



Odyssey April 2010

Newsletter for the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Ministerial Musings

Dear Members and Friends of Goodloe Memorial:

On a Sunday in March I attended the installation of the Reverend Diane Teichert as the minister of our neighboring congregation, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church in Adelphi, MD. The speaker at the installation service spoke of the work of becoming a diverse, multicultural congregation as being like the Hebrew people leaving Egypt and wandering for forty years before reaching the Promised Land. The preacher noted that Moses saw the Promised Land from the mountaintop, but he never got there. She did not note, but I remember from my Sunday school days, that none of the generation who left Egypt entered the Promised Land.

My daughter and son-in-law and their generation seem much more comfortable with differences in race, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc. than my own generation and those before me, but I hope that all of us of whatever age might help lead the way for all the people to enter the new Promised Land not of the melting pot of America of my school days but of the salad bowl of my children's where differences are celebrated and not crushed.

Unitarian Universalism has been a white, upper middle class denomination for many generations. Boston, where our UU denominational headquarters sits, has a reputation for racism and snootiness that has rubbed off on us as UUs too.

In January of this year an article in Boston Magazine by John Gonzalez had this as its header, "Ask sports fans from across the country to describe Boston, and you'll hear this: "City of Champions." Ask athletes themselves the same question and you'll hear it described in very different terms: as a city of racists. If it's not a fair label anymore, as so many of us insist, then why won't it go away?" Gonzalez writes, "How racist Boston is perceived to be is far less important than the fact that the perception continues to exist at all.

"What also continues is Boston's visceral reaction whenever someone so much as hints that the city is prejudiced. Some of Boston's anger may be

caused by guilt over its previous wrongs, and some of it may be a genuine belief that the city's identity should no longer be tied to its ugly past. Either way, it's self-defeating. Because in Boston's haste to defend itself—to deny, deny, deny—it simply perpetuates the perception. It's automatic now, like a child who puts his fingers in his ears or his hands over his eyes in an attempt to avoid something unpleasant. But we all know that never makes the bad thing go away.....

"To that end, the city itself could probably learn something from the experiences of Guy Stuart, the Kennedy School lecturer. Before he came to Boston, Stuart, who is white, spent a decade working in black communities in Chicago. It was there that he learned a useful lesson: If you want to improve race relations, "don't go around simply saying you're not racist."

Unitarian Universalists have spent a long time saying we are not racist, we are not homophobic, and we are not elitist. If we truly want to be Universalists—celebrating the wide variety of human culture-- then it is time to stop talking and start listening.

Unitarian Universalists can celebrate many of our own-- John Adams, Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, but there is a part of our history and our culture that has and still does keep us mostly white and mostly middle and upper class. Like Boston, Unitarian Universalists may respond with a visceral reaction when we are accused of being prejudiced, but that closes the conversation and does not allow for change.

Our choir director, Matt Rider, recently noted that there are two ways to exclude people, you can bar the door or you can make it very uncomfortable for anyone who is not willing to become just like you to be included. We have not barred the door, but

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to

do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people will get to the Promised Land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.” Spoken on April 3, 1968 by the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968).

Blessed Be,
Cyn

Mystic Journeys - Ken Shilling

How do we truly live our principles and our sources of faith?

I enjoy the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. I put this together with the source of wisdom in all world religions. I evolve my beliefs from a context of being raised in a mixed faith family. I was willing to learn from many friends about their Native American, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Islam, Jain, Sikh faiths.

From 40 years, I have puzzled over the missionary transmission of Buddhism to China and Japan. Surely, Buddhism was transmitted to Greece and Egypt, but there is no mention in the history books. What happened?

I have been studying history in Wikipedia. I am learning how Alexander the Great encouraged an exchange of philosophy between Greece and India. Indeed, Hindu philosophies may have strongly influenced several Greek schools of philosophy. I also read about the successor kings that maintained Greek rule after Alexander, but also adopted Buddhism.

I learned that there were many Buddhists in Egypt, but few traces of their presence remain. After 40 years of search, I am tantalized that Buddhism did spread to the West. How did it influence Western Religion?

I am also researching early Christianities and Gnostic religions. Gnostic means knowledge and often referred to an “inner” knowledge. There are many parallels between Gnostic faith and Buddhism. I can sense how Buddhism tried to coexist with other faiths and how the faiths blended together.

I sense a great loss when the Orthodox declared that they had the true Christianity. We lost access to the wisdom of the inner kingdom and how to strive for wholeness, human fullness, and oneness with the Divine. Then, I read depth psychology and see the parallels with Gnostic and Buddhist faiths.

I just wanted to share something that I devote a lot of myself in searching. I would love to discuss this with anyone who might be interested. And, I would love to hear about your search and what you are exploring.

Ken

Sunday Services

April 4 Easter Sunday 2 services

8:30am Celebrating Spring Rev. Snavelly
Lorraine Webb on harp

We will hold the service at Goodloe this year.

(Rev. Gaffney, our minister emeritus, will be out of the area this year visiting family.)

Please bring muffins, juice, sweet rolls or some other food item to share following the service.

After a winter of much snow the arrival of spring is especially appreciated this year. Let's celebrate.

Special collection at this service for the Goodloe Scholarship at Bowie State University

10:30am The Dying and Rising God Rev. Snavelly

A dying and rising god or goddess is a common theme in human culture. The god or goddess, who dies and rises is often associated with agriculture. The seed is dead and buried, but from that seed new crops – the food that sustains life- come.

April 11 Yom Hoshuah, a Holocaust Remembrance Day Service Rev. Snavelly

Shoah is the Hebrew word for Holocaust. Yom Hoshuah remembers the approximately 6 million Jews killed during World War II. We remember also the Romani, the gays, the Jehovah's Witnesses and others placed in concentration camps and killed by the Nazis and the genocides that have

happened since World War II.

April 18 Earth Day Service Worship Associates (info from Karen Scrivo)

April 25 Looking Inward: What is Our Human Nature? Rev. Snavely

Some say that we are born tainted by original sin. Others say that we are born good. I think the truth is in between. Good and evil are human constructs, and nature and nurture lead our lives toward one or the other.

May 2 Welcome Worship Associates (info from Karen Scrivo)

Goodloe Board Meeting Minutes March 4, 2010

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

Excused: Jackie Lord

Visitor: George Schulman, Membership Chairman

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

Business:

- 1) **Minutes:** The Minutes of the February Board Meeting were approved as corrected.
- 2) **Membership:** George Schulman, Membership Chairman, presented some ideas on how to attract more visitors using direct mail and a lively discussion ensued which can be summarized as follows:

Two years ago a direct mail campaign was waged using homemade flyers sent to recent Bowie area home buyers. 2,342 fliers were sent to 932 households such that all received two flyers and about half received three fliers over the course of about four months. Since only one visitor resulted, the effort was terminated as not cost effective.

George (and others) pointed out that the flyers used were not very attractive, and that in his opinion it is necessary to contact people at least six times before they are likely to respond. Accordingly, he proposed to contact 300 households with six mailings over the course of a year using more attractive mailing pieces. He estimated that such a program would bring in 3-4

visitors at a cost of \$649 per year plus the cost of the mailing pieces. If the latter cost \$0.10 each that would add about \$180 per year to the total cost.

The Board was generally supportive of testing George's approach, but suggested he consider getting professionally designed and printed postcards from UUA. Final approval of the plan is pending depending on the cost and availability of attractive mailing pieces which George agreed to pursue further.

- 3) **Hearing Impaired:** Dick Wobus was not present to discuss his plan to provide assistance to the hearing impaired.
- 4) **Position Descriptions:** As a precursor to the annual nominating process, Joe Puccio distributed draft position descriptions for all of the various officers and board members (with the exception of the Financial Officer), and requested feedback within a week.
- 5) **Rentals:** The GWU Summer Reading Program will not be renting space at Goodloe because they found more suitable space elsewhere.
- 6) **RE:** Sally Raymond has stepped down as Chairman of the RE Committee in order to devote more time to her home renovation business.
- 7) **Congregational Dinner:** The date of the dinner was set for Saturday April 10th. A coordinator is needed to finalize the plans.
- 8) **Amazon Link:** It was decided that our affiliate link to Amazon.com should be on a secondary page of our web site in the interest of good taste. The final page will be presented to the Board for approval before it is published. Joe Puccio agreed to scan the contract with Amazon to be sure there are no clauses that would conflict with our principles.
- 9) **Yard Sale:** The yard sale is to be held at Goodloe on Saturday May 1st. Jackie Lord and Barbara Puccio are coordinating the effort.
- 10) **Goodloe Celebration:** The flyer describing the Goodloe Scholarship Fund is to be finalized in time to be distributed at the Melissa Cox concert.

- 11) **Financial Report:** year to date our expenses have exceeded our income by about \$4k, but the Financial Officer assured us that that is typical of this time of the year. A couple of apparent typos on the financial report were called to Roger's attention.
- 12) **Green Electricity:** A motion was passed authorizing our signing up with Clean Currents to buy wind generated electricity from them at the rates they have quoted us for the next three years. This will save us about \$2,000 over the three years vis-à-vis staying with BG&E's dirty coal electricity.
- 13) **Mortgage Pay-Down:** Laird Towle presented his ideas regarding a) the advantages of making a substantial pay down of our mortgage using funds from our savings account, and 2) the advantage of further paying down the remaining mortgage balance by means of borrowing from our members at 4% simple interest. Since we are currently paying about \$17,000 per year in interest, either a) or b) or a combination of the two has the potential to save the congregation many thousands of dollars, and thus get us debt free in as few as five years. For specific numerical examples see the attachment to last month's minutes. There seemed to be general agreement that a) above is desirable, but the amount to be retained in our "rainy day" fund is unclear. Roger has asked the bank to run figures for us assuming pay downs of \$25k/\$50k/\$100k. This subject will be discussed further at the next Board meeting or sooner, depending on when we get the numbers from the bank.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 9:35

**Respectfully submitted, Laird Towle, Secretary,
March 5, 2010**

**Fundraiser: Goodloe Yard and Bake Sale -- Saturday
May 1, 2010 -- 7:30am-12:00pm**

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

The Spring Yard Sale will be the major fundraiser for Goodloe this year. We need donations of items in good condition. Please help make this a successful event by donating your time and effort. We need volunteers to accept donations, display/price items, sell/help on the day of the sale, cleanup, and take unsold items to charities. A signup sheet is posted at Goodloe. Contact Jackie Lord or

Barbara Puccio for more information.

Java, Jazz and Conversation

The local talent is lining up as Goodloe Memorial U. U. Congregation in Bowie, Maryland restarts its monthly coffeehouse night on April 24th and May 22nd from 7:30 to 10:00 p. m. Everyone, from age 12 and up, is welcome to come and participate. There will be a space for performing music, poetry, and stand-up comedy (in good taste). Singers, mimes, actors, musicians, magicians and other performers are encouraged to show off their talents. A quiet nook will be available for those who just want to chat. Snacks, coffee and tea will be on hand. \$5 is the suggested donation. A donation for refreshments or your contribution of food or nonalcoholic drinks is encouraged. Please call Rev. Cyn Snavely, 240.475.2111 (cell), for details.

Christmas in April Saturday, April 24

This year Goodloe members will be working on a team with members of Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church on this project repairing, cleaning, and renovating homes of our county senior and low income neighbors. Volunteers must be at least age 14 to participate. Students age 14-17 must request a Parental Permission Form from Christmas in April, and cannot work at house site without a completed form. Our coordinator at Davies is Robert Willis 301-203-9425, willisedu@aol.com
<http://www.christmasinaprilpg.org/>

Save the Date-- Goodloe Memorial Annual Meeting Sunday, May 16 following the service

The potluck will move from the second Sunday (Mother's Day) to the third Sunday so that we can eat together before we vote in new officers and consider the upcoming year at Goodloe.

Saturday, April 10 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner and Start of the 2010-2011 Pledge Drive

Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. Offer to sing, play or provide entertainment. Come ready to share in a conversation about the mission of Goodloe and some of the ways we worship, live, play and work together.

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
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Roger Davidson 410.451.9805
Secretary:
Laird Towle: 301.464.1159
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Jackie Lord 301.249.7713
Jill York: 301.262.1495
Rev Cyn Snavelly: 240.475.2111 (cell)
Committee Chairs:
Worship:
Karen Scrivo
Building & Facilities:
Roger Davidson
Communications:
Vacant
Membership:
George Schulman
Religious Education:
Sally Raymond
Ministry:
Nita Page-Daves
Lorraine Webb
Pathfinders:
Vacant
Goodloe Green Sanctuary:
Rob Whitaker and Michelle Malta

Goodloe Readers:

John Cole

ODYSSEY Editor:

Trevor Smith (410)-693-4457

If you have changed your address, phone, or email,
please let us know at goodloe.memorial@gmail.com
or contact Jackie Lord (301) 249-7713 or Nancy
Choice (301) 805-5345.

Notice: Lorraine Webb Maryland Notary

Lorraine Webb, a certified Maryland Notary,
offers her services, free of charge, to
Goodloe Memorial members and friends. If you
would like to utilize her notary services, contact her:
(301) 218-1516 or llacey33@verizon.net.

Please Buy Giant Scrip

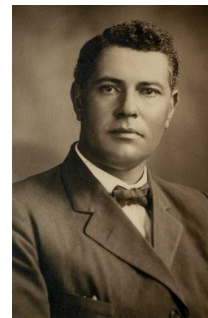
Use scrip as cash at Giant Food Stores.
Goodloe makes 5% to 10% each time you shop.
Contact Deon Merene (240) 678-0262.

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

Deadline for Next Odyssey: April 15th, 2010

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

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



April Calendar for Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation



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

