

# NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist

A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXVI No. 4

December 2011



## Message from the Minister

We won't be having church on Christmas this year. No, we are not returning to the ways of our Puritan forbears who banned celebrating the day. Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year, and the Music and Worship Committee decided that was the best course. Following two services on Christmas Eve, the morning is for family and friends. There will be Christmas dinner in Union Hall at 4 pm., so come to church for dinner if it fits your plans.

Talking with colleagues about their church services for the holiday season, I learned that many have a "Blue Christmas" gathering for those who are suffering losses of whatever type. It is good to acknowledge that not everyone feels good cheer during the season. As a community, we are a healing resource of compassion and understanding. No one is forced to fit into cookie cutter emotions. We have a variety of holiday events, and a place for everyone.

----Diane

## This month at FRS

**Holidays Greens Sale: Saturday, December 3, 10:00am to 2:00pm**, in Union Hall

**Winter Holidays Concert: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. All are welcome

**Holiday Singing At The Bedford VA Hospital, 9:30am, December 9.** Meet at FRS to carpool.

**St Paul Feeding Ministry, Eliot Street Community Supper in Lowell: Friday, December 30**

## Upcoming Worship Services

**December 4:** "A Dedicated Legacy" Rev. Diane Miller. The second Meeting House was dedicated in December two centuries ago. To what values would we dedicate it today? On this First Sunday the children will begin in Union Hall. Frank Rigg will speak about the Fifth Friday dinners in Lowell. The Choir will sing "The Old Church" by Stephen Paulus.

**December 11** "Multi-generational Christmas Pageant". The Nursery will be open from 9-11AM Directed by Alison Saylor with choir and costumed actors of all ages.

**December 18** "Our Gifts to Christmas" Rev. Diane Miller. Unitarians and Universalists have put an enduring stamp on holiday traditions. We will sing the Christmas song "Jingle Bells" written by a UU for the Message for All Ages.

### Christmas Eve

**3 PM** A family friendly service with traditional stories and carols as darkness falls. This is the service where 2011 babies are honored. Send names to Nancy West [nancyswest@msn.com](mailto:nancyswest@msn.com).

**5 PM** Lessons and Carols by candlelight, with music by our choir. The prelude music will be played by Brad Behn, clarinet; Sarah Darling, viola; Margaret Darling, piano.

We wish you a Merry Christmas on December 25! There will be no morning service. There will be a Community Dinner at 4 pm.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the FRS Staff! The church will be open on irregular hours the week between Christmas and New Year, but mail will be collected and phone messages will be checked.

### Message from the Director of Religious Education

We had two visitors this month enriching our RE program; Mike Bayko bee expert and Frank Rigg portraying Master Carpenter and animal advocate Noah. Both visitors taught of the importance of all creatures to the interdependent web of life, even the ones that sting, are a bit creepy, or are fierce and dangerous predators.

We are also very blessed by having caring RE teachers who offer a warm and inviting class where both bible stories and their underlying meaning and relevance can be explored and shared. The classes have also been researching where to best “spend” their hard earned Harvest Fair proceeds, using the internet as a useful source to explore alternatives.

December brings the excitement (and stress) of the busy holiday season. We choose to create events that emphasize celebrating the season with songs, stories, and multi-generational activities to help balance the commercial and material pressures of this holiday season.

Those of you who have attended a Christmas Pageant at FRS know that it manages to evoke just about every expression of human emotion; awe, anxiety, exhilaration, laughter, indignation, joy, admiration... The story of this baby being born evokes the joy and wonder of every baby that is born. The worries of King Herod mirror the anxieties of many power-hungry leaders in both the modern world and throughout history. Finding something to be happy about, and sharing these feelings of joy with family friends and neighbors is always a good thing! Please join us, whether in costume or in the pews to experience the Christmas Pageant during the service on December 11<sup>th</sup>.  
---Alison

**Director of Religious Education:** Alison Saylor can be reached by email at 978-369-5180 or by EMail at [DRE@uucarlisle.org](mailto:DRE@uucarlisle.org)

### Message from the Student Minister

In mentally and spiritually preparing to preach, I have often found myself walking in the Memorial Garden Sunday mornings before I lead a service. On November 6th, I went down to take a look at the newly installed Memorial Garden stones. One of my friends who is an astrologer told me that based on being a Gemini (an air sign), I might do well to ground myself before big spiritual moments by touching something made of rock. George Bishop and Michael Dunderf were down there as well. We stared in mute admiration at the grandeur of the granite slabs standing before us. Then Michael said “There’s one thing I don’t understand. I thought sweet potatoes were orange on the inside?!”

The Memorial Garden is a living, growing, breathing monument to the work of the church. Part of what it means to have a living monument is that we have to do a lot of maintenance to keep it under control and looking good. If you are part of this work already, like some members and families who have taken responsibility for tending certain “gardens within the garden”, thank-you! If you would like to make such upkeep part of your ministry to the church community, please let one of the staff members or Buildings and Grounds committee members know. See page 6.

When we commit our time and energy to cultivating flowers that are ephemeral in their prettiness, we acknowledge that the beauty of our own well-lived lives is worth holding up as well, even though those lives are fleeting. The Memorial Garden stones will provide a longer-lasting reminder of those lives. I invite you to look at the Memorial Garden from the windows of the church and to walk around in it, and perhaps psych yourself up to take care of it this spring!

---Bucky

**Student Minister:** Bucky Rogers can be reached by email at [youth@uucarlisle.org](mailto:youth@uucarlisle.org) or 207-660-1348.

## FRS Programs and Announcements

**Behind the scenes:** Thanks to **Dan Scholten** of the Environmental Action Committee, for doing the church recycling for November; to **John Redding** and **Alison Saylor** for representing FRS at the Habitat for Humanity home dedication last month and bringing cupcakes and a sheet cake (paid for by the **Junior Youth Group** Harvest Fair funds) for the family's reception in Bedford; thanks to the group who visited Common Cathedral on November 6, organized by **Linda Myers-Tierney** and those who went on to pay a visit to Occupy Boston: to **Margaret Darling** for donating sleeping bags and to the **Junior Youth Group** for donating fleece blankets. Thanks to **the Saylor Family** for hosting the Senior Youth Group at a Guy Fawkes celebration; to **Bryan Sorrows** for excavating soil and adding roadbed gravel to eliminate the muddy ruts in front of the parsonage, and for storm cleanup of broken branches, and for excavating clay around the Memorial Garden foundations to allow for well draining gravel to go under the concrete surrounding the stones; to **Alison Saylor** for her efforts before during and after the Gladstone memorial service and reception; to **Jacob Tilles** and **Dylan Hentchel** for lending their "brawn" to help clean up and put away tables and chairs; to **Frank Rigg** for channeling Noah last month— he was pretty spry for a 900-year-old Patriarch, and a wonderful advocate for all animals, even the creepy ones; to the **musicians in "Gut Reaction"** for kicking off our new music series, "Music at the First" in such a wonderful way; to **Susan Emmons** for organizing the repair of the parsonage chimney; to **Janice Kissinger** and **Susan Emmons** for making the dough and to **Janice K.** and **Natalie Ives** for baking the gingerbread; to **Bill ("The Baker") Griffin** of Sally Ann Food Shop in Concord for once again donating 50 cake boxes for packaging all the Greens Sale gingerbread kits; to **Janice and Kerry Kissinger** for hosting the **Senior Youth Group** to assemble gingerbread house kits; to **Ann James** for supervising all the repairs and painting performed on the church and parsonage, and to **Priscilla Bromaghim** for her generous contributions to the Music and Infinity Garden fund .

**Thank you for your support of Common Cathedral and KISS:** Our visit to Common Cathedral on November 6 went very well. This year the team of Kirks, Stengrevics, Frank Rigg and the Tierneys was also joined by Glen and Drew Herlihy. The guests were especially charmed by Drew and loved seeing him passing out food to those who were standing in line. Also, on behalf of our Knitting in Service Society (KISS) we brought in over 150 beautiful hand-knit hats and scarves which the ministers will use for Christmas presents for the homeless congregants this year. Many thanks to all our knitters and to Angela Smith and the Carlisle COA for helping publicize this program and generating volunteers across Carlisle and Concord. Please let me know if you would like to knit hats and scarves, either on your own, or meeting with the KISS group monthly. If you have extra yarn at home you aren't using, we also accept yarn donations. Signed, *Linda Myers-Tierney*

**Thanks for your generosity in supporting Association Sunday in October when Sarah Dan Jones was our guest.** Our congregation sent a special offering of \$1029 to our Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters. Along with contributions from other congregations around the country, we have joined together to strengthen our religious movement.

**Memorial Garden Update:** Bryan Sorrows dug out the clay muck that would otherwise have compromised the integrity of the exposed aggregate concrete pad that now surrounds the Memorial stones. Le Masurier Quarry delivered the four additional pieces of granite that came from the original glacial erratic boulder. March Concrete company installed these granite pieces and brought gravel to the areas excavated by Bryan. On 11/22 they poured concrete into the curved wooden forms, thus making a solid safe base for walking around and admiring the beautiful Memorial stones.

**Environmental Action Committee News:** The Environmental Action Committee (EAC) last year sponsored the Carlisle Winter Farmer's Market for monthly Saturday mornings in Union Hall. The goal was to support local, sustainable food and crafts year round. The Winter Market will continue this year – upcoming dates are **December 17**, January 21, February 18, March 10 and April 21. The EAC will be selling coffee, tea and other fair trade items at the market.

**The Social Action Committee** will once again provide Christmas gifts to needy children. Each child will receive a clothing gift and a recreational gift. The names of these children will be provided by our contact, Amanda Hosmer, Social Worker at the Butler Middle School in Lowell. The gift suggestions will be basic items and hopefully uncomplicated to shop for, and with a reasonable price tag. When the names of the children are received, a notice will be sent out. The due date for the wrapped and labeled gifts will be Sunday December 17. **They also need any**

**outgrown winter jackets that we could collect for students in grades 5 – 8.** There are children of all different sizes. If anyone has some small sizes, some of the families have smaller children and the elementary school is next door. For questions, contact Dollina Borella at 978-771-3732 or [dollina.borellafrs@gmail.com](mailto:dollina.borellafrs@gmail.com)

**Winter Holidays Concert: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 pm.** The program will be varied, as always, with lots of audience participation; joyful music by our choir and bell ringers, and our always fun FRS Jazz Group. All are welcome. If you have any questions just contact Marguerite at 978-369-5180 or [music@uucarlisle.org](mailto:music@uucarlisle.org).

**Join Us For Holiday Singing At The Bedford VA Hospital.** For the past several years we have visited the VA hospital in Bedford for caroling and conversation during the holiday season. If you'd like to be part of this outreach program we'll meet at 9:30am on the front steps of FRS on Friday, December 9, and carpool to the VA. Song sheets will be provided, and Margaret Darling will lend her incomparable keyboard skills. Questions? Contact Margaret Darling at 978-369-1475 or Marguerite Shaw at 978-369-5180, or e-mail [music@uucarlisle.org](mailto:music@uucarlisle.org).

### **Christmas Pageant Sunday December 11, 10:00am**

All actors who sing or speak; please report for rehearsal at 8:30am to get costumed and ready for the one and only all-hands-on-deck rehearsal on 12/11. In the event of a severe snow storm, the snow date will be December 18, 10:00am. Check the church phone message after 7:00am for the official determination if the weather is iffy.

**Social Action Committee: St. Paul Feeding Ministry, Eliot Street Community Supper in Lowell. On Friday, December 30** it's the turn of FRS Carlisle to once again prepare and serve dinner for 100 needy folks in Lowell. We will again need donations of lasagna, salad, bread and rolls, desserts, and milk. A sign-up sheet will be at the Sunday Service coffee hours and a follow up e-mail will be sent. For further information contact Frank Rigg (978 369 0277) or Dik Dagavarian (978 452-3455.)

**A few committees are in need of more volunteer help.** In general, committees recruit new members around the time of Annual Meeting or before the start of the new church year, but we wanted to take the opportunity now to put the word out for help where it is most needed. Please consider whether you can fill any of the following roles:

**The Coffee Committee** is in need of three new members to oversee Sunday morning preparations. Two committee members are "on duty" each week. Each person is expected to take responsibility for 8 to 12 Sundays of the church year, depending on the size of the committee. When "on duty," committee members set up and clean up Union Hall; make the coffee and tea; and provide Half-and-Half, milk, and goodies for the children's table. We are not expected to provide a lavish spread each week. We rely on the congregation to provide the food for the main table. The more people we have, the less work it will be for all, and the better coffee hours will be! Contact Anne or Richard Ketchen at 978.369.1661 or [anneketchen@comcast.net](mailto:anneketchen@comcast.net).

**The Pastoral Concerns Committee**, an outreach committee that provides services to church friends who are in need of help for either an acute or chronic situation by offering meals, rides, or other support as needed, is looking for two new members. Each committee member serves as the contact person for one month of the year. The contact person does not need to provide the needed service directly but is in contact with the person needing help and finds someone to fill those needs that arise. Please contact Sally Hayen, 978-369-7591.

**The Environmental Action Committee (EAC)** could use someone interested in promoting our goals of environmental education/actions related to energy efficiency, recycling, local/organic/fair-trade food, pesticide reduction, etc., at home, for our church, and for the world beyond. Depending on interest, this might involve helping with our booth at the Farmers Market, or helping with recycling at church. We also need someone interested in helping us look into solar photo-voltaic panels (leasing or purchase) at the FRS. Contact Dan Scholten at [dks@mitre.org](mailto:dks@mitre.org).

**The Auction Committee** needs volunteers to fill a wide variety of roles as planning for next spring's fundraising auction takes shape. Contact Lisa Sama at [lsama@comcast.net](mailto:lsama@comcast.net)

**The Music & Worship Committee** which oversees various aspects of Sunday morning services, is currently short one member. Contact Tom Rourk at [tfrpiano@comcast.net](mailto:tfrpiano@comcast.net).

**The new FRS Memorials Committee:** The Parish Committee will be appointing a Memorials Committee (MC) at their December meeting, so are actively seeking candidates. The MC will create the policies and procedures for anyone asking for Memorial Services, Memorial Garden engraved names, or Green cemetery ash interment at the six FRS deeded grave sites. They will also maintain the "Book of Record" for all memorials, and spend appropriate

funds to maintain these memorials. If interested, please call any member of the Parish Committee, Diane Miller, or Ann Quenin at (978) 369 5180.

**The Coming of Age program for high schoolers** will be offered by the First Religious Society in January through May this year for youth in grades 9 to 11. The major aspects of this program are pairing youth with adult mentors; discussions that emphasize self-awareness and confidence-building; service to the church and community; and a culminating affirmation ceremony. For more information see:

<http://www.uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/45052.shtml>.

There will be an informational meeting December 11th after the pageant. If you would like your youth to participate, please contact Bucky Rogers ([youth@uucarlisle.org](mailto:youth@uucarlisle.org)) or come to the planning meeting.

**Supporting Occupy:** Massachusetts congregations are planning a big, bold action of public witness in solidarity with the Occupy movement on Saturday, December 10th, on Boston Common at 3pm. There will be short speeches and lots of singing as we make a visible statement that we are Standing on the Side of Love for Economic Justice. Bucky Rogers will be organizing attendees from FRS, please contact him ([youth@uucarlisle.org](mailto:youth@uucarlisle.org)) if you would like to attend this action.

**“Music at the First”, a new concert series began last month:** On Sunday, November 20th, Arcturus director and second generation FRS member Sarah Darling presented a new musical group, “Gut Reaction” at the First Religious Society in Carlisle. The group features harpsichordist Byron Schenkman (who came to FRS last year with the Cambridge Society for Early Music) and an early string quartet - Sarah Darling, Jesse Irons, Jason Fisher, and Michael Unterman, all members of A Far Cry chamber orchestra. The program featured Bach's eye-popping Concerto in D Minor for harpsichord and strings, as well as other virtuosic German works by Telemann, Graun, and Biber. A second concert in the series will be announced shortly.

## Notes of Appreciation

“The Trustees of the Gleason Public Library Endowment gratefully acknowledge your contribution of \$100.00 to the Gleason Public Library Sunday hours fund. Due to your support, we are well on our way to our goal for winter Sunday hours! Thank you for your kind generosity and support...Your gift will enhance the positive experience and enjoyment that [our library] proudly provides to its patrons and community.” Sincerely, *Angela Mollet, Library Director*

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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 in need of this support, or know of someone who needs this support, please contact Sally Hayden at 978-369-7591.



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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.



## Communications

- *Neighbours & Fellow Creatures* is a monthly publication. To submit items for publication send to: Ann Quenin, 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 us at frs@uucarlisle.org.
- The next newsletter deadline is January 23, 2012.
- To receive the weekly e-newsletter send the church office a note at frs@uucarlisle.org

## Parish Committee

Parish Committee Co-chair: Michael Dundorf 978-390-9505, email: mdundorf@comcast.net  
 Parish Committee Co-chair: John Lyons 978-369-1216, email: johnnylyons@comcast.net  
 Parish Committee: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling, Michael Dundorf, Mary Hult

## Church Treasurers

Mary Hult 978-369-0448, email: mphult@comcast.net  
 John James 978-369-1296, email: jjames3@mac.com

## Standing Committees

Activities Committee: Janice Kissinger 978-369-8968, email: janicekissinger@aol.com  
 Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs: Ann James 978-369-1296, email: ajames3@comcast.net  
 Susan Emmons 978-369-7921, email: susansemmons@comcast.net  
 Environmental Action Committee: Dan Scholten 978-369-1209, email: dks@mitre.org  
 Lisa Sama 978-692-6592 email: lmsama@comcast.net  
 Finance Committee: Joe Sheedy 978-256-5068, email: jos.sheedy@verizon.net  
 Music and Worship Committee: Tom Rourk 978-369-5366 email: tfrpiano@comcast.net.  
 Membership Committee: Sue Kirk 978-371-0176, email: sukirk@aol.com  
 Pastoral Concerns: Sally Hayen 978-369-7591  
 Religious Education Committee: Susan Lohrer 978-369-1612, email: sulohrer@comcast.net  
 Social Action Committee Co-chairs: Ellen Huber 978-369-6678, email e2huber@verizon.net  
 Max Barber 978-369-7943, email: damabar@comcast.net

## Hospitality Committees

Coffee Committee Co-chairs: Anne and Richard Ketchen  
 Greeter Committee: Eva Herndon, Nancy West, Karen Dunkers, Tom Dunkers  
 Flower Committee: Donna Carter, Alison Saylor, George Bishop

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at The First Religious Society please go to the church calendar on our 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.

# The First Religious Society–December, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  8am-5pm Wreath decorating workshop/UH	2  8:00am Set up for Greens Sale	3  10:00am-2:00pm Greens Sale,/UH 3:30-5:30pm Handbell rehearsal, Sanctuary
4  9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:30 Pageant costuming & rehearsal  7:00pm	5  Staff 10:45-noon  7pm: EAC downstairs	6  9:15am Carlisle Resilience/Ferns 6pm: tree lighting, Santa and Elves, UH 7pm M&W upstairs	7  7pm dance rehearsal/UH  7:30pm Choir practice	8  9:am-11:30am COA wreath making, UH  3:00pm COA tap class UH	9  9:30am COA Line Dance UH  6pm: potluck and Contra dance/UH	10  7am Mens group/UH 9:30-12:30 Carlisle Parents Connection Xmas party/UH 6:00pm-9:00pm Beekeepers, UH and kitchen
11  9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service Pageant Coming of Age informational meeting noon tech group upstairs 5:30-8:30 OWL Union Hall etc	12  Staff 10:45-noon  7pm B&G committee downstairs	13  9:15am Carlisle Resilience/Ferns 12-3pm Girls Scouts/UH	14  7pm dance rehearsal/UH  7:30pm Choir practice	15  11:30am COA luncheon/Union Hall  3pm COA tap class UH	16  9:30am COA Line Dance UH 7pm Darling student recital & recep. UH & Sanctuary:	17  9am-1pm Farmers Market/UH
18  9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	19  Staff 10:45-noon  5-7pm Mary Roberts student recital Sanctuary	20  9:15am Carlisle Resilience/Ferns	21  7pm dance rehearsal/UH  7:30pm Choir practice	22  3-4pm COA tap dance/UH	23  9:30am COA Line Dance UH	24  3pm Christmas Eve Service 5pm Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm Set up for dinner
25  4pm Christmas Day dinner, UH	26	27	28  7pm dance rehearsal/UH	29  3-4pm COA tap dance/UH	30  9:30am COA Line Dance UH 6pm – Eliot Street Church dinner	31

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 DECEMBER 26, 2011**  
**SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ANN QUENIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**