



Odyssey

February 2015

Sunday Services

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Feb 1	<i>Diversity Vs. Inclusion</i> We will examine how the focus of our efforts towards greater diversity in our UU congregations has had limited results and how refocusing on "inclusion" will get us closer to our vision of Beloved Community.	Aléthea Shiplett
Feb 8	<i>What Does Supporting My Congregation Mean?</i> What does supporting Goodloe mean to you? Volunteering to make programs happen? Coming up with new ideas for the good of the community? Inviting others to come? Giving money? All of the above and more? Today we consider what supporting a congregation looks like.	Rev. Snavelly & Sid Soderholm
Feb 15	<i>UUMAC Service & Special Collection</i> The Unitarian Universalist MidAtlantic Conference is a one week retreat held each year in July. In 2015 the retreat will be held July 12 – 18 at DeSales University, Center Valley, PA. The theme will be “Building Beloved Community, Beyond Partisan Division”, co-lead by Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael and Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael. The special collection will go toward scholarships to help those with limited means to attend.	Ken Shilling <i>et. al.</i>
Feb 22	<i>Regional Pulpit Exchange</i> Rev. David Carl Olson, minister of First Unitarian Church, Baltimore, MD, is an engaging speaker, a winner of sermon prizes in history and social justice, a theme speaker at conferences and frequent keynote speaker for groups engaged in the struggle for social change. Olson founded, with others, two congregation-based community organizations in Boston, Massachusetts and Flint, Michigan, and has served on the national steering committees of the UU	Rev. David Carl Olson
Mar 1	<i>Choosing Hope: An Act of Faith</i> Wes Davis is a singer/songwriter and educator. He has recorded three CDs of original music and taught college courses in Communication, Conflict Analysis and World Religions. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and served as a pastor for thirteen years. He speaks from a spiritually and intellectually open place, always exploring, learning and making new connections. Wes is privileged to be the father of five glorious human beings who are his pride and joy.	Wes Davis
Mar 8	<i>Out of the Stars</i> “Out of the stars have we come...out of your heart, cry wonder, sing that we live,” Robert T. Weston. The experience of wonder or awe is a part of spirituality. Today we consider how we can prepare ourselves and our children to have such experiences.	Rev. Snavelly

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From the Minister



Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation:

Gila Jones wrote,

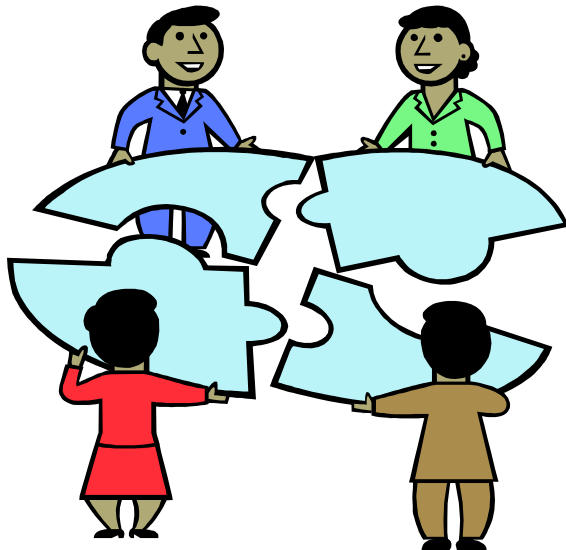
“What is this (congregation)?

“It is not the building, except to the extent that we have chosen it and made it ours, and adorned it with the fruits of our time, treasure, and talents.

“It is not the minister, except to the extent that we have called him or her to inspire and guide our spiritual lives.

“It is not the music, except to the extent that we make it when we blend our voices together to produce sounds lovelier than any one of us could make alone.

“It is not even the beliefs, for we, Unitarian Universalists have no single unifying belief – only the combined belief of each one of us.



“This (congregation) is the people. Without me, without you, this (congregation) is nothing. It does not exist. Buildings may fall down, ministers may retire, music may go out of tune, and beliefs may falter.

“No matter. We are this (congregation). Without us it is nothing, but with us, it can be ANYTHING.”

I share those words as we begin our pledge drive this month for the 2015-2016 congregational year which will begin on July 1. We need to pool our donations to continually create and recreate the congregation that is Goodloe Memorial.

Some of us can give large amounts and do. We thank you. Some of us don't have much money to offer but volunteer our time and our service. We thank you. Some of us, at this point in our lives, can only offer our presence. We thank you. Some of us can no longer even offer our presence but still offer good wishes and a sense of belonging. We thank you.

It takes all of us together to make a congregation. THANK YOU!!

Blessed be,
Cyn

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.

Monthly Fundraisers

In December, Goodloe earned \$22 through its Amazon.com fundraiser and \$113 through Giant Scrip Sales. Thank you for supporting Goodloe!

Upcoming Activities for Religious Exploration—Adults and Youth

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 4th-5th Grade

O.W.L. is a series of sexuality education curricula with age-appropriate materials for each of 6 age groups. A program for the 4th-5th grade age group is scheduled to begin in September, 2015. An information session for interested parents will be held on Sunday, February 22, from 12:30-1:30pm. Child care will be provided, and pizza will be served.

Aléthea Shipllett or Sid Soderholm are happy to provide more information. Also, please share information about this meeting with other parents you think might be interested in learning more about this OWL program. This program is open to families of all faiths and religious affiliations, or none.

From <http://UUA.org/re/owl>:

Our Whole Lives offers:

- Up-to-date information and honest, age-appropriate answers to all participants' questions
- Activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- Effective group-building to create a safe and supportive peer group
- Education about sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment
- Opportunities to critique media messages about gender and sexuality
- Acceptance of diversity

- Encouragement to act for justice
- A well designed, teacher-friendly leaders' guide
- Parent orientation programs that affirm parents as the primary sexuality educators of their children

Our Whole Lives is appropriate for use in a variety of congregational, school, and community settings, including classrooms, after-school programs, and youth groups. Although developed by two religious organizations, *Our Whole Lives* contains no religious references or doctrine. Religious references are provided in a Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ companion publication, *Sexuality and Our Faith*.



Adult Religious Exploration— Cultural Literacy of World Religions

New schedule starting February 15.

Protestantism - The Many Forms and Rituals. After the service, until 1pm. This is an example of one of the workshops available at summer camp called UUMAC. This video and discussion

will help us understand our roots in Protestant history. *This workshop will be held.* [Third time's the charm?] There will be no other schedule conflicts for major holidays in February.

UU Regional Events

UUMAC Registration is Open

It's time to register for UUMAC! The Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community meets every year on the campus of DeSales University outside of Allentown, PA. UUMAC is a welcoming community which includes toddlers up to people in their 80s, all having fun and growing in their UU faith. Adults get a chance to chat and catch up on the last year's events, while the children have fun in a safe environment. Relationships are built, and we all get to watch the kids (and each other!) grow and evolve from year to year. Reunions and social media keep us connected during the rest of the year.

We stay in dorms, eat in the cafeteria, meet every morning for intergenerational worship and singing. The kids go off to religious education which is modeled on our theme for the week: *Building Beloved Community*.

Following the minister's theme talk, the young adults and adults go to their various workshops which vary from serious to fun. After lunch there are various on and off campus activities to choose from, or you can just relax. Evenings have an intergenerational activity and then parent monitors take turns hanging out in the dorms while the rest of us dance, drum, play games and participate in nightly vespers.

This year we are getting together from July 12-18. Within a few hours drive for almost everyone in the mid-Atlantic region the campus setting is comfortable and air-conditioned, so no tents or outdoor plumbing to deal with! Regardless of age, single or a couple, family with children; you will find people to hang out with, have fun and be welcomed into an energetic UU community.

The retreat will be held on July 12-18, and the theme will be "Building Beloved Community, Beyond Partisan Division," co-lead by Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael and Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael.

Check out all our workshops and activities at UUMAC.org where you will also find the fee schedules and registration forms. Scholarships are available to those with financial needs, and there are also positions which provide partial payment for the week.

To receive the early bird discount, please register and submit 50% of the total registration fee by April 1, 2015. Full payment is due by June 1, 2015.

Questions? Contact Ken Shilling or Sally Raymond who have both long been part of UUMAC.

2015 JPD District Assembly

Weaving the Fabric of Our Faith: A Tapestry of Impact, Innovation & Interconnection

Friday, April 10 - Saturday, April 11. ACE Conference Center, 800 Ridge Pike in Lafayette Hill, PA

The keynote speakers will be Mark Bernstein, Congregational Life Staff of the Central East Regional Group (CERG) of the

UUA, and Patricia Infante, Congregational Life Staff of the Central East Regional Group (CERG) of the UUA.

General Announcements

Warm Nights Dinner for People Who Need Shelter

Friday March 13, 2015

Goodloe will serve dinner to guests who are sheltered at Village Baptist Church as part of the Prince Georges County Warm Nights program. Warm Nights is an interfaith program that provides shelter and food to people who are homeless during the winter months. As part of a partnership with PG County Social Services, transportation and other support services are also provided.

Currently, about 25-30 guests are expected. The dinner menu

includes lasagna, salad, rolls, and dessert.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner and help with preparation/clean-up. Dinner usually begins about 6:30-7:00 pm

We also need volunteers to prepare the meal. Dinner items are delivered to Village Baptist Church at 6 pm. If you are not available for the normal delivery, arrangements can be made to deliver items that do not need refrigeration through other volunteers who are going. All volunteers are welcome to share



the dinner and visit with the guests during the meal.

If you have questions or wish to participate, please contact Jackie Lord (snolord@gmail.com or Ph 301-249-7713). A sign-up sheet is posted in the coffee area at Goodloe.

Cedar Lane UU Church Seeks Part-Time Welcoming & Membership Director

Cedar Lane UU Church, a community representing more than 750 liberal religious people in Bethesda, MD is in search for its next Welcoming and Membership Director. The position requires a committed Unitarian Universalist who is enthusiastic about sharing our faith with newcomers, supporting opportunities for new and long-time members to foster community connections and is

invested in multicultural ministry. The ideal candidate is organized, self-motivated, warm, friendly and creative with the ability to recruit volunteers, facilitate groups and foster leadership development in others. Experience in marketing, communications and social media is a plus!

Preference is for candidates who are not members of Cedar Lane UU Church, but members are eligible to apply. Hours are

18/week; salary is commensurate with experience. The WaMD is expected to work on-site 3 Sundays/month and regularly scheduled times throughout the week. The Minister for Congregational Life and Social Justice supervises the Welcoming and Membership Director. Interested candidates should send cover letter and résumé to membership@cedarlane.org by February 17th.

Goodloe Monthly Activities

Social Justice Film & Discussion

Friday, February 6, 7:00 pm

Pay 2 Play: Democracy's High Stakes (2014)

Goodloe will be welcoming guests from [Get Money Out—Maryland \(GMOM\)](#) for this event.

If our political system is like a game of Monopoly, how can outsiders have a voice when only money speaks? John Ennis documents comical corruption, follows political newcomers, and uncovers intrigue in this colorful journey that connects the dots of Big Money in our ever-challenging election process. From billionaires meeting in secret to citizens taking to the streets, PAY 2 PLAY follows the money and connects the dots in this portrait of People Power rising. 88 minutes.

Friday, March 6, 7:00 pm

Harvest of Empire (2012)

Based on the groundbreaking book by award-winning journalist and Democracy Now! Co-host Juan González, *Harvest of Empire* takes an unflinching look at the role that U.S. economic and military interests played in triggering an unprecedented wave of migration that is transforming our nation's cultural and economic landscape. 93 minutes.

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.

Drumming from the Heart: Friday, February 13, 7:00pm

Instruments are available. Willingness to learn is appreciated. Having fun is mandatory.

Goodloe Readers

Tuesday, February 17, 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.

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

Goodloe Coffee House

Saturday, February 21, 7:30pm

Share your talents or just relax and enjoy. Bring a dish to share as well as \$1 for performers and \$5 for audience members. Guests & friends are always welcome. Contact the coordinator if you need child care for younger children. For this as well as other information contact: coffeehouse@goodloeuu.org

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rehearses at 6:30 pm on successive Thursdays, then performs the music at Sunday services, as listed:

- ⇒ Rehearsals on February 5 & 12.
Worship on February 15.
- ⇒ Rehearsals on March 5 and 12.
Worship on March 15.

What Can You Do For Your Community?

By Ken Shilling

It has been an amazing 31 years at Goodloe. I got involved as a young adult, learning new skills, building community, and developing spiritually. It has been a good place for Karen and me to grow in faith together and to raise our son Kelson. We developed many friends and hold many fond memories over many years.

I am in my second year of sabbatical. No, I don't get paid, and I still actively participate in many ways. Our family has had to deal with elder care for two mothers that passed away, and my father transitioning from hospitals to assisted living. It is also a year for starting new jobs, looking for new opportunities for the three of us. After two years, I finally was able to write a nine page magazine article on Lincoln. Maybe, I should read it at coffeehouse? Why not sing a part of it?

I empathize with Lincoln and how he struggled personally, within his family, and with his nation. Some had argued for a government of white people, for white people. In Gettysburg, Lincoln spoke of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. I carry those inspiring words within me every moment.

Maybe 25 years ago, our congregation struggled into hopelessness. We were working

so hard, and nothing was working. We reached deep within. We really wanted a liberal religion right here in Bowie, and then we grew with purpose. More than a decade later, we struggled with our name of Bowie UU Fellowship. Out of that struggle, we dedicated ourselves to inclusiveness. We decided to honor Donald Speed Smith Goodloe for his accomplishments, which evolved out of his own personal struggles. And, we have grown in diversity.

We have much to be proud of. There is no other UU congregation our size that has:

1. A minister,
2. A DRE,
3. A choir director, and
4. A pianist.

There are few other congregations our size so involved in district matters:

1. Legislative ministry with UULM-MD,
2. Social justice with UUSJ,
3. Community building at UUMAC,
4. District youth ministry,
5. Diversity awareness.

We are struggling again. We need to do something but we don't know what. This is the time to look deep within. Are we committed to a liberal religion here in Bowie? Are we dedicated to the Universalist faith in all people? Are we ready to become something new? To renew

ourselves, once again, with new purpose?

We are an inviting congregation. We have learned how to welcome people without chasing them out the door. We are an inclusive congregation. We have marvelous diversity and opportunities for people to participate and share, as they want. But, yes, we are too small for our mighty big dreams. We want to be an inspiring congregation and have many people of all ages. It is the work of all of us.

When we became "inviting", it was a ministry in which we all took part. When we became "inclusive", it required commitment and dedication from all of us. We have some people who gaining skills in cultural inclusivity and community building. We all need to learn these skills and to find a common purpose with these skills.

I want a world where our daughters are free from assault on campus. I want a world where our boys of color are not beaten and killed in the street. I want a world where people of different faith and family traditions can worship peacefully and joyfully together. Every day I come to Goodloe, I am living that dream. What dream are you prepared to live?



Various & Sundry

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.goodloeeuu.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 cancellation will be listed at the top of the web page listed earlier in this article.
- An appropriate staff member will add the cancellation 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.

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

How to Make Your Climate Efforts Count

Saturday, March 14,
Washington, DC
(Exact time & place TBD)

- ⇒ What can you do about climate change? EARTH DAY AND BEYOND....
- ⇒ Learn about exciting UU short- and long-term activities, programs, worship and educational resources.
- ⇒ How can UUs in the metro DC region play a key role in national climate change advocacy efforts? Strategize together with

Commit2respond Steering Committee member,
Pamela Sparr.

Pamela Sparr is the Associate Director for Advocacy, Activism & Engagement for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Cambridge, MA. UUSC advances human rights in the US and around the world. Pamela sits on the Steering Committee of this historic climate justice initiative,

Commit2Respond, and knows the DC area well as a long-time member of All Souls, Unitarian in Washington, D.C.



Local Involvement: Bowie State University

Unity in the Community

Thursday, February 12, 6-9 pm

The purpose for the vigil/forum is divided into three parts:

- ◆ The Vigil: To gather in solidarity, both students and police officers, in order to have a moment of silent reflection against acts of violence. The goal is to give those in attendance who have lost family members or friends to violence (all violence, not specific to any police actions taken that resulted in the loss of life) the opportunity to mourn those whom they have lost. The location for this portion of the event will be at the Bowie State University Torch in front of the Henry Administration building. It also includes a “moment of centering” and prayer and a song.
 - ◆ The Silent March: This portion is designed for those participants in the vigil who also plan on attending the forum. It also serves as a vehicle for unity and an outward desire to show a working partnership with one another as members of the community and the police department. (Approximately 15 minutes, on campus.)
 - ◆ The Forum: The location for the forum will be the Martin Luther King Auditorium on campus, pending schedule clearance of the venue. The tentative title/slogan for the actual forum, which was chosen from one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s books is, *Chaos or Community, Where Do We Go From Here?* The time frame for this portion of the event is approximately two hours including a question and answer segment.
- The purpose of this initiative is also subset into 3 parts:
- ◆ Showing a commitment to non-violent interactions between African Americans and the Police Department.
 - ◆ Gaining a better understanding of police/citizen contacts and how they should be handled.
 - ◆ Demonstrating what a sense of community looks like. This is in hopes of setting an example for the rest of the country to follow. Its further purpose is to show how a community can express themselves in a non-violent, but organized way.

It is imperative for the entire Bowie community to come together to ensure this is a successful event. The religious community has always been at the forefront of social justice issues and we hope that this historical trend continues with your participation. Please feel free to share the event details with others. We hope to see you there!

"It isn't love that makes the world go round but compassion — starting over in gentleness when love hasn't been enough or other factors have failed: a gentle refusal to blame oneself or others and just begin again."

***Nancy Shaffer (Unitarian Universalist, clergy)
While Still There Is Light: Writings From A Minister Facing Death***

February 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30 Worship/RE	2 Groundhog Day	3 ○ Full Moon	4	5	6 7pm Social Justice Film & Discussion	7
8 10:30 Worship/RE 11:30 Potluck	9	10 7:15 Bowie Springs Meditation	11	12	13 7pm Drumming	14 ♥ Valentine's Day
15 10:30 Worship/RE	16	17 7:30 Goodloe Readers	18	19	20	21 7:30pm Coffeeshouse
22 10:30 Worship/RE 12:00 Chinese Buffet	23	24 7:15 Bowie Springs Meditation	25	26	27	28

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

Minister Emeritus: **Rev. John Gaffney**

Religious Exploration Consultant:
Aléthea Shiplett

Music Director: **Noreen Chin**
choirdirector@goodloeuu.org

Accompanist: **Lorraine Webb**

Board of Trustees

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Building & Facilities: Sally Raymond

Coffee House Chair:
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

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.

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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: February 22, 2015

Please email submissions to
goodloe.newsletter@gmail.com

If you have changed your address,
phone, or email, please let us know by
emailing 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
Reverend Cynthia Snavelly
Service and Religious Education 10:30 am Sundays

