

**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 XXXI, No. 2

September 25, 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 25, 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,

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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

**THE ECLECTIC CLERIC**

Last week I attended this year's first Mass Bay District Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association Chapter meeting at the Follen Church in Lexington. Because I have good friends in both districts (and because the Mass Bay meetings tend to be a lot more convenient) I try to participate in both the MBD and the Clara Barton District UUMA chapters...even though it also means I have to pay two sets of professional dues. But between the two it only adds up to about one meeting a month (not including the informal monthly brown-bag lunches for our local "cluster" of UU ministers, which both Woody and I faithfully attend, hosted by our neighbor Ellen Spero at the First Parish in Chelmsford). It's a small price to pay for the pleasure of regular collegial companionship, and a chance to "talk shop" with some of the most talented clergy in our denomination.

This month's meeting featured a program by my friend and Divinity School classmate Larry Peers, who edited the UUA Congregational Handbook when he worked at 25 Beacon Street, and is now a full-time consultant for the prestigious Alban Institute. Larry's topic was "Juggling Roles

as Leader, Minister, Supervisor, Human...and Miracle Worker." One of the exercises was to brainstorm a list of the various roles clergy play in the performance of their duties. Here's the list I came up with (some of them metaphorical) with the help of the people sitting around my table.

Preacher, Teacher, Pastor, Leader, Writer, Performer, Caregiver, Coach, Student, Scholar, Storyteller, Advocate, Mentor, Mediator, Negotiator, Entrepreneur, Peacemaker, Prophet, Priest, Rabbi, Chaplain, Mystic, Pilgrim, Spiritual Seeker, Spiritual Guide, Visionary, Organizer, Manager, Long Range Planner, Professional Expert, Organizational Consultant, Institutional Memory, Personal Companion, Philosophical Gadfly, Partner, Parent, Trusted Friend, Administrator, "Boss," Strategist, Facilitator, Fundraiser, Expediter, Supervisor, Servant, Shepherd, Sheep Dog, Experimenter, Analyst, Observer, Pundit, Critic, Counselor, Motivator, Devil's Advocate, Plucky Comic Relief, Medic, Personal Trainer, Baby Sitter, Dog Walker, Cat Herder, Chef, Gardener, Fisherman, Dishwasher, Custodian, Jack-of-all-Trades, Quarterback, Point Guard, Relief Pitcher, Cheerleader, Pinch Hitter, Lead-off Hitter, Clean-up Hitter, Center

## THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

Fielder, Utility Infielder, Free Safety, Placekicker, Punt Returner, Bench Warmer, Water Boy, Umpire, Groundskeeper... and, of course, Miracle Worker (which Larry gave us right in the title).

Larry then encouraged us to think of these various roles as a "team of players" which we could call upon as needed in order to help us do our jobs. Of course, as coach and general manager, my first question was: How am I going to find enough Playing Time for all the members of this team? Who do I put in the starting line-up and who do I keep in the bullpen; who's missing from my roster, and who do I need to trade, waive or cut outright? I don't really have answers to these questions, but Larry did provide an intriguing different perspective on the complex and fascinating vocation of Parish Ministry. And, of course, this exercise isn't restricted to ministers only. What kind of roles do you play in your life, and what kind of players do you have on your team? Be creative; think outside the box. You may discover you have a lot deeper roster than you think.....twj

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## PIANOS, PIANOS, PIANOS

*by Marguerite Shaw*

You may have noticed that another piano has "moved into" Union Hall recently. This instrument, a Baldwin Acrosonic, was donated to our church by Alix and Rich Taylor. Bob Wallhagen, Tom Rourk and Danny Rourk accomplished the move, using Bob's truck. The plan is to move the baby grand to Tom's workshop (after he returns from a vacation in Ireland) where he can do the necessary work that will put it in first-class condition. When it comes back to Union Hall, the piano donated by the Taylors will be moved to the parsonage. Many thanks to the Taylors for this gift, and thanks to Bob W. and the Brothers Rourk for their labors in getting this job accomplished.

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Sarah Darling has just been accepted into the Portland Symphony. Sarah, a 2002 graduate of Harvard University, recently moved back to the U.S. after several years studying viola abroad. In November she will return briefly to Germany to complete her requirements for the Soloist Diploma from the Musikhochschule in Freiburg, and she expects to receive her Masters Degree from the New England Conservatory in December of 2007. In the coming year, she will also be working as assistant to Robert Mealy with the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra. Sarah is known to local concertgoers as founder and director of the Arcturus Chamber Ensemble, which performs regularly here at The First Religious Society and in the Boston area.

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.

Next Newsletter Deadline is October 2, 2006

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

**HARVEST FAIR 2006  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

The Harvest Fair is just around the corner and there is lots to do to be ready for this annual fund raiser. We need scores of people to help with running the Luncheon Cafe, Country Store, Attic Treasures and Bake Table. Do you have any plants to contribute to George Bishop's plant table? Have you any produce to donate to the Country Store? Could you bake something for the Bake Table? Have you any treasures that will make the Silent Auction interesting? Do you or a friend own a "Cool" car that could be parked around the Green for people to ogle? WE NEED YOUR HELP! We especially need help on the set up day Friday, October 13 when we receive all the wonderful donations that make up the White Elephant tables and Silent Auction. Please call or e-mail:

Barbara Ritz (978) 392-0442  
[britz219@aol.com](mailto:britz219@aol.com)

Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809  
[Saylorfarm@comcast.net](mailto:Saylorfarm@comcast.net)

Dian Cuccinello (978) 287-5745  
[dianfrancesca@comcast.net](mailto:dianfrancesca@comcast.net) with questions or suggestions.

**STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS**

**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](mailto:uucleric@mindspring.com).

**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).

**Music Rehearsals Schedule**

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

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS** by *Molly Sorrows*

The Religious Education program is off to a fun and busy start, and we have many great plans for the year. Please remember to register your children and youth for RE, including your email address so we can put you on the right class lists for this year. If you haven't had a chance to register yet, call or email Molly.

**Adults are needed:** Please call or email Molly. Contributing even just a few Sundays is a big help.

**Nursery Care:** Our high school youth and other adults offer childcare to allow parents of these young ones chance for a special time in our church community.

**Chalice Children:** Our preschool & kindergarten class is already enjoying learning more about our church, its chalice symbol, and one another.

**Superheroes Class:** Children in grades 1-3 are learning about heroes, including themselves, others that they know, and people in the Bible.

**Grades 4-5:** Using the Timeless Themes curriculum, this class will explore our Jewish and Christian heritage and talk about issues that come up in their lives such as working out conflicts, how to make and keep friends, and ways they can do good in their lives.

**Junior Youth Group:** Meeting on Sunday morning, this active group of youth and adults have planned a wide variety of topics and activities.

**Senior High Youth Group:** We need several adults to help these youth kick off their year. They want to get back into some social action projects as well as some other fun activities and discussions. Please call Molly to hear more about this opportunity and offer your time for a few projects.

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

**October 1:** Neighborhood Sunday  
**Sermon:** "A Little Good News on a Sunday Morning"  
Rev. Jensen

A concert by The Beacon Brass at 7:00pm at the Corey Auditorium. Admission is free and all are welcome.

**October 8:** The Reverend Robin Zucker will be our guest speaker  
**Sermon:** "Cornerstones Sticky with Grape Jelly"

As a supplement for periodic mailings, **Friends of the UUA will be conducting a fundraising phonathon** beginning the week of October 9th and continuing through mid November. Members may call 617-948-6525 to leave a message to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or to share a comment directly with a UU staff member.

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.

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT *by Alison Saylor*

The Parish Committee named Small Group Ministries as one of five areas of commitment for this year. We are pleased to announce that three groups are forming. Sign up sheets will be set out during coffee hour for the next several weeks or you may send in your interest in a particular group via e-mail to [FRS@uucarlisle.org](mailto:FRS@uucarlisle.org).

**3rd Wednesday morning group** 9:30 - 11:30AM at Alison Saylor's house – Michael Dundorf and Alison Saylor facilitators. First meeting October 18.

**4<sup>th</sup> Monday evening group** 7:00 -9:00PM at the church – Ellen and Ernie Huber facilitators. First meeting October 23.

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evening group** 7:00 -9:00 PM at Steve Kirk's house – Bob Luoma and Steve Kirk facilitators. First meeting October 24.

If these days are not convenient for you, we may be able to create a fourth group that meets on Sunday afternoons. If Sunday afternoons do not suit you, then tell us your availability and we will do our best to form a group at that time.

The first three topics for all groups will be October *"What is your Passion?"*, November *"Transitions and Turning Points"* and December *"Gratitude"*.

So what does it mean to join a SGM group? It means that you will be doing your very best to attend all meetings. It means you may be sharing ideas and feelings with others who will respect and keep

confidential these private thoughts. It means you will get to understand and bond with some caring, diverse members of The First Religious Society. It means you will have meaningful adult conversations with others without taking home action items, meeting minutes or other time consuming obligations. It means you will choose as a group one service project to perform together, this could be as simple as doing a Coffee Hour one Sunday.

A participant handbook and the Small Group Ministries (SGM) covenant are available during Coffee Hour and in the church office. A number of additional booklets and information can be found on the FRS website [www.uucarlisle.org](http://www.uucarlisle.org). Please feel free to ask questions of any member of the SGM Steering Committee of Facilitators; Michael Dundorf, Ernie and Ellen Huber, Tim Jensen, Steve Kirk, Bob Luoma, Kathy Rubenstein and Alison Saylor. We enthusiastically urge you to sign up for a SGM group. It is a good way to connect and get to know other people whether you are a "newcomer" or "old-timer". We sincerely believe the beneficial ripple effect of your SGM meetings will strengthen the community of all at FRS.

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

**Foundation Plantings at the Parsonage:** Next time you drive past the Parsonage you might notice that the unruly Daylilies and Tall Garden Phlox in the front have been replaced by some small, tidy shrubs. This project was started a couple of years ago by Lyn Oleksiak when she used her own money to buy some shrubs for the front foundation plantings. During the clean-up Saturday on September 9<sup>th</sup>, George Bishop and Tim Hult planted fifteen shrubs purchased at low cost from Home Depot. Some shrubs will remain small, but others are just young specimens of larger bushes that, with time, should fill in nicely without blocking the windows. Building and Grounds undertook this project partly to spruce up the Parsonage, but particularly to honor the Oleksiaks for their many contributions to the life and health of The First Religious Society.

Alison Saylor

**Open Pantry donation helper:** We are looking for someone to empty the open pantry donation basket each week into the big bin in the front foyer. This could be done after the rise of church, or prior to the start of the service the next week. Please let Molly know if you would like to be in charge.

**Knit for People Who Are Homeless: Tuesday, October 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](mailto:lindamt@comcast.net) or 371-1919.