

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

Burton D. Carley, Minister

Home—759-1848 Church—526-8631

Fax—526-8632

e-mail—UURiver@aol.com



www.churchoftheriver.org



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EDITOR: MARGARET PARK - Home: 763-0206, e-mail—uuriver@aol.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Cindy Sakaan— Home: 725-7758 e-mail—DRECSakaan@aol.com

June 21, 2010

Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

SERMON: “Softball and the Nature of Prejudice”

A whole team kicked out of a church softball league because of affectional orientation? One day there will be another play that wins a Tony like *Memphis* that will explore yet another boundary ruled by prejudice overcome in the city of good abode.

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

Church of the River Calendar Quotation of the Week

“He didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.”
— Clarence Budington Kelland

Wednesday, June 23

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

Thursday, June 24

7:00 p.m. River Readers will meet at the of Tuck Dickerson for a discussion of ***The Second Coming*** by Walker Percy.

Sunday, June 27

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 Questions for the Soul, subtitled “If You’re Searching for the Answers, Here Are the Questions.” For further information, contact Josie Crane @ 572-7337. Childcare for infants and preschoolers.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary Childcare for Infants and Preschoolers.

Kindergarten will meet in their classroom.

Grades 1-5 will meet in the Chalice Room.

noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room.

12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at Flying Fish, 105 S Second St.

Monday June 28—Office closed for vacation day

Saturday, July 3

2-4:00 p.m. Knitting etc. will meet at the home of Jeane Umbreit, 158 S Rose Rd. Call Jeane at 274-9114 for directions or information.

Sunday, July 4

No Church or RE Services

12:30 p.m. Potluck and pool party at the home of Gwen Rose, 508 Peabody Square. We will meet in the pool room towards the front of the building by the swimming pool. You can call Gwen at 276-3760 about what you might bring.

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Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

School may be out, but Children’s Ministry continues year round.

Every Sunday, childcare will be available beginning at 10 o’clock in the nursery and pre-school with Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner.

At 11 o’clock June 27, the kindergarten will meet with Brenda Lanier in their classroom. Children in grades 1-5 will meet in the Chalice Room for the final session of June Service Projects. Middle and High School students are invited to these outreach sessions or to worship in the sanctuary.

Our Summer of Faith programming for children is entitled “Poetic Creations: Reflections on Our World through Art and Poetry”. These workshops led by Katie Jones and Amanda Cook Myers begin July 11 and run through August 22 on Sunday mornings at 11 o’clock. Plan to come hear our outstanding line up of pulpit guests and bring your children into our “cool” Mimi Loeb Art Center for a chance to go beyond the basics and be creative through words and a variety of art media this summer.

COR’s Advertising and PR committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to staff a booth at the Cooper-Young Festival Saturday, September 18, to hand out information and answer questions from festival-goers who might be interested in visiting or joining the church. Volunteers would work in 2 to 4 hour shifts.

The committee is also looking for volunteers who might be interested in spearheading and planning a fun, new social event for one afternoon or evening in late summer/early fall, aimed at attracting visitors and new members. If interested in either opportunity, please call or email committee chair Rod Starns (821-9194, rstarns@runningpony.com) by June 30th.

Katy Spurlock will be the Care Coordinator in June. You can reach Katy at 276-9502. Diana McClure will be the Care Coordinator for July. You can reach her at 758-1155 or 219-1066



Despite the sweltering temperatures in Memphis these last two weeks, today on my blotter I read “summer begins”. In her poem, *The Summer Day*, Mary Oliver writes, “I don’t know exactly what a prayer is, I do know how to pay attention...how to be idle and blessed...” Dr. Lisa Jennings reminded us yesterday that a Unitarian summer might be a time to “be still.” I’m afraid that the same calendar that reminds me that the summer solstice is on June 21 also reminds me of tasks yet to be completed, church school plans to be made, and the oxymoron of the day: vacations to be organized.

Be still. Pay attention. Be idle and blessed.

If I were a poet I would write about sunflowers, lightning bugs, and cicadas. I found a packet of unsold sunflower seeds on my desk last month from a church school fundraising project several years ago. Rather than tossing them aside, I haphazardly dropped a few in a large pot of roses I have growing on my front porch. I really wasn’t hopeful that they would thrive after all these years in a drawer nor would I have predicted the absolute delight of watching them leap toward the sun and turn their faces from east to west every single day. How do they do that? Without eyes to see the sun, without a clock or a calendar or even an astrolabe to calculate the arc of the light across the porch, how do they do that? My son tells me, “all living organisms respond to stimuli; that’s how you know they’re alive.” Indeed. Those leafy green plants are alive and so am I. Alive, and blessed with a moment to be still, and idle, if only for a moment on this longest day of the year.

Be still. Pay attention. Be idle and blessed.

Summer begins.

(Continued from page 1) Church calendar continued from July 5
Monday, July 5—Office closed for July 4th Holiday

Saturday, July 10
 3:30 p.m. St. John’s Soup Kitchen at St. John’s Methodist Church, Bellevue at Peabody. Contact is Dan Bing at 763-2384.

Sunday, July 11
 11:00 a.m. Church School for children and Worship Service
Speaker: The Rev. Maxie Dunnam
 12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at La Baguette in Chickasaw Oaks shopping center.

Monday, July 12—Church office closed for vacation

Sunday, July 18
 11:00 a.m. Church School for Children and Worship Service
Speaker: The Rev. John M. Gilmore
 12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at the Grand Pacific, 6105 State Rd.

Monday, July 19 — Church office closed for vacation

Sunday, July 25
 11:00 a.m. Church School for children and Worship Service
Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Cozette Garrett
 12:30 p.m. The Lunch Bunch will meet at A-Tan’s Restaurant, 3445 Poplar Ave. # 17. This is the area across from Poplar Plaza.

Monday July 26—Church office closed for vacation

See our website www.churchoftheriver.org for further information about our summer speakers.

Leadership Retreat for the 2010—11 Church Year September 18th at the church from 9 a.m.—4 p.m.
 This year the usual August retreat for the board of trustees, committee/ministry chairs and staff will be Saturday, September 18th. Please put this important meeting on your calendar.

To All Newsletter Contributors:
 The Midsummer Newsletter will be published July 27 and will cover events between July 28 and August 31.

The first weekly newsletter of the fall will be published August 31.

Among Our Members

Suzanna Herbert, former COR YRUU member, has completed a documentary about a homeless soccer team in New York City. Check out the trailer at <http://kck.st/9jamY5>

Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker will receive the UU Women’s Federation Ministry to Women Award at the Margaret Fuller Tea on Thursday, June 24, from 4:15-5:15 at the General Assembly.

Many of you will remember Elaine Blanchard and her captivating story telling ability as a guest speaker at COR.

You won’t want to miss her performance of her play “**For Goodness Sake**” as part of Playhouse on the Square’s summer solo performance series. Her show will be on July 1 and 2 at TheatreWorks at 2085 Monroe. You can get tickets through the POTS box office at 901 726-4656.

Serious Coffee Talk:

We all know how nice it is to come to church a bit early and stop in the Mississippi River Room to have a cup of coffee and some conversation.

But there is a problem on the horizon for the *Summer of Faith*. Volunteers are needed to prepare the coffee and make sure the cream, sugar and tea selections are available for all to enjoy. Ideally a person or persons are needed to serve the church on a permanent basis.



The social connecting on Sunday mornings over coffee and treats is a vital part of the hospitality that we are reminded is a part of our faith.

Please consider offering your services to this important aspect of our church community. Call or email Carol Straughn (387-4650, carol_strau@yahoo.com) by June 30th.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, Sept. 10 from 6-10 p.m. There will be a “Welcome Back to Church” DJ Party in the MS River Room.

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