

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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October 13, 2009
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

Sermon: “Guess Who Is Coming to Dinner?”

Have you heard about Ardi? What an exciting discovery. She pushes back the understanding of our evolutionary history over a million years more near our origins. The Neanderthal in me has fallen in love, and I want to bring Ardi to dinner to meet all my creationist friends.

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

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

“An apology for the Devil: It must be remembered that we have only heard one side of the case. God has written all the books.” — Samuel Butler

Tuesday, October 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

Thursday, October 15

6:00 p.m. Soup for the Soul, our women’s evening group will meet at the home of Carol Straughn in Cordova. This is a pot luck meal so contact Carol at 387-4850 for directions or to coordinate your dinner dish.

Sunday, October 18

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

12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at Grande Pacific, 6105 Stage Rd. near Alturia—382-6339

Tuesday, October 20

7:30 p.m. The Bible for Unitarians at the home of David & Lisa Jennings.

Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

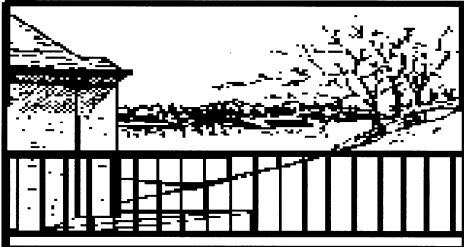
This Sunday, October 18, Children’s Ministry will resume our regular religious education programming with Treasure Hunting for kindergarten with Julie Wood, River Explorer workshops with Porter Feild (grades 1-3) and Shirley Rich (grades 4-6), OWL for the middle school, and Popcorn Theology for the high school.

The River Explorers will begin with worship in the Chalice Room at 11 o’clock led by Holly and Buss McCormick. Popcorn Theology has moved to the Potter Wing classroom and begins at 10 a.m. OWL continues 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 the lower parking lot will be adorned with festive Halloween decorations and tempting “treats” for costumed strollers. Your ticket gets you a tasty lunch with all proceeds to



It is easy for us to forget that our spiritual forebears came to their view of the Bible not out of wanting to destroy its value or meaning but exactly to know its truth. It was out of deep respect for the biblical tradition that scholarship was pursued. The problem with seeking what is true is that there is a possibility that you will be changed by it. This is why the academy feels so threatening to those who wish to protect what is believed to be a revealed truth set for all time. In our tradition religion is not so much something we preserve and protect as given from on high, but the institution where we preserve and protect religious freedom because of our conviction that the spiritual life, the growth of our souls, is first of all a search for reality, for honesty, for integrity, for true speaking and true thinking.

So in presenting Unitarian and Universalist theological positions, it was common in our history to offer biblical "proof" texts. These texts supported understandings of what was true that rubbed against normative theology of the time. One such text from the Unitarians concerned the narrative where a person addresses Jesus as "good" rabbi. The response of Jesus was, "Why do you call me good? There is only one who is good who dwells in heaven." Unitarians interpreted this to mean that Jesus did not consider himself divine or equal to God.

Now I like this text for another reason. I would much rather hang out with folks who do not have an inflated sense of their own goodness, folks who live in their skins, perfectly human, rather than striving for human perfection. Self-righteousness seems especially rampant these days. The problem with possessing the one way whether it is religious or political and assuming the natural right of the high moral ground, is that it inhibits right relationships. For the only thing one can do on top of that isolated hill is to either ignore those who disagree, convert them, or conquer them. This is not conducive to democracy or the separation of church and state.

The beginning I believe to the refurbishment of our union is to say, "Why do you call me good?" bc

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

benefit UNICEF. Tickets are \$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.

(Continued from page 1) **COR Calendar**

Wednesday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 22

7:00 p.m. River Readers will meet at the home of Tuck Dickerson, 461 N Mendenhall. We will be discussing ***The Widow of the South*** by Robert Hicks. We are also planning a field trip to Carnton Plantation in Franklin, TN

NOVEMBER 1ST COVENANT SUNDAY

OUR THEME FOR THE 2010 CANVASS IS "STAYING CONNECTED". WE BELIEVE THAT STAYING CONNECTED TO THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND BRING MEANING TO OUR LIVES IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL SUNDAY AND STAY CONNECTED.

Save the Date!

Elaine Blanchard, one of our favorite guests in the pulpit and DRE at Neshoba has written and will perform a play called "**for goodness sake**" It will be presented by Voices of the South at Theatre South, 1000 South Cooper, First Congo Basement on October 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 25 at 2:30 p. m. The director is David Prete.

This is a story about growing up in the racially divided and violent south. It is a story about church. This is a story about being trapped by belief systems that have kept too many of us from realizing our own power and beauty. This is a story about the struggle to be free.

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

Thanks

to the Alliance for their gift of songbooks to the children's ministry,

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.

Manna House

As you shift summer clothes out and winter clothes into your closet, please remember the Manna House. Are the sweats a little too tight but in good condition? Too many pants that have not been worn in years? All those t-shirts that your Mom brought you from her vacations? Following is an updated list of items that are needed:

Men's pants, jeans, khakis, esp. sizes 32-38.

Women's jeans, pants, khaki's all sizes

Travel size hygiene products

Gently used athletic shoes — all sizes—men's and women's

T-shirts, esp. sizes L-XXL

Long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, stocking caps, gloves and blankets.

If you have too many things to fit in the bin in the Mississippi River Room, I will gladly come to your home to pick up bags.

Thank you so much for your support for this much needed ministry. Nancy Walton, (685-2499) or e-mail me at msnewright@aol.com

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".

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