

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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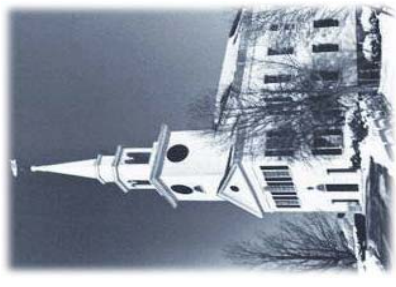
NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CRETURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXVI, No. 12

March 6, 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 March 6, 2006

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: uucletic@mindspring.com

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Alan Cameron, 978-369-2223;

Email: alancameron@comcast.net

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: llms@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: John Lyons, 978-369-1216

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

"Many Are Called; Some Answer"

While having lunch with a colleague last week, I learned about a simple spiritual discipline which my friend has picked up from yet another of our colleagues. At least two or three times a week, they sit down at their desks for half an hour and read their church directory. They open it at random, and thumb through the pages, allowing their eyes to wander over the various names while they think of each household and whatever they may have heard recently about what is happening in the lives of their people. And then, as the Spirit moves them, they pick up the phone and make a call. Just one call. Not an entirely random call, but not one with any specific purpose either. Just a simple reaching out. Sometimes they get a real person on the phone, sometimes voicemail or an answering machine, sometimes the phone just rings without answer. But that's almost incidental. The real Discipline is in the Mindfulness.

From time to time in my own ministry over the years, I have instinctively

practiced this same discipline. But I've generally stopped short of that final step of picking up the phone. It's not just because I am by nature a shy, humble and introspective soul, or that I was reared in a reserved Scandinavian household that cherished its own privacy and revered the privacy of others in return. Rather, I simply never wanted to be mistaken for the "spiritual truant officer" (or worse, some sort of strange religious stalker). Even though I know that most folks would probably appreciate my call, I can't help but think of that small handful who might possibly find my unsolicited interest intrusive, or misinterpret my friendly "I haven't seen you in church for awhile..." as a not-so-subtle insinuation that they had somehow been remiss in their religious duties, and that I was phoning to let them know that I had noticed....

Even at its best, the Parish Ministry is grounded in an asymmetrical relationship between a "congregation" of individuals (who are rarely if ever all of the same mind), and an "ordained" individual who not only represents and personifies the faith community as a whole, but also in many ways symbolically embodies an

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC (continued)

entire historical faith tradition extending back into time immemorial. Effectively navigating this complex web of roles, expectations and relationships is one of the most challenging things that clergy are asked to do. I know another colleague, the minister of one of the largest churches in our denomination, who once told her people (from the pulpit, no less) that because there were so many of them and only one of her, that they should never expect a personal visit from the minister unless they were facing an imminent life-threatening crisis. Imagine the reception she received when (while already in the hospital on another errand) she decided to "drop in" on one of her parishioners who was there overnight for some minor elective surgery! Everyone likes to think that their minister is keeping busy, but no one ever wants to discover that their minister is TOO busy for them. And no one should ever dread a call from their minister because they are certain it means bad news.

As many of you know, we are now in the process of updating the FRS church

directory. Proof sheets are available during the coffee hour in Union Hall, and we're asking everyone sometime during the next few weeks to check their listing to make certain it is correct, and to add any information (such as up-to-date e-mail addresses) that will make it easier for us to communicate with one another. You can also e-mail or telephone updated information to the church office. In the meantime, don't be surprised if your telephone rings some day and you find your minister on the other end of the line. And don't be disappointed if you DON'T get a call from me right away either; after all, there are so many of you, and only one of me. And if you ever feel the need to talk with me personally, please don't hesitate to dial my number, any time of day or night (depending, of course, on the urgency of your need). After all, that's what I'm here for. And that's why the telephone rings both ways.....twj

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.

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CALENDAR

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 ucleric@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
 Family Singers TBA
 Handbell Choir TBA
 Drumming TBA

Next Newsletter Deadline is March 13.

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

Mar. 9 Membership Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.
 Mar. 11FRS Movie Night at 7:15pm in Union Hall.
 Mar. 12 The Choir from The First Parish Church in Billerica will join with our Choir during the morning service.

Mar. 12 Jazz Vespers at 3:00pm
 Mar. 12 Womenspirit meeting at 7:00pm in Union Hall.
 Mar. 12 Womenspirit meeting at 7:00pm in Union Hall.

Mar. 13Buildings and Grounds meeting at 7:00pm in the church office.

Mar. 14Lenten Study Series and Semi-Vegetarian Potluck Supper at 6:30pm in Union Hall.

Mar. 16Parish Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.

Mar. 17K-4 Sleepover in Union Hall.

Mar. 21Lenten Study Series and Semi-Vegetarian Potluck Supper at 6:30pm in Union Hall.

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.

A NEW WAY OF "DOING" CHURCH by Rev. Jensen

In Unitarian Universalists congregations all over the country, UUs are finding a new way to be in conversation and relationship with one another. Called "Chalice Circles," "Covenant Groups," or simply "Small Group Ministries," Unitarian Universalists from Texas to Maine are meeting together to share their experiences of life and spirituality in a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning," and to build a stronger sense of community in the process. Now GM is coming to MFRS.

What are Small Group Ministries? Basically, they are safe places for church members to gather together to make meaningful connections and deepen their experience and understanding of life. Groups are comprised of 8-12 people from the church who "covenant" with one another to meet periodically (perhaps once or twice a month) around a flaming chalice to share and discuss "spiritual" topics (broadly defined) of mutual interest. Members are expected to make a commitment to attend and participate for the time period that is agreed upon, generally anywhere from six months to two years.

Late last fall, a group of MFRS members came together under the tutelage of the Stow Acton church to form our own Covenant Group. We formulated our own ground rules, then started off with a check in, followed by discussion and reflection upon our experience. At our first gathering we discussed Turning Points, and Reverence at the next. Each of us felt enriched by our discussion, and expressed appreciation for the time we spent together.

Small Group Ministries are special because they engage us in our diversity and foster spiritual growth, as well as deepening our sense of community through friendship, healing and renewal. We hope to give a presentation of our experience to the congregation later this spring, with the intention of starting our own Group

"Jayk & Joch And The Most Delicious Mango That There Ever Was": Alison Saylor of the Music and Worship Committee is organizing a short drama to be performed during a yet to be determined upcoming Sunday Service. "Jayk & Joch And The Most Delicious Mango That There Ever Was" is a Cambodian folk tale written by a group called Save Cambodia's Wildlife. The story is about two monkeys squabbling over a delicious ripe mango. A tiger instructs the two monkeys to seek advice from the Aisay in a temple on the mountain. They learn from the Aisay to grow a mango tree for all the monkeys to share the fruit. The story is designed to teach children and adults to avoid arguments and instead seek peaceful solutions, perhaps with the help of a mediator.

Do you have recordings of Cambodian music? Are you, your children or grandchildren interested in being in this short skit or helping to make some props? We would love to have your help. Please call Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 or e-mail her at Saylorfarm@comcast.net.

UPCOMING SERVICES

March 12:

Message for All Ages presented by Nancy Lapointe and Barbara Barnes on their experiences as nurses with the VA working in Louisiana with hurricane victims. There will be a brief discussion following the service during coffee hour.

The Choir from The First Parish Church in Billerica will join with our Choir.

March 19:

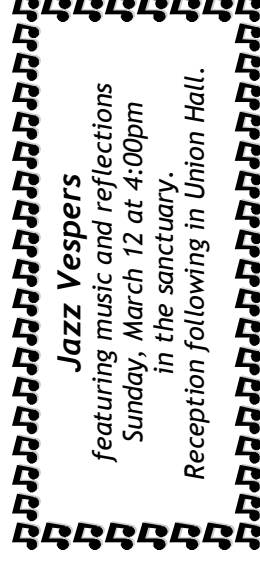
Message for All Ages with Cathy Byrne speaking on her experiences as a public defender.

March 26:

Ed Lynn will be guest speaker. Jason Roseman, the steel pan maker and musician, will provide the Message for All Ages and provide some music.

The FRS Choir will go to The First Parish Church in Billerica and join with their Choir during the morning service.

The Choir will sing every Sunday



PROGRAM NEWS

WomenSpirit - St. Patrick's Day Party - Friday, March 17th - 7:00pm:

WomenSpirit celebrates the "Wearing o' the Green" with a party and potluck at the home of Linda Myers-Tierney and Steve Tierney, 46 Lowell Rd. Please feel free to bring your spouse or a friend. Marguerite promises festive Irish music and sing-along fare. Bring your favorite Irish dish or contact Linda and Steve for suggested Irish menu items and recipes. Please RSVP to Linda who will coordinate the menu: email at lindamt@comcast.net or call 978-371-1919.

We are updating the FRS Directory and hope to include photos in the new edition. Please check the directory sheets at coffee hour to be sure your information is correct. We are asking

people who want to be in the directory to get us a photo. One way is to send us a digital photo. Or you can have a photo taken by our own resident photographer Eric Stickler, who has offered to set up his equipment and take your photo for the directory at no charge. Photos can be sent to the church office: frs@uucarlisle.org. If you have any questions or suggestions contact Kathy in the church office or Judy Munroe, Susan Emmons or Molly Sorrows.

Bring your favorite pie Sunday morning, March 19th and be ready to share your pie baking tips with your peers. No need to notify anyone. For details, call or email Tom Lockwood thlockwood@hotmail.com 978-369-8690.