



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

February 2016

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Nursery Care in Room 6 from 9:45-12:45
Refreshments and Fellowship after the service
Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45
Childcare until 12:45

FEBRUARY 7 WHO SPEAKS FOR WHOM? MORAL DIMENSIONS OF THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE

PBUUC Member Carolyn Byerly; with Carol Boston, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Join PBUUCs Carolyn Byerly, professor of communication and media studies at Howard University, in an exploration of how media trends affect our ability to hear and learn from diverse voices.

FEBRUARY 14 HIGHEST OFFICE

The Rev. Evan Keely;

with Van Summers, Worship Associate

As the long season of the 2016 contest for the Oval Office continues to unfold, we might pause to reflect on what the role of the President of the United States means -- and what it doesn't.

FEBRUARY 21 STAND BY THIS FAITH COMMITMENT SUNDAY

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir

Our Universalist foremother Olympia Brown told us, There is nothing in all the world so important as to be loyal to this faith.

FEBRUARY 28 ENGAGE!

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate; and Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

How do we make connecting in a loving, committed way a spiritual discipline?

Minister's Column



I admit I have some mixed feelings about African-American History Month. On the one hand, I can't help but feel that each of every year's twelve months is and ought to be a time to remember the history of Africans and their descendants in this country. On the other hand, if the nation takes a month to focus its intention on remembering the incomparable contributions to American civilization of African-Americans, that surely must be to the good.

PBUUC will also be moving forward during February in our ongoing exploration of whether the church should align itself with the Black Lives Matter movement, and if so, what exactly that will mean and entail. I continue to be grateful for the conversations we have had about this. The church discussions of which I have been a part have not been around whether or not black lives really do matter, or whether or not racism continues to be a serious problem in America. We seem to have made up our minds collectively that we do feel called as a faith community to do something. It is so important that we take action mindfully, grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith. That takes time, and it takes speaking honestly and listening authentically. And we know no decision will be perfect, just as we know we can't perfectly satisfy everyone (and that we actually shouldn't even try to accomplish that impossible feat). The process has been important, and it is important that we move forward as a congregation with commitment, mindfulness and hope.

Evan — The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister
minister@pbuuc.org

Our Caring Community

February'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.



Wheel of Life: Our MH Art curator Jane Trout is continuing her recovery from a sudden illness. And congratulations to new grandmother, Nancy Boardman, our Social Action Committee Chair.

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2015-2016 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair	Theresa Myrdon
Vice Chair	Liz Citrin
Vice Chair	Tess Morrison
Trustee	John Barr
Trustee	Mike McMenamin
Trustee	Marge Owens
Trustee	Ken Redd
Trustee	Carol Carter Walker
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

Carol Boston (2013-16)	Beth Charbonneau (2015-18)
Noel Monardes (2013-16)	Will Snyder (2015-18)
Van Summers (2014-17)	Sophie Bernheisel (youth WA)
Carol Carter Walker (2014-17)	

🌀 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	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds	Kathi Yu
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	Marilyn Pearl
Leasing (contact)	Patty Daukantas
Legacy Fund	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Membership	Church Office
Ministry	Ken Montville
Nominating	Janet Overton
Personnel	[contact Transition Team]
Religious Exploration	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Site Improvement	Jim Flaherty
Social Action	Patricia Most
Stewardship	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Transition Team	Nancy Boardman
	Chris Evans
	Transition@pbuuc.org

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Carol Carter Walker
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Liz Citrin
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield
Mediation Program	David Haberman
Meditation Group	Cory Carter
Men's Group	Mike Stark
Moms of Young Ones	Jessica Sharp
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
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Rene McDonald
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Pat Behenna
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Wendy Schlegel

🌀 Minister 🌀

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

Interim Minister

The Rev. Evan Keely

🌀 Staff 🌀

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

Music Director & Pianist

David Chapman

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Dayna Edwards

Director, Chalice Dancers

Sharon Werth

Church Administrator

Charles Bury

Administrative Assistant

Aisha White

Bookkeeper

Kirti Patel

Sunday Service/Building Managers:

Romeo Ndonfak

Child Care Providers:

Wyatt Rexach

Jazmin Balbuena

Beth Judy

Alexis Saunders

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

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

Board of Trustees Column

Fellow PBUUC'ers,

The Board held our mid-year retreat this month as well as our standard business meeting. At the business meeting, we once again heard from Buildings and Grounds (BAG) about ongoing repairs to the deck, which are unfortunately postponed until the weather warms up again, and an update on the ongoing discussions with the County about the Alternative Stormwater Compliance program. We also planned the agenda for the Town Hall, discussed small group ministry, and reviewed the extremely preliminary budget that the Budget Team compiled. Finally, the Board discussed the Interim Ministry Evaluation. For everyone's awareness, an Interim Ministry evaluation is designed to be a discussion between the Board, as hiring officials, and the Interim Minister on the progress of the Interim Ministry period. This is not a staff evaluation, which does invite Congregational comment. It is primarily an opportunity for the Board and Rev. Keely to ensure we are on the same page regarding our purpose and goals for the Interim Ministry. The Board encourages anyone who has concerns with Rev. Keely to raise them directly and in person with him.

At our retreat, the Board held in-depth discussions about the responsibilities of the Board to the Church and Congregation as well as a deep chair conversation led by Rev. Evan about the focus and goals of PBUUC. We reaffirmed that the Board of Trustees has a stewardship responsibility to PBUUC, which means determining our strategic vision and direction. Our job is to look at that big picture while navigating and leading any challenges and projects that are outside the scope and budget of the committees or staff members.

To step back from being involved in the day-to-day operations of the Church, the Board is delegating to the Committees the responsibility of taking the initial lead on any ideas and projects that are presented to the Church. We encourage members and friends who have an idea or project for the Church to first talk with the relevant committee(s) or staff member(s). Only after the committee(s) and/or staff have decided this falls outside the scope of their committee or their budget, does it need to come to the Board. We accept that having projects start at the working level (committee or staff) and then percolate up to the Board is a bit of a culture shift. To help make this shift easier, we will have a 'best practices' set of questions to help everyone navigate the process and have planned time at the Town Hall for discussion.

Speaking of the Town Hall, it is scheduled for February 28th. While the calendar says 11 am – 4 pm, we're anticipating something closer to 12 – 2 pm. We are planning

some form of lunch and will have child care available. The agenda includes an update on the multicultural plan, multi-generational plan, status of current BAG projects, announcement of upcoming leadership vacancies, a read out on our transition and ministerial search process, review of the Board Vision, and a presentation and discussion on determining the Next Chapter for PBUUC. The Board is attempting to envision the future of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. We are facing a new chapter in our Church's life and want you to help us determine where our story is going. We are working out a plan for how to engage everyone in writing our future that we're calling 'the Next Chapter' and will present it to you at the Town Hall.

Sincerely,

Theresa Myrdon,

Board Chair

February Board Meetings:

Thursday, February 4, 8 pm

Executive Committee (via Conference Call)

Saturday, February 13, 11 pm

Read-Aheads due to Board

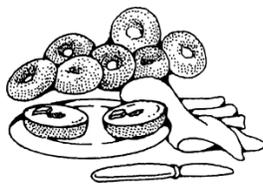
(email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Tuesday, February 16, 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

Board Breakfasts Begin Sunday, January 31

The current Board is initiating Board Breakfasts in every month that has a 5th Sunday. We'll serve coffee, tea, and munchies while we listen. Mark your calendars for every fifth Sunday from now 'til the end of the year.



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) News:

DARTT has been facilitating congregational work to implement the 2011 congregational resolution declaring Paint Branch's commitment to becoming an intentionally diverse religious community. These meetings converged with a request from some church members to hang a BLM banner on church property. A group of PBUUCers (ranging from 10 to 50) have been meeting to discuss next steps. The February 28th Town Hall Meeting will provide an opportunity for members and friends to hear details about proposals that have developed from these discussions. Lean in and stay tuned!

Religious Exploration

Five words that get in the way of your best intentions

By Dayna Edwards

As we enter the new year, many of us set goals, resolutions, and intentions for the New Year. Before setting intentions I want to take a moment to share some lessons I learned in 2015. I learned some important lessons from the Universe in 2015 about getting out of my own way; on my journey I noticed five words that stopped me, and others, from fulfilling our best intentions.

Tired: I used to say, "I'm tired," almost every day, and guess what, every day, I remained... Tired. It was at a retreat called Women, Food, and God that the speaker, Geneen Roth pointed out that when we continue to say we are tired, we put ourselves into a trance of tiredness. When we wake up and say, "I didn't get enough sleep," or when we start counting down the hours until we can take a nap, we are starting from a place of lack and insufficiency. Next time you start to say, "I am soooo tired," I encourage you to go deeper. Take a few deep breaths, and notice where in your body you feel tired. Do your eyes burn, does your head hurt? What does tiredness look like in your body? Once you go deeper, you can start to remedy what's really happening in your body. Sometimes, just a few deep breaths is enough to get you re-energized and on your way.

Busy: We live in a culture that places great value on busyness. Often, I will ask parents of school-aged children, "How are you?" The answer, inevitably, starts with, "I'm busy." Followed by a list of appointments, classes, sports, etc. I have made it a spiritual practice recently to not answer, "How are you?" with "busy." Instead, I am trying to answer with, "I am grateful," followed by the same list of things to do and places to go. It has an amazing effect on my mindset and mood.

Should: Also known as "supposed to." If I could have a funeral for any word in the English language, it would be the word "should." Should is a word laden with judgement and obligation. I used to say, "I should go to the gym today," or, "I should eat healthier food." No good feelings come from a sentence with "should" in it. However, if you change "should," to "could," a whole new world of possibilities open up. Next time you feel a "should," on the tip of your tongue try replacing it with a "could," and see how different you feel about going to the gym or eating healthier. "Could," gives you options. "Should" gives you judgement.

Push through: In my opinion we live in a "push through" culture and it is not working for many of us. If you watch certain workout videos or go to certain fitness classes they *literally* tell you to push through the pain. In her book, *The Gift of Imperfection*, Brene Brown talks about the "dig deep button," or what I have affectionate-

ly named the "push through button". She says, "It's the button that you rely on when you're too bone-tired to get up one more time in the middle of the night or to do one more load of throw-up-diarrhea laundry or to catch one more plane or to return one more call or to please/perform/perfect the way you normally do even when you just want to flip someone off and hide under the covers." Dr. Brown goes on to say that she broke her push through button in 2008. Well, I broke my button in 2015 and it's the best thing I ever broke in my life! Prior to 2015, I was a master of pushing through. I was also a master at getting sick. It seemed to me, that I was getting some type of sickness (strep, ear infection, stomach flu, whatever weird virus) every two weeks! And I would try to ignore it, take some DayQuil and push through. In 2015 I gave myself permission to rest when I felt worn down and depleted. I gave myself permission to listen to my body. I gave myself permission to make time for spiritual practices. I gave myself permission to stop pushing through. Since I broke my push through button about six months ago, I have not gotten seriously sick or needed antibiotics, which for me, is truly miraculous. So there are your 'five' words: tired, busy, should and push through (see what I did there?)

Make 2016 great.

Yours in Faith,

Dayna.

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Announcements:

Mystery Friends: In March, the MRE Team will be launching a new initiative to bridge the generations. It is called Mystery Friends. Younger people will be paired with adults in the church and they will share clues with each other about their identities. Then, we will have a reveal party where you will learn the identity of your mystery partner. If you're interested in being a Mystery Friend contact Jessica Sharp at spangledan-gel@gmail.com.

UU Birthday Bash! **What:** Celebrate the birthdays of famous UUs and UUs from Paint Branch. There will be cakes and games as we celebrate February birthdays. Connect with people of all generations at this event; **When:** Sunday, February 7 at 11:45am; **Where:** The Kelley Room in RE building. **Contact:** Dayna Edwards at dre@pbuuc.org for more information.

Outdoor Classroom. Do you want to help out with the outdoor classroom, but you're not sure what to do? The MRE Team has created a list of jobs that you can do at a time that is convenient to you. [Click here](#) or contact Jessica Sharp for more information at spangledan-gel@gmail.com

The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe



Quarterly Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic UU Buddhist Sangha, Saturday, February. 20, 2016

UU Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road
Annapolis, MD 21401 10 am – 4 pm.

Please RSVP to to alanasoka@gmail.com and mpg@uuannapolis.org as soon as possible
Directions: <http://www.mpgannapolis.org/mpgdirections.html>

AGENDA

Before we convene: Coffee, tea, and bagels
10 am. Welcome to the UU Church of Annapolis, followed by a 10 minute meditation– Bob Ertman.
10:15 am. Introductions led by Phyllis Culham. New groups, especially, are invited to share the nature of their group.
10:45 am. Report on plans for a retreat/Regional Convocation at Murray Grove Conference & Retreat Center – Linda Kay. Consideration of other possible sites (e.g., Pendle Hill, near Philadelphia). Followed by discussion of plans for our retreat, led by Alan Oliver
12:30 am to 1 pm. Sharing of Lunch. (Lunch brought by each individual attending; UUCA will provide beverages).
1 pm-- 1:10 pm. Postprandial meditation.
1:10 pm. Discussion of Regional Convocation, continued.
1:30 pm. UU/Buddhist paper-- Alan Oliver
2 pm. Report on proposal for workshop at the JPD District Assembly– Bob Ertman. Followed by discussion (proposal submitted January 22 and we may or may not have heard back). Who can attend the JPD Assembly? The Metro NY workshops are already set but "The UU Network Mall is a tradition at the Metro NY District Annual Meeting. Tables or other displays are set up to provide an opportunity for District congregations and UU-related organizations to put their best practices on display for sharing, networking, and inspiring others." The deadline is April 25 and the meeting is May 1-2, in Morristown, NJ. Who could take this on?
2:30 pm. to 2:45 pm. Break
2:45 pm. New business, other topics. (E.g., new listserv?) Led by Bob Ertman
3:50 pm. to 4 pm. Discussion of plans for our next general meeting at Germantown. Led by Jerry Lindauer
This Agenda is flexible and may be changed as we go through it. We will need your response as to who will be attending. Please email your registration to alanasoka@gmail.com and mpg@uuannapolis.org as soon as possible, telling us who will attend. It would be helpful also if you could reply that you cannot attend and if you are interested in remaining on the List Serve. The success of this regional effort depends on you so please consider attending to help build a Mid-Atlantic Regional program. We hope to see you all there!

Worship Arts Festival Postponed until October 14-15, 2016

Dear friends,

The Joseph Priestley District Worship Arts Festival (WAF) has been a beloved tradition for more than a decade. UU musicians, educators, ministers, and laypersons have looked forward to gathering in February to learn, to share, and to dream about powerful Unitarian Universalist worship. We have welcomed exciting trailblazers from other faith traditions, celebrated the gifts and courage of visionary worship leaders and educators within our own local congregations, and established collegial connections within and between fields of professional expertise. UU worship and the health of UU communities are better today because of the JPD WAF.

And that's not going to stop.

As JPD congregations are now more connected than ever to sibling congregations in the St. Lawrence, Ohio-Meadville, and Metro New York Districts through the centralized leadership and support of the Central East Regional Group, the WAF will be undergoing some changes as well. The first and most obvious change will be the shift from the traditional (but seasonably challenging due to travel and snow) February time slot to a weekend in October—a time when congregations tend to feel the excitement of a new program year, and before holiday traditions begin to clamor for attention and resources.

With this in mind, the 2016 Worship Arts Festival ("Weaving Whole Cloth: Working Together to Build Powerful Faith Communities"), which we had previously planned for February 19-20 in Cherry Hill, NJ, has been rescheduled to Friday & Saturday, October 14-15, 2016 in a location to be named. Deadlines for workshop proposals and registration will of course be adjusted similarly, and further details will be released later this year. Any workshop proposals already submitted will be considered unless you wish to withdraw them.

We appreciate the support the WAF has received throughout its history (including especially those who had submitted proposals and otherwise planned to support the February, 2016 weekend), and look forward to presenting a reinvigorated Worship Arts Festival this fall. Stay tuned! Exciting things are on the horizon!

In faith and fellowship,

Rev. David Pyle

District Executive, Joseph Priestley District
Congregational Life, Central East Regional Group

David M. Glasgow

Worship Arts Festival Lay Coordinator

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

SAC and Membership Partner with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

As you might know from past issues of Branches, the Social Action Committee and Membership Committee have been developing a volunteer partnership with Habitat for Humanity-Metro Maryland and hope to recruit PBUUC members for Habitat projects.

Volunteers contribute in many ways to Habitat's mission to provide affordable housing to those in need. Volunteers work with partner families to guide them through the purchasing process, help manage Habitat's finances, and keep Habitat running smoothly by assisting with administrative tasks. [A special note for Montgomery County students: volunteering in any way with Habitat can earn Student Service Learning (SSL hours). However, no one under 18 years old is allowed on a build site.]

Build Sites: Habitat is currently working on four houses in Prince George's (PG) County, in Riverdale, New Carrollton, Landover, and Hyattsville. On two of them, Habitat works with the Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP), a green, nonprofit developer based in PG County. People are encouraged to go to a build site to simply get an idea of what's involved—to see where the work is being done, what work is being done, and what skills and skill levels are involved. To go watch, go to the Habitat website, click on the link to volunteer, then follow the prompts. Note that some of the build sites do not have heat. Build Day work gangs from participant churches usually include about 10 people working from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

ReStores: ReStore is Habitat's retail outlet where they sell a wide variety of donated used and new household items—from furniture, appliances, and building supplies to knick knacks, glassware, and CDs (no clothing or bedding). Donated items are sold to the public and proceeds are put toward Habitat's building program. The PG County ReStore is located at 12006B Plum Orchard Road, just off Cherry Hill in Silver Spring. Volunteers are needed to work as greeters, organizing items on shelves, cleaning up, etc. ReStores are open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Volunteers younger than 18 are allowed to work in ReStores but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Advocacy: According to the Habitat website, advocacy is:

- Participating in short-term activities to reach long-term policy changes.
- Drawing community attention to an issue, building support, and directing policy makers toward a solution.

Developing strategies to shape decision-making at the organization, local, state, national, and international levels.

Interfaith Initiative: By volunteering and working along with members of other congregations and faiths, we will be participating in Habitat's Interfaith Initiative. Although Habitat was founded in 1982 as a private, ecumenical Christian, nonprofit organization, today churches, synagogues, mosques, other houses of worship, and other interfaith organizations partner with Habitat to promote housing opportunities and interfaith unity across Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Opportunities to Volunteer: Look for upcoming opportunities to participate in PBUUC's partnership with Habitat. Dates and events will be published in Branches and ContinUUm. For example:

- In February, Habitat's Gaithersburg ReStore will be moving to Rockville. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the building and move the store contents. (Dates to come.)
- This spring, we will have a ReStore Donations Day at PBUUC. If you have gently used, or even new, items that you don't want, bring them to PBUUC, and Habitat will provide a truck and haul away all donations.
- Volunteer Days at ReStore Build Days

If you'd like to visit Habitat for Humanity-Metro Maryland's webpage, its <http://habitatmm.org/>. For information about this article or to start or join a PBUUC Work Gang, contact Janet Overton at janmo12@verizon.net.

Special Collections

Coming up:

- ❖ January 31 (rescheduled from January 24) - the International Rescue Committee (IRC) that aids refugees;
- ❖ In February - the Capital Area Food Bank; and
- ❖ in March - UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ) in the local area.

- Marj Donn

Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting Schedule:

Here are the SAC monthly meeting dates through June 2016. They are held in Room 4 of the RE Building.

- ❖ Saturday afternoon, January 30, 2016, 4 pm
- ❖ Saturday morning, February 20, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, March 19, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, April 16, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, May 21, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, June 18, 2015 (tentative)

In and Around Paint Branch

The Welcoming Team invites you to the Newcomer's Tea, which is every third Sunday right after service, starting February 21. Get yourself some tea or coffee and join us in the front of the Sanctuary near the piano. We will give you a brief history of Paint Branch and Unitarian Universalism. We will also provide answers for your questions and questions for your answers. We look forward to meeting you!

The Third Wednesday lunch group

Put February 17th on your calendar for the next TWedHUUIk lunch. We will be going to the Mamma Lucia restaurant in College Park, at the Beltway and Rt. 1. Everyone is welcome. Contact Elaine Shell 301 776-4271, elaine@greville.net if you would like to know more

What are you doing for St. Patrick's Day this year?



Why any of us who are not Irish or Roman Catholic feel we must do anything to celebrate an Irish saint may be the topic for an interesting discussion. But this year we'll offer you an alternative or, if you prefer, an additional plan. The next (and yes, *final*)

Ethnic Dinner, will be Saturday, March 12, and feature the cuisine, beverages (which may why so many of us celebrate), and music of Ireland.

Based on that date, the menu planning meeting would have been February 14, but since many may have other plans that day, it will instead be held February 7 during Enrichment Hour. If you have any favorite Irish dishes (or beverages) you'd like to see included in the menu, please plan to attend, or if you can't, get your recipes or suggestions to Marilyn Pearl at least several days before that meeting. Some tasting samples may be available for those who do attend.

Tickets for the dinner will be sold following Sunday services on February 21 and 28, and March 6. They are \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children 4 through 11, and free for children 3 and under. On those dates you can also see the complete menu and volunteer to help set up, tend the door, cook, or clean up. We are also looking for recorded Irish music.

Any new members who received an Ethnic Dinner Coupon, can exchange it for a free ticket on any of the above dates. Please do so before the dinner so we know you are coming and can include you in the count of how many people we should provide food for.

Paint Branchers who have never been to or not recently attended an Ethnic Dinner, might want to take advantage of this your final opportunity. After 27 years and 70 dinners, this will be the last one.

If you have any questions, suggestions, can provide some music, would like to make reservations or volunteer to help, please contact Marilyn Pearl at 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

Stewardship

It's Time To Pledge Your Support To PBUUC

Commitment Sunday is February 21st, a time to join others in taking Bold Steps For Our Future at Paint Branch. The stewardship committee will host breakfast in the Kelley Room starting at 8:30 AM. Come early and join your friends to celebrate our spiritual community. We encourage you to join us in making Commitment Sunday a celebration and help us reach our financial goal for the coming year.

Each week leading up to Commitment Sunday members of the congregation will share why they have chosen Paint Branch as their spiritual home. There will also be two Stewardship Orientation Workshops on February 3rd and February 17th from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in the RE Building. Choose either one to learn more about being a Visiting Steward for this year's annual campaign. In addition, you will hear about the Bold Steps For Our Future that the congregation will be making in the coming year as we:

- ❖ Embark on a search to select a new full-time minister
- ❖ Expand our multigenerational community of explorers
- ❖ Support the UU Association with our Fair Share
- ❖ Improve and maintain our facilities to provide for future generations
- ❖ Support income equality through a living wage for our hourly workers
- ❖ Provide for professional development of our staff.

Our goals are attainable with only a modest increase in pledges and other income. To have a successful ministerial search and reach our other goals means the budget needs to increase by around 10% to about \$425,000. An increase in pledges to about \$330,000 will take us a long ways toward meeting that goal. We hope that everyone will share our commitment to Paint Branch by taking **Bold Steps for Our Future** by increasing their pledge. It's time to be Bold!

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee would like to thank **Ken Redd** for his generous year-end gift to the Paint Branch Legacy Fund. Gifts like his help the Legacy Fund grow so that it can provide funding for "off budget" projects that promote the mission of the church. If you have any questions about how you can help the Paint Branch Legacy Fund grow you can contact Ken Montville at ken@mbsuburbs.com or 301-464-6298

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, a pbuuc.org 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 included in the ContinUUm weekly email.
- **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. Up to one paragraph more may be added for use in the ContinUUm weekly email.

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.

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