

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXI, No. 16

April 30, 2007



WE ARE LOCATED IN CARLISLE CENTER OPPOSITE THE COMMON, JUST OFF ROUTE 225 AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE ONLY ROTARY IN TOWN. A CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND MEETING HOUSE WITH THE TOWN CLOCK IN THE STEEPLE. COME AS YOU ARE. "LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH, THE QUEST FOR TRUTH IS OUR SACRAMENT AND SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER."

Newsletter for April 30, 2007

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour following services.

Dates and details of church events on the Calendar on page 7 in this newsletter.

Church Office: 978-369-5180; Fax no. 978-369-1891

Web site: www.uucarlisle.org **E-mail address:** frs@uucarlisle.org

Church Mailing Address: [including minister and all business]
PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817

Minister: Tim Jensen (study and home) 978-369-0284, (cell) 503-816-2859,
Email: uucleric@mindspring.com

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922;
swsmeslrs@earthlink.net

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: lms@bostonbits.com

Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180

Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217,
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Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-501-4220; Email: frsmusic@comcast.net

Collector of Funds: Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; Email: cdavis@modavi.com

Lay Minister: Sally Hayen, 978-369-7591

Membership Contact: Sue Kirk, 978-371-0176

Coffee Committee: Gio DiNicola, Anne Ketchen, Richard Ketchen, Tom Rourk,
Suzanne Whitney Smith, Jack O'Connor, Jenifer Bush

Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-278-5745,
Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

"if it limps like a duck..."

Now that the conclusion of my ministry here in Carlisle is clearly in sight, I also find myself painfully aware of all the things I am leaving undone as I leave this church for a new ministry "Down East." I suppose this is simply the nature of life itself: conclusion and completion are two different things, and finishing what we started is not always realistic or possible. Yet I also find that my status as "lame duck" has also given me a fresh perspective on my four years here at FRS, some of which I hope to be able to share with you in my last few months here.

Most of my insights fall neatly into one of three related categories. **Mission** embodies the purpose of the church, and the commitment to carrying it out. **Vision** expresses our shared dreams of what the church might become if we merely "realize" its potential. And **Stewardship**, of course, reflects that difficult equation of wealth, worth, and value, as we attempt to match our resources to the things that matter most to us. This combination of Purpose, Possibility, and Shared Responsibility form the real covenant of any congregation, the physical manifestation of the words we repeat together out loud each week at our Sunday morning worship.

There is, of course, no such thing as a perfect church, just as there is no such creature as a perfect minister. We all have our regrets, just as we all have our personal growing edges. As I

prepare to leave this place, I try to remind myself regularly that I did not create the challenges now facing FRS, and that (unfortunately) they will not go away when I do either. I wish I could have done more to help you overcome them while I was here; I hope, at least, that our experience together has taught us all things that will be useful to us in days to come.

I also hope that in these last few months we will find the time to celebrate the things we *have* achieved together, and to say our farewells face to face. Four years may not seem like a very long time to those of you accustomed to measuring ministry by the decade, but it is actually the longest time I've ever served any congregation. And for that I am already feeling nostalgic about this place.....twj

Upcoming Services

May 6: "The State of the Church 2007"
Rev. Jensen

May 13: Rev. Robin Zucker, guest minister
Message for All Ages:
"Small Group Ministry"
Alison Saylor and Mike Dundorf

May 20: Rev. David Pohl, guest minister

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

FRS member Sarah Darling, who is working toward her masters degree in viola at the New England Conservatory, will be involved in two major performances this May. The first is a recital by the Laurel Quartet, on Tuesday, May 1, at 8:00 in Jordan Hall. The quartet won the opportunity for this recital when they became an NEC Honors Ensemble last fall. The second performance is an appearance with the Borromeo Quartet, with whom Sarah will be playing the Mozart G Minor Viola Quintet as a recipient of the 2007 Guest Artist Awards. This concert will take place on Wednesday, May 9, also at 8:00 in Jordan Hall. Both performances are free and open to the public, and Sarah and her family extend a warm invitation to all.

The 39th Greater Boston Walk for Hunger is happening on Sunday, May 6. Through Project Bread the Walk funds more than 400 emergency food programs in 135 communities across the state (including The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell). Please support your FRS walkers Ann James and Ellen Huber. Walking 20 miles isn't easy. If other FRSers are walking please let Kathy Varney know.

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A NOTE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Church annual meeting will be on Sunday, May 20. At the meeting the Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for all committees and officers. Some of the people now on committees will be staying on but we are looking for people to fill vacancies and to add to the rosters. The Parish Committee is the only one that has a set number of members, seven, and it is the only one that requires church membership. We would especially like to encourage new FRS people to become involved in a capacity that they would enjoy. The official committees include **Parish, Finance, Religious Education and Youth Activities, Buildings and Grounds, Pastoral Concerns, Nominating, Activities, Hospitality (Coffee, Greeters and Flowers), Social Action, Membership and Music and Worship.** The **Environmental Action** committee is an ad hoc committee and it would welcome new members, too. The Religious Education, Music and Worship and Membership committees are especially anxious to increase their size.

Please let any of us on the nominating committee know how you would like to be involved. We know that some of you may not know what the various committees do and what the time commitment is apt to be. Please feel free to ask us. Serving on a committee is a superb way to get truly involved in the FRS and a good way to meet people. And the growth, enthusiasm and health of the church is very much dependent on your participation.

Nominating committee: Mary Grant(369-5163), marycgrant@comcast.net; Susan Emmons (369-7921), susansemmons@comcast.net; Tom Lockwood (369-8690), thlockwood@hotmail.com; Heather Hedden (371-0822), heather@hedden.net; Ellen Huber (369-6678), e2huber@rcn.com.

Please view the FRS calendar on our website under "Calendar".

All are welcome to attend Parish Committee meetings, except in cases of executive sessions

FRS Committee meetings are open to any interested party. To address a committee on a specific issue please contact the committee chair.

Next Newsletter Deadline is May 6, 2007

If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

SUMMER PLANNING?

Consider joining UU's at Ferry Beach, a summer spiritual home on the coast of Maine. It's a wonderful and affordable family vacation destination.

Ferry Beach offers activities for everyone, young and old, singles and families, on topics such as mind, body and spirit, kids for the earth, music, women's studies, fabric arts, and UU heritage.

Whether you stay in a tent or an RV in the pine grove, or in the comfortable lodgings close to the ocean -- and whatever conference you choose -- you're guaranteed wonderful conversation, new friends, and plenty of time for leisure. Guided canoeing in a salt marsh refuge area, a park edged with rocky coastline, and other wonderful outing sites are only 30 -40 minutes away. (You can also stay at the beach without being in a conference, on a space available basis).

If you're looking for a unique, spiritual place to spend a weekend or a week this summer, log onto the Ferry Beach web site: www.ferrybeach.org.

Submitted by Barbara Ritz (a Ferry Beach booster)

STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

Church Office Hours: The church office will be open between the hours of 8:00am and 1:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. The office will be closed on Tuesdays.

Minister Office Hours: Tim is generally available at church most mornings when the church office is open and other times by appointment. It is always a good idea to call in advance. You can reach him at 978-369-0284 (study or home), 503-816-2859 (cell) or by email at uucleric@mindspring.com.

Director of Religious Education: Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email (frs_re@comcast.net) or phone (church, 978-369-5180; home, 978-371-2217).

Music Rehearsals Schedule

The Choir
Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00pm
Sundays at 9:45am

KIDSKWIRE
Wednesdays 3:15-3:45

MESSAGE FROM MARGUERITE SHAW RE: EMILY GAGE

The following article recently appeared in an Illinois newspaper. Many of you remember Emily Gage as an outstanding ministerial intern at FRS in the 1990's and she was ordained by this congregation just before she left to serve the Joliet congregation as their settled minister:

'Gage'-ing goodness Jaycees to honor 'outstanding young' minister from Joliet church
By Denise M. Baran-Unland Special to the Herald News

During her decadelong tenure as minister at the Universalist Unitarian church in Joliet, the Rev. Emily Gage has, through example, led people to new spiritual heights.

One of these people is Melanie Sprengel, member of the Brookfield Jaycees and 2007 state director. Because of her nomination, the Illinois Jaycees at its May 5 banquet will recognize Gage, 38, as one of the 10 Outstanding Young People in Illinois.

"Emily is such an amazing person who has done so much; she truly embodies what an outstanding young person can do," Sprengel said. "Emily has proven herself to be a strong leader through many different organizations, and leadership is what the Jaycees are all about.

For Gage, the 10 years she has spent in the Midwest have been exciting ones. She has served as a program adviser for the Meadville/Lombard Theological School, has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association and has served on its ministerial fellowship committee.

Gage also is president of the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Associations of Congregations and of the Joliet Ecumenical Clergy Association (JACOB).

Love is the doctrine: At home, Gage has seen her congregation -- founded in 1836 -- move from several temporary quarters after selling its downtown facility into its present home on Jefferson Street, a home already bursting at its

seams, Gage said.

But Gage has also brought the congregation into the 21st century by hanging a rainbow flag, which echoes the message the church has on its Web site, www.uujc.com: It "welcomes and celebrates the participation of bisexual, gay, lesbian and/or transgender people." Not too many churches do that, Gage said. But then, not too many ministers in the Joliet area preside over same-sex marriages, as Gage has several dozen times.

"Love is the doctrine at our church," Gage said.

In addition, serving a church as its minister -- now 170 members strong -- also has stretched Gage, who never ceases to be amazed at seeing her name on the church's marquee.

**Junior Youth Group
Field Trip
to
First Parish in Boston
May 20**

Further details coming soon

**Contact Jackie Schaefer
978-256-6770**

The First Religious Society in Carlisle is an inclusive community bound together in the Unitarian Universalist tradition of friendship, free inquiry and service to humanity.

We recognize our commonality as spiritual seekers, and welcome and celebrate the participation of all people, without regard to age, race, religious heritage, political opinion, gender identity, sexual or affectional orientation, socio-economic status, disability or ethnicity.

We are committed to continual learning and growth toward affirmation of the enriching diversity of humankind, and to working to create a more just, sustainable and loving world.

PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE *from the Finance Committee*

Our goal this year is to raise \$94,000 from 86 pledges. To date we have received 41 pledges totaling \$39,026 for the 2007-8 church year. If you haven't made your pledge yet, please return your card as soon as possible. Pledges represent nearly half of our operating budget and making your pledge now will allow us to prepare a balanced budget for the Annual Meeting on May 20.

We'd like to acknowledge those who have already pledged. Thank you for supporting FRS!

Anonymous (2)	Gertrude Behn
Geoffrey & Martha Bentley	George & Nadine Bishop
Priscilla Bromaghim	Jenifer Bush & Jack O'Connor
Elisabeth & Paul Carpenter	Evelyn Catachio
John & Joan Dalton	Charlie Davis & Jane Mosier
Don & Susan Emmons	Pam Fox
Seba Gaines	Roger Goulet
Stephanie Hackbarth	Sally Hayen
Nancy Hendrie	Glenn & Tena Herlihy
Suzanne Hill & Ray Offenheiser	Ellen & Ernie Huber
Dave & Natalie Ives	Harland Jackson
Fran Lapham	Ed LeClair
Liz & Steve Loutrel	Helen & John Lyons
Beverley Macdonell	Sally Naumann & Art Turner
Kerri & Kevin Piette	Wendy Powell & Don Rober
Judy & Fontaine Richardson	Barbara Ritz
J. Stewart Roberts & Karla Johnson	Elizabeth & Edward Saef
Marcella Shepherd	Richard & Carolyn Shoheit
Susan & John Stengrevics	Marjorie & David Stickler
Betty & John Valentine	Mary Zoll

Your UU Identity

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 – 8:30 pm in Union Hall

Are you interested in exploring UU identity from a new angle? In March I attended a two day continuing education class on this topic, and came away with some food for thought about the six sources that were used in shaping our UU principles. During this single session I'd like to provide an introduction to looking at our personal identities as UUs. We'll do several exercises to guide your thinking and generate discussion on both the principles and the sources, and hopefully foster your ability to articulate your own faith identity. This is a big topic, and our one session will just begin our thinking, so we can make plans for further explorations of this topic if there is interest. This program is for adults and high school youth, and will be led by Molly Sorrows with the assistance of several members of the RE Committee. Please call the office to sign up at (978-369-5180)

PROGRAM NEWS

Pastoral Concerns Committee: We serve as a means of outreach to people in our church who need our special support and friendship. We will arrange rides, visits, childcare, meals or anything else that lends a helping hand during short or long-term crises. If you are or know of anyone in need of this support, please contact Judy Munroe at 978-369-5621 during the month of May.

After a year's hiatus the Ramblers will be on the move again. Everyone is invited for some gentle walking, for about 1 1/2 hours, and a social breakfast together. We will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 19. We will walk in Carlisle and eat at the Riverview, not necessarily in that order. Please call the Emmons (369-7921) or the Hubers (369-6678) if you'd like to join us or if you have questions.

DON'T FORGET May 12! It's our big **Open Pantry Fundraiser**, starring, and back by popular demand, the exciting ultimate rhythm & blues band, ScrumDaddy with B.B., The Rev., Coach, and Rico. **ALSO ON THE BILL:** Magnolia's incomparable Barbara & Dave Koen, **AND** Catch-A-Rising-Star from Swampscott, Guy Zaccardi! **WHAT A NIGHT!** Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds go to the food pantry.

WomenSpirit Poetry & Potluck Supper - Friday, May 4th - 7:00pm - Union Hall: Our next WomenSpirit gathering will be Friday, May 4th in Union Hall where we'll share poetry and a potluck supper. Start time is 7:00pm. Bring an appetizer, entree, salad or dessert and a favorite poem or verse to share with the others. As always, feel free to bring a friend. All women are welcome! Any questions, call Sue Kirk 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.

WALK OR BIKE TO CHURCH!

Our Small Group Ministry is organizing Walk or Bike to Church Day on Sunday, May 20th. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of ways we can all reduce our dependence on automobiles, and get a little exercise and fresh air in the process.

If you are able and willing to walk or bike to church that day, please consider doing so. If you are unable to walk or bike, but would like to participate, you could consider carpooling with a neighbor. Some of you may want to drive part way, park in the driveway of a friend who is near the center, and walk the last leg of the trip. Anything goes; the point is to have fewer cars in the parking lot at church!

Participation in this event is completely optional. Please do whatever is most comfortable for you and your family. If you walk to church, but develop a killer blister (or something) and would like a ride home, Joe Jancek will be providing van service for anyone opting out of the return trip.

Questions, contact Kathy Varney, or any group member: Ellen and Ernie Huber, Helen Lyons, Mary Grant, Joe Jancek, Marilyn Harte Sue Stengrevics or Paul Morrison.

Hope to see you on the road!

Annual Meeting is on May 20 at 4:00pm! All committee chairs should submit their annual reports to the church office by May 9. Thanks!