

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. 18

May 28, 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 May 28, 2007

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

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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, Jack O'Connor, Jenifer Bush

Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-278-5745,

Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

WARRANT
Annual Meeting

The First Religious Society in Carlisle, Massachusetts

June 10, 2007

1. To elect a Moderator.
2. To elect a Clerk.
3. To receive the report of the Trustees.
4. To receive the reports of the Standing Committees of the Congregation.
5. To hear and act on the report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee and the proposed budget for the 2007-2008 church year.
6. To consider a proposal to change the Sunday service start time to 10:00AM. or earlier.
7. To receive a Report from the Interim Search Committee.
8. To receive the Minister' Report.
9. To hear and act on a proposal to create a standing FRS Website Committee.
10. Any other business.

PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE
from the Finance Committee

As you know, our goal this year is to raise \$94,000 from 86 pledges. As of May 20 we have received 74 pledges totaling \$73,306 for the 2007-8 church year. If you haven't made your pledge yet, please return your card as soon as possible. Pledges represent nearly half of our operating budget and making your pledge now will allow us to prepare a balanced budget for the Annual Meeting on June 10.

We'd like to acknowledge those who have already pledged. Thank you for supporting FRS!

Anonymous
Ann Barber & Dik Dagavarian
Alan & Meredith Cameron
John Forcucci & Lisa Sama
Bob Fox
Dr. John & Norma Japp
John & Cindy Nock
Janet & Michael Oyer
Alix & Richard Taylor
Cathi & Robert Webster

ALL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, June 10
4:00pm
Union Hall

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BUDGET UPDATE:
THE INTERIM YEAR
by Lenny Johnson
for the Finance Committee

If '07-'08 was shaping up to be a "normal" year, the Finance Committee would be wrapping up work on a budget plan to present at Annual Meeting, with expenses balanced against income we expect to receive. Next year, however, we will be facing some extraordinary expenses as we hire an interim minister, take care of some necessary parsonage repairs, conduct a search for our next called minister, and celebrate our 250th anniversary. Depending on the status of the parsonage next year, we are facing a budget shortfall in the range of \$10,000 to \$30,000.

Search expenses were just under \$6000 during our previous search, and will likely be comparable this time. A large portion of this expense is travel costs for visiting candidates.

The largest budget uncertainty is related to the parsonage. The Buildings & Grounds Committee is finalizing plans to carry out some much-needed repairs this summer and it is anticipated that the parsonage will be available for occupancy in the fall. If either the interim minister or outside tenants are residing in the parsonage, then our shortfall will be in the lower end of the range, close to \$10,000.

Please come to annual meeting on June 10th, where the budget, and plans to cover any shortfall, will be presented, discussed and voted.

The following people have agreed to be on the Interim Search Committee:

Max Barber
Alan Cameron
Paul Morrison
Judy Munroe
Alison Saylor

Marje Stickler will act as liaison between the Interim Search Committee and the Parish Committee. The Parish Committee thanks them for their service.

- - Lisa Sama

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 June 4, 2007.

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

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL WILL BE JUNE 21ST

Strawberry Festival will be June 21st: Mark your calendars and join us at the Strawberry Festival on June 21st at 6:00pm in the church yard. Upcoming Strawberry Festival activities include:

- **Biscuit Making Workshop** at 9:00am on Wednesday, June 20 in the kitchen. Please bring biscuit cutters, rolling pins, measuring spoons and cups.
- **Strawberry Hulling** at 9:00am on Thursday, June 21 in Union Hall. Please bring paring knives and aprons.
- **Table and Chair Set Up** at 5:15pm on Thursday, June 21. Looking for strong men for this project.
- **Whipping Cream Helpers** are needed in church kitchen starting at 5:30pm on Thursday, June 21. All will need to borrow 1 or 2 large mixers.
- **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.

General Assembly in Portland, Oregon on June 20-24. Join thousands of UUs in Portland, Oregon this June! Check out the website for further information: uaa.org/ga/prog/html.

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.

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

All rehearsals will resume in the fall.

PASS IT FORWARD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2007

Carlisle will host its fifth annual Pass It Forward Day at the Carlisle Transfer Station on Saturday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 pm. If you have new or gently used things you no longer use, you are invited to donate them to a local charity so someone else can use them. Pass It Forward Day is sponsored by Carlisle's Household Recycling Committee.

Charities collecting donations include Big Brother Big Sister, Citizen Action Team (for victims of Hurricane Katrina), Concord Poetry Center, Discovery Museum, Domestic Violence Victims' Assistance Program, First Religious Society in Carlisle, Friends of the Gleason Public Library, Host to International Students Program at MIT, Household Goods Recycling Ministry, and Unitarian Universalist Rowe Camp and Conference Center. Some charities may provide tax receipts; ask the representative.

Please separate your donated items into the following categories to make it easier to get your items to the charity that needs them.

Please donate . . .

adult clothing, especially warm things and business attire
children's clothing
snowshoes

books of poetry and books about poetry
science books for children or a general audience,
but no textbooks
classic children's books
children's books about religion
all other books, CDs, videotapes,
but no textbooks or encyclopedias
bookends

building materials that can be boxed and shipped
tools

cash boxes
cell phones with chargers
digital cameras
defibrillators

bedding (blankets, sheets, towels)
folding chairs
all household goods, especially beds, mattresses, flatware

for this charity.

MIT
Big Brother Big Sister
Rowe Camp

Concord Poetry Center
Discovery Museum

Discovery Museum
First Religious Society
Gleason Library

Concord Poetry Center

Citizen Action Team
Citizen Action Team

Concord Poetry Center
Domestic Violence Program
Rowe Camp
First Religious Society

Citizen Action Team
Concord Poetry Center
Household Goods Recycling

If you can donate easy chairs (for the Discovery Museum) or scaffolding, golf carts, handicapped-accessible scooters, passenger cars, passenger vans, snow blowers, or small farm tractors (for Rowe Camp), please contact Mary Zoll at (978) 369-5236 to arrange pick up.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS by Molly Sorrows, DRE

Approaching the end of the church year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our RE program this year, and it also reminds us of the need to look ahead to planning for next year. To tie both of these themes together, I share with you here some thoughts from three of this year's religious education teachers. I hope you will enjoy reading their reflections, both to appreciate and recognize their work this year, and because I hope you will consider participating in the religious education program next year!

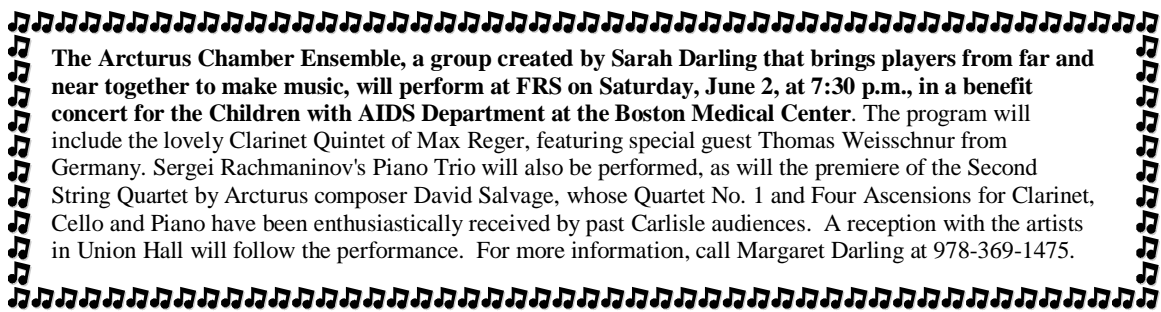
Roy Watson wrote: Teaching Sunday school has been a great deal of fun. All of the children have been a delight; a challenge at times, but always a delight. I felt that it was important for them as young and future adults to have a decent grounding in the Jewish / Christian teaching of both the Old and the New Testament, and I have tried to provide that. While it is impossible (today) to avoid the inevitable comparison to popular movies based on the Bible stories, I have tried to have them actually read the stories. The most pleasant surprise was a recent Sunday when we did a review of all that we have covered. I was quite surprised at how much they actually remembered. Also, I felt the Sunday School wide projects that had the children go from station to station was a great idea and a big hit.

Susan Emmons wrote: I find teaching very rewarding – It is an opportunity to get to know the young people at FRS and their families – These are often new families I might not get to know as easily. It is an opportunity work with someone new as a co-teacher. All in all I find it a very enriching experience. For some, teaching may seem intimidating –but it isn't – the kids are wonderful and helpful!

Being a teacher is an opportunity to share the values that I think are important – the values that draw us to the FRS community. It helps to put one's own ideas into words and actions. It is an opportunity to do a variety of projects with the kids – projects that can fit your own interests and skills – maybe playing music with them or games or crafts or taking photos – sharing ideas and service projects and occasionally a field trip. It is an ongoing inter-generational activity.

Jackie Schaefer wrote: One of the things that I have enjoyed about teaching an RE class is that, being relatively new to the UU faith, I am really getting educated in the things that make UUs unique. Another interesting thing is that my own religious upbringing has been relevant in the classes although maybe from a different perspective. The kids' enthusiasm for the class, and the projects we do help keep me motivated. We really do have an amazing group of kids at FRS!

Many thanks to ALL of the teachers, assistants and helpers of all kids from this year. I am ready to take volunteers for next year's program – see me at church or send me an email!

The Arcturus Chamber Ensemble, a group created by Sarah Darling that brings players from far and near together to make music, will perform at FRS on Saturday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m., in a benefit concert for the Children with AIDS Department at the Boston Medical Center. The program will include the lovely Clarinet Quintet of Max Reger, featuring special guest Thomas Weisschnur from Germany. Sergei Rachmaninov's Piano Trio will also be performed, as will the premiere of the Second String Quartet by Arcturus composer David Salvage, whose Quartet No. 1 and Four Ascensions for Clarinet, Cello and Piano have been enthusiastically received by past Carlisle audiences. A reception with the artists in Union Hall will follow the performance. For more information, call Margaret Darling at 978-369-1475.

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 Nadine Bishop at 978-369-5080 during the month of June.

Annual WomenSpirit Dessert Party - Sunday, June 17th - 7:00 - Nancy West's house (303 Bedford Road). All women are welcome to come to our annual dessert party where we'll get caught up before the summer arrives and do some planning for next fall. Please feel free to bring a friend and a favorite dessert. Bring along any ideas for programs, discussion topics, books/readings, movies, etc. that you'd like to suggest for the fall and winter months. Any questions, please call Sue Kirk 371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.

All-Church Potluck Lunch & Send Off for Tim - June 10th: Join us for a potluck lunch after the service on Sunday, June 10th to wish Tim well. If the weather permits, we'll set up some tables outside. Bring your favorite church picnic dish and the membership committee will supply lemonade and cake. Any questions, contact Sue Kirk 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.

Union Hall Coffeehouse: Led by EJ Ouellette on fiddle, guitar and vocals, Crazy Maggy rocks the roots of traditional fiddle music by blending ancient melodies with new arrangements, contemporary lyrics, and a myriad of dance grooves. The result is a mesmerizing sound which seduces audiences with its energy and invention. Crazy Maggy's fiddle-driven grooves and jams never leave its audience unsatisfied, and they just keep coming back for more. There are five performers in the EJ Ouellette & Crazy Maggie band. Reservations are highly recommended. Tickets: \$16. Show time 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7:00 PM. The Cafe will be open and selling lots of delicious pastries and coffees. Contact: dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com, or 978-287-5745. Check out our ever-changing website: www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com See you, along with Crazy Maggy on June 16th! B.Y.O.B.

SUMMER SERVICES? by Roger Goulet

For many years the FRS closed up shop after Father's Day, to re-open after Labor Day. Five years ago we began a program of summer services, led by members and guests and featuring topics as diverse as prayer and poetry, atheism and aging, and Cambodia and Cuba.

Will the tradition continue this summer? We'll see -- it depends on our members. If a critical mass (six or seven) volunteer to lead services, it will.

Summer services are informal, mostly liturgy-free, and down to earth. They provide an opportunity for people to share with others something that's important to them. Often it's a book; sometimes it's a life experience. Services begin at 9:30 AM to allow time for other activities afterward. Coffee hour is simple: juice and cookies.

If you would like to conduct a service this summer, please contact Roger Goulet, 978-369-6825, e-mail goulet27@aol.com, and we'll see what the response is.

UPCOMING SERVICES

June 3:	Blessing of the Animals
June 10:	RE Sunday
June 17:	Fathers Day and last service of church year/Jazz Trio

The Open Pantry has had several new requests from families as well as from single people for food. In order to accommodate all the people who need help, the Pantry is now open four mornings, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The children of FRS bring an offering the Sundays when they are in the sanctuary. The Social Action Committee is requesting that adults also bring an offering of a food item or a cash donation on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17.