



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

December 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.

DECEMBER 1

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Guest preacher Seth Fisher and Noel Monardes, Worship Associate, with Special Music

This year, in the midst of Hanukkah celebrations, Advent begins on December 1 - in the Christian calendar, it is a time of waiting, at the darkest time of year. What exactly is it that we're waiting for? And, how will what we expect influence what we find? Meet the guest preacher on page 8.

DECEMBER 8

O GREAT MYSTERY: ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHOIR SERVICE

PBUUC Choir with David Chapman, Music Director and Pianist

Rev. Diane Teichert and Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate

Let the choir enchant you with its diverse Christmas treats! Today is Signing Sunday - those who wish to sign the PBUUC Membership Book, please meet at the Chalice after the service.

DECEMBER 15

SEEK OUT THE LOVE IN YOU

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Ken Redd, Worship Associate, and our Lay Ministers

How we care for each other is a special ministry that is shared among us in many ways. Newcomers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office, 11:30 to 12:30.

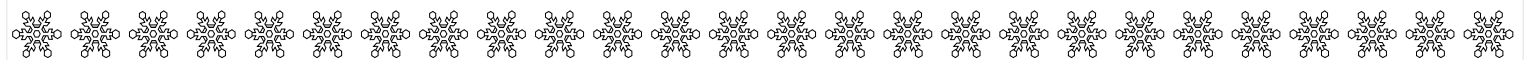
DECEMBER 22

ALL-AGES** WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE: LIGHTS OF THE SEASON

Rev. Diane Teichert, Director of Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards,

and Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate, and the All-Ages Holiday Choir

Will the varied candles in a holiday gift shop ever stop arguing about whose holiday is best? Please bring warm items for the Mitten Tree, and plan to stay after for the Holiday Meal (see page 10).



DECEMBER 24

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND CAROL SERVICES

THE OFFERING WILL SUPPORT WARM NIGHTS



4:30 PM

ALL-AGES SERVICE WITH LIVING NATIVITY

Rev. Diane Teichert and Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration

With Worship Associate Mary Wester, the Children's Choir, and Chalice Dancers

The Christmas Story will unfold in a spirited, no-rehearsal nativity pageant. Wear your own barn animal, angel, shepherd or magi costume, or one of ours, or just watch and be enthralled.

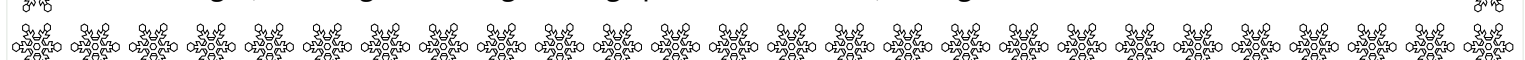


8:00 PM

JOYFUL SINGING IN SOLEMN STILLNESS

Rev. Diane Teichert, with Carol Boston, Worship Associate, the Choir and Chalice Dancers

Come, hear, carols familiar and carols new, stories old and stories true. Sense the calm settling in around us on this dark night, the "angels bending" to sing "peace on the earth, to all good will."



DECEMBER 29

THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING: ALL-AGES** KWANZAA SERVICE

The Kwanzaa Players with Ken Redd, Worship Associate, and the Chalice Dancers

The service will feature Kwanzaa songs and an original play about how one family decides to celebrate Kwanzaa, followed immediately by the Kwanzaa Sharing Feast (RSVPs are welcome via DARTT@pbuuc.org).

***Children and Youth remain in the Sanctuary for the service, with nursery care for the youngest.*

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

☞ Officers and Board of Trustees ☞

Co-Chair	Don Gerson
Co-Chair	Charles Towe
Vice Chair	Don Mitchell
Vice Chair	Alice Tyler
Trustee	Peter Dowling
Trustee	Melody Lawrence
Trustee	Theresa Myrdon
Trustee	Evangeline Wells
Secretary	Laura Abdi
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

☞ Worship Associates ☞

Carol Boston (2013-16)	Ken Redd (2011-14)
Jonathan Mawdsley (2012-15)	Mary Wester (2013-16)
Noel Monardes (2013-16)	Bettie Young (2012-15)

☞ Pastoral Care Associates ☞

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

☞ We Care Coordinators ☞

Allison Hughes
Esther Nichols
Gloria "Genie" Van Pelt

☞ Chartered Committees & Task Forces ☞

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Auction	Jane Trout (Visual Arts)
Budget Leadership Team	Mark Shute
Buildings & Grounds	TBD
Capital Campaign	Lowell Owens (Acting)
DARTT (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Tricia Most & Carol Carter Walker
Electronic Communications	Don Gerson (Acting)
Ethnic Dinners	TBD
Finance	Marilyn Pearl
Green Team (co-chairs)	Shantida
Leasing	Penny O'Brien & Will Snyder
Legacy Fund	Church Office
Membership	Ken Montville
Ministry	Polly Pettit
Nominating	John Bartoli
Personnel	TBD
Religious Exploration (co-chairs)	Jim Flaherty
Site Improvement	Tabitha Pierzchala &
Social Action	Elizabeth Porter
Spirit of Life Center	TBD
Stewardship	Nancy Boardman
	Raman Pathik
	Mike McMenamin & Chris Evans

☞ Groups and Activities ☞

Bookstore	Carol Carter-Walker
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Charles Towe
Community Café	Esther Nichols
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Gift Card Sales	Vacant
Handcraft Circle	Marj Donn
Listserv & Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield
Mediation Program	David Haberman
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Men's Retreat	Michel Léger
Moms of Young Ones	Renée Katz
Mystery Book Club	Kathy Kearns
Nature Spirituality Circle	Tabitha Pierzchala
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik
SINKS and DINKS	Kathy Kearns &
	Jan Montville
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Sabrina Jones
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Carol Carter Walker
Women's Group	Wendy Schlegel
Women's Retreat	Wendy Schlegel

☞ Staff ☞

Please contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for Staff listed.

Minister	Rev. Diane Teichert
Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director of Religious Exploration	Dayna Edwards
Youth Coordinator	Khadijah Ali-Coleman
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Alexis Saunders
Bookkeeper	Debra McCann
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Donovan Bynes
	Wyatt Rexach
Child Care Providers:	Beth Judy
	Jazmin Balbuena

The Minister's mUUsings...

Last winter, a gentleman came by the church during office hours looking for financial assistance. It happens, not infrequently. I welcomed him into my office and explained that I don't give cash, only grocery cards. He told me it had been a long time since he had any work – he works in construction – so he needed to get his family up to Boston where they could stay with people they knew. He needed gas money.

"I don't have any cash. I could give you a grocery card, so at least you have food." We introduced ourselves. He told me he was from Guatemala and that his name was Douglas. I expressed surprise at his name. "In my country, five percent of the people have English names." His English was a little hard for me to understand, but we worked together at communicating. We relaxed a little.

Shyly, he asked, "You, Unitarian?" I nodded yes. "You don't believe in the Trinity?" I was surprised he knew anything about our beliefs.

"No, we don't... " He wasn't looking at me in a disapproving way, so I continued, "We believe Jesus was just a man, not God. He was a great man, a great leader and teacher and he inspired people to love each other and God. But he never said he was God. He never even said he was the Son of God. He said he was the Son of Man."

He nodded. "I don't believe it either," he said, and then added, "Someone in my country told me I was a Unitarian." I struggled to not miss a beat - my stereotype is (was!) that Latino immigrants are unaware of Unitarian Universalism.

If this story sounds familiar, that's because I told it in my sermon "Abriendo Puertas Nuevas – Opening New Doors" on Stewardship Sunday last March 3rd. Why am I telling it again? To remind us why we are saying the Chalice Lighting Words and singing "Spirit of Life" in Spanish, which we started on November 3 when we honored Dia de los Muertos in the service.

We do it as a gesture of solidarity with the many Spanish-speaking people who live nearby. We do it as a sign of our hospitality, showing that Unitarian Universalism can be a faith for all. And, we do it to remind ourselves of those who are missing among us, and to re-inspire our commitment to multiculturalism.

What is multiculturalism? It is openness, respect and intentionality in the context of diversity. I acknowledge there have been, and will continue to be, challenges for us as we move toward multiculturalism. But, when in your life has growth not been accompanied by challenges???

If you are relatively fluent in Spanish and would be willing from time to time to lead the congregation in the pronunciation of the Chalice Lighting Words in Spanish, please let me know.

And, if you would like an opportunity to be the one to light the chalice, please arrive early, at least by 9:45 am, and let me or the Worship Associate know of your (and/or your children's) interest.

Espero verte el domingo – I hope to see you on Sundays,

Diane

Our Caring Community

The We Care Coordinator for December is Esther Nichols. If you or a congregant you know is in need of (or can provide) rides, meals, cards or visits, please contact her at 301-864-2068.

URGENT NEED!

We are SOON down to ONE We Care Coordinator!!

Are you seeking a way to get to know your congregation better? Do you like to help others and have some time to phone or do email? Consider becoming a We Care Coordinator! The meetings are once every six or so weeks, during the day on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, or Sunday afternoon at a mutually convenient time.

This ministry provides support and practical help to congregants in need by matching their need with those who have previously indicated their willingness to help others out in that way, and coordinating help with receptions for memorial services.

We have lists of volunteers for specific tasks, such as bringing a meal to a shut-in or to a recently bereaved (or blessed with a new baby) family, or giving someone a ride to the doctor. You would be responsible for matching needs and helpers for a month (the number of matches you will need to make vary from none to no more than five in the month), in a rotation of once every three or four months (depending on whether there are three or four We Care Coordinators).

The We Care Coordinators meet with the minister once every six weeks or so; the meetings are held in the daytime on a weekday, Saturday or Sunday, scheduled to be convenient for all. Please talk with Diane or Esther Nichols if you are interested.

Wheel of Life

Our heartfelt concern is with Carolyn Stearns and her husband Chris May, because Carolyn is still recovering from a stroke months ago, and with the family of Ann Sutherland, who suffered a seizure on October 23rd, was hospitalized, moved to rehab and – as of this writing – is expected to be moving to a nursing care setting.



Board of Trustees Column

The Board Beat, December 2013:

As we gear up for the first of the end of year Holidays this season and take a much-needed respite to reflect on things in our community to be thankful for. Your board of trustees for PBUUC has been busy on several fronts – some focused on strengthening our community looking inward at our organization and some focused on many of those around us in our daily lives.

Organizationally speaking, the BOT has been coordinating with our exceedingly versatile office manager to develop a portion of the web site that is for members only. This ultimate goal is still a few weeks away but in the meantime recognizing the need to share important information with our membership we will be forwarding several documents via an email from the church office to all members of Paint Branch. These documents include a copy of the church budget, the directory of members and friends with contact information, and a committee liaison list.

The board has also set a date for a leadership covenant event to be held on the afternoon of January 11, 2014 so please mark your calendar for this. Like many non-profit organizations and places of worship our leadership is volunteer based. As a forward step toward fostering an environment of mutual respect and to foster and encourage leadership development by more PBUUC members the board has organized this event to be facilitated by a JPD Leadership Development Consultant from the Central East Region with the intent to draft a covenant between/ among the lay leadership (including the board), our various committees members, and all members at large. There will be more details following in the coming weeks regarding this event.

Regarding staffing in particular the board welcomes our newly hired PBUUC Youth Coordinator, Khadijah Ali-Coleman. Khadijah will be adding a new and exciting dimension to our RE program. Also we are almost half way through the current fiscal year and we are thankful to have a fully staffed stewardship committee preparing our upcoming stewardship efforts headed by Chris Evans and Mike McMenamin. While on the topic of fundraising and having just completed a successful, well organized, and enjoyable auction event. Thanks to Mark Shute and the entire aUuction team for all their effort. It would be very remiss of us not to mention the need to fill the vacancy for a Gift Card organizer so we will put out a plea in various forms in the coming weeks looking for someone with strong organizational skills to manage and coordinate this important component of our congregation's year round fundraising.

Facing the greater community at large the board affirmed PBUUC as an organization in support of an increased minimum wage as a moral imperative and designated Nancy

Boardman as our contact person with the greater UUA furthering this issue. Thanks to all members and friends that signed the petition and thanks to the Social Action committee for bringing this to the board.

The Board of Trustees holds open Executive Committee meetings and Board of Trustees meetings. The Executive Committee meeting will be held in the minister's office on December 10 at 7:30 pm and the Board meeting will be held in Room 4 of the RE building on December 17 at 7:30 pm. We welcome visitors: if you wish to request 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, 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>

Charles Touwe & Don Gerson

Board of Trustees Co-Chairs

Staff Update

From the Minister as Head of Staff

Please welcome Khadijah Ali-Coleman, our new Youth Program Coordinator, who was first introduced on November 15 at the Friday evening session of the Religious Exploration Start-Up Workshop, along with her ten-year old daughter Khari. Khadijah comes to us with extensive training and experience in working with youth ages 10-17. In her work at Covenant House in Washington, DC she interacted with youth and also developed youth-centered curricula. She is versed in social media and online communication. Khadijah has a B.A. from University of Maryland Baltimore County, an M.A. in Mass Communication from Towson University and certification from the Virginia Master Teacher Seminar in Advanced Youth Development. See page 5 for more on Khadijah.

It was Director of Religious Exploration Dayna Edward's recommendation to me and the RE Committee, and mine to the Board of Trustees, that the RE Assistant position, which was vacant when Dayna started in early August, be replaced by a Youth Program Coordinator position focusing on middle and high school youth program development and support, with minimal administrative tasks formerly found in the job description of the discontinued RE Assistant position.

Even as we welcome Khadijah, we say a fond farewell to long-time Building Manager, Jesse Crowley. He is student teaching this year, full-time, at Northwestern High School in Prince Georges County, and finds he no longer has time for Building Manager assignments. His resignation is effective the end of November. We hope he will continue to share his musical talents with the congregation. Don't be a stranger, Jesse!

Religious Exploration

On Friday, November 15, over 30 members and friends of the congregation came together to share in dinner and to set the course for the Religious Exploration program. Three of our former DREs, Abbey Crowley, Marj Donn and Marge Owens were celebrated as they shared what families needed from RE when they ran the program. On Saturday, November 16, a smaller group of committed individuals continued the discussion from the previous night and began to prioritize the needs and wants of the congregation related to Multi-generational Religious Exploration. Four clear priorities became apparent through our discussions.

The primary goal of RE, according to the participants of the workshop, should be to promote “religious, ethical, and moral literacy and critical thinking skills.” The Spirit Play RE model encompasses all of the criteria mentioned above very well for the Pre-K and elementary school-aged children. However, there is room for growth with our middle and high school programs. Luckily, we have two groups of committed volunteers that work well with our middle and high school youth. Additionally, we have hired our new Youth Coordinator, Khadijah Ali-Coleman, who will work closely with me to re-invigorate both the middle and high school programs so that they are meeting the spiritual and moral needs of the young people in the congregation.

Year-long religious exploration was another goal that came out of the discussions on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Parents, rightfully, feel that going to church is a habit that is hard to re-establish if it is not continued during the summer months. Year-long RE would be a change from “Summer-Fun” to a more structured RE model used during the summer months that would continue to address the spiritual needs of the child and youth. Making a change to year-long RE will require support from the entire congregation in the form of a commitment to work directly with the children and to share the load of the RE Committee and current RE volunteers.

The participants in the workshop also expressed a desire to make RE more multi-generational. A multi-generational approach includes offering more adult classes, like Harvest the Power, UU Parenting and Adult Our Whole Lives. It also includes more multi-generational events that take into account the needs of both our youngest and oldest members. Additionally, participants stressed that we re-commit to being a welcoming community for all people and increase diversity. Committing to diversity includes developing an outreach plan that speaks to a variety of different audiences as well as training RE volunteers on how to intentionally welcome all types of families.

The mood and energy of the two-day workshop was energizing and caring. As a DRE new to your congregation I felt empowered, supported and excited. I look forward to working with the RE Committee and the entire congregation on fulfilling these four main priorities and many others.

Yours In Faith,

Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration

December's Spirit Play Rainbow Promise is Orange Offer Fair and Kind Treatment to All People. The Orange Promise gives children age-appropriate opportunities to explore issues related to social justice and inclusiveness. Here is a chalice lighting that families can use during the week to connect with what we talk about on Sundays:

- We unite in our differences in background and belief;
- We unite -- with gratitude and hope:
Hope for a world of differences;
- Hope for a world that honors difference;
- We unite in community
With gratitude for difference.

Source: Association Sunday 2009

Meet Khadijah Z. Ali-Coleman

Khadijah is happy to join the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church as the Youth Program Coordinator. She comes to the church community with a strong background in teaching and facilitation that includes her current work as an adjunct professor at Northern Virginia Community College (NoVa) where she teaches in the Communication Studies and Theater department.

Khadijah has worked with youth for over 15 years, working in leadership capacities at area universities, out-of-school time programs and nonprofits and as a consultant with her own company So Our Youth Aspire (SOYA). Her clients have included a host of reputable youth-serving agencies, including DC Scores, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, One Common Unity and the CHOICE program. As Assistant Director of Prevention Services at Covenant House Washington, she created award-winning program curricula that received honorable mention from the Center for Summer Learning.

An active playwright and performer, she also creates global cultural programming as Creative Director of the organization Liberated Muse Arts Group which she founded in 2008. Her educational and entertaining plays have been produced by the Capital Fringe Festival, the DC Black Theater Festival, the United States Peace Corps headquarters, DC Public Library System, Prince George's County Library System and Alexandria Public Library System.

Khadijah has been awarded the Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund's 2012 Top Forty UNDER 40 award in Arts and Humanities and was selected by the organization Womanifesting, Inc. as the 2012 Artist of Distinction for her work as a playwright and director. In 2013 she became a graduate of the Virginia Master Teacher Seminar, representing the NoVa campus. She is certified in Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Theory, receiving her B.A. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and her M. A. from Towson University.

She currently is homeschooling her daughter and enjoys spending time with her family.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

Conversations about Race

By Tricia Most

When Carol Carter Walker and I planned a triad of activities in 2007 to move our congregation toward racial awareness and multiculturalism, the most challenging and intimate of the offerings was a closed, confidential 'Covenant Group.' The UUA covenant group model was designed as 'Small Group Ministry' providing a sense of belonging for individuals that would be more intimate than can be provided in larger congregational gatherings. Group members develop their 'covenant' about behavioral agreements and the frequency and duration of the sessions each member commits to attending. The Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) co-opted this model to provide safety and trust within a small group to allow members to explore their feelings and experiences around issues of race and ethnicity. The topics and conversations were co-facilitated by Evageline Wells and myself, thus providing a leadership team of a Person of Color and a Caucasian, respectively.

A new model for Paint Branch conversations about race has emerged this year. The custom of occasionally inviting the congregation to gather to discuss sermon topics has existed for many decades at Paint Branch and has come to be called 'Reverberations.' Muriel Morisey and Peter Wathen-Dunn co-facilitated a reverberations session following the June 30, 2013 DARTT worship "service based on 'The Race Card Project'—a National Public Radio-endorsed collection of thousands of individuals' thoughts on race." Janet Overton planned this worship service to highlight Michele Norris' concept of asking "people to distill their experiences, questions, hopes, dreams, laments or observations about race and identity into a sentence of just six words." In the Reverberations, Muriel Morisey introduced a very large circle of worship attendees to a method she uses in her professional life. Each person was given a few minutes (timed by Peter) to share their six word sentence and a brief explanation of why they chose those words. After everyone present had a chance to share, people could raise their hands to share a second time and again Peter timed everyone.

The Reverberations session that followed "The Race Card Project" worship service was extremely well-facilitated, well-attended, respectful, and illuminating in many ways. The large group gathered was very respectful and receptive to hearing the wide diversity of experi-

ences, questions, hopes, dreams, laments and observations from each other about race and identity. This open-to-the-entire-congregation conversation about race seemed to signal that closed, confidential small groups were no longer a prerequisite for intimate racial conversations. DARTT asked Muriel and Peter to facilitate another session. And another and another.

The choice of topics and facilitation have continued to stimulate productive, insightful experiences that draw a substantial representation of Sunday worshipers. Indeed, these Reverberations support DARTT's mission "to raise awareness about racism and promote personal transformation and spiritual growth that will intentionally move our congregation to become a truly welcoming, multi-racial, multi-cultural community." DARTT's mission supports the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church community's formal declaration as an Intentionally Multicultural Congregation, which specifically depends upon the commitment of "... the Board of Trustees, staff, committees, affinity groups and lay leadership." The attendance at conversations about race has been wide and varied in many ways, but notably includes very few men and rarely includes a board member. I encourage and challenge those who have not yet attended a conversation about race, to demonstrate your commitment to "actions that transform all aspects of congregational life in ways that affirm our intentionally multicultural identity as the foundation of the church's strength."

In the new year, DARTT will continue holding monthly Conversations about Race following a Sunday worship service. **We are recruiting additional diverse teams of facilitators and are requesting topic suggestions from the congregation to be placed in a large suggestion box in the meeting house foyer.** If you have attended, please continue to contribute your thoughts to the conversation. We particularly hope to see more men and more PBUUC leaders at these Reverberations Sessions. Upcoming Sunday Bulletins will announce the monthly schedule and topic. We look forward to seeing you there.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting Tuesday, December 3

The Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will meet on December 3, 2013 in Room 4 at 7:30 pm. Be a part of the solution, come on out! Males are especially invited to attend. How can we really make progress with only half of us moving forward? What do you think?

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Our Strong Support for Raising the Federal Minimum Wage as a Moral Imperative Leads to Board Approval of PBUUC Signing a UUA/UUSC National Statement on this Critical Issue.

After our Sunday service on November 10, 2013 over 60 Paint Branchers signed a statement issued by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) supporting raising the federal minimum wage to a living wage and indexing the minimum wage to inflation. Then at the Board of Trustees meeting on November 19, 2013, after reviewing the statement and signatures, at the request of SAC Chair Nancy Boardman, the Board unanimously agreed that PBUUC could sign this national statement as representing our Paint Branch support of it – as we stand in solidarity with people struggling to survive on the current federal minimum wage of only \$7.25 an hour. This will be important in our advocacy on this issue in the coming months; enabling us to speak as a united voice for Paint Branch in partnership with our national UUA/UUSC leadership as we work together to narrow the American wealth divide that has so starkly emerged in the last 30 years.

After the service on November 10, we also had some Paint Branchers sign up as being interested in working on this important issue. Now we need a coordinator to help focus planning and activities around it. Please contact Nancy Boardman, SAC Chair, at sac@pbuuc.org if you are interested in having a leadership role in this effort. Thanks!

On Sunday, December 1, an Emergency Special Collection for the Devastating Philippines Typhoon Is Being Held.

This is an opportunity for Paint Branchers to join with the UUA and UUSC in the relief fund they have activated for this purpose. Both have close ties to the Philippines so we can be assured our funding is going to a trusted source to help in this tragic situation - where thousands have died and the destruction is affecting millions on those islands. Checks should be made out to UUSC – Typhoon Relief Fund or to UUSC, with Typhoon Relief Fund written on the memo line if you prefer. As always cash will also be welcomed in the white envelopes in your bulletins on Sunday, December 1st. And if you won't be at the service that Sunday, you can send your check to our Church Office, Attn: Treasurer.

SAC Votes to Support the Healthy Maryland Initiative - Raising the State Tobacco Tax to Help Reduce the Smoking Rate and Fund Public Health Initiatives and Community Services.

This initiative would raise the tobacco tax by \$1.00 per pack, with a comparable increase for other tobacco products. It has been supported by hundreds of Maryland organizations, including our Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland. It has editorial support from the Washington Post, which noted that in Maryland smoking fell by a third from 1998 to 2010 when the cigarette tax more than increased five fold. This proposed increase would raise the tax to \$3 a pack. It is sponsored by *Health Care for All – Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative*.

News Items from Nancy Boardman – SAC Chair
Tel: 301-982-3450 or sac@pbuuc.org.

Amplify Our UU Voices Support UUSJ through the Combined Federal Campaign #17271

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region (UUSJ) is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and needs your support to help give a louder voice to UU principles through collective action and advocacy. UUSJ's primary focus areas are immigration, the environment, LGBTQ rights, and wealth inequality.

Your gift can be credited to your congregation's annual fair share contribution to UUSJ if you select the CFC option to make your name available to your selected charities. If not, please send your name and congregation's name to info@uusj.org. For your contribution you become a member of UUSJ.

Please donate to UUSJ by choosing #17271 on your CFC form.

For information about UUSJ visit www.uusj.org
Thank you!

Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:

Saturday, December 14, from 10 am to 12:30
in Room 1 of the RE Building

GREEN Team

Have you Heard about Cove Point?

An important opportunity to take action for the environment will happen during the social hour after church on December 8. Dominion Resources wants to create a natural gas exporting facility at Cove Point in southern Maryland. This plant would entail building a gas pipeline through Maryland (our own "Keystone pipeline"!), would encourage more "fracking" with its many problems and would put local communities in harm's way. - all in order to EXPORT liquefied gas. Considering the total lifetime of natural gas as fuel - which involves the release of methane - this gas plant would be even dirtier than SEVERAL coal-fired power plants. The Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) is sponsoring a campaign to send hand-written letters to the governor opposing this plant and, more specifically, urging that its plans undergo a full environmental impact study (EIS). The Green Team will have a letter-writing table after church on the 8th and also will provide stamped envelopes and a sample letter for you to write your letter at home if you prefer. For more information, contact Marj Donn at 301-474-1353.

Report on Tour of Recycling Center

Will Snyder and Marge Owens joined a Sierra Club-sponsored tour of the single-stream bulk recycling center just outside the beltway on Richie Road: An amazing high-volume operation that takes everything except compostable wet waste. The machinery was built in Germany. Relatively few workers sort materials coming past on conveyor belts before it is bailed and loaded for sale to the companies that use it for new items or make it ready for shipment to those that will melt down metals, and shred plastics.

The most alarming piece of news was the expectation that the county landfill on Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro has a projected life of two more years. The goal of Zero Waste is, therefore, an emergency measure not just an environmental pipe dream. We learned that the plans in two MD counties to build incinerators have been abandoned. This is good news for air quality because CO₂ is released by the burning of waste and the ash is difficult to dispose of safely. The technology to achieve zero waste is available now and economically palatable.

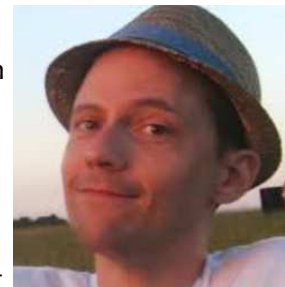
Green Team Meetings

This is a crucial time to be working on environmental issues. The church's Green Team regularly meets on the 2nd Sunday at 11:45. Put it on your calendar. New ideas and new people are always welcome.

In and Around Paint Branch

MEET THE GUEST PREACHER

On December 1, we will welcome Seth Fisher to the pulpit. He began as the Intern Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis in September, and will remain there through the coming summer. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago's Institute of Pastoral Studies in May of 2013 with a Master of Divinity degree and is currently a candidate for fellowship as a UU minister. Seth's ministerial formation has included a year as a student minister of Peoples Church of Chicago – a dynamic, diverse, urban congregation on Chicago's North Side. He also spent a summer in Clinical Pastoral Education with the Night Ministry, which serves the homeless population, with a focus on LGBTQ youth. He comes from a working class background and is the first in his family to receive a post-secondary degree. He has a special interest in creating a home in Unitarian Universalism for those who have been historically underrepresented in our faith. He and his wife are enjoying their time in Maryland and looking forward to exploring more of this part of the country throughout the coming year.



JOB TRANSITIONS SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

Recently, a number of congregants – more than the usual – have told me that they have been laid off or are in some other way in the midst of a challenging job transition. If sufficient people are interested, I would be glad to initiate a weekly or bi-monthly, self-led daytime support group. The meetings would start with a Chalice Lighting, a check-in (how have you been since last we met?) from each person, and then discussion (either of a previously-chosen topic or of a theme or themes that arose in the check-in), followed by a check-out (what one encouragement do you offer to the others, and take with you also, as you leave today?) and snuffing the chalice flame. If you are interested, please let me know!

- Rev. Diane Teichert, minister@pbuuc.org or 301-937-3666

Site Improvement Committee Forum January 12, Following the Service

The Site Improvement Committee (SIC) has been working on plans to rebuild the parking lot and provide storm water management for the lot. The full plan includes a memorial garden, a new playground and changes to the Meeting House itself. Please come to the forum, where we will present our progress and describe what's on the horizon. You'll see where we are in this ambitious project and get an opportunity to ask questions.

In and Around Paint Branch, continued

Ethnic Dinners' 25th Anniversary

Time flies when you're having fund raisers! That 25 years kind of snuck up (try subtracting 1988 from 2013 in your head), but Mike Stark reminded us when discussing a theme for the October dinner. So, we decided to revisit Greece, the theme we began with. That made it easier because we already had the recipes for many great dishes from that first Greek dinner and the second, done in January 2002.

The Greeks say "*sas efcharisto*" for "thank you", and there are so many to say it to. First, Kathi Yu. Living elsewhere in the world for several years, not able to attend or participate in many of the dinners, she made up for it with this one - attended the menu meeting, helped select the dishes, helped Cathy Helmold sell tickets while I was doing asst. treasurer chores, cooked two of the dishes, helped clean up, and helped with the leftover sale the next day. Others at the menu meeting were Cathy Helmold, Jeri Holloway, Marilyn Pearl and Chris Evans. Set up was done by Emma Sue & Don Gerson, Penny O'Brien, Jane Trout, Kathi Yu, & Evangeline Wells. Mike Stark set up and stocked the bar, and he and Sonja Meredith kept the wine, Ouzo and Retsina flowing. Ethelyn Bishop tended the door, checking in 77 attendees. Five (!) men cooked for this dinner - Mike Stark, Chuck Bury, Harry Schomberg, Ali Mohamed, and Chris Evans. Other cooks included Jeri Holloway, Beth Charbonneau, Kathi Yu, Cathy Helmold, Marilyn Pearl, Rene McDonald, Marge Owens, Melody Lawrence, Ethelyn Bishop, Evangeline Wells, Margaret McLellan, Penny O'Brien, Jane Trout, Sandy Peavey and Alice Tyler. Five of them volunteered to cook certain dishes before we'd even created the menu! Chris Evans and Beth Charbonneau have both attended just two Ethnic Dinners, but cooked for both, Chris making another delicious soup and Beth preparing her Greek grandmother's Try-opetes (cheese triangles). Harry, Ali and Margaret were all cooking for their first Ethnic Dinner. Harry chose the Avgolemeno soup. A vegetarian, he didn't realize until later, this is chicken soup. He followed the recipe, never sampling it, and in the process, made one of the tastiest dishes we had (as was his vegetarian version)! Ali, from Egypt, is Margaret's husband. They made stuffed grape leaves, he, the one with lamb, from memory; she, the vegetarian one from our recipe. Alice Tyler's neighbor makes baklava, so Alice took lessons from her and made it for this dinner. Former members, Sandy and Bernie Peavey, visiting from MA, deliberately came the weekend of the dinner, and Sandy helped Penny and Jane make the salad.

Jeri Holloway contacted the leader of a Greenbelt Greek Dance group. Seven of them attended our dinner, danced for us, and taught us how. Don Gerson took photographs of everything. Cleaning up afterwards, under the direction of building manager, Wyatt Rexach were his mom Rosie, Nancy Boardman, Kathi Yu, Elizabeth Yanowitch, Andy Myrup, Chuck Bury, Chris Evans, Lucette Smoes, Melody Lawrence, Jeri Holloway, Mike Stark, Sonja Meredith, Cathy Helmold, Judy Grady, and Marilyn Pearl. Giving additional help the following day was Man Phan who, unasked, pitched in to wash

pots & pans.

If you wonder how there could have been 63 dinners and they've continued for 25 years, re-read the list above. It's not just all the people who volunteer to do the essential tasks, the new people who enthusiastically step in to replace those who have left (but still come back to visit), but also those who are inspired to go out of their way to provide something extra such as dance groups or learning to make baklava. And of course, all those who attend the dinner and those who visit the leftover sale. This dinner netted \$1,068.72. *Sas efcharisto* to all!

Marilyn Pearl

Ministry Survey in Planning Stages by Committee on Ministry

One of the key tasks that the Board of Trustees requires of The Committee on Ministry (COM) is to evaluate the minister every three years. Our last evaluation was in 2011 and we are currently investigating various methods to use for the 2014 evaluation. We want to gather input about the ministry at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church from a broad cross section of members and friends who pledge. We are considering using a survey for quantitative information collection, and focus groups for more qualitative information. Focus groups with certain committees or groups and open sessions during enrichment hour are also being considered.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) serves to nurture the ministry and spiritual health of the congregation. The COM encourages direct and constructive communication among the members of the congregation and between the congregation and the minister. There are three members of the COM who are appointed by the Board of Trustees. The COM meets monthly with our minister, Rev. Diane Teichert. Current members are John Bartoli, Chair, Susannah Schiller, and Leo Jones.

We encourage anyone with comments or suggestions about ministry to contact one of the members or send Email to com@pbuuc.org.
--John Bartoli, Chair

Music Notes

Intergenerational Holiday Choir

All singers, ages 10-99, come join the holiday choir! The rehearsals will be during Enrichment Hour on December 1, 8 and 15. The choir will sing for the Winter Solstice service on December 22. Don't miss the fun! Contact David Chapman after a Sunday service or by email: musicdir@pbuuc.org

TWedHUULK Holiday Tradition at Siri's Chef's Secret

The Third Wednesday UU Lunch Klub will celebrate on Wed. Dec. 18 at 1:00 at the Thai/American restaurant on Greenbelt Road, just west of Beltway Plaza and next to Pearl Vision. We have met at Siri's for quite a few years in December. Good food, long menu, moderate prices, parking is easy, and we usually have a table in the side room. If you need a ride or can offer one to others contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or on 301-345-1572. We will work on our calendar for 2014, so bring some suggestions.

In and Around Paint Branch, continued

2013 aUuction Wrap Up

With the last outstanding payment received, it's time to close the books on the 2013 aUuction. This year, we took in a net profit of \$16,856.81—a little short of our goal, but in this year of sequesters, shutdowns, and shortages, perhaps that's not a surprise. We tried a lot of new things this year. Some of them worked; some of them didn't. We've scheduled a "Lessons Learned" meeting with the auctioneer and this year's auction team leads; anyone is welcome to attend on Sunday, December 1, at 1 pm in Room 4. By now, all of the donors should have Thank You letters in their email inboxes that include the names and contact info of the bidders who won your donation. And all of the bidders should have receipts in their email with the contact info of the donors who provided your winnings. If you haven't received yours, check your spam folder for a message from "Community Auction Services." If it's not there, contact Mark Shute.

I'd like to take a few inches of space to thank the Team Leads who each took charge of a specific part of the aUuction: Carol Carter Walker – Business Outreach Team Lead; David Chapman & Sharon Werth – Entertainment Team Leads; John Barr – Pick-Up Team Lead; Kenn Redd – Set-Up Team Lead; Marj Donn – Handicraft Cash N' Carry Team Lead; Noel Monardes – Data Entry Team Lead; Penny O'Brien – Publicity Team Lead; Renee Katz – Dinner Team Lead; Shantida Joseph – Cashier Team Lead; Steven Bernheisel – Inventory Team Lead; Tabitha Pierzchala – Child Care Team Lead; Van Summers – Bar Tenders Team Lead; Our Master of Ceremonies, John Bartoli; Our auctioneer, and all-around advisor, Lia Kvatum. Each of these folks recruited additional assistance, and while I don't have all of your names, you were all invaluable to the effort and I thank you as well.

I'd also like to thank the 93 adults and 3 kids who bought tickets for our Indian dinner, and enjoyed a great evening of food, fellowship, and fun. And finally, I'd like to thank the 66 donors who provided 163 items, services, and events for the aUuction, and I'd like to thank the 71 bidders who came out and bought them.

Candle Dance

Our Christmas Eve service often includes a candle dance, and there will be a candle dance this year. The Chalice Dancers would like to invite others (4th grade and older) to participate as well. The movements are not difficult, but you do need to attend at least one rehearsal, either our regular Saturday morning rehearsals (9:30, December 14 or 21) or immediately after a Sunday church service (December 22). You may choose to dance at the 4:30 pm or 8 pm service (or both). Please contact Sharon Werth at sbodul@comcast.net or 301-779-7556 to let her know that you will be coming, or to ask questions. We look forward to seeing you!

PBUUC Holiday Calendar

Holiday All-Ages Party

Friday, December 6 from 6 pm to 9 pm, join us for a multigenerational holiday celebration. We will make holiday crafts, eat dinner, and decorate the Christmas Tree. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration, at DRE@pbuuc.org to help make a craft, or assist with clean-up or set-up.

Holiday Craft Fair

There will be a craft fair Sunday December 15 in the Sanctuary right after service until 1 pm. Tish Hall will have her wonderful bread for sale, Tina Van Pelt will be selling fused glass jewelry and other PBUUCers will have arts and crafts for sale. In addition, other local arts and crafts artists will be there. 20% of the proceeds benefit PBUUC. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tina Van Pelt at cvanpeltah@aol.com.

Annual PBUUC Holiday Meal

The Holidays are just around the corner and we've got some fun events to plan! One of these is our Annual PBUUC Holiday Meal. This event will be held on Sunday, Dec 22 after service. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets will be sold after service on 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15. The menu includes turkey, ham, string bean casserole, mashed potatoes, rolls, lemonade and coffee. Vegan dishes will also be available for those who do not eat animal products. Desserts are pot luck so please consider bringing a dessert to share. Planning and holding this beloved PBUUC tradition takes much effort and many volunteers. Please contact John Sebastian at jpsebas-ti@hotmail.com or (301) 589-6808 to help or sign up to help when you purchase tickets.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: PBUUC HOLIDAY EVENTS

- Friday, December 6, 5:30 pm — All-Ages Holiday Party *
- Sunday, December 8, 10 am — Holiday Choir Service
- Sunday, December 15, 11 am — Holiday Craft Sale after the Service *
- Sunday, December 22, 10 am — All-Ages Solstice Service (followed by our Annual Holiday Meal *)
- Tuesday, December 24
 - 4:30 pm — All-Ages Christmas Eve Service
 - 8 pm — Christmas Eve Service
- Sunday, December 29, 10 am — All-Ages Kwanzaa Service (followed by Kwanzaa Sharing Meal)

* see announcement above



Spirit of Life Center

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

The Spirit of Life Center welcomes individuals from the local community to practice enriching activities through a variety of classes and workshops that are designed to promote a better quality of life, health, and connection with others

CHANGING DIRECTION DOES NOT HAVE TO BE DIFFICULT!

“The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.” --Albert Einstein

The Spirit of Life Center is devoted to bringing our inner and outer mind into harmony with each other through our *Breath Awareness Practice*, *Quality of Life Workshop*, and *Simplicity Circle Workshop*, starting November 7, 2013. These programs will help you to take baby steps towards becoming a healthy, happy, and loving person. You can be a role model for your family and community. Read these descriptions of what to expect in these workshops and decide for yourself whether these workshops can be the start of your evolution:

“Your breath anchors you to life. Being aware of your breathing will make you aware of your life”

Breath Awareness Practice: by Raman Pathik

Saturday 10 am - 10:30 am

Another way of looking at your breath is as an inner light house to guide you back to the present moment. The goal of breath awareness 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.

Quality of Life Workshop: by Raman Pathik

Saturday 10:30 am - 12 pm

What does "quality of life" mean to you? Develop a blueprint to implement better habits that will improve the balance in your life. Experience connecting with your true self, nature, your family, your community, your finances, your body, and the world.

Simplicity Circle Workshop: by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute

Saturday 12 pm - 1 pm

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. Six sessions following the workbook.

Each one of these workshops is a comprehensive six-week program taking place on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. For more information, contact Raman Pathik at 301-890-9072 or email solcc@pbuuc.org. A special suggested donation of \$50 covers all three workshops for six weeks. The Simplicity Circle workbook is an extra \$28.

Class sizes are limited; RSVP required.

Note to Our Readers:

The Church Administrator is responsible for the production of the newsletter.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES: All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to:

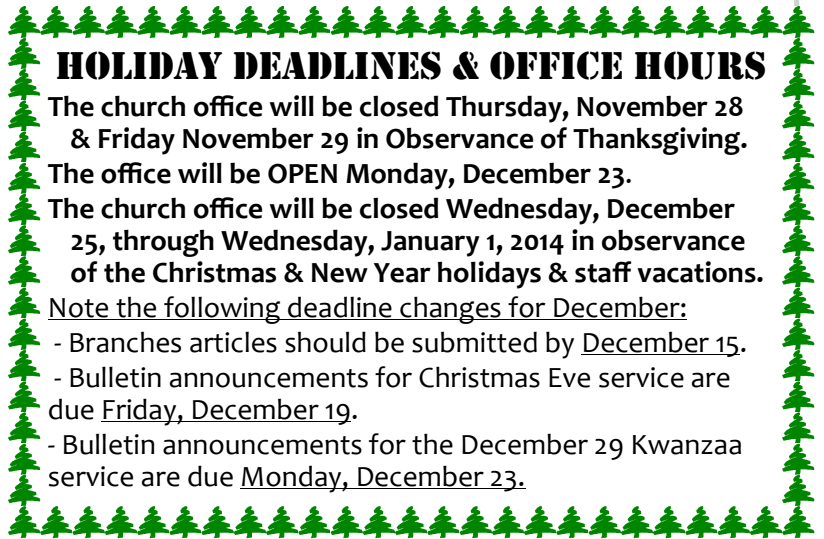
branches@pbuuc.org.

The **Leadership Directory**, (on page 2 of this issue), will contain names only. For more contact information, please consult your Membership Directory or call the Church Office at 301-937-3666. All submitted articles will contain phone numbers and or email addresses for contact if listed. You may choose to only list your email address 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. (see inset to right)
- 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**. (see inset to right)
- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** should be submitted in their final form, and content should be **120** words or less. Please try to keep announcements one paragraph with a clear headline or topic sentence. Please include day, date, location, time, and contact information. Announcements should be PBUUC related, non-PBUUC events must have explicitly stated UU connection.

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.

**HOLIDAY DEADLINES & OFFICE HOURS**

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 28 & Friday November 29 in Observance of Thanksgiving.

The office will be OPEN Monday, December 23.

The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 25, through Wednesday, January 1, 2014 in observance of the Christmas & New Year holidays & staff vacations.

Note the following deadline changes for December:

- Branches articles should be submitted by December 15.

- Bulletin announcements for Christmas Eve service are due Friday, December 19.

- Bulletin announcements for the December 29 Kwanzaa service are due Monday, December 23.

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

EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG

(301) 937-3666

ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030

3215 POWDER MILL ROAD

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH