Have you noticed how crowded the sanctuary is on Sunday mornings? It is close to the capacity allowed by the city fire code, so we can’t just put in extra chairs. You may have also noticed how full the parking lot is as well as the rooms for Religious Education. These are good problems to have, but the Board of Trustees agrees with Rev. Dowgiert that these problems need to be addressed this year if we are to encourage visitors and new members.

Therefore, the Board endorsed a proposal that Rev. Dowgiert presented at our meeting this month for a trial two-service period during our peak winter attendance months beginning January 13 and ending on April 13.

Services will be held at 8:30 and 10:30 with Rev. Dowgiert presenting the same sermon at each. We expect the 8:30 service to be a quieter, more contemplative service, but as close as possible in message and content to the 10:30 service. Winter visitor Anne Roberts has generously volunteered to provide the music at the 8:30 service with other volunteers providing special music during that service occasionally.

Child care for children ages 0-5 will be available during the 8:30 service with RE at the 10:30 service. The Exploring Spirituality class will continue to meet at 9:00, and the Desert Chorale and the Family Singers will perform at 10:30 services.

Coffee hour will be held between the two services—attendees to both services are welcome to come to this community gathering. Sundays Together lunch will be served after the 10:30 service.

This is an exciting new event in the life of the church. Now RE teachers will have an opportunity to attend a service, it gives you an option of when to attend church if you have other plans for the day, and it will leave a few more open chairs and parking spaces for newcomers. I hope you’ll join me at the 8:30 service on January 13.

Worship With Us
Membership/Community Life
Submitted by Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life Coordinator

Membership Follow-up

During the most recent Town Hall meeting, one of the questions asked was “Do we follow up with members who have resigned”? The answer is yes. Sharing the information that the Membership Committee receives is not always possible because some people prefer that their reasons remain confidential and we respect that. Also, the feedback we have received in the past has had to do with varied individual personal reasons that did not indicate any particular trends that could be addressed. However, this year we have the privilege of working with a retired UUA Growth Consultant, the Rev. Charles Gaines, and we are in the process of doing a Membership Assessment of the congregation. With his guidance, we will be determining even better ways to collect and use feedback from people who leave UUCT. We will keep you posted!

Volunteers Needed to Deck the Halls!

Our annual ‘Hanging of the Greens’ is scheduled for the first Sunday in December before and after the Town Hall. People who agree to stay and help until the end will receive a free lunch! We will decorate Goddard Hall and Holland. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Wiese ASAP for details: 748-1551.

First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, December 7, 2007. 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, December 6.

Volunteer Needed to Help with Our Food Bank

We are looking for a volunteer who can coordinate with the Church Administrator and Community Life Coordinator to make food bags and conduct weekly inventories. If you are interested, please contact Mary Wiese: 748-1551.

From the Minister’s Study
Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Minister

This season of gifts is a season of grace. Gifts of beauty, gifts of mystery, gifts of wonder – all are freely given whether we feel worthy or not. Grace is an unearned, even undeserved gift, gently bestowed – if only we are open and willing recipients. Giving and receiving are deeply intertwined, each dependent on the other. What gifts are you ready to give this holiday season? How open are you to receiving the gifts of life? May the grace of the season abound in your life.

Yours in the spirit,
Diane

Christmas Eve Fellowship

Please join us for fellowship before our annual Christmas Eve service in Goddard Hall at 4:45. Please bring a plate of cookies to share. We will provide the beverages. We are having fellowship before the service this year so that congregants can join with family and friends for holiday gatherings afterwards. Please call Mary Wiese if you have any questions. 748-1551.
Music Notes

In the last edition of “The Tucsonitarian,” I shared the musical biography of David Prouty who is our guest musician about once a month. Now I would like to tell you about another of our talented guest pianists, Anne Roberts. She and her husband, John, have homes in Grosse Point, Michigan and in Tucson where they moved in 2005. They live six months or so at each place. Anne started piano as a young child and earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan. Over the years she has performed as a piano soloist, accompanist, and part of a two-piano team.

In 1978 Anne formed a women's singing group, “Noteworthy,” and served as its director and accompanist. This group is still going strong and performs for a variety of community activities, nursing homes, parties, and weddings. One of Anne's favorite opportunities has been to perform at her Unitarian churches. Besides playing here for UUCT, she has played for the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church and the Naples, Florida, UU Church. She has recently joined Desert Readers, and she enjoys accompanying soprano Sheryl Holland. Let me add to this biography by saying, “Aren’t we lucky?”

Agnes Paulsen, Minister of Music

Worship Services at UUCT

Sunday, December 2
A Surrounding Grace
by Rev. Diane Dowgiert
The idea of grace is that some gifts in life are unearned, even undeserved. In this season of gifts, what might a theology of grace have to teach us?

Sunday, December 9
UU Poets Share With Us
Led by Bill Keyes
The general theme of this service is “Respect” and we will welcome submissions from any congregational member who is willing to stand up and reveal publicly that part of their soul that invites poetry in for a visit.

Sunday, December 16
Would You Like to Hold the Baby?
Our annual holiday pageant led by Rebecca Froom, DRE
This pageant, written by Joyce Poley, explores some of the human themes of love and family surrounding the Christmas story. Children, youth and adults will help us tell the story.

Friday, December 21
Come celebrate the rebirth of the Sun and the beginning of longer days with us on Friday December 21st at 6:30 PM. Winter Solstice is the darkest night of the year. This holiday teaches us to embrace the night and look within ourselves for insight. It is also a holiday of hope because more sun and longer days are ahead. We’ll begin in Holland Sanctuary, but bring your warm coat because we will end our celebration around the firelight on the patio.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 p.m. - The Gifts of Christmas
Worship Leaders: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Rebecca Froom, and Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings
Come celebrate the grace and beauty of the season with the traditional songs and stories of the season. You may be surprised to learn how much Unitarian Universalists have contributed to the “canon” of Christmas literature! This Extended Family Worship service will delight people of all ages. As always, we’ll end with the lighting of candles and the singing of Silent Night.

Sunday, December 30
To Be and to Have
by Ed Savard, Speaker
In a materialistic world of “having”, is it possible to retain an authentic “being” of the self and avoid losing our selves in the state of “I am what I have?”
Join us for the Town Hall December 2nd

What are the Principles? Are they belief statements? Statements of shared values? Principles that we aspire to in our daily living? The ideals that attracted you to Unitarian Universalism? One thing is sure—they are NOT a creed. In fact, the UUA Bylaws say that congregations who use the Principles as a belief statement requirement for membership may not be members of the UUA. That’s because Unitarian Universalist congregations are not creedal, but covenantal. The UU Principles are part of the covenant of member congregations of the UUA. They point us in the direction of how we want to act in the world. “They are not where we stand, but where we move.”

♦ What do you think is the purpose of the Principles?
♦ Which is your favorite Principle? What does it say to you?
♦ How is this Principle expressed within our own congregation?
♦ How would you change it if you could?
♦ Where do the Principles come from?

The UU Principles do NOT come from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA); they come from the member congregations and are approved at General Assembly by our delegates. We, as congregations, are responsible for their wording. The UUA bylaws require a review of Article 2, which includes the Principles, Sources and Purposes, every 15 years. The Commission on Appraisal is the group tasked with seeing that this review happens. They are looking for input from Congregations by January 15, 2008. Then they will bring their findings to General Assembly for our delegates to vote on. Let the voice of UUCT be heard! Engage the questions above with other members of our congregation. Join us for the Town Hall meeting on December 2nd!

AFD Survey of Interests Online and Offline

At about the same time you receive this newsletter, members and friends with email addresses will also be receiving notification about an online Survey of Interests which Adult Faith Development (AFD) is conducting to determine what kinds of AFD offerings our congregation would be interested in, what are the preferred days and times for AFD activities, and what teaching methods they find most and least congenial. Those without email addresses will be able to complete the survey offline by picking up a copy of the survey at the AFD table on Sunday, December 2. The results of the survey will be published in an upcoming issue of the Tucsonitarian.

Listening for the Spirit: Best of the South

Listening for the Spirit is a group which explores issues of religion and spirituality as seen in contemporary short stories and essays. Open discussions examine how various authors’ ideas compare with Unitarian Universalist principles and with our own experiences and personal values. The group meets Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Awareness room, and is currently reading and discussing the stories in the anthology edited by Anne Tyler, Best of the South (2005). Copies of the book are available at local libraries and at local new and used bookstores. Each session is a discussion on a different story, so you may join the group at any time. Contact Mary Schantz at 731-8189.

Exploring Spirituality Meetings

Now is the time to register for the December series of Exploring Spirituality on Sundays from 9-10 am in Servetus. The December theme is Spiritual Action. The fee for all five sessions in December will be $15 (scholarships are always available--contact mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net). Topics for December will be:

December 2, LIVING: How do you incorporate your beliefs/disbeliefs in how you live your life? Are you true to your belief system in all that you say or do? Does it matter?

continued on next page
December 9, BEAUTY: What are your understandings of nature, beauty, growth, rebirth, purity, awe? Where do they come from? Why are yours different from mine? Why are some of ours the same?

December 16, PROGRESS: How are science, evolution, progress, and technology relevant to spirituality? Are scientists more or less spiritual than other people?

December 23, KHARMA: Are free will, synchronicity, the “collective unconscious,” or déjà vu spiritual experiences or do they have a rational source?

December in Religious Education

Saturday December 1
*Coming of Age* sojourners participate in a *Challenge Retreat* and overnight. The day begins at 9:00 AM in Awareness room and includes a ropes course, food, fun, a covenant circle, worship and more.

Sunday December 2
Children in grades one thru five participate in a special *Project Day* exploring immigration and border issues led by a guest speaker from BorderLinks.
Families are invited to participate in our annual *Hanging of the Greens*, beginning during coffee hour.

December 2-9
Bring new or gently used toys to the small tree in Goddard Hall for our annual *BorderLinks toy drive*.

Friday December 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.

Sunday December 9
Our middle school class will visit a Catholic church as part of the *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum. Parents, check your email for more information.

Wednesday December 12
This month’s *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.

Saturday December 15
Our *holiday pageant rehearsal* begins at 10:00 AM in Holland Sanctuary. All pageant participants (but not the choir) should attend. Contact Kathleen Hogue for more information.

Sunday December 16
Children and youth worship with adults as we celebrate the season with our holiday pageant *Would You Like to Hold the Baby*.

Friday December 21
Families are encouraged to attend our annual *Winter Solstice Service* which begins at 6:30 in Holland Sanctuary, and will include story, fireside worship and ritual, and a time of fellowship.

Sunday December 23
Our middle school class will visit a protestant church as part of the *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum. Parents, check your email for more information.

Sunday December 30
Our Religious Education Program will take a one-week *winter recess*. Childcare will be provided for our youngest children.

Please note, our DRE, Rebecca Froom, will be on vacation from November 28 thru December 5.
Share the Plate Gift is Appreciated

November 4th’s “Share the Plate” offering shared with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. Here is a letter we received in response to your generosity. “Thank you very much for your generous gift of $291.13. Your support helps the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) assist people living with HIV/AIDS and provide HIV prevention outreach to at-risk groups and the community in general. AIDS is still very much within our community. SAAF’s mission is to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS. Thank you for being a part of that mission.”

— Wendell Hicks, Executive Director

Thank You Note

Thank you for your support during my illness. To all who were by my side while I was hospitalized, and those who have assisted with food, while I have been at Kathleen’s house, thank you very much.

Love,
April-Lynne Fowler

Saturday Salon

The next Saturday Salon will meet on Saturday, December 8 in Goddard Hall at 6:00 p.m. The speaker will be Al Tegethoff. His topic “Going Green and Biodiesel” will be very interesting. Please call Barbara Tegethoff (749-2029) for reservations or if you have questions.

Those attending: here are the food assignments:
- A-G: Desserts
- H-N: Hors d’Oeuvres
- O-T: Salads or Vegetable Dishes
- U-Z: Main Dishes

Don’t forget: BYOB

Every Bit Helps!!

If you haven't joined our Grocery Program you will be so welcome! It costs nothing extra and helps by sending a rebate to UUCT on your purchases. And now lets get back to poor Aunt Nellie, 90 year old Uncle Tim still trying to entertain his lady friends and the kids struggling on their own. If you can't be with them for the holidays, you can still share their table and help them out. A loaded Fry's card can be used in any Kroger owned store throughout the country or Basha's (which includes AJs and Food City) can be used throughout Arizona. In any case, visit the grocery table after services to participate. See you there.

Invitation to a Christmas Party

Everyone is warmly invited to the ALLIANCE Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 11:15 a.m. in Goddard Hall. Bring a potluck item to share. Sign-up for the dinner and for the potluck item you will bring is on Sunday, Dec. 9. Stop by the Alliance table in Goddard after the worship service to sign up. On Tuesday we will be entertained at 11:30 a.m. in Holland by the Sahuaro High School Singers (for the umpteenth year) who always amaze us with their lovely singing. Then we will share dinner together, in Goddard, for the delicious potluck lunch you will help provide. It’s happy!
Over the past few months there have been several leadership changes in the Church that I would like to report to you. The following members of the finance committee have resigned: Michael Greenbaum, chair; Carol Evans and Lyman Grover, committee members; and Barbara Lundstrom, Financial Secretary.

The Board has appointed Carolyn Cooper as Chair of the Finance Committee for the remainder of the church year, and Judy Dare to replace Carolyn on the Empowerment Team (ET). Jean Griffiths, the Church Administrator has taken on the additional duties of Financial Secretary until the right person can be found to fill that position. The Nominating Committee has recruited Charles Kocher to join the Finance Committee.

Despite the turnover in positions, the staff and the Treasurer, Marya Wheeler, have been doing an outstanding job of tracking income and controlling expenditures. The Board recently learned from the financial report for September that income is only 4% below the projected budgeted amount while expenditures are 10% below the projected amount. The finance committee and the ET will present a mid-year budget review to the board next month with any necessary suggested adjustments.

If any of you in the congregation have financial skills and would like to dedicate some of your time to the church in this important area, please contact Carolyn Cooper, Finance Committee Chair, or Chris Wallace, Nominating Committee Chair, to discuss what role you might play. Job descriptions for either the Financial Secretary position or a Finance Committee member position are available.

It’s time for our annual

Toy Drive for Borderlinks

Dec. 2nd through Dec. 9th

Borderlinks provides toys for the hundreds of children who attend the Casa Misericordia Christmas party and they’re counting on our help again this year. Unwrapped, new or lightly used toys for children ages 2 to 10 can be placed by the small Christmas tree in the back of Goddard Hall on Sunday, Dec. 2nd through Sunday, Dec. 9th. Toys should be sturdy and avoid militaristic or violent themes. If they cost around $9 to $12, envy or disappointment can be avoided.

Questions? Call Margo Newhouse at 745-2990.
Sponsored by the Religious Education Council

Scholarship Money available to UUCT Nursing Students

In 1999, UUCT received a gift from Alma Steyerman to be used for scholarships to nursing students in the memory of her daughter, Nellie Hamilton Cooper. The current value of her gift is $8000. At the November Board of Trustees meeting, it was approved that any UUCT members currently in nursing school could apply for this scholarship and could be awarded $1000 per increment to approved applicants, not to exceed value of the Steyerman Gift. If any member is interested in an application for this scholarship, please contact Carolyn Cooper (coop@comcast.net).
Exciting Book Club Changes
Submitted by Cheryl Mennel

The Book Club has chosen two upbeat, energetic and more than competent people to serve as co-chairs so exciting changes can be expected. Please contact Barbara Tegethoff at ripleycustomknives@msn.com or 749-2029, or Billie Dreyfuss at 326-6828 for more information.

The Book Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in Awareness at 7:00 PM. In January the Book Club will be choosing books for the next 6 months beginning in February. Those wishing to suggest a book need to have read the book, know the exact title including the subtitle if any, the spelling of the author’s first and last name, whether the book is available at the PCPL, the number of copies in the PCPL, whether the book is available in paperback, the number of pages and the number of holds. One is more apt to get accurate results if one checks online, however the personnel at the PCPL are gracious enough to answer even such questions as how many pages there are in their particular copies of the book. They even have a few books that are in large print.

Dec. 20

*Montana 1948* by Larry Watson

From the PCPL: “A series of events in a small western town changes the lives of David Hayden, his sheriff father, his mother, and their Sioux housekeeper, as they discover the truth about family loyalty.” The PCPL has 7 copies, none on hold with one lost and paid. Available in PB. Approx. 175 p.