

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

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NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXIV No. 8

November 30, 2009



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."

"The nest in the branches"

There is a star magnolia tree on the front lawn of the parsonage. When the leaves fell, the buds of next spring's blossoms became visible. Encased in a fuzzy covering, the compressed blooms will split the casing and open to the sun months from now. The star magnolias are early spring bloomers. They brave late snows and ice in the rush to get on with the show. Sometimes rough weather will knock their white blossoms off, to the ground, but when favorable spring prevails, the blossoms are breathtaking in their beauty. While the frilly blossoms are thrilling, the buds have their own steady beauty throughout the winter.

branches plain, and discover perhaps places where bits and pieces are collected into a shape that cups and launches new life. Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for the life that is within us, and all around us, beyond measure. Our blessings are not only what we love, shape, build, own, grow, give or claim, but the complex richness of life around us, sometimes known by its traces and tracks, telling the story of the season past. Even as buds hold their suspenseful watch.

- Diane Miller

The bareness this fall revealed also a nest, high in the branches. Unbeknownst to me, it had been there all summer. It is an ordinary bird nest made of twigs and grasses. It likely harbored eggs, then hatchlings, then fledglings, who have now gone to a winter haven.

We are not trees, of course, yet it is good for the soul to shed our protective covering from time to time, that we may see the

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
'Tis the season to be jolly.
Don't forget the Greens Sale
This Saturday, 10:00am—2:00pm
In Union Hall.



Newsletter for November 30, 2009

Regular Church Services and Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
Church Office: 978-369-5180; Fax no. 978-369-1891, www.uucarlisle.org, frs@uucarlisle.org
Church Mailing Address: PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817
Minister: Diane Miller (study) 978-369-0284, cell: 617-851-8222, minister@uucarlisle.org
Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180
Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217, dre@uucarlisle.org
Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-369-3674; music@uucarlisle.org

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick
Student Minister: Linda Simmons
Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922; Suzanne_w-s@comcast.net
Parish Committee Co-Chair: John Lyons, 978-369-1216, johnalyons@comcast.net
Collector of Funds: Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; cdavis@modavi.com
Lay Minister: Sally Hayen, 978-369-7591
Membership Contact: Sue Kirk, 978-371-0176
Coffee Committee Co-Charis: Anne and Richard Ketchen; anneketchen@comcast.net
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745, dian@unionhallcoffeehouse.com

UPCOMING SERVICES

December 6, 10:00AM: “An Ancient Greek Hymn and Its Call to Forgiveness.” Linda Simmons, student minister. Linda will be preaching about the sacred act of waiting that advent recalls us to. She will also be reflecting on the holidays and how they call us to forgiveness and gratefulness. You won’t want to miss our student minister’s first sermon. It promises to be uplifting and inspiring. There will be a child dedication of Roland Plante during the worship service.

December 13, 10:00AM: “Late Arrivals, Welcome!” Diane Miller. The legends of Jesus’ birth, the biblical stories, were added late to the gospels. They are welcome additions, for they add a great deal to the accounts of his life and its message to the world. Another look at the First Christmas.

December 20, 10:00AM: Celebrate the season with the Christmas Pageant! Pageant preparation activities begin November 29 in the RE classes. We have several weeks dedicated to learning the story and songs in different ways for the younger and older children. All are welcome to join us for the pageant season! Please contact Molly Sorrows with any questions.

December 27, 10:00AM: “Waffles and Wisdom” in Union Hall.

Christmas Eve Services, Thursday, December 24, 2009

3:00 PM A family-friendly service designed to be inclusive of all ages, with a participatory pageant based on the Christmas tale, “Room for a Little One” by Martin Waddell. This shorter service lasts no more than 45 minutes, and welcomes the sounds and activity of babies and young children.

5:00PM An extended prelude of instrumental music followed by traditional lessons and carols telling the Christmas story. The service will end in time for the congregation to join the town wide Christmas Caroling on the Common.

11:00PM A Candlelight service of lessons and carols. Special music by Laura and Michael Prichard, Carlisle residents. Laura is Music Director at the UU Congregation in Arlington, MA. This service is especially geared to young adults. Rev. Miller would like the names of young adults to invite to participate as readers.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 1	7:00pm	Music & Worship upstairs meeting room
Wednesday, December 2	7:00pm	Religious Education Committee., ground floor meeting room
Friday, December 4	5:00pm	Greens Sale pre-order pick up in Union Hall
Saturday, December 5	10:00am	Greens Sale
	5:00pm	OWL in Union Hall
Sunday, December 6	7:00pm	Winter Holidays Concert
Monday, December 7	7:00pm	Environmental Action Committee in ground floor meeting room
Tuesday, December 8		Carlisle Town Tree Lighting
	7:30pm	Knitting upstairs meeting room
Wednesday, December 9	10:00am	COA Wreath Making Union Hall
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 10	7:00pm	Membership Committee upstairs mtg room
Sunday, December 13	10:00am	Pageant Rehearsal and stocking stuffing
	6:00pm	OWL in Union Hall
	6:00pm	Senior Youth
	7:00pm	Womenspirit in upstairs meeting room
Monday, December 14	7:00pm	Buildings and Grounds, upstairs mtg room
	7:00pm	One Year to Live in Union Hall
Tuesday, December 15	10:00am	One Year to Live in Union Hall
Wednesday, December 16	7:00pm	Carlisle Climate Action ground floor mtg rm
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 17	11:00pm	COA Luncheon in Union Hall
	7:00pm	Parish Committee ground floor mtg room
Sunday, December 20	10:00am	Christmas Pageant during morning worship service

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 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, by cell phone 617-851-8222, or email minister@uucarlisle.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@uucarlisle.org) or phone (church, 978-369-5180; home, 978-371-2217).

Minister of Music: Marguerite A. Shaw can be reached at the church 9:00am-2:00pm daily or by phone at 978-369-3674, or email: music@uucarlisle.org.

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.

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.

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 Andi Gettys at 978-369-2392, a_gettys1@comcast.net for December.

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES is a bi-weekly 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 remaining newsletter deadline for the bi-weekly newsletter is December 7. Our monthly newsletter will begin with a deadline of Thursday, December 17 covering all items for the month of January, 2010.

To receive the weekly email send the church office a note frs@uucarlisle.org

HOLIDAYS GREENS SALE



There is still opportunity to help out at the Greens Sale. There are still workshops to participate in. Call Janice Kissinger at 978-369-8968 if you have questions.

Wednesday, December 2, Greens Arrangements Workshop All Day in Union Hall

Thursday, December 3, Wreath Decorating Workshop All Day in Union Hall

Friday, December 4, Set up and price items for Greens Sale 8:00am in Union Hall.

Friday, December 4, Pre-order pick up at 5:00pm in Union Hall

Saturday, December 5, Greens Sale
10:00am to 2:00pm in Union Hall



WINTER HOLIDAYS CONCERT

December 6, 2009

7:00pm

In the Sanctuary

Join us in celebrating
Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa.

carols • choir • instruments



FRS PROGRAMS

FRS Recycles: You can find the recycling center in a handsome cabinet along the corridor near the restrooms. Pull out the cabinet doors and you will find bins designated for glass, plastic, cans and cardboard. Two bins for paper recycling will be in Union Hall. We encourage you to use the composting bin outside the back door on the ground floor. Thank you to Environmental Action Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee for implementing our recycling program.

Winter Holidays Concert by Roger Goulet, Music & Worship Committee: Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 PM is our Winter Holidays Concert, when the choir, the handbell ringers, special musicians and everyone in the church celebrates Christmas and the other holidays in December. The whole town comes to hear our musicians, and the church is always packed. It's the unofficial start of the holiday season in Carlisle for many people. Your mom always said, "Food is love," and she was right. We can show our love for our musicians and those who come to hear them by offering a hearty spread of sweet and savory goodies at the reception afterward. The Music and Worship Committee will take the lead, and some choir members will contribute as well, but the latter are "on" for most of the day except for an afternoon hiatus before their rehearsal, so they deserve a break. The point is, let's all pitch in -- those of us who will attend the concert and who can contribute a small plate of something tasty for "our Neighbours and Fellow Creatures." Even if you cannot attend because of other commitments, your donation of food for the reception is greatly appreciated. Drop it off in Union Hall by 6:20 PM at the latest so you can be sure to get a good seat upstairs. No kidding. This is FRS. This is big!

Church Photo Directories: If you haven't received your copy of the new FRS Photo Directory, please contact Kathy in the church office to pick up one or ask for one to be mailed to you. We only have enough for one per family. Thank you!

Christmas Day Dinner: Join us for Christmas Day Dinner at 4:00pm in Union Hall. We will have potluck turkey dinner. We will take reservations until December 12. Call or email the church office (978-369-5180 frs@uucarlisle.org) or sign up at coffee hour.

Monthly Newsletter Begins

Our monthly newsletter will begin with a new format and a deadline of Thursday, December 17 covering all items for the month of January, 2010.

SOCIAL ACTION AT FRS

Join us for Caroling at the Bedford VA! Margaret Darling will be leading Christmas carols at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Bedford on Tuesday, December 15 at 10:30am. We'd like to get together an enthusiastic group of FRSers to join in the fun! We'll meet at FRS at 10:00 and carpool. Song sheets will be provided - just bring your voice and your smile! Contact Margaret at 978-369-1475 or margaretdarling@mac.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Holiday Stockings for the House of Hope, December 13: It is an annual tradition of the Social Action Committee and Religious Education Program to stuff stockings for the residents of the House of Hope in Lowell. The project coordinators purchase handmade stockings from Cambodia and small items for both parents and children in each family. We ask that, if possible, families donate \$10 for their child to stuff a stocking for this project. Additional donations will be welcome also.



Christmas pageant preparations are underway. Come one, come all to celebrate the season with this lively pageant! This Sunday, December 6, costumes will be fitted from 9am to 11:30am. Children will get costumes during RE classes. The Pageant Rehearsal and Pageant Presentation is Sunday, December 20! Rehearsal begins at 8:30 (with staggered arrivals for little children) for a run-through, and the pageant will be the major part of the 10:00am worship service.

Cambodian Gingerbread House by senior high youth group on display at Habitat Global Village in Chelmsford

Visit the gingerbread house display at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 10 Billerica Road (Rte. 129), Chelmsford on Saturday, Dec. 5, 10am – 4pm or Sunday, Dec. 6, noon – 6pm. Suggested admission \$5/family; raffle tickets, homemade soup, bread and cookies available. This is a great fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell. Many of the gingerbread houses, like ours, will represent countries that Habitat works in. Habitat has built or renovated over 350 homes in Cambodia, with an average cost for Habitat of \$3000 per house. Watch for the upcoming feature article in the Mosquito.

