



High Plains News

February 2012

High Plains Church - Unitarian-Universalist

Vol 19, No 2

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HPCUU 'Adopts' a Family

By Alcira Estavez

"Ask and you shall receive." Even though our High Plains community is characterized as helping the greater community, it is still a joy when the Social Action team asks and you all give. Thank you!

John (18). They also have some adult children who visit them often. In one of the pictures, Ken shows the most recent family picture they took. Ken and his family brought a beautiful flower arrangement to High Plains and a card to thank High Plains for the gifts.



Just before Christmas, two families, the Lowrys and The Caldosas received gifts from our church. Ken Lowry and his partner Mike have five foster children in their care: Royal (5 years old), Corey (9), Justin (13), Jerad (12) and Lowry (16), and



Our second family was an immigrant family, The Caldosas. Mr. Caldosa lost his sight during a work accident a few years ago. Unfortunately Mrs. Caldosa was recently diagnosed with cancer. They have two girls, Josefina (13) and Veronica (15). They were also thankful for our community's willingness to help.



Thank you to Lori Sly, Gail Ballare, and Brian Delaney for organizing and carrying out this project.

Events Calendar February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Imbloc / Oimeic Ritual 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm HiPCUUIers 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	2 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Y.E.P. HS Youth Group 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Newcomer's Meeting 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3 Stitchers/Hands 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm High Plains Sisters 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4
5 Sunday Service 10:00 am - 11:30 am	6	7	8	9 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Beloved Community Potluck 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	10	11
12 Sunday Service 10:00 am - 11:30 am New to UU 11:30 am - 12:00 pm Y.E.P. HS Youth Group 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Fostering Hope Team 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	13	14 SHSSG - CO-OP 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	15 Pastoral Care Team 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	16 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Y.E.P. HS Youth Group 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	17 Stitchers/Hands 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Parent/Childcare U&I 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	18 Issues of Aging Group 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
19 Sunday Service 10:00 am - 11:30 am Leadership Workshop 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	20	21	22	23 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	24	25
26 Sunday Servic 10:00 am - 11:30 am Y.E.P. HS Youth Group 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	27	28	29 HiPCUUIers 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm			

Be sure to check the Events Tag on the website at www.hpcuu.org for additions and corrections to the calendar.

Upcoming Services - February's Worship Theme: Earth

What does Unitarian Universalism claim about the earth? What is unique about Unitarian Universalism and its view of the earth? What is evolving about our faith claims about the earth?

February 5: *On Peace* - Rev. Roger Butts and Kathy Kelly - Come for a special service involving Kathy Kelly, three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, whose work involves Palestine, teens in Afghanistan, bearing witness against war, and so much more.

February 12: *Science and Religion* - Tom Ward continues his series on science and religion by examining the question of cosmology.

February 19: *Animal Tales* - (a full family service) - Rev. Roger Butts and Laura Worley

February 26: *The Great Story* - Rev. Roger Butts and Rev. Nathan Mesnikoff - The role of evolution and science as a story of faith for Unitarian Universalists.

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Roger's Reflections

by Rev. Roger Butts

Dearest all--friends and members of High Plains Church,

I want to devote this space this month to extending a special invitation to each one of you to attend FEBRUARY'S BELOVED COMMUNITY POTLUCK--On Disappointment, Grief and Healing. It will take place February 9th at 6:30 pm, and our special speaker is a truly ecumenical and interfaith leader, Father Bill Jarema, the director of The Mercy Center, here in Colorado Springs. The potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at High Plains Church.

I hope you can make it. I think it will be a special evening indeed. Thanks go to the Pastoral Care Team for their vision and coordination of this potluck.

Also, a reminder that February is full of powerful Sunday services. I want to lift up February 5th especially, as Kathy Kelly, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will be with us on Sunday morning to share her work and vision with us. You can learn more about her here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathy_kelly

See you in church,

Rev. Roger

Rev. Roger Butts' Office Hours

Monday:	Off
Tuesday:	10:00 am - 1:00 pm and Pastoral Care in the afternoon.
Wednesday:	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday:	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Friday:	Writing Day, with time in the afternoon at the monastery or some quiet place that will be determined.
Saturday:	as it comes
Sunday:	Preaching

When is the minister available?

Rev. Roger's scheduled days off are Mondays and Saturdays. He tries to reserve Friday for his Sunday service preparation and writing, but he is available to members and visitors, so he asks that you call him to schedule an appointment.

How can I meet the minister?

Rev. Roger opens his study to visitors for get-acquainted drop-ins and informal chats after church on the first and third Sundays.

Contact Information:

719-433-3135

Are you New to UU?

Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to know more about us? Join Reverend Roger Butts for a short get together on Sunday, February 12th in the Sr. High Classroom behind the Main Building at 11:30 am. Childcare will be provided. Questions? Contact Reverend Roger or Sue Majors at jsmajors481@comcast.net.



Religious Education

by Laura Worley

Faith Formation Focus:

Bring in your Guest at Your Table donations! Please, if you have been collecting cash, total your amount and make a check, payable to UUSC-Guest at your Table, and place the check in my mailbox at High Plains.

The Middle School Youth at HPCUU

are collecting:

- Money donations (dollars)
- Dog Food, Cat Food, Treats, etc.
- Used Blankets, sheets or towels
- Dog and Cat Toys (chew toys, squeaky toys, mice)
- Volunteer TIME (people to help with adoption fairs, etc)
- And Loving Homes (people who would like to adopt animals)

Dream Power Animal Rescue

of Colorado Springs.

Dream Power rescues all domestic animals except for birds. They really help out animals in need. This has been a special project of the Middle Schoolers' as part of their social action for the year. Dream Power's Mission: "Envisioning a compassionate world where people value, respect and provide a secure and loving quality of life for companion animals." Lots of information about volunteer positions, ways to help, and animals to adopt can be found on their website: www.dreampower.org.

All of these items (you can sign up for volunteering on a sign up sheet there, too) you can place in a box located inside of Laura's office (just behind the Office Administrator's desk).

We will be collecting through February, Deadline: March 4, 2012.

Thanks for your help with this project! -- the middle school class of HPCUU

February is a month of fun happenings in Faith Formation at High Plains Church Unitarian Universalist:

February 11: Faith Formation Team Retreat

February 19: Multi-generational Service: Topic: Animal Stories. We are looking for ONE MORE family to help out with the service planning. If you have any desire to learn about Worship planning for Multi-generational settings, please contact Laura ASAP – dff@hpcuu.org – we will have a meeting THIS Sunday January 29 afternoon *after* the Board Informational meeting post-service.

1st and 3rd Thursdays (2nd and 16th) 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm,
2nd and 4th Sundays (5th and 19th) 11:30 am - 1:30 pm -- Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) -- Youth group for all High Schoolers. Contact Laura Worley for more info: dff@hpcuu.org

February 12: High Schoolers attend all other classrooms to enlist help and teach songs for Youth Sunday.

February 18: 10:30-12:00 pm - Adult Faith Formation Programming at HPCUU - Issues of Aging Group. Topic: Fear of Dying

Feb 3-5: District Youth Programming - High School Conference at First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque. The bus leaves the HPCUU lot at 11:00 am, Friday Feb 3. Laura Worley will be attending this conference as the HPCUU adult.

In March:

March 9-11: HPCUU sponsored High School Con for the Central District Cluster of Congregations. HPCUU Congregational help needed: several people to make food (expect 80 attendees). People to help check in youth on Friday evening 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. People to help with Social Justice programming – if you have a project you are involved with and would like to present in a workshop, please email Laura: dff@hpcuu.org, and I will pass the message along to the youth.

March 18: HPCUU YOUTH SUNDAY (Multi-Gen)– Theme: Enjoying the moment: Seeing through the eyes of a child, responding with the wisdom of a sage.

Any questions? Thoughts? Contact Laura Worley, Director of Faith Formation at dff@hpcuu.org or 248-224-2697. I am always happy to hear from you! -- Laura



The President's Post

by Danielle Heimer

For this church year, the board agreed that communications should be one of our primary areas of focus. In the December newsletter, I highlighted some of the tools that the Board uses to communicate with the congregation, which include the newsletter, email, the church website and of course live and in person at meetings, services and other church events. During our January board meeting, Al Sly, who has expressed a special interest in helping High Plains to develop and improve our communication strategy presented some ideas to the Board. We discussed our current methods and our hope to enhance communication between the key parts of the church, like the Board, minister, teams, church council, the congregation and our community. We looked at what's going well and discussed some "wishlist" items, like adding visual announcements, i.e. on a screen in the sanctuary, to verbal and email announcements. Another wishlist item was more volunteers to help operate the soundboard during Sunday services, so if you're curious about the big board—which isn't as complicated as it looks, talk with Al about volunteering.

An important project which will touch on several areas of church life is carefully taking shape. At its heart this project will be an opportunity to communicate, a chance to talk and listen and share ideas within our community. The Team on Ministry, with support from Amanda Udis-Kessler has proposed a climate survey to the Board, which will give everyone in the congregation an opportunity to be heard, as well as a chance to listen deeply to each other. The Board encourages the congregation to participate, both as interviewers and interviewees. It's a great opportunity to begin a dialogue about what matters to you at High Plains and to share your insights and feelings. Keep an eye out for further emails from the Team on Ministry about the climate survey interviews.

Thanks for reading! I hope you find the newsletter helpful and informative. As always the Board welcomes your feedback and suggestions, in person, or phone calls or emails, whatever communication method best suits you!

Danielle Heimer,
President of the Board of Trustees

Make your Monthly Payments Electronically

If you don't already participate in the electronic funds transfer program for monthly pledge payments at church, please consider doing so. Under this program, you authorize the church to transfer funds for your pledge payment each month from your bank account to the church's account. High Plains has offered this payment option for seven years, and about a third of church members take advantage of it. The program is great for the church because it helps to make revenues constant and predictable, like many of our expenses. It's great for you because you don't have to remember to write a check every month—you just fill out a form one time, and the treasurer does the rest.

If you are interested in participating, or if you have questions, please talk to the church treasurer, Carol Peterson, or to Amy Plapp, the finance team member who oversees the program. Or, just look in the "finance procedures" binder on the church secretary's desk and find a blank form, fill it out, and give it to Carol or Amy or leave it in the treasurer's mailbox at church. The forms are entitled "Direct Answers to Questions about Electronic Contribution" and are located in one of the inside cover pockets of the notebook. Any time that you wish to change an existing payment amount or discontinue payments, use the same form.



Dollars & Sense

by Jack W. McElroy

“Money has everything to do with religion, with the choices that we make about how to be in relationship with ourselves, our neighbors, and with the divine. Religion is about life, and life, it seems, has a whole lot to do with money.”

Lynn Ungar

Items of Interest

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve on the Stewardship Team. Members include Kelly Miller (Team Lead), Bobbi Forster, Christian Malacara, Julia Mesnikof, Amy Plapp and Meighan Powell. I'm sure we'll be hearing much from them as the kickoff for the 2012-13 Stewardship Campaign approaches.

Speaking of stewardship, the contribution statements for 2011 are available. If you have not retrieved your statement please do so. Any questions regarding these statements should be addressed to Carol Peterson.

On January 29, after worship services, I gave a short presentation on the outcome of our request for a temporary discontinuation of the principal portion of the monthly mortgage payments to the UUA, and the likely impact on our ongoing financial status. If you missed that presentation but would like more information feel free to contact me.

From a financial standpoint the first half of the current fiscal year has been encouraging. We will complete December with year to date revenue above budget and expenses below budget. Beginning in January, the monthly mortgage payment to the UUA will be reduced from \$5,082.82 to \$2,837.32, for the next twelve months. As a result, the financial projection for the next five years is beginning to look doable, provided we can experience a reasonable level of revenue growth. It is critical that we refrain from using restricted Capital Fund cash for the remainder of this fiscal year and all of the following year in order to transition to a substantial increase in debt service payout beginning in FY 2013-14.

Highlights of First Six Months Financial Performance

On December 31, 2011, High Plains had a cash balance of \$60,745, a decrease of \$12,235 from June 30, 2011. The December 31, 2011 cash balance consisted of \$16,901 in unrestricted cash and \$43,844 of temporarily restricted cash. With the reduction in the amount of monthly mortgage payments, we do not plan to utilize Restricted Capital Fund Drive cash for the UUA mortgage for the next twelve months. These funds will be extremely helpful once debt service requirements escalate.

Temporarily Restricted Cash at December 31, 2011 includes the following:

Capital Fund Drive	37,237
Playground	118
Aesthetics	3,169
Music Director	<u>3,320</u>
Total Restricted	<u>43,844</u>
	=====

Donations and contributions for the six months ended December 31, 2011, excluding Temporarily Restricted Funds and Designated Collections, totaled \$113,846 and were \$4,969 more than budget. Total Church Operations Revenue of \$126,376 for the same period was above budget by \$7,999.

All questions regarding HPCUU financial issues may be directed to cfo@hpcuu.org

High Plains Church—Unitarian Universalist
Board of Trustees Minutes
January 18, 2012

In attendance: Danielle Heimer, Gloria Carpenter, Jack McElroy, Al Sly, Joe Nerad, Michelle Bull, Roger Butts, Laura Worley, Nancy Bowen (MDD executive), Sue Neufeld, Carol Montgomery

1. Team on Ministry (TOM) presentation:
Sue Neufeld and Carol Montgomery attended the meeting, representing the TOM. The TOM and the Board jointly agreed to either one-on-one interviews or focus groups to assess the current climate of the church, visions and desires for the congregation, and how best to sustain the congregation.
2. Reading of the Board covenant
3. Minister's report (full report will be on the website):
 - a. Roger discussed recent and upcoming potlucks; the work of the Church Council, Pastoral Care, and Social Action teams; the status of the Newcomer Discussion Group; and recent and upcoming multi-generational services.
 - b. Roger does not plan to attend a class in Chicago that he had previously signed up for.
4. DFF report (full report will be on the website):
 - a. The Faith Formation team is planning an offsite open house on January 29 (updated since the meeting: the open house was cancelled due to low attendance).
 - b. There are three middle school youth planning to go to a CON in Golden, and two high school youth planning to go to a CON in Albuquerque.
 - c. Laura and the Faith Formation team have begun the search for a new team lead, after Lori Salgado left the team and the church.
5. Communications
Al Sly summarized that his responsibility as the Communication portfolio board member is to enhance communication between key parts of the church. He discussed current communication methods, website uses, successes, wish list, and suggestions for additions and changes to the ways we communicate.
6. Discussion items from the Church Council meeting
7. Finance Team report:
 - a. HPCUU has started making reduced mortgage payments to the UUA, per our recent agreement. The monthly payment has been reduced by over \$2,300 for the next eleven months.
 - b. The combined Church Council teams were \$5,024 below budget in spending for the five month period. Fundraiser income and AMG are each favorable compared to budget.
 - c. Carol Peterson reluctantly resigned as treasurer. The Finance Team has begun a search to replace her.
 - d. Julie Feuerbach resigned as chairperson of the newly formed Stewardship Team. Kelly Miller agreed to chair this team and to replace Julie on the Finance Team. Other Stewardship team members include Bobbi Forster, Christian Malacara, Julia Mesnikoff, Amy Plapp and Meighan Powell.
 - e. Jack presented a cash flow projection for the next 5 years.
8. Nancy Bowen discussed strategies and timelines for making decisions, moving forward, and preparing for the Stewardship Campaign.
9. The Board approved a proposal from Elizabeth ___ to explore forming a church library, pending allocation of space for this endeavor.
10. The Board went into executive session at 10:00 and came out at 10:45.
11. Closing words

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Bull, Board secretary

HPCUU Caring

Please keep in your hearts ...

- Rick Carpenter - whose mother passed away
- Fran Pilch - will be in Mongolia for the next 4 weeks
- Jan Kugler - who has been caring for her mother who broke her hip
- The Plapp family

The Caring Team is here for you ...

Whether you need a helping hand, an ear to listen, a ride to the doctor, meals delivered to your home, or other assistance, the Caring Team is here to help. Please let us be there for you, and please notify us of any of our members and friends who may need help. Contact team lead Candy Birgers candy2631@yahoo.com, or 287-6630, or other members of the Caring Team: Phyllis Dunn, Michelle Bull, or Meighan Powell.

From the Stewardship Team

Please mark your calendars for our April 1st, 2012 Stewardship kick off day. We invite you to our potluck "Building OUR CommUUnity" fun day. Come be a part of the fun. We will be building a community puzzle, playing putt-putt, listening to wonderful music by Amanda, cake and participating in a raffle.

Our community is built of many pieces. We as a community own property and have a responsibility to that real investment. Each individual in our group is a part of our community and we have a responsibility to that emotional investment. Your contribution is important to OUR community. High Plains Church has a long history of being a fun, dynamic, caring and generous community. A beloved community takes effort, desire, love and yes, money.

Thank you,
Stewardship Team

Leadership Workshop

By Michael Arsenault

Information: Are you a leader at HPCUU? If not, would you like to be? A leadership workshop will be held on Sunday, February 19th from noon to 3pm in the

worship space. Please join us for some food, conversation, song, and a chance to get to know ourselves and each other a little better. Please RSVP to Michael Arsenault at Michael@thearsenaults.com or [719271.1749](tel:719271.1749).

Meals on Wheels

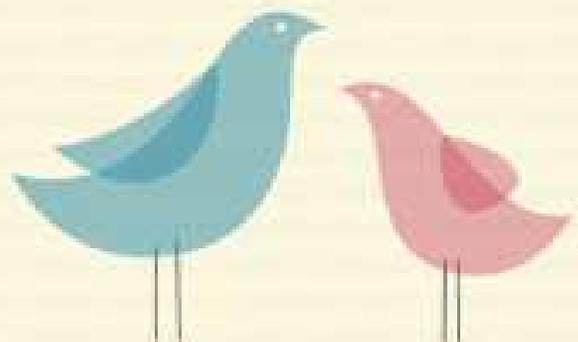
By Judy Sargent

High Plains' Meals on Wheels Group needs your help! This group has been delivering meals on two different routes, each Tuesday, since 1998. The scope of this program administered by Silver Key Senior Services, has been increasing the last few months and more drivers are needed for us to perform this important and much-needed service. If you have time (about 3 mid-day hours one Tuesday per month), reliable transportation (the routes currently cover 20 - 25 miles), and, most of all, a desire to help seniors in our community, please contact Judy Sargent (judy.sarge@comcast.net/598-5949) for more information. Judy and the other members of the group (Amy Plapp, Janet Oliver, Jack McElroy, Carol Montgomery, Karen Clemmensen) will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks for all you do!
Judy Sgt

The "High Plains Hands" gathering is back after a summer sabbatical. All members and friend are invited for a casual hour or two of conversation, craft and coffeehouse beverages. Seriously, you don't have to knit or crochet to hang out (but be prepared for many of us to be playing with yarn or something similar). We meet at the Coffee and Tea Zone in the shopping center on the SW corner of Rockrimmon and Delmonico from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

Contact Carol Peterson - ccpetersonco@gmail.com or 687-4508



Fourth Sunday Donations

by Alcira Estevez

January: **Interfaith Hospitality Network of Colorado Springs**

February : **Dream Power Animal Rescue**

Our Mission: To create a better world for animals through adoption, a lifelong commitment to our foster animals, the promotion of spay/neuter practices, and ongoing community education

Our Vision: Dream Power Animal Rescue Foundation envisions a compassionate world, where people value, respect, and provide a secure and loving quality of life for companion animals.

To accomplish our mission, we rescue adoptable companion animals, offering suitable foster homes until permanent homes can be found. We give our animals as many chances as needed, taking them back if an adoption does not work out. We provide interim medical care as necessary and require and encourage the spaying and neutering of companion animals.

We have staff available for behavioral questions and training problems to assist the adopters.

We educate the public to secure higher ideals of humanity toward all animals and increased awareness of the pet overpopulation tragedy.

We cooperate and network with other animal welfare organizations and individuals world-wide.

March: **Planned Parenthood of Colorado Springs**

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains has been helping women, men and teens make responsible choices for 90 years.

Since 1916, we have been committed to delivering the highest quality reproductive health care, teaching responsible and age-appropriate sexuality education, and have been working diligently to protect a woman's right to choose.



Fellowship Forget-Me-Nots

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events



- Wed, Feb 1 **Fellowship Team Meeting** - 6:30 pm at Pikes Perk (5965 N. Academy) - Do you enjoy planning parties and social events? The Fellowship Team is always looking for new ideas to make our social times more fun, warm and welcoming. Grab a cup of coffee and help us plan upcoming fellowship activities for High Plains Church. All welcome! Contact: Heather Ashbee (heatherashbee@comcast.net) or Ann Harris (aharris0407@comcast.net)
- Thu, Feb 9 **Beloved Community Potluck** - 6:30 pm at High Plains Church. The topic for this month's potluck is "Grief, Loss, Disappointment and Healing". Father Bill Jarema, Executive Director of The Mercy Center in Colorado Springs will be our special guest speaker. Bring a dish to share and join the conversation!
- Coffee Hour at High Plains** - Can you take a turn bringing treats for everyone to enjoy during our Sunday morning coffee hour? We're now booking HiP Hosts (High Plains Hosts) for 2012. Being a HiP Host is fun and easy .. and it's a great way to share special occasions (birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc) and meet new people at church. If you can take a turn bringing coffee hour treats, please sign up at the coffee counter.



HPCUU

1825 Dominion Way
Colorado Springs CO 80918

High Plains Church 719-260-1080
Unitarian Universalist

Member of Unitarian Universalist Association

Sunday Services at 10:00 AM

Come Join Us!

Inside:

**President's Report
Treasurer's Report**

February 9th Potluck

**Send Comments to: editor@hpcuu.org
Send Articles to: newsletter@hpcuu.org**

**Please submit your articles for the March newsletter
by February 25, 2012**

See YOUR business advertised here!
Contact Nicole today at 260-1080 - office@hpcuu.org - \$10.00/issue



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