

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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November 10, 2009
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SERMON: “The Future of God”

Recently there was a published debate between Richard Dawkins and Karen Armstrong on the viability of God in human affairs. Dawkins is author of The God Delusion, and Armstrong just published The Case for God. It has been said that Unitarians believe in one God.....at most. What is the future of God in a world haunted by religious fundamentalism and militant atheism?

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

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

“Heaven has no address,” bc (20-21st century Unitarian theologian.)

Tuesday, November 10

10:30 a. m. The Alliance will meet in the Chalice Room for a program presented by member artists Kristi Bauer and Dennis Eleogram to be followed by lunch. All are invited. If you have questions, call the church office or contact Rachell Anderson at Rander5022@aol.com

Wednesday, November 11

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

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

Saturday, November 14

3:30 p.m. St. John's Soup Kitchen at St. John's Methodist Church, Bellevue at Peabody. Contact: Dan Bing — 763-2384.

Sunday, November 15

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 continue discussion of *The Evolution of God* by Robert Wright.
Alliance Bake Sale begins in the Mississippi River Room.

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

Noon Coffee Hour and Alliance Bake Sale in the Mississippi River Room

12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at El Mezcal at 1492 Union Ave.

Tuesday, November 17

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

**The Care Coordinator for November is Alice Fleming.
You can reach Alice at 755-3418 or
Fleming.Alice@gmail.com**

Announcements from the Children's Ministry

Mary Park and Elizabeth Turner welcome infants and preschoolers to their classroom on Sunday mornings. Child-care is available 10-12:00. *Treasure Hunting* for four and five year olds, at 11:00, is open in the kindergarten classroom led by Kathy and Jerry Moore. Treasure Hunters will learn about the value of laughter this week.

River Explorers, children in grades 1-6, begin their Sunday morning in the Chalice Room at 11:00 for worship led by Buss and Holly McCormick. Following the Chalice Service, *Toolbox of Faith* workshops resume led by Christi and Norm Shaw, and Sandy Kozik. The tool this week is a compass.

Thanks to The Alliance for their donation of new “hymnals” for our Chalice Service. *Come Sing a Song With Me* will help our children learn hymns they hear in the sanctuary on first Sundays and “family worship” Sundays, adding another layer to their worship experience. And thank you, Buss and Holly, for teaching the children to add their voices to ours in song.

Our Whole Lives continues for our middle school. Parents, please send a lunch or \$5 for your hungry students. And note that OWL will NOT meet on November 22 or 29.

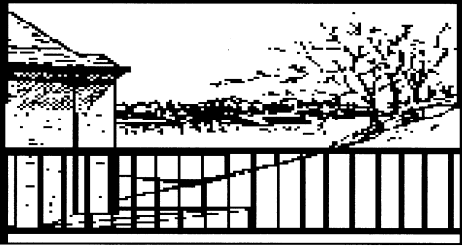
The YRUU will not meet at church this Sunday. Seven members of the YRUU will be worshipping in Louisiana on their way back from their annual service learning trip to New Orleans this year. *Popcorn Theology* resumes at 10 o'clock November 22 with Cindy McMullen.

Thanks to everyone who “made Halloween count” for UNICEF. If you didn't get your coins in to the church, you can still donate directly to UNICEF at any Coinstar location. Other gifts to UNICEF may be made at their website, www.unicef.org

Our annual Stone Soup Feast will be celebrated on Sunday, November 22. Children are asked to bring sliced French bread to contribute to the meal. Adults are asked to bring chopped raw vegetables and fruit. “We shall never go hungry again, now that we know how to make soup from stones.”



REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVER



More news on our bluff repair and drainage control project. You will have noticed that the heavy equipment is gone but not the scarring of the ground that had been made soft from weeks of downpours. The damaged bluff areas have been smoothed and they are now ready for seeding. Our project manager, Geoff Pratt, reports that a grass specialist will spray new seed this week. Sod was considered but it has difficulty taking root during the winter. The seed will contain rye. It is fast growing and will help stabilize the soil but it is not long lasting. The choice seed is fescue which will grow in the fall. The spray process delivers seed, fertilizer, and a gel which anchors the seed in place. However as we repeated in church Sunday, **WE MUST NOT WALK ON THE**

TREATED AREAS until the grass is established. The main treatment area is to the west of the Mississippi River Room. The contour of the bluff in that location has been adjusted to make it easier to mow.

There is plastic sheeting on the bluff edge. It lacks aesthetic quality but its beauty is found in keeping the new top soil in place. It must remain until the grass is growing. The sheeting will allow water to run off the bluff but retains the soil particles. On the river side of the sheeting at the less stable areas are 240 monkey grass plants to add extra stability. The good news is that the sheeting will degrade and disappear over time in a bio-friendly way.

The church owes a great round of applause to Geoff Pratt as our project manager on the bluff repair and to Larry Kalbach who was the shepherd for the air handlers this summer. They are true stewards of this precious place we inhabit.

There is one remaining air handler that needs replacement and the third item on the priority list which is the replacement of our sanctuary doors. Also on the list was refinishing the pews. So keep the church in mind if the spirit should seize you during the upcoming holidays and urge you toward ever greater generosity. For all that you are and for all that you do, my gratitude. **bc**

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.



GREEN NOTICE

November: Recycle all your plastic bottles and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by 16.7 pounds per year.

Rhodes College and Diversity Memphis Faith Matters

Invites everyone to attend their annual multi-faith service on Sunday, November 15. This service of prayer, music, dance and song begins at 3 o'clock in the Bryan Campus Life Center at Rhodes. Multicultural refreshments will be available after the service. Free and open to all, this event honors the diversity of our faith community in Memphis.

Among Our Members

Bob Myers remains in ICU at Methodist Hospital and **Denise Ganucheau** is recovering from another surgery. The loving arms of our church reach out to them and their families.

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".

Alliance Bake Sale this Sunday

All baked good donations are welcome. Note what kind of goodie it is, i.e. oatmeal cookies, brown sugar crispies and so forth. Whether you bring something to add to the table or not bring money to buy something good to take home.



Thanks

to Helen Jaseph for a gift to the Endowment Fund in honor of **Lisa Jennings** and to thank her for providing her home for the Bible for Unitarians class.

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



Tech Tip from your Web Site Servants

Did you know that from the church home page, you can click and go **19** places? What are they?

- General Information category
- What's Happening category
- Religious Education category
- Groups category
- History category
- Newsletter—archive including the Orders of Service
- Order of Service archive
- Twitter
- Facebook
- News archive
- SermonCast—archive and subscription
- Details on Upcoming events
- The Full Calendar—Subscribe and open file in your own calendar program
- UUA
- American Guild of English Handbell Ringers
- Web Site Development
- Email the church
- Email the church web site servants (John & Linda Goodwin-Parkinson)

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.