

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXI, No. 14

March 19, 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 March 19, 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

Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217,
Email: frs_re@comcast.net

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

"Of course you can fly...

...but first you've gotta get rid of your cocoon...." Saw this bit of refrigerator magnet wisdom in the home of a friend lately, together with its obligatory butterfly iconography, and was immediately reminded once again of how often and easily we attempt to distill profound truths into clever, sentimental slogans. And yet, just because it's easy to remember doesn't mean it isn't true. In fact, sometimes the simplest truths are also the most profound.

The Metaphor of Metamorphosis -- the seemingly miraculous transformation of a lowly caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly -- is certainly something familiar to almost everyone. It's the original "Ugly Duckling" story, with the added benefit that we can actually witness this transformation with our own eyes, rather than merely reading about it in a book of Fairy Tales. I remember as a kid watching the terrarium in our classroom, as the caterpillars wove their cocoons and then emerged some weeks later as completely different creatures with magnificent wings. Well, actually I don't really remember that part -- what I mostly

remember is the fuzzy little bundles attached to the dead twigs shoved down into the sand, and wondering when something interesting was going to happen.

A decade ago, marketing expert and consumer trend spotter Faith Popcorn coined the term "cocooning" to describe the growing tendency of many individuals to insulate themselves from their larger social environment by retreating into private sanctuaries of their own creation. For example, rather than going out to the movies, or watching the big game at a local pub, Americans increasingly tend to sit home in the company of their own plasma TVs and DVD players, taking advantage of technology to isolate themselves from their neighbors in the comfort of their own home theaters. It's a cultural phenomenon which only continues to grow, and effects the cohesiveness of our entire society in unanticipated ways which we are only now beginning to discover.

As a theologian, I am also struck by the linguistic relationship between metamorphosis and *metanoia* -- the word used in the Greek New Testament for

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

“repentance.” Just as metamorphosis is a change or transformation of shape or form, *metanoia* is literally a “transformation of mind” -- not merely a profound expression of regret and an accompanying desire to change one’s ways, but a whole new way of seeing and understanding the world. I like to think of it as the difference between watching something on TV, and seeing it directly in real time with one’s own two eyes. Even though we may not see as much as we would with our TiVo, the experience of witnessing something in person gives that experience a “reality” that TV can never match.

The writer G. K. Chesterton once noted that “the reason angels can fly is because they take themselves lightly....” And one of the reasons I like to emphasize regular church attendance is that it brings us out of our cocoons, and connects us with our neighbors and fellow creatures in deep and meaningful ways. So stretch your wings, and get yourself down to church next Sunday. Your friends are all waiting for you here.....twj

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OUR PEOPLE

March 25: The Spring Pageant *Sven’s Bridge*

April 1: Palm Sunday with a Membership HiT

April 8: Easter Sunday with a Sunrise Service at 5:30am at Clark Farm and a morning worship service at 10:30am.

The Choir will sing every Sunday.

Letter from Boston Medical Center

On behalf of Boston Medical Center I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$773 in support of the SPARK Center. Your commitment to helping make a difference in the lives of the most compromised children in our community is sincerely appreciated.

Each year the SPARK Center continues to advance its mission of promoting health, academic achievement, and positive social and emotional growth among children, while encouraging the entire family to reach for bright tomorrows, all within a community of safety and acceptance. Through our programs we have seen many lives changed for the better.

SPARK is the only program of its kind in New England and is a national model for specialized, comprehensive support for HIV-involved youth during the infant/toddler/preschool years and, later, during out-of-school hours.

Without your support, we would not be able to continue to grow and evolve, or meet our goals, one of which is to continue to build confidence and hope for the future in the lives of our youth and their families. You are truly changing lives!

Norman Stein, Vice President of Development

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 March 26, 2007.

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

**Union Hall Coffee House
Grand Opening Night**

Presents

City of Roses - A trio offering an evening of gorgeous, dynamic, and original acoustic music, powered by rich, three-part harmonies.

Rounder Records says: *“High Energy, three-part harmonies, great songs, chicks with guitars, tall dark and handsome bass player - what more could you ask for in a night of good down home entertainment?”*

7:30 PM - March 31, 2007
doors open at 6:45

Tickets: \$12 at the door

Refreshments for sale: Espresso, cappuccino, hot cider swirls, orange cream chip cookies, chocolate seductions, and more.

BYOB (if you so desire)

Contact: Dian Francesca Cuccinello
978-287-5745

dianfrancesca@comcast.net

www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com

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

KIDSKWIRE

Wednesdays 3:15-3:45

Handbell Choir

TBA

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

by Molly Sorrows

Has your family been to a UU summer camp? We have received flyers for summer activities at three different UU centers: Star Island, Ferry Beach and Unirondacks. Check them out on the book rack outside the church office or on the RE bulletin board. If you have been before, and would like to share information about it in the newsletter or are willing to have interested people call you, please let me know!

Spring Pageant: All are invited to see our spring pageant of the story *Sven's Bridge* by Anita Lobel on March 25. All participants should be costumed and ready for rehearsal at 9am. The pageant will be part of the worship service, which begins at 10:30. Many thanks to Alison Saylor, Dian Cuccinello, Heather Hedden and Marguerite Shaw for leading the rehearsals; we have been having a great time!

April Religious Education – Holidays & Vacation Plans: April is a busy month with Holidays and school vacation. On Palm Sunday the children will begin in the Sanctuary and then will have RE classes. On Easter Sunday there are several worship services, and there will be no religious education program that morning. In the interest of better planning for the vacation weeks and so that we can think of you wherever you are, please let Molly know what your vacation attendance plans are and whether you are willing to help with the RE program for some combined-age-group activities.

PROGRAM NEWS

Can You Donate a Digital Camera? Do you have a digital camera you are no longer using? Would you like to donate it to The Sharing Foundation for the Roteang, Cambodia students to use? We're looking for cameras in reasonable shape, preferably at least 3.1mp, ones that can be easily downloaded using a USB cable. If you can help with this, please contact Sally Stokes (369-1240, [sstokes@roteang.org](mailto:ssokes@roteang.org)), or Nancy Hendrie (369-1120, nhendrie@roteang.org)

FRS Finance Small Group Meetings: Please join us in April for FRS Finance Small Group Meetings to provide your input on the composition of the FRS 2007 - 2008 Budget. We want to continue the good work done at the Vision Meeting and encourage active involvement from everyone in giving your views on the proper shares for each of the major components in our budget plus how we can best achieve our financial goals for the '07 - '08 year. Details to follow on dates and locations for the Small Group Meetings. One meeting will be held at FRS with others held at the homes of facilitators. A sign-up sheet will be available at coffee hour.

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 Barbara Ritz at 978-392-0442 during the month of March.

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.

250th CELEBRATION UPDATE

by Alison Saylor

There is something about those birthdays that end in "0". You just cannot let them pass by without some hoopla! What is the right balance between community outreach and introspection? How much looking backwards at our history should we do versus looking ahead to our future? The normal yearly events keep us pretty busy at FRS, so how can we add new initiatives without being overwhelmed? Our current thinking is that we will have three new initiatives; 1) Have UUA President Bill Sinkford speak on a yet-to-be-determined Sunday and make it a celebratory weekend by having a Gala Saturday evening where we will have the first public display of the FRS scrap book, the oral history project and a commissioned FRS painting. 2)The FRS Reunion will kick off at the Strawberry Festival and feature a Friday night Union Hall Coffeehouse, Saturday potluck and who knows what we will do on Sunday? and 3) Old Home Day will have "Let's Do a Show about Carlisle" at Corey Auditorium, an intergenerational Carlisle community musical extravaganza, and of course the parade will feature the famous FRS marchers. Are you a member of a committee that would like to have something published in the town wide mailing in early September to showcase our 250th anniversary? Are you organizing a speaker or Social Action initiative that might be included in this mailing? This brochure needs a letter from the Parish Committee, photographs, a calendar, and some spotlights on things we do that we are proud of; Social Action, music, our historic building and lovely landscape and...what else? Please let us know what you think should be included. Contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 saylorfarm@comcast.net

A LIVABLE CARLISLE COMMUNITY by Marje Stickler

Are you concerned about the future of Carlisle? Do you worry about whether you or your children will be able to afford to live here in the future? Whether we can maintain the quality of our schools? Whether we will have the services our aging population needs? Whether we can continue our commitment to environmental protection and open access to land? If you are concerned about the future of our community, you are not alone. A Livable Carlisle Community (LCC) is a group of residents who are examining these and other issues facing Carlisle. LCC is hosting two open community meetings in March to talk about the demographic and fiscal projections for Carlisle and to begin a discussion about planning for our future. LCC's mission is to create a community that provides human and physical connections and affordable living opportunities for all residents within the constraints of Carlisle's changing demographics and fiscal resources. Please join us for what we promise will be informative, lively, and participative discussions. Each session will include similar material so you can choose one or attend both. The meetings will be on Tuesday, March 20 from 7:30 – 9:30pm in Union Hall and on Saturday, March 24 from 9:00 – 11:00am in Town Hall. Please contact Tim Jensen, 978-369-0284 or Marje Sticker, 978-369-0214 should you have questions. They are among those in the group planning the sessions.

INFINITY GARDEN by Alison Saylor

Approval to begin the Infinity Garden

Some might call it a Memorial Garden because we plan to encourage inscriptions on bricks and benches that will edge the path through the proposed garden. Others might call it a Meditative Garden because the journey down the proposed wide field stone steps and along the wood chip path can be a meditative journey of discovery and peaceful resting places. The path design is an infinity symbol and so the name Infinity Garden may best describe the new Church garden being planned by the Building and Grounds Committee.

We have just received word that the vast majority of our plans for this garden can begin without the need for Conservation Commission approval. Norway Maple trees are on the Massachusetts Invasive List, and justifiably so. They steal sun and moisture and throw off their progeny with reckless abandon. Their milky sap is useless for making Maple syrup and they are not native to the US, but out-muscle our native flora. Taking down trees in the area proposed for the Infinity Garden is our goal.

Funding for Phase I of this project is built into the Building and Grounds budget. This is the phase where we remove and chip the brush from those evil Norway Maples that we may remove without special permission. The wood chips from these trees will be laid down on the Infinity Garden path. Money for the steps and the plantings (Phase II) will come later. Does this project interest you? Would you like to inscribe a brick or bench to memorialize a loved one? Do you have plants that thrive

in your Carlisle garden, so might work in the Infinity Garden? Do you have suggestions for a work day, fund-raising or garden plans? Please share your thoughts with Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 or e-mail saylorfarm@comcast.net

Make Way for a New UUA.org!

A brand new UUA.org is set to make its debut on the afternoon of April 2, 2007! UUA.org, the official website of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, is still committed to the same values, principles and services that have always been at its core. Now they have a fresh new look and special entry points for visitors, members, and lay and professional leaders to provide a comprehensive online resource just for you!

In addition to accessible navigation and beautiful images of Unitarian Universalists, you'll find information focused on congregational life and spiritual life, an events calendar, and new features!

UUA.org began in 1996 and in the last ten years the site has grown from a few pages to over 10,000. They serve over thirty thousand web visitors a day and more than 20,000 individuals through our email lists. It's time for a change, so get ready for a new UUA.org!