

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES  
The First Religious Society in Carlisle  
Unitarian Universalist  
A Welcoming Congregation  
Volume XXXV No. 1  
September 2010



## Message from the Minister

“Upgrades to the Operating System”

My time at Ministry Days meetings, the UUA General Assembly, and Human Rights week at Camp Unistar in June were worth the time and expense of attending in person. I then greatly enjoyed vacation time with family and friends in Minnesota and Missouri.

The quieter time of August is an opportunity to get ready for the busyness of the church year. As Marguerite said the other day, “Once it starts up, it’s like being in a clothes dryer.” The weeks do indeed spin around fast.

Because ministry increasingly relies on technology, I have been striving to have my tools in order. This day, as I write, I have been talking with my new best friends at Verizon, Brad and Quentin, to see what is wrong with signal coverage in Carlisle Center, and to import my address book into my phone, something that had never worked despite several attempts. The key was to upgrade the operating system – though the phone had aged only four months! As long as I was working on my computer, I managed to install a new battery as well. It looked easy on the little instructional video, but nevertheless it wasn’t a breeze. Finally the numbers from the old phone are finally in my new one, and my laptop can run untethered. This is progress, and I feel empowered to have stuck with it until things improved. My new resolution is that I will only add new technology when I have the earlier stuff running in a way that helps, rather than hinders, my life.

I wish it were as easy to upgrade myself in a day. I’m slow to change established pathways of feeling and thought and behavior, something essential to spiritual growth and the health of the soul. I look forward to

## Upcoming Worship Services

**Sunday, September 5, 9:30am:**

Pancake Breakfast and Welcome. A Labor Day weekend time to gather in Union Hall and greet newcomers and old friends. To assist with set up, serving and clean up, please call the minister.

**Sunday, September 12, 10:00am:**

Neighborhood Sunday. “Who Shapes Us?” Rev. Diane Miller. A sermon on covenant, connections, and shaping our lives for the opening of the new church year.

**Sunday, September 19, 10:00am:**

“Prophets and Optimists” Rev. Diane Miller. Jeremiah, Jesus and other prophetic souls.

**Sunday, September 26, 10:00am:**

“To Grow A Soul” Rev. Diane Miller. A sermon on faith development.

**Sunday, October 3, 10:00am:**

Association Sunday.

**Sunday, October 17, 10:00am:**

Suzanne Mehler Whitely will be our pulpit guest. Suzanne’s memoir, Appel is Forever, describes her experiences in the Bergen-Belson Camp.

the weekly events of church life because being part of a congregation, working with people in a setting where we are open to change, learning from each other, trying something new, and taking action to change the world for the better and to help one another – well, these are ways our intergenerational congregation helps us to upgrade our soul operating system, so that we become more deeply and authentically who we truly are.

We are launching the church year with an energetic start. Be here. Upgrade your membership to a deeper involvement! Find ways of living that help, rather than hinder, the best of who you are. See you in church!

**Don't miss our opening weekend:** Saturday, tours and clean up and evening Coffeehouse; Sunday, service, religious education classes, coffee hour and Jacqueline Schwab concert on the Falcone piano.

---Diane

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**Jenah Blitz-Stoehr**, hired as our new Director of Religious Education, has encountered complications due to a cardiac crisis with her mother, for whom she will be providing care in Rhode Island. Jenah's start with us will be delayed until October. In the meantime, the religious education program will be launched with guidance and help from the RE Committee, Student Minister, Minister, and Parents. Specifics will be communicated by email. In the meantime, the Toy Story summer service on August 29<sup>th</sup> and the pancake breakfast on September 5 are for all ages, and will continue as planned. RE classes will begin September 12<sup>th</sup>.

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**Sunday, August 29, 9:30am:** Led by Rev. Diane Miller. "You've Got a Friend in Me --Toy Story Theology" Somehow I had missed all three Toy Story films. Now I've caught up. Seeing the series has prompted me to look into the theological significance of these delightful animated pictures. If you needed an excuse to see Toy Story 1, 2, or 3, consider this service a good reason. If you have no idea what the story is, join us anyway. All ages welcome for this informal service in Union Hall. Bring along a favorite toy and tell us its story!

## 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 will begin in October (see note). You can reach her at dre@uucarlisle.org or (978) 857-0432.

**Student Minister:** Bucky Rogers can be reached by email at bucky64@gmail.com.

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**Minister Emeritus:**  
Dr. Eugene R. Widrick

**Lay Minister:**  
Sally Hayen

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## Intern Minister Update by Bucky Rogers

My unit of clinical pastoral education at Maine Medical Center this summer exceeded all my expectations. I was able to benefit from a diverse group of classmates and co-workers, a supportive supervisor, and a dynamic, challenging hospital environment. My life was touched and changed by so many people's stories this summer I am sure it will take me a long time to absorb the full impact of the experience.

I would like to share with you one of the profound stories I was fortunate enough to hear on a hot day in Portland this June. It involves a young woman in her mid-sixties, on the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. Her religion was listed as "Methodist". As chaplains, our work is to try and help patients articulate their faith and how it can be helpful to them in present times of stress. This patient was revealing the story of her religious past to me and I was wondering how to bring it back around to where she was during her time in the hospital. As I was listening to her, I heard her say that even though she herself was a Methodist, she had been part of a choir at her church that went around every Sunday and actually performed at three different church services each week- that she sang in her own church, and also in a Lutheran service and at a Congregational church. And what's more, these were such small, rural churches none of them could afford their own pastor, so she traveled with a pastor who preached at all three of the churches as well. But I still wasn't getting it; I said "Wow, you must have had quite a close relationship with this pastor"- as in, please tell me there is someone else in your life you can turn to to discuss God with so I can call him in here! But, luckily for me, as a poor struggling chaplaincy student, patients have a tendency to just keep telling their stories until you get the point, whether they realize that is what they are doing or not. So she said "yes, he was quite a pastor. He used to drive around with us, and we would sing at each of the services and he would preach. And you know what? They were the same hymns at each service, and it was the same sermon at each church. And that was how I knew we were all worshiping the same God, because we had different names but we were reaching God in the same way." And I said to her, if that's not a sermon I can preach in a Universalist church some day, then I've never heard one. Three churches, same choir, same sermon. One source of all to which we each offer praise.

I look forward very much to meeting all of you members and friends of FRS and getting a chance to hear and learn from your stories as well!

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## All Church Clean-Up Day and Summer Projects Tour from Buildings and Grounds

**All Church Clean-Up and Open House sponsored by the Buildings and Grounds Committee:** On Saturday, Sept. 11, from 8-noon, the Buildings and Grounds Committee invites you to come and see all the on-going and recently completely projects. Come check-out the renovated and insulated basement area with completely new bathrooms, visit the Infinity Garden and see plans for the Memorial section of the garden, and inspect the completely re-built window in Union Hall. This is also a workday, so come and help trim shrubs, weed or do whatever clean-up job suits your time and energy - or just come and look at the current projects. There will be refreshments too. Hope to see you on the 11th.

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## Music Notes by Marguerite Shaw

**Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.** We hope to see some new faces in the choir loft this year. If you sing in the shower (or not) we'll train you to sing in the choir. We have lots of new music, brought back from the UU Musicians Conference in July. Join us!

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## FRS Programs

**Bill McKibben to Speak on the Climate Crisis:** Climate activist Bill McKibben will talk about his new book "Eaarth" on Sunday, August 29, 2010 at 7:30 pm in Cary Hall, 1605 Mass. Ave., Lexington. Books will be available for sale and signing. Admission is free. For more information about this event, contact the Lexington Global Warming Action

Coalition (LexGWAC) at [www.lexgwac.org](http://www.lexgwac.org). For carpooling, or to sign up for dinner at a local restaurant before the talk, contact Ernie Huber of the FRS Environmental Action Committee (EAC) at 978-369-6678.



**September 11, 2010 from North Carolina: The Holy Ghost Tent Revival** - The overall air of their creation breathes a sense of celebration and salvation; of a raucous party where everyone's welcome and where even the most stoic will find their toes tapping and a smile breaking free. It's as if, in the same spirit as the blues greats that traveled the highways of the American psyche before them, theirs is not music to lament life's hardships but rather to celebrate in life itself; with all its hodgepodge of pleasure and pain.

Characterized as "explosively intoxicating," Greensboro, NC's Holy Ghost Tent Revival cannot be pigeonholed into any popular genre. Melding brass with banjo, guitar, bass, drums, and keys this six-piece ensemble boasts an eclectic mash of instruments and styles -- a musical alchemy all their own.

It is this transcendent energy that continuously propels Holy Ghost Tent Revival to play the heart and soul of a North Carolina-born, genre-defying new groove. With a penchant for crafting thoughtfully playful lyrics and graced with exceptional musical skills, there are seemingly no boundaries for this group as they travel the country spreading the magic of their heart-throbbing, foot-stomping, good-time music.

Stephen Murray plays the banjo and guitar, Matt Martin plays the guitar and banjo, Hank Widmer plays the trombone and euphonium, Patrick Leslie plays the bass, Ross Montsinger plays the drums, Mike O'Malley plays the keys. Tickets \$22.50 and can be purchased at [dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com](mailto:dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com) or by calling 978-287-5745.



**September 12, 2010, 3:00 pm: Ken Burns' Americana Pianist Jacqueline Schwab in Concert** with a Veuve Clicquot and Falcone Chocolate Reception to follow in Union Hall. Concert to be held upstairs on the Falcone Piano, hosted by The First Religious Society and The Union Hall World Music & Dance Coffeehouse in Carlisle - "Jacqueline Schwab brings more feeling and intensity to music than anyone I know. Her playing is insistent, physical, heartfelt... unusually moving" -Ken Burns

"Jacqueline Schwab is one of the most immediately recognizable pianists in America, although very few people actually know who she is." -Scott Alarik, Boston Globe

Meet Jacqueline Schwab, a folk and classical improvisational pianist who plays "gorgeously spare piano" (The Boston Globe) yet "sounds as if she has an orchestra at her fingertips" (Sing Out). Chosen by the renowned Ken Burns for numerous public television documentaries due to the emotional expression in her playing, Jacqueline has performed on the soundtracks for the Grammy award-winning Civil War, the Emmy award-winning Baseball and Mark Twain, among others. She has performed at the White House for President Clinton in 1997 to celebrate Burns' Lewis and Clark series and also at the Smithsonian in 2000 celebrate its exhibition on the Presidency. In May, 2009, she accompanied Scottish singer Jean Redpath, on the Late Show with David Letterman.

Please note: This is not a BYOB event. This special concert is being held upstairs, not in Union Hall. A champagne and Falcone Chocolate Reception will be held in Union Hall, immediately following the performance. Tickets - \$20 and can be purchased at [dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com](mailto:dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com) or by calling 978-287-5745.

**The Parish Committee voted a resolution of thanks** to the volunteers who worked over the summer on the major renovations to the ground level of the church, in the Red Balloon and Sunday School area and the parsonage kitchen. Our deep appreciation and thanks to Building and Grounds co-chairs Ann James and Susan Emmons, and to Bryan Sorrows and Lenny Johnson. These volunteers did much of the work themselves, and in addition, consulted with the contractors from planning through completion. The two phases of this project, undertaken in summers of 2009 and 2010, have made the space safer, structurally sound, more attractive, and energy efficient. ---Diane Miller

**WomenSpirit Potluck Supper - Friday, September 17th - Union Hall:** Our first WomenSpirit gathering of the fall is a Potluck Supper in Union Hall on Friday, September 17th at 7:00pm. Please bring an appetizer, salad, entree or

dessert. Beverages are welcome too. Feel free to bring a friend or someone new. WomenSpirit ladies provide support to each other as we travel our individual spiritual path. We have monthly gatherings which include discussions, activities, and outings. Our annual retreat weekend in January is a highlight of our year. For more information, contact Sue Kirk 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.

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## Our People

Information available on printed newsletter.

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## Outreach

**A note from Concord Prison Outreach:** *Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your very generous gift of \$250. Your contribution will go a long way towards supporting various programs that help inmates develop attitudes and skills that can help them live positive lives as working citizens once they re-enter our communities. We believe rebuilding lives and restoring hope is a truly sacred work. You have given a great gift of love. Sincerely, Karen Ippolito, Corresponding Secretary.*

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## Pastoral Concerns

Information available on printed newsletter.



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## 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.

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## 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 September 23, 2010.
- To receive the weekly email send the church office a note frs@uucarlisle.org



## Parish Committee

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

## Church Treasurers

Mary Hult  
 John James

## Standing Committees

Information available on printed 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.

## 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 - September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance UH	4
5 <b>9:30am</b> Pancake Breakfast	6	7 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH	8 <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal	9 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH  <b>7:00pm</b> Membership Committee ground floor	10 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance UH  <b>6:30pm</b> Contra Dance UH	11 <b>7:00am</b> Mensgroup UH  <b>9:00am-noon</b> all church clean up  <b>7:30pm</b> UH Coffee House
12 <b>10:00am</b> Neighborhood Sunday Worship Service  <b>3:00pm</b> Jacqueline Schwab Piano Concert Sanctuary	13 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH  <b>7:00pm</b> Environmental Action Com.  <b>7:00pm</b> Buildings and Grounds Com.	14 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH	15 <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal  <b>7:00pm</b> Carlisle Board of Health Lyme Disease presentation UH	16 <b>11:30am</b> COA Luncheon UH  <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH  <b>7:30pm</b> KISS Knitting offsite	17 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance UH  <b>7:00pm</b> Womenspirit Potluck UH	18 Parish Committee Retreat Day
19 <b>10:00am</b> Morning Worship Service  <b>7:00pm</b> OWL Parent Orientation UH	20 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH  <b>7:00pm</b> A Year to Live Class upstairs meeting room	21 <b>10:00am</b> A Year to Live Class UH  <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH  <b>7:00pm</b> Parish Committee upstairs mtg rm.	22 <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal	23 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH	24 <b>9:30am</b> COA Line Dance UH	25
26 <b>10:00am</b> Morning Worship Service	27 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH	28 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH	29 <b>7:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal	30 <b>6:00-10:00pm</b> Savoyard Light Opera Co. UH		

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 SEPTEMBER 23, 2010**