



BRANCHES



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

DECEMBER 2008

OUR SERVICES FOR THIS MONTH
SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:00 AM

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

HOLIDAY SERVICES START TIMES AS INDICATED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 OUTWARD DARKNESS, INWARD HOPE

Rev. John Manwell, with Bruce Baker, *Worship Associate* and guest trumpeter Scott Gaines

The darkness of winter can bring on the dark night of the soul. Memories of departed loved ones flood back upon us. The joy of those around us can leave us feeling darker yet, and alone. Though for many the holidays promise the joy of families once more together, we may feel impossibly stressed with the demands of greetings and gift giving, parties and planning.

Let's reflect on how we can claim the joy of the season, with its message of peace and goodwill, and its promise of light and hope.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 WHAT GIFT CAN WE BRING?

Rev. John Manwell, with David Chapman and the Choir, and Shantida, *Worship Associate*

In this service of story and song, leading us into the holiday season, we'll also reflect on how, despite the gathering economic storm, we can give our children the gifts of love and joy and inward peace.

It brings us special joy today to dedicate children in our congregation at this morning's service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 SERVICE WITH HOLIDAY PAGEANT

Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, DRE Carla Miller, and members of the Worship Associates Team

This All Ages service features the traditional story of Jesus' birth, re-told in the musical pageant *This Night: a Christmas Pageant* by Travis D. Vaughn, III, with a cast of our very own Paint Branch children, youth and adult members and the Holiday Pageant Choir. Our Annual Congregational Holiday Meal will follow, planned and coordinated by Jan Montville.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 TWO CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

6:00 p.m. Family service

9:30 p.m. Adult candlelight service – The Juggler's Tale

The Christmas Eve collections will support the Warm Nights program.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 WELCOME HOME

Members of the Worship Associates Team

PBUUC's second annual homecoming service expands the concept of homecoming to include our return to pre-Christian midwinter celebrations, a return of light to a darkened world. These have included Solstice and Hanukkah, and a recent American synthesis of traditional African values into the seasonal holiday, Kwanzaa. Join Worship Associate Erin Washburn as she welcomes representatives of the various traditions and welcomes our young adults back home for the holidays. Tish Hall will plan and coordinate a homecoming brunch after the service.

Roots and Wings by Rev. Phyllis L. Hubbell

As I write this column, it is two weeks after the Presidential election. Two good people were nominated by the Republicans and the Democrats to run for President. Millions of other decent, thoughtful people supported both candidates, made phone calls, canvassed voters, posted yard signs, made donations and, finally, stood in line to vote. Yet I and many others from all parties found ourselves disliking and distrusting the candidate of the other side and their most vocal supporters.



Our faith calls us to seek out the inherent worth and dignity of all people including people in all serious political parties. Yet the political process often focuses on denying any worth or dignity to serious opposition. Elections leave the loser anxious, and many

on both sides bitter. It plays out in our country. It plays out in our church.

Yet, so much of politics concerns fundamental religious issues on which thoughtful people may disagree. Is it under certain circumstances the lesser of two evils to take another life – to invade another country, to defend ourselves, to exact retribution, to end a pregnancy? Can torture ever be justified? When shall we protect the sick, the weak the poor, the oppressed? When is it better for our country to let them stand on their own? How much redistribution of wealth is just?

What does it mean to have justice for those who are different? For those who are sick, weak, poor, came here illegally, have darker skin and hair, love differently? When shall we preserve our freedom to spend what we have earned? To own property? To conduct a business? How far should we go to protect people subject to torture and mass murder in foreign countries? Is the world we live in precious? Do we have a moral obligation to treat even the chickens we eat with dignity? Ensure that polar bears have enough to eat? Save the great rivers of the world?

Can we not reflect together in this country (and in this congregation) during elections on these great questions and how the answers might affect our laws? I cannot help but believe that such discussions would leave our nation more united even in areas of disagreement and more ready to cope with the tremendous challenges we face.

The religious charge to us as individuals and as people of faith is to practice humility in the face of ambiguity. Many of these issues are heartbreakingly complex. If we end up the winners, our candidates will make mistakes. If we end up winners, but our opponents are bitter and fearful, then everyone is a loser.

Out of many, we are one. One nation, one church. May we strive to make it so.

MINISTERS RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) RIGHTS

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ), our region's UU social justice group, recognized **Rev. Phyllis Hubbell** in October for her work for equal rights for lesbians and gays, bisexual and transgender people, and especially for marriage equality. Rev. Hubbell also chaired UUSJ several years ago, following **Rev. Barbara ten Hove**.

The Interfaith Fairness Coalition of Maryland (IFCM) founded by Paint Branchers **Ed Kobb** and **Al Usack**, recognized **Rev. John Manwell** a month later for his support of the LGBT community over a long period while serving at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. At the same time, IFCM recognized First Unitarian as a congregation, for its support.

In their responses, both Revs. Hubbell and Manwell expressed their gratitude to First Church and to the LGBT community for the opportunity to join in this work. Both spoke of how it had widened their horizons, opened them to new friends and colleagues, and changed their lives.

From our Interim Ministers on Transition Planning

INTRODUCING THE TRANSITION TEAM

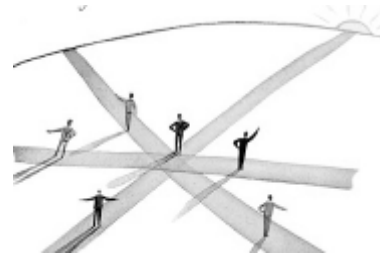
Paint Branch has a new group called the Transition Team, composed of **Julie Dahmer, Marj Donn, and Sherry Mitchell**. This team replaces the Committee on Ministry during the interim period. It serves the congregation (under board approval) in collaboration with the interim ministers as the "brain trust" and "think tank" of the congregation, and the "liaison body" to the congregation for the interim period. The Transition Team's primary function is to assist the interim ministers in navigating and guiding the congregation as it works through the congregation's six Developmental Tasks of the interim year, as follows:

- h Claiming and honoring the congregation's past and engaging and acknowledging its griefs and conflicts
- h Recognizing the congregation's unique identity, and its strengths, needs, and challenges
- h Understanding the appropriate leadership roles of minister, church staff, and lay leaders, and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
- h Making appropriate use of UU Cluster, District, UUA, and other outside resources
- h Reaching beyond the dominant culture to embrace the multicultural world in social service and social justice and
- h Renewing the congregation's vision, strengthening its stewardship, preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, ready and eager to embrace the future with hopeful anticipation and zeal

They will be assisting Phyllis and John in the logistics of workshops the ministers are developing for the congregation, one on history and the other on the development of a covenant. They bring their long experience of this congregation to assist the interims in determining what needs to be done during this interim year to prepare Paint Branch for the new ministry. The ministers and the members of the Transition Team welcome any comments you may have regarding these tasks.

DATES SET FOR ALL CONGREGATION WORKSHOPS

During this transition year we're planning two all-congregation workshops, which because of the church's very busy calendar have had to wait.



With the advice of the Transition Team (**Marj Donn, Sherry Mitchell and Julie Dahmer**), we've set February 1, after church, for a

workshop to look back at the church's history. This is a normal part of interim-year work, as we ask about the high and low points, the patterns that emerge, and what we can learn from them. (Football enthusiasts, note that the workshop will end in mid-afternoon, well before the Superbowl kick-off at six o'clock.)

By Spring, Paint Branch should have defined the congregation's overall mission, and its vision of what the church might look like as we move toward that mission. What we'll still need is a statement of how we want to be with each other, especially taking into account the growing diversity of the congregation.

So we're also planning a workshop to develop a covenant of right relationships. We've set it for Saturday, March 14 (all day approximately 10 am to 4 pm). We hope the energy it generates will carry over to the service the next morning. That's the date tentatively set for a different sort of kick-off, as **Paul Wester's** stewardship team launches the annual pledge drive.

To allow the new minister(s) to take part in the strategic planning to implement the mission and vision statements, the Dedicated toward Inspiring Vitality (DIV) team is postponing the strategic plan until fall. This will free the DIV team to work on the covenant workshop.

A Word from our Board Chair

by Kate Brett

I don't want to be in charge of {fill in the blank}, but I'll be glad to help out." I know I've said that many times in my life, and I am willing to bet that you have thought that at least once or twice.

Just last month, out of fear that things wouldn't get done, I took the task of managing our auction dinner. I received several comments to the effect that I was doing too much, and that the board chair should not be running programs. That may be true, but I saw a need that I knew I could handle, and rather than wait any longer for another person to volunteer, I stepped up to the plate. As it turns out, **Adeline Wilcox** volunteered at the same time and so we worked together. However, when I made my decision, I had no idea that I would have help. What I found out was that I got a lot of great advice from people who did the work before, and that it really was not that much work, since so many people in our church offer to help when they see a need. However, it took someone to be in charge in order for the event to happen, which it did in a very splendid manner.



I bring this up because there are so many activities going on at the church, and there are unfortunately many tasks that need to be undertaken but for which no volunteers

have come forward. The buildings and grounds committee sorely needs additional help. The Social Action Committee has no chair. The Membership Committee is about to work with the UUA on their marketing campaign, but barely have enough people to do the work they have to do without that additional activity. The list goes on, but you get the picture.

I urge you to think about committing to come just a little bit more to church to make this year a great success. The leadership of the church has a number of activities already planned to make our ministerial transition effective, to work on bylaws, and to start looking forward with new mission and vision statements. In addition, the day to day activities still need to happen. All of this will take our time, but the commitment of a little time will result in a more resilient and cohesive church community.

I hope to see you around church. Come talk with me or any of the other Trustees with your concerns and issues, as our mission is to make sure the church is working well. And I hope you have a very happy holiday season.

Financial Notes

by Ellen Cotts, Treasurer

Is it almost Christmas? And if it is, then 2009 must be almost here. Lots of excitement there: a new president, Inauguration Day festivities and, alas, tax payments. Many of us try to do tax planning near the end of the year, so that is a good time to think about PBUUC.

Facts you may want to know: The last Sunday of the year is December 28. I will be out of town over the holiday (in Denver with Ron's family) so I won't be putting the deposit together until Sunday 1/4/09 after we return. When I do put together the deposits I will go by the date on the check. If it is dated in 2008, I'll enter it into our books with the December deposits. If it is dated 2009, I'll enter it into the January deposits. That means your tax statement for 2008 will include all checks dated in December IF they are received by 1/4/09 (either in the collection or by mail). After that, all checks will be entered in January, no matter what the date on the check. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

And of course, this is the time of year when some people are reviewing their charitable giving and wish to make additional contributions. If you are fortunate enough to be in that category, I would suggest the church Legacy Fund. It has suffered of late from stock market losses but this is a great time to invest because we fully believe that the market will recover and that we will benefit significantly from additional funds added now. Just put Legacy Fund in the memo. Your contributions to the Legacy Fund and all tax deductible contributions to the church will be included on your tax statement which will be sent out in January.

And last, but far from least, I wish you all a happy holiday. We are so blessed to live in this country and to have this wonderful church community to support us in good times and bad. LIFE IS GOOD!! PASS IT ON!!!

Stewardship Of Our Space: Our Own Interdependent Web

Dear Members and Friends,

What a real treasure we have in our buildings and grounds. It was one of the real significant impressions that struck me on the VERY first day that I came to interview for the church administrator position, now 1 year ago (can you believe it?). I was struck by the unusual grace and symmetry of the buildings, which won awards back when the Religious Exploration building was first built; the commitment to being a green sanctuary through the use of geo-thermal heating, the pastoral setting which is the hallmark of so many UU congregations.

To this day, whenever we have visitors to our facility, the first comment is usually about the true beauty of our spiritual home, and how people like to sit quietly in our glen and feel the centeredness that seems to permeate our little corner of the world.

It takes a sizable amount of work from generous volunteers, as well as a significant sum of money to help maintain our facilities and grounds. **James Alexander, Lowell Owens and Ron Cotts** are among the individuals on our Buildings and Grounds Committee that tend to the unending maintenance jobs around our church. **Mark and Teresa Brown Shute** have also helped in organizing clean up days to help keep our place looking spiffy, (Please make sure to thank them when you next see them.) Let me not forget the faithful unnamed volunteers who help with mulching the ground, locating supplies, pulling up the poison oak and other gardening tasks. I wouldn't be surprised if I left out names of folks who generously donate their time, and I hope they will forgive me but know that their efforts are truly appreciated.



We are fortunate enough to have the funds available for regular weekly interior cleanings of the Meeting House and Religious Exploration building, which tends to the basics like sanitizing bathrooms, washing floors, regular dusting, refilling of paper products and having adequate soap supplies. Certainly I want to acknowledge how your pledge dollars go a long way towards providing for these services!!

Yet, with all of this, we still need to count on the generosity of each of the various groups and every single individual who uses our buildings to do their part in this "Interdependent Maintenance Web". It takes **EVERYONE's assistance** to pitch in and make sure that our buildings are maintained. This not only helps keep the facilities in good working order, but it helps us maintain good working relationships with our regular renters, most notably the Montessori school.

Because of the variety of events and committees, our various buildings get some pretty heavy use over the weekend. Furniture gets moved around, the hospitality room gets used for food and beverage preparation, RE classes hustle and bustle with our vital educational programs. Our regular groups and committees know the routine of cleaning and returning furniture to its original place. Chairs get stacked, extra tables get put away in the shed, and a final check is done to make sure that the classrooms are restored to working order for the Montessori school. (There are floor plans in each classroom so that furniture can be returned to its original position, if moved). The school, on their part, hires a cleaning service and their teachers make sure that their rooms are clean and in working order every afternoon, for our nighttime activities. But, for the occasional user, it's easy to believe that someone will come behind you to clean up – *ah, not so!!* Each occasional group and visitor is asked to play their part in maintaining order and creating a clean atmosphere in which to work, study and play. The smallest gesture (making sure dishes get stored, emptying full trash cans in the dumpster, returning furniture, stacking chairs, turning out lights), contributes to the overall atmosphere of our church home. Stick around at the end of your event and spend a few extra minutes cleaning up, knowing that your efforts help re-affirm our commitment to this web we've built here at PBUUC.

I am inviting **YOU** (yes, you) to be more aware of our surroundings, to help keep our facilities ready for all who use them. I invite you to see this as a concrete example of our 7th principle – our commitment to maintaining real "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". Thanks again to all the unsung heroes who keep this place going, and consider what you might do to join them.

All good things,
Daniel Everitt, your Church Administrator

Ministerial Search Committee *by John Bartoli*

HELP WANTED: CALLING ALL CANDIDATES

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has reached another major milestone in our search for new ministry. We have finished our on-line "Congregational Record" and posted it to a special password-protected UUA Transitions website that only prospective UU ministerial candidates (and the Search Committee, of course) can see. Both our Ministerial Search Representative, **Nancy Dean**, and the UUA Transitions Director, **John Weston**, have reviewed and approved the Record along with the compensation agreement developed with the Board of Trustees, and the congregational survey summary.



As you may recall from my description last month, the Congregational Record is an exhaustive historical, financial, demographic, and philosophical description of our congregation in search of new ministry. It's a kind of prospectus of our church. If ministers in search take a look at our site and find our church's unique aspects appealing, then they will allow us access to their own on-line resume that will include a record of his/her education, previous ministerial settlements, salary requirements, general theological leanings, references, strong points and not so strong points.

The MSC will pick the candidates we want to know more about, check to see if they are still interested, and, if so, exchange "packets" with them. A packet is a more detailed description usually presented in a loose-leaf page format that is exchanged between the parties. PBUUC's packet includes various local community and county information, along with photos of the day-to-day life of Paint Branch. Once we receive the candidate's packet, we will check references provided, check with the District Executive of his/her UU district, and try to develop secondary references from these conversations.

If both parties are still interested in each other, then we will schedule a conference call between the search candidate and the entire Ministerial Search Committee. We may want to call some candidates again to clarify their responses. By the time we are finished the MSC should have a much fuller picture of the candidate.

We hope to make both our Congregational Record and our packet available in the lobby of the Meeting House for members to take a look at in the near future. Because of strict rules of confidentiality, we can never share with anyone outside the MSC the names and/or home churches of potential candidates. We can, however, let you know how many interested parties there are and how many we've been interviewing.

Again, our only agenda is to find the ministry that is the best fit for our congregation. We're looking for a minister with a "calling," and one who leaves us with a strong conviction that the match is right for both parties. We will settle for nothing less.

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

Great minds are to make
others great. Their
superiority is to be used, not
to break the multitude to
intellectual vassalage, not to
establish over them a
spiritual tyranny, but to rouse
them from lethargy, and to
aid them to judge for
themselves.

- William Ellery Channing

Religious Exploration (RE) News

by Carla Miller, DRE

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Out of the Office from

December 24 through January 2

301-937-3666, x 2

dre@pbuuc.org

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Friday, December 5

Holiday Warm-Up Party, 6-9 pm

We gather all ages at this holiday party; to decorate the tree, create holiday crafts, frost and decorate cookies, and enjoy some carols! A simple dinner will be served - donations toward dinner and crafts are appreciated. *Put this one on your family calendar. Too fun to miss! Bring a friend, too.*

Sunday, December 21

Holiday Pageant during our service.

Our December holiday pageant this year will be a musical version of the story of Jesus' birth, *This Night: a Christmas Pageant* by Travis D. Vaughn, III.

Cast Needed

- * **Joseph, Mary, Innkeeper's wife** are soloists, youth or adults
- * **Narrators:** at least two strong narrators to share this role
- * **Donkey:** one or two children may play the donkey
- * **Innkeeper:** Youth or adult
- * **Animals, Shepherds & Angels:** *PBUUC Kids*
- * We will learn and perform the song, *The Friendly Beasts*.

Rehearsals

The pageant cast will rehearse in the lower level of RE building during Enrichment Hours November 23, December 7 and 14. Final dress rehearsal will be held before the service on December 21.

Holiday Intergenerational Pageant Choir

To provide the chorus for the pageant, we form a multigenerational choir, led by Music Director David Chapman. The holiday choir will rehearse at the same times as the cast. Parents, this is your chance to actually sing in a PBUUC choir!

Beacon House Gifts

Help us to provide gifts for the children and elders of Beacon House Community Ministries in Washington, D.C. See the "Beacon House tree" in the meeting house for more information, beginning December 5.

Alternative Gifts for Kids

Children and Youth and RE Families are encouraged to participate in our alternative gifts program, with affordable options for a limited allowance! Which would make your favorite teacher happier: the gift of a tree in the rainforest, or *another* mug that says "World's Greatest Teacher"? You choose.

OUR WINTER HOLIDAY TRADITIONS: QUESTIONS FOR APPRECIATION AND REFLECTION

In this darkest time of the year, we seek to brighten our lives with a ray of hope and connectedness through holiday rituals and traditions! The holidays bring opportunities to connect across time and place with generations in our family and with our larger community, as well as with the hope, love and peace within our selves.



Unfortunately, many aspects of winter holiday customs in this culture may not feed our spirits with the warmth that we seek. And some holiday customs bring us into direct conflict with our own values. The mall lights and lines of shoppers might feel more harsh than heart-warming, or holiday giving may conflict with our value of using our financial and material resources wisely.

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The goal of the following questions is to inquire appreciatively into the value of this holiday season for you. Through an appreciative inquiry approach we may identify that which we most value in the holidays. Some of these questions ask you to also examine the conflicting values in the holiday customs, in hopes that we might learn to better manage and minimize these for ourselves.

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Solstice, Yule, New Year's Eve, Kwanzaa, or all of the above, inquiring into "what matters most" to us at the holiday season may benefit us all.

Visualization: Picture a favorite holiday memory or scene from your past:

Where were you? Who were you with? What were you doing? When did this happen? Why do you think this particular moment or experience came to mind? What makes this memory so special and vivid for you now?

What aspects of this treasured memory do you wish to recreate in your holidays now - for yourself and for your children or other family members and friends?

Appreciating and inquiring into elements of the holidays:

1. Holiday Lights:

Do you incorporate ways to *literally* light the darkness of winter into your holiday customs? When, where and how? (*menorah, Christmas candles, kinara, wood stove?*) How do your holiday lighting traditions enhance your experience of the winter holidays?

Do your holiday lights bring your values into conflict? (electric lights versus caring for the earth or associating light with the good and the darkness with fears, for example) How might you adjust your rituals to better balance your conflict of values?

2. Music:

What special music do you enjoy this time of year? How do you create experiences of your favorite seasonal music for yourself, and share them with others?

3. Religious Ritual and Observance:

Which religious rituals and ceremonies embody the spirit of the holidays for you? How will you make these observances a part of your holiday experience this year?

4. Holiday Stories, Myth and Literature:

Which stories and literature are most central to the holiday season for you and your family and why? (*think widely – the oil lamp in the temple, the Grinch, the Santa & the elves oral tradition, and "A Christmas Carol" are all holiday stories.*) Are there certain stories or poems you love to repeat for yourself and/or your children every year at this time? Are there lines that you and your family know or would like to know "by heart?"

Are there particular stories which you'd like to give emphasis to this year - and how will you go about doing that? Do any of the holiday stories bring you into a conflict of values and belief? How might you re-frame and de-emphasize these aspects of the holiday stories?

5. Gift-Giving:

When do you feel most generous of spirit during the holiday season? What kind of gifts do you feel best about giving and to whom? What gifts have you enjoyed receiving the most and why were these special? What traditions surrounding holiday gift-giving do you most value? Are there ways of giving of yourself, your time and energy as well as your money, which you like to do more of this year? If any aspects of your current gift-giving practices conflict with your values, can you see a way to bring these into a better balance this year?

6. Decorations:

Picture a beautifully decorated holiday home for yourself - what would it look like and feel like? what particular elements would it include and why? Are there favorite elements of holiday decoration you will bring into your home environment this year? Are there holiday decorations you've customarily put up but which do not enhance your holiday spirit or even cause conflicting feelings for you? What would you like to enhance and/ or subtract from your holiday environment this season?

7. Foods:

Which foods and food preparation traditions make the holidays special for you? What food memories do you connect with the holidays? How do you include these foods in your holiday experiences now? Are any of your food traditions in conflict with your values of health and physical well-being, and if so, how might you bring these into a more positive balance?

Overall, what are the most central elements of the winter holidays for you?

Star those and plan to give them emphasis this year! May thoughtful questions support us as we seek the deeper and more sustaining warmth at the heart of the holidays. **Celebrate the Season with Joy!**



Auction Committee News and Notes

AUCTION 2008 A GREAT SUCCESS WITH MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED.

The preliminary count indicates that over \$20,000 was raised at the auction. Looking over the items offered and purchased, I see pleasure for all of us throughout the year as we take part in the dinners, game events, listen to sermons, and all the other goodies that were available.



A star of gold to the auction team: **Kathi Yu, Tish Hall, Janice Montville and Penny O'Brien** for pulling it together. And to specialists: **Marj Donn, Iris Peabody and Carla Monardes** who called everyone. **Kelly Wester** published the catalog, **John Sebastian** prepared a data base and **Kate Brett and Adeline Wilcox** volunteered and organized the delicious lasagna dinner, and the youth sold desserts.

Our auctioneers, **Tim Illig, Anastasia O'Neal and Jennifer Grant** did a magnificent job, as did **Nancy Boardman**, our runner. Waiting for the bids to be tallied was enhanced by the delightful program of local talent. namely, **Erin Washburn, Jim Flaherty, Muriel Morisey, René Katz, Ebeth Porter, Jesse Crowley, Pat Tompkins, Beth Lyons, Colin McCoy, Michael Leger, and Robyn McCoy**. Thanks to each of you for your time and talent.

John Sebastian, Michael Leger and **Ellen Cotts** were busy throughout the auction with data entry. **Paul Young, Dave Trout, Richard Coté, Jeri Holloway, Nancy Etkin, Marie Gore, and Marj Donn** came early for set-up.

The auction could not have run so smoothly if **Carol Carter Walker, Bettie Young, Julie Dahmer, Rich O'Brien, Mike Stark, Adeline Wilcox, Sonny Katz, Ron Cotts, Kathy Kearns, James Alexander, Carla Miller, Peter Wathen Dunn, Muriel Morisey, Penney Hughes, Gavin Brennan, Fenwick Yu, Lisa Lincoln, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson and Don Gerson** had not been there to pitch in where needed.

And to everyone who contributed items to sell. Thank you and many, many thanks!!! You know who you were, and without you there couldn't have been an auction. Auction night, November 8, was so much fun and so many were there, if we missed any names, please take a bow and accept our apologies for not listing your name.

(Editor's Note: many thanks to Tish Hall and Kathy Yu and the Auction Committee for their faithful reporting of AucitonEvents in our last few editions of Branches.)



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team News

REFLECTIONS ON THE *EDUCATION* FOR ALL WORSHIP SERVICE

By Leo Jones

Our national high school graduation rate is 68%. In the richest country in the world, the land of opportunity, nearly a third of all students fail to graduate. If a child happens to be born African American, Hispanic, or Native American, he or she has a fifty-fifty chance of graduating. By comparison, the graduation rate for white students is 75%, for Asian students it's 77%. The chances are even slimmer for students who attend school in high-poverty, racially-segregated, and urban school districts. Their graduation rates lag from 15 to 18 percent behind their peers.

If Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Twentieth Century minister and theologian, was correct when he wrote that "The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children," what does it say about us that such appalling graduation rates are permitted to persist? Have we lived up to the moral duty to our children, all of our children, to provide the very best education system possible?



We are guilty of thinking too small. We have made the teaching and learning of basic skills the bedrock of our education policy, as if those who acquire minimal reading, writing, and computing skills

are equipped to succeed in today's world and to lead useful and satisfying lives. Ironically, in too many cases, we don't do a good job with these basics, either. Yes, every child must learn to read and write, but that's only the beginning. Part of the charge of education is to equip our children with the means to experience the world in its fullness; to make available the very best that our culture has to offer; to provide them with the tools they will need to explore what it means to be human. Rudimentary reading and writing skills won't accomplish these goals.

The good news is that we have the wherewithal to provide a quality education for every child, if only we could summon the will. Nearly every faith tradition recognizes a duty to protect, nurture, and teach children. Unitarian Universalist congregations agree to promote and affirm seven principles that encompass what we believe, and reflect the way we view the world.

But we can never realize the world we envision if we do not recognize our obligation to advocate and support an effective and successful education for all children. Our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person demands it. Our pursuit of justice, equity and compassion compels it. If we hope to build a world of acceptance, where spiritual growth for everyone is encouraged, we must see that every child has the ability to draw upon the wisdom and insight of seekers of the past and present.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning is possible only when one learns to value truth and can mine the rich treasury of ideas of those who have struggled to understand what is true and meaningful. Children must be taught to understand and value the democratic process in order to participate in it in a meaningful way. The goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all is achievable only if every child has an understanding of the world, its history, and his or her place in it. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, depends upon an awareness and understanding of the intricate relationships that shape our world.

May our efforts be guided by the principles in which we believe.

DARTT SPECIAL COLLECTION RESULTS

The special collection on the September 28 Journey Toward Wholeness Sunday raised \$1,568 to support anti-racism/anti-oppression activities of the denomination and the church. One third of this amount has been sent to the UUA for denomination anti-racism/oppression activities. The remainder will be used by DARTT to underwrite a workshop, Building A Vocal Community, led by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, sometime in 2009. Thank you!

DARTT MEETING – TUE., DEC. 2

Come to the next DARTT meeting on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. to help plan the Ysaye Barnwell Workshop and other activities; a monthly service project, including a portion of the December 28 Sunday Service; a possible interfaith gathering on Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday; another book discussion and a film series. If you can't attend, but would like to provide comments, suggestions, etc., send them to dartt@pbuuc.org

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!

Social Action Committee News

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS FAIR AT PAINT BRANCH DECEMBER 7 AND 21

Alternative Gifts International (AGI) is a nonprofit, interfaith agency whose global mission is to send authentic, life-giving gifts to a needy world - gifts that build a partnership with people in crisis and that protect and preserve the earth's endangered environment.

On Sunday, December 7, and Sunday, December 21, the Paint Branch Social Action Committee will provide you the opportunity to purchase gifts at the Paint Branch UU Church Alternative Gifts Market to honor your family and friends while providing practical help to people in the United States and throughout the world. Your purchase includes a card and an enclosure which describes your gift. Alternative Gift purchases help you to be "more green" by eliminating wrapping paper and plastic packaging for conventional gifts.

Some examples:

- h For the cost of a hair cut: Buy one children's book shared by hundreds in a year in Mexico.
- h For the cost of a CD player: provide one day in-hospital stay for one patient in Egypt.
- h For the cost of a 30-minute massage: Buy one share of environmental solution in Haiti.
- h For the cost of an iPod video: Provide education for one child for one year

The Alternative Gifts Market will be held on Sunday, December 7, from right after the Sunday Service through the end of Enrichment Hour in the back of the Meeting House. The Market will return on Sunday, December 21, from right after the Sunday Service to the beginning of the Holiday Meal in the Kelley Room. Invite your friends and family to shop. What a great way to say you care this year!

Catalogs for adults and special catalogs for children will be available beginning Sunday November 30. If you want to know more about the Alternative Gifts Market at Paint Branch, contact **Laura Bonkosky** at laura.bonkosky@verizon.net, **Rene McDonald** at Rm.opal@verizon.net or **Carol Carter Walker** at carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net.

SAC MISCELLANEOUS

As part of our efforts toward peace and justice, the Committee recommends two programs related to Bethlehem. Paint Branch members and friends are invited to attend either or both of these events:

- Saturday, December 6, 4 pm, Christmas Procession for Bethlehem at the corner of 14th St., NW and Constitution Ave., NW (near the Washington Monument)
- Saturday, December 20, 10 am, Joint Simulcast Worship Service with the people of Bethlehem, at the Bethlehem Chapel, National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave., NW

Recent special collections brought in \$823 to benefit the Choral Dept. of Suitland H.S. for the Performing Arts and \$1115 for the Capital Area Food Bank. At our Christmas Eve services, the collection will be divided among the Warm Nights housing-the-homeless program, Community Café - a feeding program, and Beacon House Inner-city Ministry. Other upcoming special collections: January - Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, and February - Interfaith Fairness Coalition of Maryland that helps congregations become more welcoming of GLBT people.

The next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be on Saturday, January 10, from 10-12 am. Everyone welcome.



GREEN TIPS OF THE MONTH

✧ The use of LED lights for your Christmas decorating will cut down on your electricity use, and save you money. ✧ Think recycle when you buy your Christmas cards. Soy ink is also recommended.

Is saving the earth really meaningful or is it just a lot of do-good talk? Yes, evidence is collecting that our efforts are making a difference. It was pointed out at the Green Team meeting, November 19, that not only is the difference ecological, it is also economical. **Don Gerson** reported on the CSAI item on Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice social action issue adopted at the 2008 General Assembly. He called our attention to the article on page 30 of the Winter 2008 issue of *UU World* concerning Thanksgiving dinner table ethical issues.

FAMILY FOOD TRADITIONS, A 50TH ETHNIC DINNER TO REMEMBER

WOW! A great theme, 32 cooks, 40 dishes, 24 stories, 85 people attending, one fantastic meal, a popular bar and an outstanding leftover sale equals a *very successful 50th Ethnic Dinner!* There *were* some challenges. No menu plan or pre-set number of dishes per course screamed “potential for chaos”! Would we have too little, or too much food, too many desserts, not enough appetizers, no soup, or any other vagary of “pot-luck” left to chance? How many would tell stories, how long would it take, would people listen or just converse at their tables? Could we pull it all together, and start at an earlier time too?



Well obviously, yes we could! Thanks first to **Muriel Morisey** for the “*Family Food Traditions*” theme idea. How perfect that was for our 50th dinner became more and more apparent as the plans developed

and people responded. Some, not able to come or to prepare something, told me it still inspired their family to discuss treasured recipes and the loved ones who had made them. The cooks included **Don Gerson, Muriel Morisey, Jean Adamson, Criss & Peter Kovac, Kathi Yu, Kathy Kearns, Marge Owens, Tish Hall, Carol Carter Walker, Nancy Boardman, Tina Van Pelt, Penny O’Brien, Marilyn Pearl, Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Teresa Meeks, Phyllis Hubbell & John Manwell, Beth Henderson, Raman Pathik, Anita Wagner & Tim Illig, Adeline & Otilie Wilcox, Joe Dever & Penney Hughes, Cathy Helmold, Jane Trout, Melissa Graham & Jennifer Wright, and Cory Carter.** The stories they told about their dishes were attentively listened to, and proclaimed highlights of the evening.

Mike Stark’s suggestion we begin earlier so more children could attend, was so appropriate for a dinner of *family* favorites. He also did his usual reliably fantastic job of stocking and tending the bar and leading the set-up crew. Helping with set-up was **Joe Dever, Jeri Holloway, Karen & John Donovan, Richard Coté and Vanessa Landau.** **Gavin Brennan** helped tend bar.

Beverages at the bar included *Belgian beer* provided by Mike, and *Iron City beer* provided by **Jeri Holloway** in tribute to her husband **Bob Holloway**, who was a long-time regular at Ethnic Dinners, who is greatly missed.

Carol Carter Walker tended the door welcoming at least 30 people to their first Ethnic Dinner! Building Manager **Chuck Bury** operated the sound system, enjoyed the dinner with his own family, and oversaw clean-up. He also set up the DVD player to show the movie “*Ratatouille*” to the kids. **Kim Stark** rented the video, **Joe Dever** and **Penney Hughes** supervised its audience. **David Chapman and Richard Coté** provided a good variety of appropriate recorded music and **Don Gerson** photographed the entire event.

Cleaning up were **Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Don Gerson, Jennifer Grant, Keirn Hilleary, Jonathan Mawdsley, Cory Carter, Patty Daukantas, Marcie Washburn, Tish Hall, Gavin and Connor Brennan, Raman Pathik, Kathi Yu, Adeline Wilcox, Marj & Bert Donn, Nancy Boardman, Mike Stark, Cathy Helmold, Marilyn Pearl, & Penny O’Brien.** **Tricia Most** laundered the tablecloths after we overlooked them!

This dinner *netted* the amazing total of \$1,144.05! The next dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009; the theme awaits suggestions. Call **Marilyn Pearl, 301 805-1218** with your ideas!

Art Gallery News By Jane Trout



Paint Branch has invited our artist members and friends to participate in a group show beginning the first Sunday in December and running through the second Sunday in January.

This will be an impressive show. Don’t miss examining closely what our talented community members have created. We have paintings, photography, quilting and embroidery. Each person has written a short paragraph about their artwork and what it means to them. This information can be found in the Sanctuary on the pillar at the rear left.

PBUUC Holiday Calendar at-a-glance.

Please see elsewhere in *Branches* and the Sunday Weekly Bulletin for full details.
All Services at 10 am unless otherwise specified.

Friday, December 5

- * Holiday Warm Up Party, Beacon House Tree, 6 pm (MH)

Sunday, December 7 - SERVICE: OUTWARD DARKNESS, INWARD HOPE

During Enrichment Hour 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

- * Alternative Gifts for Adults and Children (Meeting House Sanctuary and Lobby)
- * Holiday Craft Fair & Bread Sale (Meeting House Sanctuary and Lobby)
- * Handcraft Circle Hats & Mittens Sale (MH Lobby)
- * Beacon House Tree (MH Lobby)

Sunday, December 14 - WINTER CHOIR SERVICE AND CHILD DEDICATION

During Enrichment Hour 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

- * Child Dedication Reception (MH Lobby)
- * Handcraft Circle Hats & Mittens Sale (MH Lobby)
- * Beacon House Tree (MH Lobby)

Friday, December 19

- * Nature Spirituality Circle's Winter Solstice Ritual and Celebration, 7:30 pm
(at the home of Tina Van Pelt and Paul Richards)

Sunday, December 21 - HOLIDAY SERVICE, WITH PAGEANT & MITTEN TREE

During Enrichment Hour 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

- * Alternative Gifts for Adults and Children (MH Lobby)
- * Handcraft Circle Hats & Mittens Sale (MH Lobby)
- * Beacon House Tree (MH Lobby)

All Church Holiday Meal, 12 – 2 pm (Meeting House Sanctuary, Lobby and Kitchen)

Wednesday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- * 6:00 p.m. FAMILY SERVICE
- * 9:30 p.m. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – THE JUGGLER'S TALE
(no nursery care will be available for this service)

Sunday, December 28 – SERVICE: HOMECOMING / SOLSTICE / HANUKKAH / KWANZAA

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Party, hosted by Andy and Elizabeth Myrup, 8 pm (Kelley Room)

In and Around Paint Branch For the Holidays

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW OUR UU VALUES DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND INTO THE NEW YEAR

Outreach – Spirituality – Congregational Support

Beacon House



Beacon House is a nonprofit charity designed to help at-risk youths and their families in Northeast DC. It was started by **Rev. Don Robinson**, and **Nate Rummel** has been volunteering there since 1994. PBUUC places

a (cardboard) Christmas tree in our Lobby with "ornaments" representing the children and adults for whom gifts are needed. Paint Branchers take an "ornament" and bring an appropriate unwrapped gift to church for that individual. Other area UU churches also participate with BH. For many youths, these will be their only Christmas gifts. For more information, contact **Nate Rummel** at 301-776-8551 or RummelNathan@hotmail.com.

Handcraft Circle's Hats & Mittens Sale in December



Many thanks to all who patronized our Handcraft Boutique at the Auction on November. 8. We did a "brisk business," and earned about \$500 for PBUUC.

We still have hats, scarves and mittens which we will be selling in the foyer after the Sunday services on December 7, 14, and before the service on December 21. Pick up some of our handmade items for yourself, your family, or for the Mitten Tree. For those of you who are new to Paint Branch, we continue an old UU tradition of decorating a Christmas tree with hats and mittens and warm clothing at the family Holiday Service. Last year the Mitten Tree clothing was distributed to children in a local school, a group of homeless people, including some guests at our Warm Nights program, and some families who were made homeless by a fire in their apartment building.

(continued next column)

The Handcraft Circle meets twice each month (see Sunday bulletins for dates), and invites you to join us. We will start our meetings again in January. Bring your handcraft project, learn to knit or crochet - or just stop by and chat. For information call **Marj Donn** (301) 474-1353, or **Marie Gore** (301-572-4679).

Nature Spirituality Circle's Winter Solstice Ritual & Celebration - December 19



The Nature Spirituality Circle is hosting a Yule celebration to honor the longest night. The potluck and ritual will be at **Tina Van Pelt's** house Friday, December 19, at 7 pm. This informal celebration will have a

Norse flavor, consisting of a "blót" and "Sumbel". We will light the Yule log in back yard and host a drinking ritual to honor Gods, ancestors and make oaths/boasts/brags with Mead. Note non-alcoholic drinks will also be available. This is not a closed circle so people can arrive after 7:00 without disrupting this event. Families are welcome. TV and videos are in the living room. Bring your singing voice. Dress for the weather and the fire circle. For questions or directions contact Tina Van Pelt at cvanpeltah@aol.com.

SCRIP - funny word, easy fundraising



You may be wondering about those little cards people are buying on Sunday morning. They are gift cards or scrip from Giant, Shoppers and the Coop in Greenbelt.

PBUUC buys the cards in quantity and at a discounted price. Customers buy them for the regular price. PBUUC gets to keep the difference. In this way the church earned \$2,376 last year.

They work this way: you scan the card at the check-out counter in the grocery store and the computer automatically subtracts the amount of your purchase from the value of the card. You receive information about what is left on the card. Why not buy some next time you come to church?

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Gift cards are easy to use. They work like cash and Paint Branch will get a small percentage of the sale price. The cost is minimal to you, it involves remembering to bring your checkbook to church on Sunday and the benefit is that you can contribute to the church without cost to you.

P.S. If you shop at Safeway you can go to their website to sign up to have Safeway contribute a percentage of your purchases to Paint Branch.

Warm Nights



Paint Branch is hosting Warm Nights from January 25-January 31, which is a Prince George's County program that provides 12-hour overnight daily shelter

for homeless individuals and families during winter months. The program is implemented by contract with Community Ministry of Prince George's County. Over 30 community-based ministries, volunteers, public and private organizations work with Community Ministry to implement this program. **Nathan Rummel** and **Kelly Wester** are going to be asking for volunteers to perform a variety of tasks for Warm Nights. Please contact Nate at 301-776-8551 or 301-210-4289. Nate can also be contacted by e-mail at RummelNathan@hotmail.com or nathan.rummel@fda.hhs.gov.

PBUUC Women's Retreat



Mark your calendars for our 4th Annual Women's Retreat-in-Place, scheduled for **Saturday, February 28** at PBUUC! This all-day event (9 am to 4 pm) includes Workshops, Fellowship, Food, and Fun for PBUUC women, family, friends, and UUs

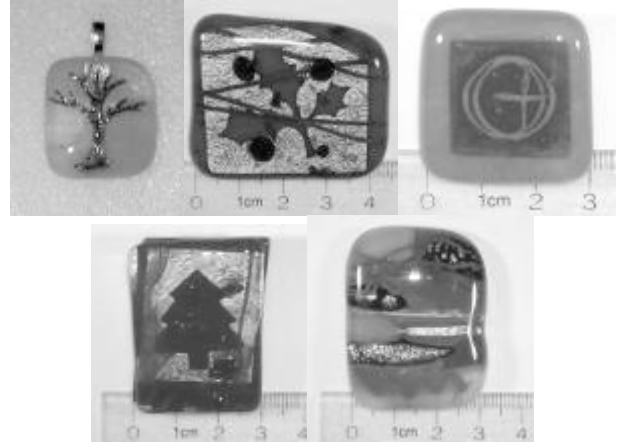
from area congregations. Childcare will be available if we know of the need in advance. Retreat planning will begin soon! To be one of the planners (it's a group effort!) or to offer to lead a workshop, please contact **Julie Dahmer** at jcdahmer@comcast.net or **Tish Hall** at Lbhall@comcast.net. Look for more information in January.

Annual Holiday Craft Fair

**Sunday, December 7, from 11:30- 1:00 pm
in the Meeting House**

Come and shop for the Holidays and We'll donate 20% to the Church!

Tina's Van Pelt's Fused Glass:



Tish Hall's bread:

Dances With Loaves - Tish Hall's sourdough breads, with a few holiday breads baked for the season. New this year, many of the sourdough breads will be baked in Tish's wood-fired oven.



Other artists may be participating and more are welcome. Contact **Tina** at 301-642-8320 for more information.

TWEDDHUULK

TWEDDHUULK (which stands for **Third Wednesday Hyattsville UU Lunch Klub**) will be meeting at Siri's Chef Secret Restaurant, located at 5810 Greenbelt Road in Greenbelt on Wednesday, December 17. Please contact **Larry Lates** at 301-345-6923 for more information and directions.

**CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH
SPECIAL EVENTS WITH
FELLOW PAINT BRANCHERS!**

Annual Holiday Meal

Participate in Our Annual Holiday Meal, Sunday, December 21, 2008, after our 10 am service, which will include the Holiday Pageant! Tickets are available after service December 7 and 14.

Menu:

- ❖ Ham and/or Roast turkey & gravy
- ❖ (or Tofurky for vegetarians, please make reservations for this)
- ❖ Mashed potato casserole (recipe provided)
- ❖ Green bean casserole (recipe provided)
- ❖ Raw vegetable relish tray
- ❖ Rolls & margarine
- ❖ Cranberry sauce
- ❖ Assorted desserts (pot-luck)

Basic cost of meal:

- \$7 for adults and youth 13 years & over
- \$4 for children 3 through 12 years
- Free for children under 3 years

Additional contribution:

Just like with other family get-togethers, everyone who is able should also contribute either food or labor towards the event. You can provide a 10-serving portion of a starred casserole (*pick up recipes at the ticket table*) OR bring a dessert to share OR you can help with one of these chores:

1. **Before Service:** Help with food preparation
2. **After Service:** Put up tables & re-arrange chairs
3. Set & decorate tables
4. Serve food to the tables, family-style
5. **After the meal:** Clear the tables
6. Take down tables & re-arrange chairs
7. Clean up the kitchen

Please contact **Jan Montville** to make reservations by Thursday, December 18 and let her know what you will contribute to the meal. Her email address is jan.montville@ars.usda.gov or call her at 301-464-6298. Many thanks!

***New Year's Eve Revels
at PBUUC***

Fasten your seatbelts, Paint Branchers, 2009 will be a wild ride for us all. There's *no* better place to greet the New Year than at the beautiful **Paint Branch Starlight Ballroom** - elegant, fun, safe & warm, and ***fiscally responsible in a bear market!*** If you've never rung in the new year with us, this is the year you should do it. We promise you a chance to forget your 401K for one night, to raise a hopeful glass to the new administration, to hug a Paint Brancher at midnight, and . . . the parking is free.

LAUGH in the face of adversity! Join us December 31 & bring your friends. Kelley Room doors open about 8:30 pm so we can dance all night. We're sticking with \$15 a head, covering casual food, non-alcoholic drinks and a midnight toast. The usual small cost for wine. **RESERVATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!** Please let us know **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 21** if you're coming, and provide contact info just in case of changes. Sign up on MH lobby poster or email or call us.

Helpers are really needed to take over food and drink procurement, plus the usual crews for decorating (2-4 p--ish on the 31st) and un-decorating, (12-1 pm-ish on the 1st.) Let us know *soon* if you can help.

Please contact **Andy Myrup & Elizabeth Yanowitch** at Yanorup@comcast.net or by phone at 301-384-4544.

P.S. – Since we are sharing parking with a major outside rental, please avail yourself of parking on Bournedale Road.



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–

| | | |
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| 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 | Abby Crowley | 301-345-2663 |
| Trustee | Ken Montville..... | 301-464-8367 |
| Trustee | Diane Niedzialkowski | 301-622-2010 |
| Trustee | Polly Pettit..... | 301-589-1015 |
| Trustee | Will Snyder | 301-474-1202 |
| Secretary | Anita Wagner | 703-401-7230 |
| 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 (Lead) | 301-891-2071 |
| ..... | Alice Tyler | 301-935-5279 |

–We Care Coordinator for December–

ESTHER NICHOLS – 301-864-2068

–WORSHIP ASSOCIATES –

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------|--------------|
| ..... | Bruce Baker | 301-589-3633 |
| ..... | Erin Washburn (Youth Assoc.) | |
| ..... | Don Henderson..... | 301-681-4033 |
| ..... | Michael Léger (Lead)..... | 301-982-2986 |
| ..... | Tosha O'Neal | 301-459-0077 |
| ..... | Marilyn Pearl..... | 301-805-1218 |
| ..... | Pat Tompkins (Lead)..... | 301-474-3858 |

– BRANCHES –

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Editor..... | Daniel Everitt | 301-937-3666 |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------|

COMMITTEES –

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Adult Rel. Exploration | Julie Dahmer | 301-890-7807 |
| Arts Council | Julie Dahmer ... | 301-890-7807 |
| Budget Leadership Team | Kate Brett | 301-931-9024 |
| Building & Grounds | James Alexander | 301-277-3211 |
| DARTT | Tricia Most..... | 301-445-2821 |
| | Carol Carter Walker .. | 202-636-8138 |
| DIV Team | Tim Illig | 410-707-6678 |
| Denominational Affairs | Donald Gerson | 240-293-6570 |
| Finance | Don Henderson | 301-681-4033 |
| Legacy Fund | Liz Citrin | 410-531-6319 |
| Membership | Tim Illig | 410-707-6678 |
| Nominating | Paul Wester | 301-937-7375 |
| Personnel | Marcie Washburn..... | 301-384-5156 |
| Public Relations | Vacant | |
| Religious Exploration | Tina Van Pelt | 301-927-0331 |
| Social Action | Vacant | |

– GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES –

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Auction Committee | Jan Montville... .. | 301-464-6298 |
| | Kathi Yu | 301-593-2853 |
| Beacon House | Nathan Rummel | 301-776-8551 |
| Bridge | Ellen Cotts..... | 301-572-3983 |
| Canvass | Paul Wester | 301-937-7375 |
| Chalice Dancers | Jennifer Grant.. .. | 240-426-1277 |
| Coffee Coordinator | Raman Pathik | 301-890-9072 |
| Ethnic Dinners | Marilyn Pearl... .. | 301-805-1218 |
| Green Sanctuary | Marj Donn..... | 301-474-1353 |
| | Jennifer Robinson | 301-906-9966 |
| Marriage Enrichment | Don Fairfield | 301-552-4330 |
| Men's Group | John Bartoli | 301-441-2516 |
| Nature Spirituality Circle | Cory Carter..... | 301-982-4520 |
| Religious Quest | Lowell Owens | 301-345-1572 |
| Shamanic Journeying | Mary Tyrte Rooker... .. | 301-891-1288 |
| Spirituality Circle | Amy Steiner | 301-890-9072 |
| TWedHUULK | Larry Lates | 301-345-6923 |
| Ushers | Esther Nichols | 301-864-2068 |
| Writers' Group | Marjory Donn.. .. | 301-474-1353 |



PAINT BRANCH**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH****3215 POWDER MILL ROAD****ADELPHI, MD 20783-1097.****(301) 937-3666****WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG****E-MAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG** **Check here if you no longer wish to receive
this mailing**

BRANCHES DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE – DECEMBER 18

As the Church Office will be closed on the Friday after Christmas (which falls on a Thursday this year), the Branches deadline is being moved to December 18 for the January 2009 edition.

It's VERY important that all articles be in the MORNING OF the 18 so that work can begin immediately on formatting and printing the newsletter. So please **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** and **PLAN NOW** to have all submissions in on time: Thanks for your extra efforts!!

January 2009 edition deadline: **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18**

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy season of winter holidays.