

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. 2

September 24, 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 24, 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

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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

Ellen Huber asked me to write a "welcoming letter" to be included in the Search Committee's packet. Its the sort of letter an outgoing minister writes to describe the church in order that the potential candidate can say to her or himself, "Wow, this church certainly sounds like just the right place for me!"

I started to write the letter and immediately faced a problem. I've been your Interim Minister for only several weeks. What do I know about you beyond the very pleasant generalities that we have accorded each other over the two Sundays that we have been together? So I turned to Diane Miller's introductory letter (included in your last search packet) and lifted some of her thoughts (Oh, giving full attribution you may be sure). But even my Diane borrowings didn't extend the letter very far.

What to do? What to write? Then I hit on the solution: write about the three people at FRS whom I have really begun to know. Molly Sorrows, Kathy Varney and the inestimable Marguerite Shaw. You know each of them well, far better than you know me. You value what they do and the attitudes which each brings to her job. I'm not going to repeat what I said in the covering letter to potential

candidates, but I am going to say how very fortunate this church is to have three such willing workers to carry on all the daily tasks so that the Sunday worship service can be a joyful and inspiring hour of reflection and praise.

As the Search Committee begins its labors, the church's focus will (and should) shift to the coming of the next minister. Excitement will mount and expectations will be shared and compared. Before this happens I think it appropriate to pause in gratitude for what presently exists in this church, three dedicated and committed people who love this congregation, serve it well and generously, and prepare it to receive the gift of the future. They deserve our thanks and praise.

Warmly, Victor

UPCOMING SERVICES

October 7: “Is This Your Religion?”

Unitarian Universalism (our “officially” distinguishing handle) includes a broad variety of religious perspectives. What defines us has less to do with doctrine than with attitude. We include Buddhists and Christians, atheists and tree worshippers, the religiously frightened, the religiously committed, the religiously confused. If any of that sounds like you then you’re in the right pew.

October 14: The Rev. Bill Schulz, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Rev. Shultz has also been the head of Amnesty International, has written several books relating to the work of Amnesty and it is an honor to welcome him to our pulpit.

October 21: “Emerson and Tuckerman”

One of them is a household word, a foundational name in Unitarian Universalist circles; the other is virtually unknown although he too was a significant Unitarian figure and contemporary of Emerson. The two men reflect two important elements with Unitarian Universalism today.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Molly Sorrows

Volunteers Needed for Yard Work for Seniors

Day: On Saturday, Sept. 29, we will assist some Carlisle seniors with yard clean up and raking. Nadine Bishop and Molly Sorrows are putting together teams to work at several different homes. The seniors are calling the church to sign up for this project, and to be successful, we need your help! We will need rakes, gloves, clippers, and possibly tarps or wheelbarrows. We are offering this as a two-hour slot from 10am to noon, but we will set up an afternoon team if you are free in the afternoon instead. Please call the church office to sign up to help, or speak to Nadine or Molly.

Religious Education: Our RE program is off to a terrific start this year. The children have lots of enthusiasm and seem very happy to be together at church. I would encourage FRS families who have not attended in some time to consider revisiting the church. I find that our class leaders and the children all welcome new faces. Recently a couple of families have commented to me that one of the special things about this community is that church helps our kids bridge across the friendship groups from school and they learn to be supportive of one another here. This is one of the things we really strive for. I am passionate about trying to create an environment that nourishes each child and helps our children learn about themselves, our community and our world in a respectful and caring way. We want to teach our children the importance of our values, and to help them learn to make decisions based on those values as they grow up. Religious education begins at home, with who you are as a family, what you believe, and how you share that. But it is enhanced when we come together as a community, worship and learn together, and contribute to the wider world together with service to others. Join us anytime, and feel free to call me with any questions about our program.

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 October 1.

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

**UNION HALL COFFEEHOUSE
BUSINESS UPDATE**
by Dian Cuccinello

As of today, we are definitely into the 21st century, in terms of the ability to purchase tickets for any performances which will take place in our coffeehouse, here at FRS. We've hooked up with a very reputable online ticket agency called MKTix (see www.mktix.com). Having this service will give us more of a head's up in terms of reservation status for each event we have here. The fee to the agency is minimal (\$2 per ticket), and I chose them over many others, because they are also used by the Carlisle School System, as well as the library, Concord Chorus, and many other community events and venues in this area. MKTix technology and its web site were developed and operated by Meerkat Technology, Inc., in Boxborough, MA. When you go to our web site, be sure and take advantage of the Buy Now button, to reserve your tickets to the shows of your choice. (Hopefully, it will be all of them!) After paying, you will be able to print out a receipt, which you will then bring with you to the show to present to the front desk, before going in. Enjoy the convenience, AND enjoy the shows! Peace through Music, Dian Francesca Cuccinello

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@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.

KEYWORD: Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, at 3:00pm.

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

PROGRAM NEWS

Wanted - Items for the Service Auction at the Harvest Fair. Donations need not be incredibly valuable, but quirky, clever, unusual would be most appreciated. A receipt for tax purposes will cheerfully be given. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or call Alison Saylor for pick up and storage until October 13th, the day of the Harvest Fair. Ideally, it would be wonderful if you could bring them to the church on Friday between 3pm and 7pm as we set up for the Fair. For further information contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 saylorfarm@comcast.net

Search Survey: We hope you all can help us to get an accurate picture of our congregation that we can use to inform potential ministerial candidates. We would very much appreciate your completion of the church survey sent out by e-mail last week. Please let Kathy Varney (369-5180) know if you did not receive the e-mail or if you do not have e-mail access. We would like to have the survey forms back to the church office, either by e-mail or USPS, by October 3. Many thanks for your help.

Ministerial Search Committee

Potluck featuring organic and locally-grown food Friday September 28, 6:00pm in Union Hall sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee. This potluck is open to the community and will showcase the wonderful locally-grown and organic ingredients available to the good cooks and gardeners in Carlisle. This casual evening will feature a short presentation on beekeeping in Carlisle and on growing organic produce. All ages welcome. **Potluck logistics** - in the interest of simplicity may we suggest you bring a dish to feed 8-10 people. Use the following based upon the first letter of your last name: A-C=appetizer or beverage (chips, fruit, cheese, etc) D-G= bread, H-M = salad or vegetable, N-S=main dish, T- Z= Dessert. *Please try to bring something that contains organic or locally grown ingredients, however the Organic Police will not confiscate your dish at the door!* For more information see www.carlislegrown.org

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 Sally Hayden at 978-369-7591 during the month of October.

“Silver bells, silver bells, it’s Christmastime in the city.” Well not exactly, but soon. Looking for a few people who can read music and would like to ring bells for the holidays. Contact Marguerite at the church office (978-369-5180) or frsmusic@comcast.net. P.S. This is an intergenerational activity, grade six through adult.

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.

All Aboard the New Orleans Special!

Leaving Carlisle on February 16th and returning on February 22. If you haven't heard or read about this fantastic opportunity, a first-time event for FRS, just get in touch with Margaret Darling at 978-369-1475 or margaretdarling@mac.com

FRS REUNION ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7—SUNDAY, JUNE 8

by Alison Saylor

The 250th brochure makes our first public announcement about the Reunion Weekend planned for early June. Although we originally planned this reunion around the Strawberry Festival, the Parish Committee felt the attendance would be higher if it were held earlier. From the brochure:

Reunion Weekend: Saturday June 7 – Sunday June 8. This Reunion Weekend is a call to present and past friends and members of our church to visit for the weekend with members of the congregation. Members of the congregation are encouraged to open their homes to this influx of out of town visitors. A potluck supper on Saturday and a special service on Sunday will give everyone opportunities to celebrate, mingle and reconnect.

Open House: Sunday June 8, noon – 2:00pm. Have you seen the organ pipes in the sanctuary? Did you know we have a sub-basement under our basement? Have you seen the pewter in the display cabinet in the Minister's office? Want a chance to ring the bell by tugging on the rope hanging from the belfry? Come explore the nooks and crannies of our church. Historical documents and pictures will be on display. Ornaments and plates signifying our 250th celebration year will be for sale. All ages welcome.

The idea is that grown children, intern ministers, past ministers, members who have moved away, virtually anyone who has ever felt a connection to FRS should be invited to this Reunion Weekend. Perhaps visitors might arrive on a Friday evening. They can be tourists during Saturday, but gather at Union Hall for a Potluck supper. Dot Clark, honorary chairperson for the 250th Celebrations will give a short talk. Visitors will have a chance

to take the microphone briefly to explain their past connection to FRS. A special music-filled service on Sunday morning will blend into the Open House event that begins with (block your ears) the ringing of the bells 250 times. All the artifacts and memorabilia collected by Susan Emmons, Ellen Huber and Helen Lyons will be on display. All the quilts, banners, paintings, blessings and songs made for our 250th anniversary will be proudly showcased.

The first step is to collect the names and addresses of people to invite. A "Save the date" invitation and a copy of our 250th brochure will be sent to everyone. Is there someone you can suggest be put on our invitation list? Please send Kathy Varney, our Office Administrator, names and addresses.

Celebration Concert Series at The First Religious Society in Carlisle, MA Celebrating 250 Years

Oct. 14, 2007 at 4:00pm The MP3 Jazz
Markus Pinney, piano and vocals
John Clark, bass
Harvey Nosowitz, percussion

January 27, 2008 at 4:00pm
Fumito Nunoya, marimbist

Concerts are free and open to the public.
The building is fully accessible.
Donations will be appreciated at the
reception immediately following each
event. Additional concerts will be
announced as the celebration year
continues.

ROSH HASHANA by Roger Goulet

I am a member of one of our three Small Group Ministries. Our September topic was the Jewish New Year, or Rosh Hashanah, which was celebrated this year on September 12-14. We chose it because we thought, why should the RE children have all the fun of learning about the world's major religions? Also because we wanted to plumb the meaning of this solemn holiday to see if it had meaning for us.

For Jewish people, Rosh Hashanah is a time to reaffirm their faith in God, acknowledge his sovereignty, and rededicate their lives to his service. On the level of human relationships it is also an opportunity to remember those whom they have sinned against and ask to be forgiven. Praying for forgiveness for our human weaknesses and follies is as central to Judaism as it is to Christianity.

In Jewish tradition the book of the year is closed on this day, and for those still living a new page is turned, with the hope that during the new year we will reflect upon those people we can help the light of God's love which shines always upon us. This was the aspect of the holiday which our group celebrated: to ask for and accept forgiveness and to resolve to rise above our smallness and let "the angels of our better nature" do their work.

In our Eurocentric culture the new year is January 1st. This goes back to pre-Christian Scandinavian culture and the re-emergence in their northern latitudes of the sun, which each year seemed to desert them by the time of the winter solstice. We go along with this because it's our tradition, but for many people it seems arbitrary; hence our hyperkinetic and somewhat forced celebration of the beginning of the month which . . . precedes February?

Rosh Hashanah takes place at what for us in 21st century America is the real beginning of the year:

the end of summer vacation, the beginning of school, for gardeners the start of harvest-time -- the end of the time for being and the beginning of the time for doing.

That's why we began our Small Group Ministry service by blowing the shofar -- the ram's horn that heralds the celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

HARVEST FAIR



Saturday, October 13
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Pumpkins on the Common – A Community Fundraiser also Saturday, October 13, but with extended hours 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Fresh pressed cider, Country Store, Plant table, Bake table, Silent Auction, artisan booths, Luncheon Cafe, Habitat for Humanity plywood signing, a Scarecrow contest, Raffle...in other words, lots of fun for all ages!

Willing to help for a couple of hours? Set up is Friday afternoon and evening and we need helpers during the event. Please contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 or Barbara Ritz (978) 392-0442 britz219@aol.com