Summer Giving Ideas

Are you going away for the summer? Are you lax in your worship attendance during the summer? Expenses still happen and your pledges need to be kept up-to-date. We have an automatic giving program in place and it is the perfect way to remedy the “summer slump in giving.” You may either pay your pledge by credit card or by automatic bank withdrawal. Call or stop by the office and request a form. It is really easy to do and we are glad to help you.

Doing this will help you go away on vacation and not worry about your pledge getting paid. One less thing to worry about!

Liberal Religion: the Big Picture

The Transition Team provides Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings with support, challenges, and reflection on her journey to ordained ministry, while educating the congregation about the process.

When we are first attracted to a church, we think principally in terms of what it has to offer us individually. Later, as our commitment grows, we learn to think in terms of what is good for the congregation as a whole. When our picture broadens further, we realize that it isn’t about the Unitarian Universalist Church in Tucson either—it’s about the future of UU and liberal religion as a whole. And this requires the training of new ministers, to replace those who retire and to serve our growing movement.

Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings is UUCT’s Adult Faith Development director. Her studies toward becoming an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister remind us that she is personally committed to the larger picture. Our recognition of her process is more than a note of personal encouragement—it is witness to our support of the future of liberal religion.

Carol Evans, Michael D. Greenbaum, Kathy McDaniel, Rev. Rod Richards, Ran...
Growth Report
By Carolyn Saunders

The Board of Trustees received the *Assessment of Membership Growth in the UU Church of Tucson* from the Rev. Charles Gaines at its May meeting. Rev. Gaines, a retired UU minister who lives in Oro Valley, spent twenty-five years of his ministry consulting with UU congregations on ministry, institutional health and membership growth. He also spent eleven years on the Unitarian Universalist Association staff, five of which were as Director of the Department of Extension, responsible for growth in the UUA. We have been extremely fortunate to have him donate his time and expertise to us this past year.

The purpose of his report was to:
- Assess the current practices and institutional health of UUCT as it relates to membership growth.
- Provide a context for assessment based on his own experience, demographics from the Tucson metro area, and research data from the UUA and other Protestant denominations.
- Offer recommendations and other suggestions for developing an intentional strategy to increase UUCT membership by 78% or to 545 members by 2019.

This extensive report provides three in-depth causes for our downward growth trend over the past twenty years as well as twenty solid recommendations for a growth strategy. All of this is, of course, too lengthy to print in the newsletter, but copies will be made available to all who wish to read the report. First, you may receive a copy by email from the church office, some hard copies will be available in the church office and it will be posted online at [http://www.uuctucson.org/](http://www.uuctucson.org/).

I hope that many of you will read the report over the summer. In the fall on Oct. 4, Rev. Gaines will conduct a church-wide workshop where all will have the opportunity to ask questions about the report and actually brainstorm in small groups about how to implement the recommendations of the report.

The Board wants to thank the Rev. Gaines for all the hard work that he put into this report. It is an eye opening report that can truly help us realize our potential for transforming “ourselves, our community and the world around us.”

Music Notes
from Agnes Paulsen

Family Singers are now on summer recess until August 10th. We invite families who like to sing together to join us that Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Awareness Building. Our motto is “Children First” which means that children can join even if their parents can’t, but it also means that the parents will have to furnish them transportation! We like to have fun as we sing so if you haven’t tried us before, do consider this a big invitation to join.

Desert Chorale will sing at the service on Sunday, June 1st and then take a summer recess until their rehearsal on Wednesday, August 6th at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. By the time you read this, they will have enjoyed an end-of-the-year potluck at the home of Karen DeLay and Bill Sandel. New faces and singers are always welcome to join our friendly group.

Check out the new piano in Goddard Hall given to the church by Quinley Free. It is beautiful to look at and has a beautiful sound. Thanks, Quin!

Bridges Into Africa Tour

Janice Brunson, who spoke at UUCT several months ago about the UUs in Africa, has sent information regarding a tour to Africa in January 2009.

The tour begins and ends with pick up and delivery at the International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. Price of $1,400 per person includes cost of all land transportation, rooms, meals and entry fees to Masai Mara Game Preserve. All transportation and the safari is provided by a registered professional tour guide. There are only nine spaces available.

The tour is sponsored by the Kenyan Unitarian Universalist Council, an economic development project of Bridges Into Africa. Bridges is a part of the Social Action Committee of the UU Congregation of Phoenix in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

Reservations are due October 1, 08, and partial payment is due then. Final payment is due December 1, 2008. For more information, questions or to make reservations, contact:

Bridges Into Africa Tour
Janice Brunson
480-596-0462 or janicebrunson@yahoo.com
Before Rebecca Leaves...

There are still several more opportunities to see her in action as Religious Education Director, and to say goodbye.

Sunday June 8 – Children’s RE Program
Rebecca will be the guest leader during the summer RE Program, presenting her own story as a UU Mover and Shaker. (10:30 AM, Awareness room, children entering Kindergarten thru 6th grade.)

Friday June 13 – Party!
UNLUCKY FOR US PARTY
Family Game Night
Friday, June 13th
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Everyone is Welcome

Here’s your chance to see Rebecca Froom, our R. E. Director, off in good style. Let’s thank Rebecca with an evening of fun. Some games and puzzles will be provided, but bring along your favorites as well as other activities and music to add to the fun.

Snacks and beverages will be pot-luck style, so bring some chips, cookies, carrot sticks, pizza or whatever you want to share.

Come one; come all for some good old fashioned inter-generational fun in Goddard Hall and we’ll give Rebecca something to remember with a smile when she’s far away in Chicago. If you have questions or suggestions, call Margo Newhouse at 745-2990.

Sunday June 15 – Worship and Coffee Hour
Rebecca Froom joins Rev. Diane in the pulpit to lead Sunday morning worship. This will be Rebecca’s first (and last) time leading adult worship for our congregation. Following the service, stay for a vegetarian lunch and cake during coffee hour.

Summer in Religious Education

Our Summer RE Programs for children and youth begin on Sunday June 1 and run through August 10. As always, our nursery will always be available for our youngest children. Yet for us to continue to offer meaningful programming during the summer, we still need volunteers! Contact Rebecca Froom at Rebecca-froom@qwestoffice.net or 748-1551 for more information or to sign up.

Is there a UU whose life you find inspiring, interesting or meaningful? Then sign up to be a guest leader one Sunday this summer with our children’s program, UU Movers and Shakers. Don’t know much about UU History, but you like spending time with kids? Then sign up to be an assistant teacher. UU Movers and Shakers is for children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade and will meet in Awareness room from 10:30 to 11:30 on Sunday mornings.

Having chosen to be a UU, what in our faith interests you? Is there a topic within UU Identity and Beliefs or our Sources of Wisdom that you would find interesting and invigorating to discuss with youth? How about discussing Life Transitions, our Evolving Faith, or Ministry and Leadership from a UU perspective? Sign up to be a guest lead (or assistant) youth advisor during our summer youth discussion series, Faith Formation. Faith Formation is for youth entering 7th thru exiting 12th grades and will meet from 10:30 to 11:30 in Emerson room.
What’s a Pod?
Submitted by Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, LPCS Convener

A pod is a group of related program committees that has a representative on the Lifespan Program Council Steering (LPCS) committee. Here’s a listing of the pods. If you can’t find your program committee, please email me at LMcHutch@cox.net.

Worship
- Worship committee
- Desert Chorale (Agnes and Brian)
- Family Singers

Learning
- YRUU
- RE Council
- Campus Ministry
- TUUYAN
- AFD Team
- Men’s Group
- Book Club
- Covenant Circles
- Writing Workshop

Social Justice
- Balkan Peace Support Group
- Economic Justice
- Green Group
- Homeless Hospitality
- Immigrant Rights
- Peace
- Food Bank

Community Building
- Alliance
- Artists of the Month Gallery
- Bridge Club
- Concerts
- Friends in Deed
- QUILters
- Saturday Salon
- Kitchen Ministry
- Membership Team

Leadership
- Nominating Committee/Leadership Development Team

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Through Deaf Ears

On Sunday, June 22, at 12:15 pm in Holland Sanctuary, Adult Faith Development will present Through Deaf Eyes, a PBS documentary which tells the story of conflicts, prejudice, and affirmation that ultimately reach the heart of what it means to be deaf in America. The film takes a straight-forward look at life for people who are part of the cultural-linguistic group who use American Sign Language and often define themselves as “Deaf” with a capital, and cultural, “D” and deaf people who, for a variety of reasons, do not identify with the Deaf cultural community. The history often shows that intersections between the two groups are many and that oppression and discrimination are common experiences to both.

Our own member, Chaz McBride, vocational specialist with the Community Outreach Program for the Deaf, will introduce the film and answer questions afterward. Chaz has a special link to the deaf community because both of his parents are deaf. Plan to join us for what will be an exciting and unusual program.

Women’s Group Facilitator Is Still Needed

We’re still seeking someone with the time and interest to facilitate an intergenerational women’s group beginning this coming September or October. The group might meet once or twice month (the frequency would be up to the members) to engage in meaningful dialogue and deep listening centered on issues of interest and importance to its members.

If this sounds like something you’d be interested in exploring further, please contact Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings (lmchutch@cox.net) or 748-1551, ext. 17, or Mike Greenbaum (mike-greenbaum@qwestoffice.net) or 326-8831.
Thank You

My family and I would like to thank all those who sent sympathy cards and made calls for his recent loss, the death of my wife, Laurel.

Terence Sheridan

Thank you all for the lovely donations to Sunstone in Roy’s memory. I will be grateful to all of you forever for helping Roy and I to come to live together here in our beautiful desert.

Patricia Harmon

Book Club
Reviews “Hitler’s Pope”

The Book club will meet on June 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Awareness Room to review John Cromwell’s “Hitler’s Pope”. Learn how Pius XII enabled Hitler during WW2. All church members and friends are welcome.

Artist of the Month
Gallery
by Abby Root, Gallery Committee

Photographers! Remember that it is your turn to shine. Bring your photographs, framed and ready to hang, with a signed release form (obtainable from the church office) to the Sanctuary on Tuesday, June 3 at 9:30 a.m. We will have a reception in your honor on Sunday, June 8, after the worship service.

Church Office Closed Mondays During June & July

Beginning Monday, June 2 the church office will be closed on Mondays every week to allow our Office Manager to take vacation time. The office will be open Tuesday thru Friday, regular hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This plan will continue in place until Monday, August 18 when we will assume regular hours, Monday thru Friday.

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

First Friday

First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. There will be no First Friday for the month of June, to allow for vacations. The next First Friday is scheduled for July 11th since the first Friday in July is the 4th. Parents may drop their children off at the church for 4 hours of fun that includes games, crafts, a snack, and a movie. Please call Kathleen Hogue to RSVP or for more information: 312-0441.

Please Welcome our Newest Members!

We had eight people join the congregation on Sunday May 18. They are – Cyndi Clements, Sherry Mann, Lynn Healy, Katrina Hogue, Cristian Shepard, Zach Taylor, Aimee Wheeler, and Sara Nichols. Look for their Bio’s in upcoming newsletters!

Help the Church, Help the Planet

The Green Group works collaboratively with Community Life to look for ways that the church can be more sustainable. Also, many of the following suggestions will save valuable time and money for the church:

- After service on Sunday, please take your Order of Service to one of the exits in the sanctuary and drop it in the recycle boxes placed at those locations.
- Please bring your own coffee cup to church and take it home when you are finished with it. Very soon, we will no longer be purchasing paper cups for this purpose. We will have some ceramic mugs available.
- Turn off lights, heating/air-conditioning when your group finishes using a room. Also, look for recycle boxes placed in most of the rooms for recyclable trash.
- Compost any compostable leftovers in the container provided in the Goddard kitchen when you can. These include coffee grounds, vegetable scraps, and tea bags. Look for the poster in the kitchen.
Minister’s Summer Plans

Summer brings a different pace of life. My summer begins with the annual trek to the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, always a wonderful time of connecting and networking with UU’s from all across the country. This year it’s in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I leave on Monday, June 23 and return to Tucson on Sunday, June 29. My vacation and study leave time begins on June 30. I’ll be back in the pulpit on August 10. For most of my away-from-church time, I’ll be here in Tucson. I’m still a newcomer, so I can think of no better place to vacation! My summer plans also include a short trip to Colorado to visit with family and friends. While I am away, should a pastoral emergency arise, please contact the church office.

May your summer bring you peace and enjoyment,
— Diane

Member Information

Long time member, Joyce Crawford, will celebrate her 90th birthday on May 30. She is currently under hospice care. Cards can be sent to her at 5238 E. 18th St., Tucson, AZ 85711.

Grocery Scrib

The church has earned over $3,000 in the updated, renewed Grocery Scrib program. This amount has been earned during the last 7 months (Nov—May). This amount indicates the $5 that you pay to get the card and the percentage amount that the grocery store you shop at contributes to the church. Keep up the good work! By adding Sunflower Market to the mix, we just added another 5% to the total. Thank you for being supportive of this program.