

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. 4

October 27, 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 27, 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
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Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick
Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922; Suzanne_w-s@comcast.net
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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

“Whatevsies”

Rev. Diane Miller

This past weekend I was in San Diego to co-officiate at the wedding of a niece and her long-time beau. It was a reunion of family and long-time friends, as well as an occasion for meeting the groom’s extended family and friends. Everything was fun, beautiful, gracious, and delicious.

For any big event like this, even when thoughtfully planned in great detail as this wedding was, there are many choices. Shall we put the extra roses on this table or that one? Do I want the Merlot or the Zinfandel? Shall we drive by the beach or through the park? The choices that came up were all good options, resulting in good outcomes no matter which decision we made. Wanting everything to be the best, to be perfect, I sometimes take these choices too seriously and make too much of them, second guessing myself, thinking about the road not taken.

Among the groom’s six siblings, one sister amended the ubiquitous expression of her generation – *Whatever* – to the devil-may-care variation, *Whatevsies*. My siblings picked this up as our dilemma solving phrase. *Whatevsies!*

Some years ago I was intrigued by research and speculation from quantum physics about parallel universes, string theory, and bubble theory. I didn’t understand these concepts from a physics or scientific basis. But what interesting theological implications arose! Best I could tell, the physicists were

postulating the existence of multiple parallel universes, just millimeters from this one, connected by gravitational pull. Some are full of strange and bizarre realities, the stuff of science fiction. Others exist in which we might be living the life that would have resulted from making some different choice in our lives. Say you had gone to school in Amsterdam instead of choosing Amherst. Perhaps you wrestled with that decision, and still wonder if you made the right call. Well, *whatevsies!* In another universe nearby you made the other choice, and your life in Amsterdam is unfolding this very minute, not so very far away. *That* you is there, *this* you is here.

After growing up in Minnesota, the location of my life has alternated between the suburbs of Boston and the Pacific coast of California. Both places seem like home. I live in just one at a time, but I know that the other is rolling merrily along while I am otherwise occupied, sort of like a parallel universe – but one I can drop in to visit from time to time.

Our faith tradition broke from the Calvinist notion that all outcomes have been preordained and are already known to God. Instead, we emphasize genuine free will, choice, options, self-direction. We focus on our power to make a difference, to change the course of events, to make this a better world. Sometimes when I am working overtime on small choices I miss the big ones where I could make a meaningful difference. So my new theological category is simple: *whatevsies!*

UPCOMING MUSIC
By Marguerite Shaw

November 9:
The Choir will sing. Sonie Boor will play a violin solo, Margaret Baltz Darling, pianist.



November 16:
The Choir will sing. Nina Benkley will play guitar and sing.



Save the Date
Winter Holidays Concert
Sunday, December 7
7:00pm

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
By Molly Sorrows

On Sunday, October 19, 13 members of the FRS Junior Youth Group and several friends took part in the 7 kilometer CROP walk in Concord. The CROP walk raises funds to fight hunger and the proceeds are used both internationally and locally. The FRS Youth Group raised \$1561.50 toward the cause. Thanks to youth group members Beth Davis, Harriet Ketchen, Katy Scholten, Peter Scholten, Amelia Huberman, Katherine Sorrows, Elisabeth Sorrows, Jamie Moore, Daniel Moore, Chasidy Jaquith, Matthew Hill, Henry Hedden and Peter Fox. FRS members Aaron Schaefer, Ellen Huber, Helen Lyons, Pam Fox, Bob Fox and youth group leaders Susan Emmons and Jackie Schaefer also took part in the walk. Special thanks to Blair Robinson of the FRS senior youth group for her leadership and help at the walk.



I had two wonderful learning opportunities last week. On Thursday evening I attended a program in Westford on teen stress, anxiety and depression, where I met some wonderful UUs from the Littleton church. I brought back a large packet of materials that will be available in our church library, and I would be happy to share some of the things I learned with you directly too. On Friday I attended a workshop class for religious educators on multigenerational worship, and had a wonderful time in Worcester, starting with a worship service, and including a presentation, activities and discussion that continued through dinner. This workshop was sponsored by the professional organization LREDA, which is separate from, but works together with our UUA district.

CHURCH CALENDAR

October 28	2:00pm	Memorial Service Marshall "Pete" Simonds.
October 28	7:00pm	Pageant Planning Meeting conference room.
October 30	9:00am	Staff Retreat from 9:00am to 2:00pm.
October 31	7:30pm	"Spooky Movie Night on the Common" presented by Carlisle Police Department.
November 1	7:00am	Mensgroup meets here at FRS.
November 2	10:00am	Installation of Rev. Diane Miller during our morning worship service.
November 2	6:00pm	OWL in Union Hall.
November 4	noon	Cookie baking with Junior Youth in FRS kitchen.
November 4	7:30pm	Music and Worship Committee meeting in the conference room.
November 8	7:30pm	Coffeeshouse in Union Hall.
November 9	11:00am	Youth visit to Common Cathedral.
November 9	6:00pm	OWL in Union Hall.

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 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) 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.

Next Newsletter Deadline is November 3. 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.

**BIG BAND BENEFIT FOR
THE OPEN PANTRY OF GREATER LOWELL**

November 8, 2008 - Union Hall Coffeehouse

Sponsored by The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Ultimate Rhythmic Blues Band - ScrumDaddy, along with Miss Tess & the Bon Ton Parade.
Free Mexican appetizers, a chance to win a season's ticket to the coffeehouse
and other surprises should be the key to getting you up and out for an evening you'll never forget.

I know that the Open Pantry of Lowell, and all its volunteers,
and clients won't soon forget you and your generosity.

Tickets: \$25 (all goes to the pantry) Kids: Please donate a can of soup.
It will be very needed by the children, during the long winter months.
Love & Thanks, from the bottom of my heart, Dian.
Call me with questions, (or answers) please! 978-287-5745.

**CARLISLE COA SENIOR DINING
LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FRS
ON NOVEMBER 5TH**

The next of our new Senior Dining Lunch will be held on
Wed., Nov. 5th at FRS Union Hall at noon. A festive full
turkey dinner will be cooked by The Inn at Robbins Brook and
served by FRS Senior Dining Program Volunteers. The first
of these additional luncheons was held last month and was a
great success. We look forward to coming to FRS next! All
seniors invited! A donation of \$3 is requested. To make your
reservation, call the COA at (978) 371-2895 or
(978) 371-6693 no later than Thursday, October 30th.

-Kathy Mull, Carlisle Council on Aging

**CLARA BARTON
DISTRICT WORKSHOP
November 22**

The Rev. Aaron Payson will lead a
Clara Barton District workshop on
preparing congregations for a
crisis. The day-long program will
be on Saturday, November
22nd. Please contact Rev. Diane
Miller if you are interested in
attending. A small group from
FRS is planning to go. We are
limited to five places.

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

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. The Choir has prepared special
music and there will be a festive Coffee Hour.

Sunday, November 9:

"The Bigness of Stones" Rev. Diane Miller
Love is the Spirit of this church is how the
Covenant begins. *And Conflict is inevitable in
congregational life* is how it could continue.
This is a sermon on How to Fight Fairly --
lovingly, honestly, and constructively.

Sunday, November 16:

Rev. Diane Miller preaching.

**GREENS SALE
GINGERBREAD HOUSE
WORKSHOPS**

Tuesday, November 11:

9:00am mix dough in FRS kitchen

Thursday, November 13:

9:00am bake gingerbread dough in
FRS kitchen.

Saturday, November 15

9:00am sort candy for gingerbread
houses with junior youth.

Call Janice Kissinger at 978-369-8968 if
you would like to help with workshops.

GREENS SALE 2008

Our annual Greens Sale is a most beautiful
and fun event for the entire Carlisle
community. I hope everyone will attend on
December 6 and also volunteer for the
workshops listed below or other jobs like
picking up and delivering greens, setting up
tables and, of course, clean-up.

**Saturday, November 22, Boxwood Tree
Workshop 8:00am to 5:00pm in Union Hall**

**Sunday, November 30, Decorate the
Sanctuary at noon in the Sanctuary**

**Wednesday, December 3, Christmas
Greens Arrangements Workshop All Day in
Union Hall**

**Thursday, December 4, Wreath
Decorating Workshop All Day in Union
Hall**

**Friday, December 5, Set up and price
items for Greens Sale 8:00am in Union Hall.**

**Friday, December 5, Pre-order pick up at
5:00pm in Union Hall**

**Saturday, December 6, Greens Sale
10:00am to 2:00pm in Union Hall**

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

CARLISLE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

If you don't have extended family around you this Thanksgiving and would like to have a traditional turkey dinner among other people, you're invited to a Carlisle Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27, at 2 pm, in Union Hall at The First Religious Society in Carlisle. The church office must receive \$20 per person (cash or checks payable to FRS) and the names of the people registering by November 10. This deadline is required by the caterer and firm. Limited to 30 people. Please call the church office (978-369-5180) to reserve and send your check to The First Religious Society, P.O. Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741.



PARISH COMMITTEE NOTES

Parish Committee extends thanks to the Harvest Fair Committee and all the volunteers who helped make the annual event a beautiful, inviting and successful event.

Thanks also to the Music and Worship Committee for successfully extending an invitation to Matt Meyer to visit FRS again. His music and message are always a welcome treat.

Parish Committee met on October 16th. Fontaine Richardson and Dave Ives attended to update PC on the FRS Trust Funds. Performance has declined in line with the market. Consideration to re-positioning Funds for the future is under discussion together with the development of an investment goal policy.

Church Council will next meet on November 16th at 11:30AM at the Parsonage. All Committee chairs or their representatives are invited to attend.

Parish Committee Members:
Tim Hult, John Lyons, Eric Darling,
Marje Stickler, Michael Dundorf
Lisa Sama
Suzanne Whitney Smith.

The Rev. Richard Drinon (1932 - 2008): We are saddened to announce news of the death of the Reverend Richard Drinon, minister of The First Religious Society 1974-1976. He died on Sunday morning, October 12, with his daughter Sarah at his side, after suffering a heart attack on Friday. If you would like to send a card to Sarah Drinon her address is 49 Temple Street, Unit 2, Somerville, MA 02145.

FRS HAPPENINGS

Holiday Greens Sale: on December 6 between 10:00am and 2:00pm. We are already making bows and ornaments for the boxwood trees and plans for our annual Greens Sale. Will you once again help to create our now famous wreaths, sleigh arrangements, boxwood rings, gingerbread houses, lobster salad sandwiches, etc. Please check the dates for the various workshops in the newsletter on page 3 and join in the fun of working with fellow members in Union Hall. I am hoping all will help in some way as we have much to do. -Janice Kissinger

Baskets: Would you start collecting baskets and containers for the greens sale arrangements. You can drop them in the church office.

Kitchen: Our kitchen is small but well equipped and a important resource for our church. The state now requires us to follow the same health regulations as a restaurant. Therefore, we must keep the counters and oven clear and clean, sweep the floor often, empty the trash regularly, and take home our forgotten dishes and any leftover food. Our goal is to keep our kitchen certified! -Janice Kissinger

Kitchen Lost and Found Items: Lost from our kitchen are lots of tea towels, dish cloths, and tablecloths. Found in our church kitchen are many beautiful plates and utensils belonging to our members. After each potluck, reception, and coffee hour, it is a good idea to take your dishes home. Thanks for all the delicious folds you bring. We are, however, running out of kitchen space for forgotten dishes. -Janice Kissinger

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.

Help Needed (sign up sheets in Union Hall for each of these, or email Linda Myers-Tierney at lindamt@comcast.net):

- Twenty volunteers to make ten sandwiches each, to be delivered to the church Sunday, Nov. 9, before 11 a.m. (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.
- One volunteer to make a Costco run to pick up the cake and packaged snacks before November 9
- Monetary donations--will be used to fund the purchase of the sheet cake and packaged snacks and fruit (basket in Union Hall October 26 and November 2 or send to FRS Office).
- Adults and high school youth are encouraged to make the field trip to attend the service and to take and serve the lunch on Sunday, Nov. 9. We will leave the FRS at 11 a.m. and return about 3:15 p.m. (Community service credit is available for this time and for food prep time.) Adults to drive, attend the service and help out.

Please contact Linda Myers-Tierney, lindamt@comcast.net, Social Action committee with questions or to offer help.