

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
C CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**



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March 22, 2010
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

SERMON: “The Temple Tempest”

A Palm Sunday sermon about paradise and power, the kingdom vs. empire, and the politics of the prophet from Galilee.

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

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

“Jesus did not say: ‘Those who know the difference between sublapsarianism and supralapsarianism shall enter the kingdom.’ No, he simply said, “Follow me.”

Bc (20-21st c. Unitarian theologian)

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.

Saturday, March 27

7:00 p.m. Trivia Party in the Mississippi River Room. (see page 2)

Sunday, March 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. 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 Whole Hog Café at 5727 Quince Rd.

Wednesday, March 31

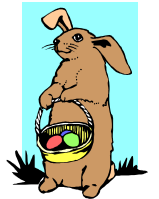
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Mississippi River Room.

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.

Next Sunday, March 28, we will try again to 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.

Easter Egg Hunt is coming up...April 4. Bring a dozen eggs (but not until April 4).



Religious education classes on Sunday, March 28, Nursery & Preschool open at 10 with Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner, Kindergarten will be Treasure Hunting at 11:00 with Jerry Moore, River Explorers have a Chalice Service at 11:00 and a special workshop with Katie Jones exploring themes of Passover and Palm Sunday. The Middle School Neighboring Faiths class will meet with Walid Sakaan studying Islam. The High School will meet at 10 with Cindy McMullen for Popcorn Theology

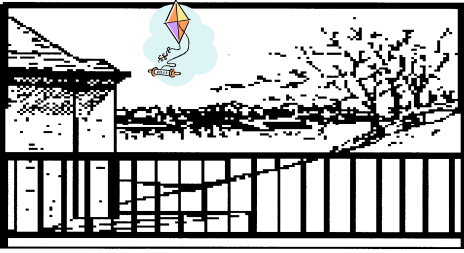
UP DATED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY INSERTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

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

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



He looked down upon the bright beautiful city. It was as much symbol as reality. As symbol it represented the history of his people, both their glory and their defeat. It was the beating heart of civic and spiritual power. It was the visible sign of a union bonded in ancient covenant.

The Temple on high ground vibrated in the late afternoon heat. An image of young King David dancing naked in the street came to mind. He too knew the ecstasy of the divine spirit descending down deep into the very fiber of his being, and how you could both be levitated by its joyful power and seized up in solemn awe. He could see Passover pilgrims filling the road to the gates of Jerusalem. Part of him wanted to dance into the city up to the Temple but it would express the wrong

message. No, he had another plan, one that would challenge the high and the mighty, identify him with the common people and point to the reversal of fortune, how the last in the empire would be first in the kingdom. A donkey would be his calling card.

In the Temple was the Holy of Holies, the exact dwelling place of Yahweh. So sacred was this place that only the High Priest once a year could enter into it. This separation mediated by the Temple authorities went against all his spiritual instincts and experience. The Holy Power was not meant to be a burden and a yoke on the people but a liberating impulse that broke across the barriers that separated and oppressed. To bridge that gap he felt called.

All these things seized his attention as he gazed upon the object of his destiny. So much needed repair but powerful forces maintained the status quo. In Galilee his vision was easy to articulate but now looking upon Jerusalem in the distance the enormity of the challenge came closer. Even those close to him did not fully understand his mission. A tear slid down his dusty face, a tear born of compassion for those who suffered, for the lonely weight of his driving dream, and for what might be required of him. Then he stepped forward toward Palm Sunday and the unknown except for the sure knowledge that this was the crucible the path of his life always intended for him. **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.

Decorations Needed for the Auction April 9

Anything festive and Spanish that you don't mind donating or lending to the Decorations Committee is welcome and can be left in the shower room off the Chalice room prior to Thursday April 8th. Be imaginative and creative!!! After the auction the object you lend will be there for their owners to pick up. Being able to use what we already have is a great way to practice being green and also to save on the budget.

On Easter Sunday our resident artist Jeanne Reynolds will have available prints of “Standing Watch While It's Raining that includes “our” fox. Proceeds will be divided between the artist and her church.

There will also be a special collection benefiting the HUB, the outreach ministry to the homeless created by the Downtown Churches Assn. that includes our congregation. All donations up to a total of \$1,000 will be matched by a generous member of our congregation.

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

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

On Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m. in the Chalice Room, Rev. Carley will hold the Maundy Thursday Communion Service. All are welcome to participate in this service that remembers the shadow times that precede rebirth and renewal. The communion will follow the pattern of our Transylvanian brothers and sisters taking of the bread and cup.

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

Exploring Unitarianism by Rev. Carley

For those interested in learning more about our church you are invited to an informal gathering at the home of David & Lisa Jennings in east Memphis at 5039 Cole Road (682-7838.)

It will be held Tuesday evening, April 13 from 7-8:30 p.m. All new members and those exploring the idea of becoming members are welcome.

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

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.

