

**FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 817  
Carlisle, MA 01741

Address Service Requested

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**Permit Number 10**  
**Carlisle, MA 01741**

**NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES**

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist  
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXII, No. 4

October 22, 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 October 22, 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**

I met with the Pulpit Search Committee last week. What a wonderful group! This church is so fortunate to have such people willing to dedicate the kind of time and effort that a pulpit search requires. Such church leadership is to be honored and cherished.

Every Pulpit Search Committee's prime responsibility is to represent the congregation with maximum clarity and honesty, "warts and all". That means facing up to difficult questions and concerns that may be lurking in the congregation's past history or present circumstances. The First Religious Society has one such issue that needs to be firmly and openly acknowledged and addressed "welcoming congregation".

FRS is a "welcoming congregation". You voted overwhelmingly to become one. That is a fact of your history. But you seem to have a difficult time embracing that fact. Confusion continues to linger around what "welcoming congregation" means.

First, it means more than your being a friendly congregation. You ARE friendly; you greet people as they enter the church and chat with them at coffee hour. That's fine but that is not what the phrase "welcoming congregation" means.

A "welcoming congregation" church means that gays, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-gender folk can expect to find a church home here at FRS that is fully

accepting of their life-styles and warmly supportive of their struggles to live in an oppressive heterosexual society.

I know that you have heard all this before. After all you voted to become such a church before I ever showed up on your doorstep. But when I asked about your "W C" status at an initial interview with the Interim Search Committee, I recognized that I had touched an emotional "third rail". Since that initial conversation I have learned that the road leading to the vote was bitter and difficult, marked by recrimination and hostile feelings. Those feelings are still "out there". They need to be examined and dealt with.

Perhaps a "truth and reconciliation" gathering is in order. Perhaps a worship service would help to clear the air. The fact is that your Pulpit Search Committee needs to be very clear about your standing as a "welcoming congregation" UU church. Those folks need to be able to claim it proudly.

Being a welcoming congregation is what it means to be Unitarian Universalist. We have a long and proud tradition of standing with oppressed people as they seek justice. Our history tells us what oppression felt like; we didn't like it then and we don't like it now. The strength of this church lies not in its 250 year longevity but its 250 years of standing up for truth and justice.

Peace, Victor

**OUR PEOPLE**

**It was wonderful to see Margot Smith and Laura Scholten** home from college over the Harvest Fair weekend. Both were animated and excited about how well college was going, and sound very busy. Margot, a sophomore? at Endicott is taking a whole series of business courses and enjoying the interconnections between them, and had a long list of other activities that include sports, clubs and Model UN. Laura is really enjoying her sophomore? year at Wesleyan where she is thinking of majoring in environmental science and English. She says her classes are both challenging and interesting; she is very active in environmental issues. I hear that **Alessandra Forcucci**, freshman at BU has found an active college UU group which she is enjoying.

**Our sympathy to Newel Cantrill** and his family on the death of Newel's brother, Gary Cantrill, in Kentucky.

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

**October 28: "Star Throwing"** All Saints/All Souls is just ahead on the church calendar. One of the greatest metaphors for sainthood is provided by one of the last century's greatest naturalists, Loren Eiseley. What does it mean to "throw a star"? Do you have to be a Cosmo naught? An expert in celestial navigation? I don't think so.

**November 4: Worship Committee Service**

**November 11: "What Holds Us Together"** No creed. No "I believe". No Pope, no Bishop, no Presbytery. So what's the glue? That's the question that begins the conversation, sometimes uncomfortable and sometimes not, that confronts Unitarian Universalists when orthodox neighbors and friends find out that we are UUs. In days of old it was fun to answer "The Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Vicinity of Boston", but that really doesn't cut it anymore. And we can do better than a glib witticism.

**November 18: "Thanksgiving: It Could Have Been Otherwise"** A wonderful account of that first Thanksgiving appears in Nathaniel Philbrick's bestseller "Mayflower". "The First Thanksgiving marked the conclusion of a remarkable year. Eleven months earlier the Pilgrims had arrived at Cape Cod, fearful and uninformed. They spent the next months alienating and angering every Native American they happened to come across. By all rights ...they should have been dead". Their story is our story. Its power is transformative.

<b>Inside this issue:</b>	
<i>Small Group Ministries</i>	4
<i>Daughters of the Appalachian</i>	4
<i>Habitat Board Signing</i>	5
<i>Greens Sale</i>	5
<i>New Orleans Service Project Mtg.</i>	6
<i>Staff and Office Schedule</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

**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 please contact the committee chair.  
 Next Newsletter Deadline is October 29  
 If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

**NEW ORLEANS SERVICE  
PROJECT MEETING**  
*by Margaret Darling*

A meeting to update plans for our February work trip to New Orleans will be held on **Saturday, November 10 at 4:00 pm in Union Hall**. Open to all, this meeting will be of special interest and importance to those who have expressed an interest in going on this trip. Margaret Darling will briefly summarize the process to date, and talk about plans for educational opportunities and involvement for the congregation at large, both before and after the trip. Members of Gulf Coast Works (formerly Bridge to Biloxi), our volunteer coordinators, will present the current status of our work trip plans for air travel, accommodations, food, projects, and transportation to and from work sites. They will then answer questions on these subjects and share their own experiences on such work trips. We'll be asking our volunteers to firm up their commitments at the meeting and within the next few days, so that we can lock in the best possible fares. Following the meeting, we'll have tea and Southern sweets, accompanied by a sampling of New Orleans jazz - so plan to stick around awhile and warm up your conversational skills in preparation for neighborly front-porch encounters in the great Southern tradition!

Margaret Darling,  
FRS Social Action Committee

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 [at] 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.

**REFORMATION DAY**

*by Heather Hedden*

October 31 is not just Halloween or All Saints Eve, but it is also Reformation Day, an officially observed holiday in five of Germany's 16 states and also Slovenia. I only learned about it last year as we were making preparations for our summer house exchange vacation with a German family living in one of those states, Brandenburg.

It was on October 31, 1517 that the monk Martin Luther, according to tradition, tacked up his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in his town of Wittenberg in the Brandenburg state of eastern Germany, protesting certain church practices, especially the sales of indulgences. And thus the Protestant Reformation was born. The Castle Church and many others in the area eventually changed from Protestant to Catholic. Today in Germany Protestant churches dominate in the north, while Catholics are prevalent in the south.

When our family was in Germany this summer we visited the church, now over 500 years old, of Martin Luther's fame in Wittenberg. We found that Martin Luther's original 95 theses on paper have been replaced by words cast into bronze on a pair of newer doors of 1858. Inside the church we saw the tombs of Luther and other reformers. (We had to wait to enter the church, as a wedding was taking place there when we arrived.)

Although as a state holiday Reformation Day's observance is limited, Lutheran and Reformed churches through out the world celebrate Reformation Day in their church services, usually on the Sunday before October 31. (All Saints Day is celebrated the following Sunday.) Typically on that day Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," also included in our U.U. hymnal, is sung.

Whether or not Unitarian Universalist churches are considered Protestant, we can still admire

**FAMILY RAMBLE**

*By Molly Sorrows*

**A family ramble will take place on Saturday, October 27, 3-5pm, weather permitting.** This intergenerational activity is open to everyone in the congregation. We will start at the Sorrows' house at 96 Litchfield Drive and go along Tophet Loop to Wolf Rock for kids to explore. The initial part is a narrow path through young white pines, and is somewhat uneven and not stroller-friendly, so call Molly ahead of time if you'd like to meet up with us using only the regular Great Brook trails. The Great Brook trail Tophet Loop is wide and amenable to visiting in groups. Please carpool if possible. Remember that ticks are always a concern on trail walks in Carlisle. Wearing light-colored clothes and checking yourself carefully afterwards are highly recommended. Please let Molly Sorrows or Nancy West know if you plan to join us so we know who to wait for.



**Many Thanks** to the teachers, parents, children and customers who made the RE fundraisers such as success at the Harvest Fair!

**Reformation Day, continued**

Martin Luther for what he did. Martin Luther believed in ideas similar to U.U. principle #4 "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning" and principal #5 "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."

Children in the parts of Germany and Slovenia where Reformation Day is observed may not have as much fun on that holiday as our children have celebrating Halloween, but at least they have no school that day. I guess it's kind of like our Martin Luther King Day, then.

**WANT A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY EXPERIENCE  
(PLUS POTLUCK DINNER)?**

Come join others interested in learning about small group ministry (SGM). We'll have a potluck dinner at the Ballantines' home on Fiske Street at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 4 and then will divide into groups of 8 - 10 to hold short versions of a SGM meeting. Facilitators from our present SGM groups will lead the sessions.

Over the past two years people from our congregation have been meeting once a month in groups of 7 to 10. For most of this time the format of the meetings has been the same. A chalice is lit. Then after a reading there is a check-in where people have the chance to let the group know what is new in their lives. The topic of the session is introduced. The discussion that follows is loosely based on some topic questions listed. This may be followed by a check-out, a response to the meeting. After a final reading, the chalice is extinguished.

The topic for the November 4 meeting which is inspired by Rev. William Schulz's October 14 sermon is: **Our Response To The Injustices In The World.** The following questions are suggested as a means of engendering discussion by the participants:

- \* How do we inspire a generous heart?
- \* Are human rights respected more today than they were 200 years ago?
- \* The first UU principle is to recognize the worth and dignity of every person. Does that include our enemies and the tyrants of the world?
- \* What is the difference between wisdom and power? How does it influence our interaction with the downtrodden?

\* How can we as individuals, in the face of such overwhelming, grave injustices in the world, make a difference?

For those of us who have become involved in the SGM program, it has been an valuable opportunity to discuss important questions. We hope that you discover the same by joining us on the evening of November 4.

We will increase the number of groups from the present three if more people want to join. For the next few weeks there will be a sign up list at coffee hour for the November 4 event or you may call Kathy in the church office (369-5180) to sign up. Please contact Steve Kirk (steve@esicomputing.com or at 371-0176) if you have any questions.

**Coming Soon and Not To Be Missed!**  
**November 2 & 3 at 8:00 P.M.**  
**Daughters of the Appalachians**  
**by Linda Goodman**  
 \$18 Adults - \$14 Seniors 65 + and Students. Six unique women tell their stories of life in Southwestern Virginia. Ms. Goodman offers an intimate glimpse inside the customs and attitudes of this distinctive part of the world. In this production the characters' stories are richly enhanced by the live original music of master instrumentalist EJ Ouellette.  
 Reserve your place in history - mktix.com.  
 Directed by  
 Arlene Barnard & Marc Clopton  
 and  
 Produced by Dian Francesca Cuccinello

**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 Anne Ketchen at 978-369-1611 during the month of November.

**Habitat Board Signature Sale:** Many individuals and families signed their names on two sheets of roofing plywood at the Harvest Fair and after the Church Service the next day. A total of \$300 was donated. The boards and the \$300 will go to the new Habitat for Humanity project on North Road in Bedford, Mass Construction will start there next spring. If you visit the attic of one of the new houses next year you might see your name. Thanks to Moore's Lumber in Chelmsford, which donated the boards; to George Bishop and Bob Wallhagen for the board logistics; and to the many of you who filled in at the table during the fair. Ernie Huber

**Would you like to greet members and friends as they enter the church on Sunday morning?** Or supply a flower arrangement or display for the pulpit? Maybe contribute to coffee hour? Please contact the following people to help out:

- Greeters: Heather Hedden 978-371-0822  
email: heather@hedden.net
- Flowers: Alison Saylor 978-369-1809  
email: saylorfarm@comcast.net
- Coffee: Anne Ketchen 978-369-1661  
email: anneketchen@comcast.net



**Greens Sale  
2007**

We have begun working on the Greens Sale. I will put the sign-up sheets out at coffee hour each week. So far Dora Khayami and Sue Stengrevics are making bows for the boxwood trees, Tim and Mary Hult have offered to set up. Nadine Bishop will do the pre-orders, Kathy Varney has the flyers for mailing ready, and Dian Cuccinello will be making a gorgeous Christmas basket to be raffled off. I am hoping everyone will find something to volunteer for making our sale a big success. Janice Kissinger

**Decorating the Sanctuary  
for Christmas**

I am looking for a group of 8 volunteers and a chairman to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. All new decorations were made last year so it is just a matter of sprucing them up and hanging them. This could be done on Sunday, November 18 or Sunday, November 25. This always turns out to be a fun event for all involved as the decorations gradually transform our Sanctuary into a beautiful, old fashioned church at Christmas. Janice Kissinger