



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

January 2015

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.

JANUARY 4

BE OURS A RELIGION?

Leo Jones, guest speaker; with Van Summers, Worship Associate;

Dayna Edwards, Director, Multigenerational Religious Exploration; and guest pianist Deni Foster

Unitarian Universalists have embarked upon a seemingly endless search for an "elevator speech" that explains Unitarian Universalism. We have become defensive about our faith, and have engaged in an unnecessary, and sometimes painful, attempt to prove to others and ourselves that ours is a religion. Why and how can we move forward with pride in our faith and represent Unitarian Universalism without apology?

JANUARY 11

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Rev. Russ Savage; with Noel Monardes, Worship Associate

Someone brings it up every year: "I wish we could sing Christmas carols with the old words I remember instead of the new ones in our hymnal." The words we change are a reflection of what is important to us, and many words are changed not only in Christmas carols but in other hymns as well. Let us see what we can learn about ourselves from comparing the new words with the old.

JANUARY 18

SWEET FREEDOM

MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY

Rev. Kate Walker, guest preacher; with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate; and the Choir

This sermon will look at the complexity of freedom as envisioned by our founding fathers to Martin Luther King Jr. It will ask what liberation theology and our UU Principles have to teach us about how to navigate the moral ambiguity of freedom. Rev. Kate Walker is minister of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, VA.

JANUARY 25

TRANSITIONS

*Rev. Russ Savage, John Bartoli, and Rev. Diane Teichert,
with Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate*

Change challenges us when it comes upon us. We know we are leaving the old familiar place and heading toward a new place which we see but dimly. The space in between can be filled with confusion and doubt. Perhaps PBUUC is in such a space right now. We will examine what that feels like and how we might move ahead. *This is a Signing Sunday (see below).*

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM: Two events will be scheduled regularly on the fourth Sunday of each month, unless there is a conflicting congregational event:

Signing Sundays. The Minister and a member of the Board of Trustees will be happy to greet anyone wishing to sign the Membership Book. They will be available by the chalice after the Sunday service, ready to welcome new members wishing to make this important commitment to our church community.

Meet the Minister. Rev. Savage and a member of the Membership Team host a gathering of visitors or friends who'd like to find out more about PBUUC and our particular approach to Unitarian Universalism. This is an opportunity to have a personal conversation about our unique church and activities. These will be held in the Minister's Office in the Religious Exploration Building after the service and after new member signings.

Table of Contents

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| January Sunday Services | Page 1 | Meet Our New Members | Page 6 | Wider UU Universe | Page 8 |
| Message from Membership Cmte | Page 1 | Social Action Committee (SAC) | Page 7 | UUs for Climate/Env. Justice | Page 8 |
| PBUUC Leadership Directory | Page 2 | Escalating Inequality | Page 7 | Young Adult Training & Advocacy | Page 8 |
| Ministers Page | Page 3 | UULM-MD Meeting Jan. 17 | Page 7 | In and Around Paint Branch | Page 9 |
| From Rev. Russ Savage | Page 3 | Upcoming SAC Meetings | Page 7 | Women's Group Smithsonian Trip | Page 9 |
| From Rev. Diane Teichert | Page 3 | Special Collections Update | Page 7 | On Exhibit in the MH | Page 9 |
| Board of Trustees Column | Page 4 | PB Community Learning Center | Page 7 | TWedHUULK at New Deal Jan. 21 | Page 9 |
| Committee on Ministry | Page 4 | Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team | Page 8 | PBUUC Bookstore Returns | Page 9 |
| Religious Exploration | Page 5 | Reverberations #BlackLivesMatter | Page 8 | Calling All Scientists.... | Page 9 |
| Our Caring Community | Page 5 | DARTT January Meeting, Jan. 3 | Page 8 | Amazon Smile Reminder | Page 9 |
| Wheel of Life | Page 5 | Stewardship Committee | Page 8 | Note to Readers | Page 10 |
| January We Care Coordinator | Page 5 | Green Team—Guest Speaker Jan. 11 | Page 8 | Holiday Dinner Thank You | Page 10 |

PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2014-2015 🌀

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Chair | Theresa Myrdon |
| Vice Chair | John Barr |
| Vice Chair | Melody Lawrence |
| Trustee | Liz Citrin |
| Trustee | Peter Dowling |
| Trustee | Wendy Schlegel |
| Trustee | Carol Carter Walker |
| Secretary | Shantida |
| Assistant Secretary | Tess Morrison |
| Treasurer | David Nation |
| Assistant Treasurer | Marilyn Pearl |

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Genie Ahearn (2014-15) | Van Summers (2014-17) |
| Carol Boston (2013-16) | Carol Carter Walker (2014-17) |
| Jonathan Mawdsley (2012-15) | Bettie Young (2012-15) |
| Noel Monardes (2013-16) | |

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

Fran Caughey
Melody Lawrence

🌀 Chartered Committees & Task Forces 🌀

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Arts Council | Pat Tompkins (Music) |
| Auction | Jane Trout (Visual Arts) |
| Budget Leadership Team | Mark Shute |
| Buildings & Grounds | Theresa Myrdon |
| Capital Campaign | Lowell Owens |
| DARTT (co-chairs) | Peter Wathen-Dunn |
| Denominational Affairs | Carol Carter Walker |
| Electronic Communications | Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson |
| Ethnic Dinners | Don Gerson |
| Finance | contact church office |
| Green Team (co-chairs) | Marilyn Pearl |
| Leasing | Patty Daukantas |
| Legacy Fund | Penny O'Brien & Will Snyder |
| Membership | Church Office |
| Ministry | Ken Montville |
| Nominating | Polly Pettit |
| Personnel | Susannah Schiller |
| Religious Exploration (co-chairs) | Muriel Morisey |
| Site Improvement | Jim Flaherty |
| Social Action | Patricia Most & Elizabeth Porter |
| Sustaining Our Ministry | Peter Wathen-Dunn |
| Stewardship | Nancy Boardman |
| | SOM@pbuuc.org |
| | 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 | contact church office |
| Community Café | Jeri Holloway |
| Food for Thought | Mary Tyrtle Rooker |
| Handcraft Circle | Marj Donn |
| 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 | Katherine Earle |
| Quest Discussion Group | Lowell Owens |
| Paint Branch Community 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 | Pat Behenna |
| Widowed Persons Support Group | Jeri Holloway |
| Women's Group | Wendy Schlegel |
| Women's Retreat | Wendy Schlegel |

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tues), Will Snyder (Wed), Alice Tyler (Thur)

🌀 Staff 🌀

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

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Minister | Rev. Diane Teichert |
| Interim Caretaker Minister | Rev. Russ Savage |
| Music Director & Pianist | David Chapman |
| Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration | Dayna Edwards |
| Church Administrator | Sharon Werth |
| Administrative Assistant | Charles Bury |
| Bookkeeper | Alexis Saunders |
| Sunday Service/Building Managers: | Debra McCann |
| | Romeo Ndonfak |
| | Wyatt Rexach |
| Child Care Providers: | Beth Judy |
| | Jazmin Balbuena |
| | Milan Monardes |

Ministers Page

From Rev. Russ Savage:

The New Year provides us the opportunity to say farewell to things from the past and embrace the new things which are now only in formation. This is certainly the case for PBUUC this New Year! During 2014 we saw our minister Rev. Diane Teichert suffer a stroke, changing her trajectory and ours. When it became clear she would not be back for a while, I was asked to step in and fill the gap for a time.

We've all seen Diane's progress recently. She has visited services several times, walked to the front and lit the chalice recently, and took part in one of the demonstrations seeking racial justice in our country. In January, Diane plans to take a more substantial part in a worship service. She and I are planning on co-preaching the stewardship sermon on Sunday, March 8; and Diane aims to preach the sermon on her own on a Sunday in April. Then she will begin to try out what additional ministerial duties she can begin to take on. I'm ready to step back at any time, making space for Diane to do as little or as much of the work of PBUUC's ministry as she feels is right for her.



As the New Year unfolds, keep sending healing thoughts to Diane and good vibrations to PBUUC.

See you in church!

Russ,

Rev. Russ Savage
Interim Caretaker Minister
ICM@pbuuc.org

From Rev. Diane Teichert:

On Tuesday December 2, I walked, without a cane for the first time at home, for about 125 feet! I was thrilled, and I was thrilled again to see on the video of it that my left knee was bending a little. That's a thrilling change!

That week was a very full and notable week of transition toward independence for other reasons as well. It was the last week on the job for wonderful full-time home health aide, household helper, dog walker, driver, personal trainer, exercise supervisor and all-around good companion. She has started a new job, which I think will be a good opportunity for her; and good for me, too, because I no longer need as much assistance as I did when she started in mid-June, and full-time assistance was very costly. But, I really do miss her company!

Instead, we hired a first-year college student for just a few hours in the morning as a household helper. Coincidentally, her mother is the minister of a church in our neighborhood! I'm organizing volunteer drivers to outpatient therapy appointments and elsewhere as needed via <https://can.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/716747/>. Please feel free to sign-up if you might like to help.

And, I am interviewing for a personal trainer to help me keep up with my exercises when I don't have therapy. These changes signify for me that I am stepping up for the challenge of self-managing more complexity in my life.

In another example of transition planning, on Tuesday, December 2 (that was an unusually full day for me!)... With Rev. Russ Savage, PBUUC's Interim Caretaker Minister (ICM) and the Committee on Ministry, we developed a very gradual series of "stepping-stones" for me to return to minimal work duties: dates in the winter months on which I will do more than just "visit" on one Sunday morning each month, but will take minor roles of increasing responsibility in the service itself.

The first of those was December 14, when I lit the chalice flame, symbol of Unitarian Universalism. This required me to rise and walk to the front of the Meetinghouse (with my cane), for the first time in public, with over a hundred people watching. Upon returning home afterwards, I had to laugh when I discovered that my fleece cardigan had been buttoned crookedly all morning! I thank anyone who noticed for not telling me at the time.

If all goes well with these stepping-stones, I aim to co-preach with the ICM on March 8th for Stewardship Sunday, and preach by myself for the first time in April. The "what" and "when" of resuming other ministerial duties are yet to be determined and the ICM will continue in his current capacity until they are.

These transitions are both exciting and trepidating! (is that even a word???)

I continue to feel deeply grateful for the ongoing care and support I receive from the congregation and its lay leaders and staff!

I look forward to seeing you more often on Sundays!

Diane,

Rev. Diane Teichert, Minister
revdteichert@gmail.com



Board of Trustees Column

We are approaching the New Year. It's an artificial construct, this beginning of a new year, but it does give us a set time to look back and look forward at the same time. The Board set a vision for this Church Year and we've accomplished a few things. The Board wanted to investigate starting small group worship at the Church and decided that the middle of a ministerial transition is not a good time. We've added this to the Parking Lot to take back up in the future. Thanks to the energies of Dayna Edwards, our Multigenerational Director of Religious Exploration, the Church is improving it's inter-generational activities.

Some items on our Vision need your support and help. The Board would like to craft a 5 Year Plan for Financial Stability. What does that mean? That means taking a good look at where the Church is now in terms of finances, stewardship, and staff. Then coming up with a Vision for where we'll be in 5 years and working with the Board, Committees, and Congregation to establish Goals and Steps to get there. Some items under our 5 Year Plan include returning to being a full Fair Share Congregation and Fair Compensation for our Staff. Where do you imagine PBUUC over the next few years? If interested, please contact me.

Second, the Board realized we need to re-establish our Personnel Committee. We need a dedicated group of 3-5 individuals to review and propose personnel policies, help with Staff reviews, make recommendations on compensation and benefits, and be available to mediate in situations where appropriate. This is for all staff except the Minister, who falls under the Committee on Ministry. Do you have experience in hiring, office management or administration, good interpersonal skills, or have served as a manager? If so, the Board needs you! Please contact John Barr if you'd like to help.

Third, our sound system isn't the greatest. We'd like to fix that. However, no one on the Board has any experience or expertise in Audio/Visual systems. Do you know something about how to set up or run an AV system? Do you have experience as a stage tech? If so, please contact Peter Dowling. We'd really like to have a sound system that is clear and works for everyone.

Fourth, the Building and Grounds Committee (BAG) will be doing a review of the Church from the perspective of accessibility. The Board wants to know if there are any changes we need to make for our buildings to be friendly to everyone visiting our Church. If you have any ideas, then contact Lowell Owens, Chair of BAG.

Finally, the Annual Town Hall is in early February. Look for announcements coming soon. The Agenda right now consists of presentations on the Board Vision, Accessibility (if we can), the Budget Process, and Ministerial Transition.

We hope you're having a wonderful holiday season!

Theresa Myrdon

Chair, Board of Trustees

Committee on Ministry

“Caretaker” Ministry Nurtures Both Our Congregation and Our Minister!

The past eight months have been a period of transition in the ministry at Paint Branch. The BOT's quick action to hire Rev. Russ Savage as our “Interim Caretaker” Minister, along with the work of our wonderful Worship Associates have preserved continuity in this time of uncertainty. Here's a snapshot of what the COM and the ministers are doing to ensure that the ministry continues to nurture the congregation.

The COM's monthly meetings with the Minister have included both Russ and Diane since August. As a group, we have discussed Diane's gradual return to the congregation, so that it is manageable for her, yet supportive of our community. Each month Diane's recovery has progressed and she has become more certain of when and how she can return to the ministry.

At this point, the COM is looking forward to continuing this transition through the winter. We will be following a gradual series of “stepping stones” that Diane has identified in conjunction with Russ and the COM. One Sunday each month in the winter months, Diane will do more than just visit, taking minor roles of increasing responsibility in the service itself. Our hope, if all goes well, is that she and Russ will co-preach at a service in March and that Diane will preach a service on her own sometime in April.

Our congregation is very fortunate to have an Interim Caretaker Minister who is taking good care of the congregation and uplifting us with thought-provoking services. Throughout this process, Russ has been wonderfully flexible in supporting and encouraging Diane to do as much as she is ready for.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) serves to nurture the ministry and the spiritual health of the congregation. Current members are John Bartoli, Susannah Schiller, and Sabrina Jones. We encourage anyone with comments, suggestions, or simply praise for Diane's ministry to contact one of the members or email com@pbuuc.org.

Religious Exploration

Stress Relief and being a Multigenerational Church

How many times have you thought to yourself, “why didn’t they teach me THAT in school,” or “I wish I knew that when I was younger”?

Take a moment and close your eyes, and imagine what you would say to yourself, if you could speak to a younger version of yourself?

Now open your eyes, because I want to share something with you. The younger version of yourself is sitting on a couch in Room One of the RE Building on Sunday mornings. The younger version of yourself is also pretty wise already and thoughtful and ambitious. Yes, our youth are, in many ways, the younger versions of ourselves, since we are all connected. Their challenges and stressors might be slightly different, but they are trying to make sense of the world, much as you did as an adolescent. While we have to watch them make their own mistakes and struggle with the consequences of their own decisions, we as members of their faith community have a unique opportunity **to minister** to our youth in a way that teachers, parents, family members and friends can’t.

What does it mean to minister (as a verb) to our youth? The Webster’s Dictionary defines the verb to minister as, “to give aid or service.” Our youth have said they want, from their faith community, skills that they may not be gaining elsewhere: leadership training and stress-relief services. Imagine if someone had taught you how to relieve stress in a healthy, effective way in high school. Imagine if someone had not just thrust you into a leadership position, but instead had given you real skills in listening and conflict resolution before you got to college. Perhaps someone did teach you stress relief and leadership skills. Lucky you! We as a faith community can give aid or service, we can *minister* to our youth, by sharing the skills and wisdom that we’ve spent years figuring out on our own and with the help of teachers. Ministering to our youth is also an act of social justice. It equips our young people with the healthy coping skills they will need as the older



generations pass the proverbial torch of creating the Beloved Community.

Let’s minister to our youth as a congregation, because we are uniquely capable of doing so. Pick one Sunday and one skill, activity, or hands-on workshop that you can share with our youth and use the link to sign up for a date to minister to our youth: <http://tinyurl.com/refacilitators>. Once you sign up, I will be in contact with you to talk about logistics. Popular workshops/services that have already taken place include Reiki, full-body relaxation techniques, dream interpretation, LARPing (Live Action Role Play), Non-Violent Communication, and “Being the Observer”. As always, our Lead Youth Advisor, Sonny Katz or I will be present with our youth to assist you in this ministry.

I will leave you with a wondering question. I wonder, how your interactions with our youth would change if you viewed the interaction as a ministry to our youth.

Yours In Faith, *Dayna Edwards*,

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Our Caring Community



WHEEL OF LIFE

Our Minister Diane Teichert continues to show us what she can do as her recovery continues: after PBUUC hosted the monthly meeting of area UU ministers on

December 3, she practiced walking up and down the ramp to the platform and then stepping up and down from the platform without the ramp; on December 14, she and Don attended the service and she lit the chalice. Many people have expressed solidarity with marchers seeking improved relations between the races in our country, especially with regard to the police; some PBUUC members have taken part in the marches and demonstrations, including Rev. Diane! Chris Evans and Jeanne Judd express concern about the health of their daughter Samantha. Theresa Myrdon’s mother had bariatric surgery on December 16. Sally Lamar recently celebrated her 97th birthday! Don Munro expresses the sorrow that his driver’s license has been suspended; while he is waiting to get it back, John Holbrook is giving him rides. John is on regular dialysis treatments and looking good. Theresa Myrdon’s sister Becky has experienced bullying and harassment on her new teaching job; send healing thoughts as she works to sort things out. Don Gerson and Emma Sue recently visited Reading, PA, to celebrate the birthday of Don’s daughter Laurie.

—Rev. Russ Savage

January’s We Care Coordinator is Fran Caughey.

Please contact her if you, or a PBUUCer you know, is in need of meals; rides to church or medical appointments; visits; or cards. You can call her at 301-776-9648.

Meet Our New Members



Tess Morrison came to PBUUC primarily through her brother in Carlisle, MA, who is a UU and told Tess that UUs "tend to be very liberal." Tess and her mother, Jean, had tried a couple of Methodist churches in the area, "which is what I was primarily brought up as," Tess said. Then they visited Paint Branch and Silver Spring and really liked Paint Branch. Tess said, "I wanted a liberal church (as all the churches we visited were), a stimulating minister, plus one that was integrated (not a problem in this region), and with a good Sunday discussion group; I am enjoying the Quest Group." Tess also noted that when she visited, the music was terrific, the sermon was thought-provoking, and the Quest Group was great, so she felt that she would be happy here. Tess loves to cook, so volunteered to cook for Warm Nights, the ethnic dinners, and also cooks and delivers meals for those in need. Tess also enjoyed the Women's Retreat and going to the National Arboretum with members of the Women's Group in the spring. Another thing that appealed to Tess was the play of seasons outside the Sanctuary windows. "Our first visit was during an early snowfall, early December most likely, and the huge snowflakes drifting down were mesmerizing." At some point in the future Tess plans to serve on the Board or a committee as needed.



"Paint Branch is so different. It just seems to fit." That's what **Jean Morrison** said when asked what brought her to PBUUC. Jean grew up Methodist; however, growing up, she had questions about the basis and perceptions of what the church taught. As an adult, Jean and her husband Bob (deceased, Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps) visited houses of worship of different religions on each continent. Jean and their children (Tess, Paul, and Rees) traveled with Bob to wherever he was stationed. During tours in Germany and Korea, the family traveled on weekends throughout Europe and Asia. Jean says that travel makes all of life so much better. She got her travel bug as a child. She would take to running away on wash days when her mother was busy (Jean was 2 or 3 at the time), so her mother would tie her to the clothesline so she could run up and down but stay in sight. Later, Jean's grandparents, on a world trip, had mailed postcards to her family from everywhere. Jean collected these postcards and longed to see the places depicted, intent on some day visiting the amazing sights shown on the cards. These days Jean content herself with going on a cruise every year with her son Rees on the QM2 (Queen Mary II), cruising between Southampton, England, and New York. When she's not cruising, Jean is happy to spend time with her children and grandchildren, all of whom now live within easy traveling distance along the East Coast.

Submitted by Janet Overton on behalf of the Membership Team

Mea Whittle joined Paint Branch UU Church on March 30, 2014, after looking for UU churches in the area and being told that PBUUC has an excellent music program. She attended choir rehearsal and was won over! She now sings in the choir as an alto. She also volunteers as a co-teacher at the Paint Branch Community Learning Center, and with the Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force, which provides escorts to women in need of health care at women's clinics. Besides singing and volunteering, she also likes to spend time playing pick-up soccer and lifting weights. Mea grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and later moved to New Mexico where she attended the UU Church of Las Cruces. She attended college at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology where she received her bachelor's degree in biology. After returning from working overseas in 2013, Mea stayed at a hotel very close to Paint Branch while looking for a house. She completed her search for a home and moved to Gambrells on September 28, 2014, and very soon after that, she and her now-husband Kevin Rogers were married at PBUUC on October 4! Mea is now transitioning from working in the engineering field to pursuing a medical career, a decision influenced by the loss of her father in 2012 to stomach cancer two weeks after diagnosis. She is working toward becoming a physician assistant or nurse practitioner. Welcome to the Paint Branch community, Mea!

Submitted by Renee Katz on behalf of the Membership Team



Sarah Treado and **Eric Olson** signed the membership book on June 1, 2014, but they are already known to many at PBUUC. They visited regularly for about a year before joining and also have several friends who are members. They were attracted to the church by the UU principles and the values they engender and by

PBUUC's active participation in social justice issues, such as marriage equality. Social justice is a passion for both Sarah, a social worker with the Washington Hospital Center, and Eric, Executive Director of the College Park City-University Partnership, a community development corporation, and formerly a member of the Prince George's County Council (2006-2014). Another draw for Eric and Sarah was the Religious Exploration classes; they have two daughters -- **Larissa**, 9, and **Annika**, almost 6 -- who attend RE classes and also sing in the Children's Choir. Sarah and Eric have been married for almost 13 years. The family lives in College Park. Welcome to Sarah, Eric, Larissa, and Annika!

Submitted by Janet Overton on behalf of the Membership Team

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Escalating Inequality Study Guide Focuses on Four Key Subject Areas for Congregations.

After attending a December 6th briefing on this Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) selected by the UUA General Assembly for study and action from 2014 – 2018; the following highlight the study guide's four key areas for congregational engagement in the escalating inequality in our country. They range from the personal to local, state, national, and global levels and involve both education and ideas for action in partnership with other organizations. SAC and our Economic Justice Coordinator, Deb Rubenstein, will continue work on this issue with Paint Branchers - as together we reflect and explore our on-going commitment to make a difference in this critical area. The four subject areas are; 1) Class and Classism - as we expand our ability to build relationships across class differences. 2.) Economic Inequality: Its Roots and Realities; 3) Inequality, Class, and Our Congregation; and 4) Interrupting Cycles of Inequality – as we discover and offer to wider communities what is most deeply true about ourselves.

As an example of our learning together, Marge Owens has been our PB bookseller on this issue. Thanks Marge! Already many of us have copies of the book *Billionaires' Ball: Gluttony and Hubris in an Era of Epic Inequality* by Linda McQuaig and Neil Brooks. And Marge is ready to place another order if there's interest. Deb R. has been in touch via e-mail about when is the best timing for setting up a January book discussion following the holidays. Stay tuned for more information about this.

Save the Date! Saturday, January 17 is the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland's Annual Meeting at the UU Church of Annapolis. It is from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. The church is at 333 Dubois Rd. Annapolis, MD 21401. UULM-MD is a statewide advocacy network of Unitarian Universalists that works to educate, mobilize, and coordinate UUs on specific issues before the Maryland General Assembly by working in coalition with established state and national organizations. SAC will plan carpools to this important annual meeting. Watch the weekly bulletins for information about this.

Upcoming Social Action Committee (SAC) Meetings:

Saturday, January 31, 10 am – 12:30 pm
in Room 4 of the RE Building

Saturday, February 21, 10 am – 12:30 pm
in Room 4 of the RE Building

Saturday, March 21, 10 am – 12:30 pm
in Room 4 of the RE Building

Special Collection for the Homeless

If you've been around a while, you've probably noticed that once a month we have a special collection to benefit some worthwhile cause. The recipient for our special collection in December is always the homeless, through our own "Warm Nights Program," when homeless people stay in our Meeting House for a week. Although our week to house the homeless is going to move to a later month, we will still have our fundraising for it in December, and, specifically, on Christmas Eve! We will not have envelopes as usual, because the whole Offering for both the early and the later services will go to help the homeless. Please contribute as generously as you can.

January Special Collection to Help People Stay in Their Homes

Housing Initiative Partnership helps people deal with foreclosures and rent problems through their "Bounce Back" program. From eviction prevention to teaching such topics as budgeting, taxes, smart shopping and saving for retirement, they are there to support the people in our communities and prevent homelessness. Please make your check payable to "Housing Initiative Partnership." Date to be announced.



PAINT BRANCH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER LOOKS TOWARD TERM

We would like to encourage you to participate in our ESL program in any way you can. We need people to distribute flyers in December and register participants on

January 18 and 25 after church. Join other Paint Branchers and friends who have served as teachers and assistants. Training for volunteer teachers and assistants will be on Saturday January 24, 2015 with breakfast and lunch served. Registration will be on January 18 and 25, 2015. Thanks again to our second term teachers and assistants: James Alexander, Jim Behenna, Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Carol Carter Walker, Lynn Johnson, Bekki Ow Arhus, Lucette Smoes, Mea Whittle, and Kathi Yu. Thanks to those PBUUC members and friends who helped with registration: Nancy Boardman, Carol Boston, Chris Evans, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Kathy Kearns, Melody Lawrence, and Rosie Rexach. Contact: cartercarmelita@aol.com or 202 236-8783 to volunteer. Thanks.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team's January Reverberations On Race: Black Lives Matter

The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team's January Reverberations On Race will be a facilitated discussion on PBUUC and Black Lives Matter—What's The Connection? Join in the Meeting House during Enrichment Hour after the service on January 11. More details to follow.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) January Meeting Saturday, January 3 from 1 to 3 pm

DARTT's January meeting will be Saturday, January 3 from 1 to 3 pm in Room 4, 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, but have ideas or suggestions, please send them to DARTT@pbuuc.org

Stewardship Committee

What does Paint Branch mean to you?

Does it mean great sermons given by our Caretaker Minister, Russ Savage? Does it mean gathering on the deck for coffee and conversation? Does it mean walking through the Glen? Does it mean the Religious Exploration Program? Does it mean Social Action? What do you get from Paint Branch?

How can we ensure that what we receive from Paint Branch is around tomorrow? Last year, the stewardship campaign raised over \$295,000 in pledges. This amount allowed the church to *finally* give our dedicated staff a raise, albeit not as much as we'd like or they deserve. We were able to increase the DRE's hours, but not fully compensate her for professional expenses.

So this year, we begin our stewardship campaign anew. Our theme is **Building the Way Forward**. We celebrate community. We celebrate ourselves and our journeys. We celebrate the buildings and the grounds that were built by us.

Please mark March 8, 2015 as our special stewardship Sunday. In the next months, we will have a host of events designed to entertain and inform you on just how much your financial contribution to Paint Branch means to growing our programs, enriching our community and honoring our staff and volunteers.

Green Team

Learn About Upcoming Maryland Legislation

Please come to a meeting about protecting the environment, sponsored by our own Green Team and the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland. Brooke Harper of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) will present a power point program about some important legislation to be introduced in the Maryland General Assembly this winter. The Maryland Climate Coalition (which includes many local environmental groups (Sierra Club, Environment Maryland, UULM-MD and more) are pushing for a higher renewable portfolio standard (RPS). This bill will raise the proportion of our power that must come from wind and solar from 20% by 2020 to 40% by 2025. Join us during Enrichment Hour on January 11. A light lunch will be available.



The Wider UU Universe

UUs for Climate and Environmental Justice

Saturday, January 10, 9 am- 1:30 pm
River Road UU Congregation, Bethesda, MD

UUSJ invites all UUs who care about environmental justice and climate issues to the first regional UU meeting of the year, hosted and organized by River Road UU Church members. We will look back on regional and national UU progress in climate action and look forward to actions for 2015, a globally important climate year. UUs are asked to provide brief updates of congregational actions on the [UU Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign](#) adopted at the 2014 General Assembly, follow up [UU Religious Reponse to the 2014 Climate March](#), and [plans for 2015 Earth Day](#).

The session will focus on concrete actions we can take to reduce fossil fuel dependency by promoting energy efficiency locally and nationally. A speaker presentation will be followed by break-out groups discussing next steps to reach UU goals to promote fossil fuel reduction in 2015.

You can register at <http://goo.gl/tqjOci> and also read the agenda.

Skill-Based Training and Advocacy Opportunity for Young Adults

Washington, DC Saturday, March 14-Tuesday, March 17
Registration Deadline Sunday, March 1

The Spring Lobby Weekend sponsored by the UU Service Committee and the UU College of Social Justice and the Friends Committee on National Legislation will feature time to explore our moral grounding for working on climate change, a "deep dive" look at current climate justice issues and the need for changes in federal policy. We'll offer lobbying training, and then Hill meetings with legislators and their staff. Link: <http://goo.gl/8Lhlii>

In and Around Paint Branch



Women of Paint Branch!

Join the PBUUC Women's Group on Saturday, January 10 on a trip downtown to the National Museum of the American Indian whose mission is "advancing knowledge and understanding of the

ative cultures of the Western Hemisphere—past, present, and future—through partnership with Native people and others. The museum works to support the continuance of culture, traditional values, and transitions in contemporary Native life."

Meet at 11:30 am in the Paint Branch parking lot to car-pool to the Green Line of the Metro to L'Enfant Plaza where we will walk a few blocks to the museum located on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the US Capital. Or travel on your own and meet us there. Both entrances to the museum have ramps for accessibility and all levels of the museum, including exhibition spaces and public facilities, are accessible by elevator. Wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis at both entrances. For details about accessibility go to <http://nmai.si.edu/visit/washington/accessibility/>

We will have plenty of time for socializing over a hot winter lunch at the fabulous Mitsitam Café and Espresso, which features the cuisine of Mesoamerica, Northern Woodlands, South America, Northwest Coast, and the Great Plains. Go to <http://www.mitsitamcafe.com/content/menus.asp> to see the current menu and prices. (If you are a member of the Smithsonian, remember to bring your card for a discount!) Wander around or visit the gift shop before the 2 pm tour. Tour guides appreciate questions from interested visitors and tend to customize their tours rather than provide memorized speeches, so every tour is different. Even if you have visited the museum before, please consider joining us for this trip! For more information, contact Tricia Most: patricia_most@msn.com

On Exhibit in the Meeting House

The wonderful Fabric Art by Rhoda Taylor will be on display in the Meeting House through Sunday, January 18, 2015. That day there will be a reception from noon until 2 p.m. to give you an opportunity to meet the artist and learn more about her work.

The next Sunday we will open a group exhibit by members of the Maryland Art League. This organization began in Randallstown in 1971 so it has been around for many years.

Jane Trout, Visual Arts Committee

Join TWedHUULK for Lunch Wednesday, January 21 at 1 pm at Greenbelt's New Deal Café

The Third Wednesday Handy UU Lunch Klub will gather Wednesday, January 21 at 1 pm at the New Deal Café in old Greenbelt. The menu is Mediterranean, the parking is plentiful, and the prices are reasonable. Directions: From Kenilworth Ave. drive on Crescent Road past the Buddy Attick lake park, past St. Hugh's church, and turn into parking behind the city office building, and find the café across from the movie theater in the center. If you can join us, please contact Marge Owens at lowellandmarge@verizon.net or 301-345-1572, especially if you will need a ride or can offer a ride to someone else.

Paint Branch Bookstore Returns!

The Paint Branch UU Church Bookstore provides an opportunity for members and friends to purchase books for adults and children about, and by, Unitarian Universalists and others after Sunday Service. We'll also offer sales of books by our own authors. PBUUC earns a little bit of money for our operating budget mostly due to buying from the UUA Bookstore at discounted prices.

We will be open on the first Sunday of every month during the Fellowship Hour, right after Sunday Service. Stop by on January 4—our reopening day.

Marj Donn and Carol Carter Walker

The Calling all scientists, naturalists, astronomers, philosophers and dreamers:

One Sunday a month we are sharing a multigenerational activity in the spirit of Charles Darwin and his trip on the HMS Beagle. Activities might include, nature walks, squid dissection, fossil examination, recycled materials collages, labyrinth walks, scientific method-based experiments, volcano making, or anything else that promotes the wonder and awe of nature, science and the spirit of discovery. Sounds like something you want to be a part of?

Use the link <http://tinyurl.com/pbuucbeagle> to lead a multi-generational activity on any 4th Sunday during Enrichment Hour.

AmazonSmile Brings Money To Paint Branch

AmazonSmile has replaced the selling of grocery scrip as an ongoing fundraiser for Paint Branch UU Church. You can buy gifts, or something you need or want, and help PBUUC at the same time. This includes gift cards. You can just type AmazonSmile into your browser and you will be given simple instructions—very simple if you already have an Amazon.com account. Here is the link to the signup [website](http://www.smile.amazon.com). [smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). PBUUC will receive .5% of every \$1 you spend on the Smile website. If you need assistance in signing up, please contact Dave Nation, Mark Shute or Carol Carter Walker.

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 **200—600** words. Please submit the name of the author and any other contact information as necessary. **Reminder: Articles significantly over the word limit may be returned to the author for re-editing.**
- The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the Sunday Order of Service Bulletin is **every Wednesday at 12 noon**. Announcements received by the deadline will be sent to all email recipients of Branches.
- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** should be submitted in their final form to bulletin@pbuuc.org. 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 an 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.

Thank You to the Many Who Helped With Our Holiday Dinner!

A warm appreciation and BIG thank you is expressed to the many people who helped to make our dinner possible. I wish I could name all of them here, but I didn't get to see many of them “in action.” John Sebastian and Jan Montville started the help by sharing previous years' experience and paperwork. Jeri Holloway and John Bartoli began the work with a wonderful kitchen clean-up. I have never seen the kitchen look so good! Liz Citrin and Jan Montville signed up to sell tickets the two Sundays before, but “on the day of” Dayna Edwards, a wonderful lady in the RE program whose name is unknown to me, and Shantida took over the job when they were most needed! We had many cooks. Those who signed up ahead were Noel Monardes, Jan Trout, Marge Owens, Lynn Johnson, Don Gerson, Kim Keyes, Marilyn Pearl, Polly Pettit, Jan Montville, Tricia Most, Marj Donn, Penny O'Brien, Chris Evans, Carolyn Byerly, Rene McDonald, Carol Boston, Robin Earnst, Kathi Yu, Nancy Boardman, Theresa Myrdon and Wendy Schlegel. I was grateful to the Women's Group who donated extra cookies for our dessert. We had so many cookies that some were saved for the early Christmas Eve service. Many people helped to set-up and tear down the chairs and tables, but these are the people who were “on paper” to help: Noel Monardes, Emma Gaines-Gerson and Don Gerson, Tina Van Pelt, Shantida, Janet Overton, Cory Carter, Jonathan Mawdsley, and Martin Gallahan. A special thank you to Wyatt Rexach and David Chapman who returned the chairs to sanctuary format after it was swept. Table decoration was done by Tricia and Eric Most, Evangeline Wells, Sandy Roberts, Jan Montville and probably others! The Kitchen Elves were Fran Caughey, Mike McMenamin, Jeri Holloway, Carol Boston, Iris Peabody and “head elf” Liz Citrin. Servers of the food to table were Lucette Smoes, Sandy Roberts, Nancy Boardman and others. Jan Montville and Patty Daukantas packaged and sold the leftovers. I truly appreciated Mike McMenamin's help. In a very last minute request, he picked up a senior who wished to attend, and Patty Daukantas volunteered to take her home. That was really a wonderful gift for her. Chuck Bury, our Church Administrator, was everywhere Sunday, officially not on duty, but helping with many facets of the dinner and even an emergency situation. He is truly an asset to Paint Branch. A special thank you is for Liz Citrin, Carol Boston and Alice Tyler. They stayed very late to help with kitchen dishes and final clean-up. My last thank you is to my husband, Martin Gallahan, who carried many, many bags of materials and food for the dinner in and out of the house, up and down the stairs, to and from the car. Our church is full of people who share, and make the activities we all enjoy possible. You are a great blessing to everyone and a gift all year.

Melody Lawrence, Holiday Meal Coordinator