From the Minister’s Study

It’s hard to believe that I’m completing my eighth year as minister of UUCT and looking forward to my ninth. Where has the time gone? Each year I grow to love you more and feel a deeper commitment to the ministry we share.

This coming summer will be distinctively different for me. I’m taking a sabbatical. Not as long as what was originally planned, but a sabbatical none-the-less. I’m looking forward to digging into my sabbatical project, which is to immerse myself in learning more about homelessness and poverty in Tucson.

You may have noticed that the police are frequently present on our church campus. On Easter weekend, our building was vandalized. We’ve had cars broken into, the presence of disruptive and combative people, and people who’ve tried to steal from the offering basket. Often, the police are called because they are better equipped to assist people in crisis than we are.

It’s common for those of us who arrive early on a Sunday morning to find people sleeping in the doorways to our buildings.

All of this is working to make an invisible reality visible to us. There are an increasing number of people without homes who camp on the undeveloped properties adjacent to the church – people with inherent worth and dignity.

How do we respond in away that honors our principles and values? --a complex question without easy answers. I hope my study time will shed some light and help us to move forward with integrity.

My intent is to use my sabbatical time to connect with others in the neighborhood of the church who are undoubtedly feeling the impact of homelessness just as we are. I envision a Neighborhood Summit on Homelessness, bringing together those who live, work, or worship in the vicinity of 22nd and Swan.

I’ll be away from church June 9 thru August 4. Your Worship Associates are in charge of Sunday services during that time. They’ve created a schedule of diverse and interesting speakers. Your Pastoral Care Team is on hand to assist members during times of need. You can access the Pastoral Care Team by calling the church office. Your very capable staff is available, as always. The same is true of your Board of Trustees and Committee on Ministry.

Know that every time I’m away, you are all close to my heart.

The world calls to us with harsh and beautiful cries. Somewhere deep in our bones, a response forms, hearing the cry as our own, recognizing that we are caught in an infinite web of mutuality. What we do unto the least of us, we do unto ourselves. Let us respond to poverty and homelessness in Tucson with awareness, love, and compassion.

Yours,
Rev. Diane

Stained Glass Windows

During Easter weekend, two of our smaller stained glass windows were defaced, cracked, and broken. These faceted windows, originally made by Glidden Parker, are extraordinary in their exquisite and totally unique construction. It will take an artisan with the necessary skills to make the needed repairs. Our insurance company, Church Mutual, put us in contact with local stained glass artists to give an estimate of what repairs will cost. Their input indicates that the cost of repairing these windows will be at least $1600.

In a generous act of restoration, Preston and Betsy McMillan made a $250 donation towards the insurance deductible of $1000. Will you join them in making it possible to repair and restore the beautiful sanctuary we all enjoy? Make your check to UUCT and note “stained glass” on the memo line.

Mary Wiese, our administrator, is the person directly responsible for dealing with insurance claims. If you have any questions about our insurance coverage, feel free to contact Mary at mwiese@uuctucson.org.
**Rev. Diane’s Gift to UUCT**

*Board announcement at the May 4, 2014 Annual Meeting:*

It is customary for academics and ministers to spend time every 3 or 4 years focusing on personal professional development away from the day-to-day demands of their jobs - Sabbatical. For ministers, of course, this is also a time for much-needed spiritual renewal. Per agreement with this congregation Rev. Diane earns one month of sabbatical time for every year of her service to us. Until last year she had taken no time for this very important purpose – accruing a total due her of 7 months.

The details of any sabbatical arrangement are reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees: when, where, what specific professional development and spiritual renewal is to be undertaken. A schedule and plan for those 7 months was approved, and began with the 3 months taken last year while Rev. Christiana was with us. In March, Rev. Diane presented a proposal to the Board of Trustees to review a new plan for the remaining 4 months. She and AJ, in addition to their annual pledge, felt deeply moved to help the church reconcile our end-of-year budget shortfall, and she proposed relinquishing 3 months of her remaining sabbatical time–and planning for only one month in July 2014.

The funds set aside (for paying congregational expenses during that 3 month absence) she requested be transferred into the general operating fund. That money, along with other income and donations, is why now at the end of this church year, unlike last year, the Board of Trustees is not considering the budget-balancing option of a full church closure for 1 or 2 weeks.

Please understand that the Board seriously considered not approving her proposal. It is not, by any measure, acceptable treatment of a minister; it is definitely not customary practice; and it is not a fiscally responsible way to address budget needs. Rev. Diane, however, was determined, and passionate, and adamant that this is what her heart moved her to do for this church, for her beloved congregation. In the end the board agreed to allow it. No Board of Trustees would ever consider doing this as a routine matter, and future UUCT boards will ensure she takes her much needed and well-deserved sabbatical–which she begins accruing anew in August –on a regular basis.

Please, in whatever way you can, take the time– in person, with a note, email, or phone call – to thank your minister! Please join your Board of Trustees in acknowledging Reverend Diane’s generous, heartfelt, loving gift.

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**Upcoming Services:**

**Sunday, June 8, 10:30 am**

*Casting Questions Into the Deep*

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism? Or UUCT? Or UU history and theology? Have you wondered how Unitarian Universalists approach the big questions of life? This is your chance to ask your questions and have them answered by Rev. Diane. Come prepared to write your questions down. Rev. Diane will answer as many as possible during what would be the sermon time.

Worship Associate: Brad Weeks
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

**Sunday, June 15, 10:30 am**

*I Believe in Miracles*

*(just not the Biblical or Hallmark ones)*

J.D. Garcia

This sermon will explore some connections between ethics, personal decisions in daily life, and the scientific method. A sense of wonder will also be discussed as contributing to decision making, adding coloring to our framework or perspective.

Worship Associate: Randall Springer

**Sunday, June 22, 10:30 am**

*We Are The Ones We’ve Been Waiting For...*

*Creating and Transforming our Community*

Peggy Hutchison

*This title comes from an excerpt from the Elders of the Hopi Nation of Oraibi, Arizona. It is a long, beautiful message that you can find in Alice Walker’s book We are The Ones We’ve Been Waiting For: Inner Light in a Time of Darkness. A reading from the message will be part of the service.*

Peggy Hutchison serves as the Chief Executive Officer of The Primavera Foundation, a non-profit community housing development organization whose mission is to provide pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization.

**Sunday, June 29, 10:30 am**

*A Universal Message - world view in Judaism and Modern Israel*

Guest Speaker: Hazzan Avraham Alpert

Worship Associate: Wendy Gordon Weeks
Upcoming Services continued:

Sunday, July 6, 10:30 am
Sanctuary: Radical Hospitality
Rev. Matthew Crary
Rev. Crary will discuss his thoughts on restarting the Sanctuary movement in Southern Arizona.
The Rev. Matthew Crary serves our congregation in Amado, AZ (formally of Green Valley) as a developmental minister, bringing him back to Southern Arizona after 20 years away. He also serves on the PSWD Board of Trustees and the Board of UUJAZ and in all the time he has left, he practices Qi Gong and plays board games with his wife and five sons.
Worship Associate: Walker Smith

Artist of the Month Gallery: June Show
Photographic Works by UUCT Members and Friends
The opening reception for UUCT Members and Friends Photography show will be on Sunday, June 8th at 11:45 am in Holland Sanctuary. Come support the talented photographers from our own community. 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, September 7th.

Share the Plate News
Share the Plate is an ongoing social justice activity of our church.
Once a month, we share half of all non-pledge income in the offertory basket with a local nonprofit whose mission puts into action one or more of our Principles. Since its implementation, Share the Plate has boosted both our income via the offering basket and congregants’ awareness of local efforts to improve our community. As the name implies, Share the Plate is always split 50-50 between the local charity and our own church. For that reason, we ask that you make checks out to UUCT and write “Share the Plate” in the memo line. Any checks received in the basket on Share the Plate Sunday are understood to be contributions to Share the Plate, not the nonprofit itself. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to a nonprofit should send the check directly to the nonprofit.

June Share the Plate
June’s STP recipient is Wildland Firefighter Foundation, whose main focus is to help families of firefighters killed in the line of duty and to assist injured firefighters and their families. They also honor and acknowledge past, present, and future members of the wildland firefighting community.
You can learn more by going to their website: http://wffoundation.org/Index.asp

The Committee on Ministry made the following recommendation, and the Board of Trustees has agreed. In all church documents, and in all meetings of the congregation and its members; it is preferred that our minister, Diane Dowgiert, be referred to as The Rev. Diane Dowgiert or Rev. Diane. While Rev. Diane is a charming, personable, and humble person, and has referred to herself for many years as simply "Diane", we feel that her training, her years of service to our congregation and Unitarian-Universalism as a whole, grant her this small sign of respect.

Thank you,
Michael Herman
UUCT Board of Trustees

The Book Club invites all to enjoy the Classic Novel "Bless Me Ultima" by Rudolfo Anaya "probably the best-known and most-respected contemporary Chicano Fiction" NY Times. We meet at 7PM in the Awareness Room on the third Thursday of the month (6/19/14). For free sitters call ahead and questions call Lois 911-5350.

POZ CAFÉ June Luncheon
Thursday, June 19th
This is our congregation’s first chance to help with Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network’s monthly luncheon. This lunch, bingo and raffle is for those living with HIV and their guests. Help by bringing disposable razors, small tissue packets or $$$ to help buy raffle and Bingo prizes. We also need people to help the day of the event. See more information at the education table in Goddard or call Margo at 784-1198.

HELP INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES (ICS) HELP FAMILIES IN NEED WITH AN EEgee’s COUPON CARD: Each year, eegee’s selects a local charity or charities to receive the proceeds from their annual coupon card program. This year, ICS is blessed to be selected as the primary charity! For a $7 donation to ICS, you can receive a coupon card redeemable for a full year starting July 2014 that contains $48 worth of monthly discounts on eegee’s food purchases (up to $4 off your order). Each donation will support ICS programs to assist adults and children experiencing financial hardship, as well as elderly and disabled neighbors in need.
UUCT will be selling the coupon cards in Goddard Hall after Sunday service (see Mary Wiese at the Membership table) throughout the month of June. You may also buy them in the church office during normal office hours.

Newsletter Deadline
The deadline to submit an announcement is the 24th day of the month and the newsletter will be printed and available online the first week of the following month.