



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

February 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.

FEBRUARY 2

FROM A TRINITY OF ERRORS TO A TRINITY OF PROMISES

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

Just as individuals form a congregation, congregations form our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. And if UUism is a “living tradition” as we like to call it, and a movement more than a denomination, where is it/where are we moving? Today is Signing Sunday – for those ready to make the commitments of membership, please meet the Minister and Greeter at the chalice after the service.

FEBRUARY 9

SYMPATHY, FIDELITY AND COURAGE

Rev. Diane Teichert and Noel Monardes, Worship Associate

Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration

Celebrating the birthday of Charles Darwin on February 12, 1809, we will let him lead us on an exploration of the nature of altruism, appropriate for our theme this winter, Compassion and Justice. Please stay for the annual Town Hall Meeting (see page 9 for details).

FEBRUARY 16

GOD(S) BLESS AMERICA

Guest Preacher George Glady, with Ken Redd, Worship Associate,

Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration, and the Choir

Our guest preacher will offer a religious liberals’ look at American patriotic songs and holidays.

FEBRUARY 23

FORGIVING OR/AND FORGETTING

Rev. Diane Teichert with Mary Wester, Worship Associate,

Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Exploration, and the Chalice Dancers

We honor Black History Month with the Chalice Dancers’ 2013 Auction Dance “We Shall Overcome” and by searching the writings, speeches and sermons of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for wisdom on the topic of forgiveness. The Special Collection will be taken for The Family and Friends of Incarcerated People. New-comers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office from 11:30 to 12:30.

Who do you know who seeks more meaning in life?

Who do you know who yearns for a sense of community?

Invite someone to join you for a Sunday service this month!

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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 | vacant |
| 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-chair) | Peter Wathen-Dunn |
| Denominational Affairs | 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 & |
| 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...

From ancient times to the electronic age, people have needed the Pause Principle.

It goes way back to the Ten Commandments in the Hebrew Scriptures. “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.” (Exodus 20:1-8).

For eons, it seems, humans have tended toward workaholicism and have needed a reminder to rest!

Similarly, have you ever hit the “pause button” on a remote?

Sometimes, we just need to get up for a stretch, or a snack, or to visit the bathroom. Sometimes, we need a real day of rest and relaxation in our busy lives. And, sometimes, we need a breather in the flow of whatever is going on at the moment.

The Pause Principle occurred to me as the Lay Leaders Covenant Workshop on January 11 drew to an end. Something was still missing.

It had been a good time together. Twenty-eight people gave their Saturday afternoon, their attention and their goodwill to a productive process of listening, sharing, learning, and resolving together - about how to communicate as lay leaders of the congregation. Ten general points emerged (see the Board Co-chairs' Column) from fifty or so more specific potential promises put forward in small groups.

But what was still missing was a technique that would help people keep their promises. I suggest the Pause Principle. It works well in friendship, family and work relationships too. It is like a “time out,” except that it is not punitive.

Let's agree that it is okay to pause a conversation. In the course of a meeting or discussion, if something is said which does not seem to be in concert with the covenant – in content or tone – it should be accepted practice for anyone present to interrupt the flow and ask the speaker about his or her intent.

For example, if someone says something that sounds accusatory, stop the conversation and ask if that was their intent, and then converse about their response.

It is often the case that the speaker didn't intend to have the impact experienced by the hearer and, in that instance, the pause will easily lead to clarity, and relief. On the other hand, when the impact was intended, the pause will take more time, as people express their respective points of view and feelings, trying to tell the truth with love. Either way, the pause will hopefully refresh the conversation and establish, or reestablish, common ground.

We all make mistakes. It's good to “forgive ourselves and each other” so that we can “begin again in love,” as one of the songs in *Singing the Journey* goes.

In a religious community such as ours, with our shared Unitarian Universalist Principles, drawing from the same Sources of wisdom, we have a special opportunity, and a special obligation, to practice communicating in ways in which each person feels appreciated for their respective contributions and so that the business of the church is conducted in productive and amicable ways.

Practice won't make perfect. But, the Pause Principle will help!

I hope to see you on Sundays,

Diane

*There will be a
Newcomers Gathering with Diane in her office
on Sunday, February 23 from 11:30 to 12:30.
Child care provided in Room 5.*

Wheel of Life

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim Dietz and his wife, Erika Teal. Jim, who suffers from Parkinson's Disease is recovering in a rehab facility from a fractured hip. Please send cards to their home address for Erika to deliver.

We rejoice to join Celinda Marsh and Randall Perrine, and big brother Connor, in welcoming Alexander Scott Perrine to our world, born on January 23, 2014.



Board of Trustees Column

The Board Beat, February 2014:

We have moved past the holidays and once again find ourselves awaiting another snow event. We have also moved into a new year and in the spirit of renewal had some time to reflect and contemplate how we currently communicate and how we ideally would like to communicate with each other at a congregational covenanting workshop on January 11th. Renee Ruchotzke, a leadership consultant from Central East Regional Group (CERG) of the UUA, led a day-long discussion and fellowship for 28 members and Diane from Paint Branch. The event was lively, open, frank, and fruitful and only the beginning of our discussions as a congregation to move forward in the spirit of respect and understanding to make PBUUC collectively more than the sum of our individual parts.

The following 10 points summarize the beginning draft of the leadership and congregational covenant. These statements are only a first draft and background materials are available to anyone who wishes to see them. We will discuss these further during the February 9th town hall event.

Draft covenant

1. I promise to listen deeply and actively; even when it is hard to hear.
2. I promise to speak my truth out of my own experience with a gentleness of spirit.
3. I promise to hold sacred my commitments.
4. When I fall short of my commitments, I will take responsibility, apologize, and try to set things right. I'll accept and respect an apology when offered, assuming best intentions.
5. I promise to remember I am a faith leader, accountable to our mission, vision, and UU Principles.
6. I promise to be open when others challenge my assumptions and gently challenge the assumptions of others. Truth is something we discern together.
7. I promise to make space for full participation of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.
8. I promise to serve when I am able and offer a sacred no when I am not.
9. I promise to foster good processes that include openness, cohesion, responsibility, and appropriate confidentiality.
10. I promise to remember that being a leader is a spiritual practice.

From the Board co-Chairs, thanks to all that attended and to those who will comment.

Looking ahead we wanted to remind everyone that the annual stewardship drive is coming up. We have a full team in place ready to begin for what promises to be another successful campaign. Please pay attention to upcoming announcements and be open to opportunities to participate on all fronts.

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 February 18 at 7:30 pm and the Board meeting will be held in Room 4 of the RE building on February 25 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, or come to the Exec Com meeting; if you wish to observe or to speak to an item on the agenda, come to the BOT meeting itself. For more information about the experience of visiting the BOT meetings, see the following page on the PBUUC website: <http://www.pbuuc.org/bot/visitors.php>

Charles Towe & Don Gerson

Board of Trustees Co-Chairs

Fair Share Contribution

PBUUC's "fair share" payment to the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Joseph Priestly District (our region of the UUA) has been beyond our means to fully fund starting in Fiscal Year 2010-2011. The Board of Trustees feels that this should change. At this year's February ninth congregational meeting we will lead, with our own contributions, an appeal to the congregation for donations to bring PBUUC back to Fair Share status. We want to make sure the UUA and JPD will always have the means to carry out the missions we support. We hope you will join us in this goal.

Don Mitchell, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Our Caring Community

The We Care Coordinator for February is our newest We Care Coordinator, **Fran Caughey** (pronounced Caw'-ee). Thank you, Fran, for stepping up! If you or a congregant you know is in need of rides, meals, cards or visits, please contact Fran at **301-766-9648**.

Also, thank you to Alan Hedin for volunteering to set us up with lotsahelpinghands.com so that our We Care program can operate on-line for those who prefer to express their needs or their ability to help out that way.

Coordinators Needed: We are therefore looking for one or two more We Care Coordinators who have on-line capability, to join Esther Nichols and Fran Caughey who do not. Please let me know if you are interested in that!

If you did not complete and turn in the **We Care Survey** printed on blue paper and distributed on Sunday, December 15, please go to the link that follows so that the We Care Coordinators will know what you may be willing to do. Please do so even if you have completed paper copies in the past, because we are updating our records. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BJFGB8W>

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

Religious Exploration

Have you ever heard the StoryCorps stories on NPR? The stories where a grandson interviews a grandmother or spouses interview each other. These stories are broadcast on Fridays on NPR, Morning Edition. Personally, I have never listened to a StoryCorps segment without, at least, tearing up a bit. They even published a book of the stories called *Listening is an Act of Love*.

This year, I decided to do my own StoryCorps project and burn it onto a CD and give the interviews to my family members as a Christmas present. I recorded my mom and my sister-in-law sharing stories about my brother. I recorded my father-in-law and my mother-in-law sharing stories about their kids and each other.

The experience of listening and recording these stories, thoughts, and moments, was... transformative. The publishers of the book got it right; listening IS an act of love. I felt closer and more connected to each family member. It was almost as if I gave myself a gift. Something became abundantly clear as I interviewed each person. At the end of the day, love is the story. It sounds cliché, but there is some truth in cliché. In the end, not one person said, "I am most proud that I turned that paper in on time." No one said, "I want to be remembered for the time I sold the most widgets in the school fundraiser." It was the intimate moments of love and connection that people talked about. It was the quiet weekend breakfasts, and the sweet kiss of a six year old that were etched on people's hearts.

Another lesson I learned is that the *telling* of the stories of our lives is an act of love. People will only know about your experiences if you share them. Telling your stories gives people a chance to walk in your shoes, if only for a moment. Sharing your stories brings you closer to the upcoming generations, and preserves your life for generations you will never meet in person.

In my observation, Millennials (the official generation name of teens and early twenty-somethings) are experts in storytelling, listening and archiving. They don't just want to tell their story, they want to hear other people's stories. That is why social media is about connection and news-feeds, and re-tweets. Consider this: social media is just people sharing their stories, moment by moment, bit by bit. One piece of wisdom, many of us can learn from Millennials is that we all have a story to share with the world. They use blogs, YouTube, Tumblr, and Instagram to share the stories of their lives, daily. They also use these tools to listen to other people's stories, daily. Technology has made it very possible to share your story with whoever

wants to listen.

The youth of this church, want to use that technology to help you share your story. The high school youth are doing their own StoryCorps Project, following the NPR model. They are looking for volunteers who are willing and able to share their stories. They want to know about the moments that made your life memorable. They want to know about how your faith community has impacted your life. They want to connect with other generations in this church in a meaningful way. AND... They want to connect your story to the world. The interviews will be filmed, edited and put on YouTube.

If you would like to have your story chronicled for our very own, PBUUC Story Corps Project, please contact Khadijah Ali-Coleman or Mary Wester. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby of the Meeting House over the next few Sundays.

Yours In Faith,

Dayna Edwards,

Director of Religious Exploration

In Spirit Play, the Rainbow Promise for February is Green: Grow by exploring what is right and true in life.

Here is a Chalice lighting that you can use at home to reinforce the "Green Promise"

We light our flaming chalice

To illuminate the world we seek.

In the search for truth, may we be just;

In the search for justice, may we be loving;

And, in loving may we find peace.

Source: 1997 UUMA Worship Materials Collection and "Illuminations App"

Getting to Know UU

A class for newcomers

wanting to know more about

Unitarian Universalism and PBUUC

Saturday, April 5 from 1 – 4 pm

With our Minister and Lay Leaders

SAVE THE DATE – SIGN UP IN MARCH

Light refreshments will be served - Childcare will be provided if requested by March 23.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Raising the Minimum Wage – A Moral Imperative. Join our own Deb Rubenstein on Sunday, February 16 during Enrichment Hour as She Shares Her Doctoral Studies Work on this Important Social Justice Issue. The UUA and our Paint Branch Congregation have recognized economic justice as a priority area for social justice efforts. Paint Branchers ranked the widening wealth divide as a priority issue to address in last spring's SAC survey. The UUA has issued a statement identifying increasing the minimum wage as a moral imperative. As part of her doctoral studies in social work, Deb has researched the history of minimum wage policy in the United States, and national and local advocacy efforts to raise the minimum wage. She will share what she has learned at this Enrichment Hour gathering. An interesting discussion is sure to follow! SAC thanks Deb for giving this talk and hopes many of you will join her on February 16.

Support Transgender Equality Legislation at the Lobby Day and Rally in Annapolis on Monday February 17, 2014 - 5:30 pm at Lawyers Mall Next to the State Capitol – Followed by Visits to Our State Legislators. The *Fairness for All Marylanders Act* will add much needed anti-discrimination protections for transgender and gender non-conforming people to Maryland laws covering housing, employment, places of public accommodation and credit. Support from Senate and House leadership is reported to be unprecedented. And our own Rev. Diane Teichert has agreed to head up the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland's transgender rights work. How proud we can be of her continued unwavering support for GLBT rights! More details will follow later re: carpools to Annapolis for this lobby day.

The UU-United Nations Office Spring Seminar is from April 3-5 in New York City. This intergenerational seminar will be on the rights of indigenous peoples and environmental justice. Its keynote speakers will be the UUA president, Rev. Peter Morales and the Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council, Vyda Ng. Over the years Paint Branchers have regularly attended this stimulating spring seminar at the United Nations. Registration is now open for it - which we hope will again attract many of us to go! Marge Owens is our PBUUC envoy to the UU-UNO office and a good person to contact for more information about this.

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

Next Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting:
Saturday, February 15, from 10 am to 12:30 pm
in Room 1 of the RE Building

Paint Branch Community Learning Center Update

WE DID IT! WE STARTED OUR ENGLISH CLASSES!

WE HAD 16 OF THE 18 STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE PAY THE \$30 FEE.

THANKS TO OUR TEACHERS/TUTORS ON DUTY: JAMES ALEXANDER, NANCY BOARDMAN, KIM KEYES, CARMELITA CARTER-SYKES, AND DIEGO CONTRERAS

ADMINISTRATOR: CAROL CARTER WALKER;

REGISTRARS: KATHY KEARNS, EMMA SUE GERSON, AND NATHALIE LEGERWOOD

AND BOARD LIAISON: MELODY LAWRENCE.

Special Collections News

On Christmas Eve, Paint Branch people contributed **\$1,468** to our Warm Nights program, when homeless people stay in our church for a week.

This amount, along with what the Board of Trustees has already allocated for the program, will pay for the many expenses of the week, including breakfast and bag lunches, helping our guests pay for using the local laundromat and maintaining our plumbing when so many people are using it.

Upcoming special collections will be:

February 28: Family and Friends of Incarcerated People, recommended by DARTT

March: UUs for Social Justice, our local social action coordinating group

April: Zero Waste Prince George's/Community Research

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) February Meeting to be Rescheduled

Please keep an eye out for an upcoming announcement in the Sunday bulletin of our next meeting date.

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.

In and Around Paint Branch

STEWARDSHIP: "Helping Hands, Loving Hearts"

The Stewardship Committee is hard at work putting the finishing touches on our "Helping Hands, Loving Hearts" annual campaign. This month, look for more information about our two workshops that will be offered on February 12th and 19th from 7:30-9:00 PM and will provide information and training to our stewardship volunteers and others interested in this year's campaign. Commitment Sunday will be on March 9th where after a Stewardship themed worship service you will have the opportunity to make your annual financial commitment and enjoy a luncheon. Please contact either of us if you want to learn more about Stewardship at PBUUC.

Mike McMenamin & Chris Evans
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

Attention Staff, Committees, & Affinity Groups:

It is time to start thinking about next year's budget. The deadline for turning in your 2014-2015 Budget Requests into the BLT is **Sunday, March 2!**

We are asking for three submissions to: first, a bare-bones minimum operating budget - this is the minimum amount of money you need to function; second, a standard operating budget - what you usually spend in a year; and finally, a dream budget - if there were few financial limitations, what would be your budget request.

Late budget requests, will NOT be considered until everything else has been taken into account! **Don't forget!**

Thank you, *the Budget Leadership Team*
BLT@pbuuc.org

Nature Spirituality Circle

Candlemas Ritual - February 2 at 2 pm

The Nature Spirituality Circle is holding a Candlemas (aka Imbolc) ritual in the Meeting House on Sunday, February 2, starting at 2 pm. Please bring candles that you would like to have blessed for your use in the coming year. We will also bless the candles that are used for Joys and Sorrows in the church service. The plan is to complete the ritual by 4 pm - so everyone can be home well before the Super Bowl. There will be no potluck. As always, this will be a family-friendly ritual open to all open-minded people.

Nature Spirituality Circle: Divination Workshops. NSC is hosting divination workshops on 2nd and 4th Sundays during enrichment hour in Room 6. We will work with astrology and reading a natal chart on February 9 and 23.

Tabitha Pierzchala (ladytabidee@gmail.com)

Women's Group February and March Meetings

Group Book Swap - On February 23 during Enrichment Hour in the Kelley Room (left side), the PBUUC Women's Group will meet for a Book Swap. Bring a book you recommend to other readers (and are willing to give away), and receive a book recommended by someone else! The book can be used or new. Come prepared to say something briefly about the book and why you recommend it.

If you don't want to swap a book, but do want to hear about good reads or enjoy the fellowship of others, come join us too!

Women's Retreat - Mark your calendar! Our annual one day Women's Group Retreat is scheduled for Saturday March 1 from 8 am till 5 pm. The day will consist of breakfast, ingathering, workshops, lunch and much more right here at Paint Branch. Look for announcements in the bulletin and sign-up coming soon.

COM's Valentine to the Congregation

The Committee on Ministry (COM) has a special Valentine for the congregation! In mid-March we will be sponsoring an online survey (with paper copies for those who want them) asking questions about the ministry of our church. Then in mid- to late-April, we will hold two focus groups for discussion of the results and what ministry means to each of us.

Let's start the conversation on ministry with this quote from "The Committee On Ministry Model," by Rev. Robert T. Latham: "There is a singular principle that governs the religious community driven by congregational polity: the congregation owns its mission and ministry. This means that all leadership and all organizational life are servants of this principle. Therefore, all success and all failure are owned by the responsible congregation."

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, Susannah 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

In and Around Paint Branch, continued

ETHNIC DINNERS ~ AND SO WE CONTINUE

The honor of my being selected for the Enduring Gratitude plaque is superseded only by the humility I feel. I received this honor for 25 years of Ethnic Dinners. OK, the idea was mine and I've done it for 25 years, but truth be told, I never produced a single Ethnic Dinner all by myself. There have been literally too many others to name. Many of them, regrettably are no longer with us due to death or moving away. But somehow their voids have been filled by newcomers or others who eventually find the time or interest to become involved.

Two who stand out and must be recognized are Cathy Helmold and Mike Stark. Both have been active since the first dinner. Cathy has helped plan, sell tickets for, cooked for, cleaned up after and helped with the leftover sale for at least 60 of the dinners. Mike has taken on full responsibility for the bar, needing only to know the date, the theme and the expected attendance.

I will also give a nod to my daughter Lynn Hoffman who creates the tickets & posters for each dinner. Like Mike, she needs only the theme and date, and takes it from there.

There is a committee as well, one which never meets. Via email, we discuss and select dates and themes, and deal with any other administrative issues. This work, which begins sometimes months before each dinner, may continue through the day of. The only meetings held are to plan each menu, and these meetings, while often attended by members of the committee, are open to anyone with an interest in that particular dinner/theme. Research is done, recipes gathered and a menu created.

Then the dinners are publicized and we cross our fingers. During 3 weeks of selling tickets and recruiting volunteers, we can only hope for enough response to justify the effort. And Paint Branch, you don't let us down. Some people volunteer to cook, dinner after dinner; some just for a theme which is significant to them. Some take on complex, unfamiliar dishes and excel. Some ask for "something easy", and relieve others of less complex, but time-consuming salads, cheese platters or cookies. Those not as comfortable in a kitchen, come early to set up the room, set the tables, help in the kitchen, or tend the door. Others donate music, take photos or stay late

to clean up. There are 30 -40 tasks, and some people do 2 or 3 of them. It's an amazing team effort which keeps happening three times every year.

Thanks as well to the 60 -70 people who regularly purchase tickets and attend the dinners, and to all who patronize the leftover sales. Without you, everyone else's efforts would be in vain!

This recognition implies that the dinners should continue, so let's begin our 26th year! We are looking at a date in March, probably the 22nd, theme yet to be determined; suggestions welcome ASAP. If you'd like a list of dates and themes of all 63 dinners done so far, just ask. The Menu Meeting will be February 23. Watch your bulletins for updates. Contact Marilyn Pearl at 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.



TWedHUULK at Sir Walter Raleigh's Wednesday, February 19, at 1 pm

The Third Wednesday UU Lunch Klub will go to this tried-and-true restaurant on Greenbelt Road. We have not been to Sir Walter's for over a year and their "expanded" salad bar has been a favorite, along with a menu full of standard American and Italian entrees. Prices at lunchtime are reasonable, parking is easy, and the manager will set us up in a horseshoe arrangement so we can all at least see each other and talk easily. We will be in the quiet meeting room. All are welcome. If you need a ride or can offer someone else a ride, please contact Marge Owens on lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572.

Directions: Take Greenbelt Road toward the Beltway Plaza shopping center, look for the Shell station just off the exit from the Beltway and Edmonston Road. The restaurant is right next to the Shell station and a little behind it.

In and Around Paint Branch, continued

FEBRUARY 9TH TOWN HALL AGENDA

- Fair Share Collection - UUA Annual Program Fund and Joseph Priestly District Fair Share Dues
- Lay Leadership Covenant Draft / Discussion
- BLT Process Overview
- Updates:
 - ◇ Site Improvement
 - ◇ Committee On Ministry
 - ◇ Paint Branch Community Learning Center
 - ◇ 60th Anniversary Planning



MUSIC NOTES

"Music at Paint Branch" recital series presents two upcoming concerts. Both promise to be exciting. Tenor Jesse Holt will sing "Mostly Love Songs" accompanied by David Chapman on Sunday, February 16 at 4 pm in the Meeting House.

Looking ahead to Sunday, March 2 at 4 pm; James Stern, Violinist and Audrey Andrist, Pianist will thrill us with their beautiful music. Audrey Andrist has been the substitute pianist for many Sunday services and her performances are always exciting. Her husband, James Stern, is on the faculty at the University of Maryland and his violin virtuosity is not to be missed.

Both recitals are free; donations happily accepted. Please attend and bring friends and family both events. A reception will follow.

Jeri Holloway, Arts Council

HOUSE BAND

WE NEED A DRUMMER.
KNOW ANY?

Six M Composers for the Month of March Concert

March 16 at 4 pm: Deni Foster, Dick Berg, and Heather Brown are performing a FREE "Six M Composers for the Month of March" concert. They will be performing works by Marcello, Mozart, MacDowell, Mahler, Mihaud, and Menotti. Their final number will be a six-hand piano trio called the Mayo Clinic Mess. After the hour concert there will be a reception.

HELP WANTED

PBUUC has an immediate opening for a part-time Building Manager. The Building Manager is responsible on a rotating basis for operating the church Meeting House sound system; opening and closing the Meeting House and the Religious Exploration Building on Sundays; and maintaining a clean and safe facility. The selected individual must also be available to work performing similar tasks for rental events such as weddings, memorial services and recitals. PBUUC policy is to not hire Members for staff positions, but if someone you know may be interested in this position, please have them contact the Church Administrator at churchadmin@pbuuc.org.

Limited Church Office Hours February 12—14

The Church Administrator will be taking leave from February 12 through 17. Please submit Sunday bulletin announcements for February 16 by 9 am on Tuesday February 11. Branches articles should be sent by the 20th of each month to branches@pbuuc.org.

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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