

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



The Annual Meeting of the First Religious Society will be held on May 15, 2011, at 11:30 in Union Hall. All are welcome although only members in good standing may vote. Reminder to Committee Chairs: Please submit your annual report via email to the Church Office at frs@uucarlisle.org no later than May 9th.

WARRANT
Annual Meeting
The First Religious Society in Carlisle, Massachusetts
May 15, 2011

1. Elect a moderator
2. Elect a secretary/clerk
3. Receive the Report of the Minister
4. Receive the Report of the Trustees
5. Receive and Vote on the Budget Proposal for the 2011-2012 year.
6. Receive the (previously submitted) Reports of the Standing Committees of The Society. (Copies available at the meeting).
7. To hear and act on a motion to forgive the annual mortgage payment on the home of the Rev. Eugene R. Widrick.
8. Any other business

Message from Bucky Rogers, Student Minister

As a seminary student, spring is one of my favorite seasons of the year. The boost in energy that I get from warm temperatures comes at just the right time for me to make it to Holy Week and Passover celebrations with my classmates. Last year I attended Ash Wednesday services at the Brighton-Allston Congregational Church and a Seder hosted by the Jewish Student Association. This year I was able to attend Holy Week services at FRS for the first time.

It has taken me a long time to be able to feel comfortable and fully present in Christian and Jewish worship settings. Especially as someone who has a hard time responding spiritually to messages or rituals I disagree with intellectually. When I was growing up in Central Maine, my exposure to Christianity was primarily through the evangelical messages of my classmates. I often found myself nodding and enjoying their sermons about Jesus' goodness and inspiration; but when they got to the part about Christ being the only way to salvation, I did a double-take. Even as a middle-schooler I was enough of a pluralist to not discount the experiences others were having in communing with the divine. Since then I have read both Christian and Jewish authors with liberal approaches to reclaiming the sacred narratives of their traditions from fundamentalists.

Rebecca Parker is one such author, a UU minister and President of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. Parker holds dual ordination in the United Methodist Church and with the UUA. In 2008 she collaborated with Rita Nakashima Brock to write *Saving Paradise*, a book about how Jesus and the early Christian church actually had more of an emphasis on creating heaven on earth than instilling fear through threat of damnation. Parker and Brock trace the roots of many elements of Christian theology, including Resurrection and visions of the apocalypse in Revelations. With each, they manage to find ways in which a message of love and understanding fits alongside or in place of traditional fear-based readings of the text.

Though I do not identify as Christian, I believe that such reclamations are an important part of how religions will learn to co-exist in a globally interconnected world. Authors who find such messages of love and acceptance in the Bible are actively answering the question of how people from different religious backgrounds can live together and cooperate internationally. I know that many people in our congregation were raised in Christian or other religious backgrounds and subsequently left them. Do messages like that in *Saving Paradise* change the way you think about those religions? Are you interested in such projects of reclamation based on your current relationship to those religions? I would be very interested to hear any feedback you may have on these issues!

-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.

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

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.

Minister Emeritus:
Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

Lay Minister:
Sally Hayen

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, May 1: A service of poetry and music. The Music & Worship Committee

Poetry is often an important part of our spiritual lives and personal growth. At times of both joy and hardship we often turn to poetry to express our emotions, or focus our understanding. Hardly a wedding or funeral is complete without a poem shared by all. In this service we explore and celebrate how poetry can be a central part of our spiritual connection with ourselves, and the events and people of our lives. The choir and Nina Benkley will sing.

Sunday, May 8: "A Silken Thread" The Reverend Diane Miller.

A sermon for Mothers Day. If the weather is suitable, we will wrap up the service with a fire drill before Coffee Hour.

Sunday May 15: "Creating Beloved Community" The Reverend Diane Miller.

State of the church message, prior to the Annual Meeting

May 22 "KJV Appreciation Day" The Reverend Diane Miller.

The beauties and the anomalies of the King James translation of the Bible.

May 29 "Flower Ceremony" Bucky Rogers, Student Minister.

Bring a flower. We will meet in the Infinity Garden, weather permitting.

Religious Education

In May, the **K-2** will be doing native American and earth-based religions.

The 3-5 class will continue with their toolbox of faith curriculum.

The **Junior Youth Group** will be studying other UU congregations, including a visit to First Church Boston downtown on May 15.

The **Senior Youth Group** will meet for dinner and games on May 7th at John Redding's house from 7-9pm. SYG members continue to participate in church life in a variety of ways, and will be having a special trip to Boston in May for a UU heritage walking tour. They also continue to meet with First Parish Concord's YRUU group Sunday evening's from 7-9 in Wright Tavern for fellowship.

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

Church landscape clean-up days Wednesdays 4/27, 5/4 and 5/11, 9:00am to 11:00am. Do some spring clean-up in the church landscape. We hope you will join George Bishop and Alison Saylor who will be on hand to suggest areas needing raking or winter debris clearing. If the weather is awful, just do not come. That is why we have three days set aside for this

activity. If necessary we will schedule a Saturday May clean-up day, but we hope to avoid this intrusion to everyone's precious weekend. Gloves are a good idea, and garden tools are optional.

Unemployed or Underemployed? Resuming a career? Stepping down to Retirement? The Tuesday morning "Unemployed and Underemployed" conversation group meets 9-9:45 am in Union Hall, weekly through May. Coffee, tea and muffins are provided. In three meetings thus far we have discussed what work people are seeking, what resources are useful, and the ins and outs of various fields such as education, high technology, business, entrepreneurial start ups, semi-retirement, and the Village concept of mutual support. Drop in, pick up some ideas, and make connections.

An informational session about OWL, May 1. FRS will be offering the Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexual education course this fall for 7-9th graders. Please join us for an informational session about the structure and curriculum of this course on Sunday, May 1st from 7-8pm in Union Hall. OWL has been taught at FRS and churches across the country for over 20 years, and is grounded in a holistic view of sexuality. It provides factual information, and also helps participants to clarify their values and build interpersonal skills. Students who have taken the course, their parents, and experienced teachers will be on hand to answer questions about OWL. For more information please contact Bucky Rogers at youth@uucarlisle.org or call 207-660-1348.

Union Hall Coffeeshouse, May 14, 7:30pm. Doors open 6:30 pm. **An Evening of Sunshine with the Legendary Jonathan Edwards** Tickets \$35; \$30 Seniors 60+ \$15 Students w/I.D. Warm as summer sunshine, real as the truth, intimate as a long overdue visit between old friend: such is a Jonathan Edwards concert. Four decades into a stellar career of uncompromising musical integrity, the man simply delivers, night after night – songs of passion, songs of insight, songs of humor, all rendered in that pure and powerful tenor which, like fine wine, has only grown sweeter with age. BYOB. Go to www.unionhallcoffeeshouse.com for more information.

Unitarian Universalist Rowe Camp and Conference Center, in the Berkshires, is holding its spring work week May 8 through 13. Free room and board in exchange for reasonable work during the day on their projects. Go for part or all of the time. Register at retreat@rowecenter.org or (413) 339-4954 or call Mary Zoll for encouragement at (978) 369-5236.

WomenSpirit Potluck Supper on Friday, May 20th at 7:00pm, offsite. . Bring along a dish to share (appetizer, salad, entree, dessert, beverage). Friends and new women are always welcome! Call or email Sue Kirk for directions. 978-371-0176, sukirk@aol.com

The stars did not align for our May 22 fundraiser for Japan. Watch for further announcements. Our Sunday offering to the UUA-UUSC Japan Fund was taken on Sunday March 27 to provide relief via several of our interfaith partners in Japan.

SPARK Center concert on June 2: Our church will hold its 22nd Annual Chamber Music event on Thursday, June 2, at 7:30 pm. The program will include flute, vocal, viola da gamba and harpsichord music by artists from The First Religious Society and First Church Unitarian in Belmont, MA. The concert is a benefit for the SPARK Center, Pediatric Division at Boston Medical Center. The acronym SPARK means "Supporting Parents and Resilient Kids," and the program serves inner city children and their families who are at risk from HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations may be made at the reception that follows in Union Hall with checks to The First Religious Society (memo SPARK), or cash is good, too. If you are unable to attend but wish to contribute, please mail your check to the church at P.O. Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741. Please come if you can, and bring your friends. It's a busy time of year but the music is fine and combines pleasure with meaningful social action.

WomenSpirit: picnic dinner and band concert on Wednesday, June 22. Family and friends are most welcome. We will be going to Fruitlands Museum to enjoy the beautiful view across the Nashua River Valley as we picnic on the hillside. After dinner, the Concord Band will play a program entitled Down to the Sea. We will leave FRS at 6 p.m. for anyone interested in carpooling. Anyone who wants to drive directly, come find us on the lawn.

Welcome to our new members: New members who have joined the First Religious Society in Carlisle were recognized in our April 17, 2011 Sunday service. They were Matt Aeschliman, Ann Barbour, Kathy Bond and Jennifer Stephens. Signing the book during the service were Pamela Collins, Bruce Hall, Deborah Hamor and Ben Collison.

Housing request:

"Would you like to house a seminarian?! Student minister Bucky Rogers is looking for a place to stay in Carlisle next year in order to be closer to the church community (and save some money in anticipation of student loans coming due). He has no pets, doesn't smoke, keeps reasonable hours, and promises to turn down the volume on his Led Zeppelin albums. If you have space to be able to help him out, please email Bucky (youth@uucarlisle.org)!"

Notes of Appreciation

Thank you for your generous gift for the Haiti Relief effort dated April 16, 2010 in the amount of \$1,000. Please accept my apology for being so tardy in my response. Richard Nelson, Treasurer, Concord Rotary Charitable Endowment Inc.

Thank you once again for your generous support of our mission, in the amount of \$250 and for all you do for the men behind the wall. This is important work, and CPO is so lucky to benefit from your efforts. Carol Peters, Executive Director, Concord Prison Outreach.

Events Around Us

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 Muggsie 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, socioeconomic 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 May 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 .
Membership Committee:	Sue Kirk 978-371-0176, email: sukirk@aol.com
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 – May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	2 7:00pm Environmental Action Com. downstairs	3 9:00-9:45am UH/Coffee & Conversation for unemployed & underemployed 7:00pm Music & Worship upstairs	4 9-11am Church outdoor cleanup 10:30-11:30am COA tap dance class/UH 7-9pm Moseley dance rehrl/UH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9:30am COA Line Dance/UH	7
8 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 7:00-9:00pm Jazz Group rehearsal/UH	9 7:00pm B&G ground floor 7:00-10pm – Savoyards auditions/UH and Sanctuary	10 9:00-9:45am UH:Coffee & Conversation for unemployed & underemployed 7:00-8:30pm – <u>Beyond God the</u> <u>Father</u> book discussion, upstairs 7:00-10pm – Savoyards UH and Sanctuary	11 9-11am Church landscape cleanup 10:30-11:30am COA tap dance class/UH 7-9pm Moseley dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30-7:30pm Carlisle Cultural Council/UH 7:00pm Membership Com/upstairs 7:00-10pm – Savoyards auditions/ Sanctuary	13 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 6:30pm Contra Dance/ UH	14 3:30-5:30pm Bellringers/ Sanctuary 7:30pm Coffeeshouse/UH
15 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 11:30 Annual Church meeting; 7:00-9:00pm Jazz Group rehearsal/UH	16	17 9:00-9:45am UH:Coffee/ Conversation for unemployed & underemployed 9:30-1:30 Luby lunch/UH 7:00pm Parish Com/ upst 7:00pm CCA/ground floor	18 10:30-11:30am COA tap dance class/UH 7-9pm Moseley dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30am COA Luncheon/UH 7:00pm KISS Knitting/offsite	20 8am-3pm Carlisle House Tours 9:30am COA Line Dance UH 7:00pm COA Spring Fling Dance	21 3:30-5:30pm Bellringers/ Sanctuary 6:30pm Organic Potluck/UH
22 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service	23 7-9pm CCI (Mosquito) Annual Meeting/UH	24 9:00-9:45am Coffee/ Conversation for unemployed & underemployed/U H <u>Beyond God the</u> <u>Father</u> book discussion	25 10:30-11:30am COA tap dance class/UH 7-9pm Moseley dance rehearsal/UH 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27 9:30am COA Line Dance UH Wedding Rehearsal	28 2:00PM: Aeschliman/Bond Wedding
29 9:15 Nursery 10:00am Worship Service 7:00-9:00pm Jazz Group rehearsal/UH	30 12: Memorial Day luncheon	31 9:00-9:45am Coffee/ Conversation for unemployed & underemployed/U H				

The First Religious Society
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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

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 MAY 18, 2011