

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. 18

May 19, 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 May 19, 2008

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
Interim Minister: Victor H. Carpenter (study) 978-369-0284, victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org
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
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745, dianfrancesca@comcast.net

A Note From Our Settled Minister:

Dear members and friends at FRS,

I am deeply moved by your call inviting me to be your minister, and the warm, enthusiastic, reception during candidating week and following the vote on Sunday. There were many special events and much preparation done by the Ministerial Search Committee and the staff to make the week festive and provide opportunities for so many of us to get to know each other. I appreciate all that went into the long process of selecting and calling a minister. I will strive to live up to your hopes and to partner with you in creating a vital congregational life.

For now, I have returned to the Mount Diablo UU Church in Walnut Creek, California, where I will complete my interim ministry at the end of June. During July I will be moving, celebrating the marriage in Kansas of son Graham, and taking vacation.

On or near August 1st I will be arriving in Carlisle. August will be a time to do planning for the church year and to get to know more about your hopes and visions for the church. I will be a parsonage-dwelling minister, a new experience for me. I look forward to living next to the church and right in the center of town.

Diane Miller

In the Interim,

Last year, mid-August, I looked over a stonewall to the left of the church's front door at a not very prepossessing piece of swampy ground that my guide (Alison Saylor) described as "the site of the Infinity Garden". "Oh", I said. I couldn't think of much else to say. Infinity seemed like a long way away, far beyond my year's Interim Ministry would carry me.

Wrong! The garden progressed with plans and models (remember the candy creation that made its appearance at the Christmas fair ?). Snow covered the ground during winter to be replaced by wet and mud of spring. Then, suddenly came bull-dozers and levelers; an enormous boulder from Fontaine Richardson's back yard was derricked in, paths after the original design took shape, small trees, plantings, blooms of spring appeared. "Infinity" now !

Oh there is more to come. Memorials in the form of names on bricks will be placed in the paths of the garden. Random stones will be replaced by steps to make the garden readily accessible; ease of entry will be addressed.

And a Dedication Ceremony. On Sunday, Memorial Day Sunday, a brief ceremony will be held to dedicate the infinity shaped memorial garden. Immediately following our regular Sunday morning worship service (a service celebrating memorial day, sermon "Muffled Drums") and before Coffee Hour we will repair to the garden for a brief ceremony of dedication.

Many people are responsible for the garden's progress from my first viewing of what I considered a woebegone plot to the present garden's reality and future promise: Fontaine Richardson and Mary Zoll, Bob Wallhagen and Bryan Sorrows and George Bishop to mention only five of the willing workers who planted and toled, heaved and hoed the garden to its present readiness but cheers for the initial vision and the push to its deliverance go to Alison Saylor. I do hope that you will take the extra minutes on Sunday, May 25 to congratulate all those who brought the vision to reality. They have created a moving memorial for both present and future FRS folk to cherish and to share. We are grateful.
Victor

Religious Education Celebrations

In June we wrap up the RE year with some special celebrations that are modified slightly from our annual traditions.

June 1: We worship together on "RE Sunday," a special time to honor the children and religious education teachers and assistants. Although Molly will be tied up with a separate training that weekend, Alison Saylor and Susan Emmons will help to guide the day. All of the RE participants will receive flowers as symbols of our ever-growing religious and spiritual journeys. This closes the religious education program for the year.



June 15: Father's Day: Some of the high school youth will present special music, and the high school graduates will be recognized. Junior and Senior High Youth are encouraged to attend. High school graduates unable to attend this morning are asked to please contact Molly to arrange a time to pick up their graduation recognition from the church.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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| May 22 | Finance Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room. |
| May 23 | Arcturus Concert at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. |
| May 24 | Infinity Memorial Garden planting from 9:00am to noon. |
| May 26 | Memorial Day Luncheon |
| May 30 | Children with AIDS Benefit Concert at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. RE Training in Red Balloon continuing through Sunday, June 1. |
| June 5 | Music and Worship Committee meeting at 7:30pm in the conference room. |
| June 7 | Mensgroup meets here at FRS. Reunion Weekend Potluck Dinner at 6:00pm in Union Hall. |
| June 8 | Reunion Weekend morning service followed with the ringing of the church bells from noon to 2:00pm. |
| June 10 | Knitting for the Homeless at 7:30pm in the conference room. |
| June 12 | Membership Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room. |
| June 14 | Union Hall Coffeehouse at 7:30pm. |
| June 15 | Last regular church service of the year. |
| June 18 | Biscuit Making for Strawberry Festival at 9:00am in the church kitchen. |
| June 19 | Strawberry Hulling in Union Hall. Strawberry Festival at 6:00pm in the church yard. |

Please come to the Reunion Weekend June 7 and 8: Our culminating event for the celebratory year of our 250th Anniversary is the Reunion Weekend June 7 and 8. We are sending out invitations to past members, past employees, and grown children. This is not just an inward reflecting event, as Sunday from noon to 2pm the general public is invited to the Open House portion of the celebration. Please invite your friends and neighbors. Special music, and both Woody Widrick and Vic Carpenter will make that Sunday Service extra special.

We are asking that you consider working on Sunday June 8 for one hour of the Open House as a Host. We will have you wear a Host ribbon with your name tag. The question is what assignment would you prefer? Would you like to be in Union Hall helping to sell Cat's Meow plaques? Would being near the Minister's study to show people the Communion Pewter be your preference? Could you help supervise the bell ringing? Please contact Marje Stickler, the Open House Volunteer Coordinator, to let her know when and how you can help.
mbstick@comcast.net (978) 369-0214.


Membership Initiative: Special Service and Open House
Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to attend the very special Service on Sunday June 8th given by Rev. Eugene (Woody) Widrick to commemorate our 250th year as a Society. From noon to 2:00pm the church and grounds will be open to the public to show off our artifacts, slide shows, bell ringing, and cherished historical building. A free picnic lunch will be offered to all.


SITUATION IN MYANMAR

The situation in Myanmar is horrendous. The politics of the country have made the aid situation very difficult. FRSer and Oxfam America president, Ray Offenheiser says that three agencies are presently working in the country-- World Vision, CARE and Save the Children. A fourth agency also has staff in place and has been successful in delivering supplies and services-- Doctors Without Borders. Our social action committee will be collecting donations at coffee hour next Sunday and will divide the proceeds between Doctors Without Borders and Save the Children. Checks may be made out to the FRS with "Myanmar" in the memo space. If you would like to send a check please get it to the church by May 28.

Next Newsletter Deadline is May 26, 2008. 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.

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.

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.

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

Pass It Forward on Saturday, June 7, 2008

Carlisle will host its sixth annual **Pass It Forward Day** at the Carlisle Transfer Station on **Saturday, June 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 pm.** If you have **new or gently used items** you no longer use, you are invited to donate them to charity. Please donate clean items in good enough condition that someone else can actually use them. Pass It Forward Day is sponsored by Carlisle's Household Recycling Committee.

Please separate your donated items into the following categories to make it easier to get your items to the charity that needs them. Tie or otherwise secure all the pieces of an item together so that they stay together during repeated handling and sorting. Some charities may provide tax receipts; ask the representative.

- **clothing for adults** for Big Brother Big Sister, Host to International Students Program at MIT, Veteran's Administration Hospital in Bedford
- **clothing for children** for Big Brother Big Sister
- **toys** for Delta Projects (for mentally retarded), Home for Little Wanderers (for children at risk)
- **arts and crafts supplies** for Discovery Museum
- **science books for children or adults** for Discovery Museum
- **books of poetry and books about poetry** for Concord Poetry Center
- **children's books about religion** for First Religious Society in Carlisle
- **children's books** for BKP (for Philippine children)
- **all other books, CDs, videotapes** for Friends of the Gleason Public Library
- **bookends and cash boxes** for Concord Poetry Center
- **building materials, tools, bedding, and linens** for Citizen Action Team (for victims of Hurricane Katrina)
- **household goods** for Household Goods Recycling Ministry
- **cell phones with chargers** for Domestic Violence Victims' Assistance Program
- **Defibrillators** for The First Religious Society in Carlisle

If you can donate a motorized golf cart, handicapped-accessible scooter, or small farm tractor for Rowe Camp and Conference Center, please contact Mary Zoll at (978) 369-5236 to arrange pick up.

OUR PEOPLE

We are deeply saddened by the unexpected death on May 7th of Darby Fassett, son of Dan and Lyssa. Dan was our Religious Education Director for several years and Darby was an active member of the FRS Senior High group. John Lyons lit a candle for Darby and his family at the May 11 service and told some of his joyful, fun memories of Darby. The Fassett family has been close to members of our FRS community over the intervening years. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. There will be a memorial service for Darby on Wednesday, May 21 at 4:30pm at First Parish Church of Groton, UU, 1 Powder House Road, Groton, MA. A reception will follow at the Groton Grange.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS HERE AT FRS

Many thanks to those that bought houseplants and hardy perennials to benefit the Infinity Memorial Garden. We have made a little over \$1400, and with the Trustees matching funds, \$2800 or so will be put towards the Phase I construction. The Building and Grounds Committee will continue to sell the spare hardy native perennials that are planted in the Infinity Memorial Garden. These are the same plants that were offered for sale last Saturday. The plants are displayed along the edge of the lawn in the area between the brick patio side entrance and the Infinity Memorial Garden. Each plant costs \$7. Please write a check to FRS, add "for plants" to the comment line, and put the check in the black "mail" box near the church side door entrance. Please contact Alison Saylor if you want advice on the choosing the best plants for your home site conditions. (978) 369-1809 saylorfarm@comcast.net. If you know of a student that needs Community Service, we have plenty of digging and raking work left to keep them busy for many hours to both back fill the trenches and prepare the final garden beds for planting.

Union Hall Coffeehouse News: Coming to Coffeehouse on June 14 – Folk Singing Comedian, Don White. Saturday, June 14, 2008 special father's day eve show, starring the no-nonsense, folk singing, confessional song writing comedian, with a workingman's sensibility - Don White, who mixes an acute sense of timing with the heart of everyman, to put on concerts that move the listener from the laughter to tears, and all the way back again. He combines serious lyrics with side-splitting laughs to provide an evening that's not to be forgotten, period! He offers up song after song about the joys, annoyances, embarrassments, thrills, and fulfillments of family life, his own foibles -- and those of his (assuredly sainted) wife and kids, with wide-eyed openness. If you get a chance to read his book "Memoirs of a C Student", you'll know just what I'm talking about. His perceptions about people are dead on. Tickets for this hilarious night out are \$18

The Arcturus Chamber Ensemble (Sarah Darling and friends) on May 23 beginning at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. This concert will feature period instruments. A reception will follow where free-will donations may be made.

The Nineteenth Annual Children with AIDS Benefit Concert on May 30 at 7:30pm. with harpsichord, flutes, marimba and vocal soloists. A reception will follow where free-will donations may be made.

Dr. James Hansen to Speak on the Climate Crisis: Dr. James Hansen, world-renowned climate scientist and Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies at Columbia University, will talk on global warming and government attempts at censorship on **Sunday, June 1, at 7:30 PM.** The talk, open to the public for a requested contribution of \$5, will be held at **Cary Memorial Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington.** Dr. Hansen will speak about his latest findings and the pressing need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the next couple of years or face the consequences of a very different climate. Hansen's efforts to speak openly about the importance of reducing greenhouse gases were impeded by political appointees at NASA, who attempted to censor or alter Hansen's reports and writings. For more information about this event, contact the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition (LexGWAC) at www.lexgwac.org or email info@lexgwac.org. For carpooling, or to sign up for dinner at a local restaurant before the talk, contact Ernie Huber of the FRS Environmental Action Committee (EAC) at 978-369-6678.

MUSIC NOTES

The Choir will sing every Sunday until the end of the church year. In addition, the KIDSKWIRE and Handbell Ringers will be taking part in the Reunion Service on June 8.

On Father's Day, June 15 the Jazz Trio will play, assisted by their three daughters (the FRS version of the Dixie Chicks).

KIDSKWIRE Rehearsals: May 21, May 28, June 4 from 3:00 to 3:45pm in the sanctuary. We will be preparing music for Reunion Sunday, June 8. Any child from grade 3 up who would like to sing for this special event should contact Marguerite Shaw (frsmusic@comcast.net or 978-369-5180) or Alison Saylor (saylorfarm@comcast.net or 978-369-1809). You do not have to have been singing with the KIDSKWIRE all year to be sing for this event.

Thank you! to all who helped make the organ recital by Brian Jones on May 2 a great success. The music was exciting, the crowd enthusiastic, and the food outstanding (as usual). This concert came about because of the support of Art Milliken, who is Brian's friend. We were able to project the performance for the audience through the efforts and generosity of Eric Darling (camera) and Fontaine Richardson (projection equipment). In the end the technology worked because two people in the audience (Nancy Hartle and Steve Tobin) were helpful in getting it started for us. The Music and Worship Committee, with the leadership of Roger Goulet and the help of others from the church, provided the reception; that includes not only delicious tasties but also set-up and clean-up. Kathy Varney produced the program for us and Art Milliken took care of most of the publicity. This event was a high point in our church's 250th Anniversary Celebration Concert Series because of the artistry of Brian Jones and the support given by all of you.
Marguerite Shaw

FRS GROCERY BAGS

by Tom Hedden

In case any of you have not heard the news, the FRS now has its own reusable cloth grocery bag. It is a large-sized bag made of recycled cotton, and has a print of the FRS with the year "1758" on one side, and the Universal Recycling Symbol on the other side, both sides printed in bright green. The picture of the FRS and the year "1758" are intended to harmonize with this year's "250" theme. A number of church members, some on the Environmental Action Committee and others not, discussed this, and the consensus was that it was better for the bag to bear the date "1758" rather than the number of the anniversary "250", so that the bags will never seem out of date. The Environmental Action Committee will try to offer the bags for sale at major church events. If you just cannot wait, then feel free to call me and I will set one aside for you.

A community effort is in place to help the Fitzpatrick family of Bedford Road. Tom Fitzpatrick had a stroke in January, was hospitalized for two months and is now in the new care center, Westford House. Changes must be made to their home to accommodate a wheelchair before he can come home. Michael Ansara of Lowell Street is coordinating the effort to help the family in both the building changes and financially. Five FRSers--Ed and Liz Leclair, Mary Hult, jack-hammer-wielding Ann James and Joan Dalton have helped at the home already. Tax-deductible donations to help the family may be made through the town's Heald Fund. Checks should be made out to The Town of Carlisle/Heald Fund. Please send them to Michael Ansara at 225 Lowell St Carlisle MA 01741. He will batch them and deliver them to Town Hall.

Please contact Michael at Michael.Ansara@upsource.ca if you have any questions. We will try to get an up-to-date work schedule in the Thursday e-mails.