

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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SERMON: “Enemies of the Spirit”

As we recognize the teachers of our church it is a good time to remember the teachers who have influenced us and to consider how the life of the spirit in our tradition is connected to the life of the mind. This includes the value of discernment and actively defending the spirit against what diminishes it.

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

Church of the River Calendar

Quotation of the Week

“It is a vulgar error that love, a love to woman is her whole existence; she is also born for Truth and Love in their universal energy.” — Margaret Fuller

Tuesday, May 18

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

Saturday, May 22

2-4:00 p.m. Knitting etc will meet at the home of Jeane Umbreit, 158 S Rose Rd. Call Jeane at 374-9114n for directions or questions.

Lisa Nezwazky's Birthday Party

5:50 p.m. Pot Luck Supper

7:30—9:30 p.m. Square Dancing

Mississippi River Room, Patio if nice weather.

Sunday, May 23

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 be discussing UU Elevator Speeches.” How do we best respond to inquiries about our stand on abortion, death, welfare, justice, immigration, prayer, guns? Please come and add your expertise.

Religious Education for High School students

Childcare for infants and preschoolers.

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

Religious Education for kindergarten—Grade 8

noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.

Brunch for volunteers in the Children's Ministry.

12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at India Palace, 1720 Poplar

Wednesday, May 26

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

Thursday, May 27

6:30 p.m. Soup for the Soul will meet at Laretha Randolph's, 258 W Cherry Cl. Please contact Laretha at 682-4559 for directions or consultation on what to bring for the pot luck.

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Announcements from the Children's Ministry

On Sunday, May 23, childcare will be available beginning at 10 o'clock in the nursery and pre-school with Caron Lumsden and Elizabeth Turner. The high school class will also meet at 10 o'clock with Cindy McMullin for *Popcorn Theology*.

At 11:00, children and youth are invited to attend the first part of the worship service to help celebrate our Children's Ministry and church school volunteers. Following the recognition, kindergarten will meet in their classroom for *Treasure Hunting* with Brenda Lanier. River Explorers, grades 1-5, will continue *Toolbox of Faith* workshops with Juliet Wischmeyer and Katie Jones.

The Middle School *Neighboring Faiths* class will meet with Roy Bell in their classroom following the volunteer recognition in the sanctuary.

Immediately following the worship service, all volunteers in Children's Ministry are cordially invited to attend brunch in the Mississippi River Room hosted by the Children's Ministry Team.

Congregational Meeting Results

President, Lisa Jennings thanked the retiring board members — Gary Guinn, Dee Billmeier, Laurel Reisman and Alice Fleming — for their service to the Board and Mary Jo Miller for serving on the Endowment Committee.

The Endowment Fund report indicates that the fund recovered well during the past year.

Alex Conaway was elected to a five year term on the Endowment Fund team.

The DRE's report and the Minister's report were well received.

Bob Lloyd was elected for a year's term as Treasurer. Robin Maxwell, Wayne Shannon, Frank Fourmy and Bobby Walton were elected to three year terms as trustees.

Rachell Anderson, Anne Mathes and Taryn Spake will be the nominating team for 2011.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



In our celebration of Margaret Fuller's 200th birthday I did not focus on her religious beliefs. As I mentioned Margaret was born in a Unitarian household. Her mother, Margaret Crane, came from a Unitarian family in Canton, MA. Her father, Timothy Fuller, rejected his Calvinist upbringing for the Unitarian rationalism that surrounded him as a student at Harvard College. After Margaret and Timothy married, they became members of the Cambridgeport Parish Unitarian Church where Timothy served on the Church Council.

Later Margaret attended the Federal Street Church in Boston where Channing gave eloquent voice to our faith. She said that his "sermons purged by fire." While teaching in Providence she frequented the church of Unitarian antislavery activist Rev. Edward B. Hall. When she became part of the Transcendentalist Club she discovered like minded people who championed a process of lifelong spiritual

growth. As she wrote, "Very early I knew that the only object in life was to grow." She also once confessed "I am suffocated and lost when I have not the very bright feeling of progression."

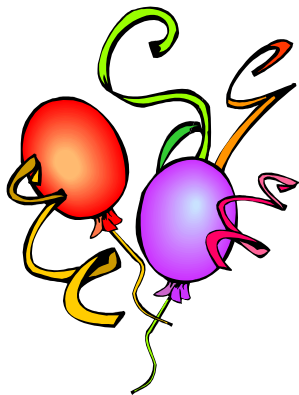
Unlike the transcendentalists, however, her spiritual impulse was not a rebellion against the past based on religion. She was much more open to the emotional and mystical dimensions of faith and her sense of progression was to adapt her rational Unitarian heritage to her own needs. She was attracted to passionate preaching that spoke to the heart without being "fettered by dogmas," and where "the worship of beauty" has its place. She was also attracted to the Greek Orphism that offered a kind of feminine mysticism. In the end her spiritual needs found completion in the naturalistic ideas of the soul that appeared in the writings of Shelly, Goethe and especially Wordsworth.

Without rejecting the church as some transcendentalists, she found something emotionally satisfying in Christ while still "in full possession of my reasoning powers." But she did not stop there. "We have all had the Messiah to reconcile and teach, let us have another to live out all the symbolical forms of a human life with the calm beauty and physical fullness of a Greek god, with the deep consciousness of a Moses, with the holy love and purity of Jesus. Amen!" So with her transcendentalist friends she could join them in finding that "nowhere I worship less than in places set apart for that purpose...The blue sky seen above the opposite roof preaches better than any brother."

What Margaret Fuller did we all do. We do not reject out of hand what we find worthy from our religious tradition. We understand the spiritual life to be one that involves a lifetime of growth. We seek the harmony of heart and the mind. And we discover food for the soul wherever the "symbolical forms of human life" appear to us in nature or in other expressions of religion. Thus we each create our own credo in the context of our lives, and then bind ourselves in covenant to give outward expression to our inner life. It is how we do "church." bc

(Continued from page 1) COR Calendar

7:00 p.m. River Readers will meet at the home of Tuck Dickerson, 461 N Mendenhall. We will be discussing Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks



The congregation is cordially invited to celebrate a Half Century of Love and Friendship! It's my 50th birthday and I want to celebrate!

Please join my family and me at the Church of the River, Saturday May 22nd. 5:50 p.m. for a potluck dinner at sunset (Please bring a dish to share)

7:30—9:30 p.m. for square dancing! (with a real caller!)

Beer, wine, iced tea and cake will

be provided.

Children are welcome. However, due to alcohol and a large river, all minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Please no gifts. But if you are so inclined, please consider a donation to The Church of the River or to Heifer.org

RSVP: lisa.nez@gmail.com 652-3289

Thanks

to Tim and Ginger Wheat for a gift to the Endowment Fund in honor of Rick & Susan Crenshaw

Hear.....

Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr.—Sunday, May 23, 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 480 S Highland St. Memphis.

"Retrospective ..'68... 'Where do we go from here?'"

No admission charge! free will offering. Dr. Mark Matheny, Host Pastor 428-4633

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

Among Our Members

A Warm Welcome to our newest members: Kimberly and Jay Martin and Pamela Lipinski all of whom signed the membership book on May 16, 2010. Jay and Kimberly have a daughter, Kathryn.



Kimberly is a graduate Student and Jay is in Product support.

Pamela is a stay at home mom, taking care of her children, Casimir Lipinsky and Cydney Lipinski. When the kids grow up she can go back to Social Work where she has a master's degree.



We send our love and healing thoughts to Donna Sue Shannon and Dot May convalescing at home.

As we travel this spring and summer, please remember to save hotel toiletries for the Manna House guests. Also needed are jeans and pants, t-shirts, tennis shoes, tube socks, towels and blankets. Manna House serves both men and women. Thank you so much for your continued support. Nancy Walton

