

Odyssey May 2009

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Ministerial Musings

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial:

I look forward to seeing many of you at this month's service auction, annual meeting and fellowship dinner as well as at the Open House at the Goodloe Alumni House, at the UUSJ program and meeting, and at the Bowie Memorial Day parade. Through events like these we support and celebrate our community.

Our congregation is not united by a shared creed but by our relationships with one another. By eating together, raising money together, working together we minister to one another and beyond ourselves. Rev. Gordon McKeeman wrote, "Ministry is all that we do – together. Ministry is that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity – beckons forth hidden possibilities, invites us into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships, and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation. Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit: Miracles of birth and life... Wonders of devotion and sacrifice. Ministry is what we do together – with one another – in terror and torment – in grief, in misery and pain, enabling us in the presence of death to say yes to life. We who minister speak and live the best we know with full knowledge that it is never quite enough And yet are reassured by lostness found, fragments reunited, wounds healed and joy shared. Ministry is what we all do – together."

By being there for one another and our congregation, by continually educating ourselves for service and by being out in our wider community we are doing the ministry of the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Our congregation's ministry is done by us – together.

Blessed Be, Cyn

A Mystic's Journey

Living Testimony – The way we live our values and beliefs is living testimony of our faith. We transcend the conventional artifacts of faith. We do not rely on any one prophet or any one holy book. We do not find unity in a creed. Rather, we seek to live universal values and truths in our daily lives. "Deeds, not creeds".

Through the ages, men and women have sought freedom and justice for all people: Freedom of religion, freedom from slavery, the right to vote. They have struggled to include those less fortunate in a beloved

community. We inherit the living testimony of all souls who have sought to make 'heaven' here on earth.

Love is universal. In Sunday school, I learned that God is Love. I came from an interfaith family and I wanted that unconditional acceptance. I learned the rule - Love Your Neighbors. In my life journey, I have learned from friends of many faiths, ethnicities, and ways of life. Through life with my neighbors, I have seen and touched the divine spirit that lives in all souls. Love is inclusive and cannot be divided.

I have witnessed some forms of oppression. I resented the divisiveness that came from one Christian practice of religion denouncing another. I was both Catholic and Protestant. I watched my mother and sister struggle to prove themselves in a "man's world". I was denied job opportunities because I did not shave my face. The pain of my struggles helps me to identify with my friends and neighbors.

In our community, I have found refuge and space to heal my inner wounds, and to progress on a journey towards wholeness. I have found sanctuary for my own family to live and grow, and I have grown with the family of this community. I rejoice that we have a multigenerational and multicultural community. And in my heart, I know there are many people who need a place that will accept them unconditionally, that will give them sacred space to heal their inner wounds, and will encourage them to grow towards wholeness.

We choose how we want to grow in community. I could rest in comfort in this land of religious freedom, with civil rights, and rights to vote. Yet, I am restless from the many stories of injustice. The prophetic words and deeds of UU men and women compel me to live my faith in service to others. What can I do to live our values in the greater community and to help make a better world for all people?

I choose to build Beloved Community this century. I hope we can share the example of our faith with the greater community. I will experience some discomfort as I stretch myself in meeting people I do not know. I look forward to sharing personal stories and learning deeply from people who are different from me. In my heart, I know we are all brothers and sisters in the Spirit of Love. I welcome your thoughts and support.

At our annual meeting on 17 May, I will present our diversity plan. I work in service of this community and those who would want to join and belong.

Blessed Be. Ken

Upcoming Sunday Services

May 3: A May Day Flower Communion Service - Intergenerational

Worship Associates led by Jill York - Please bring a flower or flowers from the roadside, your garden or the store to be shared as part of this service.

May 10: Parents Changing the World

Rev. Cyn Snavelly - In 1870 Unitarian Julia Ward Howe called upon women to unite and speak out against war as she felt only mothers could do. This was one of the first ideas about what Mothers' Day would be about, parents seeking to change the world.

May 17: The Blind Men and the Elephant

Dick Wobus

May 24: Remembering

Rev. Cyn Snavelly - On this Memorial Day weekend we remember with sorrow the wars that have taken so many and pray for peace for our nation and our world.

May 31: What I Learned from Summer Picnics

Rev. Cyn Snavelly - As the family gathered to eat and play games I learned family stories, what it meant to be a woman, and so much more.

June 7: Religious Education End of Year Service

History of The UU Flower Communion Service

(adapted from the article by Reginald Zottoli on the UUA.org web site) The Flower Communion service, celebrated annually by many Unitarian Universalist churches, originated at the Prague Congregation of Liberal Religious Fellowship founded in February 1922 by Norbert Capek and his wife Maja. Initially, the Prague services were entirely lectures.

Singing of hymns (written by Capek) was added in October 1922. The majority of members had formerly belonged to the Roman Catholic Church (the state-sponsored church of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), had left that church when Czechoslovakia became independent, and were wary of any ritual reminiscent of the mass.



The Capeks, seeking to add a suitable spiritual dimension to the service, devised the Flower Communion, which was first celebrated on June 24, 1923. Each member was asked to bring a single flower to the service, which began with the flowers being placed in a large vase in the middle of the hall. As explained in the sermon, the flowers symbolized the members, each unique and free, joining together in fellowship and accepting each other regardless of their differences. At the end of the service, each member was to take one flower 'just as it comes without making any distinction where it came from and whom it represents, to confess that we accept each other as brothers and sisters without regard to class, race, or other distinction, acknowledging everybody as our friend who is human and wants to be good.'

Maja Capek introduced the Flower Communion to the United States in the spring of 1940 at the First Parish Church in Cambridge. It is now widely celebrated by Unitarian Universalist congregations everywhere.

Around the Church News

Goodloe Auction, Saturday, May 2

Come to the Goodloe Auction! We will start with a light dinner (available for a small price). We will provide child care for the evening. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm at Goodloe, with the live auction starting at 6:30. We will have a silent auction for some items, including items that appeal to children. We hope to complete the auction by 9:00 pm This will be a return to the large, live auction format of a few years ago. We could use donations from local stores, such as gift cards. Please give your donation forms to Ken Shilling or Cyn Snavelly.






Alumni, Faculty, Staff, Students and BSU Friends

You are cordially invited to the
Goodloe Alumni House
for an
OPEN HOUSE
and
Portrait Dedication of Mr. Donald Speed Smith Goodloe

*Goodloe was the first principal—from 1911 to 1921 of the Maryland Normal and Industrial School
Maryland's first black post-secondary school, which is now Bowie State University.
(Donated By The Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation)*

Thursday, May 7, 2009 @ 1:00 p.m.
Refreshments, Portrait Unveiling and Remarks by Special Guest



Family Choir Sunday, May 3

For those of you who like to sing, but can't come every Wednesday night to practice, we're going to have "Family Choir" on May 3 and possibly one other service this season.

To sing in the Family Choir, all you have to do is arrive an hour early, at 9:30 AM, to learn the music. You don't have to read music! We will choose songs that you can learn to sing by ear in one rehearsal.

Children are welcome to sing, but we ask that any children under 10 be accompanied by a parent.

Goodloe Alumni House Open House, May 7

On Thursday, May 7 the Goodloe Alumni House will hold an open house (see ad) at which Goodloe Memorial will present a framed picture of Rev. Don S.S. Goodloe from the congregation to the house. Thank you to Dick and Barbara Morris and to Bill and Martha Vincek for making this possible.

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 meet at Goodloe at 7:30pm on the second Friday of each month. This group will be deciding whether or not to continue at the June meeting. 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.

May 8: Emily Dickinson & Walt Whitman
June 12: Transcendentalism's 19th Century Legacy and The Legacy in the Twentieth Century and Beyond

Goodloe Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 17

Please come to the annual meeting following the service on Sunday, May 17. We will be electing officers and hearing the results of the pledge drive.

Annual Elections – May 17

The Goodloe congregation will hold its annual meeting on 17 May after worship. We will hold elections for new board members, discuss the pledge campaign and a draft budget for next year, and for the first time, we will also present the Goodloe Diversity Plan.

The nominations committee has asked Ken Shilling to run for a third year as president. This will require a waiver of the by-laws that limits the president to two years. This constitutes official notification that the congregation will vote on such a waiver.

Goodloe Readers, Thursday, May 21

You are invited to join the Goodloe Readers Book Club on the third Thursday of each month at the church at 7:30pm. Current reading selection: *Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture* by Ross King. For more information, please contact John Cole at 301.352.5981 or john.b.cole@gmail.com.

Goodloe to Take Part in Memorial Day Parade, Saturday, May 23

As part of our ongoing outreach effort, Diane Rappaport and Betsy Marks Delaney are coordinating our participation for the first time at this annual event, which takes place on Saturday, May 23rd. Groups line up at 10:30am, at the Bowie High Annex just off Belair Drive. The walk isn't too far and doesn't take much time once it gets going. The Delaneys have walked as part of the Brownies for the last three years, and can attest to the distance and time.

We'll be scheduling a time between now and when the application is due (May 8) to meet and discuss ideas for what we'll bring with us, and what our decoration theme might be. The parade is shown repeatedly by public access, and photographers are there from the press as well as cable stations.

If you're interested in being a part of the parade unit, would you please send email to Betsy at aramintamd@gmail.com, and include whether you'd be willing to walk or will need a ride, if you have a vehicle that might be used for carrying folks (convertible, hybrid, van), Radio Flier kid wagon or whatever else you might think useful.

Game Night Continues

Game Night is for anyone who would like to attend. Please RSVP to Betsy Delaney if you would like to get in on the pizza order. The next game night will be at Goodloe on Friday, May 29th (5th Friday!!!), at 7:00 pm. There will be **no** game nights in June, July or August. If you have questions, please contact Betsy Delaney at 301-922-1865 (cell) or email aramintamd@gmail.com.

Fellowship Dinner, Saturday, May 30

Come celebrate the community of our congregation at our annual fellowship dinner. The dinner will be a potluck at the congregation, starting at 6pm, with entertainment following.

Magazine Exchange

Please feel free to leave your gently used magazines in the lobby by the coat closet for other members to read, or take a few yourself!

Calls to Action

Goodloe Green Tip:

Stop Expensive Infiltration— by Laird Towle

No, I'm not talking about invading bugs, I'm talking about the air blowing through your house. The typical house is incredibly leaky and the air passing through takes with it 5-15% of your heating/cooling dollars. To test this on a breezy day, just hold a moist finger in front of an electrical socket (at least a half-inch away, please) on an outside wall on the upwind side of your house. You will probably feel a nice breeze coming in through the holes where the plugs go. On the down wind side you won't feel any air blowing, of course, because it is blowing out on that side, and carrying your money with it; the interior walls usually are less leaky, but it only takes a minute to check them. While you are at it, use the same technique to check around your doors and windows.

If you have leaky doors and windows, weather-stripping and caulking are required; you may want to get a handyman to help, although many homeowners can do it themselves. The electrical outlets are a breeze to fix (pun intended). Just buy a packet of the safety plugs intended to keep baby's fingers out of the sockets. These are available in bags of a couple dozen for just a few dollars in the child-safety department of many stores. Plug these into all the electrical outlets that don't already have a plug in them and you will be well on the way to saving some big bucks for just a little effort.

Goodloe Memorial Kiva Microlending Team Report – April 11, 2009

As of mid-April the Goodloe Team has made record progress. We now have ten families participating including an anonymous mystery member! That is a whopping 100% increase over last month and a record we can all take pride in. We currently has 32 loans open for \$825 with entrepreneurs around the globe.

Please join us. For a mere \$25 investment we will make you an international investment banker!

For detailed instruction on how to participate, see the April Odyssey, or contact me.

Laird Towle, Team Captain

Goodloe Contributes to Bowie Food Pantry

Sally Raymond reminds you to continue bringing your donations of food (cans, jars, boxes) to leave in our huge, blue collection container. If you somehow overlooked it, you'll find it on the floor to the right of the entrance, jutting out a bit from under the table.

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.

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. If you have information to contribute, contact Michelle Malta at michellemalta@gmail.com.

Goodloe Endowment Fund Established

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to The Goodloe Endowment 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.

National Multicultural Conference – Report from President of GMUUC

I had a wonderful time in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I witnessed a dramatic portrayal of Rosa Parks on the Bus, and felt the power of quiet and polite resistance against injustice. American Indians of the Talequah UU church invited us to experience a circle with a talking stick and a pow-wow singer. The All Souls congregation is the UU mega-church, with 1700 adults, 475 youth, and 7 choirs. Two of the choirs were traveling, and they had a UU guest choir from Germany.

I relearned the importance of sharing personal stories one-on-one. Each person has a unique story and we have much to learn from each other. Many people claim mixed ancestries and an observer cannot tell what a person feels inside. One woman shared a story of her distress of being half European and half American Indian. Her grandfather looked at her from front and back. "Granddaughter, I cannot tell which half is what". There were many sharings of personal search for wholeness and for acceptance of who we are.

I gained personal insights about the horrors of the Trail of Tears, the Greenwood Riots, and the abduction of American Indian children. I listened as friends told me their stories. I witnessed how cruelties affect the lives of my friends in their search for wholeness.

The Tulsa All-Souls congregation gained 500 new members from another church. The UU leadership accepted a new choir of praise singers. It did change the worship style of the second service. The senior minister

stated there is 'no test of religion' in our faith, and that skeptics and praise singers are welcomed.

We got to practice multicultural competencies. A few times during the conference, there were misunderstandings. We learned the importance of taking the time to listen. We experienced the need to be willing to learn, to admit mistakes, and to hear from multiple perspectives. We witnessed the trust of a group committed to helping each other to understand and resolve a misunderstanding.

Multicultural community is intentional. It requires some skills to work through personal discomfort so the group can find and restore harmony at a new level of understanding. It takes courage to be vulnerable and to share personal stories.

OpportUunities

UU Leadership Team Institute (UULTI) 2009

July 26- August 1, 2009 at Juniata College
Huntingdon, PA

Registration is now OPEN! To register, please visit www.uulti.org.

Transforming Our Whiteness, presented by Joseph Priestley District, Journey Towards Wholeness Committee, in partnership with Allies for Racial Equity, May 16-17, 2009, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, Media, PA

Unitarian Universalists are eager to follow the vision of the resolution passed at the General Assembly in Phoenix in 1997 that we become an anti-racist multicultural religious community. Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) has urged white Unitarian Universalists to develop effective ways to bring other white Unitarian Universalists into this important work. Allies for Racial Equity is offering this program entitled "Transforming Our Whiteness" for white members of Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations.

GOALS FOR THE PROGRAM: We intend to deepen our understanding of white identity and our own personal racial identity journey. We will be using the DVD: "Making Whiteness Visible:" to reflect on how we as whites first learn about racial difference, and how racism impacts us as White People.

We will reflect on the history of white supremacy in the United States and how this story has impacted on the history of Unitarian Universalism. Participants will be e-mailed two papers on these topics before the training event. The information in the papers will be discussed during the training. So please put your e-mail address in the registration information.

One of the dilemmas we face as whites is how to feel good about our racial identity - our whiteness - in a culture of white supremacy. The challenge here is to develop a positive white identity that will empower us to work for change. We will discuss being a good ally to People of Color, working to end racism in white controlled institutions, and nurturing a positive white racial identity in our children.

Online registration is available at www.jpduua.org

Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community (UUMAC) seeks workshop leaders

July 19-25, 2009, DeSales University Center Valley, PA

This is a loving one-week intergen community consisting of approximately 200 people that shares morning worship (Rev. Bob Janis Dillon - 2009 Minister of the Week), a theme speaker (Jim Scott), workshops for teens and adults, children's programming, off campus activities and fun night life. Workshop time is daily 10:30am until Noon.

Brochure blurbs and brief bios need to be to our editor by mid-December. Subsidy is 80% of registration fee. For more information or ideas, please contact Nina Lomax at ninalomax@comcast.net or 703-361-7205. Check out the website on www.uumac.org.

Summer Pilgrimage to Transylvania, Romania

The UUA Partner Church Council is offering a special pilgrimage to Transylvania for Greater Washington Area UUs from July 9-21, 2009. This 14-day pilgrimage will include beautiful Budapest, many historic Unitarian sites in Romania, and three days in a Unitarian church village. The goal is to inform UUs more fully about the breadth and depth of our faith by fostering a new understanding of our historical roots and building deeper relationships with our co-religionists in Transylvania. It will also provide a splendid opportunity for GWA UUs to become more acquainted and to share ideas.

For the complete exciting itinerary and details about this pilgrimage, go to www.uupcc.org, and under "Travel," click on "public/private trips." The deadline for applications is the end of April. Questions? Please contact John Dale, jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com, or Carol Waser, waser@waser.us or 301-680-2291.

UUSJ Program and Meeting

Save the date! Help your congregation move forward on issues of environmental justice, non-violent communication, group service trips near and far, and ethical eating. Presentations and sharing of best practices on these will take place at the UUs for Social Justice gathering, Sat., May 30, 9-1, at the Washington Ethical Society (near DC/Silver Spring line). A UUSJ board meeting will follow the programming. The board meeting will begin at 1:30pm.

An Unholy Trinity (Part IV)

– by Laird Towle

In the previous installments 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. Having discussed resource depletion in some detail, we now turn to the Economic Collapse.

Economic Collapse – At first sight economic collapse would not seem to have anything to do with the ecological disasters discussed above, but closer inspection reveals that it does; both of these ecological disasters we face stem from continuous, exponential, industrial growth which both consumes our limited resources, and pollutes the environment faster than it can recover. Likewise, all the economic bubbles we have seen burst in recent decades are the consequence, at least in part, of our unlimited and unsustainable industrial growth. There is a close resemblance to a Ponzi scheme; everything is fine until a physical constraint is approached, such as a shortage of suckers to bring in at the bottom of the pyramid; when that limit is approached the system collapses.

The root problem is that classical economics is based on a fundamental fallacy; it assumes that an enterprise, be it a small business or the world economy, can continue to grow exponentially indefinitely. That is clearly not possible, even in theory, on a finite planet. When economics was invented 200 years ago, that fundamental assumption was a good approximation. Everything was orders of magnitude smaller relative to the planet. Unfortunately, it does not hold today, but the vast majority of economists still cling to it. As a result, they persist in seeing continued growth as the solution to all problems. Fortunately, there is a growing minority of economists who recognize that not all growth is good – that growth in quantity is often bad and unsustainable, while growth in quality is usually good and may be continued indefinitely. Until we drastically revise our economic thinking the bubbles will continue to build and burst.

Solutions

In order to visualize some possible solutions to our current problems, we need to have a clear picture of where we are now, and how we got here.

Over the past 250 years mankind has radically transformed the face of the planet. When we made the transition from extracting power from the burning of wood to the use of fossil fuels, (first coal and later oil and natural gas) we made a quantum leap in our ability to alter the Earth because the energy density in the fossil fuels is roughly 100 times that in wood. In addition, our energy wealth permitted us to multiply in population several-fold. As a consequence we have been

able to quite literally transform the face of the Earth; and in the process we have dumped untold quantities of toxic wastes into the environment. We have done this on such a grand scale that we have consumed a large proportion of the planet's mineral wealth, and destroyed much of its habitat. We are currently destroying species at a rate that hasn't been seen since the meteor struck 65 million years ago, and are now even threatening our own existence because of global warming.

This industrialization of the world has only been possible because of the ready availability of cheap fossil fuel energy (especially oil); nothing else on the planet has the enormous energy density of the fossil fuels and we now realize they are soon going to be in short supply. It is as if 250 years ago we had discovered a pirates treasure and began spending it with reckless abandon. The party grew and grew as more people arrived, and we served more and more lavish meals, and provided more and more spectacular entertainment, but now suddenly we find we don't have enough treasure left for even another round of drinks. The party is about to come to an abrupt end, and the partygoers are not likely to leave quietly into the cold dark night.

These facts strongly suggest that world economic activity will soon begin to decline, which will make it increasingly difficult to support our rapidly growing population. Studies have shown that the Earth can only support a population of one or two billion people on a sustainable basis. Since our current population is 6.7 billion, and growing rapidly, we are, in effect, racing at full speed toward a brick wall. We need a humane way to curb our population growth. Indeed, a sharp reduction in world population would go a long way toward ameliorating our other problems which derive in large part from our massive consumption of resources and waste generation.

We know from the history of the past several thousand years that civilizations wax and wane, come and go. In many cases civilizations have collapsed because they have outgrown the carrying capacity of their environment, or because their environment has changed so rapidly that they could not adapt. We are currently facing both those possibilities. What makes the present situation unique is that in addition to industrializing the world economy, we have also globalized it. We had stood all the dominoes on end and in line, so that any collapse quickly spreads around the globe. We have just experienced a taste of this with the recent financial collapse.

Thus, our predicament is basically as follows: In the long term we are going to run out of fossil fuels which will mean a long period of relatively rapid de-industrialization, unless possibly we can develop some alternative sources of cheap renewable energy. In

the short term we need to rapidly reduce our burning of fossil fuels, or climate change will make the planet uninhabitable. Alternative sources of cheap energy would help with that problem also. At the same time we need to create a new economic model which will support sustainable development and improvements in standard of living based on quality rather than quantity of material goods. And in addition, we need to reduce the population of the planet to a sustainable level in a humane way.

The bad news is that we are faced with an interconnected web of serious crises. The good news is that major crises offer opportunities for radical changes that would never be acceptable in more comfortable circumstances. We are faced with the opportunity of designing and implementing a whole new world order. Mankind has never faced a challenge of this magnitude before, and if we do not succeed this time, there will never be another such opportunity; the human experiment will have been a colossal failure.

To be continued....

Joys and Concerns

Please welcome our newest member, Alexis Flanagan!

Lynn and Kevin Denis had a baby boy. Robert Joseph Denis on Mar 18. 7 lbs 10 oz. 20 inches. Everyone is doing well. (Emily is doing great as a big sister).

Lisa Jacobus reports that she is being laid off from work in the near future.

Betsy Marks Delaney is working again, on contract web development, and has returned to her role as Goodloe Newsletter Editor.

A Joy to Share – by Laird Towle

I have a joy to share and a bit of a confession to make. As of April 14th I have been sleeping with one of the fair ladies in our congregation for fifty-three years. I refer to my wonderful wife Marlene, of course; what were you thinking? As it happens, we have also been married for fifty-three years as of April 14th, so that may suggest just how naive we were at the time. Actually, we were so naive that our marriage nearly ended before it had begun.

When we returned from our honeymoon, I was stunned to learn that Marlene did not know how to cook! I myself was completely ignorant of kitchen business, but assumed that girls grew up learning to cook at their mother's knee, and that it was second nature to them. What I discovered was that her mother had only taught her how to make cup cakes, and a few other simple deserts; no meatloaf, no casseroles, no main dishes! While I was thrilled with Marlene's cup cakes, we were clearly going to need something more for the long term.

Marlene immediately set to work to learn the culinary arts. Her efforts led to some exciting times. I remember that one of the first things she learned was that you don't time you meatloaf with the smoke detector; ours got quite a workout for awhile. However, she persevered and was soon on her way to becoming the excellent cook she is today.

One of the things she did that was highly commendable was to see to it that all our four children learned to cook before they graduated from high school. Even the two boys feel perfectly at home in a kitchen. In fact, the oldest boy worked as a cook at Rip's Restaurant for a while before going into the Navy. He has since retired and become a house-husband, so he gets to use his culinary skills on a daily basis.

I, on the other hand, regressed seriously. Today, if Marlene is away or ill, I find myself reduced to eating cold Spaghettios straight from the tin can. At one point I attempted to get a little more sophisticated and heat them in the microwave. Wow, did that ever send the smoke detector into a tizzy!

In spite of those culinary challenges, and the best efforts of both our mothers (but that is another story), Marlene and I have managed to stay together, and have a good life. I will be forever in her debt for all she has done for me. She is such a joy to me!

I think our life together can be aptly summed up as:
53 years of marital bliss & 52 years of good eating

A Good Laugh...

On her way to church one Sunday morning, the UU minister noticed a young child in the parking lot of the nearby Catholic church, with a box and a sign: "Free kittens, from a good Catholic family!" She smiled to herself, mentally wished the child good luck, and went on her way.

About the middle of the week, she saw the same child, with the same box, outside the Methodist church, this time with a sign that said, "Good Methodist kittens! Absolutely free!" Impressed with the child's tenacity, she went on into her board meeting.

Finally, the next Sunday, the child was in her Church's parking lot, with a new sign reading: "Unitarian Universalist kittens! Free to a good home!" This time she stopped to chat.

"Weren't you outside the Catholic church last Sunday?"

"Yes."

"And on Wednesday, weren't these Methodist kittens?"

"They sure were."

"Well, how come they're Unitarian Universalist kittens now?"

"Cause today their eyes are open!"

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Minister: Rev. Cynthia Snavely
240.475.2111 (cell)

Minister Emeritus: Rev. John Gaffney

RE Coordinator: Tisha Richardson

Music Director: Dick Wobus

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Goodloe Green Sanctuary:

Rob Whitaker and Michelle Malta

Goodloe Readers:

John Cole

ODYSSEY Editor:

Betsy Marks Delaney

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:
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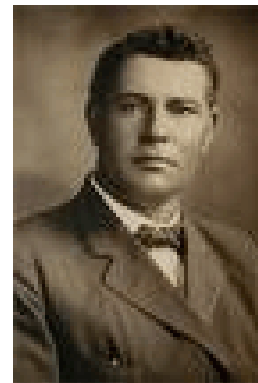
Contact Deon Merene (240) 678-0262.

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Scrip. Use the scrip like a gift card at the
check out line.**

Deadline for Next Odyssey: May 15th, 2009

**Please email submissions to
goodloe.newsletter@gmail.com.**

**Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist
Congregation** is named for Don Speed Smith
Goodloe, first principal of Maryland Normal and
Industrial School, Bowie



Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation Calendar May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30- 9pm Drumming from the Heart (Ken Shilling)	2
3 10:30 am Intergenerational Flower Communion Service: Jill York	4	5 7:30 pm Board of Directors (Ken Shilling)	6 7:30-9pm Choir Practice (Dick Wobus)	7	8 7:30 pm Transcendentalists (Cyn Snavelly)	9
10 10:30 am Service: Parents Changing the World Rev. Snavelly Potluck to follow service	11	12 7:15 pm Meditation Group (Tom Brenner)	13 7:30-9pm Choir Practice (Dick Wobus) Odyssey Deadline	14 7:30-9:00 pm Goodloe Readers (John Cole)	15	16
17 10:30 am Service: The Blind Men and the Elephant Dick Wobus	18	19 7:15 pm Spanish Group (Tom Brenner)	20 7:30-9pm Choir Practice (Dick Wobus)	21 7:30 pm Goodloe Green Sanctuary Committee (Rob Whitaker)	22	23
24 10:30 am Service: Remembering (Memorial Day Service) Rev. Snavelly	25	26 7:15 pm Meditation Group (Tom Brenner)	27 7:30-9pm Choir Practice (Dick Wobus)	28	29 7:00 pm Game Night (Betsy Delaney)	30
31 10:30 am Service: What I Learned from Summer Picnics Rev. Snavelly After Church Buffet at New China (Tom Brenner)						

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation



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