

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 XXXII, No. 6

November 19, 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 November 19, 2007

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 978-278-5745,

Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

In the Interim,

The current issue of our UU World (the one with Tom Jefferson reading a draft of his "declaration" by candlelight on the cover) contains a splendid article by Forrest Church on the long standing tension between "divine order" and "sacred liberty" that continues to divide this nation.

In a recent book Gary Wills takes up much the same issue focusing on the tension between faith and reason in American politics.

Hooray for both Forrest and Gary Wills. Both authors serve to sharpen our knowledge of where our religious perspective comes from.

Where Church's essay is trained on our early presidents (beginning with Washington), Wills' focus is on the difference between "heart believers" and "head believers".

The Puritans were "heart believers"; intolerant of differences of opinion. They had an unfortunate habit of hanging those who disagreed with them. The founding fathers took a wider view. Their enlightened opinion of religion led to the separation of church and state and seeded America with countless denominations of which we Unitarian Universalists are one. Actually we have a religious "foot" in both camps. The Puritans were our initial spiritual ancestors; our preference for "enlightened" religion came later.

And tension between still exerts its pressure upon us. Even though we see ourselves as religiously enlightened, moral issues still divide us – from the abolitionists to the opponents of the Iraq war; from the issues about abortion to the issue of being a "welcoming congregation".

The best we can do is to learn to deal with our differences with respect and love for those with whom we differ remembering the immortal words of Pogo that "them is us".

Vic

Winter Holidays Concert
 December 2, 2007
 7:00pm
 In the Sanctuary

Join us in celebrating Christmas,
 Chanukah and Kwanzaa.



carols · choirs · bells · instruments



GREENS SALE



- **Sunday, November 25**, After church we will bring decorations down from the attic and decorate the sanctuary
- **Wednesday, November 28**, Christmas Greens Arrangements Workshop All Day in Union Hall. Would you please bring cut greens from your garden, like white pine, juniper with berries, winter berries and Rhododendrum and any other greens you might have in your garden. Phyllis Hughes will not be able to donate greens from her garden this year so we are counting on others. Also any sleighs or baskets you may have.
- **Thursday, November 29**, Wreath Decorating Workshop All Day in Union Hall
- **Friday, November 30**, Set up and price items for Greens Sale 8:00am in Union Hall.
- **Friday, November 30**, Pre-order pick up at 5:00pm in Union Hall
- **Saturday, December 1, Greens Sale** 10:00am to 2:00pm in Union Hall.

Call Janice Kissinger at 978-369-8968 to sign up for workshops

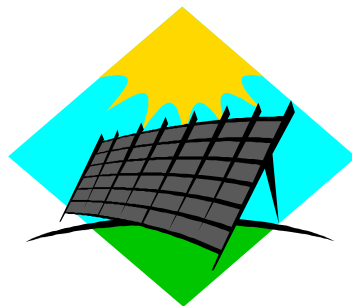
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Please view the FRS calendar on our website under “Calendar”.

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 November 26, 2007.
 If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Robyn Beavers, a former resident of Carlisle and now a Californian, was featured on the cover of *IEEE Spectrum*, October 2007. Robyn is employed by Google as its corporate environmental programs manager and the article, "The Greening of Google" describes several climate-change mitigation programs that Google is spearheading. Robyn's parents, Linda and Alex Beavers, were active members of The First Religious Society for many years and were generous supporters in numerous ways, especially of the music program. As middle-schoolers, both Robyn and her sister, Amanda, sang in the children and youth choirs. You can read the entire article by Googling (what else??) *The Greening of Google*.



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

November 21: Join us for an Ecumenical Service with St. Irene Catholic Church at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

November 25: "Rhyming Hope and History" Seamus Heaney's poem "The Cure at Troy" provides the basis of a reflection on recovering hope even when faced with disaster and loss (the very stuff of history). As the Iraq war drags on and the presidential candidates shoulder each other it's easy to be discouraged. Comes the Advent season. The star continues to shine. "In a dark time the eyes begin to see"

December 2: "Waiting" Advent begins. The four Sundays prior to Christmas are designated in the liturgical calendar as a period of waiting. For what? Christmas? Yes, but whether Christmas is just a happy moment fit for children or a profound moment fit for those who take time seriously makes all the difference.

December 9: "Does Your Religion Matter?" What role does your religion play in your life? A deep well of meaning; a pleasurable distraction from the hurley burley of your days; a breathing space; all of the above? Your answer depends a lot on what you expect your religion to deliver.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

by Molly Sorrows

Last week I received a wonderful blessing when someone emailed me these words and shared with me how meaningful they were to her. They are the lyrics to a song written for a UU summer camp created by Laila Ibrahim and the Reverend Sheri Prud'homme in California's Pacific Central District, and they were shared at a recent UUA General Assembly. (The authors chose not to capitalize God, and I have honored their request to keep the lyrics as they wrote them.)

"It's a blessing we were born,
and it matters what we do,
What we know about god is a piece of the truth,
Let the beauty we love be what we do,
And we don't have to do it alone."

Just before Veteran's Day I attended a one day event of the Mass Bay District for RE directors, which included an incredibly moving worship service. The sermon was about Armistice Day and Veteran's Day, gave us a chance to give prayers for soldiers who are now at war, to remember those who are gone, and to look together for hope for the future. It was very moving, and a special opportunity to support one another and share ideas about supporting our congregations. Reflecting on that, I see the message of the summer camp song again. (1) It's a blessing each of us was born; (2) it matters what we do with our lives; (3) what each of us knows is a piece of the truth; and (4) we do it together. We give thanks for all of these things.

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.

THE FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY
250TH CELEBRATION REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 7-8

by Alison Saylor

We are seeking the names of past friends, grown children and intern ministers to invite to the FRS 250th Celebration Reunion. We want to begin sending out "Save the Date" notices along with our 250th color brochure to all who might like to join us for a fairly low-key but fun weekend of events. Please give your suggested names (and addresses if you have them) to Kathy Varney (978) 369-5180, FRS@uucarlisle.org or PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA.

Reunion Events Out of town guests might begin arriving on Friday evening, but the first group event of the Reunion weekend begins in Union Hall on Saturday evening with a traditional FRS Potluck supper. Sunday's church service will have special music from a choir that we hope will be swelled in rank with visitors. Might this be a service with a sermon by our new minister? An "enhanced" coffee hour will conclude with the ringing of the church bell 250 times. The bell ringing will also announce to everyone in Carlisle to come to our Open House where both the inside and the outside of our lovely church will be open to the public. All the 250th celebration projects of slide shows, banners, photo albums, memorabilia, art work and the Infinity Memorial Garden will be on proud display.

Seeking Host families Would you be willing to open your home to visiting Reunion guests? The weekend schedule of events gives time for visitors to become a tourist, meet with nearby friends, or gather in small groups at local restaurants. A "Bed and Breakfast" with a friendly UU family might help an out of town guest say "yes" to attending this reunion. If you are willing to be a host, please call one of the Reunion Committee members and they will begin the process of matching guests to hosts. Reunion Committee:

Nadine Bishop (978) 369-5080
geonad54@comcast.net,

Meredith Cameron (978) 369-2223,

Lillian DeBenedictis (978) 369-1848
LIL@thechildrensplacecarlisle.com ,

Sally Hayen (978) 369-7591
sally_hayen@yahoo.com,

Barbara Ritz (978) 392-0442
britz219@aol.com,

Marje Stickler (978) 369-0214
mbstick@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 Andi Gettys at 978-369-2392 during the month of December

There will be a family Advent Wreath Making Service on Sunday, November 25 at 3:30pm in Union Hall. Following the wreath making we will have a carol sing. Please bring greens, clippers for cutting if you have them, a holder for the candle in the center and a plate or platter on which to place the wreath. Advent wreaths are a tradition based on religious ancient uses of evergreens and light symbolizing the expectation and hope of the Christmas season and the birth of Jesus. There will be an Advent Wreath in our Sunday services this December. The wreaths are part of home and church observance of Christmas. Please call the church office if you would like to attend (978-369-5180).

On Sunday, November 4, the following people raked leaves for two senior women: Molly and Elisabeth Sorrows, Ellen Huber, Art Milliken, Don Emmons, George and Nadine Bishop, Bryan Sorrows used his leaf blower and all in all "many hands made light work". The ladies were very appreciative. It was fun!

Coat Drive for Women's Lunch Place, a daytime shelter for poor and homeless women in Boston – warm winter coats, all sizes. Please bring coats to FRS in a bag marked Women's Lunch Place and leave it with Kathy in the office. Also welcomed: raincoats, umbrellas, ponchos, hoodies, sweatshirts, warm sweaters.

The Social Action Committee requests monetary donations for their Thanksgiving and Christmas projects. Your financial support for the Thanksgiving project will help purchase groceries for four or five needy families in Lowell. The names of these families will be provided by the staff at the Stoklosa Middle School in Lowell. Members of the Social Action committee will shop and deliver these groceries directly to the families on the Monday before Thanksgiving. The Christmas project will provide Christmas gifts for the children of these same families. If there is enough financial support, these families will receive Market Basket gift certificates at Christmas. Please make checks payable to FRS with a notion 'Lowell Families' If you have questions on this project, call Dollina Borella, 978-371-0149.

Seeking Christmas Pageant helpers and actors Can you believe it? It is time to plan for the Christmas Pageant! Costuming and scripts handed out on Sunday December 9, the one and only full rehearsal will be at 8:30 am on the morning of the Pageant, December 16. We need Angels and Innkeepers, Shepherds, Wise Folk and more. Our minister Vic Carpenter has kindly agreed to be King Herod, so we are off to a good start. If you have any special requests for readings, music, solos, dance routines, special effects or costumes; **this is your opportunity to ask!** Please contact Molly Sorrows (978) 371-2217 frs_re@comcast.net or Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 saylorfarm@comcast.net