



Odyssey November 2009

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Ministerial Musings— Rev. Cynthia Snavely

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe:

In September my sister sent a page from the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America Newsletter which included her picture. She is training to be a dive buddy to train paralyzed veterans to take the Handicapped SCUBA Association's certification course. A few weeks ago I heard a piece on NPR about a fishing trip for disabled veterans and another about disabled veterans surfing as part of their therapy. With the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan adding to the population of disabled veterans every day more young men and women are looking for what they can still do not what they cannot.

November 11 is Veterans' Day. "World War I – known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of 'the war to end all wars.'" <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp> I wish it had indeed been the end of all wars. I would love to be a total pacifist, but I am not.

My sister is a veteran. My son-in-law serves in the Army now. This month as we remember the veterans and those currently serving consider writing a letter or sending a package. If you wish you can send a note through www.ansoldier.com or similar programs. May the day come when wars will cease and soldiers will truly be peacekeepers.

Blesses Be,
Cyn

Mystic Journey—Ken Shilling, President

As I write, celebration music is pumping through my body. Reason tempers my disbelief. Yes, we were dancing in worship. Without hesitation, everyone willing and able was dancing in celebration. Incredible, unbelievable, remarkable...in worship!

We allowed a dance troupe to do an entire worship service. They danced to "light" our chalice. They touched us deeply as they moved through a memorial dedication. They explained their passion for dance as amateurs. Their joyful passion radiated and captivated the audience. They created sacred space where it was "okay" for everyone to dance. It was a CON experience for adults!

More people are stretching their comfort zone to try something new. We want to show our interest in newcomers, and our caring for other members. We are able to express concerns about discrimination in the outer world and ask for support. We are able to express some deep hurts, knowing that others will reach out to us in compassion. We are demonstrating spiritual courage to live fully and freely in community. Awesome!

Our keynote speaker for Goodloe Celebration was riveting. Why would anyone want to talk with a Klansman? Why would an African American invite a klansman to his home? Having lived overseas in diplomatic communities, he used his natural curiosity and affinity for all people to talk with Klansmen. His story is a powerful testimony to living a life of love and respect with all people. How do I live my faith?

Our music program has gone contemporary. There is a vibrant energy pulsating through a variety of songs. And now, they even sing with dance troupes.

Upcoming Sunday Services

November 22 Multigenerational Bread Service
Rev. Snavelly and Worship Associates

Bring a loaf of bread to share with those gathered and a commercially packaged loaf to give to the Bowie Food Bank. Guest at Your table boxes will be given out.

November 29 Beneficent or Cruel: How Our World View Affects Our Faith Rev. Snavelly
What do we see when we look at our world—nature red in tooth and claw? beauty?, some of both? What we see often is reflected in how we live.

December 6 Why Dying is a Good Thing

Rev. Snavelly

Some imagine a day when we will not need to die but can remain forever, perhaps in some bodiless “mind only” state. I would not want death to be no more. Death clears away the old so that the new may come. Death as well as birth can be a good thing.

New Unitarian Universalists

A New UU class was held on Sunday, November 8. Three people, who attended the class, became members by signing the book. They are Meg and Matt Tucker and Kevin Smith. Welcome!!

Bowie Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

This annual event sponsored by the Bowie Interfaith Clergy will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30pm at Temple Solel 2901 Mitchellville Rd Bowie, MD 20716-1371. The theme this year will be "Coming to America: the Struggles and the Joys". The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dick Stetler of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. Two foreign exchange students will share about their experiences. Our own Lorraine Webb will be playing the prelude and postlude on harp. An offering of money and of staple goods will be collected for the Bowie Food Pantry.

Mystic Musings continued

Later in October, we will host a regional Green Sanctuary meeting. Other small congregations in region are contacting us. They want to feel connected to other UUs and to learn what others are doing. We even support a local Green Festival or two.

Our religious education program is sending a large number of members to the Multicultural Families day program. They will learn about the needs of different multicultural families. They will come back with more skills and greater awareness to create sacred space for all families.

We are doing a tremendous amount for a small congregation.. We have our own programs that take us out into the community. We are building a network of UU friends for common support on projects. We are growing in diversity and our caring. I am truly astounded at what we are accomplishing.

We are doing things that other congregations do not attempt. We are displaying a courage and a resilience to make a difference in the world. And people from other congregations are saying, “this does not happen in my congregation.” We are not perfect, we are working to improve many things...but we can dance in celebration.

Goodloe Celebration

The October Goodloe Celebration raised \$682 for the Bowie State University scholarship created in honor of Rev. Don S.S. Goodloe. We will deliver a check for \$2000 to the University in December, our second installment in our commitment of \$10,000 in five years. The state of Maryland will match our contributions and when our commitment is completed, endow the fund. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project and program.

UUSJ and ADORE Joint Program with David Slavin

Saturday, November 21, 8:30 – 1:00pm
UU Church of Rockville 100 Welsh Park Dr.
Rockville, MD

A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity (ADORE) speaker is Mr. Slavin; his topic is “Inequality, White Privilege, and Social Control in the US: a historical perspective” There will be a follow-on workshop with David Slavin and workshops showcasing regional social justice award winners:

Joan Darrah, Mt Vernon, recipient of the GLBTQ Award honoring her powerful momentum to repeal the unjust Don't Ask, Don't Tell law. John and Chris Sutton, Arlington, recipients of the UUSJ Giraffe Award honored for their energetic, creative, and highly effective work supporting human rights monitoring and advocacy in Guatemala and building bridges of alliance with new immigrants in the nearby Buckingham neighborhood.

There will be a workshop based on Reaching Out to Become a Public Congregation based on the UU World article by Michael Durrall with Terrie Barr of the UU Church of Rockville and Jacomina DeRegt of the UU Church of Arlington. Join others who want to develop metrics to use in determining whether we are part of a private or public congregation.

<http://uuworld.org/ideas/articles/145381.shtml>

Old Friends Sunday—January 10

On Sunday, January 10 we will be inviting many old friends and past members to attend our service. We will celebrate who we were, who we are, and who we might yet become. Thank you to vice-president, Joe Puccio, for suggesting this service and helping to invite our friends.

New Membership Chairperson

Thank you to George Schulman, who has volunteered to take on the position of membership chair.

Goodloe Board Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2009

Present: Ken Shilling, Rev. Cyn Snavely, 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) Roger was appointed timekeeper for the meeting.
- 2) The Minutes of the October Board Meeting were approved as corrected.
- 3) Because of a small profit made at the Goodloe celebration events, and other contributions, we have more than the necessary funds in the Goodloe Scholarship account to cover this year's contribution (due to be paid in December).
- 4) The various functions of the Membership Committee were discussed at length. Several corrections to Jackie's organizational chart were made. George Schulman was appointed Chairman of the committee; his specific responsibilities remain to be determined following an organizational meeting of the committee.
- 5) The periods Jan/Feb 2011 and Jul/Aug 2011 were approved for the Minister's sabbatical. Karen Scrivo, Louisa Davidson, Roger Davidson, and Dick Morris were appointed an interim Sabbatical Committee to begin making plans.
- 6) The functions of the Committee on Ministry were discussed at length. The following were appointed to the committee: Jill York, Chairman (Board rep.), Nita Daves (RE rep.), Lorraine Webb (Worship rep), and Louisa Davidson (Cong. Rep.). Jill is organizing a congregational survey. Ken will prepare a charge for the committee for insertion into the Policy Manual.
- 7) Ken reported that he had talked with the Chairman of the RE Committee at length regarding recent losses of committee members, teachers, and students. He is satisfied that these were unique events, and not symptomatic of a continuing problem. He does not see any need for Board action at present.

Board Minutes continued

8) Youth Ministry at Goodloe was discussed briefly. The fact that we only have three teens limits the possibilities. It was pointed out that they might play a more active role in the services by doing readings, handling the collections, and presenting the children's story time.

9) Based on a comparison of the duties of various committees as recorded in the Policy Manual and the Organizational Chart prepared by Jackie last spring, Ken made several suggestions for refinements to the chart. Laird was requested to get the Inclement Weather policy published in the Odyssey in December.

10) Leadership development was discussed briefly. It appears that we have four members of the congregation who are interested in taking the Healthy Congregations course, and that the necessary funding is also available.

11) Possible fund raisers were discussed at length. It was decided to participate in the community yard sale at the Baysox Stadium in the spring. Joe Puccio will do some initial organizing, but we need to find a specific person to lead the event.

12) The State of the Congregation was discussed at length. There was general agreement that we frequently have vibrant worship services. Board members spoke at length about how many former members/attendees had just drifted away, and our general lack of a sense of community. It was proposed that we specifically invite some of these folks to an Old Friends Sunday on January 10th. Cyn will prepare a proposal for the service, and after it has been approved by the Board, it will be handed over to George Schulman; Joe and Ken also have an interest in this project. Another idea was that we adopt a family for Thanksgiving. An attempt was made to interest Tom Brenner in this project as he was leaving the building, but he didn't appear to take the bait. It was also pointed out that some on-going community project in which the whole congregation had a role would help build a sense of community. Our lack of an energetic Social Action Committee may be a major factor contributing to our ennui. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 9:20

Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary,
November, 2009

Wishes for Continued Health

This November Odyssey has been put together late and by others due to some recent health concerns of our regular Odyssey editor, Trevor Smith. We wish him continued healing.

A Thanksgiving Prayer by Max Coots

Let us give thanks...

For generous friends...with hearts as big as
hubbard squash
and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and
cucumbers, keep reminding us we had them;

For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as
indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as
eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn -- and
the others -- as plain as potatoes, and so good for
you.

For funny friends, who are as silly as brussel
sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes,
and serious friends as complex as cauliflowers
and as intricate as onions;

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as
subtle as summer squash, as persistent as
parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as
zucchini, and who -- like parsnips -- can be
counted on to see you through the long winter;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the
evening-time, and young friends coming on as
fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around as like
tendrils, and hold us despite our blights, wilts,
and witherings;

And finally, for those friends now gone, like
gardens past, that have been harvested - but who
fed us in their times that we might have life
thereafter;

For all these we give thanks.

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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Goodloe Green Sanctuary:
Goodloe Readers:
John Cole
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Trevor Smith
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.

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 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 January Odyssey: December 15, 2009

**Please email submissions to
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





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November Calendar for Goodloe Memorial

1 10:30 Samhain Worship Associates	2	3 7:30 Board meeting 7:30 Spanish plus	4 7:30 Choir practice	5	6 7:30 Drumming	7
8 10:30 Our Homeless Neighbors Rev. Snively 12:00 New UU	9	10 7:15 Buddhist Meditation	11 7:30 Choir Practice	12	13	14
15 10:30 Prayer Mediation, and Reflection Rev. Snively	16	17 7:30 Spanish	18 7:30 Choir Practice	19 7:30 Goodloe Readers	20	21 UUSJ ADORE program 8:30am- 1:00pm UU Church of Rockville
22 10:30 Multigenerational Bread Service	23	24 7:15 Buddhist Meditation Group	25 7:30 Choir Practice 7:30 Bowie Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service at Temple Solel	26 7:30 Goodloe Greens	27	28
29 10:30 Beneficent or Cruel: How Our World View Affects Our Faith Rev. Snively	30					

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist

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Reverend Cynthia Snavelly

Service and Religious Education 10:30 am Sundays