



# Odyssey

DECEMBER

## Sunday Services



<b>Dec 7</b>	<i>Where Does My Help Come From?</i> All of us sometimes need help. To whom or to what do we turn? Psalms 121 begins, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” American writer and poet, Nancy Wood, begins a poem, “My help is in the mountain where I take myself to heal.” Do we turn to God, to nature, to something or someone else? And when we turn, is there a response?
<b>Dec 14</b>	<i>Holiday Choir Service</i> Enjoy holiday music performed by the Goodloe Choir, as well as drumming and dance performances.
<b>Dec 21</b>	<i>Celebrations of Light, A Multigenerational Spirited Worship Service</i> Please look on Page 3 of this publication to learn about this service. It’s going to be a lot of fun for everyone! <b>Note that this event includes elements that were previously included in the Christmas Eve service. There will not be a separate Christmas Eve service.</b>
<b>Dec 28</b>	<i>Kwanzaa</i> <span style="float: right;">Tep Joyner</span> Please join this celebration in honor of Kwanzaa, led by Goodloe member, Tep Joyner.
<b>Jan 4</b>	<i>Community Organizing</i> On the Unitarian Universalist Association website is this quote, “Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO, also called Faith-Based, Broad-Based, or sometimes Institution-Based) is a movement that seeks to establish inter-faith, cross-class, multi-ethnic and multi-racial grassroots organizations for purposes of increasing social integration and power in civil society and for making civic, regional and state-wide changes for social improvement.” Can a small group of people change the world? Margaret Mead said, “It’s the only thing that ever has.”

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## From the Minister



Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation:

I was talking to my daughter and grandsons the other day by Skype when one of the boys said something about getting an Advent Calendar, and my daughter responded that they did not need to buy one, because Macha (That's me.) always sends one.

An Advent calendar is part of my German-American tradition. My brother, sister and I had one every year of our childhood. It was taped to the cellar door in the kitchen. We took turns opening the doors each day, but my sister was always first. She maintained that position in the rotation every year, because her birthday is December 1.

Advent calendars are actually a fairly modern tradition, the first ones dating to the mid-1800s and early 1900s. Advent calendars "begin on December 1 and mark the 24 days before Christmas. Today, most Advent calendars include paper doors that open to reveal an image, Bible verse, or piece of chocolate. The tradition dates to the mid-19th century, when German Protestants made chalk marks on doors or lit candles to count the days leading up to Christmas,"

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/26522/brief-history-advent-calendars>

I still love the anticipation of counting the days to Christmas. But, why? I don't expect a special toy or gift. I don't personally believe Jesus

was God sent down from heaven on December 25.

I do resonate with the words of Margaret Starkey included in the back of our hymnal. "With mounds of greenery, the brightest ornaments, we bring high summer to our rooms, as if to spite the somberness of winter come. In time of want, when life is boarding up against the next uncertain spring, we celebrate and give of what we have away. All creatures bend to rules, even the stars constrained. There is a blessed madness in the human need to go against the grain of cold and scarcity. We make a holiday, the rituals as varied as the hopes of humanity, the reasons as obscure as ancient solar festivals, as clear as joy on one small face."

I will celebrate and give some of what I have away just for the joy it may bring.

Blessed be,  
Cyn



### Help Goodloe Sponsor a Family this Holiday Season through the Family Tree Adopt-a-Family Program

This program matches interested donors with a family in need. Goodloe has been provided with information about a family, and we look forward to giving them a very special holiday this year!

Look in the lobby for information about the family and select an item from their Wish List. Please deliver the gifts to Goodloe by Sunday Dec. 14. Except for non-perishable food items, gifts should be wrapped and labeled.

For more information about this program check out the Family tree website:

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

## Spirited Worship: An Experience for All Ages

Greetings Beloved Community!

Last month, two staff persons and three members of Goodloe attended a weekend workshop on inter-cultural competency and inclusion. Thus was launched a conversation for how to nurture more than just diversity but also the strategies and skills for adapting our community's culture to be more inclusive. In other words, we challenged ourselves to examine all aspects of Goodloe community life to see if it reflect the needs, expressions, cultures and even images of the diverse population we serve - the young person, the Elder, the individuals with food and dietary needs, the persons of non-conforming sexual identity, non-white, non-European culture and heritage. And any other non-dominant cultural identification.

As your DRE, I have focused particularly upon aspects of community life at Goodloe that can be adapted to include children and youth, as well as addressing the spiritual journeys of our adult population. One important part of community life is Sunday morning worship. Three years ago I attended a training in the "Spirited Worship" model. This model was presented to the Goodloe RE committee recently as a



model for our inter-generational services. We agreed to try it for our Bread Communion service. Feedback was very positive. Suggestions and changes were noted to improve the flow of the service, and the worship committee reached unanimous agreement to use the Spirited Worship model for the Christmas service on December 21st.

It was also decided to incorporate components of the Christmas Eve service—cookies and holiday music singing—into the Christmas service on the 21st. As a result, there will be no Christmas Eve service at Goodloe this season. The Sunday service on the 21st will celebrate how our various cultures and traditions celebrate light, as told by several different kinds of candles! Please mark your calendar to attend. Or stretch yourself and volunteer to participate.

And join me in the transforming work of making Goodloe a more inclusive space for all.

Bright Blessings,  
Aléthea Shiplett,  
Director of Religious  
Exploration

# From the President: Congregational Conversation

On November 22 a good number of Goodloe folks gathered in a large circle to have a conversation about the mission and vision we each hold of Goodloe. Sally Raymond, president, led the group through several activities to engage the attendees in collaborative thinking and sharing about being a member of Goodloe.

First there was an "ice breaker" activity in which each person was encouraged to say one word that comes to mind instantly upon the mention of Goodloe. All the words were listed on the white board, which included the following:

- ⇒ Community
- ⇒ Quest
- ⇒ Comfort
- ⇒ Thoughtfulness
- ⇒ Caring
- ⇒ Teachable
- ⇒ Diversity
- ⇒ Friendship
- ⇒ Respect
- ⇒ Inspiration
- ⇒ Opportunity
- ⇒ Understanding
- ⇒ Growth
- ⇒ Unity
- ⇒ Self-transcendence
- ⇒ Spiritual Journey
- ⇒ Exploration
- ⇒ Familiarity
- ⇒ Support
- ⇒ Values

After the list was made we had a short discussion about these words, what they had in common and how they painted an overall picture of what people seek and find at Goodloe.

The 2nd part of the conversation was for each person to choose a phrase listed on a white board and copy it on an index card and complete the sentence with his or her own thoughts. "I come to Goodloe believing that...." or "I come to Goodloe wishing..." or "I come to expecting..." or "I come to Goodloe because I know that..." They also were asked to write a statement including "two most important reasons why I come to Goodloe."

After they completed the task each person shared his or her statements and reasons.

An example of one card is:

*I come to Goodloe expecting to have my thinking broadened.*

*The two most important reasons I come to Goodloe are: 1. To open my thinking beyond my day-to-day concerns*

*2. To help me focus on how to try to improve the world.*

With all of those various feelings expressed we observed the common themes they evoked. Sally explained that often the spiritual wishes and hopes of congregational members get wrapped into an overall statement encompassing the essence of the wishes and hopes. These may be viewed as the mission of the whole.

With this in mind and given all of the perspectives expressed the group was asked to read with new eyes our current mission statement and also to analyze through conversation the usefulness of having a mission statement.

The current one we have is: **We the free and open community of Goodloe join in common goals: to support each other in our spiritual journeys, to serve humanity, to celebrate diversity, to be in harmony with the universe and to open our hearts our minds and our spirits to the adventure of life.**

The group seemed to agree that a mission statement was a useful concept and that having one can help tie us together, represent our collective presence and should be posted and broadcast in our publications, on the walls of Goodloe. It should not be something we create and then forget about.

The group also agreed that our current statement is too long, vague and perhaps outdated. Lots of thoughts were tossed out about how to improve or rewrite it. Another thought was to have some catchy slogan as well, such as **"It's not the size of the congregation but the waves you make!"**

We closed the conversation with the understanding that a large group can not create a new mission statement but a small 3-5 member group task force would be best. A couple of people volunteered. Now I am asking for anyone else whether you attended or not to let me know if you'd like to work on the new task force to create a new mission statement.

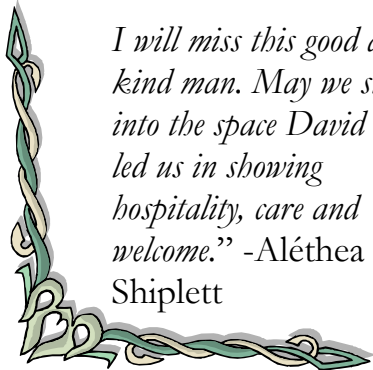
Yours truly,  
Sally Raymond  
Goodloe President

# Goodloe News & Announcements

## Memorial for David Goodkind

*"Who will look into my eyes, smile, and greet me with a tender hug when I walk in the door on Sundays? Who will share a hymnal with me, and sit by my side at the beginning of the service? Who will make the most delicious bread to share?"*

*I will miss this good and kind man. May we step into the space David has led us in showing hospitality, care and welcome."* -Aléthea Shiplett



On Saturday, Nov 8, Goodloe member and dear friend David Goodkind passed away. A memorial gathering is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel at Collington 10450 Lottsford Rd. Mitchellville, MD 20721. If possible, please let Rev Cyn know if you plan to attend.



## Thanks and More Thanks

As part of our annual Bread Communion service, Goodloe members are asked to donate store-bought bread and canned goods for the Bowie Food Pantry. This year, we donated 25 cans and 18 loaves bread.

Thank you to Goodloe members who attended Goodloe's Fall Cleaning on Nov. 22. And to those who stayed to help decorate for the holidays after the service on Nov 30.

## Dollar-Matching Contribution for Goodloe

Double your extra contribution to Goodloe! An anonymous donor will match every dollar donated (up to \$1500). **The deadline for Matching Contributions is December 7.**

An anonymous donor has offered matching funds of up to \$1500 for unrestricted contributions to Goodloe. Matched contributions will be separate from contributions toward existing pledges.

Contributions must be paid in full by December 7th to be eligible for the dollar-for-dollar match.

Please make checks to Goodloe Memorial

Unitarian Universalist Congregation (or GMUUC). Put "match" on the memo line. Give the check to Sid Soderholm. Then put it in the Offering basket on Sunday, Dec 7.

Donations count toward matching funds in the order they are received. If your contribution exceeds the available matching funds, the Financial Officer will contact you to determine if you want your contribution included in the donation to Goodloe.

Thank you for your continuing support of our Goodloe Community and its missions!

# Goodloe Monthly Activities

## Social Justice Film & Discussion

**Friday, December 5, 7:00 pm**

*Trained in the Ways of Men (2007)*

Documentary filmmaker Shelly Prevost examines the brutal 2002 murder of Gwen Araujo, a transgender teen who was killed by four men enraged to discover that she was actually a biological male, in this nuanced look at gender identity and aggression. The case became a rallying point for the transgender community when the men, who had all been intimate with Araujo, claimed that her deception justified their actions. 92 minutes.

**Friday, January 2, 7:00 pm**

*Anita: Speaking Truth to Power (2014)*

Anita Hill galvanized the nation with her appearance before the U.S. Senate in the hearings related to Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. This film documents the subsequent controversy and landmark event in the struggle for women's rights. 85 minutes.

## Adult Religious Exploration

The topic for Adult RE on Dec 21 will be "The Many Forms and Rituals of Protestantism." You are welcome to join any day that you are able, even if you can't attend the "full" curriculum for a series.

## Bowie Springs Meditation

The Bowie Springs Meditation group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month from 7:15 ~ 9 pm. Three rotating facilitators lead the group in sitting meditation, walking meditation, and a dharma talk and discussion. Participants are invited to stay & enjoy a cup of tea following the activity on 4th Tuesdays.

## Goodloe Readers

**Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 pm**

Goodloe Readers will now be meeting on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Upcoming books are available through the PG County Library, Amazon, and local book stores. You do not need to finish the book in order to participate in the discussion.

**December:** *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham

**January:** *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert

**February:** *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir* by Reyna Grande

## Drumming

Drumming will be part of the December 14 Holiday Choir service. If you would like to participate, please contact Ken Shilling or Noreen Chin for practice times.

## Celebrate the Holiday Season at the Goodloe Coffee House

**Saturday, Dec 20, 7:30 pm**

Have a fun and relaxing evening sharing music, stories, and poetry. Bring your holiday guests. Contact the coordinator if you need child care for younger children and to get more information if you want to perform. The coordinator can be reached via email: [coffeecoffee@goodlocuu.org](mailto:coffeecoffee@goodlocuu.org)

# Goodloe Financial Report for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014-15

Summary report of operating income and expenses for 1 July - 30 September 2014 compared to the budgeted amount (rounded to the nearest dollar) plus account balances.

**Social Action (special collections for other organizations)**

\$1327 – Collected for Goodloe scholarship at Bowie State University

**Operating Expenses:**

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
\$16,363	\$13,801 – Personnel (Minister, Director Religious Education, Choir Director, Accompanist)
\$7,050	\$7,601 – Facilities (mortgage, condo fees, insurance, utilities, maintenance)
\$675	\$750 – UU Association dues
\$325	\$467 – Joseph Priestly District dues
\$150	\$0 – Worship Honoraria
\$150	\$0 – Choir
\$125	\$0 – Religious Exploration
\$218	\$125 – Other expenses (Minister’s discretionary fund, Communications & Publicity, Membership)

**Operating Income:**

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
\$19,125	\$17,663 – Pledges and plate offerings
\$1,950	\$2,760 – Kaplan and other building rentals
\$500	\$150 – Homeschool Umbrella Group Support (HUGS)
\$100	\$103 – Coffee house
\$100	\$65 – Amazon sales
\$300	\$0 – Giant Scrip profits
\$50	\$3 – Other fund-raising events & misc. income

**Total Expenses for operations:**

Budget \$25,055 Actual \$22,744

**Endowment/Memorial Fund income** \$200

**Capital Expenditure**

Replacement of the full HVAC system in Unit C required \$4550 from our savings account.

**Total Income for operations:**

Budgeted \$22,125 Actual \$20,743

**Observations**

The budget assumes an equal amount will be spent each quarter, but we have a smaller share of our personnel costs and a larger share of our insurance costs in the summer.

I appreciate the excellent work of the Collector, John Pietras, and Treasurer, Cathy Weber!

Respectfully submitted by Sid Soderholm,  
Financial Officer



# Goodloe Communiqués

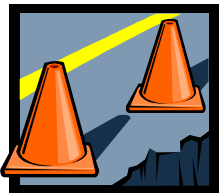
MP3 audio files of Rev. Snavelly's sermons are now available on the Goodloe website via the [Sermon Archive page](#). Services are generally available within a week or two after each service.

## Benefit Goodloe as You Celebrate

Buy your holiday groceries with Giant scrip purchased from Goodloe, purchase gifts at Amazon by going through the link on the Goodloe Memorial webpage and a percentage of what you buy will be given back to the congregation.

In October, Goodloe earned \$17 through its Amazon.com fundraiser and \$95 through Giant Scrip Sales. Thank you!

## Goodloe Adopt-A-Highway



Please help clean up our stretch of Route 301 on Saturday, Dec 6. Pete Boudriault has more information.

## Snow or Rain or Gloom of Night: Are We Still Meeting?



Goodloe's full policy about inclement weather is now posted on our web site:

<http://www.goodloeuu.org/weather/>

Here's a quick summary of *how to find out* if an activity or service is canceled.

If you're part of a group that meets at Goodloe, ask the group's coordinator whether the group follows the local public school operating status. If not, they will let you know how they manage cancelations.

For Sunday services or any other Goodloe activity when the status is uncertain, there are several places where the information is provided:

- The cancelation will be listed at the top of the web page listed earlier in this article.
- An appropriate staff member will add the cancelation information to the church's recorded phone message (301-218-5277).
- A message will be sent to Goodloe's email list. If you already receive emails about upcoming services, this newsletter\*, etc., then you are on the email list. If not, you can request to be added at any time: [Goodloe.memorial@gmail.com](mailto:Goodloe.memorial@gmail.com).

\* *The Odyssey is available through post or email.*



# Community Assistance Request

The request below came from the Interfaith Council. The Board does not have money to commit from the budget for this request and has not authorized a Sunday Special Collection. The Board has asked that the request be shared so that, if you wish to make an individual contribution to the work on this house, you may do so. Checks may be made payable to: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 14900 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715 with "Old Bowie House" on the memo line.

Dear Members of the Interfaith Council of Suburban Maryland:

We have received a request through Dan Blades, a member of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, for assistance with repairs to a house in Old Bowie. Dan serves on the Board of the Prince George's County Christmas in April program. The house needs a roof, gutters, drywall, paint, plumbing, and more. Of immediate need is the roof, which is leaking and causing major interior damage and mold. An estimate of funds needed for just the roof is \$3000. This elderly, low-income homeowner has applied to Christmas in April for help, but she may not be selected for help. Selections are not until January 2015 and even if selected in

January, work under this program would not take place until the end of April 2015. Her home cannot withstand additional water damage if the roof is not repaired soon. Also, if left in its present state, her health could be adversely affected.

We are pleading for your help, so that she can live in a much safer house and a sanitary house. Checks may be made payable to: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 14900 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715 with "Old Bowie House" on the memo line. A complete accounting of this money will be made available to the Council.

For more information, contact Dan Blades at [dblades406@gmail.com](mailto:dblades406@gmail.com), 301-262-5148(h) or 240-463-8662 (c).

Sincerely,  
James Brassard  
Chair, Interfaith Council of  
Suburban Maryland  
Pastor, Christian Community  
Presbyterian Church



*"The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."*

*Mitch Albom*

# December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 7pm Social Justice Film & Discussion	6 ○ Full Moon
7 10:30 Worship/RE	8	9 7:15 Bowie Springs Meditation	10	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship/RE 11:30 Potluck	15	16 7:30 Goodloe Readers	17	18	19	20 7:30pm Coffeehouse
21 10:30 Multigenerational	22	23 7:15 Bowie Springs Meditation	24	25	26 Christmas	27
28 10:30 Worship/RE	29	30	31			

## Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Minister: **Rev. Cynthia Snavely**  
240-475-2111 (cell) [minister@goodloeuu.org](mailto:minister@goodloeuu.org)

Minister Emeritus: **Rev. John Gaffney**

Religious Exploration Consultant:  
**Aléthea Shiplett**

Music Director: **Noreen Chin**  
[choirdirector@goodloeuu.org](mailto:choirdirector@goodloeuu.org)

Accompanist: **Lorraine Webb**

### Board of Trustees

President:  
Sally Raymond ([president@goodloeuu.org](mailto:president@goodloeuu.org))

Vice President:  
Pete Boudriault ([vp@goodloeuu.org](mailto:vp@goodloeuu.org))

Financial Officer:  
Sid Soderholm ([finance.goodloe@gmail.com](mailto:finance.goodloe@gmail.com))

Secretary:  
Debra Braswell ([secretary@goodloeuu.org](mailto:secretary@goodloeuu.org))

At-Large Trustees:  
Yaa ([trustee1@goodloeuu.org](mailto:trustee1@goodloeuu.org))  
Dick Wobus ([trustee2@goodloeuu.org](mailto:trustee2@goodloeuu.org))

### Committee Chairs

Building & Facilities: Sally Raymond

Coffee House Chair:  
[coffeeshouse@goodloeuu.org](mailto:coffeeshouse@goodloeuu.org)

Goodloe Green Sanctuary: Vacant

Goodloe Readers: Laird Towle

Kiva Investing: Laird Towle

Membership: Ken Shilling

Ministry:  
Ken Shilling, Steve Buckingham,  
Nita Page Daves

Odyssey Editor: Angela Peerman

Religious Exploration: Lisa Jacobus

Worship: Vacant

## *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](mailto:llacey33@verizon.net).

## Please Buy Giant Scrip

Use scrip as cash at Giant Food Stores.  
Goodloe makes 5% each time you shop.

**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: December 22, 2014

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

If you have changed your address,  
phone, or email, please let us know by  
emailing [goodloe.memorial@gmail.com](mailto:goodloe.memorial@gmail.com)  
or call 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



1540C Pointer Ridge Place  
Bowie, MD 20716  
301 218-5277  
[www.goodloeuu.org](http://www.goodloeuu.org)  
Reverend Cynthia Snavelly  
Service and Religious Education 10:30 am Sundays

