



Odyssey May 2010

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial:

We began in April and will continue in May to collect financial pledges for the July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011 Goodloe fiscal year. By our annual meeting on Sunday, May 16 we should have a budget to be voted on as well as names for open board positions on which to vote.

Many see budgets and board elections as the humdrum of congregational life, but it is just these humdrum things that enable us to keep doing the work of being a Unitarian Universalist congregation.

It is our volunteer officers and the volunteers working with them, who see that the mortgage gets paid, broken utilities are fixed, music and religious education curricula are bought. It is often these people who see in others of you leadership skills to be cultivated and tapped as they look for their own replacements and for others to work with them. It is these volunteer officers and the volunteers who work with them who know that what they are doing is not just paying the mortgage or fixing the plumbing or authorizing money to be spent on books but building a community. Thank you.

Thank you to this past year's Board of Trustees:

President-- Ken Shilling

Vice-President-- Joe Puccio

Secretary-- Laird Towle

Financial Officer-- Roger Davidson

and Trustees at Large-- Jackie Lord and Jill York

Thank you also to Treasurer-- Hazel Elbert

Collector- Sid Soderholm

Scrip Seller-- Deon Merene

Committee on Ministry Members:

Nita Page-Daves

Lorraine Webb

Jill York

Louisa Davidson

Nominating Committee Members:

Joe Puccio

Matt Rider

Sally Raymond

Worship Committee Chair: Karen Scrivo

Worship Committee Members: Steve Buckingham, Roxie Wickline, Kevin Smith, Jill York

Religious Education Committee Chair-- Sally Raymond, who laid down this mantle this year.

Religious Education Committee Members: Dick Morris, Sid Soderholm

Plus Betsy Delaney and Diane Rappaport, who lay down these volunteer commitments this year

Religious Education Teachers

Sid Soderholm, volunteer

Kimberley Fizedale, stipended

Odyssey Editor-- Trevor Smith

Order of Service Editor- Sally Raymond

Order of Service Copier-- Hazel Elbert

Greeters-- Marlene Towle, Nancy Choice, Barbara Morris, Janet Niederberger- who moved from the area this spring, and Pam Schulman, who picked up the mantle from Janet

plus David Goodkind, and Marcia Giger, and Freda Mauldin, who passed away this winter

Pianist-- Lorraine Webb

Choir Members-- Dick Wobus, Dick Morris, Roger Davidson, Steve Buckingham, Trevor Smith, Barbara Puccio, Roxie Wickline, Melody Warner, Jill York

Webmaster: John Pietras

Keeper of the Goodloe Database: Nancy Choice

Facilitator of the Chinese Buffet, Spanish, and Buddhist Meditation groups: Tom Brenner

Facilitators of the Goodloe Greens Michelle Malta and Rob Whitaker, who laid down this job this year
Goodloe Green members: Laird Towle, Ken Shilling, Jackie Lord

Facilitator of the Goodloe Kiva Group: Laird Towle

Organizer of the Sunday Coffee Volunteers and Buyer of Coffee, tea, paper goods, etc. Jackie Lord
Sunday Coffee Volunteers

Jackie Lord

Marlene Towle

Roxie Wickline

Lisa Jacobus, who tried this position this year and has recently, laid it down

Barbara Puccio

Buyer of Toner, Paper, Office Supplies, etc.-- Hazel Elbert

And the people I inevitably forgot. It takes us all to make this community function. Thank you.

Blessed Be,

Cyn

Report on RE Program—Dick Morris

Special Events

On Easter Sunday, the children joined in Goodloe's annual Can Hunt For Justice. Instead of Easter eggs, they searched for cans to give to the food pantry. Thanks to the extra canned goods donated by the Goodloe community, our children (ranging in age from three years old to ten) were able to collect more than 60 cans during the hunt. After the hunt, our young friends decorated Easter eggs and enjoyed "goodie" bags provided by Goodloe and the Goodloe RE committee.

Coming Up

Upcoming special events include a May Day celebration (including May Pole dance) on Sunday, May 2 and a movie marathon night for Middle Schoolers and their guests. The marathon is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon/early evening of Saturday, May 22. Those interested in either attending, providing food/snacks, and/or serving as chaperones should contact the CRE via e-mail at tisha@tisharichardson.com.

The Parent Effectiveness Training class/support group will meet on the third Sunday, May 23, beginning at 12 noon in the blue room. Each meeting includes a video/audio presentation and opportunities to discuss and/or support current family issues/concerns. This group is open to parents, grandparents and caregivers of children of all ages

and needs. Again, speak with Tisha Richardson for additional information about this on-going group. Drop-Ins are welcomed.

RE Class Time

The PreK/K Class is about to move into the final section of the "Peace-Making Skills for Little Kids" curriculum. Sid Soderholm reports, "This is where we integrate all the earlier lessons and talk explicitly about what we can do to help resolve the conflicts that sometimes arise in life." Recently, after their lesson, the class had a chance to move outside into a glorious spring day to explore and discover the blossoms, flowers, leaves and insects that are coming out around us.

Students in Kimberly Spencer's elementary class (ages 6-11) have been focusing on various issues of fairness and justice this year. The curriculum examines how to be fair in relating to people around differences in age, gender, family types, abilities and race. Kimberly reports, "We are working on a social justice project to be presented at the end of the year in which we will summarize our conversations with members of our congregation about their memories of the segregation era, both here in Prince George's County and elsewhere. We will take pictures of the members with the students and bind the book for them to take home. Most recently, we learned about child bondage in India, where the children work up to 12 hours a day weaving rugs. We wrote letters to a few of them. One student sent an obsidian rock to her worker, and another simply wrote, 'I will help you.'"

In April, the middle school class focused on the fight for accessibility, recognition, and civil rights for people with disabilities. We watched a video (www.ada.gov/mycountryvideo/hi_speed_qt/mycountrydsgallery.htm) about their lives and struggle for equality in this country. This month, we will be discussing the history, causes and after effects of the Internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Volunteers Needed

Interested in volunteering with Goodloe's RE program? We need teachers (summer and next year), teaching assistants (always), folks to coordinate special RE events, and RE committee members. Speak with CRE, Tisha Richardson via e-mail or after service on the third and fourth Sundays on

information on how your spiritual practice can include and support our youth.

Fellowship Dinner

About 26 people and 4 youth attend the potluck dinner on 10 April 2010. We had plenty of food and a UU trivia challenge with entertaining questions.

The Goodloe Board demonstrated shared leadership as different board members took turns to present significant issues for congregation to consider. Reverend Cyn presented a new mission statement that is repeatable. Jackie presented a proposal that indicated respect for people who have health or other concerns about alcohol at official functions. Ken presented a summary of behavioral covenants and why they are helpful as a spiritual practice.

Roger presented a request for annual pledge. Like other congregations, we have a slight deficit that we need to address. We will have a "no-frills" budget like last year. We are relying on pledge statements so we can realistically assess our financial status for next year. Reverend Cyn talked about generosity during tough economic times. Make a realistic pledge and still be able to pay your bills. Laird presented a proposal to pay down the mortgage by \$50,000 so we can reduce the monthly mortgage payments. This will help balance next year's budget (and part of this year's).

We had open discussion on the issues. The freedom of discussion encouraged members to raise other issues. We should all be mindful of "sugary" snacks when we have children with sugar health concerns. We talked about being an open, caring community when members can freely say "I have this concern, and I want to see what the community can do about it."

We are in relation to each other. We can be mindful of each other if we can freely and fearlessly speak to each other about issues. Our willingness to share becomes a spiritual practice. A behavioral covenant is a way of saying "this is important to the way we relate to each other" and "we do this out of respect to each other".

Jill has helped set up a caring group and a music fundraiser

Mystic Journeys – Ken Shilling

We are interconnected. "I am because we are." We choose to join together in community and consider each other as part of our family. Like families, we have our difficulties. The best spiritual communities find open and respectful ways to address and resolve differences harmoniously.

As your president, I have listened to individuals share stories of how they were hurt by words or behaviors. I have shared the pain of their hurt. And this happens in many congregations where nice people run into conflict and do not know how to face the conflict. Yet, it is not my responsibility to resolve their challenges. In search of a better way, I eagerly signed up for training in Healthy Congregations.

There are a number of unhealthy behaviors: avoidance, walls of silence, gossiping about others. In some cases, nice people avoid conflict but voice their pain to others not involved. These behaviors do not show respect and they add to the conflict.

As we say in our words of welcome, we encourage each other to speak "freely, fearlessly, and faithfully". We must be willing and able to talk directly to each other in honest and respectful ways. "When you said this, I felt rejected. It may not have been your intent, but I felt hurt."

We must be mindful of our interactions. We cannot assume that everyone will understand us in the same way, or even agree with our way. We must accept that even with best intentions we may say or do something that upsets a dear friend. We must be willing to share in each other's pain. We must be willing to acknowledge that our own words or actions may have caused pain. This is soul work.

During our fellowship dinner, we talked about behavioral covenants. We talked about being mindful of another person's needs. For example, we do not smoke in buildings. Should we recognize another's health concerns regarding alcohol, and not serve alcohol at official events? This free and open discussion encouraged others to speak about other health concerns that were not public knowledge.

As one of your leaders, I share responsibility for creating safe and sacred space. We strive to be responsive to accessibility needs. We should also be responsive to health needs, or resolution of conflict needs. I want our members to be able to say “I have a need, and I want to know what the community can do about it.”

Many congregations are discussing and accepting behavior covenants. Each congregation is different. The covenant is a mutual agreement on how we relate to each other. It is a spiritual practice in mindful listening and forgiving. It takes courage to talk openly and to trust that others will respond with respect.

We will have different views. We will only reach mutual understanding when we can talk freely, fearlessly, and faithfully. May it be so.

Goodloe Board Meeting Minutes April 6, 2010

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

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

Business:

- 1) **Minutes:** The Minutes of the March Board Meeting were approved as corrected.
- 2) **Fundraising via the Goodloe website:** The following motions were approved, and are to be added to the Policy Manual:
Motion 1: To allow Goodloe’s President or Vice President, with the concurrence of the Board in each instance,
 - a) To formally register Goodloe’s website as an affiliated or associate with another website. The first of these associations is to be with Amazon.com.
 - b) To Direct Goodloe’s webmaster to place a link, or links, on Goodloe’s Website to the affiliated website.**Motion 2:** To direct Goodloe’s webmaster to:
 - a) Create separate “Support Goodloe” sub-page on Goodloe’s website.
 - b) Place a link, or links, to Amazon.com on the “Support Goodloe” sub-page, after the Vice President formally registers Goodloe as an Amazon.com associate.

The purpose of these actions is to generate a financial stream from the affiliated website to Goodloe in compensation for users who reach the affiliated website via links on Goodloe website. The President or Vice President should not enter into any agreement that incurs a financial cost or requires an exclusive agreement.

- 3) **The proposed mortgage pay down/refinance issue** was discussed at length. The Board agreed to accept the bank’s offer of refinancing at 7 % APR with a pay down of \$50,000. That would reduce our mortgage balance to about \$164,000, and our monthly mortgage payments to about \$1,519 vs. the current \$2,100. Thus, this action would reduce our cash outflow by about \$7,000 per year and bring our current operating expenses roughly in balance with our current expenses. In addition, the Board agreed to present this proposal to the membership at the congregational dinner on April 10th for discussion, and to formally bring the issue before the membership for a vote at a membership meeting following the services on Sunday April 25th, assuming there was general support for the action.
- 4) **The schedule of special meetings** for the balance of this fiscal year was discussed at length and the following plan adopted:

10 April – Congregational dinner/pledge drive kickoff. Preparations are in a state of flux. Topics to be discussed:
 - Dinner
 - Introduction – Ken
 - Mission Statement – Cyn? (per Ken’s previously published agenda)
 - Alcohol Policy – (per Ken’s previously published agenda)
 - Behavioral Covenants - (per Ken’s previously published agenda)
 - Financial Reports:
 - Current Year’s Fiscal Status – Roger
 - Appeal for Generous Pledging – Cyn
 - Proposal for Mortgage Pay down & Refinancing – Laird
 - Feedback on the three items above – Moderated by Ken
25 April – Special Congregational Meeting to vote on final mortgage pay down/refinance proposal.
Moderated by Ken.

30 April (or before) – Meeting with bank to implement revised mortgage.

04 May – Regular Board meeting to finalize budget for 2010-2011 in light of the above.

16 May – Annual Meeting for Elections and Presentation of new budget, etc.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 9:35

**Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary,
April 7, 2010**

Meetings

We will hold the annual meeting for election of officers on Sunday **16 May 2010**. Any Goodloe member talk to the nominations committee about their desire to serve our community in ways they are best able.

We will also discuss the Goodloe Budget for the year starting 1 July 2010. Remember your pledge is vital to the financial health of our congregation. We will base the budget on your pledge commitments.

The UU World has presented the recommendations to change the Annual General Assembly for conducting business of our faith. The Fifth Principle group (justice and equity) state that only the people who can afford the expense are the delegates for General Assembly. They assert that this is not representative governance. They want to change the General Assembly to every other year. They want for the UUA to pay the expenses for delegates to attend. They would have fewer delegates. It is anticipated that the expense of General Assembly will double from 1 million to more than 2 million; again 1 million every year equates to 2 million every two years.

Please read your UU World or check the UUA website for more information on these changes. We will provide instructions to our GA delegates.

Service Topics

May 2 info coming from Jill York Worship Associates

9 Images of a Mother God Rev. Snavelly
(no potluck on Mother's Day- Potluck moved to third Sunday)

Many say that no word or image can describe the holy, and I agree. Yet, we keep attempting to put into pictures or words what seems sacred to us. On this Mother's Day I consider what people have tried to express about what they consider holy through feminine images of God.

16 Flower Service Worship Associates multigen (Potluck followed by Annual Meeting)

(bring a flower from your yard, the roadside, or a shop to be shared)

In this service we represent the sharing of our unique gifts by bringing a flower, which someone else will take home and receiving a flower which someone else has brought.

<http://archive.uua.org/aboutuu/flowercommunion.html#about>

23 Covenantal Behavior/ Enforced Behavior Rev. Snavelly

We have been talking at board meetings and in some congregational meetings about behavioral covenants. Today I will talk about the difference in changing our behaviors based on our concern for others in our community and being forced to change our behaviors by imposed rules.

30 Let There be Peace on Earth-- a Memorial Day Service Rev. Snavelly

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”(Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller). In a world town about by wars, we consider how peace can begin with each one of us.

June 6 Gay and Straight Together and Proud Rev. Snavelly

“Forty years ago, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted police harassment that had become all too common for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Out of this resistance, the LGBT rights movement in America was born. During LGBT Pride Month, we commemorate the events of June 1969 and commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans.” (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride month, 2009, by the President of the United States of America A Proclamation Barak Obama)

13 Religious Education Sunday Tisha Richardson

Java, Jazz and Conversation

The local talent is lining up as Goodloe Memorial U. U. Congregation in Bowie, Maryland holds its second

monthly coffeehouse night on May 22nd from 7:30 to 10:00 p. m. Everyone, from age 12 and up, is welcome to come and participate. There will be a space for performing music, poetry, and stand-up comedy (in good taste). Singers, mimes, actors, musicians, magicians and other performers are encouraged to show off their talents. A quiet nook will be available for those who just want to chat. Snacks, coffee and tea will be on hand. \$5 is the general suggested donation; performers are asked to donate \$1. A donation for refreshments or your contribution of food or nonalcoholic drinks is encouraged. Please call Rev. Cyn Snavelly, 240.475.2111 (cell), for details.

Partnership for Renewal in Southern and Central Maryland (PRISCM) Hosts Candidates Forum for Those Running for Prince George's County Executive

All six candidates have agreed to be a part of this forum. PRISCM hopes to attract 500 people to attend. The event will be held on Sunday, June 27 from 3:30pm-5:00pm at St. Paul's Baptist Church 6611 Walker Mill Rd Capitol Heights, MD 20743-4318.

Second Friday Adult Religious Education

On Friday, May 14 at 7:30pm we will watch a video from "Understanding Institutional Racism" by Patricia M. Bridol and hold a discussion of the video.

Open Door Housing Fund – Safe and Socially Responsible Investing UUs invest well in a place that does good

Several years ago the Endowment Fund Committee of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church made investments in affordable housing in metro Washington by lending the UU Affordable Housing Corporation, now Open Door Housing, substantial amounts of money. As one of more than 300 institutions and individuals investing in Open Door, they have helped to finance thousands of units of affordable housing in this area—all while making up to 3% interest. This allows Open Door to make short-term, low interest loans to tenant associations and nonprofit and for profit local affordable housing

providers, preserving affordable housing, preventing foreclosure and financing "green housing. When these projects are completed and sold or rented, Open Door's loans are repaid and the money is available to be loaned out again. How do Cedar Lane's loans look in this economic climate? The fact that they are being paid 3% guaranteed interest on these loans and that their capital is intact certainly beats the returns over the last several years on almost all of their other investments. How about your investments? Open Door has received a clean bill of health from the auditors for the last fiscal year and is well managed. As we come out of the current recession, there will be even better opportunities to help provide financing for affordable housing due to the reduction in the costs related to these housing projects. More Open Door loans will be sought because of an increasing demand for housing—especially if the anticipated second wave of foreclosures is not diverted. Open Door can't meet that need without your help. Please take this opportunity to make a sound investment while satisfying the desire to help solve an enormous social problem. UUs started the UU Affordable Housing Corp in 1989 to create affordable housing for working families and residents with special needs. Our desire to maintain a leading role in affordable housing is carried on by the UU Interfaith Advisory Committee to Open Door. The UUA matches congregational investments of up to \$10,000. Is your congregation invested? Open Door is a designated Related Organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association because of our shared principles and work

Congregations represented and Committee members are:

Arlington – Mary Lynn Ernstthal

Cedar Lane – Jay Schneider

Fairfax – Wini Atlas

Paint Branch – Carol Carter Walker

Reston – Anne Thomas

River Road – Jack Edmondson

Rockville – Brian Sullivan and Terrie Barr.

For more information, go to:

<http://opendoorhousingfund.org/> or contact Kathy Latulippe at 301 588 5533

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
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Laird Towle: 301.464.1159
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Jackie Lord 301.249.7713
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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

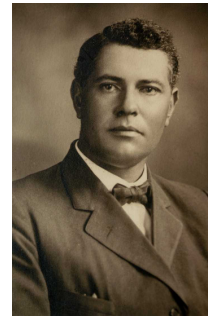
Use scrip as cash at Giant Food Stores.
Goodloe makes 5% to 10% each time you shop.
Contact Deon Merene (240) 678-0262.

**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: May 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



May Calendar for Goodloe Memorial Unitarian 7sday

Friday

Saturday

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

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

