



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

**JULY 2010**

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### **JULY 2010 SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 AM**

*Services are followed by Fellowship*

*and then Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45 for which child care is provided*

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**JULY 4**

#### **LOBBYING IS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

*Led by Tish Hall with Abby Crowley, Worship Associate*

The first amendment to the Constitution guarantees five rights of citizenship, including the right to "petition the government for the redress of grievances." We will examine some ways that exercising this right has strengthened our commitment to our principles and helped us grow as individuals. This service is led by Tish Hall, with Worship Associate Abby Crowley.

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**JULY 11**

#### **BLESSING THE ANIMALS IN OUR LIVES**

*Jim Flaherty and Michael Leger, with Shantida, Worship Associate*

How different the world would be if we could feel and share with each other the heartfelt affection we have for animals. As appropriate, bring your dog, your cat, gerbil (?) to service this morning... or bring your stuffed animal, photo memorabilia, or National Geographic picture of your favorite creature. Our blessing table is large.

(For the safety of all, please bring animals appropriately leashed, crated, or otherwise contained. For people with pet allergies, we encourage you to take care of yourselves, as you decide if you can attend in the Meeting House in comfort and safety.)

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**JULY 18**

#### **WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT**

*Rob Boston, Senior Policy Analyst, Americans United, with Marilyn Pearl, Worship Associate*

Religious fundamentalists claim a lock on morality and theological truth. Is there anything we can learn from them? Rob Boston, who has tracked the Religious Right for 23 years, will discuss how a movement with which we so often disagree might have some things to teach us.

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**JULY 25**

#### **LAMMAS, THE FIRST HARVEST**

*led by Tabitha Pierzchala, with Tish Hall, Worship Associate*

The harvest season approaches. As a church, what have we sown? We will continue the tradition of a harvest altar, so please bring gleanings from your garden to share.

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## *The Minister's mUUsings...*

In congregational life and in our own individual lives as well, there are times when we sense change is needed, is soon to happen, or is already underway, but we don't yet know the shape or scope of that change. We don't yet know what it will mean or set in motion and we surely don't yet know how that change will change *us*. It's a numinous moment, a "between-times" kind of time, like the moment just before you raise your foot to step over the threshold into what will be your new home.

In "A Walk" by Rainer Maria Rilke (1875 - 1926 / Prague / Czech Republic), translated by Robert Bly, such a time is described. I love this poem.

*My eyes already touch the sunny hill,  
going far ahead of the road I have begun.  
So we are grasped by what we cannot grasp;  
it has its inner light, even from a distance-*

*and charges us, even if we do not reach it,  
into something else, which, hardly sensing it,  
we already are; a gesture waves us on  
answering our own wave...  
but what we feel is the wind in our faces.*

We are in such a time here at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. It's the end of the "church year" which always has its own "in flux" character, as summer services and informal Sunday activities for children begin, terms of lay leaders' office end, and vacation weeks pop up here and there for many people scattering us until the Sunday after Labor Day when larger numbers of us will gather again. But that's not all that I'm observing.

The decision last fall to not renew the lease of the Paint Branch Montessori School is far behind us now, the financial fall-out of that decision was accounted for in the budget adopted for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, and now all of the many rooms used by the School are empty of their belongings (and very quiet)! Gorgeous spacious spaces are now revealed, with lovely woodland views. They await our transformation! Stay tuned for ways that you can help make that transformation happen, led by Polly Pettit and Peter Dowling (deep gratitude to them and all those who help out!).

Our "eyes already touch the sunny hill" far ahead in the direction in which we are already headed. We are "grasped by what we cannot [quite] grasp," but aspects of it are emerging. Just to mention a few, having to do with worship... The experience of trying out different models for the Sharing of our Joys and Sorrows has already changed us some, even though we don't yet know which we'll adopt. Come fall, we will further embrace the gift of being a "multi-generational" community (and simplify the arrival of families) by starting every Sunday service with the children and youth in the Meeting House for a brief period after which they will leave for their Religious Exploration classes in the RE Building (except, as in the past, on "All Ages" Sundays when they remain in the Meeting House for the entire service).

Even though we may be most aware of the "wind in our faces" (the challenges) along the road of change, if we pay attention to the "inner light" of the changes underway, and note where our actions are reinforced by the actions of others, where a "gesture waves us on answering our own wave," we can move ahead with confidence and creativity. Already looking forward to Ingathering Sunday, September 12.

*Diane*

Rev. Diane Teichert

PS. For Ingathering Sunday, if you like, bring a small sample of water that represents what was most meaningful or spiritually significant about your summer, for an annual (but evolving) ritual of pouring many waters into one bowl even as we re-gather as one community.



## SCHEDULE OF SUMMER AVAILABILITY FOR PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Teichert will be on vacation and study leave from Tuesday June 29 through Sunday, August 15. She will resume office hours on Monday, August 16. Pastoral Care Associates, members of the congregation trained in listening and providing support, will be available on the schedule provided below, with the exception of July Fourth weekend when none are available. A UU minister will be on call in the event of a death in the congregation while Diane is out of town, reachable through the Pastoral Care Associate.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOURS OK TO CALL</u>	<u>BEST NUMBER</u>
July 1-4	Diane Teichert	10 am- 9pm	781-676-0097
July 5-July 11	Carol Boston	7:30 pm to 10 pm on weeknights, morning or afternoon on weekends	301-585-4183
July 12-18	Lynn Johnson	1 pm to 9 pm	301-890-1852
July 19-25	Carol Boston	7:30 pm to 10 pm on weeknights, morning or afternoon on weekends	301-585-4183
July 26-August 1	Lynn Johnson	1 pm to 9 pm	301-890-1852
August 2-8	Theresa Meeks	Before 10 pm	301-774-8151
August 9-16	Deb Rubenstein	Before 9 pm	301-891-2071

### *Notes from the Board Chair*

We have reached the end of another church fiscal year, which means that this is my last column for Branches as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. It has been a real pleasure working with all of the lay leaders, office staff, and the minister at PBUUC this past year. I especially want to thank each member of the 2009-2010 Board of Trustees for all of their hard work and dedication to the Church. Our Board this year was composed of: Jonathan Mawdsley, Chair; Carol Carter Walker, Vice-Chair; Bettie Young, Vice-Chair; Tim Illig; Ken Montville; Susannah Schiller; and Peter Wathen-Dunn. Rev. Diane Teichert also served as a member of the Board of Trustees by virtue of her ministry (as stipulated by the laws of the state of Maryland, under which PBUUC is incorporated).

Trustees who are completing their Board service as of July 1, 2010, include Carol Carter Walker, Jonathan Mawdsley and Ken Montville. Continuing Trustees include Bettie Young, Tim Illig, Susannah Schiller, and Peter Wathen-Dunn. We are fortunate to have a great group of new Trustees moving into leadership positions for this coming year. New Trustees who were elected at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 6, and who will take office Thursday, July 1, include Patricia Daukantas, Don Henderson, Michael Leger, Rene McDonald, and Mark Shute. For the first time in several years, we will have a full complement of nine trustees serving on the Board!

Every ending is also a new beginning and I so want to extend my best wishes for a successful year to the new and continuing Trustees who will be leading Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church forward into the new year and into the bright future that awaits our beloved religious community. Onward and upward!



*Jonathan Mawdsley, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## *Religious Exploration News*

**I**t was a busy and productive year for the Religious Exploration program as we began the two-year interim period to take a look at where the program is, the hopes and dreams for the future and the path to get there. I want to thank everyone for making me feel welcome and all you've done to support this important ministry for children and youth. I'm looking forward our final year together.

I particularly want to express my appreciation to Rev Diane Teichert for her commitment to the RE program and our children, youth and their families and appreciate her support throughout the year. I also want to thank the hard-working RE Committee Chair Sarah Michailof and committee members – Matt Elliott, Sonny Katz, Carla Monardes, Alice Tyler, Carole Valliere. A special thanks to Carla and Carole, who are leaving the committee after completing their three-year terms, and to the Board of Trustees for its support and encouragement, and Susannah Schiller, who served as the Board's RE liaison.

We were also blessed to have a wonderful support staff in RE Assistants Penney Hughes and Kweli Powell, who started in January, and child care provider Kamini Wickramaratne.

### Nursery and RE Classes

There were 49 children and youth registered for Religious Exploration classes this year and some 27 teachers and 13 nursery and toddler volunteers. Our average weekly attendance was 27. Thanks to the many volunteers, parents, children and youth who helped make it a successful year.

Special thanks to Jennifer Schiller, one of our teens who volunteered and provided an extra pair of hands wherever needed many Sunday mornings. She will be attending Brandeis University this fall.

Thanks to our nursery and toddler volunteers, who provided loving care to our youngest members. They included: Lisa Dickinson, Karen Donovan, Matt and Valerie Elliott, Alison Hughes, Penney Hughes, Teresa Meeks, Sarah Michailof, Alicia Montgomery, Tricia Most, Theresa Myrdon (first semester), Mike Stark (second semester), Karine Bouis-Towe, Deb Rubenstein, Jennifer Schiller, Alice Tyler and Marcie Washburn.

A hearty bravo to our dedicated teachers this year. They included: K-2 – Kate Brett (first semester) Joe Dever, Jan Montville (second semester), Julie Watson and Adeline Wilcox ; Grades 3-5 – Kate Brett (second semester), Jan Montville (first semester), Peter Kovac (first semester), Marge Owen, Tabitha Pierzchala (second semester), Nate Rummel (second semester); Grade 6 – Steven Bernheisel, Kevin Miller and Noel Monardes; Grades 7-8 – Patty Daukantas, Jim Flaherty, Ebeth Porter and Tina Van Pelt. John Bartoli and Pat Tompkins directed the class' Winter Solstice Pageant; Youth Group – Celeste Hall, Mike McMenamain, Jessica Sharp and Paul Wester. Thanks also to Substitutes – Anne Hoover and Penny O'Brien – who filled in where needed.

### Children's Chapel

Once a month, our children gathered in the Kelley Room for Children's Chapel before heading to their RE classes. The middle school teachers and students opted to create their own centering and sharing rituals in their classroom. Our Children's Chapels included opening words, a chalice-lighting, a hymn, joys and sorrows, a brief message or reflection or meditation and a closing. Thanks to Evangeline Wells of the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT), who led a chapel on the many ways we are different and alike. And to Kelly Wester, chair of Warm Nights, who joined us for a chapel on Homelessness. Afterwards, the children made individual cards, cookies and a Welcome banner for our Warm Nights guests.

### Coming of Age

Six youth participated in our Coming of Age program this year. Thanks to our Coming of Age leaders, Mike Stark, Penney Hughes and Sherry Mitchell and those who served as individual mentors to the COA youth. This year's mentors were: Mike McMenamain, Ken Redd, Jan Montville, Michael Leger, Tim Illig and Cory Carter. In addition, a hearty hats off to Tim Illig and Sherry Mitchell, who served as chaperones for the COA Boston Heritage trip. Thanks also to Carla Miller and Carole Valliere, who accompanied the class.

*(Article continued next page)*

**Diane's Installation**

Our children and youth participated in this important congregational celebration by singing Gaudeamus Hodie (Let Us Rejoice Today). Thanks to talented Nancy Nuttle, who directed this wonderful multi-age group., which also provided accompaniment with xylophones and musical tubes.

**Childcare During Congregational Activities**

The number of paid child care providers was expanded so that we could regularly provide child care during Enrichment Hour and congregational events. A special thanks to this year's wonderful caregivers, which included three adults: Beth Judy, Gretchen Schock Skovron and Kamini Wickramaratne; and five youth: Alex Ahearn, Claire Boston, Liam Brennan, Erin Donn and Jennifer Schiller.



Karen Lee Scrivo  
Interim Director of Religious Exploration

*One of the tragic ironies of history is that such original and creative geniuses as Buddha and Jesus have been extolled as perfect patterns for all to emulate. In the very struggle to be like someone else rather than to be one's own true self, or to do one's own best in one's own environment, a child is in danger of losing the pearl that is really beyond price - the integrity of his (or her) own soul.*

**Sophia Lyons Fahs**

**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](mailto: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*

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**ENRICHMENT HOUR BOOK  
DISCUSSION GROUP:  
2016: A NOVEL OF AMERICA  
AND THE WORLD**

What do you think life will be like in the year 2016? Join a summer discussion group which will feature a book entitled 2016: A novel of America and the World, written by Marj Donn, a member of this congregation. This group will meet from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on 12 Sundays beginning July 4. Please see the web calendar for meeting locations. If you don't yet have a book, contact Marj at 301-474-1353.

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**TWEDHUULK HITTING SEVEN SEAS  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21 AT 1:00 PM**

It has been nearly a year since the Third Wednesday Hyattsville UU Lunch Klub (TWedHUULK) had the Asian buffet at Seven Seas in College Park. The draw is the large round table they have. We will be able to have one conversation instead of two or three. Great Asian food, reasonable prices, good company. Look for it at 8503 Baltimore Ave. (Route 1) on the left as you drive south past the intersection with Greenbelt Road, with off-street parking on the side of the building. All are welcome. Please contact Marge Owens if you can join us [lowellowens@comcast.net](mailto:lowellowens@comcast.net) or 301-345-1572 or just show up.

## Financial Notes

First, for those who are paying attention there is a new name at the bottom of this column. Ellen Cotts has completed five years as our Treasurer, and she has restored order to our books and our procedures for maintaining them. I will be following her approach very closely; there may be minor details where I'll do things differently, but one doesn't change something that works well.

What one does with something that works well is to document it so it is repeatable. This is because I do not really want this job for 5 years. The first step is to write a guide to finance for the congregation and to write procedures for the Treasurer so that others can understand Ellen's (and my) approach. After that I intend to document the other finance related jobs around the church, ranging from counting the collection on Sunday to being on the Finance Committee.

You won't be completely done with Ellen, though; I will be away from late July until early September as Resident Officer in Florida, overseeing my project's main contractor. Fortunately, this is a rotating assignment, so I'll be back! Ellen has graciously agreed to cover for me in the meantime.

Next year is going to be a tough year financially, as we will have substantially reduced income. The Budget Leadership Team did not assume heroic and probably unsustainable fundraising efforts, opting for belt-tightening on the expense side of the ledger. We do have a balanced budget, but will need to be careful not to exceed budgets for anything short of an emergency.

I do expect that by this time next year we will have sorted through all the recommendations of various task forces and will be generating rental income in a way that does not interfere with our church's ministry, especially our children's religious exploration. So while this year will be tough, our balanced budget will put us in a good position for future years by not digging a deeper hole to climb out of.

I am more than willing to answer any questions – the best way to get hold of me is e-mail at [mstark@pbuuc.org](mailto:mstark@pbuuc.org), or to corner me after service and one cup of coffee.

*Mike Stark, Treasurer*

## BOARD APPROVES BUDGET FOR CHURCH YEAR 2010-2011

The Board of Trustees approved the budget recommended by the Budget Leadership Team (BLT) at its final regular meeting of the year. The BLT made further revisions to the recommended budget after its June 6 Hearing and its presentation at the June 13 Annual Congregational Meeting. The final recommended budget reflected reduced income based on some pledges for the new year that were revised downward.

The BLT was unable to make any changes to its major proposals. Copies of the final budget will be available from the new Treasurer, Mike Stark. Committee chairs and activity group leaders will receive e-mails, letting them know what their operating budget is. The final budget:

- Reduces the hours of the Church Administrator from fulltime to part time;
- Includes virtually no operating funds for most committees and activities;
- Eliminates the fair share dues payment of \$56 per person and \$26 per person to the Unitarian Universalist Association and Joseph Priestley District for one year;
- Makes a bridge loan from the Roland Bequest, (a legacy left by a deceased member to aid people who are homeless and in dire need) in order to pay down the mortgage to increase our cash flow by nearly \$19,000 annually. This loan will be repaid.



As the church begins to realize income from rentals, the new Board will have the opportunity to consider revisions.

Thank you to all those who actively participated in the Hearing, Annual Meeting and, a very big thank you to the members of the BLT: Ellen Cotts, Susannah Schiller, Will Snyder and Mike Stark.

*Carol Carter Walker, Chair, BLT*

## *This Summer in Church Administration*

As the congregational year begins to wind down into its summer pace, wrapping up the fiscal and administrative year, there is the anticipation of some changes in leadership, of long awaited vacations, and of opportunities for some administrative housekeeping. Before I get into the heart of the administrative concerns, it's important to express some real gratitude to the following persons:

- the office volunteers for their generous contribution of time (a combined total of approximately 1000 hours), their contributions to the smooth functioning of the office, the proofing and editing of countless orders of service and newsletters, and invaluable assistance to the staff and congregation. They are, often, the "unsung heroes" of church administration:

Carol Carter Walker	Julie Dahmer
Rene McDonald	Rebecca Nation
Elizabeth Scheiman	Will Snyder
Pat Tompkins	Alice Tyler
Evangeline Wells	Bettie Young

- Carol Carter Walker for having coordinated (chased, cajoled, recruited for) the Office Volunteer Calendar for the last 2 years!!!
- Julie Dahmer for managing the Enrichment Hour Calendar these past years, which has recently been merged with the web calendar,
- the members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, whose continued commitment to PBUUC shows through the numerous hours spent on repairs and maintenance of our facilities: James Alexander, Ron Cotts, Mike McMenamin and Lowell Owens;
- Ken Montville, coordinator of the list serv, and Mike Stark, webmaster, for helping to facilitate communications going out from the office to the congregation;
- all those who served as Sunday Service and Building Managers in the past year – for their flexibility and dedication: Chuck Bury, Bryan Coté, Jesse Crowley and Jon Washburn;
- Rebecca Birnie, Administrative Assistant, and Ellen Cotts, church treasurer, for their continued assistance, financial wizardry, love of detail, and perseverance;
- our unbeatable staff and the Board of Trustees, in particular to Rev. Diane Teichert, and Jonathan

Mawdsley, for their important support of and insights into administration.

As many of you know, despite having an excellent stewardship campaign, budgetary constraints resulted in a very difficult decision to reduce the Church Administrator's hours from 40 to 30 hours per week for all of FY 2010-2011. One resulting effect of this decision will be to close the church office on Mondays, at least for July and August. The office will be open Tuesday-Friday from 9 am - 4:30 pm beginning July 6.

Another effect will be to re-evaluate how to make the best use of the total available hours spent doing church administration, (30 by the church administrator, 10 by the administrative assistant, and 20 hours donated by church volunteers.) The following questions will be looked at: Can tasks currently done by the church administrator be shifted to the administrative assistant and can more clerical duties be given to the office volunteers? Can more volunteers be recruited? Can some projects and tasks be placed in the hands of relevant committees? What services and tasks will have to be let go of, at least for the coming year? All avenues are being explored and information will be sent out as it becomes available.

The summer will see a transition to a new church management software program called Church Windows. It is considerably more user friendly than our current database software and will enable us to do more; two examples being – update the congregational directory with greater ease and frequency, as well as track participation of members, friends and their children in the numerous activities that are offered. The office staff will be using the summer to learn the new system and become familiar with all its features, in time to put it to work before September.

If you are wondering how you can help, consider donating some time to the church office, your favorite committee or event, particularly when the church year gets back into full swing in September. Mark your calendars for the Involvement's Fair which is slated for our Ingathering Sunday on September 12. You will have an opportunity to see the full array of activities and events that need your particular gifts, your special touch.

*(article continued next page)*

I am always happy to talk about what volunteer opportunities are coming up in the church office. If you would be interested in donating some time, please call me at 301-937-3666. Many thanks for your consideration and have a wonderful summer.

*Daniel Everitt, Church Administrator*

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

**HEART-FELT APPLICATION  
OF OUR PRINCIPLES**

On Sunday, January 24, the film ‘With All Deliberate Speed: Brown vs. Board of Education’ was presented at PBUUC by Polly Pettit. The discussion that followed led to a keen interest in our church’s partnering with nearby High Point High School. As some may have heard, since then Reverend Diane Teichert has recently led a committee to meet with Michael Brooks; the principle of High Point. The meeting went well, and many in our congregation responded with well wishes and insights when Diane reported the many ways that he said we might help out there.

Since then, at the June planning meeting for the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team, it was brought to our attention that the High Point Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) was at risk of dissolving. Upon hearing this, we decided to send a committee representing PBUUC to attend and lend support toward efforts to keep the PTSA together. The resulting committee of two people, Tricia Most and Kweli Powell, was, therefore, in attendance at the 7:00 pm meeting at the school on Tuesday, June 15.

The meeting was extremely well attended, not simply by parents, but by members of the community. In fact, Principal Brooks repeatedly expressed his gratitude that we, members of PBUUC, came to take part in the event. He even described the prior meeting with PBUUC during which Rev. Diane Teichert originally offered our church’s assistance.

The best news of the evening was that the PTSA was indeed salvaged. New representatives stepped forward to replace those whose children had

graduated, and veteran officers offered helping hands to show the new recruits the ropes.

Notably, Principal Brooks presented a list of suggestions as to how the PTSA could assist the school. Some of these suggestions, such as “beautification efforts” led to conversations about the details of community service criteria; requirements that PBUUC “deck repair”, etc. could likely fulfill.

Another topic that came up was the fact that local professional High Point alumni might be a desirable community from which to solicit career guidance for students. This idea of local professionals acting as mentors and/or way-showers to the students is also a niche that we Paint Branchers could likely help fill.

Our “diversity-justice-equity” sensitivities were aroused by the relative lack of participation of the several Latina moms present, whose attendance required them to even bring their young children. In a school in which 40%+ of the students come from backgrounds in which Spanish is the central cultural language, we left the meeting with the sense that more could have been done to include non-native English speakers in the dialogue.

In sum, we left with the sense that our church’s partnership with High Point High School will provide us with the opportunity to grow profoundly in terms of practical, heart-felt application of our principles; particularly with regard to respecting people’s INHERENT worth and dignity, regardless of race, nationality, ethnicity, class, and/or linguistic background. It will, therefore, require not only acceptance of one another, but STRONG encouragement towards spiritual growth in terms of applying our faith in our community.

*Kweli Powell*

*(more DARTT news on next page)*



**DIVERSITY DIALOGUES**

*Honoring the Inherent Worth and Dignity  
of Every Person*

**Sunday, July 11, 11:45, Enrichment Hour**

The next Diversity Dialogues will be in July and we are excited to be able to devote so much lead time to our next topic. The Diversity Dialogues focus on short articles or essays as a starting point for deep conversation. Links to the selected article(s) are provided here in Branches and are posted on the Paint Branch website ([pbuuc.org](http://pbuuc.org)).

The topic for July is based on the article "Black college students get a lesson in cyber-racism" which can be found at the following website: <http://www.thegrio.com/opinion/black-college-students-get-a-lesson-in-cyber-racism.php>.

This article includes not only findings about how the anonymity of the internet may be fostering racism, but touches on the Harvard law student, who wrote an email message to a few of her classmates proclaiming her belief that blacks are "less intelligent on a genetic level" than whites and the fact that young adults have been hosting and attending "gangsta" themed parties where white students mock black culture.

Taking time to read the articles in advance allows the group to share the same information and facts about the topic at hand in addition to sharing from their own personal experiences. The above article in particular has additional links to resources and helps build a strong understanding of the topic at hand.

We meet during Enrichment Hour on second Sundays and 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. Join us on a journey toward wholeness.

Please contact Cynthia Robinson ([crr@pipeline.com](mailto:crr@pipeline.com), 202-215-1054) or Theresa Brown Shute ([tbshute@gmail.com](mailto:tbshute@gmail.com), 301-455-8418) for more information.

**DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM  
TRANSFORMATION (DARTT) TEAM  
MEETS TUESDAY, JULY 6**

All are welcome at the DARTT meeting on Tuesday, July 6, at 7:30 pm in Room 1, Religious Exploration Building. DARTT meets on the first Tuesday of each month, including the summer months, to plan activities for personal and institutional transformation. This is your opportunity to share feedback and new ideas. If you can't join us, please send your input to [dartt@pbuuc.org](mailto:dartt@pbuuc.org).

**JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS  
FILM SERIES CONTINUES ON  
SUNDAY, JULY 25**



The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team will screen a film and host a discussion on Sunday, July 25, during an extended Enrichment Hour from 11:45 am to 2:15 pm. Child care and snacks will be provided. Contributions are greatly appreciated. The film selection will be announced in upcoming Sunday Bulletins and on the PBUUC listserv. It will be chosen to advance our personal and congregational journey on the road to deconstruction of racism. If you have questions or film suggestions, please contact [dartt@pbuuc.org](mailto:dartt@pbuuc.org).

**DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM  
TRANSFORMATION TEAM RETURNS  
LEGACY FUND GRANT AND MAKES  
GIFT TO  
TRANSITION FUND.**

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation at a special collection for anti-racism work during Association Sunday in 2008, and the support of the congregation and the larger UU community for the Ysaye Barnwell Vocal Workshop in April 2009, DARTT was able to return its 2009 \$500 grant to the Legacy Fund (for re-granting) and to make a contribution of \$1,600 to the church's Transition Fund.

## *Social Action Committee News*

### **NEW SAC CHAIR COMING IN THE FALL**

Nancy Boardman (who is newly retired) has figured out how to rearrange her life in such a way that she can chair our umbrella Social Action Committee this coming year. No, she is not dropping out of the choir, or slacking off on her leadership of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, which meets at PBUUC monthly and just sponsored a national convention in Washington DC with Rabbi Lerner as main draw, or reducing her work for resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. She is just going to do it all. Meanwhile, many others are needed to keep all our balls in the air before (and after) Nancy officially begins.

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### **FACTS ABOUT CHANGES IN OUR HEALTH CARE IN MARYLAND**

Through the efforts of the Maryland Health Care for All! Coalition, over 170,000 Marylanders have gained access to free or low cost health care coverage in what has become one of the country's largest state expansions of public health care programs since 2007. Maryland has moved from 44<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation for providing health care to low-income adults and is well on the way to achieving the goal of securing quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders! To all PBUUC people who signed petitions, turned up for rallies, and emailed our legislators, thank you! For more information, contact me at [RM.opal@verizon.net](mailto:RM.opal@verizon.net).

*Rene McDonald*

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### **CROP WALK COLLECTION**

CROP Walk 2010 will be the beneficiary of our special collection on July 25. Becky and Dave Nation joined the 368 Walkers (and 15 dogs) that walked around Lake Artemesia on May 2. I received a certificate for the oldest walker (91 years). Last year Paint Branch donors gave \$781. Of the total collection, 25% will support the local Help-By-Phone emergency food pantries throughout the area, which helped 5,500 people last year. The need is critical due to the harsh economic conditions. Church World Service sponsors Crop Walks across the nation to meet hunger emergencies here as well as internationally.

Agricultural training is offered to farmers in various countries and this year an emphasis on access to safe water is receiving emphasis. Women may walk 6 to 8 miles in certain places to carry water that often weighs 48 pounds.

You can help by donating as generously as possible to CROP Hunger Walk/Church World Service. If you cannot be at the July 25 service, your check can be sent to the church office. From Esther Nichols [EstherN1918@gmail.com](mailto:EstherN1918@gmail.com).

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### **TOUR OF THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK, WAREHOUSE AND HEADQUARTERS**

Ever wonder what the daily operation of a large "second harvest" facility looks like close up? Mary Dancy works as part of the Capital Area Food Bank staff. On the second Thursday of each month from 11:30 to 12:30 a tour group forms at Taylor St, NE near the Brookland/Catholic University metro station.

We will gather there on Thursday, July 8, and then have a light lunch together at a nearby café after our tour. Members of the Paint Branch crew who cook and serve a hot meal to 100 hungry people on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month are especially invited. Also, the regulars (or irregulars) from TWedHUULK are likewise especially invited. For more information, please contact the Food Bank's Mary Dancy at [Mdancy63@gmail.com](mailto:Mdancy63@gmail.com).

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### **CONGREGATION CHOSE TOP ISSUES OF INTEREST**

At the Congregational Annual Meeting on June 13 the poll of those present resulted in a large majority of us expressing interest in GBLTQ issues including marriage equality. Close together were the other 3 issues listed on the ballot: Reining in corporate financing of political candidates and legislators; Peace, including the Israeli/ Palestinian conflict; and Affordable Housing. Write-ins included the world-wide financial crisis/US national debt; immigration solutions; separation of church & state; educational equity; and international outreach. SAC attempts to follow the expressed interest of the congregation in devoting time and other resources to a particular effort. The other factors SAC pays attention to include the likelihood of effecting change in a given year around some specifics of an issue.

## *In and Around Paint Branch*

### WE'RE MOVIN' ON IN!

The time has finally come when we can reclaim all of the space in our treasured RE building. This is a moment that we have looked forward to for a very long time! There will be important work, and play, for willing bodies and creative minds during this transition.

The Move-In Task Force has many ways that you can participate:

- Help clean vacated space,
- Do minor repairs,
- Join the team assessing and finding needed furnishings,
- Help budget for new purchases and improvement,
- Use your artistic talents to give our space a revitalized look,
- Suggest ways that our UU identity can become integral.

Watch for notices of work parties and clean-up events – coming soon!! For more information and to volunteer, contact Polly Pettit at [pjpettit@erols.com](mailto:pjpettit@erols.com) or Peter Dowling at [dowtit@gmail.com](mailto:dowtit@gmail.com).

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### ETHNIC DINNERS, TIMES TWO: PBUUC NEEDS YOU!

This is a tale of *two* dinners, one with *two* committees and *two* themes; the other with *two* problems. And *two* advance opportunities for you to decide where you can help.

There are normally 3 dinners per church year in October, February and May. Each is preceded by a menu-planning meeting, lots of publicity and three Sundays selling tickets and recruiting cooks and volunteers. Each relies on a great menu, 60-70 attendees, 35-40 cooks/volunteers and a busy leftover sale, to be successful. Success equals fantastic food, the magic of UUs in social gathering, and around \$700 net proceeds, per dinner.

The May 2009 dinner, *Chile*, had to be cancelled due to conflict with Candidating Weekends and was rescheduled in October, hence, only 2 dinners in that fiscal year. *Senegal*, held in February 2010, almost cancelled due to snow, was smaller than normal. Now, the dinner which would have occurred in May 2010 has been intentionally postponed until

August 28. Its theme, Maryland Locavore, requires holding it in crab and harvest season. Being organized jointly by the Ethnic Dinner and Green Team committees, it will include traditional Maryland foods, fresh and in season, some from our own gardens and nearby farmers' markets. It will be held earlier in the day so children can attend and maybe help provide and prepare some of the food. We anticipate a large attendance (*you're coming, aren't you?*), great menu, local wines, and special activities for the kids. So obviously, we need lots of help, cooking, setting up, cleaning up, and organizing stuff for the kids. If you have a garden, a favorite farmers' market, some Maryland related music, ideas for kids, appropriate recipes, a good source for crabs, or ideas for something we haven't thought of, let's hear from you!

However, by moving this dinner from May to August, we moved it from FY 09/10 to 10/11, so once again, we've held only 2 dinners in 2009/2010. To make up for this double assault on essential income at absolutely the worst time, we want to hold 4 dinners in 2010/2011 – August, October, February, and May.

The problem is October. Cathy Helmold, my co-conspirator in the dinners, and I will be traveling to Portugal with Nancy Boardman October 6-23. So, no October dinner? Wrong! It's already on the church calendar, Saturday, October. 30. *We promise* to hold a menu-planning meeting in September, get the tickets made, print all the sign-up forms, do all the publicity, and be back in time to sell tickets October 24 and help cook for the dinner. *All we ask* is that a couple people agree to set up a table in the lobby to sell tickets and recruit volunteers on the first two Sundays – October 10 and 17. If you don't know how, come help or just observe when we sell tickets for August's dinner. It's not rocket science, and the forms will guide you through the process.

I said this dinner has two problems. The second is, it needs a theme. Two have been proposed. The date suggests *Transylvania (Romania)* with which we could observe our UU roots and have some Halloween fun (costumes anyone?). The other is *Mexico*, now celebrating their bicentennial this year. Or, let's hear other suggestions. For either dinner, to contribute ideas or recipes, contribute music, volunteer to help, or suggest/vote on a theme, please contact Marilyn Pearl, 301-805-1218, [buffalo\\_gal@verizon.net](mailto:buffalo_gal@verizon.net).

## GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM NEWS



Sunday services on August 8 and 22 will feature programs relating to Green Sanctuary issues. On Sunday, August 8, the focus will be on water, how attitudes and regulations are changing with the times, and on

August 22, how we can interpret and practice ethical eating. I'll look for you at church.

- Progress on the Green Sanctuary program for Paint Branch is proceeding as planned. As we near our goals, the committee which meets the second Sunday of each month during Enrichment Hour is welcoming new members. If you are getting tired of the emphasis on 'green' in the papers and media, bring your complaints to the committee.

- **SAVE YOUR MONEY AND OUR PLANET** - The Green Sanctuary Team is sponsoring a campaign to sign-up as many members as possible for wind generated electricity through PEPCO or BGE. Pending Board OK, the Team will receive a \$10.00 bonus for each member signing up through July 31st.

- **SAVE MONEY!!!** Wind energy rates are now lower than standard PEPCO or BGE rates. **SAVE THE PLANET!!!** Each kilowatt hour of standard electricity creates 1.2 lbs. of CO2. For more information or questions, talk to Fred Teal.

See you at our July meeting.

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## CALLING ALL MEN OF PAINT BRANCH!

A Men's Retreat is being planned for the weekend of November 5-6, 2010. All men who are Members or Friends of PBUUC are welcome to attend. A group of men will be meeting over the summer to help plan the retreat. If you are interested in participating in the planning for the retreat, please contact Jonathan Mawdsley at 301 982 4520 or [mawdsley@heinzctr.org](mailto:mawdsley@heinzctr.org); or Peter Wathen-Dunn at 301 270 2391 or [Peter.Wathen-Dunn@ed.gov](mailto:Peter.Wathen-Dunn@ed.gov).

## Opera IN THE MEETING HOUSE

As an informal run-through of a concert to be presented at Strathmore Hall two weeks later, one of David's professional singers, Jessica Swink Stecklein, will be singing the lead role of Violetta in *La*



*Traviata* in the Meeting House on Sunday, July 11, at 4pm. It will be presented in concert version (not staged) and will include all the principal characters of the opera. Jessica participated in the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists' Program of the Washington Opera and this will be a chance to hear an

amazing and upcoming major talent in Paint Branch's beautiful setting. The other major roles will be covered by Eric Gramatges (Alfredo) and Bryan Jackson (Giorgio Germont). David will be at the piano for this admission free program.

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## ART GALLERY NEWS



The featured artist for July 12 to September 13 attends the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, VA. Richard Neff is primarily a "plein air" landscape artist working in oils. Some of his paintings he

reproduces as encaustic paintings. Dick emulates the abstract tradition in his work with an emphasis on vivid colors. He has been painting for over 40 years and has a real love for painting - especially the outdoor painting experience. For more information contact Dick at 703-938-2546, 703-938-2546 or [aneff19@verizon.net](mailto:aneff19@verizon.net). He will contribute to PBUUC 20% of the sale price of any works that are sold.



## OUR NEW WEBMASTER, MARK SHUTE,

has a new email address – [webmaster@pbuuc.org](mailto:webmaster@pbuuc.org) If you have any questions, concerns

or suggestions about the web, please feel free to send an email to Mark.

## PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

### ❧ STAFF ❧

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert	301-937-3666
Music Director and pianist	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Interim RE Director	Karen Lee Scrivo	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst/Bookkeeper	Rebecca Birnie	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
•	Chuck Bury	301 799-2535
•	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
•	Jon Washburn	301-384-5156
Child Care	Kamini Wickramaratne	301-937-3666

### ❧ OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES ❧

Trustee	Patty Daukantas	301-486-1949
Trustee	Don Henderson	301-977-1186
Trustee	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Trustee	Michael Léger	301-589-6808
Trustee	Rene McDonald	301-779-1643
Trustee	Susannah Schiller	301-776-1887
Trustee	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
Trustee	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Trustee	Bettie Young	301-490-4957
Secretary	Anita Wagner	703-401-7230
Assistant Secretary		TBD
Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473
Assistant Treasurer		TBD

*(Officers had not been chosen as of publication)*

### ❧ CARING COMMUNITY ❧

Pastoral Care Associates:		
•	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
•	Lynn Johnson	301-890-1852
•	Teresa Meeks	301-774-8151
•	Deb Rubenstein	301-891-2071

### ❧ WE CARE COORDINATOR FOR JULY ❧

Elizabeth Scheiman 301-731-2874

### ❧ WORSHIP ASSOCIATES ❧

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

### ❧ BRANCHES ❧

Copy Editor	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
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### ❧ COMMITTEES ❧

Adult Religious Education		TBD
Arts Council		TBD
Budget Leadership	Carol CarterWalker	202-636-8138
Buildings & Grounds		TBD
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
DIV Team		TBD
Denominational Affairs	Donald Gerson	240-293-6570
Finance	Don Henderson	301-681-4033
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Membership	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
Ministry	Muriel Morisey	301-270-2391
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Publicity & Outreach	Kathy Kearns	301-277-5211
(co chairs)	Theresa Brown Shute	301-455-8418
Religious Exploration		TBD
Social Action	Nancy Boardman	301-982-3450
Stewardship	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Visual Arts	Jane Trout	301-572-2898
We Care Network	Jeri Holloway	301-982-0758

### ❧ 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
Church Mediation	David Haberman	301-498-7086
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl	301-805-1218
Friends & Family Social	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Golf Club	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Handcraft Circle	Marie Gore	301-572-4679
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield	301-552-4330
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter	301-982-4520
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens	301-345-1572
PB Facebook Page	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
(co-coordinators)	Ken Montville	301-464-8367
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida	301-593-0417
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker	301-891-1288
Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner	301-890-9072
Spring Crafts Fair	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens	301-345-1572
Ushers	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Webmaster	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
Women's Retreat	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
Writers Group	Ann Bolt	301-774-1960

## THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST PRINT ISSUE OF THE BRANCHES NEWSLETTER!!

**Beginning next month, with the August edition, we will begin sending the newsletter only by email to all members and friends for whom we have an email address.**

Over the past few months, letters have been sent out to members and friends, and announcements have been posted in the Sunday bulletin, regarding the Board-instigated “Branches Going Green” project, in which our newsletter would be sent out principally via email, beginning with the July issue. This deadline has been moved to begin with the August issue. The church office has also begun placing telephone calls to:

- members and friends who have an email address on file, yet receive a printed version of the newsletter, asking them to consider choosing an electronic version of the newsletter rather than a printed edition mailed to their homes ,
- members and friends for whom we do not have an email address on file; asking them if they have an email address and would consider receiving an electronic version of the newsletter, in lieu of a printed one in the mail. Members and friends who do not have access to email, or for specific reasons have requested to begin/continue receiving the “snail mail” edition of the newsletter, will be mailed a printed Branches edition.

By switching from a print edition to an email edition, we take a large step in embracing further our UU environmental values. Less paper and toner result in less overall waste, which reduces our impact on landfills. A substantial financial savings in lowering our production and postage costs is also gained. This is particularly important in this upcoming fiscal year, in which our revenue streams, outside of the generous pledges made for FY 2010-2011, have dropped significantly, and necessitated significant budgetary cuts in some areas of administration – the newsletter being one such area. If you or any member of your family wishes to receive an electronic version of Branches, send an email address for each individual to [newsletter@pbuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@pbuuc.org) or call the church office at 301-937-3666 with this information.

Members and friends may continue receiving a printed edition by calling the church office and requesting a printed edition to be mailed. A large-print edition is available upon request. If a printed edition is requested, we ask the member to consider making a \$25.00 contribution to cover newsletter production and postage costs, as the FY 2010-2011 budget amount allocated for these areas was considerably reduced. This contribution is not mandatory, but anyone able to assist with a contribution would help us avoid going over budget. It is hoped that in future years, the financial situation will be such that a contribution need not be solicited for the newsletter. If, after repeated attempts to contact an individual, we do not specifically hear from those members and friends, for whom we have an email address, that a printed edition is desired, we will begin sending the electronic version of the newsletter and drop them from the mailing list. Your understanding and support of this effort is appreciated. If you wish to make this contribution, please send a check made out to PBUUC with “Branches subscription” in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your consideration. *(Thanks to those who were able to send in a contribution to help cover costs for this budget year.)*

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the church office, Tuesday through Friday from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

**PAINT BRANCH****UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH****3215 POWDER MILL ROAD****ADELPHI, MD 20783-1097****(301) 937-3666****WEBSITE: [WWW.PBUUC.ORG](http://WWW.PBUUC.ORG)****EMAIL: [CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG](mailto:CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG)**

Check here if you no longer wish to receive this mailing and return to PBUUC

**THIS IS THE LAST PRINTED EDITION OF  
*BRANCHES*, FOR DETAILS, SEE PAGE 15**

**Branches Deadlines:**

- **August Edition – Tuesday, July 20**
- **September Edition – Friday, August 20**