



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Affirming and promoting the inherent dignity and worth of every person since 1954

SEPTEMBER 2008

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES — all 10:00 am

Followed by Coffee Time and then *Enrichment Hour*—small group programs (11:45–12:45)

SEPTEMBER 7

**COMING HOME AND GOING FORTH:
THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF LIFE**

Revs. Hubbell and Manwell, with members of the Worship Associate Team, the Choir, and Chalice Dancers
*** All ages are welcome ***

Home, world; world, home. Today we gather, old friends and new, returning home, seeking comfort, renewal and inspiration -- food for the journey that awaits us outside these doors. During this service, we will mingle the water we each bring to the service in our annual ritual of Water Communion. Also, today we begin a new stage of our common journey, welcoming our interim ministers, Revs. Hubbell and Manwell, to walk beside us as we move forward. Where have your spirits been most nurtured in these last few months? Is it a place where you felt awe and wonder; a place where you felt healing and renewal; or a place which has fostered transformation in your life? In a variation on our recent water communion services, we'll invite you to describe, on color-coded slips provided during the service, which of these categories best fits your experience. Worship Associates will read some of these during the service and afterwards will post all of them where everyone can read them. (If your water fits more than one category, feel free to submit more than one slip.) We invite children to take an active part. Feel free to help them, as needed, in describing their own experience, even though the family may bring a single vial of water.

SEPTEMBER 14

CALLED TO SERVE

Revs. Hubbell and Manwell, with members of the Worship Associate Team
***Together Time – Children begin in service ***

Ministry is not a just a job. Ministers, even Unitarian Universalist ministers, are expected to have a sense of vocation, of calling. Without it, few last in this work, though most days, most ministers consider themselves privileged to serve in work that calls forth our passion and our gifts and engages our hearts and our minds. This morning, we share with you our call stories. Many of us who are not called into life as ministers are still called into a ministry. Today we recognize the special ministry of our teachers and our Pastoral Care and Worship Associates, who bring so much to the life of this congregation.

SEPTEMBER 21

WHAT WE YET MIGHT BE

Revs. Hubbell and Manwell, with members of the Worship Associate Team

This is a pivotal year, as we take a fresh look at where we as a congregation have been, where we want to go, and what we yet might be. There are so many ways to be a religious community. But all of them require growth and change – growth in character, growth in wisdom, growth in love, and growth in impact on all those areas that would lead to a world of peace and justice for all and respect for the earth and all its inhabitants. Today we install the Board of Trustees, whom you have elected to lead you in the support of this religious community. We offer them our trust and our support as they offer us their commitment to guide this community throughout the year ahead. Also, as we do each third Sunday, we'll open our membership book after church to those who feel called to join this congregation.

SEPTEMBER 27

REMEMBERING THE PAST, TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

Revs. Hubbell and Manwell with members of the Worship Associate Team

It is said that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. As we seek to heal the wounds of the past and move to a future free from racism, we need to know our own history. A few of you will remember the BAC (Black Affairs Council) and BAWA (Black and White Action) controversies of the late sixties which so bitterly divided Unitarian Universalists, leaving wounds which even now have not fully healed. Today, we discuss the legacy of racism in our movement and our continuing struggle to move forward in our journey toward wholeness and reconciliation.

Roots and Wings

by Rev. John P. Manwell

There was a time when interim ministry was seen as place-holding, while a congregation found new ministry. Today we know better. Of course, Phyllis and I will lead worship, respond to pastoral needs, supervise the office and perform other central tasks of ministry.

But this time in between settled ministers is precious time, not mere place holding. In this deliberately circumscribed time we have together, we and your Board have agreed to address issues that are harder to resolve in settled ministries. During these next months, we will be working on acknowledging and reflecting on the mixed emotions that inevitably follow the loss of long-term ministry. We will be reflecting on this congregation's past and how it may affect your future. We'll be analyzing and addressing leadership needs, strengthening denominational ties and developing and committing to a fresh vision. All these tasks will be help to prepare Paint Branch for new ministerial leadership.



Interim ministry allows congregations to concentrate on these core tasks, which might get lower priority under normal circumstances. Yet church experts tell us that when these issues are not addressed in between settled ministries, they

often lead to what are called "unintentional interims" – settled ministries that end prematurely. Our job, as your interim ministers, is to lead you through these "developmental tasks." They are not ours to do, but yours, as a congregation. We serve as coaches, mirrors, resources.

These are daunting tasks. In every congregation there are mixed feelings about the past, feelings that make it difficult to trust each other and trust in the future. No journey can begin until we have let ourselves name and share these feelings so that we can let go of them – not erasing the past, not forgetting it, but accepting that it is

past, and letting go, so that we can make room for our dreams about our future.

Just as a ship cannot embark on its voyage until it casts off the lines that hold it to the dock and charts a course into open waters, so we must work through our feelings until we, too, can cast off the fears that hold us back and embrace a shared vision of our future.

Throughout the year, we'll be in ongoing conversation with you, as individuals, in groups, and from the pulpit. Your board at its retreat in June set as its highest priority for this year developing a clear vision for the future of Paint Branch. We will work alongside you while it takes shape. It will be this vision that your new settled ministry will be called to pursue.

The clock is already ticking. This is important work we undertake; work that will change lives – our lives – but more importantly yours and others this congregation touches in the years ahead. Let us savor the journey.



OFFICE HOURS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Ministers' Office Hours - Monday: off. Tuesday: 12 – 3 pm (Rev. Phyllis Hubbell). Wednesday: 1:30 – 4:30 pm (both ministers). Thursday: Rev. John Manwell works from home. Friday: 12 – 3 pm (Rev. Phyllis Hubbell in the office, Rev. John Manwell works from home). These hours during this first month may change without notice, please call the church office to confirm hours or schedule an appointment.

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you need dedicated time, it's best to schedule an appointment. Contact us by phone at 301-937-3666 or by e-mail at churchadmin@pbuuc.org. The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 1, for the Labor Day Holiday

A Word from our Board Chair

by Kate Brett

For those of us who are parents of school-aged children, this is the season where activities change from summer fun to more goal-oriented school learning. My girls were very active during the summer, but it was learning for the fun of it. Now they are back in school, where learning might still be fun, but there is no choice on whether to go or not.

The church year is slightly less oriented by the seasons, but we do have changes afoot. Our interim ministers will be leading most of our Sunday services starting this month, a change from the great lay-led services of the summer. The Ministerial Search Committee, already working very hard, will be getting more input from the congregation through cottage meetings (see related article on p.4 of this issue of *Branches*), and the Dedicated to Inspiring Vitality (DIV) Team will be bringing us a workshop to help us create a vision for our church. Then we get into the thick of things with the Auction and all the normal activities that happen throughout the year. I'm looking forward to participating as much as I can.

I want to bring to your attention two opportunities that the Joseph Priestley District office is sponsoring. One is a leadership development training, in Gettysburg, PA on September 20. As they state, "Leadership in our churches, fellowships, and societies doesn't just happen by accident. It takes people trained in effective ways of leading volunteers to accomplish the vision and mission of the congregation. Current leaders and those who would want additional education to become leaders of congregations are invited to register."

The second is a training on stewardship, also on September 20, in Wilmington, DE. Wayne Clark will talk from his book, *Beyond Fundraising*, to inform participants that we need to move congregations beyond the restrictive myth of scarcity that pervades so many of our UU faith communities to the reality of abundance.

Our church needs people to help move us through all the changes that are afoot. The Board of Trustees will provide the funds for people to attend either of these workshops and would really like to send several people to each one. I will be going to the leadership workshop; does anyone want to drive with me? See more details about the stewardship workshop in Paul Wester's article.

This is going to be a great church year. I challenge each one of us to participate more than we did last year in church activities.

Kate



FIRST AID KITS NOW IN RE BUILDING AND MEETING HOUSE

Brand new first aid kits have been purchased and are now mounted on the walls of both the RE Building and Meeting House. They contain all the basic first aid equipment necessary for most typical injuries and are placed in common traffic areas: on the wall just outside the Hospitality Room in the RE Building and just inside the Meeting House Kitchen door on the left. These kits also contain important emergency telephone numbers for fire, rescue, electrical and gas emergency contact information. Check out the location of these kits today.



Ministerial Search Committee *by John Bartoli*

Meetings R Us...

By the time you read this, a lot of you will have taken part in the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” service and workshop led by Rev. Keith Kronof UUA’s Identity-Based Ministries this past August 24. This workshop was designed to “promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process.” Hopefully, we all learned more about our institutional culture and examined ways we can be more inclusive in our consideration of ministerial candidates. The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) spent the last part of July and most of August preparing for this workshop. From the response to all our marketing efforts, announcements, postcards, and phone trees, I think it was pretty successful; 96 attended this service and 91 attended the workshop..

Nancy Dean, our Ministerial Search Representative from the Joseph Priestley District, met with us on July 29. She walked us through all the major steps of the search process and cleared up a lot of confusion we had about when/where certain things had to be done. She noted that the average length of settlement for a new minister is seven years, though average length of settlement for a minister of color is about 3 or 4 years.

We now have three pages on the PBUUC website. On the “What’s Happening” page you will find current information about what activities the committee is engaged in, including all the MSC newsletter articles written so far. The “Meet the Committee” page lists bios and pictures of each member of the committee, while the “Search Timeline” page shows a tentative outline of the various steps on our way to making a final ministerial recommendation to the congregation. Here’s how to access the new pages: go to the main page <http://www.pbuuc.org>, click on “Ministerial Transition Page” then click on “Ministerial Search Committee,” or go directly to the “What’s Happening” page with <http://www.pbuuc.org/news/minister-transition/search-whats-happening.html>. You can then easily navigate to the other two pages from there.

And what about those survey results? We are currently planning and organizing interviews with representatives of various committees and affinity groups. In September we will be conducting “cottage meetings” open to all members of the congregation during Enrichment Hour after the service. We plan on presenting survey results at these meetings and asking everyone for further input based on those results. We want to make sure we understand what attributes we all want our next settled ministry to have. Check out the announcements for times and dates of these meetings in the Sunday bulletin, on the website, or from the listserv.

Again, the eight members of the MSC (Ministerial Search Committee) are: **Bettie Young** (co-chair), **Michael Legér** (co-chair), **Tricia Most**, **Marge Owens**, **Beth Lyons**, **Rene McDonald**, **Muriel Morisey**, and **John Bartoli**. Please don’t hesitate to stop one of us and ask about the search. Look for the big ID tags with the MSC logo. You’ll see us around.

-John Bartoli



Survey Results and Cottage Meetings



If you missed our congregational survey results presented on August 31, there are still more opportunities to find out this information. The Ministerial Search Committee will have a table at the Involvements Fair (after service Sept. 7) with information on the survey results. We will also have a ballot box for you to place your suggestion for important questions to ask prospective ministerial candidates. Come, discuss, and contribute! Cottage meetings to discuss questions derived from the survey results will start up during Enrichment Hour on September 14 and 21. Find some time to participate so that we may have your input. We want to know what kind of ministry you would choose to accompany us on our journey forward.

***Worship Associates Leadership
Team News
by Michael Léger***

What Worship Means To Me

In my growing up, and until quite recently, the word “worship” meant to me something along the lines of “reverential prostration before a higher power.” At times, the word still denotes reverence—for this beloved community, for example, or for nature, or for the mystery of the love I find and celebrate in my life. But my primary understanding of the word and concept centers on the activities of a Sunday morning, particularly of a Sunday morning here at PBUUC.

The literal original meaning of the word worship is as a combination of two old English words: “worð” and “scippen”—“worth-shaping” or “the shaping of things of worth.” Many things are “shaped” by the activity of ritual and liturgy. For me the more-or-less fixed ritual of our Sunday morning shapes us into a closer community because we share a common experience; we include a different theme or focus of learning each week, but the experience is structured and usually familiar. Our standard liturgical structure—or any liturgical structure, standard or changing week by week—also shapes an hour into a time distinct from the other 167 hours of the week, an hour of special worth, however that time is used by individuals within the same congregation. This is a universal quality of worship.

As a member of PBUUC, worship means all of this and more to me. As a Worship Associate, I have felt privileged to contribute to the shaping of worship experiences, periodically, over the past three years. I look forward to working (along with Pat Tompkins), as one of the co-chairs of the Worship Associate Leadership Team, with Revs. Phyllis Hubbell and John Manwell as they enrich our worship life here at PBUUC in guiding us through our transition into a new ministry. As co-chair of the Ministerial Search Committee (along with Bettie Young), I look forward to hearing from you about what worship means—and what you hope worship WILL mean—to you!

***Stewardship: Opportunities at
PBUUC and Upcoming Training
Seminar
by Paul Wester***

Are you interested in the annual canvass, general fundraising, or other stewardship issues and opportunities at Paint Branch? Are you interested in learning more about how you can play a role in this important part of Paint Branch church life?

This year I am excited to continue to play a large role in the canvass (chair for the fourth straight year) and hopefully participate in other exciting stewardship activities. Please stop to see me on the deck on September 7 at the Activities Fair to discuss your interests and our opportunities at Paint Branch.



On Saturday, September 20, at the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington (DE), Wayne B. Clark, author of *Beyond Fundraising* and a renowned UU financial consultant, will offer a seminar entitled “A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship.”

The seminar runs from 10:00am – 4:00pm, and I am looking for volunteers to come with me to the seminar. (Yes, I will drive. In the spirit of community and fellowship, we will talk about Paint Branch, stewardship, and church finances on the way to Wilmington; however, on the way home, you will have to listen to Johnny Holliday call the Eastern Michigan vs. Maryland football game. Go TERPS!)

According to the JPD brochure, “Wayne will share a coming-of-age story designed to move congregations beyond the restrictive myth of scarcity that pervades so many of our UU faith communities. He will also help participants focus on the reality of abundance as he provides specific resources to help participants lead their Congregations.”

If you are interested in attending the September 20 seminar in Wilmington (and listening to the Maryland game on the way back), please contact Paul Wester at paulwester@comcast.net or on 301-937-7375.

Financial Notes *by Ellen Cotts, Treasurer*

Why The Legacy Fund Needs Your Continued Support

This month I want to write about the culture of generosity that I see in our congregation. It is truly remarkable.

Last month I told you that this year's budget is expected to run at a deficit—it still is. More about that next month. But I also mentioned that the costs of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) are expected to run about \$12,000 this year and another \$12,000 next year. The budget allocated \$2,000 for this year with the hopes that we could find the rest of the money from special donations, fund raisers, donations of frequent flyer miles etc.

The perfectly wonderful news is that the MSC is fully funded for this year and even partially funded for next year. Several donations have in fact been received and we thank all those who sent in checks. (We will need more money for next year, so feel free to send in additional donations if you feel called to do that.)

Two members of the congregation deserve special recognition for supporting the MSC. Many of you know that **Marj Donn** wrote an RE Curriculum that has proved very popular. Checks come in regularly from other congregations to purchase this curriculum. The money is set aside on our balance sheet and Marj is reimbursed from the fund for her expenses. From time to time, Marj gives some of this money to PBUUC. Several years ago she gave some of it for the Capital Campaign and now she has given a substantial amount of it for the Ministerial Search.

Another member, **Tim Illig**, has also donated a significant amount for the search costs. This time it is straight out of Tim's pocket. I was pleased and excited to receive a check from Tim.

It is wonderful to see such instances of generosity and commitment to PBUUC. In fact I see it every day when people make generous pledges, when people who have moved away continue to pledge, even when visitors drop checks into the collection basket. It is obvious that PBUUC holds great significance for many people and that we all want to support the good and important work of the church.

It was just a short time ago that the Paint Branch Legacy Fund crossed the \$100,000 threshold that was required for the Fund to begin providing grants to worthwhile projects that support the church's mission. Since that time, the Legacy Fund has provided:

- money for a Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation team presentation on Sundown Towns by its author.
- supplemental funding to complete a new road sign for the church,
- supplemental funding for the new sound system,
- funding for a JPD Consultant to encourage the DIV process currently underway, and
- supplemental funding for a new commercial dishwasher for the Meeting House kitchen.

The size of the grants and the number of projects the Legacy Fund can underwrite depends on the continued generous support of the members and friends of the congregation. In these somewhat uncertain economic times, the principal portion of the Fund has dipped below the \$100,000 threshold required in order to provide support for new and ongoing projects. Contributions to the fund guarantee its continued growth and vitality so that future projects can be generously supported.

If you're interested in how to help the Paint Branch Legacy Fund continue to grow and support the church, you can contact either **Liz Citrin** at Elizabeth.A.Citrin.1@gsfc.nasa.gov or **Kevin Miller** at Kevin.N.Miller@nasa.gov.



Religious Exploration (RE) News

by Carla Miller, DRE

"It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are." –e.e. cummings

OFFICE HOURS

*Out of my pool chair,
and back to regular office hours.*

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

301-937-3666, x 2

dre@pbuuc.org

UPCOMING in RE

Tue., Sept. 2, 6-9 pm

RE Teacher Dinner and Orientation

Sat., Sept. 6, 9-11 am

Youth Advisor Orientation

Sun., Sept. 7

RE Open House following the service

Jr. & Sr. High OWL Teacher Orientations

Sun., Sept. 14

*Teacher Dedication and First Day of
regular RE classes*

Sun., Sept. 21, 4-6 pm

*Jr. High OWL Parent Orientation at the
UU Church of Silver Spring*

Fri., Oct. 10, 6:30-10 pm.

First Jr. High OWL Class at Paint Branch

Sun., Oct. 19

Middle School Cluster Event

Welcome to the new Church-School Year in Religious Exploration (RE)!

RE Open House

Following the All Ages Ingathering Service, we will hold a half-hour Open House in the RE building, from 11:00-11:30 am. This is an opportunity for children, parents and our entire church community to meet the RE teachers, find their classrooms for the coming year, and learn more about their class' curriculum and plans. Come check it out!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Orientation

A mandatory orientation meeting for parents of 7th and 8th graders interested in enrolling in the Junior High level "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) human sexuality education class will be held on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 4-6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

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At the parent orientation we will address such questions as:

- *What is OWL?*
- *Why do we offer a sexuality course in church?*
- *What are the program values and messages about relationships, rights and responsibilities?*

...and the many other questions that parents bring to this important and sensitive topic!

Parents will receive an overview of OWL philosophy and values, a description of the Junior High course, and a complete class schedule for the year at this time. We will be gathering with OWL parents for four parent sessions during this year, to better inform you as to the status and current topics of the class. Our gatherings will also offer support to one another in the important role of educating our youth on topics of human sexuality and being supportive of their growth and development.

Jr. High parents: if for any reason you cannot make this meeting but are interested in the class for your child, please contact **Carla Miller** as soon as possible. Thank you!

RE Committee Goals for 2008-2009

At their RE Committee Retreat in mid-July, the RE Committee chose 3 primary areas of focus for this year, with the acronym "FAY" as our guide:

Family ministry - opportunities for family groups to connect within the church community with one another *and* with other families, and to minister to the special needs of parents and families with children.

All-Ages Community - quality all-ages worship and opportunities for inter-generational connections within our congregation.

Youth Ministry - a building year for our high school youth in which we aim to offer engaging, meaningful and balanced programming and lots of fun!

"Fay" just happens to be Old English for **fairy or elf**, akin to "**fey**"— **magical or clairvoyant**—*and* from the same Latin root, "fatum," as **fate** and **faith**.

So, here's to our little sprites, to a "clairvoyant" and inspired vision for our future, and to all the *magic* of exploring our faith together!

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RE Committee Goals for 2008-2009

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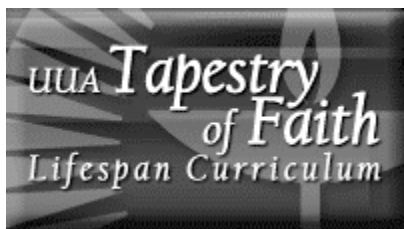
Our RE leadership is also focused on making wise, realistic choices of activities grounded in our RE Mission Statement: strengthening the spirit, encouraging ethical action, and building community. We will let simplicity guide us as we cut unnecessary items from our to-do lists and focus on that which most directly benefits our children, youth and all ages community!

Save the Date for a Middle School Cluster Event: Sunday, Oct. 19

Once again this fall, we gather our middle school youth from 5 UU churches in our cluster for a joint afternoon activity. We've had great fun at all the previous events and hope many middle school youth will be able to join us! While plans have not yet been finalized, we DREs are talking about an outdoor, autumnal experience such as a corn maze or a pumpkin patch trip and hayride. Let me know if you know a great place. Keep the date open, and look for more information and registration forms coming soon Middle Schoolers!

Our Classes this Year: Stories that Strengthen Our Religious Roots

This year we are exploring our religious roots in Judaism & Christianity and stretching deeper into our grounding in Unitarian Universalism through story-based curricula for all age groups.



We are especially excited to introduce a new curriculum series called *Tapestry of Faith*, published by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The *Tapestry of Faith* curricula build our children's ethical, spiritual and faith development through powerful stories from many sources, creative art experiences, and activities that promote discussion in age-appropriate ways. The primary class and middle school class will be using *Tapestry of Faith* resources for the first time this year!

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Preschool: Chalice Children (Pre-K/ Kindergarten, ages 4-5)

Chalice Children is designed to nurture children's spiritual growth, creativity and connection to Unitarian Universalist community by involving them in "hands-on" rituals, simple rhymes, finger plays, and games. Children are introduced to the UU **chalice**, discover the concepts of **birth and death**, and explore the themes of **families** and **our relationship to nature**. A special Teddy Bear unit at the end of the year has children focusing on **feelings**.

Primary Grades: Tapestry of Faith: Celebrating Home and Special Times (Grades 1-3, ages 6-8)

The new *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum for this age group, *Celebrating Home*, explores the **concepts of home and community** through story and ritual. Lessons focus on such "home" related topics as crossing thresholds, sacred space, and creating and living in community. All themes are developed through story, art and active games.

We will supplement these lessons with seasonally appropriate **Jewish and Christian holiday lessons** based on the stories of the Hebrew and Christian bibles, from our longtime favorite *Special Times* curriculum.

Upper Elementary: Timeless Themes (Grades 4-5: ages 9 & 10)

The upper elementary-aged students will be introduced to the rich biblical literature so central to our culture and heritage. Each session features one of the most familiar Bible stories, from "Adam and Eve" to "the Good Samaritan." **Biblical themes such as loyalty, obedience, anger, trust, forgiveness, and love** are conveyed through songs, role play, drama and other imaginative learning activities. This engaging curriculum connects our young people to traditional Bible stories from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

Middle School Youth: Tapestry of Faith: Amazing Grace & A Kingdom of Equals (Middle School Youth, Grades 6-8: ages 11-13)

Amazing Grace leads youth to address such questions as: Is evil or goodness something we choose? Why do bad things happen? How can I follow my own ideas and not somebody else's? Is "you decide for yourself" *really* the ultimate UU answer to these questions? The goal of this course is to equip young people for **making caring, responsible and ethical choices** in their middle and high school years.

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RE Classes – cont'd

In the winter quarter, the middle school class will explore the life and teachings of Jesus through lessons from *A Kingdom of Equals: Jesus' Radical Path to Love and Justice*. Jesus is portrayed as a great religious teacher whose ideas of **unconditional love, non-violence, fairness, and equality** are as vitally important in our time as they were in his. Jesus' central message of Love and Justice connects with our own UU Principles and strengthens the sense of compassionate ethics developed through *Amazing Grace*.

Our middle school youth will also gather at fall and spring **Central Maryland Middle School UU Cluster** events with their peers from area congregations, and will also participate in social action projects of our own congregation.

Youth Group

Our high school-aged youth, together with their adult advisors, develop their own program of small group ministry, worship, learning, social action and leadership development.



Special Spring Unit for All Classes: The Web of Life

We are currently developing a mini-unit for the spring that will engage all of our classes in an exploration of the interconnected web of life and our relationship to the earth. Are you interested in helping us build a greener world? Consider volunteering to help guide our young people to a greener future as we explore this theme together for the final two months of this RE year.

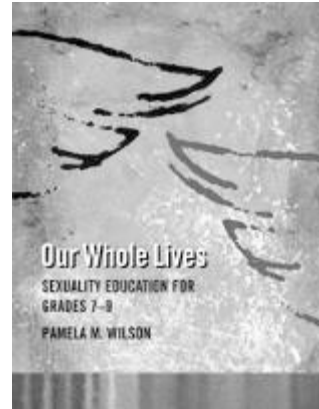
Additional Class Offerings:

Roots & Wings

This special class for children in grades 2-5 begins with a kick-off family potluck event and then meets during Enrichment Hours in mid-winter for 5 sessions. Our Roots & Wings class fosters the participants' sense of identity as young Unitarian Universalists and culminates in a formal Rite of Passage celebration in worship. Participants will learn the seven principles and six sources of Unitarian Universalism. They will meet with the DRE, minister and other church staff.

Our Whole Lives:

A Human Sexuality Class for Grades 7 & 8



Again next year we will combine with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Silver Spring to offer *Our Whole Lives* as a Sunday afternoon class for grades 7 & 8, October through April. The *Our Whole Lives* class helps participants to make informed, responsible, and respectful decisions about

their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. We value this opportunity to teach our children about this essential aspect of their lives in the context of our faith community.

Our Whole Lives:

Human Sexuality for Youth in Grades 10-12

We are also pleased to be offering the *Our Whole Lives* senior high class next year for youth in grades 10-12. This class handles topics of sexuality and relationships in more mature depth than the junior high course. The confidentiality of this forum allows senior high youth to ask questions, gather information, and reflect on their own decision-making processes in the context of our religious values of the worth and dignity of every person.

Nursery Childcare

We provide a comfortable nursery atmosphere where our youngest children can play and form trusting relationships. Our **paid childcare provider, Carol Tutz**, cares for the children with the assistance of parent volunteers. **Parents are asked to help in the nursery on a regular basis.**



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team News

Reflection on Race by Muriel Morisey

((Excerpted From Gathering Around The Chalice Service))

I began attending Soul Work sessions because I had built up a lot of uncomfortable feelings about experiences I had with members of the church that I found racially insensitive and troubling. I wanted to talk about this with people in the congregation in a structured and constructive way.

I knew intellectually about White privilege, but until I married Peter, I didn't fully appreciate what it means. I saw how easily Peter and his daughters, who are all very pale, move through the world without having to think about their white skin. But my son and I – with our brown skins – have to think about being Black all the time. And my son has to be careful everywhere he goes because society always thinks and expects the worst from Black men.

So many people experience discrimination because of religion or sexual orientation or gender. But it seems to me that, even among UUs, they don't use their experiences to understand the experiences of other people. They don't see their own racism or they dismiss anyone who tries to get them to see it. I think one reason personal experience doesn't lead to better understanding about race is that most Whites, even the people in this church, don't have people of color as their social peers. Even if you have a good relationship with a Black person at work, or think very highly of some Black public figure, you may not ever have face-to-face conversations about race with anyone you consider a peer or a social friend. Maybe relating to a person on that level is essential to understanding racism.

It's not easy being a Black person in this church. One of the things that bothers me the most is that this congregation has so few people of color in a county where Whites are the racial minority. It makes it hurt even more that bad things have happened to me here on account of my race. Most people can't visualize the problem. You can't see a solution until you see the problem. That means being willing to talk about race even when it's uncomfortable and working towards solutions. I'm glad some people in this church have shown the courage to work on these issues. I hope more will find the courage because this congregation has more work to do about race than most seem to realize.

Journey Toward Wholeness Film Festival Continues Through September

The Journey Toward Wholeness Film Festival continues on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm and Sunday afternoons at 11:45 am. The September offerings include encore showings of: *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow, Part IV: Terror and Triumph* on Friday, September 5; *Race: The Power of an Illusion* on September 12, September 14 and September 19; *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible* on September 21; and *What's Race Got To Do With It?: Social Disparities and Student Success* on September 26. Donations are requested to cover child care and snacks. No need to sign up. Just show up—and bring a friend.

Here's the link for the entire schedule <http://www.pbuuc.org/socact/dartt/filmfestival2008.pdf>. Flyers are also available in the Meeting House Lobby. This film series is being presented by the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) to facilitate the congregation's commitment to work toward becoming an anti-racist, more diverse community. If you have questions about the film series or the anti-racism initiative or this series, please contact DARTT at dartt@pbuuc.org.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team Changes Meeting Day

Beginning in September, the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will change its monthly meeting day from Thursday to Tuesdays. In September, the meeting will be on the second Tuesday, September 9. For the rest of the year, the meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month. The time will be 7:30 to 9:00 pm. The room assignment will be in the Sunday Order of Service/Bulletin.

This is the meeting where members and friends have an opportunity to recommend, plan and provide feedback on DARTT's activities, projects, etc. Come and let your voice be heard!



***Offerings from our
Dedicated to Inspiring Vitality
(DIV) Team
by Tim Illig***

October 5 Vision/Mission Workshop

When you talk to a visitor or friend about PBUUC, what do you tell them? Who are we? And what is our purpose, or mission, or vision? Why do we exist? What is our sense of shared ministry within our church home, greater community and the world?

A number of years ago, PBUUC developed this Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church is to create an open, nurturing community for ourselves and our children which encourages us to explore our values, both intellectually and spiritually; inspires us to live our Unitarian Universalist principles within our congregation, community, nation, and the world; and beckons others to join us on this journey.

You have probably read this before, on the back of the Order of Service. But do you feel a sense of ownership or deep connection to this statement? If you joined PBUUC after 1998, you might not.

The Unitarian Universalist Association recommends that congregations revisit their Vision and Mission statements every 5 years. Research shows that a shared mission statement is crucial to members feeling more connected to the church, the church better serving the needs of the members and their community, and making a bigger difference in the world. The process of creating such a statement allows church members to define and to reconnect with the values at the heart of this faith community.

It is time that we at Paint Branch revisit our shared vision and mission! And it is an especially important time to have this conversation as we enter into the search process to call a new minister. On Sunday, October 5, following the service, the DIV team and Joseph Priestley District consultant, Judith Bauer, will lead a congregational vision and mission workshop.

The work we do together on that day will become the basis of a new statement of our church's ministry and mission, which will be presented in its final form for the congregation's approval at a congregational meeting this winter. The final draft of the new Vision and Mission statements will enable the DIV team and other congregational leaders to develop a strategic plan grounded in a clear and shared vision of our ministry.

The ideas shared on October 5 will be also be very important to the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) as they create a Search Packet and interview prospective ministers. MSC members will be able to share our sense of mission with these candidates and to ask how they will support us on our journey. Please join us on October 5 to join this important discussion. We invite and value all of your voices in this conversation that will help us shape the future of our church. Lunch, child care and an activity for older children will be provided. For more information, please contact **Tim Illig** at 410-707-6678 or tillig@comcast.net.

**SAVE SEPT. 27 FOR THE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL
REVIVAL!!**

On Sat. Sept. 27, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, UUs from all over the Greater Washington area, will gather at the UU Church of Arlington in worship, music, dancing, clapping, eating, and making joyful noise (do you hear halleluiaah?). There will three tracks of workshops (Welcoming, Greene Path, and Broader Vision). Dr. Thomas Lovejoy will lead workshop on Climate Change, Nature and our potential to change that dynamic in favor of life. Rev. Murray may also speak. Revival registration with complete descriptions of workshops will be on www.uusj.org. All are asked to register by

September 23. Something special happens whenever UUs gather, so mark your calendars, tell your friends, and we'll see you there!



Social Action Committee News *by Carol Carter Walker*

Unitarian Universalists For Social Justice Hold First Annual Awards Gala On October 12

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) is a Unitarian Universalist (UU) partnership of individuals, congregations and organizations committed to principles of human dignity, justice and compassion for all people, operating on funding mostly from UU congregations, individual UUs and grantmakers. UUSJ helps UUs in the Baltimore, Washington and Northern Virginia area implement their social and economic justice agendas. One of its most visible activities is its monthly distribution of an e-newsletter that promotes social, economic and racial justice activities taking place in local UU congregations and other organizations.

UUSJ is sponsoring its first annual awards gala on Sunday, October 12 at 5:30 pm at Positano Italiano Restaurant in Bethesda, MD. Tickets are \$80 per person and include a full-course dinner and a one-year membership in UUSJ. About half of the ticket price will fund UUSJ's activities; the rest is tax-deductible. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please contact **Emma-Sue Gerson** at 240-293-6570 or at emmagainesgerson@yahoo.com by September 21.



The UU/Interfaith Advisory Committee of OpenDoor Housing Fund, a co-sponsor of the gala, will present the Affordable Housing Award to Mary Fenelon, former chair of UU Affordable Housing Corporation and current Vice Chair, OpenDoor.

UUSJ is soliciting nominations for the following awards to be presented at the gala: Minister's Award, Racial Justice/Multicultural Award, Collaborative Program Social Justice Award and Young Adult (18 to 35) Award. If you have a nominee or would like further information, please contact Carol Carter Walker at (202) 636-8138 or carolcarterwalker@earthlink.com by September 7.

Please visit the UUSJ website for more information about the organization and the award criteria. The link is www.uusj.org

Paint Branchers Well-Represented In OpenDoor Housing Fund

Open Door Housing Fund is the organization formed by the merger of the Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corporation (UUAHC) and the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund. It continues the mission of the UUAHC by providing funds for affordable housing in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area.

The UUAHC's Board had representatives from each local UU congregations; Open Door appoints its Board members from the housing and banking industries and local government units. **Marcie Washburn**, former Paint Branch Treasurer, current Chair, Personnel Committee, and controller of a local housing development company, has been appointed to OpenDoor's Board of Directors. **Ken Montville**, former Paint Branch Board Chair and Endowment Committee Chair, and current Board Trustee and a local Realtor, has been appointed to OpenDoor's UU/Interfaith Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee was formed to ensure the UU lineage remains a vital part of Open Door's vision. **Tom Hazen** stepped down from the UUAHC Board in 2004 and was replaced by **Carol Carter Walker**, who has served on the UUAHC Board and the OpenDoor Transition Board and is remaining on the UU/Interfaith Advisory Committee. Paint Branch has a significant investment in OpenDoor, thanks to the **Frank Roland** Bequest, which left funds to the church to be used to address homelessness.

Green Team Recycles by Marj Donn

A revitalized Green Team met Sunday, August 17, under the able guidance of **Jennifer Robinson** and mapped the steps necessary to meet the requirements for UUA Green Sanctuary status. The Team discussed the feasibility of proceeding at this time. In the light of the adoption of the ethical eating and environmental justice statement at the UUA General Assembly 2008, the urgency of environmental action, and an assessment of local commitment, the Team is mobilizing to take action. An energy audit was conducted August 21. You can learn more details after the service September 7, and you are invited to attend Team meetings scheduled for the third Sunday of each month during

Social Action Committee News

(continued from previous page)

Some of you may not know that the Religious Exploration building is heated and cooled by geothermal heat pumps that were installed into the ground following the fire. These pumps simply move heat from one place to another. In winter, a solution circulating through pipes buried in the ground absorbs heat from the earth and carries it into the building where a geexchange heat pump heats the air. In summer this process is reversed, taking the heat from the air and transferring it back to the underground loops. A minimal amount of electricity is needed to operate the pumps and fans.

Green Tip: Excess packaging wastes resources and costs you more. Around 33 % of the trash in the average household comes from packaging.

Alternative: Buy products with minimal or reusable packing, or buy in bulk and use your own containers. From coopamerica.org

Green thought for the month: "Join with our children to save the world they will live in."

Other News In and Around Paint Branch

NEW MEDITATION BENCH

A meditation area with a wooden bench is now available below the church. To find it, follow the signs from the deck down toward the clearing, and then watch for a path off to the right. When using the area, please use standard precautions for going into the woods and check yourself for ticks afterwards. And, on the path, don't trip over the tree roots.

The idea for a meditation area came from the Master Plan Task Force. It has taken a number of years to implement. We are dedicating the bench to the late **Tom Barlett**, a former member of the church. Tom was one of those who planned and led a "meditation service" at the time we dedicated the Meeting House in 1991.

Thanks to those who contributed to the cost and/or helped to prepare the bench, secure it and create path to it: **Beth Anderson, Ron Cotts, Marj Donn, Lowell Owens, Bonnie Schrack, this past year's Coming of Age class and their teachers (Tucker Bane, Claire Boston, Liam Brennan**

(continued next column)

Ryan Dorson, Penney Hughes and Robyn McCoy) and the previous Coming of Age class. For more information, call **Marj Donn** at 301-474-1353.



A place to ponder....

HANDCRAFT CIRCLE



The Handcraft Circle will resume meeting during Enrichment Hour in September. Watch for the announcement in the Sunday bulletin for date. Bring your knitting, crocheting or other handcraft project and join us.

Newcomers are always welcome, and we have some supplies and patterns to teach beginning knitting or crocheting.

We will have our usual "Boutique" at the Auction on November 8, and the foyer "Hats & Mittens" sale will take place after Sunday services from November 23 through December 21. All items in these sales will be hand made by Paint Branchers, and all proceeds go to PBUUC. If you aren't able to attend the Sunday Enrichment Hour meetings, we'd still appreciate anything you have the time and inclination to make. If you do make something, the preference is for synthetic materials, since many of these items will be donated to people who don't have facilities for hand laundering. Also, some people are very allergic to wool, so if you use 100% wool or even part wool, please attach a label giving the fabric content and laundering instructions. If you have any questions, please call or email **Marie Gore** at 301-572-4679 or mgore22215@aol.com.

(In and Around - continued next page)

50TH ETHNIC DINNER
SHARE A DISH; SHARE A STORY
 by Marilyn Pearl

Thanks to all who suggested themes for the **50th Ethnic Dinner, Sat., Oct. 25**. Most are great ideas and can definitely be used for future dinners. The one we chose for this dinner is **Muriel Morisey's** proposal that all who wish to do so, share a dish or beverage that is traditional for their family. This may reflect your *ethnic or cultural* background or be a dish that is otherwise significant for you.

Most of us had ancestors who came here from elsewhere or, in a few cases, are ourselves foreign-born. Perhaps this is a good time to celebrate what it has contributed to who we all are. Our 25th dinner (May 6, 2000), used **Ottolie Van Allen's** suggestion of *regional* US cooking. Now instead of regional, we want what is special for *your* family. Few other countries have drawn people from as many parts of the world as the US. Some of the dishes they brought with them now appeal to Americans of *all* ethnic backgrounds and have become national favorites, like pizza, sushi, baklava, tacos and beer. Beyond *ethnic*, there are in the US several groups with their own *cultural* cuisines. Among these are Cajuns/Creoles, African Americans, Pennsylvania Dutch, Native Americans, and Jews from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Many of their dishes, born of their unique religious, cultural or socio-economic backgrounds, are also national or regional favorites, like Jambalaya, Hoppin' John, Shoofly Pie, popcorn and cheesecake. Or perhaps your family's favorite dish isn't exactly ethnic or cultural but has some other particular significance.

So let us know *your family's* favorite recipe or drink, enjoyed over the generations, which you would like to share with others at this dinner. We do need to hear from you *right away*. Our initial menu planning meeting will be in mid-September. In order to go forward with these plans, we will have to know by then that we have enough people contributing a sufficient variety of dishes to make this doable. If you have such a dish, but no recipe, tell us; we may be able to find one. If you have such a dish, but don't cook, tell us; we may be able to find a cook. *Just let us know soon*, or we'll have to quickly come up with (and settle for) a different theme.

Along with your special dish, we also want *the story* behind it – whose recipe was it, how and when did it become a family tradition, does it reflect your family's ethnic or cultural background, do you have it frequently or only on special occasions? You or someone else can take a turn at the microphone during the dinner and tell it.

Often people reveal their ethnic/cultural background only when we announce a dinner with that theme. This one will be about *ALL OF US*, and celebrate our wonderful diversity and personal stories, but it will require a lot of participation, *especially yours*. Contact Marilyn Pearl at 301-805-1218 or email buffalo_gal@verizon.net.

AUCTION UPDATE



September is the month when Paint Branchers fly home from their travels with their newly acquired wonders for the Annual Paint Branch Auction. This is the time when we all, travelers and homebodies alike, can begin to turn in our completed donation forms so that the Auction volunteers can start writing the catalog. We guarantee you will feel wonderful turning in your completed auction form early.

The Annual Auction is going to be on November 8, which is still 10 weeks away, but remember that it takes time to write and print the catalog and get it to you. Look for the new auction brochure and donation forms on Sunday, September 7 at the annual Ingathering Service and Involvements Fair. Donation forms will be available in the Meeting House Lobby through October 26th but please don't wait. Let us know what you'll be donating. We're so excited, we can't wait!



ART GALLERY NEWS

The Greenbelt Camera Club was started in 1997 for amateur and professional photographers and photo enthusiasts to meet and discuss their work. They have over forty members. They have exhibited at the New Deal Café and the Art Center in Greenbelt and the Park and Planning Commission in Riverdale as well as the State House in Annapolis. Their shows emphasize variety.

(In and Around – Continued Next Page)

***Denominational Affairs
Happenings
by Donald J. Gerson,
Denominational Affairs Chair***

Two major decisions came out of the UUA General Assembly in June, 2008 that will affect what we in PBUUC do for the next several years relative to denominational affairs. The social witness process—the process by which the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) officially bears witness to the social issues of our times—has been an integral part of our denomination since 1961. This process is a dialogue between Unitarian Universalist congregations, facilitated by the Commission on Social Witness of the UUA.

The process has undergone many changes. Currently, it begins with suggestions from congregations for a Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) to study for four years, giving opportunity for congregations to study, reflect, witness and act before the issue is finally approved as the denomination's Statement Of Conscience (SOC). One of the most important changes has been to require that 25 percent of the congregations get involved in proposing a CSAI and ultimately shaping the SOC.

The first decision, certainly not unexpected, was reaffirmation of the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) on Peacemaking. This CSAI is now at the mid-point of its four-year cycle. Enough congregations have responded during the first two years for the process to continue, and PBUUC was among them. The next step will be the issuance of a first draft of the Statement of Conscience that will be the result of this four-year process. We plan to continue to do our part in this important process and invite your much-needed participation in the meetings that we will conduct.

The second major decision was the approval of a new proposed CSAI, "Ethical Eating and Environmental Justice." It is a far deeper and more far-reaching issue than is initially obvious from the title. Consider all the worldwide problems with food, from availability, distribution, climate, diet choices, and much more. We do not yet have all the details, but we expect them in November.

Check the UUA website (www.UUA.org) at CSAIs to watch for more on this. We will have handouts available in the lobby as soon as more details are available.

In upcoming Enrichment Hours you will have a chance to hear and see some of the highlights from the General Assembly, including a CD of wonderful presentations on the proposed Peacemaking CSAI, and DVDs of the Ware Lecture by Van Jones, and the Sunday Morning Worship Service to which the Fort Lauderdale community was invited.

**UUA Response To Knoxville Tragedy
Our Doors *and* Our Hearts Remain Open**

This is the title of a pastoral letter that **Reverend Bill Sinkford**, Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, wrote in response to the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee. On Sunday, July 27, as two Knoxville congregations were gathering for a worship service featuring their children, a man opened fire. Before brave members subdued him, two were killed and six wounded.

Members of the UUA's Trauma Response Team, established after September 11, 2001, were immediately dispatched. UU churches all over the country held vigils and sent spiritual and financial support to Knoxville. **Rev. Sinkford**, spoke at the Knoxville vigil. (**Tim Illig** and **Carol Carter Walker** represented Paint Branch at vigil at the UU Church of Rockville. Rockville's current minister, **Rev. Lynn Strauss**, is the former minister of the Knoxville Church.)

One of the most powerful parts of the pastoral letter was that it called on us to pray not only for the dead and wounded, but also for the shooter. **Rev. Sinkford** goes on to link the courage, love and unbreakable spirit of the Knoxville churches to declare and challenge us as UUs to continue to stand on the side of love. Please visit the UUA website at www.uua.org for comprehensive coverage of the UU response locally and nationally.

The UUA has established two Knoxville-related funds:

- (1) **The Knoxville Relief Fund** which was established to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to members of the Tennessee Valley UU Church and the

Westside Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. A committee established by the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA makes all decisions about distributions of these funds.

- (2) **The Knoxville NY Times Ad Fund** was established to enable the UUA to place ads in the New York Times and other national or local publications that will honor the victims and survivors of the tragic events in Knoxville, Tennessee – and let the world know that we will continue to stand on the side of love.

So far, \$100,000 has been raised for the Knoxville Relief Fund; \$80,000 has been raised for the newspapers ads. If you would like to contribute to either of these funds, you may do so by sending a check directly to:

**Knoxville Relief Fund
or Knoxville New York Times Ad
C/o Tom Klein, UUA
Stewardship and Development, 6th Floor
25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108**

You may also donate by telephone, by credit card or by gifts of stock. Full information is available on the UUA website at the following link:

<http://www.uua.org/news/knoxville/index.shtml>

Please put Paint Branch UU Church in the memo line. If you need further information, please contact Don Gerson, Chair, Denominational Affairs, at 240-293-6570 or at donaulderson@yahoo.com

Unitarian Universalist Career and Volunteer Opportunities

Executive Director (Paid)

UU Congregation of Columbia, MD

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, Maryland is seeking to fill the position of **Executive Director**. Interested applicants should go to www.uucolumbia.net for the job announcement and complete job description. Application deadline is Friday, September 5, 2008

Director for Growth (Paid)

Joseph Priestley District (JPD)

The JPD is recruiting for the position of Director for Growth. The Director is responsible for programs that move congregations toward health and enhance the growth of Unitarian Universalism within the District.

This position is part of the fulltime staff of the district and reports to the District Executive.

The JPD Office is in Wilmington, Delaware and the successful candidate is expected to “maintain a presence in the office.” A full job description is at the JPD Home Page at: <http://www.jpduua.org>. Send cover letter, resume and references to the JPD Office, Attention: Director for Growth Position, 100 W. 10th Street, Suite 1008 Wilmington, DE 19801. You may also fax materials to 302.778.4590. People with disabilities, people of color, Hispanic/Latino/Latina and bisexual/gay/lesbian/transgender candidates are encouraged to apply. Contact the Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, District Executive, at 1-800-351-6637 or at rspeck@uua.org with any questions and for a full job description. The deadline for applications is September 19, 2008.

Ministerial Fellowship Committee (Volunteer) Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

The UUA Board of Trustees' Committee on Committees is soliciting applications for a lay person vacancy on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). The MFC has jurisdiction over all phases of ministerial credentialing including the granting and revocation of fellowship. The appointee will complete a term expiring December 31, 2009 with eligibility for re-appointment to three more two-year terms. Persons under 40 are especially encouraged to apply. Members of all UUA Committees must be able to demonstrate functional competency in anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multi-culturalism. Travel and other meeting expenses are covered. Links to further information about the MFC and to the online application can be found at

www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/7313/shtml

The deadline for applications is September 12, 2008



INVOLVEMENTS FAIR - SEPTEMBER 7



At the July Board meeting, the Board approved an all-church Involvements Fair for September 7 during the Ingathering. This year, we will have several exciting events. Immediately after the service, the Religious Exploration teachers

will have an Open House where children and parents will meet their teachers. During the normally scheduled Enrichment Hour, we will serve a light lunch, have a formal reception for our new interim ministers and hold an Involvements Fair.

The purpose of this fair is to:

1. Recruit volunteers for committees and groups
2. Recruit/encourage membership in other affinity groups
3. Show our new ministers the vibrancy and vitality of our groups and committees
4. Provide a networking opportunity for visitors and friends

During the Fair, we will have tables set up around the Meeting House where representatives from the various groups and committees will provide information (handouts, brochures, etc.) about their group and have signup sheets for volunteerism. We encourage each group to provide their own edible incentives for joining the group. We envision this Fair to be a fun annual Ingathering activity.

In preparation for the Fair, Raman Pathik will develop bulletin boards for the committees and groups. These bulletin boards will be permanently displayed in the foyer and updated periodically. During the Ingathering, Don Gerson will be taking pictures of group members to display on the bulletin board. Come join us for this exciting start to the new church year! For more information, please contact me at tillig@comcast.net or 410-707-6678.



**MURRAY GROVE HOMECOMING 2008
A MID-ATLANTIC CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 27, 10 AM – 4 PM**

\$10 per person; children under 12 \$5; children under 5 free. (Pre-registration is encouraged)

Under the big white tent!

Celebrate the first Universalist sermon on this continent, by Rev. John Murray on this site in September 1770, with Rev Dr. Tracy Robinson-Harris, Unitarian Universalist(UU) evangelist and UUA Director of Congregational Services, preaching on "Truth, Repair and Reconciliation: A Journey in the Spirit of Universalism"...and hundreds of other UUs and friends from all over the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond!

Workshops • Music • Fun • Fellowship

PLUS, NEW THIS YEAR:

Pre-Homecoming Coffee House: Come a day early and immerse yourself in the Homecoming experience!
September 26, 2008 - 7:00 pm

Post-Homecoming Service Party: Stretch out the good feeling of Homecoming, together with others of like mind and heart.
September 27-28, 2008

For detailed information and registration, go to murraygrove.org, or give us a call!

Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center
PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734-0246 Phone:
609-693-5558 Fax: 609-693-4448
murraygrove@murraygrove.org
www.murraygrove.org

Church Office Corner

by Daniel Everitt, Administrator

It has been a wondrous summer here in the church office. There have been a number of projects for which the summer time lends itself. Church office staff and volunteers are continuing to sort through the wealth of church records that have been living undisturbed in the lower level of the Meeting House. It's been a genuine pleasure, for all involved, to rediscover the wealth of history that has been brought to the surface box by box, revealing annual reports and other publications dating all the way back to the 1950s, when we were known as College Park Unitarian Church. (Aand there are STILL active members from those periods thriving among us today).

Other eye-opening documents such as financial reports, pledge results, auction ledgers, newsletters (anyone remember the *Unitarian?*), committee reports, religious exploration brochures and MOST revealing—photographs, (including some well known members in their younger days, sporting the latest in beehives and buzz cuts). Yet in all the writings, faces, calculations, pledge promises, there lies a passion for and commitment to a liberal faith that binds them together and has brought forth the PBUUC of today.

All these historical records are finding their way into archival boxes and a newly created “archive room” now in the lower level of the Meeting House. Floors have been swept, windows cleaned, shelving and file cabinets reclaimed and put in place, (with a few new additions to accommodate all the records), dehumidifiers plugged in and a working table set up to better enable sorting, labeling and cataloguing. Even though we've gone through at least 15 to 20 boxes this summer, it will take quite a bit of time still to reclaim all that still lies in the multitude of boxes that lie waiting for knowledgeable and appreciative hands to review. (Hint, hint – all those interested in bringing to light those treasures remaining are encouraged to call the church office to see how you can volunteer on this worthy task).

To affirm **Ellen Cotts**'s mention in her article of this congregation's generosity, our new interim ministers have been the latest to profit from a wonderful donation of a brand new computer central processing unit from **Paul and Bettie Young**. Our ministers now have an up-to-date computer station with which to work. This means that all staff that needed up to date computers and software applications now have them.

We still need to work on updating our phones, which are a real hodgepodge of consoles from previous eras that don't really interface well, and on obtaining a Vista-compatible printer for the ministers' office.



The soon-expected arrival of the autumn brings on some familiar annual administrative tasks: scheduling of staff meetings, determination of staff goals for this interim year, updating of the phone directory and *Branches* mailing list (where you can help cut our environmental footprint and office costs by opting for viewing your newsletter on the web), auction preparations, coordinating needed cleanings of the RE Building, wrapping up installation of the commercial dishwasher (with heartfelt thanks to **Ron Cotts** for all his efforts in taking on this task directly), getting clearance from the various utility companies for the installation of our new church sign on Powder Mill Road, getting mulch delivered to restore our playgrounds once more to a needed level of safety (thanks to **James Alexander**, **John Sebastian** and **Patricia Most**, and others whose names escape me at the moment, for their assistance in locating possible donating companies and coordinating volunteers to work on the playground), and a host of other activities that signal the end of languid summer days and a renewed level of daily buzz at PBUUC.

One change for all concerned: in order to increase the amount of time people have to prepare their newsletter offerings, **the deadline for *Branches* will be moved to the 20th of every month beginning with the October issue** (Currently the deadline is the 3rd Sunday of every month). In a significant number of months (I count seven this fiscal year), this new deadline gives people more time to get in their information and still allows the church office time to edit, format, proof and distribute *Branches* in a timely manner. This date may be easier for some folks to remember and a reminder will appear in every issue of our newsletter on the back page. Deadline for the Order of Service will remain every Wednesday by close of business (4:30 pm).

Thanks to all of you for your contributions to our community. For those of you who would like to talk about ways you can be involved in the hub of church administration, for whatever amount of time you have to give, please call anytime, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

-STAFF-

Co-ministers	Rev. Phyllis Hubbell*	301-937-3666
.....	Rev. John Manwell*	301-937-3666
Music Director/Pianist....	David Chapman	301-937-3666
Dir. of Rel. Exploration..	Carla N. Miller	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst.....	Penney Hughes	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers.....	Sharon Werth	301-937-3666
Church Administrator	Daniel Everitt	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst.	Rebecca Birnie.	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
.....	Chuck Bury	301-799-2535
.....	Jesse Crowley	301-345-2663
.....	Rich O'Brien	301-787-5999
Child Care Provider	Carol Tutz	301-937-3666

-OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES-

Chair	Kate Brett	301-931-9024
Vice-Chair	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
Vice-Chair	Carol Carter Walker	202-636-8138
Trustee	James Alexander.....	301-277-3211
Trustee	Ken Montville.....	301-464-8367
Trustee	Diane Niedzialkowski	301-622-2010
Trustee	Will Snyder	301-474-1202
Trustee	Vacant	
Trustee	Vacant.	
Secretary	Anita Wagner	703-401-7230
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer.....	Ellen Cotts	301-572-3983
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Stark	301-441-2473

-CARING COMMUNITY-

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:

.....	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
.....	John Lagerquist.....	301-864-1745
.....	Jonathan Mawdsley	301-982-4520
.....	Raman Pathik	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein	301-891-2071
.....	Alice Tyler	301-935-5279

-We Care Coordinator for September-

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