
the WINDOW

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

March - May 2004, Vol. 3, No. 3

A Single Match

REV. KIM K. CRAWFORD HARVIE, SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Last summer, friends flew Kem and me to California for two weeks, where we went backpacking in the Sierras. Months before, as we planned the trip, fire was raging in Southern California. I was haunted, in particular, by a news story about a man who put his family to sleep one night, only to be awakened before dawn and told that he had five minutes to grab his two toddlers, get out, and run. What would you take if you only had five minutes?

In fact it was not a single

fire, but seven major fires that burned in four counties, ruining nearly 750,000 acres, causing 2 billion dollars in damages, destroying more than 3,300 homes, and taking 20 lives. 13,000 firefighters battled valiantly for two solid weeks, but it was only finally contained when the temperature dropped, the Santa Ana winds abated, and the cooling rain began to fall – Mother Nature said, *Enough!*

And it all started from a single match.

Obviously, it had taken a few years for the conditions to be just “right” for devastation. Journalist Aryeh Markman writes that the Bark Beetle “had killed thousands of trees that, even though they had remained standing, were nothing more than gigantic Roman Candles in wait. The rains had not come for five months, and the dry, hot Santa Ana winds were blowing in from the Mojave Desert.”

A single match.

I am reminded of that match again, watching the recent storms of the upcoming presidential elec-

tion, and, here in Massachusetts, walking in the storm surrounding the right of same sex couples to enjoy the legal protections of civil marriage. I know that I am not alone in a deep conviction that there is a lot of deadwood in this country, ripe for a conflagration of people on fire with a passion for justice and mercy; people on fire with the spirit of the world we dream: a world at peace. And I know that, when the conditions are right, nothing can stop the fire.

Unitarian Universalism teaches that each one of us contains a spark of divinity. Our calling is to breathe on that spark, bringing forth a mighty flame. I am reminded of my friend and spiritual teacher, Sylvia Boorstein, exhorting her students to practice as though our hair were on fire.

Any one of us could be the single match. *Why not?! ⊕*

Faithfully yours, with love,

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,
Senior Minister



ARLINGTON
STREET CHURCH
Unitarian Universalist

Getting the Lead out of Leadership

A Report from Prudential Committee and the Church Council

Greetings from the Prudential Committee and the Church Council!

We've had a busy and exciting year thus far, and expect to continue our work this spring.

Just a quick review of who we are and what we do:

The Prudential Committee's (Pru's) members are elected by the congregation, and are charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the church, including membership, finances, long-range planning, and program offerings. It is also responsible for leading efforts to call, hire and manage ministerial and administrative staff.

The Council is a group of congregational leaders representing the various committees and groups of ASC. Chaired by a member of the Pru, the Council fosters communication and assists in the coordination of numerous activities. While the Council mainly focuses on program offerings and how they interconnect, it also supports the Pru in implementing goals around membership, long-range planning, and deepening connections.

Besides the regular financial and operational responsibilities, the Pru has been busy on a variety of **Human Resource** activities:

- Working with ASC staff to implement a new staffing model
- Participating in the new senior staff advisory committee
- Launching the Associate Clergy Position Assessment Task Force (ACPA)

The Council and the Pru have worked together on long term

Membership Development:

- Convened the Membership Summit that has already changed how we welcome newcomers, has gotten us to think about how to retain members more effectively, and has given rise to the new Membership Committee.
- Initiated exploration of benefits of membership with the goal of building and sustaining membership contributions.

The Council and the Pru have collaborated on a number of **Program** issues, including:

- Discussions about how to more effectively connect the Children's Religious Education with "upstairs" Sunday worship
- Long range planning
- Building security

An ongoing priority is communication with each of you, through a variety ways: written notices such as this, presentations from the pulpit, formal presentations at Corporation Meetings, and spontaneous informal conversations at coffee hour.

Listed in the next column are the members of your ASC leadership: we are eager to hear from you, and would love to see you at our upcoming events! ☺

Prudential Committee

Sam Goldfarb
Polly Latham *
Vincent Licenziato
Peter Lowber
Ray Moore
Sarah Richards, Chair *#
Arthur Shirk
Brian Souza, Vice-chair *

Church Officers

Nancy Moore, Moderator
Herbert Gleason, Vice Moderator
Brian Reardon, Treasurer
Carol Smith, Clerk

Church Council

Chris Curtiss (Social Action)
Paul Dakin (Covenant Campaign, Long Range Planning, Communication Committee)
Sarah Duncan (Worship)
Wendy Ellertson (Children's Religious Education)
Margy Herley (Music, UUA Affairs)
Lisa Howe (Building) #
Vincent Licenziato (Prudential Committee, Council Chair)
Mark MacDonnell (Finance)
Abby McDonald (Young Adults, Adult Religious Education)
Sheila Murphy (Membership)
Mickey Randazza (Hospitality, Adult Religious Education)
Liz Shaw (Children's Religious Education)
Jim Vogel (Building)

* Serves on Senior Staff Advisory Committee
Serves on ACPA task force
Go to ASCBoston.org and click on "The Governance of ASC" for more details.

Mini Financial Update

Total Pledges To Covenant 2003-2004: **\$212,867**

Payments Received Through February 1st, 2004: **\$110,925** (52.2%)

Total Operating Income Through February 1st, 2004: **\$306,542**

Total Operating Expenses Through February 1st, 2004: **\$307,220**

Reflections on our Spiritual Diversity

Rabbi Howard A. Berman, Associate Clergy/Rabbi-in-Residence

As I reflect on my first season here at Arlington Street Church, my overwhelming impressions focus on the incredibly rich spiritual diversity of this community. What makes ASC rather unique is that within this single congregation we encompass the entire range of contemporary liberal religious options! Among us – often in a dizzying array of combinations and configurations – are Christians, Jews, and Buddhists... Goddess worshippers, Pagans and Wiccans... followers of Earth-centered spiritualities, Yoga practitioners and New Age seekers... and all of the possible variations from convinced Theists, to ardent rationalist Humanists. The fact that we can all come together, from so many different backgrounds and personal journeys, is a small miracle in itself... and a testimony to the broad embrace and the unconventional, often quirky vision of this place!

Yet, the more I come to know and understand ASC, the more aware I am of the challenges of co-existence in the midst of this diversity. Many people find their way to this community after long struggles and negative experiences in other religious

settings. The personal pain of rejection and alienation that drove many people from their faith of origin, makes some among us uncomfortable with conventional religious language. Words such as *God*, or *prayer* or even *church*, are laden with negative images and associations of

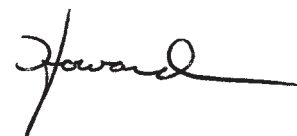
Wherever our journeys take us and whatever our commitments, we need humility and tolerance... *always* ‘speaking our truths (and disagreements) in love!’

oppression or superstition that many people have worked hard to liberate themselves from.

It seems to me that the challenge we face together is how seriously we take the principles expressed in the *Affirmation of the Sources of Unitarian Universalism*. Our denomination proclaims that it embraces and seeks inspiration from all of the historical traditions and spiritual paths of humanity’s religious

quest. An authentic, vigorously liberal faith both empowers and frees us to ground ourselves in a particular position, and then to explore all of the wonderful sources of beauty and truth offered to us by other beliefs. If we are to share this adventure together, if we are to grow and serve together in this rich spiritual community, we all need a sense of *imagination* and *creativity*... we need to embrace the possibilities of *metaphor* in language – and *ambiguity* in interpretation... and not let others – particularly fundamentalists or bigots – define ideas or language for us – relinquishing our claim to truth and traditions that may well have great personal potential for us!

Most important, wherever our journeys take us and whatever our commitments, we need *humility* and *tolerance* to respect our differences; remaining open in mind and heart to the possibilities of broader vision and deeper understanding; and always – *always* – “speaking our truths (and disagreements) *in love!*” ⊕



ASC's 275th Anniversary: *Celebrating our Heritage – Envisioning our Future!*

FROM THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Since the last issue of THE WINDOW, when we first announced the preliminary plans for 2004's milestone Anniversary Celebration, exciting plans have been unfolding that promise to make this historic commemoration a major focus of the congregation's life.

A diverse and multi-talented committee has been meeting to develop a broad based series of events representing the energy and commitment of both long-time ASC "pillars" and newer members of our family: Sherene Aram, Tori Bell, Jonathan Erenwoth, Joan Goodwin, Dan Hardenbergh, Mary Ann Hardenbergh, Holly Hendricks, Della Lawhon, Sheila Murphy, Don Rickter, Phyllis Rickter, Mark Watanabe, and Gaby Whitehouse with Rabbi Berman as coordinator.

While this stellar assemblage is already at work, we are eager to involve more people in this creative and challenging process. A broad range of programs, activities, community events, and celebrations are being envisioned. A broad range of programs, activities, community events and celebrations are being planned, to take place over the coming year, from later this Spring through early 2005.

Educational Programs

(Under the auspices of the Arlington Street Center)

- Adult Education courses that will

explore the history and values of Arlington Street Church.

- A series of special programs and projects for children and families, under the auspices of our CRE Program, to enable them to participate in the celebrations and to understand their heritage as members of ASC.
- A Sermon Series over the course of the Spring and Fall, focusing on various themes related to ASC history, particularly the major spiritual and ethical commitments that have been at the core of this church's identity.
- A new format for our weekly "ASC Heritage Reflection" at the Sunday Worship, that will include quotations from a broad variety of ASC leaders and vignettes of historical episodes and personalities.
- A series of major public lectures, with prominent guest speakers, on topics of popular interest, that would highlight appropriate themes: the current state of liberalism in America; the challenges facing American religion in the 21st century; and the diverse religious influences in the shaping of Boston's culture.
- A Public Forum, featuring an interfaith panel of clergy, jointly sponsored by the churches and synagogues of Boston, on the theme "Soul and the City: The Mission and Future of Urban Ministry in Boston."
- The publication of a popular history of ASC, and possibly, the production of a video program. These resources would also be incorporated into our website.
- The creation of an "ASC History Walking Tour," which would be offered a number of times in the coming year, highlighting the church's link to Boston history and culture.
- A series of exhibitions, drawing on our archives, that could be displayed both at ASC, as well as public venues.
- A Musical Series, particularly a "Choral Festival" with invited choirs from various congregations.

Commemorative Events

- We will apply for an official City Proclamation, with the honorary naming of Arlington Street, from Boylston to Newbury, as "Channing Way".
- A Major "Weekend of Celebration and Rededication", to be held on November 20th and 21st 2004, (the actual founding date was November 16th, 1729) which would commemorate the culmination of ASC's 275th Anniversary. The weekend will include a Gala Benefit, a chance for all of us to join in a major "birthday party" on Saturday night. On the following morning, the Anniversary Service would be a major public event, with state, city and religious officials as invited guests. This service would feature specially commissioned music; the honoring of our oldest/longest time and youngest/newest members; and a specially designed liturgy, incorporating elements of historic worship and new readings. Following the service, the entire congregation would join together in a procession across the street to the Channing Memorial, for the rededication of the monument.

As you can see, the plans are ambitious! However, we are confident that we can make them happen, and hope many more ASC members and friends will come forward to offer their professional and artistic talents and creative ideas to help us achieve this vision. It will be fun... a great way to be a part of ASC at its best... and a memorable opportunity to share the love, energy and commitment of this congregation with the broader community!

Happy Birthday to ASC! ☺

Children's Religious Education

A REPORT FROM THE CRE COMMITTEE

As we move into the spring term of our Children's Religious Education Program, we want to report on the activities of the past few months, as well as highlight some recent developments.

The past few months have been very busy. While our program remains small and intimate in numbers, with a range of 10-25 children of all ages in attendance on any given Sunday morning, there is a wonderful spirit of caring and community in our little "one room schoolhouse." Our CRE Committee Chairs/Teachers Wendy Ellertson and Liz Shaw, Coordinator Darrick Jackson, and Teacher aides Emily Parodi and Emily Deickmann are supported by volunteer parents in leading the sessions and providing a variety of creative experiences for our kids.

We continue to base our program on the "Spirit Play" curriculum, which builds on the *Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism*, creating interactive experiences that interpret each principle as a *promise* to live by ethical and spiritual values. Among the themes of the lessons are respect for all people, fair and kind treatment of others, acceptance of differences, and exploring what is true and

right in our lives. Each *promise* theme is introduced by stories that reflect these values, drawn both from current children's literature and various spiritual traditions.

A major priority that will focus on for the coming months is the continuing revitalization of an active CRE Committee of parents and church members committed to religious education. We are very happy about the enthusiasm of those who have recently joined us! There are a variety of tasks that are essential to the running of the program, and a small Sunday School such as ours must rely on the commitment and contributions of

time and energy of each of our families. Upcoming meetings will be held on Sundays, March 7th, April 4th, and May 2nd at 12:30 PM.

It is our sincere hope to continue to move forward in ASC's commitment to providing a meaningful, nurturing environment and learning experience for our children, providing them with a foundation for spiritual and ethical growth. We can only achieve this through the shared commitment and participation of every parent. Please feel free to contact Wendy Ellertson, Liz Shaw or Rabbi Berman, to share your ideas and willingness to help! ⊕



Worship Highlights

March 7th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie and Rabbi Dr. Howard A. Berman

Kim and Howard will preach on *The Language of Reverence*, followed by a Spiritual Passions workshop led by Carmen Griggs and Diana Miller on the same topic. We hope to be honored with a very special guest musician – a surprise!

March 14th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Referendum - musical guest

March 21st, 2004

Preaching

Rabbi Dr. Howard A. Berman

Music

The Beatitudes, Arvo Pärt

March 28th, 2004: Covenant Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

A Tent of Peace, Elaine Broad

April 4th, 2004

Preaching

Rabbi Dr. Howard A. Berman

Music

Various trad. Spring Carols

April 11th, 2004: Easter Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

A variety of selections from our Choir and the Arlington Street Chamber Players

A celebration of the re-awakened Earth, and a ceremony of welcome for our newest members.

April 18th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Happy is the Man that Findeth Wisdom, J. Frederick Bridge

April 25th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Arlington Street Chamber Players

May 2nd, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie and Rabbi Dr. Howard A. Berman

Music

Verleih uns Frieden, Mendelssohn
Stephanie McGuire, conductor

May 9th, 2004: Mother's Day and Coming of Age Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie and Rabbi Dr. Howard A. Berman

Music

Strike Up Your Instruments of Joy, John Edmunds (arranger)

Kim and Howard will be joined in the pulpit by our *Coming of Age* students, marking their passage into young adulthood.

May 16th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Sicut cervus, Palestrina

May 23rd, 2004: Choir Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Arlington Street Chamber Players

May 30th, 2004

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

The ASC Choir creates an uplifting celebration of spirit with a variety of gospel and spiritual selections performed with Tim Harbold and a small instrumental ensemble!



music@ASC

The Music@ASC Concert Series – Events for Spring, 2004
Visit ASCBoston.org/music/series.html for the latest details

Referendum A Vocal-Jazz Quintet

Sunday, March 14th, 2:00 pm

Referendum, an a cappella quintet, will sing at our Sunday worship on March 14th and perform a concert later that day in the Hunnewell Chapel. This group of three women and two men got together in 1998 to protest the anti-gay referendum that reversed equal rights legislation in their home state of Maine. Their intriguing repertoire ranges from the inspirational and political, like *Everything Possible* by Fred Small and *Ella's Song* by Bernice Johnson Reagon, to African freedom songs, a Piazzolla tango, Georgian lullabies, and good old love songs. Don't miss Referendum's resonant voices, lush harmonies and rhythmic grooves!



Owen Plant, singer/songwriter

Sunday, April 18th, 2:00 PM

Owen Plant, one of Boston's up-and-coming singer/songwriters, is excited to present a concert in ASC's Hunnewell Chapel in

April. He hopes to share the music that has touched so many fans for the last six years with a larger audience. While also an accomplished band leader, Owen is now concentrating on the solo dance with his guitar that started him on this road at acoustic venues such as the historic Club Passim in Harvard Square. To learn more about Owen's career go to www.owenplant.com.



Also of note, Owen will perform one of his compositions at the 11:00 AM service on April 18th. *Holiday* (not Madonna's!) is Owen's attempt to convey the search for peace in a life surrounded by distractions.

All are welcome at both events.

Beaudoin/Wade Voice and Guitar Duo

Sunday, May 2nd, 7:00 PM

Music@ASC is proud to welcome Beaudoin/Wade voice and guitar duo featuring David Wade, classical guitar; and Stephen Marc Beaudoin, tenor. The duo will give the Boston premieres of new works written expressly for them, by composers including Kurt Leland, Michael



Wartofsky and Felipe Lara, as well as songs by 16th English composer John Dowland, and others. For tickets, please call 617-281-8569. Visit www.stephenbeaudoin.com

for more information.

ASC Choir Sunday

Sunday, May 23rd, 11:00 AM

Under the direction of ASC music director, Miguel Felipe, our choir presents a service of special music. With the help of ASCer Tim Harbold, our choir will showcase a half-dozen selections from the rich repertoire of African American sacred music. Exploring gospel, jazz, church hymns and old spirituals, the choir will present such tunes as *Up Above My Head*, *Marchin' to Zion*, *I Sing Because I'm Happy*, and *This Little Light of Mine*. The choir will be joined by Tim Harbold on piano and a small combo. We hope you join us for this uplifting service.



What Is a Ministerial Intern?

DON RICKTER, ASC MEMBER

Arlington Street Church, both its clergy and its lay members, is privileged to be a teaching church. We work with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to provide practical ministerial education. Students come here after completing many courses in divinity school. They have had experience in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), usually a summer spent in a hospital as a chaplain. At this point in their careers they have just gone before the regional ministerial fellowship subcommittee to be evaluated by the UUA – or are about to go. They ask many questions here, meet people, work with committees. Our senior minister has been trained as a mentor and supervisor of fledgling ministers.

Ministerial interns typically are aware of areas in their professional training that they want to strengthen – for example, learning church finances by interacting with the Finance Committee. There are challenges and opportunities for learning by doing. However, a minister has a basic desire to serve people – not to focus on her or his own needs and desires. An intern is

privileged to be associated with creative and innovative ministers with the highest of reputations.

Our church cooperates closely with another church based in Boston: the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Its minister, Rev. Jane Rzepka, is also a mentor and supervisor for the intern. The intern spends 20 hours per week with each church. There is one intern committee, with three members from each church. Those from

committee is for the benefit of the intern; it serves to empower, to listen, and to be discreet. Interns are full of energy and eager to learn how to make their best performance even better.

It is an honor to associate with them.

We have been fortunate in having some excellent students in the past. You may remember Amber Beland and then Eliza Blanchard. Both came to learn – and have moved along in their career paths.

(Note: this is a short description of ministerial internship. The Unitarian Universalist Association has a 77-page manual that tells much more. Each intern writes a Learning Agreement, a sort of contract for the year. It covers the aspects of worship, pastoral care, religious education, church governance, and other vital areas.)



ASC this year are Diana Miller, Don Rickter, and Rev. George Whitehouse. CLF is represented by its administrator and two UU parish ministers. We meet monthly with the intern, sharing problems, inspiration, and solutions. There are frank exchanges of reactions to the nitty-gritty of life in the UU ministry. The

In September we will have a new ministerial intern from the Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Her name is Linda Berez. She has impressive credentials and recommendations, and we are looking forward to her being here. We will be introducing her in the next issue of THE WINDOW. ☺

Calendar Highlights

Only A Child: 10th Anniversary Celebration

April 24th, 2004

Only A Child, the program for Guatemalan street children founded by ASC's own George Leger, will be celebrating its tenth anniversary at a gala event the evening of Saturday April 24th in Waltham's *Sons of Italy Hall*. Details regarding ticket sales will appear in *Inside ASC*. If you would like more information about *Only A Child*, come to the Sunday service April 18th, when George Leger will speak, or contact board members Wendy Weiger (wendy_weiger@hms.harvard.edu or 207-695-2707), Jim Tice (james_tice@idx.com), or Janice Brunts (janice.brunts@bingham.com or 617-951-8336). You may also contact any board member noted above if you would like to support the program by purchasing an advertisement in the 10th Anniversary Program Book (prices start at \$25). ☺

Gay Men's Retreat Registration Open

Gayla is July 10th-17th at Ferry Beach UU Conference Center, Saco, Maine. More than 150 gay men gather for outdoor UU services, workshops both fun and serious, and evening parties.

ASC men who attend include Paul Dakin (pauldakin@comcast.net, 617-983-1190) and Joel Light (piikoi@comcast.net 617-354-1123).

Details are available at 207-284-8612 or www.gayla.org. Newcomers welcome! ☺

Church Work Parties

The ASC Building Committee invites you to our upcoming work parties! After the success of painting the nursery at the January work party, we are excited to keep the momentum going. Please join us to provide much needed improvements to our beloved building. It's also an opportunity to meet new friends and connect with acquaintances.

Our tasks include: transforming the stage left room into a useable meeting space, converting the tower office into a staff office, and sprucing up the stage right room! We need your help to make these spaces more functional and beautiful!

Work party dates are:

March 13th, 2004

March 20th, 2004

April 10th, 2004 (annual all-church work party!)

May 8th, 2004

June 5th, 2004

Show up for all (or some) of the work parties. Dress in clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. We supply the materials and food, you supply the labor. There are tasks for all skill and ability levels.

Contact Lisa Howe at 617-524-5082 with questions or to volunteer! ☺

Make cards (again) with the Parish Concerns Small Group

Please come make all-occasion cards for us to send to our fellow parishioners. We will meet after Sunday Service on March 14 in the downstairs Parish Hall Kitchen. Colored pens and paper will be supplied – just bring your caring, creative spirit – fun for all! ☺



Spring Update

BRIAN REARDON, ASC TREASURER

As winter turns to the first hints of spring, it seems appropriate to assess the financial progress of ASC as it moves beyond the half way mark of the church calendar year. Despite a continually difficult economy, Arlington Street has been able to remain on an even keel through careful expense management, steady support of members and friends, and the revenue generated by outside sources, most notably, Emerson College. Although, pledge payments have been steady (see chart on page 2), offertory donations overall have been on a downward trend perhaps due to a drop in visitors in the post 9/11 environment. In addition, the income derived from the church's endowment devoted specifically to supporting operating expenses has held up fairly well despite the low interest rate environment. Looking ahead, challenges remain. With a building close to one hundred and fifty years old, repairs can quickly draw down reserves and ASC will undoubtedly need to increase its building repair budget going forward. Plans are currently being finalized to do major work to the Parish House roof and gutter systems, which are urgently in need of repair. This work while unavoidable, can tax our existing financial resources. With the prospect of the MBTA reconstruction of the Arlington Street Station and installation of an accessible ramp to the current church office, additional sources of funds will be needed to reconfigure the lower level offices to accommodate

this new entrance.

In the coming months, I encourage everyone to do their best to remain current with their covenant pledge so we can end the church year with a positive result. In addition, the treasurer and finance committee are working to enhance planned giving to Arlington Street Church.

Leaving A Legacy

A gift to Arlington Street Church through your will is an expression of your confidence in and dedication to the future of ASC.

Whatever the size of your estate we hope you will consider including the Arlington Street Church in your will or living trust. Your gift will help ensure that the spirit, community and vision you value at ASC will continue as a part of your legacy. If you are considering such a gift, you may find this language helpful:

I give, devise and bequeath to Arlington Street Church, Boston, Massachusetts, (the sum of \$X) or (percentage of my estate) or (specifically described property) to benefit (specific programs, capital improvement, general operations).

For information on alternative ways to contribute to ASC's future through a planned gift, contact the ASC office or the treasurer. ☺

The Results are In

PAUL DAKIN

Our congregation-wide survey of last November received 174 responses! This is a great participation rate. In January I finished inputting and analyzing the responses, and a summary

report has been made available at the coffee hour Info Table and on the ASC website at <http://www.ASCBoston.org/survey.pdf>.

Long Range Planning

We gave a menu of priorities, and you told us it was *all* important! OK, there were some distinctions, but in general the survey responses were very consistent with what the Long Range Planning Committee had found in a dozen "Focus Group" visioning sessions earlier in 2003. Worship service (the Sunday morning experience), improved finances to meet ASC's goals, and social action came in as our three top priorities, with volunteer coordination, growth/outreach, care of our building, Adult RE, Children's RE, and expanded programming all close behind. All of the above were ranked as important, very important, or *most* important ASC priorities, by a clear majority (73.5% or higher) of survey respondents.

Communications

Your suggestions on improving the Window (ASC's newsletter) have already been incorporated into this issue. Miguel has also improved our website design to reflect the web-seeking priorities of ASCers: the Calendar is now much more prominent, and the site will increasingly showcase the congregational life of ASC as well as provide helpful and inviting information for visitors new to ASC and UUism. One major theme that kept appearing was the desire for non-committee ASCers to know more about what's happening in the committees, especially the Pru and the Council. We now

feature updates in the Window, and will be using other channels as well to increase the availability of information.

Thanks to all who took part in ASC's survey. If you have further questions after reading the results, please feel free to contact me at (617) 983-1190 or pauldakin@comcast.net. ☺

Spring Into Action!

TASK FORCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PRISON REFORM

The UUA chose criminal justice and prison reform as the Study/Action Issue for 2003-2005. The question we are asked to consider is this: 'How can Unitarian Universalists successfully advocate for reform of the criminal justice system, even as the prison industry expands to accommodate more people and becomes increasingly inhumane and unjust?' The Task Force on Criminal Justice and Prison Reform was formed to study this issue, inform the congregation and provide opportunities for action.

On March 14th, we will host an educational forum after the service which will address some of the issues facing prisoners today. In April, we will present a screening of the Academy Award-winning HBO documentary *Murder on a Sunday Morning*. *Murder* is a troubling look at modern police investigation that pulls viewers into the jury box to help decide the fate of a 15-year-old black resident of Jacksonville, Florida, who becomes the prime suspect in the shooting death of an elderly white woman simply because he was seen in the vicinity of the crime.

Details will follow in *Inside*,

or contact Nicole Noël at mojopin13@hotmail.com for more information. ☺

Let's Go to Washington

SARA DAVIS

When president George W. Bush signed the so-called partial birth abortion bill into law it created an interesting photograph, both figuratively and literally, of this administration. In the middle of the photo, sitting at a desk, and a group of smiling white men is standing behind him. These men are so happy about banning a procedure that saves women's lives.

And it gets worse. Recently, the president bypassed the Congress and appointed Judge Pickering to a Federal Appeals Court. Pickering is virulently anti-choice, and this promotion is an indicator that he will be the top pick for the Supreme Court. Not coincidentally, the Supreme Court is just one vote away from overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Let's do something about it!

On April 25th, representatives from Arlington Street Church, along with one million people from across the country, will march on Washington. Called "The March for Women's Lives," it is organized by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL Pro-Choice America), Planned Parenthood, and the National Organization for Women. The march starts at noon and there will be a rally and speeches until 4:00 pm. More information is at the web site www.marchforchoice.org.

Imagine if one million people marched. We could not be

ignored. The administration could no longer pretend they represent the views of the American people. And the American people could no longer pretend that *Roe v. Wade* is safe. The march is just a starting point to energize us for the election, and it is a way to show that we will overturn George W. Bush in November. One million people marching in solidarity. Don't you want to be there?

NARAL is offering all-inclusive bus tickets for \$60. AirTran has same-day return tickets from Boston for about \$250. Southwest has flights from Providence or Manchester for \$160. Amtrak offers regular service for \$189 and the Acela is \$317. Stay tuned to *Inside* for other offers – including super cheap car-pools – from Arlington Street Church.

Please let me know if you want to join us or if you want to be involved in any way. Does anyone want to car-pool (or drive)? Does anyone know people near DC who could put up some ASC'ers for an evening or two? If you can't go, would you like to sponsor someone, or just donate to help keep costs down? Let me know: sara_davis@harvard.edu; 617-776-7091. ☺



Bob Minocci, executive director of the Friday Night Supper Program.

the WINDOW

Editorial Staff of THE WINDOW

Peter Johnston, editor; Miguel Felipe, design

Policy for Submission

Calendar items may be submitted with title, date/time, and 50 word description. **Open submissions** of no more than 400 words may be submitted on any topic. **Committee reports** are encouraged. Announcements will not be accepted by telephone. Materials must be legible, signed, and *fully composed* and may be edited. Please note that we only publish submissions related to ASC events or the wider UUA community.

Submission Deadline and Method

Entries should be sent as Word® documents to Window@ASCBoston.org by **5:00 PM Friday, April 30th, 2004** for inclusions in Vol 3, No. 4, June - August 2004.

Subscriptions

To add/remove your name from **THE WINDOW** mailing list, please contact Corey Spence, administrative assistant, in the Church Office.

Disclaimer

The views represented in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Corporation or staff of Arlington Street Church.

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Covenant 2004

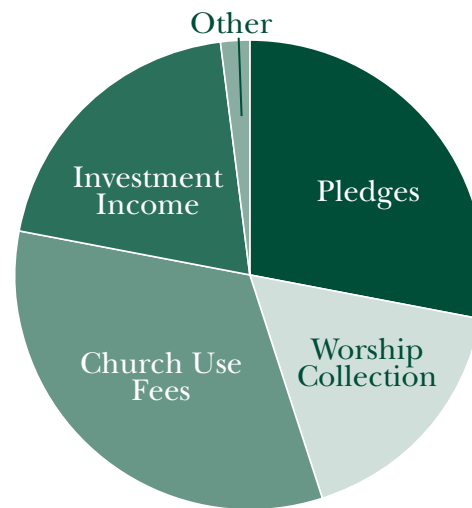
Paul Dakin, Covenant Committee Chair

Spring is almost in the air... can you feel it? With the renewal of buds on the tree branches, it's time for us to renew our Covenant at Arlington Street Church. For those of you who are new to ASC, each Spring all members and friends among our congregation make financial pledges and offer volunteer service for the coming Church year (July 2004 to June 2005). Our pledges of money will build ASC's operating budget next year, and the total raised can really make a difference between a good year and a great one.

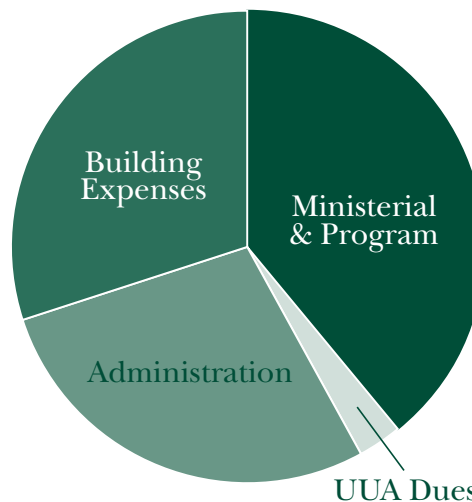
Covenant Renewal Sunday is March 28th, and this worship service has become our own annual ritual of faith and investment in our spiritual home. We all place our pledge cards one by one into the ASC Ark of Covenant... Finance volunteers count them quickly out back in the Chapel as Kim preaches... Miguel and the choir offer a rousing anthem... and the total pledged is announced at the conclusion of the service. In recent years, we ASCers have been able to raise more than two-thirds of our pledge total on that Sunday alone! And as you can see, pledges and their payment make up over 40% of our annual operating budget for



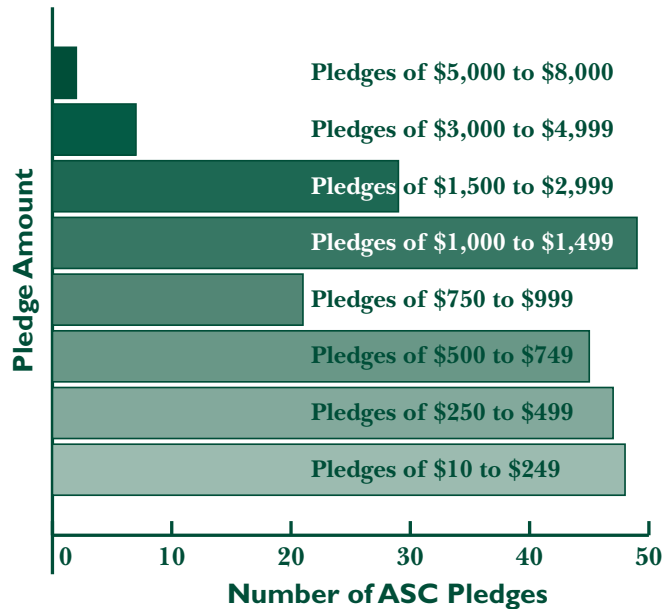
FY2003 Income Sources



FY2003 Expenses



FY2003 Pledge Amount Distribution



staff, building expenses, music, children’s programming, and all the rest.

Please begin thinking now about making your generous pledge for the coming year at ASC, and help us make Covenant 2004 a solid foundation and a testament to our generous spirits. Take a look at these charts and consider your own part in helping us to build a solid foundation in committed pledges for the coming ASC year.

This year’s Covenant pledge cards will once again feature a menu of volunteer opportunities for us all. The “volunteer service” side of Covenant Renewal is optional but strongly encouraged – and last year, nearly 80% of us pledged volunteer service on our cards in addition to our financial pledges! As you read through this issue of **THE WINDOW**, consider what parts of ASC most interest you, and where you’d like to be involved in the year ahead.

Please plan now to be a part of Covenant Renewal Sunday on March 28th! Thank you in advance for your generous commitments to the coming year – our 275th – at Arlington Street Church.

If you have any questions about Covenant Renewal, please feel encouraged to speak with Covenant chair Paul Dakin (617-983-1190/ pauldakin@comcast.net) or Rev. Kim Crawford-Harvie or any member of ASC staff. ☺

Find Yourself!

INCOME	2.5%	5%	10%
\$10,000	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
\$20,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000
\$30,000	\$750	\$1,500	\$3,000
\$40,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
\$50,000	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$60,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$6,000
\$70,000	\$1,750	\$3,500	\$7,000
\$80,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
\$90,000	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$9,000
\$100,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000

Note: The guideline of a quarter-tithe (2.5%) assumes we are also sharing our financial resources with Uncle Sam and worthy charities in addition to Arlington Street Church.