

**THE MEMPHIS  
UNITARIAN**

**THE  
CHURCH  
OF THE  
RIVER**

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April 26, 2010

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## OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN

## NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

### SERMON: “Imagining Our Future”

As we celebrate and welcome new members into our church community, we will imagine what living a new mission could mean for our spiritual lives, for our congregation and for the world. The service will include a ceremony welcoming new members.

**Dr. Lisa Jennings will deliver the sermon at the eleven o'clock service**

### Church of the River Calendar

#### Quotation of the Week

“The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them. — Thomas Merton

#### Wednesday, April 28

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

#### Sunday, May 2

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

YRUU meeting for High School Class

Childcare for infants and preschoolers.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Kindergarten and older will begin in the sanctuary for the object lesson. Following the object lesson, Kindergarten will go to their classroom and River Explorers will have Green Sunday activities. Middle school Adventure Club will meet with their advisor.

noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.

12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will have a pot luck at the home of Jane Soffos who lives at 1496 Cranford. Call Jane at 685-1660 if you need an idea of what to bring.

#### Wednesday, May 5

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

### Westward Ho Colorado

Experience the Rocky Mountain West...August 3-9, 2010 Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pueblo, CO Airport pickup. B&B with UU Church hosts Cost \$850 per person, all inclusive. Call Pat Spahr (719)543-5249 or email [dhstone@aculink.net](mailto:dhstone@aculink.net) for additional information or a reservation form. The visit includes cog railway to the top of Pike's Peak, Garden of the Gods; Bent's old fort on the Santa Fe Trail, dinner on a working cattle ranch; horseback trail ride, Royal Gorge; Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and western history and art museums.

### Announcements from the Children's Ministry

*PJ's and B:Pajamas and Books*, our spring reading program for children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade is coming to a close. Those children who completed the program will be recognized during the worship service on Sunday, May 2. Due to a number of conflicts, the pajama party scheduled for Friday evening has been postponed. We *will* have a celebratory picnic in the OASIS following the worship service on Sunday.

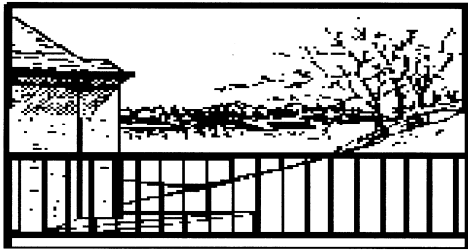
Sunday, May 2, is a first Sunday. Children in kindergarten and older will begin the morning in the sanctuary at 11:00. Following the Object Lesson, kindergarten will enjoy *Treasure Hunting* with Brenda Lanier. River Explorers will conclude this year's **Green** Sunday activities, and the Middle School Adventure Club will meet with their advisor, Jeff McDonald.

The YRUU will meet with sponsor Tim Wheat at 10 o'clock. Plans are being discussed for the 2010-2011 church year; y'all come speak up or forever hold your peace.

### New Member Recognition

New Members who have joined since last December will be recognized during the church service on May 2nd. Following the service the Welcoming Team hosts a reception for the entire congregation. Please plan on attending to welcome our new members and visit with the “old” members.

**The Care Coordinator for April is Anne Thompson. You can reach Anne at 685-5614. Laretha Randolph will be the Care Coordinator in May. You can reach Laretha at 682-4559.**



I looked in the mirror this morning and said, "I could be wrong"  
 When I was in high school I remember complimenting a Presbyterian pastor's wife on how sweet her little girl was. The mother's response was, "Well, they don't come that way." At the time, at the height of my rejection of anything having to do with any notions of "original sin", I was taken aback and was busy mentally formulating a well reasoned, if unspoken, argument for that premise. I was fairly certain that children came into our presence with perfectly agreeable natures if only "we" didn't mess them up. With 27 years of parenting behind me, and more than a few years of working with other people's children, I may be closer to agreeing with my Calvinist sister than I ever thought possible.

Maybe children don't arrive on our Unitarian Universalist church doorstep respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Maybe that's why we recite our Unitarian Universalist Principles from day one: Each person is important. Be kind in all you do. We're free to learn together and search for what is true. All people have a voice. Build a fair and peaceful world. We care for Earth's lifeboat.

The thing is, it takes more than reciting these principles to create a community of caring individuals living our Unitarian Universalist principles. It takes parenting, teaching, modeling, and affirming behaviors every day - and overtime on Sundays - that are infused with these values. With news of religious intolerance, cyber bullying, and civil discord on the front pages and at full volume everywhere, what if we could create a community of children who learned to respect each other, speak kindly to others, and walk humbly on their own spiritual journey here and now? Even if they didn't "come that way." And if not here, where?

Whether we call it religious education, character education or lifespan faith development that is what we are called to be about in Children's Ministry at the Church of the River. It is a daunting task. It takes courage. And it is worthy of our efforts. Let's get busy.

### 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 shelves, 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.



In the worship service last week, we read from Gandhi, "If we are to reach real peace in this world...we shall have to begin with the children." We affirm this truth in our ministry with children and youth here at the Church of the River. In order to serve our youth, caring adults have to be willing to engage them in meaningful conversations and activities. Our younger children hear messages of peace in church school as well. They need to hear that message in many voices- from parents and teachers *and* church school volunteers.

Check out the *Tapestry of Faith* curricula at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml>

Learn how you can be an up-stander and a peace bringer by engaging in Children's Ministry here at the Church of the River. "We shall have to begin with the children." Got spring fever? Looking forward to summer vacation? Religious Education programming for this summer will focus on Art and Poetry. Beginning July 11 and running through August 22, Katie Jones and Amanda Myers have lots of fun planned for our children on Sunday morning. Stay tuned for details.

Thinking further ahead, the YRUU will be going to The Mountain for a fall retreat in October. We anticipate room on our chartered bus for other congregants to travel from Memphis to The Mountain Retreat Center near Highland, NC. Pencil in fall break, with spectacular mountain scenery.



Hey, its time for **ART!** and you can be a **pART** of our p**ART**nership with Shady Grove Elementary School. On April 29th from 9:00—10:30 a.m., join some of your COR friends in volunteering to be a juror at the Shady Grove student art show. This is a great chance to interact with students from our adopted

school; no experience necessary! You will see some delightful art work and interview the proud student artists, an experience bound to enrich both your lives. For information, please contact Juliet Wischmeyer 219-5917 or register directly online at [http://www.mcsk12.net/student\\_exhibition/index.asp](http://www.mcsk12.net/student_exhibition/index.asp)

Go to [www.swuuc.org/swuusi](http://www.swuuc.org/swuusi) for more information on **SWUUSI 2010!**

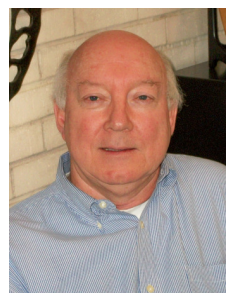
August 1-6, 2010 SWUUSI—Swimming in the Deep End — will convene at the Western Hills Guest Ranch in Sequoyah State Park, OK

Theme speakers, Susan Smith, who is the SW district Executive and Connie Goodbread who is the Faith Development Consultant for Mid-South, Florida and Northeast Districts will lead attendees through a deeper exploration of Unitarian Universalism. You've probably all had UU101, but now it is time for UU201!

The Western Hills Guest Ranch is part of Sequoyah State Park, and offers camping facilities, lodge rooms, family and group cabins, various meeting rooms and a large worship space. The resort and lodge is situated on beautiful Fort Gibson Lake. It has an in-house restaurant, a pool, a game room, a playground, tennis and volleyball courts and a lounge. Their web site is <http://westernhillsok.blogspot.com>

### Among Our Members

A warm welcome to our newest member, **Bobby Walton** who "signed the book" on Sunday, April 25, 2010. Bobby is the owner of Walcott Trading and is a cotton merchant. He is married to Nancy Walton and enjoys gardening. He is on our canvass committee and is chair of the Outdoor Adventure Club.



There will be a Mother's Day tropical tea on Mud Island on Sunday May 9 from noon to 3:00 p.m. You can bring a picnic or order a Tropical Tea lunch if you order in advance. Two lunches = \$30; one lunch = \$20. The lunch menu consists of Vegetable Orzo pasta, assorted fruit, a chocolate fudge brownie and a beverage with either (2 choices) Gourmet Chicken Salad on Croissant or Marinated Veggie Wrap with a Roasted Red Pepper Spread. Call (901) 576-7241 for additional information or to order your lunch.