

**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. 12

February 19, 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 February 19, 2007**

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

**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,

Email: frs\_re@comcast.net

**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, Tom Rourk, Suzanne Whitney Smith, Jack O'Connor, Jenifer Bush

**THE ECLECTIC CLERIC**

A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from our District Administrator recruiting for the "Mystery Worshiper" program. Immediately it brought back a flood of memories from the days when I worked as a retail bookseller for the Barnes & Noble corporation, and my store was shopped quarterly by "Secret Shoppers" who evaluated our customer service according to a standard checklist of criteria generated by B & N's corporate customer service experts in New York.

I remember the criteria very well, because I worked very hard to train my staff to follow them. As a result, my store routinely received perfect scores. Greet the Customer personally as they enter the store, and ask them if they are looking for anything in particular. Take them to the section, put the book in their hand, and then offer them an opportunity to purchase our discount card as you ring the transaction.

I can remember THAT pitch practically word for word (since I created it myself, taught it to all my employees, and repeated it out loud dozens of times a day for almost three years). "Are you a member of our Booksavers Club? Barnes & Noble offers a discount card which saves you 10% on everything you buy. It's good for a year; it costs \$10 to sign up, and today it would save you \$\_\_\_\_, which means that the actual cost of the card is only \$\_\_\_\_. Do you think you'll be buying another \$\_\_\_\_ worth of books in the next twelve months?" A little quick arithmetic produced a yes or no answer, and either sold the

card or didn't. But I personally had the best card sale to transaction ratio in our entire district.

I've often wondered why our churches can't do as good a job of greeting people as your typical retail bookstore or restaurant. It's just a matter of common courtesy; it's not as if we're really "selling" anything. As I said at our visioning event, churches basically do three simple things for newcomers: we offer them hospitality; we provide them with certain services (including, of course, our Worship Service); we invite them into an authentic "covenantal" relationship, through which they gain the opportunity to become our partners in "doing unto others as we would have others do unto us."

What's so terrible and scary about any of this? Why can't we show as much enthusiasm for what WE have to offer as our "server" does for the daily specials, or a bookseller for the latest Oprah-endorsed diet book?

Unitarian Universalists sometimes speak the word "evangelical" as if it had four letters. But an evangelist is merely a "good angel," or more literally, a messenger with Good News. If we aren't willing to share our Good News with others, what's the point of even calling ourselves a church? It's not as if we have to be obnoxious about it. Hospitality. Service. Relationship. It's really just that simple. And it all begins by greeting people as they enter the door, and asking what brought them here today....twj

**THE ECLECTIC CLERIC** *(continued)*

OUR WHOLE LIVES – The OWL Program: The First Religious Society has offered the OWL program (formerly named “About Your Sexuality”) to families with young teenagers for many years. This is a program sanctioned by the Unitarian Universalist Association and reviewed and approved by the FRS Parish Committee and Religious Education Committee. Every family with children of the appropriate ages, is invited to informational sessions and to review the teaching materials prior to joining the program. If you have any questions regarding the program, please speak to Molly Sorrows, our DRE, Rev. Tim Jensen or members of the Parish Committee.

**UPCOMING SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS**

**Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m.:** area social action meeting at the First Parish, Billerica. Organized by our Social Action committee. Anyone interested in sharing social action information with people from area churches is invited. Please call Ellen Huber (369-6678) if you would like to attend or have questions.

**Sunday, March 4:** Linda Myers-Tierney and Project Director Dan Holin will give an introduction to the Jericho Road Project during *The Message for All Ages* (see article on page 5 in this newsletter). There will be a sign-up list at coffee hour for the March 11 event.

**Sunday, March 11, 4 - 5:30 p.m.:** Wine & Southeast Asian appetizer/Jericho Road Project event at Myers-Tierney's house (see article)

**Saturday, March 17, 6 p.m.:** St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck & Celebration of Young People's Social Action Work

**Sunday April 29:** *Message For All Ages* -- About upcoming Intergenerational Spring Cleanup Day to help elders and other in need.

**Saturday, May 12:** Scrumdaddy Open Pantry fund raiser organized by Dian Cuccinello and Alison Saylor

**Saturday, May 19:** Intergenerational Spring Cleanup Day

More information on the March 17, May 12 and May 19 events will appear in future newsletters.

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**Please view the FRS calendar on our website under “Upcoming Events”.**

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

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

**COFFEE HOUSE AT FRS**

One of the many wonderful ideas that were sparked by the Visioning day on February 10 was the resurrection of the FRS Coffee house idea. Some may fondly remember the events Karen Morse organized several years ago? Many, many Unitarian Universalist churches in New England routinely pack their halls with audiences hungry for the warm friendly atmosphere and talented musicianship offered by the Coffee house. We'll need volunteers for ticket taking, setting up and cleaning up for these Friday night events. Is this something you would like to do? Should we call it the Union Hall Coffee House? Please let Dian Cuccinello know your thoughts ...[Dianfrancesca@comcast.net](mailto:Dianfrancesca@comcast.net)

*JAZZ VESPERs*  
Sunday, March 4  
4:00pm in the Sanctuary  
  
Come join us for music  
and reflections.  
  
Reception to follow in Union Hall.  
  
Musicians: John Clark,  
Markus Pinney and  
Harvey Nosowitz

**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](mailto:uucleric@mindspring.com).

**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).

**Music Rehearsals Schedule**  
The Choir  
Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00pm  
Sundays at 9:45am  
  
KIDSKWIRE  
WednesdayS 3:15-3:45  
  
Handbell Choir TBA

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**  
*by Molly Sorrows*

Many wonderful ideas were generated at the **Visioning** Event, and some great ones were related to our Religious Education program. Although I have not yet met with the RE Committee, I know I speak for them as well when I say that we are thrilled with the recognition and the enthusiasm for enhancing children's and youth programming. I have been working with the social action committee this winter planning several new joint projects, and some of the ideas at Visioning tie right in with these. We will all be seeing summaries of the discussions soon, and will be able to work together on action plans that were begun at the event, whether related to religious education or other topics.

Our recent Soup and Games Night was a **terrific success**. Despite coming on a busy weekend, we had a terrific group of kids and adults, including some who do not have children in the program. The mixture of games which were both planned and spontaneous mixed the variety of ages with tons of fun. Many thanks to everyone who made soup – beef barley, lentil, corn chowder and minestrone were the ones I had a chance to sample, and they were all fantastic! The Religious Education Committee has set a variety of goals for the program, and I commend them for this great intergenerational event.

We are wrapping up our Marketplace 29 AD activities which have been thoroughly enjoyed by both the children and leaders. Heather Hedden is teaching about the work of a scribe, including an introduction to the Hebrew and Greek alphabets. Marje Stickler talked about the role of baskets, showed some that she had made, and helped some of the youngest children create mats and small baskets. One group learned from Don Emmons how to make rope by twisting three strands separately and then bringing them together properly. He also had supplies for them to make basic sandals, which has kept kids busy several weeks. Susan Emmons demonstrated spinning with a drop spindle and set up a tall loom for a group weaving creation as well as smaller cardboard looms. It

**VISIONING ENERGIZES FRS!**  
*By Parish Committee*

The Saturday Visioning Event was an exciting success. Lynn Thomas led us in a wonderful idea generating exercise. Everyone chose topics of personal interest to discuss in small groups. All the notes have been transcribed and are being summarized for general circulation. Parish Committee will identify recurring themes and then assess leadership resources and formulate a plan for monitoring implementation.

It was an exciting and energizing day which gave many an opportunity to meet and share their ideas, dreams and passions for our church community.

was no surprise that our kitchen projects were hugely popular. We have some great chefs arising from this group! Bread baking, marzipan, dips and spreads were all enjoyed at coffee hour thanks to the leadership of Andi Gettys, Annie Hill, Lonnie Harvey, Susan Emmons, Jackie Schaefer and the Junior Youth Group. **Many thanks** to all of these volunteers as well as to the Religious Education Committee and other volunteers who all helped to make these special projects a big success.

March brings our **Sven's Bridge project**, and I hope many of you will enjoy helping with this new drama. The RE Committee selected this story for many reasons, and we hope you will explore and learn it with us.

**Special Junior Youth News:** A group from FRS will attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle School Youth Rally on March 3. The day includes: morning and afternoon workshops, youth-led worship and of course, food! Please talk to Jackie Schaefer or Molly Sorrows.

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.

## UPDATE ON CELL TOWER HERE AT FRS

by Lisa Sama and Alan Cameron

As many townspeople are aware, The First Religious Society has been negotiating with two cellular telephone companies (Nextel/Sprint and T-Mobile), to allow them use of our steeple as a base station. We entered into these negotiations only after becoming convinced that this usage would pose no health hazards to town residents, and that – given the need for cellular coverage in the center – an invisible installation in our steeple would be preferable to construction of a free-standing tower near the center.

We are now at the point where the cellular companies will shortly apply to the various town boards and committees for the necessary permits. Prior to that, the FRS Parish Committee feels that it would be worthwhile to discuss the issue and to hear the comments of our neighbors and townspeople. We plan to hold an open community meeting on the subject on March 1 in Union Hall (at 7:30 PM). All interested parties are invited. Representatives from the cellular companies will be at the meeting, and will discuss the detailed installation plans, the RF power levels the installations will produce in the area, health-related issues, and any other topics that might arise.

## 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 Tricia Reed at 978-369-0135 during the month of February.

**Help Make Global Warming History:** Sponsored by the Religious Witness for the Earth, the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue runs from March 16 to 24 from Northampton to Boston. By walking each day and holding inspirational interfaith programs each evening, the event will focus public attention on the moral urgency of comprehensive public policy to reduce greenhouse gases. The Walk will culminate in an interfaith service and public witness in Boston, on Saturday, March 24th. To sign up go to [www.climatewalk.org](http://www.climatewalk.org).

**St. Patrick's Day Potluck - Saturday, March 17th - 6:30pm:** Join us to celebrate the "Wearing o' the Green" with a Party and Potluck in Union Hall. Please feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Marguerite promises festive Irish music and sing-along fare. Bring your favorite Irish dish or contact Sue Kirk for Irish recipe suggestions. We will have some popular Irish recipes available at coffee hour or contact Sue at [sukirk@aol.com](mailto:sukirk@aol.com) or 978-371-0176.

### Music at Upcoming Services:

February 25: Dian Cuccinello, soloist  
March 4: Rodney Mashia, singer and instrumentalist  
March 11: KIDSKWIRE  
March 18: Fumito Nunoya, marimbist

The Choir will sing for each service

## JERICO ROAD PROJECT by Karen Rigg

**Jericho Road Project**, a subject discussed in a newsletter last fall, is a nonprofit organization based in Concord whose mission is to enhance Lowell's economic sustainability by providing free capacity-building experience to non profit organizations and small businesses. These services are delivered by corps of volunteers carefully matched to the particular jobs to be filled.

On **Sunday, March 4**, Linda Myers-Tierney and Jericho Road director Dan Holin will discuss the Jericho Road Project in the Message for All Ages. Linda and several other volunteers are working with the Board of the Angkor Dance Troupe to provide board development and strategic fundraising help.

On **Sunday, March 11**, from 4 to 5:30 pm Linda is hosting a wine and Southeast Asian appetizer event at her home, 46 Lowell Road, to discuss specific opportunities for volunteers. Dan Holin will also be in attendance. Please come and bring interested others to this enjoyable, informative session. RSVP by March 5 to Max Barber at 978-369-7943 or [damabar@comcast.net](mailto:dabar@comcast.net).

A small sample of other groups seeking help from the Jericho Road Project is below:

- One Lowell, a feisty immigrant advocacy group working within and outside Lowell's school to support immigrant causes, needs help developing a fundraising concept that draws on the immigrant community's passion and skill for soccer.

- The Greater Lowell Community Foundation seeks a strategic planner to help guide the board during a short, half day planning session.
- Life Alive, a terrific organic restaurant is looking for an organizational development person to advise them on growth and organization structure.
- Big Brother-Big Sister of Greater Lowell needs help evaluation its modest IT infrastructure and advice to make their resources more user-friendly to better serve its youth and staff. The Coalition for a Better Acre, a powerful grass roots, community empowerment and advocacy organization, is looking for a landscape architect to attend one 2-hour design workshop to help the community visualize the ideas they share for the redevelopment of the Moody Street Playground.

To get more information about these opportunities or to explore volunteering with Jericho Road, contact Dan Holin at [dholin@earthlink.net](mailto:dholin@earthlink.net).

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**Don't Forget! Rev Tim's 2007 Semi-Vegetarian Potluck and Lenten Study Series** begins Tuesday February 27th at 6:00 pm in Union Hall. Although anyone is welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, if you can please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend, so I'll have some idea of how many to cook for!