From the Minister’s Study

There’s something about hitting the seven-year mark as your minister that has me doing some reflection about where we’ve been and where we’re going. Seven is an important number in religious literature. In the Hebrew bible, God rested on the seventh day. In the Christian bible, Paul lists seven gifts of the spirit. The Book of Revelation refers to seven seals. There are seven promises and seven rounds in a Hindu wedding. There are seven chakras. The religion of Islam speaks of seven heavens. The list goes on.

It’s been said that ministers and congregations reinvent themselves every seven years. I know I’m not exactly the same person I was when I first came to you. The congregation today is not exactly the same congregation I came to seven years ago.

Before we plunge too deeply into year eight, I want to acknowledge and celebrate all we’ve achieved over the past seven years. These accomplishments provide a firm foundation for moving into the future.

New Programs
No More Deaths       Covenant Circles
Worship Associates   Pastoral Care Associates
Health Ministries Team Circle Suppers
Pathway to Membership
Mid-week Alternative Worship
Transitions in Aging Support Group

Facilities
Solar panels
New HVAC units in Goddard, Lincoln, and Thoreau
Goddard renovations and improvements:
  Kitchen upgrades
  New, safe, energy-efficient patio doors
  New paint
  New piano
  Landscaping trimmed and cleaned up
  Upgraded computers

Outreach
A web-page that is attractive and regularly updated
Social media presence

Governance
Full implementation of policy style governance
Adoption of a congregational Covenant of Right Relations
Every elected position is filled
Implementation of a Committee on Ministry
Implementation of a Nominating Committee/Leadership Development Team
Clearly established financial management procedures
Development and implementation of 2 strategic plans
Clear process for monitoring progress on the strategic plan
Clarity of lines of authority and responsibility – when I came there were four different “boards” with by-laws, officers, and checking accounts. Now we have only one governing body.

All of this (and more) was accomplished with diminishing financial and staff resources. There seems to be more of an atmosphere of trust and togetherness. There’s been an elevation of UUCT’s national reputation within the UUA and the PSWD for two primary reasons. 1.) We enable and equip the ministry of No More Deaths. 2.) We’ve faced the challenges of implementing a mission focused governance style – and we’ve come out on the other side.

None of this happened in a vacuum. It took trust and it took vision. It took the shared efforts of leadership on all levels. Who we will be in the coming seven years depends on what we do now. Let’s keep moving forward!

See you in church,
Diane
It takes a village...
By Carolyn Saunders, Pit Crew

How often have you heard it said, “It takes a village to raise a child”? Well, what does it take if you have a whole village full of children? Here in the UUCT village it takes a Council—or more accurately, a Lifespan Faith Development (LFD) Council.

Lifespan Faith Development is the term we UUs use to encompass Religious Education for children and youth and Adult Faith Development. The LFD Council is the group of volunteers who organize, develop, and oversee implementation of all LFD programs. They help staff members Kathleen Hogue and Heather Reed select curriculum, recruit teachers and other volunteers, develop policies and procedures and ensure the programs are in accordance with UUCT’s Strategic Plan goals.

Whew! And this isn’t even a complete list of all the tasks this busy group tackles! Needless to say, THEY NEED HELP! No, you don’t have to have children in RE to share the ministry of the LFD Council. Remember, this group is responsible for Adult Faith Development too. All that is required of you is to have a desire to support others in their search for truth and meaning in an environment of respect and trust where each person—adult or child—is known and valued for who they are.

At this time the greatest need on the Council is for a chair, a secretary, and a person to plan and coordinate activities for families, but there are other jobs available. If you think this is the way you can best use your time and talent, contact Kathleen (khogue@uuctucson.org) or Heather (hreed@uuctucson.org) and say, “Here I am. How can I best serve the LFD program?”

The LFD Council is now being formed for the coming year. It usually has 5-12 members. But many volunteers are already working with RE, OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education), and AFD.

It takes a village...continued

Be sure to say thank you to these LFD volunteers:

Melissa Brosanders  Lorna Govier
Gary Luce  Sally Masteller
Julianne Blackwell  Rachel Murphy
Carolyn Valdes  Jessica Erickson
Natasha Warner  Helen O’Brien
Radka Hart  Tom Macon
Jimmy Ranieri  Lynette Amick
Ashley Davis  Poonam Bhola
Michael Herman  Barbara Kremer
Sandy Macon  Concy Richardson
Peggy Smith  Frank Valdes
Joan Gosnell  Rick Meyer
Scott Shumaker  Chris Wallace

What a wonderful village... Remember: Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew

UUCT Book Club

Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month in the Awareness room at 7pm. All are welcome. For questions, or to arrange free childcare, call Lois Atkins 991-5350.


October - Where We Belong by Emily Griffin
November - My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor
December - The Boy Kings of Texas by Domingo Martinez

Online Payments Now Accepted!

Did you know that you may now donate or pledge through our website? It is an easy, convenient, private and reliable way to process your payments. Just go to our website and click the Online Giving button on the right hand side. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions: mwiese@uuctucson.org
Application of the 1st principle in the Life of a Unitarian Universalist (Part One)

By Kathleen Hogue, Lifespan Faith Development Director

As a religious educator in the Unitarian Universalist faith, I am acutely aware of the role that the UU Principles play in my perspective of all life relationships. The seven UU Principles are the values that hold us together as a faith; they give unity to our diversity. Further, if we truly believe them, they are the way in which we live our lives in every aspect of our lives- social, professional, family, and personal. To truly live our beliefs begins with and is summed up in our first principle: *We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.*

Social Life

Our relationships with our neighbors are a very important indicator of how we are truly living that first principle. When one of the Pharisees asked “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” - Matthew 22:36-40 NIV

“But who is my neighbor,” you may ask? As in the story found in Luke that Jesus tells of the Good Samaritan, this could be any stranger on the street being beaten, a woman in the grocery store parking lot asking for money, a driver in the car behind you who keeps getting a little too close to your bumper, or literally your neighbor that lives on your street who you have yet to speak to.

When we encounter injustice being done to a stranger and we stand up for them and help them in any way we can, that is living the first principle. This is not to say that we should put ourselves in danger. There are many ways to help such as calling for assistance from law enforcement, going on marches, participating in protests, changing laws that perpetuate inequality- all of these are ways of living our beliefs.

What about when people are asking for money and you just cannot spare one more dime? That is hard. Sometimes it is easier just to ignore the needy and even be rude hoping they will just go away. To live that first principle though, forces us to put ourselves in their shoes. “What if that were me?” you ask yourself. Instead of adding hurt to that person you offer a smile, an “I’m sorry”, a sandwich, or just a friendly ear to listen to their story.

But what about that person who is riding your bumper, cut you off or stole your parking space? Living the first principle means not calling names, shaking fists, giving the finger, or wishing ill to those individuals. It means wondering if they may be having a bad day, hoping they stay safe, wishing their day would get better and praying that they will be happy.

Then there are our actual neighbors, those who we live close too. To live our belief calls us to reach out and connect with them. When we get to know others in our community we become friends and at the very least we establish a dialogue with them so that when needs or conflicts arise we are better able to deal with them in a way that honors the inherent worth and dignity of all involved.

We also live our first principle in our friendships. Having friends and extended family and being a friend is an important part of who we are. C. S. Lewis writes, “Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What! You too? I thought I was the only one." - C.S. Lewis. This is where we find and hold to those people who share our values. These are the people we want to be with. However, even with our friends we are not always alike.

I am reminded of a birthday party in which the first principle was certainly lived by hosts and guests alike. One for an older gentleman turning 70 who along with his partner threw a party and invited a diverse group of people to celebrate with them, gay, straight, old young, male, and even staff! Everyone was welcoming and many danced. No one felt uncomfortable or judged.
Share the Plate – October 20th

Share the Plate Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. On that day, UUCT shares half of the non-pledge income with a local non-profit organization. October’s Share the Plate recipient is TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network). Founded nearly 20 years ago (with UUCT’s help), TIHAN provides compassionate and non-judgmental service to those affected by HIV/AIDS. Through education and support, they as individuals and faith communities work to build bridges, reduce stigma and sustain hope. Currently, TIHAN has 41 member congregations, including UUCT. Our hope is to rejuvenate this bond through participation in Poz Caf. Please plan to attend the service and hear their Executive Director, Scott Blades, speak and/or stop by the LFD Table for more information. You can also learn more by going to their website: http://www.tihan.org/

UUCT Artist of the Month Gallery presents:
The Paintings of Gavin Hugh Troy

The opening reception for Gavin Troy will be on Sunday, October 13th at 11:45 AM in Holland. Gavin is a Tucson artist who lives and works in the downtown arts district. His paintings are a non-verbal means of expressing his unique visions of creative inner landscapes. He is inspired by forms and colors and paints both on wood and canvas. Please come to the reception and welcome Gavin. Refreshments will be served. The Gallery is also open during church office hours, 9-1 PM Tuesday through Friday, and Sunday, 11:30-1 PM. The show runs through Sunday, November 3rd.

Gifts of Love

It’s that time of year again! For the past 2 years UUCT has adopted a family for the holidays through the “Gifts of Love” program at Interfaith Community Services (ICS), and this year we’ll be doing it again!

There are many ways to get involved. You could purchase a gift or gift card, donate wrapping supplies, make a card, or volunteer to deliver the gifts. Contact Ashley Davis in the office (748-1551) to sign up.

Please read upcoming newsletters, emails, and order of service announcements for more information!

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, October 13, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
Service, Sacrifice, and Honor
Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Michelle Maliniak
Diane and Michelle share their thoughts on service, sacrifice, and honor from the perspectives of their life experiences, Diane as a minister and Michelle as a former firefighter.
Worship Associate: Michelle Maliniak
Music: Agnes Paulsen and Michelle Maliniak

Sunday, October 20, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
Four Reflections on Trust
Speakers: Sally Masteller, Bob Samuels, Debra Jefferson, and Roger Steenland
These and other members of UUCT’s Sunday Spirituality Discussion Group present their third worship service.
Worship associate: Gilbert Moore
Music: Desert Chorale, Leeza Beriyeva

Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 7:00pm
Mid-week Alternative Worship

Sunday, October 27, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Kathleen Hogue
Extended Family Worship
Trust in the Face of Fear
In the spirit of Halloween, we’ll gather as an intergenerational community to face our fears together. Wear your costume!
Worship Associate: Stephen Kraynak
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

Newsletter Deadline

Beginning in November, the Tucsonitarian will be printed once per month. The deadline will always be on the 24th day of the month and the newsletter will be printed and available online the first week of each month. Please be sure to submit your articles and announcements before the deadline. The newsletter is available on the UUCT website (uuctucson.org) or you can pick up a hard copy at the church for free. If you would like a copy to be mailed to you, please send $15 (for an annual subscription) to the church office.