

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXX, No. 21

August 28, 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 August 28, 2006

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:30 a.m. beginning on September 10th.

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,
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Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Alan Cameron, 978-369-2223;
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Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: lms@bostonbits.com

Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180

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THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

"249 & counting..."

Approaching the beginning of yet another church year, my fourth here at FRS, I tend to experience the same combination of excitement and dread I used to feel as a child at the end of summer and the start of school. The excitement was often manifested through shopping for new clothes and fresh school supplies, and the anticipation of seeing my "school" friends after a long, lazy summer of doing lots of nothing and doing it with the enthusiasm that only a child can muster.

The dread tended to come more in the form of a fear of things not seen. Would I like my new teacher, and would my teacher like me? What if the homework was too hard for my little brain? Blessed with an abundant imagination, I generally had little trouble figuring out all sorts of things to dread about going back to school...all of which generally disappeared before the last bell on the first day.

This year at FRS we have plenty to be excited about, and not very much to dread. At the staff/Parish Committee retreat earlier this summer, we identified five priorities for 2006-07:

An all-church "Visioning" process, centered around a congregational visioning "event" on Saturday, February 10th. What is our role as a Religious institution in the future of the Carlisle community? How do we want to be in relationship with one another? How do we wish to touch people's lives, and in doing so transform the world one person at a time? These

are the kinds of questions every church should ask itself from time to time. Our time is now.

Increasing the "inspirational" character of our worship. My personal goal as a worship leader is to create the kind of worship experience that people look forward to participating in each week, and where they also feel comfortable inviting their friends. I want worship that is simple yet dignified, friendly and easy to follow, with stimulating content and lots of laughter and good feeling. But I also want it to feel profound, to offer hope and encouragement in times of trouble, and to cultivate a sense of connection to both a larger community and a higher power. The Music and Worship Committee survey of two years ago helped us to identify the qualities we appreciate in our current worship service, but did little to help us go even deeper. Our goal this year is to take our worship experience to "the next level."

Improving Communication, both within and beyond the congregation. "Getting the word out" is a constant challenge for churches of every size and shape. Here at FRS, things are no different. Many folks rely on the "grapevine" to get their news, but for many others this simply isn't enough. How can we communicate more effectively with one another, so that everyone is aware of what is happening in our Society, and our decision-making process can be both more streamlined and more focused, as well as more widely-shared?

Launching our new Small Group Ministries program. Small Group Ministries are more than just an interesting way to spend an evening or two each month. In many ways, they represent an alternative way of "doing" church. When we set aside

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

time in our busy lives to talk in a deep way about things that really matter with people we truly care about, the overall quality of our spiritual experience increases exponentially. In addition to forming these new Covenant Groups, I also plan to work this year with Molly and our newly-endorsed Community Minister Robin Zucker (along with anyone else who is interested) to help revitalize our more traditional Adult Religious Education and Jr/Sr Youth group ministries.

Preparing to celebrate our 250th anniversary of ministry to this community in 2008. A quarter of a millennium is a long time in anybody's calendar. As we get ready to commemorate Timothy Wilkins' visionary gift to his "neighbours and fellow creatures" back in 1758, there is no better time to re-imagine the gifts we have to offer to one another in the here and now, as we embark on another 250 years of faithful service and shared ministry. We all have much to look forward to in the next twelve months. And I look forward to seeing you back in church September 10th, when my topic will be "The Plain and Simple Truth About the Most Important Thing in the Universe..."twj

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RETREAT

After examining the existing church program, its successes and its wants and our wish lists, Parish Committee identified 5 areas to invest their attention for the coming church year. These are:

- plan a congregation-wide visioning exercise to focus on the future of FRS
- work to improve the inspirational experience of Sunday mornings
- improve communication within the FRS community
- work to support the excellent Small Group Ministries program begun under Steve Kirk's leadership in 2005-2006
- support and help with plans for the 250th anniversary celebration 2007-2008

As FRS approaches its 250th anniversary a look to the future is essential. To this end PC is planning a congregation-wide exercise that will allow everyone to contribute to the ideas, plans and dreams for our historic ministry in Carlisle.

Additionally the PC will work to find ways to enhance the inspirational experience of our Sunday mornings. Our Minister of Music, Marguerite Shaw and our Director of Religious Education, Molly Sorrows will be attending Parish Committee meetings to support our work in this and other areas. Support for the exciting new small group ministries program is essential to keep it growing. There will be many opportunities for FRS friends and members to become involved. Finally supporting and contributing to the planning for the 250th Anniversary Celebration will be an important part of our work this year. Over all of these tasks will be new efforts to improve communication between all those who are part of FRS.

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).

- Sept. 7 Music and Worship Committee meeting at 7:30pm in the conference room.
- Sept. 9 Outdoor clean up of church grounds.
- Sept. 10 First service of the church year beginning at 10:30am. Childcare and Religious Education provided.
- Sept. 10 Womenspirit Potluck Dinner at 5:00pm in Union Hall.
- Sept. 14 RE Orientation at 7:00pm. See details on page 3 in newsletter.
- Sept. 17 Church Council meeting at 9:00am in the conference room.
- Sept. 21 Parish Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.
- Sept. 23 Welcome Back Pot Luck at 6:30pm in Union Hall.
- Oct. 1 Neighborhood Sunday! The Beacon Brass will play at the Corey Auditorium at 7:00pm. All are welcome. Admission is free.

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 September 5.

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

MUSIC NOTES TUNE UP!!
 Our records show that you're due for a tune-up. Because you are all valued customers, your tune-up will be free of charge. Your first appointment is at 7:30 on Wednesday evening, September 6. If you've never had this kind of tune-up, not to worry - just show up and we'll fit you in, no problem. We work with all makes and models. Questions? Just call our Parts Manager, Marguerite Shaw at 978-369-5180.

PARISH COMMITTEE

Parish Committee has met regularly throughout the summer as well as for a leadership retreat on Saturday, August 12th with Executive Director of the Clara Barton District Lynn Thomas. The Retreat focused on setting goals for the coming year and planning the calendar to coordinate with the exciting events in this pre-250 anniversary year. Everyone is excited about the year ahead.

To enhance coordination and communication Parish Committee has appointed the following members to serve as liaison with other standing church committees and ministries:

Finance Committee –Charlie Davis
Social Action – Marge Stickler
Music & Worship – Eric Darling
Religious Education – Lisa Sama
Membership – Suzanne Whitney Smith
Committee on Ministry – Steve Kirk
Buildings & Grounds - Tim Hult

It would be helpful if the Chairs of these committees would add these names to their distribution lists as they prepare to hold their opening meetings of the year.

Additionally three dates have been set for Church Council meetings when every committee and ministry within the church is invited to send a representative to share news, progress, plans and problems.

At the end of August, the Parish Committee received a proposal from Sprint/Nextel to lease

space from FRS to install antennas and supporting radio equipment to support their service in the area. PC is forming a small committee to review the proposal and its ramifications. More information will be available in the coming weeks and at the first Church Council meeting on September 17th.

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.

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.

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 - WELCOME BACK!

by Molly Sorrows, Director of Religious Education

I am really looking forward to seeing all the returning families in September, and welcome any new friends who are coming to join us this year. Please do invite your friends to call or email me for information about our programs or invite them to come for a few visits to check it out.

We have a wonderful cooperative program, and invite all adults in the congregation to be a part of sharing our UU values with the children and youth. If you have been in the church for a year or two, now is a great time to step into the classroom and work more closely. You will find that we have excellent curricula which provide structure for the teachers, our children are enthusiastic do-ers and questioners, and both the adults and children learn and grow in their own spiritual journeys together.

On Thursday, September 14, the Religious Education committee and I will host a Parent Orientation and Teacher Training. This is an opportunity for sharing ideas and goals, as well as getting guidance from my experience as the director of the program and from those who have taught in our FRS classrooms or in other venues. It is also a chance to ask questions about the program, meet other adults involved in leading it, and work together with a team of people to make plans for one of the classes. It is open to all, and I hope you will attend.

Religious Education will begin on Sunday, September 10th, with the first Sunday of church. We will have classes or rooms for nursery to 8th grade.

High School Youth: If you are interested in working in the nursery or preschool rooms, please let me know as soon as possible. I am anxious to set up a schedule and be sure we have coverage. This is a great way to earn community service, and the little kids are great!

HS youth will also have a Youth Group kickoff in September. I have heard an interest in continuing & more social action projects, as well as a desire for some fun excursions such as canoeing & kayaking or a hike. The ideas the youth propose are the best, so parents, if you overhear any wishes and can put

them within my earshot and help them happen, that would be great.

Sunday Meditation Group Expanding: If you wish to join a meditation sangha (spiritual community) that is comprised principally of frs members (not a requirement), please contact Ed LeClair 978-807-5834 or edleclair@comcast.net

We meet at 179 Baldwin Road (off School Street) on Sunday mornings 6-8AM which appears to be in least conflict with personal, family, church and work responsibilities. METTA (Loving Kindness).

Habitat Framing Begins and Volunteers

Needed: Framing of the new Habitat houses in Reading begin Aug 26. 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 or George Bishop at 978-369-5080. Or email them at e2huber@rcn.com and 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.

Family - Friendly Potluck Supper



Saturday, September 23rd, 6:30pm
Union Hall – Country Casual Attire

Bring your children, bring your mother, bring your friends!

Enjoy the good cook'n and good cheer of The First Religious Society's friendly community

Country music and entertaining skit: "The Beverly Hillbillies Come to Carlisle"

Granny will fetch up the main course:

Stick-to-Yer -Ribs Baked Possum (Beef Burgundy), Biscuits and Sweet Taters

Bring some vittles; an appetizer, drinks, side dish, salad or dessert (of course BYOB)
and come and sit a spell with your neighbors!

Questions? Contact Granny Dian Cuccinello 978 287-5745 Dianfrancesca@comcast.net
or Alison Saylor 978 369-1809 Saylorfarm@comcast.net

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
Sunday, October 1, 2006
7:00pm

admission is free, and people of all ages are welcome
Reception following

PROGRAM NEWS

Church Council: The Parish Committee has set aside 3 dates in the coming church year to meet with the Church Council. Council meets to enhance communication within the church community. Each Committee is invited to send a representative to share with other church groups, information about that Committee's work and plans for upcoming events. Church Council meetings are open to any interested parishioner. Meetings will be held at 9:00AM in the 3rd floor conference room on the following Sundays:

- September 17, 2006 – Lisa Sama to convene
- January 21, 2007, Tim Hult to convene
- Late March/early April 2007, Eric Darling to convene

Membership Committee Meeting - Thursday, September 14th: Our first meeting of the fall will be held on Thursday, September 14th at 7:00pm at the home of Sue Kirk, 468 Westford St. We will be discussing plans for the new church year. Any questions, please call Sue Kirk 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.

Church clean-up Saturday September 9, 9:00AM to noon: Every year on the day before the first full church service of the fall we plan a clean-up morning to spruce up the yard and prepare the church. Some people tackle the crabgrass that always grows along the white fence. Other small teams might work on the brick area near the side entrance. Brooms, trimmers and garden or rubber gloves are useful items to bring that morning. Indoor jobs might include sorting and cleaning a class room or the kitchen. Children can help too. High Schoolers can get community service. The work is not too difficult, the company is terrific and everyone can feel good about helping our church community get off to a fresh start to the busy fall season. Questions? Call Alison Saylor at 978 369-1809 or e-mail Saylorfarm@comcast.net.

WomenSpirit Potluck Supper - Sunday, September 10th: All women are invited to a Potluck Supper in Union Hall on Sunday, September 10th 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).

Family Friendly Potluck Supper Saturday September 23 Union Hall 6:30PM

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