

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXII, No. 5

November 5, 2007



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 November 5, 2007

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:00 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

Interim Minister: Victor H. Carpenter (study) 978-369-0284,

Email: victorcarpenter@dedhamuu.org

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Collector of Funds: Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; Email: cdavis@modavi.com

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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 978-278-5745,

Email: dianfrancesca@comcast.net

In the Interim

"There is a deep need for people whose commitments are prior to their politics"

-Paul Elan

When I heard that statement during a program on NPR I pulled the car off the road, stopped and wrote it down. It seemed the perfect description of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu is taking "heat". He endorsed President Jimmy Carter's description of the Israel-Palestine relationship as "apartheid".

If you read the Globe op-ed page last week you are well aware of the "heat" which that comparison is generating. One column compared Boston's Old South Church's sponsorship of a conference at which Tutu was due to speak with lynch efforts in "the old South" directed at blacks - only this one was aimed at Israel.

The following day the Globe published a piece by Tutu addressing the issue. Two sentences are worth repeating. "Some people are enraged by comparisons between the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and what happened in South Africa. There are differences between the two situations, but a comparison need not be exact in every feature to yield clarity about what is going on."

I was in the congregation last Saturday afternoon when Tutu spoke. Even as protesters across the street from the church waved Israeli flags and made defamatory remarks Tutu repeated his oft-spoken position that his religion commands him to speak out even when his remarks are labeled inflammatory and greeted with angry shouts. Like Luther nailing his protest to the church door, Tutu "can do no other".

Leaving Old South Church I made my way to Boston Common where the Peace Rally was in progress. Again I recalled Elan's words about commitment and politics as speakers like Noam Chomsky called for our withdrawal from Iraq and expressed their fear of our country's increasingly threatening posture toward Iran. These were men and women of deep personal commitment to justice and truth.

These voices will not be drowned out; let us take any and every opportunity to add ours to theirs.

Victor

UPCOMING SERVICES

**Celebration Concert Series
at The First Religious Society
in Carlisle, MA
Celebrating 250 Years**

November 11, 2007 at 4:00pm
Sarah Darling, viola
Dimitri Dover, piano
Playing music by
Hindemith, Bloch, Schumann

Arcturus Chamber Ensemble
TBA
(will be late December or early January)

January 27, 2008 at 4:00pm
Fumito Nunoya, marimbist

Concerts are free and open to the public.
The building is fully accessible.

Donations will be appreciated
at the reception immediately
following each event.

Additional concerts will be announced
as the celebration year continues.

November 11: "What Holds Us Together" No creed. No "I believe". No Pope, no Bishop, no Presbytery. So what's the glue? That's the question that begins the conversation, sometimes uncomfortable and sometimes not, that confronts Unitarian Universalists when orthodox neighbors and friends find out that we are UUs. In days of old it was fun to answer "The Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Vicinity of Boston", but that really doesn't cut it anymore. And we can do better than a glib witticism.

Sonie Boor, violin, and Steve Boor, guitar, will play music from the Franz Joseph Haydn Concerto in C Major."

Margaret Darling, pianist, will play *Nimrod* from the Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar

November 18: "Thanksgiving: It Could Have Been Otherwise" A wonderful account of that first Thanksgiving appears in Nathaniel Philbrick's bestseller -"Mayflower". "The First Thanksgiving marked the conclusion of a remarkable year. Eleven months earlier the Pilgrims had arrived at Cape Cod, fearful and uninformed. They spent the next months alienating and angering every Native American they happened to come across. By all rights ...they should have been dead". Their story is our story. Its power is transformative.

The Choir will sing at all services.

**Join us for an Ecumenical Service on
Wednesday, November 21 at 7:30pm in the
Sanctuary.**

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 November 12, 2007.

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

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LUCKY BAMBOO

Discounted Lucky Bamboo \$10 each and Pepper Plants \$5 for Sale with 100% going to FRS: Lucky Bamboo in vases with river stones were made by Dora Khayami and George Bishop and quite a few are left from the Harvest Fair. These plants are not really bamboo, but they look like they are. They thrive in not-too-sunny windows and only need their water replaced every week to ten days. They are so forgiving that if you forget, they still do quite well as long as they don't dry out completely. We have included some special plant food drops; just add four or five drops to the water each time you change it. The Pepper plants were grown by Bob Orlando and donated to the Pumpkin Festival. Peppers are perennial plants, which means that they will act like a house plant in the winter, and can be brought outside in the summer months. The peppers are edible and rather hot. All these vases and plants are in the bell rope area behind the organ and George Bishop can help you choose a good one. Please buy several and then give your money to Charlie Davis or send it to FRS P.O. Box 817.

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.

KIDSKWIRE: Rehearsals are on Wednesday at 3:00pm.

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

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.

GREENS SALE 2007

Our annual Greens Sale is a most beautiful and fun event for the entire Carlisle community. I hope everyone will attend on December 1 and also volunteer for the workshops listed below or other jobs like picking up and delivering greens, setting up tables and, of course, clean-up.

Saturday, November 10, Gingerbread House Workshop 8:30am to 4:00pm in Union Hall

Saturday, November 17, Boxwood Tree Workshop 8:00am to 5:00pm in Union Hall

Sunday, November 18, Decorate the Sanctuary At noon in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 28, Christmas Greens Arrangements Workshop All Day in Union Hall

Thursday, November 29, Wreath Decorating Workshop All Day in Union Hall

Friday, November 30, Set up and price items for Greens Sale 8:00am in Union Hall.

Friday, November 30, Pre-order pick up at 5:00pm in Union Hall

Saturday, December 1, Greens Sale 10:00am to 2:00pm in Union Hall

Call Janice Kissinger at 978-369-8968 to sign up for workshops.

RE NEWS by Molly Sorrows

We have made a change to the December schedule of events, and want to make sure that everyone is aware of the plans.

Dec. 9 – Christmas Pageant costuming and mini-practice

Dec. 16 – Christmas Pageant, with rehearsal prior to church

Dec. 23 – No Religious Education classes

In addition, we will have Christmas Caroling at 5:00pm on Dec. 16.

Because the pageant is just a week before Christmas, we want to be sure we have a few extra hands to help lay away costumes and props Dec. 16-18. When the time comes, please be generous in helping to make this work.

Looking ahead to our Winter Workshops that will begin in January, we are making plans for some special activities around our 250th Celebration and FRS History. Projects will include a variety of creative ways of learning and presenting information, perhaps a slide show or power point presentation, or 2-D or 3-D arts. If you have an idea about either the history or the presentation/learning techniques, have some expertise you would be willing to share, or would be willing to help with this planning, please talk to Molly Sorrows or Lonnie Harvey who are shaping the plans. The past two years our Winter Workshops have been creative and wonderful experiences for the children and leaders alike.

PROGRAM NEWS

Holiday Invite: For those hosting various relatives, friends and guests for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas, please consider inviting an FRS community person to join you for a holiday meal. Please call Marje Stickler at 978-369-0214 if you can extend an invitation or contact Marje or Kathy in the church office if you are looking for a friendly place to share the day.

Service of Remembrance and Request for Names of Your Loved Ones: On Sunday, November 11, we plan to commemorate those loved ones who have passed away. The service will include the reading of their names and they will be listed in the Order of Service. To that end, we are asking each of you to email (frs@uucarlisle.org) or call (978-369-5180) the church office with the names of your loved ones that they may be remembered in this service. They need NOT have passed away very recently. We will be creating a special alter table with small photos and mementoes honoring the deceased so feel free to bring in such tokens on Sunday and place them there.

Notes from Buildings and Grounds: We have been fortunate to find a Carlisle family to rent the Parsonage and they moved in this month. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to get the property ready for new tenants!

Thanks to Bob Wallhagen for re-pointing and re-setting the front steps of the church. Check them out as you enter. Upcoming projects include washing the Sanctuary windows, so watch for a brighter view soon.

We continue to work on large and small repairs and upkeep items. Please let the office know if you note things that need our attention.

PROGRAM NEWS

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 Anne Ketchen at 978-369-1611 during the month of November.

New Orleans Service Project meeting: A meeting to update plans for our February work trip to New Orleans will be held on **Saturday, November 10 at 4:00 pm in Union Hall.** Open to all, this meeting will be of special interest and importance to those who have expressed an interest in going on this trip. Margaret Darling will briefly summarize the process to date, and talk about plans for educational opportunities and involvement for the congregation at large, both before and after the trip. Members of Gulf Coast Works (formerly Bridge to Biloxi), our volunteer coordinators, will present the current status of our work trip plans for air travel, accommodations, food, projects, and transportation to and from work sites. They will then answer questions on these subjects and share their own experiences on such work trips. We'll be asking our volunteers to firm up their commitments at the meeting and within the next few days, so that we can lock in the best possible airfares. Following the meeting, we'll have tea and Southern sweets, accompanied by a sampling of New Orleans jazz - so plan to stick around awhile and warm up your conversational skills in preparation for neighborly front-porch encounters in the great Southern tradition! Margaret Darling, FRS Social Action Committee

Advent Wreath Making Workshop: Will take place Sunday, November 25 at 3:30pm in Union Hall.

Want a Small Group Ministry Experience (Plus Potluck Dinner)? Come join others interested in learning about small group ministry (SGM). We'll have a pot luck dinner at the Ballantines' home on Fiske Street at 6 p.m. on **Sunday, November 4** and then will divide into groups of 8 - 10 to hold short versions of a SGM meeting. Facilitators from our present SGM groups will lead the sessions. For the next few weeks there will be a sign up list at coffee hour for the November 4 event or you may call Kathy in the church office (369-5180) to sign up. Please contact Steve Kirk (steve@esicomputing.com or at 371-0176) if you have any questions.

Join us for an Ecumenical Service on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

There will be a Church Council meeting on Sunday, November 18 at 8:30am in the conference room. All committee chairs and representatives are invited to attend.

Fellowship Potluck Lunch – Sunday, November 11th – Union Hall: On Sunday, November 11th we'll have a good old-fashioned potluck lunch in Union Hall after the service. No hidden agendas – no one will ask you to sign up for anything. It's just a chance to break bread together and visit a little while with each other. This will be in place of our regular coffee hour. Bring a dish for eight (main dish, salad, dessert) of your choosing to share and we'll have some nice soups and bread to share as well. Nothing fancy expected. Coffee, tea, lemonade and water will be provided. Any questions, please contact Sue Kirk at 371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.