



## A few short moments...

### Lifting one another up and bearing more fruit

Remember the parable of the mesquite tree from last month? Poor thing lost some more branches in the monsoon storms. Some helpful neighbors came and trimmed out the broken branches. Pruning makes the tree stronger in the long run.

I am reminded of Jesus when he shared his thoughts with his disciples around a meal table which had, at the very least, bread and wine. Grapes in Israel are traditionally grown close to the ground. Some large rocks are kept by the vinedresser in close proximity to each vine. This is because grapes do better if the vines are elevated from the ground. The vines are “lifted up” and they “bear more fruit.” Especially those branches which have grown far from the vine are lifted up, so that they do not drop new roots, roots that would not be deep enough to enable the newly rooted branches to survive the five month dry season. Jesus’ hearers would have understood this as an illustration of the close, nourishing relationship he desired between himself and his followers: “I am the vine, you are the branches; the ones who abide in me, and I in them, they bear much fruit; for apart from me they can do nothing.” (John 15:5).

I am excited about re-connecting: people coming home from “away,” about new programs starting up for young families, young adults, singles and more. I am excited about Innovation Teams continuing their energetic work on Appreciative Inquiry: “Church of the Beatitudes at its best...” I am excited about challenging conversations on growing, on being “green,” on building our future together. I am excited about “lifting one another up” and “bearing more fruit” together.

Blessings, Pastor Nancy

To read more, see *The Explorations in Antiquity Center*, by James Fleming, Ed.D., a background on the archaeological reconstructions and how they help interpret the Bible (<http://www.explorationsinantiquity.com>)

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# Administration

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## Seminary education support fund will sponsor students

Church of the Beatitudes has a long history of supporting people in seminary programs. Currently we have three people attending seminary programs at Claremont and the University of Chicago. The cost of a seminary education has risen rapidly in the past decade and a recent study showed that the average seminary graduate leaves school with \$80,000 to \$100,000 in student loan debt.

The MOA has approved using \$25,000 from undesignated memorials to establish a seminary education support fund to help COB-sponsored students meet these higher costs and enable them to leave seminary without a large debt obligation. In establishing the fund, the MOA agreed to seek contributions from the congregation so the fund can be permanently maintained at the level required to provide adequate

assistance. We believe our people will embrace the fund and provide a stable financial pool of support for current and future students. If you want to contribute to the fund, make your check payable to COB and note "Seminary Fund" on the memo line.

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## Notice of Call to Congregational Meeting

Please be advised, there will be a Congregational Meeting of COB on Sunday, September 21, 2008 after the 9 am worship service in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting shall be to approve the proposed 2008-2009 COB budget. Copies of the proposed budget may be obtained in the church office after September 2, 2008. Respectfully, Alan Cochrane, Congregational Secretary

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## Ministry of Nurture is gearing up

The Ministry of Nurture (MON) was happy to support the party for Michele Mellott's departure from Church of the Beatitudes on August 23. We wish Michele well and hope we will see her again real soon.

The annual Open House on September 7 was organized by MON. MON plans to spearhead

several additional activities. We will take over the responsibility for welcoming new people to our Church as well as visitors. MON also will be involved in the Appreciative Inquiry advisements. We hope to form a Kitchen Committee and develop the Welcome Tent for the Sunday services. These things won't

happen overnight but we'll "chunk it" and take one vision at a time. For more information on the Ministry of Nurture, please contact Carol Morse at [cpianopal@cox.net](mailto:cpianopal@cox.net) or call the Church office.

# Service and Outreach

## Neighbors in Need funds justice initiatives and advocacy efforts

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 4 and 5 supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC.

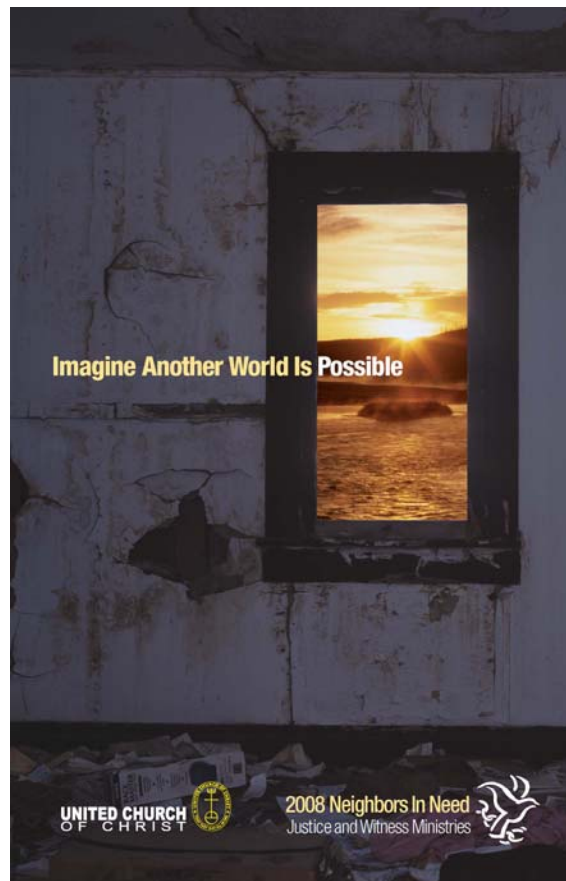
One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council

for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan,

Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously.



## Compassionate Care for the sick and hurting

Are you interested in learning how to more effectively visit and give spiritual care to the sick, terminally ill or bereaved?

You are invited to *Compassionate Care for the Sick and Hurting*, Beatitudes Center DOAR's annual

Health Ministries Fall Conference. The event takes place Wednesday, October 29, 2008, from 8:30 am to 2 pm at the Franciscan Renewal Center, 5802 E Lincoln Dr, Scottsdale. Please call 602-274-5022 or email [nmn@centerdoar.org](mailto:nmn@centerdoar.org) for more information.

# Outreach Partners

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## Campus redevelopment brings expanded services and amenities

The Beatitudes Campus redevelopment continues. There are new buildings opening, new programs being planned, and many new amenities are right around the corner!

Here's a quick list of some of the additions already in place:

- Backstreet Boutique (thrift shop)
- Resident Recreation Bus
- Campus Laundry Facility
- Maintenance and Housekeeping Facility

And here is what's under construction and coming soon:

- Swimming Pool, Whirlpool and BBQ area
- Renovations in the Health Care Center and Plaza View Assisted Living
- Recreation Center
- Wellness and Fitness areas
- Beauty/Barber Salon
- M&I Bank Branch
- Gift Pantry

- Campus Library
- Casual Dining at our Bistro
- Fine Dining at Elaine's
- Guard Station and Access Gates
- Security Cameras
- Shuttle for Remote Parking
- Outdoor Fireside Dining
- Clock Tower

Many of these services will be available in the Town Plaza, a central gathering place for independent living residents and guests. Construction of this 18,000 square foot building is well underway, with the structure now under roof, and expected completion is sometime this fall.

Month by month, our vision of expansion is becoming more of a reality – it is a great time to be a part of the Beatitudes Campus! For more information about the Promenade and the redevelopment project, please call the Information Center at 602-995-6100.

## A resource for Neighbors in Need... and a way to serve

Caring volunteers from our faith community assist homebound adults – people who can no longer drive – with simple yet vital help. Beatitudes Center DOAR offers at no charge transportation to medical

appointments, grocery shopping, friendly visiting and phoning, minor home repairs, business help, respite and computer assistance. If you know of a person in need or if you want to join in service, please call

602-285-0543. Attending one orientation session is all that is needed to begin a wonderful volunteer experience.

# Fellowship

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## The Compassionate Friends share grief journey

Have you or someone you know suffered the loss of a child? The Compassionate Friends (TCF) meets at Church of the Beatitudes on the third Thursday every month at 7 pm in

the Bride's Room. All are welcome. TCF was started in 1972 in England with a few families who had lost a child, and together they shared their journey of grief. Now there are more than

600 chapters in the United States.

If you have questions, please call Betty Nelson at 602-841-8649.

## Extended Family plays a big role in people's lives

If your related family isn't local and you desire to find a caring group of people with whom to meet and relate to, please consider joining the 89ers Extended Family.

The Original "89ers" Extended Family of the Church of the Beatitudes invites anyone interested in joining – or forming an extended church family – to join them at

Beatitudes Age Link on Sunday, September 21, at 12 noon. Pizza will be served and you are invited, though optional, to bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Rowena Anderson at [rowenajanderson@cox.net](mailto:rowenajanderson@cox.net) and let her know your plans: if you'll bring a dish and if you're bringing others.

The 89ers have been together for 19 years, meeting

one Sunday monthly for fellowship and service. We have been there for each other during births, weddings and deaths, during graduations, hospitalizations, and birthdays. We have celebrated, mourned and supported each other. We have also contributed to other families and organizations when needs have arisen. Hope to hear from you.

## No one should eat alone on Thanksgiving

Anyone who doesn't have family in the area is invited to share Thanksgiving Dinner with other Singles. We will meet in the Church Lounge from 12 Noon until 2 pm. We will have musical entertainment and Chef Paul from the Beatitudes Campus will be cooking the ham and turkey.

There will be sign ups for each person to bring a dish. For further information, please call Barbara Pineda at 623-374-7230, LeRoy Yager at 602-476-2376 or Lisa Grobe at 602-274-7740.



# Fellowship

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## Taste & See has a lot going on this fall

Taste & See, Church of the Beatitudes' Wednesday evening program, is a great way to connect with others from this faith community. It is also a non-threatening way to invite friends to Church. Between 5:30 and 6:30 pm, dinner is served for a donation of \$5 per person. From 6:30-7:30, there are classes and events for all ages. Look for the September-October brochure in the Church office or Narthex.

# Taste & See

Some of the offerings for September are:

**Free nursery care** is provided by paid professionals for children 5 and under.

**Yoga** class is open to all for a \$5 donation in the Chapel. This is an ongoing class.

**Kid Zone**, for school-aged children, features free **Polynesian Dance** instruction starting September 3.

***Experiencing the Bible Again for the First Time*** will start September 10. Pastor Nancy leads this 10-week class that is based on the best-selling book by Marcus Borg. It was created in response to a hunger to know and engage the Bible at deeper levels. If you want to deepen your relationship with the Bible, please attend this class..

A taste of the October offerings are:

**Arizona History: Why the borders?** Four countries, three territories and a stolen county. Wonderful people from Father Kino to Big Nose Kate. Cowboys and Indians, saints and

sinners, remittance men and ladies of various virtue. Join Tom Denny as he leads you through a five-week course about the development of the great state of Arizona. This class starts on October 15.

**Kid Zone** – On October 2, we will offer **Wheel Day**. Bring your bike, razor scooter, big wheel or skates, and wheel around the plaza with friends! Starting October 8, join Gary Billings as he teaches kids the **art of illusion and magic** (must be age 7 or older).

Break bread. Be cool. Have fun and meet new friends at Taste and See this Fall!

## Are you passionate for adult education?

Ministry of Education is looking for a few good people to serve on an adult education committee. This committee will put together forums, classes, book studies, etc. and make contact with potential leaders of these classes. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Dana Bender, Susan Orwoll or Cynde Cerf.



# Education and Fellowship

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## Rev. Vernon Meyer will lead classes at Church in November

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this dynamic speaker, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, and the Director of Programs for the Arizona Center for Theological Studies.

Rev. Vernon Meyer, Ph.D., will lead a discussion on *The Gnostic Gospels and the Early Christian Community*.

Tradition has suggested that

the church as we know it has always existed in the shape and form we see today. What the Gnostic Gospels tell us is that there was not only a great diversity of belief in early Christianity but also a wide divergence in the discipline and practice of the early church. Why were these Gospels so threatening to the increasingly structured and centralized authority of the "Catholic"

church? Do they offer any insights into the life and ministry of Jesus not revealed in the canonical Gospels? Do they have a place in church today?

Join Rev. Meyer on three consecutive Monday evenings in November (10, 17, and 24) in the Chapel here at the church to find some of the answers. This class meets from 7 to 8:30 pm on those evenings.

## The graded church school year begins September 14

The first day of our graded church school program is Sunday, September 14. Church school begins for grades preschool through grade 5 right before the sermon at the 9 am service and lasts until 10:30. **Parents are encouraged, particularly on the first day of classes, to attend and fill out a registration card and meet your child's teachers!** Church School classrooms are as follows:

Preschool – Room 13

Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Room 14

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Room 20

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Room 21

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Program – Youth Center 10:15-11:30 am

Youth in the confirmation classes are encouraged to attend the 9 am service and meet their class directly after the service.

## Center DOAR starts Powerful Families workshops

Grandparents raising grandchildren may join in many free services and activities at Beatitudes Center DOAR (Developing Older Adult Resources). **Powerful Families**

is a nine-part series that meets every Saturday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm (lunch included), beginning on September 20 at Church of the Beatitudes.

Call 602-274-5022 to register or to learn about support groups and many other available services.

# Families and Children

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## Bibles will be presented to 4th graders on September 28

Attention 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents! Each year, Church of the Beatitudes presents every fourth grader with a Bible as a way of nurturing the spiritual growth of the children in our church. This gift is one way of keeping our baptismal promise to support their growth in faith. These children will begin a *Learning to Use my Bible* class as



part of their Church school curriculum, where they will be exposed to major stories of the Old and New Testaments. This year, the presentation of Bibles will take place on Sunday, September 28, at the 9 am service. Please contact Dana Bender to reserve your child's Bible and let her know that you are coming.

## God is calling each of us in every moment

During the process of applying at age 62 for seminary, some people (who will remain nameless) told me that I was too old—that I wouldn't be accepted by the school and that I wouldn't live after graduation long enough to have made it worthwhile.

The school apparently disagreed because the oldest student at Claremont School of Theology these days is 84! In summer school, I sat next to a 68 year-old student who had suffered a serious stroke that left her with speech difficulties. She

had served as a Methodist missionary to some of the worst spots of suffering in Africa. She was working on her degree in order to serve her God in new ways within her physical disabilities.

It is a joy to be able to be in class with young people and older folks together with a common sense of purpose and love of God. Our life experiences and their fresh approach and technical expertise balance well.

As for living past graduation, I come from serious Irish stock.

Women in my family live very long lives. But none of us can say for certainty that we'll wake up tomorrow. What's important is to put our holy energy into this moment, to serve God in our daily lives without waiting to accomplish something more or to get through the weekend or to wait until the kids are grown. God is calling each of us in every moment. May we each have the courage to answer that challenge.

*~Judy Green-Davis*

## Students off to a good start at Maryland School

### **School is underway!**

Students from kindergarten through 8th grade at Maryland School have found their classrooms, gotten acquainted with their teachers and each other

and begun the year's adventure in learning. Some of them arrived with no supplies, in need of a change of clothing, and shoes that would help them to participate safely in physical

education. Many thanks were expressed by teachers and students to this congregation for our help in getting students off to a good start. Your generosity is making a difference for children.

# Books and More

## Beyond the Art Work in the Church Library

Just beyond those wonderful artists' works on the Beatitudes Church Library walls are equally wonderful works in print and non-print forms that you really need to see. At last count, the library contained 2,356 items, mostly books, but a few DVDs, video tapes and other resource types. To help you find what you're looking for, items are conveniently cataloged using the Dewey system (the same one used in most public and school libraries).

Nearly 70 percent of these items can be considered as general interest materials on

topics as diverse as art, biography, history and social group relationships. Included here, too, is a sizable quantity of fiction, mostly by American and British authors. You may be surprised at what's available, though we do not attempt to compete with other libraries in these categories.

The remaining items are cataloged in the religion category, which includes many titles that help with understanding the Bible, Christian moral and devotional theology, hymns, church history, and other religions. What's more, half the

library's *entire collection* was published in 1990 or later. This is possible because of your generous support.

On Sunday mornings around worship service times, stop and see what you may have missed at the church library. While you're here, plan to take home several reading/viewing materials. To check out items, we simply need your name and contact information. You can borrow items for *four weeks*. For more info contact Evelyn J. Sowell, Church Librarian.

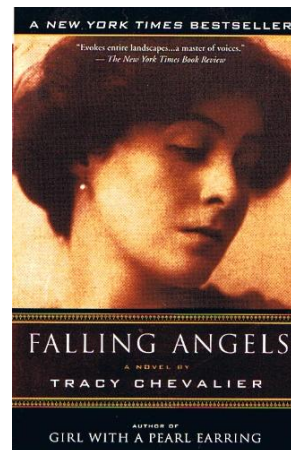
## *Falling Angels*— a book about change, loss and recovery

The Beatitudes Book Club meets on Thursday, September 25, at 7 pm in the Lounge. This month, they will discuss *Falling Angels* by Tracy Chevalier (336 pages, Plume, September 2002)

What "they're" saying (from Amazon.com, paraphrased): Set among the social upheavals of Edwardian London, Tracy Chevalier's *Falling Angels* is a meditation on change, loss, and recovery. The main characters, two young girls of the same age have family plots situated side-by-side in the cemetery. Lavinia Waterhouse is respectably

middle-class, devoted, like her doting mother, to the right way to do things, although suspiciously well-schooled in subjects like funerary sculpture and the English practices of mourning. Her friend Maude Coleman comes from a slightly more privileged and free-thinking background. *Falling Angels* is essentially the children's story, since it is their lives that are most open to change. The narrative spans exactly the years of Edward VII's reign, from Queen Victoria's death in 1901 to his own death in 1910. Chevalier

deftly uses the nation's dramatically different mourning for these two monarchs to signal the social transformations of the period.



# Arts and Music

## Narthex Art Show features two Arizona artists

Artists Sandy Camp and Teri McDarby will show their work in the Narthex September 12 to October 22. The women are members of the Arizona Watercolor Association, and are recipients of numerous awards, both in state and national competitions.

Sandy's work is done on paper and canvas, using watercolor and acrylic to produce exciting forms, both abstract and realistic. The unpredictability of water-media challenges McDarby to express her artistic intentions. She adds India ink and gouache to her paintings for contrast and detail.

The congregation will enjoy studying the techniques used by these two highly qualified women. The artists are offering the works for sale, with 30 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Beatitudes Arts Council.

## *Bella*: One moment can change your life forever

The Third Thursday Movie Group will meet September 18, in the Lounge at 6 pm. Bring your own snack or meal, watch the movie and join your friends in a good discussion.

This month's movie is the award-winning *Bella* (2006), a powerful, yet leisurely paced film in which Jose and Nina struggle to do what's right while seeking meaning in their lives. A quiet, brooding man with a dark past, Jose works as a chef in his brother Manny's restaurant where he keeps to himself until

young waitress Nina is fired. Touched by Manny's unfair treatment of Nina, Jose impulsively leaves work to follow Nina and spends a day with her where he discovers that she is pregnant and alone. The two become incredibly close in the

space of a day, sharing their pasts, feelings, and fears, and a lasting friendship is born. As Nina struggles with her pregnancy options and Jose comes to terms with a horrific incident from his past, the pair's newfound friendship aids in growth and healing. In the end, Jose and Nina's lives become permanently intertwined in a most beautiful and unexpected way. A moving and introspective film that will inspire serious personal reflection.



Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children.

~Kenyan Proverb

# Staff

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## Women's Retreat — an exploration of your beliefs

### *Feel the Spirit* **A Woman's Retreat**

**When?** Saturday, October 11, 2008 (8 am registration and check in) to Sunday, October 12, 2008 (10 am—12 noon checkout)

**Where?** Spirit in the Desert Retreat in Carefree

**Cost?** Registration fee, \$50; total retreat cost, \$130 for 3 meals and 1 night lodging.

Scholarships are available

**RSVP** to the Church office

Feel the Spirit at Church of the Beatitudes Women's Retreat on October 11-12 at the beautiful Spirit in the Desert Retreat in Carefree.

The retreat is a time to gift yourself with spiritual understanding and to nourish your body, mind and spirit. You will explore the spirit of the living God and how that encompassing spirit can surround you and mold you and help you carry forth in the world.

You will be able to explore what you believe and how your

belief affects your life. Journals will be given to you to use throughout the weekend.

Please bring something to share about your spiritual practices and stories of faith.



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## Contact us

**Church of the Beatitudes United Church of Christ**  
555 W. Glendale Avenue • Phoenix, Arizona 85021  
602-264-1221 • [info@beatitudeschurch.org](mailto:info@beatitudeschurch.org)  
[www.beatitudeschurch.org](http://www.beatitudeschurch.org)

### ***Senior Co-Pastors***

Rev. Dr. Theodore Elsenheimer  
Rev. Dr. Nancy Nelson Elsenheimer

### ***Associate Pastor***

Rev. David Weaver

### ***Christian Education***

Dana Bender

### ***Young Adults***

Nicholas Wenham

### ***Health and Wellness***

Sandy Marion

### ***Music***

Joel Rinsema  
Terry Smith  
Brenda Mulkey

### ***Operations***

Ken Porter  
Linda Nilsson  
Enrique Mendez  
Gilbert Escalante

### ***Communications***

Barbara Wood  
Dawn Bailey  
Marcia Lorona

## Our church's *mission*

**Church of the Beatitudes United Church of Christ** is a community of faith-keeping and faith-seeking people grounded in stories and truths contained in the scriptures. We are open to insights and interpretations of God revealed to us through new experiences, different faiths, and diverse cultures.

Our purpose is to provide opportunities for the formation of Christian disciples through worship and spiritual enrichment, to offer the education and training for this discipleship and to encourage the practice of this discipleship in the world.

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**CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDES  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are always welcome here.*

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## **Inclusion Coffee House begins its ninth season**

The Inclusion Coffee House will begin its ninth season this fall. This season will feature some of the great local jazz pianists with some outstanding side men. The coffeehouse will start **October 19 with the Charles Lewis Quartet** including flutist Jose Corral. The next concert will be **November 16 and feature Beth Lederman, one of the outstanding, local women of jazz.** The next concert will be **January 18 and feature Armand Boatman** with the Phoenix Jazz Quartet, a group of heavyweight jazz players, including Dom Moio, drums, Bill Moio, guitar and Dwight Killian, bass.

**A "Sweetheart" dinner/dance will be presented Sunday, February 15th (\$15)** with the Swing Memories Big Band. The final concert will be **Sunday, April 19 (\$8).**

Make your plans to attend one or more of these fine musical programs this year and invite a friend to come with you.

All the concerts begin at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$8 at the door and \$5 for students. If you can donate a refreshment for any given concert or if you need further information, call Jeff and Carol Morse at 623-933-7202.