

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXIV, No. 13

March 3, 2008



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 March 3, 2008

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]
PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817
Interim Minister: Victor H. Carpenter (study) 978-369-0284,
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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, Richard Ketchen, Tom Rourk,
Suzanne Whitney Smith
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745,
Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

In The Interim

Suddenly its March! Suddenly a month crammed with activity is upon us. Think of March as "Work; Money; New Members; Easter and, oh yes, the 250th Memory Tea !!!"

On Sunday, March 2 our stalwart crew of willing New Orleans workers will share their experiences of rebuilding that storm tossed city. From what I've heard so far the experience was wonderful, provocative, eye-opening, exhilarating and on and on; blisters and gumbo, jazz and demolition; working and playing HARD.

Next we explore our relationship to money. March 9 being Every Member/Friend Canvass Sunday we look at our checkbooks. Show me your checkbook and I'll tell you what you believe! No kidding. How you disperse your "treasure" will tell you where your heart is.

Then, on the third (Palm) Sunday in March we begin what has been called "Holy Week". The period marking Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (the beginning of his Jerusalem ministry) quickly followed on Thursday (Maundy Thursday) by the supper with his disciples, Friday (Good Friday) marking his crucifixion, and Sunday (Easter) the rising.

This Palm Sunday also marks our welcome of new members (those who have joined the church

recently and those who want to take this opportunity to join now). Are you a member? Are you waiting to be invited to be a member? This is your invitation and your opportunity to "step up and be counted" as an official member of this church.

The Maundy Thursday service (at 7:30 pm, March 20) is a tradition in this church. It is a brief service that includes a communion to which all are invited. Communion has a variety of meanings among Unitarian Universalists but all recognize it as a service of remembrance. Even if you have never taken communion before for what ever reason you are welcome at our "Welcome Table".

The Good Friday service (at 7:30 pm, March 21) is a new addition to our liturgical year. Like the Thursday service it is brief period of remembrance and reflection on the crucifixion of Jesus. A time to recall the many whose lives have been dimmed and diminished by the wrongs of others. The mood is somber; the service concludes in silence.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated TWICE. First at sunrise (site to be chosen) at 6:10 am followed by breakfast (host still to be determined). Then at the regular Sunday Morning Service at 10:00 am in our sanctuary. My sermon, "Easter and the Lorraine Motel" derives from my recent trip to Memphis, Tenn. Victor

**MINISTERIAL SEARCH
COMMITTEE UPDATE**

We have good news to share with you about our search process. After reading many candidates' packets including sermons, checking references, teleconferencing with candidates, we have been especially impressed by 3 strong candidates. We are enthused about being able to meet with them soon, as we feel any one of the 3 would be a good fit for The First Religious Society.

Starting next weekend and continuing into early March, we will be spending weekends with each of the 3 candidates we have invited for the pre-candidating sessions. We will have the opportunity to interview them and vice versa. We will also listen to them preach at neutral pulpits (i.e. they will be guest minister at a church in a community in the Greater Boston area).

We eagerly anticipate the next stage of the search process, and we will gladly answer any of your questions as best we are able.

MSC members: Michael Dundorf (co-chair), Jackie Schaefer (co-chair), John Forcucci, Ellen Huber, John Lyons, Barbara Ritz, Muggsie Rocco

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**GREEN ENERGY LEGISLATION
WHAT'S NEW ON BEACON HILL
Union Hall, March 17, 7:30 pm**

State Representative Cory Atkins and Rob Garrity, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN), will lead a discussion in Union Hall on Monday, March 17, at 7:30 pm titled "Green Energy Legislation — What's New on Beacon Hill." This forum is co-sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee of The First Religious Society, and Carlisle Climate Action, an MCAN chapter.

Come and learn about our state's energy future, and how these changes can affect energy costs and quality of life here in Carlisle.

Massachusetts may be primed for a leadership role in energy policy in the United States. The house and senate have passed their own versions of a state energy bill, emphasizing both renewable energy and energy efficiency. However, there is still a legislative struggle ahead. As stated by the group Environment Massachusetts, "More than 94% of our power still comes from dangerous sources like coal, oil, gas and nuclear, and powerful energy interests fight to maintain this status quo."

Says Garrity: "It is important for this bill — the first comprehensive energy legislation in over a decade — to be done right." A wise solution would help to alleviate high energy costs and generate new green collar jobs.

Cory Atkins serves Carlisle, Concord, and parts of Acton and Chelmsford in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

MCAN (massclimateaction.net) coordinates the activities of over thirty local climate groups working in their communities on solutions to the challenge of climate change.

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 March 10, 2008.

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

PROGRAM NEWS

We are looking for someone to host the potluck breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service. If you would like to host please contact Kathy in the church office, frs@uucarlisle.org or 978-369-5180.

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 Barbara Ritz at 978-392-0442 during the month of March.

The **ONE-HOUR CHOIR** is invited to sing on March 9. Singers of all ages are welcome, whether or not you have participated before. We'll meet at 9:15am on that Sunday to rehearse the music for the morning service. If you need child care please call Kathy at the church office (978-369-5180), or send me an email, at least one week in advance so arrangements can be made. This is a good opportunity for people who like to sing in a group but cannot make the commitment for weekly rehearsals, and also a chance for younger singers to come into the choir loft and contribute their voices to our worship service in this special way.

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.

STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

Church Office Hours: The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 1:00pm.

Minister Office Hours: Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Vic is available for emergencies any time. You can reach him by email at 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) 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 2:00pm, with occasional exceptions. Call 978-369-5180 or 978-501-4220.

Music Rehearsals Schedule: The Choir rehearses on Wednesday, at 7:30pm. The Sunday warm-up begins at 9:15am.

KIDSKWIRE: Rehearsals are on Wednesday at 3:00pm.

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

March 9: "Creating A Congregation of Generous People" No Joke. And no magic. It's been my experience that people want to be generous; they want to share; they want to see their vision of what is good and true and beautiful extended. This First Religious Society in Carlisle is still here because of generous people in the past. Here's how to extend their "gospel". Rev. Victor Carpenter

March 16: "So You Think You've Found Your Religion ?" New Member Sunday. We give a formal welcome to those who have joined us in the past months. Who visited, liked what they discovered, decided that FRS was the right "fit" for them. Be on hand to extend a hand of greeting to new friends and neighbors. The legendary warmth of this community is legendary. On this morning together we write a new chapter. The KIDSKWIRE will sing. Rev. Victor Carpenter

EASTER WEEK

Thursday, March 20: Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7:30 PM: The service is a simple and informal gathering of the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in "the upper room". We will gather to share bread and wine. We will speak briefly about the meaning of the service for Unitarian Universalists and religious liberals in general. Questions will be welcome. The service is brief but continues to have deep meaning for many who have participated in the past. There are no doctrinal requirements. Come. Rev. Victor Carpenter

Friday, March 21: Good Friday Service at 7:30 PM: Also a simple and informal service of remembrance and reflection on the event of the crucifixion in the sanctuary. Again, questions will be welcome. Rev. Victor Carpenter

Sunday, March 23: EASTER SUNDAY

6:10 AM Sunrise Service at Clark Farm

10:00 AM "Easter at the Loraine Motel" The Loraine Motel in Memphis Tennessee is now a museum of the Civil Rights Movement. It was the motel in which Martin Luther King Jr stayed when he traveled to Memphis on behalf of the garbage workers strike and where he was assassinated. While visiting Memphis for an anti-racism conference I visited the Loraine. The visit started a reflection on where we look for meaning in life and how life and death are intimately related. The handbell ringers will ring and The Choir will sing. Rev. Victor Carpenter

A Workshop for Parents Recommended by our DRE

"You Can't Make Me! Dealing With Your Child's Challenging Behaviors" Facilitated by Bill Gresser, M.A., Marriage and Family Therapist. Wednesdays, March 12, 19, and 26 from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Register through email to amartinez@colonial.net or call 978-202-1146. This workshop will offer practical advice for dealing effectively with a variety of conflicts, and will help parents think about ways to address problems before they turn into showdowns. For parents of 3 to 9 year olds.

This program is brought to you by collaboration between the Gleason Public Library and the Center for Parents and Teachers and is funded by a grant from the Manton Foundation.

FRS 2008 Biennial Service Auction and Dinner
Union Hall – The First Religious Society
Saturday, April 12, 2008

Auction Items Needed – Please Help!

Fishing trips, pans of baklava, Mexican dinners for eight, trips to the airport, a weekend at vacation homes, maple syrup instructions – you name it, we need it. Over the next few weeks we will gather a list of donations that will be sent in the newsletter. Please call or email one of the following people with your donation (if they haven't already called you). If you can't think of an item to donate, maybe they can help you.

Art Milliken – 369-9113 – artmilliken@gmail.com

Tim Hult – 369-0448 – timhult@aol.com

Ellen Huber – 369-6678 – e2huber@rcn.com

Fontaine Richardson – 369-7256 – fkf@fontainerichardson.com

Lisa Sama -692-6592 – lmsama@comcast.net

Also, the auction is a sit down dinner so seating is limited. Please register now by sending email to Kathy Varney our church secretary at frs@uucarliste.org or leaving her voicemail at 978-369-5180.

Looking for an idea for a donation? Here are some ideas from previous auctions:

- Four hours of guitar lessons
- Red Sox Tickets
- Four home made apple pies
- Lobster feast at my home
- Concord river cruise
- Math tutoring – 4 hours
- Music tutoring – 4 hours
- Handmade Nantucket basket
- Concord river fishing expedition
- Texas barbecue at our house
- Ladies Tea for ten
- Roundtrip to Logan airport
- Hand knit gloves and hat
- Vegetarian lasagna and French bread for 10
- Italian dinner and wine for eight in your house or ours
- Vermont Ski lodge for a weekend
- New Hampshire lakefront home for a weekend
- Guided fishing trip for Striped Bass and Blues
- One half day fly fishing instruction
- One full season of snow plowing

Thanks for your help in this – the church's biggest fundraiser!

REFLECTIONS by Molly Sorrows

This week I attended the monthly regional meeting for RE directors, which typically has a worship element followed by a presentation or discussion of a planned topic. This month, due to rescheduling for a snow day, we met on the same day as the similar Ministers' meeting, and held a joint worship. Rev. Aaron Payson of the Holden Street church shared a few reflections on parenting his two elementary age children while his wife was away for a week. We thought about the humbling experience of saying to your children, *I'm sorry*, followed by *I was wrong*. Or *I made a mistake*, which leads to an opportunity to talk with the child about how we can improve our actions or communications. How have you gone about this conversation in your family? When something does not work out as someone expected, I encourage you to involve everyone in the question of *What could we do differently?* to find new ways.

Later, our discussion evolved into exploring how to support families around communication, and recognizing the tremendous challenge for parents of seeing their children in difficult, upsetting or scary situations. Not long ago I met with a number of parents in the church, and was struck by hearing that nearly every family had run into significant teasing or bullying of a child during either elementary or middle school. In response, I ran an RE class for the K-3rd graders using one of the sessions from Peter Yarrow's *Don't Laugh at Me* curriculum, and on Wednesday, I attended Nancy Garden's presentation at the Gleason Library on bullying. We will continue to look at how we can support the FRS children and their families on developing self-esteem and responding to bullying.

See the announcement on page 3 about a workshop on a related topic sponsored by the Gleason Library.

UNION HALL COFFEEHOUSE
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008
7:30pm

Miss Tess And The Bon Ton Parade. Musical Style: Modern-vintage, 20's and 30's, Swing-Blues, Infused Jazz and Americana. Nationally touring, Miss Tess, is a young, Boston-based songstress, whose "Modern Vintage" sound mingles freely between eras and genres. Tess strums and picks her way through an array of rhythms, from ragtime, to jump blues, to 30's swing, her vocals soaring, powerful and smooth as satin. Equally at home in the elegant, and the low-down, she writes songs from her own life, infused with the flavors of early jazz that conjure a cast of dreamers and lovers, down on their luck and charming their ways in and out of trouble. Familiar faces are known to mix in this crowd, courtesy of folks like Bessie Smith and Tom Waits, perpetual muses to her style.

In her Maryland youth, Miss Tess was lullabied to sleep by the sounds of her father's Big Band rehearsing in a basement below her bedroom. **Home**, her debut album, is in homage to those days. A compilation of original songs, it features her mom on the upright and pops on sax and clarinet. Having found her way to Boston and the storied Cambridge folk scene, Miss Tess put together The Bon Ton Parade, a dynamic, solo-swapping combo, comprised of drums, upright bass, lead guitar, sax and clarinet. The Bon Ton Parade is gorgeous. Clarity and sophistication elevates the already strong voice of Miss Tess. Their sensuality and vitality will leave you in anticipation of their live performance, which will have you humming in contentment.

"It don't Mean A Thing, If It Ain't Got That Swing," and, believe me, Tess has got it!

Tickets \$18 online or at the door.
www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com