



Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society

August 24
through August 30, 2015

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This Sunday 10 AM

August 30 "Blessing of the Animals." Come to reflect on our connections with animals, especially pets. You need not bring a pet along. But if you do, bring your animal safely constrained. You may also bring a photo or representation of a beloved animal, or a stuffed animal to be blessed. This will be a time to appreciate all beings, to bless the pets, and to honor the interdependent web of life. This will be a service on the front steps of the church and the grassy elipse. Unless there is rain, in which case we'll be inside. Lemonade, cookies, and pet treats after the blessing. Led by Diane Miller, with Kim Kastens and Tom Rourk. If you would like to participate in leading the service, contact Rev. Miller.

Summer Services end with a Pancake Breakfast

Sept. 6 Pancake Breakfast in Union Hall. A warm welcome on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, pancakes with all the fixings, served 10-11 AM. Volunteer pancake flippers much appreciated. Coordinated by Tom Rourk and Lisa Sama.

Sept. 13 Water Ceremony

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**Office
Administrator:**

Ann Quenin
978-369-5180

frs@uucarlisle.org

Hours: Mon. 8-
9:30am

10:30am-noon

Tuesday: 8am-noon

Closed Wednesday

Thursday 8-noon and
1pm-4pm

Friday 8am-noon and
1pm-3pm

Minister:

Rev. Diane Miller
978-369-0284
church study
dmiller @
uucarlisle.org

The Minister is usually in the church study for portions of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and

Sunday. Friday is preparation time, Saturdays vary, and Wednesday is her day

Services resume in the Sanctuary. Bring small samples of water representing your summer for the Water Ceremony. Pam Howell, Religious Education Coordinator, will deliver a Message for All Ages before the children leave for their first Sunday of getting to know each other and their adult leaders. Lisa Perry-Wood will return for a second internship year, as Student Minister. Dan Ryan will be directing the music and leading the choir. Rev. Diane Miller will speak.

Message from the Minister

This weekly e-newsletter is produced in the church office, compiled from submissions from staff and congregation. The **Behind the Scenes** section has been mostly submitted by staff, to recognize the many volunteer projects that keep the church in good shape. In an effort to broaden what is recognized, because so much is missed, I am appealing to all Committee Chairs, project leaders, and congregation members to submit notes via email or paper naming those who have served the church and its outreach. Include yourself. The notes serve to highlight social justice efforts, social service, hospitality, and care of our building and grounds and programs. They are a means of appreciation. They may generate interest in projects going on. They tell people what we are doing as a church. The name for this part of the Meetinghouse Messenger is changing as well, from "Behind the Scenes" to **Our Shared Ministry**. ~ Diane



PS The church website has been hit by a virus and is not available. Our webmasters and the web hosting service are working on repair and restoring the site, and hope it will be done midweek.

A message from the Office Administrator: Regular office hours will resume in September, although until then I will be here for some part of the day Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, usually mornings before it gets too hot. If you need to get in touch right away, call my cell phone 781-820-2783. Meetinghouse Messenger announcements will need to be in my hands no later than the Thursday morning before it is published on Monday, so please keep that in mind. Email news to frs@uucarlisle.org and put "Meetinghouse

off. Call for an appointment.

Student Minister

Lisa Perry-Wood
dre@uucarlisle.org
781-883-3411

RE Coordinator

Pam Howell
drepamhowell@gmail.com

Music Director:

Dan Ryan
dryan@uucarlisle.org

Messenger in the subject line. Thanks! Ann Quenin

News and Programs



The Cottage Meetings are off to a great start, with a big group at the meeting yesterday. There are a couple of openings for tomorrow night (Tuesday) as well next week. The SignupGenius link ([here](#)) has been working well, but please email Molly at frs_search@uucarlisle.org or phone one of us if you have any trouble signing up. This is a chance to share ideas about what FRS should celebrate and maintain about who we are, what we need to do to make FRS stronger in the near future and what qualities we seek in a new Minister. Our goal in these meetings is to gather ideas from everyone, so keep the sign-ups coming!

Update from the Parish Committee:

The Parish Committee met in August, and heard from John Lyons of the Ministerial Search Committee about their progress, and about his role in putting together the contractual package early in the search process. John asked us for recommendations for two others to join him in this role--one member of the PC, and one from the church at large.

There will be only two Fifth Sunday Arts Sundays next year, as the RE schedule will be configured differently. Diane thought that after Thanksgiving, and around Memorial Day would be the two Arts Sundays. There will be an all-ages service on the Sunday of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. The monthly all ages services will not continue, as they didn't work well for our young RE participants. Diane and the new RE Coordinator, Pam Howell, have been putting their heads together and coming up with some changes for next year. Everyone seems very excited about the new endeavors.

One such project that Diane and Pam are trying to get off the ground is updating and furnishing the Red Balloon

space. The first step is repainting the floor, which will happen in September, funded by the Minister's Discretionary Fund because B&G have committed their budget for the year. The large room will be used for RE on Sunday mornings, and available for church and community activities at other times. The small carpeted room will be for Junior Youth Group and for HS Youth. Diane thought that we should be doing more fun events, and she raised the idea of getting the comedian Jimmy Tingle or a music event for an evening, and perhaps as a bonus, we might be able to raise a bit of money for a particular project.

The PC continued discussions about a possible alternative to the Service Auction this year, and would love church members to put their thinking hats and suggest some alternatives. Any ideas???

Hoping all enjoy their last bits of summer, but look forward to our Pancake Breakfast Labor Day weekend, September 6th. See you there.

Help needed: Our annual Labor Day Pancake Breakfast will be coming up soon, on Sunday, September 6. Once again we will be opening our doors to all comers and offering pancakes with all the fixin's. To make this happen we need to recruit help from our people. We are looking for pancake flippers, bacon fryers, servers and cleaner-uppers. If we have enough people then only a short effort should be needed from each volunteer. If you can help, please contact Tom Rourk at 978 369 5366.

The Rev. Eliza Blanchard will be offering a free pet loss healing circle on Sunday evening, August 30, in Brookline, for all who face or are dealing with the loss of a beloved animal companion. (7:00 pm to 8:30 pm) She will be creating a safe space in which to share stories, memories, and photos or other moments, with readings, candles and some quiet reflection. At the First Parish Church in Brookline, the Dana Room. Park and enter at 382 Walnut St. Brookline, MA. (Take Cypress off Rte. 9.) Call 774-551-6071 for more information. The Rev. Eliza Blanchard

www.animalcarerev.com is Affiliate Minister, First Parish

in Brookline, MA, offering spiritual care for animal caregivers.

Our Shared Ministry

Bryan and Molly Sorrows replaced the failed and leaking hot water tank under the ground level bathroom sink. Thanks to them for averting serious water damage and having the bathroom ready to go.

The **Emmons and Sorrows** crew installed a piece on the door release (panic bar), completing the project for the beautiful new front door.

Many thanks to the **volunteer Gardeners** who have weeded and mulched and labored with loving care in the Infinity and Memorial Gardens this summer! Stroll through and enjoy the summer blooms.



Photo by **Betsy Fell**

Please note that our newest **church directory** is available as a pdf in the quick links column to your left. A staff and committee contact list is also there. You may email or call the office if you would like to be sent a paper copy.

Community Events

Learn how YOU can make a difference for our nation's heroes! Learn about **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** that are right for you!

Volunteer Open House at BEDFORD VA Hospital

200 Springs Rd. Bedford, MA
Tuesday August 25th 10:00am - 3:00pm

(Follow Event Signs)

Special Appearance by BOBBY ORR!

10:00am - 11:30am

Can't make it but want to know more? Call 781-687-2356

bedford.va.gov/guide