



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

**MARCH 2010**

### SERVICES FOR MARCH 2010

**Sunday Services at 10 am, other services start as listed.**

*Sunday Services and RE classes are followed by Fellowship*

*and then Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45 for which child care is provided.*

**MARCH 7 AT 10 AM**

### **TOWARD A “VIBRANT COMMUNITY MINISTRY”**

*Rev. Diane Teichert, with Don Henderson, Worship Associate*

*Choir and Chalice Dancers*

**\*\*Young people start in the Kelley Room\*\***

The sermon title comes from the letter sent to the congregation by the chair of its board of trustees in preparation for our Annual Stewardship Drive which we launch this weekend. “Why is PBUUC here?” “Who does it serve?” We'll hear stories from a few other Unitarian Universalist congregations and consider the question “What is our mission?”

**MARCH 14 AT 10 AM**

### **THE VALUE OF SUCCESS**

*Led by the High School Youth Group; Don Henderson, Worship Associate*

**\*\*Children start in the Meetinghouse\*\***

The service explores the concept of prosperity. Good fortune, worth, betterment – all are successes to be valued and understood. The Youth Group delves into these virtues while celebrating the different types of prosperity this life has to offer. (The annual Youth-led Service is always a “don't miss it”!)

**MARCH 14 AT 4 PM**

### **INSTALLATION OF REV. DIANE TEICHERT**

*Preacher: Rev. Kathy Huff, Minister, First Unitarian Church of Oakland CA*

*Charge to the Congregation: Mike Harris, President, Joseph Priestley District Board*

*Charge to the Minister: Rev. John Gibbons, Senior Minister, First Parish UU in Bedford MA*

*Covenant: Rev. Diane Teichert and Jonathan Mawdsley, PBUUC Board of Trustees Chair*

*Leo Jones, Worship Associate*

*Chalice Dancers, Adult Choir, Installation Singers (children and youth)*

**\*\*All Children start in the Meetinghouse, Under Grade 5 may leave mid-way if they wish\*\***

**MARCH 21 AT 10 AM**

### **A TRIBUTE TO ANCIENT WISDOM**

*Shantida, Homilist with Don Henderson, Worship Associate and Marilyn Pearl, Chalice Lighter*

**\*\*Children start in Kelley Room\*\***

Before the oppression by Europeans, First Peoples lived an ordered life and preserved their learning in an oral tradition as astounding as the feat of someone memorizing the Koran. Together with Chief Seattle's “web of life” oration, come, open yourself to ancient wisdom. The choir will sing, Jim Flaherty soloist.

**MARCH 28 AT 10 AM**

### **LIBERATION**

*Rev. Diane Teichert with Tish Hall, Worship Associate*

**\*\*Young people start in the Meetinghouse\*\***

The recent Supreme Court decision regarding the rights of corporations comes to mind as the liberation story of Passover is about to be retold on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

## The Minister's mUUsings...

I finished washing the breakfast dishes while some water came to a boil and then steeped my mint tea bag.

In his little book *The Miracle of Mindfulness: A Manual on Meditation*, Thich Nhat Hanh says "While washing the dishes one should only be washing the dishes, which means that while washing the dishes one should be completely aware of washing the dishes."

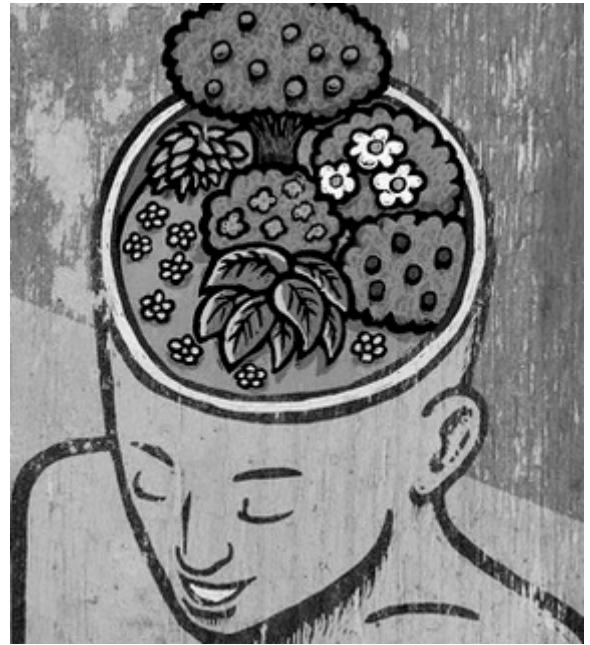
So, I guess I should have waited until after the dishes were done before boiling the water! I could have meditated on the sounds of the water heating up and then of the kettle whistling. I could have noticed the minty fragrance wafting up from the cup as the tea steeped. I could have mindfully removed the tea bag, squeezing it gently, and then carefully dropped it into the trashcan without dripping tea on the counter as I often do. Then I would have observed the honey drip into the teaspoon and stirred it swirling into the cup. Finally, I would have sat at the table to sip my tea, savoring its warmth and flavor, meditating on what to write for this column while looking at the birds at the bird feeder.

Instead, I brought my tea upstairs to drink while I type.

Many of us are multi-taskers, and proud of it. I remember as a new mother being amazed that I could cook dinner with my right hand while holding my baby in my left arm. I also remember gazing into her blue eyes, marveling at what was far more amazing than my new-found dexterity: her very life. A week short of twenty-seven years later, I have to wonder, did I give her my undivided attention more often than not?

In a front page article in today's *Washington Post* (2/22/2010), a young father described how he inadvertently let his four year old daughter's bathtub run over, enough to soak his feet while standing nearby, because he was playing a chess game with his neighbor via iPhone. Did the tsunami cause him to stop the game? No! With one hand he shut off the faucet and with the other he tapped out his next move!

In that same book, Thich Nhat Hanh tells about a young father who discovered how to have more time for himself. He used to divide up his non-work time— some for his young son, some for his wife, some for their new baby, some for household work and the little bit remaining for himself. But, now he tries to find ways of experiencing *all* of his time as time for himself. For example, when helping his son with his homework, the father "shares his presence, finding ways to be interested in what they do together." So, his time with his son becomes time for himself. Ditto for the time he spends with his wife, baby, and on chores. "The remarkable thing is that now I have unlimited time for myself!"



If we live each moment in the moment – not "in our head," not dwelling on something in the past nor worrying about what is to be in the future, and not plugged in – then we will truly be present to the present, a present (as in gift!) to ourselves and anyone in our company.

Hoping for your presence on Sundays,

*Diane*

Rev. Diane Teichert

**INSTALLATION OF  
REV. DIANE TEICHERT  
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010, 4:00 PM**

*Everyone is invited to play a part ... attend the service and enjoy the reception afterward.*

By now you should have received your personal and formal invitation to the Installation of our new minister, Diane Teichert. Please consider this to be a reminder and encouragement to attend this very special celebration. It is an important milestone in the life of our congregation, marking the formal start of our fifth settled ministry since PBUUC was founded in 1954.

We will be hosting a number of visitors – including Diane’s family and friends, the ministers and Board Chairs from our neighboring UU churches in the Joseph Priestley District, and other local interfaith clergy. We’d also like to have participation from as many folks in the congregation as are able. After all, this is like the celebration of a marriage between the PBUUC congregation and Diane as our minister – we got engaged last spring when we voted to call Diane as our minister, we’ve been living together since August when Diane moved into her PBUUC office and began working with church committees and leading services, now we’re finally holding the official ceremony where we’ll stand together and make the public announcement of our commitment to our ministry together. Let’s really fill the church!

*Everyone is invited to play a part ... assist with one of the many tasks involved in this big event.*

- Nursery care during the service and reception
- Children’s activities during the second half of the service
- Parking attendants
- Ushers & Greeters
- Coffee preparation & service (in the Kelley room)
- Room arrangements - after service move chairs and set up food tables for the reception
- Food preparation and service, before and during the reception
- Clean-up the kitchen & wash dishes after the reception
- Clean up the meeting house and return chairs after the reception

To volunteer for a task or get more information, contact Jan Montville by telephone at 301-464-6298 or [jan.montville@verizon.net](mailto:jan.montville@verizon.net) or [jan.montville@ars.usda.gov](mailto:jan.montville@ars.usda.gov). To offer donations of food or assistance with the reception (food preparation, service and clean-up), contact Jenny Story at [story710@yahoo.com](mailto:story710@yahoo.com). Of course, *everyone* can try to be especially friendly and welcoming to our guests, and help make our grounds and meeting space look as nice as possible.

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**MEET THE INSTALLATION  
GUEST PREACHER**

The Reverend Kathy Huff has served First Unitarian Church of Oakland CA since 2002. She is an accomplished minister with a deep commitment to transformative spiritual growth, religious pluralism and social justice. Raised as a Roman Catholic in the South Pacific islands, Kathy has traveled and lived around the globe and is a lifelong student of world religions. She was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry in 1998. Prior to coming to Oakland, she served the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Arlington, Massachusetts.



Rev. Kathy Huff

Rev. Kathy holds a Masters of Divinity from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University. She has received numerous awards for her dynamic

leadership, social justice work and visionary preaching. She was named as the 2007 *East Bay Express* Readers Poll Favorite for the area's "Most Inspirational Sermons." As a recognized leader in our movement, Rev. Kathy addressed the 6,000 delegates at the opening plenary of our 2003 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in Boston. She spoke about the imperative of giving body and form to our justice centered faith. A sought after public speaker and workshop leader, her writings and quotes frequently appear in magazines and meditation manuals.

*(continued on next page)*

Kathy is passionate about our mission to build the beloved community. Her many years of work to end racism and eliminate heterosexism is helping the Oakland UU congregation grow into a more inclusive congregation. With her inspiration they became a Welcoming Congregation and are active in the UUA's Journey Towards Wholeness initiative.

Prior to ordained ministry, Kathy was the founding member and producing artistic director of a New England touring theater company based in Maine. She eventually left the professional theater to work with battered women and children. As the Director of the YWCA Family Violence Project in Cincinnati, Ohio, she became recognized as an expert in the field of domestic violence and was co-founder of the Alliance Against Same Sex Domestic Violence.

*About the First Unitarian Church of Oakland congregation, from their website, found at [www.uuoakland.org](http://www.uuoakland.org):*

“For more than a century, the First Unitarian Church of Oakland has been a progressive religious voice in the heart of downtown Oakland. We are a community where people with different beliefs worship as one faith, where religious inspiration comes from not one but many sources.

We believe that every person is a unique person of worth and that our religion calls on us to create a world where all people are treated with dignity, respect and compassion. We come together in friendship and caring to support one another through the many changes of our lives, to give love and hope along the way. We encourage one another on a lifelong path of personal discovery and development, of religious and spiritual growth and responsibility and action in our community and wider world.

Our growing congregation is committed to the creation of a radically inclusive community. We warmly welcome those who by reason of race, class, disability, sexual orientation and/or gender identity have felt excluded elsewhere. As a justice seeking community, we are open to the transformation of mind, body and heart that comes by being authentically engaged in ministries to eliminate the oppressions that have systemically marginalized human beings and contributed to the ecological destruction of the planet.

If you are seeking a place to grow your spirit, to deepen your connection to the human family, and join with others to create a better world, First Unitarian Church of Oakland welcomes you.”

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## SUMMER SERVICES ~ ANY IDEAS?

**Do you have what it takes to create a great Paint Branch Summer Service? Like, an idea?**

On **Sunday, March 21**, during Enrichment Hour, the Worship Associates will hold the first of two Summer Services planning sessions. If you have a suggestion for a service, bring your proposal to that meeting. It should consist of your idea, an in-progress plan (the more developed, the better), a possible date or two, and the names and contact information of those who will present or participate. If you can't attend, you may send a proxy, or submit a written proposal to any Worship Associate prior to the first session, or any time up until the second session. Whether you plan to do this yourself, with a group, or bring in an outside speaker, *now* is the time to start planning.

If your service is scheduled, at a second session on **Sunday, April 25**, we will discuss your more fully-developed plan and firm the date. One of the Worship Associates will begin to work with you on all the details necessary to present an excellent service in the best Paint Branch tradition! New ideas will be considered at that time only if we have not yet filled the schedule. Any questions? Ask a Worship Associate!

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## NEW OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

The church office volunteers welcome two new additions to its ranks: Rene McDonald and Becky Nation. Rene will be lending editorial assistance on some Fridays to the Order of Service and Branches; while Becky regularly occupies the volunteer desk on Thursdays, providing a variety of clerical assistance. Becky and Rene join current volunteers Julie Dahmer, Elizabeth Scheiman and Will Snyder. Thanks to all of the volunteers for their continued generous donation of time, which helps the office function smoothly and efficiently.



## *Notes from the Board Chair*

Our Trustees and Officers have been very busy over the past few months hosting a series of mini-Town Hall meetings on Sundays during Enrichment Hour. The purpose of these meetings is to share information with the congregation about the November, 2009, decision not to renew the current lease with Paint Branch Montessori School. I would like to thank all of the Board members and Officers, as well as the members of the Space Options Task Force, for their help in facilitating these meetings.

I would also like to thank each and every member and friend who came to the Mini-Town Hall meetings and expressed your thoughts, joys, and concerns about this bold new step for the congregation. To date, we have heard from over 100 members of the congregation, including adults, children and youth.

During the meetings, members and friends expressed considerable excitement that we would now be able use more of the space in the RE Building for our own programs and activities. For the RE Program in particular, the "Reclaiming Our Space" initiative comes at a perfect time. With Interim Director of Religious Exploration Karen Scrivo, we are engaged in an exciting process to re-imagine and re-invigorate our entire Religious Exploration program. An important part of this re-imagining process will include thinking creatively about how we can best use the additional space in the RE building.

There was also considerable excitement about ways that we could use our space in the RE Building to better serve our surrounding community. Whether offering space to local community groups and non-profits, hosting events from local schools or the University of Maryland, or providing a beautiful setting for a retreat center or UU conference center, there is much that we can be doing with our space that will help our church community better engage with our broader community and the world.

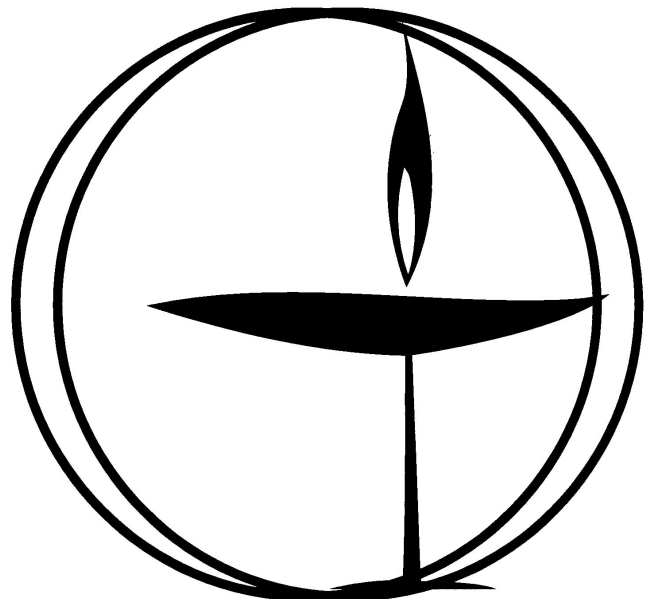
Along with these hopes and aspirations, we also heard considerable concern about the loss of rental income from the current tenant.

The income from the school is significant and forms about 17% of the annual church budget. To help address these concerns, the Board and Finance Committee met on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, to discuss options for funding the shortfall. The four areas which the group considered are: increased stewardship through the pledge campaign; identification of new tenant(s); belt-tightening; and new fundraising activities. We are particularly excited about the possibilities for new fundraising activities such as a church craft fair or church bazaar. We also hope that the upcoming stewardship campaign will serve as an opportunity for all of us to give generously to support our religious community.

Speaking personally, I am planning to increase my pledge significantly this year, and I know that many other congregational leaders will be also. If you are financially able, I hope that you will consider increasing your pledge during this important time of transition. And even if you are not able to increase your pledge this year, I hope that you will find other ways to give of your time and talents to help build and strengthen our shared religious home.



*Jonathan Mawdsley, Board Chair*



## Religious Exploration News

### RE-IMAGINING RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AT PAINT BRANCH

*Vision is the product of the head  
and heart working together. ~ Marjorie Parker*

One of the important tasks of this interim period is for Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church to discover and articulate its unique vision of religious exploration.

As part of that process, some 30 people participated in last month's RE Workshop conducted by Pat Infante, the Lifespan Faith Development consultant for our Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In addition to Rev. Diane Teichert, myself and the RE Committee, the workshop attracted parents of current and former children and youth in the program, teachers, two former DREs, as well as members of the board of trustees and committee chairs.

Pat talked about the characteristics of congregations that promote religious exploration for all ages, different models of successful RE programs, ways to create multigenerational community and societal trends that are challenging RE programs throughout the country. I'll be sharing more about those in the future.

For now, I want to highlight two questions Pat asked participants that are important for you to think about as we move ahead in the interim period. What do you value most about the RE program? And what kind of people do you want children to be when they leave the program as young adults? Answering these will give shape and direction to Paint Branch's unique vision of its RE program.

What do you value most about the RE program at Paint Branch? Here's a sampling of what some of the workshop participants said:

- ✓ Opportunity for children and youth to be their authentic selves and to be respected for their voices
- ✓ Friendships, a safe place for children and youth to get to know others

- ✓ Multigenerational opportunities (and longing for more)
- ✓ Beautiful natural surroundings, opportunities to commune with nature and a curriculum -- Web of Life -- that focuses on nature
- ✓ Our Whole Lives (UUA's program for youth on human sexuality and relationships framed by our UU values)
- ✓ Wonderful and caring teachers, strong teaching teams for classes
- ✓ Diversity and work of the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)
- ✓ Musical opportunities for children and youth
- ✓ Nursery and toddler care
- ✓ Snack

What kind of young adults do you want children in the Paint Branch RE program to become? Pat called this a vision of RE-Topia and one to keep in mind and work toward. Participants listed many qualities including being:

- Open-minded and tolerant
- Able to communicate with tactful honesty
- Caring about the community
- Possessing a sense of humor
- Demonstrating leadership
- Stewards of Unitarian Universalist faith
- Appreciative of diversity, knowledgeable about other religions
- Accepting of differences in sexual identity, race, class, religion, points of view
- Confident, good self-esteem
- Empathetic
- Inspired, and leading a meaningful life
- An activist
- Independent

As we move forward, I urge you to give some thought to these important questions. And share your answers with each other. They are important guideposts in charting the future direction of the RE program at Paint Branch. And I look forward to working with you on this important task.

Blessed Be,  
Karen Lee Scrivo  
Interim Director of Religious Exploration

*(more RE news on next page)*

## SEEKING MEMBERS FOR A DRE SEARCH COMMITTEE

PBUUC needs to hire a new Director of Religious Exploration (DRE), a process that will involve redefining our vision for the Religious Exploration (RE) program as well as hiring the right RE professional to lead us in implementing that vision. We got off to a great start on February 21 at an afternoon workshop with Pat Infante of the JPD.

We need a few good people to form a DRE Search Committee to lead this important work. Redefining the vision will be done this year, and the actual candidate search will take place next year. If you care about Religious Exploration at PBUUC, then this committee is for you!

More information and an application to be part of the DRE Search Committee are available on the PBUUC website. Please complete and submit this application on or before March 14, either via e-mail to Susannah Schiller at [susannah.schiller@nist.gov](mailto:susannah.schiller@nist.gov) (*preferred*) or in hard copy to the church office.



## CHANGES TO THE CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

A regular Branches feature will be to list additions/corrections to our congregational phone directory on a monthly basis. Please add the following information to your current directory:



Chris Bolt:  
[roadrunner69cb@yahoo.com](mailto:roadrunner69cb@yahoo.com)

Julie Watson's phone number is incorrect in the Directory. It should be 301-655-3906.



If you have changes to any of your own directory information, please send it to the office at [churchadmin@pbuuc.org](mailto:churchadmin@pbuuc.org) or [rbirnie@pbuuc.org](mailto:rbirnie@pbuuc.org) or call 301-937-3666.

## A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER ABOUT JOYS AND SORROWS DURING SUNDAY SERVICES.

Why do we have a time in our service for the sharing of our joys and sorrows? I believe that our intentions are to create a space in which the congregation's sense of community can deepen and to open up avenues for bearing each other's burdens and multiplying our joys.

As you consider coming forward, please ponder what you want to share in light of those intents. There is a fine line between sharing with the congregation the joy of a personal (one's own or family member) or organizational accomplishment and promoting the availability of the product of that accomplishment. Brevity (one or two sentences) will help you stay on the better side of that line. If your joy or sorrow requires an explanation or the telling of a story, or is the prelude for an announcement that benefits you or an organization (even PBUUC), then it may not be right for Joys and Sorrows.

Rules are, of course, made to be broken, so I hesitate to suggest that two to three sentences is a good length and that the words "the website is" and "for sale" are out of bounds for this intimate moment in our worship together. On the other hand, if you have never, or not in many years, come forward during Joys and Sorrows and spent the morning working up your courage to reveal yourself in this way, I sincerely hope you will take the risk and I trust that your sharing – however it tumbles out – will be received with love and respect by all who are present.

--Diane

## JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS FILM, SUNDAY MARCH 28 *AMERICAN VIOLET*

The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) will present *American Violet* during an extended Enrichment Hour on Sunday, March 28, beginning at 11:45 am.

A single African-American mother struggles to clear her name after being wrongly accused and arrested for dealing drugs in an impoverished town in Texan. Powerfully produced and directed, *American Violet* is a film based on the racially charged drug war scandal that rocked the town of Hearne, Texas, several years ago. This film explores the devastating impact of America's "war on drugs."

## Financial Notes

It has been a relatively slow month for the financial sector. The bills have been paid, the annual statements of your deductible donations went out in January, and the income has been deposited. Not much news there.

So I think instead I will write about my experience at the Davies Memorial UU Church yesterday (February 21st). I went there because they are in search of a new minister, much as we were a year ago. I work with congregations in search and thus I went to talk to the congregation about their search. They asked lots of questions as UUs always do and they seemed to appreciate my work.

But what was special was the service. They are getting ready to start their annual canvass (as we are) and there were two presentations from members about why Davies is their spiritual home. One couple of mixed race talked about finding a comfort zone at Davies that they do not find elsewhere. They have two sons who are getting a rich religious education in an atmosphere where race is not a factor in how they are treated. And I know that is true at PBUUC also and at all UU churches.

Another man talked at some length about seeing a sign some years ago that said the congregation was going to discuss Building Your Own Theology. He thought this was exactly what he wanted and so he came. And now after many years, he is still coming and feeling that strong pull that makes Davies his home. And again I am reminded of Paint Branch and what makes it home to all of us.

It was a warm reminder of why I am a UU and perhaps why you are too. The service went on with Joys and Sorrows. Afterwards, the minister gave a benediction in which he mentioned all the joys and sorrows that had been brought forth. He mentioned the father that had died recently, the new job, the surprise birthday party and so on. It wasn't long but it was a warm confirmation that the congregation is a community.

The sermon followed and it was about dealing with trauma. It was insightful and a good reminder of how we can support and help one another. Then the congregation closed the service by saying "May the light we share in this community now be returned to each of us, to give us strength, to bring us hope, to warm our paths as we go our separate ways."

I came away feeling a part of that congregation as I am in every UU congregation I visit. I am so proud to be a part of this faith where love and kindness are practiced and where even a stranger can feel a part of it all. We are fortunate to have found PBUUC and I hope we can help others who are looking for us to find their spiritual home with us.

In faith, *Ellen Cotts, Board Treasurer*

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## 2010 BUDGET LEADERSHIP TEAM LAUNCHES

The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) is a Board-appointed workgroup that works with committee chairs, affinity group leaders, staff, trustees and officers to develop a budget to present to the Congregation for review and to the Board for final approval for the next church year.

The Board has appointed the following members to the 2010 BLT: Ellen Cotts, Treasurer; Susannah Schiller, Trustee, Will Snyder, Chair, Personnel Committee; Mike Stark, Assistant Treasurer; and Carol Carter Walker, Trustee and Chair, BLT.

The next steps in this process are to:

- Contact Committee Chairs, Affinity Group Leaders and Staff, requesting their input to the 2010 budget at three levels ranging from austere to visionary;
- Meet with the chairs and leaders to review and clarify their budget submissions;
- Hold mini-town hall meetings to receive congregational input to a draft budget
- Submit a draft budget to the Board of Trustees;
- Submit a proposed budget to the Congregation at its June 13 Annual Meeting;
- Submit a recommended budget to the Board of Trustees for its final approval.

Watch upcoming Branches and Sunday Service Bulletins for announcements of meetings and updates on the budget process. Contact us at any time at [blt@pbuuc.org](mailto:blt@pbuuc.org).

*Carol Carter Walker, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees*



# PAINT BRANCH 2010-2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

**RE**new our commitment to Paint Branch  
invigorate our community spirit  
imagine the possibilities open to us

The snow is melting. We can see the first signs of spring reawakening around us. The deck is quite literally cleared for action! We can feel the energy each time we come together to worship, to work or to play.

On March the 6<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Paint Branch and launch the beginning of our Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship is sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure. Stewardship is sharing the spiritual message of our congregation and taking on the tasks that support our faith community.

During our Stewardship Campaign you will each be asked to set aside an hour to talk with a visiting steward. You will have a chance to share the stories of your spiritual journeys. You will share information about Paint Branch and your hopes and dreams for our community as we move forward. As part of the conversation you will be invited to make a pledge of financial support to Paint Branch.

This is such an exciting time for Paint Branch. We will be installing our new minister. We will be reclaiming the space in our Religious Exploration Building. There are so many possibilities before us. We have a unique opportunity to shape our future. We welcome you on this journey as Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church builds the faith community we long to have.

For more information please contact Pat Tompkins by phone at 301-474-3858 or by email at [candgptom@msn.com](mailto:candgptom@msn.com).

## *Social Action Committee (SAC) News*

### ANNAPOLIS RALLY FOR "FREE SPEECH FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR CORPORATIONS"

Some of us attended the February 22 rally that was organized by our own Jessica Sharp, who has formed a new group, "Fair and Clean Elections Maryland, who can be found on the web at [www.fairandcleanmd.org](http://www.fairandcleanmd.org).

This rally, a response to a recent Supreme Court decision, was endorsed by a great many organizations concerned about fair elections. For more information about this issue, call Jessica Sharp, 240-280-2582.

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Recent beneficiaries include the Christmas Eve collection for Warm Nights, Cafe Community, etc. - \$1536, Haiti Earthquake Relief - \$3286, Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation Scholarship Fund - \$679 and I Got Heart - \$296.



Our March recipient on the 21st will be a local group, "Little Friends for Peace," which has been teaching peace-making skills for almost 30 years. They have led peace camps here at PBUUC a number of summers. This past summer Little Friends for Peace led peace camps almost every week, sometimes with three different camps running simultaneously. Their programs recently expanded with the acquisition of a Peace Education Oasis in Piscataway National Park.

Upcoming appeals will be DC Vote (April 11), UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland (May 16), CROP/CWS for hunger (June) and Rainbow Youth Alliance, a ministry of the UU Church of Rockville for gay and questioning youth (July).

## HELP NEEDED



We need a few more volunteers to cook and serve the hot meal at noon to 100 hungry people at the "Community Cafe" (in the Methodist church on Belcrest Rd. near Prince Georges Plaza metro and shopping mall) on the 4th Tuesday of each month. They need some people who can occasionally fill in when one of the regulars is out of town or ill. For information, call Esther Nichols, 301-864-2068.

## *Publicity and Outreach Committee*

### A LOT IS HAPPENING AT PAINT BRANCH – HELP US TELL EVERYONE!

The PBUUC Publicity and Outreach Committee is open for business. The mission of the Publicity and Outreach committee is to find the best ways to externally publicize activities, special events, and services of Paint Branch, striving to present the best possible image of our church community and what we have to offer.

Right now we have a call out for neighborhood newsletters where we may be able to insert a free/low cost add or submit an article about Paint Branch. Either send us an e-mail with a web link or contact information – or even hand us a hardcopy of the newsletter! We already have some great ideas from Paint Branchers and we would love more!

Also, we want to write articles about the happenings at Paint Branch. If you want to prepare an article, or provide detailed bullet points to us, please do so and we can submit an article to the local papers.

The co-committee chairs are Kathy Kearns ([kkearns@hotmail.com](mailto:kkearns@hotmail.com)) and Theresa Brown Shute ([tbshute@gmail.com](mailto:tbshute@gmail.com)) and we want to hear your ideas! We normally meet once a month on the last Thursday of the month starting at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 pm.

## 2010 Joseph Priestley District Spring Conference

April 16 & 17, 2010

Clarion Hotel Park Ridge, King of Prussia, PA

### **Redefining 'The Good Life': Faith & Values for a Sustainable Future**

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler

You are invited to attend the Spring Conference and Annual Meeting of our district. This is an opportunity to meet UUs from many of the 70 congregations in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia; deepen your connection to the denomination by learning more about the district's resources and services; and expand your knowledge by participating in up to three workshops out of 26 choices. You'll also have a chance to attend and participate in the District's Annual Meeting where officers are elected, the budget is approved and reports on District activities are given.

The conference begins at 7:00 on the evening of Friday, April 16, with an ingathering and worship service and ends on the evening of Saturday, April 17, with a celebration honoring youth and recognizing others who have made a significant contribution to the district.

Registration Fee: \$125 for adults; reduced fees for young adults and youth.

If you're interested in being a delegate, please contact Carol Carter Walker at (202) 636-8138 or at [carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net](mailto:carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net).

### **Conference Schedule**

#### **Friday April 16, 2010**

5:00-7:00 pm Registration  
 5:00-10:30 pm Exhibits  
 6:30-9:45 pm Childcare (Age 4 and younger)  
 7:00-7:45 pm Ingathering/Banner Parade –  
 Worship led by Rev. Kent Matthies, Unitarian Society  
 of Germantown, and Rev. Nate Walker, First  
 Unitarian  
 Church of Philadelphia  
 7:45-9:00 pm Workshop Session I  
 9:00-10:00 pm Reception (cash bar)  
 10:00-11:00 pm Coffee House with Grammy  
 nominated Rev. Dan Schatz, BuxMont UU  
 Fellowship

#### **Saturday April 17, 2010**

7:00-9:00 am Registration  
 6:00-8:30 am Breakfast – *Overnight guests at the  
 hotel are entitled to the breakfast buffet.*  
 8:30 am-5:00 pm Exhibits  
 8:30 am-5:00 pm Childcare (Age 4 and younger)  
 8:30-9:15 am Worship led by Rev. John  
 Crestwell, UU Church of Annapolis, and Rev. Scott  
 Sammler-Michael, Accotink UU Church  
 9:30-10:45 am Keynote Address  
 10:45-11:00 am Break  
 11:00-12:15 pm Workshop Session II  
 12:15-1:30 pm Lunch  
 1:30-2:45 pm Workshop Session III  
 2:45-3:00 pm Break  
 3:00-5:00 pm Annual Meeting  
 5:00-6:00 pm Celebration Service with Bridging  
 Ceremony and Closing

For more information go to [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org) and click on the link for the 2010 JPD Spring Conference.

***Diversity/Anti-Racism  
Transformation Team (DARTT)  
News & Events***

**DID HE REALLY JUST SAY THAT?**

This past January, it came to light that Senator Harry Reid said presidential candidate Barack Obama had a good chance of winning because he is “light-skinned” and had “no Negro dialect.” Of course, in the current partisan and media-hungry environment, Republicans and newscasters jumped on this statement and many referred to it as racist. I disagree. During the elections, I made an almost identical statement about President Obama in reference to America’s perception of him. Due to the current state of race relations in America, Reid was merely stating a true fact. Amazingly, the media got over the comments relatively quickly. Then came the President’s State of the Union address and the commentary of MSNBC’s Chris Matthews saying President Obama is “post-racial” and that while watching the address, Matthews “forgot the President was Black.”

Did he really just say that? Unlike, Senator Reid’s comments, this is not a factual statement but a misguided statement. The fact that America elected a Black president does not make the US post-racial and by no means eliminated discrimination overnight. The fact that since President Obama took office, “the rate of threats against the president has increased 400% from the 3,000 a year or so under President George W. Bush” indicates that there is still a large number of people who do have an issue – and it is most likely with his race.

More to the point, however, is that Matthews is someone who embraces the notion that we are now a post-racial society. The idea that everything is okay and White Americans don’t have to feel guilty about slavery or Jim Crow laws anymore. A Black president means the chains of oppression are gone and there are equal opportunities for everyone! If only Matthews could learn about the issues we are addressing here at Paint Branch – he doesn’t seem aware of his “invisible knapsack of white privilege.”

He has exposed himself to being in the group of people who think that telling a Black person that they “seem white” or “I forgot you were Black” is a compliment. That type of thinking assumes that White mannerisms/culture is the norm to be achieved; that somehow being educated, articulate and intelligent is something inherent to Whites. That the standard of beauty is light skin, straight hair and European features.

The sad thing is that many of us are culturally conditioned to believe this. When presented with dolls ranging from light to dark hues, small Black children select the White doll when asked to pick the “pretty” one. Chris Rock made the movie “Good Hair” when his daughter asked him “Daddy, why don’t I have good hair?” Thus, I am not outright calling Chris Matthews racist but I will call him culturally and racially ignorant. My attendance at DARTT activities has helped me realize that being culturally and racially aware is just another form of education all Americans need to partake in.

Attorney General Eric Holder’s words from last February ring true: “Though race-related issues continue to occupy a significant portion of our political discussion, and though there remain many unresolved racial issues in this nation, we, average Americans, simply do not talk enough with each other about things racial.” To break the long-standing cultural conditioning that White is Right, we need to start talking, observing and asking questions so we can be aware of the undercurrents we subconsciously (or sometimes purposefully) try to ignore. I am echoing many of the thoughts Mary “Tyrte” Rooker shared in her DARTT article “Racist? Not me; I’m a Good Liberal!” (September 2009 Branches or [www.pbuuc.org/socact/dartt/darttshares.htm#mtr](http://www.pbuuc.org/socact/dartt/darttshares.htm#mtr)).

America is not post-racial, but we are in a new and different part of the cycle. Barack Obama’s election to the presidency hasn’t obliterated racism, but is making us stop, take notice and start talking. Even if it’s to talk about the unthinking comments of others, we now have an opportunity to make a conscious effort to tackle what has dominated our subconscious for decades. Hopefully, putting us on a path towards greater awareness, more understanding and acceptance.

*Theresa Brown Schute*

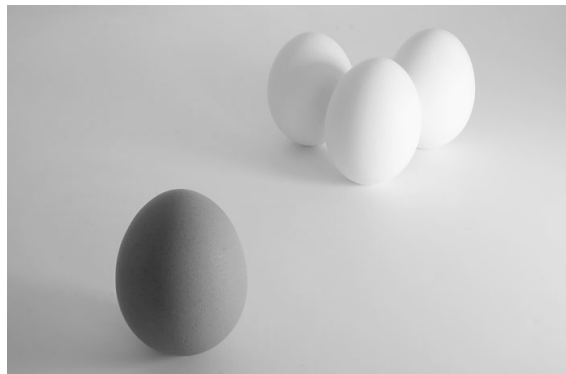
**DIVERSITY/ANTI-RACISM  
TRANSFORMATION (DARTT) TEAM  
MEETS TUESDAY, MARCH 2**

All are welcome at the DARTT meeting on Tuesday, March 2, at 7:30 pm in Room 1 of the Religious Exploration Building. DARTT meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan activities for personal and institutional transformation. This is your opportunity to share feedback and new ideas. Come join us! If you cannot attend, you can send your input to [dartt@pbuuc.org](mailto:dartt@pbuuc.org).

**MARCH DIVERSITY DIALOGUES  
SUNDAY, MARCH 14,  
DURING ENRICHMENT HOUR  
KELLEY ROOM**

ABC's program 20/20 has featured a segment called "What Would You Do?" The March 2009 installment was titled "Shopping While Black" and features a social experiment that is a heart-wrenching seven minutes of television. At the March Diversity Dialogues we will view the short clip together and then discuss.

We welcome all to join us as we engage our minds and our hearts in exploring and sharing both the challenges and the opportunities of personal and collective transformation to embrace diversity in all its forms. Let's gather together on a journey toward wholeness. For more information please contact the Diversity Dialogues co-leaders: Theresa Brown Shute at [tbshute@gmail.com](mailto:tbshute@gmail.com) or Cynthia Robinson at [crr@pipeline.com](mailto:crr@pipeline.com).



**Diversity/Anti-Racism  
Transformation Team  
of Paint Branch  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Presents:**

***Building A Vocal Community:  
The Power of Song***  
Led by Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell

**Composer, song writer,  
singer, actress, author and  
member, Sweet Honey In The Rock**

**Saturday, April 3, 2010  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Check in at 9:30.**



**Dr. Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock**

**Workshop Fee: \$25.00 Adults.  
Limited scholarships available  
for adults and students.  
Includes lunch.**

**For a registration form, please contact  
[dartt@pbuuc.org](mailto:dartt@pbuuc.org).  
Our appreciation to all whose generous  
contributions to DARTT have helped to  
fund this project.**

## In and Around Paint Branch

### PIANO GALA WITH RECEPTION MARCH 13, 2010, AT 7:30 PM

On Saturday evening, March 13, the Piano Restoration Committee will host a fabulous *Piano Gala* as a thank-you to all who contributed to the Piano Restoration Fund for our 100-year-old Mason & Hamlin Concert Grand piano. Our beloved piano is now ready to be enjoyed for another 100 years.

The concert will feature four fabulous pianists: our own “dazzling” David Chapman, “awesome” Audrey Andrist, “sensational” San-Qing Lu-Bennaman, and “electrifying” Eddie Newman. During the intermission there will be an auction of beautifully crafted pieces made from the piano’s



old soundboard by Robert Hall, a local woodwork artisan and good friend of Paint Branch (he’s Celeste and Tish Hall’s father).

All PBUUC members, friends, family, and neighbors are welcome to attend! Please **mark your calendars** and come revel in the sounds that four concert pianists can elicit from our fine instrument. A reception will follow.

### 2010 MUSIC AT PAINT BRANCH CONCERTS AT PBUUC



Please MARK THE DATES for the following fabulous concerts in the *Music At Paint Branch* concert series – coming this spring!

#### ***Sunday, March 21, at 4 pm – Go For Baroque***

PBUUC member Deni Foster and Dick Berg and others will perform a concert of Baroque music. Paint Branchers and friends have thoroughly enjoyed previous *Music at Paint Branch* concerts by this *ad hoc* ensemble.

#### ***Sunday, April 18, at 4 pm -- Audrey Andrist and James Stern***

Pianist Audrey Andrist and her husband, violinist James Stern, will perform a *Music at Paint Branch* concert. (continued next column)

#### ***Sunday, May 2 – Barbara Brown***

Cellist Barbara Brown will perform a *Music at Paint Branch* concert. Time to be announced.

*Julie Dahmer*

### FRIENDS AND FAMILY SOCIAL FRIDAY, MARCH 26

We have been having great fun at the different Friends and Family Socials with concerts, workshops, comedy club, karaoke night, masks, birthday celebrations etc. We have averaged about 50 people and lots of new guests. Also we have big plans for future socials like cook outs, a Barber Shop Quartet, talent shows and concerts.

The next Social on March 26 will be a talent show!!! PBUUC’ers and others, especially youngsters, will perform and share their artistic gifts. If you or anyone you know would like to perform, please contact David Chapman at 240-602-4121.

The purpose of these family & friends socials is to invite friends, family, neighbors & coworkers to a fun social event. Increasing members & diversity is a major focus of our church in the next year and it is easy to bring people to this kind of event and get them to know people in our church. If 100 of us each invite a guest every month for the next twelve months, that's 1,200 new people and 10% of them may join our church which is equal to 120 new members!!! Hooray!!

*Raman Pathik, Coordinator*

### JOIN THE PBUUC LIST SERV



Would you like another easier way of keeping abreast of activities and news here at PBUUC? You are encouraged to join the PBUUC list serv, a low volume email service that allows you to receive information and updates on a regular basis. Send an email to Ken Montville, the list serv moderator, at [ken.montville@remax.net](mailto:ken.montville@remax.net). You will then receive an invitation to join the list serv group. Follow the directions and you will soon be getting all the latest information about PBUUC activities.

*Ken Montville, moderator*

## GREEN SANCTUARY REPORT.



*"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."*

*Rachel Carson*

As we dwell in our own green sanctuary watching for the green to come bursting out, we know we are not alone, but we also know it requires us all, working together to sustain and enrich what we have.

Consider the offerings of the Environmental Film Festival, March 16 through 28. One focus of the 2010 Festival explores the vital connections between food and the environment which ties in with our UU current action issue on food. Use this opportunity to learn what more we can do. Use this link to discover the wonders in our own back yard.

[www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/](http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/).

The next meeting of the Green Team will be Sunday, March 14 during Enrichment Hour. See you there.

*Penny O'Brien, Green Team*

## ART GALLERY NEWS

## Photographs of Australia and New Zealand



In 1998, Don Gerson spent 2-1/2 months exploring Australia and New Zealand taking copious photographs wherever he went. He has selected 22 of over 2000 images to display at

PBUUC. These are his favorites, and are intended to show some of the incredibly diverse environments and scenery of these wonderful lands "down under." Don plans to have a reception in mid-March to discuss his pictures.

*Jane Trout, coordinator*

## MURRAY GROVE NEWS UPDATE

The **Rainbow Circle at Murray Grove:** Gatherings, Celebrations, Workshops/Trainings and Support for the **GLBT Community** happen monthly! All Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex folks and their allies and supporters are encouraged to come! The next is March 28. Future dates will vary, but it's on a Sunday once each month, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm (free will donation), followed by dinner (\$5 per person suggested minimum donation). RSVP at 609-693-5558 or [murraygrove@murraygrove.org](mailto:murraygrove@murraygrove.org).

Grove Gatherings at Murray Grove

- \* **Musical/Artistic Coffee Houses** are held every second Wednesday of the month, 6:00-7:00 pm potluck (BYOB); 7:00-9:00 entertainment; \$10 per person. A variety of artists will perform and visual arts will be incorporated, in English Folk Music Club form, where performers can share their craft and engage the audience.
- \* On Wednesday, March 10, Valerie Vaughn, songwriter and performer, will share songs about New Jersey history and folklore. This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the *Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission*, in conjunction with the *New Jersey State Council of the Arts/Department of State*, a Partner Agency of the *National Endowment for the Arts*.

Save the Dates:

- \* Heritage Week at Murray Grove, August 1-6, 2010
- \* Drum and Dance Retreat, August 13-15, 2010
- \* Homecoming 2010, September 24-26, 2010

Please ask us about bartering opportunities in exchange for retreat costs.

For information and registration:

Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center  
PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734  
609-693-5558

[murraygrove@murraygrove.org](mailto:murraygrove@murraygrove.org)

[www.murraygrove.org](http://www.murraygrove.org)

**-PBUUC LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY****-STAFF-**

Minister .....	Rev. Diane Teichert...	301-937-3666
Music Director/Pianist ....	David Chapman.....	301-937-3666
Interim RE Director .....	Karen Lee Scrivo.....	301-937-3666
Rel. Exploration Asst. ....	Kweli Powell .....	301-937-3666
Church Administrator .....	Daniel Everitt.....	301-937-3666
Administrative Asst/Bookkeeper		
.....	Rebecca Birnie.....	301-937-3666
Dir. Chalice Dancers.....	Sharon Werth.....	301-937-3666
Sunday Service/Bldg. Mgrs:		
.....	Chuck Bury.....	301-799-2535
.....	Bryan Coté.....	240-426-5656
.....	Jesse Crowley.....	301-345-2663
Child Care .....	Kamini Wickramaratne.....	301-937-3666

**-OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES-**

Chair .....	Jonathan Mawdsley .....	301-982-4520
Vice Chair .....	Carol Carter Walker .....	202-636-8138
Vice Chair .....	Bettie Young.....	301-490-4957
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Trustee.....	Peter Wathen-Dunn .....	301-270-2391
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Trustee.....	VACANT	
Secretary .....	Anita Wagner.....	703-401-7230
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Treasurer .....	Ellen Cotts .....	301-572-3983
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mike Stark .....	301-441-2473

**-CARING COMMUNITY-****PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES:**

.....	Carol Boston.....	301-585-4183
.....	Raman Pathik .....	301-890-9072
.....	Deb Rubenstein (Lead) ..	301-891-2071

**-We Care Coordinator for March  
JERI HOLLOWAY - 301-982-0758****-WORSHIP ASSOCIATES -**

.....	Abby Crowley .....	301-345-2663
.....	Tish Hall .....	301-681-1457
.....	Don Henderson.....	301-977-1186
.....	Donald Mitchell.....	301-776-2359
.....	Marilyn Pearl.....	301-805-1218
.....	Shantida .....	301-593-0417

**-BRANCHES-**

Editor .....	Daniel Everitt.....	301-937-3666
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**- COMMITTEES -**

Arts Council	Julie Dahmer	301-890-7807
Budget Leadership Team	Carol C. Walker	301-931-9024
Buildings & Grounds	James Alexander	301-277-3211
DARTT (co-chairs)	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	Carol Boston	301-585-4183
Ministry (convener)	Bruce Baker	301-589-3633
Nominating	Paul Wester	301-937-7375
Personnel	Will Snyder	301-219-2870
Publicity & Outreach	Kathy Kearns	301-277-5211
(Co chairs)	Theresa Brown Shute.	301-455-8418
Religious Exploration	Sarah Michalof .....	301-277-1467
Social Action	Marge Owens	301-345-1573
Stewardship (Canvass)	Pat Tompkins	301-474-3858

**- GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES -**

Auction	Jan Montville .....	301-464-6298
Beacon House	Nathan Rummel .....	301-776-8551
Bridge	Ellen Cotts .....	301-572-3983
Chalice Dancers	Jennifer Grant ..	240-426-1277
Coffee Coordinator	Raman Pathik.....	301-890-9072
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl ...	301-805-1218
Golf Club	Tim Illig.....	410-707-6678
Green Sanctuary	Jennifer Robinson.....	301-906-9966
Handcraft Circle	Marie Gore.....	301-572-4679
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield.....	301-552-4330
Men's Group	John Bartoli.....	301-441-2516
Nature Spirituality Circle	Cory Carter .....	301-982-4520
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens.....	301-345-1572
PBMS Liaison	Kate Brett.....	301-931-9024
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker...	301-891-1288
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner .....	301-890-9072
TWedHUULK	Larry Lates.....	301-345-6923
Ushers	Esther Nichols.....	301-864-2068
Warm Nights	Kelly Wester .....	301-937-7375
Writers' Group	Ann Bolt .....	301-774-1960





For me, the heart of the liberal faith is to be connected to something greater than yourself; to wallow in the Spirit of Life, Love, and Truth; to have fair trade coffee and important conversations; to stand for love and to stand against quibbling, complaining, and

flouncing off in a huff; to  
move toward being in  
right relationship with  
ourselves, one another,  
and the planet.

– Rev. Meg Barnhouse.

**PAINT BRANCH**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

**3215 POWDER MILL ROAD**

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**(301) 937-3666**

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**E-MAIL: [CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG](mailto:CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG)**

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**Deadlines for next two issues of *Branches***

**April – Friday, March 19**

**May – Tuesday, April 20**