



# Odyssey October 2009

*Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

## **Ministerial Musings**

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe:

October will be a very full month for our congregation. We will begin the month by hosting our third annual Goodloe celebration, which is a fundraiser for the scholarship we set up in Rev. Goodloe's name at Bowie State University. When we first set up the scholarship we budgeted \$1000 annually, but then we learned that if we committed to give \$10,000 over the course of five years, the state of Maryland would match our gift and the scholarship would be endowed. We gave \$2000 in 2008 and are on our way to be able to give \$2000 in 2009. Please come out to either the afternoon program at the Goodloe Alumni House across from Bowie State on October 2 or the evening program at Goodloe Memorial on October 9 (the program will be the same each date) and bring friends and family.

On October 11 many Unitarian Universalists will be joining with others around the country for National Equality Day, a day to stand up for the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Some Unitarian Universalists will hear our denominational president, Peter Morales, preach at All Souls, Unitarian in DC and then will march at 12noon to the 2:00 rally on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

That same weekend, October 10 and 11 Unitarian Universalists will be represented by a booth at the DC Green Festival at the DC Convention Center. UUSJ is seeking volunteers to staff the booth, so if you are interested, please let them know at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org)

Then on Saturday, October 24 Goodloe will host the regional Green Sanctuary meeting. It should be great. Please come, and, again, bring your friends.

For a little congregation in a small denomination we are doing much. October should be a smashingly exciting Goodloe UU month.

Blessed Be,

Cyn

## **A Mystic's Journey**

We have a great community. As I talked to other UUs in our district, they are amazed at what we accomplish for our size. We have a building. We are a Welcoming Congregation. We have applied for Green Sanctuary Certification. We are partnered with an historical black university. We are more Multicultural than many UU congregations. This is a tremendous testimony to the love and dedication you all have for our community.

I have grown-up in this community. My journey is one of a white, straight, male from a family culture that did not share feelings, nor talk about sex or death. In our UU celebrations, and training, I have learned to express my feelings. I have talked with our youth about sexual identity and relationships and about making informed choices. I celebrate life as we honor our loved ones in our memorial services. As I have learned from our multigenerational community, I have grown more whole, happier, and more compassionate as a person.

I also know the harshness of not being accepted, or "not fitting in". I know the pain that comes from disputes in a multi-faith family. I know the loss of family members who struggled with addiction or alcoholism, or failed to care for themselves, or committed suicide in great despair. I am saddened when families reject their children because of sexual orientation. I know rejection for how I look, or suspicion because of my UU faith.

This is why I Stand On the Side of Love. You will see me wearing this UU badge of Love. Now you know my story behind the badge. There are other stories behind my UU rainbow yarmulke and my UU prayer beads. As your leader, I am a colorful step beyond conventional dress. I rub my hands to show spiritual appreciation for a moving choral. Learning from our youth, I show silent agreement and excitement with my hands. Okay, I still have that impish teenage urge to push the boundaries... to be alive, to celebrate.

I do this with spiritual intent to broaden and

deepen our community. Some people have told me we need to liven up our Amen song. They don't want to challenge our conventions. So I will play a tambourine during Amen. As a white male, I can do this and be accepted. And I trust I can get encouragement from our choir director for this celebration. I do this for all of us.

We come from different families and each family has a different culture. We choose to join in community together, and live as a spiritual family to each other. We are all different and we all want acceptance. I was accepted when I walked in the door. I stand in my colorful array in the name of Love for the next person who walks in our door.

May we accept them as they are. May we invite and involve them in our community. May we encourage them to grow to a deeper, wholesome sense of Love. Love of their selves, Love of beloved community, Love of the Divine Mystery of Life. I have grown with your Love. There is a great need for Love in this world. May we be the Love that we want to see in this world.

**Blessed be, Ken**

### **Upcoming Sunday Services**

**October 4** Unitarian Universalism: The Multicultural Dream and the White Upper Middle Class Reality. Rev. Snavelly

As I transferred from the United Methodist ministry to the Unitarian Universalist ministry some ten years ago I left behind many of my working class congregants and many of my colleagues of color. I moved into a much whiter much more affluent denomination. Today we consider how Unitarian Universalism might become more inclusive.

<http://www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml> Association Sunday.

A special collection for the Unitarian Universalist Association will be taken.

**October 11** Paint Branch UU Dancers

**October 18** Guest Speaker: Jannah bint Hannah Jannah bint Hannah is an American Muslim grandmother, feminist, librarian, musician, linguist, dancer, and queer activist. She cultivates a global consciousness, while her main cultural areas of interest include the Mediterranean, Middle East, South Asia, and Central Asia. She serves as moderator of the Yahoo group Lesbian Muslims, sponsored by al-Fatiha Foundation.

**October 25** Bless the Children Rev. Snavelly

What kind of world do we want to leave to our children? What commitments will we make today in order to do that? (UNICEF Coin Boxes will be distributed)

**November 1** DST ends Samhain Worship Associates

### ***UUSJ Awards Dinner Sunday, October 25 5:30pm Positano Ristorante Italiano***

4940-4948 Fairmont Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814

And the Winners of the 2009 Regional Social Justice Awards are:

#### **UU Interfaith Affordable Housing Award**

Larry Platt, K&L Gates, for 20 years of pro bono legal work

#### **UUSJ Collaborative Program Award**

Children in the Fields Committee, River Road UU Congregation

#### **UUSJ GLBTQ Award**

Joan Darrah, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

#### **UUSJ Giraffe Award**

John and Chris Sutton, UU Church of Arlington

#### **UUSJ Economic Justice Award**

Ending Global Poverty Task Force, UU Congregation of Fairfax

#### **UUSJ Youth Award**

YRUU Class of 2009, UU Congregation of Columbia

**Ten congregations, 20 nominations, amazing feats of faith and justice.**

We commend our winners and all nominees for these regional social justice awards. We hope you will join us in celebrating these leaders and in hearing their inspiring stories—

Appetizers and a three course dinner. Choose Lasagna Bolognese, Chicken Parmigiana or Cheese Manicotti with Homemade Italian breads and Italian layered cake for dessert, hot tea and coffee. Free parking. Contact Rev. Cyn Snavelly at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 301-588-1951. Tickets are \$80.00. The Second Annual Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala feeds the UUSJ Collaborative Fund, UUSJ's way of meeting its goal of increasing the frequency, impact and visibility of UU collaborative efforts in the region. The UUSJ Collaborative Fund is a grant program promoting cooperation to enhance the impact of social justice endeavors among congregations, organizations and individuals. The Goodloe Celebration is a recipient of a Collaborative Fund grant.

## **5th Annual Joseph Priestley District Anti-Racism Conference**

Saturday, October 17 8:00am to 7:30pm  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis  
333 Dubois Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Keynote Address: Making Multiculturalism Real: A Leap of Faith by Janice Marie Johnson

Janice Marie Johnson serves as the UUA's Director of the Office of Racial and Ethnic Concerns in the Identity-Based Ministries Staff Group. She is deeply committed to multiracial, multiethnic, and multicultural community. In fact, she believes that Unitarian Universalism deserves no less. Janice is a religious educator who is an ardent believer in the power of the collaborative process. Her maxim is "Masakhane," a rich and resonant word from the Nguni language -- one of the many languages of South Africa. Loosely translated into English it means, "Let us build together." Janice takes her maxim seriously, very seriously.

Workshops to include:

- Multiculturalism in Action - Creating environments for multicultural exploration. Janice Marie Johnson
- UU Multi-Cultural Families - Religion, Realities and Responsibilities -- led by Bob Throne
- Affirming a Multicultural Unitarian Universalist Identity – led by Natalie Fenimore
- Multicultural Literature for Children and Congregations – led by Sara Gondwe
- What is the Journey Toward Wholeness? – led by Om Prakash
- White Parents with Kids of Color (Panel and Dialogue) – led by Ann Ulmschneider
- Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color: Mosaic Project Findings – led by Laura Spencer
- Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color: District support for Communities of Color – led by Laura Spencer

Set aside the date, for more information as it becomes available, contact the JPD Website:

<http://www.facebook.com/l/;jpdoua.org>

## **Third Annual Goodloe Celebration Features Daryl Davis Speaking on his Conversations with Members of the Ku Klux Klan**

Friday, October 2 at 1:30pm at the Goodloe Alumni House across from Bowie State University

And Friday, October 9 at 6:30pm at Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation 1540C Pointer Ridge Place Bowie, MD. (Finger foods needed—please sign up to bring an appetizer or dessert. Sign the list at Goodloe or contact Rev. Cyn)

This program is a fundraiser for the Goodloe Memorial Scholarship at Bowie State University. The program will feature the African American musician and author Daryl Davis speaking on his conversations with members of the Ku Klux Klan.

<http://www.daryldavis.com/> Tickets to the program (\$8 student, \$12 individual, \$25 family) may be bought by contacting Rev. Cynthia Snavely at [CSnavely@uuma.org](mailto:CSnavely@uuma.org) or 240-475-2111. Donations to the scholarship may be made by sending a check to the congregation and noting Goodloe Scholarship in the memo line. Sponsored by Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation, the Diversity and Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) of Paint Branch UU Church. Financial support has been received for this event from the Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Collaborative Fund of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. We also thank the Bowie State Alumni Association for the use of the Goodloe Alumni House. The support is much appreciated.

## **JPD-Sponsored Coalition Based Community Organizing Workshop**

Saturday, October 3 10:00am-4:00pm  
First Unitarian Church  
730 Halstead Road  
Wilmington, DE

Do you want to know how to work in your community to transform it? Do you want to know how to partner with others outside of your faith community to do this work? The Joseph Priestley District is offering training and networking opportunities for congregations involved in Coalition Based Community Organizing or those who are interested or curious about how CBCOs can help your congregations do transformative work in the larger community. If you would like to empower your congregation to do the greater work of transforming the society at a larger level by working in a diverse, interfaith organization, then CBCOs may be a good opportunity. Rev. Louise Green, Social Justice Minister of All Souls, Unitarian, Washington, DC, is a long time community organizer and community

organizer trainer. She will provide you with examples of various Interfaith Coalitions, will explain how they function as agents of change, and explore how your congregation can become part of a CBCO and can function well in the interfaith environment of a CBCO. If you are already doing an Interfaith Based Coalition Ministry you will have the opportunity to learn new ideas and expand your knowledge and network with others about your experiences. At the end of the day we will be discussing the formation of a District Social Justice Committee. Each congregation is asked to choose at least two representatives to attend the training. This is an opportunity for them to begin networking as members of a District Social Justice Committee. We will form a working group to aid in the programming and planning for upcoming JPD Social Justice Committee meetings. We especially welcome the input of those who are interested in membership of the district committee and we will be in contact with you as we plan our first meeting. Registration forms for the meeting will be made available on line soon at [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org)

### **Working Together for Green Communities: Annual Regional Green Sanctuary Meeting at Goodloe**

Saturday, October 24 8:30am-2:00pm  
Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
1540C Pointer Ridge Place Bowie, MD 20716  
[www.goodloeuu.org](http://www.goodloeuu.org)  
8:30-9am Registration  
9-9:30am Opening Service: "Atlas Can Use a  
Hand" Rob Whitaker  
9:30-10:30am Key Note Speaker: Cheryl Cort from  
Coalition for Smarter Growth  
[www.smartergrowth.net](http://www.smartergrowth.net)  
10:30-10:45am Break  
10:45-11:30am Weatherization Project  
Steve Buckingham  
11:30-12:30pm LUNCH  
12:30-2pm Discussion Topics  
2pm Closing words and evaluation  
Discussion Topics will be voted upon during  
break/lunch and the top 3 will be given 1/2 hour  
discussion time. Comments will be given the "egg  
timer" treatment to keep things moving along and  
give everyone a chance to speak if they wish to do so.

### Discussion Topics:

Interesting or unique projects/activities completed for  
the 4 areas: Environmental Justice, Worship,  
Religious Education, and Sustainable Living  
Community Projects involved with.

Green Sanctuary program: constructive  
comments/critique for the accreditation process

What do you think the future direction of the Green  
Sanctuary Program should be?

Peak Oil issues

Making the Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together  
Program more green

**Cost:** \$15 w/ lunch

\$ 5 w/o lunch

Registration deadline Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. An agenda and  
registration form is attached.

This event is registered with 350 Day at Climate  
Action <http://www.350.org/>

### **National Equality March**

October 10 Universalist National Memorial  
On Saturday, October 10, there will be an "Open  
House" at Universalist National Memorial where  
locals & non-locals can come, meet each other and  
UUA staff (including Peter), buy/pick-up Standing on  
the Side of Love Campaign shirts and signs, etc.  
We'll also have campaign materials available  
throughout the previous week at the UUA  
Washington Center (1100 G Street NW, right at  
Metro Center. - Please Come Visit!)

[Click here for directions to Universalist National  
Memorial](#)

October 11

Washington, DC

9:30 AM - UUA President Rev. Peter Morales  
preaches at All Souls Church, Unitarian.

10:30 AM - We will gather after services and take the  
Metro to the beginning of the march route (location  
TBD).

12:00 PM - National Equality March begins.

2:00 PM - Rally on the West Lawn of the U.S.  
Capitol.

[Click here to learn more about the march.](#)

On Sunday, October 11, there will be a March (origin  
and route unknown) starting at Noon. It will finish at  
the West Lawn of the US Capitol, where there will be  
a rally starting at 2:00 PM. Peter Morales is  
preaching at All Souls (services at 9:30 and 11:15)  
and leading the UU delegation at the Rally. Folks  
wanting to March can attend the 9:30 service and

head down after that. On Saturday, October 10, there will be an “Open House” at Universalist National Memorial where locals & non-locals can come, meet each other and UUA staff (including Peter), buy/pick-up Standing on the Side of Love Campaign shirts and signs, etc. We’ll also have campaign materials available throughout the previous week at the UUA Washington Center (1100 G Street NW, right at Metro Center. Please come to visit!) We’re labeling the 11th as a National Day of Action (it’s National Coming Out Day). In addition to inviting UUs to attend the March—with specific outreach in the region—we are encouraging congregations everywhere to participate, with observances in worship, religious education, and/or coffee hour, as well as through public visibility events via the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign.

If your congregation would like to endorse the March, visit

[http://equalityacrossamerica.org/blog/?page\\_id=59](http://equalityacrossamerica.org/blog/?page_id=59) . Several UU congregations have already endorsed. If you are going to participate, [please sign up here!](#) Folks who sign up there will receive updates on the events: March route, UU events and meeting places, etc. Volunteer! The DC host committee for the March, in which Washington Office staffer Orelia Busch participates, is seeking volunteers. Orelia is in the process of contacting the Welcoming and/or BGLT groups in local congregations. If there’s someone in particular you could refer her to, please let us know! Her email is [obusch@uua.org](mailto:obusch@uua.org)

### **Sign the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign Petition**

The Standing on the Side of Love Campaign is launching [a petition](#) for full equality for people like me and families like mine. We will use it throughout the year as we push for specific legal advancements, being the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and of the Defense of Marriage Act. We will lift it up particularly to federal lawmakers on October 11, which is National Coming Out Day and also, this year, a date when people across the nation will demand full equality for LGBT people. Please sign this petition today. We want to be able to say to lawmakers that we know, with certainty, that thousands of Americans share our passion for full equality. Your willingness to stand on the side of love will build the national will to finally achieve a dream

for families like mine for too long: Full equality under the law; nothing more and nothing less. Will you stand with me? [If so, please sign the petition!](#)

Rev. Meg A. Riley  
Campaign Chair

### **Explore the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign’s Website**

[Click here to explore the new hub of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign.](#)

You can use the new website to:

- Register events in your local community
- Download Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) web buttons and graphics
- Access resources on how to start a SSL team in your community
- Leave a love note about what SSL means to you
- Submit your story about Standing on the Side of Love in your community
- Donate to the campaign and much more!

We're very excited about using this website to connect with you and to help you connect with others. Visit [www.StandingontheSideofLove.org](http://www.StandingontheSideofLove.org) and get connected today.

### **Healthy Habits**

We are all responsible to keep our community healthy as flu season approaches. At coffee hour, we encourage you to use the hand sanitizer and serving utensils that are provided on the snack table. We especially appreciate older members who model these healthy habits for our younger members. If you are sick, know that your presence on Sunday will be missed, but we do encourage you to stay home and rest. We will look forward to seeing you back at services when you are well. As always, if you need support or assistance in times of illness, please contact our minister at [csnavely@uusj.org](mailto:csnavely@uusj.org) (*Thank You, Joe Puccio, for providing the hand sanitizer*)

### **Goodloe Endowment Fund Update**

The Goodloe Endowment Fund is off to a good start with \$850.00 received thus far. In addition to the memorial contributions reported last month, we have received gifts in memory of Maxine Williams, the sister of Hazel Elbert; Thomas Lacey, the brother of Lorraine Webb; and George Wm. Towle, the uncle of Laird Towle. We also want to report an honorary

contribution in recognition of our long-time volunteer pianist, Lorraine Webb. Last month we erroneously reported a gift in memory of Charles Roup: the name should have been Clarence James "C.J." Roup; our apologies for the error.

Anyone wishing to make a memorial or honorary contribution to the Endowment Fund can do so by giving a check to our Financial Officer along with information regarding the donor, honoree, and parties to be notified. If you have questions see Laird or Marlene Towle.

### **Goodloe Memorial Kiva Microlending Team Report**

Wow! The Goodloe Microlending team has been in existence for just over a year now. We have 10 families participating, but could use many more. We have made a total of 55 loans so far for a total of \$1400.00. Many of the loans have been repaid and the money re-loaned to other entrepreneurs. Thus far we have not experienced a single loss. This is an excellent way to help people who are trying to help themselves.

You too can become an international banker by joining the Goodloe Memorial Kiva Microlending Team and making a minimum loan of only \$25.00. To join go to [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org), check out their sponsors and the other information, then register. Be sure to select the Goodloe team before making any loans, otherwise they won't count for us. You pay via PayPal (one of their corporate sponsors) using your credit card. This is perfectly safe because the foreign entity never has access to you card number or other data; that is the reason for using PayPal. If you have questions see me. **Please join the Goodloe Team!** Laird Towle, Team Captain

### **Building the World We Dream About**

The Unitarian-Universalist Association has published a new curriculum to encourage building a Beloved Community that transcends the cultural differences that may divide us. We say, "All are welcome." We want to encourage each other and relate to each other from different cultures, but it is hard. Here is a brief summary of the approach and content in the curriculum.

We will explore and examine our own values and behaviors, as well as learn from each other's experiences. The curriculum will help us have open and honest conversation with respect, and with courage

to face our hurts and fears. We will commit to new, intentional ways of being that help us to heal our inner wounds and reconcile with each other. We will learn together how to offer multicultural welcome, affirmation, and inclusion to each person who walks into our community.

The aim is to share in a community of love and justice. The aim is not to "fix people who don't get it". We will tell stories to reflect on our own values. We will have worship and spiritual practices to encourage right relations with each other. We will covenant to care for each other as a group as we share our experience. We will seek the transformative power of Love as we learn from multiple truths and realities. We will have facilitators to ease transitions through difficult dialogues.

### **The RE committee is offering multicultural curriculum for our youth this year.**

Tisha, our Coordinator of Religious Education, has UU RE training in Multicultural Community. This curriculum will enable adults and high school students to learn and grow in this area.

Facilitators: Ken Shilling, Alexis Flanagan

**Ken** - I have transformed government diversity classes away from "us versus them". In accordance with UU principles, I encouraged each person to share their life experience. This willingness to be open and honest was very transformative. We started saying, "I would not want that to happen to my son or daughter".

**Alexis** - I have worked, for many years, with groups of women's rights advocates seeking to end violence against women. In trainings I lead advocates into, often, their first discussion on anti-oppression work. I encourage them to conceive of rape as a form of oppression, to acknowledge that one cannot genuinely engage in work to end one oppression, without working to end all oppression, and to courageously explore and acknowledge personal biases and privilege and how each can potentially impact the work they do with sexual assault survivors from many different backgrounds and experiences.

## Goodloe Board Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2009

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

**Excused:** Jackie Lord

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

### **Business:**

- 1) Laird was appointed timekeeper for the meeting.
- 2) The Minutes of the August Board Meeting were approved as corrected.
- 3) It was reported that Tisha had filled the second teacher position.
- 4) The following consent agenda was approved:
  - a. \$80 was added to budget line #720 to cover the cost of the facilitator for our annual retreat.
  - b. A monthly rental fee was approved for UUSJ. The covers their use of our computer, but they are to supply their own paper and office supplies. The rental is expected to begin in October after the DSL line is installed.
  - c. Jill is to work with the Committee on Ministry to conduct another member survey.
  - d. The schedule of special collections recommended in the President's report was approved with the addition of UU Legislative Ministry, and the Coalition for Smarter Growth.
  - e. Our \$325 dues to UUSJ is to be paid by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - f. The Minister is authorized to continue using the Goodloe phone number on her cell phone.
  - g. The contract with the Choir Director was approved.
  - h. The contract with the Coordinator of Religious Education was approved.
- 5) John Pietras has obtained a laptop which he can use to maintain our website.
- 6) Jill is continuing to work with the Grimefighters while looking for a Coordinator.
- 7) Joe will continue to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- 8) Jill will serve as the Board Representative on the Committee on Ministry.
- 9) Ken will convene an ad hoc Sabbatical committee to work with Cyn on preparations, and give a preliminary at the October Board Meeting.
- 10) The subject of goals for the coming year was discussed at length with all the Board members giving their views as to which goals should be addressed first. The following decisions were made:
  - a. Roger will lead an ad hoc committee to review the membership function, find a chairman for the Membership Committee, define its objectives, etc. Jill offered to work with him, and they will solicit participation from the general membership.
  - b. Ken will speak with RE to see what they are doing regarding security issues.
  - c. Goals will be discussed further at the next Board Meeting
- 11) The upcoming Goodloe Celebration was discussed at length. A primary purpose of the event is to collect donations for the Goodloe Scholarship at Bowie State University, so various strategies for marketing the event were considered.
  - a. Joe will submit announcements to the three main papers serving this area.
  - b. Ken will investigate creating an announcement on FaceBook.
  - c. The possibility of a mass mailing to the BSU alumni mailing list was mentioned. Cyn will investigate.
  - d. The decision to engage James Loewen as keynote speaker next year was postponed.
- 12) Some final adjustments to the FY09-10 Budget were discussed at length, and changes made as follows:
  - a. Change line #407, sabbatical expenses, to \$500
  - b. Change line #501, RE teacher training, to zero (already done at no expense).
  - c. Change line \$502, RE curriculum/books, to zero (acquired last year).
  - d. Change line #508, RE consultant, to \$490.
  - e. Several additional changes were made for which details are lacking, but the final figures are in the attached budget spreadsheet.
- 13) The FY09-10 budget was approved as amended.
- 14) The question was raised as to whether it might facilitate the preparation of timely financial reports if we held the Board Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, rather than the 1<sup>st</sup>. Ken asked Roger to make a recommendation at the October Board Meeting

**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned about 9:30 **Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary, September 9, 2009**

**Music As Ministry**

What can I tell you about myself? My twin sister and I are the youngest of seven children. Although my parents were not über-musicians, they certainly raised us with a love of music. My older sisters led the music for folk Masses at my parents' church for years while I was in primary school. My mom insisted I take organ lessons at the age of 8 so by fourth grade I was playing the organ for daily Mass at Catholic school. I taught myself guitar when I was 14 and soon found myself leading folk Masses in school and in Canada where we spent every summer. I went to Ohio State University and got involved in the Newman Center on campus there. It was there that I learned the difference between playing music for Mass and music ministry as a call to service. After an accident that forced me to move back in with my parents in my home town, I was asked to start a new folk group again at my parents' church. In 5 short years what had started as a handful of guitarists in a folk group had grown to a contemporary choir with over 40 members. We had guitarists, keyboardists, flute and clarinet players, a drummer and a bass guitarist. We brought contemporary Catholic liturgical music to a congregation that had been thirsting for a change. It rocked.

My mom, who had been my greatest supporter in the choir endeavor, passed away from cancer in 1996. My grief wrung out any pleasure or purpose I had gotten from my music ministry. I resigned 6 months later and moved back to Columbus. I did some cantor work for an old friend of mine for a while but missed directing my own choir. Two years went by before I was able to take a new choir director's position back in my hometown. I took over for a friend who was ready to give up her position. It was a good fit. The choir and I got along famously and the congregation loved what we were doing. Three years later my full-time employment in the area had dried up and I was forced to look for work out of the area. I moved to D.C. in 2003.

I looked for a progressive Catholic church in D.C. but couldn't find one that felt right. I sang with Dignity, a LGBT Catholic organization that holds Mass weekly in Dupont Circle but is not officially sanctioned by the Church. While I loved the people and the music, I missed directing my own choir. My search continued. I eventually interviewed for a music director position in Georgetown but was turned down when they realized that I was gay and "not living right with the Church." It was a painful time

for me since I had been Catholic my whole life and loved being Catholic. The time had come for me to break from the Church. I eventually found a job with Hope United Church of Christ in Alexandria. It immediately felt like home to me from the first service I attended. For the first time in my life I felt comfortable in a Protestant church where they didn't proselytize or condemn me for being gay. In fact, they celebrated it. I loved the Hope community very much. But the church had been through so many changes, some of which were incredibly painful for me that I had reached the end of my effectiveness as a music director. David (my partner and best friend) and I had long talked about raising our son in a faith tradition we could agree upon. When the time came for us to look for a church, our search brought us to Goodloe.

My job as a music minister is to help people feel closer to the Divine through music. My job as a choir director is to help the choir do the same. I'm going to take a Universalist approach to this position and honor all religious traditions. My goal is to introduce new music in a way that the congregation can participate. If you go home feeling nothing, then I haven't done my job. There will be a big learning curve over the next 12 to 24 months. In that time you will be exposed to new music, new instruments, and new media. I think it will be great.

Thanks for the warm welcome and show of support you have given to me. Now let's make some music together!

Matt Rider, Music Minister





## **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:  
Bill & Martha Vincek  
Building & Facilities:  
Roger Davidson  
Communications:  
Vacant  
Membership:  
Vacant  
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:  
October 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



## October Calendar for Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 1:30 Goodloe Celebration @ Alumni House BSU 7:30 Drumming	3
4 10:30 Worship & Religious Ed.	5	6 7:30 Spanish Group-Cultural Presentation 7:30 Board Mtg.	7	8	9 6:30 Goodloe Celebration @ GMUUC sanctuary	10
11 10:30 Worship & Religious Ed. 11:30 Potluck 12:45 Worship Associates	12	13 7:15 Buddhist Meditation Group	14	15 7:30 Goodloe Readers	16	17
18 10:30 Worship & Religious Ed.	19	20 7:30 Spanish Group	21	22 7:30 Green Sanctuary Group	23	24
25 10:30Worship & Rel. Edu. 12:00 Chinese Buffet 12:45 RE Committee	26	27 7:15 Buddhist Meditation Group	28	29	30	31

### Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation



1540C Pointer Ridge Place  
 Bowie, MD 20716  
 301 218-5277  
[www.goodloeeuu.org](http://www.goodloeeuu.org)  
 Reverend Cynthia Snavelly  
 Service and Religious Education 10:30 am Sundays

