

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
292 Virginia Avenue, W., P.O. Box 683, Memphis, TN 38101

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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. 25 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)

February 22, 2010  
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

## THE WISDOM OF FUN

**Our wonderful Young Religious Unitarian Universalists will present the worship service they have been working on since the new semester began**

### Church of the River Calendar Quotation of the Week

“At its best..faith is a commitment to live as if certain things are true, and thereby help to make them so.”  
— Rev. Galen Guengrich

#### Wednesday, February 24

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

#### Thursday, February 25

7:00 p.m. River Readers will meet at the home of Tuck Dickerson, 461 N Mendenhall. We will be discussing ***The World to Come*** by Dara Horn.

#### Sunday, February 28

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 discussing *The Monk and the Philosopher* by Jean-Francois Revel.  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
Childcare for infants and preschoolers  
Kindergarten will go to the Sanctuary for the object lesson and return to their classroom. 1-8th grades will remain in the Sanctuary for the service.  
noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.  
The Lunch Bunch will meet at Wang’s Mandarin House, 113 S Main St.

#### Wednesday, March 3

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

### Memphis Premiere: Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think

A Documentary Film Based on the Gallup Poll of Worldwide Muslim Public Opinion. Sponsored by Diversity Memphis and Muslims in Memphis. Saturday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Michael D. Rose Theater, University of Memphis, 470 University. Free Admission. You can register at <http://memphisinsideislam.eventbrite.com> or get a ticket from Cindy Sakaan at church next Sunday.

### Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

This Sunday is Youth Sunday. Our wonderful Young Religious Unitarian Universalists will present their annual worship service and message, *The Wisdom of Fun* in the sanctuary at 11:00.

Childcare will be available in the nursery and preschool with Mary Park beginning at 10 o’clock. **At 11:00 all children in kindergarten and older are invited to worship with us in the sanctuary.** There will be an Object Lesson in the service. The kindergarten will return to their classroom following the Object Lesson for *Treasure Hunting* with Julie Wood. River Explorers (grades 1-5) and our middle school class (grades 6-8) will remain in the sanctuary for the Youth Sunday service.

We still have a few T shirts featuring our Church of the River logo for sale with all proceeds donated to the food bank at MIFA. Stop by the table in the Mississippi River Room. Shirts are \$10.

### LIVING BY HEART RETREAT with Laurel Hallman

Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First U U Church of Houston, 5200 Fannin St., Houston, TX  
A day of spiritual refreshment with the originator of the “Living by Heart” practice. An opportunity to learn how to engage the natural world, great literature, and your own words and passions in a unique liberal religious discipline. Register at (713) 526-5200 or [office@firstuu.org](mailto:office@firstuu.org)

### FYI

On Wednesday, March 24, The Rev. Burton D. Carley will give the sermon at Calvary’s Lenten Lunch series. The sermon starts at 12:05 and Rev. Carley will be lunching in the waffle shop downstairs after the service.

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

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



In the early Church the season of Lent was an important time of preparation for those seeking to enter the Way symbolized by baptism at Easter. Becoming a member of the Church was not simply a matter of religious affiliation but represented a changed way of living. Baptism was symbolic of transformation, and entrance through a doorway into a community that practiced a different way of inhabiting the world.

There is a tendency to focus on the system of beliefs that surround ritual and worship. This obscures the difference between the experiences of being in right relationship and right beliefs. The attraction of the community was that it provided a different quality of relationship. Changed lives were not the result of agreeing to abstract theological assertions.

When religion (or politics for that matter) is reduced to shouting propositional statements there are only three options for relationships. You can ignore those who disagree. You can convert those who disagree. Or you can destroy those who disagree.

There is a better way. The bond of our covenant does not measure out love by agreeing to only one certain theological framework. The basis of fellowship and love, of spiritual communion, is not rooted in infallible knowledge, the promise of heaven or the threat of hell, or the eternal truth claimed about God, Jesus, humanity, sin, death or political ideology. It is not formed on the ancient authority of divine succession.

Our community is not about agreeing on such things. Rather, we live out of an agreement, a covenant that forms a bond of affection aimed at discerning what is good and true and holy and loving beneath all our differences for the purpose of growing our souls or maturing our spiritual lives. We live out of our covenant so that the spirit, which appreciates beauty, compassion, service and justice, that spirit in and amongst us, might be liberated from the prison of the self to experience love in right relationships.

In the tradition of Lent that prepares people for living in community, let us remember that our mission is not to conform the world to one certain belief but to nurture, liberate and cultivate the human spirit so that we might be free to love beyond agreeing. This is how we form the church: neither in the promise never to change nor as long as we agree, but in the promise, the agreement, the covenant, to walk together in affection despite our differences. We walk together in all the different ways the Holy is made known to us. We live open to the adventure of the Spirit. So may it be. bc

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

Go to the church web 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, handwritten 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](mailto:gkrose@msn.com) Donations will be accepted in the Mississippi River room any time during March.

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### Shady Grove

**The next opportunity to volunteer:** It's so easy and rewarding to inspire a child! Come to Shady Grove Elementary on Wednesday, February 24 from 12—1:30, to talk to students on Career Day. These kids are eager to know what it's like to do your job, and who knows, you may motivate a future professional. (Even if you can only stay an hour, SGE can accommodate your schedule).

For more information about this event, please contact Juliet Wischmeyer at 219-5817 or [julietwischmeyer@comcast.net](mailto:julietwischmeyer@comcast.net)

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### WhaleCoast Alaska 2010:

Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer in our 14th year!

See REAL Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka. UU's host events and lead tours. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Observe wildlife, including bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles. Visit Denali National Park.

Dave Frey, a 29 year Alaska resident, leads the programs. Visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org) Don't delay as the program usually fills sometime in March. Email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) for information or call 907 322-4966.

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**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](mailto:mimsyc@gmail.com) or 761-2825.**

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### Fr. John Moloney Fifth Sunday Series

Sponsors: St. Martin de Porres Shrine & Institute  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
St. Peter Catholic Church

This series of programs will occur only in those months when there is a fifth Sunday (which means there will be one in May. Fifth Sundays occur four times a year.

The program in January was on Adult Depression.

The goal of the series is to inform and generate discussion within our greater community. The series will also give us a chance to honor Fr. John Moloney, past rector of Grace-St. Lukes' Episcopal who ministered for many years in Memphis before his untimely death.

We will advise you two to three weeks before the May program what that program will be about and where it will take place.



Don't  
Miss  
Youth  
Sunday!  
See  
You  
There!  
Fun!  
Excitement!

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**Know Someone who may want to have an event, such as a wedding, at our church?** Your help is needed. We are creating a web page about our facilities so that those in the community will know how wonderful our church is! Please contribute photographs of the church (or of your own wedding!) so that we have pictures to go with the information. We would love to feature our own brides and grooms. Send digital pictures to [lindakgood-win@comcast.net](mailto:lindakgood-win@comcast.net) The sooner the better! Thank you!