

**THE MEMPHIS  
UNITARIAN**

**THE  
CHURCH  
OF THE  
RIVER**

Burton D. Carley, Minister  
Home—759-1848 Church—526-8631  
Fax—526-8632 e-mail—[UURiver@aol.com](mailto:UURiver@aol.com)  
[www.churchoftheriver.org](http://www.churchoftheriver.org)

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VOLUME 57 NO. 19 EDITOR: MARGARET PARK - Home: 763-0206, e-mail—[uuriver@aol.com](mailto:uuriver@aol.com)  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Cindy Sakaan— Home: 725-7758 e-mail—[DRECSakaan@aol.co](mailto:DRECSakaan@aol.co)

January 11, 2010  
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER CHURCH JANUARY 31 TO VOTE ON THE 2010 BUDGET**

**SERMON: “Does Race Still Matter?”**

As we approach Martin Luther King Sunday it is a good time to consider the place of race in a Barack Obama America.

**The Rev. Burton Carley will deliver the sermon at the eleven o'clock service**

**Church of the River Calendar  
Quotation of the Week**

“He who confronts the paradoxical exposes himself to reality.” — F. Durrenmatt

**Tuesday, January 12**

10:30 a.m. The Alliance will meet at church to carpool to the Ornamental Metal Museum to see the “Re-Make Re-Model” exhibit and then return to the church for lunch in the Mississippi River Room. All are invited.  
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

**Wednesday, January 13**

2:00 p.m. The Shakespeare Readers will meet at the Central Library to read Coriolanus. Contact: Gale Mason—725-7924

**Thursday, January 14**

6:00 p.m. The Board of Trustees will meet in the Beacon Room.  
7:00 p.m. Auction Kickoff Planning Meeting at the home of Gwen Rose in midtown. Call Gwen at 276-3760 if you need directions. Please come and add your strength to ours to make this the best auction ever.

**Saturday, January 16**

1-3:30 p.m. Writer’s Workshop “Turning Memories into Memoirs: “I Couldn’t Wait to Get Grown” Tunica Museum, Tunica, MS Contact: Dr. Rachell Anderson—[Rander5022@Wildblue.net](mailto:Rander5022@Wildblue.net)  
2:00—4:00 p.m. Knitting Etc. will meet at the home of Jeane Umbreit, 158 S. Rose Rd. Call Jeane at 374-9114 for directions or questions.

**Sunday, January 17**

(Continued on page 2)

**Announcements from the Children’s Ministry**

On Sunday, January 17, all are invited to celebrate their birthday at our annual Unbirthday Celebration following the worship service. Come meet other church members who share your birth-month, young and old, and learn about historical Unitarian Universalists who also share your birthday. It’s a once a year opportunity to have dessert first!

The YRUU will meet with Tim Wheat and Lisa Nezwazky at 10 o'clock to continue planning for Youth Sunday.

At 11 o'clock, church school for infants through 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth continues with childcare in the nursery and pre-school with Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner, *Treasure Hunting* in the kindergarten with Brenda Lanier, Chalice Service for grades 1-5 with Holly and Buss McCormick, *Toolbox of Faith* workshops with Christy and Norm Shaw and Richard Lewis, and *Neighboring Faiths* for grades 6-8 with Martine Starck.

On Saturday, January 16, the Middle School Adventure Club will serve at the St. John’s Soup Kitchen at 3:30 and will continue their adventure together for dinner and a movie. All 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited. Contact MSAC advisor, Jeff McDonald, for details.  
[jeffgmcd@comcast.net](mailto:jeffgmcd@comcast.net)

And speaking of dinner and a movie, all families are invited to the Church of the River on Saturday, January 23, at 6 o'clock for a potluck dinner and movie in our own Chalice Room Theatre. The movie will be “Up”. Come enjoy our new big screen, surround sound, and supper with your COR friends. Free popcorn for the first fifty guests!

**Church Web Site Trivia:**

- **Over the past 3 days, our web site has been visited 88 times from people in 10 different states.**
- **There are 41 people following us in Twitter**
- **There are 72 members of our page in Facebook**

**Interested in being a Census Taker?** United States Census 2010 is conducting testing and training down here at the Church of the River Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. during January.

Drop in or schedule yourself by calling 1-866-861-2010.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



Recently I have been saying at Sunday worship that hospitality is not just an idea. It is something we do. Like love and faith, unless hospitality becomes a verb it is rather useless. Hospitality requires action in order to make a difference. Simply putting out a sign proclaiming that we are welcoming speaks of intention and good intentions by themselves pave the road to nowhere. So here are some suggestions for putting into practice the hospitality we desire to create at the church.

1. Move from yourself to the perspective of the stranger. For many people it takes courage to try out a new place and this means there is an important motivation for risking that courage. So the visitor may have read something about us or looked at our web site but he or she really doesn't know our culture or building. It is every member's task to come to church with eyes that look for ways of being helpful. Be prepared to give information and help people find their way.
2. Stretch yourself by introducing yourself to at least one person you do not know each Sunday. If it is a visitor you can ask how they discovered the church or if there is some way you can be helpful. To be really courageous yourself you can invite them to sit with you. If it is another member of the congregation then you are helping to deepen connections.
3. Be mindful that welcoming the stranger, the seeker, the pilgrim, is essential to our faith. The guest gives us the grace of exercising the open mind and open heart we cultivate to grow our souls. We receive and are not just giving. Everyone desires to be listened to, and for the one who listens there is something life is trying to teach you in that moment. Every visitor has a story that brought them to our church that day. Invite it and listen to it. Also invite others to the events and groups that you enjoy. That may be the only encouragement they need to feel truly welcomed.
4. Finally, pay attention to ways we can improve the receptivity of our church to others. Take the abandoned coffee cup to the kitchen and help police the attractiveness of our building. If you notice something more major tell a board or staff member.

My invitation to you is to consider hospitality to be part of our spiritual life together. It is not simply a duty or a technique for membership, but important to our covenant based in right relationships. Growing our souls and maturing our spiritual lives is not a solitary endeavor. It takes place by the connections we make. **bc**

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**Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA)** DNA develops public awareness of downtown and reinforces a sense that downtown belongs to everyone. DNA is a community organization that strives to help the Downtown community connect with others who also wish to make our neighborhood a better place to live. DNA offers its members the opportunity to help make our neighborhood a better place to live. The strength of DNA has always centered on the number of people who get involved. With your involvement DNA can make a difference. Membership cost per year: Individual—\$25, Family \$40, Business \$70. Terry Woodard, President — 351-8201

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*(Continued from page 1)* **January 17 calendar continued**

- 9:30 a.m. The Quest Group will meet in the Beacon Room to consider "The Bible—Down & Dirty"
- 10:00 a.m. Questions of Faith will continue the study of "Blink", by Malcolm Gladwell.
- High school Class will meet and begin to prepare for youth Sunday.
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
Childcare for infants and preschoolers  
Middle School meets in their classroom.  
River Explorers meet in the Chalice Room and go on to their workshops.
- Noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.
- 12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at Garibaldi's Pizza, 3530 Walker Ave.

### Monday, January 18

**The church office will be closed for MLK day.**

- 10:00 a. m. Italian for Travelers will begin with a meeting at the Old Venice Pizza Co. (across from Davis-Kidd) 368 Perkins Ext. We will learn and laugh for about 2 hours and hopefully enjoy lunch together. Meredith Page has graciously volunteered to be our instructor for 5-6 weeks and would like us to have a book on Italian common expressions, etc. if possible. Please let Meredith (726-5477), Gale Mason (725-7924) or Moon Mullins (730-0082) know if you will attend. Ciao.

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### Soup for the Soul

Nancy Walton and Sue Strong will be hosting this month on January 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Nancy Walton, 6003 Manor Cove, Memphis 38120. Nancy & Sue are preparing two soups from "Simply Southern with a Dash of Kosher Soul" while the cookbook's authors, Tracy Rapp and Dena Wruble will be preparing additional items from their cookbook Please RSVP to Nancy Walton's email address [msnewright@aol.com](mailto:msnewright@aol.com) or phone her at 685-2499. Bread, wine and perhaps a few salads will be all that is needed.

**The Care Coordinator for January is Mary Jo Miller. You can reach Mary Jo at 327-7930**

# Thanks

to Buss & Holly McCormick for a gift to the Emergency Maintenance Fund in memory of **Bob Myers**.

**Thanks also to Jeanne Varnell** for a gift to the Emergency Maintenance Fund in memory of **Goldene Blinkoff**.

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### Adopted School Presentation, Friday, January 15th

Please mark your calendars for this important date as our congregation is honored by our newly-adopted school, Shady Grove Elementary. Church of the River will be presented with an official City of Memphis Schools Partnership document at the school, 5360 Shady Grove Rd. at 1:30 p.m. on Friday January 15th. Set aside an hour to support the school and endorse this worth outreach project.

Also, those of you who have considered doing volunteer work at Shady Grove can view the campus and meet faculty if you desire. We look forward to having you join Reverend Carley and members of the outreach team in accepting this honor.

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### Free Yoga Classes for Cancer Survivors

If you have ever been treated for cancer or are being treated for cancer now, come refresh, renew, open your heart, breath and heal.

This class is free due to generous funding from the Wings Foundation.

Where: Midtown Yoga, 524 S Cooper, Memphis 38104

When: Wednesdays from 7-8:15 pm.

Contact Lisa Nezwazky for further details. 685-3289 or [lisa.nez@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.nez@gmail.com)

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# THE MEMPHIS UNITARIAN

## IN GRATITUDE FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE IN 2009 IN ACTION & IN RESOURCES ON BEHALF OF YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

### CORmeals (MIFAs Meals on Wheels)

Jerry Billmeier  
Larry Bloch  
Gary Feder  
Alice Fleming  
Deb Foehring  
Mae Guinn  
Janice Herbert  
Waverly Herbert  
Lisa Jennings  
Audrey Kalbach  
Bill Landers  
Richard Lewis  
Caitlin Lloyd  
Kim Lloyd  
Thais Lloyd  
Moon Mullins  
Sue Myers  
Kent Owen  
Alex Rugoff  
Sharen Schulz  
Wayne Shannon  
Jim Spake  
Mary Todd  
Betty Turner  
Jeane Umbreit  
Gwynne Woodward

### Backpack Program (2009 Outreach Project)

Michelle Repass  
Katy Spurlock  
Ken Strong  
Sue Strong  
Bobby Walton  
Nancy Walton  
Ginger Wheat  
Juliet Wischmeyer  
Children's Ministry Team/Cindy Sakaan  
Children of the COR  
COR Board of Directors  
COR Choir  
COR Congregation  
River Readers  
Soup for the Soul

### Manna House

Sara Coccooran  
Leslie Howard  
Lauren Parsons  
Nancy Walton

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the Manna House this winter. We have delivered over 50 large bags of men's and women's clothing, toiletries, shoes and blankets. Please continue to clean out your closets as we remember those less fortunate.

### Hospitality Hub

Nancy Walton

Thanks from Ellen Klyce to all who have donated

### Hawkins Mill & Shady Grove (our adopt a school beginning 8/09) Elementaries

#### *Tutors (Hawkins Mill)*

Jerry Billmeier  
Wai Bing  
Linda Black  
Nancy Mullins  
Juliet Wischmeyer

#### *Tutors (Shady Grove)*

Jerry Billmeier  
Wai Bing  
Linda Black  
Bryson Randolph  
Juliet Wischmeyer  
Dee Billmeier (Juror - Student Work Exhibition)

### Soup Kitchen

Dan Bing  
Larry Bomar  
Roy Bell  
Barbara Burch  
Betty Faulkner  
Bob Foehring  
Deb Foehring  
Claudia Gassert  
Ann Hill  
John Hill  
Donna Hoffman  
Ellen Hornyak  
Anne Mathes  
Jamie Messer  
Tom Miller  
Sandra Mortal  
Charles Mullins  
Eli Spake  
Jim Spake  
Taryn Spake  
Ginger Wheat  
Tim Wheat  
Deede Wyatt  
Robert Wyatt  
Middle School Adventure  
Club  
YRUU

### Others

Thank you for contributing to other Outreach efforts, including: Stork's Nest; UU Service Committee's Guest at Your Table; UNICEF; Diversity Memphis; and MIFA.

Become part of our *Outreach* effort

Outreach Team: Sue Strong – 272-1853; Dan Bing – 763-2384; Lisa Jennings – 682-7838; Jeane Umbreit – 374-9114; Juliet Wischmeyer – 726-4413

\* Thanks to all who have contributed their time, energy and donations to COR Outreach. We apologize in advance if we have inadvertently forgotten to include anyone.