



# Odyssey January 2010

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Ministerial Musings

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe:

As the New Year begins it is a good time to think about whom we are as a congregation and who we would like to be.

I would like us to be a community of spirit. Sometimes we emphasize what we don't believe instead of what is important to our spiritual lives. We can help each other connect to the sacred. As we grow spiritually it will show in our relationships, our work, our lives, and as we grow spiritually so will the community.

I would like us to be a community of people who are there for one another in our times of joy and our times of need. Sometimes we pull into our shells when we most need to be supported and held. Sometimes when someone does reach out we bite the hand that meant to soothe us. Sometimes we are so overwhelmed with our own needs we don't reach out to others. This year I invite us all to resolve to be open to help and to be ready to help another.

I would like us to be a community that we love so much that we want to share it with others. I would like us to be glad to bring our friends and neighbors and our children's friends, because we want for them to the kind of community we have created for ourselves.

I would like us to be a community that reaches out beyond our own walls to help those in need and to work toward more justice in our society.

I would like us to be a community that lives by that tenet found in all the major faiths--"Love your neighbor as yourself." In all our interactions I would like us to think about if the words we say and what we do show love.

To whom we are and to what we may yet be--  
Blessed Be,  
Cyn

Interested in Getting the Coffee House Up and Going Again?

Come to a brainstorming session with Rev. Snavelly on Friday, January 8 at 7:30pm. Bring your ideas and your willingness to commit to making this happen.

## Conversations with the Minister

Bring a news clipping, a paragraph from a book, a question or just yourself for open dialogue and sharing-- Sundays 9:00am-10:00am

## Mystic Journeys - Ken Shilling

**Happy New Year.** Hope you had a merry holiday season with family and friends.

We hope everyone had fun at the winter holiday party. We wanted a social event with cookie decorating and stuffing gift bags for the homeless. We tried to lessen the stress by reducing the amount of organizing required to arrange a big event. We realize that many of us are stressed due to health and job issues so we want more fun, less stress at Goodloe.

By our choice of faith, we become a family of seekers for religious freedom.

We do not have a test of belief. We have a covenant on how we behave toward one another. We seek freedom from authoritarian leadership, the dogma, the anti-intellectualism, the superstitious and magical thinking, guilt, shame, phobias, privileged righteousness, and demonizing of a different point of view. How do we live our covenant?

We want an open mind, and it is hard. We have to accept and respect different points of view. Yes, we have UU Christians in our midst, and we need to find ways to honor their beliefs in our worship. Yes, we have recovering alcoholics, and we need to honor their special needs.

We want a loving heart, and it is hard. Like any family, there is a time when someone says or does something that makes us angry. It was probably unintentional. And we have to dig deep into our love to make amends and seek forgiveness.

We have helping hands, and it is hard. We can only stretch ourselves so far and so thin. We need to focus on doing what we can.

Ours is a faith that saves lives in the here and now. Accept each other as we are. Laugh as heartily as we can - this is our prayer.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** - Goodloe is applying for a JPD leadership development grant. We are sending our minister, coordinator of RE, and choir director to staff training. We are sending board members on one day retreats. We signed up for training in Healthy Congregations. This training gives people a common experience and way to address issues.

We want to send more people to JPD events like the spring conference. We encourage more people to attend Journey Towards Wholeness regarding racial and multicultural diversity. We want people to attend Worship Arts and Leadership conferences.

In short, there are a number of opportunities for people to meet other UUs and get some UU leadership training. We intend to apply JPD grant to encourage this leadership training. We have to match the grant money with our own funds.

### Upcoming Services

January 3 The Road Not Taken -- Louisa Davidson and Worship Associates. Inspired by the famous Robert Frost poem, several members reflect on the impact of choices made in their lives as well as the new opportunities they created.

10 Sharing Goodloe and UU Memories Old Friends Sunday

Members and friends from Goodloe's past have been invited to attend and share as we reminisce about the past and dream of our future. Please bring a little extra for the potluck to share with our guests.

Chalice Lighter Recruitment Sunday – help spread Unitarian Universalism in our region. Become a JPD Chalice Lighter. Goodloe has been a past recipient of Chalice Lighter grants.

<http://www.jpduua.org/media/Chalice%20Lighter%20brochure%20011209.pdf>

17 Martin Luther King Jr. and Emancipation Around the World -- Worship Associates. The Rev. King's words and life inspires us to put our faith into action for the cause of freedom wherever there is inequality.

24 How I Learned to Be Normal and How I'm Getting Over It Rev. Snavelly

Did you ever wonder who defined normal? The answer is disturbing. Normal is not necessarily good. Come find out why.

31 The Question of God Rev. Snavelly

A generation or so ago there was an old joke that Unitarian Universalists believed in one God at most. That joke doesn't work anymore. Unitarian Universalists now include not just atheists, agnostics,

and theists, but also pantheists and panentheists. This Sunday we consider the question of god.

### Goodloe Board Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2009

**Present:** Ken Shilling, Rev. Cyn Snavelly, Roger Davidson, Jill York, Joe Puccio, Jackie Lord, and Laird Towle.

**Invocation:** The meeting was called to order about 7:35 after a reading by Rev. Cyn.

#### Business:

- 1) The Minutes of the November Board Meeting were approved as corrected.
- 2) Membership: George Schulman had been expected to give a report on his ideas re membership, but he was unable to attend, so the issue was tabled. He indicated he would submit a written plan.
- 3) Committee on Ministry: The functioning of the Committee on Ministry was discussed at length. It was decided to make a final attempt to get a few more surveys completed next Sunday. After that Jill will begin to analyze the data. Ken will prepare a charge for the committee for insertion into the Policy Manual.
- 4) Youth Ministry: The Board approved the use of our facilities for an overnight meeting of the DYSC. The understanding is that the youth will return the facility to its default configuration, and depart about 8am on Sunday; \$40.00 is to be paid for rent.
- 5) Holiday Party: No one has volunteered to lead the party on December 19<sup>th</sup> and Ken has been asked to so inform Sally. The event has been moved up to the 4-6:30 time slot, and will be basically a work session to help Dick with assembling his 50 Christmas bags for the homeless.
- 6) Alcohol Policy: A policy statement on alcohol use at Goodloe functions is to be prepared for insertion into the Policy Manual. Once a statement is prepared which meets Board approval, it is to be presented to the membership for their comments. The Board will then prepare a final draft for inclusion in the Policy Manual. **An initial draft follows, please comment:**

#### Board Policy No. 12

#### Alcohol Use on Goodloe Premises

Adopted 2009.12.09

In the interest of maintaining a family friendly atmosphere, observing proper decorum, and respecting the sensitivities of our members and friends, the consumption of alcohol at Goodloe sponsored events held on the Goodloe premises is hereby prohibited. This restriction is not intended to apply in any way to renters using the Goodloe facilities for private functions of any kind.

7) Annual Goodloe Celebration: The Board approved the engagement of Gini Courter as guest speaker for the 2010 Goodloe Celebration.

8) Leadership Development: The Board approved the leadership development plan prepared by Ken for 2010-2011 which includes the request for \$2,000 in matching funds from JPD.

9) The Board then went into an executive session.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned about 9:30

**Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary,  
December 9, 2009**

### **Do You Sing in the Shower?**

Do sing along with the radio or while doing dishes or vacuuming? In short, do sing for yourself just because you feel like singing? Then you might want to consider joining the choir. Our choir is made up of people who came to from many different directions with one common goal in mind: To make music others will enjoy and to have fun doing it.

Okay, that was technically more than one, but not really.

Many moons ago (about 14 years worth), when my family and I first started coming to what was the Bowie Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, one of the first things I noticed was the choir. They performed at nearly every service and really added more depth to the service presentation than I would have expected from such a small group. What I really noticed, though, was the lack of perfection. I found it truly inspiring! You see, up until that point I had felt the only possible way to get up in front of an audience was to demonstrate absolute perfection! (we can discuss those "control issues" later...) Now I was sitting back in my seat saying, "Gosh, that was great!"

Not *perfect*, just great.

A niggling little thought slowly built into a bigger one: even I could sing well enough to (hide out) in a choir that didn't sing perfectly on every occasion. I honestly don't remember when I actually screwed up my courage to approach someone in the choir and see what I needed to do to join – all I remember is feeling right at home at my first rehearsal – and realizing I really didn't have a clue what it meant to be an "Alto" and sing mostly harmony parts and rarely the melody line. I mean really! When I sing along with radio or in the shower, etc., I'm always the star singing the lead part that everyone remembers—but what wonderful new world opened up!

Now I had to actually learn something new, figure out how to do the really hard part: *think about what I was doing*.

For at least the first year (and more like the first several years) I was literally hiding out. When learning new pieces I had to have everyone sing with me on my part because if I opened my mouth when I knew I was the only one trying—no sound would come out. I'd freeze up every time. That perfection thing again. It was never a *problem*, though. Everyone else was just as happy to help out and it really was (and *IS*) a very secure place to try things that are new and different. For those, like me, who don't really read music and have to learn everything by ear it can sometimes be a struggle to memorize and internalize how the pieces should sound and the part I play in making that sound happen. Eventually I came to have more confidence in my own ability, but it wouldn't have been possible without the safe-haven of people I know accept me for being the real person that I am—warts and all. The true meaning of family.

Over the years, the composition of the choir has changed—new people join, others move away—but always at the core is a group of people constantly on the lookout for new ways to explore this love we share for music of all varieties—and for new folks to share it with.

Melody Warner

On January 10 Become a Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Chalice Lighter

***What is a JPD Chalice Lighter?*** A Chalice Lighter pledges to respond with a contribution (suggested minimum is \$20) three times a year, in the fall, winter and

spring. **What are some of the projects funded by Chalice Lighter grants?**

Grant requests are often for professional staff, acquisition of land or buildings, congregational organizing and innovative

growth efforts. Your money responds to the needs of dynamic congregations. **How can my small donation result in**

**significant growth?** Although your individual contribution may be only \$20 per Call, when thousands contribute the total is significant. Since 1987, JPD Chalice Lighters has awarded over \$1.7 million in grants. Of course, larger pledges

are welcome and appreciated. **How much of my contribution actually goes to fund the grant requests?**

The answer is simple: **100%** of your donation goes directly to the congregations to fund their expansion needs.

You can enroll on line Go to [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org). 2. On the left "Quick Links" section, click on **Chalice Lighters**. .

Click on **Chalice Lighters Enrollment** and fill in the information requested. You will be asked to enter the amount you pledge to give when your **Call** arrives by e-mail three times each year. A minimum of **\$20 per Call** is suggested. Click "**submit form**" and you are done.

**(Clip and Mail)**

**I do not have access to a computer, but I want to support growth in the JPD.**

Name:

Address:

Congregation:

Phone:

I (We) would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per Call three times a year.

**Please mail to Chalice Lighters,  
100 W. 10th Street, Suite 1008  
Wilmington, DE 19801**

**2010 JPD Worship Arts Festival:  
Lighting the Fire of Faith**

February 27, 2010 8am to 4:30pm,  
Bull Run Unitarian Universalists  
9350 Main Street  
Manassas, VA 20110

Special Guest: Erik Wikstrom, UUA Worship & Music Resources Director

*Why sit passively through worship when it is possible to use your body in movement and dance, your imagination in theater arts and stories, your emotions in music of many types - as well as your intellect through listening and learning? Worship, workshops, and networking will offer you opportunities to explore a new interest or to share your passion with others.*

*Registration is now open!*

*Receive an early bird registration rate of \$35 if you register before January 15, 2010. Thereafter the registration fee is \$45. Registration closes on February 15, 2010. Registration includes lunch and your choice of resource materials.*

*For a printable registration form to send to the JPD office with your registration fee in the form of a check or money order click here. (or visit [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org))*

*For an electronic version of the registration form to send via email along with registration fee payment through paypal click here. (or visit [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org))*

*For additional information on the 2010 JPD Worship Arts Festival including the schedule and local area housing accommodations click here. (or visit [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org))*

On **Saturday, February 6, 2010** from 8:50am till 12:35pm Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Baltimore –Washington– Northern Virginia Region will sponsor the program, "**After Copenhagen: How Should Our Chesapeake Region UU Community Take Action?**" at the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax** 2709 Hunter Mill Road Oakton, VA 22124 Directions:

<http://www.uucf.org/content/get-directions-uucf> **The plenary speaker will be Mike Tidwell, founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.** Tidwell's most recent documentary film – "We Are All Smith Islanders" – vividly depicts the dangers of global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. After the plenary, four workshops will be held in two time slots. Participants can attend two workshops. The workshops are "**Addressing Climate Change in the Chesapeake**", "**How to Further Ethical Eating**", "**Preparing for Life After Peak Oil**", "**Resources and Possibilities for Earth Day Programs and Actions**" Please register to attend at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 301-588-1951 or at Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice 8605 Cameron St. Suite 200 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Please give your name, congregation, email and phone number. **Register by Monday, February 1**

## **Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

Minister: Rev. Cynthia Snavelly  
240.475.2111 (cell)  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. John Gaffney  
RE Coordinator: Tisha Richardson  
Music Director: Matthew Rider  
301.741.3464, Mathew.rider@gallaudet.edu  
Board of Trustees:  
President:  
Ken Shilling: 301.801.8803  
Vice President:  
Joe Puccio: 301.352.7828  
Financial Officer:  
Roger Davidson 410.451.9805  
Secretary:  
Laird Towle: 301.464.1159  
Trustees:  
Jackie Lord 301.249.7713  
Jill York: 301.262.1495  
Rev Cyn Snavelly: 240.475.2111 (cell)  
Committee Chairs:  
Worship:  
Karen Scrivo  
Building & Facilities:  
Roger Davidson  
Communications:  
Vacant  
Membership:  
George Schulman  
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:  
Trevor Smith

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**

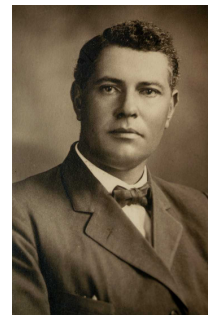
Lorraine Webb, a certified Maryland Notary,  
offers her services, free of charge, to  
Goodloe Memorial members and friends. If you  
would like to utilize her notary services, contact her:  
(301) 218-1516 or [llacey33@verizon.net](mailto:llacey33@verizon.net).

### **Please Buy Giant Scrip**

Use scrip as cash at Giant Food Stores.  
Goodloe makes 5% to 10% each time you shop.  
Contact Deon Merene (240) 678-0262.  
**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 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





## January Calendar for Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 Drumming from the Heart	2
3` 10:30 Worship and RE	4	5 7:30 Board of Trustees 7:30 Spanish Group/culture	6 7:30 Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 10:30 Worship/RE 11:30Potluck 12:45 Worship Associates	11	12 7:15 Buddhist Meditation group	13 7:30 Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 10:30 Worship and RE	18	19 7:30 Spanish Group	20 7:30 Choir Practice	21 7:30pm Goodloe Readers	22	23
24 10:30 Worship/RE 12noon Chinese Buffet 12:45 RE Committee	25	26 7:15 Buddhist meditation group	27 7:30 Choir Practice	28 7:30 Green Sanctuary Group	29	30
31 10:30 Worship and RE	Feb 1	2 7:30 Board of Trustees 7:30 Spanish Group/Culture	3 7:30 Choir Practice	4	5 7:30 Drumming from the Heart	6

### 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

