

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES  
The First Religious Society in Carlisle  
Unitarian Universalist  
A Welcoming Congregation  
Volume XXXIV No. 13  
April 2010



### “Now Tweeting at FRSPARSON”

Joseph Priestley led me to a webinar. I took on line. Connected by wireless internet and cellular telephone to a presenter, along with scores of Unitarian Universalists from around the country, we learned about social media networking for congregations.

What’s the Priestley connection? An eighteenth century teacher, writer, chemist, and Unitarian theologian, and famously the discoverer of oxygen, Dr. Joseph Priestley made important contributions to science. After a flurry of experiments with electricity, Priestley surmised in 1766 that as two electrical charges approached each other, the electrostatic force between them increased dramatically. A French physicist later proved Priestley’s conjecture, giving his name to Coulomb’s Law. This principle, the biographer wrote:

*... would ultimately be deployed to explain why atoms attach to each other in forming molecules—why the world is made up of stuff, rather than diffuse gases. It would also play a central role in the invention of semiconductors and integrated circuits, the core technology that created the electronic and digital revolutions .... (from The Invention of Air by Steven Johnson).*

Joseph Priestley’s curiosity led on to discoveries upon discoveries and creative ways of directing electronic charges. All of which led to an evening webinar discussing church websites, Facebook pages, RSS Feeds, and Twitter.

...continues on page 2

### Upcoming Worship Services

**April 4 Easter Sunrise Service 6:15 a.m.** outdoors on the north lawn of the church overlooking the Infinity Garden. Followed by a breakfast in Union Hall. Led by Rev. Diane Miller and Linda Simmons, student minister.

**April 4 Easter Service 10:00am:** “Metanoia – The Transforming Vision of Jesus” Rev. Miller. A festive celebration with choral and instrumental music, with three ancient stories Jesus told. No religious education classes; childcare for infants and preschoolers.

**April 11, 10:00am:** “From Cacophony to Choir: Raising UU Voices for Justice” Nancy Banks, guest preacher. A sermon about UUs as advocates, and the need to wake up! Nancy is Executive Director of the UU Mass Action Network. Independent congregations working in harmony is part of our tradition. Come to hear what it’s all about.

**April 18, 10:00am:** “40/40/40 For the Earth!” Our congregations are engaged in study and action year on the subject of Ethical Eating. Many UUs are expanding the 40<sup>th</sup> Earth Day to a forty day period to take additional steps personally for the sake of our planet.

**April 25, 10:00am:** “Brown and White Together – the Story of my Pinto Bean Family.” Rev. Miller. Discoveries from a “roots” journey to South Texas. The Choir will sing. Special music by a flute quartet.

I signed up on Twitter, where my new identity is "FRSPARSON." Will I become a convert to Power to the Tweepie? Likewise, RSS feeds are brand new to me. Will we use one at FRS? Is this how you get your news? There is an FRS page on Facebook.com – just type in First Religious Society. Lisa Sama is blogging at <http://frsauction.blogspot.com>. We send out a weekly e-mail news update. We are networked in many ways that extend our church.

You may have noticed that our website, [www.uucarlisle.org](http://www.uucarlisle.org), has a new look. Bob Luoma, who maintained the site for years, has consulted with a website committee on the transition -- Susan Emmons, Ellen Huber, Mary Hult, Molly Sorrows, and Kathy Varney. The hope is that people will use the website as their first means of information. The latest news items are on the front page, and the calendar is updated as events are added.

Stay in touch! See you in church – Diane

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**Clara Barton District Annual Meeting - April 10, 2010**, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the First Parish Northborough, Unitarian Universalist <http://www.firstparishnorthboro.org/>. Delegate information has been mailed to all congregations. All attendees, whether members or delegates, are asked to RSVP to the District office on or before April 2, 2010. [clarabartondist@verizon.net](mailto:clarabartondist@verizon.net) or 978-392-6700.

**On Wednesday, April 28th from 10-2:30, join with other Unitarian Universalists to make a difference.** We will meet in Boston at the national headquarters of the UUA literally next door to the State House, and then - after being trained and having lunch together - walk to the State House and visit our state Senators and Representatives. The issues this year - chosen by survey of UUs - are homeless prevention programs, climate change, and the health disparities between rich and poor. UU Advocacy Day is sponsored by UUMassAction with the UU Urban Ministry. RSVP and reserve your \$10 lunch to Nancy Banks at [nancy.banks1@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.banks1@verizon.net) or 617.835.5426. More information at [www.uumassaction.org](http://www.uumassaction.org).

**First Look at GA:** Now is an excellent time to start making plans to attend General Assembly, June 23-27, 2010 in Minneapolis. More details about GA can be found at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga).

## Staff and Office Hours

**Church Office Hours:** The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 1:00pm. The office is closed on Wednesday. To reach Kathy Varney in the office call 978-369-5180 or email [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org).

**Minister:** Reverend Diane Miller can be reached at the minister's office number 978-369-0284. Call her directly to schedule an appointment or leave a message. Wednesday is her day off.

**Director of Religious Education:** Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email, [dre@uucarlisle.org](mailto:dre@uucarlisle.org) or phone at church, 978-369-5180.

**Minister of Music:** Marguerite A. Shaw can be reached at the church 9:00am-2:00pm daily or by phone at 978-369-5180, or email [music@uucarlisle.org](mailto:music@uucarlisle.org).

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**Student Minister**  
Linda Simmons

**Minister Emeritus:**  
Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

**Lay Minister:**  
Sally Hayen

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## Parish Committee

**Budgets & Projects:** The Parish Committee has been meeting with members of the Buildings & Grounds Committee to learn about upcoming needs for FRS property. Prioritizing the initiatives and coordinating with the budget formulation and pledge campaigns has been our focus. Additionally the Garden Task Force is formulating plans for the completion of the memorial focus and other aspects of this project.

**Student Ministry:** Due to changes in UUA requirements for student ministers, there will not be opportunities for students to take on part-time internships as have served FRS so well historically. It is now required for students to undertake a two year, half-time program. Recognizing the contributions that student ministers have given our congregation, PC has voted that FRS should become a Teaching Church Community and participate in the new two year program, beginning 2011 through 2013. Additional funding will be required to support this expanded program for student ministers.

**RE Director:** A selection committee for Religious Education Director has been formed. We are delighted and grateful that Lauree Eckler, Jen Kelly, Sue Lohrer and Kevin Brown have agreed to serve and will hold their initial meeting in late March.

**Red Balloon Contract:** PC is happy to announce that the contract with Red Balloon has been renewed.

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## Annual Pledge Campaign 2010-11

A special thanks to all of the members who have pledged thus far. You can check the website, [www.uucarlisle.org](http://www.uucarlisle.org), to view regular updates, as well access the pledge materials. We hope that everyone will do what they can to help us to reach our goal of 100% participation and \$118,000 which will enable us to meet the committee requests for next year. The campaign ends April 6, at which time the Finance Committee will begin follow-up phone calls and a mailing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the committee: Tucker Kelly (chair), Eric Darling, Glenn Herlihy, Mary Hult (treasurer), John James (collector), Fontaine Richardson, Michael Saylor and Joe Sheedy.

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## A Note on the FRS Organ by Roger Goulet

An event occurred recently which underscores the wisdom of the congregation back in 1995 when it swallowed hard and committed \$115,000 to replace our failing 80 year-old organ with the Watersmith tracker instrument we have today. “Swallowed hard” because we had just finished the new addition at what was for us at the time a jaw-dropping cost.

We take this addition for granted now – except for those of us who remember the church prior to 1994, with its dark Dickensian kitchen in the basement, the alcove in Union Hall, covered by a curtain, which housed the coffee urns and the folding tables and chairs, and the rusty fire escape on the right-hand side of the sanctuary.

Our Minister of Music, Marguerite Shaw, counter intuitively but shrewdly pushed for a new organ that would be commensurate with our newly renovated building. She succeeded because music has always been one of the vital signs of our church’s life.

The organ is a visual as well as a musical work of art, with its imposing brass pipes. It’s kinetic, too – join the choir in watching Marguerite play a stem-winding postlude, fingers flying among the two keyboards and the stops, her slipped feet dancing over the pedals to make the glorious music that only the “king of instruments” can produce. The more susceptible among us can almost see the shade of J.S. Bach on the bench beside her as she plays.

The event mentioned above was a valuation of our organ for insurance purposes: \$375,000.

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## FRS Programs

**From the Sunday Morning Experience Review Committee (SMERC)** - Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning discussion groups on March 14 as well as those who followed up with us later. We received a significant amount of very useful feedback. Later this spring, we will distribute a survey to collect further input and target specific topics. If you have not already taken part in a SMERC discussion and would like to offer us your insights, please contact either John Forcucci or Gio DiNicola.



**Union Hall Coffee House, Saturday, April 10:** Bill Harley – Hilarious! The Mark Twain of contemporary adult and kid’s music – songs and stories of wonder, irreverence, big trouble, and life’s little moments. Tickets: \$20.... Seniors 65+: \$18...Kids 12 and under: \$10. Tickets are sold online or at the door. Visit [www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com](http://www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com) for more information.

**WomenSpirit Potluck & Poetry - Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>:** The next gathering of WomenSpirit will be a potluck supper in Union Hall on Friday, April 16th at 7:00pm. Bring a dish (appetizer, salad, entree, dessert) and a favorite poem to share. All women are invited. Bring a friend along. Beverages always appreciated. Contact Sue Kirk if you plan to come or if you have any questions.



**The First Religious Society in Carlisle's Biennial Service Auction, Saturday, May 1st at 6:00pm.** Tickets are \$25. BYOB. Auction Registration and Appetizers 6:00pm to 7:15pm. Silent Auction bidding ends at 8:00pm. Live Auction at 8:15pm...and featuring a fabulous far-out five course meal. We are busy compiling the mouthwatering and creative services offered by our church community. From weekend getaways to rides to the airport; all services are appreciated and make for an entertaining evening of bargains and over-bids. Dress up or dress down, it is your choice. Come in jeans and wear Roy Orbison shades, or get a bouffant hairstyle and wear a chic sleeveless dress that Jackie Kennedy might have worn. We do hope you and a table of friends will make this an evening to remember. If you have a donation or would like to help, please contact Lisa Sama ([LMSama@comcast.net](mailto:LMSama@comcast.net)) or Alison Saylor ([saylorfarm@comcast.net](mailto:saylorfarm@comcast.net)). And don't forget to check out our Auction blog at [frsauction.blogspot.com](http://frsauction.blogspot.com). It is updated almost daily. Committee members: Dian Cuccinello, Tim Hult, Steve Kirk, Lisa Sama, Alison Saylor.



**Save the date! A message from Marguerite Shaw** The 21st annual benefit concert for children will be held at our church on **Thursday evening, June 3 at 7:30.** This was formerly called the "Children with AIDS" benefit but will now be known as the benefit concert for the SPARK (Supporting Parents and Resilient Kids) Center at Boston Medical Center pediatric division. The center serves children and families whose lives are affected by complex medical needs (neurological problems, failure to thrive, and HIV/AIDS); challenges related to trauma (child abuse, domestic violence, caregiver loss and separation); and special education needs. I hope you will save the date and support this important part of our church's social outreach efforts.



**Coffeehouse to Benefit Habitat for Humanity on May 15, 2010 at 7:30pm.** The Squeezebox Stompers - A Live New Orleans Jazz, Blues, Creole, Zydeco and Cajun Music Show **to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell.** Come for the dancing, the fun, and all the Southern and Creole offerings for sale at the cafe. Total Family Fun!!! Tickets: \$25 online or at the door. BYOB. All proceeds to benefit this amazing organization who, along with its wealth of generous volunteers, strive to put a roof of protection over a family's head, and to embrace them with walls of comfort. You can be part of all this by simply showing up and having a great time, in the spirit of knowing that you've reached out. In the meantime, Laissez les bon temps rouler! N'arrete pas la musique. Let the good times roll, people! Contact: Dian Francesca Cuccinello, Producer, [dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com](mailto:dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com) or 978-287-5745 Cell: 617-281-9390.

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## Outreach

**Habitat for Humanity:** We had a good turnout for the work party on Saturday, February 27. There were 7 of us – Cathy and Bob Webster, Tom Lockwood, Mark Barrow, Chris Barton, Cassi Argabright and George Bishop. We worked on the handicapped accessible unit on the rear at the farm house. The unit was closed in, roofed, sided with vinyl siding and windows and doors were installed. Jobs we carried out included installing soffit vents between the roof rafters, caulking around windows and doors, sealing opening with fire resistant foam to act as a fire stop, insulating the wall where a roll-in shower would be installed, moving things away from walls to facilitate the work of electricians who would be wiring the house on Tuesday, moving gravel to build walkable paths through the muddy soil, and reorganizing and stacking lumber. A coffee break was provided by the Bedford Whole Foods. Lunch was provided by the family who are now living in the remodeled farm house. Later this spring a loop road will be built opening up six lots for more houses. The next work day will be Saturday, April 24. We have reserved 7 slots (4 people have already signed up). Please contact George Bishop if you would like to work. People might also consider preparing and serving a lunch for the workers.

**Help Needed for April 30 Dinner: St. Paul's Feeding Ministry at Eliot Church in Lowell** has been serving dinner to those in need two nights a week for the past 14 years. A few months ago, the couple who runs it, Rose and Walter Bronk, decided to expand service to all 5 weeknights. FRS has signed up to cover the fifth Fridays through this year. Friday, April 30 is our first date. We provide the food--entree, salad or vegetable, bread, milk and dessert--and a crew of 6 or 7 volunteers to serve it. The church has a well-equipped kitchen. The time frame from set-up to cleanup is 3:30 to 6:30pm. During a visit to the Eliot church last month, it became apparent that they feed a wide variety of people, that those served enjoyed being there for the sense of community that exists and that they were very appreciative of the volunteers' efforts. It seemed like a very rewarding volunteer opportunity. There is an article about the Bronks and the St. Paul Feeding Ministry posted on the Social Action Committee bulletin board in Union Hall. Please give it a look. There will be sign up lists for food preparation and for working on April 30 at coffee hour. Please contact Dik Dagavarian with any questions.

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## Pastoral Concerns

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 Karen Dunkers.



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## We Are a Welcoming Congregation

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.



## Parish Committee

Information available on printed version of newsletter.

## Church Treasurers

Information available on printed version of newsletter.

## Standing Committees

Information available on printed version of newsletter.

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>

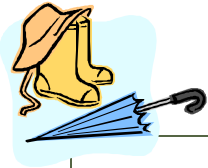
All are welcome to attend Parish Committee meetings, except in cases of executive sessions. FRS Committee meetings are open to any interested party. To address a committee on a specific issue please contact the committee chair.

## Hospitality Committees

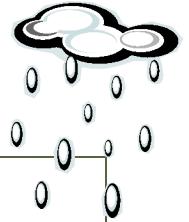
Coffee Committee Co-chairs:  
Anne and Richard Ketchen,

Greeter Committee:  
Eva Herndon, Nancy West,  
Karen Dunkers, Tom Dunkers

Flower Committee:  
Donna Carter, Nina Benkley,  
Alison Saylor, George Bishop



# The First Religious Society - APRIL 2010



		1 <b>7:30pm</b> Maundy Thursday Service		2 <b>Sanctuary open</b> noon to 3:00		3 <b>7:00am</b> Mensgroup	
4 <b>6:15am</b> Easter Sunrise Service/Infinity Garden with potluck breakfast following  <b>10:00am</b> Easter Sunday Service	5 <b>7:00pm</b> Environmental Action Committee	6 <b>7:00pm</b> Music and Worship Committee	7 <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal	8 <b>7:00pm</b> Membership Committee	9 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance  <b>6:00pm</b> Contra Dance	10 <b>7:30pm</b> Union Hall Coffeehouse (Bill Harley)	
11 <b>10:00am</b> Morning Worship Service  <b>6:00pm</b> Senior Youth	12 <b>7:00pm</b> B&G meeting	13 <b>7:30pm</b> KISS Knitting	14 <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal	15 <b>11:30am</b> COA Luncheon  <b>7:00pm</b> Parish Committee	16 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance  <b>7:00pm</b> Womenspirit	17	
18 <b>10:00am</b> Morning Worship Service.	19 <b>7:00pm</b> A Year to Live adult ed class	20 <b>10:00am</b> A Year to Live adult education class	21 <b>7:00pm</b> Carlisle Climate Action  <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal	22 <b>9:30am</b> Gleason Library program	23 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance  <b>7:00pm</b> Beekeepers	24 <b>3:30pm</b> Handbell rehearsal sanctuary	
25 <b>10:00am</b> Morning Worship Service  <b>6:00pm</b> Senior Youth	26	27	28 <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal	29 <b>6:00pm</b> Carlisle Fishing Group	30 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance		

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## Communications

- Neighbours & Fellow Creatures is a monthly publication. To submit items for publication send to: Kathy Varney, Administrator, P.O. Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741, 978-369-5180, frs@uucarlisle.org
- If you would like to be added to or removed from this mailing please email the church office at frs@uucarlisle.org.
- The next newsletter deadline is April 15, 2010.
- To receive the weekly email send the church office a note frs@uucarlisle.org

The First Religious Society  
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## NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

### The First Religious Society in Carlisle, Unitarian Universalist A Welcoming Congregation

WE ARE LOCATED AT 27 SCHOOL STREET 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."

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2010**