From the Minister’s Study

We live at a time of many distractions. We’re overloaded with options for everything from information to entertainment to religion. Take a stroll down the cereal aisle at your local grocery. The number of choices can be overwhelming! With so much to look at and so much to consider, it’s no wonder Attention Deficit Disorder is prevalent these days. What we lack is focus.

Here at UUCT, we try to counter this cultural trend by focusing on monthly themes, which are listed below. Each month you can expect at least one sermon on the theme and one newsletter column. Covenant Circles engage these same monthly themes. Kathleen Hogue, Lifespan Faith Development Director, incorporates them into religious education for children and youth.

It’s like a congregational conversation – talking together about the recurring themes in our lives. When we hear different views, perspectives, and experiences, we deepen our understanding of who we are and why we’re here.

Here are the themes for the 2012-2013 church year.

September  Freedom
October  Covenant
November Transcendence
December Concepts of God
January  Evil
February Love
March  Brokenness
April  Forgiveness
May  Transformation
June  Worship

Be forewarned. Seriously engaging these themes may change your life!

Yours,
Diane
Intern Contemplations

As I write this, I look back on my first week at UUCT. I remember my first day, my first meetings, my first Sunday, and the staff retreat I just participated in. And suddenly I remember way back, the first time I saw this place and set foot in its rooms. When I moved to Tucson in 1983, I came to UUCT for the lesbian support group which was held here regularly at that time. I attended the group often for the first few months in town, and it was a place where I felt welcomed and accepted. And looking back on that time, I feel gratitude. I do not know when I was settled enough in Tucson and got busy enough to stop attending the support group, and I have no idea when or why it stopped meeting here. But I am grateful for this church and its accepting attitudes and hearts, then and now. I am thankful for its open doors which welcome people of various backgrounds and life styles. And I am thrilled to begin a 10 months ministerial internship in this congregation.

I have many dreams and hopes for this internship. One of them is about connections. Since I am a member of Mountain Vista UU in Northwest Tucson, I have the hope that UU congregations in Southern Arizona will work together and connect on many levels. Wouldn’t it be great if they knew about the No More Deaths work you are doing, and some of their members would join your team? And maybe some of UUCT’s members would love to walk in the annual AIDS Walk in October with the Mountain Vista UU group, or walk in the Pride parade and share the UU booth at the Pride Festival with Mountain Vista’s representatives. I even hope to get the congregations from Sierra Vista and Amado to share their news with us and hear about the events we may want to invite them to. If your UUCT group has events planned which may be open to members of other congregations, please let me know. We can develop ways of sharing and exchanging information and becoming a more powerful UU presence in this state when we all come together.

Christiane Heyde, Ministerial Intern, csheyde@msn.com

From the Board of Trustees

Ahhhh, hot, muggy monsoon months. The season of glorious rain, life-giving water. This week we celebrated our annual water service and were introduced to our new intern, Christiane Heyde. The Board of Trustees would like to extend a warm welcome to Christiane! We look forward to working with her during the coming year. Her presence will be invaluable during Reverend Diane's sabbatical. If you would like to know a little more about her, please visit the church website and be sure to say hello and visit with her on Sundays.

For those of you who wish to mark your calendars, the specific dates, as approved by the board, for Rev. Diane's sabbatical are January 7, 2013 to April 1, 2013. She has accrued six months, however will take the remaining three in 2014.

The board has updated the Governance Policies to include the new position of Vice President of Finance (section III.F.) and changed the wording in Administrative Limitations (section V.D.) to reference Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The updated document can be found on the website (requires member login).

During this coming year the board will be formulating a new Strategic Plan. We began working with the UUA consultant, Kay Crider and are setting up our ad hoc committee. Board members who will serve on the committee are Michael Herman and Jessica Erickson.

This week I touched base with Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings about her ordination service. She is facing a busy few months until the end of the year, both with family and finishing her clinical pastoral work. She will start working with a planning committee at the beginning of the year. Anyone interested in being a part of that team, please give your name and contact information to me. I will serve as her liaison until she is ready to start the ball rolling. Anyone interested in starting the fundraising for this very special event – now is not too soon - please contact Mary Wiese or anyone on the Executive Team to coordinate those efforts.

In shared ministry,
Peg Smith, President
Volunteer Recognition:

I would like to thank all of our Ushers. You know, those wonderful people who take the time every Sunday to greet you with a smile, and graciously take and count the Sunday offering so the church is able to pay for the vital functions that keep our doors open for our congregation, and the community:

David Burks, Gary Luce, Suzanne Borth, Shannon Twilling, Jan Dowling, Mickey Dowling, Susan Markey, Rick Meyer, Linda Selsor, Terry Nordahl, and Pat McDaniel.

Your smiles and time are greatly appreciated!

Mary Wiese, Administrator

Glimpses of UUCT

If you haven't visited the UUCT website recently, check it out for the second in a series of video "glimpses" of UUCT through the eyes of its members. This one is about children and youth.

Thanks

Several of you submitted your favorite hymns to me so that I could prepare our all hymn Sunday on September 2nd. The two most popular ones are: “Let it be a Dance” and “Blue Boat Home.” Unfortunately, a one Sunday service didn’t make it possible for everyone’s choices to be included. I’m turning the list over to our minister so she has a heads up on your choices for future Sundays. Thanks again for your cooperation in preparing for this Hymn Sunday.

In appreciation,
Agnes Paulsen

Annual Yard/Book Sale

The annual UUCT yard sale will be combined with the book sale and will be held November 2 & 3, 2012. Please save jewelry, collectibles, house wares, yard items, kitchen/bathroom items, appliances in good repair and clean clothes. Large ticket items, such as furniture are especially desired. Mark all boxes, for storage at the church, with “Yard Sale” and place in Goddard Hall by the windows. Or kindly store items in your home until the week of the sale.

No More Deaths, a ministry of UUCT, has an ongoing need for donations of new white socks. A poly-cotton blend is preferred. Please bring sock donations to Goddard Hall and deposit them in the box labeled "No More Deaths Donations". Thank you in advance for responding to this need.
FUUN-raises’ Corner

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM….invite family & friends to join you at Cold Stone Creamery at Park Place Mall on Friday, September 21st, 6-8PM for a fund raiser for UUCT. You enjoy ice cream or smoothies; UUCT makes 25% of sales. Your group must present a flyer (available on the website or at church).

The Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Awareness Room. At the next meeting (September 20th), we will review “The Burning Wire”, a CSI thriller by Jeffery Deaver. Lincoln Rhyme is a quadriplegic forensic criminologist of world-class fame. With his team, Rhyme has to catch a killer whose weapon is electricity and has crippled NYC with fear. For questions, or to reserve free childcare, please call Lois at 991-5350.

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 September 4th at 5 pm and the publication date is September 12th.

UUCT Artist of the Month Gallery:
Portraits and Landscapes by Don Weber

The opening reception for local artist and art teacher, Don Weber, will be on September 9th at 11:45 am in Holland Hall. Don is a full time artist and has taught art for 13 years in the Tucson area. He specializes in portraiture and landscape, using oils, acrylics and pastels. Come meet Don and enjoy the show. Refreshments will be served. The Gallery is also open during church office hours, 9-1 pm Wednesday through Friday and on Tuesday by appointment only. The show runs through Sunday, October 7th.