

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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Carlisle, MA 01741

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXII, No. 9

January 7, 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 January 7, 2008

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

Interim Minister: Victor H. Carpenter (study) 978-369-0284,

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

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Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217,

Email: frs_re@comcast.net

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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,

On Saturday Dec. 15 I slept in the church. You'll remember that it had been snowing hard the two days before. At home in Arlington I kept looking out the window all that Saturday afternoon at the falling snow and trying to make up my mind. The Christmas pageant was scheduled for the next morning (and, after all, I had the juicy part of Herod). So, with my wife's blessing (well it wasn't quite a blessing; she said, "If you don't go you'll just fret.") I went.

At 10 pm the snow was falling but the road between Concord and Carlisle was reasonably clear. I felt very Emersonian driving through the flakes. He talked about "blowing clover and falling rain" as indications of God's presence in nature; he saved his remarks about snowflakes for another occasion. I remembered his lament about attending church in Concord during a snowstorm when he chastised the preacher saying, "The snow was real; the preacher merely spectral ". Ouch. Preacher beware.

I was deep into Emersonian nature when I arrived at the church. Wonderful sight at the top of the rise with the spotlights on the steeple and the snow a-swirl. There was heat! That had been one of my considerations. I was glad to feel it as I lugged my sleeping bag up to my office.

Next I raided the sanctuary for pew cushions. Two cushions together made a fine mattress on my office floor. I should confess that I am an old hand at sleeping in churches. Most ministers have done their duty at teen-age sleepovers, providing the "adult supervision" (I confess that I always got more sleep than the collection of UU youth that I was "supervising". Their stamina to keep going all night long amazed me). I turned out the lights just before 11pm, listened to the tower clock strike the hour, and slept soundly until the clock awakened me at 6.

Cathe had packed me some snacks for breakfast for which I was grateful. I looked out at the still falling snow and was glad indeed that I hadn't tried to drive in the progressing storm. I knew that there would be a long litany of church closings on the morning news channels and I was really glad that FRS, Carlisle was not among them.

As a result the Christmas Pageant went on and I got to play Herod. We all felt rather noble for having made the effort to get there and congratulated each other as was entirely fitting. Several offered me home hospitality should such an event reoccur. I hope it won't and doubt that it will (one Saturday night snowstorm is usually the season's limit), but should it occur I think I would still retire to (and in) the church. It's a great place in which to awaken.

Vic

UPCOMING SERVICES

January 13: King Rev. Victor Carpenter
 Once again his legacy challenges us. Once again his prophetic voice speaks truth to power. Once again we take stock of the long road to justice and peace which he staked out for us.

January 20: Matt Meyer, professional percussionist will lead the service, which will include a celebration of the life of Martin Luther King.

Adult Introduction to Unitarian Universalism ("UU 101 and - a - half")
Sundays in January; 11:30 AM until?; in the Sanctuary. Every Sunday during January Victor will meet with anyone interested to explore UU history from the Nativity to "Welcoming Congregation". Many streams of religious knowledge flow into our collective history to enrich and deepen our spiritual vision. Come and discover.

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MUSIC NOTES by Marguerite Shaw

Thanks to all who gave their talents to the FRS music program in 2007. The Choir sang at almost every service. The special music by soloists and instrumentalists was also outstanding. There were seven concerts during 2007. A *KIDS'WIRE* was formed in the spring and before long they were contributing to our worship. I particularly thank Alison Saylor for supporting this group by escorting the children from school to church for rehearsals on Wednesday afternoons. And special thanks are due to Margaret Darling for all the assistance and support she gives in so many ways throughout the year. Our office administrator, Kathy Varney, is helpful in too many ways to name.

I'm looking forward to continuing our work together during this 250th celebration year.

With love and best wishes for the coming year,
 Marguerite

We're starting a "One Hour Choir" here at FRS, and this is how it will work: anyone who would like to sing occasionally, but cannot commit to weekly rehearsals, is welcomed to join with the choir on Sunday, January 20 at 9:15am. We'll rehearse the music for the morning service on that day. Child care will be provided by Jr. Youth, so feel free to bring your children. We will continue to set aside one Sunday each month for the One Hour Choir, so you can come whenever it is convenient. Questions: call Marguerite at 978-369-5180 or at 978-501-4220 or email frsmusic@comcast.net.



SUNDAY WEATHER POLICY
by The Music and Worship Committee

Sunday Weather Policy: If December is any indication, we can look forward to more Sundays this winter when bad weather will make coming to church difficult or even impossible for some people. Our policy is simple: there will be a service every Sunday. If you can't get out of your driveway or don't feel safe on the roads, by all means stay home. If you can make it, by all means come. There may not be a full choir, you may be part of a very small congregation, we may not even have a minister. (Vic lives in Arlington, after all, and we can hardly expect him to bed down in the sanctuary again as he did before the pageant on December 16.)

But we will have a service. If you have a responsibility such as greeter, RE teacher or coffee hour provider, let someone in your network know that you can't make it, and those who can will adapt. We're New Englanders, for crying out loud!

The Music & Worship Committee

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.

KIDSKWIRE: Rehearsals are on Wednesday at 3:00pm.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

by Molly Sorrows

January 6 we begin our 250th celebration year, and in RE we are taking our Winter Workshop time for several projects that will enable us to celebrate our remarkable history. The projects will help us think about what life was like in 1758 when Timothy Wilkins gave the land for the church: who were the people of this community, what was daily life like, what choices did they make, and what was going on in the world around them?

Just as in Victor's sermon description on Songlines (I haven't read or heard the whole sermon yet as I write this), we will take the opportunity to look back and also to look forward. One way we will focus our time is to ask two questions as we look over the church history: what changes? what stays the same? The pieces present in our 250th minute each Sunday morning this year provide wonderful visual starting points for the children: the paint color of the church, both inside and out has changed (what would it be like to see the church in yellow?), but the location on the hill has stayed the same.

We are looking forward to bringing some of our history alive as we work with the children on their projects. This year our workshops will allow each class to focus on their own bigger project rather than rotating between small activities as they have in the past Workshop periods. Photography, videography, 3-D art, costumes, color, paint and drawing will all be part of our activities. Some projects will be presented as we go along, and some will be saved for the Memory Tea. Please join us on the journey!

**CIRCLE DINNER
EXTRAVAGANZA!**
Saturday, January 26th



Join us on Saturday, January 26th for our annual Circle Dinner Extravaganza which starts in Union Hall at 5:30 where we'll have appetizers together. After appetizers we'll head out to our hosts' homes for dinner. The hosts provide the main course, and guests bring the salad, bread, wine or dessert. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the company of old friends and meet new ones even during the cold wintry weather. Feel free to invite a neighbor, or someone you've met through a town activity or a colleague from work. The Membership Committee will make sure you are assigned to the same host. It's a great way to meet some new people. Sign-up sheets will be available at Coffee Hour throughout January. If you'd like to sign-up by phone or email or have any questions, please contact Sue Kirk at 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.



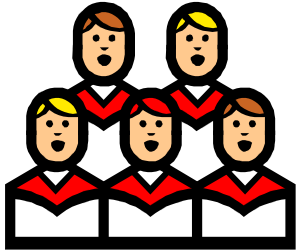
The First Religious Society in Carlisle is an inclusive community bound together in the Unitarian Universalist tradition of friendship, free inquiry and service to humanity.

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.

EVERYONE'S INVITED!

The first ever Three-Church Pot Luck and Singing Evening is for people of all ages. The event will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 19 in Fellowship Hall at the Carlisle Congregational Church. The pot luck is truly pot luck but please call Nadine Bishop (369-5080) by Thursday, January 17, to make a reservation or if you have questions. You may also sign up at coffee hour next Sunday.



After dinner the three choirs will do short presentations separately and will end with a rousing piece by the joint choirs. Then there's a chance for everyone to get into the act with a sing-along of old favorites from the 1800s through the 1940s (words will be provided). Right now we are looking for input from you on what your old favorite is. Please call Max Barber (369-7943) or Ellen Huber (369-6678) with your ideas. Our social action committee has been working with the other two churches in organizing the evening. There is no charge for the event but a basket will be put out for donations to the Carlisle fuel assistance program.

UU HAPPENINGS AROUND US

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) provides a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at info@uurehome.com, or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations. Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has some listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2008 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

PFLAG Meeting: The Minuteman Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, And Gay—including Transgendered & Bisexual) will meet on Sunday, January 20 and on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the library of the Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm Street, Concord, MA. For information call 866-427-3524 or email spfleider@comcast.net.

Civil Rights Bus Tour: March 22-30, 2008. Join Rev. Dr. Gordon and Judy Gibson as they take you on a tour of significant sites of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, offering a journey of experiential learning where you will encounter the sites, sounds and the people who worked to create change during this revolutionary time in our country's history. Visit www.meadville.edu/atml_civilrightsapril06.htm.

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 Natalie Ives at 978-369-6581 during the month of January.

Carlisle Community Pot-Luck Dinner on Christmas Day Successful: Thanks to Victor Carpenter and the Parish Committee for permission to use Union Hall. Thanks to the guests for the feast of appetizers, roast duck, baked ham, chicken and brown rice, roasted vegetables, sweet potatoes, scalloped potatoes, mince pie, carrot cake, chocolate silk cake, cookies, wine, and much more. Santa was resting after a busy night elsewhere, but thanks to the elves for the snowman trinket boxes and bundles of nondenominational chocolate truffles for each dinner guest. A good time was had by all.

-- Mary Zoll

Thank You! Your generous support of our outreach projects through the Christmas Eve offerings is very much appreciated. The \$1281 collected will be divided between the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell and the fund for tools and materials for the New Orleans February work project. The New Orleans project is the outreach focus of our 250th anniversary.

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) News: The MSC has been meeting regularly since late September. We have made good progress and are pleased to have biographical information on over 20 candidates, which we have reviewed. The book, or packet which represents FRS, has been completed and sent out to candidates whose backgrounds we wish to study in more detail, after we receive their packets. We continue to be enthused, and on time, with this process.

The Ministerial Search Committee,
Michael Dundorf (co-chair)
Jackie Schaefer (co-chair)
John Forcucci
Ellen Huber
John Lyons
Barbara Ritz
Muggsie Rocco

General Assembly June 25-29, 2008, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Common Threads: General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees.

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 January 14, 2008
- If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office frs@uucarlisle.org.