From the Minister’s Study:

What a joy it’s been to have Christiane Heyde with us this year both as a ministerial intern and sabbatical minister. She has brought many gifts to our congregation. Her time with us is coming to an end. Her last sermon will be Sunday, June 9. On Sunday, June 16, we will say an official good-bye.

To express our deep gratitude and appreciation to Christiane, we are taking a special collection. There’s nothing that says thank you like a gift of cash. Each Sunday from now through the end of June, you will be given the opportunity to give to Christiane’s farewell gift. Half of all that is collected will go directly to Christiane. The other half will go to the David A. Johnson Ministerial Intern Fund so that we can host another intern in the future.

Though we paid Christiane for serving as sabbatical minister, her internship was unpaid. She offered this arrangement because it suited her need to stay in Tucson. What a blessing this arrangement turned out to be for UUCT!

I also know that Christiane learned a great deal about ministry from this congregation. This is what it means to be a teaching congregation.

The next step on the journey for Christiane is for her to see the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), the credentialing body of the UUA. She will meet with the MFC in Boston in September of this year. I would like the gift to be at least large enough to cover the cost of the trip to Boston for Christiane and Melva. I think we can do even better than that. Christiane is certainly deserving of more.

Please consider giving generously. It’s a great way for the congregation to honor all Christiane gave to us – a tangible cash gift and a legacy for the future.

Yours in faith,

Diane

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, May 19*
Christiane Heyde
Transforming our Lives, Transforming our Faith
Christiane will tackle the topic of transformation in this sermon, sharing how transformation is effecting our personal lives and the Unitarian Universalist movement.

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.
Mid-Week Alternative Worship
Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Kathleen Hogue, Mary Wiese, Brian Moon
Endings and Beginnings
The poet T.S. Eliot noted the end is where we start from. This is the season of graduations, the ending of one phase of life and the beginning of another. We’ll mark the endings and new beginnings in our own lives.

Sunday, May 26
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Warriors in Training
True warriors are those who have attained self-mastery. Warriors train their minds and emotions as well as their bodies. What if we’re all spiritual warriors in training? What would that look like? How would we do it? What resources does Unitarian Universalism have to offer warriors in training?
Worship Associate: Bid Romans
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

*May 19th is Share the Plate Sunday. Half of all non-pledge income will be shared with Sierra Club-Borderlands. This group works to raise awareness and petition Congress regarding the dire consequences for vast expanses of pristine wild lands, including wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and national forests, due to the more than 600 miles of border walls and barriers that have been constructed in all four southern border states.

For more information about Sierra Club-Borderlands, visit their website at http://www.sierraclub.org/borderlands/ or follow them on Facebook under Sierra Club Borderlands Campaign or Twitter at SC_Borderlands.
Thank you for your generous support!
The Board of Trustees would like to thank all the church members who took the time to participate in the church’s annual business meeting – exercising their “right of conscience and the use of the democratic process” (UU Principle #5) as responsible members of this community. In addition to attending to those items required by the bylaws – the election of leadership and approval of a budget – the congregation also approved a new strategic plan.

In review, for those who were unable to attend:
The newly elected leaders for the next church year, beginning July 1, 2013 are:
- Board of Trustees (BOT) Chris Wallace (VP of Finance) and Tom Macon.
- Committee On Ministry (COM) Steve Kraynak and Jim Hannley
- Nominating Committee and Leadership Development Team (NCLDT) Carolyn Saunders, Mary Swing, and Cary White

If you happen to see one of these leaders around campus in services, coffee hour, meetings, please take the time to thank them for their willingness to serve, and for volunteering their time and talents to the benefit of us all!

The 2013-14 Budget that was presented and approved in the annual meeting was revised slightly from the one distributed with the Letter of Call. The pledge amount was lowered from $265,000 to $260,000 to reflect actual pledge amounts as of the week of the annual meeting. The resulting shortfall between actual pledging and projected expenses was less then 2%, and was within the tolerances of what the board considers a balanced budget. Pledging was not as high as hoped for and the budget can only be described as “bare bones”. The board had planned to budget for full payment of our dues to the UUA and to the Pacific Southwest District, and for an overdue external audit of the church finances. If more pledges are received, or if members choose to increase the pledges they have already made, these will be the priorities of the board and they will be added back into the budget. (These items total approximately $18,000.) The approved budget can be accessed on the church’s website (member login required) at http://www.uuctucson.org/index.php/governing-documents/budget-proposal-1-2013-2014.html

The current strategic plan is entering its final year and runs until the end of June 2014. You can anticipate more information as each facet of this plan is given a final assessment. At the annual meeting the board presented Strategic Plan 2014-2019. Beginning July 2014 we will transition into this new plan. The plan is a physical manifestation of what the members have expressed as their hopes and dreams for fulfillment of the mission of this church. As a representation of the congregation’s wishes, it is the guiding document for policies formulated, oversight exercised, and guidance to management provided by the board of Trustees. We encourage every member to review the plan, find something that feels important to you, something that excites you,pricks your conscience, or connects you spiritually to this community – and then resolve to do whatever you can do to make it happen. Some goals are small and it’s possible to envision them easily accomplished. Others seem much harder. Just remember, everything begins with small steps. Ever wonder where those bumper stickers came from? The ones in our parking lot that say “Liberal Light in the Desert”? One of our members, Tom Watkins has those made. He read the strategic plan. He has decided that it is important to make more people in Tucson aware of who and where we are so we can increase membership. So, instead of selling the stickers, he is giving them away. (you can find them on the tables in coffee hour) If you see him at church, tell him thank you. Better yet, put a sticker in or on your car. Small steps taken by lots of people can cover a lot of ground! Read the plan (member login required) at http://www.uuctucson.org/index.php/governing-documents/strategic-plan-2014-2019-apr-2013.html

In gratitude for our beloved community,
UUCT Board of Trustees

Intern Contemplations

My internship at UUCT is winding down. I have been here since August 14 last year, and my last Sunday will be June 16 this year. I have been warmly embraced by the congregation and am so grateful for this opportunity to share in ministry with you during these months. I want to give the congregation a bit of information. Many of you would not know that an intern is not eligible to work in a congregation for three years after completing their internship there. It touches me deeply that many of you would love for me to stay on in some capacity, but intern are actually instructed to have some boundaries and distance from their intern congregations when they leave. I am thrilled, however, that this internship has gone this well, and so grateful for Rev. Diane for setting this up. Did you know that there were no funds in the budget for this, but she managed to stretch the sabbatical fund to cover the internship? Brilliant, and it sure worked out well for all of us, didn’t it? Wouldn’t it be great if we actually funded internships and this congregation could have an intern most years? It sure has been a great teaching congregation for me, and I would hope it would continue to be one in the future. I heard that there is a David A. Johnson Intern Ministry Fund, which was established when Rev. Johnson became Minister Emeritus. All it would take is a few donations to this fund, with “DAJ Intern Ministry Fund” in the memo line, and this church could soon afford another intern minister. I know, it is still steps away from having a part time or full time assistant minister, which our new strategic plan calls for, but it is a step in the right direction.

As far as my ministry here is concerned, I am not done yet. I will still present sermons on May 18 and June 9, and then say farewell on June 16. In a June Newsletter I will let you know more about my future plans, and will follow that up with an article in the October newsletter. You will know where I will service as minister, and when my ordination will be. I hope you will all attend that one, since I plan on having it right here at UUCT. So please stay tuned for more updates, and let’s enjoy these remaining weeks together!

With much Love and Gratitude,
Christiane Heyde, Intern Minister
In April of 2012, I came to Rev. Diane with an idea for a plan for our children and youth for the 2012-2013 year in Religious Education. This plan was later titled Awareness Theater. Eventually, Awareness Theater was pitched to the LFD Council and orientations were held for the parents. In the summer of 2012 we did a practice run using a Readers’ Theater that was based on our seven principles. We then had an exciting year of classes focused on the monthly sermon topics, holidays and our U Principles. This all came together in our play that was presented on May 5th, 2013 titled Dreams of Peace.

According to the definition of success by Dictionary.com, the entire year with our kids was a success. The play itself was informative, funny, uplifting, musical, visually pleasing and so much more. The performers all did a great job. Sure, cues were missed and mayhem broke out a bit but when kids are involved that is to be expected. When one young actor was asked how it went he replied, “We were cute”. This is because I kept telling our performers not to be nervous- that the congregation will love them no matter what mistakes they may make and seeing kids on the stage is always cute. That was certainly true but for the bigger picture, I did have a few more goals in mind.

In her article in Essex Conversations- Spreading the “Good News,” Responding to the Challenges, Susan Harlow writes about the challenges of faith formation in children. They are “emphasizing ways in which the whole religious community is both teacher and learner; restoring “life” as a prime operative value; providing opportunities for the development of deep and authentic relationships; understanding worship as the central educating component of religious community; and engaging us in the struggle to transform injustices in the world. We met all of these challenges and covered the 5 Aspects of a Balanced RE Program: Community, Social Action, Leadership, Learning, and Worship. We should all be proud!

The outcome was favorable, but according to the definition above it is also terminated. Now it is time to talk about the coming year for our children and youth. Who among you is willing to help us have another successful year? Who among you cares about the development of faith in the young people of our congregation? Who among you is ready to become both teacher and learner?...because you will learn. Who among you is excited about meeting the goals of our strategic plan? Who among you is passionate about our church vision, a transcendent and holy purpose, which is to grow souls and transform lives within its walls and beyond? If this describes you, please sign up to work with our children and youth over the coming year.

Contact Kathleen Hogue at khogue@uuctucson.org or sign up at the LFD table.

Volunteer Sunday!

Sunday June 9th marks our Annual Volunteer Recognition Sunday. This has become a tradition in our congregation when we honor several volunteers who have made exceptional contributions of time and energy to the church during the last fiscal year. We ask for nominations from the congregation in the spring and then make our decisions based on suggestions and honoring those who have not received an award in the past. This year our recipients are:

Gary Luce, Jessica Erickson, Steve Kraynak, Bob Gordon, John T. Gaudielle, and Mark Henson

We would also like to acknowledge past recipients on this special Sunday. If you have received a volunteer award in the last several years, you know you are because you were honored with a stunning silver chalice pendant hand made by our own Chuck Lundstrum, then we would like to invite you to join us! We could not do the work of the church without you.

Sincerely,
Reverend Diane and the Staff of UUCT

NEW: Pastoral Care Team at UUCT

Ministers have many obligations and tasks as part of their ministry. Most ministers do not have the time needed to make the pastoral care visits they would like, - to people in hospitals, to those who are grieving or dying, or to those who are struggling with life’s stresses, transitions, or difficult decisions. While it helped to have Rev. Diane send our intern Christiane Heyde on some of these pastoral care visits over the last many months, this is not a long term solution. Like most churches, we had to face that we needed to establish a pastoral care team. Between Rev. Diane and Christiane, several candidates were identified and trained. We now have a group of capable volunteers who will be able to do some of these visits, and assist Rev. Diane’s ministry in this way. If you are struggling with life’s challenges and need listening support, please call the office and let them know about the pastoral care needs you or a family member might have. A member of the team will then contact you.

Just to clarify, this is not about providing for your practical needs, like rides or housekeeping or groceries. If you are in need of such support, please contact our Friends in Deed group, through Reah Barrows or the church office. The pastoral care team is there to provide the kind of support a visiting minister might give. Thanks to all who were involved in making this happen!

Circle of Life

Albert Hogue, former custodian and longtime friend of UUCT, passed away on Thursday, April 25, 2013. A memorial service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson on Friday, May 24, 2013 at 6:30pm. Our condolences and deep sympathy go to Albert's family: Kathleen, Kat, and Jimmy.
Celebrate The End of School at Sweet Tomatoes!!

Celebrate the end of school & the beginning of summer at Sweet Tomatoes, Thursday, May 23rd from 5-8 PM. Purchase dinner & a beverage & UUCT will receive 20% of the total spent. You'll need a flyer, available at church or on the website, to present to the cashier, so UUCT will get credit. Invite friends & family to join you, & UUCT will earn more!

Do you buy food?

It is the time of year when we should preload our Fry's cards to increase the payout at the end of the fiscal year. Have you re-registered your Safeway card this year with e-script? You must re-register every year. Please continue to use our script program to make free money for the church. It takes little effort on your part. Did you know that when you are away you can use your script at stores such as Von's (Safeway) and Kroger's and Smith's (Fry's)?

See Carolyn and Frank Valdes at the Grocery Scrip Table in Goddard Hall after the service on Sunday.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! VOLUNTEER WITH NO MORE DEATHS THIS SUMMER!

In order to have the humanitarian aid summer desert camp program run as well as it can, No More Deaths, a social justice ministry of UUCT, needs a lot of help from local volunteers behind the scenes. Please consider signing up for one of the following areas: Grocery Shopping, Transportation from Airport, Preparing Meals for Summer Volunteers, or Weekend Housing for Long Term Volunteers. If you are available to help this summer with any of these four areas, please reply to Jordan, our logistics coordinator, at Logistics.nmd@gmail.com with your name, phone number and e-mail address, and which task you are willing to volunteer for. If you have any questions, Jordan's cell phone is (520) 307-2626. Thanks so much!