

# On the Spiritual Side

## BuxMont makes a green initiative with planting day

More than 30 volunteers of BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Warrington and Central Bucks South High School Environmental Club planted more than 200 small native trees and shrubs April 18.

The team naturalized the fellowship's detention basin as well as improved the riparian buffer along the Little Neshaminy Creek. The volunteers also planted, mulched and installed deer protection cages. Susie Hook, Warminster landscape designer and BuxMont member, developed the planting plan, which features more than 35 tree and shrub species native to the

Neshaminy Watershed.

The planting initiative is part of BuxMont's "Green Sanctuary" program. The Green Sanctuary Committee, led by Greg Adams of Hatboro, completed an environmental self-assessment of congregational facilities and activities, including a detailed energy audit. The committee then selected 12 projects to carry out in the areas of worship and spiritual practice, religious education, environmental justice and sustainable living.

Increased tree and shrub cover on BuxMont's 3-acre property will not only reduce run-off into the creek, helping to reduce

flooding downstream, but will also assist in improving water quality and provide food and shelter for wildlife. From a practical perspective, the property will require less mowing and air conditioning - reducing costs, energy consumption and air pollution.

BuxMont's "green" day was partially funded by a \$1,250 grant provided by the League of Women Voters in addition to a \$3,075 grant provided by Aqua Pennsylvania, a TreeVitalize Watersheds program led by the Pennsylvania DCNR and administered by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.



Ben Mullikin of Doylestown helps out.



Greg Adams of Hatboro plants a Paw Paw tree.

## Pleasantville UCC names visitation minister

The Rev. Dr. Paul Ritter was recently named Pleasantville United Church of Christ's minister of visitation.

Ritter's position involves visiting church members in their homes, particularly if they are recovering from illness or have conditions that prevent them from attending Sunday worship services.

Ritter, a Perkasie resident, has more than 50 years of parish ministry experience. For the past 10 years, Ritter served as



PAUL RITTER

stated supply pastor for Carversville Christian Church (United Church of Christ). The Rev. Ritter is Pastor Emeritus of Saint Stephen's United Church of Christ in Perkasie where he served for 13 years. He was ordained in 1956 in Washington, D.C., and after serving churches in Pennsylvania, earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Pleasantville UCC is at 3424 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont.



John Hook of Warminster and Michael Downing of Ambler display...