

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXVII No. 06
February 2013

“Dianiana” - Reflections from Rev. Diane Miller

You may have heard that one of the two boilers that heats the church building is irreparably cracked and unusable. The Building and Grounds Committee had been girding for this day, and immediately went to work, in partnership with the Parish Committee and the Finance Committee, to assess the options and move forward on a replacement. The heating system as a whole, which has served the building since the addition was built, must be replaced. An engineer who specializes in heating systems has been engaged to create the specifications and get bids on the project. In prior energy audits, replacing the heating system has been identified as the priority step to reduce our carbon footprint. So both principle and necessity have landed us in the peak heating season to operate on half capacity.

The cost of a new system was a real concern. There were guestimates, but the engineer’s estimate that bids will come in at \$60,000 to \$85,000 was more daunting than our highest initial guesses. The congregation’s operating budget is \$247,000. Combinations of asking for increased pledges, budget cuts, borrowing, and maybe bake sales still left a great gap to bridge. In the midst of looking at ways to cope with this cost, in a budget already reduced by the end of a cell tower contract, came some very good news. A donor within the church community has offered to fund the new heating system. This generous offer is being made anonymously.

While I asked if instead the offer might not be anonymous, so that we could appreciate the generosity, the wish was to have no acknowledgment, a preference we will respect. This brought to mind the wisdom story (anonymous, by the way) titled “The Rabbi’s Gift” that has been told in many variations.

Once a synagogue had fallen on hard times. Only five members were left: all over 70 years old. In the mountains near the shul there lived a retired rabbi. It occurred to the five to ask the rabbi if he could offer any advice that might save the shul. One of the members and the rabbi spoke at length but when asked for advice, the rabbi simply responded by saying, “I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is, the messiah is one of you.” This member, returning to the shul, told the four members what the rabbi had said.

Continued on page 2

“WE ARE A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY, STRIVING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE ARE DEDICATED TO SERVICE, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ACTION. WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER AND FOSTER PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH.”

Upcoming Worship Services

Sundays at 10 o’clock
The Nursery opens at 9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal at 9:15 am
SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 3 “Hide and Seek with God” UU Kids say...

God is different to different people... It’s probably a portable God you can shape to fit your beliefs.

God is everywhere...God is all different colors.

God is a mystery...God can grant love, but not a million dollars

God is a spirit... God is a very special person who lives in the clouds and all the dead people are his helpers.

We will share more of these thoughts and stories about God during the Sunday service.

February 10 “Beyond Romance” Rev. Diane Miller

Romantic love is celebrated on Valentine’s Day, and implicit is the hope for romance to evolve into commitment and constancy. What nurtures love over time, renews it, or strengthens us in its absence? We will celebrate long-term relationships among us, and offer a prayer of Thanksgiving for equal marriage in the Commonwealth. Bring your sweetie with you to church! John Ballantine will be the Spiritual Journey speaker.

February 17 Celebrating Marguerite Shaw, our Minister of Music!

This festive morning will include tributes and music to tell the story of Marguerite’s quarter century at the First Religious Society. We will also be celebrating her 80th birthday (which is coming up on February 22.) Surprises and fun are in store. Finger food and cake and ice cream await at Coffee Hour.

February 24 “Magic, Science and Vulnerability” Linda Simmons.

Linda describes her sermon with these words: I’ve been looking at magic, science and vulnerability from new vantage points these days, prodded on by the research of many venerable people and so decided to peek under the caution and awe these words evoke and see what else there might to help us live into our lives with more joy, possibility and even wonder.

Message from the Director of Religious Education

We begin February with a multigenerational service "Hide and Seek with God" where the many ways Unitarian Universalists talk of God are explored through myth-like stories. The children will have drawn pictures of God and talked about God for several Sundays before this culminating and integrating service where the ideas of both children and adults will be displayed in a big God mural. Adult Atheists and Agnostics might find that they hold a rigid definition of God that they inherited from their youth or from a past religious faith that is now too confining. Unitarian Universalist beliefs are varied. We teach our children that their thoughts about God will likely change as they grow and mature.

The Social Action project for this month will be making play dough and finding some children who might like to play with us and with the play dough. We want to model concern for others less fortunate than ourselves. We want to actually do something concrete that will, in a small way, show our love and support for a struggling family during tough times.

The older youth will be revising the UU Pageant script this month where the history of the Unitarians and Universalists getting together are told in words, song and drama on Sunday March 17. Also look for Chinese New Year dumplings and decorations, as we say goodbye to the year of the dragon and welcome in the year of the snake. Namaste.....Alison Saylor

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

FRS Snow/Inclement Weather Policy

When snow storms, ice, power outage, or other weather events coincide with Sunday mornings, the FRS policy is to encourage parishioners to decide for themselves if conditions are safe for coming to church. We plan to go ahead with services regardless of weather, adapting the service and religious education as needed. Because we rely on volunteers to clear snow and ice from entrances, come prepared. In case of weekday closing and cancellations, Ann, the Office Administrator, will post changes or cancellations on the church website (uucarlisle.org).

Check the Website: www.uucarlisle.org

Check the Internet: Closing will be listed on www.whdh.com and www.wcvb.com and on our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/FRSCarlisle

Special Congregational Meeting to vote on ordaining Linda Simmons

The Parish Committee has called a Special Congregational Meeting to be held in the Sanctuary at 11 AM, immediately following the service, on **Sunday, February 10, 2013**, to vote on a motion to participate in the ordination of Linda Simmons to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. The ordination will be held at the First Church in Boston on Saturday, May 4, 2013. The First Religious Society would ordain Linda jointly with the First Church in Boston. Only active members of the First Religious Society, as defined by the bylaws, may vote.

Linda Simmons was our Student Minister in 2009-2010 as a part time Field Education Student in her first year at Harvard Divinity School. She then completed two years of half-time Internship at the First Church in Boston, and is working part time at the First Religious Society this academic year with Junior Youth Group and Coming of Age. Linda has passed the Ministerial Fellowship Credentialing process of the Unitarian Universalist Association and will complete her Master of Divinity degree in May.

Office Hours

Monday and Tuesday 8am to noon

Closed Wednesday

Thursday and Friday 8am to noon and then 1pm to 4pm.

In an emergency, call Ann's cell 781-820-2783.

The minister is generally in the minister's Study Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Monday is her day off and Fridays are usually sermon preparation. If you want to be sure to find her, call or email ahead. 617-851-8222. minister@uucarlisle.org

Dianiana, continued from page 1

In the months that followed, the old shul members pondered the words of the rabbi. "The Messiah is one of us?" they each asked themselves. As they thought this possibility, they all began to treat each other with extraordinary respect on the off-chance that, one among them might be the Messiah ... and on the off-chance that each member himself might be the Messiah, they also began to treat themselves with extraordinary care. As time went by, people visiting the shul noticed the aura of respect and gentle kindness that surrounded the five old members of the small shul. Hardly knowing why, more people began to come back to worship at the old synagogue. They began to bring their friends, and their friends brought more friends.

Within a few years, the small shul had once again become a thriving congregation, thanks to the rabbi's gift!

The generosity of this gift could come from anyone among us. The effect could be more than keeping us warm (important as that is) and enabling us to move forward with our staff and programs. Might it also have the effect that we will treat each other with extraordinary respect, and also treat ourselves with extraordinary care? A heating system is the sort of repair and maintenance cost that fundraising consultants say is very hard to raise money to pay for. May this generous gift inspire us as a congregation to loving stewardship of this community, its Meetinghouse, its people, its tradition and mission.

FRS Programs and Announcements

Our sympathies: To FRS member Ben Collison and his family on the untimely death of his sister Evelyn. Her obituary can be found on the Dee Funeral Home website, www.DeeFuneralHome.com.

Minister's Vacation: I will be away on vacation for two weeks, February 18th through March 4th. I'll be in Kansas with my elder son and his wife and daughter as they welcome a second child. During this time I do not expect to be following email. The capable church leadership and staff will manage just fine, and we have two guest preachers lined up for those Sundays – Linda Simmons on February 24 and Laura Scholten on March 3rd.

Since I usually take vacation in month of July, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to be with my family in the midst of the regular church year. *Diane Miller*

Coming of Age for 9th graders Linda Simmons, a Harvard Divinity student and previous student minister at FRS, is leading the Coming of Age program which runs January – May . There will be five workshop meetings held on Sunday evenings and a ropes course field trip. Using games, discussion, journals, and mentored relationships, the participants will explore their beliefs, values, UU rituals and history, and work together to create a Sunday service of recognition. Please contact Linda Simmons, (603) 498-9520 email: las897@mail.harvard.edu with any questions about this program.

Transgender Film Series continuing at FRS: Our successful series last Fall provided all who attended an opportunity for reflection and questions. We began the new series on January 27, and continue the **March 10 and April 28 from 4-6pm**. The goal is to apply our quest for knowledge toward deeper understanding of an evolving area of human identity. The films selected have been previewed and chosen for their quality. We are not announcing the titles due to licensing requirements, so call Rev. Diane Miller if you would like specifics.

Path to Membership: Diane Miller, along with Membership Committee, Staff, and Church leaders, will lead a conversation about the First Religious Society and provide an opportunity to join the church. If you

would like to know more about our theology, social justice stands, history, and inner workings, please join us after church on **Sunday, February 10th**. Save the date now. Sign up by emailing minister@uucarlisle.org. We will provide childcare if requested.

Carlisle Resilience: Carlisle Resilience is a weekly gathering of people who are looking for employment, changing careers, and starting new ventures. The group constitutes a talent pool of diverse skills, so if you are looking for talent and skills, or have an inside track on job openings, this is where you might find the right person for the job. If you have expertise you can offer to a group of job seekers, we appreciate having guest presenters. Tuesday mornings at 10 AM the group gathers at FRS. It is a changing group of people from FRS and the larger community. There is a brief check-in from everyone present, and then we delve into an aspect of search in greater depth. Looking for work is complicated. Getting no responses or rejections can be deeply discouraging. Being out of work can begin a cascade of problems. We are here to offer support and encouragement and real connections. Facilitators are Rev. Diane Miller, John Redding and Michael Dundorf. There is hot coffee, and no charge for the meetings. Contact John (JohnEhRedding@gmail.com) or Diane (minister@uucarlisle.org) to find out more, or just drop in.

Reminder: If you plan a meeting or an event at FRS, please reserve the space with Ann well in advance. She will then put it on the office calendar and on the website and will cite it in the weekly newsletter and the monthly newsletter. Please put “room reservation” on the subject line if you are sending the request by email.

Denominational News

First Parish in Concord hosting conversation on assault weapons ban. First Parish members have been wrestling with how to respond to the tragic deaths at the Sandy Hook School in Newtown, CT. We have voices in our congregation from all sides of this conversation. We agree that we have an opportunity and responsibility to engage in a meaningful response as people of faith winding our way through this complicated issue. We feel the need to address these deaths in Newtown CT with an informed and inclusive response that acknowledges the many contributing factors to such violent acts. First Parish would like to begin that conversation.

We are inviting all area clergy and congregation members to open this conversation with us at **2:00 PM on Sunday February 10th at First Parish In Concord**. Our parish has chosen to start the conversation that Sunday with a public discussion on a ban on assault weapons. It is our hope that a series of public conversations on related issues will follow, hosted by a variety of congregations and groups.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage: The Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Pilgrimage to sites of the Civil Rights struggle happens next September 21—28, 2013. Registration has opened. Rev. Diane Miller went on an earlier version of this trip and recommends the journey and the excellent leaders who guide the trip. For details see <http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/>

Community Events

Cambridge Society for Early Music (CSEM) returns to FRS on Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 pm, with a program entitled “Baroque Treasures of Venice, performed by the ensemble “Gut Reaction,” with our own Sarah Darling on violin and viola. For more information go to www.csem.org or call 617-489-2062.

Mortgage Loan Program for Unemployed and Underemployed: A pilot program to assist middle class families who are experiencing a drop of income has already made a difference to a number of families in Middlesex and Essex Counties, and will be continued. After meeting with a HUD Housing counselor, eligible homeowners can borrow up to \$20,000 at 0% interest with flexible re-payment plans. For more information call Frank Carvalho 978-970-0600 Ext 5. This program was featured in a Mosquito article on February 17, 2012, and in a program at Town Hall led by Carlisle's Housing specialist, Elizabeth Barnett. The goal of this program is to help families keep their homes and to bridge an income gap in this time of recession. -- Diane Miller

Emma's Revolution at Firehouse Coffeehouse on Friday, February 1st: Are you missing the coffeehouse scene? Emma's Revolution is an activist pair of musicians who have been much loved in UU congregations and are appearing in nearby Littleton. Tickets are \$18. Contact (978) 742-9957.

Save the Date! March 8th. The Annual Habitat Gala fundraising dinner and auction will be held at the Umass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren St., Lowell. This year's Gala will raise funds for the new build in Lowell. Tickets are \$100 and \$85 each for a table for 10. Last year FRS had a table for ten and John Redding is organizing one for this year. Contact him to sign up for a seat at johnehrdding@gmail.com or call 978-505-8003.

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, the Pastoral Concerns contact for February is Sally Hayen, 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 send to: Ann Quenin, 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 let us know.
- The next newsletter deadline is February 21, 2013.
- To receive the weekly enewsletter send a note to frs@uucarlisle.org

Parish Committee

Parish Committee chair: John Lyons 978-369-1216, email: johnlyons@comcast.net
Members: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling,
Mary Hult, Stew Roberts

Church Treasurers

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

Staff

Minister: Rev. Diane Miller, cell: 617-851-8222, email: minister@uucarlisle.org
Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-369-5180, email: music@uucarlisle.org
Director of Religious Education: Alison Saylor, 978-369-5180, email: dre@uucarlisle.org
Administrator: Ann Quenin, 978-369-5180, email: frs@uucarlisle.org
Coming of Age Advisor: Linda Simmons 603-498-9520 las897@mail.harvard.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

Activities Committee:	Janice Kissinger 978-369-8968,
Buildings & Grounds	Ann James 978-369-1296, email: ajames3@comcast.net Susan Emmons 978-369-7921, email: susansemmons@comcast.net
Coffee Committee	Pam Fox 978-371-9042, email: pam_woodhull@hotmail.com
Environmental Action Committee:	Dan Scholten 978-369-1209, email: dks@mitre.org Ernie Huber 978-369-6678 email: e2huber@verizon.net Lisa Sama 978-692-6592 email: lbsama@comcast.net
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Music and Worship Committee:	Tom Rourk 978-369-5366 email: tfrrpiano@comcast.net
Membership Committee:	Sue Kirk 978-371-0176, email: sukirk@aol.com
Nominating Committee:	Nancy West email: nancyswest@gmail.com
Pastoral Concerns:	Sally Hayen 978-369-7591
Religious Education Committee:	Jackie Schaefer, 978-256-6770, email: jackie.schaefer@comcast.net
Social Action Committee	Ellen Huber 978-369-6678, email e2huber@verizon.net Max Barber 978-369-7943, email: damabar@comcast.net

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at FRS 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

Greeter Committee: Eva Herndon, Nancy West, Karen Dunkers, Tom Dunkers
Flower Committee: Pam Hall, Alison Saylor
Coffee Committee: Pam Fox

The First Religious Society – February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7-9am Men's Group, UH
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30 Technology Committee. upstairs 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>7:00pm EAC meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>9:00am Staff</p> <p>10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH</p> <p>7:00pm Music & Worship Comm.</p> <p>7:00pm Social Action Comm.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>2:45-3:45pm COA tap class</p> <p>7pm dance rehearsal/UH</p> <p>7:30pm choir rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>6:30pm: potluck and Contra dance/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>10:00-noon Carlisle Parents Connection party Union Hall</p> <p>5:00pm Chili Cook-off potluck, Union Hall</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Cong Meeting; 12-2:00 Path to membership 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>7-8pm Private piano recital Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00pm Building and Grounds mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>9:00am Staff</p> <p>10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>2:45-3:45pm COA tap class</p> <p>7pm dance rehearsal/UH</p> <p>7:30pm choir rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>6pm WomenSpirit Potluck</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 1-3pm Coming of Age 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>9:00am Staff</p> <p>10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH</p> <p>7:30pm Parish Comm. upstairs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>2:45-3:45pm COA tap UH</p> <p>7pm dance rehearsal/UH</p> <p>7:30pm choir rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>11:30am COA luncheon UH</p> <p>7:00pm KISS meeting, offsite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>7:00-9:00pm Beekeepers, UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>5:00pm-9:00pm CPD private party, Union Hall and Kitchen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>9:00am Staff</p> <p>10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>2:45-3:45pm COA tap UH</p> <p>7pm dance rehearsal/UH</p> <p>7:30pm choir rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>		

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT: "WE ARE A WELCOMING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY, STRIVING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE ARE DEDICATED TO SERVICE, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ACTION. WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER AND FOSTER PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH."

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 21, 2013
SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ANN QUENIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.