

Looking Forward

From Kim K. Crawford Harvie, Senior Minister

Dear Friends,

The beautiful June days at Arlington Street are full of wonderful offerings. Please see the calendar on the next page and plan to be with us!

While our associate minister, Carol Strecker, and I are on vacation, this summer's worship will be ably conducted by guest ministers and lay leaders, many of whom are in the process of training for the ordained Unitarian Universalist ministry. The "line up" of summer speakers can be found in the worship highlights. Enjoy!

While Jamie and Jessye are away at summer camp, Kem and I will be backpacking in both the Grand Canyon and the Grand Tetons (we went with a grand theme!). In-between, we hope to spend some family time on the Cape as well as in New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, and Maine (where Carol and Mary will put down summer roots).

Looking ahead to the fall, in addition to the highlights of our liturgical calendar — **Homecoming and Water Communion** (don't forget to pick up some water on your summertime wanderings and bring it to the church on September 8th!), **Blessing of the Animals** (September 29th), **Day of the Dead** (October 27th), and **Thanksgiving Sunday** (November 24th) — I have invited three luminaries to join me in our high pulpit. On September 15th, my friend and teacher, **Sylvia Boorstein**, will speak from her new book, *Pay Attention, for Goodness' Sake*. On October 6th, "our" rabbi, **Howard Berman**, will join me in a consideration of "wrestling with the angel." And on November 3rd, **Valora Washington**, visionary leader of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, will be with us! I can't wait!

For now, for the summer, this meditation from Thoreau:

Only that day dawns to which we are awake.
There is more day to dawn.
The sun is but a morning star.

Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim K. Crawford Harvie, senior minister

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER VISITORS!

For those of you who are visiting Arlington Street for the first time, and for those of you who have come to see the transformation of the sanctuary since last summer, a heartfelt welcome! Formally rededicated on October 28th, 2001, this sacred place has been our pride and joy, as well as our refuge — our sanctuary, in the largest sense of the word — in the difficult days since last September; in the days filled with celebration; and on all the days we have joined hearts and minds and hands here to affirm the mission of our congregation: gathered in love and service for justice and peace.

We're glad you've come! Make yourself at home.

Faithfully Yours,
Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie
Senior Minister of Arlington Street Church

ASC's COMING OF AGE GROUP

Congratulations to:

Ashley Shaw, Angela Trowbridge, Jamie Crawford, Cleo Bezis, & Maya Ranvig and their mentors: Maria Cristina Vlasidis, Marjorie Matty, Virginia Phillips, Darrick Jackson, & Jeni Martin on the completion of the "Coming of Age" program. Thanks for sharing your journeys with us!

There will be no Children's Religious Education programming this summer. The program will resume on Homecoming Sunday. Have a playful summer. We'll see you in the fall.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN adapted from Ina Hughes

We pray for the children
who give us sticky kisses,
who hop rocks and chase butterflies,
who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants,
who sneak Popsicles before supper
who erase holes in math books,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those
who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
who've never squeaked across the floor in new sneakers,
who've never "counted potatoes,"
who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children
who bring us fistfuls of dandelions and sing off-key,
who have goldfish funerals, build card-table forts,
who slurp their cereal on purpose,
who get gum in their hair,
who spit toothpaste all over the sink,
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.

And we pray for those
who never get dessert,
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who can't find any bread to steal,
who don't have any rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
whose monsters are real.

We pray for children
who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
who like ghost stories,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
who never rinse out the tub,
who get quarters from the tooth fairy,
who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and
whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those
whose nightmares come in the daytime,
who will eat anything,
who have never seen a dentist,
who aren't spoiled by anybody,
who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children
who want to be carried
and for those who must,
for those we never give up on,
and for those who don't get a second chance,
for those we smother
and for those who will grab the hand of anybody
kind enough to offer.

! e m o c i e w e

A SKETCH OF REV. EZRA STILES GANNETT, MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL STREET CHURCH (NOW ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH) FROM 1824-1871.

In 1854, Anthony Burns, an escaped slave from Virginia, and then living as a free citizen of Boston, was arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law. The law mandated that runaway slaves be returned to their owners, even if they were caught in states where slavery was illegal, such as Massachusetts. In Boston courts and meetinghouses the legality and morality of “owning” a human being had been debated with such pitched emotion that it led to violence. Burns’ trial and his forced return to Virginia served as the turning point for those Bostonians who had reservations about challenging states’ rights.

Rev. Gannett was such a man. The successor of William Ellery Channing, Gannett was known as a kind, peaceful, and mild-mannered minister. He abhorred slavery, but believed it was sinful on a level of personal morality. In the pulpit, he resisted public controversies and urged his parishioners to obey the law, including the Fugitive Slave Law. He felt, in fact, that it was “his duty to turn away from his door a fugitive slave, unfed, unaided in any way, rather than set at naught the law of the land.”

When pressed to take a stand by abolitionists, including many leading Unitarians of the day, Gannett consistently advocated the constitutional protection of states’ rights. Gannett’s fear was of the growing potential for civil war, which he believed would be a greater threat to the soul of the nation than slavery. He was so concerned by the civil turmoil surrounding the trial of Anthony Burns that he is reported to have said, “What is one man against the preservation of the Union? What good is going to come of all this excitement?” His views appeased the powerful, outspoken members of his congregation, especially George Ticknor Curtis. Curtis, a U.S. Commissioner, was responsible for enforcing the Fugitive Slave Law.

It was during the bitter trial of Anthony Burns, however, that Gannett’s conscience met its maker. Gannett’s sense of personal morality became so deeply offended by the humiliations suffered by Burns that



As this photograph illustrates, Arlington Street Church was the first public building in the Back Bay. Completed in 1861, Gannett served as minister from 1824-1871.

A MILD-MANNERED MAN’S CONVINCEMENT: THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT MUST BE RESISTED!

he began to question his long-held public convictions. The emotionally wrenching turning point for Gannett came when he learned that Burns, manacled and chained, and surrounded by hundreds of Federal officers, had been led through the streets of Boston to a transport ship in the harbor. Gannett asked of a friend, “is it true that he has been surrendered?” When confirmed, Gannett sobbed, “O God, forgive this guilty nation! What will become of us?” (W.C. Gannett, *Ezra Stiles Gannett*, 288-290).

And later, when asked by his daughter what he would now do if a fugitive slave came to him asking for help, Gannett admitted his conversion, “I have thought of that. I should shelter him and aid him to go further on to Canada, and then I should go and give myself up to prison, and insist on being made a prisoner, [and] accept no release. For I have decided what to do as an individual against the government, and therefore I would abide the result.” (290).

Some weeks later, Gannett’s tortured sense of private morality had also overcome his public reserve. In a sermon delivered at the Federal Street Church, “Relation of the North to Slavery,” his conviction was made abundantly clear. He urged his listeners to seek the abolition of slavery everywhere and to seek passage in Massachusetts of the Personal Liberty Law, which would prevent such tragedies as Anthony Burns’ from recurring. Further, if the citizenry were to be forced into taking action against their consciences, as had been the case in Boston, then Gannett claimed the union of states was not worth preserving, not if that meant obeying immoral human laws over those of God’s.

Although Federal Slave Law Commissioner Curtis could not have been glad to hear these words from Gannett in 1854, we must wonder about Curtis’ moral condition, as well. In 1857, Curtis served as one of the defense attorneys for former slave Dred Scott. Curtis argued before the U.S. Supreme Court that Scott was a free citizen by rights of having lived for a time in Illinois, an anti-slavery state.



The work of architect Arthur Gillman, this photograph shows Arlington Street Church in the late 1860’s as Boston’s Back Bay was beginning to grow.

References:

Albert J. Von Frank, *The Trials of Anthony Burns: Freedom and Slavery in Emerson’s Boston* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998).

W.C. Gannett, *Ezra Stiles Gannett: Unitarian Minister in Boston, 1824-1871* (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1875).

SUMMER AT ASC

Summer Events

AIDS Walk Sunday

Sunday, June 2nd, 11:00 AM

All “early” walkers (including the church school) are invited to join Kim for a ready-set-go “commissioning service” in the chapel at 9:30 AM. During the 11:00 AM service, there will be a 12’ x 12’ square panel of the AIDS quilt and a special altar to those lost to the epidemic. ¡Presente! This is also our opportunity to say fare well and thank you to our ministerial intern, Amber Beland. Afterwards, everyone is invited to join in a shortened version of the Walk, and to meet the early gang on the Esplanade.

Pride!

Saturday, June 8th, 11:00 AM

Join us for our annual pre-parade worship service at 11:00 AM. This year’s theme is “Memory and Hope.” Spectacular new decorations for our “new” sanctuary have been donated by John Prendergast and Richard Avola, and the service is going to be beautiful! All are welcome.

Walden!

Sunday, June 9th, 10:00 AM

Join us for our second annual field trip to Henry David Thoreau’s favorite pond! You may drive yourself to Concord, or reserve a place on the school bus, which we will meet in front of the church at 10:00 AM. Bring a lunch and a bathing suit (or an umbrella—we’ll go rain or shine!). The bus will leave the pond at 1:30 PM & be back by 2:00 PM. For those who choose to remain in the city, Carol Strecker and Rodger Vine will lead a worship service with Walden readings and music.

Closing Sunday

Sunday, June 16th, 11:00 AM

Happy Father’s Day! This is the final worship service (and final new member joining ceremony!) of the regular church year. Our annual meeting will follow, sweetened up with our annual Ice Cream Social, and an opportunity to say thank you to everyone from the congregation who has given volunteer service this year! Don’t miss it!

Summer Worship

All services will be held at 11:00 AM in ASC’s sanctuary. Call the office with questions.

June 23rd - **Rev. George Whitehouse**, is ASC’s Minister-at-Large.

June 30th - **Adam Sutton**, is a member of ASC’s Worship Committee.

July 7th - **Kay Montgomery** is the Executive Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

July 14th - **Marta Valentin** is a ministerial candidate for the UUA; her sermon is titled, “Being Our Future Now.”

July 21st - **Paul Fisher**, his sermon is titled, “The Point of It.” He offers a personal reflection on the “interdependent web of all existence,” and the hazards and wonders of the astronomical, geological, botanical, and zoological world.

July 28th - **Sarah Duncan**, is a ministerial candidate for the UUA; her sermon is “Tiger Cubs,” a reflection on conflict with feeling, but without blaming or fault-finding.

August 4th - **Darrick Jackson and South End Playback “Watch.”** Darrick is co-chair of the ASC Worship Committee and will offer an opportunity to experience the spiritual healing properties of theatre through Playback.

August 11th - **Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris**, a UU minister of Religious Education and is Director for Congregational Services for the Unitarian Universalist Association.

August 18th - **Maria Cristina Vlassidis**. Maria Cristina is a member of the Arlington Street Church and serves as co-chair of the Worship Committee.

August 25th - **Rev. Carol E. Strecker** is the Associate Minister of the Arlington Street Church.

September 1st - **Rob Cuddi**. Rob is a seasoned educator, with a focus on Critical and Creative Thinking/Education for the Gift and Talented. He spent three years in a Franciscan monastery and worked in missions in Africa and Haiti.

Mark Your Calendars

Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 8th, 11:00 AM

An Evening with Cheryl Richardson

Tuesday, September 10th

The Arlington Street Church is proud to be the presenting sponsor of an exciting spiritual development event for the GLBT community, advocates, and friends this fall. Richardson, considered one of the top lifestyle coaches in the country, is the New York Times #1 bestselling author of “Take Time for Your Life,” “Life Makeovers” and most recently “Stand Up for Your Life.” She also hosts her own television show on the Oxygen cable network, and has been seen regularly on the Oprah Winfrey Show. For more information, see Bruce Kohl, or contact him at bostonspirit@hotmail.com or 617-524-7568.

ASC Info

Arlington Street Church
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(617) 536-7050; fax (617) 536-7051
E-mail: bphippis@ascboston.com
Web: www.ascboston.org

Note: ASC will be switching internet service providers and our new web address will become ascboston.org. This change should be in effect by September 1st.

Gathered in love and service for justice and peace. We are a progressive congregation with a historic tradition. Unitarian Universalism affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. All are welcome.

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, Senior Min.
Rev. Carol E. Strecker, Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. Gene Navias, Assoc. Min. Emeritus
Eliza Blanchard, Ministerial Intern (2002-2003)

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Summer Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 AM

CHURCH INFORMATION

The Church Office is open during the Summer Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For information on worship and weekly calendar listings, call (617) 536-7050, ext. 27, or visit www.ascboston.org

“the window” STAFF

Donnie Baker, Darren Carlton, Miguel Felipe, Beckey Phipps, Shawn Newton, and Brian Souza



WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE

- ✦ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ✦ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- ✦ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ✦ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ✦ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ✦ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ✦ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

THE LIVING TRADITION WHICH WE SHARE DRAWS FROM MANY SOURCES:

- ✦ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ✦ Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- ✦ Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ✦ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- ✦ Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- ✦ Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES & PURPOSES

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Arlington Street Church
Unitarian Universalist
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