



December 23, 2009

ucsonitarian

*The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson
Sunday Services at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.*

Great Things Are Taking Place at UUCT:

The Holiday Pageant was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who participated!

From the Minister's Office

As the New Year approaches, many of us look for ways to add new healthy changes to our lives. I know I do. January is often the time when I recommit myself to healthier eating and regular exercise. But what about spiritual health?

This January I am also recommitting myself to a regular practice of mindfulness meditation, and I'm inviting anyone interested to join me. Thich Nhat Hanh, who is a Buddhist teacher, scholar, and social activist, suggests we add the path of mindfulness in our everyday life. Over the years I have found that a regular meditation practice creates personal inner peace. With regular practice, it's more likely that I will carry a peaceful attitude into the world. I believe that's why so many spiritual teachers tell us there is a connection between personal inner peace and world peace.

If any of these ideas reflect your feelings, consider joining others and me in regular mindfulness meditation practice.

Beginning on January 6, we will meet in the sanctuary, every Wednesday, from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. People of all levels of meditation experiences are welcome. No registration is required. Just drop in, entering through the west entrance to the sanctuary.

Each session will begin with a centering reading followed by 20 minutes of silent meditation. Each session will end with discussion and support for sustaining an on-going practice.

In whatever way you begin this New Year, may it be one that brings a large measure of peace and contentment to you and yours.

Peace,
Diane

Sunday Services

Please note that starting December 6th, UUCT began two services (9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)

Christmas Eve, December 24 – Services at 5:30 and 7:00

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Night of Wonder, Night of Silence

This year we'll celebrate Christmas Eve with a traditional family service of holiday music, candle lighting, and child dedication at 5:30.

The 7:00 service will be an "Acoustic Christmas", featuring traditional favorites played on guitar and harp.

Service Music: 5:30 Holiday Choir (singers from the Desert Chorale and Family Singers, and alums), Soloist Sheryl Holland and flutist Sylvia Hamilton

7:00 Jeff Chamberlain, Guitar and Celeste Rogers, Harp

Sunday, December 27

Christopher Hoffmann

Worship Associate: Bid Romans

Service Music: 9:15 and 11:00 Steven Brubaker, Cello and Carol Brubaker, Piano

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Rev. Diane Dowgiert

The State of the Church

ANNOUNCING UUCT's Party of the Year!

"Sonoran Spring" is the theme of this year's (2010) Service Auction, to be held on Saturday evening, March 13.

Pick up item donation forms at the Auction Table in Goddard, beginning January 3. From Jan. 10 - Feb. 7, purchase your reduced price dinner tickets for \$15.00 per person. After Feb. 7, the price goes to \$20.00 per person. So, it's time to mark your calendar, and think SPRING! Sonoran Spring! UUCT Auction! Co-Chairs this year are Janet Moore, 760-0693, and Ellie Nelson, 615-4136.

Of course, we can use your help! Give us a call, please.

Good Times Begin with UU!

Tired of dressing up, fighting traffic and crowds, and avoiding drunk drivers on New Year's Eve? Wish you could just wear something cozy, gaze at the stars, and hang out with friends? Well, now you can!

Our new club, the UU Meanderers, is starting off the new year right! Come camping with us at Organ Pipe National Monument - running water and electricity in the bathrooms, right next to the ranger station, and although there are no RV hookups, there is a dump station and potable water.

Come make smores and sing whatever camp songs you like ! For more information or to RSVP, please email Cyndi at czclements@yahoo.com, or call 520-307-1225 (if calling, please mention that you are from UUCT).

We'll save some marshmallows for UU!

Cyndi Clements



The next outing of the **UU Hikers** is Saturday, **January 2**. We'll hike the Pontatoc Ridge Trail in the Catalina Mountains. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00 am. To reach that location, take East Skyline Drive to North Alvernon Way. Turn north on Alvernon, and follow it for a mile to a hikers' parking lot at its north end. We should finish by noon. Questions? Call Ellie Nelson, 615-4136.

Reflecting on Who are our Neighbors?

As we prepare for the holidays and spending time with our families, let us be mindful that many immigrant families are being separated by detentions and deportations. The UUA is working for reform of our broken immigration system and the UU Social Action group expects legislation to be introduced in 2010 that they will be asking us to support.

In preparation for all out advocacy it's important to know who the immigrants are in our communities. The UUA is encouraging UU congregations to find out more about our neighbors. What are our relationships? Does our congregation offer "welcome to the stranger"?

See [Welcoming Our Neighbors: A UU Guide to Immigrant Justice](#) for ideas. (Note: this will be updated in Jan with information on new legislation.)

SUCCESS: Stop Stupak Rally

Last week, Unitarian Universalists joined over 1,000 protesters from across the nation to rally and lobby their Members of Congress against the Stupak and Nelson Amendments, which would effectively eliminate abortion coverage in the proposed insurance exchange. Those who could not come to Washington, D.C. made phone calls, signed online petitions and wrote letters to their elected officials asking them not to take away insurance coverage that most women have today.

During debate on the Senate floor, Senator Barbara Boxer read the names of 13 religious organizations, including the UUA, when she entered our coalition's letter opposing the amendments into the official record. The Nelson Amendment, which was defeated in a 54-45 vote, will not appear in the Senate health reform bill.

The UUA will continue to speak out against the Stupak Amendment, which could still pose a threat to women's reproductive rights if included in the final health care bill. Learn more at <http://www.stopstupak.com>.

Green Water Bottles Delivered

The stainless steel water bottles, which many of you purchased, were delivered on Dec. 13. The church made \$626 on this project, and about 90 people will receive great, green Christmas gifts!

Thanks to all who participated in this UUCT fundraiser.

Newcomers News:

*Submitted by Mary Wiese,
Membership and Community Life Administrator:
mwiese@uuctucson.org*

Newcomers Orientation- The next Newcomers Orientation will be held on Sunday January 17, after the second service. Free lunch and childcare will be provided. The orientations are an introduction to our church and they are the first step on the Pathway to Membership. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Mary Wiese.

New Member Class – New Member classes are held in the Ministers office on the *first Wednesday* of the month at 7 p.m., or *second Sunday* of the month, after service. You need to complete the Pathway to membership before becoming a member. Please RSVP to Mary Wiese.

Cabaret, Friday January 29: The Kitchen Ministry will once again prepare a delicious pasta dinner for our traditional Cabaret on January 20. If you would like to help us prepare the meal, please contact Mary Wiese or Kathy McDaniel:
kmcdaniel@dakotacom.net

Did You Know? Our church rents a portion of our campus to a nationally accredited daycare center Monday – Friday? We do! The Children's Center is now taking applications for new clients. If you or someone you know, would like to know more, please contact Rima Koussa, 790-0117.



FRYS 6 MONTH DEADLINE!

We have through January to bring Frys Rebate up for this 6 month period. If you can help by adding a bit (or a lot) more to your card we may break our record so far. Anything will be appreciated and I look forward to seeing where we will end up. I will let you know what that is as soon as I receive a report.

Thank you all again for your support of this program.

*Marj Smith,, Coordinator
Grocery Rebate Program*

Volunteers Needed for Cabaret

On January 29th, next year we are having our annual Cabaret. Typically, this is an informal fundraiser featuring food, music and other talents from our community. It's been a highly successful and entirely enjoyable event every year since I've been here.

To put on a good Cabaret, in addition to performers, the following jobs need volunteers: ticket takers, ticket sales people on the Sundays of January, room decorators, snack preparers (to set out a side board of food), food/beverage buyers (reimbursed), room clean up people, etc. Almost always, all of these jobs fall to the choir, who gracefully comply and do their best to insure that the church puts on a good show.

This year, I'd appreciate a few volunteers who never participate in the music of this church. If you're interested in helping with Cabaret in any capacity, would you please contact me at:
bmoon@email.arizona.edu

Thank you for your help,

Brian



UUCT and Habitat for Humanity Tucson

There are many folks in our congregation who have supported Habitat for Humanity Tucson in numerous ways. Let's compile a summary of our support during 2009 for our Social Justice Committee records and for Habitat's Faith in Action Coalition.

UU folks have worked in the Habitat Office, worked at or donated items to the HabiStore, worked on houses at construction sites, and have contributed money. We can include the November Share the Plate Sunday contribution of \$361.21 to Habitat!

Call Judy Dare at 624-9272 or e-mail jadare@q.com if you could count up your hours of volunteering and/or indicate if you have been an in-kind and/or financial (you don't have to disclose the \$ amount) helper. I will compile this data.

Thanks so much for your help!

Judy Dare

UUCT 09 Xmas Dinner

Xmas Dinner at UUCT Dec. 25, 09
Social Hour 11:30 Dinner 12:30

\$5.00 per person —to cover cost of turkey and ham
(children free).

You will be asked to bring a side dish.
Any questions, call Kathy Maresh at 749-2029.



The deadline for the next Tucsonitarian and Transforming
Times is December 29th by 5 p.m.

Homeless Hospitality 2010 - It Takes A Village

Please consider donating your time, home made dish or
needed items for our homeless guests. Unfortunately, we
canceled two nights in December due to lack of
volunteers. It takes many to cook, serve, clean and
chaperone up to 14 homeless guests each night.

Upcoming dates: Jan. 7 & 8th,
Feb. 4 & 5th,
Feb. 18th & 19th

Please contact: Erin Deely at edeely@cox.net or
320-7688



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Tucson**

4831 East Twenty-second Street
Tucson, AZ 85711
www.uuctucson.org
office@uuctucson.org

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