

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES
The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
Volume XXXV No. 2
October 2010



Message from the Minister

Two centuries ago, in 1810, at Town Meeting in April, the citizens of Carlisle voted “to repare the windows in the upper part of the Meetinghouse and also provide weights for the inside Doors and have them fixed against the ensuing winter.” In those days, provision of the church Meetinghouse and support of the Minister were Town functions. And April wasn’t too early to address the needs to winterize the church. But in May, the building was struck by lightening and entirely destroyed.

A little over a week later the community met on the Common and began making plans for rebuilding. As you look at our historic building today, it is interesting to note that it was to be designed “in the Modern form.” Later on it was noted that the building would be “finished in the Tuscan order.” From local lumber and stone, the structure took shape through 1810 and 1811.

To find out more about the Meetinghouse, I stopped by Heald House last Sunday afternoon for the monthly open house of the Carlisle Historical Society. The collection is wonderful to see up close – a tricorne hat worn to the North Bridge in 1775 and Guy Clark’s innovative milking stool were highlights for me. I will return to the collection to find out more about FRS, and will look at papers in Gleason Library and other sources.

During this church year we will have opportunities to describe the building’s construction, the people who created it, and the times in which they lived. If you have knowledge to share, ideas about how to celebrate the bicentennial of the building, or historical items from that era of 1811, please let me know.

Winston Churchill’s comment, “First we shape our buildings, then they shape us,” is apt. Since then the structure has been adapted, expanded, and utilized in ways not imagined by its builders. Yet the vision and the actions of those citizens who determined to rebuild a Meetinghouse has shaped the community and its people and above all the congregation for two centuries.

---Diane

Upcoming Worship Services

October 3 Rev. Diane Miller, “What They Dreamed Be Ours To Do” This year Association Sunday marks the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Unitarian Universalist Association from the merger of two religious traditions. Along with congregations across the country, we will have a special offering to support the future of our faith.

October 10 The Rev. Elizabeth Curtiss, guest preacher. A sermon on Unitarian and Jewish pioneers in Burlington, VT. Elizabeth is coming to the area for a conference of Unitarian Universalist historians and will share her discoveries with us.

October 17 Suzanne Mehler Whiteley, guest speaker. Suzanne is the author of [Appel is Forever: A Child’s Memoir](#) about her experiences as a girl in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. This is a rare experience to hear from a holocaust survivor. Several copies of the memoir circulating at FRS.

October 24 Rev. Diane Miller, “The Long Arc Toward Justice” A Sermon on Theodore Parker’s vision and how it ended up woven onto the floor of the Oval Office.

October 30 Rev. Diane Miller, All Souls Service on Halloween, with reading of names of those we hallow with a ritual of remembrance. Communicate names to be included to the church office.

Message from Bucky Rogers, Student Minister

The first time I drove to Carlisle last December was the morning after a heavy snowstorm- all the trees and fields radiated an up-lifting whiteness. For the first time since living in Massachusetts, I was viscerally reminded of home.

I grew up in Benton, Maine, a town of about two thousand people in the central part of the state, near Waterville. The area as a whole is primarily characterized by old mill towns and struggles economically. The textiles boom of the early twentieth century that brought many poor French-Canadians to our part of the state may have departed, but as a youth I was able to benefit from its vestiges by immersing myself culturally and linguistically in the Franco-American heritage renaissance occurring during my high school years.

This was my first cognizant experience of cross-cultural exchange; it was also where I met my first girlfriend, a French-speaker from a nearby high school. Having thus developed a taste for reaching across cultural boundaries, I decided to study Chinese as a senior in high school, and majored in East Asian Studies at Brown University after having traveled to teach English in Shandong Province. In the “bit off more than I could chew” category, China was where I first got homesick, got ripped off, and learned the importance of properly cooking seafood. I also loved and respected the history and culture there, from the museum of modernist author Lu Xun to the Longmen Grottoes; I hope to return soon.

When I graduated from college, I lived in Turkey for a year, again teaching English, and crossing the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus and the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus off my list of sites of Ancient Wonders visited (I also hit the pyramids on a Model UN trip in school- that's where the Facebook picture of me kissing a camel comes from). I have always been grateful for opportunities to learn and grow wherever they present themselves, and as such I find Carlisle as appealing a locale as I have ever been, so thank-you for having me.

Staff and Office Hours

Church Office Hours: The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 2:00pm. To reach Kathy Varney in 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.

Director of Religious Education: Jenah Blitz-Stoehr will begin in October. You can reach her at dre@uucarlisle.org or 978-857-0432.

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

Parish Committee Notes

On behalf of the FRS Community, the Parish Committee would like to thank Suzanne Whitney Smith for all she has done as a leader and volunteer and very fine person serving on the Parish Committee. Through thick and thin, Suzanne did a marvelous job working to create and maintain a positive, caring and committed community at FRS. We will miss you at our meetings. The Parish Committee is pleased to announce that Michael Dundorf will now serve as the Co-Chair of the Parish Committee. Michael will fill the co-chair role Suzanne has held, working as a team with John Lyons. The next meeting of the Parish Committee will take place on Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00pm.

The Parish Committee voted to extend nursery care on Sunday mornings during choir rehearsal. 9:15-10:00 parents, singers and teachers are welcome to use this additional childcare.

RE Notes

Our Whole Lives (OWL), the outstanding program on sexuality education, will be offered at the Bedford UU church this year. The class will meet 6-9 PM Sunday evenings, beginning October 17th and run for approximately 15 weeks. **Parents of 8th graders who wish to enroll must attend the Parent orientation in Bedford on Sunday, October 3, 7-9 PM to meet the teachers and review the materials.** Attendance at the parent orientation is REQUIRED for your student to participate. The fee is \$120. Bucky Rogers will be the FRS teacher on the team. For the class description and full schedule, contact Rev. Diane Miller or the church office. We plan to offer the OWL course at FRS next year. We have budgeted to send leaders to a weekend training session this church year who will be teachers next fall. Upcoming opportunities for weekend training, in Auburndale, are January 7 to 9 and 21 to 23. Please speak with Diane Miller if you are interested.

Music Notes by Marguerite Shaw

We Could Make Beautiful Music Together: Did you know that singing enhances self-esteem, has been known to benefit cardio-vascular systems and to raise mental acuity? And if that isn't enough it's good for your social and emotional health, too. Sing with the FRS choir. You can find your own comfort level of commitment; a few weeks, special seasons, now and then, whatever suits you. No auditions necessary. On-the-job training is provided. We take walk-ins. Come on Sunday mornings at 9:15 and give it a try, at no obligation. Junior and Senior Youth and adults are welcome.

FRS Programs

Sue Lohrer designed a beautiful color photo postcard to announce our opening church events. On September 1st we mailed the cards to all Carlisle households, and nearby sections of Westford, Acton and Billerica. We hope to send postcards out more than once a year.

PHOTOS? If you have digital photos we might use for publicity or on www.uucarlisle.org, email them to Kathy Varney at frs@uucarlisle.org. We need to have permission from anyone pictured to post the photos. Thank you!

Community Organic and Locally-Grown Potluck: The public is invited to a family potluck supper on Friday, October 1st at 6:00 pm in Union Hall at the First Religious Society located on the corner of School and Church Street. This event is sponsored by the FRS Environmental Action Committee.

- Hear Karen DiFranza of Handstoearth, consultant to Massachusetts schools developing composting and organic gardening programs, talk of the plans for the Carlisle Public Schools.

- Meet like-minded people interested in “Green” environmental issues
- Eat delicious locally grown or organic food made by your friends and neighbors

In order for there to be enough food for all, we ask that each adult bring a dish that serves 8-10 people. Please try to include an organic and/or locally-grown ingredient(s). The Organic Police will not confiscate your dish at the door if it is not totally organic or locally-grown, but please do your best to have at least one ingredient that qualifies. Questions? Contact Leslie Thomas (978) 287-0025.

Union Hall Coffeehouse, Saturday, October 2 at 7:30pm, Christabel and the Jons: “...a smoky, lushly orchestrated affair that mixes Big Band swing with jazz grooves and greasy blues licks, all set in motion by DeCicco's languid, sensual vocals.”-The Daily Times. “Christabel and the Jons is a southern swing band based in east Tennessee that blends familiar standards with contemporary vintage sounding originals and Appalachian mountain music. Lead singer Christa DeCicco steals hearts with her come-hither delivery and charismatic stage performance. Her songwriting is heartfelt and nostalgic, and her distinctive, sultry voice brings it all home. Old suitcases and dressy vintage costumes from the 1920s-1950s give the performance a torch singer, speakeasy feel. CATJ are currently touring in support of their most recent album. Custom Made for You”. “Two females and one bass slappin’ man comprise the old time pickin’ band SHOTGUN PARTY! Fantastic musicians that pull you in with their old time style and damn sexy vocals!” -Smooth and Demented at KAOS Radio “Shotgun Party is a rip-roarin’ country swing/bluegrass trio out of Austin, TX comprised of Jenny Parrott (vocals, guitar), Katy Rose Cox (vocals, fiddle, mandolin) and new addition Andrew Austin-Petersen vocals, upright string bass.” – Ceffmoney. Tickets available online (unionhallcoffeehouse.com), or at the door. Whichever way you choose, reservations are a must for a table. Please call Dian Cuccinello at 978-287-5745.

TSF's Nancy Hendrie and Elephant To Speak at Pot Luck: Dr. Nancy Hendrie, founder and president of The Sharing Foundation (TSF) and Chan Kim Leng, known to all as "Elephant," the in-country director of TSF, will speak following a pot luck supper in Union Hall on Sunday, October 3 at 5:30 p.m. TSF is dedicated to helping the children of Cambodia. Many FRS members are TSF supporters and sponsors of kids in the various TSF projects. Come learn about and get updates on these projects. The orphanage in Roteang Village is the oldest project of the Foundation and now more than 70 children live there. But TSF now serves the village through many other programs. It is also involved in several projects in Phnom Penh. Both Dr. Hendrie, a retired pediatrician who had an office and home on East Street for many years, and Elephant are passionate and interesting speakers when telling the story of TSF. All are welcome at this event. Families are encouraged to come. Please contact the church office for more information.

Walk-to-Church Day 10/10/10: The FRS Environmental Action Committee (EAC) encourages everyone to walk, bike, or carpool to church for the Sunday, Oct. 10 service, to lower their carbon footprint. Our “Walk-to-Church” day is one of over 2500 global “10/10/10 Work Party” events in over 150 countries, organized by 350.org to raise awareness of the climate crisis and to help reduce our atmospheric CO₂ to below the safe level of 350 parts per million (from the current 390 ppm). This will be good exercise and will build community spirit! Please contact the church office for more information.

The Sunday Morning Experience Review Committee (SMERC) survey will close on October 15th. Fill out your survey to be included and have your thoughts known. You can link to the survey by going to the church website, www.uucarlisle.org. Over one third of the congregation has completed the survey, and it would be great to have two thirds represented. You need not be a member to take the survey. Parents can encourage their youth, ages 12 and up, to take the survey.

Harvest Fair Saturday October 16, 10am - 2pm: The Activities Committee seeks Silent Auction donations and suggestions for information tables and vendors to make the Harvest Fair an interesting destination for all ages. Does your favorite Social Action cause need publicity or do you have something to sell? Help is needed with the Luncheon Cafe, signs, bake table, set-up and clean-up. Look for sign up sheets to begin circulating at Coffee hour or contact the church office for more information. Whether you volunteer or not, please at least stop in to the Harvest Fair and enjoy the sights, smells and flavors of the wonderful fall season.

Fall Circle Dinners - Saturday, October 23rd - 7:00pm: Due to popular demand, we will have Circle Dinners on Saturday, October 23rd. Circle Dinners are an opportunity for small groups of our congregation to get together in a planned potluck dinner at one of their homes. These are always fun and a great way to get better acquainted. Rather than starting in Union Hall first, we will go straight to the hosts' home. The hosts will provide the main dish and guests will bring the rest (salad, dessert, or bread/wine). You will be contacted in advance and told where you'll have dinner and what you need to bring. Sign up sheets will be available at Coffee Hour or you can sign up by emailing Kathy Varney at the church office (frs@uucarlisle.org). Hosts are needed so if you can host please indicate how many total you can seat when you sign up. Last day to sign up is Sunday, October 17th. Hope you can join us!

FRS will provide and serve dinner on the fifth Friday, October 29th, at the St. Paul's Feeding Ministry at the Eliot Church in Lowell. Sign up to provide food on the sheets that will be circulating at church beginning October 3rd. The FRS dinner team will depart Friday late afternoon and serve dinner 5-6 pm.

UUA News

(go to UUA.org for more information on these and other articles)

UUA President Meets Dalai Lama: UUA President Rev. Peter Morales recently met with Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama during the 33rd World Congress of International Association for Religious Freedom, held in Kochi, India.

Unitarian Universalist Congregations Work for Immigrant Justice: Three hundred congregations from around the country are partnering with immigrant communities through conversation, service, and advocacy.

Pastoral Concerns

Information available on written copy of newsletter



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: 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 October 21, 2010.
- To receive the weekly email send the church office a note frs@uucarlisle.org



Parish Committee

Parish Committee Co-chair: Michael Dundorf
Parish Committee Co-chair: John Lyons
Parish Committee: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling, Michael Dundorf

Church Treasurers

Mary Hult
John James

Standing Committees

Activities Committee:	Janice Kissinger
Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs:	Ann James Susan Emmons
Environmental Action Committee:	Dan Scholten
Finance Committee:	Tucker Kelly
Music and Worship Committee:	Tom Rourk.
Membership Committee:	Sue Kirk
Pastoral Concerns:	Sally Hayen
Religious Education Committee:	Susan Lohrer
Social Action Committee Co-chairs:	Ellen Huber Max Barber
Union Hall Coffee House:	Dian Cuccinello

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 - October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1 9:30am COA Line Dance UH</p> <p>6:00pm Organic Potluck/UH</p>	<p>2 7:00am Mensgroup</p> <p>7:30pm Union Hall Coffeehouse</p>
<p>3 10:00am Worship Service</p> <p>5:30pm Sharing Foundation Potluck/UH</p>	<p>4 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p> <p>7:00pm Environmental Action Com</p>	<p>5 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p> <p>7:00pm Music &Worship/ upstairs meeting room</p>	<p>6 noon Robbins Brook Luncheon/UH</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p>	<p>8 9:30am COA Line Dance UH</p> <p>6:30pm Contra Dance/ UH</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 10:00am Worship Service</p>	<p>11 7:00pm Buildings and Grounds Com.</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p>	<p>12 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p>	<p>13 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 7:00pm Membership Committee ground floor</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p>	<p>15 9:30am COA Line Dance UH</p> <p>Harvest Fair Set up/UH</p>	<p>16 10:00-2:00pm Harvest Fair</p>
<p>17 10:00am Morning Worship Service with potluck following</p> <p>2:00-5:00pm Savoyards/UH</p> <p>2:15pm Youth Crop Walk</p>	<p>18 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p> <p>7:00pm Year to Live/upstairs meeting room</p>	<p>19 10:00am Year to Live/upstairs meeting room</p> <p>Noon Blanket making/UH</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p> <p>7:00pm Parish Comte</p>	<p>20 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 11:30am COA Luncheon UH</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p> <p>7:00pm KISS Knitting/off site</p>	<p>22 9:30am COA Line Dance UH</p> <p>7:00pm Beekeepers/ UH</p>	<p>23 7:00pm Circle Dinners beginning at hosts' homes</p>
<p>24 10:00am Morning Worship Service</p> <p>2:00pm Savoyards/UH</p>	<p>25 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p>	<p>26 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p>	<p>27 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 6:00-10:00pm Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH</p>	<p>29 9:30am COA Line Dance UH</p>	<p>30 8:00am Womenspirit breakfast/UH</p> <p>3:00-6:00pm Recital/ Sanctuary</p>
<p>31 2:00-5:00pm Savoyards/UH</p>						

The First Religious Society
P.O. Box 817
Carlisle, MA 01741

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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 OCTOBER 21, 2010