

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXV No. 6
February 2011



Message from the Minister

“If Walls Could Talk”

When the good people of this community, then numbering 672, beheld the smoking remains of their Meetinghouse after it was struck by lightning and burned to the ground in 1810, they quickly determined to rebuild. Their efforts became our 1811 building, which has now held two centuries of weekly worship and community gatherings.

The term Meetinghouse was used in the colonial era by the Protestant settlers who established New England communities. Typically these places of worship were owned by the town as a whole, and the term Church referred to the congregation who met and worshipped there. Some congregations still refer to their place of worship as a Meetinghouse, while generally speaking such religious buildings are called Churches.

I am interested to find out all I can about what has happened here, and welcome your knowledge of sources and lore. Gleason Library and the Historical Society have the resources available. I have Bull's history and Donald Lapham's book checked out of the library. My copy of Ruth Chamberlin Wilkins' Carlisle: Its History and Heritage was presented to me by the Parish Committee in 2003 when I was Interim Minister. If you have a treasure trove of church documents in your attic, let me know!

Another way to look at our building bicentennial is to consider the context in which life here took place, the events in the world around us. Four eras of about fifty years each come to mind, defined as history tends to be, by wars: Tippecanoe and the War of 1812 to the Civil War; Civil War to World War I; WWI to Vietnam; Vietnam to the War on Terror.

I hope to do a few sermons about the changes these old beams have weathered -- theological, institutional, local, cultural, and physical. I would welcome your stories, memories, and expertise to fill in some of the story about this important place.

Let me know if you would like to share a story, or write something for our building bicentennial this year.

Meanwhile, we enter our third century in this place where we address the timeless experiences of human living, create a community in which we nurture and strengthen the spirit and the holy, and honor together the joys and sorrows and mysteries of life. See you in the Meetinghouse!

--Diane

Message from Bucky Rogers, Student Minister

“Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.” This quote from Ephesians 5:22 (NRSV) is cited in professional social work literature as “an anecdotally established sign that a woman was in imminent physical danger of suffering physical violence” according to Neil Elliott’s commentary in *The People’s Bible*. Ephesians 5 came up far more often than any other words this month during my course on pastoral care in domestic violence situations at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. Ephesians 5 highlights the tense relationship that exists between domestic violence shelters and churches.

In fact, churches are in an excellent position to provide support for survivors of intimate partner violence. Church members can provide support and perspective for those who are suffering abuse at the hands of their partners. The church can be a place of information and strength for survivors. It can also raise resources to help those in danger of abuse. For example, the Verizon HopeLine program allows people to donate their old cell phones so that those in danger of partner violence can have a way to call for help. If you have an old cell phone, please consider donating it to this program or bringing it to the church to help us seed a cell phone drive for October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. These and other steps help us to not only provide resources for survivors, but also to create awareness amongst ourselves and our community regarding an issue that is generally very difficult to discuss and approach.

Every faith seems to have its own version of Ephesians 5. But each religion also teaches that marriage is a covenant to which one is no longer bound after a partner has broken it through physical or emotional violence. Ephesians 5:21 says “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.” In a Christian context, this means that once a spouse has ceased to show respect for the marital bond, their partner must protect the temple of his or her body by taking steps to ensure personal safety. Similar obligations of attention to one’s personal safety exist in all other religions as well- there is no theological justification for domestic abuse. In a UU setting, we order this teaching first of all our principles: We covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Domestic violence touches every community, and the more aware of it we can be, the more effectively we will be able to help those who experience it. It is not an easy subject, but just knowing we are there for each other and for others is something to be proud of as we continue to find new ways to reach out and help.

---Bucky

Staff and Office Hours

Church Office Hours: The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 2:00pm. 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, 617-851-8222 (cell) or minister@uucarlisle.org. Call her directly to schedule an appointment or leave a message. Wednesday is her day off.

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.

Student Minister: Bucky Rogers can be reached by email at youth@uucarlisle.org or 207-660-1348.

Minister Emeritus:
Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Lay Minister:
Sally Hayen

Purchasing a Name Engraved in Granite in The First Religious Society's Memorial Garden

Plans are underway for the Infinity Garden to get a new garden area to be known as the Memorial Garden. A large Chelmsford granite boulder will be cut into five pieces and each piece erected vertically on a concrete pad. The cut faces of the granite will be suitable for sandblasted engraved names. Once installed, these stones will vary in height from an estimated six to nine and a half feet, although the names will be only on the portion from one to seven feet high. Why are the stones so big? The scale of these stones are in keeping with the garden site, they are tall and cut at interesting angles to make them unlike gravestones, and they give enough engraving space to last for several hundred years. The natural patina and curves of the boulder will be preserved, and be an interesting contrast with the flat matte cut faces of the granite.



***Art Milliken, Andrew Le Masurier, and Jean Fordwebb
admire the chosen glacial radical granite boulder from Le Masurier Quarry***

For a \$750 donation one name will be engraved and for a \$1,000 donation two names will be engraved on the Memorial Garden granite.

At least a first name, middle initial and last name with birth year and death year will be engraved for this price. Spelling out the middle names, allowing (nicknames) or charging extra for these requests will be determined by the yet-to-be-formed Engraved Name Policy Task Force.

Why pledge a name now, when the Memorial garden has not even been built? The price of an engraving will never be lower, and your children will not have to guess your intentions. This initial offering will put your name amongst people you know, be in a garden of natural beauty, and make you feel like an “engraved in stone” integral part of this community.

Please send in a check with the memo “Memorial Garden engraved name” to the First Religious Society in Carlisle. An accompanying note should spell out the name(s) to be engraved and a birth and death year if known. Some may choose to have their names engraved while they are still living, so of course a space next to the name will be saved for a future death or birth and death year. When the final font and formats are chosen, you will be sent a proof for approval prior to the actual engraving.

Look for pictures of the boulder, model, quarry, and garden plan in Union Hall. If you have any questions about the proposed Memorial Garden, please contact any member of the Parish Committee or Infinity Garden Task Force; George Bishop, Jean Ford Webb, Art Milliken, Diane Miller, Frank Rigg, Barbara Ritz, Alison Saylor, and Bob Zielinski

Upcoming Worship Services

February 6 Joe Hoffman, Guest Preacher. Raymond Joseph Hoffman is a scholar of religion, having studied at Harvard Divinity School and Oxford. He did his thesis on Montanists in early Christianity, studied early Unitarian history, and has lived and taught around the globe. One of his recent experiences was teaching in Pakistan. He has returned to the Boston area to teach.

February 13 "Standing on the Side of Love" Diane Miller. One focus of activism for justice is immigration. Last July, many laypeople and clergy put themselves on the line during a "Day of Non Compliance" in Arizona to protest harsh SB 1070 law. This sermon will tell of their witness and share some of the stories that have emerged. You can see more on this subject by going to www.UUA.org or www.standingonthesideoflove.org. There will be an opportunity to take action in support of Judy and Raul Cardenas, members of the First Universalist Church of Denver.

February 20 "Three Cups of Tea on the Rugged Road to Peace" Diane Miller. Our Religious Education classes are exploring the Pennies for Peace program during February and April school vacation weekends. It is a program based on Greg Mortenson's humanitarian efforts to build schools for girls in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He described his experiences in his widely-read book, Three Cups of Tea. The service will look at ways toward peace and the story Mortenson tells.

February 27 "The Ministry of the Future" Diane Miller. A look at how our ideas of ministry have changed since the days of the Rev. Mr. Litchfield, who served this congregation for 47 years as its first minister, a record no one has matched since. Where are we heading now?

Religious Education

The Senior Youth Group will go on a tour of downtown Boston UU historical sites on Saturday, January 29th, leaving the church at 9am. Please email Bucky at youth@uucarlisle.org if you are interested in going.

FRS Programs

Union Hall Coffeehouse in Carlisle Presents A Joyful Evening with the Jay Ungar & Molly Mason Family Band, February 12, 2011 at 7:30pm. "The heart and soul of American Roots music." "Jay and Molly make music that is simple and overwhelming...joyful and full of feeling...an apotheosis of American traditional music." - Garrison Keillor, host and creator of A Prairie Home Companion. "Jay & Molly play music from the heart which reminds us of the best in all of us." - Ken Burns, PBS Civil War. Doors open: 6:30pm. BYOB and enjoy our vibrant cafe! Tickets available at www.mktix.com \$25. For more info go to www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com. Contact: Dian Cuccinello, Producer: dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com.

Carlisle Winter Farmer's Market in Union Hall Saturdays 9am to 12pm: Save these dates; February 19, March 19, April 16. Enjoy local, seasonal produce, eggs, honey, crafts and other delectable treats. For more information contact Leslie Thomas (978) 287-5024. Sponsored by The Environmental Action Committee.

Special Funds at FRS: The Minister's Discretionary Fund and the Carlisle Neighbor Fund are two resources available to the minister for assisting parishioners and the Carlisle community. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is distributed at the discretion of the minister, and with discretion, for a variety of unbudgeted needs. The Carlisle Neighbor Fund is for current Carlisle residents. If you know of a need, please contact the minister directly.

Through Feb 26: Watercolor Paintings by Roger Goulet on exhibit at Gleason Public Library. The show includes a recent painting of the Communion Pewter of the First Religious Society.

Notes of Appreciation

On behalf of the Veterans at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your sponsorship of Christmas carol singing for Wards 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D on December 16, 2010. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country. Without your support, we could not provide for activities like this that make hospitalization more comfortable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans. Thank you for your continued support. Joseph P. Dooley, Chief, Voluntary Service, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Events Around Us

7th Interfaith Homelessness Forum - March 6, 2011, 3:00pm at Trinitarian Congregational Church - Ending Homelessness: Recent Successes and the Next Steps. Family homelessness remains a severe crisis in Massachusetts with record high foreclosures and layoffs. Over 33,000 families in housing crisis applied for emergency shelter in the year ending July 2010. Lt. Gov. Tim Murray will be the keynote speaker at the seventh annual forum of the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, on Sunday, March 6th at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden St., Concord, from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. Tina Brooks, Co-leader of Mass Commission to End Homelessness, will describe the successes and innovations of the pilot regional network programs that involve preventing homelessness, and will outline the proposed plans for growth of these regional programs. Tina Close, Co-Convenor of the Metro West Regional Program, will discuss successful work in our Region in homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid re-housing families from shelters.

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 Lillian DeBenedictis.



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 February 18, 2011.
- To receive the weekly email send the church office a note frs@uucarlisle.org



Parish Committee

Parish Committee Co-chair: Michael Dundorf
 Parish Committee Co-chair: John Lyons
 Parish Committee: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling,
 Michael Dundorf, Mary Hult

Church Treasurers

Mary Hult
 John James

Standing Committees

Activities Committee: Janice Kissinger
 Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs: Ann James
 Susan Emmons
 Environmental Action Committee: Dan Scholten
 Finance Committee: Tucker Kelly
 Music and Worship Committee: Tom Rourk
 Membership Committee: Sue Kirk
 Pastoral Concerns: Sally Hayen
 Religious Education Committee: Susan Lohrer
 Social Action Committee Co-chairs: Ellen Huber
 Max Barber
 Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello

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, Alison Saylor,
 George Bishop



The First Religious Society – February 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm Music & Worship	2 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4 9:30am COA Line Dance/UH	5 7:00am Mensgroup/UH 8:30am Democratic Caucus/upstairs
6 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	7 7:00pm Environmental Action Com/Upstairs	8	9 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00pm Membership Com/upstairs	11 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 6:30pm Contra Dance	12 10:00am Carlisle Parent Connection/UH 7:30pm Coffeehouse/UH
13 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	14 7:00pm Buildings and Grounds Com/ ground floor	15 noon Girl Scouts/UH 7:00pm Parish Com/ upstairs mtg rm 7:00pm CCA/ground floor	16 7:00pm RE Committee/ ground floor 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 11:30am COA Luncheon/UH 7:30pm KISS Knitting/offsite	18 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 7:00pm Womenspirit/ UH	19 9:00am Farmer's Market/UH
20 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	21	22	23 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 noon Gleason Library/UH	25 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 7:00pm Beekeepers /UH	26
27 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	28					

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 FEBRUARY 18, 2011