

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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October 6, 2009
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

Sermon: “Where the Devil Dwells”

It is the time of Halloween, of ghouls and goblins and demons and all manner of devilish things. Devil costumes no longer seem to be in vogue and it think that it is sad. Sure Superman is fine and Spiderman too. But it is a mistake to let the Devil go underground, out of sight, for that crafty one is a magician at misdirection.

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

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

“Without guilt / what is man? An animal, isn't he? A wolf forgiven at his meat?...”
Archibald MacLeish, JB (1958)

Tuesday, October 6

7:30-9:00 p.m. Bible for Unitarians at the home of David & Lisa Jennings. Read Matthew for the class.

Wednesday, October 7

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

Thursday, October 8

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

Saturday, October 10

3:30 p.m. A Tribute to James Madison Barr in the Mississippi River Room. All are invited.
St. John's Soup Kitchen at St. John's Methodist Church, Bellevue at Peabody, Contact: Dan Bing—763-2384

Sunday, October 11

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 have continue discussion of *The Evolution of God* by Robert Wright. If you have questions or suggestions, call Natalie Parker-Lawrence at 461-8206 or Liz Conway at 486-4872.
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Childcare for infants and children under six
Noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room
Alaska, The Adventure Chuck Schulz will present a 45 minute tour/cruise presentation in the Chalice Room. Chuck & Sharen are just back from their adventure in Alaska.
12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at Republic Coffee, on Walnut Grove Rd. just past Tillman on the North side and before the bridge that takes you to Union Ave.

Tuesday, October 13

(Continued on page 2)

Announcements from the Children's Ministry

Thanks to Kim and Bob Lloyd and Lou Henslee for a wonderful Green Sunday lesson about the Mississippi River. They will continue this focus on the first Sunday in November.

This Sunday, October 11, is a Family Worship Sunday. Childcare will be provided for children under 6. There will be no Treasure Hunting, River Explorer workshops, OWL, or Popcorn Theology classes. Children and youth are welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary at 11:00.

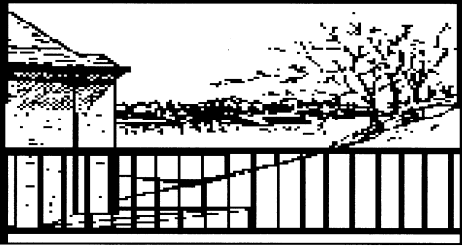
OWL, *Our Whole Lives*, will **not meet this week, Oct. 11**, as many of our families are enjoying “fall break”. OWL continues on October 18 in the classroom from 11:00 to 1:30 with facilitators Matt Holladay, Diana McClure, Amanda Myers, Bill and Emily Schultz. Parents, please send a lunch with your child or \$5 for pizza to be delivered.

Stop by the table in the Mississippi River Room to register your Schnucks key-tag or to pick up a new one to make your grocery and gas shopping “kick back” 1% to the Church of the River. Thanks for supporting Children's Ministry with your Schnucks cards. Kroger reloadable gift cards are also available.

Our next Open House is for all families with children in kindergarten or younger. It will be held Tuesday, October 13, from 5:30 – 7:30 at the home of Adam and Mary Taylor. The Taylors live at 3832 Highland Park Place. Bring the whole family and your favorite dish to share. Meet your children's church school classmates and their parents and spend time with your child's “church family” without the Sunday morning rush. RSVP tallulahlucille@aol.com or call Mary at 323-5544.

Tickets for our annual Trunk or Treat celebration on October 25 will be on sale in the Mississippi River Room each Sunday in October. Trunk or Treat features our famous CMT Grill Team preparing hamburgers and hot dogs to go with the fabulous picnic food furnished by the Children's Ministry Team. Costumes are encouraged. Cars parked in

(Continued on page 2)



It is interesting to note that the doctrine of original sin, that the rebellion of Adam and Eve set the course of all humanity and guaranteed its hopeless state, was not original to Jewish and early Christian interpretations of Genesis. A common understanding of the incident in the Garden was that it represented moral freedom and responsibility. It celebrated the freedom of will and the capacity of a person to use self-mastery as a means to spiritual renewal.

The doctrine of original sin was the invention of Augustine in the fourth century as the Church moved from being persecuted to achieving status as a respected imperial institution. The shift in emphasis from human freedom to the universal bondage of original sin justified the need for political and religious oversight. Helpless, humanity needed direction and grace. The new doctrine validated the authority of church and state since people cannot be trusted to govern themselves.

That was the context of the development of the doctrine of original sin but there is another reason that it took hold of normative Christian theology and became a central feature of the teaching of the Church to this day. It is the human need to explain why people suffer, why bad things happen.

Even in non-Christian cultures this need is very important. Augustine's theory satisfied the human tendency to rather have any kind of explanation for misfortune than that it is random and built into the fabric of the human condition. In other words it is better to feel guilty, to blame suffering specifically upon sin, rather than to feel helpless before the random nature of the universe. So death and pain become not natural things, but the consequence of Adam and Eve's moral choice. Guilt is the price for the illusion that we have more power or control over nature than we really do. It is just another example of guilt that is bad rather than good.

bc

The book Burton referenced in his sermon Sunday was *The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement* (Free Press, 2009) by Jean Twenge & W. Keith Campbell

(Continued from page 1) **Children's Ministry**

the lower parking lot will be adorned with festive Halloween decorations and tempting "treats" for costumed strollers. Your ticket gets you a wonderful lunch with all proceeds to benefit UNICEF. \$7.50 each or \$20 for a family. Bring some \$\$ for our children's UNICEF boxes as well so that they might get a head start on trick-or-treat fundraising for the United Nations International Children's Education Fund.

Memorial Tribute for The Rev. James Madison Barr, Minister Emeritus of the congregation, will be held at the Church of the River on October 10, at 3:30 p.m. in the Mississippi River Room. Jim, via electronic means will talk about his ministry. Other people who knew and loved him will tell their favorite "story of Jim Barr" This will be a warm, friendly send off for Jim and all are invited — especially if you knew him.

(Continued from page 1) **COR Calendar Tuesday, Oct. 13**

10:30 a. m. The Alliance will meet at the church. The theme of the meeting is "Bring a Friend, Share a Story". Lunch will follow the program. Everyone is invited. If you have questions, contact RAnder5022@aol.com
 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary
The Bible for Unitarians at the home of David & Lisa Jennings.

Wednesday, October 14

2:00 p.m. Shakespeare Readers will meet at the main library to read ***Much Ado About Nothing***. Contact Gale Mason—725-7924

Among Our Members We send our loving thoughts to Katy Spurlock on the death of her mother Corinne Silas, and to Nancy Campbell on the death of her husband Jim Campbell.

NOVEMBER 1ST COVENANT SUNDAY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO ATTEND THE COVENANT SUNDAY SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 1ST, WHEN WE WILL TURN IN OUR 2010 ANNUAL GIVING PLEDGE CARDS. A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ROOM TO OFFER A GRACIOUS THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GIVE IN SO MANY WONDERFUL WAYS.

BRENDA LANIER FOR THE CANVASS TEAM

Writer's Workshop — Turning Memories into Memoirs

Saturday, October 17th, 2009 from 1-3:30 p.m.
 Tunica Museum, Tunica, MS — It's Free. It's Fun.
 Come write with us!
 Contact: Dr. Rachell Anderson
Rander5022@Wildblue.net

The Care Coordinator for October is Cheryl Mathis. You can reach Cheryl at 681-0550 or chermath@bellsouth.net

DOWNTOWN CHURCHES OPEN HOUSE

The Church of the River is participating with twelve other churches in the Second Annual Downtown Churches Open House on Sunday, October 18, from 1—4 p.m. The other churches are: Calvary Episcopal, Collins Chapel CME, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist, Holy Community United Methodist, Mississippi Blvd. Christian, St. John Baptist, St. Mary's Episcopal, St. Patrick's Catholic, St. Peter Catholic and Trinity Lutheran. The Woodruff-Fontaine House Museum will also be open at the same time for free tours of this historic home.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE HOSPITALITY HUB

The Hospitality Hub is a spiritual sanctuary for our homeless neighbors, especially the newly homeless. The Hub offers basic services such as water, coffee, restrooms, as well as lockers, telephones, computers, an address for mail and referrals to agencies. We can help by donating travel size toiletries, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, reading glasses, socks, hairbrushes, combs, blankets and backpacks. There is a bin in the Mississippi River Room. Ellen Klyce is the liaison.

OUTREACH NEWS Donations for our Soup Kitchen are needed and appreciated. Make checks out to the church and note it is for the "soup kitchen". **Nancy Walton** is the new liaison for Mana House. And thanks to the choir for their donation to the Soup Kitchen!