



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

JANUARY 2010

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

Sunday Services are followed by Fellowship and then Enrichment Hour.
Child care provided for both service and Enrichment Hour.

JANUARY 3

WIDENING THE CIRCLE

Friends of the Membership Committee, with Abby Crowley, Worship Associate

***Children will meet in the Kelley Room. ***

Rev. Peter Morales, newly elected president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), has observed that practicing hospitality in a congregation isn't only for greeters or for the membership committee. It's everyone's job--and, we can all get better at it. As we ring in the New Year, join us for a skit about how we welcome newcomers, plus reflections and skill-building around the idea of radical hospitality.

JANUARY 10

TO GROW A SOUL

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Shantida, Worship Associate

***Children start in the Kelley Room for Children's Chapel. ***

Rev. A. Powell Davies, whose vision resulted in the founding of our congregation, is known for saying, "Life is just a chance to grow a soul." How might this help us as we conceptualize and build for a more coherent, enlivened "life-span" religious exploration program for children, youth and adults?

JANUARY 17

WHEN THE WIND LIFTS YOUR HOUSE

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Marilyn Pearl, Worship Associate and the Choir

***Children start in the Meetinghouse. ***

A wonderful story in the autobiography of Georgia Congressman John Lewis (a comrade of Martin Luther King Jr.) gives us inspiration, and a sermon title.

JANUARY 24

WE BEGIN AGAIN IN LOVE

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Don Henderson, Worship Associate

***Children & Youth go directly to classes. ***

Ours is a covenantal, not creedal, religion. We covenant at the national and congregational levels. We also say vows when we marry. But no organization or individual is perfect. At times, we fail to live up to our promises. What do we do when that makes us angry?

JANUARY 31

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE SUN RETURNS!

7th and 8th Grade RE Class, with Worship Associate TBD

ALL AGES SERVICE in the Meeting House—nursery care is provided in Room 5

The Solstice Pageant and Pageant Choir, rescheduled from Dec. 20th due to the blizzard.

The Minister's mUUsings...

Last month, on December 15th, the Council of the District of Columbia took an historic stand for love. By an 11-2 margin, council members voted to legalize marriage for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens. Marriage equality is coming to the nation's capital!

Rev. Rob Hardies, minister of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in the District and a leader of the interfaith coalition that supported the initiative, wrote in a public email that day, "It was thrilling to be present in the Council chambers as history was being made. When the vote was announced, people shouted and wept for joy. Friends, this is what it feels like to stand on the side of love."

Coming to Maryland from Massachusetts, where gay and lesbian couples have been able to legally wed since May 17, 2004, I know what it is like to officiate a legal same-sex wedding. The joy is exhilarating, out of this world! If happiness is a criterion for choosing an issue on which to devote your volunteer time, gay marriage is your issue!

The first gay couple I wed had been together for more than twenty years. They had never imagined they would ever be able to marry each other. Two women, and their eleven year old adopted daughter who stood with them, said their vows in front of four or five closest friends. Jubilant, victorious photos were taken afterwards under the rainbow flag hanging outside the front door of our 1825 meeting house. Who could have predicted it? What a day!

Intimate or very public, complex or simple, in a house of worship, wedding hall or outdoors— a wedding for two women or two men is so incredibly joyful, in my experience. There is the usual love to be celebrated, just like at a straight wedding. But at a gay wedding, there is also justice and history in the making and they are celebrated too.

In wedding ceremonies, I never used to mention my role as agent of the state, because I didn't feel comfortable with it. I still don't. I believe wedding licenses should be signed by a public official, not clergy.

But, starting in May 2004, I added a line to my typical wedding service script, "by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ... I do declare you, (name and name), to be love-fully and lawfully ... wed!" To date, I've not made it through that line at a gay wedding without pausing for euphoric cheers, clapping, whistling and even happy stamping of feet! I feel like crying every time!

Here in Maryland, I've decided (as did your interim ministers, I understand) not to sign wedding licenses until I can sign them for gay couples too. I will find and join (or help start if I have to) a multi-racial interfaith coalition to support equal marriage in Maryland. I'm assuming you, the congregation, will want to be involved, too.

I'm thinking we will honor long-term relationships (hetero and homosexual) in our worship service on Valentine's Day, with a wedding cake reception during coffee afterwards. I'd like to publicize this in the community and invite gay couples in our area to attend. If you want to be involved in planning this, please let me know.

According to Hardies, "The Unitarian Universalist Association's 'Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) Campaign' made a big impact here in DC, providing our interfaith [equal marriage] coalition with a slogan to rally around, supporting our media outreach, and helping us go viral with video." He thanked UUs across the nation who supported the SSL campaign because its "efforts are making history." I hope we will avail ourselves of the Standing on the Side of Love materials too.

Of course, the struggle for marriage equality in DC is not over yet. The United States Congress has 30 legislative days after the Mayor's signature to veto it. I hope that the US Congress will respect the sovereignty of the elected leaders of the District of Columbia. Our support may be needed on that front. But, in the meantime, let's celebrate!

Hoping to see you on Sundays in the New Year,

Diane

Rev. Diane Teichert

Notes from the Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCES “RECLAIMING OUR SPACE” INITIATIVE

On Friday, November 20, 2009, at a Special Board Meeting held to discuss the lease renewal with the Paint Branch Montessori School, **the PBUUC Board of Trustees (BOT) unanimously voted to not renew the lease** which expires June 10, 2010.

The decision to not renew the lease with the Montessori School was made following a process of research and debate which took many months of work on the part of the current BOT; and was the culmination of years of discussion by previous Boards and the congregation at large. In making the decision, Board Members expressed enthusiasm and excitement over the opportunity together with sober awareness of the financial implications.

Some of the key factors in the decision were:

- PBUUC and Paint Branch Montessori School (PBMS) currently have a three-year lease between them which expires June 10, 2010. This lease calls for each party to notify the other of its intention to negotiate or not negotiate a new lease by December 15, 2009.
- In preparation for this decision, the BOT formed a “Space Options Task Force” in July 2009 to identify potential long-term rental options and use of space for the Religious Exploration Building. The Space Options Task Force provided a written report to the BOT in October. The Task Force recommended reducing our dependence on rental income, finding sources of rental income with less impact on our space, and retaining more of our space for full congregational use. Copies of the report are available from the Church Office upon request.
- Also during this autumn, the BOT became aware that a required Use and Occupancy Permit for the school’s operations as currently defined by the State had not been granted by Prince George’s County. The BOT consulted with a zoning attorney, who advised that although PBUUC has no direct responsibility for obtaining the school’s permit, the process of obtaining the permit is complex, expensive, time consuming and could

involve the church in various ways including public hearings. Failure to achieve the necessary permit could likely result in the school being closed by the County.

- Another complicating factor was a determination last summer by the Maryland Department of Education that PBMS has been reclassified as a day care facility, rather than a school with before and after care, which subjected the school to a range of new standards and requirements. There has been no assurance from PBMS of their plans to meet these new requirements (which are both costly and logistically difficult). Failure to do so could also likely result in the school being closed by the state.
- Negative publicity for PBMS occurred last year when two young children wandered away from the school onto Powder Mill Road where a passing motorist rescued them. It is our understanding that this and other factors have resulted in a significant reduction of enrollment in PBMS.
- PBMS rents most of the space in the RE Building. Over the years, the wish that we could “own” our own space has been expressed by parents, children and teachers.

The immediate result of the BOT’s decision was an exuberant blossoming of energy and excitement as we began to discuss the possibilities for use of our space in ways which demonstrate and foster our UU principals. BOT members expressed strong belief in the capacity of the congregation to “catch fire” over this new opportunity and meet challenges with enthusiasm and a full-hearted response.

Consequently, on November 30, 2009, the BOT sent notice to PBMS that the lease would not be renewed.

During December 2009 and January 2010, the BOT is holding a series of “mini town hall meetings” to provide background about this decision, provide a forum for expressing joys and concerns, and energize ourselves by imagining new and creative uses for this liberated space. **Please join us during Enrichment Hour on January 10 or 17 to brainstorm together on our hopes and dreams for the Religious Education Building. We are hoping that each and every one of us will become involved in RECLAIMING OUR SPACE!**

**JOSEPH PRIESTLEY DISTRICT
HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS
LEADERSHIP TRAINING TO BE HELD
AT PAINT BRANCH**

At the Ministerial Start-up Weekend in October, congregation members identified the topic of **leadership development** as one of the major areas where Paint Branch UU Church needs to focus its efforts. We have been blessed as a congregation with many strong lay leaders during our first fifty-five years of existence. However, great congregational leadership doesn't just happen - there is much that we can be doing in order to recruit, train, and support new generations of leaders. Paint Branch in particular is a dynamic congregation where there is always plenty of leadership opportunities available – as members retire or move away, new leaders with new energy are needed in order to help the church move in new and exciting directions.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA; www.uua.org) and our local Joseph Priestley District (JPD; www.jpduua.org) offer many resources for volunteers, committee members, Trustees, and other lay leaders. This spring, the JPD is sponsoring a series of workshops on the subject of congregational leadership called “Building Healthy Congregations.” The dates for the workshops are January 16, February 13, March 13, April 10, and May 8, 2010. Each workshop runs from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. The workshops will be held at PBUUC.

This workshop series is open to **teams** from congregations who are interested in revitalizing their congregation and learning new skills and new tools for congregational leadership. We are hoping to send a team of at least 5 members from PBUUC to this workshop. Team members must be willing to commit to attend all five workshops.

If you would be interested in attending the workshop as part of the PBUUC team, please contact Board Chair Jonathan Mawdsley for more information at mawdsley@heinzctr.org. We will need to register our team by January 7, so please contact Jonathan as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.

Jonathan Mawdsley, Board Chair

**TIME TO COLLECT YOUR GUEST AT
YOUR TABLE!**

Starting January 10, please bring in your Guest at Your Table box or envelope. Be sure to complete the form on the box before bringing it back. And please convert your cash and coins to a check made out to "UUSC". Leave the boxes with checks in the large basket marked “UUSC” in the Meeting House foyer.

This annual fundraiser is one of our best opportunities to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which acts on our behalf to support people engaged in the struggle for justice in the United States and around the world.

How does UUSC work? Read these stories about people in UUSC partner organizations:

Meet Guadalupe Nuñez, a resident and water activist in Tonyville, Calif., who helped secure clean, affordable water for her community after residents found dangerous levels of nitrates in their drinking water. Consider what having safe drinking water means to your family. And consider what even a small gift to your Guest at Your Table will mean to Guadalupe and others like her around the world who, often at great peril, are standing up for their human right to water.

Meet Daw San and Moe Moe, courageous women in Myanmar who partnered with UUSC to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after last year's deadly cyclone. Daw San is now raising pigs and Moe Moe has opened a food stand, selling delicious bowls of Mohinga, a hearty breakfast food. Consider what security and returning home has meant to Daw San, Moe Moe, and others [this holiday season]. Consider what even a small gift to your Guest at Your Table will mean to women like Daw San who are overcoming great obstacles in a time of crisis in Myanmar or elsewhere in our world.

You can learn more about UUSC's work to advance the human right to water worldwide online at www.uusc.org/righttowater.

Religious Exploration News

WAYS TO GROW LIFELONG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

I often meet people who left the church of their childhood or were not raised in any faith tradition but find their way to a Unitarian Universalist church after they have children. What they are looking for is providing their children with a moral compass in difficult times, they say.

As UUs though, we often have trouble figuring out whether we're trying to create "good UUs" or "wonderful people," says Kate Tweedie Erslev, a lifelong UU and author. She believes we need to do more to help our children understand that Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition and not just a place to learn about religion.

"Neglecting to foster a UU identity is similar to leaving the meaning of the Bible to the Fundamentalists," she says in *Full Circle: Fifteen Ways to Grow Lifelong UUs*. "It is time we clarify who we are. When it comes to religious education, this means creating life-long learners, responsible decision makers and agents of transformation in the world who recognize the power of being in a UU community."

For the book, she talked with 82 women and men -- who were raised and remained UUs and ranged in age from 25 to 87 -- to find out what prompted their lifelong commitment to Unitarian Universalism. Those conversations led to *Full Circle*, which is available from the UUA bookstore (<http://www.uuabookstore.org>).

Many of the lifelong UUs she interviewed enjoyed their first taste of leadership in their congregations as teens by teaching religious education classes. The experience empowered them, they said, and they in turn took their responsibility seriously.

Another trait the lifelong UUs shared was attending services and classes regularly. "We offer support for a life-enriching, lifelong journey that involves the whole family through the calamities and joys of life," notes the author, who now goes by Kate Tweedie Covey.

Many of those interviewed remembered engaging Sunday classes with wonderful teachers, where learning was fun and they formed lasting

friendships. And most talked about their transforming experiences with their congregation's youth group, which provided discussions about life's big questions, fun and friendship as well as opportunities to take on leadership roles and connect with adults.

These lifelong UUs recalled fondly memories of church-wide events such as potluck dinners and church fairs and annual events like Water and Flower services and Christmas Eve pageants. In addition, they remembered rituals marking life transitions such as child dedications, coming of age, services of union and memorials. Ms. Covey suggests that it is "a balance between stability and change" that leads to lifelong memories and commitment.

Involvement in service projects that provided a chance to put their UU principles into practice, and included children, youth and adults, also played an important role for these life-long UUs. They also mentioned singing together and being in the church choir or inspired by the minister, teacher or church leader.

In the past, we UUs have often defined ourselves as "what we are not" rather than "what we are" and left our children to discover our implicit beliefs on their own. Today, we're doing a better job by using our Principles and Sources as guides for our religious education programs as well as our own lives.

"But we're still not articulating our UU identity very well," Ms. Covey notes. "It's time to put aside our reluctance to describe ourselves with a concrete identity and begin to describe the 'house' that we live in."

This is something I'll be thinking about as we start this new year together. And I'll be interested in hearing your thoughts as well. *Karen Lee Scrivo*
Interim Director of Religious Exploration

Reclaiming Our Space Meetings for Children and Youth -- Interim DRE Karen Lee Scrivo will be hosting two special meetings this month during the regular RE time for children and youth to hear about their hopes and dreams for revitalizing their classrooms and the RE Building. On January 10, she will be meeting at 10 am with children, kindergarten through grade 5, And on January 17 at 10 am, she will talk with the middle and high school youth, Teachers and advisers are also welcome at both meetings. *(More RE news on following page)*

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NOTES

Nursery -- The nursery volunteers request that those dropping off children in the nursery please include a bottle or a sippy cup and snacks in their child's diaper bag. In light of concerns about safety and food allergies, the nursery will no longer be serving juice or snacks. In addition, parents are asked to fill out a brief information and contact form to help them better care for your child.

RE Pickup -- Please pick up your children from the nursery and RE classes by 11:30 am so that our wonderful volunteers and teachers can enjoy the coffee hour. To ensure safety, parents are responsible for supervising their children after RE classes.

Child Care for Congregational Events -- Those planning congregational events are responsible for making arrangements for child care. The RE office is happy to assist by providing a list of approved child care providers and guidelines for child care at PBUUC events. Please contact Interim DRE Karen Lee Scrivo at idre@pbuuc.org or 301-937-3666 for copies or further information.

Hospitality Room -- Since the snacks in the PBUUC cabinet in the Hospitality Room are used for RE Children's classes, we ask that children not take food from that cabinet without permission. Any food stored in the refrigerator should be clearly marked PBUUC since the Montessori school also uses it.

Volunteer Opportunities -- For those of you who enjoy babies, we are looking for volunteers for second and third Sundays of the month. We also have openings in the Grade 6 class and the Grades 7-8 class. Please contact Interim DRE Karen Lee Scrivo for more information.

Financial Notes

There is good news! The Legacy Fund is back at the \$100,000 level and the Legacy Fund Committee, led by Liz Citrin, has voted to make grants up to \$2,000 for the 2010-2011 church year. That can be one grant for \$2,000 or several grants that total that amount. So put on your thinking caps and submit proposals for things you think will benefit PBUUC.

In the past, grants have provided such physical improvements as the commercial dishwasher, an

upgraded PA system and the new sign on Powder Mill Road. Grants have also funded two program initiatives. First was the speaker, Jim Loewen, who talked about his book on Sundown Towns, towns where black Americans were once legally excluded after sundown. Another program supported by a grant was the Dedicated to Inspiring Vitality (DIV) workshop, led by Paula Cole Jones, which helped us develop our revised Mission Statement and laid the groundwork for the Strategic Plan that we will be developing over the next few years.

All proposals should be for projects that are NOT covered in the church budget; the more specific the proposal, the better. So provide backup for the expected costs and figure out who will be in charge of your project. It is expected that the approved project(s) will be completed by the end of the year for which it is made (in this case, by June 30, 2011).

The time table is as follows:

- 1) December: announce grant amount for the following year hence this announcement of the availability of \$2,000 for the coming year;
- 2) April 10, 2010: Grant proposals due to the Chair of the Legacy Fund Committee;
- 3) Mid-April to Mid-May 2010: Review of proposals by the Legacy Fund Committee;
- 4) Mid-May 2010: Selection of winning grant(s) by Legacy Fund Committee;
- 5) May 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting: Confirmation of grants by Board of Trustees;
- 6) June 6, 2010: Announcement of winning proposal(s) at the Annual Meeting.

Proposals should be submitted to Liz Citrin or the church office by April 10, 2010. The forms are available from Liz (Elizabeth.A.Citrin@nasa.gov) or Kevin Miller (kevin.a.miller@nasa.gov).

If you are looking for ways to benefit PBUUC over many years in the future, consider making a donation to the Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund Committee intends to make grants each year of approximately 3% of the balance in the fund as of November of the prior year. Imagine what we can do if the fund were to double or triple or more. It is one way to provide the many things we dream of but can't quite cover in the budget.

Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

The next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be Saturday, January 9, from 10 am to 12 noon in the Kelley Room of the Religious Exploration Building. Come; help us get 2010 off to a good start.

PAINT BRANCH UU CHURCH JANUARY SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR GOODLOE MEMORIAL UU CHURCH'S BOWIE STATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Social Action Committee has selected the Bowie State Scholarship Fund of Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation for its January Special Collection.

Goodloe Memorial is committed to raising at least \$10,000 over a five-year period to establish an endowed scholarship to honor Reverend Don Goodloe, the first African-American graduate of Meadville Theological Seminary, founder and first president of what is now Bowie State University.

OPENDOOR HOUSING FUND IS A PARTICIPANT IN COMMUNITY FUND DRIVES

Remember OpenDoor Housing Fund as you contribute to either the annual United Way (#9331) or Combined Federal Campaign (#65151) through your workplace. OpenDoor is the successor organization to the Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corporation, founded by UUs to support affordable housing for low and moderate income families in the area.



MAKE A DATE WITH THE STATE! LGBT LOBBY DAYS IN ANNAPOLIS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Equality Maryland's annual lobby day with state legislators will be Monday, February 8, beginning at 4:30 pm0 in Lawyer's Mall. This is our chance to tell our representatives that we want Maryland to protect the lives, jobs and families of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered men and women. As of this writing, the 2010 session has not begun so the legislative agenda is not set. Tish Hall will have information on specific bills (and how to register) in late January. Look for Tish during the weekly coffee social.



PAINT BRANCH TO HOST DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY SERVICE MONDAY, JANUARY 18



The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team will host a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service at Paint Branch UU Church on Monday, January 18, the national King Holiday. The service will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by a reception. Our

featured speaker will be Leo Jones, member and former Worship Associate extraordinaire. His topic: *King's Passion*. Music will be provided/coordinated by our own remarkable Music Director, David Chapman. Child care will be provided. Bring the family. Invite your friends and colleagues. This will be a truly special event.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) News & Events

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Upon review of the Unitarian Universalist principles and sources, the following source of faith comes to mind:

“Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.”



As a Christian and Unitarian (a Christian Unitarian), I always wonder how welcoming we actually are of other religions and those who practice religions other than Unitarian Universalism. I must admit at

times, that I feel uncomfortable around others that do not share the same beliefs as me. I wonder if it is because I feel the need to defend my position, or maybe perhaps I would not feel accepted as a “Christian Unitarian.” Maybe I feel uncomfortable because I may not fully understand the beliefs of another. Another possibility could be that my views may be considered somewhat conservative compared to the more liberal beliefs of most Unitarians.

Whatever the reasons may be, the above UU source of faith provoked questions within my mind, and I am sure in others, on how we can become a more welcoming church with regard to theological beliefs. In past articles, we have looked at issues of racism, the impact that it has within our community and what we can do to strive for diversity. What about religious diversity? How can we be more accepting of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and all other religions without making individuals feel excluded? How can we embrace each other's religious beliefs and differences and still feel that our own beliefs are valid, without getting angry or frustrated with those who do not believe as we do?

As an African American woman, I also look around at my church community at Paint Branch and I notice that there are few African-Americans, Indian and Asian members. I wonder how this could be since Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church is located in a predominately African-American county?

Could it possibly be because most African Americans practice Christian beliefs? What about Indians, Koreans, Chinese, Vietnamese and other racial groups? Does Unitarian Universalism extend welcoming arms to other culturally and religiously diverse minds? If not, how can we improve upon that?



I believe that in order to become a more diverse church, ethnically and religiously, we should strive to learn more about each other's beliefs and embrace differences. Further, we should respect and not try to nullify other religions whether those religions are Christianity, Judaism, Muslim, Hinduism, etc. The most important question that we, as Unitarian

Universalists should ask ourselves is “What or Who influenced us to be Unitarian Universalist”? Upon reflection of the answers to this question, we should immediately embrace theological differences for this is the true meaning of Unitarian Universalism.

Ponder Thompson-Rummel

DARTT TEAM MEETS TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 7:30 PM

Please join us at the DARTT meeting Room 1, Religious Exploration Building, which meets (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month to plan activities for personal & institutional transformation. This is your opportunity to share feedback and new ideas.

DARTT JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS FILM SERIES RETURNS

DARTT is resuming its Journey Toward Wholeness Film Series. We have set aside the 4th Sunday of every month to show a film and have a discussion during an extended Enrichment Hour, beginning at 11:45 am and ending at 2:00 pm. Snacks and child care will be provided. On January 24, Polly Pettit will kick off the 2010 DARTT series by facilitating the screening and discussion of *With All Deliberate Speed*. This will be a special event, as Polly worked on this film.

In and Around Paint Branch

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST PAINT BRANCHERS!



We welcomed 13 new adult members and their families into membership at the New Member Recognition Ceremony on December 6. These individuals have signed the Membership Book since the last ceremony in April.

Under the photo:

Back Row: Rev. Diane Teichert, Frank Rexach, Rosie Rexach, Charles Dickson, Celeste Hall, Carol Boston (Membership Committee), Melody Lawrence

Front Row: Jim Pierzchala, Anthony Pierzchala, Tabitha Pierzchala, Benjamin Pierzchala, Lisa Dickson, Tabitha Dickson, Brenda Anna, Valerie Elliot, Matt Elliott, Alan Elliott

Unable to Attend: Steve Bernheisel, Kweli Powell
Carol Boston, Membership Committee Chair

JOIN THE PBUUC LIST SERV

Would you like another easier way of keeping abreast of activities and news here at PBUUC? You are encouraged to join the PBUUC list serv, a low volume email service that allows you to receive information and updates on a regular basis. Send an email to Ken Montville, the list serv moderator, at ken.montville@remax.net. You will then receive an invitation to join the list serv group. Follow the directions and you will soon be getting all the latest information about PBUUC activities.

Ken Montville, moderator

REGISTER NOW FOR THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT FEBRUARY 27, 2010

The Annual Women's Retreat will be on Saturday, February 27, all day long in both the Meeting House and the Religious Exploration Building. The Friday-night social on the 26th will be in the Meeting House only. It is time now to begin planning for the community circles and workshops that will fill our day. We need to bring in new leadership, as Julie Dahmer, our registrar since the beginning, is preparing to move to Maine and Penney Hughes who has been a planner and workshop leader is preparing for her new baby and her move to Mali, West Africa. Remember that the more people there are in the planning process, the simpler it is for everyone. Please join the planning process this year and learn from the best!



The Women's Retreat is a full day of food and activities for women and girls. A fresh, hot breakfast and lunch are included in the very low fee of \$20.00 per person.

Childcare will be provided at no extra cost if we have enough notice from the people who need it. We will also provide "scholarships" where needed. This is a great way to connect with the other women in the church, and a wonderful way to introduce your friends to our embracing community.

If you have an interest to share, please consider leading a workshop for an hour or ninety minutes. We have had workshops on writing, singing, art, spirituality, sexuality, dance, food, and more. If you love something you will communicate that joy when you lead a workshop. You can contact Tish Hall or Julie Dahmer to talk about your ideas.

Would you like to be on the Paint Branch Women's list serv? This is a low-volume email group which is used mostly for the organization of the Women's Retreat, though other notices of interest are posted occasionally. If you'd like to be added to the list serv, contact Tish Hall and an electronic registration will be emailed to you. Contact Tish Hall at LBCHall@gmail.com or Julie Dahmer at jcdahmer@comcast.net for more information.

Julie Dahmer and Tish Hal, coordinators

WARM NIGHTS STARTS JANUARY 24

PBUUC will host Warm Nights from Sunday, January 24 to Sunday, January 31.

Look for volunteer and food sign-up sheets in the lobby after Sunday services or contact Kelly Wester.

The Warm Nights program is sponsored by Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI) in Prince George's County (www.communitycrisis.org). It is a homeless shelter program that rotates through area churches to provide food and shelter during the cold weather.

We will host approximately 25 guests in our Meeting House for seven nights. We serve dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch. The CCSI program brings in cots and bedding. We need volunteers to shop, cook, serve food, spend the night at the church, and help with set-up and break-down.

We are collecting:

- Toiletries (travel size): deodorant (unisex brand), toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, dental floss, razors, shaving gel
- Linens: towels, wash cloths, blankets (fleece; light-weight and not wool)
- Socks (new).

We distribute the toiletries to the guests during the week. The CCSI program is grateful for any linen donations to keep the guests comfortable from church to church. And new, warm socks are just nice to have in the middle of winter.

Questions? Contact me at 301-937-7375 or email me at kellywester@comcast.net, or speak with a member of the Social Action Committee.

Kelly Wester, 2010 Warm Nights coordinator



2010 CONCERTS AT PBUUC



Please MARK THE DATES for the following fabulous concerts – coming this spring!

Saturday, March 13, at 7pm – PBUUC Piano Gala

As a huge thank you to all those who generously contributed to the restoration of our Mason & Hamlin concert grand piano, the PBUUC Arts Council will present a gala concert featuring four fabulous pianists: Audrey Andrist, San-Qing Lu-Bennaman, Shaun Tirrell, and PBUUC Music Director David Chapman.

Sunday, March 21, at 4pm – Go For Baroque

PBUUC member Deni Foster and Dick Berg and others will perform a concert of Baroque music. Paint Branchers and friends have thoroughly enjoyed previous *Music at Paint Branch* concerts by this *ad hoc* ensemble.

Sunday, April 18, at 4pm -- Audrey Andrist and James Stern

Pianist Audrey Andrist and her husband, violinist James Stern, will perform a *Music at Paint Branch* concert.

Sunday, May 2 – Barbara Brown

Cellist Barbara Brown will perform Music at Paint Branch concert.

Julie Dahmer

ART EXHIBIT IN JANUARY

In the Meeting House there will be an exhibit of photographs starting January 17, which includes pictures taken by Edward Brinker and Jane Liu. The lighthouse pictures were taken using the large format camera, Toyo. The Canadian Rocky pictures were taken using the digital camera, Canon 5D Mark II. Both Edward and Jane work for NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center and enjoy photography as a hobby. They have had two previous exhibits at PBUUC. There will be an opportunity to **Meet the Artists** on February 14, 2010, during enrichment hour. For further information you may contact them at 301-812-0108.

Jane Trout, PBUUC Visual Arts

Dear Members and Friends,

A new Branches feature will be to list additions/corrections to our congregational phone directory. If you have changes to any of your own information in the directory, please send it to the office at churchadmin@pbuuc.org or call 301-937-3666. Here are this month's changes:



Laughlin, John – correction to email
Email address is dr.john_123@verizon.net

Ranek, Nancy – moved to Florida

Schrack, Bonnie – new address
6202 54th Avenue
Riverdale, MD 20737-1204

Scott, Robert – new address:
4762 Chisholm Landing Way
N. Potomac, Maryland 20878
H: 301-762-0243

Sharp, Jessica – new address
9451 Fenns Hollow
Laurel, MD 20723
Email: sprangledangel@gmail.com

**THIRD WEDNESDAY HYATTSVILLE
UU LUNCH KLUB
(TWEDHUULK) WILL HAVE A
PAN ASIAN LUNCH JANUARY 20 IN
BELTSVILLE**

The TWedHUULK group will meet at Gah Rham just off Route One at 5027 Garrett Ave. We have eaten there several times. Their buffet has been very popular. If you travel north toward Laurel, you will make a left turn two blocks past Behnke's and before you come to Remington's Bar & Grill. Larry Lates, who masterminded TWedHUULK for several years, is back in his home in Greenbelt. He and his wife, Ruth, would like visitors, but call before to make sure he is not at one of his doctor appointments. If you are able to join us on January 20, please contact me at lowellowens@comcast.net or 301-345-1572.

Marge Owens

**PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH
COMMITTEE**



Calling all PBUUC Artists



Have you ever looked at one of Mike Stark's t-shirts and thought, "I could do a better job than that?" Here is your chance! PBUUC's Publicity and Outreach Committee is pleased to announce its first ever t-shirt design contest. We are excited to produce a t-shirt that can be worn to group/volunteer events to identify Paint Branchers "at work," but of course you can get one for "at-play" too!

Contest Rules:

Create a design that shows the world what Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist church means to you.

1. The design will appear on the front of the shirt and may include a picture and/or words. The back of the shirt will include the words "Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church," a chalice logo and our web address, www.pbuuc.org.
2. Designs must be submitted in black and white (so that they may be easily reproduced on a t-shirt).
3. This contest is open to PBUUC members and friends of all ages!
4. Entries may be submitted either in hard copy or electronically to Kathy Kearns kkearns@hotmail.com or Theresa Shute tbshute@gmail.com.

The deadline for submission is February 21. The Publicity and Outreach committee will review the entries and select the top five designs. The congregation will then have a chance to vote on their favorite design via ballot in the meeting house lobby on February 28.

The next Publicity and Outreach Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 28, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

*Kathy Kearns & Theresa Shute, co-chairs
Publicity and Outreach Committee*



WEAVING THE WEB

The new year brings a time of transition for both me and the pbuuc.org web site. For me, January to June, 2010 will be the last 6 months as your webmaster, as I become the church's Treasurer on July 1, 2010, and am gradually letting go of other volunteer obligations. This one was hard; I think not teaching OWL next year might be harder. Until July 1, though, please send things you need to put on the site to mstark@pbuuc.org.

I would like to thank a few people who have been very helpful to me over the years.

Both Beth Lyons and Tim Illig gave specific and constructive advice on how to improve the site. And I actually took it, although Tim's never made it past the prototype stage.

Emily Conover as administrator and Julie Dahmer as Adult RE/Enrichment Hour/Music at Paint Branch volunteer were top-notch in terms of faithfully updating frequently changing information.

Jonathan Mawdsley and Ken Montville have served as Board liaisons; before then there was no real interaction with the Board, so their efforts were much appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to thank the newcomers I've greeted over the years who said they came because of the website and the information contained therein. This makes the sometimes tedious work of routine updates worthwhile.



That's all for me. Beyond a new Webmaster, there will be other significant changes to the site coming. I urge everyone to pay attention and participate when asked;

the most important talent needed is the ability to write; more than half the work of a web site is simply writing good content. The technical people can make it *look* good, but it takes writing talent to have a Web site *be* good.

Mike Stark

How do I find out if a Sunday service has been cancelled???

If a Sunday service is canceled due to inclement weather, you can find out by doing any of the following after 8:00 am on that day:

- Listen to WTOP Radio 103.5 FM or visit WTOP.com.
- Look at your email for an announcement on the PBUUC list serv.
- Call the church office, 301-937-3666, and press 6 to hear a cancellation message.

Our intention is to notify directly anyone scheduled for worship leadership, music, hosting coffee or teaching RE on that day. If you do not receive a call or email, for whatever reason, please do any of the above.

Thank you for your patience as we try to make these things work!

JANUARY DIVERSITY DIALOGUES Sunday, January 10, during Enrichment Hour

Throughout 2009, the monthly Diversity Dialogues sessions focused on the challenges and the opportunities of differences in race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, ability, and other categories that society imposes, exploring these issues in the American context.

We will start 2010 with a broadening of our conversation to how these issues manifest in other countries, using as a case study the recent controversy in China when a Chinese-African American youth won a beauty and talent contest. It will be helpful (but not required!) if you have a chance to read in advance a short *Washington Post* article on the situation, which can be viewed at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/14/AR2009111401147.html>.

Our discussion will be held in the Kelly Room during Enrichment Hour, starting at 11:45 a.m. Please join us as we explore how we may better understand, embrace, and celebrate diversity in our own lives, our congregation, our communities, and across national boundaries. For more information please contact the Diversity Dialogues co-leaders: Theresa Brown Shute at tbshute@gmail.com or Cynthia Robinson at crr@pipeline.com.

-PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY**-STAFF-**

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert...	301-937-3666
Music Director/Pianist	David Chapman.....	301-937-3666
Interim RE Director	Karen Lee Scrivo.....	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst.	Penney Hughes.....	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt.....	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst.	Rebecca Birnie.....	301-937-3666
Bookkeeper.....	Eleanor Coyne	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers.....	Sharon Werth.....	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
.....	Chuck Bury.....	301-799-2535
.....	Bryan Coté.....	240-123-4567
.....	Jesse Crowley.....	301-345-2663
Child Care	Kamini Wickramaratne.....	301-937-3666

-OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES-

Chair	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Vice Chair	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Vice Chair	Bettie Young.....	301-490-4957
Trustee.....	Tim Illig.....	410-707-6678
Trustee.....	Ken Montville.....	301-464-8367
Trustee.....	Susannah Schiller	301-776-1887
Trustee.....	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Trustee.....	VACANT	
Trustee.....	VACANT	
Secretary	Anita Wagner.....	703-401-7230
Assistant Secretary	John Sebastian	301-589-6808
Treasurer	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mike Stark	301-441-2473

-CARING COMMUNITY-**PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:**

.....	Carol Boston.....	301-585-4183
.....	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein (Lead) ..	301-891-2071

-We Care Coordinator for January**JERI HOLLOWAY - 301-982-0758****-WORSHIP ASSOCIATES -**

.....	Abby Crowley	301-345-2663
.....	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
.....	Don Henderson.....	301-977-1186
.....	Donald Mitchell.....	301-776-2359
.....	Marilyn Pearl	301-805-1218
.....	Shantida	301-593-0417

-BRANCHES-

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

Arts Council	Julie Dahmer	301-890-7807
Budget Leadership Team	VACANT	301-931-9024
Buildings & Grounds	James Alexander	301-277-3211
Canvass	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
DARTT (co-chairs)	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	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
Ministry (convener)	Bruce Baker	301-589-3633
Nominating	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Publicity & Outreach	Kathy Kearns	301-277-5211
(Co chairs)	Theresa Brown Shute.	301-455-8418
Religious Exploration	Sarah Michalof	301-277-1467
Social Action	Marge Owens	301-345-1573

- GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES -

Auction	Jan Montville	301-464-6298
Beacon House	Nathan Rummel	301-776-8551
Bridge	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Chalice Dancers	Jennifer Grant ..	240-426-1277
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik.....	301-890-9072
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl ...	301-805-1218
Golf Club	Tim Illig.....	410-707-6678
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Handcraft Circle	Marie Gore.....	301-572-0478
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield.....	301-552-4330
Men's Group	John Bartoli.....	301-441-2516
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter	301-982-4520
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens.....	301-345-1572
PBMS Liaison	Kate Brett.....	301-931-9024
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
Warm Nights	Kelly Wester	301-937-7375
Writers' Group	Ann Bolt	301-774-1960



PAINT BRANCH

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EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

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Deadlines for next two issues of *Branches*

February – Wednesday, January 20

March – Friday, February 19