

**FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 817  
Carlisle, MA 01741

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**NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES**

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist  
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXI, No. 21

August 20, 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 August 20, 2007**

**Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:00 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]  
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**Interim Minister:** Victor H. Carpenter (study) 978-369-0284,  
Email: victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org  
**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  
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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  
**Union Hall Coffee House:** Dian Cuccinello 978-278-5745,  
Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

**IN THE INTERIM**

Last month at my first meeting with the Parish Committee I wrote a check to the First Religious Society in Carlisle for \$1000.00. The action was spontaneous but not unprovoked. The Committee members had been struggling with the church's budgetary shortfall. A letter to parishioners was to be mailed asking for financial help. Attention was being given to where the annual budget could be cut.

Discussion waxed and waned. Such talk taxes people's patience, it wears them down, it subverts their attention from the mission of the church and the vision needed to sustain and extend that mission. It's no fun.

So I wrote the check. Several reasons: I wanted to change the atmosphere in the room; I wanted to put money issues "in their place"; I wanted to break the depressing emotional spiral that was taking over the meeting.

I elected to "think outside the box". The "box" in this case being the shortfall and the narrowing, stultifying effect that it was having on the committee. My aim was to

jump-start the group from "we can't " to "we can". And to generate a bit of excitement about what can happen when someone introduces something unexpected and unusual into a meeting. I wanted to produce a different attitude. I succeeded.

The committee has given me ample thanks and praise for my "generosity". I appreciate their enthusiastic words but frankly I was ( and am) after something larger and more lasting: a congregation that is willing to be surprised and delighted by unexpected possibilities that lie hidden within itself and are waiting to be discovered and called forth.

We have a year to do this work of discovery. I want it to be a year of new hope, direction and fun. Especially fun. We come together to share the life giving , life enhancing joy of our liberal faith, our Unitarian Universalist Religion. What could be more fun than that !

As the Buddha was overheard to say, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single check. "

Vic Carpenter

## UPCOMING SERVICES

### Sunday Services will resume on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

Sermon Title: "Trust The Process"  
Rev. Vic Carpenter

As we begin our Interim Year (and start to celebrate the 250th year of this congregation's history) I choose to preach on what amounts to "An Article of Faith" for me. Being some remarks on how I hope we will work together during coming months. The sermon identifies some of the opportunities we see and some of the risks we run into in working to attain them. This is the morning on which we officially enter "the process" together.

Music by The Choir: *Come Today With Jubilant Singing*, by Robert Leaf  
*When Our Heart Is In a Holy Place*, by Joyce Poley

Following this service there will be a brief dedication of a newly planted lilac bush in recognition that this is the Sunday closest to the sixth anniversary of "9/11" and of our hopes for peace.

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### September 16: "In Praise of Imperfection" Rev. Vic Carpenter

We are achievers. At least we like to see ourselves as able to achieve whatever goals we aspire to. And many of us, well, some of us, OK a few of us actually do reach that pinnacle of success and triumph. If that's you well hooray for you (although I better warn you that never been a big fan of the Donald Trumps of this world). As for the rest of us there really is something to say about the importance of NOT making it. And that's not just "sour grapes".

Music by The Choir: *Lift Up Your Hearts*, by John Ellis

### September 23: "To Begin Again In Love" Rev. Vic Carpenter

Yom Kippur. The themes of forgiveness and atonement are at the core of the holiest day in the liturgical calendar of Judaism. How important are these themes? Former Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu summed it up in a single sentence, "Without forgiveness there is not future". Think about that.

Music by The Choir: *Holy Spirit*, by Marguerite Shaw  
Additional Music: *Voluntary*, by John Stanley, arranged for harpsichord, flute and organ, by Shaw. Musicians: Margaret Darling, Susan Jackson and M. Shaw

#### 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 September 3.

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

## STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

**Church Office Hours:** Beginning September 10 the church office will be open Monday, Tuesdays Thursday and Friday between the hours of 8:00 and 1:00. The office will be closed on Wednesday.

**Minister Office Hours:** From September 1 minister's office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. He is available for emergencies any time. You can reach him by email at [victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org](mailto:victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org) or by phone at 781-648-3861.

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

**Minister of Music Office Hours:** Marguerite Shaw is at the church every weekday between 10:00am and 3:00pm, with occasional exceptions. Call 978-369-5180 or 978-501-4220.

**Music Rehearsals Schedule:** The Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. The Sunday morning warm-up will begin at 9:15am!

**KID\$K.WIRE:** Rehearsals will be announced in the next newsletter.

**Handbell** rehearsals will begin as soon as a sufficient number of people sign up. An ability to read music is helpful and a sense of rhythm is essential.

If you have questions about any of the music programs please call Marguerite Shaw.

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.

## UUA NEWS

### UU World Introduces Congregational Announcements

The quarterly *UU World* magazine is launching a new section, "Congregational Announcements," in its Fall 2007 issue. Congregations may place a brief announcement in any issue of the magazine for a specially discounted rate. This special section is just the place for congregations to lift up the special people and celebrate the milestones that bring joy and meaning to the congregation and its members.

A special "congregations only" fee of \$75 will be charged for up to 50 words, a savings of \$100 off the price of a standard 50-word classified ad! Submission deadlines are as follows:

- Spring, December 15
- Summer, March 15
- Fall, June 15
- Winter, August 30

Visit [UU World for more information](#) and submission instructions or call (617) 948-6502.

### From Portland to the World!

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) congregated in Portland Oregon to enjoy the 2nd annual UU University and the 46th annual General Assembly (GA). This year's General Assembly explored the theme "Choices That Matter" in a unique way. For the first time, GA attendees used a process called Open Space Technology to consider the mission of Unitarian Universalists as a faith community. This was, we believe, the largest ever use of Open Space Technology. Through our website reports, images, and streaming media, we hope you will soak up what is being presented. Share this information with your congregation to help shape their programs and activities. General Assembly—live or online—is a wonderful place to absorb the essence and diversity of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Enjoy!

**Fall in Love with Vermont:** Here is your invitation to B & B with UUs in the Brattleboro area for a weekend this October. Enjoy the highlights of Southern Vermont's Foliage Season: the Vermont Jazz Center, Farmer's Market, Dummerston Apple Pie Festival, Newfane Heritage Festival (craft fair), Brattleboro Museum and Art Center Exhibits and so very much more. Join us for our Sunday Service at 10 A.M. This Bed and Breakfast "Fun-Raiser" will benefit All Souls Church Unitarian Universalist, West Brattleboro, Vermont. Weekends available are: Oct. 5-8th (Columbus Day weekend) and Oct. 12-13th. We expect peak colors around this time. Foliage B & B rates, per night: \$50 single, \$75 double, and \$25 child. Check our web site [www.allsouls.brattleboro.uua.org](http://www.allsouls.brattleboro.uua.org). For information E-mail Kathy Squires at [solanasq@together.net](mailto:solanasq@together.net) or leave her a message at 802-365-7388.

## A NOTE FROM THE CARLISLE COUNCIL ON AGING

I am hoping that one, a couple, or several of you might know of one or possibly some young men or women who might be able to help the Council on Aging.

We collect medical equipment (such as wheel chairs, walkers, canes, shower seats, etc) and then loan them out to seniors or families of seniors who need them. Unfortunately, we don't have an ideal storage spot, but are lucky enough to have space in one of the buildings near the transfer station. Because we share space with trucks, an old Fire Truck and our own COA van, our equipment needs a yearly clean up, and right now we are in desperate need to have someone or several folks, clean the equipment, take an inventory of what we have and help put things in order. If any of you know of a young person in need community service hours who would like a letter notifying the school, scouts or any organization of their efforts, I would be glad to do that.

If you know of anyone who can help us out, please pass along our request. This can be done pretty much whenever the volunteer(s) are available (provided we pre-arrange!). I hope to hear from one/some of you (just call the COA Office at 978-371-2895).

Thanks!

Angela Smith

## PROGRAM NEWS

**Update on the Infinity Memorial Garden** by Alison Saylor: Phase II of the Infinity Memorial Garden project will have to wait for an infusion of money to pay the professional landscapers with a Bobcat or similar machine to remove the remaining stumps, do some minor regrading and create a wide granite and field stone series of steps to access the sunken garden. Karla Johnson, an architect, has kindly agreed to design a handicap accessible ramp for the garden that will be safe for both wheel chairs and wheel barrows.

Perhaps you are inspired by our progress to date to contribute to the Infinity Memorial Garden Project with either money, volunteer time, or plant material? Perhaps you have some ideas about what a Memorial Garden should look like from visiting other gardens? Your contributions are most welcome! Please contact Alison Saylor [Saylorfarm@comcast.net](mailto:Saylorfarm@comcast.net) (978) 369-1809.

**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 Janice Saul at 978-371-2771 during the month of September.

## PROGRAM NEWS

### The 250<sup>th</sup> "Minute"

The First Religious Society in Carlisle begins a year long celebration of its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 9, 2007 with a "minute". On that Sunday morning and on every Sunday morning throughout the remainder of 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 a church member will share "one minute" of FRS history with the congregation.

Do you want to be a "minuteman" (ok, a "minutewoman", "minuteperson")? Share your idea/minute length reflection/moment in FRS's 250<sup>th</sup> year history with the congregation. Speak to Alison Saylor, 250<sup>th</sup> Chair Person, or the interim minister, VC.

### The 9/11 Memorial Bush Dedication

Following the worship service on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> we will gather in beside the church to dedicate the new lilac bush planting as a memorial to those who lost their lives six years ago on September 11 and to re-dedicate ourselves to the work of making peace and doing justice in the world.

The lilac reminds us of another deep social tragedy, the death of Lincoln as memorialized by Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd". VC

### The next three Church Council Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

September 16  
October 21  
November 18

All meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. the Conference Room. A different Parish Committee member run the meeting each month. September's meeting will be run by Lisa Sama, Marj Stickler chairs October's meeting, and November's meeting will be headed by Eric Darling. We will not have a meeting in December.

After the first of the year, the Parish Committee hopes to have a Church Council Meeting the third Sunday of every month. Details have not yet been finalized.

Church Council Meetings are a good way to find out what's happening with all of our committees. Committee chairs are strongly urged to come. So bring your ideas, future plans and coffee!!!

Lisa Sama