
the WINDOW

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

June – August, 2006, Vol. 5, No. 4

Vision

REV. KIM K. CRAWFORD HARVIE, SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

A recent *New Yorker* cartoon by M. Stevens pictures nine people seated around a long table on which a huge missile serves as the centerpiece, like some kind of misguided Thanksgiving turkey. The caption reads, “As you know, all options are on the table.” [5/5/06, p. 34]

It would be funny if it weren’t so heartbreakingly close to the truth—not the part about the options (singular, actually), but the idea that there is a majority of people in power who believe that.

No one seems to know just when the expression “out of the box” first gained a foothold in our vernacular. It captivated me as soon as I heard it; to this day, when I find myself at a dead end in my reasoning, I repeat it like a silent directive, a mantra, freeing my mind to wander outside the lines in which I’ve been coloring, and invoking new options. I have no idea why it works, but it does.

Many years ago, when faced with the grim prospect of our high school senior prom, six of us (one of the couples later married) decided to do something completely different. We pooled a fraction of the money we would have spent on that one evening, and outfitted ourselves for a week’s backpacking trip in the White Mountains. It was a spectacular prom!

But that kind of out of the box thinking can’t hold a candle to what Maria West, a 17-year-old from Beltsville, Maryland, dreamed up when it came time for her prom. While she was, in fact, buying her dress, her mind turned to New Orleans. It occurred to her that prom dresses might

not make the priority list there. “Prom is such a rite of passage,” she thought. “Maybe some girls could go if I sent dresses.”

Maria West happens to be a former Miss Teen Annapolis; she had no fewer than seven once-worn prom dresses in her closet. She e-mailed friends on the pageant circuit, and set up a Web site seeking donations.

This spring, 200 high school senior girls erupted into cheers and applause as an 18-wheeler pulled up to Cabrini High in New Orleans, where a third of the school’s 430 families had lost everything to Hurricane Katrina. Inside the truck, each of no fewer than 2,700 gowns was tagged with a note from Maria West: “I hope you have a magnificent prom!” [*People* magazine, 5/1/06, p. 119]

So much good can come from even a little creative, visionary thinking. And how much more can come from a spiritual practice of creativity and vision? The living tradition of Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources; the very first includes “direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder ... which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.”

I think of Dr. King, speaking to the striking sanitation workers on the evening before he was assassinated. [4/3/68] He said, “Well, I don’t know what will happen now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter with me now. Because I’ve been to the mountaintop.... I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen



the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land.... Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”

My spiritual companions, let’s set that glory against a board room where “all options are on the table” ... and choose. Especially in these fecund summer months—and most especially in these “difficult days”—may we get out of the box, and give ourselves to a spiritual practice of creativity and vision, to openness and willingness and possibilities. Who knows what good will come?

Faithfully yours, with love,


Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,
Senior Minister



ARLINGTON
STREET CHURCH
Unitarian Universalist

Change and Opportunity

BRIAN S. SOUZA AND SHERENE ARAM, CO-CHAIRS, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Prudential Committee, thank you for your generosity on Covenant Sunday. As a community, we have pledged gifts of money and service for the coming church year in unprecedented abundance. In so doing, we sustain and uplift the legacy of those who sacrificed to build this beloved community. In so doing, we continue to build, with our gifts, a spiritual home for generations to come.

As fate would have it, our great success has been met with an equally great challenge. Just a few weeks ago, we were informed by Emerson College, our long-time tenant and neighbor, that they will not be renewing their agreement to rent space at ASC this fall. Given their recent efforts to construct and acquire buildings of their own, they have reached the point where they no longer need to lease space from external organizations. We knew this day would come, but we did not expect it to come so soon or with such little notice. We are sad to lose our ties with Emerson, and the youthful energy their students brought to our sacred space. As well, on a practical note, we are challenged by the loss of income associated with their rental. Combined with other anticipated building rental losses due to the MBTA construction project (some of which we will be compensated for in the future), as a community, we now face a nearly

\$100,000 reduction in income for the coming year. This represents more than 15% of our budget and presents a great challenge indeed.

The Prudential Committee and the Finance Committee, together with Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie and ASC's talented staff, are already busy developing and implementing a strategy to increase income and decrease expenses for the coming year. Foremost, we are searching for new tenants in order to maximize building rental income now and for the year ahead. The Finance Committee has proposed and the Prudential Committee approved a new budget for next year, which will be presented to the full congregation for approval at our annual meeting in June. This budget includes pared down expenses in many areas. In addition, the Prudential Committee has approved, on a very limited basis, the use of some of our investment resources. These resources will be used to cover costs that are in keeping with the wishes of some of our fore mothers and fathers who left financial gifts to Arlington Street Church for just

this purpose.

While we wrestle with the question of how best to use our resources internally, we are simultaneously challenged and inspired by the support for the Jubilee initiative within the congregation. We know that many, including ourselves, stretched to increase our pledges and make Jubilee a reality. We are committed to moving forward with Jubilee in a manner that maintains its vision within our current financial reality. We welcome any thoughts or ideas you might have to help us stay on track with our greater vision of ASC. We hope not to have to make additional drastic reductions that would back track on the great progress we have made in recent years. This includes progress in the form of hiring expert staff in religious education and membership/leadership development, as well as finally achieving 100% fair compensation for all employees. A few members of the congregation have already stepped boldly forward to increase their pledges for the coming year. Their leadership, on top of the already remarkable generosity of the entire congregation, will be what leads us through this challenging time.

see *Change* on p. 11

Mini Financial Update

Total Pledges To Covenant 2005 – 2006: **\$273,337**

Payments Received Through May 1st, 2006: **\$218,009** (80%)

Total Operating Income Through April 1st, 2006: **\$451,367**

Total Operating Expenses Through April 1st, 2006: **\$453,954**

Welcoming Our Newest Members

ALISON GREEN WILL, MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR

The 2005 – 2006 church year has seen the addition of 22 new members to our congregation. Some walked in the door this year and immediately felt like they had found home. Others have been among us for years and decided it was time to make a commitment and officially join.

Here are introductions to a few of them, in their own words:

Clementine Cummer-Nacco and Susie Nacco

“Clementine and Susie joined ASC together after Kim married them last year. Clementine and Susie were drawn to ASC by Kim’s sermons and by the potential for a community supportive of them raising a family. They have not been disappointed!”

David Westley

“I was drawn to ASC many years after a spiritual experience that gave me a belief in God. I tried to return to my old Catholic Church. I was disappointed. I had friends in high school who were Unitarian Universalists so it was always in the back of my head. I came to ASC in the Fall of 2005, Since then I have been engaged briefly in the Social Action Committee, served as



an usher and am a member of a Connections group. I am very happy about this choice.”

Sarah Cooleybeck

“I grew up in Buffalo, New York, studied and lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan for a few years, then landed in Somerville (Davis Square) in 1992. In the couple years I’ve been coming to ASC with my husband Patrick and daughters Anna and Maya, I’ve been lucky to get to know a great group of Children’s Religious Education (CRE) families, kids, staff, and volunteers. Other reasons I am at ASC: social action, Wednesdays

with T. S. Eliot, a broad range of music, yoga, meditation, history, Walden Pond, downtown Boston (swan boats), Kim’s sermons, Kim’s sermons, Kim’s sermons. So much to look forward to—thanks!”

Patrick Cooleybeck

“It’s great to find a spiritual home here at ASC. I am glad to join the Legion of Recovering Catholics here, and am currently reliving my early days as an altar boy by ringing a Tibetan singing bowl after Kim’s sermons most Sundays. I believe in baseball, poetry, and

see *New Members* on p. 9

Summer Reading

VERA O'BRIEN, LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR

Someone asked me recently what I was reading these days. Most of my recent reading has been “required reading” to finish my MDiv this month but I have squeezed in a few others and have big plans for summer reading:

Real Boys by William Pollock—Based on Pollack’s research at Harvard Medical School, *Real Boys* explores why many boys are sad, lonely, and confused although they may appear tough, cheerful, and confident. Pollack challenges conventional expectations that encourage parents to treat boys as little men, raising them through a toughening process that drives their true emotions underground. He provides concrete actions adults can take to enhance development. Much of this book is good advice for parents of young girls, too. I highly recommend this book for parents, teachers, and anyone with young boys in their lives.

The Kid (What Happened after My Boyfriend and I Decided to go get Pregnant) by Dan Savage. This

is the touching, hilarious, honest, thought provoking story of Dan and his boyfriend Terry’s road toward the open adoption of their son, D. J. The San Francisco Chronicle called it “a love story, an argument, and a how-to-book all in one. I laughed out loud and shed a few tears reading this one.

Sweet Dreams in America: Making Ethics and Spirituality Work by Sharon Welch-Welch is a Unitarian Universalist theologian (yes, there really is such a thing!). She describes this book as “offering a model of power for baby boomers who really do have the power now and are grappling with the challenges of using it well. “She draws on jazz as a resource in this book—a work of “spiritually informed ethics in a postmodern, pluralistic, and multicultural world.”

On a lighter note, I really enjoy the Laurie King series of books featuring Mary Russell and her husband Sherlock Holmes! Holmes meets his match with Mary, his half-American, theological scholar wife in

seven books so far. I’m halfway through *Locked Rooms* and recommend any in the series. I’ve donated all my Martha Grimes and P. D. James books to the Young Adult book sale for the mystery lovers in the congregation—just in time for the beach reading season.

Next on my list is *This Changes Everything: The Relational Revolution in Psychology: How the work of Carol Gilligan, Jean Baker Miller, Judith Lewis Herman, and their colleagues brought democracy to our personal lives* by Christina Robb, and *Bone Mountain* by Elliot Pattison. If this book is anything like his other novels, *Skull Mountain* and *Water Touching Stone*, I’ll be staying up too late reading.

So what are you reading these days? Drop me a line at VOBrien@ASCBoston.org or let me know when you see me at church; I’d love to know! ☺

In faith,

Vera

Vera O'Brien,
Lifespan Religious Educator



Worship Notes

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Stick Around for Summer Services

Although we miss Kim every summer, we've got a great line-up this year for our Summer Services. Make sure you check it out!

Thanks to Don and Phyllis Rickter, we have Rev. Susan Criscione of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry/Renewal House and Kay Montgomery, Executive Vice President of the UUA. Thanks to Matt Meyer, we have Jason Lydon of the Community Church of Boston. Also, familiar friends such as Adam Sutton, Darrick Jackson, and the ASC Gay Men's Spirituality Group will join us. We hope to see you here!

Update on Community Candles of Joy and Sorrow

First, I'd like to thank the more than 75 people who've provided feedback either through e-mail, face-to-face communication, or the Candles Forum in April.

When the committee put out the Worship Survey last year, we got 180 responses. Seventy-five percent of this listed Candles as "crucial" or "very important" to the worship experience. Many also wrote wrenching and personal comments, however, about the way Candles were done. Past abuse of Candles has made some people feel unsafe, but others felt safer because they could get up and share a candle—quite a difference. The Worship

Committee's challenge has been to bridge this gap in our community.

Listening to each of you and reading your heartfelt words over the last year has touched members of the committee personally, reminding them of the beauty of this all-too-rare community in which we take part. Think about it: this dialogue over candles has been a tremendous opportunity to participate in the democratic governance our liberal faith calls on us to practice in both church and greater community.

Our work on Candles isn't over yet. The last few months of written candles was only a first attempt. The next iteration of Candles will attempt to address two issues: first, the longing of many of us to share our joys and sorrows with our community in our own voice; second, the feelings of safety, increased inclusiveness, and sacred ritual that many of us feel with a more structured approach to Candles.

We'll attempt to incorporate the best of both approaches starting this summer. Please stay with us as we continue to work on this important ritual. Thank you for your inspired ideas, respectful feedback, and deep engagement.

Worship Committee Leadership Announcements

The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that Karl Paulnack will join Shea Mullaney

as co-chair in June 2006. We're also pleased to announce that Ginny Merritt, whom many of you know from Wednesday Gathering, has agreed to take on the additional responsibility of vice chair for the committee.

There are many changes taking place at Arlington Street Church. As the church grows, so do our worship needs. We're pleased to have such a strong committee and leadership team in place to make sure those needs are served.

About Karl and Ginny

Karl Paulnack has served as director of the Boston Conservatory's Music Division since 2002. He co-chaired the accompanying and coaching department of the University of Minnesota and served on the faculties of the Tanglewood Music Center, University of Southern California, Ithaca College, and Music Academy of the West. In his life, he's gone from Catholic to Episcopalian to UCC to Methodist to Pentecostal to Fundamentalist Christian to Unitarian Universalist. At ASC he pursues a spiritual life that integrates new practices like Buddhist meditation into Christian roots, a life in which humanism, compassion and common sense are characteristics of a divine being.

Ginny Merritt works as a Staff Psychiatrist for the Suffolk County Juvenile Justice System. She joined Arlington Street in 2004 and quickly found a home on the Worship Committee. Since then, Ginny has been instrumental in committee initiatives such as increasing lay participation in worship, starting the Wednesday Gathering mid-week worship services, and in our annual Pride service in June. ☺

Worship Highlights: Summer 2006

Sunday, June 4th, 2006

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Special Music

Missa brevis, K. 220, Mozart

Wednesday, June 7th, 2006

“Only Connect”

Featuring

Carol Brown, quilter

Saturday, June 10th, 2006

District-wide Pride Service

Celebrate pride at 11:00 AM with UUs from across our district. Then, join the parade!

Sunday, June 11th, 2006

Preaching

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

Music

‘Tis a Gift to be Simple, trad.

Sunday, June 18th, 2006

Walden Pond Outing

Preaching

Paul Sprecher, Ministerial Intern

Music

Special music by Rodger Vine

Sunday, June 25th, 2006

“Avenue UU”

Preaching

Members of the ASC Worship Committee

About the Service

Strap yourself in as we start off the summer season by roasting some Unitarian Universalist sacred cows in a light-hearted spoof service that explores the role of humor in worship.

Wednesday, July 5th, 2006

“Dreaming”

Featuring

Shea Mullaney, poet

About the Speaker

Shea is active member of ASC’s community including the Worship Committee, Young Adults, Earth-Spirit Circle, and Buddha’s Belly reading group.

Sunday, July 2nd, 2006

Preaching

Adam Sutton

About the Speaker

Adam is a frequent lay leader and longtime friend of Arlington Street Church. He’s an organization and leadership development specialist at Harvard Medical School, and many of us cherish his twin gifts of song and inspiration.

Sunday, July 9th, 2006

Preaching

Darrick Jackson

About the Speaker

A Divinity student at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, Darrick is a longtime member of Arlington Street Church. He’s currently serving his internship in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and we’re thrilled to have him back to preach for us this summer.

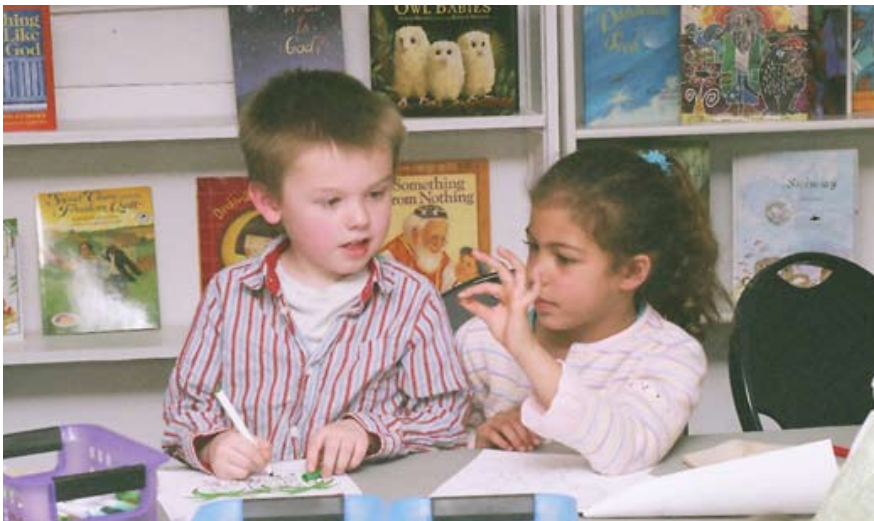
Sunday, July 16th, 2006

Preaching

Jeff Quinlan

About the Speaker

Jeff is a lay leader as well as a member of both the Worship Committee and the Young Adult Group. He brings a level of lightheartedness and worldliness to his worship as a Unitarian Universalist.



UNITARIAN
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ASSOCIATION OF
CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, July 23rd, 2006**Preaching**

Rev. Susan Criscione

About the Speaker

Rev. Susan Criscione is the director of Renewal House, a shelter for families broken by domestic violence. She's also an active organizer in the movement for the preservation of reproductive rights.

Sunday, July 30th, 2006**Preaching**

Rev. Kay Montgomery

About the Speaker

On any Sunday morning, we affirm that "Love is the spirit of this church..." If that's so, Rev. Kay Montgomery embodies that love which is the spirit of Unitarian Universalism. She currently serves as the Executive Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She's a face familiar to many and a member of ASC.

Wednesday, August 2nd, 2006**"Harmony of the Universe"****Featuring**

Jean Stewart and friends, spiritual chanters

wednesday
gathering
Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist

ASC's monthly, intimate worship service, **Wednesday Gathering**, continues all summer! The service features live music, a variety of readings, spoken candles, and special presentations by members of our community. Don't miss these wonderful services the **first Wednesday of every month**. This is a great way to get connected in our large and vibrant community.

**Sunday, August 6th, 2006**

Young Adult Service

About the Service

The Young Adult Group of Arlington Street Church return this summer to lead another foot-stomping, hand-clapping, heart-engaging contemporary Worship.

Sunday, August 13th, 2006**Preaching**

Jason Lydon

About the Speaker

This service will be led by Jason Lydon, the congregational director at the Community Church in Boston. Jason has worked in youth resources and lifespan religious education. He's a fresh face to many of us here at Arlington Street Church, and we're pleased that he'll be joining us.

Sunday, August 20th, 2006**"Is there Life after Death?"****Preaching**

Vera O'Brien

About the Speaker

Vera O'Brien is our lifespan religious educator, a chaplain at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and will receive her Masters of Divinity this year from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Sunday, August 27th, 2006**"Life and Spirit"****Preaching**

Gay Men's Spirituality Group

About the Speaker

The ASC Gay Men's Spirituality Group will round out our summer services with a contemporary worship service of joy, love, and hope.

Sunday, September 3rd, 2006**"Speaking Our Truths in Love"****Preaching**

Shea Mullaney/Ginny Merritt

About the Speaker

As members of Arlington Street Church, we renew our pledge to "speak our truths in love." In these times of political unrest, Shea and Ginny, members and lay leaders on the ASC Worship Committee, will explore ways in which human beings engage in honest, caring dialogue, and disagreement.

Wednesday, September 6th, 2006**"Cool"****Featuring**

Joe Della Penna and friends, musicians

Why You Should Join the Choir!

VOICES OF ASC CHOIR MEMBERS

EDITED BY MIGUEL FELIPE, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

In this final installment in a four-part series, I offer voices of ASC's choir. As one of the most active areas of the church community, our group of 30 – 40 dedicated musicians—non-music-reading amateurs to conservatory-trained professionals—gathers every Thursday and Sunday for hard work and lots of fun. We are always open to new members and hope, over the coming year, to welcome even more folks interested in having lots of fun while learning and serving the ASC community!

In response to a set of questions asked in June of 2005, choir members have shared their thoughts on the choir experience so you can get an idea of the variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Why do you think someone should join the choir?

"I think someone should join the choir if they want to meet new people, make new friends, learn new music, and learn interesting tidbits about that music and sometimes about music theory, learn how to sing as a whole and not just as an individual, learn how to really

pronounce all those funny Latin words, gather with their new friends on Thursday evenings for productive yet fun rehearsals and for snacks, and to become part of a new community, to contribute your time energy and passion to the church, and to become part of the worship service and experience."

"I think anyone who enjoys music and singing should join the choir! One of our greatest strengths is that we are a very welcoming group and we have a great deal of fun together."

"Our strengths are our sense of fun along with a strong work ethic. Someone should join the choir because we do all sorts of music and we have a good time at it. Also, the snacks."

"I think if you like to sing, like to have a great group of people to spend meaningful time with, and want to give back to the ASC community, then being in the choir is a perfect way to spend your time. In the words of Mary Oliver, 'What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?' How about be

happy, sing loudly with friends, and give your joy to the world?"

"I think anyone who is looking to sing high quality music in an environment that has high standards but is not stilted and stuffy, people who want to have fun but are also serious about doing

the best performances possible, and people who feel comfortable in the Unitarian church are good candidates. I have thoroughly enjoyed the choir and I am looking forward to the fall!"

"First and foremost, choir is fun! If you like to sing lots of different kinds of music, join the choir. If you are feeling a bit alone in a big crowd at ASC, join the choir. If you've always wanted to sing but never had the opportunity to learn how, join the choir. If you want to give back to ASC but hate committee work, a volunteer for the choir. If you want to perform for a demanding audience, join the choir. If you want to take a risk, get out of your usual comfort zone and try something you've never tried, come join the choir. If you want laugh at least once a week, join the choir. If you want to learn something about music, your community, or yourself, join the choir."

"Why should you join? For making a joyful noise, as an expression of self and of commitment to community, for joining with something that's greater than the sum of its parts, to challenge oneself to new heights of musical ability, and for the sheer enjoyment of making music."

"Four reasons: 1) We genuinely like and care for each other, and I hope it shows that we have are serious, yet can fun and still perform quality music. 2) No auditions. 3) Excellent snacks! 4) A chance to wear a very fashionable green robe each and every week. (During the winter this is definately a bonus!)"

If you have any questions about choir, contact Miguel Felipe, director of music, at MFelipe@ASCBoston.org, or show at 7:00 PM in the Clarke Room any Thursday night; we re-start after the summer on Thursday, September 7th! ☺



New Members, continued from p. 3

Music Is the Healing Power of the Universe. Deep rivers of Buddhism, Surrealism, Marxism (mostly Harpo) run somewhere within, I'm still finding more. I want to paint. That, and watch my youngest daughter run laps around the sanctuary after services."

Dave Genest

"Dave's journey to the ASC started with Roman Catholicism, then agnosticism, and next parenthood. Parenthood lead to several eastern Massachusetts Unitarian Universalist churches, none of which fit well enough to encourage his membership. Finally, he discovered ASC 18 months ago at a time of great need. The ASC community has provided him with a feeling of being securely at home among friends. He recently joined ASC, when he realized that he already was a member of the family."

Kathy Brucker

"I'm from Ohio but have been living in Boston about 15 years. I was brought up Catholic but have been in and out of ASC as well as other churches during my time in Boston. This winter I decided that it was time for me to make a commitment to ASC and started with the membership class. My children (6 and 10) have been in and out this church (and many others) with me but they are going to be dedicated at ASC in the near future. We are all involved in Children's Religious Education and I hope

to get more involved in church activities as they get older."

Sarah Foleno

"The past five years have brought the gifts of love, a committed relationship, and a beautiful son (James Joseph,



born February 21st, 2006). In gratitude for blessings and a search for strength and community, I came to Arlington Street Church, and from the start it felt like home."

Joe Della Penna

"Joe was born and raised in New Jersey (as a Roman Catholic), but it was always music that was his true calling and mode of spiritual expression. Through his partner at that time, Joe was introduced to the Arlington Street Church community in September of 2002. Joe is now the new music coordinator of the Wednesday Gathering service."

David Van Stone

"David grew up in California with parents that believed non-profit organizations removed the need for religion. However, he believes they would have fit right in at the Arlington Street Church! In the past year, he has participated in the ASC Gay Men's Spirituality Group and has volunteered numerous times as an usher, an assistant treasurer, an adult presence in the Children's Religious Education room, a member of the Finance Committee, and an ASWelcomer!"

Christy Zarlengo

"I have lived in Boston for 13 years, and am originally from Denver, Colorado. I have been looking for a place to attach my inner spiritual leanings to, a place where I can come and feel a part of a larger community that is also looking inward and contemplating what it means to attempt be a person of substance, courage and commitment. ASC is just such a place for me, and I am thrilled to have become a part of this congregation!"

To all our members, new and old, thank you for the unique gifts you bring to ASC. ☺

In faith,

Alison Green Will,
Membership and Leadership
Coordinator

A House of Worship

From *How to Care for Religious Properties* by Michael F. Lynch, published in 1982 by the Preservation League of New York State, and available from Partners for Sacred Places:

“Since the time of Solomon’s magnificent temple, religious bodies have employed, often at great sacrifice, the finest craftsmen and the best materials in the construction of their houses of worship.... Meeting houses, cathedrals, synagogues, chapels, schools, convents, parish houses ... compose this remarkable legacy. Collectively, these structures represent a religious, architectural, and social heritage whose tangible presence is important for future generations.

“Throughout history, America’s ecclesiastical buildings have been the focus of the best a community could muster in talent and resources. Rarely were they built as mere shells for programmatic goals; instead, in their forms, materials, and handiwork they embodied man’s love for [his core metaphor]. Today, these structures speak to us of religious traditions and link us with the ambitions and faith of their builders.

“In a language of wood and stone, ... historic religious buildings speak to us of past eras of ... architectural excellence.... [R]eligious buildings are typically the most prominent of structures; their forms dominate the streetscape and the landscape and give congruence to urban and rural communities alike.... [T]hey represent one of the finest chapters in American architectural history.

“Equally important, religious properties are landmarks in our history as a society. They are symbols of personal endeavor,

binding congregations with their religious heritage and individuals with their shared beliefs. They speak of the aspirations of the innumerable faiths which took root and prospered in America. Roman Catholics, Jews, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant groups including Episcopalians, Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Dutch Reformed, and Methodists, as well as Shakers, Quakers, Unitarians, Mormons, and Christian Scientists.... Daily, this diversity enriches our lives.

“If this heritage and the many values it represents are to be transmitted to future generations, we must consider ourselves stewards. ... We must keep religious buildings from demolition ... and protect them from inappropriate alterations. We must also see that their various components are indeed well cared for on a routine basis ... so that future generations receive from us an intact patrimony....

“A sustained and sympathetic program of building care will help ensure a future for our heritage.”

Submitted by Liz Regan, chair of ASC’s Building Committee, who found in this very text the strength to take on a leadership position in the stewardship of our historic sacred place. ⊕

The ASC Sandwich Team

MARIA COLE

As you may have noticed things are very different at the ASC sandwich table. We now make fresh, home made sandwiches every Sunday morning. It is a lot of work but it has really paid off! The food is fresher and less expensive.

The kitchen crew consists of three women: Woody O’Kane,

Carol Fisher, and me, Maria Cole. During the week Woody shops for the best buys around town, and Saturday she brings in her homemade soup and the ingredients for the sandwiches. Bright and early Sunday morning we gather in the kitchen to make the sandwiches. I confess I am always the last one there when I arrive at 8:30 AM. Why so early, you may be wondering. It is because we need to get everything done before Woody has to go to choir rehearsal.

We always manage to have a good visit while we make lunch for the church. We share a lot of what my mother called “kitchen communion.” This is the fellowship that takes place in the kitchen, the friendships that are fostered while you peel carrots and wash dishes. It is something I learned in the church kitchen as a child while helping with church suppers or Easter breakfast. My job was to set the table; ASC used to have china and silverware for at least 200!

But that is not the whole story. This lunch was made possible by our volunteers: Woody O’Kane, Carol Fisher, Maria Gonzalez and her charming children, Frank Nagle, Jon Ellertson, Jennifer Erbe, Mary Mae Tanimoto, Dawn Arthmann, new member Molly Uline, and our most recent addition Mark Watanabe, who was willing to help out in a pinch. Thanks to our anonymous patron who gave us a \$100 gift certificate to buy new bowls, knives, spoons, hot pads (and we splurged on a new tea kettle). ...and patrons like you. These folks all do a great job! Thank you to everyone.

This change in making lunch (instead of buying and reselling sandwiches) has made a huge difference in the economics of the sandwich table. We no longer are

in the red but in the black by over \$1,000! And we plan to use those profits to get into the green!

Did you ever wonder what happen to the 7th principle when you looked at those Styrofoam plates? We are using a portion our profits to buy restaurant quality plastic plates and bowls to serve lunch starting in May. The immediate change for you will be to return your used dishes to the "Dirty Dish Cart" found on the back wall just outside the kitchen door, behind the cashier. We hope the long run change will be spending less of the churches money on disposable dishes, and putting less garbage into our landfill. Earth Day Everyday. Think Globally, Act Locally. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part (our 7th principle). Yahweh God took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it. (Genesis: 2) Just Do It! (Nike, or my mother). No matter what motivates you, this is a step in the right direction.

Have I inspired you to help yet? There are a lot of ways to help because there is a long to do list. We could use 2 more folks to help with serving and being a cashier. We could use someone to buy drinks in large quantities. We could use a few extra hands to help clean up after coffee hour; we now have many more dishes to wash! You could bring in cookies or brownies or some treat, it really helps to give the menu some variety. And for the early birds you are welcome to help us make sandwiches on Sunday mornings. If you are interested or want a little more information, please contact the Sandwich table through the Church Office. Carol, Woody, and I are always happy to talk to you although during coffee hour we do tend to be a little busy. See you next Sunday! ☺

Social Action Committee

It's been a busy year for social action at ASC. We've had many letters and petitions at our SAC table, allowing people to express opinions about a range of issues, from health care to the war in Iraq to aid to the people of New Orleans and states affected by Katrina. A group from ASC will be going to New Orleans to help our sister church there, perhaps before this Window is published. You can always e-mail us if there's an issue you'd like to highlight at SocialAction@ASCBoston.org or bring materials to our table. We are here to support the work of the people who attend ASC and our committee members and also we initiate social action work as a group. We co-sponsored the *Ministry for the Earth* Film Series this year with the Green Sanctuary Committee and held discussions after the films to clarify the values and issues brought to light. A group is forming to look at water consciousness at ASC, in part as a follow-up to the showing of the film *Thirst*. We supported Arnie Katz when he wanted to have the "Awakening the Dreamer" event at ASC and you can let us know if we can sponsor an event that you want to organize and bring to ASC. We hold our monthly meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 AM. On June 4th, we'll be reviewing our work this year and brainstorming for things to begin next fall, with our first fall meeting on Sunday, September 10th (the second Sunday as the first one is just before Labor Day). Send us an e-mail if you want to get announcements of our meetings or social action events in the area! Join us! ☺

Change, continued from p. 2

In the midst of this tumult, we bid a fond farewell to Peter Johnston, our outgoing congregational administrator. We thank Peter for his dedicated service to this community and wish him well in his new position. A search committee has been formed by the Prudential Committee to manage the process of filling this important post. Committee members include Richard Pooler (treasurer), Carmen Griggs (human resources committee), Gaby Whitehouse (Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie's representative), Sheila Murphy (Finance Committee), and Brian Souza (Prudential Committee). The job has been posted, resumes are being received and interviews are underway. We hope to have a new administrator in place by late summer to take up the mantle for the coming year. Ian Baker, our bookkeeper, has stepped up to fill the role of interim business administrator. Ian is a highly qualified and capable person, and we are lucky to have his leadership in place to support us through this time of transition.

Throughout its history, Arlington Street Church has overcome remarkable obstacles, standing strong even in the midst threats to the very ideals on which our liberal religious denomination is founded. When seen through this lens, the hurdle we face today pales in comparison. In closing, we are reminded of the words of Abigail Adams, which we offer, adapted, here:

"These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life... that great [communities] are formed."

May our individual and collective genius help us to sustain and build a community and a faith which an aching world can embrace. ☺

the WINDOW



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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, August 4th, 2006** for inclusions in Vol. 6, No. 1, September – November, 2006.

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.

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