

**THE MEMPHIS  
UNITARIAN**

**THE  
CHURCH  
OF THE  
RIVER**

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September 29, 2009  
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

**BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY & OBJECT LESSON FOR CHILDREN  
RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENT ANDY BRANHAM**

**Sermon: "Original Guilt"**

We have all heard about original sin, but what about original guilt? We also are aware of how guilt is so often abused to manipulate. But is there anything that we might call "good" guilt?

**The Rev. Burton Carley will deliver the sermon at the eleven o'clock service  
SEEKERS Q & A WITH REV & PREZ AFTER THE SERVICE**

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

"It takes a certain maturity of mind to accept that nature works as steadily in rust as in roses."  
— Esther Warner Dendel

**Tuesday, September 29**

7:30-9:00 p.m. Bible for Unitarians at the home of David & Lisa Jennings. Read Mark for the first session.

**Wednesday, September 30**

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

**Sunday, October 4**

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 begin discussion of *The Evolution of God* by Robert Wright. 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 for a meeting with Tim Wheat, their YRUU sponsor. The trip to New Orleans will be discussed.  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
Childcare for infants and preschoolers  
Kindergarten will meet in their room after the Object Lesson.  
River Explorers (grade 1-6) will attend the Object Lesson in the Sanctuary and then go to workshops.  
Noon Coffee Hour in the Mississippi River Room  
Come to the library for conversation and snacks with the Minister and the Church president.  
12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at Vien Dong Restaurant, 306 N Cleveland.

**Tuesday, October 6**

7:30-9:00 p.m. Bible for Unitarians at the home of David & Lisa Jennings.

**Wednesday, October 7**

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

**Thursday, October 8**

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

**Announcements from the Children's Ministry**

This Sunday, October 4, is a First Sunday. All children are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 11:00. Following the object lesson, kindergarten children will return to their classroom for *Treasure Hunting* with T. Leigh Starns. River Explorers, grades 1-6, will begin their "Green Sunday" curriculum with Lou Henslee, Bob and Kim Lloyd focusing on our mighty Mississippi River. The high school class and any middle schoolers not in OWL will remain in the sanctuary for the worship service.

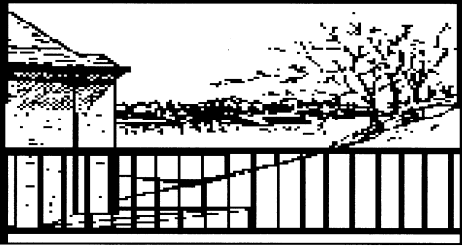
The YRUU, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, will meet at 10:00 with Tim Wheat. The upcoming trip to New Orleans will be discussed. All high school students are members of the YRUU and are encouraged to attend Sunday's meeting.

OWL, *Our Whole Lives*, continues in the classroom from 11:00 to 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.

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. Thanks for supporting Children's Ministry with your Schnucks cards.

Thanks to the Children's Ministry Team for a fun potluck and movie night last Saturday. Suggest movie titles to Roy Bell for our next "supper and a movie" night.

Our next Open House is for all families with children in kindergarten or younger. It will be held Tuesday, October 13, from 5:30 – 7:30 at the home of Adam and Mary Taylor. The Taylors live at 3832 Highland Park Place. Bring the whole family and your favorite dish to share. Meet your children's church school classmates and parents and spend time with your child's "church family" without the Sunday morning rush. RSVP [tallulahlucille@aol.com](mailto:tallulahlucille@aol.com) or call Mary at 323-5544.



Last week I wrote about Carl Jung's observation that there is "no coming to consciousness without pain," and how church is a place where we called to consciousness. As an anonymous Egyptian monk once wrote: "Unawareness is the root of all evil." Put differently, the contemporary author Jacob Needleman said, "The only true wealth is a conscious life." This becoming awake as the Buddha might call it or mindfulness, reminds us that we must find some spiritual basis for living or we die a series of little deaths. One positive result of the recent economic difficulties is a rethinking of materialism as the source for contentment and a coming to consciousness about the spiritual roots of the good life.

Now the bad news is that coming to awareness is not all. Insight is the first step. With mindfulness we can build a different way of being in the world. This is why practical mantras are so popular. Last Sunday I mentioned Forrest Church's three guidelines for his life: do what you can, want what you have, and be who you are. I have shared with you in the past my prayerful double mantra: to be of use and to desire rightly. Last year the sermon on the seven habits of highly effective Unitarians inspired a pocket card. Again, it was a list of guidelines for living with a spiritual kind of mindfulness.

So we come to consciousness and then discern how that awareness calls us to be differently in the world. A framework captures how that looks with mantras or lists. Then comes the really hard part—putting them into practice. It is not enough to become aware. It is not enough to develop the practical implications of that insight for how we inhabit the world. The first two stages of the spiritual life only prepare one for the third stage that is actually practicing with our behavior what we have learned and developed. It is hard because we live in habitual ways. It is hard because the application of our spiritual mantras will require different things from us in different contexts.

We come to church not only to come to consciousness and discern what that requires of us. We also come to be with others in the practice of the life of the spirit. We remember together that spirituality is not just reading a book, listening to a sermon, or sitting at the feet of the Dalai Lama. Spirituality is a way of life with its own trinity. It is a way of seeing, and a way of being, and a way of doing. Alone we so often fail. But together in community we discover the courage and inspiration to actually practice the life of the spirit. bc

(Continued from page 1) **Children's Ministry**

Beginning Sunday, October 4, tickets for our annual Trunk or Treat celebration will be on sale in the Mississippi River Room. All proceeds from the cookout and Halloween celebration on Sunday, October 25, will benefit UNICEF.

# Thanks

to The Alliance for a gift to the Emergency Maintenance Fund in memory of **Amy Wood**.

**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.

## THANK YOU-THANK YOU-THANK YOU!

A couple of years ago the congregation graciously gave me a monetary gift of appreciation. Well, I have finally used it and I want to share the adventure with you, I have wanted to go to Alaska for quite a while, and Sharen and I plus the Brittons and a couple from my hometown in Ohio took a tour/cruise in Alaska and southwest Canada and I have the pictures to prove it. After church on Sunday, October 11th, I would like to share with anyone who is interested. I'll be presenting a slide show in the Chalice Room that will last from 45 minutes to an hour. We caught Denali when the colors were at their best and the bears were feasting on everything they could find in preparation for hibernation. It was rutting season for the moose and Denali (Mt. McKinley) was out in all her glory.

Chuck Schulz

**Note from your Web Servants about our Sermoncasts:** Three sermon casts (from September 13, 20 and 27) will be published this week. The newest one, as usual, will appear on the home page of the church web site. If you already subscribe to our Sermoncasts, all three will automatically download to iTunes for you. If, however, you click to download them from the web site manually each week, you will need to click the link on the home page that says Sermoncast Archive in order to access two of the three.

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

F Y I !!

The web site that published Burton's "September Meditation" can be found at [www.panhala.net/Archive/Index.html](http://www.panhala.net/Archive/Index.html).

Once at the site go to the September heading.

## Among Our Members

**Congratulations to John Kinsey** who was recently named as one of Memphis Business Journal's **TOP 40 UNDER 40!**

## Covenant Sunday, November 1

This year, November 1 is Covenant Sunday. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the Sunday service and the reception immediately following in the Mississippi River Room.

With the reception, the Church of the River offers a gracious thank you to all who give in so many wonderful ways.

Brenda Lanier for the canvass team

**Ministry Fair Follow-Up** It was wonderful to see so many people milling about Sunday morning, looking into ways they can contribute and/or participate in the many things the church has to offer. If you missed it, please check the web site [www.churchoftheriver.org](http://www.churchoftheriver.org) and click the "GROUPS" tab where you will find all the church ministries and groups listed with a brief explanation of what they're about and the names of who to contact. There is always a need for tutors at our newly adopted school (Shady Grove Elementary) and the Outreach Committee is another on the lookout for fresh faces. We hope to keep the door open for volunteers throughout the year through the newsletter so be looking for things that may pique your curiosity and draw you in to the many ways you can minister to others.

- 1) Donations for our Soup Kitchen are needed and appreciated. Make checks out to the church and note it is for the "soup kitchen".
- 2) Cindy Sakaan, our DRE has two for one coupons for the circus at the Agricenter on Oct. 5 & 6. They are yours for the asking while supplies last.