From the Minister’s Study

I begin and end each day by counting blessings. Always, I count among them this congregation and the many ways our members and friends care for one another. For me, the giving and receiving of care are among the greatest gifts of belonging to a spiritual community.

In order that we may embody these gifts more fully, there are some things you can do.

Volunteer! Our Friends in Deed group sends cards, calls and visits people in the hospital or at home, and provides meals and transportation on a short-term basis.

If you find yourself in the hospital or homebound due to illness or accident, or if you suffer the loss of a loved one, let us know. There are people ready to help.

If you are hospitalized or homebound or have suffered a loss, and want a visit from me, let me know by calling the church office or my home phone. My number is listed in the church directory.

Know that your personal life is private and information will only be shared with the congregation if permission is given.

On Sunday morning, if you are filling out a card of joy or sorrow on someone else’s behalf to be shared in the Embracing Meditation, please be sure you have their permission first.

Gratefully yours,
Diane

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, October 16
Faith in Pink
Speaker: Rev. Diane Dowgiert
October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. You’re invited to wear pink to church as a way to remember and honor those who have died and those who have survived breast cancer. The sermon will explore the intersections between health, gender, and faith.
Worship Associate: Carolyn Saunders
Music: Desert Chorale, joined by the choir from the UU Congregation of Northwest Tucson

Sunday, October 23
DOGs and Other Super-Natural Beings
Speaker: Randall Springer
Some believe that humanity, at its best, is an “image” of the divine. But we also attribute our qualities to non-human beings, both in our actual experience and in our imagination. Are these thoughts merely “anthropomorphic”? Or do they expand our view of liberal religion?
Worship Associate: Gilbert Moore
Desert Chorale will sing.

Wednesday, October 26
Mid Week Alternative Worship: Samhain

Sunday, October 30
Day of the Dead
Speaker: Patty Willis
One day of the year we playfully and seriously remember those who have died. What can we learn from this day that brings us to closer to our mortality?
Worship Associate: Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Music: Donna DeHaan
The UUCT Book and Media Festival will kick off on Friday evening, October 21 (5:00 – 9:00 p.m.) with an opportunity for church members and their families and friends to preview and purchase books, grab a bite to eat (pizza & salad), participate in family activities and visit with UU authors who will be signing their books. We will open the doors on Saturday, October 22 to the public at 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and the sale will continue after church on Sunday, October 23 until 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to be involved in this fundraising event in whatever way you can! We will need people to help sort and price during the week prior to the sale (Tues, Wed, Thurs) as well as people to help with the sale in many capacities on Saturday and Sunday. (Sunday includes packing up the remaining books and getting them to Bookmans.)

Please check the grocery rebate table on Sundays to sign up for a shift or two. Hopefully, you are already putting aside the books you want to donate to the sale and will bring them to Holland ( Fuller Room across from the kitchen) any time prior to the week of the sale. With many hands, we can make this a successful event that we can build on each year!

Albuquerque UU’s to Visit Tucson and the Border – Home Hospitality Needed

In preparation for Justice GA 2012, a group from the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque will be in Tucson the weekend of October 21. They are coming to learn more about what’s happening on the Arizona/Mexico border. Their tour is all arranged, they only need a place to stay. Would you be willing to host a fellow UU or two in your home on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22? We need space for 8 people. If you can help, contact Rev. Diane – ddowgiert@uuctucson.org or 748-1551.

On Friday evening, there will be an opportunity for our travelers, host families, and anyone interested in border justice to meet – more details to come. Be watching the Tucsonitarian and weekly email blasts for more information.

What a great way to strengthen relationships among our congregations and to build momentum for Justice GA, June 20-24, 2012, in Phoenix, Arizona!

BOARD UPDATE

On September 16th, members of the Board and Finance Committee met with Smoot Carl-Mitchell from the UUC Phoenix board in order to learn how their congregation structured financial responsibilities. The Phoenix church experienced some of the same challenges as UUCT at the time they implemented policy governance. They shifted responsibility for budget development and monitoring to the staff team. The board monitors finances at a summary level—“trust and verify”—as Smoot put it. The board also oversees financial audits. The budget is presented to the board for approval prior to adoption at the annual meeting.

UUCT Phoenix’s minister functions as CEO with staff assigned as liaisons to key committees. The Finance Committee is one such committee. In their model, a staff Business Manager keeps tabs on the day to day operations of the church including financial functions and serves as the liaison to the Finance Committee. They have a Policy Council that meets quarterly and includes all committees. The shift to this model helped clarify board, staff and volunteer functions and led the way to a more healthy discussion of money and finances in their congregation.

Volunteering for Justice GA

Justice GA 2012 will be unlike any other. All aspects of GA from the Exhibit Hall to the Service projects will be focused on justice and human rights. One way you can be part of this historic moment is to attend as a volunteer.

Coordinators for the GA Volunteer Committee subcommittees are needed by November 15 to attend a meeting in December. There are 4 of these position open and these coordinators have all expenses paid for GA.

Other volunteers who will be members of the subcommittees will apply online in March, 2012. Approximately 200 of these volunteers are needed. The General Assembly (GA) Volunteer Committee provides GA registration in exchange for volunteer work at GA. Adult volunteers are required to contribute 24 hours. Youth (grades 9-12) volunteers and those who qualify for reduced registration rates are required to contribute 14 hours. Applications will be available on the UUA website March 1 and are due no later than March 31. For more information, contact Carolyn Saunders, 299-3854, or see the Volunteer Brochure in the church office.
Get To Know us’ Newcomers Orientation: The next orientation will be November 5th after church. Free lunch and childcare will be provided. Please contact Mary Wiese for more details.

New Member Classes: If you have completed the Pathway to Membership and are ready to become a committed member of our church community, you are welcomed to come to a New Member class. These classes are held with the Minister on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. or on the second Sunday of the month, after services. You must RSVP to attend. Please contact Mary to RSVP or if you have questions.

Ceremony of Joining - If you have completed the Pathway to Membership, met with Reverend Diane and signed the Membership Book, we invite you to join us for a Celebration of Joining during our regular Sunday service on November 6, if you have not already done so.

Alternative Worship, October 26 - Come Celebrate Samhain with us for our alternative worship on Wednesday, October 26. Samhain, (pronounced sawin), celebrates the end of the harvest. It is also the night that many in ancient cultures honored the dead. It is the root of many familiar celebrations of the day including Halloween. Feel free to wear a mask or costume! A light meal will be served at 6:00, (donations welcome), and the service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00.

Grocery Program Safeway Update

After being told that UUCT will no longer receive a rebate from Safeway, followed by my challenging e-mails requesting information as though we were still active, I phoned the heads of both Safeway's Marketing Department and e-scrip. They assured me that we are still in their rebate program. It appears that UUCT was originally signed on as a church school (ergo we continue to qualify for rebate). If we were identified as a non-profit organization we would no longer qualify. May the school continue! Viva la school!!! Do keep in mind, however, that their rebate is still only 1/2 of 1% as opposed to others contributing 5-6%.

Marjorie Smith - Coordinator Grocery Rebate Program

Coming Soon! In November we will be offering a Unitarian Universalist History Class. Watch for a sign-up sheet and details at the LFD table in Goddard Hall.
UUCT’s FUUN-raising Corner

AN EVENING WITH DAVID FITZSIMMONS

Tucson’s favorite editorial cartoonist, David Fitzsimmons, will be entertaining us with his political humor and caricatures. He’ll probably poke fun at us UUs too! Saturday, Nov. 5th at 7:00PM. $10 per person; beverages and snacks by donation. It’s a fund raiser for UUCT, so invite family and friends to come too! Childcare will be available. More info coming soon!

UUCT Artist of the Month Gallery:

The gallery is currently featuring works by the watercolor painter, Vladimir Foitik. The show runs through November 6th. The gallery is open during church office hours, 9-1 pm Tuesday through Friday.

A CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES

On October 30th, 2011, we will be celebrating the "Day of the Dead." If you feel moved on that day, please bring a photograph of someone dear to you who has died or an object that has meaning to you. We will display them on an altar or "ofrenda." If you do bring something, please try to arrive at the sanctuary by 10:15 to place your object.

Thank you,
Patty Willis
Ministerial Intern

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The deadline for the Tucsonitarian is the first and third Tuesday of each month with publication on the second and fourth Wednesday. The next deadline is October 18th at 5 pm and the publication date is October 26th.

Book Club meets October 20 at 7PM in the Awareness Room. We will be choosing books for the next six months. Stop by at out table next Sunday, see what we have read, and suggest books of interest. This months read is David Sedaris’s "Dress Your Family in Corduroy" Call ahead for sitters and questions, Lois Ellen Atkins 991-5350.