

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 XXXIII No. 12

March 2, 2009



WE ARE LOCATED AT 27 SCHOOL STREET 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 March 2, 2009

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour following services.
Church Office: 978-369-5180; Fax no. 978-369-1891, www.uucarlisle.org, frs@uucarlisle.org
Church Mailing Address: PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817
Minister: Diane Miller (study) 978-369-0284, cell: 617-851-8222 Diane_Miller@comcast.net
Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180
Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217, frs_re@comcast.net
Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-501-4220; frsmusic@comcast.net

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, LMSama@comcast.net
Collector of Funds: Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; 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, Cindy Jaquith
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745, dianfrancesca@comcast.net

Blessed are The Music Makers

Over the past four months, following Marguerite Shaw's surgery, we have been operating without our Minister of Music. Professional musicians in the congregation have stepped up to this unexpected challenge, and are creating music each week. Janice Saul, Alison Plante, and Margaret Darling have taken on parts of the role of directing a lively music program. There is a lot to it. The wonderful music is the outcome we enjoy, and it would not be possible without their artistry and the voices of our choir. Behind what happens on Sunday morning are planning, coordinating, programming music pieces, locating and preparing choir music, accompanying the choir and directing their rehearsals, conferring about hymn choices, maintenance of the instruments, scheduling, working with the bell choir, providing information for the Order of Service, conducting on Sundays, performing, accompanying the congregation, and working with musical guests. I've surely left out elements of the program.

Tom Rourk, a member of the Music and Worship Committee, has drawn on his extensive knowledge of musicians in the area to arrange many special guests. Tom also maintains our keyboards. We have had special events such as the Winter Holiday Concert, Christmas Eve, Bell Choir, and the upcoming Combined Choir festival. The choir members have been steadfast

in their important contributions to our worship. All of this is happening on a slim budget, thanks to the amazing talents and generosity of these musicians. They are deeply appreciated!

Marguerite Shaw is much missed. She continues her healing at home.

Diane Miller

New date for the Path to Membership class
Saturday, March 28, 9AM-1PM. This class is an opportunity to hear about this congregation and the larger Unitarian Universalist faith -- our programs, history, theology, and work for justice. There will be an opportunity to join at the end of the program. The class is sponsored by the Membership Committee and led by Rev. Diane Miller. Child care is provided if requested in advance. Sign up by contacting the church office or Diane Miller. In the Conference Room, with brunch in Union Hall.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, March 8: Fiduciary Faith
Rev. Miller
What we hold in trust for the future.

As part of our annual Pledge Drive, church members will speak about what the church means to them. Glenn Herlihy will speak on the 8th.

Sunday, March 15: Patrick of Ireland
Rev. Miller
Reflections on mission, culture, religion, and legend. Irish Uilleann Piper, Kevin O'Brien, will join us to play traditional Irish melodies. John Lyons will speak about what the church means to him.

Sunday, March 22: Improv Church
Rev. Miller
An exploration of how the lessons of improvisational theater apply to our lives and church. George Bishop will be our pledge speaker.

Sunday, March 29: Pulpit Exchange, the Rev. Doris Hunter, guest preacher

In Memoriam, Karen Rigg

A funeral service will be held in the sanctuary at 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 21st, followed by burial at Green Cemetery and a reception in Union Hall. Our deepest sympathies to Frank Rigg, daughter Jenny Donohue, and the family.

UU HAPPENINGS

UU Middle School Youth Rally Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 9:00am to 4:30pm at the First Unitarian Church of Worcester (90 Main Street). Go to cbd.uua.org for more information.

The Spring Conference and Annual Meeting of the Clara Barton District will be held on April 4, 2009 at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. Registration check-in will begin at 8:30 am followed by worship, and our keynote speaker. Lunch will be followed by the CBD Annual Meeting, workshops, vendor booth visiting, and our closing worship. The day's program will end at 4:00 pm.

Flowers for Church Services. Your Help is Needed!

Help to brighten up our Sunday mornings with the gift of flowers. There are many Sundays available all year for this opportunity. It's easy!! Consider picking up a bouquet of flowers when you are out and about, share it on Sunday, and then enjoy it all week in your home. Most Sundays are available. If you need a vase, many are available in the church kitchen. If you have a nice flowering plant at home, that would work too. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the wall just above the coffee pots at coffee hour. If you put your e-mail and/or phone number on the sign-up, I will be happy to remind you a week before your date.

Nina Benkley



CHURCH CALENDAR

March 3	7:00pm	Music and Worship Committee meeting in conference room
March 4	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary
March 5	7:30pm	African Dance class in Union Hall
March 7	7:00am	Mensgroup meets in Union Hall
March 9	7:00pm	Buildings and Grounds Committee conf. room
March 9	7:00pm	Adult Lenten Program in Union Hall
March 11	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary
March 12	7:00pm	Membership Committee meeting in conference room
March 13	7:00pm	Womenspirit meeting in conference room
March 14	7:30pm	Union Hall Coffeeshouse in Union Hall
March 16	7:00pm	Adult Lenten Program in Union Hall
March 17	7:30pm	Knitting at the Gleason Library
March 18	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary
March 19	7:30pm	Parish Committee meeting in conference room
March 20	3:00-9:30pm	Olin Mills church directory portraits
March 21		Olin Mills church directory portraits moved to new date to be determined.
March 28	9:00am-1:00pm	PATH to Membership Class in Union Hall.

Church Office Hours: The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 2:00pm. The office is closed on Wednesday. Email: frs@uucarlisle.org or phone: 978-369-5180.

Minister: Rev. Diane Miller is available weekdays in the office on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday. Tuesday is her day off and Friday and Saturday are usually blocked out as service preparation time. Call the study at 978-369-0284 to set an appointment or to confirm that the minister is in.

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: Marguerite Shaw is on medical leave. Our music program continues in her absence. Call the minister or the church office if you have any questions.

Next Newsletter Deadline is March 9. If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at The First Religious Society please go to the church calendar on the website: <http://www.uucarlisle.org/calendar.html>

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.

HGRM Urgently Needs Furniture

With the economic downturn affecting everyone, times are particularly difficult for the individuals and families served by the **Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts**. We are in desperate need of all types of furniture. Beds, dressers, couches, tables, chairs, refrigerators, washers & dryers are all essential items we need to help people make a home. If you're thinking about spring cleaning why not start now? Your recycled goods will help victims of fires and floods, women and children escaping abuse, people coming out of shelters, war veterans and recent immigrants to the U.S.

HGRM is a not-for-profit agency in Acton that accepts household goods and distributes them free of charge to people in need. Donations are accepted at 530 Main St., Acton on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between 9 and noon. Pick up for large items is also available. For more information, visit our website at www.hgrm.org or call 978-635-1763.

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.

Habitat for Humanity Reminder



We are signed up to work at the Bedford farm house on Saturdays March 21 and April 18. We need 5 volunteers each time. In addition, Kathy Varney and her CCD class from St. Catherine's in Westford will be providing lunch on March 21. Please contact Ernie Huber (978-369-6678) or George Bishop (978-369-5080) to volunteer.

CARLISLE HAPPENINGS

Have You Noticed! Thanks to the "restoration" carpentry skills of John Barber (son of Dave and Max), the armrests on the ends of all the pews are now secure and the backs of the pews on the north side of the sanctuary have been stabilized. Then Max used her expertise in finishing to successfully blend the repairs into the existing finish. Many thanks to both of them!

Three-Church Pot Luck & Sing-along
Sign up at coffee hour or give Kathy a call (978 369-5180) to go to this 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 28 event at the Congregational Church. After dinner the joint choirs will sing two pieces and then Pastor Steve Weibley will lead the sing-along (he is a master at this). The three churches are also asking that people make a donation to the town's fuel assistance fund.



Pastor Weibley is putting together a song book and would like to hear what your old favorites are. They must be songs in the public domain (no copyright issues, pre-1939 okay), which mostly means OLD favorites. Please give your suggestions to Max Barber (978 369-7943, damabar@comcast.net) or Ellen Huber (978 369-6678, e2huber@verizon.net) by March 16.

Last year about 140 people attended this event. There was great food and a good time was had by all.

Church Photo Directory: The Membership Committee has engaged Olin Mills to create a new photo directory of our congregation. Sign up at the table in Union Hall or call the church office to schedule your sitting. The scheduled sittings on Friday, March 20th will be held as planned. There are some available appointment times remaining. The Saturday appointments will be rescheduled for another date, to be determined shortly by the Membership Committee. Those already signed up will be notified of the new date. Each family photographed will receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free church directory.

Adult Lenten Program: "From Jesus to Christ" is the excellent PBS series exploring the evolving understanding of Jesus. Viewing of portions of the video series will be followed by conversation about UU views of Jesus. Led by Rev. Diane Miller. Three Monday evenings, 7-9pm, March 9, 16, 23. Please contact Diane to sign up or use the sheets in Union Hall.

Union Hall Coffeeshouse: March 14, 2009 at 7:30pm. Don't miss Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem when they come to the coffeeshouse with their Big Old Life Tour. Opening Act: Dietrich Strause.

Open Pantry Food Drive Continues Through March: The campaign to collect cases of food for Open Pantry is off to an enthusiastic start. To date we have delivered forty-five cases of food to Lowell, halfway to our goal. If you haven't had a chance to donate your case of food yet, you are in luck. Because of the significant need, the collection period continues through March. If you have already done so, you are invited to do so once again. See the progress chart and pantry photos in Union Hall. Feel free to contribute another case. Any cash donated will be used to purchase food for the campaign. Please make your cash contributions to Paul Morrison or

UU SUMMER CAMPS

There are 3 popular UU summer camps in New England, and you can explore each of them at their websites and learn about the different programs and conferences they offer:
Star Island (www.starisland.org), Ferry Beach (www.ferrybeach.org), and Rowe Camp (www.rowecenter.org).

We have articles about personal experiences at Star Island and Ferry Beach, to give you more of a feel for what our friends have enjoyed.

Ferry Beach Notes *by Barbara Ritz*

It was spring 1991 and I found myself pretty much on my own. I decided to spend a week in Maine that summer in a place near the coast, where I hoped I would meet some friendly people as I would be alone. I noticed a brochure at FRS about Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine that listed a variety of conferences, so I signed up for one of them.

It took me about 1 1/2 hours to drive to Saco on a sunny, August day. I was delighted when I arrived and saw the white, sandy beach with dunes on a protected inlet (the sea water is cold, but there are no large breakers). The funky, old buildings there -- with dorm rooms -- were not luxurious but seemed adequate as were the meeting rooms. The best part of that week were the friendly and interesting UUs I met, and the great women's conference that I attended!

Since that summer, I have returned to Ferry Beach many times. Buildings have now been updated with safety features added; the dining room (cafeteria style) has been modernized and the food is good!; and there are also more rules in place -- again for safety reasons. The beach remains as beautiful as ever, the chapel in a pine grove continues to be a lovely spiritual place, and one always meets delightful people.

It may interest you to know that Portland, & Freeport, is about a 40 minute drive. Some people attending FB enjoy staying at the campgrounds in a shaded grove, which is a short walk to the beach and other facilities. It isn't necessary to attend a week long conference. If you want to give Ferry Beach a try, you can sign up for just a few days and enjoy the surroundings.

Rowe Camp and Conference Center

Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, Rowe is a conference center, retreat center, and summer camp for teens, youth and adults. Both Mary Zoll and Diane Miller have participated in many Rowe events and are glad to tell you about Rowe.

Star Island Conferences *by Becky Konkle*

Star Island conference center is a rustic retreat center in the Isle of Shoals, ten miles off the coast of New Hampshire. There are individual and family retreats occurring from June through October. Some of the conferences are sponsored by the UU church and some by the United Church of Christ. There are also Elderhostel weeks, writing workshops, yoga, meditation and dance retreats, Religious Education workshops and conferences focusing on science and international affairs.

Star Island is a place of beauty where you are immersed in the natural world of rocks and ocean, sea and sky. You are surrounded by the sounds of seabirds but can also enjoy the many songbirds stopping on their annual southern migration. On clear nights you can see the Milky Way and constellations. There is a cluster of buildings on the island, with the one-hundred year old Oceanic House providing the hotel guest rooms, the dining hall and snack bar and lobby store. There is a marine laboratory, a library, a bookstore, several conference buildings, a chapel. It is a small island, and you can walk from East rock to the Oceanic house on the western side of the island in 15 minutes at a leisurely pace.

Mike and I have attended UU family conferences on Star for the past fifteen years with our daughters Christine, Emily and Catie. Mike enjoys the community and the activities and the speakers. I enjoy the natural beauty and the spiritual retreat. The kids love the community, the groups of children taking part in daily workshops together (led by experienced youth leaders). Each conference has themes and a speaker and a minister in residence. There are craft workshops, organized games, daily chapel services, lots of music, nightly entertainment, freedom of choice if you prefer to relax and commune with nature or with fellow conferees. Delicious meals are served in the dining hall -- a week off from food preparation!

We'll be at the All Star II conference in July. I'll be volunteering in the first aid station but in my free time I plan to meditate on the rocks and enjoy the natural beauty - I'll bring my watercolor supplies and my binoculars. Mike will attend the men's group and may try to film or direct a video production (or maybe he'll just kick back and relax). Christine will be spending lots of time with her group of young-adult friends -- they have been together at summer conferences since they were children. Emily will spend day and night with the other high school teens in her youth group and will probably do a lot of knitting and reading. Catie will travel with her pack of middle school kids but I bet she'll make friends with some of the younger children and spend time on the playground, too. I'm sure I'll get to spend some quality time with each of them: wandering on the rocks, swimming in the ocean, rocking on the porch, photographing the flowers.