

**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. 1

September 15, 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 September 15, 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  
**Union Hall Coffee House:** Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745, dianfrancesca@comcast.net

**From the Minister...**

It has always seemed to me that the ideal residential or work location is found next to a library. With Gleason Public Library just steps from both home and the church, and with my newly issued library card, I have already appreciated my new location.

My aunt Nancy wrote me a note recommending that I read a mystery writer, Julia Spencer-Fleming. Nancy opened the first all-mystery bookstore in the United States, so I followed her expert suggestion, knowing that she has a passion for the genre. The Spencer-Fleming books all have titles drawn from hymns. I checked out In the Bleak Midwinter, the first in a series featuring a new minister in a small town, the Rev. Clare Fergusson. She is the new priest at St. Albans, and lives in a Rectory on Church Street, full of unpacked boxes. That had a familiar ring! The fictional priest starts off her ministry by finding a baby left on the church steps, a body in the river, and a congregation full of suspects. One chapter begins: *Clare looked out at her congregation as the last notes from the communion hymn faded and wondered if one of the people looking back at her wanted her dead.* She was right about that. Remember, this is fiction.

The author has some insights into the life of a minister. Clergy enter into a community in many

ways and meet both parishioners and the public quickly. This is useful for the plot, in that Clare Fergusson can plausibly make home visits at all hours, stop by parishioners' workplaces, show up in the hospital, drop by the assisted living facility, and quickly come to know the entire police force.

In my non-fiction ministry, there are many ways to get to know you. I will be happy to arrange a time to come to your home for a visit. Arranging a time to get together in my church office is another way to learn about your life and your religious journey. Of course, meeting with you in the course of church events is helpful. I welcome invitations to meet with committees or groups so that I'll be better informed about what you do and what is happening at FRS.

Our opening Sunday was a great start to the church year. See you in church!

Diane Miller

**A Celebration of Life** will honor **Susie Zielinski**, 1970-2008, who grew up in Carlisle and in this congregation. The service will be Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3 PM in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in Union Hall. We hold in our hearts her many friends and family, including parents Bob and Sally Zielinski, brother Steve Zielinski, and husband Jonah Flower of Mountain View, California.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

By Molly Sorrows

We are excited about the new year in RE, and welcome everyone to join us, old friends and newcomers alike. This year our main topics are Unitarian Universalism, the Jewish & Christian roots of UU, Bible stories, Social Action and Environmental Issues. Please complete the registration and volunteer form for your family the next time you are at church.



### The Our Whole Lives

sexuality education class, also known as OWL will be offered to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders this year, with a choice of Sunday or Wednesday evenings. If you intend to sign up your youth or are considering it, please contact Molly Sorrows to help us estimate enrollment as we finalize the dates, and to be sure you are on the mailing list for the mandatory parent orientation (Sept. 17 or Oct. 5). If you are unfamiliar with the program, we'd be happy to give you an introduction over the next several weeks. Also, please let Molly know of friends who may be interested asap.

### Inside this issue:

Habitat For Humanity	4
Parish Committee notes	5
Potluck with First Parish Concord	5
SEAWL Fundraiser	5
Community Organic Potluck	6
Staff and Office Hours	7
Calendar	7

## MUSIC NOTES

By Marguerite Shaw

### The One Hour Choir sang on September 14.

The people arrive at 9:15 to rehearse and sing for the morning service. The One Hour Choir is for those who enjoy singing but can't commit to ongoing weekly rehearsals. The group sings with The Choir approximately once each month and dates are publicized in advance. People of all ages are welcome.

**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 and, again, all ages are welcome to participate. Not to worry if you don't have a drum - a hard plastic container and something to beat on it will do the trick. Just hands also work! We are asking that you sign up for this session so Matt will be able to make a good plan that will include everyone. There will be no fee - the workshop will be supported by gifts that have been made to the FRS Special Music Fund. It is suggested that participants bring a sandwich to church that morning and have a quick lunch at Coffee Hour so we can proceed without returning home and coming back. To sign up, or if you have questions, please contact Marguerite Shaw at [frsmusic@comcast.net](mailto:frsmusic@comcast.net), or call the church office at 978-369-5180.



**Stop by the library to see improvisations, paintings and collages by Susan Lehotsky,** hanging September 6 - October 31, 2008. There will be a reception for this exhibit September 20 at 1-2:30 pm on the second floor of the Library. Susan serves on the FRS Environmental Action Committee and also is a member of the choir.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>September 16</b>	7:30pm	Knitting in the conference room.
<b>September 18</b>	9:00am	Staff meeting in the conference room.
	7:00pm	Parish Committee meeting in the conference room. All are welcome.
<b>September 19</b>	7:00pm	Womenspirit Potluck at the home of Lillian DeBenetictis.
<b>September 20</b>	7:30pm	Union Hall Coffeehouse.
<b>September 23</b>	6:30pm	Joint potluck with the First Parish in Concord for visiting UUs from Transylvania.
<b>September 25</b>	9:00am	Staff meeting in the conference room.
<b>September 26</b>	6:00pm	Locally Grown Potluck in Union Hall.
<b>September 27</b>	3:00pm	A Celebration of Life will honor Susie Zielinski, (1970-2008).
<b>September 28</b>	10:00am	Neighborhood Sunday celebrated during morning worship service.
<b>October 3</b>	6:00pm	Environmental Action Committee in Union Hall.
<b>October 7</b>	7:30pm	Music and Worship Committee meeting in the conference room.
<b>October 9</b>	7:00pm	Membership Committee meeting in the conference room.
<b>October 11</b>	7:30pm	Union Hall Coffeehouse.
<b>November 2</b>	10:00am	Installation during the 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 September 22. 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.

### Community Organic and Locally-Grown Potluck

The public is invited to a family potluck supper on Friday, September 26th at 6:00 PM in Union Hall at The First Religious Society. This event is sponsored by the FRS Environmental Action Committee. Meet like-minded people interested in "Green" environmental issues. Eat delicious locally grown or organic food made by your friends and neighbors. Potluck logistics - **in the interest of simplicity, we suggest you bring a dish based upon the first letter of your last name: A-G=Dessert, H-M=Appetizer, N-Q=Salad/Vegetable, R-Z=Main Dish. In order for there to be enough food for all, we ask that each adult bring a dish that serves 8-10 people. Please try to include an organic and/or locally-grown ingredient(s).** Jennifer Hashley, director of New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP) will talk on the work of this Lowell-based organization founded by Tufts. The non-profit organization provides services for beginning farmers. It helps immigrants, refugees, and other underserved people learn to farm, build a farming business, rent local farmland, and market their produce. New Entry supports the sustainability of local agriculture, builds long term economic self-reliance among participants and their communities, keeps agricultural land in production, and helps ensure high-quality ethnically diverse foods are offered in the greater Lowell area. She will also talk about her experience raising meat and eggs for the local market through "Pete and Jen's Backyard Birds" of Concord. If you have any questions about this event please contact Leslie Thomas (978) 287-0025. And for those who didn't see the recent article in Boston Globe about NESFP, see: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/08/21/growing\\_a\\_new\\_generation\\_of\\_farmers/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/08/21/growing_a_new_generation_of_farmers/). Additionally: All are invited to NESFP's **Harvest Festival, Sunday Sept 28**, from 1 - 4 p.m. at Richardson's Dairy in Dracut. It will be a fun-filled family affair on the farm with music by Eric Royer's One Man Band (listen at: <http://www.guitarmachine.com>).

Please call the church office if you have any questions at 978-369-5180.

### Girls' Night Out SEAWL Fundraiser, September 25

On Thursday Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Linda Myers-Tierney has opened her home at 46 Lowell Street for a fundraiser for The Southeast Asian Women's Leadership (SEAWL) Forum. This new organization will hold its inaugural conference for 25-30 teen girls from the Lowell area in October, followed by mentoring throughout the school year. The conference is designed to help girls discover their leadership potential, and learn from successful women role models. With traditional Cambodian costuming and other surprises as well, it should be a cultural treat! Linda says "I hope you can join me on Sept 25, and feel free to invite other girl friends!" Please RSVP to Lydia Breckon ([lydia@angkordance.org](mailto:lydia@angkordance.org)) or call with questions to (619) 863-3413. Tickets for this fundraising evening are \$45 per person.

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, September 21

"The People Beyond the Mountains"  
Rev. Diane Miller

Transylvania is a region of Romania with many Unitarian churches in Hungarian-speaking communities. They have a remarkable story of survival through adversity. Many UU congregations, including our neighbors in Bedford and Concord, have partner relationships with congregations in Transylvania. A group of nine Transylvanians who are visiting the Concord church will be at FRS for a potluck on Tuesday evening. The sermon is an introduction to this key part of our religious history.

#### Sunday, September 28

"Neighborhood Sunday"  
Rev. Diane Miller

It isn't easy to invite neighbors to visit your church, yet that is the most effective way to bring newcomers to a Sunday service. A mailing to all local residents will describe our congregational life and programs, so that may make it easier to extend a personal invitation. If FRS means a lot to you, surely there are others whose lives would be made better by being part of this community. Let's all extend our hospitality and welcome.

### UNION HALL COFFEEHOUSE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2008.

The "Bust'n Out Blues" Fundraiser  
With Scrumdaddy and City Of Roses  
for The Lowell Open Food Pantry

7:30 PM  
\$25 (All for the Open Pantry)  
Kids under 12 are free but  
must bring a can of soup.

B.Y.O.B.  
Doors open at 7:00  
Handicapped accessible

Tickets online through the website at  
[www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com](http://www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com)  
MKTIX.com, or at the door.  
Reservations are always suggested.  
Enjoy your evening by candlelight, and  
feast from our divine cafe.  
You're going to feel great, when you  
leave!

**The book discussion group that operates under the auspices of Concord Prison Outreach is looking for used copies of "In Cold Blood" by Truman Capote.** This group is very important to the inmates who attend it -- many of whom are developing an interest in literature for the first time. If you have a used copy you are willing to donate, or if you have questions about the book group, please contact NancySWest@msn.com



## I Love The Environment

*The environment is mother earth and we have been abusing our earth. Polar bears, penguins, arctic foxes, etc. are dying because of us barbarians. You might think we are normal but we have an awful dark side. Well what can you do? Well try this. Listen to these green tips.*

- *If you are not watching T.V., not using the computer, etc. Turn them off. That will not use up electricity.*
- *Do not eat a lot of meat. Have meatless Tuesdays or Mondays and that will help with fewer imports, which increase carbon footprints because trucks and boats, which the meat is imported in, release cO2.*
- *Drive less walk more. This again will reduce Co2 going into the air.*
- *Recycle paper so it will be reused instead of people having to cut down trees.*
- *Reuse plastic bags so they won't go in to a landfill and take 1000 years to biodegrade and maybe blow away and ruin the beauty of earth.*
- *Try to watch "An Inconvenient Truth" by Al Gore. It will give you further info.*
- *If you follow tips you Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.*

Written by Anastasia Forucci for the Environmental Action Committee summer service on August 24th. Anastasia is a member of the committee.



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Saturday, August 23 was FRS workday at the house Habitat is building on Williams Ave. in Westford. Participating were David Verrill and his son Ben; Brendon Smith, who is the son of COA Outreach Coordinator Angela Smith, and George Bishop. The house is well along. Professional sheet rockers were finishing up the walls and ceilings. Dave and another volunteer drew the job of going to the rear of the property and digging up wild daylilies to plant near the house. The job turned out to be more exciting than one would expect. A neighbor was certain that those were his daylilies. After some discussion about where the property line was located, the neighbor called the police. The arrival of a policeman terminated the discussion and the moving of the daylilies! I was assigned the task of putting up Tyvek sheet and then clapboards on two small triangular areas under the roof at the ends of the front porch. It was picky work fitting the Tyvek and clapboards into that triangular space. In addition the clapboards were hardyboard, a pre-painted cementitious, artificial clapboard that has a long life, but is harder to install than old-fashioned wooden clapboards. A special blade and the use of dust masks is required when cutting it, and it must be predrilled before nailing it to avoid cracking it. I got the Tyvek up by myself and was joined by Dave Verrill in the installation of the clapboards. Part way through, we were joined by Ben Verrill. The lunch was also provided by FRS members Ellen and Ernie Huber. Ernie set out all the fixings for sandwiches, drinks and cookies for dessert. Jim Comeau, the site supervisor, was delighted to see Ernie again and gave him a personal tour of the house and an explanation of the green construction. If you would like to help out on future construction please call Ernie Huber at 978-369-6678 or George Bishop at 978-369-5080.

## PARISH COMMITTEE NOTES ON SUMMER MEETINGS

The Parish Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. We had our last meeting with Victor Carpenter, Interim Minister in June. Over the summer our meetings covered discussion and conversation on the following:

- Alan Cameron kept us abreast of cell tower progress. No dates for construction have been set.
- The annual PC Retreat was planned for September 6th. The Retreat Theme will be "A New Beginning". John Lyons will convene and chair the retreat.
- A BBQ welcome dinner was planned for Diane Miller's first Parish Committee meeting.
- PC met with Lynn Thomas the District Administrator on coordination of policy and by-laws.
- Church Council meetings will be held throughout the year. The initial meeting at 8:30 on a Sunday to be announced and remaining meetings to be held at the Parsonage following Sunday service with a soup lunch.
- Lisa Sama and Suzanne Whitney Smith were elected Co-chairs for the coming year.
- PC will meet with church committees throughout the year.
- Committee liaisons for the coming year are:  
Personnel Committee- Michael Dundorff  
Buildings & Grounds – Tim Hult  
Finance – Tim Hult  
Music & Worship – Eric Darling  
Pastoral Concerns – Marge Stickler  
Activities – Lisa Sama & Suzanne Whitney Smith  
Environmental Action –Lisa Sama  
Hospitality – Suzanne Whitney Smith  
Membership – Suzanne Whitney Smith  
Religious Education –Lisa Sama

## CARLISLE HAPPENINGS

**Carlisle COA/Carlisle churches and Robbins Brook Inn Senior Luncheons:** The Carlisle COA, in a collaborative effort with Carlisle churches, Robbins Brook Inn, and Minuteman Senior Services, will be providing a delicious hot lunch the first week of the month starting on Thursday, October 2, 2008. Our first luncheon is scheduled to start at St. Irene's at noon on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The luncheons at FRS and Congregational Churches will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, and St. Irene's will be the first Thursday of the month. (We will be going to Robbins Brook for a holiday luncheon in Dec.) Thank you to the volunteers at FRS for helping us with provide another luncheon each month that will give our seniors another way to socialize with their peers right here in Carlisle! To sign up for any of these luncheons, call the COA at (978) 371-2895.



**Transylvanian Guests:** There will be a Potluck with First Parish of Concord on September 23 at The First Religious Society. We will co-sponsor it with the First Parish of Concord, and will share the meal with the nine Unitarian Transylvanians visiting Concord. They will give a brief presentation of their life and religion. The potluck begins at 6:30pm in Union Hall. A sign up sheet will be out at coffee hour on Sunday, September 21 or you can call the church office, 978-369-5180.