

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXIV No. 12
March 2010



March is Annual Pledge month! Watch for your brochure and invitation to pledge your financial commitment to The First Religious Society. What we can do as a congregation derives from how all participate together in the pledge drive. A church member will speak each Sunday on “Why FRS Matters.”

While sitting in a meeting in the downstairs conference room, across from the shelves of the church library, a parishioner observed that we have relatively few volumes on Unitarian Universalism. I looked, and agreed.

One of our institutional purposes is to explicate our tradition – to embody, teach, and tend the unfolding story of our liberal religious heritage. While there is a significant amount of information available on the Web, and the resources of our public library network, many UU books are no longer in print and are hard to locate. It would be good to have the classics, the basics, and the newest publications available at FRS.

If you have some UU books you have read and no longer want to keep, bring them in to the church office. (Any we can't use will be given away).

One new paperback I have added to our collection is [A People So Bold: Theology and Ministry for Unitarian Universalists](#), a collection of essays on our calling in today's world. Another is [The Growing Church: Keys to Congregational Vitality](#), a collection of articles by leaders of growing UU congregations. I would like to build a useful collection of UU books to have close at hand.

---Diane Miller

Upcoming Worship Services

March 7, 10:00AM

“A People So Bold” Rev. Diane Miller. The launch of our Annual Pledge Drive. Carolyn Tobin, oboist; Margaret Darling, pianist. The Choir will sing.

March 14, 10:00AM

“The Sunday Morning Experience” A service incorporating small group conversations (see note on page 2) about what we create here together. The Choir will sing.

March 21, 10:00AM

“Authoring Our Lives” Linda Simmons, Student Minister. A sermon about recovering the myth of father in our lives and using it to create a sense of authentic spiritual exploration. Nina Benkley, vocal soloist, with guitar. The Choir will sing.

March 28, 10:00AM Palm Sunday

“Drops of Wine” Rev. Diane Miller. The story of the Sarajevo Haggadah, an ancient manuscript of the passover service. New member recognition and traditional palms will be part of the service.

Our Sunday Service for March 14 will be a one time initiative of the Sunday Morning Experience Review Committee. After a briefer than usual Worship Service, we will be asked to form into small groups to share our thoughts and feelings on all aspects of the Sunday morning experience. What does Sunday at FRS mean to you, and how can we build on our strengths? What's going well for us, and what needs improvement? What would you like to see more of on Sundays? This is an opportunity for all to "have their say" and offer creative ideas in the evolution of our shared experience here at FRS. All members and friends are urged to come and share their thoughts and perspectives. There will be the freedom for all to speak, and thoughts expressed here will become part of our church wide review of Sundays at FRS.

---Maxine Barber, John Forcucci, Gio DiNicola, Ed LeClair, Tom Rourk, Krista Stengrevics, Nancy West, Diane Miller, ex officio, Michael Dundorf, liaison to Parish Committee.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Aaron Pinsky will be held at First Parish Concord at 11:00am on Saturday, March 6. Men's Group members will usher. Our deepest sympathies to his parents Lincoln and Peg, his sister Rachel and his fiancée Eleanor C. Schmidt.

Who Are We?: You are invited to participate in the Path to Membership class on Saturday, March 6, 1:00pm-4:00pm (**note change in time**). This is an introductory program condensed into one session. We cover The First Religious Society, Unitarian Universalism, programs, theology, history, and organization. The class is designed to answer your questions, and serve as a basic orientation to this congregation. There will be an opportunity to sign the membership book for those who wish to become members of the church. Rev. Diane Miller leads the class, which is sponsored by the Membership Committee. In order to provide childcare, please reserve by Tuesday, March 2. Call or email the church office with names of adults attending, and names and ages of children. We ask that you bring a snack for your children.

Staff and Office Hours

Church Office Hours: The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 1:00pm. The office is closed on Wednesday. To reach Kathy Varney in the office call 978-369-5180 or email frs@uucarlise.org.

Minister: Reverend Diane Miller can be reached at the minister's office number 978-369-0284, or email minister@uucarlise.org. Call her directly to schedule an appointment or leave a message. Wednesday is her day off.

Director of Religious Education: Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email, dre@uucarlise.org or phone at church, 978-369-5180.

Minister of Music: Marguerite A. Shaw can be reached at the church 9:00am-2:00pm daily at 978-369-5180, or email music@uucarlise.org.

Student Minister
Linda Simmons

Minister Emeritus:
Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Lay Minister:
Sally Hayen

Parish Committee

The Parish Committee met in February with Treasurer Mary Hult to discuss the pledge drive and budgeting for the next fiscal year. Lenny Johnson and Susan Emmons presented information about major projects anticipated with our building and grounds for the next ten years, with a detailed description of major projects envisioned over the next 3 years. Costs, funding and timing were discussed. Next year is the bicentennial of the 1811 meetinghouse. Muggsie Rocco, liaison to the Religious Education Committee, reported on next steps in the search process for filling the Director of Religious Education position, and the Parish Committee began recruiting a search committee for that task. Other topics on the agenda included taking steps to have a half-time student internship beginning in 2011, forming a Standing on the Side of Love program, and hearing liaison reports. Members of the Committee are co-chairs John Lyons and Suzanne Whitney Smith, Muggsie Rocco, Paul Morrison, Michael Dundorf, Marje Stickler, Eric Darling.

Linda Simmons, Student Minister

“I have been part of The First Religious Society in Carlisle now since September 2009. I remember the beginning of this journey, how unsure I was, how insecure in the role as student minister! Of course, so much of that was about defining *my place* in this community, and place is never easy to define. What does it mean to be a student minister? What are the limits that mark that place and which of those are negotiable and which are not?

I remember a conversation I had with a parishioner some months ago. She told me I was doing well after one of those Sundays when I couldn't remember something during service. I made some kind of joke by saying, “Well, you haven't seen me fall down the stairs from the altar yet.” She responded, “And if we did, we would pick you up Linda.”

I realized after this that the place of a student minister is one that happens in relationship and that this relationship is one of deep care from the congregation and deep integrity from me to the congregation. It is a mutual kind of trust and willingness that takes place: a trust from the congregation that I am acting in ways that are intentional and caring and a trust expected from the congregation that I will understand that I am being supported and held as I negotiate all this.

I went to service at First Church in Boston this past Sunday where I will be interning this coming September. It is hard to describe how much I missed participating with Reverend Miller in the service at First Religious Society in Carlisle. What a sacred trust. My work in Carlisle has taught me that much of this role of minister is formed in relationship to the congregation. It happens in practice. Practicing being a minister in a community that takes seriously its role as mentor and guide is making a minister out of me. How extraordinary to be arriving here!”

Religious Education by Molly Sorrows

“Dear friends,

In order to embark on a new career in teaching, I am resigning from FRS at the end of this church year, in June. Working for The First Religious Society has been a great experience for me. I am happy with the work I have done in developing and strengthening church programs. I treasure the connections I have been part of, sharing FRS and Unitarian Universalism with children, youth, families and adults. I value my experiences here working with families to find resources they need, talking to high school students about their life goals, developing RE activities, and hearing a child's voice call to me “Molly! Guess what happened this week!” I love the commitment and energy FRS has put toward creating bonds between age groups. FRS has a lot to offer, and it is easy for me to recommend this position to my colleagues as you search for a new DRE & Youth advisor. I am excited about the new direction in my life, which is to pursue a teaching career in math or science at the middle school or high school level. The teaching and people-connections are two of my favorite aspects of working at FRS, and teaching school will be a

great way to continue that work. I like to sign my notes “Hope to see you Sunday!” and I do look forward to seeing you on Sundays or perhaps at the upcoming Soup & Games Night on Feb 27!” ---- Molly

Additions and Corrections to FRS Directory

Information available on printed version of newsletter.

FRS Programs

Soup & Games Night, Saturday, February 27, 5 - 7 pm: Bingo returns, along with a new intergenerational game. The first round of games lasts 30-45 minutes, followed by delicious homemade soups, this month including lentil soup, bean, kale & sausage soup, and taco soup. After supper, there's time for visiting and more games. Any questions, check with Jen Kelly or Molly Sorrows.

Community Potluck and Sing-along, March 6: All are invited to the third annual community potluck dinner and sing-along at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 6 at the Carlisle Congregational Church, weather permitting. The event is sponsored by the three Carlisle churches. After dinner our choir will join with singers from the other two churches for singing a few anthems and then Pastor Steve Weibley will lead singing of favorite popular songs from the 1890s to the 1950s. (Marguerite says he's the best sing-along leader she's seen). Donations to the Friends of COA to benefit the town's fuel assistance fund will be welcomed. If you would like to come, please sign up with Nadine Bishop or Max Barber or at coffee hour.

Workshop on Responding to Racism, Sunday, March 14: Linda Simmons will lead a workshop on Sunday, March 14th entitled, “Developing a spiritual and theological response as Unitarian Universalists to racism in the 21st century.” This workshop will be a relaxed, participant-centered conversation about racism and effective ways to counter this in our lives, community and world. We will begin over lunch at 11:30 and continue until 1:30.



Union Hall Coffee House, March 20: Digney Fignus – Talk of The Town & Trouble on the Levee Tour - Prolific...Imaginative...Fun...Great Music! Tickets are \$25. Go to www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com to order tickets or for more information.

FRS Service Auction is Saturday, May 1st! Save the Date! Contact any committee member if you would like to volunteer for decorations, publicity, setting up or cleaning up. Junior and senior youth are needed to act as wait people. If you have a special talent like cooking, gardening, personal shopping, etc. think about offering that talent for the auction. Committee members: Dian Cuccinello, Tim Hult, Steve Kirk, Lisa Sama, Alison Saylor

Outreach

The Social Action Committee would like to express sincerest thanks and gratefulness to everyone who helped in some way to make our Lowell Needy Families Thanksgiving and Christmas projects a success through monetary donations and providing gifts. Families are selected on a need basis by the Social Workers, Guidance Councilor, Administration and staff of the Butler Middle School in Lowell. We purchased Thanksgiving groceries for four families spending approximately \$73.00 per family. These groceries were delivered to each family's home. At Christmas we supported seven families with 19 children supply a total of 38 gifts, a tin of cookies for each family with an attached greeting card containing a Market Basket gift certificate for \$40.00. Once again, these were delivered directly to each family's home. The circumstances of the seven families are as follows: two of the families are technically homeless and are doubling up with another family; two of the families have been homeless in the past; five of the families are single parent households. All of them are either unemployed or severely underemployed. We had two Caucasian families, two "mixed race" families, one Cambodian family, and two Latino families. Future discussion within the Social Action Committee may include how to provide some extra support to the Butler Middle School. Please contact Dollina Borella with any questions you may have.

St. Paul's Feeding Ministry in Lowell: The Ministry has been serving dinner to those in need two nights a week for the past 14 years. A few months ago, the couple who runs it, Rose and Walter Bronk, decided to expand service to all 5 weeknights. FRS has an opportunity to help out by serving one night every other month beginning in late April. A crew of 6 or 7 volunteers will be required to prepare and serve an entrée, salad or vegetable, bread, milk and dessert at the Eliot Church (which has a well-equipped kitchen) in Lowell. The timeframe from set-up to clean-up is 3:30 to 6:30pm. During a visit to the Eliot church last month, it became apparent that they feed a wide variety of people, that those served enjoyed being there for the sense of community that exists and that they were very appreciative of the volunteers' efforts. It seemed like a very rewarding volunteer opportunity. There is an article about the Bronks and the St. Paul Feeding Ministry posted on the Social Action Committee bulletin board in Union Hall. Please give it a look and contact Dik Dagavarian with any questions or to express your interest in volunteering.

Upcoming Habitat for Humanity Events:

- Saturday March 20- Annual Gala and Dinner Auction. Tewksbury Country Club. This event replaces the annual Habitat fundraising dinner that a large contingent from the FRS used to serve dinner at. It will be similar to the biannual FRS Service Auction. \$75 per person. A major Habitat fund raiser. Note that 10% of Habitat funds will go to Haiti where Habitat has built 2000 homes. See contact below.
- Saturday March 27- Possible FRS workday at Habitat Bedford Site. Contact George Bishop.
- May 3-8 Women's build week at the Bedford site. Can we get an FRS team of women to volunteer for a day? How about lunch preparers if not hammer wielders? See contact below.
- Saturday May 22- Hike for Humanity up Mt. Monadnock. A great opportunity for youth in our church to participate in Habitat fundraising- even those too young to work at the construction sites. Should qualify as Community Service hours. A challenging hike. See contact below.
- Saturday June 5- Hike for Humanity in the Blue Hills. An easier hike than the one above. Should be a draw for those of us who are getting too physically challenged to work at the sites anymore and perhaps suited to very young children as well as their adult supervisors (grandparents?). See contact below.

Contact Habitat Office at 978-692-0927 or email Anna Perko (a Carlisle resident) at aperko@lowellhabitat.org

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 Barbara Ritz



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.

Parish Committee

Information available on printed version of newsletter.

Church Treasurers

Information available on printed version of newsletter.

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.



The First Religious Society - March 2010



	<p>1 7:00pm Environmental Action Committee</p>	<p>2 7:00pm Music & Worship Committee</p>	<p>3 11:00am Infinity Garden Task Force noon Robbins Brook Luncheon 1:00-4:00pm Church Cleaning 7:00pm RE Committee ground floor 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	4	<p>5 9:30am COA Line Dance</p>	<p>6 7:00am Mensgroup 1:00pm (note time change) Path To Membership Class 6:30pm Community Potluck and Sing-along</p>
<p>7 10:00am Morning Worship Service 6:00pm OWL for 8th graders 7:00pm Womenspirit</p>	<p>8 7:00pm B&G meeting</p>	<p>9 7:00pm Ballroom dance rehearsal 7:30pm Knitting</p>	<p>10 1:00-4:00pm Church Cleaning 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 7:00pm Membership Committee</p>	<p>12 9:30am COA Line Dance 6:00pm Contra Dance</p>	13
<p>14 10:00am Worship 11:30 Responding to Racism 6:00pm OWL Celebration 6:00pm Senior Youth</p>	<p>15 7:00pm A Year to Live adult education class</p>	<p>16 10:00am A Year to Live adult education class 7:00pm Ballroom dance rehearsal</p>	<p>17 1:00-4:00pm Church Cleaning 7:00pm Carlisle Climate Action Committee 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 11:30am COA Luncheon 7:00pm Parish Committee meeting</p>	<p>19 9:30am COA Line Dance 6:00pm Religious Education Sleepover</p>	<p>20 7:30pm Union Hall Coffeeshouse</p>
<p>21 10:00am Morning Worship Service 2:00pm Recital</p>	22	<p>23 7:00pm Ballroom dance rehearsal</p>	<p>24 1:00-4:00pm Church Cleaning 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 6:00pm Carlisle Fishing Group</p>	<p>26 9:30am COA Line Dance 7:00pm Beekeepers</p>	27
<p>28 10:00am Morning Worship Service 6:00pm Senior Youth</p>	29	30	31 1:00-4:00 Church Cleaning 7:00pm RE Committee ground floor 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal			

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."

- 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 March 18, 2010.
- To receive the weekly email send the church office a note frs@uucarlisle.org