



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

*Affirming and promoting the inherent dignity and worth of every person since 1954*

JANUARY 2009

### OUR SUNDAY SERVICES – all 10:00 a.m.

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

**JANUARY 4**

### PRESENT MOMENT, WONDERFUL MOMENT

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, with Shantida, *Worship Associate*

Often, the beginning of a new year causes us to reflect on how we might more consciously choose to live our lives. Today, we reflect on the spiritual practice offered by Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, which encourages us to be mindful of the gifts of the present moment.

---

**JANUARY 11**

### HOW SHALL WE EAT?

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell and Tosha O'Neal, *Worship Associate* (Together Time)

Some preachers tell us that our checkbooks reveal what our religious values really are. But some ethicists might say that our grocery lists are equally telling. What does faith have to do with food? What do our religious beliefs have to do with what, how, and how much we eat? Today, let us reflect on the ethical dimensions of this very personal, very emotional subject.

Join us for discussion of this issue during Reverberations, during the Enrichment Hour.

---

**JANUARY 18**

### THE KINGDOM OF GREATNESS

Rev. John Parker Manwell with Tish Hall, *Worship Associate* and the PBUUC Choir (Together Time)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would surely be thrilled at Barack Obama's election. Yet he would be the first to insist that we have not yet reached the Promised Land. In his last Sunday sermon, delivered at Washington's National Cathedral, he challenged Americans to live up to their destiny as a "kingdom of greatness" by accepting their responsibility for "the least of these" among them. Though he would be murdered before he could lead his poor people's march on Washington, he died in Memphis, standing up for its exploited sanitation workers. This morning we remember Dr. King's passion for the poor – and his challenge to us to continue his work.

---

**JANUARY 25**

### WHILE I'M HERE

Revs. Phyllis Hubbell and John Parker Manwell, with Marilyn Pearl, *Worship Associate*, and the PBUUC Choir

Auction winners Bettie and Paul Young have requested a sermon inspired by the song "When I'm Gone," by folk singer Phil Ochs. It speaks of living fully each moment we are given. There will be no second chances to do the things we mean to do, ask the questions we need to ask, or to laugh and love and dance when we're gone, so let's live this one life we have extravagantly while we're here.

---

## *Roots and Wings*

*by Rev. John Parker Manwell*

**P**encil in Sunday, February 1, from 12 to 3:30 pm, on your calendar. That's when we'll be leading an all-church workshop, in the Meeting House, to hear each other's stories from the life of Paint Branch over the years.

The point of all this will be not just to let everyone feel heard, though that's always important. Beyond that, the point is to help us all to understand the many different perspectives within the congregation on what was important as we look back. What were the high points? The low points? When did we feel good about ourselves, and when could we have done better? Sharing these stories may also help us to understand how our experiences have influenced our reactions to later events in our life together – and how we see our future.



Distilling our many stories, how do we as a congregation see ourselves as we look back? And looking ahead, what can we learn from all this that might help us in shaping our future with a new minister?

It's a familiar truism that those who do not understand their history are doomed to repeat it. It's true in families, and it's true in churches. Somehow, even when no one still around remembers what happened, and most of us have come more recently, the congregation, thanks to its "family system," seems to act as if it remembered.

This workshop will look at a timeline of Paint Branch's history, and invite us as we go through it to share our stories of how we experienced things and what we remember. I think there will be some "aha" moments, as we listen to each other.

After we've shared our stories, we'll reflect together on what surprised us, what inspired us, what touched us – and how what we've heard might affect how we approach our future together.

## PAINT BRANCH WELCOMES TWO NEW ARRIVALS

At the choir service on December 14, **Revs. John and Phyllis** dedicated two new arrivals among the Paint Branch family: **Caelan Angela Donovan**, daughter of **Karen and John Donovan**; and **Lucas Theodore Michailof**, son of **Sarah and David Michailof**.



**Pictured, left to right, are Sarah and David Michailof, with Lucas, and Caelan with her mother, and father, Karen and John Donovan.**

Continuing Paint Branch's tradition of dedicating children on two special Sundays each year, we're planning to include another such service on Mother's Day, May 11 next Spring. Call **Carla Miller**, Director of Religious Exploration, or **Revs. John or Phyllis**, at the church office if you'd like to include your child or children in this service. Most children are dedicated as infants, but we're happy also to dedicate older children.



## *A Word from our Board Chair*

### *by Kate Brett*

**Y**our Board of Trustees has been working hard this year. So hard, in fact, that we have resigned ourselves to starting our regular board meetings 30 minutes earlier so that we can go home at a reasonable time. In my column this month, I want to let you know about some of the work we are doing.

Our ministers have been updating us regularly on their progress of helping us in this interim year to the work churches need to do to get ready for a new settled minister. They are planning several congregational meetings to do some of this work, and some of the items need little of their attention. We continue to work with them in hopes of getting our house in order, so to speak.



We have started evaluating how the Board of Trustees works, in order to improve our efficiency. We have begun to work in earnest on a project to get the

church's policies and procedures compiled into a single, accessible place. We are reviewing our own governance in order to make sure we are living out the 5<sup>th</sup> principle of the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our own work. We hope to make a call to become a Trustee to be something members are willing to accept.

Then there are many, general workings of the church issues which come up. I have been asking that most of the work be done within the standing committees so that the Trustees simply have to review and approve proposed actions. The personnel committee has brought us several proposals recently regarding staff time off, and they are also busy filling working with the church administrator and treasurer to fill our bookkeeper position.

Each of us has commitments to work with the various groups within the church. This efficiently gives groups access to bring issues to the board.

Our hope is that our church will be in a good place to accept the change that will occur when we settle a new minister. Given all the hard work that the search committee is doing, I have no doubt but that the change will be good. As we clear the debris from our basement, figuratively and literally, we'll have room to start planning for the future.

Happy New Year. As always, come talk with me or any of the Board of Trustees if you have issues or concerns.

**THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO  
SEND ITS CONGRATULATIONS AND  
EXTEND BEST WISHES TO**

**Erin Washburn**

**ON THE OCCASION OF HER  
ACCEPTANCE INTO BRYN MAWR  
COLLEGE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

***"LIFE BECOMES RELIGIOUS WHENEVER  
WE MAKE IT SO: WHEN SOME NEW  
LIGHT IS SEEN, WHEN SOME DEEPER  
APPRECIATION IS FELT, WHEN SOME  
LARGER OUTLOOK IS GAINED, WHEN  
SOME NOBLER PURPOSE IS FORMED,  
WHEN SOME TASK IS WELL DONE."***

***Sophia Lyons Fahs – UU Educator***

**WELL DONE , ERIN !!**



**A gentle reminder to all worship associates and choir members who are physically able, to please park on Boredale Road when we are expecting large numbers of visitors at any of our Sunday Services. This furthers our hospitality and stretches the limited parking in front of the Meeting House. THANK YOU !!**

## *Financial Notes*

### *by Ellen Cotts, Treasurer*

**H**ere it is - 2009! (I'm really writing this just before Christmas.) We hope that 2009 will bring many good things for all of us. But of course, PBUUC remains the warm and nurturing place it has always been.

Financially the church is doing well so far this year. I will give you the results of the first six months of the church year (July-December) in the February Branches.



I know that many of us (Ron and I included) have lost lots of money in the market and we aren't feeling quite as optimistic as we have in the past.

Yet our bills continue. And the church bills continue too. I try to remember that the best things in my life are not dependent on our bank balance. We have our family and our health and of course the church. We will continue to support the church budget because it is important to us. We must all do what we are able and trust in the culture of giving, sharing and abundance that we have at PBUUC.

The office will send out statements in January showing how much you donated to PBUUC in 2008. The statements will show all the contributions which we consider deductible. In our lexicon, that is defined as a donation for which you did not receive anything in return (other than the church community itself). Thus your pledge and any donations to the Legacy Fund or the Piano Fund are deductible. Purchases from the Auction or for the Holiday Dinner are not deductible and will not show on your statement.

We do not plan to send statements to visitors who put in a check once or even twice during the year. However, we do have the capability of sending such a statement. If you are one of those people and you would like a statement, just let me know. You can call me at 301-572-3983.

We are making strenuous efforts to get these statements correct this time around. We will also try to make them more readable. Please pay attention to your statement and let me know if your records disagree with ours. We want to get it right and that means figuring out what happened if there is an error and then revising our systems to avoid that error in the future.

As for cash - we get lots of cash in the plate and have no way of knowing who gave it. I understand the IRS will no longer allow deduction of cash donations. If you do give cash and you want it to be deductible, please put it in an envelope and put your name on the envelope. We will credit it to your account and it will show on your statement next year.

There are really two reasons for wanting your cash donations to be counted.

- One reason is that we can give you an official statement which will allow the contribution to be tax deductible.
- Another reason is that it is a "contribution of record" which is required for continued membership in the church.

I hope that each of you had a lovely holiday and am happily enjoying the memories of the season. It is a new year, a time of hope and hot chocolate. Enjoy!

## **CHALICE LIGHTERS WEEK**

### **JANUARY 11 TO 18**



Please join the current 75 PBUUC members who are part of the Chalice Lighters, a Joseph Priestley District program in which members contribute \$20 three times a year, to help other UU churches make a significant improvement that will promote their growth. Grants are made to start a new church, call their first minister, fill other new staff positions, build a building or make major additions, and other steps. Most grants are made to smaller churches so they can become full program churches. Some grants are made to mid size churches to call a second minister or other significant step. By the end of this church year, grants totaling over \$2,000,000 will have been made since 1987. Call Ron Cotts for details at 301-572-3983.

## *Ministerial Search Committee* *by John Bartoli*

### HELLO, THIS IS PAINT BRANCH CALLING

All the work that the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has put into finding a ministerial match for Paint Branch is finally starting to pay off. We have received serious inquiries and applications from a number of ministers in search and have been busy evaluating each of them.

We looked at the on-line ministerial records of quite a few interested candidates and requested packets from those that interested us. Some packets were in physical binders that we passed around to read. Other packets were available online with password-protected access. We were very careful to make sure that everyone on the committee had read a candidate's packet before we discussed that person in a committee meeting. We did not want to unduly influence each other before we had a chance to read the candidate's information.



We developed a standardized list of evaluation guidelines based on the information we gathered from the congregational survey, the cottage meetings, individual & congregational interviews, and our responses to the questions on our Congregational Record. We have been applying these standards in an equal and fair process to all interested candidates.

As I write this article, the MSC is currently conducting phone interviews with those candidates who seem to be the best fit. For this portion of the search, we also developed a standardized list of about 12 questions that we ask each candidate. We add more individualized questions to this list as needed to clear up any questions we might have as a result of reading the candidate's Ministerial Record.

During this process, the MSC has met two and three times a week choosing which candidates to call, actually calling the candidates, and spending time evaluating their responses to our questions.

Once we have spoken to all the candidates on our phone interview list, we will decide on the 3 or 4 candidates that we would really like to see and hear in person.

Our only agenda is to find the ministry that is the best fit for our congregation. We're looking for a minister who leaves everyone with a strong conviction that the match is right for both parties. We will not settle for anything less.

The eight members of the Ministerial Search Committee are: **Bettie Young** (co-chair), **Michael Léger** (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.

---

### FEBRUARY FESTIVE FRIDAY ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Robyn McCoy and Kelly Wester miss Festive Friday and are bringing it back for one night of fun on Friday, February 20 from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Never heard of Festive Friday? We get together for pizza, beverages, drinks, desserts, games, and conversation in the Meeting House. It's an informal evening of fun and relaxation with fellow church folk. Robyn and Kelly bring in the pizza and drinks, and anyone who wishes is invited to bring appetizers, salads, or desserts to share – or just bring you. Don't forget your favorite board game! Cost: Adults - \$5, Children – you decide, Drinks \$0.50 - \$2. Call Kelley at 301-937-7375 or [kellywester@comcast.net](mailto:kellywester@comcast.net), or Robyn McCoy (301-982-0195 or [mdgypsy@verizon.net](mailto:mdgypsy@verizon.net)).

---

### NEW SIMPLICITY CIRCLE COURSE: *GLOBAL WARMING: CHANGING CO<sub>2</sub> URSE*

This 4-session course explores personal values and habits as they relate to climate change, builds understanding of the history and science of global warming and empowers individuals to take action to curb global warming. Beginning in Feb., it will meet on Mon. or Wed. evenings, depending on which time we can get a group of 8-10 people. Sign up after services on January Sundays. For more information, call **Raman Pathik**, 301-890-9072, or pick up a green flyer.

---

### THE PAINT BRANCH WRITERS GROUP IS BACK!

The Writers Group will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 27, from 7:30-9:30 pm in the Hospitality Room of the RE Building. We are a critique group that tries to be supportive and encouraging. This group has been meeting for almost twenty years, having been started by **Meribel Blanchard** who has two published novels to her credit and by the late **Stan Baer** and **Emily Nutku**. All forms of writing welcome. Our purpose is to support writers. For more information, call **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353.

## Religious Exploration (RE) News

by Carla Miller, DRE

*“The Mission and Ministry of Paint Branch Religious Exploration is to strengthen the spirit, encourage ethical action, and to create community.”*

### 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, January 4

- RE Classes Resume
- Enrichment Hour: “Reading the Bible Again” discussion begins
- 4-6 pm - Senior High OWL Parent Orientation

#### Friday, January 9

- 6:30 pm - First Senior High OWL session with dinner at UU Church of Silver Spring (UUCSS)

#### Sunday, January 11

- Middle School Cluster Event – Cooperative Games at UUCSS

#### Monday, January 12

- RE Committee Meeting

#### Tuesday, January 13

- 7-9 pm - Interconnected Web Planning Meeting

#### Friday, January 16 – Sunday, January 18

- Carla at OWL Training

#### Friday, January 23

- 6:30-8 pm - Roots & Wings Family Gathering and Potluck

#### Sunday, February 1

- Enrichment Hour - Roots & Wings Class

### WARM NIGHTS INVOLVEMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN

The Warm Nights emergency shelter program will be hosted by Paint Branch from January 25-31, and we in RE encourage all of our children and their families to participate in serving dinner, making lunches or providing entertainment and company to our guests. Students in Grades 4 and up will have an opportunity to serve with their classmates and teachers. This is an important learning experience, and a valued service that the young people can offer to our church and our wider community. Parents, please support your child’s participation!

### ROOTS AND WINGS CLASS COMING SOON FOR GRADES 2-5

“Roots and Wings” is a special class for children in grades 2-5 designed to deepen our children’s roots in Unitarian Universalism through exploration of the Seven Principles and Six Sources of UUism, and their meaning in our own lives. The class meets during Enrichment Hours for five sessions and has opportunities to meet with our ministers, church administrator, Music Director and is led by the Director of Religious Exploration. The class will culminate in a **Celebration Ceremony** during Together Time on March 8th. Please contact Carla Miller for more information.

### SPRING 2009 SPECIAL UNIT ON THE INTERCONNECTED WEB

For Grades 1-8

Can YOU Help Our Children Make the Connections?

This spring we’re planning something special in RE, a Celebration of the Web of Life that will be our own PBUUC creation! April 19th through the end of the RE year, we will explore and deepen our connections to the natural world with all of our classes, grades 1-8. This is an opportunity to get out into our woods and creek, and to enjoy the beauty of springtime! All with the goal of deepening our own understanding and ability to live in right relationship to this amazing earth and to all living beings.

*(continued on next page)*



(continued from previous page)

**We will shape this special unit to our own space and resources, including the *people resources* of our congregation.**

- Do you have a particular interest or experience in any area of environmental science?
- Do you know something about water, air, earth, plants or animals?
- Do you have ideas for learning activities that children would enjoy?
- Do you have ideas for earth-centered worship and ritual we could offer the children?
- Do you enjoy being outdoors and wish you had more time to explore the church grounds?
- Would you enjoy a short-term opportunity to teach and interact with children at church?

If you can answer yes to *any* of these questions, please consider signing on for some involvement in this special unit on the Interconnected Web - whether in planning for the activities, leading activities, or both! Planning sessions will be held on a few Tuesday evenings in January & February, with the first planning meeting **Tuesday, January 13, 7-9 pm**. Anyone who is interested in this special unit is invited to attend! Contact **Carla Miller** for more information.

---

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009-2010: CURRICULUM PLANNING TEAM FORMING

This church/school year marks the end of our current three-year curricular cycle (2006-2009) and a “new beginning” in the Religious Exploration (RE) program in 2010. As we look ahead to curriculum choices for the future, we have many new resources to take into account with the new *Tapestry of Faith* series and some *Coming of Age* resources. We may also want to consider adding the OWL classes for grades K/1 and/or Grades 4/5.

A Curriculum Planning Team, ideally composed of parents, RE teachers or former teachers, and at least one RE Committee member representative, will be forming to evaluate our current curriculum choices and program needs, to consider our options and make recommendations for the next curricular cycle.

This team will meet several times in March and April to create a new curriculum plan for the coming three-year cycle by early May. This important work in planning curriculum choices shapes our Ministry to Children and Youth in highly significant ways. If you are a parent, RE teacher or former teacher, please consider participating and adding your voice to the process! Please contact me, Carla Miller, to indicate interest in the Curriculum Planning Team, or prepare to say YES when I contact you for this short-term commitment. Thanks!

---

### APPRECIATIONS

Many PBUUC volunteers, like so many “elves,” have worked behind the scenes to make this holiday season special for our children, and for us all! (*Please accept my apologies in advance if I have inadvertently left out anyone who should be receiving mention.*)

For the **Holiday Warm Up Party**- which was a “tree-mendous” success, our sincere appreciation to: **Penney Hughes, Lisa Lincoln, Tina Van Pelt, Carla Monardes, Sarah Michailof, Montana Monardes, Tish Hall, Mary Rooker, Kelly Wester, April Gifford, Jan Montville, Marcie Washburn, Mark Shute, Theresa Brown Shute, John Sebastian, Dan and Emma Sue Gerson, Kevin Miller, and Keara, Eva and Nealon Miller** ( set-up crew) and staff members **Chuck Bury** and **Daniel Everitt** for their assistance in purchasing and setting up the tree!

No doubt I’ve forgotten someone very important - and I *do* apologize if it was you - so many of you helped make this party happen! And thank you to all the people who brought cookies and food donations- too many to list completely here - you exceeded our expectations!

And as always, Thanks to all of our amazing RE teachers who make our **Religious Exploration classes** interesting and fun for our kids, each and every Sunday!

*Thank you!!*  
*Thank you!!*

# Envisioning Inclusive Excellence in the Midsize Congregation

**The 7th National Midsize Congregations Conference in Houston, Texas  
February 6-8, 2009**

Lay leaders in midsize congregations are encouraged to come to “Envisioning Inclusive Excellence in the Midsize Congregation”, February 6-8, 2009 in Houston, TX. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is pleased to present Dr. L. Lee Kniefelkamp. A National Scholar and award winning teacher, Dr. Kniefelkamp has written extensively and presented widely on inclusive excellence, and identity development, intercultural and diversity issues, and more and ethical development. The key note program will focus on achieving excellence in the midsize congregation by tapping into the passion and talent of our vibrant faith communities, and by developing and including multicultural connections. Dr. Kniefelkamp is a Professor of Psychology and Education in the Program of Social-Organizational Psychology, Teachers College at Columbia University in New York. Register online for the conference using VISA or MasterCard for payment at:

<https://conference.uua.org/eventmanager/OnlineRegistration.asp?eventcode=0wd>

## Some of the GREAT REASONS for attending:

- Affirm your enthusiasm and commitment to your congregation.
- Participate in an outstanding interactive KEYNOTE PROGRAM.
- What you learn about Inclusive Excellence may be just what your congregation needs to take that next vital step.
- Join other lay and professional leaders to improve your leadership skills.
- Exchange information with people from throughout the United States and find out how they deal with issues in their own congregations.
- Learn from the experts in Saturday WORKSHOPS, on topics including growth, stewardship, membership, social justice, governance, and communication
- Take a list of applicable ideas back to your church community.
- Visit Houston, TX, home of the Space Center, the Menil Collection, Houston Museum of Natural Science, and the Museum of Fine Arts, The Galleria for shopping, plus great dining and nightlife!
- Connect with other Unitarian Universalists coming together to learn and worship in Beloved Community.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER—The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is pleased to present **Dr. L. Lee Kniefelkamp**. A National Scholar and award winning teacher, Dr. Kniefelkamp has written extensively and presented widely on inclusive

excellence, and identity development, intercultural and diversity issues, and moral and ethical development. The keynote program will focus on achieving excellence in the midsize congregation by tapping into the passion and talent of our vibrant faith communities, and by developing and including multicultural connections. Dr. Kniefelkamp is a Professor of Psychology and Education in the Program of Social-Organizational Psychology, Teachers College at Columbia University in New York.



## *Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team News*

### IMAGINE NO LONGER

by Evangeline Wells

**I**magine; An African-American President of these United States! When Barack Obama was declared the projected winner on election night, November 4, I was almost delirious with joy. I could hardly believe what I was hearing. So many African-Americans, young and old, had believed it would never happen in their lifetimes. But here we are, at the beginning of a new day.

When Obama first announced his candidacy, my first thought was -- yes, we need to have an African -American running for President, so as to pave the way, so that eventually that breakthrough will be possible. My next thought was I hope nobody tries to assassinate him. That second thought stayed in the back of my mind. In February 2008, I went to the Barack Obama rally at the University of Maryland and, while waiting in line, I spoke with others waiting. One was an "elderly" Black woman ... "elderly" in quotes because she was a very fit, very limber 81-year old. I told her that I was afraid someone would try to shoot Obama, and she said she had heard several others express that fear, then she said, "But, you know, we cannot be afraid. We cannot. We must move on to the future. We cannot let fear hold us back." I can still hear her voice. After talking with her, I tried to put those fears away.

When Barack Obama won the hard-fought Democratic nomination, I began to think - maybe this will really happen. In the last few weeks before November 4 I dared to hope that the polls were right - but I was still wary of Election Day problems coming into play, such as we saw in 2000 and 2004. Fortunately those did not materialize this time.

Now Barack Obama is our President-Elect. During the time since he announced, I believe he has proved to be a man of keen intelligence and compassion, a man of substance and grace. With his decisive victory, a huge win for African-Americans and everyone, some folks are saying that Dr. King's dream has been realized.

But, if Dr. King were here with us today, I think he would say his dream has been realized - in part. He would recognize, as our President-Elect does, that we still have a way to go towards a color-blind society, a society in which differences of any type do not influence the way a person is treated by others. As Barack Obama realizes, we have much work to do in our homes, communities, workplaces and churches to continue to move towards the dream realized. I believe our 44<sup>th</sup> President will lead us in that direction. And we don't have to imagine having an African-American President any longer.



My favorite Election Day story: my daughter Kristin called our 101-year-old uncle and his 97-year-old wife on November 4. I had just assumed that they would vote absentee, but no, they were waiting for their ride to the polls that morning. Now that is something I wish I could have witnessed. That would have brought tears to my eyes, for sure.

---

### **DIVERSITY & ANTI-RACISM DIALOGUES** *Honoring the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Each Person*

**I**n 2008 there were several exciting and significant "firsts" for our country in the realm of diversity: the appointment of the first blind governor, the first female contender for the presidency, and of course, the election of the first biracial president of the United States. These events have renewed a focus on diversity and race in our country, eliciting excitement and fear, harmony and hatred. Some have suggested the outcome of the election indicates the dawning of a post-racial era. Others perceive the recent displays of nooses or the lack of acceptance of a multi-racial, multi-cultural vocabulary as demonstration of how far we have yet to evolve to reach wholeness as a society. What are your thoughts?

*(continued on the next page)*

(continued from the previous page)



The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will launch in February the Diversity & Anti-Racism Dialogues -- monthly sessions for personal reflection and discussion on issues of diversity and race in our own lives, our communities, our congregation, and our world

The dialogues will focus on short articles and essays (to be selected in advance each month) as a starting point for deep conversation. The sessions stand alone and it is not necessary to commit to participate every month. We will meet during Enrichment Hour on second Sundays in Room 4. The dialogues will begin in February, revolving around two articles that were juxtaposed in the November 30th edition of *The Washington Post*.

*I'm Not Post-Racial*  
by Krissah Williams Thompson

*He's Not Black*  
By Marie Arana

The links to these articles will be posted on [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org) under DARTT as of mid-January. We welcome all to join in as we engage our minds and our hearts in exploring and sharing both the challenges and the opportunities of personal and collective transformation to embrace diversity in all its forms. Please contact **Cynthia Robinson** at [crr@pipeline.com](mailto:crr@pipeline.com) or **Theresa Brown Shute** at [tbshute\\_mk@hotmail.com](mailto:tbshute_mk@hotmail.com) for more information.

### MORE DARTT FILMS TO BE SHOWN



Beginning on Friday, January 23, we will again show and discuss films on anti-racism and diversity. These showings will include some repeats of films shown before and many new ones on contemporary issues from the African American Perspectives catalog of California Newsreels. We expect to have film nights three Fridays in each month, with exact dates and titles announced in Sunday bulletins and on the web site once the full schedule has been set up. We will provide a light supper and beverages (for donations). For more information, call **Shannon Grady** at 301-794-8221, or **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353.

## DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM MEETS TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

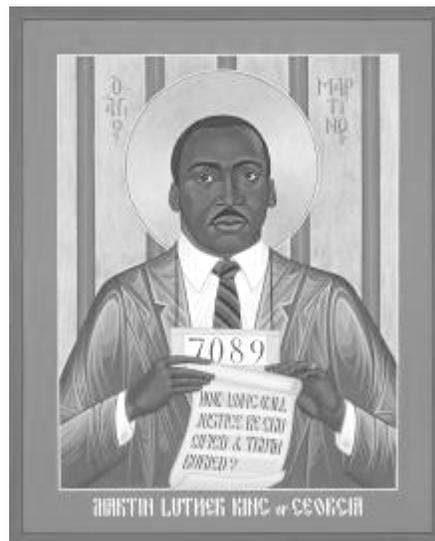
The next monthly meeting of the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team will take place on Tuesday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1 of the Religious Exploration Building. Come hear what's planned for the rest of the church year and bring your ideas! If you have questions or want further information, please contact us at [dartt@pbuuc.org](mailto:dartt@pbuuc.org)

## JOIN OTHER UU'S AT ALL SOULS CHURCH FOR INAUGURAL AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATIONS

All Souls, Unitarian is hosting an Inaugural Ball on Sunday, January 18 for UUs from near and far who will be in town for this historic occasion. Tickets are on sale, first come, first served online at <http://www.all-souls.org/>. Cocktails at 6:00 pm with UUA President Bill Sinkford; followed by dancing and entertainment at 7:00 pm

All Souls is also hosting a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day service beginning at 5:00 pm on Monday, January 19.

All Souls is located at 1600 Harvard Street, NW, Washington, DC, on several bus lines and within walking distance from the Columbia Heights METRO.



## Social Action Committee News

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The Social Action Committee is alive and well, in spite of not having a chair at the moment. We are taking turns with the jobs of moderating meetings, taking notes and writing newsletter articles.

- At our November meeting, much of our attention was on hunger, in response to the recent appeal by the UU district executive. We gladly support **Carla Miller's** appeal for direct donations of food to be distributed by University Baptist Church. Nonperishable foodstuffs can be brought to church any Sunday and left in the foyer.

- More volunteers are needed to help with our participation in Community Cafe, a lunchtime program in Hyattsville. We are responsible for the Community Cafe on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Please see **Esther Nichols's** Article on the next page or call Esther at 301-864-2068.

- Our special collection for the Capital Area Food Bank in November netted over \$1000. The entire collection at both Christmas Eve services will go to support our Warm Nights program, Community Cafe and Beacon House. Other upcoming special collections will be: the Interfaith Fairness Coalition that helps congregations become welcoming of GLBT folks in January and UUs for Social Justice in February.

- See the separate article about our participation in Warm Nights on page 12.

- Regarding the ongoing search for peace between Israelis and Palestinians - we also decided to encourage Paint Branchers to attend a December 6th "Christmas Procession for Bethlehem" around the White House - and on Saturday, December 20th at 10 AM to attend an interfaith "Joint Simulcast Worship Service with the People of Bethlehem" in the Bethlehem Chapel of the National Cathedral.

- The Committee's next meeting will be on Saturday, January 10 at 10 am. We have no set membership. All interested persons are welcome to join us. For more information, call **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353.



### LOBBY DAY 2009



Revs. Hubbell and Manwell will once again be attending Equality Maryland's Lobby Day, Monday, February 2, 2009 from 5:00 to 8:00. We invite you to join us in Annapolis supporting the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act. That bill would recognize the fundamental freedom of clergy to decide whom to marry according to the dictates of their faith traditions, but require the state to provide civil marriages and its protections to all unmarried couples.

Equality Maryland will also be attempting again to add sexual identity and expression into its non-discrimination laws. Maryland has a good possibility of enacting these laws, but it needs our support. You can make a difference.

Lobby Day will begin with a rally in Lawyers' Mall at 5:00pm. Bishop Gene Robinson will be the main speaker. Bishop Robinson is the first openly gay clergy member to be ordained in a major Christian denomination. Sadly, his appointment has been the subject of much controversy among conservative members of that tradition. Bishop Robinson also has been in a long time loving relationship which brings a personal dimension to his remarks.

Please contact [www.EqualityMaryland.org](http://www.EqualityMaryland.org) for more information and to register to meet with your legislator.

---

### HEARTS AND HOMES FOR YOUTH

On December 15 I attended a round table discussion with community leaders and the administration of Hearts and Homes for Youth, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing stable homes and transition services for troubled teens. Their own experience has led them to see a need for dedicated housing for gay and transgender youth, who are often hard to place in foster care. It was clear from their presentation that they really do understand the special needs of gay and transgender teens and that they want to work with the community to make these group homes available. There are currently two houses in Montgomery County that are possible sites for group homes, but the group serves both Montgomery and Prince George's counties. This is a positive step forward for our community.

- Tish Hall

*(more SAC news on next page)*

## COMMUNITY PLACE CAFÉ NEEDS MORE COOKS AND SERVERS.

Come and help serve the truly needy and disadvantaged in our area.. Paint Branch members serve 80 to 100 of the needy on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Community Place Café, located at the First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

We serve Paint Branch Chili (full of veggies) on a bun with a side of pineapple chunks and cookies for dessert. Currently, **Pat Tompkins, Alice Tyler, Esther Nichols, Jeri Holloway and Dave Trout** each prepare and contribute five gallons of chili. We would also like to thank **Marilyn Pearl, Tish Hall and Marge Owens**, who have also provided chili during the year. (For those who wish to prepare this chili, but don't have a large enough pot, one is available from the Paint Branch kitchen.). We often share the duties of serving the food onto plates, waiting on the tables, and getting additional food and drink on request. The experience is rewarding! As they leave, some of the guests will offer an earnest "Thank You" or "God Bless". Come and experience for yourself.

We are reimbursed for the ingredients from your donations to Warm Nights / Café Special Collection. Please contact **Esther Nichols** on the Social Action Committee at 301-864-2068.

*(Editor's Note: The Editor would like to thank Marj Donn, Revs. Phyllis Hubbell & John Manwell, and Tish Hall for their contributions to Social Action Committee News for this month)*



## WARM NIGHTS SHELTER PROGRAM JANUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 1



PBUUC will participate in Warm Nights again this winter. Warm Nights is an emergency shelter program sponsored by Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI). Congregations in the area provide one week of food and shelter on a rotating basis. We will host from Sunday, January 25 through Sunday, February 1. We use the Meeting House as a dining room and sleeping space for the week. In the evenings we provide a hot dinner and prepare breakfast and a bag lunch for the next day.

The coordinators this year are **Nathan Rummel** (301-776-8551, [rummelnathan@hotmail.com](mailto:rummelnathan@hotmail.com)) and **Kelly Wester** (301-937-7375, [kellywester@comcast.net](mailto:kellywester@comcast.net)). Starting in January they will have sign-up sheets in the lobby for the various tasks to be completed. Among them are jobs like shopping, preparing food, serving food, spending the night, setting up the Meeting House at the beginning of the week, and putting the Meeting House back in order at the end of the week. Thanks to those people who have already offered their help. You can also help now by collecting travel-sized toiletries and quarters (for the Laundromat) to donate.

We hope to add to the preparations this year. First, we plan to have an information session with the program coordinator in January so that Paint Branchers have a chance to learn more about the program and its policies. Second, we plan to have menu themes for each night of the Warm Nights week. This is an effort to meet the diverse dietary needs of our guests, provide a pleasing meal that all goes together, and to avoid having too much food. Third, **Nathan and Ponder Rummel** have been working on volunteer descriptions that can be posted in the kitchen so that volunteers have some information to guide them.

Feel free to contact Nathan or Kelly at home or see us after service in the lobby if you have questions.

## *Weaving The Web*

### *By Mike Stark*

**G**iven that there were 18 pages and lots of good holiday stuff in the December newsletter, I'm not sure anyone missed this column while I was helping my wife Kim recover from hip replacement surgery. But I'm back now to talk about how the website is set up to handle weather cancellations.

Simply put, all you have to do is click on the "Breaking News/Cancellations" link on the front page of [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org). You can find it under the "PBUUC Town Square" column. For those who are techies, this links to a PHPBB message board on which your stalwart ministers, administrator, and webmaster have privileges to post such announcements. You will be presented with a series of "topics" you can click on, for weather cancellations you will see the date in the subject line, and it will usually be the top one on the list of topics as they are organized by most recently posted first.

If you aren't technically inclined, just click on the message that has the date of interest in the subject line, and all the information you need will be there. The Web is not the only avenue for finding out about cancellations. An e-mail will also be sent to the Paint Branch listserv (yet another reason to contact **Ken Montville** and register), and a message will be put on voicemail (option 6) on the church answering machine. But for those of you who live on the Internet, the link to the message board is the way to go.

For those who are even more adventurous, if you register on the PBUUC message board, you can post notices of PBUUC-sponsored events, you can post notices of events of interest to UUs, and there's even a general notices area you can use to sell that '66 Dodge Dart you've been looking to unload. If you look a couple of lines down from the "breaking news/cancellations" link, you will see a link to the PBUUC forum, along with information about the forum and how to register. Finally, as ever, you don't have to be a tech geek to help with the web site. The most important skills are writing ability and a sense of presentation, an "artist's eye". If you are interested in helping, contact me at [mstark@pbuuc.org](mailto:mstark@pbuuc.org).

## *Upcoming Music at Paint Branch Concerts*

Please mark your calendars for the following FREE concerts in the *Music at Paint Branch* concert series, to be held in the PBUUC Meeting House Sanctuary. **David Chapman** and the Arts Council are excited to continue to bring these professional-quality concerts to PBUUC. Everyone is welcome!

*Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 PM -- There's Always Room for Cello, Part Deux*

**Kelly Stewart**, cellist, **Eileen Doty**, violinist, and David Chapman, pianist, performing music by Corelli, Debussy, Piazzola, and others. This is Ms. Stewart's second cello concert at PBUUC.

*Saturday, February 14 at 5:00 PM – Audrey Andrist, pianist*

PBUUC is honored to host a second classical recital by renowned Canadian pianist, **Audrey Andrist**. Ms. Andrist has performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician, as well as with major orchestras. Among her many accomplishments, she is the first prizewinner of the San Antonio International Competition, the Mozart International Competition, and the Juilliard Concerto Competition.

*Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 PM -- San-Quing Lu-Bennaman, pianist*, performing works by Mozart, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff. Ms. **Lu-Bennaman** performed as the principal soloist of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra for many years before moving to the US, studying at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and later earning an Artist Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory of Music on a full scholarship. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician and won first prize in two international piano competitions. She now lives in Rockville, MD, and teaches piano.



## *Thought For Food* *By Marilyn Pearl*

No, that's not a typo or a transposition. This is a mélange of food-at-church related issues for everyone to be aware of, give input on, or maybe do something about.



**THE NEW DISHWASHER.** Many people said we needed a new dishwasher; some said it should be a commercial dishwasher. All I knew about commercial dishwashers was that **Hortense Parr**, a former member of the

congregation who served as the Kitchen Committee, suggested one many years ago. **Ron Cotts** investigated and found that to purchase and install a commercial dishwasher, even with him doing most of the work, would cost about \$5000. We had less than \$4000 in the entire kitchen fund. Then it was announced \$5000 would be available from the Legacy Fund for the most deserving proposed project. **Kathy Kearns** said, "There's the dishwasher!" So I wrote a proposal, and to my amazement, it was accepted, but not for the entire \$5000; we had to add most of the kitchen fund to it as well. Ron ordered the dishwasher; it was delivered, but its sink and drain board took another month or two to arrive. Ron installed them, but there was a problem which required a technician. Finally, it was used a few times to wash coffee cups, but when we ran it after the October Ethnic Dinner, it leaked. Ron fixed that, but the next Sunday after coffee, it wouldn't heat the water. Ron fixed that in time for the Auction Dinner, and, knock on wood, it's worked fine ever since! To use it, *training is necessary*. Maybe 10 people know how to use it now. For those would like to learn how to use the dishwasher, please contact **Daniel Everitt** at the church office at 301-937-3666 or Ron Cotts at 301-572-3983. So, thank you to the Legacy Fund team for the grant, to everyone for your patience, and let's all give Ron Cotts a personal "Thank you" for all his work, expertise and diligence in providing us with this dishwasher!

### **RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC CONTAINERS**

As already reported, the *Family Food Traditions* Ethnic Dinner last month was a huge success, including the leftovers sale. That means our supply of plastic containers has been seriously depleted. Please continue to wash and save your empty containers and their snug-fitting lids, and bring them to church. Leave them in the kitchen; I'll find them. The most popular size is the 1 pint/1 lb. size. *Please*, no glass jars, no cans and no small yogurt cups; they don't get used.



**ETHNIC DINNERS FOR KIDS?** It's possible that part of the success of the Oct. Ethnic Dinner was due to its earlier starting time and accommodations for children. Not all Ethnic Dinners lend themselves easily to doing

this for a variety of reasons. I would like to hear from parents or anyone who may be interested in the dinners starting at an earlier time with child-friendly food, some child care and entertainment. Perhaps with some discussion and planning, we can see if this is feasible.

**IS SOMETHING IN THE KITCHEN YOURS?** If you've brought any food to a church event within the last several months, please check to see if you've left anything – food, beverages, pots, casseroles, etc. Clutter is piling up on the counters. Check the refrigerator as well.

If you have any kitchen/food concerns, comments or input on any of this, contact Marilyn Pearl, (301) 805-1218 or [buffalo\\_gal@verizon.net](mailto:buffalo_gal@verizon.net).

---

### **ART GALLERY NEWS** **BY JANE TROUT**

There will be an opportunity to Meet the Artists of the current exhibit of Members and Friends of Paint Branch on Sunday, January 4th during Enrichment Hour. This exhibit will be coming down after January 11th to make way for some photos by Don Gerson.

## 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 Pettit .....         | 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 January-

**JAN MONTVILLE – 301-464-6298**

### -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 |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|

### COMMITTEES -

|                        |                        |              |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Adult Rel. Exploration | Julie Dahmer           | 301-890-7807 |
| Arts Council           | Julie Dahmer ...       | 301-890-7807 |
| Budget Leadership Team | Kate Brett .....       | 301-931-9024 |
| Buildings & 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](http://WWW.PBUUC.ORG)  
E-MAIL: [CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG](mailto:CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG)  
 **Check here if you no longer wish to receive  
this mailing****

**Deadlines for next two issues of *Branches***

**February – Tuesday, January 20  
March – Wednesday, February 18**

**Postmaster: Send Address Changes to Editor, *Branches*, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20873**