

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

March 17, 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 17, 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,
Email: victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org
Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick
Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922; Suzanne_w-s@comcast.net
Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: LMSama@comcast.net
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, Richard Ketchen, Tom Rourk,
Suzanne Whitney Smith
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745,
Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net
Pastoral Concerns for March: Please call Barbara Ritz at 978-392-0442

In The Interim,

I'm a Paul Simon fan. I loved his music when he was teamed with Art Garfunkle and when he started experimenting with world-music forms of expression like his work with the South African choral group Black Mambazzo. But my all-time favorite Paul Simon song is "Graceland".

"Graceland" tells the story of Simon, in company with his nine-year-old son making a pilgrimage to Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley in Memphis, Tennessee. The lyrics of the song play with the name, associating it with a place "where we all will be received", a place of universal acceptance and joy such as our Universalist ancestors identified "heaven" in the face of those who preached hell and damnation as awaiting sinners.

Last month I went to Memphis to attend an anti-racism conference and realized Graceland was only a few minutes from the Memphis airport. Couldn't go home without a visit! And so we drove over with the car tape player belting out how "we all will be received in Graceland!"

Yes, we all were "received" - at a price. A bus took us to the gate and we were guided through the rooms where Elvis lived, recorded, made whoopee. I didn't see him. But I saw acres of gold records, glass cases filled with rhinestone encrusted costumes, bits of films in which Elvis sang and shook.

And I saw death. I don't mean the part of the tour that ends with a visit to the graves of Elvis and family members all memorialized. I mean the sad effort to wring some permanent meaning out of the excesses of a poor country boy whose suicidal lifestyle was supported and encouraged by people who should have known better.

I have never been an Elvis fan. I visited Graceland expecting to be amused and perhaps even moved by the enthusiasm that his music still generates among the faithful. Before the visit a friend who knew of our intention warned that we would be disappointed. He was right. I walked away appalled and weary.

Happily Memphis boasts another "tourist attraction" that produced the opposite affect from that by Graceland. The other "attraction" is also associated with death, but there was no death there. The Lorraine Motel where Martin King was assassinated has been turned into a Civil Rights Museum. It brims with life, struggle and victory - achieved and still to be achieved. The Lorraine Motel is an Easter place. I will say more on Easter morning.

Victor

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Thursday, March 20: Maundy Thursday

Communion Service at 7:30PM 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.
Rev. Victor Carpenter

Friday, March 21: Good Friday Service at 7:30PM

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

6:30AM Sunrise Service at Clark Farm with potluck breakfast following at Clark Farm. Dot Clark has graciously offered to host Sunrise Breakfast. Please bring something to share.

10:00AM "Easter and 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.
Rev. Victor Carpenter

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CANVASS 2008

The pledge campaign is off to an excellent start! As of March 13, we have received \$62,000 in pledges, with many of our donors significantly increasing their gifts. However, we need strong support from everyone as we prepare to welcome a new minister, fund competitive salaries for our staff, support the work of our committees, increase our outreach, and maintain our historic building. If we reach our goal of \$128,000 in pledges, we will be able to fully fund all that the committees have requested to complete their objectives next year.

The Finance Committee has been busy putting together the canvass and preliminary budget. Now we are asking for your help. You should have received a letter and pledge card for 2008-09. We are asking that you complete the information and send your cards back as soon as possible, by April 15 the latest, because we need to know what our income will be next year. Since we know these things can sometimes be forgotten, we will begin making reminder calls in early April.

If you did not receive a pledge card, please contact Kathy in the office or Charlie Davis, the collector, at cdavis@modavi.com. Note that including an email address on the pledge card will allow us to save time and money by sending future pledge statements via email.

If you have questions, would like a visit, or would like to see a draft budget, please feel free to contact Pam Fox, chair of the Finance Committee, or Mary Hult, treasurer.

The Finance Committee will hold a budget meeting on Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m. and all are welcome to attend. The final budget will be presented at Annual Meeting in May.

The Finance Committee

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 24, 2008.

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

THANK YOU FOR PLEDGING

Anonymous (1)
Max & Dave Barber
Priscilla Bromaghim
Jennifer Bush & Jack O'Connor
Victor & Catherine Carpenter
Charlie Davis & Jane Mosier
Susan & Don Emmons
John Forcucci & Lisa Sama
Roger Goulet
Ken & Marilyn Harte
Sally Hayen
Terry & Eva Herndon
Suzanne Hill & Ray Offenheiser
Ernie & Ellen Huber
Tim & Mary Hult
Natalie & Dave Ives
Harland Jackson
John & Ann James
Jennifer Kelly
Fran Lapham
Ed & Liz LeClair
Susan & Michael Lohrer
Helen & John Lyons
Beverley Macdonell
Paul Morrison & Phyllis Zinicola
Judy Munroe
Sally Naumann & Art Turner
Wendy Powell & Don Rober
Judy & Fontaine Richardson
Jonathan & Margaret Saphier
Marguerite Shaw
Marcella Shepherd
Bob & Sally Zielinski

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

by Molly Sorrows

The topic of our cluster meeting of religious education directors this month was understanding special needs. A wonderful DRE who has some special needs of her own led us in a series of exercises and discussion that were very revealing. One aspect of this was to think about ourselves in terms of our strengths, challenges and needs. Breaking our abilities down into these areas was very interesting, and we asked why she included the category “needs” – what did she mean by that? The idea was to consider what you need from others and from the world to be successful. Perhaps you feel a need to be respected, to have some organization around you, to be loved, or to have open space outdoors to enjoy. We thought about how many times families are asked to describe their child’s challenges and how much we learn when we look at the strengths and needs of that child as well.

I learned that while many people find eye contact important and meaningful, for others eye contact is exhausting and stressful. Our presenter described that looking out of the corner of her eye at you is much less stressful for her, and that if she concentrates on maintaining eye contact she might not even follow your conversation. I learned that one who is startled by movements and bothered by noise might actually make a loud noise himself to re-focus his energy and concentration internally and enable him to block out the busy-ness of the external world. Beginning to understand is the beginning of doing better for every one of our children in our classrooms at FRS. As always, I welcome your ideas.

My colleague donated several copies of a book, *The Fabric of Autism* by Judith Bluestone in audio version, for a little raffle, and I won a copy that we’ll share within the district. Please let me know if you’d like to borrow it.

INFINITY MEMORIAL GARDEN PLANNING MEETING (open to all)

Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 PM in the church conference room:

Agenda: Phase I Garden design and plantings. Lighting and irrigation needs. Phase II options for the future: Path paving and edging material, fieldstone and granite steps, Gazebo and storage shed, a bronze plaque wall, granite benches, a Mobius Strip sculpture, a Time Capsule, engraved bricks, a water feature, etc. Note: no discussion of finances.

The Building and Grounds Committee is committed to installing a “public” garden that is safe, beautiful, and maintainable. Site work to prepare the water supply, electricity, paths, lay out the gravel and planting beds will begin as soon as the wet spring weather permits. Planting will commence the moment the backhoe leaves the site, probably in late April. We will first plant the trees and larger shrubs. Planting the smaller shrubs and perennials and spreading the mulch will be a church-wide effort and will continue throughout May.

Money donated to this project will determine what garden elements are purchased and when. No longer are we talking about a mere concept, idea or plan. The site work for this Memorial Garden is well underway and soon it will be clear the exact location of paths, benches and planting areas.

Please come to the March 25 planning meeting or e-mail your Infinity Memorial Garden ideas to Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809, saylorfarm@comcast.net



The First Religious Society in Carlisle's Biennial Service Auction

Saturday, April 12 at 6:00 pm Tickets \$25 BYOB

Auction Registration and Appetizers 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Silent Auction bidding ends at 8:00 pm

Live Auction at 8:15 pm with licensed and bonded Auctioneer Al Merry

To honor our 250th Anniversary, the evening's theme is a reflection of our past, current and future. Come in costume from the 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st century!

Appetizers from the 18th Century

Munroe Venison Medallions Lapin a La Moutarde (rabbit) Robbins
Pvt. Nathaniel Parker Country Pâté Reverend Litchfield Duck L'Orange
Timothy Wilkens Wraps

Benjamin Barrett Baked Beans and Brown Bread Canapé
Daniel Wheat Wheat Crackers and Cheese with Sgt. Nickles Dill Pickles

Salad

Clarissa Spaulding Salad

Soup

Phinehas Phish Chowder

Entrée

20th Century Boeuf Bourguignon
18th Century Corn Pudding Soufflé
21st Century Baby Spinach and Asparagus
19th Century Roast New Potatoes

Dessert

2008 250th Celebration Milk & Honey Cake with Chocolate Butter cream
Any Century Fruit Pie

For reservations please contact Kathy Varney at frs@uucarlisle.org or (978) 369-5180

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Memory Tea Sunday, March 30 at 11:00am A coffee hour following the church service that features artifacts, photos and the sharing of our rich heritage.

New Orleans Service Project report on April 6 at 6:00pm Potluck supper and slideshow. See the pictures and hear the stories by the group that went to New Orleans this past February to help with reconstruction projects in neighborhoods still struggling to recover from the damage caused by hurricane Katrina.

Service Auction Saturday, April 12 6:00pm. \$25 The theme is our 250 years of history, so come in costume from any era, and enjoy a gourmet celebration meal of dishes from each century. Bidding is fun and a terrific fundraiser for our church.

Ministerial Candidate's Week: Sunday May 4 - Sunday May 11 Come hear our ministerial candidate preach on both of these Sundays and participate in the many activities that are planned for us to get to know the candidate during the week. We will circulate a calendar of events as the time approaches. An important congregational vote will be held following the May 11 service during which FRS members will vote to call the ministerial candidate to the position of settled minister for FRS. This vote will mark an important transition for our church and we urge all members to attend and vote.

Locally Grown and Organic Potluck May 13 6:00pm Eat delicious locally grown or organic food, meet other environmentally conscious folks, and hear a brief presentation on a relevant topic.

Infinity Memorial Garden Planting of Annuals May 24 9:00am to noon. Come help with the final touches of Phase I planting of annuals in the Infinity Memorial Garden. Get everything ready for the "reveal" during coffee hour on Sunday, May 25.

Reunion Weekend Potluck Saturday, June 7 time 6:00 - 9:00pm Get together with old friends and come meet some new ones.

Reunion Weekend Sunday Service Sunday, June 8 10:00am. Special music and guest minister.

FRS Open House Sunday, June 8th noon - 2pm. Ring the bells, check out the new kitchen floor, picnic in the new Infinity Memorial Garden, view the historical pewter artifacts. Invite your friends and neighbors. View slideshows and photo albums. This is the culminating public event for the 250th Anniversary year.

Auction Donations—Many more auction items are needed!! (We aim for about 100!)

To make a donation please contact:

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

Tim Hult – 369-0448 – timhult@aol.com

Ellen Huber – 369-6678 – e2huber@rcn.com (*til March 24)

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

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

ASAP so that the final list can go in the next newsletter (deadline March 24)