Sunday Services
8:30 am and 10:30 am

The Bi-weekly Newsletter of
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

New (Ad)venture at UUCT

Come to the new 8:30 am Sunday worship service for the same uplifting and challenging message you would hear at 10:30 but in a quieter, more intimate atmosphere. Music selections and performers are different for the two services, while the high standards you have come to expect continue. Parking and seating opportunities abound.

You will still be able to greet and socialize with friends old and new at coffee hour, now scheduled between the two services at 9:30 a.m. As the old saying goes, "Try it; you'll like it!"

Exercise Your Voice

Whether you attend Sunday morning services on a weekly basis, a few times a month, several times a year, or seasonally — we want to hear from you about your over-all experience. The Committee on Ministry (COM) has created two opportunities for you to speak out:

1. Participate in a small-group discussion about services on Sunday, January 27 at 12:15 p.m. in the Holland sanctuary. Topics will address elements of the service, sermon topics, and whether your worship experience is helping to transform your life.

2. Complete and return the survey included in a recent newsletter to the church office by January 27. If you do not have a copy of the survey, copies are available in the foyer of Holland, or on the church website at www.uuctucson.org/newsletter/12.26.07/pg 9&10. Surveys may be placed in the COM mail box or given to a COM member.

Feedback from both the small-group discussion and the written survey will be incorporated into a report to the Board of Trustees, minister, staff, and congregation.

Gabrielle Burns, Deanna Bland, John Garrett, Mark Henson & Clare Velonis, COMs

Sunday Services

January 27: Earth Centered Green Sunday - Gene Sacha, Chris Wallace and the Green Social Action Group
February 3: Unitarians & Universalists Together: Match Made in Heaven or Marriage of Convenience? - Rev. Dowgiert
February 10: Evolution: What’s Meaning Got to Do with It? - Rev. Dowgiert
We envision a day when:

1. Our Sunday services consistently fill our sanctuary to capacity, our Religious Education program for children is brimming, and congregants of all ages are excited to participate in our Sunday ministry. We have a dynamic minister, whose sermons are intellectually stimulating and draw from different religious traditions, scientific discovery, and personal experience. Family Singers and Desert Chorale enjoy record-numbers of participants, and are joined in service by additional musical performers from within and outside of our church.

2. Our staff has increased — commensurate with our growth — ensuring that our congregation is offered a full range of programs, including adult faith development, religious education, pastoral care, social action, and other fellowship activities. Our lay leadership is strong, numerous, and diversified. We have enough leaders to spread the responsibility for running our church in a healthy way.

Through outreach and social action, we have elevated the profile of our denomination in southern Arizona. Locally and within the UUA, we are recognized as a congregation that speaks out and acts decisively on issues of religious intolerance, discrimination in all its forms, and humanitarian issues affecting our community.

Our existing facilities and campus are well maintained and make a positive first impression on newcomers and visitors. We have developed a plan to construct new buildings and enhance our landscaping, which will be recognized as a model for innovative and environmentally sensitive design in the greater Tucson community and within our denomination.

The strength of our programs, our vision for the future, and our leadership have contributed to a dramatic increase in membership and contributions to our church. We are well on our way to becoming a financially sustainable institution, with operating budgets generating an annual surplus and a growing endowment that will ensure a financially secure future for the church.

If you would like a complete copy of the entire Strategic Plan, please contact Jean in the church office.

February brings a touch of glamour to the walls of the UUCT Sanctuary with the paintings of Bernita Barfield. Her exhibit “Colors and Textures of the Southwest” opens February 6 and continues thru March 3. An artist’s reception will take place in the sanctuary on Sunday, Feb. 10 from 12:00-1:30 p.m., and provides an opportunity to chat with Ms. Barfield about her work. A portion of the sale price of the art goes to the church.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Servetus Room. Topic: “Around the Kitchen Table: Chats with my ‘Kiev Mother’ and my ‘Moscow Sister’. A member of UUCT, Dr. Theresa Polowy, is the speaker.

Meet at UUCT at 8:30 AM to join a fun group of UUs from Philadelphia and others who will be touring the San Xavier Mission and the Desert Museum, two of southern Arizona’s most visited attractions. Cost -$35 of which $15 will be donated in your name to UUCT. Only 20 seats available. Sign up in Goddard Hall or contact Julia Mehrer (762-4035)
Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, January 27
Earth Centered—Green Sunday
Leaders: Gene Sacha, Chris Wallace, Green Group
Music: [8:30] Anne Roberts
[10:30] Desert Chorale, Doug Thompson and Anne Roberts

Sunday, February 3
Unitarians and Universalists Together: Match Made in Heaven or Marriage of Convenience?
Leader: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Minister
Music: [8:30] Anne Roberts
[10:30] Dr. Marc Heeg, pianist, former Music Director at UUCT

In 1961, two denominations merged to form something new, Unitarian Universalism. Like a couple considering marriage, both the Unitarians and the Universalists came into the relationship with anticipation and trepidation. What were their hopes? What were their fears? Are they still present today?

Sunday, February 10
Evolution: What’s Meaning Got to do With It?
Leader: Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Minister
Music: [8:30] Anne Roberts
[10:30] Maggie Thompson, Agnes Paulsen

The science of evolution revolutionized beliefs about the origins of life, challenging orthodox religious beliefs. Religion traditionally deals with questions of meaning and purpose in life. Does embracing evolution as truth change the answers?

Go Green!
Cheap vs. Frugal

So what is the difference between being frugal and being cheap? Frugality is about more than just saving money. It’s about using money wisely as a means to greater happiness. When saving money starts to affect your life negatively, then you might have crossed the line into the cheapness realm. While cheapness might seem humorous at times, some cheap activities might cost you more in the long run. Frugalist, from which this tip is taken, is an educational blog of instantcreditcard.com. For the complete list of 21 “humorous (but common) mistakes” go to the website.

Members, Friends and Visitors are invited to a
STEWARDSHIP SOIRÉE

to enjoy the company of your fellow Unitarian Universalists and to make your financial commitment (pledge) for 2008-09.

There will be a program, some fun activities, and finger-food refreshments.

To accommodate your busy schedules, three identical events will be held.
Please choose the one most convenient to you.

Wednesday afternoon, February 6th, at 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday evening, February 6th, at 7:00 P.M.
Thursday evening, February 7th, at 7:00 P.M.

ALL THREE WILL BE HELD IN HOLLAND SANCTUARY
Save March 15 for our annual auction titled "The Luck of the Irish". Plan on good food and drink, great hospitality, lots of fun and lively bidding. The acquisitions committee is currently contacting each of you to share a talent, a service or a tangible item. Our staff members have all signed up with some of the following enticing items:

Rev. Diane  
* She and husband AJ will install up to $200 worth of energy saving light bulbs in your home. They will come to your home to assess your needs, shop for the bulbs, and install them.  
* Bid on a sermon topic of your choice. She will take you to the restaurant of your choice after the sermon to discuss!  
* Unchoose a hymn. Pick your least favorite hymn and it will not be sung for one full year!

Lisa  
Fabulous tea at her home for either mother and daughter, or friend and best friend.

Rebecca  
Dinner at your doorstep - Rebecca will bring a scrumptious vegetarian dinner for six to your home.

Mary  
Her traditional Mid Winter Feast and also a basket of "Sustainables" - most enticing.

Agnes  
A painting by Agnes Paulsen is a treasure - besides being an accomplished musician, she is a talented artist.

Brian  
"An evening with Mickey, or Judy, or Gene Kelly - and Brian". He will provide a film musical from the 1930's or 40's - your choice - and he will also bring snacks and drinks.

There is an auction table in Goddard after church every Sunday where we are accepting donations, signing up volunteers for the day of the auction, and answering any questions you might have. Think Green!

Membership/Community Life Bulletin Board  
Submitted by Mary Wiese, Membership and Community Life Coordinator, and Kathleen Hogue, MCLC Assistant

Volunteers Desperately Needed to Help Usher and Greet at Our Early Service!

If you are planning on attending the 8:30 service, please, please consider being an usher or a greeter. These are simple jobs that do not take a great deal of time and it is not necessary to miss the service. Greeters will welcome members and newcomers in the foyer as they enter the church. Greeters are responsible for helping newcomers get a nametag, showing them available literature and answering simple questions. Ushers will hand out Orders of Service, take the collection, and take the attendance. Please contact Mary Wiese ASAP for if you can help. 748-1551 or macbrude@cox.net.

First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, February 1, 2008. 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, January 31.
Spring Cookout Now in the Planning Stages

On Saturday, April 12, we are hoping to have a church cookout. All we need to make it happen is YOU! This event is replacing our very popular Catalina Park Campout. It was decided by staff that due to the lack of time and volunteers, a cookout might be more feasible. However, this will not happen unless enough volunteers step forward soon. We need someone to find a place that would accommodate us, like Reid Park; someone willing to organize games and activities, and someone who will help with the overall coordination. I have heard a great deal of feedback from families looking for more intergenerational events. Let’s make this happen! Contact me to share your energy, enthusiasm and great ideas: Mary, macbrude@cox.net.

Upcoming Adult Faith Development (AFD) Programs

by Michael Greenbaum, AFD Assistant

At UUCT, ones free and responsible search for truth and meaning has much to encourage it. For more information about any of these, email mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net or phone him at 326-8831.

January 24 and 31: Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial. In 2005, a trial was held in Dover, Pennsylvania, over a requirement that intelligent design be taught as an alternative to evolution in explaining the origin of life. On January 24 and 31, from 7 to 9 pm in the Servetus meeting room, we will present a two-part viewing of the PBS program based on that trial, each followed by a discussion about the key arguments presented and their implications. Discussions will be led by Helen O’Brien, anthropologist, unabashed teacher of evolutionary biology, and a middle-school teacher here at UUCT for the last five years. There is no charge for this program.

February 5: Michael Dowd: Thank God for Evolution! As an appropriate follow-up to that program, Rev. Michael Dowd will be speaking on evolutionary theology, Tuesday evening, February 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Holland Sanctuary. Thank God for Evolution! is Dowd’s new book which promotes the idea that understanding the theory of creative, as opposed to random, evolution, a theory which meshes so well with our 7th UU principle, the interdependent web of all existence, will lead to a new age of understanding and cooperation among all faiths. If you’ve never experienced Dowd’s lively and exciting presentations in person, you won’t want to miss this mind-opening free program.

Beginning February 4: Evensong for Families. Based on the premise that listening and communication strengthen bonds within families, between families, and between families and their congregations, Evensong for Families is a form of small group ministry designed for every size and kind of family, regardless of size or composition. Activities encourage family members of ALL ages to participate. Starting February 4, it will meet Mondays, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in Awareness for eight weeks. The fee is $24 per family, and scholarships are always available.

Beginning February 7: Religious Thought, God, and Humankind - Part 2. This class in comparative religion deals with four basic topics: the problems of evil and suffering as seen in Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism; the concepts of religious ritual and community from the same four viewpoints; the American religious identity; and a brief introduction to Islam. The second part can be taken without having attended the first. It will meet five Thursdays, from February 7 through March 6, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in Servetus. The fee is $15, and scholarships are always available.

In addition, we have the Men’s Group which meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month and Listening for the Spirit, which is currently reading stories from Best of the South every Thursday afternoon at 1:00. There is no fee for either group.
At the moment we are waiting for the December report from Safeway and the February report from Fry's. You can see from the data at the grocery table that we are growing.

Thus far rebates are as follows:
- Bashas = $225 (started in Sept., 2007)
- Fry's = $656.30 (as of 2/4/08*)
  *If $8593 is purchased collectively thru January, UUCT will receive $1250.
- Safeway= $133.95 (thru 8/5/07)
  = $240.69 (thru November)

As you can see, all data is not yet available. Too bad they all don't work the same way and on the same schedule.

Please remember: These numbers do not reflect what 2008 will bring in as most of the activity has only been in the last couple of months, thanks to all who have helped!

As (& if) most members and friends become involved, this program can near or break $10K a year. Again, we all eat, it costs nothing extra and it helps UUCT and you are buying food anyway. Let's make 2008 spectacular! See you in Goddard after worship every Sunday!

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Stewardship is the bond that ties UU to you. Each nurtures the other. The support that we provide through our contributions of time, resources, and money determines the scope of the services that we can offer - and receive.

Now, more than ever, Unitarian Universalists need to be “evangelists,” spreading the good news of what a liberal and liberating religion has to offer. Faith based on reason, Actions based on convictions and rational beliefs, Values based on justice are the convictions that define us. We need to live these not only within our congregation, but share them with the world.

Your pledge of financial support is one determinant of how far we can reach, how many of our dreams can be fulfilled. You can make UU happen!
Join Us for Clean-up Days

The Building & Grounds Committee is organizing Clean-up Days on two Saturdays (February 23rd and March 8th) from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We will be focusing on weeding, pruning, and trash clean-up on the west side of our campus. We will also cut down some trees, relocate the fire pit, and do away with the straw-bale bench. Volunteers are needed! If interested, please contact John Shepard (jshepard54@cox.net or 733-3852) so we can plan accordingly.

Participants should wear long-sleeved shirts and pants and gloves. Pruning shears, rakes, wheelbarrows, and... will be needed. We will need at least one person who can operate a chain saw. Snacks and drinks will be provided (but not lunch).

Finance Committee Report
Carolyn Cooper

The Finance Committee is very pleased to announce that two UUCT members, both nursing students, applied and were granted $1000 this semester from the Steyerman Nursing Student scholarship gift. This money was gifted to the church by Alma Steyerman in memory of her daughter, Nelle Hamilton Cooper, in 1999.

Also, the church office recently sent out a Tax Statement of all donations/pledges given to UUCT during 2007. Please review your statements, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office.

Continuing Concert Series

February 24, 2008
Old World Treasures
with Violinist Evgeniya Belinskaya and Pianist Ji-Young Kim playing masterworks of Beethoven, Franck, and more. Time: 3:00 p.m. Cost: $12 at the door.

March 22, 2008
Ari Wickasono, Pianist
Time: 7:00 p.m. Cost: $12 at the door.

April 19, 2008
Amber Norgaard—Time: 7:00 p.m. Cost: $12 at the door.

April 26, 2008
Tom Clowes, Cellist—Benefit Concert, Time: 7:00 p.m. Cost: $12 at door.

Make Your Summer Plans Now!

Looking for something different for your family vacation this summer? Consider Camp de Benneville Pines. Now is the time to make your plans to come to Family Camp, Sun., July 27 - Sat., Aug 2, 2008! Lisa Ward and Amy Brunell will be our Co-Deans again this year. Rev. Greg Ward (http://www.uucmp.org/minister.php, currently at the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula and former de Benneville camper) to be our Theme Speaker.

Registrations received by Tuesday, January 15, 2008, along with a $50 per person non-refundable deposit will receive the 2007 registration rates. Don’t miss this opportunity for a great intergenerational week at camp! Bring your parents, grandparents, kids and grandkids; your friends and your congregation. Swim, hike, canoe, play Capture the Flag, attend worship, great workshops, Theme Speaker events, dance at the banquet, perform at the talent show (no talent required!) and meet other UU families. Adults and kids will all make lasting friendships and have lots of fun!

A registration forms can be downloaded from: http://www.debenneville.org/RegForms/FormRegFamily.pdf. Please let me know if you have any questions or need assistance with your registration.
—Caroline Quintanilla
Camp de Benneville Pines
(909) 794-2928 or caroline@uucamp.org
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Sunday, January 27</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Worship, Holland</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m. Exploring Spirituality as a UU, Servetus</td>
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<td>Family Singers, Awareness</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Goddard</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m. Worship, Holland</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. Lunch</td>
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<td>12:15 p.m. Social Justice: Economic, Servetus</td>
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<td>Sunday Services Feedback, Holland</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 30</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. Quilters, Awareness</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m. Desert Chorale, Holland</td>
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<td>Thursday, January 31</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Listening to the Spirit, Awareness</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. Homeless Hospitality, Goddard</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. AFD: Evolution, Servetus</td>
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<td>Friday, February 1</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. OWL (7-9) Overnight, Servetus</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m. First Friday, Awareness</td>
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<td>Sunday, February 3</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m. Exploring Spirituality as a UU, Servetus</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m. Worship, Holland</td>
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<td>12:15 p.m. Town Hall, Holland</td>
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<td>Monday, February 4</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. AFD: Evensong for Families, Awareness</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. Covenant Circle, Emerson</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 5</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Empowerment Team, Minister's Office</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. Alliance Board, Goddard</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. Committee on Ministry, Awareness</td>
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<td>Thank God for Evolution, Holland</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 6</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. Quilters, Awareness</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m. Stewardship, Servetus</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m. Desert Chorale, Holland</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Membership, Library</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. Covenant Circle, Emerson</td>
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<td>Stewardship Fellowship, Holland</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 7</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Listening to the Spirit, Awareness</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Buildings &amp; Grounds, Awareness</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. AFD: God &amp; Humankind, Servetus</td>
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<td>Stewardship Fellowship, Holland</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 9</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. OWL (10-12) Meeting, Goddard &amp; Emerson</td>
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