

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXV No. 7
March 2011



Message from the Minister

"Transitions" by Rev. Diane Miller

Welcome to Ann Quenin, the new Church Office Administrator! Ann comes to us with a long history of activism and volunteer work. For many years, her "real job" was in high tech, but she thinks that now she has found what she is called to do next. Some may know her from her work as Feature Editor at the Carlisle Mosquito, a position she will continue to hold. Ann is delighted to be affiliated with FRS, a community that demonstrably walks the talk, and she looks forward to meeting everyone. Ann likes reading, gardening, golf, folk music, (and rock and roll) and believes that a sense of humor will get you through just about anything. Ann and Eileen, her partner of 21 years, live on Red Pine Drive with their two beloved but sometimes badly behaved Weimaraners.

Our farewell to Kathy Varney, who ably filled the position for ten years, included a tribute by John Lyons during the service on February 13th, followed by a festive coffee hour coordinated by Mary Hult, with a beautiful cake made by Dian Cuccinello. Our gift to Kathy included a large heart-shaped box of chocolates. We will miss her!

The search for a Director of Religious Education is nearing completion. The RE Director Search Committee has interviewed and recommended a candidate for the position, who has met with the RE Committee as well. The Parish Committee will complete the appointment and make an announcement in March. In the meantime, Bucky Rogers will be filling the position through the end of the church year.

March is known for many things, including the First Religious Society Pledge Drive. Watch for your mailing and information about the theme, "My FRS." Sunday morning speakers have been the highlight of our pledge process. This year we have five: Frank Rigg, Mary Zoll, Tim Hult, Christine Lear, and Fontaine Richardson. Don't miss them!

I will use these words from a 1997 UUMA Worship Materials collection as the benediction this month, because they speak to this theme, "My FRS"

If you are proud of this church

If you are proud of this church, become its advocate.

If you are concerned for its future, share its message.

If its values resonate deep within you, give it a measure of your devotion.

This church cannot survive without your faith, your confidence, your enthusiasm.

Its destiny, the larger hope, rests in your hands.

--Diane

Message from Bucky Rogers, Student Minister

The Voice of Religion

In "The Social Implications of Universalism", Clarence Russell Skinner wrote that "There is no danger that *religion* should pass out of life. There is danger that the Church may cease to be the *voice of religion*." Skinner was writing in 1915 and had a realistic view of the decline of the Universalist Church, knowing that it was part of the decline of mainline Protestantism. Charles Eliot, President of Harvard and a Unitarian, wrote that same decade with a greater sense of self-assuredness that was befitting a denomination poised to more adroitly navigate the 20th century. This dynamic tension between faith in the undying nature of spirituality as a human characteristic, as represented by Skinner, and the type of institutionalism that Eliot represented has been a persistent theme in Unitarian Universalist history.

I agree with and take heart from the succinct articulation of the idea that religion will always be a part of human life. And I certainly cannot help but share the fear that church institutions are in danger of ceasing to be the voice of religion- institutions naturally trend towards fossilization, while spirituality is characteristically dynamic. However, I disagree with some as to how we should respond to this situation. Jeanne Nieuwejaar suggests in *Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children* that church families should actively prioritize Sunday morning attendance over ALL other sports, social, and extra-curricular activities. True confession time: I missed church a couple times a year for travel soccer from 4th to 8th grades, and was rarely at Coffee Hour for the same reason. Prioritizing church attendance IS important, and I do not want to dissuade a single person from contemplating how FRS might play a greater role in their life. But turning to families and instructing them to give up other important parts of their children's lives is likely to merely increase their stress levels. Such injunctions can lead to parents spending as much fretting about whether they can "afford" a week off from church as they might spend participating in the other activity or church itself.

This is the first time I have written a polemical note regarding the work of a living minister in a public space such as our newsletter. Jeanne Nieuwejaar, if you are reading: "Wow, Hi! I can't believe you're reading my column-YES! Please don't be mad at me- I loved your book overall and would recommend it to everyone. It really was just that one part that I disagreed with, based on my own experience. Give our over-scheduled families a break on the guilt front. Otherwise keep up the great work!"

---Bucky

Staff and Office Hours

Church Office Hours: The church office is open Monday and Tuesday, between 8:00am and 1:00pm., and Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 2:00pm. The office is closed on Wednesdays. To reach 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.

Parish Administrator: Ann Quenin can be reached by email at frs@uucarlisle.org or by phone at 978-369-5180

Minister Emeritus:
Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Lay Minister:
Sally Hayen

Upcoming Worship Services

March 6 "The Church I Would Belong to if I Belonged to a Church" Rev. Miller.

A local person's remark, on meeting me, becomes the title of the pledge kickoff sermon.

March 13 "Freeing our living seeds" Bucky Rogers, Student Minister. Prolific Unitarian educator Sophia Lyon Fahs wrote that we must free our children from old forms of learning based around authority and the past, beginning instead with the present and experience. What and how we teach our children determines who we will become as an institution, and as such is a question for all of us to engage, whether we are or have children in the RE program or not. In a religion as dynamic and growthful as ours, religious education remains an important part of our participation throughout our lives.

March 20

"The Vision of Mary Daly" Dr. Mary Elizabeth Hunt

Mary Hunt is a public theologian and intellectual, co-founder of WATER — Women and Theology, Ethics, and Ritual in Washington DC. Her sermon will introduce the remarkable thinking and life of the late Mary Daly, feminist scholar and author.

March 27

"What Were They Thinking?" Rev. Miller.

The building was remodeled and the religion was remodeled as well. How the First Religious Society has evolved theologically, and some thoughts on where we are heading.

Religious Education

The K-2 and 3-5 RE classes combined and are studying the Pennies for Peace curriculum, based on Greg Mortenson's books, including *Three Cups of Tea*. This is a fun, justice-oriented set of classes which will continue into April on either side of the school vacation. Bring in any spare change you may have and look for the Pennies for Peace jars in Union Hall to contribute - one penny can buy a pencil for a student in Afghanistan or Pakistan, so every little bit helps!

The JYG continues to set example of good charity work, collecting donations in a box in Union Hall for their soup drive.

Youth RE Assistants needed to help in classrooms and nursery each week. High School students and young adults interested in these positions, which pay \$10 per Sunday, should contact Diane Miller.

FRS Programs

Union Hall Coffeehouse in Carlisle, March 12, 7:30pm. Diane Blue & The Beantown Boys. She's Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Gladys Knight, Bonnie Raitt and even Janice Joplin all rolled into one...Tickets are \$25. BYOB. Go to unionhallcoffeehouse.com for more information.

Carlisle Winter Farmer's Market in Union Hall Saturdays 9am to 12pm: Save these dates; 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.

Here's a link to an album recently completed by Margaret Darling containing captioned pictures from **the New Orleans Service Project** in February of 2008. <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=31360&id=1747160554&l=8ceae530ca>

Habitat for Humanity: On Saturday, January 15, 6 members and friends of FRS worked at the Habitat site on North Road (route 4) in Bedford. Working were John Redding, Tim and Jason Hult, Frank Foley, Dik Dagavarian and George Bishop. As soon as the weather is better, Habitat will uncover two more "mothballed" foundations and we can contribute to building these houses. This could be late March or April.. If you are interested in helping with Habitat, contact George Bishop at 978-369-5080 or Ernie Huber at 978-369-6678.

Volunteering with Concord Prison Outreach: Steve Kirk is the FRS Social Action Committee liaison to the Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) programs. He encourages anyone interested in volunteering at either MCI - Concord or the Northeastern Correctional Center to look at the organization's web site, www.concordprisonoutreach.org. Look under the "Volunteering" heading for 1) a long list of programs at the two facilities and 2) a very helpful FAQ section. Steve was the organizer of our CPO book drive in the late fall. Please contact him with any questions about volunteering (steve@esicomputing.com).

Community Pot Luck and Singing: Save Saturday, March 26 for the Fourth Annual Community Pot Luck and Singing at the Carlisle Congregational Church. The event is organized by our three Carlisle churches. Watch the weekly emails for more details.

Haiti Forum -- One Year After The Earthquake
What's Been Accomplished - Ongoing Needs – Volunteer Opportunities
Sponsored by the Social Action Committee
Tuesday March 29, 2011, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Union Hall

Speakers:

Ray Offenheiser - Oxfam America

David Campbell – All Hands Volunteers

Paul D'Oliveira - The Rotary Club of Concord MA

Carlisle resident (and FRS member) Ray Offenheiser is President of Oxfam America, an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 90 countries, Oxfam saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. Oxfam was one of the first organizations to provide aid after the earthquake and has a long history of working in Haiti, Oxfam is also striving to support the work capacity of Haitian organizations

David Campbell, also a Carlisle resident, is Executive Director of All Hands Volunteers which provides hands-on assistance to survivors of natural disasters around the world, with maximum impact and minimum bureaucracy. All Hands was also one of the first organizations on the ground after the January 2010 earthquake and continues to execute medical, educational, housing, new school reconstruction and sustainable jobs programs in Haiti.

Paul D'Oliveira is the Chair of the Haiti Relief and Recovery Committee of the Rotary Club of Concord MA which has a number of programs underway and in process to provide computers, network equipment, adaptive technology, and transportation for the special needs children at St. Josephs School in Port Au Price which is a sister school to the Cotting School in Lexington MA. He has been working with Haiti since prior to the earthquake and is currently coordinating a number of new projects in Haiti with the support of Rotary International and other US-based Rotary clubs.

Come hear from leaders in our local community what their organizations are doing in Haiti and how you or your group could get involved.

For more information call Steve Kirk at 978-371-0176 or email steve@esicomputing.com

Notes of Appreciation

The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell wishes to thank you for the very generous donation of \$674.00. We realize that many organizations need ongoing support and we thank you for choosing to contribute to us. The Open Pantry serves over 1,900 people each month and more than one third of them are children. Liz Butz, Executive Director

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$94.00 to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. With the number of emergencies that UNICEF has confronted in the past few months – including the devastating earthquake in Haiti – your support is especially appreciated as we continue to work to protect vulnerable children’s lives.. Caryl M. Stern, President & CEO

Thank you very much for your gift of \$585.70 to Oxfam received on January 12, 2011 to help people affected by the devastating floods in Pakistan. The commitment of Oxfam members like you enables us to implement our innovative and effective programs that fight poverty and injustice in more than 90 countries. Raymond C. Offenheiser, President

Events Around Us

Ending Homelessness: Recent Successes and Next Steps, Seventh Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum, Sunday, March 6, 2011, 3:00-5:00pm, Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord: Family homelessness remains a severe crisis in Mass. with record high foreclosures and layoffs. Over 33,000 families in housing crisis applied for emergency shelter last year, far exceeding the 3,000 families in emergency shelters nightly. Tina Brooks, Co-Leader, Mass. Commission to End Homelessness, will highlight the state’s encouraging homeless prevention initiatives. She will describe the successes, innovations, and proposed growth plans of the pilot regional network programs that involve preventing homelessness. Tina Close, Co-Convenor of the MetroWest Regional Program, will detail achievements using prevention, diversion, and rapid re-housing. Two families that avoided homelessness by using these services will share their first hand accounts. Hear from area lawmakers and to learn how we can help with proven strategies. The forum is free and open to all.

Project Bread’s Walk for Hunger will be on Sunday, May 1, 2011. Go to projectbread.org for more information.

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 Mugsie Rocco, 978-371-2656, mugsroc@comcast.net..



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 the church office at frs@uucarlisle.org.
- The next newsletter deadline is March 18, 2011.
- To receive the weekly email 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

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

Standing Committees

Activities Committee: Janice Kissinger 978-369-8968, email: janicekissinger@aol.com
Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs: Ann James 978-369-1296, email: ajames3@comcast.net
Susan Emmons 978-369-7921, email: susansemmons@comcast.net
Environmental Action Com.Co-chairs: Dan Scholten 978-369-1209, email: dks@mitre.org
Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, lmsama@comcast.net
Finance Committee: Tucker Kelly 978-318-1921, email: tuckerkelly@mac.com
Music and Worship Committee: Tom Rourk 978-505-3148 email: tfrpiano@comcast.net.
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Pastoral Concerns: Sally Hayen 978-369-7591
Religious Education Committee: Susan Lohrer 978-369-1612, email: sulohrer@comcast.net
Social Action Committee Co-chairs: Ellen Huber 978-369-6678, email e2huber@verizon.net
Max Barber 978-369-7943, email: damabar@comcast.net
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745, dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com

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 – March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm Music & Worship	2 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 11:00am Luncheon/UH	4 9:30am COA Line Dance/UH	5 7:00am Mensgroup/UH
6 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm WomenSpirit/UH	7 7:00pm Environmental Action Com/Upstairs	8 7:00pm Carlisle Fishing Club/UH	9 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00pm Membership Com/upstairs	11 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 6:30pm Contra Dance	12 7:30pm Coffeeshouse/UH
13 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 3:00pm Recital/Sanctuary and UH	14 7:00pm Buildings and Grounds Com/ ground floor	15 7:00pm Parish Com/ upstairs mtg rm 7:00pm CCA/ground floor	16 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 11:30am COA Luncheon/UH 7:30pm KISS Knitting/offsite 8:00pm Cambridge Society for Early Music Concert	18 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 6:00pm RE Sleepover/UH	19 9:00am Farmer's Market/UH
20 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	21	22	23 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 7:00pm Beekeepers /UH	26 Tri Church Sing Along
27 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	28	29 7:00pm Haiti Forum/UH	30 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."

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MARCH 18, 2011