



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 AM

Families with children are invited to sit in front for a better view.

*Nursery care is provided in **Room 5 (new location)** every Sunday from 9:45 to 12:45.*

Coffee and Fellowship after the service, then Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45.

JANUARY 2

NEW YEAR'S REFLECTIONS

Worship Leaders: Mary "Tyrle" Rooker and Shantida, with Deni Foster, pianist.

Children start in the Meeting House, and then go to the Kelley Room for multi-age child care.

Youth are encouraged to attend the service.

No diets, no exercise pledges, no resolutions required. Come celebrate the turning of the calendar and be led to find a perspective on who you are, where you've been, and where you might be going.

JANUARY 9

LIGHTING THE CHALICE: MORE THAN A RITUAL

Rev. Diane Teichert and Abby Crowley, Worship Associate

We'll explore the history of the "chalice with flame" as the symbol of our Unitarian Universalist living tradition, why it has come to have meaning to so many UU congregations, and how it is used to strengthen and grow our UU movement through the Chalice Lighters program, which - in our District - was started by our own Ron and Ellen Cotts, in whose honor we want to sign up new members on this Chalice Lighters Sunday.

JANUARY 16

MY SOUL HAS GROWN DEEP

Rev. Diane Teichert and John Sebastian, Worship Associate, with the Choir

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a civil rights leader but he also championed workers' rights and, as early as April 1967, an end to the Vietnam War. Was he "doing too much"? Is PBUUC "doing too much?" We will explore a vision to better orchestrate our social justice efforts for more depth. The Special Collection for January will be taken today, to provide support for student academic success at nearby High Point High School.

JANUARY 23

QUOTING THE BIBLE

Rev. Diane Teichert and Don Mitchell, Worship Associate

"Bible Stories" is the theme for several of our children's Religious Exploration classes January until March, so in worship today we will explore Biblical beauty and truth, and some of the paradoxes inherent in quoting it.

JANUARY 30

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF... MARRIAGE?

Rev. Diane Teichert and Tish Hall, Worship Associate, with the Choir

Marriage equality in Maryland is one of two social justice issues chosen for our focus in 2010-11 by attendees at PBUUC's Social Action Kick-off, but heart-felt questions arise: why advocate for the right to such a troubled institution? how best to talk with family or friends who are opposed? what small things can I do? Please stay for a Community Conversation, World Cafe style, after the service.

Most church growth happens via word of mouth - please bring along a friend or neighbor this month!

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*"Let us love winter, for it is
the spring of genius."*

- Pietro Aretino

The Minister's mUUsings...

If it doesn't rain, it pours!

That's what I wrote to the Board of Trustees to let them know that we are hosting (not one, but) TWO community meetings in the second week of January. The leaders of each are hoping that our congregation will be well-represented at their meeting. I hope that you will be able to fit *one* of them into your schedule:

A Community Conversation about High Point High School's Truancy Issues
on Tuesday, January 11, at 6:30 pm in the Meeting House

Prince George's County Marriage Equality 2011 Campaign Kick-off
on Wednesday, January 12, at 7:00 pm in the Kelley Room

Does this make you crazy, two in one week?!

We call ourselves "human beings" but it seems that we often act like "human doings" and your religious community, of all places, should not be the reason you feel over-whelmed, stretched-to-the-max, out-of-control busy. As your minister, I want Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church to be a source of inspiration and energy, a place where you can become spiritually centered and well-informed, and a community in which you are supported to join with others, take risks for the common good, and also set boundaries for healthy living. Among the skills needed for setting boundaries is the ability to say "no."

But, still, I hope you will be able to say "yes" to attending one of these public meetings.

How did we end up hosting two community meetings in one week? The short answer is that we were asked by the sponsoring organizations; also, the second request, from the principal of High Point High School was urgent, came with a date already attached for which our space was available, and it didn't seem right to me to say that it had to be held a few weeks later just so that we could spread out our commitments.

The irony is that we are over-scheduled that week because we set priorities! We are hosting two community meetings in one week because of the follow-up we have done since the excellent prioritization exercise at our Social Action Kick-off Event on October 5, which resulted in two main priorities for PBUUC social justice work for 2010-2011: supporting marriage equality in Maryland, and volunteering with High Point High School and/or the Beltsville Family Academy which was started this fall by three neighboring high, middle and elementary school principals.

Here we were trying to prioritize, rather than trying to act on every cause that concerns us or even all six of the causes represented by speakers at the October 5 event, and what happens: over-scheduling!

Each of us can only do what we can do, but hopefully there are enough PBUUCers in total that a good number of us can be at each, showing our support to the High Point High School community in their time of need and lending a hand to winning the right to marry for gay and lesbian couples in our state this year.

2011 is looking promising already!

Hoping to see you on Sundays,



Diane
minister@pbuuc.org

Notes from the Board Chairs

When you read this, the holidays will be behind us. I hope your holiday season was full of warmth and good times; and that Paint Branch was part of that for you. For many of us, much of our church experience is about community. This is a good time to reflect on how much PBUUC means to us at this special time.

As we move into the new year, our hopes are high for wonderful things on many fronts. We will commemorate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday together. Our newly reclaimed Religious Exploration Building glows with space and light and possibilities. Our committees, task forces and volunteers are busy with plans and goals.

The Board's mid-winter retreat, at the end of January, will focus on leadership development. In preparation, we will all be reading a book called Serving with Grace – Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice. We hope the benefits of this experience will spread throughout the congregation.

And so as we begin this new year, let us extend a wish for health and happiness from all of us on the Board of Trustees to all of you. May the year 2011 be a bright one for everyone.

Bettie M. Young

Susannah Schiller

Your Board of Trustees Co-Chairs,
Bettie Young and Susannah Schiller
boardchair@pbuuc.org



Religious Exploration News

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WONDERFUL NEW PLACES WE'LL GO!

I've always loved the new beginnings that January promises. And it seems like that chance to begin anew comes at the perfect time. I often run out of steam in December with its shorter days, colder temperatures and cloudy skies. But the new year always revives my spirits with its exciting possibilities and the chance to start fresh no matter what happened in the previous year.

So I'm looking forward to the new year here at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church and the all exciting possibilities for the Religious Exploration program.

From now until June, the Early and Upper Elementary classes will begin exploring several new themes. They include:

- **Our Judeo-Christian Heritage** – (January.-February). Bible stories will be the focus for this theme. We will draw from several curricula including *Bible Super Heroes* for the Early Elementary children and *Bibleodean* for the Upper Elementary. Both are interactive programs in which students bring to life familiar tales from the Hebrew and Christian bibles. Children will also have a chance to learn about the homeless in a Children's Chapel and participate in the church's Warm Nights program.
- **Our 7th Principle: Caring for the Earth** (March-April). We will be considering the interdependent web as part of this theme and drawing from several multi-age curriculums. They include *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities*; *Journey for the Planet: Creating an Earth-Friendly Life*; and *Gather the Spirit*, a multi-generational program that focuses on access to clean water. We are hoping to have children, youth and adults participate in the local stream keepers project as well as creating gardens and hiking on our beautiful wooded property.

- ***Living in a Multi-Cultural World*** (May-June). Focusing on welcoming those different than ourselves and celebrating the differences that make for a richer world will be our focus during this theme. We will be drawing on resources from the Unitarian Universalist Association; *Teaching Tolerance*, the Southern Poverty Law Fund's educational program; *UU and Me*; the *UU United Nations Office and World Religions Culture Tour*. We also plan to have a social action project for children, youth and their families.

The Middle School class will continue exploring other religions as part of its year-long *Neighboring Faiths* program. So far, the class has been to a Jewish temple, the Mormon Temple, a large Protestant church and also explored earth-based religions.

The Preschool Class will continue learning about Paint Branch UU Church and Unitarian Universalism as part of its *Chalice Children* class. And our Youth Group will continue to spend time building community together and finding ways to share their time and talents with PBUUC as well as making a difference in the world.

We also have two All-Ages services coming up. I hope you'll join us: one on February 20 and the Earth Day service on April 17. And we'll be thanking our dedicated teachers and RE volunteers at a special lunch on June 5. We'll finish up the year on June 12 with an all-ages service, celebrating the many faces of Religious Exploration at PBUUC.

June will also mark the end of my tenure as your interim DRE. It's been an honor to share this journey with you and I look forward to continuing this important work together as we head into the homestretch.

As an interim DRE, I cannot apply for the permanent position and will not be involved in the actual search for your new DRE. That job falls to the DRE Search Committee headed by Marcie Washburn. The committee – which also includes Karine Bouis-Towe, Abby Crowley, Tabitha Pierzchala, Evangeline Wells, and Matt Elliott as the RE Committee's representative – is doing a stellar job in working to find the perfect DRE for this wonderful congregation.

Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to the remainder of our time together. And all the exciting new places we'll go this year.



Karen Lee Scrivo
Interim Director of Religious Exploration
idre@pbuuc.org

RE NOTES



Guest at Your Table: Our RE classes have been participating in the UU Service Committee's annual Guest of Your Table program. Boxes and donation envelopes should be returned to the RE or church offices by Sunday, January 9.

Monthly Parent-Teacher Teas: The RE Committee invites you to join them for these monthly conversations about what's going on in our RE classes. They are held on the first Sunday of the month—except in January-- during Enrichment Hour. January's tea will be held on January 9.

January RE Sunday

Schedule: There will be no RE classes on January 2, to give our teachers and assistants the day off this holiday weekend. Child care will be available in Room 5 of the RE Building. On January 9, our Children's Chapel will focus on what we can do to help those who are homeless as we prepare to participate in the Warm Nights program later in the month. We will have our regular individual RE classes on January 16, 23 and 30.



Nursery Room Move: To accommodate our growing nursery population, the Nursery has moved back into Room 5. The Preschool class is now in Room 6 and will be using the Kelley Room for activities that require more space.

Financial Notes

USE THE ENVELOPE, LUKE

Last month, I ended my column with a bookkeeping tidbit on the scintillating subject of negative income and negative expense. If you ignored that part of the article, that’s perfectly OK. This month, however, I will talk about money issues that affect the broader congregation. I will talk about how to give money to the church to deposit. Next month I will describe how to get reimbursed when you spend money on behalf of the church, so watch this space.

Most of us already know about one way of giving money to the church – we put pledge checks or cash into the plate each Sunday while David plays a lovely offertory. What people don’t see is what happens behind the scenes after the service. A counter counts up both the cash and checks, records the totals of each on the outside of a deposit envelope, and puts it in the church’s safe. Later on a Sunday, the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer (thanks again to Marilyn Pearl for saying yes to taking on this position) will verify the totals for the envelope and add the amount to the Sunday deposit.

For meeting your pledge by putting checks in the plate, this is more than you need to know. However, if you are involved with any other form of fundraising, be it selling scrip or running an auction, the exact same envelopes are used, information is recorded, and the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer will make the deposit in the exact same way.

The envelopes can be found beside the upper of our two safes (the bottom one is for scrip only), which are in wooden cabinets between file cabinets and supply cabinets in the church office. They are brown envelopes with the title “MONEYS RECEIVED” and a lot of blanks to fill in. Most of these are self explanatory, but a few notes are in order:

- 1. Attendance is for Sunday services counters to use, you can ignore it otherwise.

- 2. You only need to sign the “person counting” line. The “Person verifying count” refers to the person who counts the money while preparing a bank deposit, usually the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. Having a second count by the fundraising group is a good idea, but we only need one signature.
- 3. In the “source of funds” area, if you are familiar with the account numbers for the church, it is helpful to put an account number as well as text there to assure that the deposit is recorded correctly. The church finance staff and volunteers can usually figure things out, but putting the number there helps these people do their job more easily.

These envelopes serve one other important purpose. The upper safe has a mail slot into which cash or checks to deposit should be placed. If checks are simply thrown in with a paper clip holding them together and a sticky note telling us what they are, there is potential that clips loosen and stickies fall off – and you’ll never know it. So use the envelope, Luke, and you will be assured that your deposit will be recorded correctly in our books.

*Mike Stark, Treasurer
mstark@pbuuc.org*

MONIES RECEIVED

Date: _____

Source of Funds: _____

Attendance: _____

Cash Amount: \$ _____

Number of Checks: _____

Check Amount Total: \$ _____

of sealed envelopes: _____ (do not open)

Person Counting: _____
(signature)

Person Verifying Count: _____
(signature)

Front of money envelope, as described by Mike Stark.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2011-2012
BUILDING A CARING COMMUNITY
MARCH 4 - APRIL 17, 2011**

Welcome to this brand new year of 2011. As we begin another new calendar year we are already experiencing the results of our commitment to build a Caring Community.

Our combined efforts have made a difference in what we can see, like the new look in our Religious Exploration building or the firm footing on our deck. We've made a difference in individuals' lives as we have supported each other in moments of joy and sorrow. We're making a difference as we continue to work for a better world by "greening" ourselves and taking on the personal challenges which open us to new opportunities as individuals and as a place of religious expression.

All of these efforts to nurture a Caring Community and uphold our Unitarian Universalist principles were made possible because we have shared our gifts of time and talent and have made a commitment in the form of our annual pledge to the church budget.

As we look to the lengthening days of sunlight and the warming of the sun, we are heartened by the anticipation of the new green shoots which hold the promise of renewed vigor. So it is at Paint Branch. During the Stewardship Campaign you will be invited to join us in building a vigorous church community through your annual pledge. We look forward to continuing this very special journey with you.

*For the Stewardship Committee,
Pat Tompkins, stewardship@pbuuc.org
301-474-3858*



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

**PUTTING A HUMAN FACE ON THE
BORDER – A PAINT BRANCH
COMMON READ**

Josseline Jamileth Hernandez Quinteros was 14 years old when she died alone in the Arizona desert. She and her younger brother were crossing the border into the United States with a group of adults. They were on their way to be reunited with their mother in Los Angeles. When she became sick in the desert, the group abandoned her. Her badly decomposed body was discovered three weeks later wearing her sweatpants with the word HOLLYWOOD on the back. – book review by Marylou Fusco.

Published in April 2010, *The Death of Josseline* by Margaret Regan presents a series of intimate stories from immigrants, activists, human rights workers, and border patrol agents. Through their stories, the book explores the ethical, moral, and spiritual challenges presented by the complex immigration issues on the border, evoking our *human* response, rather than a political or policy debate. Regan calls us to the religious act of bearing witness to brutality and despair along with extraordinary courage and commitment. By giving her a name and a story and a grieving family, Regan hopes that readers are less likely to see Josseline as one of "those people" stealing American jobs and draining social services and instead see her for who she truly was—a child trying to reach her mother.

Beginning in February, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) and the Social Action Committee (SAC) will coordinate a facilitated book discussion. Tentatively, there will be four sessions on Sunday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. The book will be available for sale at the Paint Branch Church Bookstore in January. We'll sign up participants for the discussion group at that time.

We are hoping to join other congregations around the country in conducting a 'Common Read', a denomination-wide project to encourage conversation and discernment as to how we can respond and act. Talking together enhances each reader's encounter with the book and can give diverse people a shared experience on which to build meaningful conversation and action. With immigration being the #1 issue voted on during the UUA's conference last year, coupled with the controversial laws introduced in Arizona aimed at combating illegal border-crossing, we feel this is a timely and necessary project. By undertaking this Common Read as a congregation, rather than simply the members of DARTT and SAC, we will be entering a more collaborative, collective phase of thinking about social justice, one that allows for give-and-take, more so than other models of presentation. We will also be joining the ranks of other congregations to take on this important project, including churches from Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio and New Mexico.

We hope you will join us in this formidable endeavor. Please consider purchasing your copy of The Death of Josseline from the Church Book Store on January 2, and start reading. Details of the discussion schedule will follow in upcoming Orders of Service and *Branches*. Together, we can begin to move past the political and into the spiritual aspect of dealing with these hard issues as a nation.

Jessica Sharp, DARTT Member

On Tuesday, December 28, we'll have an agenda planning meeting, open to all. This is the place to plan the agenda for the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, January 4. Both meetings will begin at 7:30 pm in Room 1, Religious Exploration Building. If you can't attend the agenda planning meeting, but would like to submit agenda items for consideration, please send them, along with any other feedback, to dartt@pbuuc.org by Monday, December 27. Items received after that date will be considered at the next agenda planning meeting.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
BREAKFAST
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011**

Tickets are available for "A Gathering of People" to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., at Camelot by Martins in Upper Marlboro on Thursday on January 13, 2011, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. This year's featured speaker will be Freeman A. Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, co-founder of the university's Meyerhoff Scholarship Program (designed to encourage African American men to pursue high-level academic work in science and engineering) and author of Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Males. The tickets are \$12.00. To purchase tickets or arrange to car pool to the breakfast program, please email dartt@pbuuc.org or phone Tricia Most at 301-445-2821.

**DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM
TRANSFORMATION TEAM (DARTT)
AGENDA PLANNING AND PLANNING
MEETINGS FOR JANUARY**

DARTT has implemented a new way of preparing the agenda for its monthly planning meetings. We now have an agenda planning meeting to which all are invited, in order to set the agenda for the formal planning meeting. This method resulted in a highly productive December planning meeting which was well attended, modeled diffuse leadership and began and ended on time!

(article continued on next page)



Green Team News



New Year's Resolution: That we renew our commitment to living more in harmony with the earth and we each do our part to care for the earth around us.

GREEN SANCTUARY CERTIFICATION

The Green Sanctuary Team moves closer to completion of the twelve necessary projects for our Green Sanctuary certification. An intergenerational activity Saturday, November 7, found PBUUCers participating in neighborhood stewardship on a tributary of the Paint Branch stream by removing invasive plants from the Little Paint Branch Park, a neighborhood project. When spring arrives, there are many invasives to be removed on our own grounds.

RECYCLING PROJECT

Our church is moving ahead with the recycling project, now that Prince George's County has single source recycling. Do you want to know more? Come to one of our meetings during Enrichment Hour on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on January 9 in the Hospitality Room.

HELP REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING EMISSIONS

Did you know that 21% of the United States global warming emissions come from our homes according to the Union of Concerned Scientists? You can minimize this and save money by consciously taking steps to reduce this loss, for example: closing curtains at night, and setting the temperature lower.

*Penny O'Brien, Green Sanctuary Team
greenteam@pbuuc.org*

Social Action Committee (SAC)

GENERAL SAC NEWS

Immigration:

What happens when two dynamic church committees join forces? It depends on you! Be sure to read about the new Common Read initiative on immigration being co-organized by the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) and SAC – you can find it on the DARTT page of this issue of Branches! Be sure to see the Upcoming Events Calendar for other immigration-related items.

Democracy Reform:

Enjoy some Politics and Popcorn! SAC will sponsor a screening of the documentary, The Corporation on Sunday, January 23, from 6-9 pm in Room 1. Come see this award-winning film and stay for a short discussion on grassroots ways to reclaim democracy from corporate power. For more information, please contact Jessica Sharp at spangledangel@gmail.com or Kweli Powell at reassistant@pbuuc.org.

Also in political news, PBUUC will be the venue for an exciting public forum on corporate influence in politics featuring Congresswoman Donna Edwards! This 'teach-in' will take place on Sunday, February 6, from 2-4 pm in the Meeting House. Other lawmakers have also been invited. Rep. Edwards will be speaking about House Joint Resolution #74, her joint resolution in support of amending the Constitution to mitigate corporate influence on elections. Opportunities to get involved will also be discussed. Sponsoring organizations include Public Citizen, United for Peace and Justice, Fair and Clean Elections Maryland, and more. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn from the best in our own church home!

Special Collections:

As part of the overall commitment of PBUUC toward more involved community outreach, there will be a special collection at the January 16 worship service to provide support for student academic success at nearby High Point High School.

(article continues on next page)

The Special Collection for February, taking place on Sunday, February 20, and will benefit College Bound, a DC-based organization dedicated to offering public school students in grades 8-12 academic enrichment and resources to prepare for and succeed in college. PBUUC member Ken Redd is College Bound's Director of Research and Policy Analysis, and will present a short summary of the organization, including how the funds will be used.

Other Upcoming Events:

The next Social Action Committee meeting will be on Saturday, January 8, from 10 am -12 noon in Room 1. Topics will include a special collection for College Bound, marriage equality efforts, and ongoing discussions about SAC and DARTT's partnership on the issues of immigration and a High Point High School outreach initiative.

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland will hold a meeting at the Annapolis UU Church from 9 am-1 pm on Saturday, January 22. Topics of discussion are marriage equality, campaign finance reform, health care and environmental issues.

Events are being planned in DC for **the weekend of January 20-22 to mark the one-year anniversary of the Citizens United vs. FEC Supreme Court decision.** A rally sponsored by Move to Amend and The Coffee Party will be held in front of the Supreme Court on Friday, January 21, at noon, followed by forums and marches on Saturday. For more information, please contact Jessica Sharp (spangledangel@gmail.com)

On Saturday, February 26, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) will sponsor a program on immigration advocacy at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA. The program will open with worship led by our host minister, Rev. Kate Walker and a plenary with the Reverends Nancy McDonald Ladd, Carlton Smith, and Scott Sammler Michael. Workshops will have resources and speakers from programs such as Immigrants First, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, Casa de Maryland, Capital Immigrants Rights Coalition (CAIR) and Standing on the Side of Love. For details please contact Nancy Boardman at nancyboardman3@gmail.com or Rev. Cynthia Snavelly at 301-588-1951.

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice will hold a conference on Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender (GLBT) issues on Saturday, April 16, and Paint Branch has been chosen as the location for this important event! At our annual meeting in June GLBT issues were voted the Paint Branch congregation's #1 priority and this was reaffirmed at our October Social Action Kick-Off event when the GLBT issue of lobbying for implementation of Maryland marriage equality legislation was one of our top two issues to focus on this church year. Hosting this important UUSJ program clearly speaks to our congregation's desire to work for improving the rights and lives of our GLBT brothers and sisters.

WARM NIGHTS IN JANUARY

Paint Branch hosts Warm Nights on January 23-30. In conjunction with other churches throughout Prince George's County, this annual effort provides shelter and food for some of our homeless neighbors during the coldest months of the year. The effort is coordinated by Community Crisis Services, Inc. (www.communitycrisis.org), which provides the beds, transportation, and overnight staff. Our church sets up the meeting house to serve as a shelter, hosts the guests, and prepares and serves meals.

Last year many of the guests, who are single individuals, couples and families with children, were suffering from the terrible economy, and this year it will almost certainly be as bad or worse for many in the community.

Providing food and shelter is important, but there are many other ways we can help, including providing warm clothes, toiletries, and services. One guest, for example, borrowed an iron and ironing board to prepare his clothes as he began a new job.

Volunteer signup will begin after the New Year. Please stop by the sign-up table after services in January. There are many needs throughout the week, including shopping, cooking and serving food, staying overnight at the church (only to monitor the church; CCSI staff work with the guests). There are a number of ways kids of all ages can be involved and they are welcome to volunteer.

(article continued on next page)

Donations can help now. A special collection at the Christmas Eve service will support the church's efforts. The funds pay for breakfasts and lunches, as well as necessary supplies. We will also be collecting small items to be given to the guests:

- 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)

This year we would like to follow the example of some of the other Warm Nights churches by offering some additional services to the guests. These could include providing access to computers and assistance with using them, activities for the children, manicures, and mending. If you are interested in helping with these services or have ideas for others, please let us know.

Volunteers for overnight stays and kitchen managers are especially important. If you have questions or ideas, or are ready to volunteer, contact Stuart Speaker or Deb Rubenstein at 301-891-2071 or hrrs95@gmail.com, or any member of the Social Action Committee.

Stewart Speaker, coordinator

PAINT BRANCH CONTINUES TO STAND ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

According to the Washington Post, 2011 is *the* year for marriage equality in Maryland. The state bucked the national trend by electing progressive lawmakers, creating a new dynamic in the state Senate. Takoma Park senator Jamie Raskin says, "These election results [created] a healthy, pro-marriage majority in the General Assembly."

Hoping to capitalize on this forward momentum, the Social Action Committee is plowing ahead with support for the issue of marriage equality, which was one of the top two issues voted on at our October kick-off. We are working in close partnership with Equality Maryland, whose field organizer, Aimee Martin, spoke at our kick-off.

Aimee has stressed that there is still important work to be done to ensure victory for this legislation, especially in the House of Delegates. And Paint Branch will have a central role in our area, starting in January, to help make marriage equality a reality in Maryland! Here are important upcoming dates to mark on your calendars:

Prince George's Equality Maryland Kick-Off

Equality Maryland (EQMD) and the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church invite you to EQMD's 2011 Legislative Session Campaign Kick-Off in Prince George's County. We'll be discussing what it's going to take to win, and giving you tools to have conversations about why equality is important with your friends and your families. This is the year to achieve marriage equality for same-sex couples and transgender non-discrimination in Maryland. Now is the time for ALL of us to work together to win – we're so close – but to do this, it will take each and every one of us to get there.

Please join us in this critical moment in Maryland's history on Wednesday, January 12, at 7 pm in the Kelley Room of PBUUC's Religious Exploration Building. For more information and to RSVP please email Aimee Martin at aimee@equalitymaryland.org or call 410-685-6567.

Equality Maryland Weekly Phone bank

Then beginning the following Monday evening, January 17, we have invited Equality Maryland to hold a once a week phone bank on Monday evenings from about 5:30 - 9:30 in Rooms 2 and 3. The weekly phone bank will continue through the General Assembly session, and possibly beyond, assuming the bill passes and the opposition then moves to get enough signatures (55,000) for a referendum which could go on a ballot to overthrow it. Visitors and Paint Branchers will each bring their own cell phone, and Equality Maryland will provide training and suggested wording for the Monday evening calls.

We will be calling folks who have already signed up as supporters and asking them to contact their legislators, as we provide them with their legislators' contact information and ideas on what to say.

So please mark Monday evenings on your calendars as often as you can - to join other visiting supporters of marriage equality at Paint Branch in this truly grassroots effort! More details will follow from SAC, as Equality Maryland would like to have a sense of how many are coming so they can provide enough materials for each phone bank session. Weekly phone banks will also be held at other Maryland UU churches, so Paint Branch is in good company.

PBUUC Service on Marriage Equality

The service on Sunday, January 30, will then focus on marriage equality, as our own Rev. Diane Teichert is a staunch supporter of equal marriage rights. Following the service we hope you will join us for a special Enrichment Hour event in the Kelley Room. There we will engage in a community conversation in small groups where our straight and GLBT members and friends will together consider some challenging questions about marriage. Perhaps asking such things as what could true marriage equality look like? And does it really matter? We'll then gather to share our ideas and see in what direction they might take us - as we live out our UU values in being a welcoming congregation. Light refreshments will be provided.

Marriage Equality Lobby Day in Annapolis

Also remember that Equality Maryland's annual Lobby Day in Annapolis this year will take place the evening of Monday, February 14! (No phone bank that evening.) Let's have a strong Paint Branch showing at the state capitol as we do our best to make marriage equality a reality in Maryland this year. Carpooling to Annapolis may be available depending on how many people express interest in participating. Please contact Marge Owens for details at 301-345-1572.

There are so many exciting opportunities to get involved -- on many levels -- in the fight to ensure equal rights for our GLBT family. We hope you will join us as we continue on the path towards justice!

*Jessica Sharp and Nancy Boardman,
Co-chairs - SAC*

In and Around Paint Branch

LEASING TEAM ANNOUNCES ADVERTISING

Your Leasing Team has placed print and online ads on Craigslist, in local newspapers, on street signs and our website advertising the availability of up to 1,410 square feet of space in the lower level of the RE Building. We are looking for a single renter but will consider two separate leases. You can help in this critical initiative by sending us any leads you may have for tenants and any suggestions for email lists and other venues to market the space. You can talk to any member of the Leasing Team: Brenda Anna, John Bartoli, Becky Sheehan and Carol Carter Walker; or you can send your information and questions to lease@pbuuc.org.

PAINT BRANCH BOOKSTORE OPEN JANUARY 2.

The Church Bookstore will open on Sunday, January 2, after service. The Bookstore is a win-win for the church and for you. You can build your library and knowledge about Unitarian Universalism (UU), have a convenient source for gift buying and raise money for the church. In addition to books from the UU Association Bookstore, you can purchase books by UU Riderwood Chaplain Reverend Bruce Marshall and our own local authors, Marj Donn and Lynn Johnson. Ellen Cotts, Carol Carter Walker and Liese Wright are the current volunteers.

IN MEMORY OF BEN PEERY

A celebration of the life of Ben Peery, Howard University astrophysicist and PBUUC choir member, will be held on Saturday, January 15, at 1:30 pm in the Meeting House. The choir will be singing in Ben's honor. A reception will be held after the service, for which help is needed setting up, providing food, and (especially) cleaning up - volunteers should please contact We Care Coordinator for January, Elizabeth Scheiman at 301-731-2874.

PAINT BRANCH CHALICE LIGHTER SUNDAY TO BE CELEBRATED JANUARY 9.



On Sunday, January 9, during the service, there will be a short presentation on the Chalice Lighters Program, an initiative of the Joseph Priestley District. Chalice Lighters asks individuals to respond to a call three times a year, contributing at least \$20

at each call. (More is greatly appreciated!) This money is used to provide grants to UU congregations in the District to facilitate projects that strengthen and grow their programs. Since 1987, the program has provided more than \$2,000,000 in grants to fund special initiatives that grow individual churches and expand Unitarian Universalism.

PAINT BRANCH WOMEN'S COMMUNITY RETREAT



The Annual Paint Branch Women's Retreat is scheduled for Saturday February 26, 2011. Our primary resource for planning and announcements is the low-volume

women's community listserv. If you would like to be included in this listserv, please send an email at pbuucwomen-subscribe@yahoo.com, and the moderator will add you to the list.

ETHNIC DINNER GROWING PAINS

Ethnic Dinners has a problem; a wonderful problem, but a problem none-the-less. *They are growing, attracting more people, and reaping greater profits!* The original 40-50 people generating \$400-\$500 gradually grew into 60-70 people netting around \$700. The past 2 dinners attracted 95 and 87, earning \$971 and \$1,183 respectively. So, what's the problem? *We cannot do dinners for 90 with the same number of volunteers as for 60!*

The primary problem is cooking. Higher attendance requires more of each dish, so more work for the person producing that dish. Most cooks sign up for just one dish, so to complete our proposed menu, two or three of us usually do all of the remaining dishes, often 4 -5 each. One reason for higher attendance may be our move to an earlier start time, so this means we few are not only cooking multiple dishes, each one for more people, but must have them all finished earlier than before. This is a recipe for disaster - diminished quality of the finished dishes, and increased chance of accidents, cuts and burns (I have the scars to prove it). The most serious risk however, is increased potential for food poisoning due to difficulty bringing a larger quantity of food to a safe temperature, and holding it there. It's essential; *we must have more volunteer cooks*, and fervently hope some will agree to make two dishes. Are there any alternatives?

Drop neglected dishes

from the menu. We've had do this sometimes, but it feels like false advertising. When we plan and present a menu, we are including the dishes we think provide the best sampling of that cuisine. If we must drop some, people don't get all they paid for, but still eat the same *total* amount of food, taking more from remaining dishes. Then, we either run out or don't have as much for the Leftover Sale.



Plan a menu with fewer items to start with – same result. Let's say each person eats a pound of food at a dinner and 90 people come. We will need at least 90 lbs of food, whether that is distributed among 25 different dishes or 15. Fewer dishes will only mean their cooks must each prepare more food, and try to handle it safely.

Limit the number of attendees – c'mon! Do you really want us to do that?

We also need more volunteers for other tasks. More people mean more tables to set up; earlier start time means setting up earlier. Door-tending now needs 2 *trained* people and the bar could use 3 or 4. More tables and more dishes require more help cleaning up. *(continued on next page)*

Another growing problem is too many people are not telling us they plan to attend, or not until *after* I call the cooks the Tuesday before the dinner. If I tell the cooks 75, but 90 show up, we may run short; hardly fair to folks who got tickets early. There's an easy solution. *If you are even just thinking of coming, make a reservation by that Tuesday.* If you then can't come, there's plenty of food for those who do, and even more for the Leftover Sale.

So, if you support continuing Ethnic Dinners, starting them at 6:30, attracting more people, and raising more money (so, what's not to like?), *please plan to volunteer* to help in some way. Then, *please* let us know *by early on the Tuesday before the dinner* if you *might* be coming, whether you want *free child care*, and *what you can do to help* lighten the load and create an enjoyable, stress-free event for everyone! Please?! Questions or comments? Contact: Marilyn Pearl, 301-805-1218, buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

REPORT ON 2010 ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEAL

Our annual PBUUC holiday meal was held after service on Sunday, December 19, 2010. Approximately 115 church members, friends and staff enjoyed the good food and great company. This wonderful event was made possible by numerous volunteers. I apologize that I'm only able to thank by name those who signed up to help. I hope that everyone else who pitched in will forgive me for not noting down your name during the "controlled chaos" of the event, but please know that your contribution is very much appreciated. Such a feast for over 100 people is only possible because everyone lends a hand!

Here's a big "Thank You" to all the holiday-meal elves (named and unnamed):

The cooks (many of whom made double and triple batches!): Liz Citrin, Mary Dancy, Karen Donovan, Carol Boston, Lori Snyder, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, and Sarah Michalof - for mashed potato casseroles. Marj Donn, Penny O'Brien, Kim Stark, Tricia Most, Kate Brett, John and Sylvia Lagerquist, Martha Horn, Teresa Meeks, Esther Nichols, Polly Pettit, and Adeline Wilcox - for green bean casseroles. Kathy Kearns, Marilyn Pearl,

Theresa Myrdon, Margot Lasrado, Bettie Young, Barbara Fairfield, Nancy Boardman, Carla Monardes, Renee Katz, Ruth Bond, and Don Munro - for desserts.

The room transformers (moved tables & chairs, and set the festive tables): Peter Dowling, John Sebastian, John and Sylvia Lagerquist, Eric Most, Polly Pettit, Tricia Most, Mary Dancy, and Jocelyn Dowling – and the many others who pitched in.

The food servers: Carla Monardes, Lori and Will Snyder, Eric Most, Peter Dowling, Kathy Kearns and Cory Carter – and others.

The clean-up team (packing leftovers, washing dishes, cleaning kitchen & Meeting House): Nancy Boardman, Margot Lasrado, Emma Sue Gaines Gerson and Don Gerson, Patty Daukantas, Ken Redd, Steve Bond, Mike Wilson – and many others.

There are some very special people (the "kitchen elves") who contributed much time and energy to make the meal a success. During the week before the meal Jeri Holloway single-handedly cleared the kitchen counters of the "stuff" that accumulates and sanitized those counters so meal prep could proceed safely. Friday morning, Carla Monardes shopped with me for supplies for the meal. Saturday afternoon, Carol Boston and I sliced the meats. Liz Citrin, Will and Lori Snyder, Carol Boston, Alice Tyler, and Jeri Holloway arrived between 8 and 8:30 am Sunday morning and worked steadily until everyone was served their meal shortly after noon. Also very special thanks to Penny O'Brien, Anita Wagner, Tim Illig and Don Munro who stayed until 2:30 pm when every dish was washed, every item put away and every counter cleaned.

Thanks everyone for another good Paint Branch holiday memory!

Jan Montville

**Our heartfelt thanks go to
Jan Montville, for
organizing a really great
Holiday Dinner!**

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
Religious Exploration Assistant	Kweli Powell	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Assistant/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
Child Care	Kamini Wickramaratne	301-937-3666
	Beth Judy	301-937-3666

☞ OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES ☞

Co-chair	Susannah Schiller	301-776-1887
Co-chair	Bettie Young	301-490-4957
Vice chair	Don Henderson	301-977-1186
Vice chair	Michael Léger	301-589-6808
Trustee	Patty Daukantas	301-486-1949
Trustee	Tim Illig	410-707-6678
Trustee	Rene McDonald	301-779-1643
Trustee	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
Trustee	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Secretary	Anita Wagner	703-401-7230
Assistant Secretary		TBD
Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl	301-572-3983

☞ 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 - JANUARY ☞

Elizabeth Scheiman 301-731-2874

☞ WORSHIP ASSOCIATES ☞

- Abby Crowley 301-345-2663
- Tish Hall (co-leader) 301-681-1457
- Donald Mitchell 301-776-2359
- John Sebastian 301-589-6808
- Shantida (co-leader) 301-593-0417
- Carol Carter Walker 202-636-8138

☞ COMMITTEES ☞

Adult Religious Education		TBD
Aesthetics		TBD
Arts Council	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858
Budget Leadership		TBD
Buildings & Grounds	Paul Young	301-490-4957
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most	301-445-2821
	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Denominational Affairs	Donald Gerson	240-293-6570
Finance	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson	301-906-9966
Legacy Fund	Liz Citrin	410-531-6319
Membership		TBD
Ministry	Muriel Morisey	301-270-2391
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Publicity & Outreach		TBD
Religious Exploration	Sarah Michailof	301-277-1467
(Co-chairs)	Sonny Katz	301-890-1599
Social Action	Nancy Boardman	301-982-3450
(Co-chairs)	Jessica Sharp	240-280-2582
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
Choir	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
Community Café	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
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
Mediation Program	David Haberman	301-498-7086
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn	301-270-2391
Mystery Book Club	Kathy Kearns	301-277-3211
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
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens	301-345-1572
Ushers	Esther Nichols	301-864-2068
Warm Nights	Stewart Speaker	301-891-2071
Webmaster	Mark Shute	301-442-6312
Women's Retreat	Tish Hall	301-681-1457
Writers Group	Ann Bolt	301-774-1960

PAINT BRANCH**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH****3215 POWDER MILL ROAD****ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030****(301) 937-3666****WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG****EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG**

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

Branches Deadlines:

- **February Edition – Thursday, January 20**
- **March Edition - Friday, February 19**

A few new (and some old) emails for you to note:

Board Chairs	boardchair@pbuuc.org
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)	dartt@pbuuc.org
DREsearch Committee	dresearch@pbuuc.org
Green Team	greenteam@pbuuc.org
Leasing Team	lease@pbuuc.org
Stewardship Campaign	stewardship@pbuuc.org

**Does your committee or event need its own pbuuc.org email address?
Contact the church administrator to get one set up for the new year !!!**