

**THE MEMPHIS  
UNITARIAN**

**THE  
CHURCH  
OF THE  
RIVER**

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April 26, 2010  
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park



**Flower Communion Service**

Bring a flower to the sanctuary before the service as we celebrate the gift of our community on Mother's Day.

**SERMON: "The Black Swan, Harry Potter & Motherhood"**

Some thoughts on how we fool ourselves into thinking we know more than we do.

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

**Church of the River Calendar**

**Wednesday, May 5**

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

**Saturday, May 8**

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

**Sunday, May 9**

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 will meet again with their sponsor to discuss plans for next year.  
Childcare for infants and preschoolers.  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
K-8 will celebrate Flower Communion in the sanctuary.  
noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.  
12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at A-Tan Restaurant, 3445 Poplar Ave (across Poplar from Poplar Plaza).

**Tuesday, May 11**

10:30 p.m. The Alliance will meet at the Dixon Gallery to view the glass exhibit "Anything But Clear" and then have lunch at the Botanic Garden. All are welcome.

**Wednesday, May 12**

2:00 p.m. Shakespeare Readers will meet at the main library. For more information call Gale Mason at 725-7924.  
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary.

**Thursday, May 13**

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

**Laretha Randolph will be the Care Coordinator in May. You can reach Laretha at 682-4559.**

**Announcements from the Children's Ministry**

Thanks to Sue Myers for organizing our library and celebration for the Pajamas and Books Reading program. And congrats to Kahlil Caldwell, Noah Keeton, Owen Keeton, Sam Lumsden, and Tashi Wischmeyer for reading all those books this spring. Well done!

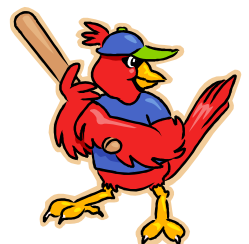
Sunday, May 9, is a multigenerational worship Sunday. Childcare will be available in the nursery and preschool. All other children and youth are invited to celebrate Flower Communion with the congregation in the sanctuary at 11:00.

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

**Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 16**

The meeting will be immediately after the worship service and childcare will be available. The 2010 nominating committee will present their slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees and the 2011 nominating committee and the congregation will vote on them. The minister and the DRE will give "State of the Church" reports. Any member eighteen years of age or older contributing at least ten dollars, of record, to the support of the church after February 16, 2009 and before February 16, 2010 will be eligible to vote at this meeting.

Those reserving Redbirds tickets for May 16 can pick-up and pay (\$11) on May 9 & 16. See David Jennings in the choir loft after church. He would really appreciate your having the right change.



If you are not going to the game after the congregational meeting, you may want to attend the Hospitality Hub Open House. It's their third anniversary! They invite you to come and see the amazing work that is happening at the Hub. The address is 146 Jefferson Ave. Light refreshments will be served.



This Sunday each member of your family is invited to bring a flower for our annual celebration of Flower Communion. This special service is unique to our Unitarian tradition. It was developed by Dr. Norbert Capek in 1923. The Reverend Capek was the founder of the Unitarian movement in Czechoslovakia. His congregation in Prague, known as the Liberal Religious Fellowship, flourished between the two world wars.

Dr. Capek understood the need for a common ritual which would be emotionally satisfying for his diverse congregation from Catholic, Protestant and Jewish backgrounds. He asked everyone to bring a flower of his or her own choice and to place it in a large vase as they entered the sanctuary. This symbolized that each member had freely chosen to join in the covenant of the congregation with others. The bouquet thus represented the many unique people who came together to form one church body.

During the service the flowers were brought forward and Dr. Capek offered a prayer calling for the congregation to renew its resolution "to be real brothers and sisters regardless of any kind of bar which estranges" people from one another. After the consecration of the flowers they were returned to the vestibule, and as the congregation departed, each participant took a flower other than that which they had brought. This act symbolized how they had accepted one another, and it also indicated the grace of receiving gifts from the diverse membership of the church, from people both known and unknown.

It is appropriate that we do this on Mother's Day, a time when we recognize our dependence for the gift and quality of life on the love of others. This after all, is at the heart of our covenant as a church community.



bc

### Outreach News

Since the Church of the River got involved with the MIFA meals-on-wheels program in 2006 we CORmeal volunteers have gotten to know folks in the Memphis community we'd never have met. The program offers more than just meals. For many we're also a link to the outside world. As MIFA assures that their well being is checked on five days a week, we become part of their support system — their world.

Also, by partnering up with other members of our congregation to deliver (as often or seldom as one wishes) we also get a chance to know one another better as part of our Unitarian community.

Jim Spake

**Monday, May 10th is Church of the River (CORmeals) appreciation day at MIFA!**



### Fun in the Sun

Last chance this year to help out at Shady Grove. On Monday, May 10th from 9:00—11:30 a.m. or 12:00—2:00 p.m. come help out at Field Day. Dress comfortably for the weather and cheer on the athletes! For more information, call Juliet Wischmeyer at (901) 219-5817.

### KROGER AND SCHNUCKS CARDS

If you do not have a Kroger card or Schnucks card from the COR please get one from Cindy Sakaan, our Director of Religious Education the next time you are down here.

And if you DO have a Kroger card and/or a Schnucks card from the COR please use it every chance you get. It doesn't cost you a cent and it earns the Religious Education Department of the church \$\$\$\$\$\$.

Actually using your Schnucks card can earn you money at the gas pump. The last time I filled up at the Schnucks gas pump I got .30 per gallon off. These days that is nothing to sneeze at.

## Among Our Members

Material, 2553 Broad Ave. announces an exhibit for one night only, Friday, May 7th from 6:00—8:00 p.m.—**Jeane Umbreit: A Private Gaze.**

You can access the sermon Burton gave at Calvary for the Lenten series at [www.calvarymemphis.org/news/lentenseries.htm](http://www.calvarymemphis.org/news/lentenseries.htm)

[lentenseries.htm](http://www.calvarymemphis.org/news/lentenseries.htm)

**Healing thoughts go out** to Nancy Mardis who is recovering at home from knee surgery and Noel Staub who is recovering at home from a tonsillectomy. (Noel — they gave me lots of ice cream when I had my tonsils out.)

### Writer's Workshop

**Turning Memories into Memoirs  
Living Long and Other Stories of Today**

**Saturday, May 15th, 2010  
1-3:30 p.m.**

**It's Free. It's Fun.**

**Tunica Museum  
Tunica, MS 38676**

**COME WRITE WITH US!**

**Contact Dr. Rachell Anderson  
Rander5022@Wildblue.net**

2010  
Mountain Camp  
A UU Summer Experience!  
The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Highlands, NC

Community Standards  
-The Big Four -

1. Free of violence
2. Free of sex and exclusive relationships
3. Free of illegal drugs and alcohol
4. Free of tobacco products

June 13-July 31 CIT 2.0 (Rising 12th grade)

June 13-July 16 Ascender Program (11-12th grade)

June 20-July 2 Junior High Camp (7-9th grade)

July 4-July 16 Elementary Camp (4-6th grade)

Service & Adventure Program (8-12th grade)

July 11-July 16 Beginner Camp (1-3rd grade)

July 18-July 31 Senior High Camp (10-12th grade)

For more information about each camp session and to register visit us on the web at [www.mountaincenters.org/mountaincamp.html](http://www.mountaincenters.org/mountaincamp.html)



**Hospitality HUB Open House**

It's our Third Anniversary!

Come see the amazing work that is happening at the HUB.

**Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**12:30-3:00 pm**

**146 Jefferson Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103**

*Light refreshments will be served*

Parking available in the Calvary Parking Lot

*Our mission is to connect individuals with the resources they need to begin their journey out of homelessness.*

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