

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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April 12, 2010
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

SERMON: “Loving the Enemy”

You are kidding, right?

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

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

“To see, to simply look and to see, is an ethical act. The awakened eye is a conscious eye, a willful eye, and brave, because to see things as they are, each in its own truth, will make you very vulnerable. —Rev. Victoria Safford

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. Phone: 682-7838 Rev. Carley and church president Lisa Jennings will lead the discussion and answer questions.

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.

Sunday, April 18

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 begin a discussion of ***The Seven Deadly Sins Today*** by Henry Fairlie. All are welcome.

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 at Mississippi Blvd. Christian church.

noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.

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Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

Are you the parent or guardian of a child in kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, or fifth grade? Have you checked out the wonderful Children’s Library at the Church of the River? Located in the southwest corner of the Mississippi River Room, this collection of age appropriate books reflecting our Unitarian Universalist values, is open year round. Come discover some old favorites and some newly published books that are sure to become classics. To encourage readers, each spring we provide special incentives. This year our program is called *PJ’s and B:Pajamas and Books*.

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.

The Middle School Adventure Club has a lock-in planned for Friday, April 16, with youth from Neshoba UU Church. Contact Jeff McDonald for details.

On Sunday, April 18, Religious Education Programming includes childcare, available beginning at 10 , in the nursery and preschool, with Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner.

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 McCormick and will continue *Toolbox of Faith* workshops with Katie Jones and Gigi Wishchmeyer. “Listening” is the tool we’ll explore in this rotation.

The Middle School will visit Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church at 10 a.m. on Sunday as part of their study of

(Continued on page 2)

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

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



As most of you know that Unitarian theologian “bc” sometimes used for the service quote does not refer to a cartoon but to your minister. The Lenten sermon delivered March 21 on *Jesus and the History Channel* included the following “bc” service quote: “Jesus did not say: ‘Those who know the difference between sublapsarianism and supralapsarianism shall enter the kingdom.’ No, he simply said, ‘Follow me.’ After the service I was asked if *sublapsarianism* and *supralapsarianism* were real theological terms of if I made them up. They are, indeed, genuine theological words.

These ideas are rooted in the Calvinist concern to protect the absolute sovereignty of God. In Reformation theology with its emphasis on human depravity, salvation was the gift of God and could not be earned by human endeavor. The saints of the Puritan church were the faithful who believed that they were among those divinely elected to be saved and known by the all seeing God from eternity. This is predestination. Though one could not be completely sure of election, proof of a foreordained saved condition rested upon three criteria: an experience of the holy spirit, knowledge of church doctrine and theology, and being a model moral citizen in the community. Those who qualified became the members of the gathered church.

The theological conundrum turned on the question of whether predestination occurred before the Fall of humanity in the Adam and Eve story or afterward. Sublapsarianism (*sub* under; *lapsus* fall) was the view that predestination was determined by God after the Fall. Supralapsarianism (*supra*, before; *lapsus*, fall) was the view that predestination was determined by God before the fall. This perspective promoted the idea that the Fall was part of the eternal plan of salvation from the beginning.

The development of Unitarianism out of the theology of Calvinism and the Puritan New England church was in part a rejection of the notion of predestination, the total depravity of humanity, and that a person had no power over the ability to earn salvation.

bc

(Continued from page 1) **Announcements from the Children’s Ministry**

Neighboring Faiths. Youth in grades 6-8 will meet at Mississippi Boulevard, 70 North Bellevue, between Union and Madison Avenues. Contact Roy Bell for more information. Thanks to Roy, Walid Sakaan, Ginger Wheat, Ken Bauer, and the faith leaders at Masjid al Salaam mosque for driving and arranging the *Neighboring Faiths* visit on April 11.

Alliance Bookshelf in the MRR

The bookshelf in the corner of the Mississippi River Room, over behind the café tables is due for a big clean out. There are lots of good books on the shelf, from classics to the latest thriller. Hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are .50 so it’s a rare bargain in books these days. Check it out Sunday and select those you want before the big clean out.



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

Among Our Members

A warm welcome to our newest members.

Karen Shea signed the book on Easter — April 4, 2010. She didn’t fill out a sheet of facts for me, but I know she sings in the choir. Her picture was taken at Holly & Buss McCormick’s house.



Nancy Walton signed the book on April 11, 2010. Nancy is a dental hygienist who enjoys gardening, reading and knitting. She is married to Bobby Walton and both of the Waltons are hard workers here at the Church of the River.

And speaking of hard workers, **Healing wishes** go out to Larry Kalbach who is having surgery this morning. We hope recovery is swift and trouble free.

(Continued from page 1) **Calendar—April 18**

12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at The Pyramid Grill and Buffet at 6690 Macon Rd.

Wednesday, April 21

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

Thursday, April 22

6:30 p.m. Soup for the Soul our evening women’s group will meet at the home of Carol Fourmy. Please contact Carol at 761-1771 or cfourmy@surfosi.com for directions and to coordinate foods.

7:00 p.m. River Readers 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.

Thanks

The following folks gave to the Hospitality Hub in memory of someone. Josie Crane gave in memory of **Dwight Crane**,

Sophie Rothstein gave in memory of ‘Papa Dave’, Beth Larsen gave in memory of **Stewart Hastings, C. Brown** gave in memory of ‘Mae’, Nancy Mardis gave in memory of **Lloyd Mardis**, Frank & Carol Fourmy gave in memory of **Rebecca Klyce**, and Rachel Hicks gave in memory of **Steve Langdon and Dylan Collier**.

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.