From the Minister’s Study

The fifth Unitarian Universalist principle affirms the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. Democracy, then, is more than a system of governance, but also, a faith and a way of life.

As a faith, democracy is an affirmation of the power of people to shape their lives. Not just individual people, but the people, the collective of individuals coming together to create a society.

Theodore Parker, Unitarian minister of the 19th century, spoke of “a government of all the people, by all the people, and for all the people.” Abraham Lincoln tightened the phrase into the immortal understanding of American democracy that we all know so well: “a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Though Lincoln’s turn of phrase is more memorable than Parker’s, something important was lost – that all-important word, all – encompassing the ideal of equality. The ideal of equality in a democratic society says that everyone should have a voice in matters that affect their lives. No one voice is privileged over another. The poor person’s vote carries the same weight as the rich person’s, the woman’s the same as the man’s, the colored person’s the same as the white person’s, the gay person’s the same as the straight person’s.

The weakness of democracy lies in the “tyranny of the majority” whereby the wants, needs, and desires of a majority over-ride and over-rule those in the minority. For example, as long as the majority of American voters thought slavery was acceptable, it was the law of the land.

Conscience is an essential corrective if democracy is to live up to its highest ideals. Known as the still, small voice within, the inner teacher, or the voice of God, conscience is aligned with values and morals that transcend personal, self-interest.

As a way of life, democracy is difficult and strenuous. It makes demands on us. It demands that we accept responsibility for our own lives, that we know the contents of our own conscience, and that we act accordingly, even when doing so may mean going against mainstream currents.

Yours in the spirit of democracy,
Diane

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, November 13, 2011
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Occupy!
It began on Wall Street and quickly moved across the country. The whole “occupy” movement has me wondering, what would an occupied Unitarian Universalism look like? What demands would be made of us?
Worship Associate: Cyndi Clements
Music: Desert Chorale and Donna DeHaan

Sunday, November 20, 2011
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
After the Apocalypse: Gratitude
Worship Associate: Terence Sheridan
Music: Front Porch and Agnes Paulsen

Wednesday, November 23, 2011
Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Kathleen Hogue, Mary Wiese, and Brian Moon
A Celebration of Gratitude
We’ll gather to break bread and give thanks. Bring a small amount of your favorite bread to share for a simple bread communion.

Sunday, November 27, 2011
Worship Associate: Gilbert Moore
Music: Desert Chorale and Donna DeHaan
Won't you join us for an all-the-trimmings UU thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day?

Thursday, November 24th in Goddard Hall at 3pm! All UUCT members/nonmembers – their friends, families and relatives – are invited. Please bring a dish to share and there will be a $5 per person charge to cover miscellaneous items not donated (Children 11 and under are free).

Please sign up by by Nov. 21 by calling or emailing Rosemary Axelrod (232-2027 or rax150@cox.net). Please also let Rosemary know if you are in need of transportation, or have any interest in set-up and/or clean up!

We look forward to a GREAT turnout!!

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (COM) was established by UUCT bylaws as the church’s agent to attain the highest possible fulfillment of its congregational and professional ministry as stated in our mission/covenant and strategic plan. To achieve its purpose, the COM provides recommendations to the congregation, minister and board; and makes annual assessments of the church ministry that alternate between the professional ministry and the church ministry as a whole. The COM also provides means to resolve conflicts and grievances that may arise within the church.

The committee has six members who are elected by the congregation for three year terms. COM members for the 2011-12 church-year are Reah Barrows, David Burks, Steve Cox, Cristian Shepard, Terence Sheridan, and Roger Steenland. The COM organizes itself and selects its own officers. This year David serves as chair and Steve is secretary.

The policies of the COM including the grievance resolution process may be found on the church web page. Our confidential comment form is available in the foyer and anyone may request to attend a COM meeting to express concerns.

Please contact a member of the COM to share comments and ideas on how to make our church better.

Standing on the Side of Love

Rev. Diane wrote a letter to President Obama, which is published on the Standing on the Side of Love website. You can read it by following this link: http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/dear-mr-president/

Hard copies are available to be picked up at church.

Alliance Events

Mark your calendar for one of the most delightful events of the year: the Sahuaro High School Chorus is appearing for the 30th straight year, in a Christmas concert in Holland Sanctuary, at noon on Tuesday, December 6th. Everyone is invited to hear these amazing young singers, and if you can join us for lunch afterwards at the Golden Corral on 22nd St, do come sign up at our table in Goddard on Nov 27th and Dec. 4th.

Marcia Schenck

Feasting and Celebrating

Thanksgiving is just around the corner so don't forget to use your UUCT gift cards for your feasting purchases. For those of you who have not already joined our program you should know that it costs you nothing extra for your grocery purchases and yet helps add to the much needed church funds. The following stores are involved.

- Frys and Sunflower give us 5%
- Basha's, AJ's & Food City - 6%
- Albertsons - 1%
- Safeway - 1/2 of 1%

It's a great way to contribute to the church at no cost to you. Most of us eat so why not join our grocery rebate program? I will be in Goddard after services on Sunday to answer questions and for card purchases. See you there.

Marjorie Smith - Coordinator
Grocery Rebate Program
Newcomers News:

New Member Class – If you have completed the Pathway to Membership and you are ready to become a member, you are welcomed and encouraged to attend a New Member meeting with Reverend Diane. The meetings are held in the Ministers office on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., or second Sunday of the month, after service. You must RSVP ahead of time to Mary Wiese: mwiese@uuctucson.org

Newcomer Orientations - Newcomer Orientations will be held the first Sunday in November and the first Sunday in December after church. Free lunch and childcare are provided. Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.

Community Life:

So many fun things are happening at the church in the next few months! Be sure to check the events page on the front of the website. On Wednesday evening, November 30, we will have a potluck and decorate Holland and Goddard for the holidays. We need volunteers to make this happen! Please contact Mary Wiese if you are available and able to help.

Why Give to the Church: Part 5

According to Dan Hotchkiss, generous people are actually happier than stingy ones. So it is possible to be generous out of motives that are basically selfish. As a congregation, we recognize that we are competing for gifts with worthy charities as well as sellers of enticing goods and services. Our competitors are sophisticated at using information about us, engaging fundraisers, and maintaining positive relationships with donors -- particularly big donors. We need to make a case for giving before a skeptical public that gives no church a free pass. The single most powerful motivation for giving is the desire to pull one's weight with a peer group. Here is where leadership sets the example. If we can say, "each of our top leaders has pledged to give 5% of his or her gross income to the congregation," that can make an enormous difference to a congregation's giving. The specific number matters less than the leadership example. We, as members of the church want to meet expectations, to be like our leaders, to be part of this blessed community. So we give because we are generous, happy people, and because we want to belong. (Adapted from Finding Your Fundraising Voice by Dan Hotchkiss)

Margot Garcia, Chair of the Finance Committee

LFD News

Family Ministry Night- Friday, November 18 from 6-8 PM in Goddard Hall.
Last month’s Halloween Party was ghoulish fun. This month is sure to be as well. Please bring your favorite family holiday dish to share. We will celebrate with food, conversation and fun Thanksgiving games. Please RSVP to Kathleen.

Girls Night Out- November 22 from 6 – 8 pm Ba Dar Chinese located at: 7321 E Broadway Blvd Tucson, AZ 85710. Ladies, please join us. We had a fabulous time at our first gathering and adding you can only make it more special. Please RSVP by November 20th so that space can be reserved.

Sign up to be in our Holiday Pageant: Three Miraculous Births- We have many parts and roles including speaking, non-speaking parts, assistants and stage hands.
Rehearsal Dates: Sunday Nov 27, 1:30 -3:30 PM, Friday Dec 9, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Saturday Dec 17, 9:00 – 11:00

You can sign up for all of these events at the LFD table in Goddard or by emailing Kathleen khogue@uuctucson.org.
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 November 15th at 5 pm and the publication date is November 23rd.

From our Sister Congregation:
Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Church
3601 E. Cromwell Dr
Tucson, AZ 85741

The Kaleidoscope Gallery will be presenting its final exhibit from Sunday October 30 to Saturday December 3. The featured artist is Bethanne Simpson, a fine watercolorist. She is a signature member of the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild who has shown her work in Michigan, California and Arizona. “My love of watercolor as a medium started early in my study of art. The flow of the water as well as the mark of the brush continues to intrigue me. My career as an illustrator cemented my love of form.” While on exhibit, the artwork may be viewed after services at 11:30 am on Sundays and by appointment. Contact Anne Leonard at either 825-3449 or anne@alartworks.com

UUCT's FUUN-raising Corner

SWEET TOMATOES SWEET DEAL
Just when you are burned out on cooking and Thanksgiving leftovers, along comes this sweet deal from Sweet Tomatoes! They will donate 20% of what is spent for dinner on Monday, November 28th to UUCT. All you will need is the flyer (available at UUCT or on the website), an appetite and a beverage purchase. You avoid more turkey and UUCT makes money. What could be sweeter than that?

UUCT Artist of the Month Gallery:
The opening reception for the popular UUCT Quilters show will be on November 13th at 11:45 am in Holland Hall. Come meet the quilters and enjoy the show. Refreshments will be served. The gallery is also open during church office hours, 9-1 pm Tuesday through Friday. The show runs through December 4th.

Book Club Meets the third Thursday of each month in the Awareness Room, 7 PM. All are welcome. Call ahead for sitters. Questions, Lois Ellen Atkins 991-5350. This month’s selection is "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak.

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