



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

January 2014

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 29

THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING: ALL AGES** KWANZAA SERVICE

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

Kwanzaa is a time to celebrate the unity and strength of the family and the solidarity of the community. Join us for the Service and the Sharing Feast. See page 6 for details.

JANUARY 5

NOTE TO SELF

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration
Noel Monardes, Worship Associate*

Let's be light-hearted about the persistent custom of New Year's Resolutions, even as we know that some of us have, with great resolve, made challenging changes in our lives. The service will include an expression of gratitude to our RE volunteers, and it is Signing Sunday – for those who are ready to sign the PBUUC Membership Book, meet the Minister and Board Greeter at the chalice after the service. Volunteer for Warm Nights in the foyer after the service.

JANUARY 12

WE BEGIN AGAIN IN LOVE

Rev. Diane Teichert with Rev. Renee Ruchotzke preaching, and Ken Redd, Worship Associate

Without a shared doctrine or even a shared theology, what is it that binds us as a congregation? We will explore how Unitarian Universalist polity, our form of organization, itself – when practiced in the tradition of our ancestors – provides the answer. Meet the Guest Preacher on page 4. Volunteer for Warm Nights in the Foyer after the service.

JANUARY 19

WHO'S GOT SHOES?

THE MORALITY OF INCOME DISPARITY

*Rev. Diane Teichert, Director of Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards
Bettie Young, Worship Associate, with the Choir and Chalice Dancers*

In honor of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we will explore his words on poverty, inequality, and greed. Newcomers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office from 11:30 to 12:30. Volunteer for Warm Nights in the Foyer after the service.

JANUARY 26

THE OTHER 1%

Guest Preacher Neil Donovan with Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate

Each year, approximately 3.5 million Americans - one percent of the US population - experience the most radical form of persistent poverty: homelessness. As conscientious Unitarian Universalists committed to social justice, what can be done to end this crisis? Meet the Guest Preacher on page 4. The Special Collection will support the Community Café (see page 7). Warm Nights setup begins after the service, with hosting starting tonight through Sunday morning, February 2.

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

**Help someone you know keep their New Year's Resolution
to find a spiritual home. Invite them to PBUUC!**

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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 ☞

Esther Nichols
Fran Caughey

☞ 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)	vacant
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 & Elizabeth Porter
Social Action	TBD
Spirit of Life Center	Nancy Boardman
Stewardship	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
Child Care Providers:	Wyatt Rexach
	Beth Judy
	Jazmin Balbuena

The Minister's mUUsings...

Looking back on December... since Nelson Mandela's death on the 5th, the music of the South African liberation struggle has been in the background of many television and radio tributes and featured in the coverage of the funerals, the last of which was yesterday (as I write on December 16th) when his body was laid to rest in his boyhood village. Since Mandela's death, I've been listening to my CD's of South African music and, finally, this morning I took the time to dust off three LP's. One of them dates back to 1978, when he had been in prison already for fifteen years. A collection of New York City-based black South African musicians in exile produced it. "Nkosi Sikelel' i Afrika (God Bless Africa)" is included, the long-time national anthem of the African National Congress and other freedom organizations. After the fall of apartheid and the election of Mandela as the first black president of South Africa, it became one of the two official South African national anthems. It is one of the South African songs in our hymnal, which we sang in our service on December 8th, in celebration of Mandela's life and in mourning of his death.

I was only a distant follower of that struggle, but its music spoke, and still speaks, to me. I listen to it with a full and grateful heart for the steadfast courage and purposeful strategy of that freedom movement, and for Mandela's leadership of it before, during and after his imprisonment. Questions still arise for me in the resonance of that stirring music: To what is my life dedicated? For what larger good do I sacrifice? What sustains me? How do I contribute to the struggles for freedom and justice of my time and place, or do I, really? What about you?

Looking forward to January... The Board of Trustees and I feel this is a good time to step back, consider, and agree on how it is that the lay leaders of the church intend to communicate with each other in order that we each will feel appreciated and respected for our respective contributions and in order that the business of the church is conducted in productive and amicable ways, including how to resolve conflicts. A workshop is planned to draft a Lay Leadership Covenant. It's on Saturday, January 11th from 12 to 4:30 pm and will be facilitated by a Unitarian Universalist Association regional staff person. If you are, or wish to someday be a congregational leader, I hope you will attend.

And, there is our annual hosting of homeless people through the Warm Nights program of Community Services Inc. of Prince Georges County, for the week of January 26th through February 2nd. There are ways for each and every one of us of all ages to provide hospitality - from the simple act of donating toiletries or creating welcoming signs, to providing a dish for dinner, to serving and eating with our guests, to being an overnight host with a CSI staff member. Please sign up starting Sunday, January 5th. It's not a small group effort - it's a congregation-wide commitment!

I hope to see you on Sundays,

Diane

*Newcomers Gathering with Diane in her office
on Sunday, January 19 from 11:30 to 12:30.
Child care provided in Room 5.*

Wheel of Life

Our hearts go out to...

... the family of former member Ken Jenkins, who had moved in 2012 to the State of Washington to be near them. He died on November 17, but we received word after the December newsletter deadline. Ken is remembered for his participation in the Quest Book Discussion Group, his dependable commentaries on democratic process in our annual meetings, and the generous contribution from him and his former wife that paid for our recent deck repair and renovation.

... the family of Ann Sutherland who died early Saturday morning, November 30. Her husband, Doug, and two of her daughters, Karen Donovan and Gail Sutherland, and their young children Caelan and Toran, are active PBUUC'ers. The memorial service has been planned for Saturday, January 4 at 1 pm in the Meeting House with a reception to follow. Those who wish to contribute finger food or help out with reception set-up, serving, or clean-up, please contact Esther Nichols, We Care Coordinator.

The We Care Coordinator for January 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.



Board of Trustees Column

Meet the Guest Preachers

The Board Beat, January 2014:

Though you might not be able to convince the young among us, time during the holiday season seems to move fast with many events and end of year activities filling calendars at church and elsewhere. While the church is bustling with activity, as usual, the board has been busy preparing for upcoming events and we would like to use this column to remind you of a few important items.

We are looking forward to a successful leadership covenant event to be held on the afternoon of January 11, 2014 and invite and encourage all members to make time for participation in this important congregational covenanting exercise. This event will be facilitated by Renee Ruchotzke, a JPD Leadership Development Consultant, with the intent of drafting a covenant between and among the lay leadership (including the board), our various committees' members, and all members at large. Broad participation and multiple perspectives will make this event more successful and help craft a stronger organization so please plan to attend.

As we look forward into 2014 we have set the date for our mid year town hall event to be held after the service on February 9. Please stay tuned in the coming weeks as an agenda will be published very soon for this meeting.

Finally, on behalf of your 2013-2014 Board of Trustees: Don Gerson and Charles Towe, Co Chairs, Alice Tyler and Don Mitchell, Vice Chairs, and Trustees Evangeline Wells, Theresa Myrdon, Melody Lawrence, and Peter Dowling, we wish you a joyous New Year.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) holds open Executive Committee meetings and Board of Trustees meetings. The Executive Committee meeting will be held in the minister's office on January 21 at 7:30 pm and the Board meeting will be held in Room 4 of the RE building on January 28 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 Towe & Don Gerson
Board of Trustees Co-Chairs

The Rev. Renee Ruchotzke (ruh-HUT-skee) will join Diane in the pulpit on January 12, the day after she facilitates our Lay Leadership Covenant Workshop. She is the Leadership Development Consultant for CERG, the new Central East Regional Group of the UUA, which includes our Joseph Priestley District (Northern VA, DC, MD, DE, Southern PA) and Metro New York, Ohio-Meadville, and St. Lawrence Districts. She is responsible for providing consultation, programming and training material (including webinars and videos) on various aspects of congregational leadership and development. She writes for the UUA Blog Growing Vital Leaders and tweets at @VitalLeaders. She was ordained in 2010 by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, Ohio where she has been a member since 1996. There she served in a variety of leadership roles before being called to ministry. She is now their affiliated community minister.

Rev. Ruchotzke co-authored a Tapestry of Faith curriculum, "A Chorus of Faiths" and was the 2007 recipient of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Seminarian Award for Excellence in Social Justice, and the 2010 recipient of the Commission on Social Witness sermon award. Before being called to ministry, she was a mechanical design engineer.

On January 26, we will welcome Neil Donovan, CEO of The Donovan Group, management consults to governments, philanthropy and nonprofits committed to eradicating persistent poverty. Earlier this year, he completed his tenure as President of the National Coalition for the Homeless. Donovan has been working with and for people experiencing homelessness for the past three decades in positions from street outreach worker to CEO. His fight for social justice began in Boston with the Xaverian Brothers and Jesuits working at Common Life, Pine Street Inn and Shattuck Shelter. He founded IMPACT Employment Services, a National Best Practice in employment services for at-risk job seekers. In 2000, he moved to Washington, DC, for a political position as Senior Adviser to the U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, an agency of the White House Domestic Policy Council. After serving in the Bush administration, Donovan started the Center for Capacity Building at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. He was recently voted a prominent and influential leader in social change by Change.org and World Bank. Donovan has enjoyed supporting various civic and religious communities as a consultant and volunteers on boards at the local, state and national levels. He is married to Rev. Megan Foley, a Unitarian Universalist minister, and has two sons, Max and Jake.

Religious Exploration

During the month of December, I have been exploring the concept of grace on my Facebook page using the hashtag #31daysofgrace. Social media offers a unique opportunity to explore spiritual ideas in a public setting and get feedback, insights, and ideas from people with whom you may not normally interact. For me, publicly exploring the idea of grace as a Unitarian Universalist was a challenging spiritual practice. My month long exploration has allowed for several ideas to blossom.

First, I felt that it was important to define the word grace. Prior to my exploration of grace, I had only the vaguest idea of grace as graceful, smooth-flowing, and lovely. The definition of grace that worked best for me comes from an 18th Century Unitarian, William Hazlitt: "Grace has been defined as the outward expression of the inward harmony of the soul."

When I started my practice, it was my intention to find, and share, something in my life, daily, that exemplified grace. For about two years I have making daily gratitude statements on Facebook, so I thought I would just switch my gratitude statements to grace statements. In observing grace daily, I thought I might bring more grace into my life. However, I found that what makes grace special is that it doesn't necessarily happen daily. I found it unauthentic to make statements about grace that seemed forced, contrived, or just "not-right." However, when grace does happen, and you are open to observing, it makes moments of grace even more powerful.

My favorite example of being open to grace happened a few Sundays back, when I was driving home from church in a snow storm. I was quite concerned because I have to drive over two curvy, slippery over-passes to make it home. I said a prayer to make it home safely and focused on seeing my two little-ones at home. As I got on the first over-pass a salt truck drove in front of me, laying fresh salt on the road and melting the ice. I drove behind the salt truck the whole way home and made it home safely. To me, my experience driving in the snow defined grace. I found inner harmony in prayer and calm thoughts and the outward world conspired to bring me what I needed. Chances are, I would have made it home without the salt truck, but I find strength and solace in knowing that in a spiritual sense, grace goes beyond coincidence to some-

thing harder to define and capture. Deepak Chopra defines this experience as synchronicity. He states:

When the rhythms of our body-mind are in synch with nature's rhythms, when we are living in harmony with life, we are living in the state of grace. To live in grace is to experience that state of consciousness where things flow effortlessly and our desires are easily fulfilled. Grace is magical, synchronistic, coincidental, joyful. It's that good-luck factor. But to live in grace we have to allow nature's intelligence to flow through us without interfering.

In a more practical sense, we each have an opportunity to experience grace through service, as Erik Walker Wikstrom shares in his book, [Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice](#). He points out that "serving with grace" goes beyond serving your faith community as a chance to connect with others. Serving with grace involves learning, growing and experiencing that inner harmony I mentioned above through your service. Serving the church community allows you an opportunity to outwardly express your inner harmony. I look forward to helping you have transformative, grace-filled service experiences.

Yours In Faith,

Dayna Edwards.

Director of Religious Exploration

January's Spirit Play Rainbow Promise is Yellow:

Yearn to learn about ourselves, each other, our spirit and mystery. The Yellow Promise encourages growth and learning from all of life's obstacles and opportunities. Here is a chalice lighting you can do with your family to connect with what we learn on Sundays:

"We light this chalice to affirm that new light is ever waiting to break through to enlighten our ways;
That new truth is ever waiting to break through to illumine our minds;
And that new love is ever waiting to break through and warm our hearts.
May we be open to this light and to the rich possibilities that it brings us."

Source: 1997 UUMA Worship Materials Collection

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

KWANZAA



The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will present the annual Kwanzaa Service and Feast on Sunday, December 29.

Kwanzaa is a time to celebrate the unity and strength of family and the solidarity of community. Join us for the Service and the Sharing Feast afterward. The Kwanzaa Players, talented musicians and the Chalice Dancers will make this All Ages Service very special.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting Tuesday, January 7

DARTT's next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, January 7 at 7:30 pm in Room 4 of the Religious Exploration Building. DARTT's major focus is to create a safe space for members of the PBUUC community to talk about issues of race and ethnicity by personal sharing; and by sponsoring services, events and activities designed to facilitate the congregation's implementation of its intentional multiculturalism resolution. All are welcome. If you can't attend, please send your input to DARTT@pbuuc.org.

The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

OWL Sexuality Education for Adults at River Road UU Congregation

Sexuality is an integral part of each of our lives. It pervades our relationships, drives many life decisions, and provides us with both joy and despair. As much as it is omnipresent in the media, we often find discussing it difficult. In this course, we will explore, in a safe and confidential environment, the expression of sexuality in relationships, and the implications of actions upon not only those directly involved in the relationship, but also upon others among family, friends, and acquaintances.

Our Whole Lives, developed by the UUA and the United Church of Christ, models caring, compassion, respect, and justice. Participants are guided by trained and experienced RRUUC member facilitators (Peter Benjamin, Katherine Hubley, Walter Weiss, Susan Okie) in an engaging program that addresses topics many adults have not had the opportunity to discuss in depth.

Through this structured facilitation, the course leaders will assist the participants in examining sexuality as it encompasses the full expression of gender, the intellectual and emotional as well as biological dimensions of sexual being, and how all these factors are affected by cultural and personal values.

Gabrielle Farrell, Lifespan Religious Educator
River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817
gfarrell@rruuc.org

UU CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS

Camp Unirondack

Unirondack is located in the western Adirondack Mountains in the midst of forever-wild forests. The main buildings of the camp sit atop a hill overlooking beautiful Beaver Lake. The performing arts center, boathouse and art shop, campfire circle, cookout area, athletic field and swimming beach sit directly at the water's edge.

Enrollment is small relative to other children's camps, with approximately 20 counselors and 70 campers in each of the youth sessions, allowing counselors to provide personal attention to campers, creating a close-knit community. The exceptional young adults chosen to comprise the counseling staff receive professional training in leadership, program planning and implementation, conflict resolution, child development, safety and first aid, and methods of fostering an inclusive community. www.unirondack.org

Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center

With a history of almost 250 years on the site where John Murray preached his first Universalist sermon in America in 1770, serves UU congregations, groups, families and individuals year-round. The center exists as a living memorial to its Universalist heritage, by promoting the union of faith, love and actions as inspired foundations of building beloved communities. Located in Ocean County, New Jersey, the center is comfortable and affordable, with overnight accommodations for up to 42, attractive meeting space, a large fully-equipped kitchen, dining room, labyrinth, salt-water pool - and exciting new renovations! For more information, and to join the mailing list, contact 609-693-5558, www.murraygrove.org or murraygrove@murraygrove.org

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

The UU Legislative Ministry – MD Annual Meeting is on Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm at the UU Church of Annapolis. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS IMPORTANT MEETING! We will join with other activists, elected officials, and advocates from across the state as we discuss and plan for the UULM-MD priority issues that will be coming before the Maryland General Assembly in 2014. After years of work, success was finally achieved last session with Maryland's approval of marriage equality, repeal of the death penalty, and an offshore wind energy plan for the state. Now UULM-MD will be looking for the possibility of some new issues in 2014 at this important meeting. The church is located at 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis MD, 21401. The website is www.uulmmd.org, e-mail is info@uulmmd.org or phone 410-266-8044, ext 111 for coordinator Margery Knight. Contact Nancy Boardman if you are interested in carpooling to the January 25 meeting. (301-982-3450, e-mail: sac@pbuuc.org)

A Young Adults UU Gathering Planned for Saturday, February 5 from 2 pm—5 pm at All Souls UU Church in DC to See and Discuss the Film “BIDDER 70”

It is about one of our own young adult UU's, Tim DeChristopher, who went to jail for two years for disrupting an illegal drilling-rights sale on federal land. The film features interviews with Robert Redford, plowshares activist John Schurchardt, and anti-Vietnam war activist David Harris. This event is sponsored by Young Souls and Green Souls at All Souls Unitarian Church and by Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. All Souls is located at 1500 Harvard Street NW in DC at the corner of 16th Street. The nearest metro stop is Columbia Heights. We hope many Paint Branchers up to their mid-thirties or so will attend this important gathering of young adults. There will be refreshments served and discussion following the film.

Support for Raising the Minimum Wage Is Building at the MD County, MD State, and DC Government Levels

Thanks to Paint Branchers who signed our petition supporting the UUA and UUSC on this important issue and to our Board of Trustees for approving PBUUC as a signatory organization in November! Now we are looking for a coordinator for our efforts on this issue. We have had folks sign up who want to work on it. Please contact Nancy Boardman, SAC Chair, if you are interested in taking a leadership role in this effort. Thanks!

Paint Branch Community Learning Center Update

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH
REGISTRATION ON JANUARY 5, 2014
AND JANUARY 12, 2014 . Call 202-635-1369

We hope to start our classes on January 19, 2014. The last training before classes start will be on January 12, 2014.

Support UUSJ through the CFC: 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 PBUUC'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 email your name and your congregation's name to info@uusj.org. For your contribution, you become a member of UUSJ.

Update: The CFC has extended their deadline to designate where your charitable payroll deductions are directed. You now have until January 15, 2014. Please consider choosing UUSJ #17271 —on your CFC form.

Special Collections News

For Philippine Typhoon Relief through the UU Service Committee (UUSC), the congregation contributed \$1,291. Thank you very much! That was in addition to a very generous amount for the UUSC's regular work, given in November and still coming in through the "Guest at Your Table" boxes.

At both services on Christmas Eve, the full offering will go to support our participation in the "Warm Nights" program, whereby homeless people sleep in area churches (our week comes in late January).

The January special collection on January 26 will help to support Community Café, a homeless feeding program for which members of our church are responsible on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Please make checks out to PBUUC with "Community Café" in the memo line.

Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:

Saturday, January 11, from 10 am to 12:30
in Room 1 of the RE Building

Green Team

A New Year Ushers in a New Green Team Activity: "Monthly Documentaries Related to Environmental Issues That Affect All of Us!"

In the hope of promoting a greater understanding of so many terms we hear / read on the Media today related to our fast changing Environment, the Green Team (GT) is launching a Monthly Documentary Screening of some major aspect of Environmental concern. (Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to things that may harm you, yours, and the Family of Life. Education is the answer.)

Major topics to be viewed and discussed are varied and numerous. A few of questions to be asked and answered include:

~ What do "Climate Change" and "Global Warming" actually mean? If they are occurring now, what are the dynamics causing them, and what repercussions will they have on our lives and the lives of our children, grandchildren, etc.

~ And, what is a "greenhouse gas?" Why is it important to know what causes them and how they can affect our planet.

~ If the Tar Sands of Alberta, Canada, are successfully transferred to the US via the "Keystone XL Pipeline," where will this major pipeline and its subsystems go and where will their refineries be located? And, If these Tar Sands are "refined" and "burned" to create energy, can they cause harm to our Environment and to living things?

~ Do you know what is planned to happen at "Cove Point." right here in Maryland. What will be the repercussions if it happens?

~ Do you actually know what is entailed in the process of "Fracking?" And, can it be detrimental? If so, in what manner and who could be hurt? Where is it occurring?

~ What is the most polluting Fossil Fuel being used by humans today? Can it hurt us? If so, how?

~ Does Plastic contain poisons? If so, what are they? What can they do to harm living things and the environment?

~ Does Vinyl contain poisons? If so, what are they? What harm can they do to living things and the environment?

These are just a sample of topics that the new, exciting Green Team monthly screening activity will cover.

The subject of the first screening session will be the XL Keystone Pipeline. You will find out how it will affect you if the project is allowed to be completed.

Documentary Maker, Judith (Hamburg) Grady will host this first screening night on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

Phone: Home 301-794-8221; Cell 240-486-1210. If you want to attend and learn about this very important timely topic. She needs to know how many people will be attending. Friends are welcome also.

Judith will also give you directions from your location to her home: 7021 Storch Lane, Seabrook, MD 20706.

A snow/ice backup date is Saturday January 25, 2014.

An informative screening or screenings, a lively discussion, and good company are guaranteed in a warm, cozy house -- a good antidote to the winter doldrums!

GREEN TEAM UPDATES

The current status of the Keystone XL Pipeline is that we're waiting for the State Department to produce a National Interest Determination (NID), expected in Jan. or Feb. In the past, the State Department's statements have been heavily influenced by the fossil fuel industry. If the NID recommends approval of the Keystone Pipeline, groups all over the country have been preparing protests which will include civil disobedience. In the local area, there will be one at the State Department, of course, as well as in downtown Silver Spring and Ellicott City. These protests are a final attempt to get President Obama to reject the pipeline. The local groups need people who will rally nearby in a supportive role. Our January letter-writing effort on Sunday, January 12, will probably focus on this issue. For more information, contact Marj Donn at 301-474-1353.

On Cove Point: About 35 people took home packets on December 8 to write longhand letters to Governor O'Malley about the Environmental Impact Study needed on the proposed natural gas import facility at Cove Point in southern Maryland.

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

WARM NIGHTS 2014

PBUUC will host Warm Nights January 26, through February 2, 2014, and preparations are underway. We will need all hands on deck to ensure a successful week. Sign-ups will take place after Sunday services beginning January 5. Volunteers are needed to set-up, provide meals, serve food, interact with our guests, provide transportation, clean-up, and to stay at the church overnight.

Other things to look for:

- ≈ A special collection for Warm Nights will take place during our Christmas Eve service. Please support our efforts by giving as generously as possible. If you would like to contribute but won't be able to attend the service, please write your check to PBUUC with "Warm Nights" on the memo line, and place it in the collection basket during a Sunday worship service.
- ≈ Toiletries for our guests are being collected in a box in the church foyer. We need soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, and other toiletry items.
- ≈ The Women's Group will meet January 18 to assemble gift bags and write note cards for our guests.

For more information, contact Sabrina Jones (sabfin@verizon.net), or Rene McDonald (rmopal@verizon.net).

Thanks for your help! - *Your Warm Nights Team*

Women's Group

The Women's group has, for the past few months, been taking excursions to learn about the people of this country. In November we learned about some of those brought here to be slaves; in December we learned more about the first people to inhabit this land. For January we will be turning our attention to those in our community who need help now. As you know, PBUUC participates in the Prince George's County Hyperthermia Program offering a "Warm Nights" Homeless Emergency Shelter organized by Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI) for one week. Beginning February 1, 2014, we expect to host approximately 25 guests—men, women, and children—and CCSI staff, offering them a warm place to sleep, a hot dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch to start their day.

We will also be offering the homeless cards of encouragement and small packets of toiletries. Saturday, January 18, 3 pm to 5 pm, the Women's Group will get together at PBUUC to prepare the note cards and packets of toiletry items for distribution to our Warm Nights guests. We have been collecting and are still collecting small, easy to transport, toiletry items—shampoo, soap, deodorant—and will greatly appreciate all that we receive.

As we prepare the cards and packets, we will share pot luck snacks. So please plan to join us. Organizers are Kathy Kerns and Janet Overton. If you have any questions, contact Kathy at kkearns@hotmail.com or 301-277-3211 Janet at janmo12@verizon.net or 301-725-9286.

Nature Spirituality Circle

The Nature Spirituality Circle is offering a series of divination workshops. This series is offered on 2nd and 4th Sundays during Enrichment Hour in Room 6 of the RE Building. There are many types of divination, and we will focus on several of them in turn: Astrology, Tarot, Palmistry, Numerology, Runes, Scrying, etc.

In January, we will start with Astrology, and the basics of reading a natal chart. I like starting with astrology because it introduces a lot of concepts that are used over and over in Western divination systems. Once you learn the associations with Jupiter, you can apply them to astrology, palmistry, multiple cards in the tarot, etc. The first workshop will be on Jan 12 and will cover the houses and signs. The second workshop on Jan 26, will cover the Planets.

MUSIC NOTES

"Music at Paint Branch" presents concert pianist San-Qing Lu-Bennaman on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 4 pm. Her program will feature the music of Schubert, Chopin and Liszt. Ms. Lu-Bennaman has appeared many times on the Music at Paint Branch series and her performances are not to be missed. Once again on the program is Madeline W. Xu, the 7 year old prodigy of Ms. Lu-Bennaman. She will play Mozart's Sonata in C Major, K330. She is a delight for the audience. The concert is free and there will be a reception following. Please bring family and friends and support the arts at Paint Branch.

In and Around Paint Branch, continued

Our Current Artist, Barbara Kenny

Barbara tells us that, "Painting is her passion; oil is her medium; nature is her muse."

She says, "I was born in Hollywood, California. My earliest memories are of the ocean, the clear crisp air, the hope and excitement of being in the movie place. Southern California in those days was enchanting when seen through the eyes of a child. A move to Utah brought so many new images -- high mountains, prairies, pines, aspens, rocks, deserts, panoramic skies.

From there to Virginia and now Maryland and the eastern seaboard, all of which bring oceans, dunes, lush forests -- providing an incredible spectrum of fall colors -- and mountains that fade into the distance in gentle hues.

I have painted all my life, but also took out some years to follow a profession as a psychotherapist. Emotional images were there to collect as I listened to infinite and varied stories and feelings. For example, sadness and sunsets can be one in the same; change and seasons are one.

I love being in nature, and that other version of really being there, in paint. Representing images in paint and representing feelings about those images in paint is my life's work. Not only do I have to do it, much like breathing, I also love to. It is my spiritual path.

I so enjoy sharing my work with others. I love what they see in the pictures, their reactions. It's a wonderful method of communication."

If you have questions or would like to purchase one of her paintings you may contact her at 301-682-4862 or bkennyarts@yahoo.com.

TwedHUULK at the Refurbished Royal Jade

Wednesday, January 15, at 1 pm

Some of us have been waiting for over a year for the Royal Jade to move to new quarters and reopen. It has only moved one block, but it has a new look and an expanded menu. It is now off to the side of the Greenway Shopping Center in the building where Jasper's used to be. It is even more reasonably priced than it was before; the food is very tasty and plentiful; and there are vegetarian choices. If you can give someone a ride or need a ride yourself please contact Marge Owens at TwedHUULK@pbuuc.org or 301-345-1572. They have a large round table so we can fit around it for good conversation. And we hope to be joined by our Minister this time barring emergencies.

Committee on Ministry's New Year's Resolution: Evaluate PBUUC Ministry

Welcome to January, when a lot of us make resolutions for the year. One of the Committee on Ministry's "resolutions" is to evaluate the ministry every three years and this is the year for it. We intend to gather input about the ministry at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church from a broad cross section of members and friends who pledge.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) serves to nurture the ministry and the 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, Susanah Schiller, and Leo Jones.

We encourage anyone with comments, suggestions, or praise for our ministry to contact one of the members or send Email to com@pbuuc.org.

--John Bartoli, Chair

Site Improvement Committee Invitation

Sunday, January 12, 11:45 – 12:45

- * Can you imagine improved water drainage that doesn't pollute the Paint Branch and the Chesapeake Bay?
- * Can you imagine a parking lot that doesn't get muddy?
- * Can you imagine watching your kids in a playground from the Deck?
- * Can you imagine a memorial garden in front of the Church?
- * Can you imagine accessible paths throughout the Church property?
- * Can you imagine an enclosed space between the Meeting house and the RE Building?
- * Can you imagine a finished basement in the Meeting House?
- * Can you imagine our buildings fully accessible to everyone?

These are outcomes we can achieve if we make the necessary commitment. Come to the Site Improvement Forum on January 12 in the Meeting House after the Church service and see how we can get it done. Learn what it will take, so what we imagine can become a reality. Child care will be provided.

In and Around Paint Branch, continued

Ethnic Dinner Post Scripts

In the Ethnic Dinner article for last month's Branches, there were so many people to thank for their help with the Greek dinner, there wasn't room for anything else. So here's all that other stuff.

GLASSES—Up to now, every event at Paint Branch which involved beverages required the purchase of plastic or Styrofoam "glasses" which were used once and thrown away. No more! For anyone who doesn't yet know it, we purchased glass tumblers which are in the cabinets over the dishwasher. There are approximately 100 each of 2 different sizes. They don't belong to Ethnic Dinners; they are Paint Branch's. If you are planning an event or in charge of beverages for one, keep in mind, they are there.

CONTAINERS—A couple years ago I asked you to stop donating plastic containers because there were so many I had no more room to store them. This abundance has now been somewhat depleted, so you may start bringing them in again. But please note these "rules":

- The sizes most used are ½ pint, 1 pint (the most popular), 3 cup and 1 qt. NO small yogurt cups, no frosting containers. No metal or glass containers. If it's something you wouldn't use, don't bring it in.

- Be sure every container is clean and has a clean, snug fitting lid.

- Bringing them in clean plastic grocery bags is good because we need these bags as well. Tie the handles, but tie them loosely so they can be easily opened.

Bring them to church and leave them in the kitchen. I'll find them.

While used mostly by Ethnic Dinners, the containers also belong to Paint Branch. If you are in charge of an event from which there may be leftovers and you want containers, just let me know in time so I can bring them in when you need them.

We also collect some much larger containers (such as those for the large tubs of ice cream) to be used to first store the leftovers overnight in the church's refrigerator, so if you have any of those to spare, we'll gladly take them. They can also be used for that purpose for other events, but we would like them back when you're done with them.

HELP WANTED—I would like to find someone willing and able to take over managing the containers. This is not a difficult job, but does have certain requirements:

- You need to have ample space, clean and dry, in which to store them. I keep them in my basement.

- You need to attend church fairly regularly to pick up donations, bring them back in when needed for various events, or arrange for someone else to do so, and then

take the unused ones back home.

- Check newly donated containers for lids, cleanliness and size. Put a lid on each one and sort them by size, putting them in the paper grocery bags, one size per bag, each bag labeled with that size on 3 sides.

- You want to also acquire a collection of these bags. They are grocery size and have handles which make it easier to carry 4 or 5 at a time, but after a lot of use, they rip, and replacements are needed.

- You need to also collect and fill one bag with plastic grocery bags for people who fill multiple containers.

Marilyn Pearl 301-805-1218 / buffalo_gal@verizon.net

STEWARDSHIP: "Helping Hands, Loving Hearts"

Every Sunday we come together as a religious community and say these words as part of our Chalice Lighting. It is the many helping hands and loving hearts at Paint Branch that create opportunities for rewarding connections with one another. These words also capture the essence of 60 Years of Stewardship at Paint Branch in sustaining our congregation and opening new doors to the wider community. With all of this in mind, your Stewardship Committee has selected these words as the theme for our Annual Campaign. We are now hard at work with the planning efforts, forming teams and performing a wide range of activities to make 2014 another great year of Stewardship at Paint Branch. Please save the date of March 9 and join us on Commitment Sunday where after a Stewardship themed worship service you will have the opportunity to make your annual financial commitment and enjoy a luncheon. We will also have Visiting Stewards this year to ensure that every member and friend can reflect on what Stewardship means to them. Please contact either of us if you want to learn more about Stewardship at Paint Branch or are ready to offer your helping hands and loving hearts in support of our Annual Campaign.

*Mike McMenamin & Chris Evans
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs*

When Writing a Check to PBUUC, Penmanship Counts!

The bank at which we have our church's account has recently started putting the checks we deposit through a scanner to read how much they are written for. At least two times in the last few weeks, it has read a check incorrectly, resulting in a discrepancy between our count and the bank's. This requires us to go back through all the checks, find the one causing the problem, and confirm the correct amount. Some numerals, unless written carefully, can closely resemble other numerals. Keeping this in mind when writing your greatly appreciated checks can save time and avoid errors. Thank you.

Marilyn & Dave, your treasurers

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 list your email address only as a point of contact, and if requested, an email specific to individual PBUUC committees, groups, or teams can be created.

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**.
- **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.

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

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