

**THE MEMPHIS  
UNITARIAN**

**THE  
CHURCH  
OF THE  
RIVER**

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September 8, 2009  
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Park

**Sermon: "Lives of Quiet Despair"**

Dr. Barbara Fredrickson is the Kenan Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She said in a recent interview that upwards of 60 percent of the adult population in America feel like they are just "going through the motions" without a sense of being satisfied with their lives. This "just getting by" mode is not depression or mental illness. In the words of Dr. Fredrickson: "it's merely people living lives of quiet despair." The antidote is a spiritual one. You can call it spiritual principles for daily living.

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

**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 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

**Saturday, September 10**

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

**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 center our discussion of Channing's Sermon "Unitarian Christianity". For the next two Sundays, Sept. 13 and 20, If you have questions or suggestions, call Natalie Parker-Lawrence at 461-8206 or Liz Conway at 486-4872. The YRUU will meet in the Mississippi River Room to assist Ginger Wheat in setting up the Diversity Memphis Walks sandwich bar.  
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  
12:30 The Lunch Bunch will meet at Dino's 645 N McLean Blvd.

**Announcements from the Children's Ministry**

It was fun to see the children back at church on Sunday enjoying the Object Lesson, games in the OASIS, and ice cream sundaes.

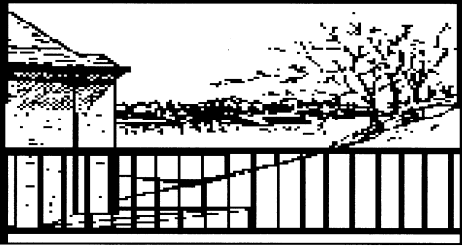
On Sunday September 13, nursery through kindergarten will begin in their classrooms at 11:00. T. Leigh Starns will lead the four and five year olds through *Treasure Hunting*. Grades 1-6, our River Explorers will begin a year of discovering their *Toolbox of Faith* in workshop rotation. River Explorers begin their morning at 11:00 in the Chalice Room for a worship service led by Buss and Holly McCormick. Break-out workshops will be presented by Sandy Kozik and Porter Field this week.

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. Lunch for the OWL class this week will be the sandwich bar provided by the YRUU for Diversity Memphis walks. Many of the OWL students are planning on attending Diversity Memphis Walks as they are dismissed from OWL. Contact Jeff McDonald for details on pick up time and location.

The YRUU will meet at 10 o'clock on Sunday in the Mississippi River Room to assist Ginger Wheat in setting up the Diversity Memphis Walks sandwich bar. *Popcorn Theology* will begin on September 20 at 10 o'clock with Cindy McMullin.

Special Event Wednesday, September 16! The River Explorers, children in grades 1-6, are invited to bring their parents and join their teachers and Rev. Carley for a potluck at the home of Juliet Wischmeyer. Bring a dish to share, meet other church school families, hear from the DRE about this year's plans, and enjoy each other's company from 6-8 p.m. The Wischmeyers live at 159 E. Parkway, N with an entrance from Poplar Avenue. RSVP to [julietwischmeyer@bellsouth.net](mailto:julietwischmeyer@bellsouth.net)

**Outdoor Adventure Club** The Outdoor Adventure Club plans to participate in The Diversity Memphis Walk, Sunday, Sept. 13. Please make plans to join us. The walk begins at The Civil Rights Museum at 1:30 p.m.



its own prejudices.”

No dogma whether secular or religious can capture the paradoxical diversity that inhabits our world. Multiple perspectives are necessary to get a sense of the map. This requires a recognition of how limited our understanding is and a resultant humility. It means less isolation and banding into tribes of people who think alike. It means having the courage to let our convictions be challenged by difference.

While the reservoir of truth and knowledge is overwhelming, our seeking after them is not hopeless. We have and will make progress in deepening our understanding about the universe and human nature. And our partial insights do not make all truths relative and interchangeable. We only need to be careful not to practice the idolatry that makes one insight into what is true absolute or final.

The cure for idolatry is humility and openness. Humility for accepting that none of us fully comprehends our multifarious world, and for imagining how it is possible that we might be wrong while those we disagree with might be right. Openness for being teachable, and for appreciating how the diverse lenses others see through make it possible for a better view of the whole.

This, then, is the mission of our faith—not to bind the mind to rigid belief but to open the heart to the revelations of the spirit, which is our capacity for appreciative awareness. It is to sew together rather than to rend apart, to unite rather than to divide. It is how we grow our souls and help heal the world. bc

(Continued from page 1) Announcements from the Children's Ministry

The Church of the River continues a tradition of fielding a team of walkers for Diversity Memphis Walks. The start of the walk has been moved to the National Civil Rights Museum at 1:30. Plan to join others for lunch in the Mississippi River Room and go together to walk the 5K through downtown to raise funds for Camp Freeland. In an atmosphere of division and “us vs. them”, Camp Freeland offers high school youth from every race, creed, and socio-economic background a chance to experience a week free of prejudices, stereotypes, and bigotry. Without the support of Diversity Memphis Walks, camp would not be possible. Help make Memphis better for everyone by supporting the Church of the River team on Sunday.

And looking ahead to Saturday, September 26, bring your family to the Church of the River for dinner and a movie. We'll gather in the Mississippi River Room at 6 and enjoy a family-friendly movie afterwards in our Chalice Room theatre.

### Questions of Faith:

Channing's seminal address on Unitarian Christianity can be downloaded at [http://www.transcendentalists.com/unitarian\\_christianity.htm](http://www.transcendentalists.com/unitarian_christianity.htm).

We will be discussing his thoughts on Sept. 13 & 20. On Sept. 27 we will have open discussion. 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:John and Linda Goodwin-Parkinson)) They prefer close-up photos such as the faces of people at events (instead of distant group shots)!

The health care debate consuming our nation illustrates the general crises of our time that I would characterize as idolatry. Idolatry takes a part and makes it the whole, lifts up the partial and magnifies it to the exclusion of the full tapestry of life. One insight or truth is elevated to a universal truth. This leads to the demonization of those who disagree with you and a failure of moral imagination. The assumption is that there is only one universal moral compass that points in the same direction for all people. Those whose views don't align with your sense of right and wrong are judged as either misguided or evil. This is a dangerous situation in a world growing more interdependent and intimate with each generation. I can see the tombstone over humanity and it reads: “Victim of

**Thanks** for a gift to the Music Fund from Fred & Judy Wimmer in honor of our Minister of Music **Chuck Schulz**. And a gift to the Endowment Fund from Katherine Klyce in memory of **Polly Cooper**.

**Among Our Members** **Congratulations** to Oksana Poleshook on her marriage to Dr. Jack Cooper. Jack is a jazz professor at the University of Memphis. After five years of service, Oksana has resigned as our regular [pianist but will join us on special occasions.

### COFFEE PERSONS WANTED

Responding to our appeal for ‘HELP’ were Carol and Art Straughn who can tend to Sunday kitchen duties part of each month but more people need to step up to the task. Share responsibilities with a friend or partner, alternate Sundays or work as a team. Pick your Sundays and coordinate with the Straughns' schedule. This ministry provides the opportunity to become acquainted with just about everyone in the congregation as well as offering hospitality to many. Coffee time is such a special time on Sunday mornings. Email Carol ([carol-strauf7@yahoo.com](mailto:carol-strauf7@yahoo.com)) or Dee ([billmeier@comcast.net](mailto:billmeier@comcast.net))

### 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

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

### Calling all Volunteers!

Exciting and convenient opportunity to volunteer in our newly adopted school, Shady Grove Elementary. Tutor a child in K-5 who needs your 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](mailto:julietwischmeyer@bellsouth.net)

# THE MEMPHIS UNITARIAN

**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.

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## 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.

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## 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>

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Amanda Cook Myers sends the following information about a couple of events coming up which will benefit Catholic Charities. Amanda runs a domestic violence shelter called Sophia’s House which is a part of Catholic Charities.

- 1) For \$1 a ticket you can enter a raffle to win a 1967 Chevy Camaro SS! The drawing is September 12. All proceeds to Catholic Charities, Inc. which provides many social services for the Memphis community. Contact Amanda Myers at 901 728-4229 to order tickets.
- 2) Create a team to support Catholic Charities involvement in the Memphis Walks for the Homeless on October 3rd. Please contact Amanda Myers at 901 728-4229 to support helping the homeless in Memphis.

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**We are happy to announce the appointment of two Czars.**

**Kitchen Czar is Suzanne Landers. This does not negate the plea for coffee hostesses.**

**Courtyard Czar is Sue Strong. Sue is going to take care of our courtyard.**

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**As the Newsletter Editor will be out of the office on Sept. 21 & 22, the newsletter that would have been edited and sent out that week will be edited and sent out on Sept. 18 — a Friday. Items for that newsletter should be in the Inbox by 9:00 a.m. on Friday the 18th. Margaret**

## 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](mailto: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

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## 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.

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**.A Women’s Health study conducted by Vanderbilt University is now available in the Memphis area.**

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Are you planning a pregnancy? **Right from the Start** is a study of pregnancy health. You can help advance knowledge by simply sharing information about yourself and your pregnancy. Women planning a pregnancy get pregnancy test kits provided at no cost. They will be asked to complete diaries while they are trying to get pregnant. Women who complete these diaries will receive incentives. Once pregnant, participants meet with study staff once and complete a phone interview to help us understand how lifestyle and health habits influence pregnancy well-being. Participants are not asked to take any medicine or to make changes to lifestyle or healthcare. For more information, contact us at (866) 346-2684 or email [rfts@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:rfts@vanderbilt.edu) or visit [www.mom2be.org](http://www.mom2be.org)