

**THE MEMPHIS  
UNITARIAN**

**THE  
CHURCH  
OF THE  
RIVER**

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March 1, 2010  
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

**OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN**

**SERMON: “Another Way to Look into the Mirror”**

I have suggested looking into the mirror when you get up in the morning and saying, “I’m not such a bargain either.” And on another occasion I suggested saying, “I may be wrong.” To complete the trinity (the only way to be truly heretical as a Unitarian) I want to suggest a third mantra for your early morning meditation.

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

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

“Time flies when you’re having fun.” anonymous

**Wednesday, March 3**

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

**Sunday, March 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 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  
K-8 will go to the Sanctuary for the object lesson. Kindergarten will return to their classroom grades 1-5 will go to the Mississippi River Room for a “green Sunday” activity and Middle School will go to their classroom for an Adventure Club meeting.

noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.

12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at Dino’s Grill, 645 N McLean..

**Wednesday, March 10**

10:30 a.m. Alliance will meet to hear a talk from the Rev. Martha Wagley on Women in Ministry. Lunch will follow. All are invited.

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> .

**Announcements from the Children’s Ministry**

Thanks to our wonderful and funny YRUU for an uplifting worship service last Sunday.

And thanks to sponsors Tim “Big Dawg” Wheat and “Miss Lisa” Nezwazky for serving with mirth; for hours and hours of guidance, mentoring, facilitation and paper mache skills to help our youth members craft the Youth Sunday service.

Sunday March 7, the first Sunday of the month, 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 Jerry Moore. River Explorers (grades 1-5) will continue their Green Sunday activities with Lou Henslee in the Mississippi River Room. And the Middle School Adventure Club will meet in their classroom with sponsor Jeff McDonald.

The YRUU will meet with Miss Lisa at 11:00 to prepare for their presentation in the Chalice Room at 12:15.

Make a \$10 donation to the food bank at MIFA and receive a bonus gift: a t-shirt featuring our Church of the River logo on the back.

**EASY & FUN:**

A one-time chance to delight children at Shady Grove Elementary by reading Dr. Seuss books to small groups on Tuesday, March 2nd.

Stop in ANY TIME that morning and read briefly to two classes. They will love it and so will you!

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

**The Care Coordinator for March is Donna Sue Shannon. You can reach Donna Sue at 726-1956.**



The period of Lent before Easter is traditionally a time for introspection. One purpose of our Sunday worship is to come to church to see how it is with us, to measure our inner and outer lives against each other, to discern the gap between the ideal and the real. Self-examination is not easy. As Henry David Thoreau observed: "It is as hard to see one's self as to look backwards without turning around." That is one importance of the covenanted community. We need others to help us in our discernment.

Not only is it difficult to step outside of ourselves for examination, it can be frightening. The poet W. H. Auden wrote: "We would rather be ruined than changed / We would rather die in our dread / Than climb the

cross of the moment / And see our illusions die." That seems a fitting metaphor for Easter, that moment when we escape the tomb of our illusion and die to its power to become liberated or made free by what is true. The same insight is found in other religious traditions. In the words of Lao-tzu: "If you want to be reborn, let yourself die."

Now the question is the process of resurrection. Perhaps it is not the discovery of truth that sets us free of illusion. Perhaps it is the confusion of letting go of an illusion that actually prepares us to receive new insight. Perhaps the lesson of Lent is that one does not need to perfectly understand everything. To require a perfect leap from illusion to truth could be in itself a defense against letting go since there is always room for doubt or question.

So as we reflect on how it is with us, let us sit with confusion as something important for the growth and renewal of our inner lives. Instead of a sign of how bad things are, let us receive that bewilderment as the sharp blade that tills the old, hard soil. It is in the breaking up of what is worn and crusted that the hope of something new springing forth is born. bc

**"An Evening in España"  
ANNUAL AUCTION  
Friday, April 9, 5:30 p.m.**

Donation items needed! Donate early and often!  
Items must be submitted by Sunday, March 28.

Think you don't have anything? Think again. How about: Gourmet Dinners, Musical Performances, Babysitting Services, Massages, Home Repair Assistance, Hand-Crafted Items, Garden Items, Works of Art, Guided Tours, Tutoring, Airline Ticket Vouchers, Furniture, Jewelry, Theater Tickets, Computer Services and Wine or other Baskets.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. This includes a wonderful Spanish dinner — beverages are extra.

**Event of Note**

Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Tennessee Equality Project and God Lens are sponsoring CREATIVITY, EQUALITY and POSSIBILITY, a weekend of celebrating the arts at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, March 26 & 27. Richard Lou, chair of the Art Dept. at the U of M, will have visual art on display. The celebration will begin at 6:15 with Christian signer/songwriter Kim-Char Meredith. We'll eat Italian buffet at 7:00. Elaine Blanchard will perform her solo show, "For Goodness Sake," beginning at 8:00. There will be a talk-back session following the performance.

On Saturday, beginning at 9:00, participants will enjoy coffee and donuts and choose from four workshops offered: *Songwriting* led by Jun-Char Meredith, *The Story Connection* led by Elaine Blanchard, David Prete and Phil Darius Wallace, *Art as Pretext for Collective Action* led by Richard Lou and *Advocating for Equality* led by Jonathan Cole. Workshops will conclude at noon.

Enjoy the entire weekend for \$35. (suggested donation) or \$25 for Friday only. All events will be at Prescott Memorial Baptist Church

Elaine Blanchard 901 725-9310 [RevElaine@comcast.net](mailto:RevElaine@comcast.net)

**Among Our Members** Ann Nelson would like to thank everyone for cards, visits, calls and delicious food brought to her during her recuperation from knee replacement surgery. She said to tell you she is coming along just fine and hopes to be back at church real soon.

**Soup for the Soul**

Our UU Women's evening group will meet at the midtown home of Ellen Hornyak at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 18.



Carrissa Hussong, the director of the Ornamental Metal Museum, will speak to the group after a dinner provided by Ellen and a dessert provided by Sue Strong. Please contact Ellen at [ehornyak@earthlink.net](mailto:ehornyak@earthlink.net) if you can come.

**Outreach News**

The Church of the River has recently given \$1,000.00 of Outreach Funds to the Hospitality Hub. COR is one of the founders of the Hub and we do not have a regular line item for this in our budget.

The Hospitality Hub is a spiritual Sanctuary for our homeless, especially the newly homeless. The Hub offers basic services such as phones computers, restrooms, lockers, an address for mail and referral to various agencies.

**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.

**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.