

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN
Permit No. 113

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April 5, 2010
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SERMON: “When Good Is Bad”

There is generally an altruistic urge in us. Helping others is at the core of faith communities. Yet it takes something more than good intentions to be effective. Sometimes the virtue of goodness can turn into a vice.

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

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

“And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom, and the earth shook, and the rocks were split.”
—Mathew 27:51

Wednesday, April 7

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

Friday, April 9

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

Saturday, April 10

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

Sunday, April 11

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
Childcare for infants and preschoolers.
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Kindergarten in their classroom, Grades 1-5 will have a chalice service followed by their workshops. Middle School will meet in their classroom and carpool to a mosque.
noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.
12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at Republic Coffee on Walnut Grove Rd. (north side) past Tillman.

Tuesday, April 13

10:30 a.m. The Alliance will meet to hear a presentation from Burton Carley about becoming a more welcoming congregation. Lunch will be served and all are welcome.
7:00—8:30 p.m. Exploring Unitarianism An informal discussion of interest to new members and those considering membership in our church, at the home of David & Lisa Jennings, 5039 Cole Rd. Rev. Carley and church president Lisa Jennings will lead the discussion and answer questions.

(Continued on page 2)

Announcements from the Children's Ministry

Thanks to Mary and Adam Taylor, Justin Willingham, Mary Park, Caron Lumsden, and the Middle School Adventure Club for serving as Easter Bunnies yesterday. Scores of children found hundreds of eggs and enjoyed a sunny Easter Sunday.

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. Children completing the program will enjoy a pajama party with snacks, campfire, storytelling, and a movie on Friday, April 30th.

On Sunday, April 11, childcare will be available beginning at 10 a.m. in the nursery and preschool. The high school will meet at 10 o'clock also, for *Popcorn Theology* with Cindy McMullen.

At 11 o'clock, the kindergarten will meet with Jerry Moore for *Treasure Hunting*. River Explorers, grades 1-5, will begin with a Chalice Service led by Buss and Holly McCormick and will continue *Toolbox of Faith* workshops. “Listening” is the tool we'll explore in this rotation.

The Middle School will visit a mosque on Sunday as part of their study of Islam in *Neighboring Faiths*. Youth in grades 6-8 will meet in their classroom at 11:00 and carpool to the mosque.

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE DONATED
ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION THIS FRIDAY ON
OUR WEBSITE. NEW ITEMS ARE ADDED
DAILY!**

**The Care Coordinator for April is Anne Thompson.
You can reach Anne at 685-5614.**



Holding on is an attitude that suites a difficult time. It suggests the virtues of persistence, endurance and fortitude. My own nature is to “keep on” or “forge ahead” when trouble is encountered. In a less delicate manner you could call it stubbornness. The truth is that we desire to hold on to what is familiar, to practice what we know and what has proved successful in the past.

I remember a story told by Henri J.M. Nouwen that reminds us that holding on is not always the better way. Nouwen became enamored with trapeze artists after attending a circus. He established a relationship with the Flying Rodleighs and followed their act all over Germany.

The leader of the troupe explained to Nouwen that as the flyer he captured the attention of the public as the star of the trapeze act. The real star, however, was the catcher. When Nouwen asked how that worked the leader said: “The secret is that the flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. When I fly I have simply to stretch out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me. The worst thing I can do is to try to catch the catcher. A flyer must fly and a catcher must catch and the flyer must trust, with outstretched arms that the catcher will be there for him.”

Sometimes we are holding on in self-reliance when what is needed in the situation is letting go in trust. Of course that seems the greater risk though it is exactly the worst thing to do. The flyer and the catcher have different jobs to do and to confuse them is to court disaster. Letting go is as important as holding on. For white knuckled types it is a wisdom that makes all the difference. 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.

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

Book Signings and Readings

On April 16, 2010 from 2-4 p.m. Friends of the library in Tunica, MS will sponsor book signings and readings from 4 Mississippi writers including our own Rachell Anderson. The event is a part of the **Rivergate festival** being held in Tunica. The book signing is at the R.C. Irvin Library on Kenny Hill Street in downtown Tunica. The event is free and open to all

APRIL 22ND

Soup for the Soul

Our monthly evening group for UU women will be on April 22nd at the home of Carol Fourmy. We gather at 6:30 p.m. and enjoy a potluck meal around 7:15. Please let the hostess know if you are coming, so that food can be coordinated.

River Readers

We will meet at the home of Tuck Dickerson, 461 N Mendenhall. We will be discussing **Housekeeping** by Marilyn Robinson. Anne Thompson will lead the discussion.

How Great you Are!

Our Sunday collection for the Downtown Churches Hospitality Hub came to \$1,600!!

As this total is being matched by a generous but anonymous member of the church, we will be able to send the Hub a check for \$3,200.

(Continued from page 1) **Calendar continues**

Wednesday, April 14

2:00 p.m. The Shakespeare Readers will meet at the Central Library to read “*The Rape of Lucrece*” and other poems. Contact Gale Mason at 725-7924
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

Wednesday, April 15

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

BOSTON UU HISTORY TOUR

Sunday, April 11 is the deadline to reserve rooms for the trip. See David Jennings in the choir loft after church or email dkjmem@aol.com

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

NOW HEAR THIS!!



Did you know that the Church of the River ministry to children and youth touches 150 members of our congregation every Sunday? These children, youth, and parents depend on volunteers to nurture and “grow their souls” in our spiritual community.

April is recruitment month for Children's Ministry. Stop by our recruitment station on Sundays and discover how you are called to minister to our children and youth. Curricula, materials, guidance, assistance and training are provided by our Children's Ministry Team and Director of Religious Education.

Inspiration is provided by our children and youth.

*This is the church of the open mind
This is the church of the helping hands
This is the church of the loving heart.*

Come into our circle and help open the minds, hands, and hearts of our children and youth.