

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. 1

September 10, 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 September 10, 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
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Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: lms@bostonbits.com
Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180
Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217,
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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
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-278-5745,
Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

In The Interim,

I am really looking forward to the year as your "Interim Minister". Although it's still the beginning of September and the traditional "church year" is just beginning I feel that I am already well into the process. Since the beginning of August I have been meeting with committees and individuals, with staff members and program organizers. We are off to a flying start.

But before going further I should probably say a few words about "interim" as distinguished from "settled" ministry. A main point of difference is that an "interim minister" appears at a time of change in a congregation's life. An "interim" is a transition figure who serves a congregation for a specific and limited period of time (in my case, my contract with you is for one year). A colleague of mine (also an "interim") described it well:

"Interim ministers acknowledge that we "interims", along with the congregations we serve, are in times of change. Our jobs require that we find in these transitions the positive aspects of

change. It is a challenge but also a wonderful opportunity to ask the most important questions about the future."

This is my third interim ministry. My first, in Dorchester, MA and my second, in Hingham, MA could not have been more different from each other in history, local culture, and relationship to the UUA. Each one taught me vital lessons in appreciating an individual congregation's unique "culture". I, for my part, was able to show each congregation strengths and opportunities which each had either had lost sight of or had not previously recognized.

The fact that my time with you is marked by your 250th anniversary year is a wonderful opportunity to look forward as well as back. After all "the past is prologue." Our future is now.

Warmly,
Victor

UPCOMING SERVICES

September 16: "In Praise of Imperfection"

Rev. Vic Carpenter

We are achievers. At least we like to see ourselves as able to achieve whatever goals we aspire to. And many of us, well, some of us, OK a few of us actually do reach that pinnacle of success and triumph (although I must admit that I've never really been a big admirer of Donald Trump). As for the rest of us there really is something to say about the importance of not "making it".

September 23: "To Begin Again In Love"

Rev. Vic Carpenter

Yom Kippur. The themes of forgiveness and atonement are the core of the holiest day in the liturgical calendar of Judaism. How important are these themes? Former Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu summed it up in a single sentence, "Without forgiveness there is no future".

September 30: "Breathing Lessons"

Rev. Vic Carpenter

What nourishes your spirit? What lifts you above the dailyness (and the seeming hopelessness) of the news? What empowers you; restores you; re-creates and re-energizes you? Whatever your name is what is already inside you waiting to make itself manifest in your life. This is a sermon about hope.

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JERICO ROAD PROJECT

by Karen Rigg

As you solidify plans and priorities for September and the coming year, one worthwhile way to give back and have an enjoyable, educational experience is by participating in the Jericho Road Project. The JRP is a nonprofit organization based in Concord that works to enhance Lowell's economic sustainability by providing free capacity-building experiences to non-profit organizations and small businesses. These services are delivered by corps of volunteers carefully matched to the particular jobs to be filled. As one of these volunteers, you of course choose the group or organization with which you would like to work; you also determine the amount of time you wish to give each week or month and how long your initial commitment to the group will be. While jobs available are changing all the time, help is needed by a number of organizations in strategic planning, information technology and related help, development (business, organizational and fundraising), and marketing.

Several presentations have been made about the JRP at the FRS, including a discussion led by Dan Holin, JRP's Project Director and Linda Myers-Tierney during the Message for All Ages and an afternoon at Linda Myers Tierney's home last March. Linda and Dave Barber have both worked on projects with the JRP; both would be glad to discuss their participation and answer any questions you may have. Or you may choose to contact Jodi DeLibertis, Director of the project directly at 978-500-1722.

Please pass the word to anyone looking for a rental home in Carlisle that the FRS parsonage is available for rent through summer '08. The home has 4 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, and the rent is \$2400 per month. Anyone interested should contact Lenny Johnson (978-369-1495) or leave a message at the church office.

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 September 17, 2007.

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

STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

Church Office Hours: Beginning September 10 the church office will be open Monday, Tuesdays Thursday and Friday between the hours of 8:00 and 1:00. The office will be closed on Wednesday.

Minister Office Hours: From September 1 minister's office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. He 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 3:00pm, with occasional exceptions. Call 978-369-5180 or 978-501-4220.

Music Rehearsals Schedule: **The Choir** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. The Sunday morning warm-up will begin at 9:15am!

KIDS&KWIRE: Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 19 t 3:00pm. See article on page 5.

Handbell rehearsals will begin as soon as a sufficient number of people sign up. An ability to read music is helpful and a sense of rhythm is essential.

If you have questions about any of the music programs please call Marguerite Shaw.

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 Janice Saul at 978-371-2771 during the month of September.

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

Sunday, September 9, we are planning special RE activities to welcome all the children and youth for the new church year. Remember that church starts at 10am. Registration begins this Sunday for nursery to high school. Visitors and new folks are always welcome!

We are seeking assistants in several of the classes, including preschool/nursery and the grade school classes. We are also setting up rotating volunteers to help with children who have more special needs. Please talk to Molly if you are willing to help sometimes.

Our general themes this year include Unitarian Universalist Principles, World Religions, Social Action and Service, and the 250th anniversary of FRS. The Junior Youth Group will be drawing on several curricula this year, including *Compass Points*, and *Traditions with a Wink*, and will have several field trips. The grade 4/5 class will begin with a look at a variety of myths, from the more commonly known Greek myths to Norse mythology and stories from native peoples around the world. They are also planning some hands-on service activities to provide service to our church and the greater community. The grades K-3 class has a new series of beautiful picture books that will help bring alive several world religions, and the leaders will also work on helping their sense of Unitarian Universalism evolve.

Open Pantry: The Pantry on Central Street, Lowell, MA, serves over 600 families and singles who are in need. FRS supports the OP with donations of food and volunteer help. Every Tuesday morning, 8:45 - 12 noon, at least one volunteer from FRS works at the Pantry. A group of FRS women has been doing this for several years now. New volunteers are needed to work, one Tuesday morning per month, bagging groceries to fill client order slips. Free parking is available to volunteers at a nearby public garage, adjacent to the DoubleTree Hotel. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile endeavor, or have questions, please email me at: britz219@aol.com. Thank you. Barbara Ritz

PROGRAM NEWS

Our first WomenSpirit gathering of the fall will be a Potluck Supper on Friday, September 21st at 7:00pm in Union Hall. WomenSpirit is an informal group that meets monthly to provide support to each other as we face life challenges and explore our individual spiritual paths. All women are welcome. Bring an appetizer, entree, salad, dessert or beverage to share. Please RSVP so we'll know how many tables to set up. Any questions, please call Sue Kirk at 978-371-0176 (sukirk@aol.com).

Intergenerational Yard Clean-Up Day for Seniors: The Social Action Committee and DRE have joined together to coordinate an offering of light outdoor work such as leaf-raking, cutting flowers and perennials that are past blooming, and sweeping walks to Seniors in Carlisle who sign up. We are recruiting adults and youth for intergenerational teams to work on Saturday, September 29, from 10-12. Please call the church office to sign up, or contact Nadine Bishop or Molly Sorrows with questions.

World Car-Free Day by Dan Scholten: In order to raise awareness of the global climate crisis, the FRS Environmental Action Committee encourages everyone to go car-less on Saturday, Sept. 22. If you must drive, try to combine trips as much as possible, and keep track of your miles. See the website <http://www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd/> for more information about this world-wide event.

NEW LILAC BORDER

by Alison Saylor

Ten different new lilacs now grace the lot-line at the back of the grassy area to the left of the church as you face the front door. Mature standard lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*) already grow on the left side of this new Lilac border. Now large lilacs with dark purple, double white, bicolor and blue flowers are planted to the back, and compact lilacs in pink, lilac, small leaf, and cut-leaf varieties grow to the front. Eventually this showcase of diverse lilacs will blend into one another and create a solid block of foliage. Every May the fragrant blooms will burst forth in shades of white, pink, lilac and purple. Lilacs are tough, hardy and long lived. They should be an asset to our landscape for the next hundred years or more. Fontaine and Judy Richardson provided the funds for this new lilac border. George Bishop and Alison Saylor procured the plants from Syringa Plus nursery in Newbury, MA. Mike and Alison Saylor planted each bush and George and Alison mulched them and are keeping them watered. These lilacs are dedicated in memory of the victims of 9/11.

UNION HALL COFFEEHOUSE

by Dian Cuccinello

It's a brand new season! On September 8, 2007, we kick off with Motif Magazine's 2007 Winners for "Best Folk Act" - the Atwater-Donnelly Band featuring traditional American folk music and dance. The band includes Aubrey, Elwood, Cathy Clasper-Torch (fiddle, cello and vocals) and Kevin Doyle (percussion, Irish step and tap dance). So, don't deny the human spirit, we give you these chroniclers of its joys and sorrows, light and dark, hope and despair and say that they have but liberated what is in all of us. Their dancing notes say, "Here it is! Humanity's real self. Look, isn't it wondrous"-- Atwater-Donnelly are marvelous musicians. Their voices blend beautifully, their instrumental work is sparkling, and they are captivating performers. Hope to see you all there. Reservations highly recommended. Call Dian at 978-287-5745, or e-mail her at dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com Tickets for this special event are \$25.

HARVEST FAIR *by Alison Saylor*

The Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 13, 10:00 - 4:00pm will have two major changes this year. The hours of operation are extended two hours to 4pm and the event will **not** feature a White Elephant table. The hours are extended because the White Elephant is being replaced by artisan booths, who need the additional hours of operation to make better sales. The traditional Country Store, Bake table, Plant table, Luncheon Cafe and youth tables will continue as in the past. For those wondering if the extended hours might be too tiring, the hope is that some of the Farmer's Market people will set up a second shift in the afternoon hours.

Seeking donations for the Silent Auction

The Silent Auction will take place as usual. Do you have anything worthwhile to donate? Receipts for tax purposes will be given to all donors. Donations may be dropped off at the Church Office, brought on any Sunday or picked up by Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 Saylorfarm@comcast.net

Seeking artisans

The table fee is 10% of sales. The space normally used for the White Elephant tables will become artisan tables. Artisan is loosely defined as anyone who wants to sell something at a table. Booth space is available at the Harvest Fair and the following Saturday at the Pumpkin Festival. For further information please contact Dora Khayami (978) 318-9005 Dora_khayami@hotmail.com

Seeking volunteers

We will need lots of volunteers to set up tables, work in the kitchen, help supervise the youth activities, clean up, etc. Look for Harvest Fair sign up sheets to be out at Coffee hour.

Minister Search Committee News: The Search Committee, made up of Jackie Schaefer, Barbara Ritz, Ellen Huber, Muggsie Rocco, John Forcucci, John Lyons and Michael Dundorf, has met three times this summer. At the first meeting we received very helpful information, including ideas to improve the process, from three members of the 2002 Search Committee, namely, Tim Hult, Kerry Kissinger and Lisa Sama. At the end of July we met with our district ministerial settlement representative, Rev. Julie Ann Silberman-Bunn. She will be leading a committee retreat on September 21 and 22. An additional working meeting was held last Thursday.

Soon we will send out a brief electronic survey to the church e-mail list. Please contact Kathy in the church office, (978) 369-5180, or any committee member, as soon as possible, if you do not have access to e-mail or if Kathy does not have your current email address.

We will keep you informed on the process as we go along. In the meantime, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions at any time.

KIDKWIPE REHEARSALS SING! SING! SING! Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 19, at 3:00pm. At the close of school, Alison Saylor will meet children on the plaza (Carlisle Public School) to escort them to the church for rehearsal. In order to be released to Alison's care, each child must have a note from home giving teachers the appropriate information. Older children who have been dismissed earlier can also meet Alison on the plaza or find their own way to the church at 3:00pm. The choir is open to children in grades three through middle school. No auditions are required and all are welcome. **KIDSKWIPE** sings at church services every four to five weeks, and also for special occasions. Children from the community can be part of this program by registering with the church office at 978-369-5180 or frs@uucarlisle.org. If you have questions please contact Marguerite Shaw at 978-369-5180 or frsmusic@comcast.net.