

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CRETURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXVII, No. 13

March 20, 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."

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

"Membership Sunday"

On Palm Sunday, April 9th The First Religious Society will once again formally welcome into membership those who have officially joined our congregation in the past 12 months. The formal act of joining this church is a simple one: just tell the minister that you would like to become a member, and I will make arrangements for you to sign the membership book. The DECISION to become a member is far more intricate and involved. There are as many different reasons for becoming a member of FRS as there are members themselves.

Membership is a personal choice to become a small part of a larger community, rather than remaining largely apart from it.

The responsibilities of membership are few, but significant. By signing the book you indicate that you are in sympathy with the purposes and program of the society, and agree to support and participate in the life and work of this congregation to the best of your ability. The privileges of membership (some might say) are fewer, but even more significant. Becoming a member of FRS

makes you a "proprietor" of this society, with both a voice in what happens here and a vote to make it happen. Becoming a member makes you a partner rather than a bystander, and makes FRS "your" church rather than merely "that" church.

You don't have to be a member of FRS to attend church on Sunday mornings. And likewise (sadly, from my perspective, since I always love seeing you) not all of our members come to church on every Sunday. The real difference is a personal one, and in many ways very private. How committed are you willing to become to making a difference in the world around you? And are you willing to give up a small portion of your independence and autonomy, in order to participate faithfully in something larger than yourself?

We all need to find our own answers to these questions, and the answers we find will be unique to each of us (although I think you may also find that they have much in common as well). In the meantime, after church on Sunday, March 26th the Membership Committee will be hosting a light lunch for prospective new members, during which you will have a chance to meet some of our current

Newsletter for March 20, 2006

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: uuclectic@mindspring.com

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Alan Cameron, 978-369-2223;

Email: alancameron@comcast.net

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: llms@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: John Lyons, 978-369-1216

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC (continued)

church leaders and to ask whatever questions you may still have about The First Religious Society in Carlisle. And I'll be there too, just in case anyone wants to make arrangements to "sign the book." It's such a small thing, and yet such an important one too -- both to the person who becomes a member, and to those of us looking forward to welcoming you formally into

OUR PEOPLE

Ruth and Bill Reeder moved to their new home in NH on March 13. Ruth was a stalwart member of the choir's alto section for many years, a faithful member of the pastoral concerns committee and a great helper at all sorts of events. Bill's building expertise was much appreciated in his long time service on the buildings and grounds committee. We will miss them and wish them the best at their new home. Their new address is: 10 Evangelyn Drive, Bow, NH 03304.

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UPCOMING SERVICES

March 26:

"A Bounty of People" Ed Lynn will be guest speaker.

Jason Roseman, the steel pan maker and musician, will provide the Message for All Ages and provide some music. Sally Naumann will accompany hymns on the piano.

The FRS Choir will go to The First Parish Church in Billerica and join with their Choir during the morning service.

April 2:

"The Sermon on the Amount" Rev. Jensen

Margaret Darling will provide music.

Message for All Ages: Michael Dunderoff and Steve Kirk will talk about small group ministries.

April 9:

We will celebrate Palm Sunday

This will also be Membership Sunday when we will welcome new members.

The short drama "Jayk & Joch And The Most Delicious Mango That There Ever Was" will be performed.

Dr. Nancy Hendrie and the Social Action Committee will talk about the support our church gives to The Sharing Foundation for their work in Cambodia during the Message For All Ages.

The Choir will sing every Sunday

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 ucleric@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

Family Singers TBA

Handbell Choir TBA

Drumming TBA

Next Newsletter Deadline is March 27.

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

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.

Mar. 23 Parish Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the stone wall room.

Mar. 23 Small Group Ministry meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.

Mar. 26 The FRS Choir will be in Billerica.

Mar. 28 Lenten Study Series at 6:30pm in Union Hall.

Apr. 1 Mensgroup here at FRS.

Apr. 3 Social Action Health Care Panel at 7:30pm in Union Hall.

Apr. 6 Music and Worship

Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the

conference

Apr. 7

Womenspirit meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.

Apr. 9

Membership Sunday

Apr. 10 Environmental Action

Committee meeting at 7:30pm in the room.

conference

Apr. 13

Maundy Thursday service at 7:30pm in the

Sanctuary.

Apr. 15 Buildings and Grounds

clean up of grounds at 8:00am.

Apr. 16 Easter Sunrise Service at

Clark Farm.

Easter morning service at

10:30 in the sanctuary.

Apr. 17 RE Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.

Apr. 20

Parish Committee meeting

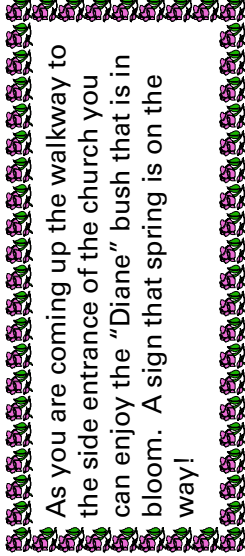
at 7:00pm in the conference room.

VARIOUS UU ITEMS

CBD Spring Conference and Annual Meeting "Here We Grow Again" will take place on April 1, 2006 at the UU Church of Greater Bridgeport at 96 Chapel Street in Stratford, CT. For information call 203-378-1020. Registrations are available at ClaraBartonDist@aol.com.

Women In Religion Conference on Friday and Saturday, June 16 and 17, 2006 at UU Society of Greater Springfield. Open to women and girls of all persuasions. For more info, contact

Julia Kay Grace at 413-733-4611 or jaykay@iglide.net or Cynthia Sommer at 413-567-3154 or casom@comcast.net.



As you are coming up the walkway to the side entrance of the church you can enjoy the "Diane" bush that is in bloom. A sign that spring is on the way!

BOOK DONATIONS FOR THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The New Orleans Public Library is asking for any and all hardcover and paperback books for people of all ages in an effort to restock the shelves after Katrina. The staff will assess which titles will be designated for its collections. The rest will be distributed to destitute families or sold for library fundraising.

Please send your books to:

Rica A. Trigs, Public Relations
New Orleans Public Library
219 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

If you tell the post office that the books are for the library in New Orleans, they will give you the library rate which is slightly less than the book rate. Information on this project came from Deborah Weiner of the UUA. Thanks to Susan Lowell for bringing it to our attention.

RE NEWS by Molly Sorrows

As we learn about the lives and contributions of Unitarian Universalists from the past and present and talk about the UU Principles in our religious education classes, we are sharing with our children ways to recognize the values we live by. Conversations in our classes bring out issues of importance – often ones that the adults believe are important, but that we strive to bring out in ways relevant to the children in their lives. When discussing Clara Barton, children were asked to consider ways that they can help other people. A group of 11 junior and senior high youth and 9 adults discussed issues around homelessness; read about how they helped directly on the rest of this page. When talking about fairness (Principle #2), the kindergarten and first grade class considered different situations and talked about whether they were fair or unfair; for example, sharing cookies equally, or siblings having different bedtimes. One class has also been looking closely at the 7 Principles and considering what each means for our behaviors and actions, both in class and in our daily lives.

How we treat each other, with respect, without teasing, and with support during our personal challenges, are the essence of what we want to do. There are many personal, life-changing events going on in our families, and we want the children of our congregation to always be learning to be supportive, caring, sensitive and kind to each other, whether they know of the concerns or not. How we treat each other and how we live our lives are two of the most important ways we teach. I hope that all of these ideas supplement your work at home with your own children or as adults.

FRS VISITS COMMON CATHEDRAL

by Jackie Schaefer

"As I stood in the cool drizzle on Sunday and pulled my hood over my head and started to shiver, it hit me that I would be able to be in the warmth of my own home that night, but many of the people standing in front of me unfortunately do not have that privilege. I had a wonderful time helping out common cathedral. It was one of the best, most satisfying activities that I have completed in months. Thanks for coordinating this event and I hope I can participate again sometime." A quote from one of our Senior Youth Group.

Last Sunday FRS participated in "Common Cathedral," a weekly ecumenical service for Boston's homeless community on Boston Common. For our group of 21 junior youth, senior youth and adult participants, it was an opportunity to witness first hand the plight of the homeless and to try to make a small difference in their lives by participation in the service and distributing food afterwards.

Other volunteers present this week were from First Parish in Concord and an 80 person choir group from Westminster Choir College of Princeton NJ (a wonderful musical treat). FRS donated and distributed almost 200 sandwiches, about 450 cookies, about 150 snacks plus many pieces of fruit.

We learned many things from our experience. It was a deeply rewarding experience for all who participated. The homeless people we met were not so different from ourselves. Many were quite educated and articulate. For various reasons they have just found themselves in a difficult situation right now. All were very appreciative and respectful.

Our thanks to everyone who took part, including those who donated the food distributed. Stay tuned for an upcoming Message for All Ages discussing our experience and a possible visit from celebrants of the Common Cathedral service.

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.

REV. EDWARD LYNN WILL BE GUEST MINISTER ON MARCH 26

We welcome Rev. Edward Lynn as our guest minister on Sunday, March 26. Rev. Lynn recently retired after 33 years as minister of the Northshore UU church in Danvers, MA.

Rev. Lynn is the recent recipient of a first-place prize in the annual Unitarian-Universalist Borden Sermon Awards for his sermon entitled, "It Might Have Been Otherwise: Spiritual Gratitude." He has served on the Borden Sermon Award Jury, and for many years has been a member of the Billings Preaching Prize jury at the Harvard Divinity School. He was also awarded the National Sermon Award by the Society of Alcohol Education.

We know how useful our UUA pamphlets are in introducing newcomers to the ideals and practices of Unitarian-Universalism. Rev. Lynn has served as chairman of the UUA Pamphlet Commission and is the author of several, including the popular "Journeys." He also teaches at the Harvard Divinity School and counsels UU students there.

Trained as an architect at Syracuse University, Rev. Lynn is a recognized expert on church architecture. Author of the book "Tired Dragons: Adapting Church Architecture to Changing Needs" and numerous articles on the subject, he has served as lecturer and consultant to over 70 UU churches wrestling with the problems of well . . . adapting church architecture to changing needs.

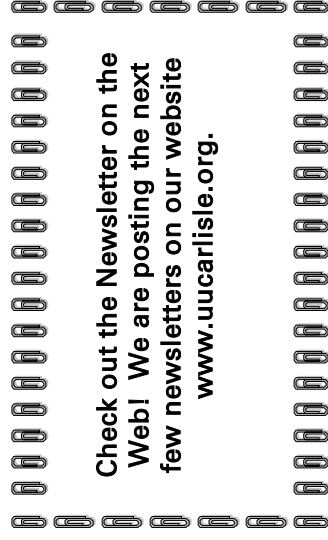
Rev. Lynn lives in Ipswich with his wife Marj, retired executive director of the Newburyport YWCA, and is a frequent visitor to Carlisle where his daughter Sharyl and son-in-law Scott Stropkay live with their children Katie and Max.

PROGRAM NEWS

Cambodian Folk tale "Jayk and Joch and The Most Delicious Mango That There Ever Was": Come join us on Palm Sunday, April 9, when we present the charming Cambodian story about two naughty monkeys that learn to get along together instead of squabbling. An intergenerational cast will act out and sing the tale. Dr. Nancy Hendrie along with the Social Action Committee will talk about the support our church gives to the Sharing foundations for their work in Cambodia during the Message for All Ages. Please contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809, Saylorfarm@comcast.net to volunteer to help or for further information.

Good Time for Donations to The Open Pantry:

Each year during March and April the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell receives money from the Feinstejn Million Dollar Giveaway to Fight Hunger. The amount given is proportional to donations made during this period. The church's donation, given through the Social Action Committee's budget is made during this period. The children's Open Pantry collection money will be sent before the end of April, too. If you would like to make a donation please send it to: The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, 200 Central Street, Lowell, MA 01852.



Check out the Newsletter on the Web! We are posting the next few newsletters on our website www.uucarlisle.org.



PROGRAM NEWS (continued)

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

Health Care Panel, April 3, Brought to you by Kerry Kissinger and the Social Action Committee:

"How will Massachusetts Health Care Change in 2006?" will be the topic of a panel discussion on Monday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Union Hall. Kerry Kissinger and the Social Action Committee have organized the event. A reception will follow. An update on current legislative action, its impact on cost, access and quality, and points of view from the consumer's and provider's perspectives will be addressed by panel members Christine Schuster, CEO of Emerson Hospital, State Representative Cory Atkins, Jeff East, CEO of MassPro and Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, co-founder of Physicians for a National Health Program. Kerry will serve as moderator. There will be time for questions

SAVE THE DATE! April 30, 4-7 PM, Union Hall: Soup & Games Night. A special intergenerational event featuring group games, icebreakers, board games, and homemade soup! Mark your calendar now and plan to spend a fun-filled evening with FRS members and friends of all ages. More information to come later. Contact Nancy West at NancySVest@direcway.com or 978-369-6515 with questions.

Talk on Pesticide-Free Lawn on March 25: Chip Osborne will be presenting a talk on Saturday, March 25th, at 10:00am in Union Hall on organic lawns. He will also discuss the feasibility of making municipal athletic fields chemical-free. This talk is one of the main events supported by a \$14,000 grant to the Healthy Lawns for Healthy Families group, a multi-town collaborative project originating with the Westford Water Department. The participating towns include Westford, Carlisle, Concord, Acton, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, Ayer, Boxborough, and Chelmsford. The Carlisle Board of Health, the Carlisle Pesticide Awareness Committee and the Environmental Action Committee of the FRS are sponsoring this talk as well. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this presentation. Chip is engaging and thoughtful, and will answer questions about lawn care or municipal turf care management. For more information, visit www.carlisle.org/cpag and go to the Events page.

The First Religious Society in Carlisle will celebrate its 250th anniversary in the year 2007/2008. Should we have a big birthday cake? Should we tell the community with a large banner? What special events might we consider to help make the anniversary year seem special? A Celebration Committee is being formed. We need everyone's input! Please contact Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 Saylorfarm@comcast.net with suggestions. **SIGN UP! SIGN UP!** The flower and coffee charts are looking pretty bare. Sign up to provide flowers for the pulpit or goodies for coffee hour. We always appreciate all your help!