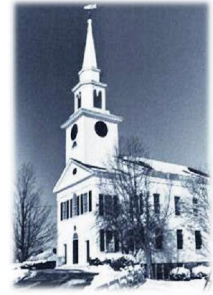


NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXVI No. 6
February 2012



Message from the Minister

I drove to Connecticut to meet with other Unitarian Universalist ministers in the area to learn more about the Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression work being done in our Clara Barton District. I learned some of the ways lay leaders and clergy are addressing these justice matters in their ministries. In the course of the conversation a colleague expressed impatience with our dynamic. He pointed out that when someone made a statement that moved the conversation forward, someone else would respond with a qualification, exception, objection, or other momentum-stopping point. That comment has stayed with me days after the meeting. How is it that when we are working with our visions for the future we can so readily depress the conversation and cloud the vision? Of course there is value in qualifying and clarifying and differentiating. We affirm diversity in our viewpoints. But instead of a focus on what is right about a statement, there seemed to be a culture of critique, looking for what was wrong or imperfect.

I was reminded that I learn more when I listen for the vision, hope, ideas and creativity in conversations and speakers.

Church life is not perfect. Never was and don't hold your breath. Church folks are not perfect. We are human. There is truth in the saying that "the perfect is the enemy of the good."

The other day I watched a free movie, "The Bible." I made it through Creation and banishment from Garden of Eden. The story, made into a literal narrative for the film, illustrates the religious idea of Original Sin. Our liberal religious heritage understands people as having capacity for both good and evil, and potential to increase our goodness in capacity and in practice. Church life, with all its imperfections, does a good job at this. It is worth the effort. It is worth the cost. It is worth celebrating!
-----Diane Miller

Upcoming Worship Services

February 5: "Buying New Genes from China"
Rev. Diane Miller. Evolution continues in patterns Darwin described, and in some surprising new forms.

February 12: "Not What We Believe But How"
Bucky Rogers, Student Minister
Throughout the modern era, Unitarians and Universalists have posited that we need not think alike to love alike. Drawing on Eastern traditions and Transcendentalism, this sermon will explore the relevant question of how we do faith when we don't necessarily believe the same things.

February 19 "Where is Your God?"
Rev. Diane Miller. Where you locate God helps to define your theology. You will participate in this sermon by deciding where you would put God in your life. Atheists should not be scared away by the topic!

February 26 "Varieties of Human Spirituality"
Rev. Diane Miller. A Guide for the Perplexed.

Music Notes: Wednesday evening choir rehearsals are suspended for the first four Wednesdays in February because of anticipated absences, along with the possibility of difficult weather conditions.

These dates include February 1, 8, 15, and 22. We'll resume regular rehearsals on February 29. In the meantime, the choir will continue to sing each Sunday morning, with rehearsals beginning at 9:00am instead of the usual 9:15.

Message from the Director of Religious Education

February will be a busy month in our RE program as we get organized to present the Sunday March 18 environmental action Pageant "Coral Carbon Blues". Work is going on behind the scenes to write the script and music for this multi-generational story about Coral Reefs. **The February vacation workshops** on both **Tuesday 2/21 and Wednesday 2/22 10:00am – 3:00pm** will use the successful Green Sale workshop format where materials are laid out on tables, and snacks and gentle guidance help unleash the creative talents of the participants. Fontaine Richardson has given us some wonderful books with photographs of real tropical fish, and so it is just a matter of choosing the right materials to recreate them in super-sized, light-weight 3D models.

The workshop is suitable for anyone aged 5 to 105. The younger children will paint a single bright color on poster board, plastic or other materials we will have gathered for the workshop, while the older youth and adults will cut out the graphic shapes to form the fish bodies. Once assembled, the talented artistic folks will paint in the eyes and other details. High Schoolers can get Community Service credit for attending these workshops. No experience is necessary!

This "script-in-hand" Pageant will feature both human characters and marine creatures found in and around coral reefs. Most of the costumes are being borrowed from the UU church in Colorado via the UU Church of Greater Lynn located in Swampscott, and are in my opinion **drop dead gorgeous**. The clown fish character has many lines, whereas the Potato Cod fish only a few. Each character is important, so it is a question of how many lines an actor feels they can handle. There are no auditions, and anyone wanting a part will be cheerfully given one. The bolder, more animated readers will get first choice on the parts with more lines. There is a need for prop handlers and singers too. Actors are encouraged to drop in during the workshop so they can see the costumes and read the script. Making the tropical fish will both enhance the Coral Carbon Blues Pageant, and be used again in an FRS Old Home Day float.

For those families away on March 18 we will have other environmental projects involving making compost and growing seeds organically. While the RE classes focus on bible stories, the special activities for the remainder of the year will have an environmental theme.

I do hope you will get involved in these fun projects!

Director of Religious Education: Alison Saylor can be reached by phone at 978-369-5180 or by e-mail at DRE@uucarlisle.org

Visioning Message

Sunday February 5th All the children and youth participating in the First Sunday Children's Service on 2/5 will have the opportunity to either draw or write about their vision of our church in the future. These pictures and messages will be displayed for use during the Visioning meetings. Any child or youth not able to attend that particular Sunday is welcome to send in their drawing or written message to the Church Office.

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." Winston Churchill

Another message about change! We'd like you to help us create change!

Join us on Saturday, March 3 for a morning or afternoon session.

We invite you to participate in one of several small and diverse focus groups that will contribute with other groups to clarify the ten year vision for FRS, create a new mission statement, and produce a starter list of goals that can later be incorporated into a long-range plan. It is a highly structured and participative process, designed to incorporate as many members of the congregation as possible in small group sessions.

If you would like to participate or even lead a focus group please contact Christine Lear at CMLTeaTime@comcast.net. You are welcome to contact Christine or myself with any questions as well! Many thanks and I hope you can join us for this most invigorating event! - Fontaine Richardson

FRS Programs and Announcements

Behind the scenes: Thanks to **Stephanie Hackbarth, Janice Saul, Lisa Sama, Mike Dundorf, Roger Goulet, Paul Morrison, John Redding, Frank Rigg, Muggsie Rocco, Barbara Ritz, Marje Stickler, Sylvia Willard, Sue Kirk, Helen Lyons, Diane Miller, Christine Lear, Mollie McPhee, Andi Gettys, Linda Myers Tierney and Dollina Borella** for their work in preparing and serving dinner for 100 needy folks in Lowell on December 30; **thanks** to the **Music and Worship Committee, the Membership Committee, the FRS Jazz Group** and guest stars **Katherine Sorrows** on trumpet and **Kevin Barrow** on clarinet for the Waffles and Wisdom service on January 1; to **Bryan Sorrows** for purchasing new hardware for the staff, and to **Susan Emmons** for purchasing and beginning to install new software; thanks to **Susan** also for overseeing installation of the new electronic eye in the elevator; to **Nancy West** for lead teaching the K-2 class that was combined with the 3-5 class where they all learned the story of David and Goliath. RE attendance can sometimes be erratic due to illness and winter sport schedules, so Nancy's flexibility was most appreciated! to **Tom Rourk** for assisting with the logistics for the Arcturus concert, and to **Margaret Darling** for a lovely reception; to **Linda Meyers-Tierney** for changing the message in the wayside pulpit; to the generous **folks whose last names begin with A through D** for the lavish feast at coffee hour last Sunday! To **Mary Zoll** and **Susan Emmons** for work on the church and parsonage grounds; to **Christy Barbee** for meeting with the Junior Youth Group to explain about the Restorative Justice program; to **Bob Wallhagen** for working to restore heat to the offices on Monday; to **Susan Emmons** and **Bryan Sorrows** for spending hours loading all the new software on the staff computers; congratulations to the **FRS Members** who sang in the Carlisle Community Chorus on January 10th for an outstanding concert; to **Pam Fox** for being DRE for the day on Sunday and discussing Martin Luther King Jr. and playing parachute games in Union Hall with the children; to **Sue Kirk** and all who helped organize the fabulous WomenSpirit retreat last month; to **Carl Benkley** who volunteered to take on the repair job at the side entry and to **Bob Wallhagen** for helping finish the job; thanks to **Nazik** and **Nury** for presenting the Message for All Ages and then visiting all the children and youth in the RE Program. We learned so much from each other, and were particularly delighted to hear about your peace-loving predominantly Muslim country of Turkmenistan that manages to stay neutral and stable in an area of the world that is surrounded by religious and political unrest.

Change of venue for Carlisle Resilience, the Unemployed and Underemployed Group. Beginning February 7, the group will meet in **the upstairs conference room at FRS**, rather than at the Smiling Duck Café at Ferns. The 9AM start time remains unchanged. This is an informal weekly meeting of people looking for a job or rethinking their work direction. The group is open to all at no charge. Coffee will be provided. The group continues to explore the Resilience Circle model of sustainable community. The meeting is facilitated by Diane Miller, 978-369-0284 or 617-851-8222, and John Redding.

“Jesus in Jerusalem -- The Last Week” An adult program in four sessions during Lent. Rev. Diane Miller invites you to participate in a conversation based on “The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem” by scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Following the FRS tradition of a Lenten program to deepen one's understanding and embrace of faith, this is Bible Study for Liberals. Do you want to know more about Jesus and the events during the tumultuous final week of his life? Join this conversation. No homework is required, although if you have time to read about 50 pages per session you will gain a deeper understanding of the events that have come to be called Holy Week in the Christian tradition. Copies of the book are available through Gleason Library, your favorite bookstore, in the used market, and in Kindle format. Diane has three copies for \$12 each.

The discussion will be offered on four Thursdays: Feb 16, March 1, 15, and 29. Please sign up by emailing Diane Miller at minister@uucarlisle.org or calling 617-851-8222. Indicate if you prefer afternoon (1-2:30 pm) or evening (7-8:30 pm). There is no charge for the program.

FRS FAMILY Pot Luck - Save the Date! On Saturday, March 10th there will be a pot luck dinner geared for families with kids. We'll gather in Union Hall for food and drinks, and there will be sitters and activities downstairs in the Red Balloon space for kids of various ages. The hope is to deliver a fun time for the kids and to orchestrate it so that the parents may even be able to have some conversation and connect with other parents!

Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors ó all are welcome! More details will be shared in the coming weeks -- in the meantime, contact Kathy MacDonald with any questions or if you would like to help organize ó kathmv@yahoo.com or 617-803-7244.

Save the Date! There will be a **Seder at FRS on April 7th, Saturday evening during Passover.** Watch for more information in next month's Newsletter.

Moving to the 21st century: We plan to shift our monthly paper newsletter to a digital format in 2012. Over the coming months, as we are upgrading and reviewing our technology, we will work out the details of how we will distribute the newsletter. In the meantime, please update your email address(s) with the church office. If you use more than one address, let us know if you want the newsletter sent to multiple addresses. If you want to continue to receive a printed newsletter by mail, please let church administrator Ann Quenin know. You can call her at 978-369-5180 or email her at frs@uucarlisle.org

Coffee Hour Goodies: Here's the line-up for February:

Feb. 5 ó Congregants whose last names begin with S-Z;

Feb. 12 ó Congregants whose last names begin with A ó C;

Feb. 19 - Congregants whose last names begin with D ó F;

Feb. 26 - Congregants whose last names begin with G ó I.

Please bring finger foods that are easy to eat while simultaneously holding a cup of coffee or tea in one hand. And thank you for participating! (Signed) Anne & Richard Ketchen, Co-chairs, Coffee Committee

Defibrillator in Union Hall. An Automated External Defibrillator (A.E.D.) is installed on the wall in Union Hall, to the right as you enter through the double doors. Look for the red heart logo. In the event that someone collapses, the first step is to call 911. If more than one person is present, one should start CPR while someone else quickly retrieves the defibrillator. Make a point of knowing where the defibrillator can be found.

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

Edible church landscape The children will learn about organic and sustainable growing of flowers and vegetables with hands-on activities of growing seeds, making compost and planting, weeding, watering and nurturing these plants in the church landscape. The purpose will be to both beautify the church landscape and harvest crops that can be eaten by the growers, sold to raise money for charity, or given to the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell.

Experience has shown us that better love and attention is given to small garden areas that belong to an individual, a committee, or a family. We will be growing annual flowers, kale, pumpkins, winter squash, brussels sprouts, peas, and if there is an interest, also okra, potatoes and yams. The flowers are for the Infinity Garden, the peas will be an early crop to be ready for Old Home Day, and the rest will be harvested in the fall. This is a heads-up of awareness, so look for more detailed plans to emerge in the next few weeks. Contact Alison Saylor for more information dre@uucarlisle.org

Notes of Appreciation

“Thank you for your continued and generous support of the Annual Program Fund. When we unite our energies, commitment and financial resources, we fulfill dreams that no single person or congregation could achieve alone! Together, hand in hand, we can transform lives and help heal our world.” *The Reverend Peter Morales, President, Unitarian Universalist Association*

“Thank you very much for your generous gift of \$923.80 to The Stella-Rosie Foundation. In a few weeks it will be time to pay school fees for the first term of 2012 and your gift will be a big help to make that happen. God bless you for your generosity.” *Florence Goulet, President, The Stella-Rosie Foundation, Inc.*

“The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell wishes to thank you for your recent donations.” *The Pantry Volunteers*

“Thank you very much for your donation of 55 Christmas stockings.” *Deb Chausse, Executive Director, House of Hope*

The Social Action Committee wishes to thank everyone in the congregation who participated in The Lowell Families Christmas Project- 2011. Through our contact at the Butler Middle School, Amanda Hosmer (Social Worker), we supported 14 children in 5 families. Each child received a clothing gift and a recreational gift. Each family received a box of cookies with a greeting card on top that contained a Market Basket gift certificate for \$50.00, and each mother received a scarf and glove set. We have supported several of the families for a few years, and one mother said that, “This is has been such a great blessing for Anthony every year! The Market Basket gift certificate helped so much.” Another mother said, “Everyone was so surprised and excited by their gifts. There is no address to send a thank you.”

Amanda Hosmer stated, “I also think that the church’s involvement over the last few years has spurred me on to grow the participation right here at the Butler. This year, including the kids that FRS sponsored, the Butler School helped 80 kids from almost 30 families! This was a huge jump from last year ó I think we only helped 16 families last year. Thank you all for being so inspirational.”

Thank you for the donation of winter jackets for the Butler Middle School student population. This has been ongoing and the jackets have been delivered to the school on three separate occasions.

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 Hayen at 978-369-7591.



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 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: johnalyons@comcast.net
 Parish Committee: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling, Michael Dundorf, Mary Hult

Church Treasurers

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Standing Committees

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 Max Barber 978-369-7943, email: damabar@comcast.net

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.

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

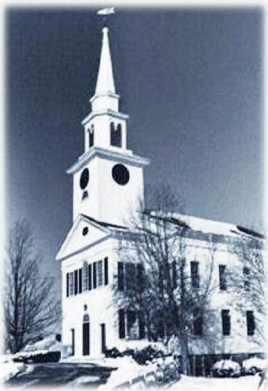
The First Religious Society – February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	2 3:00pm COA tap class UH	3 9:30am COA Line Dance UH	4
5 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 3-6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	6 Staff 10:45-noon 7pm: EAC downstairs	7 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs 7pm M&W upstairs	8 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	9 3:00pm COA tap class UH	10 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 6:30pm: potluck and Contra dance/UH	11 7am Mens group/UH 9:30am-12:30pm Carlisle Parents Connection Valentine Party/UH
12 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 3-6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	13 Staff 10:45-noon	14 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs	15 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	16 11:30am COA luncheon/Union Hall 1;2:30pm %Jesus in Jerusalem+upstairs 3pm COA tap class UH 7:30pm KISS (offsite) 7-8:30pm %Jesus in Jerusalem+upstairs 7-9pm Concord-Carlisle Fishing Club	17 9:30am COA Line Dance UH	18 9am-1pm Farmers Market/UH
19 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 3-6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	20 Staff 10:45-noon	21 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs	22 9am-4pm RE Pageant Workshop/UH 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice	23 3-4pm COA tap dance/UH 7:30pm SAC downstairs	24 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 1-3pm Gleason Library event/UH 7-9pm Beekeepers/UH	25
26 3-6:15pm Morris Dancing classes/UH	27 Staff 10:45-noon	28 9:00am Carlisle Resilience//FRS upstairs	29 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir practice			

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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 23, 2012
SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ANN QUENIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.