

We Need You! Christmas Eve Ushers

It's that time of year again. We need a great welcoming crew for Christmas Eve! So, those of you who are so inclined, please come help usher for the 5:00 PM family service, or the 7:00 PM or 9:00 PM community services. We need you to show up 45 minutes before each service begins.

If you wish to sign up, please sign the clipboard during the service, or see one of the head ushers here today.

Christmas Eve Candle Preparation

Sunday, December 14th, immediately following the service, in the Stage Right Room

We are looking for volunteers to help assemble the Christmas Eve candles and holders. Eager workers should speak to one of the head ushers.

Wassail Party Volunteers Needed!

Each year between the 5:00 PM family service and the 7:00 community service on Christmas Eve, Arlington Street Church hosts a Wassail Party for members, friends, and guests. We need a few volunteers to help organize, host, and clean-up for this year's party. If interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Thomas at (617) 536-7050, ext. 13 or sthomas@ascboston.org. Susan will be at the Welcome Table after church with a sign-up sheet.

Other Announcements

Parking at Arlington Street Church

On Sunday mornings discount parking is available at the Back Bay Garage now at the rate of \$5 for the first three hours. Regular weekend rates apply thereafter. Back Bay Garage is accessible on Clarendon between Boylston and St. James streets. Present your parking ticket to an usher or at the Welcome Table during coffee hour to obtain the discount sticker.

Please note: Parking spaces in the alley are rented to private, non-Arlington Street Church members Monday through Saturday until 6:00 PM. **Spaces #1 and #2 are for our senior minister and business administrator and must be kept available at all times.** Violators will be towed at the owner's expense without warning.

Friday Night Supper Program, Inc Help your homeless and hungry neighbors!

The Friday Night Supper Program has been serving meals to over 150 disadvantaged people every Friday evening, never missing a single week, serving on holidays and through snow, storms, and power outages for almost 25 years. Here are two important ways in which you can support the Friday Night Supper Program:

SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAGS

Each December, during our holiday meal, we distribute a holiday bag to our guests consisting of the following:

1. Warm item of clothing – men's hat, gloves, or scarf
2. Toiletries - shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste
3. Pair of men's socks
4. Holiday candy

VOLUNTEER

The Friday Night Supper Program relies solely on the availability of volunteers to bring the weekly meal to those in need. It is volunteers who give the program its strength and character and who have been instrumental in ensuring the program has never missed a Friday in almost 25 years. You can volunteer any Friday evening from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. You can come by yourself or with a friend and just show up. If you would like to come as a group or as a family (more than 3 people), then we ask that you contact us in advance to schedule a date.

You can support this annual tradition by donating warm clothing and toiletries. You can also create a holiday bag with the above items which we will give to a guest on your behalf. This year our holiday meal is on Friday, December 19th. For more information e-mail Caroline Carwood at info@fridaynightsupper.org.

Suggestion Box

The staff and leadership of Arlington Street Church welcome your ideas, comments, and suggestions. If you have a thought to share about what works well or what could be improved, please send a message to Comments@ASCBoston.org or leave a note in the suggestion box outside the Church Office. Your message will be received by the Church's administrative assistant so it can find its way to the appropriate people. Please speak your "truths in love" and include your name and contact information so we can follow-up. Thanks! For emergencies, please see "Our Caring Community" to the right.

Inside Submission Guidelines

Please deliver all Sunday announcements before Tuesday at noon by e-mail to inside@ASCBoston.org. Announcements will not be accepted by telephone. Materials must be legible, signed, and fully composed and may be edited, as space is limited. Please note that we only publish submissions related to Arlington Street events or the wider Unitarian Universalist community.

Scheduling Events at Arlington Street Church

All issues dealing with building usage for both congregational usage and rentals, must be coordinated by Jeffrey Bouchard, facilities manager. Jeffrey is able to help you Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. He can be reached by phone at 617-536-7050 ext. 14 or by e-mail at JBouchard@ASCBoston.org.

Our Caring Community

In the event of a disruption or major transition in the life of an Arlington Street member, please inform the church office. Our staff and ministers, will be in touch to lend support.

Security Note

This is an urban church. Please do not leave your valuables unattended! Also, please be attentive when exiting the church into the alley. When walking in the alley avoid being alone, carry a cell phone, walk in the center of the road, and pay attention!

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*
351 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3399

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Phone: 617-536-7050 • Fax: 617-536-7051
E-mail: office@ASCBoston.org • Web: www.ASCBoston.org

INSIDE ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

NEWS FROM THE SOUL OF SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2008

Today's Events

Coffee Hour

Immediately following the service in the Parish Hall

Gather with Arlington Street Church's congregation in this lively and social environment. To find the Parish Hall, head downstairs at the rear of the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Unplug the Christmas Machine with Dan Kane and Rev. Kim

Today, 12:45-2:45, in the Frothingham Library

Join Dan and Rev. Kim for conversation and reflection on your celebration of this season. What traditions and practices reflect our values? What would comprise an ideal holiday? Beyond habits and obligations, what do we love about Christmas, and what shall we decide to let go?

Erick Dupree, our children's religious educator, has generously offered to be on hand in the Perkins Room to spend time with any children whose parents or grandparents would like to attend.

All are welcome!

The Second Annual Las Posadas

Today, 2:45 pm meet inside the Boylston Street door

Join us for a huge parade of faithful souls, an afternoon of fellowship, music, food, and a unique firsthand experience of a powerful immigrant tradition that is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago. This is a great way for communities of faith to celebrate dignity and justice with each other and some of our most marginalized members of society.

There will be a procession around Boston Common ending with a traditional fiesta from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM at the offices of the Service Employees International Union 615 at 26 West Street, (3rd floor), in Boston. For more information, contact Jennifer Chow at Jennifer.Chow@bcbsma.com or 617-246-3509. To RSVP go to www.masscs.org.

Children's Religious Education

Need new.

Music at Arlington Street Church

Autumn

Longwood Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players

Today, 3:00 pm in the Hunnewell Chapel

Arlington Street Church welcomes back our Artists in Residence, the Longwood Symphony Orchestra! Join the LSO Chamber Players & Friends for an afternoon recital of Mozart, Beethoven, Piazzolla, and Brahms!

Mozart: *Quartet No. 17 in Bb, K.458 "Hunt"*

Beethoven: *Piano Trio No.4 in D, Op.70 No.1 "Ghost"*

Piazzolla: *Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter for Piano Trio*

Brahms: *Trio for Piano, Violin and Waldhorn in Eb, Op.40*

Jennifer Chu, violin and piano	Anna Leibinger, violin
Greg Crist, violoncello	Andy Liao, piano
John Kessen, horn,	Rumi Naito, piano
Susan Kirchhausen, viola	Jamie Schlessinger, violoncello
Alastair Kok, violin	

This concert is offered free of charge, but donations to support Arlington Street Church are encouraged.

Rodger Vine

Christmas Music on Piano

Sunday, December 14th, 12:30 pm in the Hunnewell Chapel

Arlington Street's Artist inResidence, Rodger Vine, presents a brief concert of Christmas music for the piano, immediately followed by our 2nd Annual Carol Sing!

2nd Annual Carol Sing!

Sunday, December 14th, 1:00 pm in the Hunnewell Chapel

Donations to Arlington Street Church Gratefully Accepted

Join Arlington Street's musicians for our second annual old-fashioned Christmas carol sing! Mark David Buckles, Director of Music, and the Arlington Street Choir will lead us in seasonal favorites, from *Jingle Bells* to *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*. Hot chocolate, tea, cookies, and fruit to follow!

Congregational Announcements.

Plastic Bags for Bethel

Today and Sunday, December 14th, at the Social Action Table

We supported Bethel's Thanksgiving food pantry with donations and food. What they need for the December pantry is plastic bags. It would really help if the bags were doubled, then folded, but please bring plastic bags in any case to the Social Action Table.

Gay Men's Spirituality Group

New Members' Orientation

Monday, December 8th, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, in the Parish Hall

This group, now in its 6th year, meets monthly for fellowship among the gay men of Arlington Street Church who seek spiritual community with one another beyond the Sunday workshop. We open the group at three points in the year, including our December 8th meeting.

Coming Up...

Sunday, December 7th, 2008

9:30 AM	Choir Warm-up
11:00 AM	Worship Service - Sanctuary
12:00 PM	Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
12:45 PM	Unplug the Christmas Machine Work Shop - Perkins Room and Clarke Room
3:00 PM	Longwood Symphony Chamber Players - Hunnewell Chapel

Monday, December 8th, 2008

6:00 PM	Prison Education Group - Perkins Room
7:00 PM	Gay Men's Spirituality Group - Parish Hall and Kitchen

Tuesday, December 9th, 2008

6:00 PM	Finance Committee - Perkins Room
6:00 PM	Buddha's Belly - Hunnewell Chapel
6:45 PM	Children's Religious Education Committeee - Clarke Room
7:00 PM	Arlington Street Zen Center - Hunnewell Chapel

Wednesday, December 10th, 2008

3:30 PM	*Staff Meeting - Perkins Room
6:00 PM	Kundalini Yoga - Hunnewell Chapel
6:30 PM	Environment and Energy Forum - Hunnewell Chapel

Thursday, December 11th, 2008

7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal - Clarke Room
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Friday, December 12th, 2008

5:00 PM	Friday Night Supper Program - Parish Hall and Kitchen
7:00 PM	Young Adults Group - Perkins Room

Saturday, December 13th, 2008

No congregation related events at this time

Sunday, December 14th, 2008

9:30 AM	Choir Warm-Up - Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Social Action Committee - Archives Room
11:00 AM	Worship Service - Sanctuary
12:00 PM	Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
12:30 PM	Christmas Candle Preparation - Stage Right Room
12:30 PM	Christmas Music Concert - Hunnewell Chapel
12:30 PM	Jubilee Committee - Archives Room
1:00 PM	Carol Sing - Hunnewell Chapel

* This program is currently closed. Check *Inside* for the next open meeting.

NOTE: This calendar is accurate as of noon the Wednesday before publication and only includes events directly related to the congregation. For complete, up-to-date calendar listings over the coming months, visit www.ASCBoston.org.

New members are welcome at this time! Come to the above orientation evening to learn more. Questions? E-mail GMS@ASCBoston.org for more information.

Environment and Energy Forum

Wednesday, December 10th, 6:30 PM, in the Hunnewell Chapel

You are invited to join James Hunt, chief of environmental and energy services for the city of Boston, as he discusses innovative programs and policies that Boston has implemented to protect the environment, reduce energy use, and control greenhouse gas emissions.

This event is co-sponsored by Arlington Street Church's Green Sanctuary Committee and Boston's Environmental and Energy Services department. The department's mission is to preserve and enhance the resources of the city's built and natural environment; and to promote safe, reliable, affordable, and efficient energy systems. Finding solutions to environmental issues, energy issues, and climate change are of the highest priority to Mayor Menino.

Sacred Eros Group

Holiday Pot Luck

Thursday, December 18th, 7:00 PM, in the Perkins Room

Sacred Eros is a discussion group focused on spirituality and sexuality. Come and bring some pot luck goodies to share, whether this is your first time or you've become a regular. Desmond's chai is reason enough to pop in for a visit! All are welcome.

Take the Membership Survey online!

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and experiences as part of the Arlington Street Church community. This survey has been developed by our Membership Task Force and is a part of Arlington Street Church's ongoing effort to enrich the spiritual journey of members and guests alike.

This brief survey is posted on our Web site at: ASCBoston.org/AboutUs/AWelcomingCongregation. By taking part in this survey, you will help inform our plans for enhancing membership at Arlington Street Church.

Holiday Shopping Tip

You can support the homeless youngsters who live in Only A Child's shelter without writing a check, and you can do your holiday shopping at the same time! Amazon.com will give 4% of all your purchases to Only A Child. Simply go to www.onlyachild.org. and click on Help Us. Then scroll almost to the bottom of the page, click on Shop at Amazon.com. and in the blink of an eye you will be at Amazon's home page. By doing this you will be assisting Only A Child which maintains a group home and a carpentry shop for street youth in Guatemala City, offering them a place where they are respected and cared for and a place where they can grow and develop an identity complete with confidence and self-esteem. Jubilee, Arlington Street Church's work in the world, proudly supports Only A Child!

Tool Time: Rebuilding New Orleans

Fall is a great clean-up time, especially in the basement and tool shed. Do you really need ten screw drivers or five hammers? Or that never used power tool? Are you planning to make a holiday donation? Why not consider cleaning up some of those old tools you never use, or pick up a few new ones, and donate them to help rebuild the lower ninth ward in New Orleans? Lowernine.org was started by the spouse of a Unitarian Universalist minister who has dedicated his time to rebuilding the lower ninth ward. One trailer will be leaving the Boston area for New Orleans at the end of November, and another just after the first of the year. Our hope is to fill them to the brim with new and used tools.

Are you toolless? Haven't got a hammer to spare? Don't fret, Lowernine.org accepts gift cards from Lowes and Home Depot. If you have a large tool we can arrange pick up, or bring your tools to the Parish Hall before or after service, or hand them off to an usher. We will arrange to get them to the tool trailer. For more information or to arrange a pickup of your tools, please e-mail NewOrleans@ascboston.org. Many thanks from the Partner Church Coordinating Committee.

Take Action Against Racism

Come to the Social Action table to join the Rapid Response Team which is a project of Community Change Inc. The Rapid Response Team is a group of individuals in the the Greater Boston area who take action against racism under the leadership of people of color. Join the team and commit to actions such as writing a letter, attending a demo, or talking to legislators. Join us!