

**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 XXXIII No. 3

October 13, 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 October 13, 2008**

**Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** Coffee Hour following services.  
**Church Office:** 978-369-5180; Fax no. 978-369-1891, www.uucarlisle.org, frs@uucarlisle.org  
**Church Mailing Address:** PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817  
**Minister:** Diane Miller (study) 978-369-0284, Diane\_Miller@comcast.net  
**Office Administrator:** Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180  
**Religious Education Director:** Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217, frs\_re@comcast.net  
**Minister of Music:** Marguerite Shaw, 978-501-4220; frsmusic@comcast.net

**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, LMSama@comcast.net  
**Collector of Funds:** Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; 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, Cindy Jaquith  
**Union Hall Coffee House:** Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745, dianfrancesca@comcast.net

**From the Minister...**

I was reading in the parsonage dining room midday when I was startled by a sound I'd never heard before, a loud, ringing, bang! My first thought was that a mirror had crashed to the floor. But so far I haven't hung anything on the walls. As I looked around I realized that a kitchen window pane was broken. The window faces the back of the house, so I walked downstairs wondering if there would be a rock, tree limb, or bird on the ground. When I opened the door to take a look, a very large, downy bird got itself up off the ground. It stretched its wings, lumbered into flight and sailed off into the pines toward the library.

From the back and in flight it looked to me like a large owl, perhaps a young one. I was so relieved to see that it was able to fly away, no doubt stunned, but evidently uninjured. I wondered what it was doing flying about in full daylight.

Owls have long been symbols – of death, of spirits, of wisdom. In his 1854 Walden, Henry David Thoreau wrote: "I rejoice that there are owls. Let them do the idiotic and maniacal hooting for men. It is a sound admirably suited to swamps and twilight woods which no day illustrates, suggesting a vast and underdeveloped nature which men have not recognized. They represent the stark twilight and unsatisfied thoughts which all have."

As a nation, we have been facing crashes of a different sort in the financial markets, shattering complacency about the economy of our nation and the world. If Thoreau were around to observe people checking their investments, I expect he would hear some "maniacal hooting." The financial losses have already affected virtually everyone, and the fallout will continue to spread. We are in a recession. The impact on our lives, our community funding, our institutions, our efforts to meet essential human needs here and abroad, will be felt for a long time.

Nonprofit groups that depend on voluntary contributions and endowment income will be affected immediately, as I saw at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) last week. This congregation will surely see some effect on our income. What I believe deeply is that while we will be challenged, the nature of a financial compression is that it distinguishes what is most important, from what is of lesser value, less central to our purpose.

At the parsonage, Lenny Johnson picked up the pieces of shattered glass and installed a repaired window (with help from Marjorie Johnson and Bryan Sorrows). It will take a lot to fix financial systems, and all of us will be part of picking up the broken shards. I am confident that this congregation will continue its work and service through this time of turmoil.

Diane

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Sunday, October 19th:** Matt Meyer, percussionist, song leader, and speaker.

**Sunday, October 26:** “Faiths of Our Founders” In this election season there is renewed attention to the relationship of religion and politics. This sermon looks at what our Founders espoused, and at the recent challenges to the “rules” about what religious groups can and cannot do.

Rev. Miller

**Sunday, November 2:** Installation Service marking the called ministry of the Rev. Diane Miller with The First Religious Society. The Rev. Dr. Deborah Pope-Lance will be the guest preacher. The Rev. Eugene “Woody” Widrick, Minister emeritus, will deliver the Charge to the Minister.

**A Memorial Service for Marshall “Pete” Simonds** will be held in the Sanctuary on **Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**, with a reception to follow. Pete and his wife Kate moved to Vermont in 2000, after living in Carlisle for many years. Pete served as Moderator for the town. He is survived by his wife Kate, four children, and grandchildren.

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

*By Molly Sorrows*

Recently I’ve been exploring the website and materials of an organization called Words Can Work (<http://www.wordscanwork.com>) which has some great materials about working with kids and keeping communication open on many different subjects. As you may have heard me say in other contexts, I see, as they do, that “Children are bombarded by messages from the media, their friends, and the world around them. If you want your children to believe in your values, it’s important to share them – early and often.” I wanted to pass on to you one of their conversation starters, and I hope you will use it when discussing some of the issues that our children confront; issues such as teasing, bullying, drugs, alcohol, friendships and relationships. Remind your children, “In our family we believe... Let me explain why.” And, draw your children into the conversation; I like the sound of “Let’s discuss why” or “What does your heart tell you is right?” (Note: Words Can Work is one of 4 sponsors of a talk on Teen Depression in Westford on Oct 16, as listed in the Carlisle School Buzz).

### CROP Walk

Youth from both the High School and the Junior Youth Group will participate in the Concord **CROP Walk on Sunday afternoon, October 19**. You can donate online or by giving a walker a check. If you would like to donate by check and are in Carlisle, we would be happy to send a volunteer to come pick up the donation; just call the church office and we’ll make arrangements and make your check out to CWS-CROP. To donate online, please go to [www.concordcrop.org](http://www.concordcrop.org) and follow the links for online donation through the Church World Service website. Look for our team, The First Religious Society, Carlisle (or you can just search for Carlisle).

## CHURCH CALENDAR

October 16	9:00am	Staff meeting in the conference room.
October 16	7:00pm	Parish Committee meeting in the conference room.
October 16	7:00pm	Membership Committee in stone wall room.
October 18	10:00am	Harvest Fair from 10:00am to 2:00pm at FRS.
October 19	11:45am	Drumming Workshop following coffee hour in Union Hall.
October 19	6:00pm	OWL in the conference room.
October 19	7:00pm	Womenspirit meeting in Union Hall.
October 20	7:00pm	Buildings and Grounds Committee in conference room.
October 21	7:30pm	Knitting in the conference room.
October 23	9:00am	Staff meeting in the conference room.
October 23	7:00pm	Finance Committee in the conference room.
October 26	6:00pm	OWL in Union Hall.
October 27	7:30pm	Pastoral Concerns Committee in the conference room.
October 28	2:00pm	Memorial Service Marshall “Pete” Simonds.
October 28	7:00pm	RE Committee pageant meeting in the conference room.
October 30	9:00am	Staff Retreat from 9:00am to 2:00pm.
November 2	10:00am	Installation of Rev. Diane Miller during morning worship service.

**Church Office Hours:** The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 2:00pm. The office is closed on Wednesday. Email: [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org) or phone: 978-369-5180.

**Minister:** Rev. Diane Miller is available weekdays in the office on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday. Tuesday is her day off and Friday and Saturday are usually blocked out as service preparation time. Call the study at 978-369-0284 to set an appointment or to confirm that the minister is in.

**Director of Religious Education:** Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email ([frs\\_re@comcast.net](mailto:frs_re@comcast.net)) or phone (church, 978-369-5180; home, 978-371-2217).

**Minister of Music:** Marguerite Shaw is usually available at the church weekdays 10:00 –3:00. Telephone 978-369-5180 or cell 978-501-4220; email [frsmusic@comcast.net](mailto:frsmusic@comcast.net).

Next Newsletter Deadline is October 20. If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at The First Religious Society please go to the church calendar on the website: <http://www.uucarlisle.org/calendar.html>

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.

**KNITTING IN SERVICE SOCIETY (KISS)  
KNITTING FOR THE HOMELESS**

KISS is a group of girls and women who knit to benefit the homeless. Over 200 knitted hats, scarves, mittens and slippers have been made as Christmas or birthday presents for distribution through Common Cathedral and the Women's Lunch Place over the last three years. This year's deadline for Christmas presents is November 9 when FRS will bring items to Common Cathedral. Please bring yours to the next KISS meeting on October 21 or leave them in the FRS entryway in the basket marked KISS. The group always welcomes new people at its meetings, which take place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 in the third floor conference room. Bring your own needles and yarn. And by all means, feel free to invite friends. Schedule for 2008 – 2009:

- Oct 21, 2008
- Nov 18, 2008
- Dec 9, 2008
- Jan 20, 2009
- Feb 24, 2009
- Mar 17, 2009 (at Gleason Public Library with a guest speaker)
- Apr 28, 2009
- May 19, 2009
- June 16, 2009

For more information go to [www.ecclesia-ministries.org](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org)

**UU CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

UU Rowe Camp and Conference Center is hosting its fall work week Sunday, October 26 through Friday, October 31. It's an opportunity to volunteer locally (within Massachusetts, a 2-hour drive west). You can go for part or all of the time. It's free, but you do have to register at [retreat@rowecenter.org](mailto:retreat@rowecenter.org) or (413) 339-4954 so they know how many people to cook for.

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.

**MUSIC NOTES**

*By Marguerite Shaw*

**Matt Meyer, percussionist, will be returning to us on October 19** for the morning service. He'll do music with the congregation and will also deliver the homily. We are offering a drumming workshop following Coffee Hour. All ages are welcome to participate. There is a sign up sheet at coffee hour or contact Marguerite Shaw at [frsmusic@comcast.net](mailto:frsmusic@comcast.net), or call the church office at 978-369-5180.

**The One Hour Choir** will sing on October 19<sup>th</sup>. People of all ages are welcome. Come at 9:15 for rehearsal.

**HARVEST FAIR  
SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 18, 2008  
10:00AM TO 2:00PM**

The Fair features a Country Store, Plant table, Bake table featuring homemade pies and goodies, Silent Auction, Artisan Booths, and a Luncheon Café with specialty sandwiches and soups. FRS children and youth groups will also be raising money for several social action causes including the Heifer Project, The Sharing Foundation in Cambodia, Habitat for Humanity and the CROP Walk. Children's sales will feature homemade fudge, homemade Carlisle grape jelly, trail mix, Fall decorations, and Fair Trade cocoa mix, chocolate bars, coffee and tea.

**LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS**

Steve Kirk of the FRS Social Action Committee has identified many opportunities for members and friends to volunteer at the VA hospital in Bedford MA. The hospital is located next to Middlesex Community College on Springs Street in Bedford. The majority of veterans in residence are World War II and Korean War veterans as well as individuals from the Vietnam War era.

Below is a partial list of volunteer projects available:

- Helping with Thanksgiving Dinner on 11/18 and 11/20 (note, not Thanksgiving Day).
- Conducting interviews for the Veterans History Project <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.
- Intergenerational sing along with the FRS Youth Group.
- Provide live music (piano, guitar, singing, etc) for 30 – 45 minutes once per quarter.
- One-on-one reading to nursing home residents.
- Escorting residents to chapel.
- Provide basic computer training.
- Occasional slide shows on interesting topics (vacations, fishing, "how to" projects, etc).

Arts and craft projects and mural painting.

Steve has completed the VA Hospital volunteer's orientation program and will be giving several talks at FRS in the near future to provide more details. In the meantime, please contact him at 978-371-0176 if you would like to participate in one of these projects.

## FRS PARTICIPATES IN CATHEDRAL ON THE COMMON SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 9

### FRS Youth and Adults offer Spiritual Support and Food to the Homeless on Boston Common

FRS is planning its third annual trip to Common Cathedral on November 9, in support of Ecclesia Ministries' worship service for Boston's homeless community. This ministry relies upon people like us to participate in the service and at their version of "Coffee Hour" afterward for approximately 100 homeless individuals. On November 9 a group of FRS Youth and adults will visit, participate in the service, and after worship will join in fellowship to serve food they have brought. This is a big undertaking for our congregation, and one that relies on the participation from many families and individuals.

**All in FRS** are invited to participate. Youth can get community service credit for all their volunteer food prep activities as well as going on November 9. Please sign up to participate as you are able (sign up sheets in Union Hall for each of these, or email Linda Myers-Tierney at [lindamt@comcast.net](mailto:lindamt@comcast.net)):

**All Youth** (and some adult drivers) are encouraged make the field trip to bring food and serve on Sunday, November 9 leaving at 11:00, returning around 3:15. Community service credit is available for this time.

**FRS congregants are invited to make** a "loaf" of 10 sandwiches, to be delivered to FRS by Sunday morning before 11:00. 20 volunteers needed. (Guests especially like meat and cheese combos. Some favorites are: turkey & cheese, salami & cheese, ham & American cheese, roast beef & cheese, bologna & cheese, tuna or egg salad, PBJ. Whole wheat or white bread.) Please label each sandwich bag with its contents as well as label the outside of the loaf bag.

#### Two FRS cookie baking parties will occur in the FRS kitchen:

- Senior Youth did some of the baking on October 13.
- Junior Youth, Nov. 4 at noon – junior youth and several adults please sign up.

**FRS congregants are invited** to mix a batch of cookie dough for the cookie parties. Two volunteers needed for the Oct. 13 date; six volunteers needed for the Nov. 4 date.

**Any monetary donations of any size** will be used to fund the purchase of a sheet cake and additional packaged snacks and fruit that the congregants can take with them. (basket in Union Hall October 26 and November 2 or send to FRS Office).

**One volunteer** to make a Costco run to pick up the cake and packaged snacks before November 9.

#### For more information or questions contact:

- Linda Myers-Tierney, [lindamt@comcast.net](mailto:lindamt@comcast.net) or Ellen Huber, [e2huber@verizon.net](mailto:e2huber@verizon.net), Social Action Committee members
- Molly Sorrows, Senior Youth Director and Director of Religious Education

## PARISH COMMITTEE NOTES

A Thanksgiving Day Holiday Dinner will be held in Union Hall, at 2 PM on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Parish Committee supports this new church event, which has been initiated by Mary Zoll. The dinner will be traditional fare, catered by Metropolitan Deli in Westford. It is open to church families and the larger community. The cost is \$20 per person. Register with Kathy Varney in the church office (978-369-5180, [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org)), and sign up for setting up or cleaning up.

Michael Dundorf formed an ad hoc committee to review the church By-laws and bring proposals for updating to the congregation for the Annual Meeting in May 2009. Along with Michael, who will be chairing for the Parish Committee, the committee members are Alan Cameron, John Forcucci, Ellen Huber, Dave Ives, Sue Kirk, Art Milliken.

### The Installation of The Reverend Diane Miller

Sunday, November 2

10:00am in the Sanctuary  
Reception following

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Thank you Eric Stickler** for the framed portrait of Victor Carpenter that is now in the upstairs hall outside the minister's study.

**The Cambridge Society for Early Music** (CSEM) will present a series of performances by distinguished artists in the historic The First Religious Society at 27 School Street in the center of Carlisle. The first concert of the season will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2008, at 8:00 PM, when the vocal ensemble Tapestry will perform a program entitled "*Faces of a Woman*" featuring music by, for and about women from the twelfth century to the present day. General admission is \$30, or \$25 for seniors. Students with ID and children seventeen years and under are admitted FREE. For more information or to order tickets, please contact The Cambridge Society for Early Music at 617-489-2062, send an e-mail to [info@csem.org](mailto:info@csem.org), or visit [www.csem.org](http://www.csem.org).

**Lost and Found:** There are several coats that were left in Union Hall. They are now in the church office. I will keep them here through October and then send them along to folks who could use them. Please feel free to stop in or call if you think you may have left your coat at the church. Kathy, church office

**Staff Retreat:** The staff will be attending a Team Building Retreat with District Executive Lynn Thomas on Thursday, October 30 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The church office will be open and covered by volunteers during the day.