



# Odyssey February 2009

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## Ministerial Musings

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe:

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the very generous holiday gift you gave to me. It was especially appreciated as I pay the extra doctor and hospital bills from this fall. Your gift more than paid for the largest one, and I am extremely thankful. I feel cared for and appreciated by you and that is a very good feeling. The only thing I can give you in return is my best effort in serving as your minister, and I can only hope that that is enough to make you feel cared for and appreciated by me. This is my valentine to you.

A Chinese proverb says, "To attract good fortune, spend a new coin on an old friend, share an old pleasure with a new friend, and lift up the heart of a true friend by writing his/her name on the wings of a dragon." I don't know what the last phrase means, but I do understand that good fortune is generally brought by friends. Thank you for being my friends. - Blessed Be, Cyn

Editor's Note: The dragon played a very prominent part in Chinese Culture and history. It was the yellow dragon that taught people to read and write, and it would also convey prayer to the gods.

## A Mystic's Journey

Heaven on Earth – As people, we are always seeking to live in some idyllic place. Some talk of Paradise or the Garden of Eden, others talk of New Hope. Some even attempt to build utopias that promise a better life. At our Transcendentalist group, we discussed Brookfarm and Fruitlands as two utopias from our historical past. Utopias were successful in some ways and impractical (and inconsiderate) in others. There are even those who seek monkish solitude at Walden Pond. They all lament, "Oh, my life would be perfect and peaceful...if I did not have to deal with people."

Any time two people talk there is bound to be three or more opinions. Each of us starts with an idea and then we get new ideas from talking with (not at) each other. At times, it can get very confusing or frustrating. We come from different backgrounds and have different expectations of what to do or how to say things. Surprise lurks in any chance encounter with hidden meanings, unintended consequences, and "that's not what I meant" confusion. In Goodloe's history, we once went through a whole year with a staff person. When the person left, the group said, "we were not having fun."

We have to share a vision of Beloved Community for all people. In keeping with our principle of respect, we should assume that each person has a noble and honorable intent. This can be very hard when our feelings are hurt. Still, we need the spiritual discipline to work through our personal pain and genuinely seek to understand the other person's point of view. We have to avoid guilt and blame, and seek a mutual understanding.

Over the years, I have spoken words or done something that has hurt someone. I had absolutely no intention of hurting that person. Until the person spoke to me, I had no idea that what I had said or done was hurtful. It is always a shock to learn that my efforts to help have actually hurt someone, when that was not my intent. Misunderstandings happen.

We try to help resolve misunderstanding. Sometimes, it is helpful to have another neutral person to listen and make suggestions. Rev. Snavelly is willing to talk with people and enable them to share stories to grow in understanding. The Committee on Ministry is willing to listen to comments and complaints about our programs or our staff. We try to recognize and resolve issues at the personal level.

We must feel free to share ideas and feelings. We must be willing to risk raising an issue and seeking a solution. This is the hard work of spiritual faith. This is the hands-on work of building Heaven on Earth: Being present with each other. Blessed Be.-Ken Shilling, President

## **Around the Church News**

### **Valentine's Day Potluck**

Our second Sunday Potluck this month will have a Valentine's Day theme. Please bring pink and red foods, or heart shaped items.

### **Goodloe Choir to Perform in Joint Concert**

The Goodloe choir will join with three other area choirs to sing in a joint concert at the UU Church of Silver Spring at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2008. Most of the music will be by singer/songwriter Elise Witt. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the continuation of music outreach programs.

### **New Dream Course Starting March**

Would you like to understand the language of your dreams? We spend six years of our life dreaming, yet most of us remember little or nothing of the dream state. We can train ourselves to remember dreams, to use our internal stories to create a more balanced and self-aware state of being. Starting Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m., a group will be meeting on six consecutive Mondays for a dream workshop. Enrollment will be limited to six individuals to create a safe and intimate atmosphere where each person will have an opportunity to share a dream with the group. Please contact Martha Vincek (410.451.3969 or b.vincek@comcast.net) for more information.

### **Women's Group**

Karen Scrivo and Misty Cole will be facilitating the Women's Group in a 10-session UUA Tapestry of Faith Adult Education Course called *Spirit in Practice*. Regular meetings are in the Blue Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. February's meetings are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Goodloe Readers**

You are invited to join the Goodloe Readers Book Club on the third Thursday of each month at the church at 7:30pm. For more information, please contact John Cole at 301.352.5981 or john.b.cole@gmail.com.

**February 19, 2009** *Garbage Land: On the Trail of Trash* by Elizabeth Royte

**March 19, 2009** *Plan C: Community Survival Strategies for Peak Oil and Climate Change* by Pat Murphy

### **Goodloe Contributes to the Bowie Food Pantry**

I am asking everyone to continue bringing your donations of food (cans, jars, boxes) to leave in our huge, blue collection container. If you somehow overlooked it, it is on the floor to the right of the entrance jutting out a bit from under the table. It is now adorned with a fabulous decoration made especially by Hazel Elbert to draw attention to the collection "center." Take a closer look and you'll see the fancy handi-work on the black T-shirt. Who knew Hazel is a crafty lady? Great job and thank you, Hazel.

The Bowie Food Pantry needs a continual food stream in order to provide the support for the many people out here who would go hungry without the help. We are one of many organizations that tries to contribute on a regular basis.-Sally Raymond

### **Service Auction Scheduled for Spring 2009**

Goodloe will have a Service Auction on May 2, 2009. We rely on the auction to raise money to support our congregation with ministry, education and other programs. We will have food and refreshments. There is a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. We have lots of food and fun. We need everyone in the congregation to volunteer and/or donate. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers in the Goodloe lobby. Volunteer to help make the auction book, bring food, provide or coordinate entertainment, set up and clean up, provide child care, be a cashier. We also need people to donate items or services to be auctioned. Examples of services are taxi service to the airport, a week at your vacation house, pies cooked to order and delivered. Please see Ken Shilling 301-801-8803 to ask questions.

### **Magazine Exchange**

John Cole invites you to leave your gently used magazines in the lobby of Goodloe to share with other members, and feel free to pick some up to peruse!

### **Monthly Game Night Returns!**

Everyone is invited to bring games and a few bucks to pitch in for pizza (if you want) on the fourth Friday of each month. The next game night will be February 27th, 2009, at 7 p.m. at Goodloe. If you have questions, please contact Betsy Delaney at 301-345-2369 (home), 301-922-1865 (cell).

## **Monthly Spiritual/Intellectual Discussion Continues**

Join a Spiritual/Intellectual Discussion using lectures on "Emerson, Thoreau and the Transcendentalist Movement" by Professor Ashton Nichols of Dickinson College recorded for The Teaching Company. We will meet at Goodloe at 7:30p.m on the second Friday of each month. This Month, the Spiritual Discussion Group will meet February 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the blue room at Goodloe. For more information or to discuss the need for a ride or childcare contact: Rev. Cyn Snavely at RevSnavely@comcast.net or 240-475-2111.

**February-** Transcendentalism and Education

**March-** Thoreau, Abolition and John Brown

**April-** Frederick Douglass

**May-** Emily Dickinson

**June-** Walt Whitman

**July-** Transcendentalism's 19th Century Legacy

**August-** The Legacy in the Twentieth Century and Beyond

## **Calls to Action**

### **Bowie Interfaith Green Group (BIGG) Blog**

On Monday Nov 24, the Bowie Green Sanctuary Committee met with the St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Environmental Group. One outcome of the meeting was to create a forum where environmental groups from all faiths could exchange "green" information among themselves and with the community. We hope that more congregations will join and the site will continue to grow. Visit the Bowie Interfaith Green Groups Blog at

[bowie-interfaith-green-groups.blogspot.com](http://bowie-interfaith-green-groups.blogspot.com)

If you have information to contribute, contact Michelle Malta at [michellemalta@gmail.com](mailto:michellemalta@gmail.com).

### **Goodloe Endowment Fund Established**

The Board of Trustees has established an endowment fund, called The Goodloe Endowment Fund, to which anyone, member or non-member alike, can make honorary or memorial contributions. Contributions to the fund can be made to honor living people for various types of accomplishments, or to memorialize deceased people who are connected directly, or indirectly, with the Goodloe Congregation. The principal in the fund is to accumulate as an endowment. The income earned by the fund may be allowed to

accumulate, or it may be used to meet the needs of the Goodloe congregation according to the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the fund should provide the Financial Officer with a check and a note indicating who is being honored or memorialized, and who is to be notified. The Financial Officer will acknowledge receipt of gifts to the fund by a suitable notice sent to the donor for tax purposes, and by a suitable notice to the honoree (if living), or to the family of the honoree (if deceased). The latter notice will not disclose the amount of the donation, but will identify the donor unless the donor has requested to remain anonymous.-Laird Towle, Secretary, Board of Trustees

### **Green Tips: Save Money When You Save Energy** by Jackie Lord

Just before Christmas, our dishwasher died. Since energy efficiency was an important consideration, we made sure our new purchase was an EnergyStar model. We also plan to replace some of the original windows in our Levitt home. I thought I would share some resources that I discovered while searching for information about these purchases.

The first place to start is the EnergyStar web site ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) which provides a wealth of information about various products including appliances, heating/cooling, water heaters, electronics, lighting, and home improvements. If you are considering a product, the model will be listed if it has an EnergyStar rating. Even if a product has an EnergyStar rating, some are more efficient than others. The exact rating of each model is listed and explained so that models can be compared. The heading "Explore Products" provides a list of the product categories that can receive an EnergyStar rating. I discovered that windows are also rated. Energy saving tips are also provided on the web site. If you are planning to purchase a product or make a home improvement, I recommend that you explore this site. From both an environmental and financial perspective, saving energy is a good choice.

BGE provides incentives for saving energy on some purchases. They offer a \$50 rebate on EnergyStar refrigerators, freezers, and clothes washers. Refer to their web site for details and an application

([www.bgesmartenergy.com/energyefficiency/appliance-rebates](http://www.bgesmartenergy.com/energyefficiency/appliance-rebates)). BGE also partners with several stores to provide discounts on EnergyStar CFL

purchases (\$1.50/bulb or \$3.00/multipack). Current partners include: Costco, Giant, Home Depot, Sam's Club. Refer to their web site for details ([www.bgesmartenergy.com/energyefficiency/lighting-discounts](http://www.bgesmartenergy.com/energyefficiency/lighting-discounts)).

Looking for a place to recycle those CFLs? You can take unbroken bulbs to Ikea and Home Depot for recycling.

Tax credits for energy efficiency expired at the end of 2007 and were not available in 2008. However, the "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008" extended the tax credits for home improvements, such as, windows, doors, roofs, insulation, and non-solar water heaters. These credits are only for improvements made during 2009 and most expire at the end of the year. Refer to the EnergyStar web site for details ([www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits)). We were thinking of installing windows in 2008, but decided to wait for the new year.

### **Goodloe Forms Micro Lending Team**

Micro lending refers to the practice of lending small sums of money to poor, but enterprising, people in order to assist them in working their way out of poverty. These are people who are the salt of the Earth, but are shunned by traditional banking system. Their need is a social justice issue. Micro lending has achieved a great deal of success around the world, especially in assisting women to help improve the lives of their families, as well as themselves.

The purposes of the Goodloe team are to assist poor people who are trying to help themselves as entrepreneurs via the micro lending process; and to build the Goodloe community with an activity which many of our members are likely to support and participate in, at least to a small degree (the minimum loan is only \$25). Team participation can also be a family activity, a religious education project, etc., and it might also stimulate a little friendly competition with other UU congregations, while directly assisting the poor.

More background is given at [www.kiva.org/about/microfinance](http://www.kiva.org/about/microfinance). For more information about participation, please contact Team Captain Laird Towle at 301.464.1159.

## **OpportUunities**

### **Paint Branch Hosts Speaker**

The Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team is very pleased to announce that UU minister and author Mark Morrison-Reed will speak at Paint Branch UU Church on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm. He will introduce his newest book, *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*, show a brief DVD and answer questions. A book-signing and reception will follow.

Raised UU, Mark Morrison-Reed was ordained as a UU minister in 1979. Morrison-Reed's graduate thesis, *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, was published in 1984 and is still in print. He is also co-editor, with Jacqui James, of *Been in the Storm So Long*.

Now retired from full-time ministry, Morrison-Reed divides his time between writing and other interests. Most recently, he has been working with Meadville Lombard Theological School to organize and build the library's archive of materials relating to African American involvement in Universalism, Unitarianism and Unitarian Universalism.

### **UU Bed and Breakfast Directory**

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 29 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2009 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to *UU're Home*, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

## **One World Coffeehouse Presents: Ruut**

Saturday, February. 21, 2009 Showtime: 7-9:30 p.m. Donations: \$12 per adult / \$6 youth under 12. Held at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center, 7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045.

Finnish-born singer/songwriter, Ruut's musical talent is derived from a strong classical family background and yet she is known to be as soulful as Alicia Keys, as lyrical as Sarah McLaughlin and as timeless as Carole King. A versatile and emotionally-engaging performer, she takes her audience on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment in a way that touches the very soul of the listener. To hear a sample of her music, visit: <http://www.myspace.com/ruut>.

## **Davies Memorial UU Church hosts Seminar**

Theme: The Challenges of Single Parents  
To be held at Davies Memorial UU Church  
7400 Temple Hill Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748  
Saturday, April 11, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Child Care is Provided.

Members of local congregations are invited to participate in this seminar as presenters (see topics below), or regular attendees. Potential presenters who are single parents are especially encouraged to participate. Persons who are not single parents but who have special familiarity with single parenting are also welcome to present.

This seminar is sponsored by the Singles Circle at Davies as an outreach to the larger community. The seminar will be in panel format and each presenter will speak for 20 minutes. A question and answer period follows the presentations. We welcome your input to refine the topics identified or to bring a selected topic into closer alignment with a presenter's specific content.

## **Free Film at St. Matthews**

The St. Matthews United Methodist Church Environmental Group is hosting a Feb. 18 showing of the movie *Peak Oil: How It Will Change Your Life* (2005) by Richard Heinberg--a movie about the growing scarcity of the resource the world's economy now depends on, and how that will change society. The time is 7 p.m. and the place is room 222 at St. Matthews, located at 14900 Annapolis Road. For more information, call Elizabeth Buckner at 301-262-7654.

## **Nominations Being Accepted for Youth Awards**

The JPD Awards Committee is looking forward to receiving nominations for the Outstanding UU, Youth, and Young Adult Awards. The awards are given annually at the JPD Spring Conference to people or groups making an especially significant expression of Unitarian Universalism. UUs are invited to nominate congregation members of all ages for these recognition awards. Awards will be presented during the Celebration Service at the JPD Spring Conference, April 24-25, 2009, in Wilmington, DE.

To make a nomination for an award, please complete the appropriate form (will be posted on Goodloe bulletin board) and return it to the JPD Awards Committee c/o the JPD Office, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 1008, Wilmington, DE 19801. Nominations must be received no later than March 20, 2009.

## **Upcoming Sunday Services**

**February 1** *Take Joy*- Rev. Diane Teichert

Each of us is perfectly imperfect. At times, we ought to just laugh at ourselves!

Prior to entering Harvard Divinity School in preparation for UU parish ministry, Rev. Diane Teichert was a labor and community organizer in those cities. Her passion for social justice has been a theme in her ministries in Weymouth, Canton and now Bedford, Massachusetts. Her husband Don Milton is originally from Baltimore, so they return to this area often. Their two "twenty-something" children are on their own, so their nest is empty except for Oliver and Lily, their dog and cat. Diane enjoys the outdoors-- biking, hiking, the beach, and their vegetable garden.

**February 8** *Can One be a Transcendentalist Today?* - Rev. Snively

The Transcendentalists, most of whom were Unitarian, moved beyond the thinking of their own time to introduce new ideas and new ways. Is there a way to see and live beyond the limits of our era?

**February 15** *Valentine Service* - Worship Associates led by Jill York

**February 22**  *Holding and Releasing Power*- Rev. Snively

To hold power can be enthralling or frightening. How do we determine when we need to hold on and when we need to let go rationally rather than giving in to exuberance or fear?

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## Meet New Members, Bill and Martha Vincek

When Bill and I moved to Davidsonville, we were amazed and delighted with the abundance of wildlife in this area. Even before unpacking, Bill made a quick trip to Home Depot and bought birdfeeders and seed. Now, eight years later, our garden is populated with butterflies, songbirds, and the healthiest, fattest squirrels this side of paradise.

Besides squirrels, Bill and I have two beautiful children, Penelope and Adam—now adults—and a granddaughter, Corrine. These days, we share our lives with two precocious felines, Penumbra (aka Nummy) and Chrysalis (aka Lissa). Nummy is interested in snuggling and the wildlife outside the kitchen windows and has brought our attention to Henrietta, the worm eating hawk; a fox who feasts on the doves; the deer that eat my Hostas and Oak Leaf Hydrangeas; a groundhog that steals my tomatoes; the snake choking on a rabbit; and one wandering coyote. Lissa is interested in exploring every nook and cranny of her abode and climbing as high as possible. She also likes relaxing in the sauna.

Bill has worked for 30 years in pharmaceutical research and development. Recently he achieved semi-retired status and is checking the boxes on his personal “honey-do” list. I am a writer and therefore interested in many things. I have written 7 novels all waiting to be published.

Our journey to Unitarian Universalism is reminiscent of many others of our ilk. We were spiritual seekers. Along the way, spiritual seekers learn the lessons of inclusion, negotiation, and compassion; therefore, the only logical option for us was Unitarian Universalism. We feel privileged to be among you. We look forward to the future and the atmosphere of spiritual joy and good works that we sense is at the heart of Goodloe.

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## GOODLOE Board Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2009

Present: Ken Shilling, John Cole, Jackie Lord, Laird Towle, Rev. Cyn Snavely, Hazel Elbert.

Excused: Roger Davidson.

1) The meeting was called to order about 7:35 pm with a reading by Rev. Cyn.

2) The minutes of the December Board Meeting were approved as corrected.

3) The President reported that our expenses have been running a little less than anticipated in our budget because we have not spent as much on RE as expected, and also because our mortgage interest is lower than expected. Laird is to meet with Ken to discuss some concerns regarding the finances.

4) Some concerns were expressed regarding the RE department; namely, a) the RE Committee has not been meeting and operating effectively, and b) teachers have not been given lesson plans in a timely manner. The RE Committee is due to meet on January 11th. Ken will consult with Sally and Dawn, and Cyn will speak with Tisha in order to resolve these issues.

5) Methods of improving our pastoral care were discussed including the creation of “Pastoral Care Associates.” Ken and Cyn are to present some suggestions in writing at the February Board meeting.

6) Trevor Smith has volunteered to be custodian of our library, and has requested permission to build another bookcase; the Board agreed.

7) The second installment of \$1,000 was made to the Goodloe Scholarship Fund at Bowie State University.

8) The fire hazard posed by the candles during the children’s story time was discussed and referred to the Worship Associates and RE for suggestions.

9) The wording of our previous motion regarding the establishment of a Goodloe Endowment Fund was amended to read as follows:

A motion was passed that we establish an endowment fund called The Goodloe Endowment Fund to which anyone, member or non-member alike, can make honorary or memorial contributions. The income earned by this fund may be allowed to accumulate, or it may be used to meet the needs of the Goodloe congregation. Disbursements of income from the fund require a majority vote of the entire Board of Trustees.

The Financial Officer will acknowledge receipt of gifts to the fund by a suitable notice sent to the donor for tax purposes, and by a suitable notice to the honoree (if living), or to the family of the honoree (if deceased). The latter notice should not disclose the amount of the donation, but should identify the donor unless the donor has requested to remain anonymous.

10) A motion was passed instructing the Secretary to incorporate the creation of the Goodloe Endowment Fund into our Policy Manual as Board Policy No.11.

11) The Secretary volunteered to put an announcement in the *Odyssey* regarding the new Endowment Fund, and also to make a verbal announcement.

12) It was decided to hold a service auction on May 2nd. Ken will serve as co-chair with the assistance of Hazel, Roger, Jackie, Cyn, and others.

13) The annual Goodloe Celebration will be held in September with a guest speaker to talk on some aspect of race relations. Cyn will contact a couple of local authors who would be appropriate speakers.

14) A Teen Bridging service will be held on June 7th.

15) The annual meeting and election will be held on May 17th.

The meeting adjourned about 9:40 pm. Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary, January 7, 2008.

## **An Unholy Trinity (Part II) - Laird Towle**

In the previous installment of this commentary we saw that the world is teetering on the brink of three major crises: 1) Resource Depletion; 2) Climate Change; and 3) Economic Collapse. Let's consider them a little further, and then move on to consider how to mitigate these problems and create an attractive future with exciting possibilities.

**Resource Depletion** - Many natural resources, even water, are becoming increasingly scarce. For example, these days the uranium needed to refuel our nuclear power plants comes primarily from disassembled Soviet nuclear weapons because it is cheaper than the poor quality natural sources which remain. This is one reason why nuclear power has no long term future.

However, the resource of prime importance today is oil. Over the past century and a half the world has built an economy predicated on the availability of cheap oil. Our entire economy depends on it, directly or indirectly. To paraphrase the old trucking industry commercial, "If you got it, it came by oil." Most of us are painfully aware that our transportation system consumes enormous amounts of oil, but how many of us are aware that our industrial food system consumes more oil for fuels, fertilizers, herbicides, processing, etc. than does our entire transportation system? Would a world without oil mean a world without food?

World-wide, new oil field discoveries peaked about 1965. Since then new oil has become increasingly hard to find in spite of ongoing improvements in search technology. In recent decades we have found only one barrel of oil for every five we have pumped out of the ground; in other words we are rapidly exhausting our remaining stocks of oil.

When a new oil field is discovered its production is rapidly increased by drilling additional wells, but over the course of a few years a peak is reached and the productivity of the field starts to decline about as fast as it rose in the first place. This effect is known as "peak oil." It applies to a whole collection of oil fields as well as to individual fields. For example, US oil production peaked in 1970 and has now diminished to the point it was at in about 1942. In the mean time our consumption of oil has continued inexorably upward, and we now must import about 2/3rds of what we use. World-wide, of all the countries that produce significant amounts of oil, over sixty of them (the majority) have passed their peaks.

In 1956 M. King Hubbert, a retired Shell petroleum engineer, developed an analytical model for determining when a peak in oil production would occur. He applied it to the US for which reliable data was available and correctly predicted 1970 would be our peak year. Some years later, using less reliable data, he applied his method to the world as a whole, and predicted the world peak

would occur in 2000. Obviously that was incorrect. Since then numerous other analysts have refined his technique and predicted dates which fall mainly in the range from 2000 to 2010. At the 5th U.S. Conference on Peak Oil and Community Solutions held in November a speaker stated that he was quite certain that July of 2008 would prove to be the anticipated peak. Thus, world-wide oil production has probably peaked, or will do so imminently. Also In November the International Energy Agency reported that, following the peak, production declines of 6-9% per year could be expected.

The implications of a sudden decrease in the availability of cheap oil are staggering. The impacts on industrial agriculture and transportation have already been mentioned. In general, the massive movement of natural resources, commodities, and finished products over vast distances will become impractical. While trade will not cease altogether, globalization as envisioned today will collapse. These predictions are based on the real-life experience of Cuba.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989, Cuba's oil imports were suddenly cut in half. Their agriculture froze. Food became scarce and the average Cuban lost twenty pounds; massive starvation threatened. Fortunately many Cuban universities had agriculture departments which had been studying organic farming for years, but had not been permitted to put it into practice. The government cut those experts loose, divided up many of the state run farms, made agriculture one of the best paid occupations, and encouraged all Cubans to grow community gardens. In about four years Cuba made a remarkable recovery. Today life expectancy in Cuba is the same as in the US, and infant mortality is much lower than in the US.

This accidental experiment shows that near miraculous changes are possible when ideology gives way to pragmatism, and community efforts are moved to the forefront. It offers a clear vision for how the world will need to respond to the coming decline in the availability of fossil fuels because it is not just oil that is running out; natural gas consumption is also about to peak, and coal will not be far behind, especially if it is used to replace the lost oil and natural gas.

In a word, exhaustion of the fossil fuels is going to be extremely inconvenient, but it probably does not threaten our survival as a species. Then there is global warming!

**Goodloe Memorial Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation Calendar -  
February 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 a.m. <b>Service: Take Joy-</b> Rev. Diane Teichert	2	3 7:30 p.m. <b>Goodloe Board Meeting</b>	4 7:30 p.m. <b>Choir</b> Dick Wobus (301.249.1703)	5	6 7:30 p.m. <b>Drumming from the Heart</b> Ken Shilling (301.464.0021)	7
8 10:30 a.m. <b>Service: Can One be a Transcendentalist Today?</b> - Rev. Snavelly	9	10 7:00 p.m. <b>Women's Group</b> Misty Cole (301.352.5981) <b>Meditation Group</b> Tom Brenner (301.776.9689)	11 7:30 p.m. <b>Choir</b> Dick Wobus (301.249.1703)	12	13 7:30 p.m. <b>Transcendentalists</b> Cyn Snavelly (240.475.2111)	14
15 10:30 a.m. <b>Service: Valentine Service</b> - Worship Associates led by Jill York  <b>After-Church Pot Luck- Valentine's Day Party</b> Marlene Towle (301.464.1159)	16	17 7:15 p.m. <b>Spanish Group</b> Tom Brenner (301.776.9689)	18 7:30 p.m. <b>Choir</b> Dick Wobus (301.249.1703)	19 7:30 p.m. <b>Goodloe Readers</b> John Cole (301.352.5981)	20	21
22 10:30 a.m. <b>Service: Holding and Releasing Power-</b> Rev. Snavelly  <b>After-Church Chinese Buffet</b> Tom Brenner (301.776.9689)	23	24 7:00 p.m. <b>Women's Group</b> Misty Cole (301.352.5981) <b>Meditation Group</b> Tom Brenner (301.776.9689)	25 7:30 p.m. <b>Choir</b> Dick Wobus (301.249.1703)	26 7:30 p.m. <b>Goodloe Greens</b> Rob Whitaker	27 7:00 p.m. <b>Game Night</b> Betsy Delaney (301.345.2369)	28

**Goodloe Memorial Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation**

Minister: Rev. Cynthia Snavelly  
240.475.2111 (cell)

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. John Gaffney

RE Coordinator: Tisha Richardson

Music Director: Dick Wobus

Board of Trustees:

President:

Ken Shilling: 301.801.8803

Vice President:

John Cole: 301.352.5981

Financial Officer:

Roger Davidson 410.451.9805

Secretary:

Laird Towle: 301.464.1159

Trustees:

Jackie Lord 301.249.7713

Hazel Elbert: 301.249.5946

Rev Cyn Snavelly: 240.475.2111 (cell)

Committee Chairs:

Worship:

Dan Delaney

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:

Misty Cole

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).

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**Deadline for Next Odyssey: February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Please email submissions to [playmisty4me@gmail.com](mailto:playmisty4me@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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Goodloe Memorial Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation



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Reverend Cynthia Snavelly  
Service and Religious  
Education 10:30 am Sundays

