

**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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN
Permit No. 113

VOLUME 57 NO. 4 EDITOR: MARGARET PARK - Home: 763-0206, e-mail—uuriver@aol.com
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Cindy Sakaan— Home: 725-7758 e-mail—DRECSakaan@aol.co

September 22, 2009
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

Sermon: “Discontent”

When was the last time you talked with someone who said that they were contented? In this hastening world of seeking what we believe we deserve, discontent is a prominent feature of contemporary society. Where does it come from and what is its cure?

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

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

“It is through creating, not possessing, that life is revealed.”
— Vida Scudder

**OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY
MEDICAL LEAVE**

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

7:00 p.m. River Readers will meet at the home of Dee Billmeier to discuss *March* by Geraldine Brooks. Call Dee at 767-5311 if you need directions.

Saturday, September 26

2-4:00 p.m. Knitting Etc will meet at the home of Jeane Umbreit on Rose Rd. All are welcome. Call Jeane if you have a question or need directions at 374-9114.

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper in the Mississippi River Room and a family friendly movie in the Chalice Room theater.

Sunday, September 27

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 open discussion. If you have questions or suggestions, call Natalie Parker- Lawrence at 461-8206 or Liz Conway at 486-4872.

The High School Class will meet in the Chalice Room Theater.

10:30 a.m. Ministry Fair in the Mississippi River Room Ministries are many — come and see what they are and sign up with ones that suit your time and personality.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary Childcare for infants and preschoolers Kindergarten will meet in their room.

River Explorers (grade 1-6) will meet in the Chalice room and then go to workshops.

Noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room Ministry Fair continues.

12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at the home of Jane Soffos located at 1469 Cranford. You can call Jane at 685-1660 to coordinate your pot luck offering.

Announcements from the Children’s Ministry

Twenty six children and adults from our River Explorers enjoyed getting together at the Wischmeyers on Sept. 16. Thanks to the Children’s Ministry Team, Juliet, Michael and Tashi for hosting a great evening for all.

On Saturday evening, September 26, all movie buffs are invited to join us in the Mississippi River Room at 6 o’clock for a potluck supper and a movie in the Chalice Room Theatre. Bring a dish to share and enjoy our surround sound and big screen. The Children’s Ministry Team will supply the popcorn!

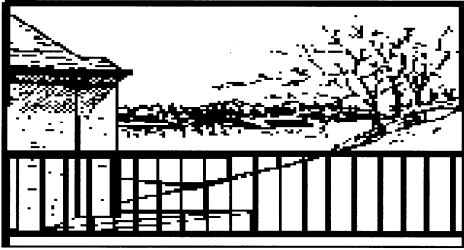
On Sunday, September 27 the Treasure Hunters in the kindergarten will be hunting for “their feelings” with T. Leigh Starns. River Explorers will continue their workshop rotation through their Toolbox of Faith with Porter Feild and Sandy Kozik. Buss and Holly McCormick will present the Chalice Service at 11:00 o’clock for children in grades 1-6.

Our Whole Lives will meet from 11 o’clock until 1:30 with facilitators Matt Holladay, Diana McClure, Amanda Myers, Bill and Emily Schultz. Parents, please send a lunch with your child or \$5 for pizza to be delivered.

The high school class will meet at 10 o’clock with Cindy McMullin for Popcorn Theology in the Chalice Room theater.

Stop by the table in the Mississippi River Room to register your Schnucks key-tag or to pick up a new one to make your grocery and gas shopping “kick back” 1% to the Church of the River. And a reminder that this is the last chance to reload your old gift cards from Schnucks for the full 5%. Out with the old on Sept. 27, in with the new, easier to use, from now on. Thanks for supporting Children’s Ministry with your Schnucks cards.

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, at 3:30 p.m. in the Mississippi River Room. Jim, via electronic means will talk about his ministry. Other people who knew and loved him will tell their favorite “story of Jim Barr” This will be a warm, friendly send off for Jim and all are invited — especially if you knew him.



Carl Jung said that there is “no coming to consciousness without pain.” Why is that? Sometimes it is because we must come to that impasse when we understand that things can no longer be as they were. The comfort and security of habitual living gives way to an unknown future. Denial is no longer possible. This seldom happens without some kind of crises that forces us to accept a new way of understanding ourselves. We may learn something about ourselves that violates our self-image. Or we may need to give up a cherished opinion or prejudice about the way things are. Perhaps we must accept what we have denied. The point of recognition that confronts our illusion causes pain. It is the pain of loss, the sense of grief.

There is also the discomfort that our newfound awareness requires unfamiliar change. It may mean accepting responsibility for our behavior rather than blaming others. It may mean giving up the need to be right all the time. It may mean developing a sense of humility that makes us more vulnerable. There is the pain of leaving our comfort zone.

Coming to consciousness requires the making of a new road map. Instead of picture book perfection, the projection of an ideal geography, we must take into account how things really are. The gap between the dream and reality, between our imagination and what is true, is painful. Yet without this perception there can be no honest connections, no depth or thickness or complexity.

Now this is what I have been thinking. If church is a place where we are called to consciousness, then it is not an escape from pain. It is not where we come to take away pain as much as to redeem it. Growing our souls is not always a mountain top experience. To grow in spirit and wisdom means facing difficult things. So it is that we are called by our covenant to be tender and compassionate with each another, to walk with one another through the valley of the shadows. It is how love is made real. bc

Thanks

to Gale Mason for a gift to the library in memory of James Madison Barr

Among Our Members

Healing vibes go out to Tuck Dickerson who is recovering at home from pneumonia.

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

Questions of Faith:

On October 4, we will begin discussion based on The Evolution of God by Robert Wright. Please note we are meeting in a new room just inside the south entrance. For questions, contact Liz Conway at 486-4872.

NESHOPA HOSTING OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 26 12:30 to 8:00 on the church grounds.

12:30—1:30 Members of the Germantown Symphony
2:00—3:30 Rebecca Almond Trio (alternative country with bluesy undertones)

4:00—5:30 Lannie McMillan Band — Jazz

6:00—8:00 40 Watt Moon — Modern Rock

Event will be held rain or shine. Bring blankets or chairs and if the dratted rain doesn't let up, rain gear. Do not bring food or drink. Bring money. Food & drink will be sold. For a full run down, visit www.neshobauu.org You will find the full press release and flyer.

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

Beacon Press Announces Exclusive Publishing Agreement with the Estate of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The publishing program is called *The King Legacy* and gives Beacon the sole right to print new editions of previously published King titles and to compile Dr. King's writings, sermons, orations, lectures, and prayers into entirely new editions including significant new introductions by leading scholars. This partnership brings together the legacy of one of the most important civil rights and social justice leaders in the world with one of the oldest and most respected independent publishing houses in America.

Schnuck's cards benefit the Children's Ministry

Thanks to faithful Schnucks shoppers, the Children's Ministry Team has received substantial financial support through the use of their gift cards. The gift card program is being replaced by the “customer Card” system Schnucks is currently using. If you shop at Schnucks there are two ways to make sure your rebate will continue to benefit the Church of the River.

1. Send Cindy Sakaan the number on your current customer card or key chain tag. She can then register your card to rebate 1% of your purchases for groceries or gasoline to the church.
2. Pick up a new card and keychain tag from the Church of the River.

Any reloads of the old gift cards will benefit the church through Sept. 27 and any balance on the old gift cards may be spent down until exhausted.

Thank you for your continued support of the Children's Ministry with your grocery shopping.

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

THE MEMPHIS UNITARIAN

Save the Date!

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.

H1N1 Resources

HopeandHealing.org a ministry of the Church Health Center, has a resource page of H1N1 (swine Flu)

You can access the information at: <http://hopeandhealing.org/contentPage.aspx?resourceid=302&listWebPageid=1>
