

First Unitarian Church - The Church of the River



2011 Summer of Faith – Faith and Prejudice

prej·u·dice: prej-uh-dis. –noun

1. an unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason.
2. any preconceived opinion or feeling, either favorable or unfavorable.
3. unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, regarding a racial, religious, or national group.

Sound familiar? Ever had one, a prejudice that is? Of course not! Unitarians would never from preconceived notions about people that aren't reasonable. We can't be prejudiced! We're liberal, right? Well, what about fundamentalist? Aren't they kind of annoying? What about Evangelical Christians who keep asking us if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior? Don't even Unitarians demonize people and groups we disagree with from time to time? Do we, Unitarians, ever have unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, regarding a racial, religious, or national group? Maybe we should deal with the log in our own eye before complaining about the speck in our neighbor's eye. That brings up a good question asked of Jesus by, of all people, a lawyer. Who is my neighbor? Come to Summer of Faith and find out.

About Our Guest Speakers



July 10
Ronald Riva
Pastor at Iglesia Metodista Unida Maranata

Ronald Rivas was born in El Salvador and has been a pastor and a missionary for 24 years. He came to the United States 12 years ago to found the Hispanic Methodist Ministry. He is now the pastor at Iglesia Metodista Unida Maranata (United Methodist Church "Maranata"). He is married to Miriam Rivas and they have two daughters, Ingrid and Kathy. His goal is to continue establishing churches in the United States and other countries.



July 17
Assistant Rabbi Katie Bauman
Temple Israel Synagogue

Rabbi Katie Bauman was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on June 6, 2009 and began with Temple in July, 2009. Rabbi Bauman is a graduate of Washington University, where she majored in Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Studies. She also received a Master of Education Administration with a Specialization in Jewish Education from Xavier University. Rabbi Bauman served pulpits in Natchez, Mississippi, Marion, Ohio, and served as cantorial soloist at Northwestern University Hillel and the Rockdale Temple in Cincinnati. She worked at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, D.C., the Anti-Defamation League, the District of Columbia Jewish Community Center, and Washington Hebrew Congregation, and was Temple's Artist and Educator in Residence in 2002-2003. Rabbi Bauman and her husband, Adam Eckstein, have one child.



July 24
John Kilzer
Associate Pastor at St. John's United Methodist Church

Born in Jackson, Tn. High School All-American basketball player at Jackson Central Merry. 4 Year Letterman at Memphis State in Basketball from 1975-1979. M A in English Memphis State. Full-time instructor in English at Memphis State from 1985 - 1988. Signed major recording deal with Geffen Records in 1988. Two critically acclaimed records for Geffen: Memory in the Making and Busman's Holiday. Toured with the Moody Blues and Little Feat in America. Toured with the Tragically Hip in Europe.

Have had my songs recorded by Rosanne Cash, Trace Adkins, and Dobie Gray. Radical conversion experience in 201 Poplar in 1994. MDiv from Memphis Theological Seminary in 2005. PhD from Middlesex University in London, England 2011. Currently Associate Pastor at St. John's United Methodist Church where I lead a service of recovery called The Way on Friday nights. Also Director of Theology and Arts at Memphis Theological Seminary. Wife Stacey and daughter Leisel Joy.



July 31
Dr. Frank Anthony Thomas
Senior Pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church

Dr. Frank A. Thomas is a preacher, teacher, lecturer, author and scholar called to preach and teach nationally and internationally. He currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, TN. Additionally, he hosts *15 Minutes of Faith with Dr. Frank A. Thomas*, a weekly inspirational, thought provoking talk radio ministry that speaks to the well-being of body, mind and soul. As an author, his most recent book, *Preaching With Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African*

American Sermons, 1750 to the Present, co-edited by Martha Simmons was released in August 2010. He also published, *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration In Preaching*, considered by many to be a classic; *What's Love Got To Do With It? Love, Power, Sex and God*; *Spiritual Maturity: Preserving Congregational Health and Balance*; *The Lord's Prayer In Times Such as These* and *9.11.01: African American Leaders Respond to an American Tragedy*, co-edited by Simmons. He is the CEO of Hope For Life International, Inc., publisher of *The African American Pulpit*. Within the community, he is a member of the Tennessee Access to Justice Commission, Memphis Medical Center, Church Health Center and the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross boards. Thomas holds a Ph.D. in Communications (Rhetoric) from the University of Memphis, D.Min. degrees from Chicago Theological Seminary and United Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and a Master of Arts degree in African-Caribbean Studies from Northeastern Illinois University. He is member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College and serves as adjunct professor in the Doctor of Ministry in Preaching and Master of Divinity programs at McCormick Theological Seminary. He is married to Rev. Dr. Joyce Scott Thomas and they have two adult children.



August 7
Prof. Yasir Qadhi
Lecturer, Rhodes College

Yasir Qadhi was born in Houston, TX and completed A B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston. He then changed careers and went overseas to study at the Islamic University of Medina (in Saudi Arabia), where he obtained a second Bachelors, and an M.A. in Islamic Theology. The horrific events of 9/11 (which occurred while he was in Medina) prompted him to change course and return to America to complete his studies, as, in his words, he '...felt ideally situated to be a bridge between the two cultures of Islam and the West.' He completed an M.A. and an M.Phil. from Yale University, and is currently in the last stages of his Ph.D. from the Department of Religious Studies at Yale. Currently, he is a lecturer at Rhodes College, and is also the Resident Scholar of the Memphis Islamic Center. He lives in Cordova, TN, with his wife and four kids.



August 14
Danny Schieffler
Priest at St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Little Rock, AR

Danny came to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Little Rock, Arkansas in 2008 after serving nine years at St John's, Fort Smith, AR. Danny enjoys preaching, teaching, pastoral care and overseeing the wide variety of ministries at St. Mark's. He has served as an EFM mentor, Christ Care group equipper, Bible study teacher, Centering Prayer Support group leader, and Cursillo Spiritual Director. More than anything, he loves supporting and empowering the laity of St. Mark's to do their ministry. Before entering the priesthood in 1999, Danny practiced law in Helena-West Helena for 16 years after attending the University of Arkansas College of Business and the School of Law. He received his M. Div from the School of Theology in Sewanee, TN. He and his wife, Judy, have three grown children, David, Sarah and Laura. When not at St. Mark's you are likely to find him on one of the many rivers and streams in Arkansas fly fishing or kayaking.



August 21
David Waters
The Commercial Appeal

David Waters is an award-winning editor and columnist for The Commercial Appeal. He rejoined the newspaper in 2010 after serving as religion editor for The Washington Post from 2007-2010. Waters joined The Commercial Appeal in 1980 and has worked as a reporter, editor and columnist, primarily focused on religion. His awards include a 2010 Wilbur Award for best religion blog, a 2004 Wilbur Award for best religion column, and a 1997 Distinguished Writing Award from the American Society of Newspaper Editors for his religion writing. In 2000, he was inducted into the Scripps Howard Editorial Hall of Fame for his work as a reporter, editor and columnist. An Ohio native, Waters is a graduate of the University of Memphis, where he majored in journalism and political science. He and his wife, Robin, have five children.



August 28
Pastor Steve Stone, Heartsong Church

Born December 31, 1951 in Memphis, Tennessee. Married for 38 years to high school sweetheart, Mary Hoeffner Stone, has four children by birth and four by marriage, Jenna (Mark), Steve Jr. (Amy), James (Amanda) and Audrey (Ben). The joy of his life are his seven grandchildren: Isabelle, Alden, Caroline, Maddox, SaraGrace, Jackson and Vivian. Moved to Compton, California and Pasadena, Texas before setting back in Memphis prior to the first grade. Graduated Westwood High School in south Memphis in 1970. Has a B.S. in Education from the University of Memphis, an M.Div. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University and a D.Min. in Evangelism from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Steve has served as pastor of United Methodist Churches in Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee. He is the founding pastor of Heartsong Church in Cordova, having served there for fourteen years and counting.