

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXX, No. 19

June 12, 2006



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 June 12, 2006

CHURCH INFORMATION

Join us for lay led summer services beginning June 25 (excluding July 2) at 9:30am here at FRS.

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

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PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817

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THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

“Odds and Ends (and New Beginnings)”

As I mentioned in my annual “State of the Church” sermon (“Tango or Two-Step?” - May 21st, 2006), last week was the 25th anniversary of my graduation from the Harvard Divinity School, and subsequent ordination to the ministry the following Sunday at the First and Second Church in Boston. In celebration of this auspicious occasion, Harvard threw a big party for me and my classmates (along with several thousand other proud graduates and their friends and families), just as they do every year about this same time.

The festivities started Tuesday night with a Reunion Dinner at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue, where I had a chance to catch up a little with former FRS student intern Dawn Sangrey and former FRS interim minister Diane Miller, both of whom were also celebrating “reunion” years (their 5th and 30th, respectively). I also enjoyed a brief conversation with former HDS Dean (and longtime Nantucket summer resident) Krister Stendahl, who, while asking the blessing on our sumptuous

shared meal, quoted the same Latin American table grace I first heard him use at the “Dean’s Feed” for incoming students on the back lawn of Jewitt House in 1978, which has been a favorite item in my own repertoire of prayers ever since: “To those who are hungry, give bread; and to us who have bread, give a hunger for justice.” Certainly something worthy of learning by heart, and repeating regularly for more than a quarter-century.

The Reunion Dinner was followed Wednesday by the Alumni/ae Day exercises at the Divinity School campus. Tori Murden-McClure (MDiv ‘89), the first American woman both to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean and to ski to the South Pole, gave a very inspiring (and humorous) talk about some of the things she learned while attempting to accomplish these difficult physical feats, which took its theme from a quotation by Teddy Roosevelt: “Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.”

But the highlight of the day for me personally was hearing keynote speaker, Margaret Miles, my former Church History professor and the first tenured woman faculty member at HDS, who spoke on the topic "Living Lovingly in a Culture of Fear." Taking her inspiration from 1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear," Margaret spoke about how our contemporary "culture of fear" exaggerates some dangers (like the threat of terrorism) and diminishes others (like the number of highway traffic deaths each year), while our society's obsession with "romantic love" is essentially a form of "misdirection" -- a bit of cultural sleight-of-hand which diverts attention from our true responsibilities to care for one another. Quoting feminist philosopher Dorothy Dinnerstein, who wrote, "We never feel as grown-up as we expected to feel when we were children," Margaret reminded us that we ARE the grown-ups, and that the appropriate response to our own experience of Privilege is NOT "denial" and "guilt," but rather "gratitude and responsibility."

Of course, there was also plenty of swag,

just as one might expect at a party planned by the Office of Development and External Relations. Lanyards, pens and pencils, plastic mag lights, even kazoos...all emblazoned with the HDS imprint. But the best gift of all was a quotation from Czech playwright and politician Vaclav Havel: "Keep the company of those who seek the truth, and run from those who have found it."

The Divinity School's own motto of "Faith Seeking Understanding" echoes these sentiments. I personally feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend Divinity School at Harvard twenty-five years ago, and to have been privileged to seek (and speak) my own truth in love for more than half a lifetime now. God willing, I hope to continue to enjoy that privilege for another quarter-century (or longer), thanks in no small part to the gracious support of those who are interested in listening, and who likewise share their journeys with me.....twj

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Church Office Hours During The Summer: The church office is not open regular hours during the summer months. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly. Please leave a phone message (978-369-5180) or send an email (frs@uucarlisle.org) and Kathy in the church office will get back to you. **Enjoy the summer!**

Minister Office Hours: Tim does not keep regular office hours during the summer. He is still available most days by phone. You can reach him at 978-369-0284 (study/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 Director: Almost always available by phone (978-501-4220) and occasionally by e-mail (frsmusic@comcast.net). Will be away from July 23 - 30 and August 2 - 7.

Jun 18 Last regular service of the church year. Please join us for lay led services at 9:30am beginning June 25, excluding July 2.

Jun 21 Biscuit Making Workshop at 9:00am in the kitchen.

Jun 22 Strawberry hulling at 9:00am in Union Hall.

Jun 22 The Strawberry Festival at 6:00pm here at FRS.

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

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

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

**IT WAS A GREAT YARD SALE
HERE AT FRS!**

It poured on Saturday, June 3, but maybe the weather was a boon to the three-church yard sale. Things were nice and warm and sociable in Union Hall. The sale raised \$1,375 for the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell. Some of the leftovers went to the Household Goods Recycling Ministry, some were saved for the Harvest Fair, a bunch of baskets were put aside for the Greens Sale and, of course, some went to the Swap Shed.

Many thanks to all who worked on the sale including a large group from the FRS. Of special note was the hard work of Deb Pichulo and Bonnie and Keith Greer. And they brought with them a large crew from the Congregational Church. It was good, too, to work with Jean Sain and Jan Brown of St. Irene's.

These are stories and test questions accumulated by music teachers in the state of Missouri.

Refrain means don't do it. A refrain in music is the part you better not try to sing.

Henry Purcell is a well known composer few people have ever heard of.

Aaron Copland is one of your most famous contemporary composers. It is unusual to be contemporary. Most composers do not live until they are dead.

My very best liked piece of music is the Bronze Lullaby.

A trumpet is an instrument when it is not an elephant sound.

The most dangerous part about playing cymbals is near the nose.

GRADUATION NEWS!

Congratulations to our High School Graduates:

Laura Scholten	Ariel Morrison	Margot Smith	Alex Hildreth
Ian Saylor	Reed Lockwood	Alex Stengrevics	

We have heard about the following plans for our HS graduates: Laura Scholten will be attending Wesleyan University, Ariel Morrison will be going to Boston University, Margot Smith will be at Elmira College, Ian Saylor will be attending UMass Lowell, Reed Lockwood will be going to Alfred University and Alex Hildreth will be at Hampshire College.

Congratulations to Jason Hult and Jeff Luoma on their college graduations. Jason graduated from Davidson College on May 14. He is the son of Tim and Mary. Beginning this fall he will be teaching in the New York City area, in the Teach for America program.

Jeff's graduation from St. Mary's College of Maryland was on May 13. He will be attending Georgetown Law School. Jeff's parents are Bob Luoma and Sally Stokes.

We would like to include other church family graduates in the next newsletter. If you know of one please contact church administrator Kathy Varney at 369-5180.

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.

YOUTH GATHER FOR LUNCH AT OLD HOME DAY

The High School youth group has several ideas for summer community service and get-togethers to include the incoming freshmen, the graduating students and current college students who are around. We'd like to get together during Old Home Day for lunch on the Green, so watch your email for a time and let Molly know if you'll be around. This will be a great opportunity to welcome Hannah, Alex and their family to Carlisle and to hear about college from our returning friends.

YOU ARE INVITED TO KNIT FOR THE HOMELESS

by Linda Myers-Tierney

Want to do something to help the Homeless?

Want to learn to knit on something simple?
Want a summer vacation knitting project?

For questions on Carlisle's Knit for the Homeless Project, email: lindamt@comcast.net or call Linda and Lauren Myers-Tierney at 371-1919.

Join your friends and make new ones at The First Religious Society as we kick-off "**Knit for the Homeless**". Common Cathedral in Boston provides spiritual, food, clothing, and other support to Boston's homeless. They invite us to knit hats and scarves for the winter season.

On **June 29 at 7:30 at Union Hall** let's kick off an independent knitting program, with an introduction, peer teaching support, a pattern exchange, and refreshments. Then knit through the summer on your own or in your own knitting circles.

For the kick-off, bring your yarn (dark colors recommended since 90% are men) and needles. If you wish, feel free to bring simple patterns and any refreshments to share. For suggested patterns and needles size, see <http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/help/volunteer.php>. If you can't make the kickoff, just knit on your own.

Common Cathedral's minister will visit Carlisle to preach at FRS on November 5. Let's see how many hats and scarves we can complete by then!
Great for credit on school Community Service and Girl Scout/Brownie badge requirements. For more information on Common Cathedral, visit: <http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/cc/>

UPCOMING SUMMER SERVICES

June 26: Roger Goulet will review and discuss *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason*, a 2004 book by Sam Harris.

There will be no service on **July 2**.

July 9: Roy Watson will speak on "Immigration: Myth vs. Reality and the Quest for Truth."

There are still some summer services available. If you would like more information on the summer services please contact Roger Goulet at 978-369-6825 or email goulet27@comcast.net.

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 June and Sally Hayen at 978-369-7591 during the month of July.

Thanks to Sally Hayen, Mary Hult and Lori Jimenez whose names were inadvertently left off the list of auction item gatherers. Also a big thanks to **Nancy Hendrie** who worked on decorations and was our helium balloon hero.

OUR PEOPLE

Anne Ketchen's father passed away on June 5 in Glens Falls, NY. Dr. Harvey Dearstyne Jr. served in the US Navy during WWII. In 1951 he opened his general dentistry practice where he practiced for 41 years. Dr. Dearstyne loved spending time with his family. We send our sympathy to Anne, her mother and all the family.

Strawberry Festival Activities Thursday, June 22

1. **Biscuit Making Workshop** at 9:00am on Wednesday, June 21 in the kitchen. Please bring biscuit cutters, rolling pins, measuring spoons and cups.
2. **Strawberry Hulling** at 9:00am on Thursday, June 22 in Union Hall. Please bring paring knives and aprons.
3. **Table and chair set up** at 5:15pm on Thursday, June 22 and take down at 8:15pm. Looking for strong men for this project.
4. **Whipping cream helpers** are needed in church kitchen starting at 5:30pm on Thursday, June 22. All will need to borrow 1 or 2 large mixers.
5. **People to serve strawberry shortcake** in 2 shifts. The first shift is from 5:45pm to 7:00pm and the second shift is from 7:00pm to 8:15pm.

45th Annual GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2006

Toward Right Relations
June 21-25
St. Louis, Missouri

Summer Newsletters

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
July 14	July 24
August 18	August 28