

# Odyssey April 2009

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Ministerial Musings

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial:

As I write this piece for the April *Odyssey*, I am thinking about money. It is not just because I must submit my 2008 tax return and pay my first quarter 2009 taxes. It is also because we will have begun our pledge drive for the July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010 congregational year, and we will be preparing for the May 2nd service auction, our biggest fundraiser of the year.

I know that this is not a year to expect a rise in our pledge income. I know some of you have lost jobs or had family members lose jobs. I know that few of us are feeling secure in our jobs. I never want to be the minister that encourages people to keep up their giving to the congregation even if it means they are not sure how they will pay the mortgage or buy the groceries. I do, however, want to be the minister that encourages all of us to give what we can for the life and work of our congregational community. We could not do alone for ourselves or for our children what we can together.

As for the service auction, we are really asking you to come up with your own mini-fundraisers for Goodloe that we can sell at the auction. Will you take \$50 and make a dinner for eight that we can sell for \$120? Will you take a tank of gas and offer a ride to the airport that we can sell for more than you pay? Will you take \$15 and bake a fancy cake that we can sell for more? Will you take a gift that you have and offer it for sale for Goodloe so that someone can buy your service to help set up their computer or learn to knit?

Thornton Wilder said, "Money is like manure; it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around encouraging young things to grow." And Mahatma Gandhi said, "Capital as such is not evil; it is its wrong use that is evil. Capital in some form or other will always be needed." Goodloe is us. Without capital and our guidance in its usage, Goodloe would not exist. So thank you for giving what you can and spreading it around to help Goodloe grow.

Blessed Be,  
Cyn

## A Mystic's Journey

Voice Your Opinions - Your opinions will help shape the future of our congregation. We will be seeking your opinions in a number of ways. Let me count the ways.

First, the Committee on Ministries will survey the congregation. Nita Page-Davies, Steve Buckingham, Lorraine Webb, and John Cole will ask people to comment on how well we are serving the congregation. We also will seek your opinions on our paid staff: Minister, Coordinator of Religious Education, and Choir Director.

Second, the Nominations Committee will scout the halls looking for candidates. We need volunteers willing to serve on the board, the Committee on Ministries, and even the Nomination Committee. See Joe Puccio, Sally Raymond or Karen Scrivo to volunteer for elected positions.

Third, a Search Committee will sound out a new Music Director. Dick Wobus has ably served as an interim director. Dick Morris, Lorraine Webb, and Trevor Smith are listening for full-throated and fun-loving candidates to apply.

Fourth, a Canvas Committee will sensitizyou to the financial operations of the congregation. We need to pay the mortgage, the various staff, and operational expenses to provide ministry as well as we do. Roger Davidson is our Financial Officer.

People need community in hard economic times. An article informed me that religious attendance dropped off during the Great Depression. During today's hard times, we encourage you to continue participating in our community. We provide a spiritual connection. We can provide hope and encouragement. We can pray with you and for you. I heard a story of a person who could only afford to contribute one dollar to his church for a time. That person later became a district executive for our faith. In hard times or not, your *presence* is desired.

Fifth, "Wanted" posters will speak of urgent needs. We need a volunteer to replace Misty Cole as our editor of the *Odyssey*. We need a volunteer to replace John Pietras as our Collector. See Ken Shilling or Rev. Snavelly if you seek a spiritual reward for responding to one of these posters.

Sixth, the Board will sponsor the annual meeting on May 17th after worship. The Board will present a budget for the next operating year. The Nomination Committee will present candidates for election. Anyone can attend. Only those who have signed the membership book can vote.

Seventh, Rev. Snavelly will present the membership book to those who hold our values and are willing to sign as a member.

It takes many hands to run a congregation. We have been blessed with many devoted hands to help shape our sacred space. It takes many voices to run a congregation. We have been blessed with many good ideas from different perspectives that broaden our spiritual growth.

Leaders from other congregations and faith have commented that we have a very vibrant community. We are here for each other. Blessed Be.- Ken Shilling, President

## **Around the Church News**

### **Building Community with BSU**

Rev. Cyn Snavelly and President Ken Shilling met with representatives from Bowie State University at the Goodloe House. BSU has encouraged us to use the lawn at the Goodloe House for our Easter Sunrise Service on April 12th. We will have tables and chairs for refreshments on the porch, and access to restrooms.

BSU wants to place a replica phone of Don Speed Smith Goodloe in his house. They will also ask Dick Morris to share his artifacts about the Goodloe family and have a project to copy those artifacts for display. BSU wants to have an open house in early May to share these items with the student body.

BSU is very receptive to Misty Cole's idea of a memorial garden. BSU also wants to host a lawn concert series. We mentioned that our congregation plans on hosting our annual Goodloe celebration at the house with a prominent theme speaker. We also discussed our mutual interest in community building through PRISCM and Bowie Interfaith.

BSU mentioned that students are very focused on school life and the challenges of paying tuition. Following Goodloe's example, BSU wants the student to also learn skills in community service. BSU will host a meeting on April 8th to discuss "service" with students. We look forward to partnering with students for clean up of Patuxent River on campus. There could be other service projects and environmental projects.

Dreams do happen. They take time to grow and then they blossom. Thanks to all those who supported this dream.

### **Women's Group**

Karen Scrivo and Misty Cole have been facilitating the Women's Group in a 10-session UUA Tapestry of Faith Adult Education Course called *Spirit in Practice*. Our final meeting using this curriculum will be April 7th, **7:30 p.m. (please note the time change)**. We will be scheduling a meeting to discuss the future of the Women's Group!

### **Goodloe Readers**

You are invited to join the Goodloe Readers Book Club on the third Thursday of each month at the church at 7:30pm. For more information, please contact John Cole at 301.352.5981 or john.b.cole@gmail.com.

April 16<sup>th</sup> - *The Pact* by Sampson Davis

May 21<sup>st</sup> - *Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture* by Ross King

### **Goodloe Contributes to the Bowie Food Pantry**

I am asking everyone to continue bringing your donations of food (cans, jars, boxes) to leave in our huge, blue collection container. If you somehow overlooked it, it is on the floor to the right of the entrance jutting out a bit from under the table.

The Bowie Food Pantry needs a continual food stream in order to provide the support for the many people out here who would go hungry without the help. We are one of many organizations that tries to contribute on a regular basis.-Sally Raymond

### **Goodloe Service Auction**

Come to the Goodloe Auction on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. We will start with a light dinner (available for a small price). We will provide child care for the evening. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. at Goodloe, with the live auction starting at 6:30. We will have a silent auction for some items, including items that appeal to children. We hope to complete the auction by 9:00 p.m. This will be a return to the large, live auction format of a few years ago. We could use donations from local stores, such as gift cards. Please give your donation forms to Ken Shilling or Cyn Snavelly.

### **Game Night Continues**

Game Night is for anyone who would like to attend. Please RSVP to Betsy Delaney if you would like to get in on the pizza order. The next game night will be Friday, April 24th, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at Goodloe. If you have questions, please contact Betsy Delaney at 301-345-2369 (home), 301-922-1865 (cell).

## **Monthly Spiritual/Intellectual Discussion Continues**

Join a Spiritual/Intellectual Discussion using lectures on "Emerson, Thoreau and the Transcendentalist Movement" by Professor Ashton Nichols of Dickinson College recorded for The Teaching Company. We will meet at Goodloe at 7:30p.m on the second Friday of each month.

For more information or to discuss the need for a ride or childcare contact: Rev. Cyn Snavelly at RevSnavelly@comcast.net or 240-475-2111.

**April 10th** - Frederick Douglass

**May 8th**- Emily Dickinson

**June 12th**- Walt Whitman

**July 10th** - Transcendentalism's 19th Century Legacy

**August 14th**- The Legacy in the Twentieth Century and Beyond

## **Calls to Action**

### **Goodloe Green Tip**-by Michelle Malta

I had a nice visit from my parents this weekend for the kid's birthday party. I found out something that made me feel pretty good about myself. Last year during a visit to Michigan, I dug my parent's recycling bins out of the garage (they were using them as storage bins) and got them all set up for recycling. I was there for two weeks and had everyone separating the plastic from glass from paper by the time I left. I figured it would be short-lived after I left but I knew I gave it my best shot. This weekend my mom told me that they continued their recycling and are now doing even more since their town expanded the recycling program! I'm so proud of them!

Recycling is easy once you get the hang of it. You'll be amazed at how much you start putting into the recycling bins instead of the landfills. Just ask my mom! Take a few moments to check out the new and expanded recycling for our own town of Bowie: [http://www.cityofbowie.org/Government/PublicWorks/recycling\\_list.asp](http://www.cityofbowie.org/Government/PublicWorks/recycling_list.asp). If you know of anyone who doesn't recycle, give them a hand to get started!

### **Christmas in April**

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Christmas in April day on Saturday April 25, 2009. For many years, Goodloe volunteers have joined thousands of other volunteers to provide home repair services to our elderly, disabled, and/or low-income homeowners in Prince George's County. Volunteers will help one day, on Saturday, April 25 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Along with general volunteers (to help with yard work, painting, and

cleaning), skilled tradespeople are also needed (plumbers, electricians, carpenters, jack-of-all-trades, roofers, etc.). This is a great community service opportunity for both adults and teens (minimum age 14 years old). Come join us and participate in social action for a very good local cause. Sign up sheet and parental permission forms (for teens aged 14-17) are available in the fellowship vestibule.

For more information, please visit [www.christmasinaprilpg.org](http://www.christmasinaprilpg.org) or contact Heidi Kaigler Arseneault of Goodloe at 301-466-1297 or [willow9446@yahoo.com](mailto:willow9446@yahoo.com).

### **Bowie Interfaith Green Group (BIGG) Blog**

On Monday Nov 24, the Bowie Green Sanctuary Committee met with the St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Environmental Group. One outcome of the meeting was to create a forum where environmental groups from all faiths could exchange "green" information among themselves and with the community. We hope that more congregations will join and the site will continue to grow. Visit the Bowie Interfaith Green Groups Blog at [bowie-interfaith-green-groups.blogspot.com](http://bowie-interfaith-green-groups.blogspot.com)

If you have information to contribute, contact Michelle Malta at [michellemalta@gmail.com](mailto:michellemalta@gmail.com).

### **Goodloe Endowment Fund Established**

The Board of Trustees has established an endowment fund, called The Goodloe Endowment Fund, to which anyone, member or non-member alike, can make honorary or memorial contributions. Contributions to the fund can be made to honor living people for various types of accomplishments, or to memorialize deceased people who are connected directly, or indirectly, with the Goodloe Congregation. The principal in the fund is to accumulate as an endowment. The income earned by the fund may be allowed to accumulate, or it may be used to meet the needs of the Goodloe congregation according to the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the fund should provide the Financial Officer with a check and a note indicating who is being honored or memorialized, and who is to be notified. The Financial Officer will acknowledge receipt of gifts to the fund by a suitable notice sent to the donor for tax purposes, and by a suitable notice to the honoree (if living), or to the family of the honoree (if deceased). The latter notice will not disclose the amount of the donation, but will identify the donor unless the donor has requested to remain anonymous.-Laird Towle, Secretary, Board of Trustees

## **Goodloe Memorial Kiva Microlending Team Report** – February 3, 2009

How to become an international banker for a \$25.00 investment which you get back later. A deal you can't refuse! An investment guaranteed not to appreciate!

We currently have 5 Goodloe families participating on the team. They have contributed \$425 to 17 loans that are still active. However, we have not gained any participants for three months.

Over the past week Kiva as a whole loaned \$796,250 from 11,706 lenders to 2,093 borrowers. That is an average of \$68.02 per lender (the minimum loan contribution is \$25.00, but there is no maximum; clearly, many people lend more than the minimum per loan), and \$380.43 per borrower, i.e., this is the average loan size; a few are as much as \$2,000). They made a loan every 22 seconds. The Goodloe team is averaging \$85.00 per lender [go team!!], and \$25.00 per borrower. We make a new loan about once every week, or every 10,128,160 seconds. We need to work on this! Since the entry level for participating is only \$25.00, we should be able to do much better.

The Goodloe team currently is making microloans in the following countries: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ghana, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Togo, Uganda, and Viet Nam.

Joining the team is easy and it is completely free until you actually make a loan:

1) Go to [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org) and browse the site, note their list of corporate sponsors, etc., but **DO NOT MAKE ANY LOANS**.

2) Register as a member and select Goodloe Memorial as your team.

3) Go to LEND and peruse the loan applicants for one that appeals to you. There are usually several hundred to choose from, from all over the world; the site is busiest on weekends when there may only be a few applicants left.

4) Click the "Lend \$25" link and follow the instructions. You will pay via PayPal and a credit card. Your credit card number is only seen by PayPal; it is not seen by any foreign entity.

5) Complete the transaction and you will be an international banker!

Welcome to the Goodloe Memorial Kiva Team! Laird Towle, Captain

## **Magazine Exchange**

Please feel free to leave your gently used magazines in the lobby by the coat closet for other members to read, or take a few yourself!

## **OpportUUnities**

### **Goodloe Seeks Music Director**

Preferred qualifications: A Music degree or Major with Choral training or comparable experience, as well as training and experience to carry out the duties described below.

Contract period: Ten months' work (mid-August to mid-June)

Compensation: Up to \$5,000 for a ten-month period.  
Responsibilities: The choir director at GMUUC supervises choir activities and other music related activities as defined below. The program and duties include:

1. **Worship:** Collaborate with minister or other service leaders in the creation of worship services; choose anthems and hymns in consultation with minister/service leaders/accompanist; communicate and arrange for musicians at services; design and implement special musical worship services in conjunction with choir members; support and develop the experience of congregational singing;

2. **Adult Music:** Encourage singers/musicians to join the choir(s); rehearse with adult choir once a week on a weekday evening; Sept-June, and lead choir on Sunday mornings, approximately twice monthly; recruit and prepare choir for special services, such as memorial services, installations and other state occasions. Serve as choir's lead contact in congregation's pastoral ministry. At music director's discretion, he/she may create ad hoc choirs or musical groups to expand the musical experiences available to adult musicians.

3. **General Duties:** Work with lay leaders to plan program activities that will enrich congregational life and reach out into the community. In collaboration with congregation's staff and leaders, cast a vision for the future of GMUUC's music program. Maintain contact with music colleagues in other churches and with the wider denomination through involvement in the Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network and/or other professional and denominational organizations. Maintain and cultivate music library, and maintain music budget and spending for music program. Maintain congregation's musical instruments and attachments (carrying cases, etc.)

Please send your resume to Lorraine Webb at: [llacey33@verizon.net](mailto:llacey33@verizon.net) (.txt, .rtf, or .wpd please) or 2304 Mitchellville Rd., Bowie, MD 20716

Send resume by: April 16, 2009

We plan to hire by: May 15, 2009

Start work: Mid-August, 2009

## **UUSJ Cluster Meeting**

A Maryland Cluster Meeting of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 8:30am to 1:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Rd Annapolis, MD, 21401 ([www.uuca-md.org](http://www.uuca-md.org)). The program will include three workshops: one on innovative ways to fund social justice work, one on ways to be involved in health care advocacy and direct service in Maryland, and one on using Appreciative Inquiry as a tool for doing effective social justice work. Attendees are invited to bring a bag lunch if they wish to stay and eat and network following the program.

## **Joseph Priestly District Conference**

The 2009 JPD Spring Conference will be April 24-25, 2009 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Wilmington, DE. More information and registration can be accessed at [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org).

## **Opportunity for Youth**

Calling all 9-12 graders in Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties for the Breaking the Silence: LGBT and Allies Youth Summit.

Come and listen to a panel made up of your peers, and then break into groups to discuss lgbt issues. Come and experience a true safe space with your friends and allies. Come and enjoy delicious food (lunch and dinner) and a fabulous dance. Come and generate ideas to bring back to organizations that can make change. Free! BUT PLEASE RSVP. We will provide childcare free of charge with reservations.

When: 10 am-9 pm on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Where: At Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland

For more information call Archene at 301-493-8300 x205 or email [archene@gmail.com](mailto:archene@gmail.com) or Stephen Colgan at 240-381-7386 or [smcolgan@hotmail.com](mailto:smcolgan@hotmail.com).

## **Day of Training for Youth Leaders**

We extend an invitation to you and your youth group and youth groups of other faiths whom we hope you will invite and bring with you for a day of training by the Interfaith Youth Core, founded by Eboo Patel.

Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville

9:00-10:00 a.m.- Training for Youth Leaders, Religious Educators, Religious Education and Youth Committees

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. & 1:30-3:30 p.m. – Youth Training, "How to Organize an Interfaith Service-Learning Event"

12:30-1:30 p.m. – lunch provided

4:00-5:00 p.m. Information and Keynote Address for parents and all interested folk

R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, April 1, Suggested donation \$5/person

Questions: Contact Seanan Holland, Intern Minister, [sholland@uucr.org](mailto:sholland@uucr.org), or Deborah Kahn, Director of Religious Education, [dkahn@uucr.org](mailto:dkahn@uucr.org).

## **UU Bed and Breakfast Directory**

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 29 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2009 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to *UU're Home*, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

## **Davies Memorial UU Church hosts Seminar**

Theme: The Challenges of Single Parents

To be held at Davies Memorial UU Church, 7400 Temple Hill Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748

Saturday, April 11, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Child Care is Provided.

Members of local congregations are invited to participate in this seminar as presenters (see topics below), or regular attendees. Potential presenters who are single parents are especially encouraged to participate. Persons who are not single parents but who have special familiarity with single parenting are also welcome to present.

This seminar is sponsored by the Singles Circle at Davies as an outreach to the larger community. The seminar will be in panel format and each presenter will speak for 20 minutes. A question and answer period follows the presentations. We welcome your input to refine the topics identified or to bring a selected topic into closer alignment with a presenter's specific content.

## **Summer Pilgrimage to Transylvania, Romania**

The UUA Partner Church Council is offering a special pilgrimage to Transylvania for Greater Washington Area UUs from July 9-21, 2009. This 14-day pilgrimage will include beautiful Budapest, many historic Unitarian sites in Romania, and three days in a Unitarian church village. The goal is to inform UUs more fully about the breadth and depth of our faith by fostering a new understanding of our historical roots and building deeper relationships with our co-religionists in Transylvania. It will also provide a splendid opportunity for GWA UUs to become more acquainted and to share ideas.

For the complete exciting itinerary and details about this pilgrimage, go to [www.uupcc.org](http://www.uupcc.org), and under "Travel," click on "public/private trips." The deadline for applications is the end of April. Questions? Please contact John Dale, [jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com](mailto:jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com), or Carol Waser, [waser@waser.us](mailto:waser@waser.us) or 301-680-2291.

## **Upcoming Sunday Services**

**April 5: Social Justice**-Worship Associates led by Steve Buckingham

**April 12: Early Easter Service** 8:30am—"Rolling Back the Stone: An Easter Message of Hope"

The early Easter service this year will be held at 8:30am at the Goodloe House across from Bowie State University at 13809 Jericho Park Rd. Bowie, MD. We will hold the service outdoors behind the house, weather permitting. We will move indoors at the Goodloe House if the weather is bad. The service will be led by Rev. Cynthia Snavelly, Rev. John Gaffney, and Tisha Richardson. The offering at this service will go to the Goodloe Memorial Scholarship Fund. Please bring breakfast items to share following the service.

**April 12: Passover and Easter -- The Defining Stories of Two Faiths** -Rev. Snavelly

The stories of the parting of the Red Sea and of the resurrection of Jesus were first told many years after the events were said to take place, but when the stories were told they were told to define a faith.

**April 19: Exploring the Principles Behind Earth Day**-led by Rob Whitaker and the Goodloe Greens

**April 26: Honoring the Elders**-Rev. Snavelly

"What an elder can see sitting, the young can't see standing," Gustave Flaubert. May we learn from those who have come before us.

**May 3: Intergenerational Flower Communion**-Worship Associates led by Jill York

## **GOODLOE Board Meeting Minutes**

March 3, 2009

Present: Ken Shilling, John Cole, Laird Towle, Hazel Elbert

Excused: Jackie Lord, Rev. Cyn Snavelly, Roger Davidson

1) The meeting was called to order about 7:35 pm with a reading by Ken.

2) The special collection for PRISCM raised \$204; Rev. Cyn is attending leadership training for PRISCM; a request for a matching grant has been made.

3) Goodloe hosted a meeting of the group working on a regional ad campaign based on Google ads.

4) The minutes of the February Board Meeting were approved as circulated.

5) Ken will check with Steve to see if Steve has a copy of the charter of the Committee on Ministry.

6) Of 38 visitors we have received in the past year, 12 have become regular attendees.

7) Pledge income was down sharply in January; hopefully it is just a fluke and not a trend. As a result our cash flow was -\$2,900 in January.

8) The Green Sanctuary Committee continued its collaboration with other congregations by showing a film on peak oil at St. Matthews UMC in February.

9) The revised inclement weather policy prepared by Jackie was approved for inclusion in our Board Policy Manual.

10) Karen Scrivo was approved as a replacement for Steve Buckingham.

11) The proposed statement on multiculturalism was reviewed. Ken will prepare another draft for consideration at the April board meeting.

12) Preparation for the service auction continues.

13) The Nominating Committee was advised by Ken regarding the positions to be filled.

14) The addition of a link to Amazon.com on our website was approved as a fundraiser.

15) The possibility of collecting donations for coffee and snacks was discussed and tabled with no action taken.

16) The possibility of selling grocery store scripts by mail was discussed. Ken will investigate further.

17) John will investigate our selling our 102 UUs posters via LuLu.com.

18) BIGG may sponsor a public meeting on Smarter Growth in PG County.

19) Some ideas were discussed regarding the Fellowship Dinner to start our annual canvass drive, but no action was taken. The general hope was that Roger would ride back into town on a white horse ready to lead the spring roundup!

20) John continues to work the website ownership issue.

21) The Board was advised of two grassroots movements striving to build stronger communities: a) [www.transitionus.org](http://www.transitionus.org) which is attempting to build more sustainable communities as fossil fuels become scarce, and [www.communitysecurityclub.org](http://www.communitysecurityclub.org) which is attempting to build sustainable communities in the face of the coming economic hard times.

22) We need a simple electronic camera to take photos of new members, etc. An appeal for a used, but functional, castoff will be made some Sunday.

23) The Goodloe Memorial Kiva Microlending team has expanded; eight Goodloe families are now participating; they have contributed \$575 to 23 microloans to entrepreneurs in 12 countries.

The meeting adjourned about 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary,  
March 8, 2008.

### **An Unholy Trinity (Part III) - Laird Towle**

In the previous installments of this commentary we saw that the world is teetering on the brink of three major crises: 1) Resource Depletion; 2) Climate Change; and 3) Economic Collapse. Having discussed resource depletion in some detail, we now turn to climate change.

Climate Change - When considering climate change, a sense of perspective is helpful. The Earth formed about 4,500 million years ago, so a million years is just an instant in geologic time. The meteor impact which led to the extinction of the dinosaurs occurred about 65 million years ago, and Mankind arose only about 200,000 years ago, a mere blink of God's eye as it were.

Remarkably, we know the temperature and composition of the Earth's atmosphere back over 600,000 years from ice cores taken from the massive glaciers covering Greenland and Antarctica. The Antarctic ice is ten miles thick! These gigantic accumulations of snow and ice have melted around the edges from time to time over the eons, but the central cores extend back beyond the origin of modern man. The composition of the atmosphere at the time the snow fell is measured directly from the air trapped in the ice layer-by-layer, and the temperature of the Earth is computed from the ratio of the oxygen isotopes present.

What the data show is that the temperature of the Earth has fluctuated over a narrow range in harmony with the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, and that the latter has oscillated around 250 ppm (parts per million) over the entire period. More recent data covering several decades has shown the same correlation between CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature, and it has also revealed that both are rising sharply above the historical range. The beginning of the rise occurs simultaneously with the world-wide upsurge in fossil

fuel consumption around the end of WWII.

Life on Earth is very sensitive to the ambient temperature. If the temperature in our houses changes by a couple of degrees Fahrenheit we notice it and reset the thermostat. CO<sub>2</sub> is the Earth's thermostat. If there were no CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, the Earth would be about 60 degrees F cooler and uninhabitable for most forms of life. As already noted Mankind evolved in a world with 250 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> and most of the globe is habitable. As we increase the CO<sub>2</sub> the Earth's temperature will rise but not smoothly like the temperature in your house. After a temperature rise of about 3 degrees Fahrenheit the permafrost which encircles the North Pole will begin to melt and release enormous amounts of methane gas which has been trapped in it for eons. Methane is another greenhouse gas, one that is twenty-one times more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub>. This will establish a positive feedback loop causing an uncontrollable further increase in Earth's temperature, more methane release, etc. The final result, after a century or two, will be the complete melting of the polar ice caps, and a sea level rise of about 250 ft. That has never happened during Mankind's tenure on Earth, so all the consequences are difficult to foresee, but a sea level rise of 250 ft would inundate over half the major cities on Earth, and a great deal of arable land. Most of Maryland would be under water; my house would be about 50 ft under!

It seems fair to say that this poses a significant threat to our survival as a species, so how high can the CO<sub>2</sub> level go before we face serious problems? The best available science suggests that if we can keep the CO<sub>2</sub> level below about 350 ppm we can probably stay below the critical 3 degree Fahrenheit temperature rise at which permafrost melting takes over. The bad news is that we're already at 383 ppm and rising at about 2 ppm per year, i.e., we are already above the threshold. However, the Earth is enormous, and has a great deal of thermal inertia. The good news is that if we stopped all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions tomorrow, in a decade or two the Earth's temperature would plateau and start dropping. However, the computer models indicate that we cannot wait for a decade or two to take action; if we do, it will be "game over."

**To be continued....**

## **Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

Minister: Rev. Cynthia Snavely  
240.475.2111 (cell)

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. John Gaffney

RE Coordinator: Tisha Richardson

Music Director: Dick Wobus

Board of Trustees:

President:

Ken Shilling: 301.801.8803

Vice President:

John Cole: 301.352.5981

Financial Officer:

Roger Davidson 410.451.9805

Secretary:

Laird Towle: 301.464.1159

Trustees:

Jackie Lord 301.249.7713

Hazel Elbert: 301.249.5946

Rev Cyn Snavely: 240.475.2111 (cell)

Committee Chairs:

Worship:

Jill York

Building & Facilities:

Roger Davidson

Communications:

Vacant

Membership:

Vacant

Religious Education:

Sally Raymond

Ministry:

Nita Page-Daves

Lorraine Webb

Pathfinders:

Vacant

Goodloe Green Sanctuary:

Rob Whitaker and Michelle Malta

Goodloe Readers:

John Cole

ODYSSEY Editor:

Betsy Delaney

If you have changed your address, phone, or email, please let us know at [goodloe.memorial@gmail.com](mailto:goodloe.memorial@gmail.com) or contact Jackie Lord (301) 249-7713 or Nancy Choice (301) 805-5345.

Notice: Lorraine Webb - Maryland Notary  
Lorraine Webb, a certified Maryland Notary, offers her services, free of charge, to Goodloe Memorial members and friends. If you would like to utilize her notary services, contact her: (301) 218-1516 or [lacey33@verizon.net](mailto:lacey33@verizon.net).

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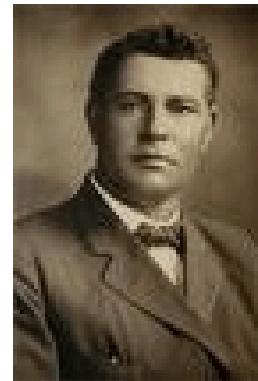
**There is no additional cost to purchase Giant Scrip. Use the scrip like a gift card at the check out line.**

### **Deadline for Next Odyssey:**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Please email submissions to  
[goodloe.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:goodloe.newsletter@gmail.com).**

**Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation** is named for Don Speed Smith  
Goodloe, first principal of Maryland Normal and  
Industrial School, Bowie





**Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation Calendar      April 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30-9pm <b>Choir Practice</b> (Dick Wobus)	2	3 7:30- 9p.m. <b>Drumming from the Heart</b> (Ken Shilling)	4
5 10:30 am <b>Service: Social Justice-</b> Worship Associates	6	7 7:30 pm <b>Board of Directors</b> (Ken Shilling)	8 7:30-9pm <b>Choir Practice</b> (Dick Wobus)	9	10 7:30 p.m. <b>Transcendentalists</b> (Cyn Snavelly)	11
12 8:30 am <b>Early Easter Service at Goodloe House</b>  10:30 am <b>Passover and Easter: The Defining Stories of Two Faiths -Rev. Snavelly</b>  <b>NO POTLUCK</b>	13	14 7:15 pm <b>Meditation Group</b> (Tom Brenner)  7:30 pm <b>Women's Group</b> (Misty Cole)	15 7:30-9pm <b>Choir Practice</b> (Dick Wobus)  <b>Odyssey Deadline</b>	16 7:30-9:00 pm <b>Goodloe Readers</b> (John Cole)	17	18
19 10:30 am <b>Service: Exploring the Principles Behind Earth Day</b> -Goodloe Greens	20	21 7:15 p.m. <b>Spanish Group</b> (Tom Brenner)	22 7:30-9pm <b>Choir Practice</b> (Dick Wobus)	23 7:30 pm <b>Goodloe Green Sanctuary Committee</b> (Rob Whitaker)	24 7:00 pm <b>Game Night</b> (Betsy Delaney)	25
26 10:30 am <b>Service: Honoring the Elders</b> -Rev. Snavelly <b>After Church Buffet at New China</b> (Tom Brenner)	27	28 7:15 pm <b>Meditation Group</b> (Tom Brenner)	29 7:30-9pm <b>Choir Practice</b> (Dick Wobus)	30		

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## Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation



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Bowie, MD 20716  
301 218-5277  
[www.goodloeuu.org](http://www.goodloeuu.org)  
Reverend Cynthia Snavely  
Service and Religious Education 10:30 am Sundays