
the WINDOW

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

March – May 2005, Vol. 4, No. 3

Love and Service

REV. KIM K. CRAWFORD HARVIE, SENIOR MINISTER

Our first annual *Valentines Weekend of Love and Service* was an extraordinary success. Longtime volunteers were joined by ASC folks who have never had the opportunity to serve the Friday Night Supper to our hungry and homeless neighbors. One hundred eighty pounds of roast beef, and tray after tray of mashed potatoes, salad, and cheese cake later, everyone had been fed ... in every way. Thanks to Bob Minnocci for his magnificent leadership.

The next morning, the church leadership gathered with some 200 other Unitarian Universalists from the Massachusetts Bay District for a daylong conference on “Creating the Church of the Future.” It was both challenging and uplifting; above all, Arlington Street rocked! Our own Paul Dakin, chair of Covenant Renewal, was featured: yes, we are doing it in a *they-said-it-couldn't-be-done* way (starting with the fact that we ask every member to renew her or his membership annually, with a pledge of gifts of both money and

service), and yes, the results are no less than astonishing. I feel so proud!

On Sunday morning, the congregation arrived with groceries for our seventh annual “To Renewal House with Love” drive for the children of the U.U. Urban Ministry’s shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence. My truck runneth over! I wish you

could have seen the kids “helping” to put it all away at the Renewal House kitchen. Whoever thought of pop-tarts (was that possibly Scott and Joey Ullrich?) ... bingo! Thanks to you all.

And finally, that afternoon, we again welcomed Cheryl Richardson to Arlington Street, this time as a benefit for the U.U. Service Committee’s Tsunami Disaster Relief. Cheryl spoke on *The Unmistakable Touch of Grace*, awakening us all to the possibilities and potential of the power of grace

in our lives. Thanks especially to Bruce Kohl, Marilyn Castriotta, David Riley, and Kate Wilkinson and our Young Adults! And thank you

to the hundreds of you who gave yourselves to ASC that afternoon, and to the entire weekend. There is nowhere else on earth that I would rather have been.

Looking ahead, Covenant Renewal is on the horizon! Please save April 10th for the big worship service and celebration! And I invite you to begin this conversation with Paul Dakin and other members of our leadership, and with me: What would it mean for us to tithe *to the world*? Inspired by the challenge to “create the church of the future,” and by our deeply-held beliefs in compassion, generosity, and gratitude, we are thinking about the power of giving away ten percent of our pledges.

My own thinking on this would be not just to give away cash, but, in a sense, to give ourselves away: to choose a specific project together – say, for example, George Leger’s “Only a Child” mission to street kids in Guatemala, or the UUSC’s project in Chiapas, Mexico – and to send down a group of ASC folks, bearing both money and service (our covenant, writ very large), in our good name. Taking a page from our fundamentalist neighbors: the mark of



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ARLINGTON
STREET CHURCH
Unitarian Universalist

A Window into ASC's Leadership

BRIAN SOUZA AND ART SHIRK, CO-CHAIRS, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

This Winter, THE WINDOW sat down with the co-chairs of our Prudential Committee to get their views on leadership, growth, connection, and the future at ASC. Here's what they had to say:

WINDOW: What is your greatest hope for ASC in the next few years?

Brian: My hope is that we keep up the great progress we've begun over the last few years toward deepening connections internally among our members. The increased richness of our covenant/small groups, our young adult program, our music program, and our religious education offerings will bring us a long way toward sustaining and growing our membership, which is vital to our long-term health. In addition, I hope that with changes to our staffing structure and operations we see an ability to better meet the needs of our changing congregation.

Art: For me it is a hope that we will significantly increase the numbers of people who come regularly on Sunday and become engaged in some ASC community activity during the week. I believe that there is great desire in our congregation for closer and more meaningful connection with each other, and we are seeking new avenues for that to happen.

WINDOW: What does "leadership" mean to you in the context at ASC?

Art: It begins with desire and willingness... a desire to have some sort of impact in our community, and simply a willingness to raise one's hand and say, "sure, I'll do that." I believe that leadership begins wherever you are – it is as simple as smiling and saying hello to someone who might be alone during coffee hour. The courage to just take a step forward matters much more than having lots of expertise.

Brian: Leadership at ASC means getting involved and getting off the sidelines. At its core, it means recognizing our personal responsibility toward creating and sustaining the community that means so much not only internally to our members, but also to many more in the larger community. The scary part for many folks is that leadership takes hard work and time. However, the rewards, particularly at ASC, far outweigh those demands.

WINDOW: What thoughts do you have for new visitors or members?

Brian: Think about what you enjoy or something that you've wanted to try and find one place at ASC to plug yourself in. There's so much going on here, from educational programs and spiritual activities, to the countless working committees that keep ASC running smoothly. There is truly something for everyone. The hardest part is finding and making that initial connection. We constantly encourage long-term members and staff to reach out to new members, but the other half of that equation is new members and visitors reaching in.

Art: Just lean-in! It is too easy and frequent to feel like an outsider here, particularly in the beginning – there is some sort of illusion that everyone else is involved and has their place. We all, together, create experiences of learning, connection, and

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Mini Financial Update

Total Pledges To Covenant 2004-2005: **\$254,889**

Payments Received Through February 14th, 2005: **\$146,250 (57.4%)**

Total Operating Income Through February 14th, 2005: **\$406,239**

Total Operating Expenses Through February 14th, 2005: **\$365,409**

Covenant Renewal 2005: April 10th

PAUL DAKIN, CHAIR, COVENANT RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Dear friends, Spring is around the corner at long last, and with it, Covenant Renewal Sunday on April 10th. This annual ritual of faith and investment is one of the most vital worship experiences of the Church year. Placing our pledges together into the ASC Ark of the Covenant, and celebrating downstairs afterward over brunch, we have been able to raise more than two-thirds of ASC's total pledge goal on Covenant Sunday alone. And as you can see, pledges and

their payment make up over 30% of our annual budget for staff, building expenses, music, children's programming, and all the rest.

For those new to ASC, Covenant Renewal is our annual process in which all ASC members and friends make **financial pledges** and offer **volunteer service** for the coming Church year (July 2005 to June 2006). By pledging, members also renew our ASC membership each year. The success of Covenant Renewal in

April tells us whether next year at ASC will be a strong one.

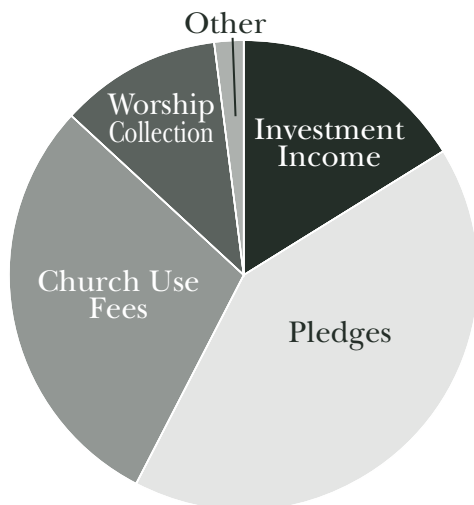
2004's Covenant Renewal was a bold and beautiful step upward for our congregation. Our pledges, in total, increased 25% to more than \$250,000. At risk of repeating myself: again, **THANK YOU!** Due to our generosity of commitment, ASC was able to achieve all of our 2004 Covenant goals, such as long-awaited raises to all support staff and a solid step taken toward UUA guidelines for Fair Compensation.

The way we do Covenant Renewal at Arlington Street – elevating the annual pledge drive to a wider renewal of commitment to the life of our congregation, and doing so in a worship-service context – is bold and innovative. And it is starting

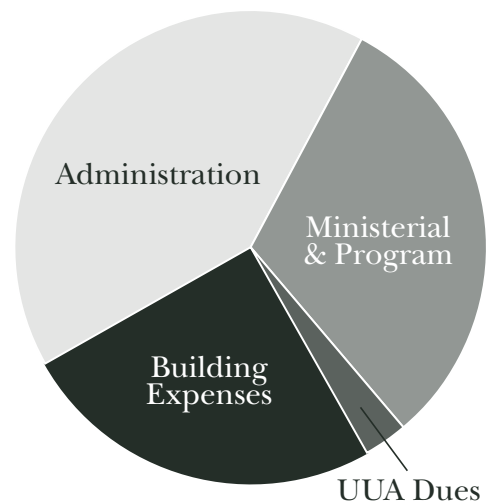
Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.

BUDDHA

FY2004 Income Sources



FY2004 Expenses



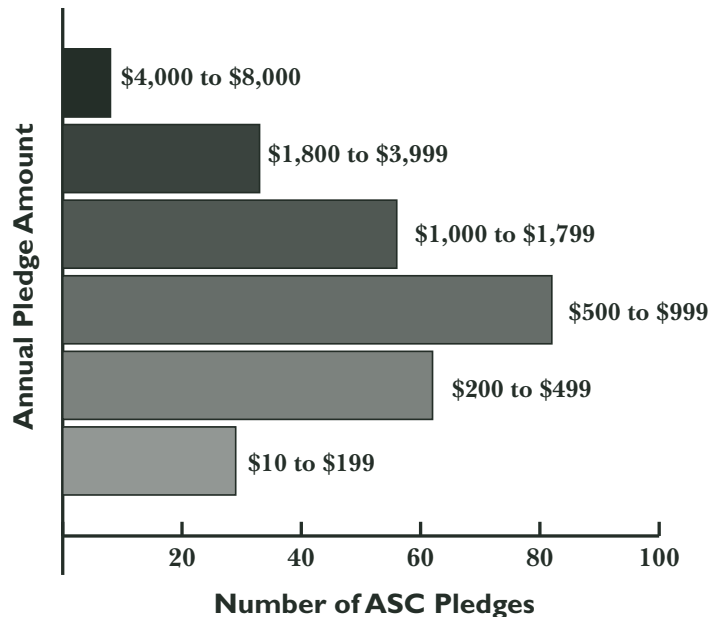
to attract interest from other congregations! At a recent UUA Mass Bay District workshop on “creating congregations for the future”, I took the microphone for a minute and shared ASC’s Covenant Renewal process with a roomful of nearly 200 lay leaders... and there was quite a buzz in response. People were eager to hear what we’re doing in this area and were strongly attracted to it. I thank the ASC leaders who bravely steered us in this new direction of Covenant Renewal back in 1999-2000. And while there is a fair amount of “backstage” leadership work involved in Covenant, ultimately it’s our generosity as a congregation that makes Covenant Renewal so successful, making so many great things possible at Arlington Street Church.

So please begin thinking now about your pledge for the coming year at ASC, and help us make Covenant Renewal 2005 a solid foundation and a continued testament to our generous spirits. Take a look at these charts and consider your own part in helping to build the coming ASC year. The Covenant pledge forms will also feature a brochure giving more detail on volunteer opportunities across the ASC community. Last year, more than 80% of us pledged volunteer service on our cards in addition to our financial pledges! As you read through this issue of *THE WINDOW* and upcoming issues of *Inside ASC*, 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 April 10th!

If you have questions about Covenant Renewal, please speak with Paul Dakin (978-388-7667 or Covenant@ASCBoston.org), Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, church administrator Peter Johnston, or any member of ASC staff. Your generous support, both volunteer and financial, is the very lifeblood of this congregation – thank you all so much! ☺

FY2004 Pledge Amount Distribution



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.

From Kim...

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a great congregation is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity.

While this conversation began in earnest at the leadership conference, it had certainly been sparked by none other than Cheryl Richardson. Cheryl originally offered to waive her considerable speaker's fee, and come to ASC as a 275th birthday gift to us. After the tsunami struck, I asked our leadership if we might give away this benefit, and they responded with a resounding yes! When I wrote to Cheryl to ask her about switching the beneficiary of her generosity, she was so moved that she offered to do the tsunami disaster benefit, and to return next fall, to do something just for us! Once again, we were reminded, this time by a very special friend and teacher, that, compassion, generosity, and gratitude are our guiding principles, as we are "gathered in love and service for justice and peace."

Please read through the calendar, and let's plan to be together often. There's so much going on at ASC right now, so much good. Thank you for doing my heart so much good. Bless your heart. ☺

Faithfully yours, with love,



Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,
Senior Minister

Music Hath Charms

LINDA BEREZ, MINISTERIAL INTERN

When I was very young child, maybe 2 or 3 years old, my mom was singing a lullaby to me. After just a few bars, I did what most children do at that age and said exactly what was on my mind. "Mommy, please don't sing, you're hurting my ears." Well, needless to say, I've never heard the end of that story. And, needless to say, I've never heard my mom sing to me again.

As I got older, I found that music wasn't a big part of my life. Instead, I watched and listened to news and talk radio stations. I never took time to appreciate music, and once, when asked the type of music I listen to, providing an answer was difficult because, quite honestly, I didn't know the difference between pop, country, or rock. In the early 70's, my mom saved me from a life desolate of music by taking me to hear some radical lesbian singer musicians with names like Cris Williamson and Holly Near. In fact I still have a worn out copy of the "Changer and the Changed." But, quite honestly, it was worn out more from the fact that it was only one of 3 albums in my library and so it got extra play time.

And if I haven't already convinced you that I'm a music

neophyte, I recently bought an Apple iPod, and although it does have some music on it, truly what I listen to the most are audio books. Currently the playlist includes Jon Stewart's "America," Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner" and a subscription to Terry Gross' "Fresh Air."

Now, when I got to Arlington Street Church and met Miguel



Felipe, and heard the music of the choir and the musicians, I was impressed and became inspired. I decided that one key to a successful ministry, and something I could do for myself and my future congregation, would be to learn to sing. A big part of me re-

sisted taking this step in my life because I knew my mom and I have similar voices. So taking voice lessons meant finding out once and for all whether I was going to hurt people's ears.

Miguel encouraged me to talk to Stephanie McGuire, ASC's assistant choir director.

Stephanie has been a god-send. She has inspired me to reach high notes and go places with my voice that I never knew existed. She's been teaching me the importance of breath-

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Worship Highlights – Spring 2005

March 6th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

As the hart longs, Psalm 42,
Felix Mendelssohn

March 13th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Like as the hart, Psalm 42,
Herbert Howells

March 20th, 2005

Preaching

Linda Berez, Ministerial Intern

Music

My Lord, What a Mornin',
Harry T. Burleigh

March 27th, 2005

Easter Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Gloria, *Antonio Vivaldi*

April 3rd, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Referendum, guest musicians

April 10th, 2005

Covenant Sunday

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Special covenant music from
the choir!

April 17th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Ascendit Deus, *Corey Dargel*

April 24th, 2005

Preaching

TBA

Music

Sing me to Heaven, *Daniel Gothrup*

May 1st, 2005

Preaching

Kate Wilkinson and the Young
Adults of ASC

Music

Matt Meyer, Hand Drum

May 8th, 2005

Mother's Day

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Valediction, *David Conte*

May 15th, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

TBA

May 22nd, 2005

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

Let Us Break Bread Together,
arr. *Kirke Mechem*

May 29th, 2005

Memorial Day Weekend

Preaching

Linda Berez, Ministerial Intern

Music

instrumental music



music@ASC

The Music@ASC Concert Series – Events for Spring, 2005
Visit ASCBoston.org/music/series.html for the latest details

Vivaldi's Gloria

Sunday, March 27th, 11:00 AM

The Arlington Street Church choir is proud to present this perennial favorite of the Baroque. Vivaldi is also well known for his *Four Seasons* though he composed many, many works including about 500 concerti, over 40 cantatas, 49 operas, and a number of oratorios. Vivaldi's *Gloria* sets the complete text of the Gloria from the mass ordinary and stands as one of his best known works.

ASC's performance of this work will be the first in dozens of years. The morning will feature both our choir and our section leaders. This special Easter presentation will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

Those interested in supporting music and being Choir Angels for Easter should contact director of music Miguel Felipe at MFelipe@ASCBoston.org. ☺



Referendum

Sunday, April 3rd, 2:00 PM

Referendum, an *a cappella* quintet, returns to ASC for a second appearance. They will sing at our Sunday morning worship on April 3rd and perform a concert later that day at 2:00 PM. 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! This concert is free of charge, though a suggested donation of \$10 is requested. ☺

Matt Meyer, Hand Drummer

Sunday, May 1st, 11:00 AM

Matt Meyer is an active young adult in the ASC community. He is a recent graduate of the Berkeley College of Music and has also studied abroad in Ghana, Cuba, and Central America. He is interested in percussion music



from all over the world and is constantly in search of new ways to combine music, spirituality, and social justice work. Join us as he shares his talents during Sunday morning worship. See you then! ☺

The New England Brass Band

Sunday, May 1st, 4:00 PM

The New England Brass Band returns to Boston with a concert at Arlington Street Church. 2004 National Champions of the Challenge Division, internationally recognized and the authors of several CD's, The NEBB is a 30-piece, all brass and percussion ensemble directed by Douglas Yeo, bass trombonist of the Boston Symphony. More information about the Band is available at www.newenglandbrassband.org. This concert is free of charge, though a suggested donation of \$10 or \$25 for families is requested. ☺

From the Leadership...

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spirituality that flourish here. So, when something catches your eye and you think “I might enjoy that,” just lean-in and do it.

WINDOW: What is the one thing as Pru Chair that matters most to you this year?

Art: Well, for me personally I have to say that I have a lot of determination around two specific things: One is that we create a stronger sense and capacity for lay leadership here at ASC over the next year, and I’m really excited that we’re taking some first steps to do that. The other personal priority for me is that when we end this year, our long-range plan will be alive and well rather than sitting on a bookshelf.

Brian: What matters most to me this year is that more people get involved. ASC is fortunate to have a sizeable group of very committed volunteers, many of whom have served for years in a variety of different roles. However, for this community survive and grow, we need more people to step into church life beyond just Sunday services. I feel like we’ve built so much momentum around our long-range plan, our new staffing structure, and our thriving programs. Kim often refers to the combination of hands, hearts and minds – that’s what we need, now more than ever, to keep that vision alive. ⊕

From Linda...

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ing. She even has the nerve to say I’m actually on key, when it’s clear to me that I’m way off tune. Through the work I’m doing with Stephanie, I have come to have a greater appreciation for ASC’s awesome choir under her and Miguel’s direction.

I’ll never forget one worship service, early on in this internship, when a young woman came forward during the portion of the service where we light candles of joy and sorrow. She lit one that was in celebration of the great joy she had found in becoming part of the choir. Through the Young Adult group and her participation in the choir she expressed a fulfillment of truly being part of this beloved community. I’m sure her words reached out and touched others that morning as she touched me.

Through voice lessons and actually giving hymn singing a go on Sunday mornings, I have come to realize that singing isn’t just about harmony or getting the notes right. Singing gets into our core. We breathe down deep, into our bellies, and expand our voices out. The non-choir members of us, out in the pews each Sunday, also have opportunities to allow the voices we hear to reach down to the essence of our being. Miguel’s choices for anthems and other pieces are not stagnant. This music has depth and if we open up to it we can plunge right in.

I’m also impressed by the composition of this choir. Thinking back to Holly Near’s

song “We Are a Gentle Angry People,” I find that when the choir sings they are the living incarnation of what Holly had in mind. We are young and old together. We are women and men together. We are gay and straight together. We are gentle angry people. And yes they are singing for their lives, and for ours.

If you would have told me that I would be interested in the choir music at ASC I would have told you that you must have read the packet for some other intern that didn’t get hired. No way would I have taken the interest and come to appreciate the music program that ASC offers.

Thanks to Miguel, Stephanie, Hsiao-Ling Lin, Rodger Vine, Corey Spence, administrative assistant and sometimes ASC choir member, Peter Johnston, church administrator, back up piano player and singer, and all of the members of the ASC Choir, music has become a part of my life, and I love it.

And the best news is that I don’t have a terrible voice! I probably won’t make people’s ears hurt too badly and with a few more lessons I’ll probably be singing most of the hymns on Sunday morning, except the ones I theologically take issue with. I guess the next step I need to take is to go back to mom and apologize for my insensitive remarks when I was a child. Maybe I can talk her into voice lessons with Stephanie on her next visit here. ⊕

Introducing the Worship Committee

Chances are that you've seen a Worship Coordinator on Sunday. Some of things we do include assisting the preacher, ensuring that supporting 'props' are in place, making sure the sound system works, leading the affirmation and covenant, and reminding us of our shared financial responsibility to the community.

That's the tip of the iceberg. The Worship Committee is a group of ASC members that meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM with our ministerial staff to plan and coordinate church services. As a group, we also brainstorm new, current, and former ways to foster personal, spiritual, and community growth through the shared worship experience.

Like many, perhaps you've thought one of the following:

- you must be a divinity student to be on the Worship Committee
- the Worship Committee is a "closed" group
- you must be appointed or "chosen" to become involved
- you have to speak in front of the whole congregation to be on the Worship Committee.

None of these are true. The current committee includes people of different ages, educational backgrounds, professions, perspectives, and spiritual interests. Our one commonality is that we've all made a commitment to use our individual time and talents to help infuse worship at ASC with love and service.

As Kim said during our *All Kinds of Love* service in February: "Worship is what we do all day, when we're paying attention. And no matter what, on Sunday mornings, we gather together in this beautiful space, made sacred by our love, and remember to pay attention." Quakers say that service begins when the service ends—we believe that it begins here.

Worship at ASC

SHEA MULLANEY, CO-CHAIR, WORSHIP COMMITTEE

News/Updates

For the 2005-2006 church year, the Worship Committee will introduce something many of us have long asked for: lay-led services. We always encourage lay participation in Sunday services, but these lay-led services will be fully designed and performed by members of the congregation (in conjunction with the Committee), without Kim's involvement. We hope to have several fully lay-led services next year.

With as great a minister as Kim, who needs lay-led services, right? Consider that lay-led services could:

- encourage experimentation with new ideas and forms of worship which a senior minister may not be able or inspired to do, or which may have special meaning to particular congregation members
- encourage community among congregation members by providing a safe place for self-expression in worship
- allow recognition of the varied talents/interests of our congregation
- support interdependency between the congregation and minister
- give Kim a Sunday off now and then

Does the idea seem too big and too intimidating? No worry; members of the worship committee will mentor you through the process, providing support and advice for such things as service creation, script preparation, timing, use of the microphone, and rehearsing.

Possible lay-led services include: "Recovering from Fundamentalism/Catholicism/Agnosticism"; "Forgiveness"; "Who was Jesus? Reclaiming Christianity as a UU"; "Humor as a Spiritual Path"; "Bringing a Liberal Faith to Work"; "Humanism"; "Earth-Centered Spirituality", etc.

Contact Ginny Merritt at vemerritt@earthlink.net if you or your group would be interested!

Get Involved

We're always looking for volunteers! And while we are on the lookout for new committee members, we're also currently looking for:

- nominations for candidates to deliver a *One Member's Journey* (a description of the personal journey that's led someone to ASC)
- suggested texts and volunteers to read Chalice Lightings
- suggested readings and meditations (songs, quotes, poems, etc.)
- Pulpit Editorials (a particular opinion on a subject close—or should be—to UU hearts and sensibilities)

We will work with you to make sure that the experience is successful. E-mail Worship@ASCBoston.org to volunteer or send a submission!

Feedback

We welcome the feedback of all our ASC friends and members! Tell us what works, what doesn't, and what else might work. You can:

- E-mail Worship@ASCBoston.org
- Leave a written note in the Worship Committee mailbox (near the rear entrance to Hunnewell Chapel)
- Speak to a Worship Committee member (listing on ASC website) one-on-one

We prefer signed feedback so that we can follow up. However, if you are more comfortable leaving anonymous feedback, we accept that as well.

Meeting Time

Please join us at our monthly meeting, the first Tuesday of every month from 6:00 - 7:30 PM the Senior Minister's Study. ☺

Children's Religious Ed

AARON WHITE, CRE COORDINATOR

As we move into the spring, we're experiencing a very exciting time in CRE. This year has definitely been a time of much change in the program. The addition of Linda and Aaron in the fall, the absence of Howard this spring, and the process of bringing in the Lifespan Religious Educator have combined to create an environment where many new ideas are being discussed about what ASC's CRE program is going to look like. The CRE Committee and staff are all working hard to formulate ideas about what type of CRE program best fits Arlington Street Church, and the Search Committee is working diligently to find the best candidate to lead the children in their religious education. While this time of transition has been beneficial for bringing new ideas to CRE, the hiring of the Lifespan Religious Educator will bring the necessary stability and consistency that is so crucial to the children's education within the church. The filling of this position is the next step in ASC's real commitment to the Children's Religious Education program. We've got a great line-up of lessons and discussion for the remainder of the year. We're focusing much on our identity as Unitarian Universalists, with several "UU Heritage" lessons for the children. Here, we'll bring in deeper focus on our seven principles, and highlight important UU figures that have helped to shape the church as we know it today. We're continuing also to study faiths from



around the world, discussing what they have to offer all of us in the classroom. Our very diverse classroom is represented by a variety of topics and projects that we'll be working on, with the children many times informing their other classmates about their particular cultures, practices, and beliefs. The consistent theme, however, for the spring is our diversity within the unity we share in a Unitarian Universalist community. We couldn't be more excited about the remainder of this CRE year, and we encourage all members of the ASC community who are interested to drop by the Perkins room and pay us a visit. There are opportunities to chat with the staff and CRE Committee, listen in on a lesson, or volunteer to help out in the classroom. Our meetings are the first Sunday of every month in the Perkins Room after the services. We'd love to see you there! ☺

A Plan for Our Future

ASC LONG RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE

ASC now has a new Long Range Strategic Plan to guide us through Spring 2010.

Woven throughout the plan is a vision of growth—in numbers and in connectedness and commitment. We plan to grow in attendance, in membership, in support for our individual learning and the spiritual enrichment of members young and

old, in our active contributions our own church community and to the creation of a more just world.

Hundreds of church members and friends participated in the development of the plan, which began in winter 2003 when the Prudential Committee (the Pru) launched a task force that has come to be called the "Long Rangers." Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this process. The Pru recently reviewed and enthusiastically approved the completed plan and committees are already working to put the plan into action.

Our plan is designed to be dynamic and will continue to evolve and be renewed over the five-year period. To view the full document, visit the Long Ranger's home online (<http://www.ascboston.org/programs/cmtes-grps/longrange/>) or stop by the church office. ☺

Moral Values — Bridging the Gap

THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

We've all heard that the latest presidential election was decided over "Moral Values". Is this true? And what moral values are they talking about? Moral values that allow an unjust war to continue, destroy our environment or take away a woman's right to choose?

Throughout the spring, the Social Action Committee will be sponsoring a series of workshops and discussions to define our moral values as they relate to various social concerns, and to learn how to better express them and discuss them with those who do not agree with us.

The series will kick off on April 3, with a workshop by Sandra Boston of the Conscious Communication Institute, entitled "What to Say When You Disagree." Some of us participated in this workshop at the Boston Social Forum last summer, and found it invaluable in learning to set up a dialogue with people who have very different positions. This will be followed by discussions after church on April 24th and May 15th, to help us define and articulate our moral values. One of these will be on "Family Values", and the other "Peace, Security, and Democracy."

After becoming clear on our moral values, and learning how better to talk about them with those who have different ideas, we want to find ways to set up dialogues in order to explain our values. At the same time we will try to understand how different life experiences lead others to different conclusions. With whom and how to connect have not yet been decided, but suggestions range from finding pen pals, to joining conservative internet chat rooms, to contacting conservative churches, to talking with family members, co-workers, and other acquaintances.

Join us as we learn to "speak our truths in love." ☺

The BPL Recognizes ASC's 275th Anniversary

Sunday, March 6th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

The latest project of the 275th Anniversary Committee is mounting an exhibit on ASC history at the Boston Public Library (BPL). Holly Hen-

dricks, Mary Ann Hardenberg, Joan Goodwin, Sarah Black, and Linda Berez are planning the display, which will consist of a timeline from 1729-2004 illustrated with artifacts and documents, paintings and banners. This will be a chance to introduce ourselves to Greater Boston!

Here's the publicity blurb that the BPL will be placing in local media:

In celebration of its 275th birthday, Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist, will have an exhibit in the Boston Room at the Boston Public Library during the month of March. Founded in 1729 by non-subscribing Presbyterian Scots-Irish immigrants, the congregation became Unitarian in the early 19th century and moved from its original barn to the Federal Street Church where the famous minister William Ellery Channing preached, and then to the present building at the corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets, the first public building in the Back Bay. Over the years, the church has played an influential role in both denominational and Boston history. Documents, paintings, photographs and artifacts will be on display. ☺



Only A Child: Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, April 9th, 7:00 PM

Only A Child, the program for Guatemalan street children founded by ASC's own George

Leger, will be holding its annual fundraiser in the Waltham Sons of Italy Hall. There will be a buffet supper and George will present a slide show highlighting the great work he is doing with his "kids". Tickets are \$25 per person (\$15 seniors and students). Watch upcoming issues of *Inside ASC* for more information about ticket sales. If you would like more information about the program and its work, board member Wendy Weiger (207-695-2707 or wendy_weiger@hms.harvard.edu) will be happy to talk with you, or you can check out the Only A Child website at www.onlyachild.org. ☺

Caring for Your Dead

Wednesday, May 4th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
in the Clarke Room

Many people think that only a funeral home can care for the body once a person dies. We will explore alternatives to the traditional funeral through the growing "home funeral" movement. In this workshop, we will uncover common funeral industry practices from casket pricing to embalming. The workshop will cover the legal issues in Massachusetts associated with caring for the deceased, preparation of the body at home, death ritual and disposition. We will show the documentary, "A Family Undertaking," which highlights the stories of people who forgo the services of the funeral home and take care of the funeral themselves.

Presenters: Nancy Accola, board member of the Funeral Consumer Alliance and Judith Lorei, ASC member and former funeral director apprentice. ☺

the WINDOW



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Editorial Staff of THE WINDOW

Peter Johnston, editor; Miguel Felipe, design; Don Rickter, grammarian

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. No submission will 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, May 6th, 2005** for inclusions in Vol. 4, No. 4, June - August 2005.

Subscriptions

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

Disclaimer

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

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