



Odyssey March 2010

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Ministerial Musings

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial:

Ken Shilling, Karen Scrivo, Tisha Richardson and I are attending a program led by Joseph Priestley District staff called Healthy Congregations. At our first session in January we were asked to come up with a mission statement for our congregation. A mission statement should be able to be known by heart and easily repeated by everyone in the congregation from age 7 through 99 as well as state clearly what the congregation is about.

Tisha and I in a first attempt came up with “Goodloe is a spiritual community sharing awe and creating justice.” We had a good response from the other UUs in the class to this statement. Since then those attending the class and the Goodloe board have suggested some tweaks. Some liked community with no adjectives. Some wanted to add the adjective “beloved” before spiritual community. Some liked “religious” rather than spiritual. Others suggested “community of faith.” The verb “promoting” rather than “creating” was suggested before justice. We struggled with the word “awe” as not particularly understandable for our youngest congregants. “Wonder” was suggested as an alternative. At the moment I like, “Goodloe is a community of hope sharing wonder and working for justice.” I like the word community to show that we are connected to one another. It is this connection, for me, that leads to the rest. I like the phrase “of hope” as the adjective to describe that community because we want something better for ourselves, each other and the wider world. I like the phrase “sharing wonder” to describe the spiritual or religious nature of our community. Another UU minister, Rev. Jane Rzepka, in describing the Unitarian congregation in which she grew up wrote, “We planted daffodils, we looked at the stars, we searched for guppies, we held a worship service at the river. These days we would call it spirituality, I suppose, or earth-centered religion, but then we called it ‘miracle’ and ‘wonder.’ And that rootedness is in my blood as a Unitarian.” I also like

the phrase “working for justice” to describe us. UU minister, Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed noted that once we see our community or connection we see that we must act for justice for all. He writes, “The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.” For me it is the connections, the relationships with all people and all life that leads both to the sense of wonder and to the work for justice.

You will have a turn at this mission statement as well. You are welcome to talk to me and to the board at any time with your ideas, and we will begin to solicit them more fully this month as we consider the mission of our congregation at our fellowship dinner and as we begin working on next year’s budget and pledge drive.

To be able to say who and what we are as Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation and to be able to say it simply and clearly is a gift we can give to ourselves. I offer this start. “Goodloe is a community of hope sharing wonder and working for justice.”

Blessed Be,

Cyn

Mystic Journeys - Ken Shilling

In the next few months, our members will help shape the future of our congregation. Reverend Snavely talks about a mission statement that everyone can remember. We hope to get the congregation involved in suggesting, discussing, and agreeing on a 1 sentence (memorable) mission statement.

In March, we also start our annual canvas or pledge process. We will explain our current expenses, and what we can do to save some costs. We will talk about needs to help serve our members, and dreams to help our congregation grow. Your financial pledges will help us to determine a budget for the congregation.

We have many potential projects, ideas. Maybe we will restart the coffee house. Should we pay down our mortgage? Can we provide personal headphones to help some members hear the worship service? What is our next step for enhancing our diversity? To be successful, we need a group of volunteers who can commit to a project.

We depend on volunteers to fill many positions. We received matching funds from JPD to help us train our volunteers/leaders/staff. We are grateful that people are signing up for training. With more training, we can continually enhance the quality of our programs.

We will also talk about improving our relations within our community with behavioral covenants, or ways to live our values. How do we practice hospitality? Do we listen attentively and compassionately to each other? What encourages us to support each other and deepen our community? Can we deal with conflicts openly and compassionately? Are we willing to acknowledge our mistakes and be willing to forgive each other? These are just a few examples from other congregations that are approaching 'Right Relations' in community.

We want to be the best community we can be. Our Committee on Ministries has provided a survey of what we are doing well, and what needs more attention. We are reviewing many suggestions, and will discuss the survey with you.

It is a good time to consider joining as a member. Members get to vote on the budget, nominations, and other issues. See Reverend Snavelly or myself to discuss what we require for membership.

This is Your Congregation. We are flowing each year to a new future. Your participation is encouraged. Your participation will help us to promote a Healthy congregation.

Sunday Services

March 7 Helping Ourselves and Our Parents Age Well Rev. Snavelly (auction sermon) (moved from February 7)

Almost all of us will need to deal with diminished abilities as we age. Many of us will need to care for parents as they age. Both can be great challenges.

March 14 DST begins – remember to spring ahead

Politics and Religion Rev. Snavelly

“Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Special Collection UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland “*The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland* (UULM-MD) is a statewide

advocacy network that is composed of individual UUs. It works to mobilize and coordinate the advocacy and education of UUs on specific issues. The primary focus of UULM-MD is on the Maryland General Assembly and the executive branch. Federal issues that coincide with our major state issues may be addressed. Partnered with national UU organizations and other like-minded coalitions, UULM-MD provides a voice for UU principles and traditions in the discussions of environmental responsibility and human rights issues.”

<http://www.uulmmd.org/>

March 21 Fearlessly and Faithfully Cyn Snavelly, Tisha Richardson, and Matt Rider

As staff members we begin with each other and the congregation a dialogue on what we believe, what we reject, and how we honor the broad spectrum of beliefs we hold

March 28 Remember that You Were Slaves in Egypt, a Passover Service Rev. Snavelly

“When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time.

Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this” Deuteronomy 24:19-22

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Our Goodloe Guest at Your Table coin boxes collected \$139.33 for the UU Service Committee (UUSC). Many of us, in addition, recently gave to the UUA/UUSC Haiti Relief Fund.

Many UU congregations made special collections for the [UUSC-UUA Joint Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund](#), and many individuals gave generously.

With this support, UUSC was able to send \$50,000 to a joint fund for two organizations – CROSE in Jacmel and COZPAM in Mariani, Port-au-Prince – to buy and distribute food, medicines, and emergency supplies like diapers for babies, in both areas.

Hundreds of thousands of earthquake survivors have left Port-au-Prince seeking help elsewhere and many villages, already hard pressed, have doubled in size. UUSC has been able to get \$35,000 to the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) and \$30,000 to the Lambi Fund for immediate emergency relief in rural communities hosting earthquake survivors. (To learn more about UUSC's work with Haitian grassroots partners, [please visit our website](#).)

UUSC has made these initial grants to enable these grassroots organizations to put their relief programs into action. A UUSC assessment team leaves for Haiti on February 5 for a weeklong mission and will meet with our four current partners and other organizations to discuss next steps for support. When this team returns, we will focus on the next round of emergency grants. Also, around the one-month anniversary of the earthquake; we will provide in-depth, from-the-ground reporting about the situation and our recovery work. In the meantime, [please visit our website](#), to which we're posting frequent updates.

In the midst of the terrible devastation, it was the Haitians who rescued each other and set up camps for the displaced when international aid was bottlenecked. Consistent with the Unitarian Universalist recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we believe that we must extend our hands to Haitians in solidarity and not charity.

At UUSC we deeply appreciate the solidarity with the Haitian people that you have shown, and with your support we will work with them as they determine and act on the best ways to rebuild their country.

Sincerely,

Charlie Clements
President & CEO
Sunday Services

Melissa Cox Concert for Goodloe Scholarship Fund

On Sunday, March 21 at 2:00pm Melissa Cox will perform a concert at Goodloe to benefit the Goodloe Scholarship Fund at Bowie State University.

She plays and sings Celtic/World inspired folk rock <http://www.melissacoxmusic.net/> . Donations are \$5 at the door. The concert is for all ages and is open to the public.

DRAFT: Alcohol Policy

The Goodloe Board has discussed an alcohol policy for Goodloe. We want to be respectful and inclusive of people who have concerns with alcohol use. We have drafted a policy. Please provide your comments (if any) to the Goodloe Board.

"Alcohol Policy: In order to promote a family friendly atmosphere, and acknowledge the concerns some of our members and friends have with alcohol use, alcohol will not be served at Goodloe sponsored events, whether held on or off the Goodloe premises. This constraint does not apply to any family or privately sponsored events wherever they are held. Whenever alcohol is served we urge all parties who imbibe to do so responsibly."

PRISCM

Partnership for Renewal in Southern & Central Maryland

TRANSPORTATION & JOBS PUBLIC MEETING

MARCH 15TH 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Gethsemane United Methodist Church, 910 Addison RD S Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743

PRISCM leaders will present their testimony about the need for public transportation and the current financial crisis and potential solutions before the Metro board and other responsible authorities.

-----Join us to Help Make Transportation -----

Accessible, Affordable, and Safe & bring your stories too.

Congresswoman Donna Edwards and others have agreed to attend and respond to PRISCM leaders about the need for jobs in the county.

Fundraiser: Goodloe Yard Sale May 1st 2010

Start saving items you no longer need! Clean your attic, basement, and garage!

The Spring Yard Sale will be the major fundraiser for Goodloe this year. We need donations of items in good condition. Please help make this a successful event by donating your time and effort. We need volunteers to accept donations, display/price items, sell/help on the day of the sale, cleanup, and take unsold items to charities. Emails and announcements will provide more information as we get closer to the sale. Exact date is still TBD, but we expect it to be near the end of April. Contact Jackie Lord for more information.

Warm Nights

Goodloe Memorial will be serving dinner to guests of the Warm Nights Shelter on Fri April 2nd when the Warm Nights Shelter will be residing at Village Baptist 1950 Mitchellville Rd. Volunteers are needed to prepare or serve food (lasagna, salad, rolls and desert). Contact Jackie Lord 301-249-7713.

Annual Congregational Dinner

April 10th 6:00pm Potluck bring a dish to share. Kickoff for pledge drive. Entertainment by members of Goodloe, conversation on mission statement, alcohol policy and behavioral covenant. Child care will be provided.

Christmas in April

This year Goodloe will be participating with the group from Davies Memorial to do home cleanup and repairs on Sat. April 24th. Robert Willis will be coordinating 301-203-9425, willisedu@aol.com there will be a signup sheet in the fellowship area.

Save Money Workshop

March 28, 1pm at Goodloe Memorial Cheryl Woerner shares information on how to save on housing, health, food, travel and more. Registration is \$25 advance or \$30 at the door includes a copy of her book *DC (and elsewhere) on The Cheap*. For

information or to register contact cwoerner@yahoo.com, 202-403-3713

Easter Services Sun. April 4th,

8:30am at Goodloe.

A celebration of spring with Rev. Snavelly and Rev. Gaffney, with Loraine Webb on harp. Please bring food to share.

10:30 am at Goodloe a Celebration of Christian Easter holiday, with Rev. Snavelly and Goodloe Choir.

2010 JPD Spring Conference.

Redefining "the Good Life": Faith and Values for a Sustainable future. Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler. April 16-17th Clarion Hotel Park Ridge, King of Prussia, PA. Registration forms available in fellowship area Goodloe Memorial.

UU Camps and Conferences.

Consider a Unitarian Universalist Camp or conference for you, your family or your children this summer. Goodloe members are long-time participants in UUMAC, the UU Mid-Atlantic Conference www.uumac.org See information on all camps and conferences at www.cu2c2.org

Unitarians and Universalists of Washington D.C.

A new book exploring the history of Unitarian Universalist congregations by Bruce T. Marshall is now available from Arcadia Publishing.

Building a Vocal Community: the Power of Song

A workshop led by Dr. Ysaye M Barnwell, composer, song writer, author and actress. Sweet Honey In The Rock, April 3rd 10am-3pm Paint Branch Universalist Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road Adelphi Md. Fee \$25 includes lunch, open to students 15 and older. For information and to register contact dart@pbuuc.org 301-445-2821.

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
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Laird Towle: 301.464.1159
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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 (410)-693-4457

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

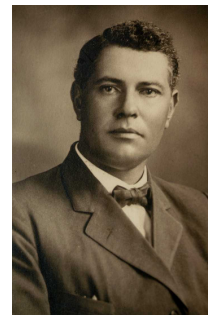
Use scrip as cash at Giant Food Stores.
Goodloe makes 5% to 10% each time you shop.
Contact Deon Merene (240) 678-0262.

**There is no additional cost to purchase Giant
Scrip. Use the scrip like a gift card at the
check out line.**

Deadline for Next Odyssey: March 15th, 2010

**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



March Calendar for Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:30 Spanish Group	3 7:30 Choir Practice	4	5 7:30 Drumming from the heart	6
76 10:30 Worship/RE	8	9 7:15 Buddhist Meditation	10 7:30 Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship/RE 11:30 Potluck 12:45 Worship Associates	15	16 7:30 Spanish Group	17 7:30 Choir Practice	18 7:30 Goodloe Readers	19	20
21 10:30 Worship/RE	22	23 7:15 Buddhist Meditation Group	24 7:30 Choir Practice	25 7:30 Green Sanctuary Group	26	27
28 10:30 Worship/RE 12pm Chinese Buffet 12:45 RE Committee	29	30	31 7:30 Choir Practice	April 1	2 7:30 Drumming from the heart	3

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation



1540C Pointer Ridge Place
 Bowie, MD 20716
 301 218-5277
www.goodloeuu.org
 Reverend Cynthia Snively
 Service and Religious Education 10:30 am Sundays

