



ARLINGTON  
STREET CHURCH  
Unitarian Universalist

# the. window

SUMMER 2003 - VOLUME II, NUMBER 4

## Sweet Summer

**Kim K. Crawford Harvie**  
**Senior Minister**

Dear Friends,

The long, cold winter is loosening its grip, giving way to a memorably refulgent (albeit rainy and cold) spring. The blossoming magnolias outside my office window were spectacular – poignantly so, as this is to be their last at this Boylston Street address (they will need to be relocated to accommodate the T's renovation plans). Indeed, there are changes afoot from stem to stern at Arlington Street, as we say farewell to our associate minister, Carol Strecker, as she begins her new ministry in Kennebunk, Maine; to our ministerial intern, Eliza Blanchard, as she returns to Harvard Divinity School for her final year of study there; to our administrative assistant, Beckey Phipps, as she goes to work as administrator of the UU church in Melrose; and to our bookkeeper Elaine Crandall, as she makes a gesture towards retirement! In addition, our administrator, Shawn Newton, will step down to half time, as he begins his study for the ministry. With hearts full of gratitude, we wish them godspeed.

As I write, many excellent candidates to fill these gaping vacancies have stepped forward, and our all-star search committee is on the job! I join you in looking forward to welcoming our new staff in September. Meanwhile, the church office will remain open throughout the summer, and, as you will read elsewhere in *the window*, weekly Sunday worship promises to be an uplifting and deepening experience. Enjoy!

Growing up, I was told that even God goes to the coast of Maine in summer (always provoking a lively debate; everyone agreed on the fact of the vacation, but not on the destination!). I won't be on the Maine coast, but between visits to Jamie and Jessye at summer camp (in Vermont and New Hampshire, respectively), Kem and I hope to spend some time on the Cape, where I plan to do a lot of reading and reflecting, in preparation for the new church year. For the first two weeks in August, we've accepted a very generous gift from friends: a trip to California! We plan to backpack in the Sierras, and then enjoy the hospitality of our beloved Sylvia and Seymour Boorstein. Sylvia is the co-founder of Spirit Rock Meditation Center; our idea of a great time in California is to sit (meditate) at Spirit Rock, as well as at the Berkeley and San Francisco Zen Centers. Yes, we have learned better than to send postcards saying *Wish you were here!*

In celebration of Ralph Waldo Emerson's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, I offer you the opening lines of his *Song of Nature*, as a blessing for your summer:

Mine are the night and morning,  
The pits of air, the gulf of space,  
The sportive sun, the gibbous moon,  
The innumerable days.

May your summer be long and sweet.

Faithfully yours, with love,

Kim K. Crawford Harvie, Senior Minister

p.s. Please don't forget to bring some water from your summertime wanderings to Homecoming Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, for our annual Water Communion! *See you in church!*

Refreshment

## Good-Bye

**Eliza Blanchard**  
**Student Minister**

As a teacher, I found my students and I were all too ready for summer when June rolled around. Good-byes were hasty affairs, lost in the shuffle of proms, graduations, finals and grades. In my personal life, good-byes were often cursory or non-existent. Only when I began this journey toward ministry did I learn the power of a good good-bye. And this congregation deserves nothing less.

A good farewell includes several things. First, it means telling people what you gained from getting to know them. I don't have room enough in this newsletter to do this properly, but I can summarize. This congregation has given me a place to learn. Learning means trying things, like designing intergenerational services and sermon topics, reading a budget and leading a religious education class, and feeling it was okay to risk mistakes. Learning means asking stupid questions and listening instead of doing. I've learned by watching many of you take on roles of learning, of fearless questioning, of leadership, and of growing yourselves in unexpected and exciting directions. Sharing in the journeys as you as a congregation master a new model of governance and thrive in doing so has been a high point of my year. This congregation is full of talent and the desire to live out its beliefs: watching how you empower one another to do so has been very fulfilling.

This congregation can be proud of serving as a teaching congregation. You have warmly welcomed me into your community knowing that my tenure would be brief. I've enjoyed your individual openness, as well as the freedom you've given me to take part in all aspects of congregational life. To be this open takes guts and the faith that relationships can transcend time and space. Your generosity, courage and faith have inspired me. Your feedback has helped form my ministry. Your affirmations have helped me discern where my gifts and the world's needs meet.

Second, a solid good-bye tells people what they mean to you. You mean the world to me: no one else could have given me what you have given, a place to learn and to grow. I will never forget you. (I've reached the age where I may misplace some names, but I will remember you!)

Finally, farewell means saying those dreaded words: good-bye! I don't want to, but it is time for me to return to school, to finish what I started, to sit before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and find out if I will be ordained to do this work. Good-bye to you all. I wish you all the best. I will miss you.

# LISTEN TO THE WATERS CALLING US LIKE RIVERS

## The Story of the Water Service

Eliza Blanchard, student minister

In September many of our UU societies, fellowships and churches celebrate the opening of the church year at a service called variously “Ingathering,” “Water Service,” or “Water Communion.” In many cases, people bring a small container of water collected from a special place during the summer’s travels or collected closer to home. Pouring it into a common vessel, they share their inner or outer journeys. Its popularity stems from the way these stories can connect people after a summer’s separation.

Most of us don’t realize that this service originated with angry women. Carolyn McDade and Lucile Shuck Longview were asked to create a ritual for the Women and Religion Convention at East Lansing, Michigan, in 1980. As McDade, social activist and songwriter, recalls, “It was a strong service, about community taking power... (about creating a) political and liberating theology.” Longview remembers that Rosemary Matson, who had been attending global women’s conferences, asked them to create a service for the convention. “It all began with Carolyn singing ‘Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child,’ in my living room” she said in an interview, a song which was included in that first service.

Both women have had interesting spiritual journeys. Longview became a UU after World War II, when she and her husband moved to Minnesota. She had two small children and became active in religious education, so active that “the car knew where to go!” She later initiated the Women and Religion Resolution of 1977 which, she says, “resolved that Unitarian Universalists and congregations examine themselves and remove sexist language and assumptions” from their literature and bylaws. After several years of intense dialogue and hard work, this resolution led to the version of the Principles and Sources we currently use.

McDade and Longview shared a vision of justice for both women and for the environment that made working together easy: at Lucile’s house, they spent many rewarding hours brainstorming and writing the service. Everything they produced held up nature and community. McDade believes that this ritual “broke the long silence of laywomen. The creation of a sacred space for and by women happened with a circle and a simple bowl.” She believes that the power of the Water Service lies in the “cleansing, healing and sharing power of water and the narrative that is used in ceremonies around the world.”

This “celebration of connectedness,” as McDade calls it, empowered women instead of calling them to serve others. The water symbolized the birth waters, the cycles of moon, tides and women, and all the waters of this small blue planet. Each woman attending the convention was invited to bring a container of water with her: McDade

recalls that “It was very moving, the women bringing water from places of spiritual importance.”

This ceremony was also designed to demonstrate solidarity with women globally. “Around the world women are the traditional ‘drawers’ and ‘carriers’ of water: for households and animal use, for agriculture, for sanitation. It takes an enormous amount of time, and it is a strenuous physical burden.” (*Sacred Dimensions of Women’s Experience*, p. 131). At the end of the original service, participants were invited to take the mingled waters home with them, representing the power of community joined together.

When asked her opinion of what the service has become, McDade says that she “laments that it has lost its liberative edge, calling us to accountability and deep purpose.” She does acknowledge that “it’s for the gathered to put meaning to,” and she’s glad that the service is “creative and responsive to the group that’s doing it.” Longview is glad that “it’s brought the genders together in worship.” She is hopeful that “we’re moving toward a common, global theology, one that’s moving us into greater harmony with the earth, the natural world.”

Twenty-three years after its creation, Longview and McDade’s ritual speaks to a deepening awareness of our solidarity with brothers and sisters globally who lack of the most basic and precious of resources. It also speaks eloquently of our interdependence. In recognition and gratitude for this important resource, some congregations boil the collected waters and save them for use in child dedications, recalling the original service where Lucile Longview saw a mother touch her baby’s head with the gathered water.

This summer members and friends of the Arlington Street Church might like to think about our fall homecoming, with its water service. We invite you to bring some water with you on September 7<sup>th</sup>, the first service of the regular church year. Choose from a source reflective of an inner or an outer journey. (Most people find a film container perfect for collecting this souvenir of time away.) The following words by Rev. Kok Heung McNaughton capture the spirit of this service well:

I am but a drop of water.  
Alone, I would disappear,  
Dried up by the scorching sun  
Or sucked up by the dry, thirsty earth.  
But together we can wear out stones,  
Carve out the Grand Canyon,  
Make streams and rivers,  
And find our way to the sea.

## Volunteer for General Assembly at Arlington Street Church or the Hynes Convention Center!

Want to meet some interesting people, and help ASC, just by being your friendly, open UU self? General Assembly, held in Boston for the first time in decades, will be welcoming an estimated 10,000 UUs to the city. So this is your chance to welcome the world to your church – and show off the sanctuary restoration you made possible!

We have volunteer possibilities here at the church and at our booth at the Hynes Convention Center, throughout GA, which runs from Thursday, June 26 through Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Look for sign-up sheets at coffee hour, or contact Phyllis Rickter (781-643-7575 or rickter@rcn.com) or Steve Anable (781-233-0013 or sanable@brandeis.edu) for info.

### Volunteers at the ASC Booth at the Convention Center

We need two people in our booth at the Hynes at the following times:

Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>: 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Volunteers at ASC

#### Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

ASC Hospitality Center: Greeters Needed, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

#### Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

ASC Hospitality Center: Greeters Needed, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

#### Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

ASC Hospitality Center: Greeters Needed, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

#### Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

ASC Hospitality Center: Greeters Needed, 12:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Minns Lecture: Greeters Needed, 6:00 PM

#### Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>

ASC Hospitality Center: Greeters Needed, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Channing Ordination Service: Ushers Needed, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

# SUMMER AT ASC

## Upcoming Events

### Pride!

Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM

Join us for our annual pre-parade worship service at 11:00 AM. Be sure to attend this unique annual celebration to help kick-off Boston Pride weekend. All are welcome.

### Closing Sunday

Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM

Happy Father's Day! This is the final worship service 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!

### UUA General Assembly

June 26<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>

Join thousands of UUs at the Hynes Convention Center for our denomination's annual conference. See the UUA's website for registration information ([www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)).

## Summer Worship

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

### June 22<sup>nd</sup> – “What Do UUs Believe, Anyway?”

SARAH DUNCAN is in training to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. She has volunteered with homeless people and abuse survivors.

### June 29<sup>th</sup> – UUA General Assembly.

There will be no worship at Arlington Street Church, but everyone is welcome to join us for the Service of the Living Tradition at the Fleet Center. This is an opportunity to worship with thousands of Unitarian Universalists from throughout North America.

### July 6<sup>th</sup> – “Cultivating Grains of Wheat”

DARRICK JACKSON is student at Andover Newton Theological School aspiring to Unitarian Universalist ministry. He has been a member of Arlington Street Church for five years.

## Summer Worship (cont.)

### July 13<sup>th</sup> – “Discernment”

ROGER PELTIER is the Massachusetts Bay District Administrator for the Unitarian Universalist Association and is a second year Master of Divinity student at Andover Newton Theology School. The guest soloist for this Sunday is Janette Lallier, a dramatic soprano.

### July 20<sup>th</sup> – Title TBA

ELIZA BLANCHARD is a Master of Divinity student at Harvard Divinity School and served as ASC's ministerial intern during this past year.

### July 27<sup>th</sup> – “There is no Alien Sorrow”

MARSHALL HAWKINS is a chaplain at Beacon Hospice in Charlestown. He will be jointly ordained to the ministry by ASC and First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist, on October 26 at the JP church.

### August 3<sup>rd</sup> – “In the Meantime”

SHAWN NEWTON, a member of the staff of ASC since 1997, will begin his studies for the UU ministry at Harvard Divinity School later this summer.

### August 10<sup>th</sup> – “Living Tradition”

LISA KEMPER is a student at Andover Newton Theological School. She will start her second year in the fall and is interested finding ways of integrating worship and art of all genres.

### August 17<sup>th</sup> – “Gifts from the Sea”

A birthright Unitarian Universalist, GENE NAVIAS was ordained in 1951 and has served congregations as a parish minister, and the Unitarian Universalist Association's Religious Education Department as a traveling RE consultant and Director. After retiring from the UUA in 1993, he was ASC's Associate Minister for six years.

### August 24<sup>th</sup> – “Getting What We *Need* and not What We Think We *Want*: *Embracing the imperfect journey*”

ADAM SUTTON is a motivational speaker, career coach, performer and a longtime lay minister and member of the ASC congregation who joins us again this summer. Adam will be preaching in an innovative open-dialogue format about the rocky road of life and how we almost always end up getting just what we *need* and very rarely get what we think we want. *Please note that the G-word will be used unapologetically.*

### August 31<sup>st</sup> – “The Search for Perfection”

MARJORIE MATTY is a second year seminary student at Andover Newton Theological School with aspirations of becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister. She is the co-chair of the ASC worship committee and works in the Office of International Relations at the UUA

## Mark Your Calendars

### Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM

Join us for the official start of our church year as we celebrate the gathering of the entire Arlington Street Church community. In addition to the return of the ministers, the choir, and a large part of the congregation, we'll be welcoming the new members of our staff who will have joined us over the summer. For this intergenerational service, we will once again celebrate Water Communion. This homecoming ritual invites all of us to bring a small container of water drawn during summer travels, near or far.

### Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM

### Day of the Dead

Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM

## ASC Info

Arlington Street Church  
351 Boylston Street, Boston MA 02116-3399  
(617) 536-7050 – fax (617) 536-7051  
E-mail: [office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:office@ASCBoston.org)  
“the window”: [window@ASCBoston.org](mailto>window@ASCBoston.org)  
Web: [www.ASCBoston.org](http://www.ASCBoston.org)

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 Minister  
Rev. Carol E. Strecker, Associate Minister  
Rev. Dr. Gene Navias, Associate Minister Emeritus

#### 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](http://www.ASCBoston.org)

#### “the window” STAFF

Becky Phipps and Shawn Newton, editors  
Miguel Felipe, layout



# What We Believe

## A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES & PURPOSES

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.



the. window  
Arlington Street Church's  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Summer 2003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Arlington Street Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
351 Boylston St.  
Boston, MA 02116-3399



Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit No 18615