

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
C CHURCH
OF THE
R RIVER**

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February 1, 2010
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

**ICED OUT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH TO APPROVE 2010
BUDGET AND OUTREACH PROJECT
OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN**

SERMON: “Where Paradise Dwells”

You may be surprised!

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

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

“What if paradise is not in some other place?” bc

Tuesday, February 2

7:30 p. m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, February 7

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 begin a discussion of *The Monk and the Philosopher* by Jean-Francois Revel. High school Class will meet 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 go to the Object Lesson and then have a “green Sunday” lesson.

Noon Congregational Meeting to approve the budget for 2010. Childcare available.

Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.

12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at the Flying Fish, 105 S Second.

Tuesday, February 9

10:30 a.m. The Alliance will meet at the church. Burton will share information from the district meeting about welcoming strategies. Lunch will be served. All are welcome.

Wednesday, February 10

2:00 p.m. Shakespeare Readers will meet at the main library. Contact: Gale Mason; 725-7924

7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

Thursday, February 11

6:00 p.m. The Board of Trustees will meet in the Beacon Room.

**The Care Coordinator for February is Audrey Kalbach.
You can reach Audrey at 757-2504**

Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

On Sunday, the YRUU will meet with Tim Wheat and Lisa Nezwaszky at 10 o'clock to continue planning for Youth Sunday.

At 11 o'clock, church school for infants through 8th grade youth continues with childcare in the nursery and pre-school with Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner, *Treasure Hunting* in the kindergarten with Julie Wood, an Object Lesson in the sanctuary followed by a special Green Sunday presentation for grades 1-5, and *Neighboring Faiths* for grades 6-8 with Martine Starck.

The *Neighboring Faiths* class had a field trip planned in conjunction with their study of Hinduism last Sunday. The ice storm forced a “do over”. As of this edition of the newsletter, the plan is to try again this week, Feb. 7. Contact Cindy Sakaan or Martine Starck for more information. Adults are welcome to accompany our Middle School class on these visits.

MIFA’s “Souper” Bowl of Caring is February 7. T shirts featuring our Church of the River logo will be on sale Sunday with all proceeds donated to the food bank at MIFA. Go Colts! Geaux Saints! Go UUs!



While it is Fresh in my Mind

When and if there is a cancellation of a church service, a notice goes on the church website on the home page and the telephone answering service also has an announcement to that effect. If you have any doubt that the church service will occur, check the website or call the church office before you make the trip down here.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



There is an amazing sight taking place. Like a battlefield bombardment, icy missiles are exploding around the house. Bowled over trees, heavily laden with frozen limbs covered in ice, begin the process of standing skyward again. Their kiss of the ground, too long in its execution, is given reprieve as the air warms above the magic mark dividing liquid and solid. The taller, more ancient trees, slowly shudder like a dog shaking water from fur, so that it appears as if it is raining ice cubes. A crashing sound is heard above me on the roof and a small avalanche rumbles off the eaves. Ice shatters on impact upon the hard crusted white ground below.

Even the ravenous birds, so accustomed to their free meals, do not dare contest the falling icicles. The gray Titmouse, the bright red male and dusty female mated Cardinals, and the black and white Chickadee are absent. The House Wren with its cute tail, the Dark-eyed Junco, the White-breasted Nuthatch and the House Finch are no where to be seen. Likewise the larger birds like the Red-bellied Woodpecker will not risk the flight below the trees to the feeder.

Life has its icy moments and seasons, occasions when we are forced to bow down under the weight of something that will not let us go. So we endure. It has always been so. We survive and make the best of things not because we are especially heroic but because there is no choice. We bear what we must as our genes and instincts urge us to do, not for our own sake but for the species.

Yet there is something we can choose. Though given the capacity to appreciate beauty, we are not reflecting winter and how it will not stay so. We can praise and bear witness even as we struggle to right ourselves. Humbled and bowed down in the dark cold, in the frozen wilderness of wherever we are stuck, we can still see something more than what we must endure.

We fear the rising seas and global warming but the truth is that the rise of humanity has come during a geological period of ice ages. One long cycle, by human standards, after another and our future demise is much more likely from cold rather than heat. Between us, I don't think we were meant to survive forever in the churning process of the cosmos that creates and destroys. Which makes, I think, our praise and gratitude even more amazing.

So here's to icy missiles striking hearth and land, dangerous and beautiful all at once. We keep their heavenly message that before the Mystery in which we live and move and have our being, a humble appreciative awareness is always the better part of us.

bc

Church of the River Auction Party 2010 — Online Donation Form! The Auction is on April 9.

Go to the church w2eb site. In the "News" area, you will see information about donating online. Click the link called **Fill Out My Form**. This year in addition to traditional, hand-written donation forms, you have the opportunity to "go green" by using the online form. Photographs of items, if available, can be sent to Gwen Rose via email at gkrose@msn.com

CHOIR SOUP SUNDAY

The choir invites you to stay after church on **Sunday Feb. 21** for its annual Soup Sunday.

Ward off winter's chill with an interesting variety of tasty soups along with bread, salad and desserts prepared by our own Awesome Little Choir members. Your generous donations will go to the music fund supporting choral programs.



Church of the River Tote Bags for Sale. The Welcoming Team is selling tote bags with the church logo on them. They are soft textured polypropylene, tear resistant and water repellent, 16" by 12" with a flat bottom. The cost is one for \$5, two for \$8 or three for \$10. You can purchase them before church in the Mississippi River Room or contact Mimsy Conaway at mimsyc@gmail.com or 761-2825.

Auction Party Reprise Postponed to Saturday, Feb. 6

If you missed the opportunity to bid on the party offered by Roy Bell, Walid Sakaan and Jim Spake at last year's auction, it's not too late to enjoy an evening of eclectic art, food, libations and music.

On **Saturday, February 6**, the fun begins at 6 p.m. at 820 South Willet which is just South of Central Ave.

You will be treated to a tour of a cavernous studio housing art and antiques, a poetry reading, interesting and delicious food and beverage tastings and special music. Contact Roy at roy.bell@earthlink.net to get on the guest list. It will be an unforgettable evening! Admission is a contribution to the COR in the amount that you feel comfortable giving.

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DON'T FORGET YOUR UNDIES ON FEBRUARY 7

Here's our chance to show the children at our adopted school, Shady Grove Elementary that we care for them "deep down" by bringing in socks and underwear

for boys and girls. Not only do identified students facing financial hardship need these essentials at home, but students at Shady Grove who take the bus to school in inclement weather often arrive with soaked socks and would welcome warm replacements. Please put your undie Sunday donations (checks so that we can buy undies are ok too) in the Shady Grove bin in the Mississippi River Room. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT NOON TO APPROVE THE 2010 BUDGET

"Any member eighteen years of age or older contributing at least ten dollars, of record, to the support of the church within fifteen months of, and more than sixty days prior to, any congregational meeting shall have the right to vote at that meeting." — Constitution of the First Unitarian Church of Memphis, Tennessee

The relevant dates for this congregational meeting are that the \$10 of record should have been given between December 7, 2008 and December 7, 2009. Non-voting members of the congregation and friends of the church are welcome to attend the meeting and make comments but may not vote.

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