

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

Burton D. Carley, Minister
Home—759-1848 Church—526-8631
Fax—526-8632 e-mail—UURiver@aol.com
www.churchoftheriver.org

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VOLUME 57 NO. 14 EDITOR: MARGARET PARK - Home: 763-0206, e-mail—uuriver@aol.com
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Cindy Sakaan— Home: 725-7758 e-mail—DRECSakaan@aol.co

November 30, 2009
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

**OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN AND NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION
BETSY JEWELRY TRUNK SHOW**

SERMON: “GPS for Unitarians”

As we welcome new members it is a good time to reflect on the key to navigating our faith.

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

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

“Life is not fair and trouble comes to us without notice. So it is that we love. It makes all the difference.”
—bc (20-21st century Unitarian theologian)

Tuesday, December 1

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

Friday, December 4

4:30 p. m. Memorial Service for Bob Myers Reception will follow in the Mississippi River Room.

Saturday, December 5

1-4:00 p.m. Nifty Gifty in the Mississippi River Room.

Sunday, December 6

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.
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Childcare for infants and preschoolers
Following the object lesson Kindergarten will return to their classroom and River Explorers will meet in the Mississippi River Room. Middle School will have the concluding session of *Our Whole Lives*,
Noon A reception for all honoring our newcomers in the Mississippi River Room
12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at Pizze Stone, 1545 Overton Park. They offer a brunch on Sunday.
3:00—5:00 p.m. The League of Women Voters will have a Holiday Mixer in the Mississippi River Room. All are invited to celebrate the season.

Tuesday, December 8

10:30 a.m. The Alliance will meet in the Mississippi River Room for the annual Holiday Potluck and carol singing with handchimes. All are invited. Contact rande5022@wildblue.net with questions.

Wednesday, December 9

2:00 p.m. Shakespeare Readers will meet at the main library to continue *Much Ado About Nothing*.
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

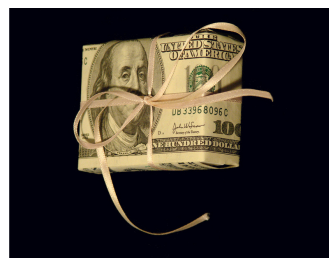
Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

Dec. 6 is a first Sunday/Green Sunday. Following the Object Lesson in the sanctuary, kindergarten children will return to their classroom for *Treasure Hunting* with Kathy Moore. River Explorers will continue their study of the Mississippi River with Kim and Bob Lloyd.

Our Whole Lives will meet to conclude their course this Sunday from 11:00 -1:45. The class will celebrate on Friday, Dec. 11, with a banquet at church.

The YRUU will meet at 10:00 with Tim Wheat.

On Saturday afternoon, from 1:00 – 4:00, children in grades 1-6 are invited to an afternoon of crafting holiday gifts. Nifty-Gifty, a longstanding tradition at the Church of the River, offers parents an afternoon of child-free shopping and a chance for children to surprise family, friends, and teachers with handmade “works of heart.” RSVP to drechsakaan@aol.com or call Cindy at 526-8631 if you’re coming so that we can have adequate supplies on hand.



Many thanks to those who have made their pledges for 2010.

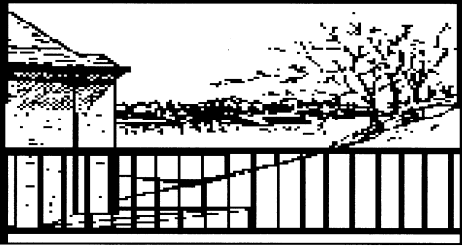
If you have NOT made your pledge yet, please do so by calling Margaret Park in the church office (526-8631) or emailing the church office at

UURiver@aol.com

New Member Recognition and Reception

New Members who signed the book since last May 3 will be honored during the church service. The Welcoming Team hosts a reception afterwards for everyone in the congregation, so please plan on attending to meet our new members.

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



"Burton, you are always preaching about grace, gratitude and humility. Talking about them and experiencing them are two different things. I cannot manufacture what does not feel genuine inside me."

This is a question about the relationship between the mind and the heart. The mantra of my mind is to desire rightly and be of use. It does not mean that I always desire rightly or that I am all that useful when I could be. The mind, however, gives direction for the heart to follow. It prepares a place in the heart.

We do not continuously experience the grace that holds us, or feel grateful or humble. There are many reasons for not having these genuine internal responses. Grace is hard to appreciate when the injustice of a situation is bearing down on us. Gratitude is absent when we are overwhelmed by problems, pain, tragedy or disappointment. Humility is scarce when we are striving, fulfilling responsibilities, and caught up in the hubbub of busyness. This is why grace, gratitude and humility require practice.

Any spiritual discipline does not happen on its own. We make effort with what we pay attention to. With appreciative awareness we practice discernment, how our thinking, feeling and behavior possess integrity or not. I define integrity as congruency between the inner and outer person. Often when we become aware of our habitual thought patterns we can change them and this will lead to a different internal response. Or we can change behavior and that will prepare the way to effect feelings. For example, by acting grateful a place for the feeling of gratitude is created and it has more opportunity to find authentic expression internally.

Grace, gratitude and humility are not destinations to arrive at and then occupy in a continuous way. They are attitudes for the journey. What they give us is a richness and depth to our living, a way to be in right relationship and to measure what matters along the way. They cannot take dead ends, detours, blind alleys and accidents away from the journey, but they make all the difference in how we deal with them. bc

Thanks

to Gary Guinn & Gwynne Woodward for a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Corinne Silas—Katy Spurlock's mother, Mildred

Harvey—Susan Crenshaw's mother, and Jim Campbell — Nancy Campbell's husband.

Thanks, also to Jack & Cathy Richbourg for a gift to the Endowment Fund honoring Goldine Blinkoff on her 97th birthday.

Thanks again to Mimsy & Alex Conaway for a donation of a big screen TV to the YRUU.

And to Jeff & Catharine McDonald for a digital picture frame where COR members are featured.

We are happy to say that we raised \$1,250.00 for MIFA on Stone Soup Sunday. Thanks to everyone's generosity we will help to feed the hungry in Memphis.

We received a nice note from the Huntsville, TX fellowship thanking the Chalice Lighters from our church for donations enabling them to finish their first building project. Don't know who those Chalice Lighters are, so this is to tell you that Huntsville, TX appreciates you.

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)

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".

Among Our Members

We send our loving thoughts and prayers to Sue, Sarah, and Jeff on the death of their husband or father Bob Myers on November 25. Bob served on our Board of Trustees and as the President of the board. He and his wife, Sue have been stalwart members of our Awesome Little Choir for many years.

A memorial service will take place at 4:30 on Friday, December 4 and will be followed by a reception in the Mississippi River Room.

Our loving thoughts and prayers go out also to Sandy Kozik on the death of his father Andrew (Andy) Kozik on November 20.

A warm welcome to Bob & Lana Wallace who signed the membership book last Sunday, November 29, 2009. Bob is a retired professor who likes reading and singing. Lana enjoys reading and watercolors.

Derek McKinnon is running in the St. Jude Marathon as part of Team Tyler which honors Tyler McKinnon by raising funds for St. Jude Hospital. You can sponsor a runner by going to www.stjudeheroes.org.

The Welcoming Team is expanding to take an even more proactive approach to its mission—improving hospitality to visitors and integrating new members into the congregation. There are many different talents that we need to greet, call and shepherd—can you help?

Please contact Alice Fleming at fleming.alice@gmail.com or 755-3418 if you would like to learn more.

Hospitality Hub Fundraiser

On Sunday, December 6, the Episcopal Bookshop, a not for profit business, located downtown at 672 Poplar Ave. will donate 10% of all sales to the Hospitality Hub. The bookshop carries a wide variety of hand-crafted, fair-trade ornaments, crèches and gifts. You can do some Christmas shopping. Your purchases will not only benefit our guests at the Hub, but individuals and families around the world. Come in. Support community giving and help raise funds for the Hub. Open on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

During the week of Christmas the HUB will be handing out Goodie Bags to guests. Goodie Bags are a holiday treat right before the holidays. Please consider donating some items found in each bag. Donations should be delivered to the HUB by Wednesday, December 16.

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