



November 11, 2009

# ucsonitarian

*The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson  
Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.*

## From the Minister's Study

*"What you do unto the least of these, you do unto me."*  
attributed to Jesus

I hate missing church. Who in their right mind would want to miss being with a community of friends that respects and cares for every one of its members? To be part of such a community is a gift of immeasurable value.

Recently, for the first time ever, in nearly ten years of professional ministry, I missed a Sunday in the pulpit. I wasn't waylaid on an international peace-making mission, or overcome by a life-threatening medical illness, or injured in pursuit of some exotic pleasure like ocean kayaking or skydiving. I missed church due to complications of an in-grown toenail.

"How can this be?" you might ask. Well, okay, *you* might not ask, but *I* do! How can something so small and mundane as a toenail bring me down hard, keeping me from what I love most?

The simple answer – excruciating pain! And the wonders of pharmacology. The same drugs that made the pain manageable rendered me functionally useless.

An occupational hazard of ministry is the obsessive search for the deeper meaning of everything, including recalcitrant toenails.

Metaphorically, we say we are part of one strong body. When the seemingly smallest, least significant part is hurting, the whole is affected. I've come to appreciate my toes, every one of them! Not only are they cute and adorable -- poking out of the open-toed sandals we get to wear most of the year here in Arizona -- they provide stability and balance. When these tiny digits are sick or injured, things are off – harder – more difficult – even painful.

When my father was dying of cancer, my sister observed that maybe the purpose of cancer is to show us how much we are loved. An infected, in-grown toenail may not be in the same league as cancer. Still, I appreciate your expressions of love and care -- for me and my toe. It has made the idea of caring for the least among us very real.

Who are the least among us? How might we ease their pain, and thus, be liberated as one whole, strong body?

Gratefully, Diane

**Great Things  
Are  
Taking Place  
at UUCT:**

**Good News!**

**UUCT  
successfully  
submitted a  
proposal for  
a Congrega-  
tional Study/  
Action Issue**

**Immigration  
as a Moral  
Issue**

**to be  
considered  
at the  
General  
Assembly in  
June!**

## Sunday Services

Sunday, November 15

*Rev. Diane Dowgiert*

### Question Authority

Questions of authority can be thorny for Unitarian Universalists, especially questions of religious authority. As people who claim a liberal religious faith, how do we know what we know? What sources are authoritative for us?

Sunday, November 22

*Rev. Diane Dowgiert*

### Stories of Hope: Guest at Your Table

This holiday season, share stories of hope by participating in Guest at Your Table. For more than thirty years, the Guest at Your Table program has helped UU's incorporate "faith in action" into daily life. Real stories of real struggles in people's lives around the world connect us more deeply to the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Sunday, November 29

*Rabbi Joseph Weizenbaum*

### The Lost Art of Thinking

## A UU Christian Fellowship? Scott Shumaker

As I drive around Tucson, I'm impressed by the number and variety of Christian churches. Why are there so many Christians? Unitarianism and Universalism are both rooted in Christianity, so UUs of the past certainly saw something of value in Christianity.

On the other hand, I know that most Christian churches are still bound by dogma and doctrine, and it doesn't take long to understand the reasons for the splits between Unitarianism, Universalism, and Christianity.

I've been wondering how many Unitarian Universalists at this church see some value in the Christian message while rejecting the authoritarianism of the Christian church.

In many UU churches, people who came from other faiths get together to discuss their common interests: UU Jews, UU Buddhists, UU wiccans, UU atheists, and UU pagans.

Is there an interest in our congregation for a group of UU Christians? If this intrigues you, come to our showing of the funny yet thoughtful mainstream film "Stranger than Fiction" starring Will Ferrell, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, and Queen Latifah, on Sunday, November 22nd at 11:45 am in the Holland Sanctuary. If you'd like, stick around afterward to join in a discussion about the possibility of forming a group of UU Christians within UUCT.

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### SAVE THE DATE

Just when you thought you couldn't face those Thanksgiving leftovers another night, UUCT comes to the rescue with a Sweet Tomatoes Fun-raiser on Monday December 7th from 5-8 PM at the Tucson Mall location (4420 N Stone Ave).

Bring your flyer (you must have one for UUCT to get credit), buy a beverage and dinner for each person, and UUCT gets 15% of the total we spend that evening. Invite family and friends and UUCT will earn more!

See Jan Dowling (748-9503) at church on Nov.29th and Dec.6th to get your flyer. The September Fun Raiser earned UUCT \$161.00 (big thank you to all who participated). Let's see if we can get to \$200 this time!!

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### Giving Life the Shape of Justice

Participate in a UUA Congregational Poll on-line beginning November 15. Conducted by the Commission on Social Witness, the poll will determine which Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI) will be admitted to the Final General Assembly Agenda for 2010.

One of the CSAI's is *Immigration as a Moral Issue*, submitted by UUCT. Help usher this important issue through the process by visiting [www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw).

## No More Deaths – a Ministry of UUCT “In the News”

Read this new report published by the ACLU in San Diego. It profiles the work of No More Deaths, along with several other humanitarian and immigrant rights groups. <http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/immigrants/humanitarianreport.pdf>

Read the article “Death Watch in the Desert” in the November/December 2009 issue of Utne Reader. Utne Reader is a national publication that collects material from non-mainstream publications to provide information not widely available. This article was originally published in the Tucson Weekly. <http://www.utne.com/Politics/Death-Watch-in-the-Desert-Humanitarians-Immigration.aspx>



### WHAT IS ALLIANCE ?

The Alliance group is the longest running service group in the 70 year history of the UU Church of Tucson. Our main goal is SERVICE TO THE CHURCH.

Our meetings include a lot of socializing, and usually a pot-luck lunch. Sometimes, we will have an outside speaker, and once each year we try to have a field trip to a local place of interest followed by dinner at a restaurant.

Our members are both men and women and are mostly older retired people, but we have no age limits nor any other restrictions on membership.

We have several on-going projects such as collecting aluminum cans for recycling and collecting copies of recent magazines to be re-sold in Goddard Hall every Sunday. Older magazines which have not been sold are made available to hospitals and other institutions. All members are urged to bring these items to donate every week.

Another fund-raising project is the sale of jewelry and craft items made by members of our church, especially jewelry made by Margot Garcia and photo note-cards made by Linda Garrett. Look for these in Goddard Hall every Sunday during the winter months.

The money we raise is used for various improvements in the church.

## Membership and Community Life News:

Submitted by Mary Wiese,  
Membership and Community Life Administrator  
[mwiese@uuctucson.org](mailto:mwiese@uuctucson.org).

## ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Mike Greenbaum  
[mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org](mailto:mgreenbaum@uuctucson.org)

### Newcomers News:

- *Newcomers Orientation* – The next Newcomers Orientation will be held Sunday November 15, after the service. A free lunch and childcare will be provided. Participation in an orientation is a requirement for membership. Please contact Mary Wiese to RSVP or if you have questions.
- *New Member Class* – After you have completed the Pathway to Membership, you are welcomed, and encouraged, to become a member. There will be a New Member classes held in the Ministers office on the *first Wednesday* of the month at 7 p.m., or *second Sunday* of the month, after service. Please contact Mary Wiese if you have questions or to RSVP [mwiese@uuctucson.org](mailto:mwiese@uuctucson.org).

### Young(er) Adult Get Together, Friday November 20, 5:30 p.m.

Are you between the ages of 18 and 45? If so, you are invited to join us for a night of fun and empowerment. We want to hear from YOU! What do you want from your church? Please join us for an evening of wine, appetizers, beverages, and dessert hosted by the Membership Team and Reverend Diane. Childcare will be provided on request. The comedy group Queer on Their Feet performs after the get together. Plan on making an evening of it! For more information please contact Mary Wiese.

### Annual Holiday Decorating!

Please join us after church on Sunday December 6, at 12:30 to help us decorate Holland and Goddard for the Holidays. A free lunch will be provided for anyone that stays to help. Come join in the fun and festivities! Please contact Mary Wiese for more information.

### Queer on Their Feet is back, AND it is a Fundraiser for the Church!!

Come join us on Friday November 20th, at 8pm and see the Country's only stand up comedy AND improvisation troupe. General admission is \$15. Advance tickets online through Brown Paper Tickets: [www.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com), or 877-278-4842. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the show.



### POUNING NAILS...AND SO MUCH MORE NOVEMBER 15

That's the title of a talk to be given by Barbara Brown, Community Development Director at Habitat for Humanity, on Sunday, November 15 at 11:45 in the Awareness Room. Habitat is our Share the Plate partner for November/December She'll talk to us about the organization--its goals, its work, how it helps the Tucson community, and ways people interested in the work they do can become involved--not only by building houses but in many other ways as well. Plan to attend after lunch on November 15.

### STRANGER THAN FICTION NOVEMBER 22

On Sunday, November 22, at 11:45 in the Holland Sanctuary, the Adult Faith Development program will present a special film, the 2006 release, Stranger Than Fiction, starring Will Ferrell, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Queen Latifah, and Maggie Gyllenhaal. This mainstream comedy mixes literature, theology, and yes, romance, in an offbeat, yet thoughtful way. Join us after lunch that day.

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### Grocery Rebate Reminders!!

Welcome back winter visitors: Please remember that if your Fry's card has had a 0 (zero) balance for 90 days it has been deactivated and a new card from UUCT is necessary to help the church. Also, Basha's card can be used at AJs.

Anyone who uses Albertsons, even a little, please pick up a card from us so that UUCT obtains credit. Their rebate is small but it all adds up.

Stores which will give us a rebate, at no extra cost to you, now include Albertsons, AJs, Basha's, Food City, Fry's, Safeway and Sunflower. Anyone purchasing at one or more of these stores and has not joined our program please stop by the table just inside Goddard after services for more information.

Now, when it comes to the holidays, don't forget to invite grandpa and his new lady friend, Aunt Nellie and the kids again this year. They will be crushed if you don't. Also grocery cards can make a nice gift so keep that in mind.

See ya' Sunday!

Marj Smith  
Grocery Rebate Program Coordinator

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 26, 2009. Social hour 11:30, Dinner to follow  
You will be asked to bring a side dish.  
\$5.00 per person .(covers cost of turkey and ham)  
No charge for small children.

The signup sheets will be in the Foyer of the Church  
And during Coffee Hour after Church  
We always have a good time  
And a lot of food

Any questions? Barbara Tegethoff 749-2029  
Barbararip@comcast.net

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### Book Club 11-19-09

The Book Club will meet on Thursday Dec. 19 in The Awareness Room at 7pm.

We will be reviewing "The Red Leather Diary" by Lily Koppel . The author finds a diary in a dumpster in New York City. Its contents are written in her book .We hope to see you there!

## B&G Work Day Nov. 09

UUCT Work day! Saturday, Nov.14, 2009. 8 am to 12 noon. Come and help make the grounds and buildings beautiful. Snacks and refreshments will be available. Join the fun and do your bit!

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### ARTIST OF THE MONTH GALLERY

Find a treasure of warmth for the winter. The "QUUilters" of the UU Church of Tucson may have just the qUUilt for you in the Gallery's November exhibit. The exhibit continues through December 6.

The deadline for the next Tucsonitarian and Transforming Times is November 17 by 5 p.m.
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## Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

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