

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
C CHURCH
OF THE
R RIVER**



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March 15, 2010
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

SERMON: “Jesus and the History Channel”

A Lenten sermon on how to understand and appreciate Jesus in the 21st century

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

Church of the River Calendar Quotation of the Week

“Religion can never be abolished out of human nature.”
—Thomas Hobbes

Wednesday, March 17

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

Thursday, March 18

6:30 p.m. Soup for the Soul will meet at the midtown home of Ellen Hornyak. Supper at 7 followed by a program from Carissa Hussong, the director of the Ornamental Metal Museum. Contact Ellen today ehornyak@earthlink.net if you can come.

Saturday, March 20

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Board of Trustees retreat
1-3:30 p.m. Writers' Workshop “Turning Memories into Memoirs: Growing Up is Hard to Do” Tunica Museum. Contact: Dr. Rachell Anderson Rander5022@wildblue.net
2-4:00 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, March 21

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. Sandwich Bar for your picnic with proceeds to go to the Adventure Club and the YRUU.
Kite Flying on the bluff
12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at Sharky's Grove Grill, 6201 Poplar 38119

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Announcements from the Children's Ministry

Pajamas and books, our spring reading program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade, is underway. Check out age appropriate books from six categories in the Children's Library, located in the Mississippi River Room. On April 30, children completing the program will be treated to a fantastic pajama party and fireside storytelling. Spring begins next Sunday, March 21, and we will celebrate with our own holiday: KITE DAY! Bring a picnic or plan to donate to our Youth Group Sandwich Bar after the worship service next Sunday; welcome spring to the Church of the River grounds.

Religious education classes on Sunday, March 21, include *Treasure Hunting* with Jerry Moore in the kindergarten, Chalice Service and *Toolbox of Faith* workshops for grades 1-5 with Kristi Bauer and Taryn Spake, *Neighboring Faiths* for grades 6-8 with Roy Bell, and *Popcorn Theology* for high school with Cindy McMullen. Childcare for nursery and preschool is available at 10 o'clock. High School class begins at 10; all other classes begin at 11:00.

UP DATED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY INSERTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

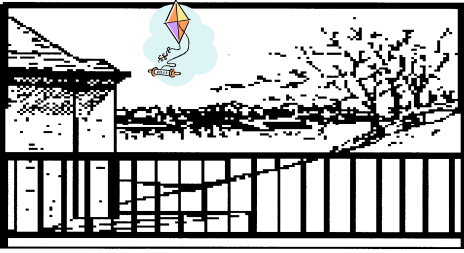
Hot off the press and as current as possible, the 2010 Directory inserts can be picked up in the Mississippi River Room any time you are down here at the Church. When you pick up a copy, please check off your name in one of the print outs. Also pick up a label to go in the book with the information on Bob & Lana Wallace who unfortunately got left out of the directory. If you have already picked up your directory insert that is:

Wallace, Dr. Robert (Bob) * and Lana *
1660 Crooked Creek Lane
Germantown, TN 38138
Home: 529-7566
Her email: lanawallace382@gmail.com
His email: Robert.wallace@nyu.edu

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

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

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



Life came up from the sea and it diversified and evolved, went down blind alleys and found new expressions, became extinct and life rose again in new form. And a creature came forth with opposed thumbs, a large brain, and the capacity for speech and music. That creature became conscious and knew itself. Though born of nature it was yet separated from nature by its awareness. The creature became aware that it was alive and it must die.

Then that creature, our ancestor, did something no other creature had done before. They, we, became the only species that interpreted the world. Our ancestors were the first creatures to move beyond seeing the world instinctually. They were the first to experience awe for the universe, to sense a *mysterium*

tremendum. Ever since our ancestors first created three-dimensional art in the dark caves of our origins, humankind has been responding to the holy, to the numinous, to the mystery of being and becoming, to what Goethe called *the weird portentous*.

Something inexpressible was felt to exist beyond nature. The most ancient bear cult and Neanderthal burial rituals gave expression to the need to form a connection to the hidden mysterious power. That moment when our ancestors began to interpret the world, when voice gave rise to song and a hand painted scenes on stone to tell a story or express some kind of glory, humanity was born and simultaneously religion—that which binds us back to the power in which we live and move and have our being. Knowing ourselves separate and mortal, and yet part of the *mysterium*, rituals and art and stories were a bridge over which one might enter that numinous territory.

This is the evolution of the spirit, our human capacity for appreciative awareness, to respond to beauty and tragedy, to understand what is of value, to discern quality, to weave a story about origins and journey and destiny. And our sanctuary, for all its contemporary beauty, is something like a primeval cave. In it we too sing and tell stories and interpret the world. We too look out upon nature and its creative powers, feeling them stir within us. So it is that we gather to express our humanity, and to protect and nurture that most precious thing, the spirit. So it is that we practice the life of the spirit.

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“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.

Redbirds Sunday May 16

After the congregational meeting on May 16th we will go to see the Redbirds play the Tacoma Mariners. A block of 25 tickets with seats under cover on the first base side of home plate have been held. Tickets are \$11. See David Jennings in the choir loft after church or email dkjmem@aol.com to reserve your seats.



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

A Warm Welcome to our newest member Galen Gower who signed the membership book Sunday, March 14, 2010. Galen enjoys video production and chess.

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

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.

Kite Day Sandwich Bar The Middle & High Schools will be offering the "Sandwich Bar" in the Mississippi River Room following the service. There will be meats, cheeses, condiments, veggies and PB&J so you can create your own sandwich. Also fruit, snacks, desserts and drinks.

(Continued from page 1) *Calendar*

Wednesday, March 24

12:00 noon Calvary's Lenten Luncheon Sermon by Burton D. Carley.

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

Thursday, March 25

7:00 p.m. River Readers will meet at Deede Wyatt's home to discuss Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison.

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