

# INSIDE

## ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

*NEWS FROM THE SOUL OF SUNDAY*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2008

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### Today's Events

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#### **Mitten Tree Sunday**

Today, during the worship service, in the Sanctuary

Please place donations of new gloves and hats for adult guests of our Friday Night Supper Program on the mitten tree. Thank You!

#### **Coffee Hour**

Immediately following the service in the Parish Hall

Gather with Arlington Street Church's congregation in this lively and social environment. To find the Parish Hall, head downstairs at the rear of the sanctuary. All are welcome.

#### **Holiday Gift Sale**

Today, during Coffee Hour, in the Parish Hall

After service today, Arlington Street Church member Ema Alsina will be selling her own handmade art-glass jewelry for the Holidays. Ema will have a variety of necklaces and bracelets available for purchase.

Longtime Arlington Street Church member Steve Anable will be signing copies of his mystery, *The Fisher Boy*. This summer novel makes a perfect holiday gift. Marilyn Stasio of *The New York Times* said: "Like Provincetown itself, *The Fisher Boy* is gay and gaudy—and way over the top... Anable has given his earnest sleuth a genuine sense of wonder at the beauty of the Cape and a rare ability to hold serious conversations with sad, wounded people. His is a voice worth hearing again."

#### **Christmas Eve Candle Preparation**

Today, immediately following the service, in the Stage Right Room

We are looking for volunteers to help assemble the Christmas Eve candles and holders. Eager workers should speak to one of the ushers!

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### Children's Religious Education

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All children are welcome to join Erick DuPree, religious educator, in exploring what that star was all about, in the light of O'Henry's Gift of the Magi. The children will leave for class following the Mitten Tree celebration.



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## Music at Arlington Street Church

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### Rodger Vine

#### Christmas Music

Today, 12:30 PM, in the Hunnewell Chapel

Arlington Street's Artist in Residence, Rodger Vine, presents a brief piano concert of Christmas music, immediately followed by our second Annual Carol Sing!

#### Second Annual Carol Sing!

Today, 1:00 PM, in the Hunnewell Chapel

Donations to Arlington Street Church Gratefully Accepted

Join Arlington Street's musicians for our second annual old-fashioned Christmas carol sing! Mark David Buckles, Director of Music, and the Arlington Street Choir will lead us in seasonal favorites, from *Jingle Bells* to *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*. Hot chocolate, tea, cookies, and fruit to follow!

#### First Night Organ Recital

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 PM, in the Sanctuary

Admission by First Night button (\$18.00)

The American Guild of Organists, Rodger Vine, and Arlington Street Church present a New Year's Eve organ recital! Three organists, Brink Bush, G. Fredrick Guzasky, and Lois Toepfner, will share in the program, playing 20 minutes each. The concert showcases Arlington Street Church's 1957 Aeolian-Skinner organ, housed in a magnificent case original to the E. and G.G. Hook organ of 1861; the Hook case pipes still provide the organ's foundation sound.

This will be the 33<sup>rd</sup> First Night Boston. Founded in 1976, First Night was started by artists who sought an alternative to traditional New Year's Eve revelry. First Night has gone from attracting about 25,000 people to drawing crowds of over one million people.

To buy First Night buttons online, visit [www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org).

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## Worship at Arlington Street Church

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### Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:00 AM, in the Sanctuary

'Twas the Week Before Christmas! Come join us for some new stories of the season, some old favorites, and lots of carol singing!

### Christmas Eve! Services at 5:00, 7:00, and 9:00 PM

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, in the Sanctuary

Silent night, holy night... Our choir sings in the holiday at the 5:00 pm family service, followed by a traditional Wassail party (this service is perfect for children, but all are welcome at all three services!). At 7:00 and 9:00 pm, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus incarnates as choir boys! Candlelighting is a highlight of all three services (candles are provided) Please come and bring your loved ones to share in this magical evening.

## Coming Up...

### Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- 9:30 AM Choir Warm-Up - Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Social Action Committee - Archives Room
- 11:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
- 12:30 PM Christmas Candle Preparation - Stage Right Room
- 12:30 PM Christmas Music Concert - Hunnewell Chapel
- 12:30 PM Jubilee Committee - Archives Room
- 1:00 PM Carol Sing - Hunnewell Chapel

### Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

No congregation related events at this time

### Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- 6:00 PM Prudential Committee - Perkins Room

### Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- 3:30 PM \*Staff Meeting - Perkins Room
- 6:00 PM Kundalini Yoga - Hunnewell Chapel
- 6:00 PM Talking Our Walk - Perkins Room

### Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Clarke Room
- 7:00 PM Sacred Eros

### Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- 5:00 PM Friday Night Supper Program - Parish Hall and Kitchen

### Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

No congregation related events at this time

### Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

- 9:30 AM Choir Warm-Up - Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
- 12:30 PM Santuario Task Force - Stage Right Room

\* This program is currently closed. Check *Inside* for the next open meeting.

**NOTE:** This calendar is accurate as of noon the Wednesday before publication and only includes events directly related to the congregation. For complete, up-to-date calendar listings over the coming months, visit [www.ASCBoston.org](http://www.ASCBoston.org).

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## Congregational Announcements.

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### Only A Child Announces Author Visit—Books On Sale

Sundays, December 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, during coffee hour, in the Parish Hall

Only A Child is excited to announce that on Sunday, March 29th, author Francisco Goldman will be at Arlington Street Church to join us in a discussion of his best-selling book, *The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?* The New York Times named the book one of one hundred Notable Books of 2007. Copies of The book will be available for only \$5.00 (half price), during Coffee Hour on Sundays December 14th and 21st. A grant from Jubilee, Arlington Street Church's work in the world, has made it possible to sell the book at a low cost. Give yourself a present and/or buy copies for friends!

The book gives an accurate feel for the violence-laden community in which Only A Child operates, and reinforces the urgency to help homeless youth move off the streets and into stable environments. George Leger, the founder of Only A Child urges all to read this compelling book. Please help to spread the word about this opportunity to speak with Mr. Goldman about human rights in Central America.

## **Plastic Bags for Bethel**

Today, at the Social Action Table

We supported Bethel's Thanksgiving food pantry with donations and food. What they need for the December pantry is plastic bags. It would really help if the bags were doubled, then folded, but please bring plastic bags in any case to the Social Action Table.

## **Sacred Eros Group**

### **Holiday Pot Luck**

Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, in the Perkins Room

Sacred Eros is a discussion group focused on spirituality and sexuality. Come and bring some pot luck goodies to share, whether this is your first time or you've become a regular. Desmond's chai is reason enough to pop in for a visit! All are welcome.

## **Women's Spirituality Group, info session**

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 12:15 PM

We're forming a Women's Spirituality Group at Arlington Street Church. Our first meeting will be an informational session to determine the group's purpose, meeting dates/times, and to brainstorm and gather ideas for topics to explore together in the next six months. Come and contemplate the spiritual side of life as well as gain opportunities to connect with others. If you are interested in the group but can't make the meeting, please contact Susan Thomas by email at [SThomas@ASCBoston.org](mailto:SThomas@ASCBoston.org) or by phone at ext. 13.

## **Tool Time: Rebuilding New Orleans**

Winter break is a great clean-up time, especially in the basement and tool shed. Do you really need ten screw drivers or five hammers? Or that never used power tool? Are you planning to make a holiday donation? Why not consider cleaning up some of those old tools you never use, or pick up a few new ones, and donate them to help rebuild the lower ninth ward in New Orleans? Lowernine.org was started by the spouse of a Unitarian Universalist minister who has dedicated his time to rebuilding the lower ninth ward. One trailer left the Boston area for New Orleans at the end of November, and another will leave just after the first of the year. Our hope is to fill them to the brim with new and used tools.

Are you toolless? Haven't got a hammer to spare? Don't fret, Lowernine.org accepts gift cards from Lowes and Home Depot. If you have a large tool we can arrange pick up, or bring your tools to the Parish Hall before or after service, or hand them off to an usher. We will arrange to get them to the tool trailer. For more information or to arrange a pickup of your tools, please e-mail [NewOrleans@ascboston.org](mailto:NewOrleans@ascboston.org). Many thanks from the Partner Church Coordinating Committee.

## **Take the Membership Survey online!**

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and experiences as part of the Arlington Street Church community. This survey has been developed by our Membership Task Force and is a part of Arlington Street Church's ongoing effort to enrich the spiritual journey of members and guests alike.

This brief survey is posted on our Web site at: [ASCBoston.org/About Us/A Welcoming Congregation](http://ASCBoston.org/AboutUs/AWelcomingCongregation). By taking part in this survey, you will help inform our plans for enhancing membership at Arlington Street Church.

## **We Need You!**

### **Christmas Eve Ushers**

It's that time of year again. We need a great welcoming crew for Christmas Eve! So, those of you who are so inclined, please come help usher for the 5:00 PM family service, or the 7:00 PM or 9:00 PM community services. We need you to show up 45 minutes before each service begins.

If you wish to sign up, please sign the clipboard during the service, or see one of the ushers here today.

### **Wassail Party Volunteers Needed!**

Each year between the 5:00 PM family service and the 7:00 community service on Christmas Eve, Arlington Street Church hosts a Wassail Party for members, friends, and guests. We need a few volunteers to help organize, host, and clean-up for this year's party. If interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Thomas at (617) 536-7050, ext. 13 or [sthas@ascboston.org](mailto:sthas@ascboston.org). Susan will be at the Welcome Table after church with a sign-up sheet.

### **Holiday Shopping Tip**

You can support the homeless youngsters who live in Only A Child's shelter without writing a check, and you can do your holiday shopping at the same time! Amazon.com will give 4% of all your purchases to Only A Child. Simply go to [www.onlyachild.org](http://www.onlyachild.org). and click on Help Us. Then scroll almost to the bottom of the page, click on Shop at Amazon.com. and in the blink of an eye you will be at Amazon's home page. By doing this you will be assisting Only A Child which maintains a group home and a carpentry shop for street youth in Guatemala City, offering them a place where they are respected and cared for and a place where they can grow and develop an identity complete with confidence and self-esteem. Jubilee, Arlington Street Church's work in the world, proudly supports Only A Child!

### **Thank You for Your Thoughts and Prayers**

The family of Corey Spence, administrative assistant, thanks one and all for their thoughts and prayers at the death of his grandmother Rosella Spence. He is grateful to work for such an amazing and thoughtful congregation.

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## **Other Announcements**

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### **Parking at Arlington Street Church**

On Sunday mornings discount parking is available at the Back Bay Garage now at the rate of \$5 for the first three hours. Regular weekend rates apply thereafter. Back Bay Garage is accessible on Clarendon between Boylston and St. James streets. Present your parking ticket to an usher or at the Welcome Table during coffee hour to obtain the discount sticker.

**Please note:** Parking spaces in the alley are rented to private, non-Arlington Street Church members Monday through Saturday until 6:00 PM. **Spaces #1 and #2 are for our senior minister and business administrator and must be kept available at all times.** Violators will be towed at the owner's expense without warning.



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## **Friday Night Supper Program, Inc** **Help your homeless and hungry neighbors!**

The Friday Night Supper Program has been serving meals to over 150 disadvantaged people every Friday evening, never missing a single week, serving on holidays and through snow, storms, and power outages for almost 25 years. Here are two important ways in which you can support the Friday Night Supper Program:

### **SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAGS**

Each December, during our holiday meal, we distribute a holiday bag to our guests consisting of the following:

1. Warm item of clothing – men’s hat, gloves, or scarf
2. Toiletries - shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste
3. Pair of men’s socks
4. Holiday candy

You can support this annual tradition by donating warm clothing and toiletries. You can also create a holiday bag with the above items which we will give to a guest on your behalf. This year our holiday meal is on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information e-mail Caroline Carwood at [info@fridaynightsupper.org](mailto:info@fridaynightsupper.org).

### **SPONSOR A MEAL**

In the past year the Friday Night Supper Program has seen the cost for a weekly meal go up thirty percent from \$900 to \$1,200. You can sponsor a meal by donating funds to assist with costs or by donating bulk food items. You can also sponsor and cook an entire meal; or sponsor soup and dessert for one meal and volunteer during dinner service.

#### **Suggestion Box**

The staff and leadership of Arlington Street Church welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions. If you have a thought to share about what works well or what could be improved, please send a message to [Comments@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Comments@ASCBoston.org) or leave a note in the suggestion box outside the Church Office. Your message will be received by the Church’s administrative assistant so it can find its way to the appropriate people. Please speak your “truths in love” and include your name and contact information so we can follow-up. Thanks! For emergencies, please see “**Our Caring Community**” to the right.

#### **Inside Submission Guidelines**

Please deliver all Sunday announcements before Tuesday at noon by e-mail to [inside@ASCBoston.org](mailto:inside@ASCBoston.org). Announcements will not be accepted by telephone. Materials must be legible, signed, and fully composed and may be edited, as space is limited. Please note that we only publish submissions related to Arlington Street events or the wider Unitarian Universalist community.

#### **Scheduling Events at Arlington Street Church**

All issues dealing with building usage for both congregational usage and rentals, must be coordinated by Jeffrey Bouchard, facilities manager. Jeffrey is able to help you Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. He can be reached by phone at 617-536-7050 ext. 14 or by e-mail at [JBouchard@ASCBoston.org](mailto:JBouchard@ASCBoston.org).

#### **Our Caring Community**

In the event of a disruption or major transition in the life of an Arlington Street member, please inform the church office. Our staff and ministers, will be in touch to lend support.

#### **Security Note**

This is an urban church. Please do not leave your valuables unattended! Also, please be attentive when exiting the church into the alley. When walking in the alley avoid being alone, carry a cell phone, walk in the center of the road, and pay attention!

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