



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

March 2013

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

Nursery Care in Room 5 from 9:45-12:45

Refreshments and Fellowship after the service

Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45 - Childcare until 12:45

Families with young children are invited to sit in front for a better view until the Sing-away Song.

March 3

Abriendo Puertas Nuevas

Opening New Doors – the 2013 Stewardship Drive

Rev. Diane Teichert with Bettie Young, Worship Associate

Sherry Mitchell, Stewardship Chair, the Choir and the Chalice Dancers

In the current American religious landscape, Unitarian Universalism is emerging as the likeliest faith-place for the many who answer “none” when asked their religion. Are we ready? Today newcomers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office, 11:30 to 12:30.

March 10

A Crazy Quilt Religion

Guest Ministers Revs. Barbara and Jaco ten Hove

Rev. Diane Teichert with Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate,

And Erica Shadowsong, Director of Religious Exploration, and the Chalice Dancers

Unitarian Universalism may be compared to a crazy quilt, embodied by the one Paint Branchers made for the ten Hoves as a parting gift at the end of their nine-year co-ministry here in 2008. Our former ministers will share their understanding of UU theology by exploring this creative image. The Board of Trustees will host a reception in their honor after the service. (See bio on page 9).

March 17

The History of the Universe from the Beginning to the End

Dr. John C. Mather, Senior Project Scientist, Goddard Space Flight Center

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

Our guest speaker received the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics with George Smoot for their work that confirmed the Big Bang theory about the beginning of the universe, but what do they know about its end? (See bio on page 9). An opportunity for discussion with Dr. Mather will take place during Enrichment Hour in the Kelley Room. This is Signing Sunday – those who are ready to sign the PBUUC Membership Book, please meet the Minister and Trustee at the Chalice after the service.

March 24

Life isn't ... Life Is

The Worship Associate Team presents its 2013 Auction Service won by Paul Young

With Music by Montana Monardes, Youth Worship Associate

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." Through sharing and silent meditation, we will explore how this quotation from George Bernard Shaw applies to our lives. The monthly Special Collection will be taken today for scholarships for the UU Middle Atlantic Conference (see page 7).

March 31

Small Pass-Overs, Little Resurrections

Rev. Diane Teichert with Ken Redd, Worship Associate, and the Choir

In the week of Passover, comes Easter. While these observances tell tales of mythic proportions, the lives we actually live contain fragments worth praising. The choir will perform “On Wings of Praise,” the fourth movement of Jason Shelton’s *Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata*. Easter Egg Hunt!

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Note to Our Readers:

The Church Administrator has now assumed responsibility for the production of the newsletter.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES: All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to: branches@pbuuc.org.

The **Leadership Directory**, now listed on the last page, will contain names only. For more contact information, please consult your Membership Directory. All submitted articles will contain phone numbers for contact if listed. You may choose to list your email address only as a point of contact.

Editorial Guidelines

- The deadline for submission of articles and other content to Branches is on the **20th day of every month**, except during the holidays.
- Articles should be submitted in their final form and content should be **250 words or less**. Please submit the name of the author and any other contact information as necessary. **Reminder: Articles significantly over the 250 word limit may be returned to the author for re-editing.**
- The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the Sunday Order of Service bulletin is **every Wednesday at 12 noon**.
- Announcements should be submitted in their final form using the Times New Roman font, 12 point size, and content should be 120 words or less. Please include day, date, location, time, and contact information.

All deadlines are now on the web calendar. Go to www.pbuuc.org. Scroll down to "This Week" and click on "More Upcoming Events." Click on the Calendar grid to the left to advance to the next month.

The Minister's mUUsings...

The architect's drawings presented at the Town Hall Meeting on February 17 ignited something in me which I'd hoped for: hope for the future of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church! I hope that you were present and I hope that something like hope was inspired in you, too. If you were not there, stay tuned to our website www.pbuuc.org for the posting of the designs on-line.

Everyone realizes that the drawings presented were simply one architect's first conceptualization of how PBUUC could finally be liberated from the oppressive maintenance of its wooden deck. Briefly, the design involves a meandering, somewhat raised steel-reinforced cement walkway starting at the parking lot, weaving through trees, with a bridge over the intermittent stream that runs under the present deck and between the Youth Garden and the Meeting House. The proposed walkway leads to the entrance of a new atrium-like structure which links the Meeting House and the RE Building. With window-walls looking out over that entrance and also out into the woods behind and down into the glen, there would be lots of light and new foyer-like space that would be more welcoming and conducive to visiting than our current foyer. Upon entry, one would go up some steps to reach the level of the Meeting House and RE Building main doors or down some steps to reach the level of the Meeting House basement, RE Building lower level, and doors to the outdoor space. But there would also be an elevator, thus giving people of all physical abilities access to all parts of the buildings and property, even the glen!

But, I remind myself to not get wedded to this design. There will be other designs, perhaps better, more or less costly. While the Site Improvement Committee assesses the feedback gained from the Town Hall Meeting and while the Buildings and Grounds Committee gets the current deck properly inspected by a structural engineer, other considerations will be underway – how do previously-presented possible designs for the parking lot,

memorial garden and playground relate to this or other possible designs for a changed deck/pathway design and to a structure that links possible designs for the parking lot, memorial garden and playground relate to this or other possible designs for a changed deck/pathway design and to a structure that links the two existing buildings and includes an elevator? Is grant money available for a “green” parking lot? If all or part of the current deck is deemed an immediate danger, can it be fixed or replaced in a way that coordinates with future designs? What is the best sequencing for these projects? How much money can we raise in a capital campaign? What are our most feasibly dreams?

One of my early impressions of the PBUUC congregation was that it didn't think very highly of itself. I couldn't quite understand why. It has beautiful buildings in a lovely setting, really good people, strong religious education for children and adults, a vibrant commitment to social and racial justice and the environment from its inception, with high quality music, dance and art that enliven. However, over time I have come to understand that the congregation's confidence and energy are sapped by the parking lot eyesore, with its related environmental damage, and the never-ending maintenance demands of the deck. These challenges are spiritual sink-holes, and sometimes have caused toxic behaviors between congregants.

At the Town Hall Meeting, I sensed a lifting of spirits. New images of “what might be” open our minds and free us from bondage to the way things are. New leaders introduce new energy, new resources, new competencies, and new practices into the wealth of past experience and residential PBUUC wisdom. I thank, deeply and encouragingly, all of those whose maintenance labors and leadership labors - over many years - have brought us to this hopeful moment!

Hoping to see you on Sundays,

Diane

Wheel of Life



Our hearts go out to the family of Brenda and Skip Anna on the death of Skip's father on February 16.

Long-time member Joann Alexander returned to Manor Grove from a hospital stay for an infection and is now in the care of hospice. She appreciates phone calls, visits and cards (same number and address).

Congratulations to John Holbrook who was re-hired as a Community Organizer at On Our Own of Prince Georges County!

(continued on next page)

Wheel of Life continued

If someone in your immediate family is hospitalized or if a PBUUC member or friend is dying or has died, or if you would find it helpful to talk about your faith, your church involvements, or the decisions, transitions, joys or sorrows in your life, please call Rev. Diane Teichert at **301-937-3666** or at **781-676-0097** if urgent.

If you are in need of practical assistance (such as rides, meals, visits, or phone conversation), please contact **Esther Nichols**, the We Care Coordinator for **March**, at **301-864-2068**.

Religious Exploration

The Spirit of Life is Moving!

I have always thought the UU hymn “Spirit of Life” to be very mysterious, even, I daresay, ambiguous. The characterizing of that which people may deem to be divine as “Mystery” and “Spirit of Life,” as well as other such ambiguous terms, seems to have a special Unitarian Universalist flavor. I cannot hear it referred to in services, songs and gatherings without it causing me to reflect on what this demonstrates of Unitarian Universalist relationships with the divine and numinous, and wonder what it means to UUs when we sing or speak these words.

This spring, however, I feel that I have a bit of a glimpse of understanding of this Spirit of Life concept, because I feel it moving, and it has a characteristic feel.

I feel it moving in myself, the RE committee, and our families as the seasonal discomfort of the time of melting is upon us, and the seeds that have been hiding underground start to stretch, wishing to push through and up into the light. That is what the RE program feels to me like right now, and I, of course, cannot help but entertain that others must also feel the same.

This is a time of visioning, reaching, and stretching, and such a process is more than the practical, concrete goals of inviting new members to join next year’s Religious Exploration Committee. It is about more, too, than simply the trying out of a new model of RE, known as “Spirit Play,” which may ultimately revolutionize how we do Sunday RE in the coming years, should it stick. It is about more than a call to the Youth Group to begin a visioning process to look ahead to the meaning of worship in their lives, and asking them to ask themselves if there is a place for it. And it is about more than an internal push I feel to focus on the UU family at home, through the offering of Enrichment Hour workshops on UU parenting and children’s faith development topics.

Although it is about all those things, it’s about more than that.

The moving of the Spirit, whatever that is to each of us, theist and non-theist, is decidedly abstract, but not unnecessarily

so. As I experience it now, call my attention to it, and see repeating patterns that show signs of it in various aspects of RE program planning, I realize that it must be abstract, beyond the concrete and merely administrative.

The push and pull of the Spirit is in all things, in the same sense that the interconnected web of life is the culmination of a series of balances, tensions and angles. The concrete part, the little responses to the push here and there, are the workshops, the curricula, the trying-things-out, the calls to the Committee, the forums for feedback, etcetera. They are the coaxing, the watering, the caring for the growth that happens because it must happen and it is in Spirit’s nature to simply happen.

I think, I hope, that what I am saying makes sense, and that many of you know what I mean when I say the necessary part on our end is to recognize the discomfort, to respond, to try, to vision, to stretch-and, most of all, to realize that each endeavor to do this in the physical plane, at a given place and time, is actually a part of a complicated series of processes that, together, create the way forward, the channel, for this Spirit in us to do what it must.

This spring, I invite you all to look for the Spirit of Life moving through the RE program. Come to the Enrichment Hour workshop, if you feel the slightest stirring to do so. Talk to members of the RE Committee and come to an interest meeting, if there is one. Respond to invitations to review curricula with us, not because you think you might be teaching it or your children might be taking it, but because what we read, absorb, and pass on at every turn determines what the next generations, visiting families, and our congregation thinks of Unitarian Universalism, its principles, and whether or not, and how, it is being lived out and its mission being carried out in our greater communities.

Warmly,

Erica Shadowson

Director of Religious Exploration



Board of Trustees Column

The Board Beat, March 2013: ENDURING GRATITUDE

Hello Paint Branch:

First of all: thank you so much, all of you who came out to the Town Hall Meeting this past Sunday. We had many exciting updates that you can use to stay connected to the unfolding life of the Church in the areas of its Overall Ministry, Leadership Development, participation in JPD-Wide and Denomination-Wide events affecting our whole movement and its direction, and, of course, the focus area of both maintaining our physical plant and transforming it to meet our visions for the future of Paint Branch!!

I want to respond to some concerns that have been voiced recently. They have to do with how we, as a Church, thank and honor those who serve us. It's a HUGE question.

Churches are largely VOLUNTEER organizations, and the smaller a church is, the more this is true. We are a mid-size Church: so we rely on volunteers to do much of the daily and extraordinary work we need to accomplish to keep our doors open, our spirits vibrant, and our hearts free to love and grow. When our hearts are free to love and grow, IN our volunteer, service, or leadership roles, then we are nurtured rather than drained, and we can continue to give, safely and healthily, to our Beloved Community. GRATITUDE FOR what we are able to do and experience and BE, and FROM those we serve, goes a long way to keeping our hearts free to love and grow.

In the 2010-2011 Board Year, the Board of Trustees bought a Plaque that it denominated the "Enduring Gratitude" plaque. The Trustees of that year paid for the plaque themselves, and established a set of criteria and a financially self-sustaining procedure for PBUUC members to use to register Gratitude FROM the BOT but on behalf of the entire Congregation and WITH members' participation—gratitude FOR "service so far above all expectations that it must never be forgotten." I have copied the Criteria for naming such persons, heroes and sheroes of our congregation, below. Perhaps a future Board will publish these regularly, maybe in November (gratitude month?), so that PBUUC Members will be reminded regularly of how they can bring people for whom we as a Church are and ought to be grateful to the attention of the Board.

ENDURING GRATITUDE Criteria: The Enduring Gratitude plaque is not an acknowledgment of success or completion of a project. It is not even a thank-you for a job well done. This plaque commemorates service so far above all expectations that it must never be forgotten. The names on this plaque are people who, through their extraordinary work, have earned our enduring gratitude.

NOMINATION PROCESS: If you know of a service that meets this criteria and wish to put forth a nomination for inclusion on the Enduring Gratitude plaque...

- ◆ Nominations can only be made by members of the church in good standing, although non-members can be nominated.

- ◆ Nominations must include a justification of no more than a page that explains the extraordinary service performed by the nominee(s). This document will be evaluated by the church Board of Trustees and read into the minutes of a board meeting.
- ◆ The nomination must include a citation of up to 90 characters (3 rows, 30 characters each) to be engraved below the nominee's name.
- ◆ The justification must receive endorsement signatures of at least 20 members of the church in good standing.
- ◆ There is a nomination fee of \$20 to cover the cost of engraving the plaque. Nominators may also choose to make a contribution to the legacy fund in honor of the nominee(s).
- ◆ Nominations must be approved by the Board of Trustees to ensure it meets the criteria above.
- ◆ Nominations should be delivered to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

As a Community, we might also consider the following:

Perhaps a congregational effort could capture some extraordinary service achievements and register our collective gratitude with another plaque such as the one the 2010-2011 BOT institutionalized. Perhaps a video and written archive could be begun that would provide some of our history to the present and future generations of Paint Branchers; perhaps a kickoff for such an effort could coincide with the Stewardship kickoff one year, with a theme such as "Preserving the Legacy and Ensuring the Future," maybe with a public honoring of as many of our elders and various other s/heroes as individual congregants and the Stewardship committee could list.

I look forward to continuing the conversation about how we can honor as many as possible of those who create and sustain our Beloved Community.

The Board of Trustees holds OPEN Executive Committee meetings and Board of Trustees meetings. Typically the Executive Committee meeting, at which the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting is finalized, is held on the THIRD Tuesday of each month, (usually in the Minister's Office), and the full Board of Trustees meeting is held in Room 4 of the RE Building on the FOURTH Wednesday of each month. We welcome visitors: if you wish to request that an item be added to the agenda, please let the Chair or one of the Vice-Chairs know no later than the Monday before the Executive Committee meeting, or come to the Exec Com meeting; if you wish to observe or to speak to an item on the agenda, come to the BOT meeting itself. For more information about the experience of visiting the BOT meetings, see the following page on the PBUUC website: <http://www.pbuuc.org/bot/visitors.php>

On behalf of your 2012-2013 Board of Trustees: Don Gerson and Charles Towe, Vice Chairs, and Trustees Evangeline Wells, Alice Tyler, Don Henderson, Mark Shute, and Don Mitchell, I wish you all the blessing of hope in this late winter time!

Michel Léger.

Chair, Board of Trustees

Stewardship Campaign 2013

Opening New Doors

March 3 - April 21, 2013

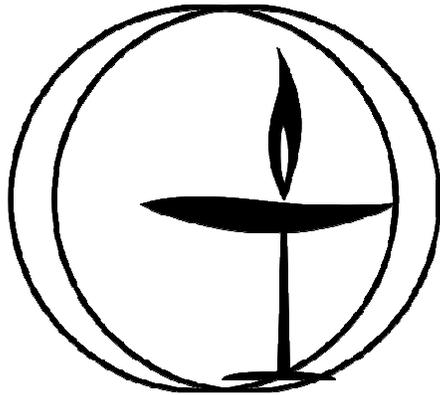


The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "Opening New Doors". Please plan to attend the Stewardship kick-off service on Sunday March 3, where the Chalice Dancers will dance to a piece selected by this year's auction winner, and we will also hear from the choir. Help us kick off this year's stewardship campaign by being a part of this service.

Paint Branch is supported by donations from members. This takes the form of a yearly pledge. This year, we will be asking our affinity groups to set aside an evening, talk about what Paint Branch means to them, and make their financial commitment while among the groups with which they spend time at Paint Branch. Visiting Stewards will contact those of us who are not yet affiliated with a particular group.

As always, all situations are different. All pledges are important, whether large or small. We look forward to talking with you.

For the stewardship committee, *Sherry Mitchell, chair* — stewardship@pbuuc.org / 301-776-2359



Getting to Know UU

A class for newcomers and anyone wanting to know more about Unitarian Universalism and PBUUC

Saturday, March 9 from 1 – 4 pm
In the Meetinghouse - with our Minister
"the class she loves to lead"

You will learn about the journey of Unitarian Universalism: from its long-ago roots to how it evolved in the United States as it is today – in relation to your own personal religious journey, with ample time for getting to know other participants and about their journeys.

And, you will meet a representative few of our congregation's leaders, learn how it is organized and how to get involved according to your interests, passions, gifts or personal goals - in activities that sustain the congregation, serve the community, or change the world.

Interested?

Please contact the PBUUC office: 301-937-3666 or minister@pbuuc.org

Light refreshments will be served - Childcare will be provided if requested.

Suggested reading: *A Chosen Faith*, by John Buehrens and Forrest Church, will be available for sale (\$15) in the foyer or to borrow at the class; it also may be purchased at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/>.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Continuing Paint Branch's dedication to securing LGBT human rights – we were a strong presence for transgender equality at the Monday, February 18 Annapolis rally and lobby visits to legislators that evening.

Sponsored by the Maryland Coalition for Trans Equality, we lobbied for passage of *The Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2013 (Senate Bill 449)* which calls for ending discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment based on gender identity or sexual orientation. Paint Branchers had signed 66 *Standing on the Side of Love* postcards the day before thanking state legislators in ten districts who had supported Marriage Equality for their historic vote, and asking them to now do the same for transgender equality. Paint Branchers Nancy Boardman, Marj Donn, Celeste Hall, Andy Myrup, and Elizabeth Yanowitch gave those postcards to the different district gatherings at the rally and to their own legislators when they visited them after the rally.

For District 22 it was a chance for Greenbelter Celeste Hall to meet her four legislators in Senator Pinsky's office, where they had gathered for an earlier meeting with another citizen's group. Celeste was forthright & effective in speaking about the importance of this legislation for transgender people such as herself! We thanked the delegation for their support, especially Senator Pinsky who is a co-sponsor of this senate bill. Some follow-up is planned as needed when the bill moves to the House of Delegates for their consideration. At the rally Senator Madaleno said 24 votes were needed for Senate passage and it then had 23 co-sponsors!

Planning Underway for Meeting with Paint Branchers Soon to Share Ideas about Social Justice Priorities now that Marriage Equality is Law. With the Maryland General Assembly in session until mid-April, and important state issues being considered, a timely gathering has added importance! Stay tuned for updates as DARTT, The Green Team, and SAC representatives finalize plans about this.

*Submitted by Nancy Boardman
Chair, Social Action Committee*

Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:
Saturday, March 16, from 10 am to noon
in Room 1 of the RE Building

March Special Collections Update

January 27. The special collection for Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) resulted in a total collection of cash and checks in the amount of **\$659!**

February 24. The special collection for Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) resulted in a total collection of cash and checks in the amount of **\$977!**

The special collection on **March 24** will be taken to support scholarships for the Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community (UUMAC). Their principal activity is to conduct an annual intergenerational summer institute with programs intended to strengthen the community and programs of churches, fellowships and societies within the Joseph Priestley, and Metropolitan New York Districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Scholarships are awarded to help individuals and family UU members in financial need who want to attend but need help to reduce annual retreat registration fees. The theme for this year's retreat is *Stories To Live By*. For more details about UUMAC click on the following link <http://www.uumac.org>. Checks may be made payable to: **UUMAC.**

Submitted by Mary Dancy

WARM NIGHTS

The Paint Branch "Warm Nights II" week of providing overflow housing in our sanctuary (as part of the Prince George's County Hyperthermia Program) ended February 3, 2013. I feel very grateful that so many people donated money and/or volunteered to do so much to support Warm Nights Week at Paint Branch. Our week is over, as other churches continue to host the many men, women, and children still in need of a warm place to sleep. We are left reflecting on the fact that while this huge congregational volunteer effort ends for us, the crisis of homelessness continues for so many of our county neighbors.

Since I was coordinating this year, I noticed with great appreciation how our staff offer their services in support of Warm Nights. Our Church Administrator, Chuck Bury, provided me with documents; advice about supplies, heating, and lighting; and relevant mail (such as the temporary Health Department Permit I applied for). Our minister, Diane Teichert, and our Director of Religious Exploration, Erica Shadowsong, raised awareness about the upcoming Warm Nights Week during worship services. This year, our Music Director, David Chapman, and our Religious Exploration Assistant, Eriall Steiner, both rolled up their sleeves to serve as kitchen duty volunteers.

Warm Nights Week 2013 ... continued

I considered, but gave up on trying to estimate volunteer hours spent on the many tasks involved in hosting Warm Nights. Many people deserve appreciation for their efforts. The Buildings and Grounds Committee, under the leadership of Lee Dudek anticipated the needs of Warm Nights guests and tended to bathroom maintenance tasks including painting, tile-work, and plumbing work. Throughout the week, Mike McMenamin generously worked on our stubborn hot water system break-down (with phenomenal patience)! Jeri Holloway scrubbed our refrigerator and worked with Marilyn Pearl to clean and de-clutter the kitchen before the Warm Nights week started.

Jeri Holloway also secured permission for three shower nights at the Greenbelt Pool. Jeri, Marj Donn, Harry Schomberg, and Konrad Herling were shower night volunteers. Raman Pathik, Jan Montville, Susannah Schiller, Amy Steiner, and Sunita Pathik made it possible for our guests to wash their clothes at Laundry World on Tuesday night. Lee Dudek and Allison Hughes shopped at Costco for Breakfast and Lunch ingredients and Allison made several subsequent shopping-related trips.

Our worship room was transformed with the setting up of cots and tables to accommodate our guests thanks to Nicole Most, John Bartoli, John Barr, Susan Campbell, Mike McMenamin, and Ken Redd. The process was reversed very early on Sunday morning on February 3 by Nicole Most, John Bartoli, Mike McMenamin, Raman Pathik, Amy Steiner, and Lora Katz.

Staying overnight as a congregational representative provides a taste of the humble experience our guests live everyday. Many of these hearty volunteers contributed in other ways as well: Lori Snyder, Tricia Most, Michel Léger, Will Snyder, Kenneth Finlay, Noel Monardes, Patty Daukantas, Mark Shute, Tina Van Pelt, John Bartoli, and Mike McMenamin. And there were volunteers who came in at 5 am to help the overnights handle the breakfast routine – Anne Hoover, Konrad Herling, and Lora Katz.

There were many volunteer cooks who had to shop for ingredients for their contributions and who then cooked and drove to church to deliver food. Thanks to Fran Caughey, Penny Bartoli, Theresa Myrdon, Kate Brett, Ethelyn Bishop, Kyra Seiger, Harry Schomberg, Van Summers, Sherry Mitchell, Muriel Morisey, Renee Katz, Debbie Pinot, Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Jenny Story, Pat Tompkins, Rosie Rexach, Elizabeth Yanowitch, Andy Myrup, Lori Snyder, Claire Smith, Carl H. Smith, Steve Bernheisel, Teresa Meeks, Gail Suther-

land, Rene McDonald, Esther Nichols, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Polly Petit, Marilyn Pearl, Jeri Holloway, Lora Katz, Bettie Young, Paul Young, Brandy Freeman, Kathy Kearns, Allison Hughes, Carol Carter Walker, Tricia Most, Toy Peterson, Sabrina Finlay and Leo Jones. Both Lori Snyder and Kyra Seiger contributed multiple meal ingredients on more than one night!

The Kitchen Duty volunteers packed lunches, greeted guests, served food, noted grocery items that need to be replaced, wiped tables, swept floors, nursed our idiosyncratic dishwasher, cleared snow off the deck, pulled the stubborn entry doors closed again and again to keep the heat inside, and, most importantly, socialized with our guests while eating dinner with them. Affinity Groups (the Youth Group, the Choir, the Owl Program participants, the Social Action Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team) encouraged their members to donate their services to support Warm Nights, some of whom did not sign up directly with me. My possibly incomplete list of Kitchen Duty volunteers indicates that thanks are due to Sonny Katz, Cora Enoch, Kyra Seiger, Zach Bernheisel, Sarah Citrin, Lori Snyder, Tricia Most, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Christian Flaherty, Miamour, Michel Léger, Melody Lawrence, Pat Tompkins, Marcie Washburn, Wendy Schlegel, Jim Flaherty, Sabrina Finlay, Claire Smith, Carl Smith, Chris Brittan-Powell, Jack Brittan-Powell, David Chapman, Julia Sharapi, Steven Bernheisel, Kevin Ahearn, Sophie Bernheisel, Lillian Enoch, Eriall Steiner, Mary Dancy, Lee Dudek, Nancy Boardman, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Patty Daukantas, Donald Gerson, Donald Henderson, Raman Pathik, Evangeline Wells, Will Snyder, Alice Tyler, Mark Shute, Denise Ross, Brandy Freeman, Lora Katz, Donald Munro, Allison Hughes, Mia Ivatury, Nalin Ivatury, Arun Ivatury, Ravi Manglani, Mike McMenamin, Toy Peterson, Aaron Peterson, Semara Peterson, Carol Carter Walker, Carmelita Carter-Sykes, and Leo Jones.

Many of our volunteers made considerable efforts before and during Warm Nights Week and we appreciate how exhausting some of these tasks were. And yet, as taxing as the program is to host, we volunteers have warm beds (instead of cots) to sleep in every night and we have homes where we keep our belongings rather than having to carry no more than two suitcases or two plastic trash bags with us everywhere we go... For more information about the ongoing work of Community Crisis Services Inc., contact Tim Jansen (301-864-7095) or email timj@ccsimd.org

Submitted by Tricia Most, Warm Nights Coordinator



MEET THE GUEST PREACHERS

On **March 10**, we will welcome back to the pulpit PBUUC's former co-ministers, **Reverend Barbara Wells ten Hove** and **Reverend Jaco ten Hove**, who served from 1999-2008. Currently on sabbatical, they are co-

ministers of Cedars UU Church on Bainbridge Island near Seattle, WA. They each have more than twenty-five years of ministry under their belts and co-authored the popular curriculum "Articulating Your UU Faith" in 2003 (field-tested here at PBUUC).

The PBUUC Board of Trustees will host a reception for Barbara and Jaco after the service and all members and friends are invited to attend. If you would like to join a group treating Barbara and Jaco to lunch at a local restaurant following the reception, please talk to Jonathan Mawdesley immediately following the service.



Our guest speaker on **March 17**, **Dr. John C. Mather**, writes that he "has been a Unitarian since he was 12, when his parents decided that he had not been born in sin, and became charter members of the UU congregation in Newton, NJ. He was mar-

ried in the Silver Spring UU church by his friend, a lapsed Baptist minister. He is currently the Senior Project Scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope at Goddard Space Flight Center, where he has worked since 1976.

As Principal Investigator for the Far IR Absolute Spectrophotometer (FIRAS) on the COBE satellite, he showed that the cosmic microwave background radiation has a black-body spectrum within 50 parts per million, confirming the Big Bang theory to extraordinary accuracy. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics with George Smoot, for the COBE work. He is a member of many professional societies including the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

New Covenant Group Using *The Anti-Racist Cookbook*

Paula Cole Jones, Joseph Priestley District Director for Racial and Social Justice, says that we need to talk about race and ethnicity until we are very comfortable doing so. This is especially important as we work to implement our congregation's intentional multicultural resolution and move beyond our doors into an ever more diverse wider community.

Tricia Most and Carol Carter Walker, DARTT Co-Chairs, will facilitate and participate in a six-session Covenant Group using an excellent resource: *The Anti-Racist Cookbook: A Recipe Guide For Conversations About Race That Goes Beyond Covered Dishes and Kum-Bah-Ya*.

We had to reschedule the launch of this group due to family emergencies. For more information or to register for the Covenant Group, email dartt@pbuuc.org, or contact Tricia Most at 301-452-1366 or Carol Carter Walker at 202-636-8138.

Monthly Meetings To Resume March 5

DARTT will resume a regular schedule of monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning Tuesday, March 5, at from 7:30 to 9 pm in Room 1, Religious Exploration Building. The March meeting is especially important because we will be preparing a budget request for the next church year and discussing and, hopefully, finalizing a work plan for the next six to 12 months.

Please join us. All are welcome.

Committee on Ministry (COM)

Ministry, It's Not Just for the Minister!

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is chartered by the Board of Trustees to:

- serve as a sounding board for the minister and a source of input to the minister from the congregation;
- to evaluate the minister every three years; and,
- to make recommendations or initiate activities for the improved spiritual health of the congregation from time to time as it sees fit.

We have been investigating a more robust model for the COM that would provide more active support for the ministries of the church as described in an article on the UUA website: "Committee on Ministry: Not Just for the Minister" (<http://goo.gl/d5vAx>). The article discusses that the "COM can take two forms... just focusing on the minister ... or it can be broader, focusing on all of the ministries of the congregation." We have chosen to work towards the latter and focus on both the minister and lay ministerial leadership of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church.

In this model, every committee or work group is in itself honored as a ministry. As Erik Walker Wikstrom, author of *Serving with Grace*, points out: "Imagine if the practical and administrative work of the church—meetings, planning, teaching, etc.—was understood not as a necessary evil but as an integral part of the mission of the church to spiritually nurture us. What if lay leadership were not a means to an end but an end in itself?"

How would that change what you do as a Paint Branch volunteer in your committee or workgroup if you thought of it as a ministry? We are interested in your feedback. Current COM members are Theresa Brown Shute, Chair; John Bartoli and Susannah Schiller. We encourage anyone with comments or suggestions about ministry to contact any one of us or send a confidential e-mail to com@pbuuc.org. The email goes only to members of the COM and not to the minister.

A last thought from *Serving with Grace*: "Imagine church not as a place led by a few overly taxed people but one where leadership is a broadly shared ministry that members of the community undertake for the deep joy of it." Deep joy!!

Submitted by Theresa Brown Shute, Chair

In and Around Paint Branch

Planning For Summer Services Underway

One of our congregation's strengths is its tradition of quality Sunday Services year round. Lay members, friends and guest speakers lead most of the services during the summer and throughout the year whenever the minister is away or off. This year, the lay-led Summer Services Schedule will run from Sunday, June 16 through Sunday, September 2.

On Sunday, March 24 and on Sunday, April 21 during Enrichment Hour, the Worship Associates will host two Summer Services Planning Meetings. (Child care is available.)

Sunday, March 24 – If you, your affinity group or committee has an idea for a Summer Service, bring it to this meeting. Your proposal should consist of a theme, a draft plan—the more developed the better—, some proposed dates for the Service, and contact information for the Service Leader(s). If you can't attend, you may send a proxy, or submit a written proposal to any Worship Associate prior to the meeting.

If you plan to have a guest speaker, performer, etc., there are no funds available for honoraria, but we will consider the sale of their books, CDs, etc., on the day of their service. (This should be part of your proposal.)

April 21 – Before this second meeting, you'll know if your proposal has been accepted. At this meeting, we will discuss your more fully-developed plan, firm up a date and assign a Worship Associate who will work with you on all the details necessary to present an excellent service in the best Paint Branch tradition! New proposals for Summer Services will be considered at this second meeting only if the full schedule hasn't been filled.

You can contact any Worship Associate for more information. We are: Celinda Marsh, Jonathan Mawdsley, Montana Monardes, Ken Redd, John Sebastian, Carol Carter Walker and Bettie Young.

In and Around Paint Branch ... continued



The Paint Branch Musical Review will showcase the amazing musical talent of PBUUC. Cameos by Diane and Erica!

We are raising funds to hire an orchestra for the Choir Service in June. Donations accepted at the door.

Comedy, tragedy, romance, musical theater, opera, operetta... You name it, it's in the show!

ART HAPPENINGS



The Paint Branch Arts Council proudly presents its "Music at Paint Branch" series for spring 2013. Spring will arrive with Deni Foster and Friends on Sunday March 17, 2013 at 4 pm. The concert is entitled "Basically Baroque" and will feature many familiar faces at Paint Branch. Celebrate St. Paddy's day and support one of our favorite musicians Deni Foster. Sunday, May 5 at 4 pm we will hear a cello and piano recital featuring Barbara Brown, cellist and David Chapman, pianist. Sunday, May 19 will feature soprano Michelle' Howard-Hanson. She will be accompanied by our own David Chapman. Michelle has previously appeared at Paint Branch and was very instrumental in organizing the benefit concert for David Chapman last June 9. Please plan to attend and support the artistry of both of these musicians. "Music at Paint Branch: A Celebration of Sacred Dance" will be presented on Saturday, June 8 at 7:30 pm. The evening performance will showcase the Paint Branch Chalice Dancers and guest artists in honor of the 20th anniversary of the PBUUC Chalice Dancers. This will be a unique and beautiful experience. Finally, Sunday, June 9, 2013 at 4 pm will feature Magdalena Duhagen, classical guitarist. Magdalena is a returning performer who will be joined by a soprano. Please support the arts at PBUUC and plan to attend all of these free events.

Jeri Holloway

March is Birthday Month for TWedHUULK



On Wednesday, **March 20**, everyone is invited to a general celebration of birthdays, no matter when we were born. We will meet at 1 pm at the Gah Rham, a pan-Asian restaurant featuring a buffet offering six courses. We will finish with Larry Lates' carrot cake. Jeri Holloway is the custodian of this memorable recipe but will share for this occasion. Gah Rham is a half block off Route 1 (Baltimore Avenue) in Beltsville, a short distance north of Behnke's Nursery, and also on the left, on Garrett Ave. in a strip shopping center.

If you need a ride, or can offer one to others, please contact Marge Owens at 301-345-1572 or lowelland-marge@verizon.net.

The Visual Arts Committee has big plans for this spring. We want to have an exhibit of artwork by members and friends of PBUUC. We would like to display your artwork in the Meeting House during May and June. We would like to have paintings, drawings, needlework and other media which can be hung on the walls. We do have two sculpture stands in the front of the meeting house which are often used for flowers.



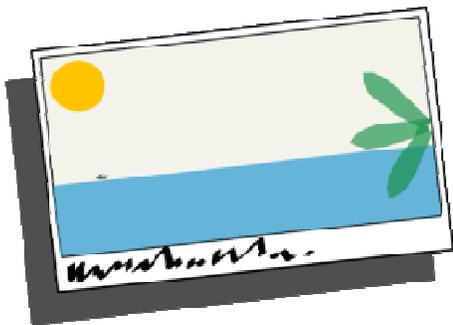
We will probably be hanging the exhibit on Saturday, May 11 and removing it after the service on July 7. For the show we hope to hang as many as two or three works by each artist. To facilitate planning for this show, **please** speak, call or email Jane Trout **as soon as possible**. Her phone number is 301 572-2898. Her email is jd_trout@msn.com.

Our present wonderful exhibit of silk screen prints and handmade paper is by Peggy Zee. This will be followed, beginning on March 17, by photographs by member, Don Gerson.

Jane Trout

*In and Around Paint Branch ... continued***Are you going on vacation?**

Maybe some place exotic, or quaint, or picturesque? Maybe a vacation you won at the Paint Branch Auction?



Be on the look out for unusual goods made by local artisans that you could donate to the **2013 Paint Branch Auction**. You can support the economy of your vacation spot, enjoy the local shopping experience, and help raise money for your church back home all at the same time! There's no downside! We'd be happy to have unique artwork, jewelry, clothing, accessories, crafts, or even local delicacies with a long shelf-life. Help us make this year's auction fund-raiser the best yet!

P.S. - Enjoy your trip! We'll see you when you get back!

Auction2012 Debriefing Scheduled For Sunday, March 3 During Enrichment Hour

There will be an **Auction2012** Debriefing Meeting next week during Enrichment Hour. This is the opportunity for all to provide their feedback to the current and future Auction Teams. Come and share your ideas about what worked well and what can be done differently in the future

The Bridge Group is planning to meet in Riderwood on **March 16**. We would like to have some new players. We have a pleasant relaxed time and singles are welcome. Please call Penny O'Brien for further information 301-586-9005.

**Budget Leadership Team****Open Budget Planning Meetings**

The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) has begun planning for the 2013-14 budget year, and we want your input. Come help us to understand the congregation's budget priorities for the coming year. To make sure everyone has a chance to contribute, the BLT will be holding three open meetings in the coming months.

Sunday, March 10 at 11:45 am in the Kelley Room, right side

Monday, March 18 at 7:30 pm in Room 4

Sunday, April 14 at 11:45 am in the Kelley Room, right side

If your committee or group would like to make a presentation to the BLT to support your budget request for the year, please let us know in advance so that we can allow enough time for everyone who wants to speak. Email BLT@pbuuc.org and let them know how much time you'd like.

If you don't have a formal presentation and just want a chance to chime in on budget matters, no advance notice is necessary, just come on by.

Submitted by Mark Shute, Member, Board of Trustees

**Buildings and Grounds (BAG)****Working with your hands is a GOOD THING!**

Most of our projects provide instant gratification. Recent Projects Include:

- Extensive repairs and repainting of walls, doors and the flower stands in the MH and foyer.
- Complete redecoration of the ladies bathroom:
 - ◇ Walls, ceiling and the wood dressing cabinet were repainted.
 - ◇ The toilet seat, switch covers & door stop were replaced.
 - ◇ An additional clothes hook and new art have been added.

Please thank these volunteers who donated their personal time and hard work: Mary Dancy, Lowell Owens, Paul Young, Peter Dowling, Sonny & Renée Katz, and Mike McMenamin.

We need volunteers to help with the Men's and Family bathrooms and other important projects.

Please call Paul Young at 301-440-0612 or email kissmycubicle@gmail.com



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

UU United Nations Office Annual Intergenerational Seminars April 4 to 6 in NYC

This year's theme will be various aspects of LGBT issues around the world, lest we think life altering hatefulness is a problem only in the U.S. We can feel proud that the UU-UNO has been leading efforts among NGOs based around the globe to begin taking action to protect gay, lesbian, and trans people. The Intergenerational Seminars have been held for many years at the building where the UU-UNO has their offices, directly across the street from the beautiful UN Headquarters. The high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen and sophomores sleep with their sleeping bags at the nearby UU church. Several meals are provided for attendees. Bruce Knotts, the Executive Director of UU-UNO, has spoken at Paint Branch several times and recently was one of the speakers at the Silver Spring UU Church when they hosted the Ugandan UU Minister who was touring to gather help for LGBT individuals in Kampala and the surrounding area where they have been murdered in alarming numbers. In the past, various adult members of Paint Branch and two of our teens have attended these seminars. Some adults have stayed at the nearby YMCA. These inexpensive rooms are booked up early. There is a discount for the seminar's registration fee if you are able to make plans and pay the fee by credit card or check early in March. For detailed information contact Marge Owens at 301-345-1572 or lowellandmarge@verizon.net or go on line to www.uu-uno.org/

MEET THE MODERATOR CANDIDATES FOR THE UUA! chief governance officer and highest volunteer position

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda, MD
www.cedarlane.org; contact nancyjanssen@verizon.net

Tamara
Payne-Alex



Jim Key

The moderator chairs the UUA Board & GA business sessions, meets regularly with national committees, regional groups, and leaders of UU congregations. Delegates at the 2013 GA in Louisville, KY, June 19-23, will elect a UUA moderator who will take the place of Gini Courter, who has served as moderator since 2003.



Peace Camp! "Building Peace"

August 5 - 9, 2013
Ages preschool through
5th Grade, 6th Grade as
CITs, 7th & 8th grade as
jr counselors, 9th - 12th
& post HS as counselors

Led by Little Friends For Peace (www.lffp.org)
to be held at the

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville
100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
Contact: Deborah Kahn, Director of Religious Education
dkahn@uucr.org 301-762-7666

Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC)

The Denominational Affairs Committee is charged with recommending candidates to represent PBUUC as Delegates to both the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Assembly and to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA). Due to our current membership, we are entitled to five Delegates to each and the same number of Alternates. Please inform me at donaldgerson@yahoo.com or call at 240-293-6570 if you want to attend either. If we have more than five, I will discuss it with you to determine a list of candidates for Delegate and for Alternate. The resulting list will be sent to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The JPD Assembly will be held on the Wilmington Campus of the University of Delaware April 12-13, 2013. Here's the link: <http://www.jpduua.org/>. Registration is \$155 for the entire Conference and they are not offering a daily rate. This doesn't include housing. Home hospitality might be a possibility. Childcare is being offered on a pre-registration basis.

The UUA General Assembly is in Louisville, KY June 19 to 23. It is in driving distance. The registration before May 1 is \$330 for onsite delegates and \$125 for offsite delegates. You can apply for volunteer posts to waive the entire volunteer fee. Volunteer opportunities will be available after March 1. There are partial fees for less than fulltime attendance. There is a guide for frugal attendees. The best bet is to seek housing on the day that the Housing Registration Office opens: March 1, to garner the best rates. Here is the link to the UUA GA website: <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

Please contact me if you have questions, and if you want to candidate for one of the Delegate positions.

Submitted by Donald J. Gerson, Acting Chair



Spirit of Life Center

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20783
Web: www.pbuuc.org/solcc/ Phone: 301-937-3666

Spirit of Life Center is the place for the neighborhood community to come together to experience, learn and enjoy simple activities through a variety of classes and workshops. Join us to explore and grow your own spirituality, health, and community through an open and accepting environment of friends.

CHAKRA TA'I CHI Class with SEVA Stress Release: by Lynn Johnson. **1st and 3rd Saturday. 9:30 am-10:30 am.** Chakra Ta'i Chi is a gentle yet powerful centering series of movements created by Aminah Raheem and based on Ta'i Chi Chuan. It is designed to open the chakras, the energy centers of the body, and to align the soul, body, emotions and mind. Chakra Ta'i Chi is stress reducing and calming. The class will begin with the SEVA Stress Release acupuncture protocol of Soul Lightening International for deep relaxation. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)

Meditation Workshop: by Raman Pathik. **2nd and 4th Saturday. 9:30am-11:00am.** **Breath as a guide.** Another way of looking at your breath is as a spiritual light house to guide you back to the present moment. The goal of meditation is to allow you to spend as much of your life in the present as possible, instead of the future or the past; staying on the path of the now is the road that leads to happiness. (Suggested donation \$5.00 requested)

Laughter Yoga-mix Class: by Tina McCloud. **Saturday 9:30am-10:30am.** A fun and gentle yoga mix of breathing, poses, stretches, meditation, and laughter therapy. All physical levels are welcome, as we are able to modify any limitations (mat, floor, wheel-chair) or skill levels. No experience necessary. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)

Zumba Class: by Shawna Webster. **Saturday 11:00am-12:00pm.** An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning class that's moving millions of people toward joy and health. Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)

Quality of Life Workshop: by Raman Pathik. **Saturday 11:00 am-12:30 pm.** Explore the meaning of quality of life for you and develop a blueprint to implement better habits that will improve balance in your life. Experience how to connect with your true self, nature, your family, your community, your finances, your body, health and the world. (Suggested donation \$5.00)

Simplicity Circle Workshop: by **Simplicity Matters Earth Institute.** **TBD**

Simple living is about making conscious choices about what you do with your time, your money, and your energy. Simple living is about mindfulness, not deprivation. Simple living is about focusing your energies on what you personally consider important, and improving your quality of life as a result. 7 sessions following the book (\$22.00 for book) (Suggested donation \$5.00 requested)

Dancing Within Class: by Sharon Werth. **Thursday 6:30 pm-7:30pm.** The Dancer in You! Discover the movement that is in your body. Let the dance of your inner spirit out! No experience necessary. Please note day change. (Suggested donation \$10/class or \$32/4 classes)



PBUUC Leadership Directory

☞ Staff ☞

Please contact the Church Office at [301-937-3666](tel:301-937-3666) for Staff listed.

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert
Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director, Religious Exploration	Erica Shadowsong
Religious Exploration Assistant	Eriall A. Steiner
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Allie Miraglia
Bookkeeper	Debra McCann
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	
	Jesse Crowley
	Eric Welkos
	Casey Nuttle
Child Care Providers:	
	Beth Judy
	Marina Miguel

☞ Officers and Board of Trustees ☞

Chair	Michel Léger
Vice chair	Don Gerson
Vice chair	Charles Towe
Trustee	Don Henderson
Trustee	Mark Shute
Trustee	Evangeline Wells
Trustee	Alice Tyler
Trustee	Don Mitchell
Trustee	Mary Dancy
Secretary	Melody Lawrence
Treasurer	Marcie Washburn
Asst. Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

☞ Pastoral Care Associates ☞

Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

☞ We Care Coordinators ☞

Esther Nichols
Jeri Holloway
Allison Hughes
Gloria "Genie" Van Pelt

☞ Worship Associates ☞

Celinda Marsh (2011-14)
Jonathan Mawdsley (2012-15)
Montana Monardes (2012-15)
Ken Redd (2011-14)
John Sebastian (2010-13)
Carol Carter Walker (2010-13)
Bettie Young (2012-15)

☞ Committees ☞

Adult Religious Education	Michel Léger *
Arts Council	Pat Tompkins
Budget Leadership Team	Mark Shute
Buildings & Grounds	Lee Dudek
DARTT (co-chairs)	Tricia Most
	Carol Carter Walker
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson *
Finance	Shantida
Green Team	Penny O'Brien
	Will Snyder
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Leasing Team	Church Office
Membership	Polly Pettit
Ministry	Theresa Brown Shute
Nominating	Jonathan Mawdsley
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration (Co-chair)	Tabitha Pierzchala
Site Improvement	Matt Elliott
Social Action	Karine Bouis-Towe
Spirit of Life Center	Nancy Boardman
Stewardship	Raman Pathik
Visual Arts	Sherry Mitchell
*Temporary	Jane Trout

☞ Groups and Activities ☞

Archivist	Rebecca Birnie
Auction	Carol Carter Walker
Bookstore	Carol Carter Walker
Bridge	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Charles Towe
Community Café	Esther Nichols
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl
Facebook Page	Ken Montville
Handcraft Circle	Marj Donn
Head & Heart History	Kweli Powell
Listserv	Ken Montville
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield
Mediation Program	David Haberman
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Moms of Young Ones	Renée Katz
Nature Spirituality Circle	Tabitha Pierzchala
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik
SINKS and DINKS	Kathy Kearns
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Tricia Most
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Women's Retreat	Wendy Schlegel

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3215 POWDER MILL ROAD

ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030

(301) 937-3666

WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG

EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

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