

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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March 29, 2010
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN

SERMON: “The Fault Line of Easter”

When the earth is shaking and all the foundations are giving way, what can save us?

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

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

“If Jesus was only a meek and mild teacher interested in the individual he would have never been crucified.”
—bc (20-21st Unitarian Theologian)

Wednesday, March 31

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

Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Maunder Thursday Communion Service in the Chalice Room. All are invited 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.

Sunday, April 4

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, preschoolers and Kindergarten. All older children and youth to the Sanctuary.
noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.
Easter egg hunt for 1-5 graders
12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at the Tastee Buffet in Poplar Plaza.

Wednesday, April 7

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

Thursday, April 8

6:00 p.m. The Board of Trustees will meet in the Beacon Room.

Friday, April 9

5:30 p.m. THE AUCTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Care Coordinator for March is Donna Sue Shannon. You can reach Donna Sue at 726-1956. The Care Coordinator for April is Anne Thompson. You can reach Anne at 685-5614.

Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

Thanks to Gigi Wischmeyer, Ginger Wheat, and Jeff McDonald for organizing the youth group sandwich bar. Congrats to Cameron McDonald, the sole kite flier this year and here’s hoping for a third Sunday charm in the weather forecast for April 4th.

Sunday, April 4th is Easter and the first Sunday of the month. All children and youth, first grade and older, are invited to attend the worship service in the sanctuary at 11:00. Childcare and an Easter Egg hunt will be provided for children in the nursery, pre-school, and kindergarten at 11:00. Children in first grade and older will hunt eggs following the worship service.

Adults are encouraged to bring a dozen eggs to church on Sunday for the Easter Egg Hunt. Drop them off in the breezeway and our MSAC bunnies will take them from there.



The Middle School (grades 6-8) will meet in their classroom, following the Object Lesson in the sanctuary, to hide eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

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

Easter Sunday, April 4th will be your last chance to get your Auction Ticket for \$20.

Bad weather for the past two Sundays forced the ticket seller into the Mississippi River Room.

If you don’t find him in the breezeway next Sunday, you will find in in the MRR but let’s hope for good weather next Sunday.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



It must have been like having the breath knocked out of you. There is that incomprehensible moment when what is so essential to your very life leaves you and everything stops. Only one thing matters and that is filling the lungs again. You try and wait to no avail. Each second expands into an eternity and the upsurge of panic begins to claim you. Then, and you know not how, you suddenly catch your breath again.

It is hard for us to imagine that moment for the disciples. They were the most committed, those who dropped everything to follow him. They abandoned work and left families to walk all over Galilee with him. They watched him touch lepers and cross boundaries that shocked them at times. Once they jostled with an angry

crowd to protect him.

Sometimes he seemed disappointed in them, especially when they asked questions that indicated their lack of understanding. Sometimes he seemed so far away, struggling with things they did not comprehend. Yet he gave them something they had not known before. A sense of adventure and hope, a vision of a future that included the least among them, a way to resist the powers that controlled them, a way to triumph over futility.

When he announced that they would go to Jerusalem for Passover a sense of excitement charged them. Always there was the expectation that everything he did was but preparation for taking the message of the kingdom the seat of political and religious power. And they had confidence that their master who had shown to them miraculous things, who was so wise and filled with courage, would be victorious in whatever he wished to accomplish.

The week started so promisingly when his plan to enter the city on a donkey brought attention and raised expectations about the healer and rabbi from the country. The symbolic incident in disrupting temple activities, his teaching to the receptive crowds, and spirited arguments with scribes and Pharisees created a tension that they knew would issue forth to some breakthrough for the kingdom to come.

Then so quickly it was over. He was arrested and crucified. He did not call for the people to defend him. No power interceded to rescue him. And if that could happen to the prophet, their teacher and friend, with whom they had invested all their hopes and dreams, it could happen to them. They felt the fear of prison or being scourged or writhing in agony on the cross.

So they fled in grief and panic and shame, the breath knocked out of them. And they did not know when they could draw back the life that was suddenly taken from them. They could not breathe and though the struggle to do so seemed hopeless, something happened in the weeks and months ahead. At long last they caught their breath and cast out fear. It was a resurrection. We know it as Easter. bc

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.

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.

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.

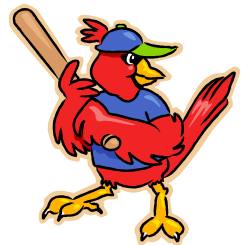
Among Our Members



A Warm Welcome to our newest member Elena Fisher. Elena signed the Membership book on April 28, 2010. She is a counselor, enjoys reading and travel and volunteers at the Hub.

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

The Alliance

The Alliance will meet at the church on Tuesday April 13th at 10:30 a.m. The Program Speaker will be the Rev. Burton Carley. He will discuss "Building a welcoming Congregation" Lunch will follow. All are welcome to join us.

Writer's Workshop

The next Writer's Workshop will be held at the Tunica Museum on April 17th from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. The title "Is this All There is to Life and Other Stories of Reckoning" is the focus of our writing exercises.

The workshops are free and open to all who want to write and share. For more information, contact Dr. Rachell Anderson at Rander5022@wildblue.net

THE MEMPHIS UNITARIAN

The Menu for the 2010 Auction

“An Evening in España” **CHURCH OF THE RIVER AUCTION MENU**

Friday evening, April 9, 2010, beginning at 5:30 PM

Aperitivos
(Appetizers)

Spiced Olives, Marinated Mushrooms and a Manchego Cheese Wheel.

Refrigerados Camarón
(Chilled Shrimp)

Our always popular boiled and peeled Gulf shrimp with your choice of dips.

Empanadillas de Espinaca

Ensalada de Zanahoria bar Bahía
(Cumin Carrot Salad)

With Middle Eastern overtones, the carrots are lightly cooked and seasoned with garlic, oregano, and cumin.

Ensalada de Espárrago, Gamba y Champiñón
(Asparagus, Shrimp, and Mushroom Salad)

From Madrid chef Tomás Herranz, tender asparagus tips are drizzled with a special dressing.

Paella Vegetariana
(Vegetarian Paella)

A delicate sofrito combined with imported long-grain rice form the base of this vegetarian delight, touched with saffron.

Paella de Pollo y Salchichas
(Chicken and Sausage Paella)

For the heartier appetite, made with roasted chicken and sausage infused with green onion.

Tarta de Español
(Spanish Tart)

Chef Michelle's version of this favorite chocolate pastry kissed with cinnamon and a "kick."

Selección de las Frutas
(Selection of Fresh Fruit)

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

Thanks

to Anonymous and to Judy Pinson for gifts to the Music Fund in memory of **Bob Myers**.

Thanks also to Mason & Ann Hawkins for a gift to the Endowment Fund in memory of **Polly Jane Cooper.**

And thanks to Margaret Metz for a gift to the Music Fund in honor of **Ellen Hornyak.**

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.

