



Odyssey

May 2011

Sunday Services

May 1 *Symbols and Totems*

It is Beltane, May Day. A good many people today are reclaiming old rituals and symbols that our grandparents gave up as superstitions. There is meaning in the old stories and traditions.

Rev. Snavelly

May 8 Multigenerational Flower Communion and UU Sources Brunch

Worship Associates

May 15 *Topic TBA*

Bruce Knotts, Executive Director
UU-United Nations Office

May 22 *The Teacher*

“Who do you say I am?” Jesus is said to have asked his disciples. Unitarian Universalists have and still do answer this question in multiple ways. Today we consider some of those answers.

Rev. Snavelly

May 29 *Where is Our Strength?*

When the hard times come, what sees us through? What keeps us trudging on, when we are not sure we can make it? Our answers may not all be the same, but we all need an answer to this question.

Rev. Snavelly

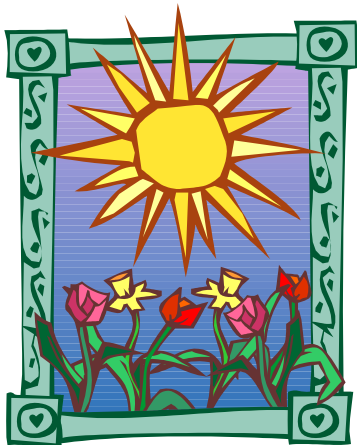
June 5 *Personal Piety and Community Charity*

Thomas G. Pettepiece in *Visions of a World Hungry* writes, “A simpler life-style is not a panacea. It may be embarked upon for the wrong reasons—out of guilt, as a substitute for political action, or in quest for moral ‘purity.’ But it can also be meaningful and significant: -as an act of faith....-as an act of self-defense...-as an act of solidarity...-as an act of celebration....”

Rev. Snavelly

Inside This Issue

<i>Sunday Services</i>	1
<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>From the Minister</i>	3
<i>From Religious Exploration</i>	4
<i>GMUUC Activities</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	6
<i>Various and Sundry</i>	7
<i>Reader Submissions</i>	8
<i>Board Meeting Minutes</i>	9
<i>Activity Calendar</i>	10
<i>Staff Directory</i>	11



IMPORTANT: Elections and Pledges

Goodloe Memorial will hold its annual elections and budget discussion on Sunday 15 May 2011. We will hold the meeting immediately after a 5 minute coffee break after worship. The nominations committee is still looking for a nominee to fill the President's position, and the

congregation's representative to the Committee on Ministry.

Roger Davidson and Barbara Puccio are still collecting pledges. Please provide your pledge ASAP so we can develop a budget for the new year starting 1 July.

From the Minister

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial:

On Sunday, May 15 after the service we will hold our annual meeting. We have much to celebrate this year. New people have come in our doors and many have stayed, joined, become involved. The open mike coffee house is up and going again. People are coming in the doors for a social experience. Misty Cole created two beautiful new banners for our community, one hanging in our worship space and one in our fellowship area. We are in the process of getting a plaque for the blue room to dedicate it to our past member, Bob Adams, whose bequest helped us purchase our building. We had the UUA moderator as a speaker for the Goodloe



Celebration for the scholarship at Bowie State, and the UU Congregation of Columbia gave \$2000 toward the scholarship beyond our annual \$1000 commitment

and what was raised at the celebration. Ken Shilling, our current president, ran for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) trustee from the Joseph Priestley District (JPD). He did not win the election, but he spread the good word about our congregation throughout the district. John Pietras straightened out our double website and has been serving as webmaster. T, formerly Tom, trusted us enough and felt safe enough among us to begin coming out to us as transgender. Our last founding members are leaving us, which may not seem like something to celebrate, but Roger and Louisa Davidson will be moving closer to children and grandchildren, which is good for them and thus is something to celebrate. Our religious exploration program



has had teachers, assistants, a committee and young students and is growing stronger. We have a slate of officers to elect, which means that some of you have stepped forward to take on leadership roles.

About three years ago I thought we were on the cusp of growing our members and program. We had bought and renovated the building, and I thought we were ready to grow. Then 20 people moved. It was no fault of our own. One of our youth leaders was accepted to graduate school in New York, and she and her partner left us. One of our worship leaders moved to Pennsylvania for the more inexpensive housing and to be near family. A choir member retired and moved to Colorado. A couple active in the religious exploration program also moved to that state. Others moved to Florida. We had to rebuild. This year we began the movement I had thought would begin back then.

You are beginning to bring friends with you to programs and to worship. You are taking on leadership roles. You are initiating new programs. This is the way we will grow in community, in programming, in strength.

Blessed Be,
Amen,
Namaste,
Ashay,
Cyn



From the President

Mystic Journeys

It is great to see our minister active at the PRISM program for social justice. They did not ask whether we have college degrees. They asked, "How many of you are affected by foreclosure?" and a sea of hands were raised. Several taxi cab drivers, tired of paying \$300 to rent their company cab for a week even when they could not work, were joyful to receive their own medallions to be their own business. Where our minister goes, we should be present.

I was glad for the participation at our Congregational Dinner: the set-up crews, child care watchers, the many volunteers, the lively conversations. For entertainment, I asked everyone to look at 32 UU's known for social justice and reduce the list to 16. There was interest in learning about other UU's and their stories.

The top eight included: Margaret Fuller, Clarence Darrow, Clara Barton, Charles Darwin, Julia Howe, Theodore Parker, and Elizabeth Blackwell. In a short amount of time and without much direction, it is not surprising that the more famous rise to the top.

The not-so-famous UU's are more interesting. Elizabeth

Peabody championed elementary schools and owned the bookstore used by the Transcendentalists. Elizabeth encouraged Margaret Fullers to speak at women forums in her bookstore. Henry Bergh created Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. What would our zoos be like if people still threw soda bottles into hippo's mouths?

For more contemporary activists, I did not have a ready-made bio on Christopher Reeve. I did include Norbert Čapek who created the flower service that we celebrate and who died for his beliefs in a Nazi concentration camp. Ray Bradbury set new frontiers for television by insisting on ethnically diverse crews on Starship Enterprise.

Others asked for Fredrick Douglass. William Lloyd Garrison encouraged Fredrick to write and to speak. Famous suffragettes influenced Fredrick. Fredrick's sons served in Colonel Shaw's Massachusetts 54th. These



famous UU's were friends and supporters of Fredrick, but I cannot confirm that Fredrick declared himself to be Unitarian.

I did include six other African Americans. I was pleased that they received some first place votes. Would they received more votes had we discussed the challenges that they faced not only for what they believed, but also for their ethnicity?

Martin Luther King Jr. learned nonviolence from Thoreau's writings. Martin met and married Coretta Scott in a UU church in Philadelphia. Barack Obama's mother was Unitarian. Regrettably, we cannot claim Martin Luther King Jr. or Barack Obama as UU.

It is our time. It is our turn. We must build the multicultural, multigenerational communities for peoples of all colors. Don Speed Smith Goodloe chose to be a Unitarian minister for a reason. We have chosen to assume his legacy. It is our time. It is our turn.

Blessed Be.

From the Religious Exploration Program

Why I Volunteer

Lisa Jacobus, Upper Elementary Class Teacher

Tisha asked me to write an article on why I volunteer so I asked if it was going to be a sales piece to encourage people to volunteer and she said no, just write as to why you volunteer. Everyone has their own motivations so I will speak to my own experiences.

The most important reason I volunteer is because I am needed. From early on at Goodloe I was asked to step up and help with setting up for coffee hour and then later to be part of the welcome committee. In truth, I wasn't very good at either of these tasks but I did feel good about being asked. I also realized that having a regular commitment would get me to church on a regular basis. I need structure imposed from the outside, since I am very bad at structuring and disciplining myself. It worked pretty much like I was hoping it would.

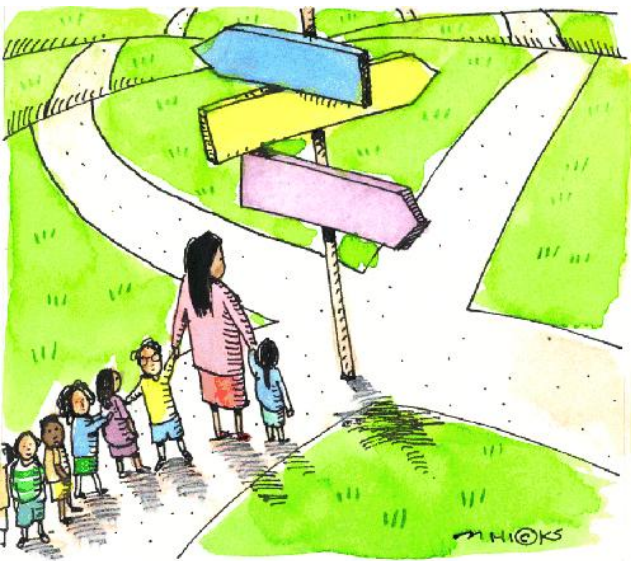
However, it's not that I was asked because I am so terrific, I was asked because the community really does need people to perform these tasks. "No one can do everything but

everyone can do something." Unitarian Universalists show their faith through ethical action and another slogan comes to mind "Think globally, but act locally"

I get a lot from our community at Goodloe and I felt it was very important for me to try and give back. As the mother of a young child, I wasn't sure what I could do. But what I was doing was setting an example for my son. I was very proud on the days he helped me make coffee. Although he hasn't come out to church recently, he shared during Joys and Concerns that he was grateful for Mommy's Friends at Church.

I wasn't very interested in teaching Religious Exploration at first. I like working with kids but did not feel that I had enough experience as a UU. But in teaching the principles and history of UU I am learning about them. I also learn about my strengths and weaknesses. My weaknesses are paperwork, answering e-mails, and making all the committee meetings. But my strengths are actively listening to the students, keeping an open mind and thinking on my feet. I've been excited to see the RE students wanting to take a larger role in the congregation and feeling free to express themselves. The committee meetings have also been a great opportunity for me to hear viewpoints that I would otherwise be unaware of and to learn how to express myself. Overall, I am happy that I've met the challenges and feel very appreciated for the service I perform. It's given me a greater appreciation for the other volunteers in our congregation as well.

Would you like to volunteer with the Goodloe's RE program? Speak with Tisha Richardson, director of the Religious Exploration program. She can be reached via e-mail at religiousexploration@goodloeuu.org.



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GMUUC Activities

Goodloe Readers

Thursday, May 19 7:30pm

One Drop: My Father's Hidden Life--A Story of Race and Family Secrets, Bliss Broyard

Upon the discovery that her father is "not exactly white," Broyard embarks on an identity quest that explores social, military, legal, Louisiana and general American history, as well as U.S. race relations and her family DNA. Most compelling is her ambivalent tenor regarding her father's "defection" from the black race: Was his choice rooted in self-preservation or in self-hatred?

Social Justice Video & Discussion

Friday, May 13, 7:30pm

"The Real Dirt on Farmer John "

Filmmaker Taggart Siegel paints a fascinating portrait of a man who refused to yield. By transforming his farm into an experimental haven in the late 1960s, John Peterson attracted hundreds of artists, hippies and other political radicals. But when the agriculture crisis of the late 1980s led to the farm's eventual collapse -- and his neighbors publicly branded him a devil worshipper -- most locals thought he'd call it quits. They were wrong.

Goodloe Yard Sale Saturday May 14 8am-12pm

Location: Jill York's House
7012 Old Chapel Drive, Bowie MD 20715

Gather your household goods, tools, gently used clothes, books, and toys and bring them to Jill's House. All proceeds go to Goodloe.

Please volunteer to help!! Sign-up sheet in the coffee area. Contact Jill York if you have questions (jillyrk@yahoo.com)

PFLAG Friday May 20 7pm

Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays meets the third Friday of the month to provide fellowship and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning individuals, and their family and friends.

Everyone is welcome. Support groups are led by trained facilitators. Confidentiality is maintained.

Parent Effectiveness Training Support Group

This group meets the third Sunday of each month after the service to provide information and mutual support for anyone who faces the daily challenges (and rewards) of parenting. Child care is provided.

Spiral Scouts

Spiral Scouts meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in the RE room. Any family interested in learning more about Spiral Scouts, please contact Misty Cole (playmisty4me@gmail.com).





Upcoming Events



Saturday May 7 1-5pm Supporting LGBTQ Youth: Community Needs and Resources

Chalice House Cedar Lane Unitarian
Universalist Congregation
9601 Cedar Lane Bethesda, MD 20814
<http://www.cedarlane.org/directions.html>

The keynote speaker for this event will be Linda Goldman, an educator, therapist and author. She is the author of *Coming Out, Coming In: Nurturing the Well-Being and Inclusion of Gay Youth*. Each registrant will be able to attend two of the four workshops offered at the event. This program is sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, Metro DC PFLAG, the Rainbow Youth Alliance, Western Fairfax PFLAG, Fairfax LGBTQ Youth (FLY), Equality UUC Arlington, Unitarian Universalist Association LGBT Ministries and the Prince George's County LGBTQ Youth Task Force.

Friday, May 13-Sunday, May 15 Jubilee 2: Anti-Racism Training

Washington Ethical Society 7750 16th St. NW Washington, DC

This 2½ day workshop is open to members of any congregation in the Joseph Priestley District. Church leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

Goals:

- To develop a shared analysis of racism and its individual, institutional, and cultural manifestations
- To begin to apply this common understanding to the history, culture, and institutional structures of our congregation, and to envision next steps

The training includes presentations, discussions, videos, exercises, small group work, worship services, and shared meals.

Agenda topics include:

- The history of racism and resistance to racism in the Americas
- Defining racism
- The effects of racism on people of color and on white people
- Dismantling racism
- Claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity
- Racism in the UUA.

Saturday, May 14 9am-3pm Passing the Torch: A Conference That Will Help Your Congregation Transform Its Nominating Committee Into a Leadership Development Team

This conference will help you to understand how congregational leadership differs from leadership in corporations or non-religious non-profits, discern good leadership from good management (we need both), imagine paths to leadership in your congregation as part of a larger plan for faith formation, and encourage a culture that nurtures new leaders that include youth, young adults and people of color. You will also learn to develop a community of learning and reflection that appreciates new ideas and is patient with the small failures that come with innovation. This conference will also help you to develop a three year plan to help guide your congregation through this transformation.

Saturday, May 21 9am-2pm 2011 Transformation Hospitality Conference

UU Church of Arlington 4444 Arlington Blvd. Arlington, VA

Join Janice Marie Johnson and CHUUG as they lead us toward a deepening of our notions of Hospitality, of how to welcome diversity and change. This event is sponsored and run by CHUUG, with assistance from UUCAVA and the JPD. Register now at www.jpduua.org. The \$20 fee includes lunch.

GOODLOE MEMBERS: The Goodloe Congregation will apply leadership training dollars to cover the attendance fees (or some portion) depending upon number of people who want to attend. Please let Ken Shilling know if you want to attend.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=f8rafhcab&oeidk=a07e3lbcv790ffd94>

(Upcoming Events continued on page 8)

Various and Sundry

PFLAG—Two New Support Groups

Announcing two new support groups for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning individuals, and their family and friends. Our goal is to help families heal and stay together. This is a chance to learn more about what it means to be LGBTQ in today's society, to ask questions and share concerns, and to learn about other

resources available to you and your family. Everyone is welcome. Support groups are led by trained facilitators. Confidentiality is maintained.

The new PG County groups each meet once a month at 7pm: the first Monday at St. George's Episcopal Church in Glenn Dale, and on the third Monday right here at

GMUUC. Separate groups for youth (age 13-18) and adults will meet simultaneously at each location.

Please see the Metro DC PFLAG website (www.pflagdc.org) for more information and the full calendar of support group meetings in the Washington metro area.



Chalice Keepers: A Grant Program of the JPD Endowment Fund

Your congregation can use a boost from time to time. Music, ministry, accessibility, and the many specific things that add to that, add to the life of the community. When you think of funding sources, pledge, plate, gifts, investment, you quickly realize that those sources are all spoken for. The tug and pull between needs and resources exists in every congregation. Another source of dollars is grants. If you have ever discussed going for grants, you'll know that the process is daunting. Even finding ones to apply for is seriously time consuming.

There are two user friendly grant programs that are available to your JPD congregation: Chalice Lighters & Chalice Keepers. Chalice Lighters has helped a staggering number of congregations. It focuses on growth. Chalice Keepers is new. It focuses on activities involving congregations working together. The dream is to grow Unitarian Universalism by building a sense of community. Both grant programs are user friendly. Help will be available every step of the way. The Chalice Keepers team will not do the work for you, they will provide simple

clear advice and support. As with all grants timing is important, deadlines will be adhered to. Develop your ideas for this year, or next.

Let's continue to expand and spread the word of our very special faith.

For more information on the Chalice Keepers Grant Program go to:

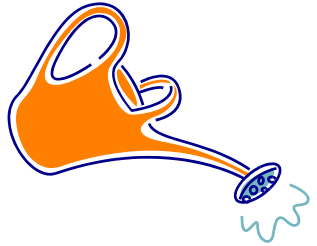
<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101899253605-100/Chalice+Keepers+Grant+Program.pdf>

Reader Contributions

Cultivating Our Thoughts and Our Connections

The very wise woman who gave birth to me once said that our minds are like gardens, where negative thoughts are like weeds and good thoughts are like flowers. If we nurture negative thoughts, we'll end up with a garden full of weeds. But if we cultivate positive, affirming, and loving thoughts, the garden of our mind will be both beautiful and productive.

Of course, the "negative" thoughts she was referring to were the petty self-involved variety. Some negative thoughts are inevitable or even healthy for us. When someone violates our boundaries, it is appropriate for us to feel anger and to ensure that



our needs are respected. It is also healthy for us to allow ourselves to grieve the losses in our lives, not to bury our authentic feelings under a facade

of strength that we don't really feel.

When we express our grief and show our vulnerability, we give others the opportunity to share our burden.

That can be difficult. Many of us (myself included)

feel much safer giving help to others than being on the receiving end. Yet I am always



impressed when I see others who have the courage to admit their shortcomings and ask for help when it is needed.

I suppose if we were to return to the garden analogy,

we need to provide fertilizer. It may not smell terrific, but we can come to appreciate our "necessary negatives" as providing nutrients for the things we want to grow. In this way, we hope

to cultivate deeper connections with others and more balanced involvement, both giving and receiving. From these follow joy, gratitude, and love.

"Happiest are the people who give most happiness to others."

Dennis Diderot

Angela Peerman

(Upcoming Events continued from page 6)

Please note that there has been a time change for this event. Originally planned for 6pm, it is now starting at 5:30.

A Holocaust Remembrance Day Gathering

Sponsored by the Bowie Interfaith Clergy Association, Sunday, May 1 5:30pm,

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church 14111 Oak Grove Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Join us for a light supper; watch the video presentation,

"Auschwitz: If You Cried, You Died," a 28 minute documentary video chronicling the journey of two Holocaust survivors as they revisit the Auschwitz concentration camp; followed by a panel discussion and open conversation.

<http://stbarnabas.net/>

Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2011



Attendees

Ken Shilling, Matthew Tucker, Kevin Smith, Jackie Lord, Roger Davidson.

Meeting was called to order at 7:17pm

Minutes from March meeting were approved as read.

We discussed the meaning of multicultural community. We discussed a variety of ways to foster community. Working together at Warm Nights or other social justice events is one example. There are only 4 multicultural congregations in UUA; we could do something amazing and be the next multicultural congregation in UUA.

We are seeking volunteer for Building Manager. Nominations Committee is seeking candidate for President. We will meet a candidate for Choir Director in May.

Action: Ken will talk with potential volunteers for building manager.

We discussed agenda for annual meeting on 15 May 2011. We

will start with dedication of Blue Room to Bob Adams. We will have a dedication of the art in our sanctuary. We will hold elections of officers and then have a brief discussion of a draft budget. We will close by asking congregation of any new topics they want the new board to consider.

Action: Matt will be the time-keeper/parliamentarian. Jackie will arrange childcare.

Action: Jackie and Roger - we need to get announcement to members who do not receive email.

We discussed the BSU scholarship. Rev Cyn will take a third check to BSU this month. We will ask other UU congregations to contribute so we can endow the scholarship this year.

We discussed our financial status at 3/4 of the year complete. We are slightly behind in pledges and doing well in fund raising. We are keeping our expenses within budget. We have one unexpected increase in condo fees that we must take account at year end, and in future budgets.

Action: Roger will send out individual "Pledge to date" statements.

Committee on Ministry and RE Committee are sending out annual surveys on programs. We recognize the conflict that Committee on Ministry is feeling regarding staff evaluations. We received suggestions from another congregation. The committee gives staff evaluation forms to members. The committee gives the completed forms to the President. The President reviews the results with the Board. With board advice, the President provide feedback to the staff.

Jill is willing to hold a personal yard sale in mid-May. We need volunteers to help with the sale. We need an organizer.

We discussed the need for a Dry Erase Schedule Planner.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship/RE	2	3 7:15 Spanish Group	4 7:00 Choir Practice	5 6:30 Spiral Scouts	6	7
8 10:30 Multigenerational flower svc & UU Sources brunch	9	10 7:00 Board of Trustees 7:15 Bowie Springs Meditation	11 7:00 Choir Practice	12	13 7:00pm Social Justice Film & Discussion	14 8am Yard Sale (off-site)
15 10:30 Worship/RE 11:30 Potluck and Parent Effectiveness	16	17 7:15 Spanish Group	18 7:00 Choir Practice	19 7:30 Goodloe Readers	20 7:00 PFLAG	21
22 9:00 RE Committee 10:30 Worship/RE 12pm Chinese Buffet	23	24 7:15 Bowie Springs Meditation	25 7:00 Choir Practice	26	27	28 7:30 Open Mic Coffeehouse
29 10:30 Worship/RE	30	31				

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Minister: **Rev. Cynthia Snavely**
240-475-2111 (cell)

Minister Emeritus: **Rev. John Gaffney**

Director of Religious Exploration:

Tisha Richardson

410-774-4291

religiousexploration@goodloeuu.org

Music Director: **Dick Wobus**

301-249-1703

richard.wobus@verizon.net

Board of Trustees:

President:

Ken Shilling: 301-801-8803

Vice President:

Matthew Tucker: [redacted]

Financial Officer:

Roger Davidson [redacted]

Secretary:

Kevin Smith: 410-258-0928

Trustees:

Jackie Lord 301-249-7713

Jill York: 301-262-1495

Rev Cyn Snavely: 240-475-2111 (cell)

Committee Chairs:

Worship:

Karen Scrivo

Building & Facilities:

Roger Davidson

Communications:

Vacant

Membership:

George Schulman

Religious Education:

Nita Page Daves

Ministry:

Nita Page Daves, Lorraine Webb,

Louisa Davidson, Jill York

Goodloe Green Sanctuary:

Vacant

Coffee House Chair

Kevin Smith: 410-258-0928

Goodloe Readers:

Laird Towle: 301-464-1159

Kiva Investing:

Laird Towle

ODYSSEY Editor:

Angela Peerman: 301-249-2680

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 llacey33@verizon.net.

Please Buy Giant Scrip

Use scrip as cash at Giant Food Stores. Goodloe makes 5% to 10% each time you shop. Contact Jill York 301-262-1495 or Diane Rappaport 301-249-0890.

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:

June 15th, 2011

Please email submissions to

goodloe.newsletter@gmail.com.

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

**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



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

