

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXIV No. 17
August 2010



Message from the Minister

Summer is a time for reconnecting and recharging. In late June I attended Ministry Days and the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in downtown Minneapolis. From there I went to Camp Unistar in northern Minnesota for Human Rights Week. I was inspired to plan a series of human rights programs for the coming year at FRS.

While "up North" I kayaked in Cass Lake, observed herons and bald eagles, and hiked around Lake Windigo, the lake in the middle of the Star Island. The area, part of the Chippewa National Forest, was long settled by the Ojibwah people, and is very close to the headwaters of the Mississippi River. I went with my mother, who served on the Camp Unistar Management Committee for 13 years. We visited the place where she put my father's ashes last summer. It is a sacred place to us.

Mom and I also went to Missouri to visit my son Graham and daughter-in-law Cori Durall, who are expecting a baby in December. Becoming a grandmother is thrilling even in the anticipation stages!

I will be back in Carlisle by the time the newsletter is out, preparing for the church year. See you soon!

-----Diane

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, August 1, 9:30am

This is Summer Poetry Sunday, which many of us look forward to as a chance to share favorite poems and discuss their meaning for us. Fans of living poets such as Derek Walcott and Seamus Heaney are especially welcome.

Sunday, August 8, 9:30am

Watch weekly email for more details

Sunday, August 15, 9:30am

Watch weekly email for more details

Sunday, August 22, 9:30am

Led by Environmental Action Committee

Sunday, August 29, 9:30am

Led by Rev. Diane Miller

Sunday, September 5, 9:30am:

Pancake Breakfast and Welcome. A Labor Day weekend time to gather in Union Hall and greet newcomers and old friends. To assist with set up, serving and clean up, please call the minister.

Sunday, September 12, 10:00am:

Neighborhood Sunday. This is the opening of the church year. We resume our start time of 10:00am for church services and religious education.

Welcome to Our New RE Director and Student Minister

Welcome to Jenah Leah Blitz, our new Director of Religious Education. Jenah is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. She has two Bachelors Degrees, one in English and another in Psychology. In her spare time she enjoys yoga, kayaking, and swimming in her pool. She is excited about her upcoming wedding this August and is looking forward to assuming her new role as Religious Education Director in the fall. When she returns her new name will be Jenah Blitz-Stoehr.

Bucky Rogers has been selected as our Student Minister for a two year period, 2010-2012, beginning in September. Bucky is a second year student at Harvard Divinity School. During his first year of ministry preparation, Bucky worked with a long-term men's homeless shelter in Harvard Square, and this summer he is doing hospital based Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). His call to ministry emerged from his involvement in social justice work, academic exploration (he majored in East Asian Studies at Brown) and his involvement in the Unitarian Universalist church. Waterville, Maine, is his home congregation. As Student Minister he will work with our Senior Youth program, Sunday services, and pastoral care. Bucky will gain a comprehensive experience with parish ministry at FRS.

SMERC Survey: By now, many of you have taken the SMERC survey, but the more responses we collect, the more use we will get out of the data. Whether you are a long-time member or an occasional visitor, a senior or a new parent, an OWL participant or a choir member, we urge you to take the time to give us your feedback through this survey. Go to www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22ATEGEJNF4 and thank you! If you have questions or technical difficulties, please contact Nancy West at NancySWest@msn.com or 978-369-6515.

Staff and Office Hours

Church Office Hours: The church office is open limited hours during the month of August. Email and phone messages are checked regularly. To reach Kathy Varney in the office call 978-369-5180 or email 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: Jenah Blitz is available Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:00am-5:00pm for the month of August. She will not be available August 25-September 2. You can reach her at jenah@uucarlisle.org or (978) 857-0432.

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.

Minister Emeritus:
Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Lay Minister:
Sally Hayen

Update on major summer project from Buildings and Grounds

The major renovations in the lower level of the church are moving ahead on schedule. The old basement bathrooms have been completely re-designed, outer walls and window areas in the construction area have been insulated with spray foam insulation. Ceiling pipes have been raised for more head room. The structural repairs to the ceilings of the areas not done last year have been completed. This will enable us to renovate the Union Hall floor in the future.

Safety and energy-efficiency have been major incentives for this renovation. Old wiring has been replaced, fire alarm systems updated, ceiling structure strengthened, major insulation added, and two energy efficient windows are being installed. The lower level is still a construction zone, but we look forward to showing the area in the late summer.

FRS Programs

Help Needed Now: On Friday, July 30, we will provide a summer menu of ham, baked beans, salad and watermelon to the St. Paul's Feeding Ministry at Eliot Church in Lowell. To contribute food or donate funds for the purchase of food items or to help serve, please contact Max Barber (369-7943, damabar@comcast.net). This community supper program, established 14 years ago, provides dinner five nights a week, year 'round. In April the FRS served 103 guests.



September 11, 2010 from North Carolina: The Holy Ghost Tent Revival - The overall air of their creation breathes a sense of celebration and salvation; of a raucous party where everyone's welcome and where even the most stoic will find their toes tapping and a smile breaking free. It's as if, in the same spirit as the blues greats that traveled the highways of the American psyche before them, theirs is not music to lament life's hardships but rather to celebrate in life itself; with all its hodgepodge of pleasure and pain.

Characterized as "explosively intoxicating," Greensboro, NC's Holy Ghost Tent Revival cannot be pigeonholed into any popular genre. Melding brass with banjo, guitar, bass, drums, and keys this six-piece ensemble boasts an eclectic mash of instruments and styles -- a musical alchemy all their own.

It is this transcendent energy that continuously propels Holy Ghost Tent Revival to play the heart and soul of a North Carolina-born, genre-defying new groove. With a penchant for crafting thoughtfully playful lyrics and graced with exceptional musical skills, there are seemingly no boundaries for this group as they travel the country spreading the magic of their heart-throbbing, foot-stomping, good-time music.

Stephen Murray plays the banjo and guitar, Matt Martin plays the guitar and banjo, Hank Widmer plays the trombone and euphonium, Patrick Leslie plays the bass, Ross Montsinger plays the drums, Mike O'Malley plays the keys. Tickets \$22.50 and can be purchased at dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com or by calling 978-287-5745.



September 12, 2010, 3:00 pm: Ken Burns' Americana Pianist Jacqueline Schwab in Concert with a Veuve Clicquot and Falcone Chocolate Reception to follow in Union Hall. Concert to be held upstairs on the Falcone Piano, hosted by The First Religious Society and The Union Hall World Music & Dance Coffeehouse in Carlisle - "Jacqueline Schwab brings more feeling and intensity to music than anyone I know. Her playing is insistent, physical, heartfelt... unusually moving" -Ken Burns

“Jacqueline Schwab is one of the most immediately recognizable pianists in America, although very few people actually know who she is.” -Scott Alarik, Boston Globe

Meet Jacqueline Schwab, a folk and classical improvisational pianist who plays "gorgeously spare piano" (The Boston Globe) yet "sounds as if she has an orchestra at her fingertips" (Sing Out). Chosen by the renowned Ken Burns for numerous public television documentaries due to the emotional expression in her playing, Jacqueline has performed on the soundtracks for the Grammy award-winning Civil War, the Emmy award-winning Baseball and Mark Twain, among others. She has performed at the White House for President Clinton in 1997 to celebrate Burns' Lewis and Clark series and also at the Smithsonian in 2000 celebrate its exhibition on the Presidency. In May, 2009, she accompanied Scottish singer Jean Redpath, on the Late Show with David Letterman.

Please note: This is not a BYOB event. This special concert is being held upstairs, not in Union Hall. A champagne and Falcone Chocolate Reception will be held in Union Hall, immediately following the performance. Tickets - \$20 and can be purchased at dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com or by calling 978-287-5745.

FRS Continues to Buy Wind Energy: The FRS is enrolled in the NSTAR Green program, so that all of the church's electricity is generated by a wind farm in NY. By supporting alternative energy, we eliminate the need to burn fossil fuels that pollute our environment and release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This will help reduce global warming and the climate crisis. If enough customers sign up for the NSTAR Green option, NSTAR Electric will support another wind farm in Maine. Any NSTAR residential customer can sign up for this program from their website: www.nstar.com/residential/customer_information/nstar_green/nstar_green.asp. For a small premium, you can sign up for either the 100% or the 50% wind option. For more information, contact Dan Scholten of the FRS Environmental Action Committee.

Our People

Information available on printed copy of newsletter.

Outreach

Benefit Concert a Success, here is a letter from Boston Medical Center: “ Thank you for The First Religious Society's gift of \$803 in support of the SPARK Center at Boston Medical Center. Boston Medical Center is committed to delivering our mission of exceptional care, without exception. Your contribution sends a powerful message of your support of our work and of the talented staff here at BMC who rise to meet the new and growing challenges facing our community. We appreciate your investment in making our services to Boston and its surrounding communities possible. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Sincerely, Norman Stein, Vice President of Development.”

Life Wins! A Collection of Essays and Sermons by Dr. Eugene R. “Woody” Widrick is now available for purchase as an e-book: This book is a collection of sermons and essays from over 20 years of the ministry and spiritual leadership of Dr. Widrick, or “Woody” as everyone knows him. It is likely that something in this collection will add new substance to the reader’s spiritual life. Woody devoted his ministerial career to the Unitarian Universalist faith serving in churches around the world, but spending much of his professional life presiding at The First Religious Society in Carlisle, Massachusetts. His sermons were many times like spiritual essays. He would use a few words to ask his audience a brain-freezing question, give them three things to mull over related to the question, plant a thought to live by while they were mulling over the three things, and then leave them feeling better for having heard what he had to say. And all of this was done in a soft voice that always had a hint that something whimsical or profound was about to be said; so you had better listen. The electronic version of this book is available as a Kindle book on Amazon.com. It can be purchased from Amazon.com as a Kindle book for use on Kindle, Kindle DX, Kindle for PC, Kindle for Mac, Kindle for iPhone, or Kindle for Blackberry. It can also be purchased through the free Kindle app available from the Apple iTunes Store for use on iPhones and iPads.

UU News

The Rev. Sue Phillips has been appointed the District Executive of the Clara Barton and Massachusetts Bay districts of the UUA effective September 1, 2010. The search committee, which was comprised of clergy and laity from both districts, enthusiastically recommended Sue because of the depth and acuity of her spiritual leadership, her demonstrated excellence in providing engaging programs and services, and her joyful love of congregations and our Unitarian Universalist faith. Sue Phillips will lead a staff team under an innovative staff sharing arrangement in which the entire district staff will serve congregations in both Clara Barton and Mass Bay. She will be joined by gifted program staff including Deborah Levering, the Director of Faith Formation, and Doug Zelinski, the Director of Leadership Development. We will soon launch a search for a new Director of Congregational Development. Judy Murray and Meck Groot, our outstanding administrators, will also serve both districts.

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 Marcia Wallhagen, 978-369-4070, mленorew@aol.com.



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.

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 August 20, 2010.
- To receive the weekly email send the church office a note frs@uucarlisle.org



Parish Committee

Parish Committee Co-chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith

Parish Committee Co-chair: John Lyons

Parish Committee: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling,
Michael Dundorf, Suzanne Whitney Smith

Church Treasurers

Information available on printed copy of newsletter.

Standing Committees

Information available on printed copy 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

Information available on printed copy of newsletter.

The First Religious Society - August 2010

1 9:30am Summer Lay Led Service	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:30am Summer Lay Led Service	9	10 7:30pm KISS Knitting	11	12	13	14
15 9:30am Summer Lay Led Service	16 7:00pm A Year to Live Class	17 10:00am A Year to Live Class	18 7:00pm Carlisle Climate Action	19	20	21
22 9:30am Summer Lay Led Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:30am Summer Lay Led Service	30	31				

The First Religious Society
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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 AUGUST 20, 2010