

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXVII No. 05
January 2013

"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."

"Dianiana" - Reflections from Rev. Diane Miller

Milestones are worth observing and celebrating. Plan to be in church on Sunday, February 17th to celebrate 25 years of leadership by our Minister of Music, Marguerite Shaw, and her 80th birthday (on February 22)! We will have special music, tributes to Marguerite, and of course, birthday cake! I invite you to contact me with stories, photographs, and anecdotes about Marguerite's years at the First Religious Society. See you in church! ---- Diane Miller

Music Notes

The choir is well underway since the holidays, planning and rehearsing for future Sundays. Again, please know that anyone is welcome to be even an occasional singer. You need only to be able to sing in tune and blend your voice with others. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings 7:30 - 9:00, and on Sunday mornings 9:15 - 9:45. Those unable to come on Wednesday are still welcome on Sunday morning. The FRS Jazz Group will play for the church service on Martin Luther King Sunday, January 20.

"It tolls for thee"

On Friday, December 21 at just before 9:30am, a small group of us gathered in the bell tower to acknowledge the lives lost in Newtown. In keeping with the tenets of Unitarian Universalism, (that all souls have inherent worth) we tolled the steeple bell 28 times to the reading of 27 names. (The shooter's name was not spoken aloud). ---- Ann Quenin

Upcoming Worship Services

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

January 6 "Three Gifts of Three Kings' Day" Rev. Diane Miller. In many branches of Christianity, Christmas ends with Epiphany on January 6th. Especially popular in Latin America, Dia de los Reyes has its traditions to mark the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas. The service will honor the New Year. Rick MacDonald will share his Religious Journey reflections while the children begin downstairs in Union Hall. Carolyn Tobin, oboe, and Margaret Darling, harpsichord, will play the prelude and postlude.

January 13 "Privacy, Choices, and Reproductive Freedom" Rev. Diane Miller. A sermon on the fortieth anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision.

January 20 "Human Bondage: Thomas Jefferson and Modern Slavery" Rev. Diane Miller. On the weekend we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., a sermon on new awareness of both past and present.

January 27 "Good Things Happen Here" Rev. Diane Miller

"Good Things Happen Here" containers are in several locations around the church. You are invited to make a note of something good that happens at FRS and drop it into the jar. And you can also email notes to Rev. Miller (minister @ ucarlisle.org) or give her a call. These notes and stories will go into a sermon that will explore what happens in church that makes it such a special place.

If you would like to participate as a chalice lighter in our Sunday morning services, contact Tom Rourk, Music and Worship Committee chair, at tfrpiano@comcast.net

Message from the Director of Religious Education

Celebratory worship should touch the heart and soul of children as well as adults. The K-4 children meet downstairs in Union Hall once a month to create a sacred participatory Children's Service that includes ritual, discussion, music and community. Everyone gets a chance to drop a pebble of concern or happy event into our bowl of water if they want to. Each month we discuss a different Unitarian Universalist Principle using both adult and child-friendly language.

This month we will extend this time to work on some special projects that involve our current theme of God. Each Sunday in January we will share stories about God, discuss what God looks like, and what names people have for God. How for example, would you end a sentence that begins: "God is...?" A room full of Unitarian Universalists would have as many different answers as people, and that is just fine!

All these questions and lessons will help the children get more out of our much anticipated "Hide and Seek with God" service on February 3rd where we will celebrate the wonder and mystery of God with words, art and music.

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.uu.carlisle.org

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

FRS Programs and Announcements

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.

Circle Dinner – January 26th Join us on Saturday, January 26th for our annual Circle Dinner Extravaganza which starts in Union Hall at 6:00 where we'll have appetizers together. After appetizers we'll head out to our hosts' homes for dinner. The hosts provide the main course, and guests bring the salad, bread, wine or dessert. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the company of old friends and meet new ones even during the cold wintry weather. Feel free to invite a neighbor, or someone you've met through a town activity or a colleague from work. The Membership Committee will make sure you are assigned to the same host. It's a great way to meet some new people. Sign-up sheets will be available at Coffee Hour beginning in January. If you'd like to sign-up by phone or email or have any questions, please contact Sue Kirk at 978-371-0176, email: sukirk@aol.com

Piano Recital by Ben Collison: On Sunday, January 27, at 11:30 AM, immediately following Coffee Hour, Ben Collison will play a 20-minute program of piano music in the Sanctuary. Composers include Schubert, Felix Mendelssohn, and Beethoven. Ben is a student at Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge, MA. He studies piano with Leslie Amper, a well-known concert performer in the Boston area and around the country. Almost twenty-five years ago Ms. Amper and her husband Randall Hodgkinson, also a concert performer, played a piano program together at the First Religious Society soon after our Falcone grand piano was delivered. Ben Collison has been active at our church for several years as a choir member, nursery care provider, and all-around good and friendly guy. Please plan to take this brief time after Coffee Hour to show your interest and support. There is no admission charge, and people of all ages are welcome.

Transgender Film Series continues at FRS: Our successful Fall series provided all who attended an opportunity for reflection and questions. We continue the series with three dates in 2013: **January 27, 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.

Who should come? Adults and Youth 16 and up (or who have completed the 8th grade Our Whole Lives – OWL - curriculum.) **What?** Films on transgender topics. Popcorn & Cider, Movie & Conversation.

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.

Knitting in Service Society (KISS) will resume meeting on January 17. KISS usually meets on the third Thursday of the month, at various members' homes. New knitters of all levels are always welcomed. The KISS knits to benefit the homeless community in Boston. The group knits hats and scarves as Christmas

presents to congregants of Common Cathedral, Boston's worship community for the homeless. For questions or to be added to the KISS email list, contact Linda Myers-Tierney at lindamt@comcast.net.

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 Dunderf. 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.

Moving away from mailing paper newsletters. Would you like to keep receiving our printed newsletter? We will continue to print newsletters for those who do not use e-mail, but if you too prefer the printed version, please let us know.

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 enewsletter and the monthly newsletter. Please put "room reservation" on the subject line if you are sending the request by email.

Community Events

Cambridge Society for Early Music (CSEM) returns to FRS for two concerts: **Thursday January 24, at 7:30 pm**, featuring a program titled "Istanbul in the 16th to 18th Centuries" performed by "Dünya" an early music collective; and **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.

Notes of Appreciation

"To all the people in the FRS I want to thank you for your continued support to our foundation, The Stella-Rosie Foundation. Now you are giving us part of your Christmas Eve collection, and I can't be there to thank you. I'm so sorry. I wish there was something more I could do to show how much I appreciate your help.

Just today I came across some pictures I took 6 or 7 years ago in my village of Busanza, where I went to talk to the children in the local school. I wanted to especially encourage the girls to continue in school using me as an example of what you can achieve if you study hard and stay in school. I saw in the pictures that most of the students were boys. What also made me sad was the group of young children who were too poor to afford uniforms. They were being pushed to the back by a uniformed boy who didn't want them in the

picture. I could have been one of those poor children years ago. That is why I am so grateful for your help to buy uniforms. It is hard to explain how left out you feel when everyone has a uniform except you.

I am going to Uganda on January 13, and I promise to tell the children there about how good you are to us. No one has helped us more than the FRS and its members. May God bless you.”

Florence Goulet”, co-founder of the Stella-Rosie Foundation

“Dear Friends: Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$200 earlier this year. Your gift helped us rise from the ashes and made you part of our new Phoenix Circle. Your gift helps us work for marriage equality...to fight for women’s rights...to facilitate workshops addressing sexuality, spirituality and religion. Sincerely,

Rev. Debra W. Haffner, President, Religious Institute: Faithful Voices on Sexuality and Religion”

“Dear Friends, your generosity and kindness over all of these many years is deeply appreciated. Thank you so much for your donation on December 13, 2012 of 58 Christmas stockings. Thank you, thank you!

Fondly,

Deb Chausse, Executive Director, House of Hope”

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 January is Lillian DeBenedictis, 978-369-1848, or email Lillian@thechildrensplacecarlisle.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 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 January 24, 2013.
- To receive the weekly enewsletter send a note to frs@uucarlisle.org

Parish Committee

Parish Committee chair: John Lyons 978-369-1216, email: johnalyons@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: 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
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 – January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 2:45 COA tap, Union Hall	3 7pm Music & Worship Comm. upstairs	4	5 7-9am Men's Group, UH
6 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30 Finance Comm. upstairs	7 7:00pm EAC meeting	8 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH	9 2pm Memorial Garden Committee downstairs 2:45-3:45pm COA tap class 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	10	11 6:30pm: potluck and Contra dance/UH Fri – Sun WomenSpirit retreat weekend, offsite	12 WomenSpirit retreat weekend, offsite
13 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour	14 7pm Membership Comm. Meeting downstairs	15 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH 7:30pm Parish Comm. upstairs	16 2:45-3:45pm COA tap class 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	17 11:30am COA luncheon UH 7:00pm KISS meeting, offsite	18	19 2-3pm Private Recital, Sanctuary
20 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH	21 7pm B&G mtg	22 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience UH	23 2:45-3:45pm COA tap UH 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	24 8pm Cambridge Society for Early Music concert, Sanctuary and Union Hall	25 7:9:00pm Beekeepers, UH	26 9-11am Red Balloon Open House, 12-1:30pm Gleason Library program UH and kitchen 6pm Circle Dinners, Union Hall
27 9:00 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30 piano recital, Sanctuary 3-6:15pm Morris dancers, UH 4-6pm Transgender Film Series, upstairs	28	29 9:00am Staff 10:00am Carlisle Resilience	30 7pm dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm choir rehearsal	31		

The First Religious Society
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Carlisle, MA 01741

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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 JANUARY 24, 2013
SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ANN QUENIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.