Whether a newcomer or a member for many years, many here at the church have heard that we use “policy governance” at UUCT but really don’t have a good grasp of what that means. So here is a brief explanation.

First, policy governance is the structure we have put in place in order to achieve our mutually agreed upon mission: This sacred community is rooted in our search for meaning, guided by personal experience, diverse religious traditions, and scientific discovery. We are varied as the blooms of the Sonoran Desert, yet draw strength from one another. Envisioning a world where justice and compassion cross all borders, we pledge energy and resources to transform ourselves, this community and the world around us.

In support of fulfilling this mission, the 2005/06 Board developed certain “Ends” that must be achieved. The primary Ends are as follows:

- We actively search for truth; encourage spiritual growth and live meaningful lives as Unitarian Universalists.
- We seek to learn from personal experience, the world’s diverse religious traditions, and scientific discovery.
- We minister to each other with caring and compassion, building strong congregational bonds in love and friendship.
- We offer people of all ages a rich variety of programs that encourage, challenge and expand our thinking.
- We welcome diversity in membership and make special efforts to attract, integrate and engage newcomers, families, teens and youth adults.
- We each commit our talents and resources to the sustenance of the congregation and acknowledge every individual’s contributions.
- We are respected as a principled religious community that takes action and effects change that enhances the broader community.
- The values of our faith shape our decisions and guide our actions as an institution.

Our use of policy governance also lays out a process that the Board, on behalf of the membership of UUCT, will use to see that UUCT achieves the goals of the mission and the Ends policies. This process includes the tasks of the Board, the governing style, a code of conduct and job descriptions of the Board members among other things.

Perhaps the most important change this type of governance brings to the church is that the Board delegates day to day operations of the church to what we call the Empowerment Team or ET. The ET is composed of the minister and one other professional staff member as well as two lay members. This year’s ET members are: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Rebecca Froom, Carolyn Cooper and John Shepard. The Board places certain administrative limitations on the ET prohibiting any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is unlawful, imprudent, unethical or in violation of the principles of the UUA, the Board’s Ends policies, or of commonly accepted professional ethics.

This is, of course, only a very brief description of policy governance. If you would like to read the UUCT Governance Policies in full, ask at the office for a copy which goes into everything I have mentioned here in greater detail. There are many books and other information about policy governance available. Check the UUA website for more information. Also, it is important to remember that policy governance has only been fully implemented here for one year, and it new to all the leaders of the church as well. So we continue to learn more about it as we go and make adjustments as needed.

What does this mean to you, a member or friend of UUCT? For one thing if you have an issue or concern about the operation of the church, take it to the ET. If you have concerns or suggestions for how we can better fulfill the mission of the church, take it to the Board. It also means that members of the church are asked to take more responsibility for fulfilling the mission of the church. There is plenty of work for all at many different levels. Don’t wait to be asked—ask any Board or ET member how you can help make UUCT the truly transforming force that it can and should be.
Every now and then someone says something with such a ring of truth that it sticks with you. I had such an experience at Ministry Days prior to General Assembly this year. The Rev. Peter Morales, who serves as Senior Minister of the Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado led a workshop sharing some of the hands-on learning that has come from the tremendous growth the Golden congregation has experienced. I’m paraphrasing here, but what stuck with me from that workshop was Morales’ claim that the failure of Unitarian Universalism to grow at the same pace as the population the United States is essentially a religious problem. . . . and . . . the solution to a religious problem is religion.

Morale’s went on to cite a sociological study that asked how many intimate contacts people had, that is, contact with someone they could trust with intimate information about themselves. In 1985, the average was three. In 2004, when the study was repeated, the findings were heartbreaking. As many as one in four people reported having no one to tell their most intimate secrets to. Americans are lonelier today than ever.

People come to our doors looking for sustenance of a specific kind – religious and spiritual sustenance. People come to our doors looking for a place where they can ask the deeper questions of life and seek deeper meaning beyond what our fast-paced, consumer-oriented culture provides. People come seeking real connections with real people – people in whom they can confide and share with in an intimate way. People come wanting to be known and cared for.

There’s a lot of talk in our congregation and throughout the UUA about a need for better marketing and publicity. These are certainly needed to get the word out about Unitarian Universalism. But marketing and publicity are technical solutions to a religious problem and they alone are not enough.

The solution to a religious problem is religion. The religious solution begins with spiritual hospitality. Spiritual hospitality is more than greeting newcomers at the door and making them feel welcome. Newcomers tell me that our congregation does this quite well. Spiritual hospitality is about opening our hearts to each other and creating the trust needed for intimate friendships to form. Spiritual hospitality is about sharing our own deepest hopes and dreams, fears and failures, longings and yearnings. Spiritual hospitality is about listening to others with respect and caring for others as fully as we care for ourselves. This is what religion is for!

As we begin a new year of ministry together – my second year here with you – let us make it a year of respect. Let us practice spiritual hospitality in all aspects of congregational life, being mindful of the precious nature of our relationships with each other. Together we can create the kind of congregation that can’t help but grow.

Yours in the spirit,

Diane

From the Minister’s Desk
by Rev. Diane Dowgiert

UPCOMING SERMONS

Sunday, August 26  “Touched By Water” - an Extended Family Worship
Join us for the first extended family worship of the program year and our annual water communion ceremony. We will gather as a community of all ages to share in song, story and ritual as we explore the ways in which water has touched our lives. Please remember to bring in water from near or far that holds meaning to you and your family.

  Leaders:  Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Rebecca Froom, Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings
  Music:   Family Singers, Agnes Paulsen, Brian Moon

Sunday, September 5  “Ten Secular Reasons Why UUs Should Know the Bible Better”
Scholar Stephen Prothero says Americans are ignorant of religions including their own. Does this criticism apply to UUs? And should we revise our arms-length attitude toward the Bible? Our speaker, a journalist, says yes — and suggests how we can become Biblically literate.

  Leader: Gilbert Moore, UUCT Member
  Music: Agnes Paulsen, Brian Moon
The Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN) Conference (July 31 – August 5th at Clearwater, Florida) was an invigorating experience. It provided me with an opportunity to join with over 200 musicians to sight read the many choral anthems which had been carefully selected as possibilities for UU choirs and choral groups. Each day began with a worship service followed by a plenary session. The various workshops were in the afternoon and there were several from which to choose. It turned out to be a difficult decision some times as to which ones to leave out as several were offered at the same time. I chose: Creative Collaboration for Excellent Worship, A Composer’s Workshop, Children’s Music Programs, A Drumming Session, to name some. 

Attending for the first time this year were music directors from our neighbor UU churches in Green Valley, Sierra Vista, and Surprise, Arizona. I also had the opportunity to get to know other church musicians on a personal level and to exchange ideas with them.

I think the UUMN Mission/Covenant Statement says it all:

“The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network is to nurture, educate, and inspire UU music leaders to create dynamic and transformative music ministries. The members of the UUMN covenant to support and motivate one another in joyful and loving community.”

It’s interesting that the Unity Church is only one block away from the church of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater who were our hosts. It was great to see the cooperation between the two churches, and many of our workshops were held in the Unity Church to meet space requirements.

The highlight of the conference was the preparation and presentation of the original Unitarian Universalist Cantata titled “Sources” at a special service on Friday evening which was open to the public. Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, minister of a UU church in Minneapolis, penned the words and participated in the service. Rev. Jason Shelton, Music Director in Nashville, Tennessee, composed the music. In an e-mail to the UUMN Listserve, Jason wrote: “Kendyl drew music out of me that I never could have written had it not been for her words that literally sang off the page time and time again.” There is a possibility that “Sources” will be presented at the 2008 UUA General Assembly. This cantata celebrates the diversity which is at the heart of our denomination’s identity. It’s a 7-movement work for chorus, piano, string orchestra, and percussion. Guests who spoke at the concert represented the following traditions: Hindu, Sufi, Islamic, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, the Unity Church, and our own UU. The keynote address was by Rev. Dr. William F. Schultz, former president of the UUA, and former director of Amnesty International.

On Sunday, August 26th, Family Singers will sing for the Extended Family Worship, and our own member, Tom Clowes, will play the cello. Tom is a member of the Tucson Symphony and also serves as one of the youth leaders at UUCT. During three weeks in July, he participated as a teacher in the Holy Trinity Music School Summer Camp located in Haiti. While there he taught Music Theory, Chamber Music, Cello, and conducted the Petite Orchestre du Chambre in three concerts, one at the end of each week. This was actually Tom’s sixth year at the summer music camp in Haiti. Kudos to you, Tom.

Thanks to Heather Reed, and her husband Sean, who hosted Family Singers at a pool party and get-together on Saturday, August 11th. Several of our members were still on vacation but those of us who could make it had a very good time. Family Singers has resumed rehearsals on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 in the Awareness. Our focus is on children and we invite newcomers (children and their parents) to join. Call me at 326-8259 if you have questions.

Rehearsals have also resumed for Desert Chorale and are held every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. New singers are always welcome. A potluck get-together was held on Wednesday, the 29th, as a kick-off for the Fall. Thanks to Helen Koenig and Pat Kulinovich for taking care of the arrangements.

Peace and Harmony,
Agnes Paulsen
Minister of Music
The Work of the ‘Great Turning’
Part 3: Going Forth with Helping Hands
by Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Adult Faith Development Director

The Great Turning is a phrase popularized by Joanna Macy, Buddhist scholar, deep ecologist, and systems theorist. It refers to the possibility of humankind turning from our current path of destruction of the Earth toward a life-sustaining society.

Unitarian Universalists characterize ourselves as the church of the open mind, the loving heart, and the helping hands. If we follow the spiral process developed by Joanna Macy we begin with Gratitude, gratitude for our very lives and our connection to the interconnected web. This connection to the planet and her beings often leads us to feel deep pain for destruction humankind is causing the Earth and the suffering of other beings. When we honor our pain by recognizing it and openly feeling it, this helps us to break out of the apathy and impotence we often feel at the magnitude of the situation. Gradually we are able to make a paradigm shift from understanding ourselves as separate, isolated humans in a big mess to understanding ourselves as compassionate, interdependent beings. We can see with new eyes that we aren’t really in a competitive hierarchy with power over the Earth and her inhabitants rather we are interdependent beings with mutual and synergistic power. We can cooperate with and draw strength from the web. This strength allows us to go forth in our daily lives and use our “helping hands” to do the work of the Great Turning. [See the last issue of the Tucsonitarian for more on this spiraling process.]

We can approach the work from many different directions: respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. In our own congregation we have organized social justice groups working on green/sustainability, immigrant rights, economic justice, and peace. Together we can work on community-wide, national and global issues. [Watch this newsletter for opportunities to become involved with projects sponsored by our social justice groups.]

And yet, building a sustainable future is very personal. It touches on all aspects of our lives from the communities we live in to the way we transport ourselves to the food we eat to how much and what things we buy. While all of this can seem overwhelming, the upside is that anywhere we start is valuable. We can work in whichever area speaks to our passion and allows us to operate out of our gifts.

In the words of Edward Everett Hale from our hymnal:
“I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

May we support each other in our work to build a sustainable life for ourselves, the Earth and future generations.

Adult Faith Offerings
by Michael Greenbaum

Exploring Spirituality as a Unitarian Universalist continues its meetings each Sunday in August from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Servetus room. Gilbert Moore will be the guest facilitator on Sunday, August 26, and the topic will be “Is the Bible useful and relevant to our lives today?” For those of us with liberal religious values, does the Bible play any major role? Should it? Is the Bible a discredited relic from an ancient time or a vital document with relevance to our world in 2007?

On Sunday, September 2, Lyman Grover will return as facilitator to open the new season of meetings. The topic will be, appropriately enough, “Exploring 'Exploring Spirituality,'” a discussion about what our future discussions could entail. Your ideas and beliefs about spiritual topics are welcome in this safe environment where discussions are structured to allow participants an opportunity to express their thoughts on the day’s topic. Topics are open-ended, with no preconceived conclusions. It is part of a continuing and ongoing exploration of your own spirituality as a Unitarian Universalist.
The themes for our RE Program this year are World Religions and UU History and Heritage. Children in preschool thru 7th grade will explore these themes in their RE Classes throughout the year. Additionally, RE classes will begin the year in September and October with a unit on *The Lessons of Loss: A lifespan curriculum on death, dying and change in the UU Community*.

This year, our Early Childhood Class (age 3 – Kindergarten) will be participating in *Spirit Play*, a Montessori based UU curriculum where they will explore and learn through stories and activities. They will also participate in the first part of service on Extended Family Worship days, and then go to their *Spirit Play* room for the remainder of the time.

After *Lessons of Loss*, our Primary Class (grades 1-3) will learn about their UU History and Heritage through the curriculum, *UU Superheroes* and will study Jewish and Christian teachings from *Bible Superheroes*. The Elementary Class (grades 4-5) will explore the curriculum *Beginning UUism* and the World Religions curriculum, *Holidays and Holy Days*. Both groups will have monthly Project Days throughout the year focused on experiential learning, where they will visit a cemetery, engage in social justice projects and experience a variety of spiritual practices.

Middle School (grades 6-7) will also begin with *Lessons of Loss*, but with a focus on other cultures’ perspectives, leading into their curriculum, *Neighboring Faiths*. In *Neighboring Faiths* the middle school youth will develop an understanding about other religions, especially though a visit to that faith’s place of worship.

### September in Religious Education

**Sunday September 2**
Children in preschool thru 7th grade meet for a *UU Community Project Day* to explore our church grounds through sight, sound and a service project. Coming of Age youth attend worship and our YRUU youth will attend the SAWUURA Labor Day Weekend or worship service. *RE Registration* continues in Goddard Hall during coffee hour.

**Friday September 7**
Parents enjoy *First Friday Parent’s Night Out* from 6:00-10:00 pm while children have a great time with their friends in Emerson. Contact Kathleen Hogue, Childcare Supervisor, at 312-0441 for details or to reserve a space for your child.

**Saturday September 8**
*Coming of Age* officially begins at 4:00 PM in Awareness with a *Bon Voyage Overnight*.

**Sunday September 9**
Our full *Fall RE Program Begins* with a morning of covenants (see your order of service for details). Today will also be the *final day for RE Registration*. There will be an *RE Parent Orientation* at 12:15 in Awareness for parents of children in preschool thru middle school.

**September 11-17**
Our DRE, Rebecca Froom, will be on vacation to attend her sister’s wedding.

**Wednesday September 19**
The September *RE Council meeting* will be held at 6:30 pm in Emerson. Anyone interested in joining the Council or learning more about it is welcome to attend. Contact Peggy Smith, RE Council Chair for details.

**Sunday September 23**
Children, youth and adults worship together for an *Extended Family Worship* celebrating our UU Covenant. Children in preschool and kindergarten will exit to *Spirit Play* part of the way thru the service, and the nursery will be open in Barnum room for our youngest children who may need a rest or play setting.

**September 28-30**
Our congregation will be *hosting a district led OWL Training*. Please contact Heather Reed at heethertreed@gmail.com if you are able to provide home hospitality or transportation to our out of town guests.
First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, September 7. It is held in the Awareness room from 6pm until 10pm and provided for a nominal fee. If you would like to reserve a space for your child, you must RSVP to Kathleen Hogue, 312-0441, by Thursday, September 6.

Welcome New Membership and Sunday Lunch Chairs

I would like to (enthusiastically) announce two new committee chairs:
  Membership- Judy Dare
  Sunday Lunches-Kathy McDaniel
If you have anything to discuss concerning membership or lunches, these two wonderful and capable ladies will assist you. They have made me one happy staff member!

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

(Reminders)

• Join the membership committee
• Bring in a bag of ice to donate to Sunday’s Coffee Hour.
• Donate needed canned goods that are not expired to our food bank. These include-tuna, canned milk, vegetables and fruit.
• Donate money for flowers (or bring flowers) for the Sunday service. *Ask the Worship committee or Mary Wiese for details.
• Donate food, time, and money to the Sunday Lunch program and/or Sunday Coffee Hour. Ask Kathy McDaniel how you can help.
• Help with Sunday set up or take down

We can do this if we do it together!

Yours in community spirit,

Mary

ARTIST OF THE MONTH GALLERY

The Gallery’s new season opens with photographs by Ed Warner, whose vocation and avocation have centered on photography. His world travels have allowed him unique opportunities to pursue this interest. An opening reception for Ed in the Sanctuary following the service on Sunday, September 9, will let you find out where and how he got those images.

Abby Root
for the Gallery Committee
Piecing the Quilt
by Kaaren Solveig Anderson

M y friend Marcy is a tough woman: a lawyer by trade, opinionated, erudite. She is not one you mess with. On occasion she can exhibit a tender side. She can sing you to sleep with a seventies pop medley that stretches her range (vocally) and your own as to what is comforting. She has an uncanny ability to laugh at herself and life. But, sappy? Never. Not her. At least, I didn’t think so until I heard the story of her childhood quilt.

Marcy is one in a family of five kids. As a kid, she relied on a yellow and white quilt for security. Given to her at her birth, she carried it around with her wherever she went: grocery shopping, to the movies, to Grandma’s ... she was a regular Linus. One day her mother decided that she was sick of seeing this undoubtedly worn, dirty, scraggly blanket. If my experience at all matches hers, Marcy’s mother was mostly sick of looking for it, in those hours of panic and loss, as she ran around the house searching under couches, chairs, in closets, cupboards, hoping to end her daughter’s whining. She was determined to wean her daughter of the blanket.

Once a week, for about six months, March’s mother would snip off parts of her blanket, making it smaller and smaller. Marcy said if nothing else it got easier to carry, and was serving its purpose, at least from her mother’s perspective. At the end of six months, Marcy was left with a palm-size blanket. She continued to use it through her nightly medley to her sisters. She’d still pull the fabric through her forefinger and thumb, in a slow rhythmic fashion. She persisted in sleeping with the remnant of her quilt, a small vestige of comfort and childhood days gone by.

When she told me this story, I was in tears — the image of this child with a now two-inch by two-inch blanket had me in fits of laughter. I could just picture her rubbing the piece of fabric against her cheek and inhaling the comforting aroma. I don’t think I need to remind you that most children’s blankets get odiferous pretty quickly considering they manage to wipe, rub, and spill everything on them. But Marcy says, “I loved that smell.” In truth, I was amazed that the cutting of the blanket didn’t bother her that much. As long as she had a piece of her quilt left, she was quite content.

Most of us are like my friend March with a two-inch by two-inch quilt that says this is who I am. A piece that needs the community spirit of ministering to one another, to make it into a whole piece, a quilt. Some of our pieces are in need of repair, of healing, of patching. They need to be sewn or mended. Others show signs of care already taken with minute, careful, precise stitches. Still others are fixed with Scotch tape or staples. I like to think of church as a gathering place to bring our shredded and worn quilt pieces together — to share. It is in this symbolic action of piecing our lives and stories together into one, in all our diversity of pieces, that makes our quilts whole and healing. Not only for ourselves, but for all of us who will get the benefit of the quilt when we are most broken, most in need of care.

When we come together to piece and sew and mend, we bind ourselves to one another, taking that which makes us most human to share with our pew mates. That is the work of the real quilter, putting the pieces together. Every now and then I get glimpses of the quilt of my church. It is most satisfying when everyone has taken out their needles to explain, revise and exemplify various mending techniques or sewing skills. Piecing one life to another. Binders, quilters, we.

Kaaren Solveig Anderson is the minister at the UU Church of Utica, New York.
Book Club
by Cheryl Mennel

The Book Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in Awareness at 7:00 PM. For more information one may contact Cheryl Mennel at 760-4915 or CandJ_Mennel@msn.com.

Sept. 20 No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam by Reza Aslan.

From the Publisher: “Though it is the fastest-growing religion in the world, Islam remains shrouded in ignorance and fear for much of the West. In No god but God, Reza Aslan, an internationally acclaimed scholar of religions, explains this faith in all its beauty and complexity…” The PCPL has 6 copies with one missing and none on hold.

Available in PB. Approx. 310 p.
Oct. 18 Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather.

From the PCPL: “Cather's famous novel traces the friendship and adventures of Bishop Jean Latour and vicar Father Joseph Vaillant as they organize the new Roman Catholic diocese of New Mexico. Friends since their childhood in France, the clerics triumph over corrupt Spanish priests, natural adversity, and the indifference of the Hopi and Navajo to establish their church and build a cathedral in the wilderness.” The PCPL has over 30 copies with none on hold. Available in PB. Approx. 350 p.