

**THE MEMPHIS
UNITARIAN**

**THE
CHURCH
OF THE
RIVER**

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September 1, 2009
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OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN & BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Sermon: "Our Odd Gospel"

Just what exactly is the good news of our faith? That gospel is a little odd but it is by oddness that one can be saved from a shallow life.

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

AFTER THE SERVICE VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THE BEACON ROOM TO MEET REV. CARLEY AND PRESIDENT JENNINGS AND TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THIS PLACE. WONDERFUL LIBATIONS AND FINGER FOOD WILL BE SERVED.

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

"Love wholeheartedly, be surprised, give thanks and praise.
Then you will discover the fullness of your life."
-- Brother David Steindl-Rast

Wednesday, September 2

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

Sunday, September 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 discuss Channing's Sermon "Unitarian Christianity". If you have questions or suggestions, call Natalie Parker-Lawrence at 461-8206 or Liz Conway at 486-4872. YRUU will meet with advisor Tim Wheat in the Chalice Room.
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary
Childcare for infants and preschoolers K-8 to the Sanctuary for the Object Lesson (See Children's Ministry Column for activities after the Object Lesson.
Noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room
Questions & Answers with the Minister & the Church President in the Beacon Room.
12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at El Porton, 65 S Highland St. in Poplar Plaza.

Wednesday, September 9

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Garden Service for the interment of Amy Wood's ashes. All Amy's friends are welcome.
2:00 p.m. Shakespeare Readers will meet at the Main Library to finish Timon of Athens. Contact is Gale Mason at 725-7924
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

Announcements from the Children's Ministry

Thanks to Gigi Wischmeyer, the Children's Ministry grill team, and all the helping hands for the successful back to church school Splash party and cookout on Sunday. Families had a chance to reconnect, enjoy the beautiful weather, slide down the water slide, and get excited about a new church year.

On Sunday September 6, children will begin the year in the sanctuary for an Object Lesson. Kindergartners will join their classmates and their teacher, T. Leigh Starns in the classroom after the object lesson for *Treasure Hunting*. Grades 1-6 will enjoy our annual Sunday Sundaes; ice cream sundaes and co-operative games in the OASIS. Workshop Rotation begins for our River Explorers, grades 1-6 on September 13 with *Toolbox of Faith* presented by Sandy Kozik and Porter Feild.

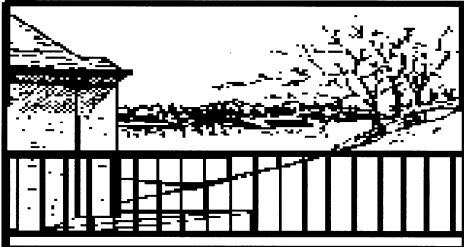
Grades 7 and 8 have begun their course of *Our Whole Lives*. This class will meet from 11 o'clock until 1:30 most Sundays with facilitators Matt Holladay, Diana McClure, Amanda Myers, Bill and Emily Schultz. On Sunday, Sept. 6th, after the Object Lesson they will meet with their Adventure Club Sponsor Jeff McDonald in their classroom.

The YRUU will meet at 10 o'clock on Sunday in the Chalice Room with advisor Tim Wheat. *Popcorn Theology* will begin on September 13 at 10 o'clock with Cindy McMullin.

DIVERSITY MEMPHIS WALK SEPTEMBER 13

The annual walk to benefit Diversity Memphis is Sunday, September 13. Register online at www.diversitymemphis.org or at our display table at church on Sunday. The high school youth group will provide sack lunches for your donations so that you can grab a lunch, and make it to AutoZone Park for the 1:30 start of this family friendly stroll through downtown Memphis. Multicultural entertainment at AutoZone Plaza will continue after the walk. Funds generated by our walk team support high school youth at Camp Freeland each summer. Join your Church of the River friends to support the work of Diversity Memphis, making "Memphis better for everyone."

Outdoor Adventure Club Several members of the Outdoor Adventure Club plan to participate in The Diversity Memphis Walk, Sunday, Sept. 13. Anyone interested please make plans to join us after church. The walk begins at AutoZone Park in downtown Memphis at 1:30 p.m.



Consider the spirituality of the brown god that flows before our sanctuary. The river begins humbly at its origins. In a meandering path it gathers stature until it flows by us with a muddy grace. From Memphis it seeks the ocean sea to empty itself into a larger reality. Our inner lives follow a similar liquid journey growing from a small place, gathering strength and momentum while being fed by many streams, maturing and winding down toward a transformation, snaking a watery way to that Mystery from which we come and to which we return.

The purpose from beginning to end is certainly found in the journey itself, in the growing of our soul. Yet there are banks to the river that guide the path of the water and provides for its depth. Without the confining banks the water flows out to a shallow depth and becomes a swamp. And the bounded movement that prevents stagnation goes somewhere, to a destination. That place is where we find shalom, our wholeness. That completeness is always discovered in what is larger than us, beyond and deeper and yet within.

Wherever you are in that journey—at its bubbly beginning, or its growing awareness, or its full bodied maturation, or its release into an even greater source—the Church of the River beckons you home once again. It's time to gather at the river again. bc

Web Site

We love our web site. Please help us keep it current by doing the following.....

- If you know of **corrections** or **additions** that need to be made, simply click the link at the bottom of any page to send an email to our Church Web Servants [John and Linda Goodwin-Parkinson](#)
- Mention the page address (URL) where the change is needed.
- Tell them what needs to be changed — and what it should say instead
- Please take **photos** at church events and email them to our Church Web Servants ([John and Linda Goodwin-Parkinson](#)) They prefer close-up photos such as the faces of people at events (instead of distant group shots)!

Social Networking on the Internet — What is it and why should I do it?

Social Networking is defined as the grouping of individuals together into specific groups, often like a small community. There are 3 two very popular Internet locations that people gather and that we have joined: **Twitter** and **Facebook**

Join us at Twitter!

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and receive messages known as Tweets.

When you join (<http://www.twitter.com>), you can set up your own account to alert you when you get a tweet. To locate us on Twitter, simply look for the information on our web site home page (<http://www.churchoftheriver.org>): click and go from there! When you get to the church page on Twitter, be sure to click the **Follow** button under the church photo so that you will receive the tweets which are brief new bytes!

Join us on Facebook!

What is Facebook?

Facebook is a free-access social networking website that is operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc.

If you join us on Facebook, you will find yourself communicating with friends and family all over the world in addition to members of the church. When you join Facebook (<http://facebook.com>), you can set up your own account to alert you when you get a message from others. We have a group page at Facebook. Simply look for the information on our church web site home page (<http://churchoftheriver.org>); click and go from there! In Facebook, search **First Unitarian Church of Memphis** and the group page should come up in the results list. Once there, be sure to sign The Wall so that others see that you visited the group. Click **Become a Fan** at the top of the page to become a member of the group.

Thanks

for a gift to the Memorial Fund from Kathryn Rice in memory of **James Madison Barr**.

And a gift from Dan & Carol Mayfield for the Soup Kitchen in honor of **Fred & Judy Wimmer**.

Thanks, also to David & Betty Blaylock for a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Sophia Brotherton** and **Polly Cooper**.

And a gift from Sylvia Marks to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Polly Cooper**.

New Adopted School Partnership Begins:

Effective September 1, 2009, Church of the River is partnering with Shady Grove Elementary School, 5360 Shady Grove Road. This is a K through 5th grade school with an ethnically diverse student body, 75% of whom are children on the federal school lunch program. A 17% Hispanic student body represents a challenge for youngsters learning English and encountering reading difficulties.

Our mission will be to support Shady Grove School in providing quality education in a caring and wholesome environment. This would include volunteer tutoring, clothing donations and various volunteer activities throughout the school year.

It is anticipated that serving an adopted school that is more centrally located, will afford opportunities for more COR volunteers than ever. Please consider adding your strength to this Outreach effort.

What's Your Ministry?

Ministry — the act of ministering or serving

A significant portion of being part of a community is the feeling of ownership and giving back to that community. We all give financially, but the giving that makes you grow is the giving of self. I want you to consider part of your personal ministry as service with the choir. It's the beginning of a new church year. If you have or would like to develop skills in this area and help us in our service to our community, **THIS IS THE TIME**. The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and we would love to have you join your voice with ours. Our choir has always been good but I've heard some prospective members say that they don't read music well or don't read at all. Don't let that stop you! Probably half the choir doesn't really read music either. We learn by rote and repetition. If I've peaked your interest, maybe this is for you. Give me a call at 682-8819 or just show up at the church on Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Chuck Schulz

P.S. We're planning a trip to Boston in the spring.

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SHADY GROVE ELEMENTARY

Exciting and convenient opportunity to volunteer in our newly adopted school, Shady Grove Elementary. Tutor a child in K-5 who needs help in reading or math. The commitment is for one hour weekly from late September through April. If you would like to become a COR tutor and make a meaningful contribution to this charming and diverse school, located just east of White Station on Shady Grove, please contact Juliet Wischmeyer (219-5817) or julietwischmeyer@bellsouth.net

Our new adopted school needs school uniform items: pants, skirts, or jumpers in khaki, navy or black, and polo or dress shirts, long or short sleeve, in dark green or white. New or gently used garments are welcome. This year Shady Grove students especially need ALL sizes of shirts, children's S—XL and pants in larger sizes 10-18. Cash donations are also welcome to purchase clothing for needy families on an emergency basis. Donated clothing may be placed in the designated bin found in the Mississippi River Room

Among Our Members Congratulations to David & Lisa Jennings on the marriage of their son **Ian Jennings** to **Johanna Cooper** at the Carolina Inn at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on August 21.

Betsy Mandel-Carley is being honored by the Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region with the j2009 James Award. The award is given to an individual who demonstrates unwavering support of the ideals of Planned Parenthood that strengthen families through education, health care and advocacy. The celebration will take place on THURSDAY, SEPT. 17, 2009, 6-8 p.m. at JUST FOR LUNCH, 2092 Poplar in Chickasaw Oaks Plaza. Members of the congregation are welcomed to join the celebration. The cost is \$75 per person (\$65 of the cost is tax deductible). Tickets may be purchased on line at 2009 James Award Celebration—Planned Parenthood—Greater Memphis Region or by calling (901) 725-3051.

Condolences to Martine Starck and Camille and Carmen on the death of their mother-in-law and grandmother.

Condolences to Susan Crenshaw and Nolan, Erin, and Devin on the death of Susan's mother **Mildred Louise Gillihan Harvey** on August 30.

A warm welcome to new members **Renee Good** who joined the church on August 2, 2009, **Omar Elbeid** who joined on August 9, 2009 and **Elizabeth Turner** who joined on August 16, 2009.

Renee is an Office Manager who enjoys working with young people and writing. She likes working with 'at risk' youth and those less fortunate.

Omar is a student/manager who is interested in computer programming.

Elizabeth is a student who is interested in graphic design. She has been a member of our church school and taught kindergarten during the summer sessions the past two summers.

SUPPER CLUB BEGINS ANEW

With the opening of a new church year, we are pleased to announce a new Supper Club season. Those of you participating in past years would likely agree that this social function is one of the best ways to enjoy old friends, meet new ones and savor some wonderful food, drink and conversation in the homes of our membership.

This year, in keeping with the newsletter going all electronic, Supper Club sign-up and monthly notifications will be done strictly by e-mail and occasional newsletter notices. (An added opportunity for sign-up will be at the Ministry Fair this year.) If you are interested in signing up to host one dinner, between October '09 and May '10, please notify us at billmeier@comcast.net or 767-5311. We would like you to specify your 1st and 2nd choices for month of hosting as well as number of guests you can comfortably host in your home. If you are unable to host and still want to be included, just let us know. Precise instructions for hosting will be sent by this committee as soon as we finalize the monthly schedules. **Sign up deadline is September 30th.**

We look forward to your inclusion as a Supper Club participant.

Jerry & Dee Billmeier

Schnucks Cards

The Children's Ministry Team appreciates the grocery rebate donations. Schnucks is changing their gift card system. Instead of reloading a gift card, it will be easier to simply scan your card or keytag each time you shop and the Church of the River will receive 1% of all grocery or gas purchases.

If you already have a Schnucks card, we can receive 5% of any reloads between now and September 27. Any credit on your gift card is good until spent down. After Sept. 27, please pick up a new card from the church to register for the new, simpler program. If you already have a "gas" card or key tag from Schnucks, please let Cindy know so that we can register your card to receive the rebate.

New cards and information will be available at the YRUU display table on Sundays.

Adult Education Class Starting

A second edition of the popular THE BIBLE FOR UNITARIANS class will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7:30—9 p.m. and run for the next three Tues. evenings on Oct. 6, 13 & 20 at the home of the Jennings in east Memphis. The tuition is \$15 and scholarships are available. Register by calling the church office at 526-8631. The first session will be on the Gospel of Mark. Please read it before class. The next three books will be determined by the class.

Memorial Tribute for The Rev. James Madison Barr, Minister Emeritus of the congregation, will be held at the Church of the River on October 10. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

Neshoba News: Bill & Shannon Neely announce the birth of **Rachel Maia Neely**, born August 30, 2009. The beautiful little girl weighs 8 lbs and is 21 inches long. **Welcome to the world, Rachel!**

The Care Coordinator for September will be Suzanne Freeman. You can reach Suzanne at 662 487-2570