



Inward Venture

DISCOVER THE POWER WITHIN YOU!

Special Points of Interest

- Kickstart your new year with inspirational services that will transform your life in extraordinary ways by helping you discover the power within you! Turn to page 3 for a listing of all of our Sunday worship services over the next two months.
- Make this your best year ever! Attend one or more of our wide variety of classes designed to help you set a strong vision and positive intention for the new year. Turn to pages 4 and 5 for more information on our Spiritual Education offerings for the next two months.
- Don't miss our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 4, where you can receive an update about several important ministry issues, and participate in the election of new members to our Board of Trustees. Tim Hall and Katie Williams are candidates running for the Unity of Phoenix Board of Trustees. Read their biographies on page 12.
- We have some fun fellowship events planned for the next two months, as well as several inspirational outreach projects. Turn to page 2 for more information.
- Interested in becoming a member of Unity of Phoenix? Turn to page 11 to review the requirements.

Inside:

Upcoming Events2
 Worship and Pastoral Care ...3
 Spiritual Education4-5
 Youth & Family Ministry6
 News from the Board7
 Financial Updates7
 Divine Idea Bookstore8
 Small Groups Ministry9
 Prayer Chaplains10
 Milestones10
 Unity Wish List10
 Photos of Our Unity Community10-11
 Membership Requirements11
 Board Candidates12

Board of Trustees

- Bertie Farrell**
President
Mary Dunn
Vice President
Pat Clegg
Treasurer
Therese Skelly
Secretary
Larry Derksen
Joyce Flowers
Jeff Grossman
Gerry Johnson
Brian Smith
Rev. Richard Maraj
Lead Minister

To contact the Board of Trustees, email board@unityphx.org

Discover the POWER Within You!



By Rev. Richard Maraj, Lead Minister

Growing up, I always felt a distance between God and me. I was taught that God, the Creator and Source of all life, was up in the sky in some far-off heavenly place. The way I interpreted this was that I wasn't worthy of God. I prayed to a God "out there" hoping to make a connection, hoping to bridge that gap, hoping that God would give me the desires of my heart. I felt disconnected from having any personal power of my own.

When I came to Unity, I heard a different message than I had ever heard before in church. Unity emphasized that we are all created in the image and likeness of God ... which means we are all individualized expressions of God and that divine presence lives *in* us. We call that indwelling Spirit "the Christ": the Spirit of God in man.

This is what Paul refers to in Colossians 1:27 when he says, "Christ in you, the hope of Glory."

In Luke 17:21, Jesus said it this way: "The Kingdom of God is within you."

Ralph Waldo Emerson echoed a similar message when he said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters

compared to what lies *within* us."

In her book, *Exploring Inner Space*, Jane Dunlap says, "Hidden away in each individual is a vast gold mine but, as yet, only a few puny and thread-like veins have been discovered."

All these statements are inspiring and empowering. They each tell us where to find God ... where to find authentic power ... where to find the answers and wisdom we are all seeking. Yet despite these and countless Scripture and other statements that point us toward the Truth, most of us continue to spend our lives searching high and low, in books and in people, in far off places — and even in outer space! — to discover that "vast gold mine" we seek. We look *everywhere* outside ourselves to find God's peace, joy, happiness and fulfillment instead of the one place where we will find it: and that is *within ourselves*.

My favorite Unity book is Rev. Eric Butterworth's *Discover the Power Within You*. In it he says, "The hope of mankind today lies in the great undiscovered depths within. The time is at hand when men everywhere must forsake the fruitless search of the world at the circumference of being and embark upon a courageous quest into inner space."

When Jesus was asked by his disciples how to pray, he said, "Go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." (Matthew 6:6) Jesus was advising us to close the door on the distractions of the outer world, and go *inward* to that secret place where we can feel and experience the divine presence of God within us. *That is the way to discover the power within us!*

All of Jesus' teachings call each and every one of us to discover the power of God's Spirit within us. Through good times and

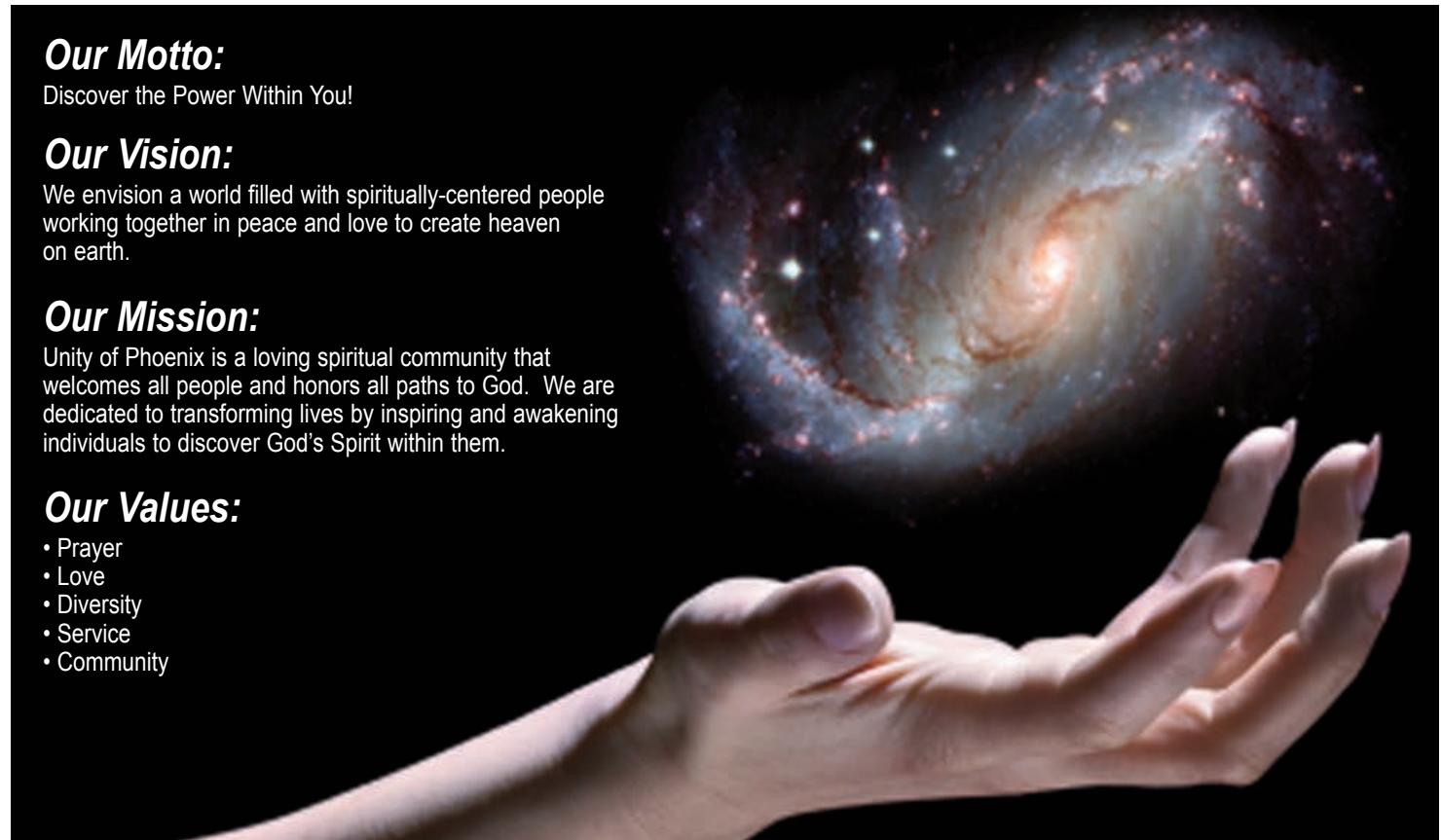
bad ... through difficulties and celebrations ... when we feel joyful or when we feel powerless, hopeless and frustrated ... no matter what is happening in our lives, it's important to remember that the kingdom of God is *always* within us. *Christ in us is our hope of glory.* We are the temple of the living God, and *God's Spirit lives within us.*

As a reflection of this powerful truth, our ministry has adopted a new motto: "**Discover the Power Within You.**" This single line sums up our basic belief about our relationship with God and how to connect with the Kingdom within us.

In addition, you'll note that we have changed the name of our newsletter from *Upward Venture* to **INWARD Venture**. The work of this ministry is to encourage and inspire all of us — in *all* situations — to take time to turn *within*. Seek and listen with your heart for that still, small voice of God, and allow it to fill and flow through you. If you truly *do* listen, you will always be led to something greater. Spirit will bless, love, lead and guide you to experience everything that is good and that you desire in life.

God is not in some far off place; *God's Spirit is within YOU!* Are you willing to go deeper within to listen to the still, small voice of God? All the answers you seek can be attained by sitting in the silence and connecting with that amazing power and Spirit of God! Are you willing to spend more time in the silence to explore "inner space"? Are you willing to open yourself to the love, wisdom, peace, and abundance that is already within you, just waiting to come forth?

When we explore the depths of God's Spirit in the secret place of the most high, the good we are seeking will flow in and through our lives. Unity of Phoenix is here to help you **Discover the Power Within You!**



Our Motto:

Discover the Power Within You!

Our Vision:

We envision a world filled with spiritually-centered people working together in peace and love to create heaven on earth.

Our Mission:

Unity of Phoenix is a loving spiritual community that welcomes all people and honors all paths to God. We are dedicated to transforming lives by inspiring and awakening individuals to discover God's Spirit within them.

Our Values:

- Prayer
- Love
- Diversity
- Service
- Community