

Pulpit Talk 04-17-2016

My name is Robert Holley and I'm a member of this year's CR Committee.

It's almost 20 years now since I first walked through the great doors on Christmas Eve 1997. (Twenty years?! How can this be? Now, I can say I'm fine with getting older, but I will say that I had hoped it would take a lot longer!)

My husband Harlow and I joined ASC in 2002, feeling still new to Boston. We kept coming, and before we knew it, we were "part of." Then, we kept coming some more, and Rev Kim married us here in 2004. Since that time, this Sanctuary is where we have continued to come to enlarge our spiritual life, sometimes to celebrate our joys, and sometimes to find hope enough to heal our hearts when they have been torn apart by sorrow.

I cannot really imagine being without it.

I give each year to Covenant Renewal because I understand ASC is a do-it-yourself proposition. But it is not a just-add-water business. It takes money; ours – yours and mine. If we don't support it, no one else will. As we do, our pledges become more than simply gifts to ASC; they are also become gifts we give to one another, and to ourselves. Together, they allow us to be bigger and better than we could ever have done on our own.

This year, we will make our pledges and celebrate our community's generosity on May 15th, Covenant Renewal Sunday. I hope you will make plans to be here and join us for lunch afterwards.

We have always depended heavily on Covenant Appeal gifts to cover the major portion of our congregation's annual operating expenses, and this year is no exception. Most of this support comes from

pledging Church members, but it's not necessary to be a member to make a financial gift to support the church.

Since this is Leap Year, our Covenant Renewal theme is 'Leap for ASC'. Why leap? Because as our efforts and activities have grown, so has our operating budget. We have an ambitious goal for the coming year -- \$260,000, an increase of 13 percent over the current fiscal year which ends June 30 -- and we will need everyone's help if we are to meet it.

Please, help us "Leap Up!" and consider increasing your pledge this year by 10% -- or even 13% if the math works for you.

I invite you to join me in taking a LEAP for Arlington Street Church.

#Leap-4-ASC. Thank you!