

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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Carlisle, MA 01741

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CRETURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXI, No. 11

February 5, 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 February 5, 2007

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

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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

Coffee Committee: Gio DiNicola, Anne Ketchen, Richard Ketchen, Tom Rourk,

Suzanne Whitney Smith, Jack O'Connor, Jenifer Bush

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

“Neighbouropolis”

One of the unique things about FRS that has always delighted me is the name of this newsletter, “Neighbours & Fellow Cretures.” For those of you who are so new to this place that you don’t yet know the story, this phrase comes from the language of the 1758 document with which Timothy Wilkins donated the portion of his farm here at the top of this hill in order to build the meetinghouse which became the first home of The First Religious Society of Carlisle.

The archaic language of Wilkins’ donation is charming, but it’s the sentiment it expresses which is still relevant today. In making his gift, Wilkins not only evokes the great commandment to “Love Thy Neighbour as Thyself,” he also acknowledges that we are all bound together as “fellow cretures” in what we today might call “the interdependent web of all existence,” but which Wilkins himself doubtlessly understood simply as God’s Creation.

Of course, Carlisle in the 21st century is in many ways a very different place from the community Timothy Wilkins helped to create through his act of generosity almost two hundred and fifty years ago. Wilkins was sensitive to the difficulties he and his neighbors experienced in winter traveling by foot or wagon to attend services in Concord, and hoped to create a “meeting house” where people

living in this neck of the woods could worship closer to home. And most of his “neighbours” were farmers like himself, who earned their livelihoods by the sweat of their brows tilling the soil. Nowadays, many Carlilseians practically live in their cars, and while many of us also still work out of our homes, many others travel to all corners of the globe in order to make a living. Our world is both much larger and much smaller than it was in Wilkins’ day. Expectations are higher, and the pace of life is more rapid. But at least here at FRS, we have resisted the temptation to modernize the name of our newsletter with a logo like “N&FC.”

Likewise, when I first arrived here in Carlisle almost four years ago now, the Mosquito was abuzz with talk of “Lonelyville,” and the isolation many of our neighbors feel here in this “City in the Woods.” The talk has diminished somewhat, but the challenge is still very real, and should be central to this congregation’s understanding of its identity and its mission. Located high on a hill in the heart of Carlisle, The First Religious Society is both the embodiment of Timothy Wilkins’ vision, and also the custodian of his legacy, and of the dreams and aspirations of all those who have followed in his footsteps here. And the challenge in our day is not so different than it was in his. How can we best transform “Lonelyville” into “Neighbouropolis,” so that OUR “neighbours & fellow cretures” can find a place to meet together in the presence of that “Creative Spirit which gives us life and gives life meaning” just a little closer to home....twj

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

PROGRAM NEWS

DON'T FORGET! Rev Tim's 2007 Semi-Vegetarian Potluck and Lenten Study Series begins Tuesday February 27th at 6:00 pm in Union Hall. Although anyone is welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, if you can please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend, so I'll have some idea of how many to cook for!

WomenSpirit Potluck Supper - Friday, February 9th - 7:00pm: Our next WomenSpirit gathering will be Friday, February 9th at the home of Heather Hedden where we'll share a potluck supper. Start time is 7:00pm. All women are welcome! Bring an appetizer, entree, salad or dessert. Any questions, call Sue Kirk 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com. Please contact Heather Hedden at 978-371-0822 if you are planning to attend.

Sven's Bridge Sunday March 25 10:30: The Spring Pageant this year will be a dramatization of a charming children's book *Sven's Bridge* by Anita Lobel. The story is set over a hundred years ago in Sweden, so we will be using old fashioned country clothing with aprons and bonnets for the girls and vests and rolled up pants for the boys. We need to make some cardboard props of bridges and ships, so we are looking for large boxes or cardboard. Do you have any? Active work on this Spring Pageant will begin in early March. Please contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 saylorfarm@comcast.net with any questions, suggestions or offers to help with this project.

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 Tricia Reed at 978-369-0135 during the month of February.

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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 February 12.

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

COFFEE COMMITTEE THANKS!

Thanks from the Coffee Committee: The old adage holds true: "Many hands make light work." We want to extend thanks to those of you who signed up to help out with coffee hour during the month of January: Sue Kirk, Wendy Barrow, Pam Fox, Karen Rigg, Marje Stickler, Sally Hayen, Al Cameron, Liz Carpenter, and Nadine and George Bishop. And a big thanks to those of you who anonymously dropped off goodies for the table. Your participation and contributions are greatly appreciated by all!

Helping out is easy. We need people to bring refreshments for the tables, show up around 10:00 to help set up, leave the service a few minutes early to do the final preparations, and stay late enough to help clean up Union Hall. A member of the committee is always on hand to help make the coffee, locate serving dishes, and answer questions about setting up and cleaning up. If you haven't helped out in a while, take a look at the sign-up sheets and pick a date that works for you. Thanks in advance!

-The Coffee Committee

STAFF AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

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

KIDS KWIRE
Wednesdays 3:15-3:45

Handbell Choir
TBA

CELL TOWER UPDATE by Lisa Sama

As you recall from the congregational meeting and publicity last October, we've been pursuing the possibility of putting two cellular telephone base stations in our steeple. Nextel/Sprint plans to install their antennas in the spire at the top of the steeple, while T-Mobile, which uses smaller antennas, plans to install them in three of the four spire support columns (at the level of the bell). Both companies plan to locate their equipment in boxed-in areas in the attic of the new addition, and to run cables between that and the steeple through the attic above the sanctuary. In addition there will be some small vertical cable conduits in the backs of the closets in the new addition, and some small air conditioning condensers outside them (in the corner by the rear door on the north side of the building). There will also be a new window in the back of the new attic.

I'm pleased to announce that progress has been made. We've negotiated both lease agreements, and I am in the process of signing both contracts. That enables the companies to attempt to get through the next set of wickets: the process of review by the responsible town boards and committees. One of those is the Historical Commission, which is particularly concerned that the changes to our historic building (especially the steeple) are not in any way noticeable from the outside. We clearly share that concern fully.

We're grateful to Tena Zara Herlihy and George Skelly, both lawyers and members of our congregation, who reviewed the lease agreements. Both contributed greatly to the negotiation process.

Now that this milestone has been passed, we plan to hold an open meeting for the community within the next month or so to publicize our plans and solicit comments.

If the schedule the companies propose is successful, reviews by the various town committees will occur during the spring, and construction will take place over the summer. If anyone wishes more details on the project, please call me at (978) 692-6592, or Alan Cameron (369-2223) or Jackie Schaefer (256-6770), who have acted as technical advisors on the project.

Lisa Sama, Parish Committee Co-Chair

ALL CHURCH VISIONING EVENT SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 *What would YOU like to see in the future at FRS?*

On Saturday, February 10th, Clara Barton District Executive Lynn Thomas will be at FRS to facilitate an all church visioning event. Think about what first brought you to FRS, and what keeps you here. What do you, your friends and your neighbors think about the future of this community, and what you will need from it in your lives? How can FRS continue to serve Carlisle effectively for another 250 years?

We will gather in the morning to hear YOUR thoughts and dreams, forming a "marketplace of ideas" which will then be discussed in small groups. Each group will come together around a specific idea, and will attempt to develop it as fully as they can in the time allotted. The work of these small groups that day will form the inspiration and framework for our future program development and budgetary planning, as we move forward into this next phase of our long history.

Save the date on your calendars **NOW!**
Saturday February 10th
8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Bring your Passion, Create a Plan

We want to hear ALL your ideas!

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.

GLOBAL WARMING AND BATHTUBS by Ernie Huber

What does the average person's attitude towards global warming have to do with the overflowing of a bathtub that is simultaneously filling and draining? Well, a lot if you listen to Prof. John Sterman, the MIT Jay Forrester Professor of Management, and the director of the System Dynamics group at the Sloan School of management.

On Tuesday, January 23, eleven of us met in front of the FRS to car pool to Lexington for a scrumptious Chinese buffet followed by an engrossing two and a half hour talk by Prof. Sterman about what it is in our cognitive faculties that makes Americans so complacent about global warming. In a room at Carey Memorial library holding 120 there was SRO. Prof. Sterman advanced a compelling argument that the complacency comes from a lack of proper understanding of how to think about graphs and the dynamics of something so simple as a bathtub that is simultaneously being filled AND emptied. Prof. Sterman gave numerous examples of how his own bright, technically savvy, graduate students flunk tests of the dynamics of "stocks and flows," of cumulative effect*. The concept all boiled down to one critical application--how to think about the effect publicly mandated CO2 emission control would have on CO2 accumulation in the atmosphere and therefore on global warming. The global rate of CO2 emission (the input water flow to the bathtub) minus the simultaneous global absorption rate of CO2 (the outflow rate of an unstoppered bathtub) can result in a bathtub that empties, or that stabilizes, or that overflows. According to Prof. Sterman the present worldwide rate of CO2 emissions is TWICE that of the ability of the world to absorb CO2. Assuming that the CO2 absorption rate stays the same (in fact, it is predicted to decline) it is easy to see that the goal of decreasing emissions by 20% by 2020, which many proposals have as a target, will not significantly slow the increase of CO2 in the atmosphere. To keep the CO2 level where it is now (and to keep the planet from a runaway heating trend), we would immediately have to decrease emissions by 50%!

In summary, stabilizing the world's climate REQUIRES that the global CO2 emission rate be cut to the point where it equals the global CO2 absorption rate. Unfortunately, a great deal of increased CO2 accumulation and a great deal of global warming will

have occurred before this can be realistically accomplished.

When I was a three-year-old and our family was returning by boat from a public health assignment that my father had in Germany, I was told that I was so seasick that I pleaded with my mother to take the stopper out of the bathtub (the ocean). I didn't know that the bathtub concept would come back 75 years later to haunt me.

* for a lot more information about "Bathtub Dynamics", "stocks and flows", and for evidence of how people think incorrectly about this problem, you can learn a lot more at:
[http://web.mit.edu/jsterman/www/All_Models_Are_Wrong_\(SDR\).pdf](http://web.mit.edu/jsterman/www/All_Models_Are_Wrong_(SDR).pdf)

Soup and Games Night This Sunday, February 11 from 4:00 to 6:00pm in Union Hall. Join friends of all ages for a thoroughly enjoyable midwinter party. We'll start out with icebreakers and group games; then the JYG will lead Bible Jeopardy. A light supper of homemade soups along with rolls and cookies will be served, and after that we'll break out the board games. Bring your favorite game if you'd like, and/or a pot of soup or a batch of cookies if you'd like. Most importantly, bring yourselves, your family and some friends. Questions? Contact Nancy West at 978-369- 6515 or NancySWest@hughes.net

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT GUANTANAMO

by Roger Goulet and Ellen Huber

Stephen Oleskey, senior partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr (and an old friend of Roger's) spoke to our congregation at a very well-attended service on Sunday, January 28. He is lead counsel in Boumediene et al v. Bush et al, which has been consolidated with Guantanamo habeas corpus litigation. In this case he is representing six Bosnian citizens and residents who were abducted from their country in January 2002 and sent to Guantanamo Prison, where they remain today. His quiet manner and calm, straightforward delivery of the facts of the case were very moving and thought provoking.

Following the service Steve made the following suggestions of how individuals can respond in a constructive way.

1) Let the UUA know that it is important that it takes a position opposing the October vote in Congress to strip habeas corpus rights from any alien seized by US military anywhere and declared to be an "enemy combatant" by the Department of Defense. Urge the UUA to press for a new vote. You may write a letter yourself or sign a letter that will be available at coffee hour next Sunday.

2) Contact Senators Kerry and Kennedy and Congressman Meehan to:

- make it a priority to support the restoration of habeas corpus;
- make it a priority to support Rep. John Murtha's (D, Pa) proposal to de-fund Guantanamo.

Handwritten letters or typed letters on a person's own letterhead are MUCH more effective than obvious mass mailings. We will set up a corner of Union Hall with some templates for letters with different wordings, together with the addresses of the senators/ congressman. Or you can write from home.

3) Consider whether the FRS wants to write letters of encouragement or offer any assistance to the families of his six clients and their children (20 in all) in Bosnia and Algeria.

4) For more information on Guantanamo visit the web sites of:

- Amnesty International, www.amnestyusa.org

b) The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in New York, www.ccr-ny.org

Carlisle Valentine Community Dance Party

**Saturday, February 17th,
from 7:30 to 11:00pm in Union Hall
tickets \$10 at the door**

and any spare change you want to throw in the "share-the-love" container for our sweethearts over at

The Lowell Food Pantry

We have a DJ with a fabulous mix of music for the young and the young at heart so email us your musical requests!

There will be games and PRIZES!!! PRIZES!!! PRIZES!!!
BYOB!

We will supply complimentary appetizers!

Dress to kill!!! Glad Rags, boas and blinking hearts rings are totally acceptable!

See our website
www.uucarlisle.org/valentinesday.pdf

Contacts: Dian Cuccinello at dianfrancesca@comcast.net
and Alison Saylor at saylorfarm@comast.net