

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN
Permit No. 113

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October 20, 2009
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**ALL SOULS SUNDAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
TRUNK OR TREAT FUN AFTER CHURCH
CHOIR SINGS *NO ONE MOURNS THE WICKED***

SERMON: “Becoming Wicked”

St. Paul said that, “For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.” Now here is the question. What keeps us from being good?

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

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

“Concepts create idols; only wonder comprehends anything. People kill one another over idols. Wonder makes us fall to our knees.” — St. Gregory of Nyssa

Tuesday, October 20

7:30 p.m. The Bible for Unitarians at the home of David & Lisa Jennings. Read “Acts” to prepare for the class

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

Sunday, October 25

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 for a pot luck at the home of Jane Soffos at 1495 Cranford, 38119. You can call Jane at 685-1660 to coordinate pot luck offerings or get directions.

Wednesday, October 28

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

Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

The YRUU has an outing and lock in planned for this weekend. Contact sponsor Tim Wheat for details or questions.

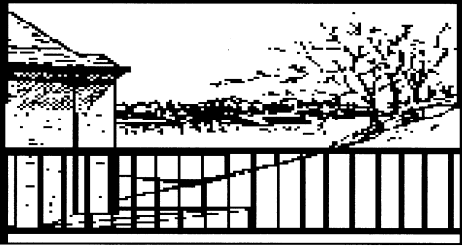
This Sunday, October 25, Children’s Ministry will compliment Trunk or Treat with our regular religious education programming. *Treasure Hunting* for kindergarten with T. Leigh Starns will look at “facing our fears.” River Explorer workshops with Porter Feild (grades 4-6) and Sandy Kozik (grades 1-3) will focus on Halloween stories and decorations. OWL for the middle school, and *Popcorn Theology* for the high school will meet with their facilitators and costumes are encouraged.

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. OWL students may plan to have lunch at Trunk-or-Treat this week.

Thanks to Adam and Mary Taylor for hosting our pre-school Open House last week. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time sharing stories and a delicious meal.

Tickets for our annual Trunk or Treat celebration on Sunday, October 25 will be on sale in the Mississippi River Room before and after the worship service. \$7.50 for adults, \$5.00 for children, or \$20 for your family gets you admission to Trunk-or-Treat, which begins at noon, and a meal prepared by our famous CMT Grillers and 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. Bring some \$\$ for our children’s UNICEF boxes as well so that they might get a head start on Saturday’s trick-or-treat fundraising for the United Nations International Children’s Education Fund. “Make Halloween Count”





Even the Roman Catholic Pope John Paul recognized in 1996 that “new knowledge has led to the recognition of the theory of evolution as more than a hypothesis.” This makes the Catholic Church more progressive than Protestant creationists who want a particular brand of theology to dominate scientific inquiry. But there is a caveat for the affirmation of evolutionary theory. It is that one should not forget that while science may discern the evolution of the human body it is the Church that holds sway over the origins of the soul and its habitation of the flesh. It is the separation of domains, a kind of Berlin Wall erected between science and religion

Of course my own theology needs no such wall while sympathizing with my Catholic friends who are rightly suspicious of a kind of materialism that denies the life of the spirit. That theology does not harbor the view that the soul is the ghost in the machine of the human body that leaves it at death, and is immortal. I agree with my Hebrew ancestors that the human being is a psychosocial unity whose natural destiny is limited to the earth.

For myself evolution does not only take place in the scheme of environment and genes. In the long line of Ardi to Lucy to *Homo erectus* something else was taking place. It was first seen in members of a group not abandoning its sick and the emergence of compassion. It eventually erupted in speech and created art, stories and ritual. You cannot separate it from the social-psycho-physical development of humanity but neither can you deny it.

What is that *something else*? I call it the spirit. It is our capacity for appreciative awareness. This is a different kind of understanding and knowledge than facts and measurements. The spirit discerns value and enables wisdom. It weeps at suffering and at the strains of music. It looks upon the fox and cries wonder. It knows inward pain and joy. It bristles at injustice and rejoices in finding what has been lost.

It is a most precious thing that has come to us from we know not where. And it is the purpose of our church to nurture and grow that spirit, our appreciative awareness. It is our purpose to protect it against everything that would diminish it. And to do so is see with the eyes of the spirit the beauty of Ardi. The human spirit is a great gift that is a blessing to us. To join together in covenant to nurture and protect it is our mission. And it is worthy of the best of us. bc

NOVEMBER 1ST COVENANT SUNDAY

This year we are making a concerted effort to decrease our reliance on surplus funds. We are challenged with increasing our pledge dollars. Please consider putting the Church of the River at the top of your list for donations this year. Your generosity and support will assure that we can continue the mission and ministry of our church.

Among Our Members A warm welcome to our newest members John Sauls and Julie Johnston both of whom signed the membership book last Sunday, October 18, 2009. We send our love to Nancy Campbell on the death of her husband, **the Rev. Jim Campbell**.

Outreach

Help keep our adopted school students toasty warm this Fall and Winter with your donation of new or gently used children's sized coats and jackets. Please leave them in or near the Shady Grove Elementary bin in the Mississippi River Room.

Anyone interested in learning conversational Italian?

Gale Mason 726-7924 and Charles “Moon” Mullins 605-2073 would like to know if there is enough interest to get up a class in conversational Italian down here at the Church of the River. Many of our members have been to Italy and wish to go back. Some others may wish to go for the first time.

If you would be interested in participating in the class please let Gale or Moon know.

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

Thanks

to Dorothy May for a gift to the Memorial Garden in memory of her husband **Oscar May**. Thanks also to Leo & June Blackwell for a gift to the Barr Fund in memory of **James Madison Barr** and to Ken Phillips for a gift to the Barr Fund in honor of **Kathryn Rice**.

GREEN NOTICE

Just outside the door to the Mississippi River Room (hall side) there is a container for aluminum cans and another container for plastic bottles.

At the intersection of the two classroom wings and in the church office there are containers for paper. Help our recycling effort by putting discarded paper in the paper boxes and empty cans and bottles in the marked containers for cans and bottles.

THANK YOU — THE GREEN TEAM

Calling all UU Leaders — Youth, Religious Educators, Adult Advisors of Youth, Ministers, Board Members and Committee Chairs.

The SWUUC Fall Conference will take place November 13-15, 2009 at the Glen Lake Retreat Center in Glen Rose, TX which is about 40 miles s w of Dallas, TX.

Brochures with registration forms are on the pamphlet table.

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.

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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