

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 XXXI, No. 1

September 11, 2006



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 11, 2006

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:30 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

Minister: Tim Jensen (study and home) 978-369-0284, (cell) 503-816-2859,

Email: uucleric@mindspring.com

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922;

swsmeslrs@earthlink.net

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,

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

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

"Something Fishy...."

"Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him."

Mark 1: 16-18 (King James Version)

Give a man a fish, the old saying goes, and he'll eat for a day. Teach him to fish, and he'll sit around all day in a boat drinking beer....

OK, maybe that's not EXACTLY the way the old saying goes. But it does reflect the often overlooked truth that while increased knowledge and competence generally lead to wisdom and greater self-reliance, how individuals choose to use their new-found independence remains in their own hands.

I like eating seafood as much as the next guy...maybe even a little more than most. But I've never been one to settle simply for learning better techniques for catching and cooking fish. Given the opportunity, I want to know everything there is to know about the theory, history, science and philosophy

of fishing; in fact, if there's anything I love more in life than eating, it's learning. And when I can, I'm always happy to share whatever I've learned with others. Yet I also recognize that this passionate curiosity isn't necessarily shared by everyone I meet. For many people, T.M.I. is an acronym for Too Much Information. But for me it's just an anagram of my own first name.

At their leadership retreat in August, members of the Parish Committee identified "not using Tim's expertise maximally" as one of FRS's current weaknesses. The challenge of figuring out how best to share in a practical, tangible way the things I know with the people who can benefit most from the knowledge and wisdom I have spent half a lifetime acquiring is a formidable one, yet the potential rewards for all concerned are equally significant.

Much of this responsibility rests with me, of course. But there are certain things each of you can do to help me out. If you ask me for the time of day, and I start into a long (and apparently aimless) disquisition about the differences between *kairos* and *chronos*, the social significance of the

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

pocket watch, and the development of “standard” time in response to the need for standardized railway schedules in the 19th century, for God’s sake please don’t just stand there nodding politely.

Interrupt me! Let me know what YOU really want to know! I may not have the answer you need, but trust me, you’re not going to hurt my feelings by asking me to get to the point. I just want to be as helpful as I can.

And when you finally find your answers, take that information, whatever it may be, and use it however you see fit for your own edification and the benefit of our society. With any luck, before too long, we’ll all have bigger fish to fry...and to enjoy together (maybe even along with a cold beer, or a glass of Chardonnay). Because “the kingdom of heaven is like yeast which a women took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened” (Mt 13:33). This is the real miracle of feeding a multitude, with only five loaves and two fishes.....twj

Inside this issue:	
<i>Knitting for the homeless</i>	4
<i>Neighborhood Sunday</i>	4
<i>Womenspirit Potluck Supper</i>	5
<i>Coffee Committee</i>	5
<i>Summer Services Note</i>	5
<i>UU Voices Against Genocide</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Still More Volunteers Needed for Habitat: Permits are in place and work on two Reading houses has been started by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell. While response to the call for volunteers in the August newsletter has been good we still need more people. Our Habitat coordinator has asked that the FRS consider fielding a team of 5 people the third Saturday of every OTHER month. The dates would be October 21, December 16, February 17, and April 21. If we can get 5 to ten people expressing an interest in this we can tell Habitat to go ahead with this plan, but we need to know the interest level ASAP. Please contact either Ernie Huber at 978-369-6678, e2huber@rcn.com or George Bishop at 978-369-5080 geonad54@comcast.net. Habitat also needs people to provide lunches- either on the same schedule as the workers, or on some other schedule. This activity is a good way for High School youths to earn community service credits if they are underage for site construction work.

Upcoming Services:

- September 17: Habitat Sunday
Sermon: “The Breathtaking Empty Space of an Open Door...” Rev. Jensen
- September 24: Celebrate Jewish Holidays
Sermon: “The Courage to Pray Out Loud” Rev. Jensen

CALENDAR

Church Office Hours: The church office will be open between the hours of 8:00am and 1:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. The office will be closed on Tuesdays.

Minister Office Hours: Tim is generally available at church most mornings when the church office is open and other times by appointment. It is always a good idea to call in advance. You can reach him at 978-369-0284 (study or home), 503-816-2859 (cell) or by email at uucleric@mindspring.com.

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).

Music Rehearsals Schedule
The Choir
Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00pm
Sundays at 9:45am

Next Newsletter Deadline is September 18.

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

- Sept. 14 RE Orientation at 7:00pm in Union Hall.
- Sept. 17 Church Council meeting at 9:00am in the conference room.
- Sept. 17 Womenspirit Potluck Dinner at 5:00pm in Union Hall.
- Sept. 21 Parish Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.
- Sept. 23 Welcome Back Potluck at 6:30pm in Union Hall.
- Oct. 1 Neighborhood Sunday
Beacon Brass at 7:00pm at the Corey Auditorium.
- Oct. 5 Music and Worship Committee meeting at 7:30pm in the conference room.
- Oct. 7 Mensgroup meets here at FRS.
- Oct. 14 Harvest Fair from 10:00am to 2:00pm.
- Oct. 14 Movie Night at 6:30pm in Union Hall.

All are welcome to attend Parish Committee meetings, except in cases of executive sessions.

Committee meetings are open to any interested party. To address a committee on a specific issue please contact the committee chair.

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.

UU EVENTS AROUND US

Clara Barton District Fall Rally Saturday, October 28, 2006 "Persistence of Vision"

Keynote Speaker will be Gini Courter, UUA Moderator. The conference begins at 8:30am with registration and runs to 4:00pm. It will be held at Nichols College, Dudley, MA. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Jay Spears Concert on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at 8:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, 90

Holden Street, Worcester, MA: The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester in cooperation with the Central Massachusetts Business Council proudly presents Jay Spears in concert. The concert is to benefit the UU Church of Worcester. Come meet Jay after the concert at a wine and cheese reception. See Jay Spear's "I Like Mike" video on LOGO-TV. With ear-catching top tappers like "I Like Mike" and "Crying Over Brian," Jay Spears performs Gay Pop-Rock like you're never heard before! Advanced tickets are \$30, and \$35 at the door. Tickets can be ordered by phone 508-410-5196 or online at www.cmbconline.com. We want to reach out to the other UU members in our district who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered for a night of wonderfully funny about being GLBT in America. This will a night for the GLBT community to share fellowship, see a great concert and make new friends. For additional information: contact Paul Leone, Event Coordinator , call 508-410-5196

Fall in Love with Vermont: Here is your invitation to B&B with UUs in the Brattleboro area for a weekend this October. Enjoy the highlights of Southern Vermont's Foliage Season: the Vermont Jazz Center, Farmer's Market and more. This B&B "fundraiser" will benefit All Souls Church Unitarian Universalist in West Brattleboro, VT. Weekends available are: October 6-9 and October 13-14. Rates are \$50 single, \$75 double, and \$25 child. You can call Kathy Squires at 802-365-7388.

Join UU Voices Against Genocide in Darfur, Sudan September 17, New York: Please join UUs for the international rally against the continuing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for implementation of *UN Security Council Resolution 1706* to place UN Peacekeepers in Western Sudan. Before the rally, UUs will gather for a time of centering, community and spiritual resolve from 12:45 to 1:30 at the Unitarian Church of All Souls, at Lexington Avenue & East 80th Street, Manhattan, in preparation for the UU march to Central Park. Wear a blue hat to join the momentum for peacekeeping. The Voices for Darfur Rally will be held in the East Meadow of Central Park at 5th Avenue and 97th Street (enter at 90th Street) from 2:00-5:00, and will feature speakers and musical performances in memory of the 400,000 Darfurian victims of genocide, in honor of the 2.5 million displaced persons, and in solidarity in support of the UN Security Council's August 31st Resolution 1706, which calls for a force of 17,000 peacekeepers in Western Sudan. For more information go to www.uu-uno.org/darfur/index.htm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

by Molly Sorrows

Welcome Back Night Thursday, September 14, 7:00 to 9:00pm

We are planning a great year for our preschool through high school youth, and invite all parents and interested adults to come for an overview of our Religious Education Program. We will present our goals for different age groups, describe the curricula to be used this year, and coordinate the calendar of volunteers for our cooperative program.

- Meet other adults at FRS who help the Religious Education Program
- Learn about benefits and joys of working with FRS youth
- Hear an overview of Religious Education Program
- View our extensive curriculum & resources and see what is chosen for this year
- Enjoy home baked goodies
- Have a chance to sign-up to help the program
- Learn practical tips for working with kids
- Share your experiences as a teacher or RE supporter
- Register your children & youth for the year

If you have children in the Religious Education program, this evening will have valuable information for you – please make it a priority. All are welcome, whether or not you have children in the program.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP OFF TO A

LIVELY START by co-leaders Susan Emmons, Linda Myers-Tierney and Jackie Schaefer

We look forward to a fun and interesting year ahead for the JYG. We plan to meet every Sunday morning and our program will include:

- helping empower youth to make curriculum choices,
- connecting with peers and the FRS community,
- learning more about our church – looking deeply at UU faith and church services
- learning about and visiting neighboring faiths,
- engaging in social action, and
- clarifying and living our values.

The first few weeks include getting to know one another, personalizing our meeting room, planning social activities, planning field trips to neighboring faiths, choosing from service projects such as Common Cathedral (the Service for the Homeless on the Boston Common), the Sharing Foundation, Alternative House, and environmental issue projects. The JYG will also work with Marguerite Shaw to lead a service for FRS on "UU Superheroes." We plan to explore other UU churches via Cyberspace, and we eagerly anticipate incorporating other ideas from the Youth and their families.

Please encourage any 6th-8th grader you know to join us. And any FRS adults wishing to participate in any of the above or other topics you'd like to propose, please let JYG leaders know.

Neighborhood Sunday Celebration

Music by

The Beacon Brass

Sponsored by The First Religious Society in Carlisle and supported by
The Friends of The Carlisle COA Lee Milliken Fund
and The Carlisle Cultural Council
at the Corey Auditorium on Sunday, October 1, 2006 at 7:00pm
admission is free, and people of all ages are welcome
Reception following

Family Friendly Potluck Supper Saturday, September 23

At 6:30pm in Union Hall

We are planning a fun event to help you get back into the swing of the busy fall season after what we hope was a long relaxing summer for you and your family. "The Beverly Hillbillies visit Carlisle" skit will feature the memorable characters Jed Clampett, Jethro, Elly May, Granny and others coming to our Potluck supper and asking questions about the First Religious Society. Would you like to be in the skit? Any children attending the Potluck will be invited to join the skit in a relaxed ad hoc manner, but the adults might want to practice their Hillbilly idioms and accents. Casual country attire is encouraged for this Potluck Supper, and Management reserves the right to rename your Potluck dishes to reflect the Hillbilly theme. Call or e-mail Granny Dian Cuccinello 978-287 5745, Dianfrancesca@comcast.net or Alison Saylor 978 369-1809, Saylorfarm@comcast.net

Knit for People Who Are Homeless: Tuesday, Oct 10, 7:30pm conference room

Following up on our FRS visit to Cathedral on the Common in Boston last Spring, we are knitting simple scarves and hats for people who are homeless (90% are men so dark colors are suggested) for the upcoming winter. We welcome all to knit for this cause until final collection on November 5 when Rev. Joan Murray of Common Cathedral visits us as guest preacher. Her organization will distribute the hats and scarves to her congregants as Christmas presents. Thank you to all those who attended previous knitting nights or have been knitting at home for this cause. We have had a lot of fun with women, junior and senior youth – both beginners and experienced knitters. We shared patterns, knitting needles, tips, and instructions. We have received a donation of a huge bag of yarn so feel free to come and pick some up or call to get some to work on in the meantime. Use any pattern of your own or go to <http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/help/volunteer.php>. Any questions or suggestions contact Linda at lindamt@comcast.net or 371-1919.

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

Coffee Committee: The Coffee Committee coordinates coverage for the Sunday coffee hour and welcomes everyone's help in providing coffee and light refreshments each Sunday throughout the church year. Various committees and groups oversee Coffee Hour from time to time, however the bulk of the effort is from individuals who help on a weekly basis. Please look for the sign up sheets near the coffee table in Union Hall to choose a Sunday to help. A member of the Coffee Committee will always be available to assist on every Sunday. The more folks who sign up, the easier it is. Someone has to come a bit early to get the coffee started and the tables ready. Juice and snack for the children's table is needed as well as half & half for the coffee and some simple food for the adult table. From time to time more elaborate coffee hours are presented. No one should feel pressure to provide a full table of food. It helps if everyone who signed up can stay to help clear up at the end and sweep the floor. If you have any questions check with members of the Committee: Jen Bush, Gio DiNicola, Anne Ketchen, Tom Rourke, Jack O'Connor, Suzanne Whitney Smith.

Thanks To Summer Service Lay Leaders: Our summer services were a success again this year, with between 15 and 25 people attending each Sunday, including several newcomers who were attracted by our open door. Thank you to the following lay leaders: Roy Watson, Marguerite Shaw, Suzanne Whitney Smith, Ernie and Ellen Huber, Paul Morrison, John Ballantine, and Bob Luoma. And to Rev. Tim, who pinch-hit on August 6.

Carlisle Council on Aging

(COA) Volunteers Are Needed: The COA needs volunteers to help with driving seniors to appointments and on errands, Meals on Wheels delivery, mailings, program/events coordination, home chores for the elderly (including yard work, repairs, meal preparation, etc.), 1 on 1 computer instruction, and more. For additional COA volunteer opportunities, please pick up a volunteer application at the COA office in town hall or call the COA at 978-371-2895 for more information. Any time or support you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

WomenSpirit Potluck Supper - Sunday, September 17th: All women are invited to a Potluck Supper on Sunday, September 17th at 7:00pm in Union Hall. Join us for good food and conversation and a chance to connect after our summer break. As always, feel free to bring a friend! If you think you may come, please RSVP so we know how many tables to set up. Any questions, please call Sue Kirk 978-371-0176 (sukirk@aol.com) or Linda Myers-Tierney 978-371-1919 (lindamt@comcast.net).