

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN & COVENANT SUNDAY

This Sunday is our annual Covenant Sunday when members and friends commit their gifts to the work of our church and their highest values. Following the service there will be special treats in the Mississippi River Room as we celebrate how our church makes a difference in the lives of its members and the city of Memphis.

SERMON: "My Theological Bombshell"

In the history of Unitarianism and Universalism there have been many theological bombshells that changed the very discourse of religion in Europe and America. My theological bombshell is very green and to truly understand it is to begin a journey of transformation.

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

Church of the River Calendar Quotation of the Week

"For the good I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do." — St. Paul

Wednesday, October 28

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

Sunday, November 1

2:00 a.m. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS — FALL BACK!

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. .

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Childcare for infants and preschoolers
Kindergarten will go to their classroom after the Object Lesson. River Explorers (1-6) will go to their workshops after the Object Lesson.

Noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room
12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at the Dixie Café located at 4699 Poplar Ave.

Wednesday, November 4

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

Saturday November 7

8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. 8th Annual Environmental Justice Conference of the Sierra Club will meet at the Church of the River. Everyone is invited. Registration forms are on the Welcoming Table or you can call 901 324-7757 to register.

Volunteers Needed to Judge Art Show

The Fall Art Exhibition is coming up on November 12 at Shady Grove Elementary! We need 3 or 4 volunteers to serve as jurors to judge student art for the exhibit. Please contact Juliet Wischmeyer at 219-5817 or julietwischmeyer@bellsouth.net

Announcements from the Children's Ministry

Thanks to Juliet Wischmeyer, the Children's Ministry Team, the CMT Grillers... for Trunk or Treat. Many imaginative costumes were to be seen in the parking lot along with many scary trunks. A gruesome green witch was singing with the choir, and the weather couldn't have been better.

This Sunday is a first Sunday and kindergarten through 6th grade go first to the Sanctuary. After the Object lesson, kindergarten goes to their classroom for treasure hunting with Kathy Moore and River Explorers in grades 1-6 have green Sunday activities with Kim and Bob Lloyd.

The middle school has OWL from 11:00—1:45.m High School meets at 10 with Cindy McMullen for Popcorn Theology. YRUU will meet NEXT Sunday.



Reminder to Trick or Treaters:
Remember to take your UNICEF boxes along to collect money for UNICEF and then remember to bring them to church Sunday.

Downtown Open House Thanks

Thank you to all who volunteered to greet our guests on October 18th during the Downtown Open House of churches: Doe & Mack Hamblen, Shirley Rich, David Jennings, Carol and Frank Fourmy, Vivien Weeks and Mimsy Conaway.

Thanks also to Chuck Schulz for providing technical support so that our lovely choir CD was piped into the church during the open house. Approximately 35 people visited and were impressed by our beautiful sanctuary and view. Even the fox came out!



Covenant Sunday will be our first annual canvass in two years. Last year we suspended our major capital fund drive due to the economy and conducted on the first Sunday in May the Emergency Maintenance Campaign (EMC) that raised \$170,000 for essential repairs to our building and grounds. I am happy to report that over the summer three new air handlers were installed and upon observing the condition of what they replaced it was in the nick of time.

You will have noticed the heavy equipment on the church grounds and this indicates that the second priority on the EMC list, bluff erosion and drainage control, is being completed. Our project manager Geoff Pratt, for whom all praise goes, reports that the paved spillway to the north of the patio has been repaired.

This included the resetting of many of the paving stones. The large cavern underneath has been filled with concrete, and a 60 foot curb built to prevent water from washing over the edge closest to the river. The rip-rap has been installed in the erosion area opposite the patio and the old drain pipe connected to the new underground conduit. The downspouts are installed and are waiting to be painted. Once again these issues were addressed just in time before more expensive repairs would be needed. We can be proud for what we have accomplished. There is not enough money left in the EMC for the third priority which is the rusting and noisy sanctuary doors. Additional gifts for this would be such a blessing.

So we come to Covenant Sunday. The Finance Committee has done a terrific job in reducing the budget for next year by \$13,000, a budget that has no increases for staff compensation. However, we are also reducing our reliance on past surplus and must bear the loss of \$16,000 in interest income. This means a 5% increase in pledge income. I told the Board last month that many of our congregations are now asking its members to reach for half of a traditional tithe, or 5% of income. Our church is worthy of that. I hope you will make it a priority for 2010.

I remind you that generosity is not measured by the size of your gift for the amounts will vary among us according to our circumstances, and it takes all size gifts to support our program and ministry. Generosity is measured by the heart of the giver in reaching for that 5% goal regardless of the size of financial resources. On Sunday the question is not just about the amount. It is really a deeper one. The question in your circumstances is to decide what gift will grace your church and its ministry, and deeply represent you. The amounts will vary among us but not the generosity of the giver. For all the various gifts you bring to the life of our church and the difference it makes in our members and the larger community, I am deeply grateful. bc

Thanks to Tim & Ginger Wheat for a gift to the Memorial Garden for **Jim Campbell**, Nancy's husband, **Corinne Silas**, Katy Spurlock's mother and **Mildred Louise Gillihan Harvey**, Susan Crenshaw's mother.

Among Our Members **A warm welcome** to our newest members Elizabeth Matlock and Sam May both of whom signed the membership book on October 22, 2009. Elizabeth and Sam are looking forward to being married at COR next March.

Jeanne Reynolds is having an exhibition of her work. The exhibit is called **Sensory Treasures II**. There will be a reception this Friday, October 30 from 5j:30—7:30 at 2574 Sam Cooper Blvd. at the corner of Bingham. For appointments and inquiries, call 336-3122.

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

GREEN NOTICE

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

The 13th Annual Race for Grace one mile run/walk which benefits the Church Health Center will happen on November 7th at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church at the corner of Shady Grove and Yates.

This year's race committee anticipates over 1,000 participants. Come and join in the family activities: live entertainment, refreshments, ice cream, popcorn, face painting, 18 ft. side and more. Grab some friends and register on line at www.raceforgrace.racesonline.com Entry fees: \$20 pre-registration; \$25 on race day. Race day registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Can't be there? Consider donating a registration for someone who might otherwise be unable to participate. This is a great way to support the mission of the Church Health Center.

The CHC provides affordable healthcare for the working uninsured, elderly, children and the homeless an promotes healthy bodies and spirits for all.

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".