

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
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Address Service Requested

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 14

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March 8, 2010
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

SERMON: "The Evolution of the Spirit"

New theories in anthropology understand religion to be the determining factor in the maturation of our species from small tribal groups to civilizations. One author even argues that religion was not born out of culture because it is religion that created culture. The chicken or the egg conundrum need not preoccupy us but it is helpful in our own journey of faith to know ourselves, not just as an individual but also as a species. And that requires understanding how religion evolved and why it endures. Along the way we can learn why fundamentalism kills the very thing it would protect, why Bill Maher is wrong about religion, and why our contemporary Unitarian culture can become extinct.

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

Church of the River Calendar Quotation of the Week

"It's as hard to see one's self as to look backwards without turning around." Henry David Thoreau

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.
2:00 p.m. The Shakespeare Readers will meet at the main library to read some of Shakespeare's poems.
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

Saturday, March 13

3:30 p.m. St. Johns Soup Kitchen at St. John's Methodist Church, Bellevue at Peabody. Contact Dan Bing—763-2384.

Sunday, March 14

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. Religious Education for the High School Class
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Childcare for infants and preschoolers
Kindergarten in their classroom, Grades 1 –5 to the Chalice Room—then to workshops, Middle School will go to their classroom.
noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.
12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at Grand Pacific, 6105 Stage Rd.

Wednesday, March 17

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

Thursday, March 18

6:30 p.m. Soup for the Soul (see page 2)

Saturday, March 20

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Board of Trustees retreat (COR)

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

Announcements from the Children's Ministry

On Sunday March 14, remember to spring forward! Daylight Savings Time begins. Childcare is available in the nursery and preschool beginning at 10 a.m. with Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner. At 11:00 children in kindergarten meet in the *Treasure Hunting* classroom with Jerry Moore. River Explorers, grades 1-5, begin at 11 with a Chalice Service followed by *Toolbox of Faith* workshops with Kristi Bauer and Taryn Spake.

The Middle School (grades 6-8) will meet with Roy Bell for *Neighboring Faiths*.

The high school will meet with Cindy McMullen for *Popcorn Theology* at 10:00 in their classroom.

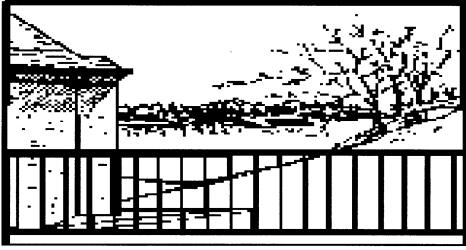
Last chance for 2010 SouperBowl/Church of the River shirts! Make a \$10 donation to the food bank at MIFA and enjoy warmer weather in a fresh shirt showing support for both MIFA and our church.

PJ's and B...Pajamas and Books, our spring reading program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade begins this week. Sign up in the Children's Library Corner (in the Mississippi River Room). Check out books from six categories: True Adventure, Fiction, Religion, Poetry, Relationships, and Nature; read or have an adult read and discuss one from each category between now and April 30th; enjoy a pajama party with snacks, campfire, storytelling, and a video on Friday, April 30th. Let the reading begin!

UP DATED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY INSERTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

Hot off the press and as current as possible, the 2010 Directory inserts can be picked up in the Mississippi River Room any time you are down here at the Church. When you pick up a copy, please check off your name in one of the print outs.

There will be no bulk mail out of the new inserts but you can request that one be mailed to you by calling 526-8631 or emailing uuriver@aol.com



O Eternal Spirit, experienced as that creative and sustaining power in us and among us, help us to be mindful of our limitations and our possibilities.

Out of arrogance and false certainty we fail to recognize the mystery of another person, and how life is always trying to teach us something. Open our minds and hearts with the gift of humility.

Out of insensitivity and impatience we speak unkind and thoughtless words. Save us from our privileged ways; and give us patience and presence to tame our hasting ways.

Out of insecurity and the desire to be in control we rush to judgment. Help us to understand that our vulnerability is not a weakness but connects us to others.

Out of the fear of loss and failure we have courted cynicism and pessimism. May we discover the faith and hope that will inspire us to spend our courage.

Out of the desire to deny our interdependence we have take for granted or denied the gifts others have bestowed upon us. Free us from the prison of the self with a heart of gratitude and a generosity of spirit.

Aware of our limitations may we live toward our possibilities. In the midst of religious strife and political turmoil remind us that even the smallest acts of compassion and love move us in the direction of thy Holy realm and the possibility of Easter. 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. Donation forms are on the church website <http://churchoftheriver.org/Events/auction2010.aspx>

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.

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 if you can come.



BOSTON UU HISTORY TOUR

On June 11-13 all are invited to a fun weekend exploring UU and early American historical sites in the Boston area. The group will tour UUA headquarters at 25 Beacon, Boston Common, Walden Pond and Emerson home in Concord, Revolutionary War sites and a possible trip to Plymouth. You might also take in a play, museum or catch the Red Sox playing the Phillies. A limited number of nice inexpensive B&B rooms on Beacon Hill have been held until the end of March. On Sunday morning our choir will be singing in a Boston UU church. See David Jennings in the choir loft after church or email dkjmem@aol.com

Among Our Members We send our healing thoughts to Nancy Campbell recovering at home from back surgery.

Larry Bomar invites you to get up with the Rooster to hear "The Farm & Poultry Show, Saturdays 6 –8 a.m. on 96.1, The Pig.

Elizabeth Langston is looking for a cultivated, mostly shaded garden spot not exposed to pesticides or bacteria/virus used in "organic" gardening as she needs to grow parsley for the caterpillars of swallowtail butterflies. Some place downtown or close to downtown would be best. You can reach Elizabeth at 526-8891 or ejlangston@aol.com

Think you know Jack?

Think you're smarter than a third-grader?

Well, here is your chance to prove you're smarter than an Awesome Little Choir member!

Join us for Sunset on the River Trivia Night at 7 p.m. March 27.

This was a 2009 Auction item, and we've expanded it to accommodate more participants. You can bring a team or let us find you one when you get there. The cost is \$20 per person. In addition to a night of trivia fun, there will be complimentary snacks and soft drinks. Beer and wine punch will also be available (for a donation). For more information or to reserve a spot for you or your team, contact Sharen Schulz at 682-8819 or sharenschulz@bellsouth.net

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.

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

Thanks also to Nina Ann Stitt for a gift to be divided between the Endowment Fund and the Music Fund in memory of her son in law, **Bob Myers**

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