



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Affirming and promoting the inherent dignity and worth of every person since 1954

NOVEMBER 2008

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES — all 10:00 am

Followed by Coffee Time and then *Enrichment Hour*—small group programs (11:45–12:45)

NOVEMBER 2 PUTTING ON OUR TOP HATS

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, with Shantida, *Worship Associate*, and the Chalice Dancers

Music and a dance from the musical *Top Hat* -- "I'm puttin' on my top hat, tyin' up my white tie, brushin' off my tails." We welcome new members to Paint Branch. And we reflect on why voting is a religious duty. We have all been issued an invitation to vote this Tuesday. Anyone who's anyone will be there. Some of us may even get the day off. But it is an invitation that has been won at great cost. Ours is the only faith that has as one of its core values a commitment to democratic processes.

NOVEMBER 9 WALKING TOGETHER

Rev. John Manwell, with Tosha O'Neal, *Worship Associate* (Together Time)

The name of my Branches column comes from a phrase used by our religious ancestors in the covenant that described their commitment: it was to "walk together" in the ways of God. However we paint the face of the Holy, however we name the inner light that guides us, our purpose is still to "walk the walk" we talk - together. We look today at what this might mean in the daily life we share.

NOVEMBER 16 MANY SINGULAR ROOMS

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, with Don Henderson, *Worship Associate*

The late Ken Patton, the creative genius and poet of UU humanism, offered a familiar image of UUs, in all their rich diversity, coming together on Sunday mornings "out of many singular rooms." What is it that is at the very ground of our being? To what do we pledge our lives? What is there in our beliefs that grounds us or brings us comfort in times of trouble? How do our beliefs relate to the way we live our lives? This morning we have invited members Muriel Morisey, Nancy Boardman, and Charlie Winter to join us in reflecting on these questions.

Reverberations: Please stay for Enrichment Hour (11:45 in the Kelley Room), to discuss the issues raised in this morning's service. Rev. Hubbell will facilitate.

NOVEMBER 23 BAGS OF GOLD

Rev. John Manwell with Marilyn Pearl, *Worship Associate*

At this season of thanksgiving, we look about us at all that is our life. Even with all life's hardships, and in the turmoil of today's economy, we have so much. Yet an ancient Hindu story reminds us that though we may be surrounded by blessings, they may be cloaked in disguise as we pass by. How can we train our eyes to see life's golden treasures?

NOVEMBER 30 OH, WE GIVE THANKS

A Thanksgiving Worship Service for All Ages

Carla Miller, *Director of Religious Education*, Erin Washburn, *Worship Associate*, and the Paint Branch Choir

On the Sunday following the Thanksgiving holiday, our whole congregation gathers to give thanks! We'll express our gratitude for life's goodness through story and ritual, including the traditional sharing of bread. And we're proud to feature our new Children's Holiday Choir in their first appearance! Please also bring contributions of non-perishable foods for an area food bank this Sunday

Walking Together by Rev. John Manwell

We are in the most turbulent economic times since the Great Depression. The financial markets swing wildly from day to day. Companies that have been rocks of stability are collapsing and being taken over by the government. Our jobs and savings are at risk, and our economy seems almost on life support. And our nation seems in denial about the impact of global warming on human life.

What will be left for our children? Indeed, for ourselves?

All that we have learned of spiritual strength and wisdom will be put to the test in the months and years ahead.



Our first challenge is to remain calm, to find that place within ourselves which allows us to feel centered. "How much time," the student asked the guru, "do you spend each day in prayer?" "An hour," came the reply, "except when life seems overwhelming, then two." Like the guru, this is a season for redoubling our devotion to our spiritual lives.

Our second challenge, in our calmness, is to take stock of our situation. How can we simplify our lives, live on less, set aside more for the future and for others? How can we see that, with all we have at risk, there is still so much that cannot be taken from us; the blessings of our families, all that has brought us to this point in our lives, and all that sustains us: our education, our faith, and the beauty of the earth which we inhabit?

Then surely our third challenge is to remember that we are not alone, we're all in this together. We can look to others for help, and others will look to us, friends and family members who may depend on us, and all those around us who may be even more vulnerable than we are. How can we reach out to them?

Taking stock of all of this, we may find that even in the face of the challenges which threaten us, we have resources to spare, some of them material, many of them spiritual, as we reach out a helping hand, speak a word of encouragement, and open our hearts to others.

In a poignant scene in the Hebrew Scriptures, an ambitious courier persuades the king to order the death of his kingdom's Jews. Not knowing that she is Jewish, the king has taken as his queen the beautiful Esther. Her uncle Mordecai urges Esther to plead with the king to save her people, though both of them know that it may cost her life. "Who knows?" he says, "Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." She summons her courage, and succeeds.

Could it be that all that life gives us has been for just such a time as this? Together, and in the bonds of love we share, may we find the strength we need.

MINISTERS' TRAVEL IN NOVEMBER



The co-ministers will be out of the office Monday through Wednesday, November 16-19, while attending the Harpers Ferry Ministerial Study Group Retreat.

They will also be out of town during Thanksgiving week, November 24-28, for a family reunion in New England.



A Word from our Board Chair

by Kate Brett

As most of you know, I did not contribute to *Branches* last month because I had been sent south for 3 weeks to help coordinate Federal medical and public health assets with state needs. I worked in Alabama, South Carolina, and Texas for 3 separate hurricanes. The federal response was still slower than one would want, and bureaucracy slowed things down, but even with that, I saw progress in the way that persons with medical needs were treated, including a much improved process for moving people into and out of harm's way.

Fortunately, several very capable people picked up the day to day work I do during my time away and most people barely noticed the absence of a Board chair. I want to thank the 2 vice-chairs, **Jonathan Mawdsley** and **Carol Carter Walker**, for stepping up.

The Board of Trustees has been very busy these last few months, and many special concerns have been raised. I want to let you know about several of these.

The Paint Branch Montessori School is dealing with the results of an incident in which two young students were found after having walked off the school premises. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Child Care Services Division came to inspect our RE building and grounds as a result. The Board has appointed a liaison committee to work with the school once their administrators receive written evaluations from the MSDE, as well as being a stable group of individuals interacting with the school. We are pleased that **Abby Crowley**, **Evangeline Wells**, and **Daniel Everitt** have agreed to take on this important job.

A woman who came to **Bob Holloways'** memorial service fell while getting out of her car and was injured. We are concerned about her well-being and hope she gets well soon.

Finally, the Board met with the Ministerial Search Committee at the end of October. The Board affirmed our strong support for their continuing hard work to find the best ministerial candidate for our church.

They are finishing their work to create a packet that summarizes who we are as a church to exchange with potential candidates in the coming months.

I hope to see you around church. Come talk with me or any of the other Trustees with any concerns or issues, as our mission is to make sure the church is working well.

UU CIVIL RIGHTS LIVING LEGACY PILGRIMAGE FEBRUARY 11-18, 2009

The 2009 Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage is more than a civil rights tour. It is being planned by a team of people who participated in Meadville Lombard's Southern Civil Rights Tour last March and found themselves deeply moved to the point of envisioning something more. Perhaps you could call it "the next step," or "building from the past to create the future." It will begin and end in Birmingham, Alabama, and will include stops in Marion, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama, as well as Meridian and Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Visiting the sites of civil rights activity forty to fifty years ago and talking with veterans of that Movement affects one's thoughts and feelings. It could be a superb preparation for deepening one's understanding and commitment for work on the issues of race, oppression, and injustice that still bedevil Unitarian Universalism.

This Living Legacy Pilgrimage is intended to bring together people who can create a vision that will connect our Unitarian Universalist legacy of work in the Civil Rights Movement to the UUA's current commitment to becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural institution and to understanding the responsibility of the UUA and our congregations in doing the important work of racial reconciliation where it is indicated and necessary.

For trip details, costs, registration, and a list of contacts that can provide more information, please go to www.uulivinglegacy.org/

Ministerial Search Committee by John Bartoli

CONGREGATIONAL RECORD

The "Congregational Record" is what the Unitarian Universalist Association calls the exhaustive historical, financial, demographic, and philosophical description of a congregation in search of new ministry.

Our own Congregational Record, when complete, will be placed on a special password-protected UUA Transitions website. Our Ministerial Service Representative, Nancy Dean, and the UUA Transitions Director, John Weston, will review our work. Once our Congregational Record has been approved, it will be made available to all UU ministers who are currently in search. Each minister will have his or her own resume on this website which our Search Committee will then be able to see. This will allow all parties, potential candidates and our search committee, to get a sense of what the other is about and whether or not we want to find out more about each other.

There are many interesting facts that compiling the Congregational Record has brought to light. Did you know that we have 229 official adult members and that our average Sunday attendance is 114? Or that our children and youth enrollment in the Religious Exploration program is 58? Our operating pledge income this year is over \$261,000 a year from 125 pledge units. If you do the math, that means we average just over \$2,000 per pledging unit, a very high average (we are told) when compared with other UU churches. Did you know that we "employ" 12 people? our interim co-ministers share one full time position, One employee is full time (40 hours a week), two employees are part time (20 hours a week), one works quarter time (10 hours a week) and the rest are paid 5 hours a week of work or less.

Some sections of the Congregational Record require much more thoughtful answers: "Provide a profile of the minister you seek." "Provide a profile of the congregation." "What are the congregation's strengths, what are its challenges?" You can see why we spent so much time talking with members of the congregation trying to get a sense of what you want.

Though we may not be as visible as we have been in previous months, we are still working hard, meeting every week to complete our tasks. Our only agenda is to find the ministry that is the best fit for our congregation. We will settle for nothing less.



The eight members of the MSC (Ministerial Search Committee) are: **Michael Léger** (co-chair), **Bettie Young** (co-chair), **John Bartoli**, **Beth Lyons**, **Rene McDonald**, **Muriel Morisey**, **Tricia Most** and **Marge Owens**. Please don't hesitate to stop one of us and ask about the search. Look for the big ID tags with the MSC logo.

DON'T LET WARM NIGHTS GROW COLD!



Paint Branch is among 30 churches and other organizations who have worked to provide overnight shelter for homeless individuals and families from November through March for the past several years. From January 25 through February

1, we have tentatively agreed to once again host Warm Nights for up to 25 people, providing hot meals, bag lunches, overnight accommodations, transportation to showers and the laundromat, etc.

Paint Branch will be part of Warm Nights this year *only* if **Nathan Rummel**, last year's Coordinator, can find an assistant to recruit volunteers (donators and servers of food, overnight hosts, activities coordinators, building managers, etc.) by November 10. Warm Nights has traditionally been the biggest PBUUC social action activity; during these perilous times, our hospitality is even more desperately needed. Contact Nathan at (301)-776-8851 or RummelNathan@hotmail.com to volunteer as Assistant Coordinator.



Auction Committee News and Notes

LIFE IN THE LOCAL LANE: ANNUAL AUCTION IS NOVEMBER 8TH!

After months of preparation, the big night is almost here. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8th and make plans to be here at Paint Branch for the full afternoon and evening of activities. Our auction theme, "Life in the Local Lane," highlights the wonderful resources of our area and our congregation. Luxuriate in the conviviality of the Auction Dinner and after-dinner Auction Concert. Share the excitement as the last seconds tick away on the silent bidding. You have not seen competitive shopping until you have seen the crowd bidding for the Saint Patrick's Day Dinner.

The Auction Catalog was published on Sunday, October 26th. If you don't have a copy yet, pick one up in the Meeting House. Read through the catalog and check your calendars, so that you are sure about which dinners and events you want. Late-coming donations will be in the catalog supplement available at the auction. Bring your checkbook!



If you meant to submit a donation for the auction but missed the catalog deadline, you can get your donation in the catalog supplement if you act quickly. Paper donation forms can be dropped in the auction box through Sunday

November 2nd. Email donations sent to auction@pbuuc.org will be accepted for a few days, but our catalog editor will have to begin compiling the supplement and she needs to get the information as soon as possible.

The Silent Auction Begins at 3:30 pm. Rooms will close at 15 minute intervals from 5:15 to 6:00 pm. So be sure to place your bids. For a special treat this year, the live entertainment will be presented after the auction while the data volunteers total our accounts. So plan to stay in your seats for the special show. Dinner service will begin at 5:30 pm and the live auction will begin at 7:00 pm. This year the live entertainment will be after the live auction, allowing our data volunteers to total our accounts. Don't miss it!

Financial Notes by Ellen Cotts, Treasurer

Things continue to go well for the church budget, although it is really too early in the year to draw any conclusions. I plan to give you a mid year report after the end of December. Given the deadline for Branches, that will be in your February issue.

In the meantime I have been thinking about the Legacy Fund. (I also serve on the committee that manages that fund.) As you know, the fund reached the benchmark of \$100,000 about two years ago, and this has allowed the committee to make grants for several projects. These include the speaker on Sundown Towns, the purchase of the commercial dishwasher for the kitchen, the new sign on Powder Mill Road, the facilitator for our recent workshop on our Mission and Vision, and the new audio system. All of these projects have added a great deal to our church life.

This year the stock market has suffered huge daily changes in values and our Legacy Fund has fallen in value, but not too far! I look at these gyrations as an opportunity to make additional investments that will help the Legacy Fund continue to make a significant contribution to the life of the church. I believe in the United States economy and I think that over the long run that the conservative investments of the Legacy Fund will grow to our benefit. I want to take advantage of this downturn in the markets to make additional investments. If you are so inclined, why not make an extra donation to the Legacy Fund now?

There are other ways to benefit the fund as well. Have you considered adding the church and specifically the Legacy Fund to your will? Ron and I have done that and I feel pleased that we will be able to continue to contribute to the church after we are gone. All you need to do is add a codicil to your will. We can supply sample wording but it is really best to consult your own lawyer to make sure that such a bequest will be consistent with the other provisions of your will.

And last, if you have provided for the church in your will, please let me know. I would like to start a list of such generous people. You might also give permission for your name to be used publicly. But whether you give permission or not, we would like to know who you are.

Religious Exploration (RE) News*by Carla Miller, DRE*

"The universe is a big place. But it's OK- you'll grow into it." Unknown

OFFICE HOURS**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday****9:30 am to 2:30 pm**

301-937-3666, x 2

dre@pbuuc.org

UPCOMING in RE**Sunday, November 2**

- Return UNICEF Boxes today!
- Enrichment Hour Teacher Tea

Saturday, November 8

Auction dinner and Dessert Sale
(Fundraiser for Youth Group)

Sunday, November 16

"Being a UU Parent"

Sunday, November 30

No Religious Exploration (RE) Classes
All-ages Thanksgiving Service
(*Bring a donation of food for an area
food bank *)

Sunday, December 14

Child Dedication – Please contact the
ministers to be included

**AUCTION BASKETS FROM
OUR RE CLASSES**

The Church Auction, our largest annual fundraiser, is **Saturday, November 8**. As has been the tradition, each RE class collects donations of items for a theme basket to be bid on during our silent auction. **Donations are due**

by Nov. 2nd, so you'll have turned them in before reading this newsletter. RE Committee members create the attractive baskets. Basket themes this year include a Baby Basket, Chocolate and Coffee, Kids' Crafts, Children's Books & Videos, and Sports & Games. The **Auction Dinner** is also a fun social event for families, with desserts provided by our Youth Group to raise funds for their activities. Indulge in dessert *and* support our youth! What better excuse could you want?

**PARENT CLASS AND DISCUSSION:
"BEING A UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST PARENT"**

Tricia Most and **Carla Miller** will facilitate a workshop for Parents, on Sunday, November 16, from 11:30 am -2:00 pm. This is a UUnique opportunity to reflect and dialogue on the joys and challenges of being a religiously liberal parent, and how we convey our values to the next generation. Topics explored will include: sharing UU values with children, living UU values in family life, in our holiday celebrations and finding healthy ways to deal with our own feelings of stress. This last topic deserves a little extra time this time of year! For parents of children of any age or stage;-various perspectives on parenting will enrich us all. Please RSVP to Carla Miller regarding childcare needs.

**NEW ANNOUNCEMENT POLICY FOR
TOGETHER TIME SUNDAYS**

The RE Committee and Worship Associates have agreed to try a new way of including announcements on Together Time Sundays. We will be shortening the number of verbal announcements on these Sundays, and reading the verbal announcements *after* children and teachers are sung-away to class. This allows children and teachers more time for their religious explorations! During this experiment with a new way of handling announcements, please feel free to provide feedback to Carla, Phyllis and John.

**CHILD DEDICATION OPPORTUNITY,
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

What better time to celebrate the birth of your child than the Christmas season? If you have a new child in your home, or are new to the church, with children under 10 years of age, and are a member of Paint Branch, you may wish have your child dedicated during the Sunday service on Dec. 14. This ritual welcomes and celebrates children and the responsibilities of parents and the community to raise them well. If you would like to have your child dedicated or want more information about this service, please contact co-ministers **Phyllis Hubbell** or **John Manwell** at ministers@pbuuc.org or 301-937-3666, x1

RE News Cont'd

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN RE 2008



Children's Choir

We look forward to featuring the new Holiday Children's Choir in the Thanksgiving service of Sunday, November 30 and again on Sunday, December 14!

Holiday Warm-Up Party

We "kick-off" the Winter Holiday activities on Friday, December 5, from 6 to 9 pm with the annual Warm-Up Party. This will be a fun evening for ALL AGES as we decorate the tree, foyer, and sanctuary, decorate cookies, create holiday crafts and sing a few holiday carols.

Holiday Pageant: "This Night," Sunday, December 21 during service!

Our December holiday pageant this year is **This Night; a Christmas Pageant by Travis D. Vaughn, III**. The traditional Christmas story is presented in music, dialogue and narration.

Our Cast includes:

- **Joseph, Mary and the Innkeeper's wife** are all soloists, and will be played by youth or adults.
- **Narrators:** We'd like two strong narrators to share this role.
- **Donkey:** one or two children will play the donkey.
- **Innkeeper:** youth or older child (needs to be a reasonable match for his wife, who is a soloist.)
- **Other innkeepers, shepherds, angels and animals:** PBUUC kids!

- This group will also learn and perform the song, "Friendly Beasts". Animals include sheep, cow, doves, cat and dog. Ideal roles for kids in grades K- 4th grade!

Holiday Pageant Rehearsals:

- The cast will rehearse in the lower level classrooms during Enrichment Hour on Nov. 23rd, Dec. 7th, and Dec. 14th.
- We'll also hold a dress rehearsal in the meeting house on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 20th.

Contact Carla Miller to express your interest!

A **Holiday Choir** will also be formed to provide the chorus for the pageant! **The Holiday Intergenerational Choir** is open to all, and will rehearse at approximately the same times as the cast rehearsals. This may be a rare opportunity for some of the parents of the cast to be involved in a choir experience!

New Year's Eve Revels At PBUUC

There's *no* better place to greet 2009 than at the beautiful **Paint Branch Starlight Ballroom** - elegant, funny, safe & warm, and fiscally responsible in a bear market. We're still hoping a new coordinator will step up (with lots of assistance offered) but at the *least* we really need helpers to take over food and drink procurement, plus the usual decorating and de-decorating crews. Plan to come and laugh out loud with us December 31 and please let us know (soon) if you can help. **Contact Andy Myrup & Elizabeth Yanowitch** at Yanorup@comcast.net or 301-384-4544.



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team News

EXTENDING A WARM WELCOME by Carol Carter Walker & Tricia Most

In the Fall of 2002, while her daughter was a student at the Suitland High School Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, **Sylvia Lagerquist** invited members of the school's faculty to showcase some of their performers and artists during a worship service on Public Education Sunday. Thus began a relationship that has resulted in a variety of sculpture and other art displays in our sanctuary over the years, and the inclusion of vocalists, flutists, pianists, dancers, thespians and others during the annual Education Sunday service.

Our former co-minister, **Jaco ten Hove**, included this association in his "History of Racial Diversity Initiatives" which can be read by clicking on the "Diversity and Anti-Racism" link from the PBUUC web site home page. During discussions among attendees of the Anti-Racism Covenant Groups and the Soul Work Book Discussion during the past year, Paint Branchers expressed their discomfort with the degree of welcomeness that we extend to the students, their families and their teachers when they come to Paint Branch on Public Education Sundays. These discussions stimulated consideration of ways our church might extend a more intentional welcome.



Peter Morales, a UU Minister currently candidating for the UUA Presidency who is devoted to the mission of congregational growth, poses a question in his pamphlet on Religious Hospitality: "Can we reach out to people who don't necessarily make us comfortable – because it is in working through that discomfort that we grow..."

On Sunday, October 19, participants from a variety of Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) discussions demonstrated such hospitality by decorating the Meeting House kitchen in the Suitland High School colors and providing a continental breakfast for the 6 performers, and 11 of their friends, family members and teachers an hour before the Education Sunday worship service. This allowed for relationship-building conversation and intentional hospitality around a beautiful display of crimson and white roses.

We are grateful to the New Hampshire Avenue **Hillendale Shopping Center Starbucks** for graciously granting our request for a coffee donation. (Thank them next time you stop in!) **Laura Bonkosky, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Renee Katz, Muriel Morisey, Tricia Most, Marge Owens, Bob Rand, Carol Carter Walker and Peter Wathen-Dunn** provided breakfast breads, bagels, muffins, juice, tea and coffee condiments for the event. It was during this event that "Education for All" Worship Service Lay Leader **Leo Jones**, Worship Associate **Don Henderson**, Music Director **David Chapman**, **Sylvia Lagerquist**, DARTTeam members and other Paint Branchers inquired about students' future educational plans and discussed common musical interests among people who share our educational concerns and values.

These conversations continued after the service and may encourage more sharing of mutual interests through attendance at future seasonal Suitland concerts (see **Sylvia Lagerquist** for information on these), attendance at the "Music at Paint Branch" series, and requests for Bulletin cover art and displays. The invitation to this breakfast allowed Paint Branchers to reach out in a meaningful way to welcome people coming through our doors for the first time.

***Dedicated to Inspiring Vitality
(DIV) Team Report
by Tim Illig***

On October 5, Judith Bauer, the Joseph Priestly District consultant, led over 50 members and friends in gathering information that will be turned into PBUUC's Vision and Mission statements. After the workshop, the DIV team began the process of synthesizing all the information. The process included writing the following things on newsprint:

1. Imagine Paint Branch core values.
2. Common themes from the workshop's *Memories of Paint Branch* exercise.
3. Reframing the workshop's *Issues of Growth* exercise into values of what is important.
4. Common themes from the workshop's *Our Vision of Paint Branch Community* exercise.
5. Common themes from the workshop's *Mission* exercise.

After synthesizing all the information, the DIV team came up with the following draft:

PBUUC Draft Vision Statement

Grounded by:

Our deep Unitarian Universalist roots,

- *Our diverse religious, philosophical and cultural branches, and*
- *Our beautiful sanctuary in this peaceful wooded setting,*
- *Our community welcomes ALL into a circle of connection and love that is always open.*

We joyfully gather to:

- *Worship and celebrate,*
- *Inspire one another to personal growth and courageous self-transformation,*
- *Offer loving support of one another in an inclusive and caring community of all ages,*
- *Promote Unitarian Universalist values and living our principles,*
- *Create and appreciate artistic expression,*
- *Work side-by-side to be an inspiring force for good, and*
- *Welcome others to join us on the journey*

So, what do you think? Does the Vision statement concisely reflect our dreams for the future? Is something missing? Is this statement readable? We invite you to share your thoughts in a number of ways. First, you can email your comments, suggestions and changes to Tim Illig at tillig@comcast.net or call Tim at 410-707-6678. Second, you can attend one of four discussion groups to provide your input:

- Sunday November 9 during Enrichment Hour
- Wednesday November 12, 7:30-9
- Saturday November 15, 10:30-12
- Sunday November 16 during Enrichment Hour

Vision
Mission
& Values

The DIV team did not finish drafting the Mission statement by the *Branches* newsletter deadline. But, it will be completed in time for the discussion groups. In December, the DIV

team will gather everyone's comments and revise the Vision and Mission statements. In January 2009, DIV team will present the final drafts to the board. In February 2009, we will ask the congregation to approve PBUUC's new shared Vision and Mission statements. We hope everyone's input into these statements will inspire you to feel a sense of real ownership of who we are, why we exist and what our future should be.

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Welcome to our newest members who signed the Membership Book during the Month of October:



Lisa L. Lincoln  
Annette Schmunk  
Jessica Sharp  
JoLane Thomas  
Jared Young  
Juanita Young

Editor's Note – Criss Kovac, a member who joined us in September, had her first name reported as "Cass". It is, in fact, Criss. We sincerely regret the error and once again welcome Criss and Peter Kovac.

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Social Action Committee News

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



November 25. Capital Area Food Bank. The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest, public nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the

Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. Each year it distributes 20 million pounds of food, including 6 million pounds of fresh produce, to over 700 partner agencies. The Capital Area Food Bank was founded on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, January 15, 1980.

December 24: Warm Nights and Community Cafe. All of the collection at this special Christmas Eve service will be used to fund our Warm Nights program where Paint Branch hosts homeless members of our community—and Community Cafe—a program to provide hot meals to our community members in the area.

Please contact **Marj Donn**, SAC's Special Collection Coordinator, with your suggestions for future recipients. Marj may be reached at 301-474-1353.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHANGES ITS MEETING DATE

The Social Action Committee will meet on the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The next meeting will be Saturday, November 15. Check the Sunday Bulletin and listserv for room location and the call for agenda items.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION LOBBY DAYS

Our friends at Equality Maryland have announced the date for their Lobby Day during the 2009 Maryland Legislative Session. Mark your calendars and join us in

Annapolis on Monday, February 2, 2009 in the afternoon and evening. For more information, go to equalitymaryland.org. Thank you!

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE GREEN TEAM

One of the issues discussed at the October Green Team meeting relates to social justice. We learned that in the past, toxic waste had been dumped on the nearby weapons development site and was leaching into local streams affecting personal property and the Paint Branch Home. The question before the green team is: are there still issues relating to toxic waste dumping that may affect the financially and physically disadvantaged? What is the status of Paint Branch Creek relative to water quality and wildlife habitat? It was reported that the soil condition in the Glen is severely degraded. What would be required to restore it to its earlier condition?

Don Gerson promised a report at the next meeting on the Social Action issue adopted at GA about ethical eating and how food and environmental justice are related. This is a Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) that was adopted at GA for 2008-1012.

The Green Team needs and invites your participation if you are willing to work. The next meeting will be during Enrichment Hour on Sunday, November 16.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE COMMUNITY PLACE CAFE

Paint Branch serves the hungry at the Community Place Café every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Hyattsville Methodist Church. We've been serving nutritious meals to some 80 homeless individuals, mostly men. We have at least 6 to 8 volunteers assisting us with serving large quantities of food; 3 are involved in making chili in 5 gallon batches. With our recent loss of Bob Holloway, who led the group for many years and is greatly missed for his caring ways and energy, we are now in need of additional help. Our commitment is one day a month for 2 hours; 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. You would be given with a sincere "God Bless" or "Thank You", as the "no-longer hungry" ones depart from their meal at the Community Place Café. An organization like Paint Branch is as strong, as growing as is the faithful participation of volunteers. Can you help to serve the hungry in our midst? To help or find out more information, contact **Esther Nichols** at 301-864-2068.

In and Around Paint Branch

ART GALLERY NEWS

On display in the gallery we have photographs by **Ellen X. Silverberg**, who offers this insight into her photos of local waterways:

The Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek radiate their changing wonders throughout the year as I spend hours walking and seeking out their quiet miracles. My artistic goal is to visually awaken the unfamiliar in the familiar, to rejoice and celebrate nature as an aspect of the sacred, and to reaffirm our compelling human responsibility to protect the earth. I especially enjoy leading workshops on "The Art of Seeing," designed for artists and non-artists alike, to develop visual awareness, imagination, and a spirit of sacred joyfulness.

The **Northwest Branch** watershed is the largest sub-watershed of the Anacostia River. It stretches over 19 miles from Sandy Spring, MD to Hyattsville, MD including Northeast DC. It covers approximately 41 square miles and includes over 180,000 residents. Neighbors of the Northwest Branch are committed to protecting, promoting and restoring the water quality, natural habitat, and ecological well-being of the Northwest Branch watershed.

Sligo Creek flows eight miles, from its headwaters in Wheaton, through Silver Spring and Takoma Park, through the western edge of Hyattsville. It then joins the Northwest Branch, which flows into the Anacostia River, until it becomes part of the Potomac River, flowing into the Chesapeake Bay. [Friends of Sligo Creek](#), a non-profit community organization, is committed to restore to health the water quality, natural habitat, and ecological well-being of the Sligo Creek watershed by bringing neighbors together to build awareness, improve natural habitat, and protect our community's heritage.

Ms. Silverberg's photographs will be on display through November 30 in our Meeting House, which will be the location for an artist's reception on November 23 from 1 to 4 pm. As is usually the case with our exhibits, the photographs are for sale. If you are interested in purchasing a photo, please contact the photographer at doremixox@yahoo.com or 301-754-1121. Ms Silverburg will give a 20% commission to the congregation for each photo purchased.

Artists awake! Do you have a painting, drawing, photograph, collage, or other type of artwork that you would be willing to share for six weeks? The Arts Committee is planning to have a display of Paint Branchers work from the beginning of December thru January 11. **Jane Trout** needs to hear from you soon so that she can be assured of enough work to make the Meeting House look really nice for the holiday season. Please contact Jane at 301 572-2898 and email is jd_trout@msn.com.

ANNUAL POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER BEGINS SUN., NOV. 2



Once again we are opening the Holidays at Paint Branch with a Poinsettia Sale Fundraiser. The poinsettias are going to be ordered from the Behnke Nursery Company, our nearby neighbors. The poinsettias are grown in the nursery's Maryland greenhouses and are delivered directly to the church, avoiding the long transportation and warehousing that doom so many of these holiday plants.

Order forms and payment envelopes will be distributed in church on Sunday, November 2. All prices will be the same as last year. Prepaid orders can be returned anytime between November 2nd and Sunday November 16th. This gives buyers three Sundays to place orders. The deadline for orders cannot be extended because Behnke's has its own deadline that we must follow. There are three ways to return your orders: Give them to Tish Hall, place them in the collection baskets when the offering is taken on Sunday morning, or send them to the church office. The Poinsettias will be delivered to the church on December 19. You can pick up your plants on Sunday, December 21, the day of the annual Holiday Dinner.

This is not one of our biggest fundraisers, but it may be the most beautiful. The fresh poinsettias will be arrayed around the Meeting House and lobby on the morning of our Holiday pageant. Some will stay in the Meeting House to brighten the Christmas Eve services and others will go with you to brighten your homes and offices. Poinsettias make wonderful holiday gifts!

(Editor's note: Grateful thanks to Tish Hall for organizing this well loved PBUUC tradition.)

WEAVING THE WEB

by our webmaster, Mike Stark

This month's "Weaving the Web" column focuses on Paint Branch's e-Church – the areas of the pbuuc.org website that facilitate electronic communications of all sorts. This article briefly outlines some of the features; more detailed information can be found by clicking on the "Paint Branch's e-Church" link on the front page – it is the second link in the "Town Square" area at the top left of the page.

The key features of the e-Church are:

Contact information: e-mail links for our Church Administrator Daniel Everitt (the primary office contact), our ministers, staff, and key leaders. At this point the directory is still small, but it is designed to grow as big as volunteers are willing to make it.

News and Schedules: There are online schedules for services, Enrichment Hour program, and other PBUUC events. There are also locations for breaking news such as weather cancellations and links to our newsletter, *Branches*. The latter is a password protected link; the password is made available to subscribers who contact the church administrator to subscribe. Subscribers receive an e-mail notification when a new issue is available to download.

Online Communities: This includes a message board associated with this site, an unofficial blog, and a directory of electronic mailing lists one can subscribe to. The message board includes a Bulletin Board in which both official information is provided (the breaking news/weather cancellation mentioned above is actually part of this), and a Say Anything area in which various different issues can be discussed or joys, concerns and kudos can be shared. The Online Communities link will take you to full documentation of each forum and of how to register.

About pbuuc.org: A brief guide to how the site is set up and how to navigate.

So feel free to have some fun and explore pbuuc.org. The site is designed to allow anyone in the congregation to collaborate in maintaining and improving it. Skilled writers, artist's eyes and people with basic Web skills (using HTML editor and FTP are the only real requirements) are all necessary. Contact **Mike Stark** at (mstark@pbuuc.org) if you are interested in helping.

(Editor's Note: The Editor would like to thank Mike for his efforts in posting Branches and our weekly bulletin announcements to the web

MUSIC AT PAINT BRANCH SERIES: NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE AND VOICE CONCERT SUN., NOV. 9 AT 4:00 PM.

The **Ron Warren Trio** will perform a concert of traditional and contemporary Native American music in our Meeting House on Sunday afternoon, November 9, 2008. Mr. Warren, a member of the Potomac Flute Circle, enchanted us with his flute playing in a Sunday service last year and led a workshop here for us as well. Mr. Warren's Flute Circle meets bimonthly at PBUUC. The Ron Warren Trio includes vocalist **Janice Torres** and guitarist **Lenny Stevens**. Part of our *Music at Paint Branch* Concert Series, the 4 p.m. concert is free (donations are appreciated) and we hope you, your family and friends will plan to attend.



PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

-STAFF-

Co-ministers	Rev. Phyllis Hubbell	301-937-3666
.....	Rev. John Manwell	301-937-3666
Music Director/Pianist....	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Dir. of Rel. Exploration..	Carla N. Miller	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst.....	Penney Hughes	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers.....	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Church Administrator.....	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst.	Rebecca Birnie.	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
.....	Chuck Bury	301-799-2535
.....	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
.....	Rich O'Brien	301-787-5999
Child Care Provider.....	Carol Tutz	301-937-3666

-OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES-

Chair	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Vice-Chair	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Vice-Chair	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Trustee	James Alexander.....	301-277-3211
Trustee	Abby Crowley	301-345-2663
Trustee	Ken Montville.....	301-464-8367
Trustee	Diane Niedzialkowski	301-622-2010
Trustee	Polly Petitt	301-589-1015
Trustee	Will Snyder	301-474-1202
Secretary	Anita Wagner	703-401-7230
Treasurer.....	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473

-CARING COMMUNITY-

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:

.....	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
.....	John Lagerquist.....	301-864-1745
.....	Jonathan Mawdsley.....	301-982-4520
.....	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein (Lead)	301-891-2071
.....	Alice Tyler	301-935-5279

**-We Care Coordinator for November-
JERI HOLLOWAY - 301-982-0758**

-WORSHIP ASSOCIATES -

.....	Bruce Baker	301-589-3633
.....	Erin Washburn (Youth Assoc.)	
.....	Don Henderson.....	301-681-4033
.....	Michael Léger (Lead).....	301-982-2986
.....	Tosha O'Neal	301-459-0077
.....	Marilyn Pearl.....	301-805-1218
.....	Pat Tompkins (Lead).....	301-474-3858

- BRANCHES -

Editor.....	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
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COMMITTEES -

Adult Rel. Exploration	Julie Dahmer	301-890-7807
Arts Council	Julie Dahmer ...	301-890-7807
Budget Leadership Team	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Building & Grounds	James Alexander	301-277-3211
DARTT	Tricia Most.....	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker ..	202-636-8138
DIV Team	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Denominational Affairs	Donald Gerson	240-293-6570
Finance	Don Henderson	301-681-4033
Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Membership	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Nominating	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Personnel	Marcie Washburn.....	301-384-5156
Public Relations	Vacant	
Religious Exploration	Tina Van Pelt	301-927-0331
Social Action	Vacant	

- GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES -

Auction Committee	Jan Montville... ..	301-464-6298
	Kathi Yu	301-593-2853
Beacon House	Nathan Rummel	301-776-8551
Bridge	Ellen Cotts.....	301-572-3983
Canvass	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Chalice Dancers	Jennifer Grant.. ..	240-426-1277
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl... ..	301-805-1218
Green Sanctuary	Marj Donn.....	301-474-1353
	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield	301-552-4330
Men's Group	John Bartoli	301-441-2516
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter.....	301-982-4520
Religious Quest	Lowell Owens	301-345-1572
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker... ..	301-891-1288
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner	301-890-9072
TWedHUULK	Larry Lates	301-345-6923
Ushers	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Writers' Group	Marjory Donn.. ..	301-474-1353



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**3215 POWDER MILL ROAD****ADELPHI, MD 20783-1097.****(301) 937-3666****WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG****E-MAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG****REQUESTED**

BRANCHES DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY ISSUES

As the Church Office will be closed on the Fridays after Thanksgiving and Christmas (which both fall on a Thursday this year), the Branches deadline is being moved to November 18th for the December edition, and December 18th for the January 2009 edition.

It's VERY important that all articles be in the MORNING OF the 18th for each edition, so that work can begin immediately on formatting and printing the newsletter. So please MARK YOUR CALENDARS and PLAN NOW to have all submissions in on time:

**December edition deadline: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
January 2009 edition deadline: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18th**

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy season of winter holidays.