

**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 XXX, No. 18

May 29, 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 29, 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: alancaeron@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 Hayden, 978-369-7591

**Membership:** John Lyons, 978-369-1216

**THE ECLECTIC CLERIC**

"What we gain when we give it away...."

At our most recent Annual Meeting, the members of the congregation in attendance voted by a narrow margin to adopt a policy of dedicating the cash portion of our weekly offering to FRS's Outreach and Social Action ministries. Because the vote was so close (18-12) it was the sense of the meeting that we would try this for a year as an experiment, and revisit the policy again at our next Annual Meeting. As the person who suggested this idea to the Parish Committee in the first place, I thought it might also be a good idea for me to explain what I was thinking when I made the suggestion, and why I think it's something worth trying out.

This idea did not originate with me by the way, nor is it the first time something like it has been suggested at FRS. Many UU congregations around the country are now choosing to "give away" all or part of the Sunday offering to good causes beyond their own walls. Here at FRS we routinely take up a weekly Family Offering for the support of the Open Pantry in Lowell, and have traditionally dedicated our Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings to the Social Action Committee's outreach ministries as well. The decision by the Parish Committee to recommend that we dedicate our entire cash offering to this same practice was in part inspired by the realization that the amount we had budgeted next year to receive through the offering (based on projections from years past) was identical to the amount we had budgeted for Social Action outreach. In effect we were already doing this anyway; we just hadn't identified it that way!

One benefit of formally linking the proceeds of our Sunday offering to our Social Action Outreach ministries is that it allows us to focus our attention more closely on the important role that generosity toward others plays in our faith. The point is not merely to raise more money for these ministries (although hopefully that will be a by-product). The point is to remind us weekly that "we live not for ourselves alone." A second benefit is that it compels us to take a closer look at how we take responsibility for funding the overall ministry of the church. Knowing that we are giving away the collection to others reminds us that we shouldn't be counting on others to pay our own basic operating expenses like heat, salaries, office supplies and building maintenance.

There are also legitimate objections to the adoption of this kind of policy, which were eloquently and responsibly articulated at the meeting. The most obvious question is what business do we have giving away the offering at a time when our own operating budget is painfully tight as it is? I don't really have an answer for this, except for the earlier observation that we are already in effect doing it anyway.

A more wide-reaching concern has to do with the effect this sort of policy may have on the concept of a unified operating budget, and resisting the temptation to " earmark" other funds for other specific purposes, rather than for the support of the work and mission of the church as a whole. This is a constant pressure in church life, and I personally would be very disappointed indeed if this current policy simply

## THE ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

became “the camel’s nose” for creating separate “buckets of money” for every little pet project that comes down the road.

But in a larger sense, I also hope that adopting this current policy and trying it out for a year will give us an opportunity to talk more deeply and openly with one another about the important role money plays both in our own lives and in the life of the church. By discussing issues of responsibility and “ownership,” and developing the trust that we can count on one another to each do our share according to our ability; by sharing our visions of the mission and purpose of FRS as an institution, and our dreams for its future; and by reminding ourselves weekly of the important contributions that attitudes of generosity and gratitude make to our own happiness and satisfaction, I fully expect that we will grow to feel enriched by this experiment. In fact, from my perspective based on the discussion at the annual meeting, we have already begun to experience its benefits.....twj

Just a reminder to those of you who occasionally miss a Sunday service, texts of my sermons are located on our website. Happy summer reading!

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## UPCOMING SERVICES

**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 be having a flower communion.** Please bring flowers from your garden to share.

**June 11:** We will celebrate Religious Education Sunday. The k-1 class will show their finished quilt, the grade 2-3 class will present posters about several Unitarian Universalists, and the grade 4-6 class will share their rendition of the UU Principles song and other insights. The children and youth completing 1st, 8th and 12th grades will be recognized for their contributions and achievements.

**June 18:** June 18 will be the last regular church service of the church year. Please join us for lay lead services at 9:30am beginning June 25, excluding July 2. Please contact Roger Goulet at 978-369-6825, email [goulet27@aol.com](mailto:goulet27@aol.com) for information.

## 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](mailto:uucleric@mindspring.com).

**Director of Religious Education:** Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email ([frs\\_re@comcast.net](mailto: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 June 5.

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

- Jun 1 Music and Worship Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.
- Jun 3 Mensgroup meets here at FRS.
- Jun 3 Three-Church Yard Sale from 9:30am to 12:30pm here at FRS.
- Jun 4 Rev. Susan Criscione, Director at Renewal House will be guest speaker at the morning service.
- Jun 8 Membership Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.
- Jun 11 RE Recognition Sunday celebrated at the morning service.
- Jun 11 Womenspirit meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.
- Jun 15 Parish Committee meeting at 7:00pm in the conference room.
- Jun 18 The last service of the church year.
- Jun 21 Biscuit making workshop at 9:00am in Union Hall.
- Jun 22 Strawberry hulling at 9:00am in union hall.
- Jun 22 Strawberry Festival at 6:00pm in the church yard.

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.

## CONTACTING THE OFFICE DURING THE SUMMER

The church office is not open regular hours during the summer months. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly. Please leave a phone message (978-369-5180) or send an email ([frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org)) and Kathy in the church office will get back to you.

**Enjoy the summer!**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE THE WILD, WILD WEST  
SERVICE AUCTION SO VERY SUCCESSFUL! by Alison Saylor**

The event raised an amazing \$17,000+ for The First Religious Society in Carlisle

**Menu**

Dian Cuccinello

**Kitchen**

George Bishop                      Nadine Bishop  
Dian Cuccinello \* coordinator  
Pam Fox                                Cindy Jaquith  
Janice Kissinger                      Jane Mosier  
Judy Munroe                            Mike Saylor  
Nancy West                              Mary Zoll  
Suzanne Whitney Smith

**Decorations**

Kathy Booth                            Dian Cuccinello  
Susan Lohrer                             Alison Saylor

**Service Solicitation Team**

Gio DiNicola                            Susan Emmons  
Annie Hill                                Ellen Huber  
Fontaine Richardson

**Reservations**

Susan Emmons                         Linda Myers-Tierney  
Nancy West

**Set up**

George Bishop                         Kathy Booth  
Al Cameron                                Donna Carter  
Dian Cuccinello                         Pam Fox  
Peter Fox                                  Alison Saylor  
Marge Stickler                         Lauren Tierney  
Linda Myers-Tierney

**Silent Auction**

Susan Emmons                         Gio DiNicola

**Live Auction**

Al Cameron                                Jim Elgin  
Steve Kirk                                 Mike Saylor

**Entertainment**

John Ballantine – Saloon trouble maker  
Kathy Booth -Skit Costumer and Country Store customer  
Bill Brown – fiddler  
Charann Brown – Ma Barker  
Al Cameron – Saloon trouble maker  
Meredith Cameron - Can Can dancer  
Dian Cuccinello – Mae from the West  
Charlie Davis – Charlie Barker (deceased)  
Margaret Darling – pianist and music arranger  
Michael Dundorf – Sheriff Dundorf  
Pam Fox – Can Can dancer  
Joe Jancek – Joe Barker  
Tim Jensen – preacher  
Kerry Kissinger – story teller  
Linda Myers-Tierney - Annie Oakley  
Fontaine Richardson – MC and singer  
Alison Saylor – Miss Alison and Miss Kitty  
Mike Saylor – Mike Barker and Matt Dillon  
Marcia Wallhagen – Can Can dancer

**Publicity**

Nancy West

**Handouts**

Kathy Varney

**Treasurer**

Charlie Davis

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS by Molly Sorrows**

**Alternative House**

The Senior High youth have set up several more dates to visit **Alternative House** this spring, trying for Saturday afternoons of June 3, 10 and 17. A great visit on May 20 by Alessandra, Drew and Blair found some familiar faces and some new ones. One long time friend is excited about achieving her 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation after a long struggle, and we are very happy for her. Be sure to be in touch with Molly about which dates you will attend.

**Religious Education Sunday**

On June 11 we will celebrate the end of the year for our Religious Education classes. Please come to help us thank the teachers, see and hear presentations from different classes, and recognize our first, eighth and twelfth graders.

**Neighboring Faiths Field Trips**

**Islam**

On June 4, the junior and senior high youth will go to visit the Qutbi Masjid Mosque in Billerica, the house of worship of Dawoodi Bohra Muslims in our area. The space opened in August, 2004, after many years of the Muslim group renting space in Chelmsford from the UU church and the Congregation Shalom synagogue. The visitors are in for a fascinating trip. In the Boston Globe (10/21/04) after a special open house, the space was described as follows: "Inside the mosque, the visitors walked through a foyer with marble walls and floor. Overhead hung chandeliers with laser-cut crystals and gold plating. Farther inside was a carpeted prayer area. Beams of late-afternoon sunlight filtered in from the outside through large glass panels." The building uses marble imported from a quarry in India, handcarved woodwork, and other special designs in the Fatimid style of architecture. The Globe article is at: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/10/21/building\\_faith/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/10/21/building_faith/)

**Buddhism**

On June 11, the youth will take a trip to the Great Wisdom Center in Westford. On May 22 we were blessed with a visit from Ajahn David Chutiko of the Center, who opened his discussion with the youth by talking about the similarities he saw in our religions just from the beginning of our worship service --- the caring and compassion that we express for others being so important to us all. He also spoke about meditation as a practice that we can (and do) incorporate in our daily lives; that it is about being mindful, and that we can be mindful even about very mundane tasks. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed joining some junior and senior high youth to see and hear this interesting visitor. You can look at their website at <http://www.greatwisdomcenter.org/index.htm>.

Jackie Schaefer and Linda Myers-Tierney are coordinating these field trips. Hopefully many of our youth will be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

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.

## CANVASS UPDATE *by Charlie Davis*

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

John Ballantine  
Ann Barber & Dik Dagavarian  
Max & Dave Barber  
Gertrud Behn  
Steve Boor & Patti Russo  
Donna & Jim Carter  
Dot Clark  
Sally Coulter  
Dian & Bill Cuccinello  
Marilyn Cugini & Steve Smith  
Eric & Margaret Darling  
Gio DiNicola & Steve Huberman  
John Forcucci & Lisa Sama  
Mary Grant  
Stephanie Hackbarth  
Tena & Glenn Herlihy  
Joe & Debby Jancek  
John & Norma Japp  
Cindy Jaquith  
Lori & Ray Jimenez  
Judy Jones  
Janice Kissinger  
Tom & Lee Lockwood  
Gabor & Bonnie Miskolczy  
Judy & Scott Munroe  
Gordon & Hannalore Munson  
Sally Naumann & Art Turner  
Janet & Michael Oyer  
Rob Pease & Carol Wingard  
Wendy Powell & Don Rober  
Janice Saul  
Jackie Schaefer

## OPEN PANTRY BENEFIT YARD SALE *by Ellen Huber*

Bring your donations (no books or clothes) for the Three Church Yard Sale to the church between 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 2. The sale runs from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 3.

Please call Nadine Bishop (369-5080) if you can help sort items on Friday afternoon or evening, work on Saturday morning, beginning at 8 a.m., or if you can help take sale leftovers to the Household Goods Recycling Ministry or the transfer station (larger vehicles would be especially appreciated).

The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell offers short term food assistance for persons in need. People may receive a five to seven day food supply every 30 days. Over 1,200 people, one third children, are served every month. The FRS supports the Pantry with food and money donations and with volunteer hours.

We are happy to be working with The Carlisle Congregational Church and St Irene's in this effort.

Thank you to all of you who have donated your time to fold the newsletters during this church year. We appreciate your help!

## CARLISLE CULTURAL COUNCIL *by Pamela H. Woodhull*

The 2007 Grant Cycle is now beginning for the Carlisle Cultural Council & I would like to inform the congregation about this town organization supporting "unique cultural experiences" for Carlisle citizens. Funding comes from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as well as local fundraising.

I am the Council Treasurer; the current President is Elisa Abruzzo. A past President is Andrea Urban, a long-time resident and supporter of the arts. Probably the Council's best known event was "The Art of Living in Carlisle" which was a wonderful tour of a variety of homes in Carlisle that included the Sorli farm; a deck house; a log cabin; and various other historic and modern habitations.

More recent events include a Bali dancing exhibition; a Chinese New Year festival, and this Spring's "Glimpses of India". We are always looking for new grant proposals and would love to encourage anyone who could use a small grant to bring their plans to fruition. Usual grants are about \$500; we also help to coordinate potentially self-funding events where admission is charged.

If you would like to know more please let me know.

## PROGRAM NEWS

### Strawberry Festival Activities Thursday, June 22

1. **Biscuit Making Workshop** at 9:00am on Wednesday, June 21 in the kitchen. Please bring biscuit cutters, rolling pins, measuring spoons and cups.
2. **Strawberry Hulling** at 9:00am on Thursday, June 22 in Union Hall. Please bring paring knives and aprons.
3. **Table and chair set up** at 5:15pm on Thursday, June 22 and take down at 8:15pm. Looking for strong men for this project.
4. **Whipping cream helpers** are needed in church kitchen starting at 5:30pm on Thursday, June 22. All will need to borrow 1 or 2 large mixers.
5. **People to serve strawberry shortcake** in 2 shifts. The first shift is from 5:45pm to 7:00pm and the second shift is from 7:00pm to 8:15pm.

**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 Judy Munroe at 978-369-5621 during the month of June.

**Congratulations** to all church members and friends who have joined committees for the upcoming church year! Thank you to outgoing committee members—we appreciate your hard work!