and tutoring three young men to pass the English test for Job Corps. Volunteers and refugees visited the Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior and the Desert Botanical Gardens in December.

The Bead to Succeed project, in which refugee women create paper beaded jewelry out of recycled materials, has been a great success. We are now selling at First Fridays and Ecocentricity, as well as in the congregation. Sales for December exceeded $800, all of which goes directly to the refugee women who made the jewelry to help them earn some income as they set up their lives here in the United States.

Plans for the coming months include the formation of a 4-5 member team under the direction of Lutheran Social Services to set up an apartment, greet, and mentor an arriving Eritrean family. In addition, ERI will assign more teachers/mentors to each apartment complex to meet the specific needs of refugees whose lives and schedules change as they navigate a new culture and find jobs. In March, ERI will host the Social Action Luncheon.

ERI now has an account at UUCP and can accept tax deductible donations.

Thanks to all the ERI volunteers (teachers, tutors, drivers, mentors) and to all the Christmas Box donors. Thanks to Jeff Newman for his ongoing work on the used computers that ERI has placed in several refugee households. Thanks to Eritrean volunteer Semere Kesete who spends 20-plus hours a week interpreting for three asylum seekers detained in Florence and interpreting for refugees when they call for help with their phone, internet service, rent, medical, or agency appointments. Special thanks to Desert View Learning Center for their generous donation in December.

To become involved please email eri@phoenixuu.org.

Brea Burgie and Libby Walker

Social Action Luncheon

Social Action Luncheons return from the holiday break with several exciting speakers lined up for the new year. On January 16 at 12:30 we are pleased to welcome Tim Schmaltz, CEO of PAFCO (Protecting Arizona’s Families Coalition), one of the leading advocates for children, families and vulnerable adults. PAFCO was formed in 2001 and has grown to be a statewide coalition of more than 100 groups which seeks to prevent drastic cuts to human services. This is an especially important topic as the Arizona legislature faces a large budget shortfall again this year. Sun Principe, who besides being our new Justice Director is a professional chef, is scheduled to cater the January luncheon. Also mark your calendars for the February 20 luncheon to hear speaker Leila Pine of UU Church of Tucson / No More Deaths, and speakers from the Eritrean Refugee Initiative on March 20.
Ministry and Committee Reports...

UU Service Committee

Please keep feeding your Guest at Your Table box each day in gratitude for the blessings of your day, and plan to return your box on Sunday, January 30, including your name and address where indicated. You will receive credit toward an annual UUSC membership, an organization that promotes human rights around the world. By joining UUSC, you will help to make our congregation an Honor Roll member of UUSC, like most other Arizona UU congregations. Some of UUSC’s international projects include:

- Haiti earthquake relief
- Pakistan flood relief
- Gaza humanitarian relief
- Uganda relief
- Clean water and sanitation in the US

Thank you for your support to make life easier for people in 23 countries. For more information go to www.uusc.org.

Women’s Spirituality Circle

We are a group of spirited, friendly, passionate women who meet the third Monday evening each month at 6:30 in annex B. Please call Heather McLellan at 480.941.1038.

Unicare

In the past few months we have been growing the Congregation in more ways than one. And so, with much flourish we welcome our new little UUs!! Tina Rhodes-Arden happily announced the birth of Liam Skylar Arden on September 21. Welcome to Liam! On November 29, Guy and Jennifer Hempel welcomed Shaylyn’s little sister, Tessa Rae, into the big world. Congratulations all around.

James L. Grubb passed away September 17, 2010. Barbara, his wife, tells us that Jim was a World War II veteran who served on Guam as a member of the Army Air Force. He was a former member of the Unitarian Church in Chicago and here in Phoenix. Our love and support go to his wife, Barbara.

Ellie Anderla has got to be the best sister one could ask for. She cared for her sister, Niki, in need of her assistance this past spring, summer and fall. Niki, thankfully, is now recovered. However, Ellie suddenly lost her dear sister Betty Fairchild in early November. Betty was a founder of PFLAG in Washington D.C. and co-wrote a book to help parents of lesbians and gays understand their children—a real activist.

Many face especially daunting challenges in this holiday season; we offer them the support and strength of friendship in community.

Julie Smart, Unicare Chair

New Day Center

Remember, service is our prayer. Why not start the year out right by helping others? We still need someone to shop for our January meal, plus 2-3 more cooks and 2-3 more servers for the meal on Sunday, January 2. Volunteers are also needed to help with dinner preparation and serving on Sunday, February 6. If interested, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or email kmraife@aol.com.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2011

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2011 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey and Bre Griffin, members of the farthest north UU congregation, with 36 years of Alaska living between them. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email info@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966.
Welcome, New Members!

TOBIN FRISINGER

As a kid, Tobin remembers his family attending church a few times but feeling uncomfortable. There seemed to be a correlation with those who talked “church” and their persistent immoral behavior. UUCP is appealing to him because it works for peace, justice, and love in an inclusive and encompassing manner without dogma. Tobin graduated from NAU with a Bachelor’s in accountancy, and has been involved in governmental accounting and design. He is a CPA, and recently completed an additional degree in design from GCC. His interests include art, tennis (3.5), hiking, working out at LA Fitness, music, movies, and Sci-Fi.

DAVID WEAVER

For David, joining UUCP represents a commitment to enjoying life as it unfolds, sometimes in unexpected ways. Growing up in rural Ohio in a Mennonite family, the fifth of seven boys, David’s early spiritual path was marked by a great deal of clarity about many, many things. A college stint in the West Bank and Israel was an early eye-opening experience, as was a summer living in Jerusalem and another in the Gaza Strip. Earning an M.Div. from Princeton Seminary and an M.S.W. from Rutgers, he worked in hospice for a decade. Moving to Phoenix in 2005, he was on staff at a nearby United Church of Christ congregation for four wonderful years. He’s now Director of Resident & Family Services at a Memory Care Assisted Living center in North Scottsdale. Personally, this last year has been somewhat of a winter, with quiet re-evaluation, and generous doses of “letting go.” But spring has now sprung, and with it comes a commitment to UUCP. David recently romped through Italy, loves choral music, experiments in a gourmet cooking club, and hikes at every opportunity.

PETE CREELMAN

DAWN & RUSSELL DENAULT
New Members...

Salustio & Elizabeth Hernandez

Aliza Rain

Jill Story

Michelle Laura

Jen Smith

Trent Tripp

Amy McCluer & Steven Miskell

Belinda Winover & Steph Hammond
Celebrations of Life

9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

January 2: The Light of a New Year Dawning: A Multigenerational New Year’s Service
Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
The first of the year is a time for making (and often breaking) New Year’s resolutions. It’s a time for dreaming big about the year ahead and planting seeds of hope for the future. Perhaps the success of our resolutions depends on whether they are self-negating, or life-affirming. Through a ritual of lighting candles we will take time to plant our hopes for the future.

January 9: Mystical Naturalism
Service Leader: Sarah Burchard
Speaker: Rev. Susan Manker-Seale
For those who find spiritual connection through nature, mystical naturalism is a way of framing a new (or old) theology, one which respects the mystery of the wonder and wisdom that is there for all of us in times of need (or out of the blue). Explore how basic religious truths can be found in nature, through observation and experience, and some of that experience is beyond our natural abilities to understand. Rev. Manker-Seale served the UU Congregation of NW Tucson for fourteen years, and is a Board member of UU Mystics in Community.

January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday: A Revolution in Values
Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
Dr. King spoke of the need for a revolution of values in American society, that we might learn to value people over profits. How far have we come in making this shift? And is this still the moral call for today?

January 23: Disheveled Grace
Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
The word grace inspires images of beauty, of things all working out, of moments of peace and tranquility, but is it possible that grace also comes to us in moments of busyness and chaos? Sometimes being confronted by grace is a bit more disconcerting than comforting. In this service we will explore the meaning of grace and how it comes to us in all kinds of situations.

January 30: Getting off the Fast Track
Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray
Sometimes we all need a reminder to take it slow, to enjoy the things that most matter in our lives. Slowing down isn’t easy, but balancing the demands of work, family, volunteerism, and life adds more joy.
Our Mission

Welcoming all in building religious community, called to share journeys, grow in spirit, advance justice.