

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 XXXI, No. 3

October 9, 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 October 9, 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: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922;

swsmeslrs@earthlink.net

Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, Email: lms@bostonbits.com

Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180

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Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-501-4220; Email: frsmusic@comcast.net

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Lay Minister: Sally Hayen, 978-369-7591

Membership Contact: Sue Kirk, 978-371-0176

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC

"Can you hear me now?"

For those of you who were unable to attend Sunday's informational meeting, during the past few months FRS has been approached by two different cellular phone service providers (Sprint/Nextel and T-Mobile) who are interested in leasing space in our tower and attic to house their Carlisle Center cellular antennae and related telephone equipment. The Parish and Finance Committees both tend to be favorably inclined toward these proposals, but also can see some potential drawbacks and want to gather more information from both the cellular companies and the members of the congregation before arriving at a decision about whether to proceed forward.

The advantages of these leases seem obvious. Not only would the additional revenue provide a healthy infusion of cash to an increasingly tight church operating budget, but our tower in many ways offers an excellent solution to what has been a difficult (and litigious) problem for the entire town. Compared to other potential Carlisle Center sites, our steeple tall enough, sturdy enough, and inconspicuous enough to deliver effective phone coverage here in the center with minimal negative impact to the surrounding neighborhood. This is why church steeples in general are a preferred site for cellular equipment, including our neighboring UU churches in Chelmsford and Billerica, and my former congregation on Nantucket.

In the early years of cellular technology, some

people were concerned about potential health and safety effects from the electromagnetic radiation generated by this equipment. If a microwave can cook a turkey, the reasoning went, who's to say that these new-fangled cellular antennae won't someday cook our geese? Improvements in the technology and more than a decade's worth of experience now have experts saying that these risks are minimal at best, and that any potential danger is far greater from the telephones we hold to our ears than from the actual antenna equipment itself. But even if we choose to err on the side of caution, our tower is a far less risky alternative than many of the other potential sites here in Carlisle. The portions of our building closest to the equipment are only fully occupied for a few hours a week, while the most frequently inhabited portion of our building (our offices and the Red Balloon) are in the "dead zone" immediately beneath the proposed antenna, and more than effectively shielded by almost the entire structure of the building itself.

Of course, it is also important to remember that even if we do decide to allow Sprint/Nextel and T-Mobile to proceed with their plans to lease space in our tower, there is still a long town regulatory process to navigate before any construction would actually take place. The Selectmen have already expressed their desire to locate this equipment on town-owned property if possible (the most commonly mentioned site is the school), since the town would also appreciate the extra revenue just as much as we would. All the cellular companies are really asking of us at this point is permission to proceed forward with this regulatory process, on the assumption that if and when they are

THE ECLECTIC CLERIC *(continued)*

successful, they can count on us not to back out without good reason at the 11th hour.

Any time we choose to share our building with “outsiders,” there are compromises to make and a price to be paid. Yet making our building available for public use has been part of the historical mission of The First Religious Society since its beginning two and a half centuries ago. From the Savoyards to the Girl Scouts, the Council on Aging and the Red Balloon, and many, many others...perhaps making it possible for our “neighbours and fellow creatures” to finally make phone calls from here in Carlisle is really no different. In the meantime, let’s all try to learn as much about this entire proposal as we can. And let’s also remember to keep communicating honestly and openly with one another...whether we are talking on the phone, or speaking face to face.....twj

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

by Molly Sorrows

Children & Youth at the Harvest Fair:

Everyone is encouraged to come and support the children’s tables at the Harvest Fair. Come buy Fair Trade coffee, cocoa, homemade grape jelly from Carlisle grapes, and homemade cider, or play games and do crafts in the activity section! Each group will select organizations to receive their proceeds, and there will be information at the fair about each organization.

Parents, please sign up to help your child sell items at their sections.

- Grades 1-3 – Fair Trade coffee & cocoa
- Grades 4-5 – Grape jelly
- Junior Youth – Games, activity table, grape jelly
- Senior High Youth – Cider pressing

All parents & kids can contact their teachers to sign up for a time to work; we will try to contact everyone by email, but if you aren’t sure who to call, check with Molly. It’s fun to have several families work together at once. Parents & preschoolers are welcome to join an older sibling or help at another table.

UPCOMING SERVICES

October 15:
“A Different Way of Doing Church”
Rev. Jensen

October 22:
“Looking Backward, Living Forward”
Rev. Jensen

October 29:
“Dia de los Muertos” Day of the Dead

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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.

Next Newsletter Deadline is October 16, 2006. If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office, 978-369-5180, frs@uucarlisle.org.

UU HAPPENINGS AROUND US

The Clara Barton District Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, October 28 from 8:30am to 4:00pm at Nichols College in Dudley, MA.

“Pulling Out All the Stops” by Malcolm Halliday on organ and piano with Stanley Wilson, Tenor at The First Parish Church of Stow & Acton. The concert begins at 3:00pm on Sunday, November 12 in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow.

Jazz Concert at the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church on Saturday, November 11 at 8:00pm. Jeannie Gagne will join with Stan Strickland to share their energy, talent and soul. Tickets will be \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. To reserve your ticket email Pat White at patwhite@charter.net. Proceeds will go towards the new piano fund.

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 Sally Hayen at 978-369-7591 during the month of October.

STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS

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

CELEBRATING THE 250 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY IN CARLISLE *by Alison Saylor*

The 250th Anniversary planning is moving from the brainstorming stage to the what-we-will-commit-to-doing stage. Every group and committee at FRS is encouraged to do something public that will round out our celebratory year that begins in September 2007 and ends with Old Home Day 2008. Some themes are emerging that may help you with your planning:

- Remembering our past
- Showcasing what we do
- Emphasizing our Community role
- Reaching out to both current Carlisle residents and old friends who have moved away
- Piggybacking on existing events

We would like to have a mix of special events that occur during Sunday morning services as well as other days and times. We want the activities to be spread consistently throughout the calendar. No two big events in the same weekend please. We will be content with our plans if we can check off these criteria:

- Is there something of interest for males, females, youth, families, empty nesters, and elders?
- Does the calendar of events have a good distribution of daytime and evening activities?
- Is there a good mix of large and small gatherings of people?
- Is there someone willing to chair each event?
- Are there others willing to help each chair?
- Have we created events that touch people's passions and spirit?

Under discussion are (in no particular order):

- Bill Sinkford, president of UUA, giving a Sunday sermon Valentine dance with DJ
- Living Wax Museum of Carlisle historical figures
- UU Revue a musical evening of UU songs
- UU Pageant featuring the John Murray story
- Harvest Fair to include Carlisle artisans&

- entrepreneurs or antique & quilt show
- Social Action video or slide show
- FRS Reunion on or near the Strawberry Festival with gala event costume party and ringing the bell 250 times
- Old Home Day parade of costumed Carlisle or UU historical figures and booth of Oral history cd and publication
- Historical artifacts and photographs on display at Gleason Library
- Bag lunch with the minister or guest speaker luncheon series
- Large outdoor banner for hanging on the church
- Quilted banner for hanging inside the church
- Neighborhood weekend featuring a Saturday evening Potluck with skit
- Coffee house style music fund raiser for Habitat for Humanity
- Service Auction with costumed Carlisle and UU historical figures and auctioneers.

We urge everyone to let us know which of our ideas are most appealing. We hope to have the first draft of the calendar of events circulating in early November. Please call anyone on the 250th Celebration Committee; Dian Cuccinello, Margaret Darling, Ellen Huber, Tim Jensen, Marguerite Shaw, Suzanne Whitney-Smith, Alison Saylor, and Nancy West.

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.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES OPEN ENROLLMENT *by Alison Saylor*

Do you miss Playgroup now that your children have grown up? Is meaningful adult reflection and discussion missing in your busy life? Would you like to join a group that is nurturing and supportive, yet not demanding of that precious resource "time"? Then please consider signing up with one of our newly forming Small Group Ministry groups.

The first three topics for all groups will be October "What is your Passion?", November "Transitions and Turning Points" and December "Gratitude".

3rd Wednesday morning group 9:30 -11:30AM at Alison Saylor's house – Michael Dundorf and Alison Saylor facilitators. First meeting October 18.

4th Monday evening group 7:00 -9:00PM at the church – Ellen and Ernie Huber facilitators. First meeting October 23.

4th Tuesday evening group 7:00 -9:00 PM at Steve Kirk's house – Bob Luoma and Steve Kirk facilitators. First meeting October 24.

If these days are not convenient for you, we may be able to create a fourth group that meets on Sunday afternoons. If Sunday afternoons do not suit you, then tell us your availability and we will do our best to form a group at that time. Sign up sheets will be set out during coffee hour for the next several weeks or you may send in your interest in a particular group via e-mail to FRS@uucarlisle.org.

SEE "AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH" AT FRS

See *An Inconvenient Truth* at the FRS: Al Gore's (PG-rated) movie on global warming, *An Inconvenient Truth*, will be shown on Friday, October 20 at 7:30 pm in Union Hall. The public is encouraged to attend this free event, sponsored by Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light and the FRS Environmental Action Committee.

Climatecrisis.net describes this documentary: "The Sundance Film Festival hit *An Inconvenient Truth* offers a passionate and inspirational look at a fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. With wit, smarts, and hope, *An Inconvenient Truth* ultimately brings home the persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue - rather, it is the biggest moral challenge facing our global civilization."

Film critic Roger Ebert states, "In 39 years, I have never written these words in a movie review, but here they are: You owe it to yourself to see this film. If you do not, and you have grandchildren, you should explain to them why you decided not to."

Refreshments will be provided. Handouts will be available, with an opportunity for discussion afterwards. For more information, contact Dan Scholten at 978-369-1209.

OPEN PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED *by Barbara Ritz*

Our church contributes to the Open Pantry, located on Central Street in Lowell, on a regular basis. FRS children bring donations (mostly food items) each Sunday, which are taken to the Pantry. Then one of the following women: Max Barber, Ellen Huber, Barbara Ritz, Alison Saylor and sub, Joan Dalton bag groceries, on rotating basis, Tuesday mornings. We could use another substitute. If you are interested in helping please contact Barbara: britz219@aol.com.

Items Needed -- especially for single adults:
cereal, (non-sugary, no nuts, 8-5oz size)
crackers
fruit & veggies in small cans
grape jelly
jello (small box)
pudding
rice - brown
soups - hearty
sugar (1 - 2 lbs)
tomato sauce (small can)
toiletries (ex. soap, toothpaste)

Items Not Needed, at this time:
cake, candy, cookies
macaroni 'n cheese
olives & other "exotics"
pasta (all kinds)
peanut butter
rice -- white
sugary cereals
tuna fish (cans)

Thank you FRSers for your attention, and contributions, to the Open Pantry which supports many people in need, in the city of Lowell.

PROGRAM NEWS

Church Council meetings: The next church council meetings will be held on January 21 and March 18 at 9:00am in the conference room.

It is almost time for the Greens Sale! Join us for our Gingerbread House making workshop on Saturday, November 11 beginning at 8:30am in Union Hall. Beginners welcome!

Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 14th from 10:00am to 2:00pm: Can you spare an hour or two to help set up or help run the Harvest Fair? All day on Friday October 13 we will be transforming Union Hall into a welcoming fall decorated gathering spot for celebrating the season and our community spirit. Please invite your friends and neighbors to a tasty meal at our luncheon cafe. Do you or someone you know own a "cool" car that could be parked around the Green for us to admire? Have you some spare houseplants that George Bishop could add to his Plant table? Please just pitch in where you feel most comfortable. Call Alison Saylor (978) 369-1809 or email her at Saylorfarm@comcast.net with any questions.

Buildings & Grounds is looking for volunteers to take trash to the dump. Having a truck helps. Community service hours for teens. You can sign up for one week or more. Or if you would like to be "on call" that would be greatly appreciated also. Please call or email the church office.

Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser
Saturday, November 18 at 7:30pm
featuring Carlisle's own Blues Band *SCRUMDADDY*.
Tickets are \$20 at the door. BYOB