

**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 XXXVIII, No. 16

May 1, 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 May 1, 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: uucleric@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: 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:** John Lyons, 978-369-1216

**THE ECLECTIC CLERIC**

**"Dreaming, Being, & Becoming"**

One of the reasons churches exist is to help people change. People come to church seeking support in times of crisis, or in search of guidance in daily living, or simply to foster and nurture their personal spiritual growth and learning. Churches in turn attempt to accomplish this task in a variety of ways: through our worship, through our educational programs and public outreach, through our efforts to create a viable institutional witness to the values and beliefs embodied in our religious tradition within the larger community that we serve. We don't always do this as well as we might like; although frankly at times I think we surprise ourselves by how well we do. But change is our business: the progress of humankind "onward and upward forever." Ours is a religion of transformation; our faith is one of hope and possibility.

Transformation is not merely a matter of seeking change for the sake of change. Yet often involvement in the life of a faith community provides numerous

opportunities for people to experiment, and explore new and different ways of doing things. Personally, I like to think of transformation as a three-fold process: a process of dreaming, being, and becoming. This may sound a little strange to those of you more familiar with the more conventional process of setting goals, making plans, implementing the plan, and then evaluating the results. But what is a goal but a dream of a better alternative? What is a plan but a blueprint for a new way of being? And how do we implement our plans, other than by becoming the thing we dream of being -- changing ourselves as well as our circumstances as we work to make our dreams a reality?

Before there can be goals, there are always dreams. Transformative change is the vehicle by which dreams come true. Through dreaming we harness the power of our imaginations; we learn to see things that are not, but might easily be. Inspired by our vision of things not seen, and thus we begin the process of change: tapping the power of our better selves, the power of the divinity within us and among us, in order to transform our lives to the

## THE ECLECTIC CLERIC (continued)

good, and to share in the creation of a better world.

It's easy to dream. Resolving to "Be" is a far more difficult challenge; and it is here that the community represented by the church becomes so important. The problem with goals and plans is that they are always "out there;" just as the problem with dreaming is that it's all "up here." The discipline of "being" is the means by which we bring the two together. We resolve and endeavor to live our lives in a manner representative of our theological values -- to become the change we dream of -- and our participation in a church community helps provide the support and the encouragement which makes this discipline possible.

Transformative change is not always easy. But through the collective wisdom of our ability to dream together, and through our commitment to being here with one another, Sunday after Sunday, we create together both the ability and the commitment to become the Church we Dream of Being. And through this power to create, we become as well one of "God's good ideas" in physical form; we become, like angels,

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## UPCOMING SERVICES

**May 7:** Sermon will be "Thy Heart's Desire"  
Rev. Jensen

**May 14:** Sermon will be "Thy Heart's Content"  
Rev. Jensen

**May 21:** The State of The Church 2006  
Rev. Jensen

**Please join us for The Annual Meeting at 4:30pm in Union Hall.**

**May 28:** Li Min Mo, guest speaker. Memorial Day weekend. Li Min Mo is a professional storyteller and artist who was smuggled out of Mainland China in 1952 and is now settled in Cambridge.

**June 4:** Rev. Susan Criscione, Director, Renewal House will be our guest speaker. She comes to us through Tom Dunkers and his work with Renewal House and the UU Urban Ministry. The Message for All Ages will be a Social Action guest speaker from The Jericho Road Project. We will also have a flower communion.

**June 11:** We will celebrate Religious Education 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 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  
Family Singers TBA  
Handbell Choir TBA  
Drumming TBA

Next Newsletter Deadline is May 8.

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

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| May 4               | Music and Worship Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the room.        |
| conference<br>May 5 | Womenspirit meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.             |
| May 6               | Mensgroup meets here at FRS.                                      |
| May 6               | Movie Night in Union Hall.  |
| May 11              | Membership Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.    |
| May 13              | The Service Auction at 6:30pm in Union Hall.                      |
| May 15              | RE Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.            |
| May 18              | Parish Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.        |
| May 21              | All Church Annual Meeting at 4:30pm in Union Hall.                |
| May 23              | Small Group Ministries at 7:00pm in the conference room.          |
| May 27              | Concert to Benefit Children with AIDS at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. |

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.

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HAPPENINGS

**Online Classes Available to UU Members.** The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLFUU), an online congregation of Unitarian Universalists offers online classes to UU's who would like to deepen their spiritual and ethical lives. For information about courses contact the Church of the Larger Fellowship at [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) (click on Resources) or phone 617-948-6166.

**Starr King School for the Ministry offers online courses** to Unitarian Universalist lay leaders interested in advanced study. For more information visit their website: [www.sksm.edu](http://www.sksm.edu). Starr King School for the Ministry is a member of the Graduate Theological Union, an ecumenical and interfaith consortium based in Berkeley, CA.

**Hear the Roar! Feel the Mist! See the Sights!** July 16-19, 2006: The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls from up close from every perspective, even safely riding in a tethered balloon. The total cost is \$450 per person (which includes everything-accommodations, meals, all entrance fees, local transportation, and guided tours.) For information visit

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.

## RE NEWS AND EVENTS *by Molly Sorrows*

### Upcoming RE Events Especially For Youth

**May 21:** Message for All Ages will be presented about the visit to the Common Cathedral in March and the Jewish Cultural festival in April. Also, Ajahn David, a Buddhist monk from the Great Wisdom Center of Westford will talk to the youth about their upcoming field trip. The Junior Youth have invited all interested senior high youth to participate in this and the special field trips.

**June 4:** Youth field trip to the Outbi Masjid Mosque in Billerica.

**June 11:** Youth field trip to Great Wisdom Center.

### Looking Ahead

June 11 is "RE Sunday." This is a special annual celebration of the Religious Education program year, with traditional gifts of Bibles and flowers to our children.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY *by George Bishop*

Things are happening at Habitat. To begin with, Habitat has been successful in securing the funds to pay the town of Reading for infrastructure improvements (sewer and water) for the two lots in Reading. Habitat will take ownership of the lots from the town within the next few weeks, and then start clearing the lots for building. Since the lots have a high water table, the houses will be built on slabs. All the heating, plumbing and wiring that must go into the slab and the pouring of the slab will be done professionally. FRS usual work party day is the third Saturday of each month. My guess is that they will be ready for us to help in construction possibly by the third Saturday in May, and definitely by the third Saturday in June.

In the meantime, there are two other Habitat activities in which people can participate. These are both fundraisers, a very necessary thing with the high cost of building materials.

The first is a pledge hike up Mt. Monadnock or at Blue Hills Reserve in Milton. This year's is set for May 20 or 21 (one can choose either day). Many of the Habitat affiliates in the area participate, so most of the hikers on these days are supporting Habitat. There will be a recognition ceremony, speeches, T-shirts, camaraderie and good fellowship. Visit [www.takeahikeforhumanity.org](http://www.takeahikeforhumanity.org) for info.

The second activity is associated with a performance at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium on Friday, June 9 at 8:00pm. This will be a Comedy Night with Wayne Brady of TV's "Whose Line Is It Anyway?".

Lowell Habitat is reserving a block of tickets in a section of the balcony along with an adjacent reception room. Between 6:00 and 8:00pm there will be a pre-show reception with appetizers, cash bar, silent auction and raffles. Shortly before 8:00pm the party will adjourn to the balcony for the performance which will last from 8:00-9:30pm with an intermission back at the reception room. Tickets are \$60.00 per person. For tickets or to donate a silent auction item, contact Habitat office at 978-453-1046 or email [info@lowellhabitat.org](mailto:info@lowellhabitat.org).

In addition, Habitat needs four (4) volunteers to help with the reception and to remain in the reception room during the actual show to watch over things. This is an opportunity to donate service rather than dollars.

For more information on Habitat, call George Bishop (978-369-5080) or Ernie Huber (978-369-6678). Ernie maintains an email list to notify people of Habitat happenings. If you would like to be included in this list, call Ernie or email him at [e2huber@rcn.com](mailto:e2huber@rcn.com).

## SUMMER SERVICES 2006: THE TRADITION CONTINUES *by Roger*

I was struck by an article in the most recent issue of the *UU World* about a congregation in Fairbanks, Alaska that just built a new church -- a nice big one. What interested me was that this congregation is lay-led: they have no minister. The members of the church plan and conduct their own worship services all year long.

Our church is almost 250 years old, and as far as I know we have always had a minister. In 18th and 19th century Carlisle, summer was a very busy time. Parishioners worked literally from dawn to dusk, 14 or 15 hours a day. That may be how the practice of taking the summer off began in our church. After six days of hoeing the weeds that grew up among the corn and beans, cutting and bringing in wood for the fire, hauling water from the creek or the well, boiling it on top of the stove or in the fireplace, preserving the bushels of fruits and vegetables that were pouring in so that there would be something to eat in January, cleaning the manure from the cowshed and the horse barn, milking the cows, changing and calming the crying babies and trying to cure their colic and diarrhea and eczema . . . after a week like that, is it any wonder that our forebears might have wanted to skip church on Sunday?

Did they? I don't know; I doubt that anyone knows. Some surely must have.

Things have changed in the past two centuries. Today many of us spend all or part of the summer on vacation. We gardeners till the soil as a hobby rather than as a necessity.

One thing we do know: people have been coming to our church for almost 250 years because they wanted to listen to someone who had something interesting to say that was important to their lives.

The last regular service at the FRS will be June 18th, and we resume on September 10th. In between are ten Sundays, excluding July 2.

In the past four years we have had lay-led services every Sunday at 9:30 AM, and we will continue the tradition this summer. Past subjects have included meditation, death in the family, Cambodia, Palestine, Cuba, moral judgments, Islam, the role of women in the Bible, spiritual exploration through journal writing, and poverty in Africa, to name only a few.

Would you like to talk to us on a topic you know and care about? An experience you have had that has affected you, a book that changed the way you think, an insight of the kind we now and then get, unbidden, that lightened a previously dark corner of your life?

Are you uncomfortable standing up in the pulpit? Many of us are. No problem -- we'll gather in Union Hall in a circle of chairs.

The key word for lay-led summer services is flexibility. You might want music, or not. You can include as many or as few of the other trappings of a regular service as you wish. Basically it's an opportunity to share your thoughts with your friends in a low-key, welcoming setting.

Members of the Music and Worship Committee will help you with everything from opening the church before the service to closing it afterward. We'll look after the details so you can focus on what you're going to say.

Our love for our church friends and our desire to have that hour each week of reflection and intellectual growth in their company doesn't disappear in July and August. That is why we have our summer service tradition, and why we're inviting you to be a part of it. Please contact Roger Goulet with your ideas and a Sunday date that works for you: phone 978-369-6825, e-mail [goulet27@aol.com](mailto:goulet27@aol.com).

## CANVASS UPDATE

*by Charlie Davis*

As of April 23, we have received over \$64,000 in pledges toward our goal of \$105,000 for the 2006-7 fiscal year. Returning your pledge card as soon as possible will help us establish the budget that will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May. If you need a pledge card or have questions about the canvass, please contact Charlie Davis ([cdavis@modavi.com](mailto:cdavis@modavi.com) or 978-371-2844).

The Finance Committee would like to recognize the following individuals for their 2006-7 pledges. Thank you for supporting FRS!

Geoffrey & Martha Bentley  
George & Nadine Bishop  
Alan & Meredith Cameron  
Elisabeth Carpenter  
Ken & Marilyn Harte  
Sally Hayen  
Heather & Tom Hedden  
Nancy Hendrie  
Karla Johnson & Stewart Roberts  
Anne & Richard Ketchen  
Steve & Sue Kirk  
Ed LeClair  
Art Milliken  
Cindy & John Nock  
Karen Rigg  
Tom Rourk  
Alison & Mike Saylor  
Marcella Shepherd  
John & Susan Stengrevics  
Betty & John Valentine  
Bob & Cathi Webster  
Suzanne Whitney Smith  
Sylvia Willard

## PROGRAM NEWS

**Thank you Kathy Booth:** I don't know where we would be without you, girl!!! Thanks for coming through for me with the tiger costume for the Cambodian skit. You did a grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrreat job!!! AND.....HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!!!! Dian Francesca Cuccinello

**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 May.

**Flowers for Sunday Services:** Flowers are needed for many Sunday services. Please fill your name in on the chart in Union Hall or get in touch with Alison Saylor. 978-369-1809.

**Save That Stuff/Treasures!!** Don't forget to put aside those goods that you no longer need or want but that someone else might love to have. The three Carlisle churches are having a giant yard sale on Saturday, June 3. The proceeds from the sale will go to the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, an organization supported by the FRS financially, in volunteer hours and in the kids' food and money collection. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters. Our Social Action Committee is organizing the event with friends from the other two churches.