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# the WINDOW

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Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

December 2007 – February 2008, Vol. 7, No. 2

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## Attitude Adjustment

REV. KIM K. CRAWFORD HARVIE, SENIOR MINISTER

For some reason, this joke always makes me laugh:

*A grandmother is playing with her grandson at the beach. Suddenly, a rogue wave washes over them, and sweeps the boy away. His grandmother is distraught. "Please, god," she cries, "bring back my boy!" Another wave rolls in, and deposits the boy on the sand, good as new. His grandmother hugs him, looks him over, and casts her eyes to the heavens.*

*"He was wearing a hat!"*

We wouldn't think it was funny if it didn't somehow hold up a mirror for us. I thought about this while we were down in New Orleans for our most recent rebuilding trip. There is no better vehicle for attitude adjustment than a walk with people who have lost more than we can imagine being able to afford to lose. So few so-called "First World" challenges would even register on the Louisiana Richter scale; my friend Tim calls them "luxury problems." I commend us to the change in perspective afforded by service.

That said, on balance, it really isn't helpful to compare our lot with others. Everyone's pain is their own, and some of us are blessed

with more resiliency than others. Kem and I have a close friend who has been undergoing treatment for cancer. We have wept and raged and prayed; our friend has been cheerful, and grateful to be so well cared-



**Boston Rally for Peace**

for and so loved. Who has had the harder time of this difficult passage? Our friend and teacher, Sylvia Boorstein, reminds us, "Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional."

*The optimist says,  
"The glass is half full."*

*The pessimist says,  
"The glass is half empty."*

*The rationalist says,  
"The glass is twice as big as it  
needs to be."*

Unitarian Universalists tend to be rationalists. It's a "the glass is clear" way to view the world, but it runs the risk of leaving us cold. This generation of Unitarian Universalists has definitely done a better job of welcoming passion to our worship and our lives. The trick is to be rational and passionate ... and not to whine!

*Two women are sitting on a bench.*

*After a while, the first woman says, "Oy."*

*The second woman replies, "Oy."  
"All right," says the first woman,  
"enough about the children."*

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*please see Attitude on page 11*

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# And Service Is Our Gift...

STEVEN PROCOPIO, PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

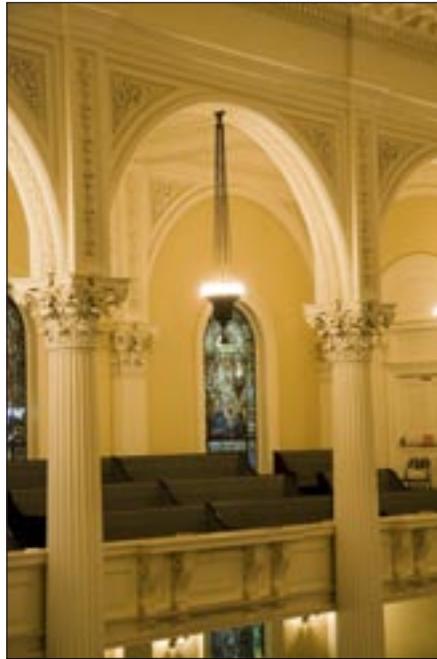
I was struck by mixed emotions recently, when watching the evening news, that Laura Bush had made a “good will” ambassador pilgrimage to the Middle East on behalf of breast cancer awareness. Seems that the stigma of that disease in that part of the world prevents effective prevention and early diagnosis programs. Most women are diagnosed in the latter stages of the disease and Laura wanted to bring a heightened awareness and support for early detection and treatment.

I by no means think that the breast cancer issue should be taken lightly. Anywhere!

However, I was also aware that while Laura was on her pilgrimage, her husband has just vetoed an increase in funding for children’s health care program. Essentially, that will leave 10 million children without health care in our country. Also, her husband’s administration cut, by 44%, home heating oil assistance for working poor/fixed income Americans. (I can only imagine the health related issues that will occur from those decisions).

I then began to wonder, if Laura was to do a pilgrimage in the U.S., what she would say to all those parents of children without health care and all those folks without heat this winter. Then I realized that Laura would never do a pilgrimage here!

When I first moved to Boston, I “adopted” my 79 year old neighbor Ruth. On a fixed income,



Ruth never seemed to have the money to turn the thermostat up past 64 in winter or turn the air conditioner on in the summer for lack of funds to pay for either.

Knowing how proud she was, I decided to be her secret “angel” and left cash in an envelope under her door periodically with the instruction of using the money for heat and air. Ruth never said anything to me directly, but at times she would give me a look, and I knew that she knew. I just loved that woman.

As I continue with my frustration over billions of dollars spent by our war machine, knowing that there are so many Ruth’s in the world, it’s time for us as a giving community to get beyond that which we may not have control and reach out to those we can impact to make life a little better. My challenge to you is not for us to remember those in need only at holiday times, but all the other times of the year.

“Adopt” a child, a family or a Ruth...Laura will not! ☺

## Mini Financial Update

Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budget: **\$637, 210**  
Pledges represent 42% of our Operating Budget

Pledge Income received by November 23<sup>rd</sup>: **\$93,200**

Non-pledge Income: **\$4,334\***

Operating Income through October 31<sup>st</sup>: **\$179, 070\*\***

Operating Expenses through October 31<sup>st</sup>: **\$166, 044**

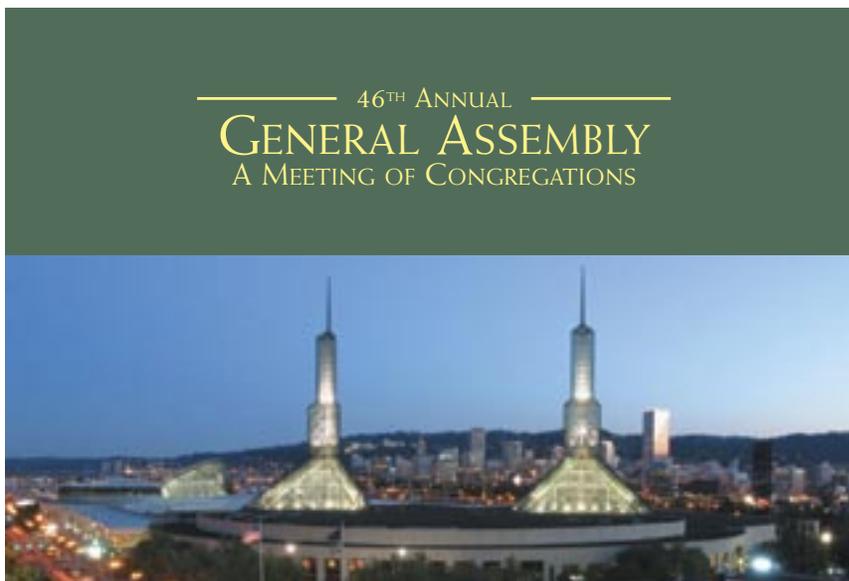
\*Non-pledge giving does not reflect the receipt of \$257, 722 from the estate of McCleary/Booth.

\*\*Includes the use of \$13, 236 in Temporarily Restricted Funds for facilities and Unitarian Universalist Association dues.

# General Assembly

LINDA EVANS, GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE

SECOND IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES



Small Group Ministry (SGM) is my passion, so I was drawn to a SGM workshop when presented with the opportunity at General Assembly (GA) 2007. Dr. Mellen Kennedy, who led the group along with others intimately involved in SGM, observed that Small Group Ministry is about “intimacy and ultimacy...to connect with others, to be with people who want to talk about what really matters, what is in their hearts.”

According to Dr. Kennedy, the three main ingredients to SGM are 1) service to the congregation; 2) all groups must abide by a set of relational ground rules about how to relate to each other; and 3) the groups must remain open and welcome new members.

The best description of Small Group Ministry I’ve come across is the following excerpt from an article written by UU Minister and author Thandeka:

“Recall a time when you were filled with joy. Where were you? At home? At a concert? A party? Maybe you were in a religious service or on vacation. Perhaps you were on a hike or seated on the sand at a beach, watching the tide roll in. Were you alone or was someone with you? Maybe you were making love, gardening, telling a joke, or jogging.

Now pay attention to how you recalled this time. You found things: memories, sensations, experiences. You gathered them together and by so doing filled a moment of time. You packed it full of thoughts and feelings, places and things, and bound them together as yours.

This recollecting and binding process is a spiritual act. It is opening up time and giving it the texture, content, feelings, and ideas actually present in your experience. This way of packing time

with detail and dimension, slowing it down by filling it up with the full presence of life, is the essence of every spiritual practice.

Small group ministries are about this spiritual practice.”  
~ Thandeka, UU World January/February 2005

Do you know we have Small Group Ministry at Arlington Street Church? We call it “Connections,” and several groups are active at any given time. New members are welcome in January and September. Check it out.

“Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” ~ Margaret Mead ☺

# The Cost of Love and Service

EDWARD THOMAS, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Arlington Street Church is a non-profit corporation and, like the country's 350,000 other religious congregations, is considered a 'public charity.' There are approximately 1.4 million non-profit organizations registered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS); the vast majority of these are 'public charities,' and provide services in the arts, education, health care, and human services.

Arlington Street Church: Gathered in Love and Service for Justice and Peace. How we accomplish this mission is not obvious from our name; unlike Harvard University or the American Civil Liberties Union.

Gathered in Love and Service. Just how do we go about doing that? Since 1729, it has been through sharing a common roof and shelter. We have built and re-built as our needs have grown and changed. Our history shows that our 'Love and Service' has never been confined to a building or held between four walls. Jubilee, Arlington Street's Work in the World, is just the most recent example.

Buildings are costly to build and maintain. In the current church year, nearly 17% of our budgeted expenses are used to heat, light, insure, and maintain the building. Among these are security, snow removal, and supplies to clean restrooms, offices, and meeting rooms.

There are other costs associated with 'Love and Service', costs which not always so obvious.

Ten and a half percent (10.5%) of our budget is used for administrative and operational expenses, such as payroll processing, postage, copier lease and duplicator supplies, telephone, internet, audit, and investment advisor fees.

Another 7.25% is spent on Jubilee, denominational dues, professional development of staff and lay leadership, along with program and committee expenses such as religious education, music, social action, and UU affairs.

Another 63% is spent on staff salaries, benefits, and consultants (choir section leaders, church organist, visitor center, and religious education). As in almost all businesses, whether for- or not-for-profit, the biggest single budget line cost is associated with people: recruiting people, training people, retaining people, and developing people.

At Arlington Street, the total 'people cost' is nearly 80% of our budget. 'People cost' is the true cost of supporting the congregation and lay leadership in its work in the world for Justice and Peace. It should never be a small number.

At this point in the church year, it would do us well to consider where our dollars go and how they are spent. Covenant Renewal and budgeting for another year will be upon us very shortly. We should be mindful that the prudent stewardship of our building and resources does not short-change our mission and purpose: Gathered in Love and Service for Justice and Peace. ☩

## More Ways to Help

### Bequests

As part of your financial or estate planning, please consider Arlington Street Church. Many forms of support are possible: bequest, life income trust, annuity, and more. Please contact Ed Thomas in the church office if you would like to learn more about making a bequest or other planned financial gift to Arlington Street Church (617. 536-7050, x16 or EThomas@ASCBoston.org). Thank you!

### Matching Gifts

#### Double Your Contribution to Arlington Street Church!

Many employers are encouraging their employees to give to non-profit organizations by matching a contribution from the employee with a contribution from the employer, usually dollar-for-dollar.

Does your employer offer matching gifts? Check with your human resources office to see if you can participate in a matching program. You can double your gift to Arlington Street Church at no cost to you!

# Spiritual Passions

KARL PAULNACK, WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

A transformative moment early in my Arlington Street Church experience was hearing Kim tell the story of “tea as spiritual practice.” During World War II, there was an English lady whose practice it was to have tea, precisely at 4, every day, no matter what. Whether happy or sad, busy or idle, in the middle of a project or bored, she stopped everything at 4 for tea. One day, a military car pulled up the driveway carrying two very somber looking officers. The wife of a soldier, the woman intuitively knew they were there to inform her of her husband’s death. As they approached the door, the clock chimed 4.

“Madam, I’m afraid we have some terrible news.” “I know,” replied the woman, “but it’s 4:00, and it is my practice to have tea now. Please join me for tea first.” “But madam,” they protested, “you will surely not feel much like tea when you hear our news.” “I have tea whether I feel like it or not,” she replied. “It is what I do at 4. Besides, I already know why you are here. Have tea with me, first, and we can talk.” They reluctantly sat down to tea with her, and in the fullness of time, told her the news, and in the fullness of time, she grieved.

Having grown up in a highly liturgical and hierarchical denomination, this definition of spiritual practice was challenging to me. Anything that got too far away from an ordained clergy person in official garb in a properly equipped church building didn’t feel so spiritual to me; I wanted things “official!” But as I have opened my eyes and looked around, I have noticed nearly countless manifestations of spiri-

tual practice, like tea at 4—“what I do, no matter what”—practices that act as a frame around the picture of our lives, regardless of what is happening at that moment.

French composer Olivier Messaien, a devout, mystic, transcendent Catholic, wrote one of the greatest pieces of chamber music of all time, the *Quartet for the End of Time*, in a concentration camp. He found himself interred in the camp, asked for paper, and started writing. It’s what composers do, how they make sense of life. It didn’t occur to him to stop writing just because he was in a prison, and he produced one of the masterworks of the literature as a result. Those of us who are professional musicians use music to give voice and expression to life, whether it’s your daughter’s marriage, the coronation of a queen, or a Brahms Requiem a week and a half after the World Trade Center bombing—regardless of what’s going on, we play.

In a committed spiritual practice, the sense of “no matter what” can be quite pronounced: Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc’s spiritual discipline of meditation was so profound that when he set himself on fire in 1963 to protest Vietnam’s persecution of Buddhists, he did not move from the lotus position as the fire consumed him. Eyewitnesses say that not a single muscle twitched.

On a less somber note, many of us have seen practitioners of many religions, particularly non-Western religions, who sing, dance and chant praise, regardless of who is watching or what those people might think of them—they do it “no matter what.”

A practice of gratitude—finding something to be thankful for, no matter what, can be a profound, transformative practice. A derivative of this practice seems to serve as the foundation for the “complaint free world” movement, a spiritual practice which is transforming many individual lives. Drumming, throwing pottery, service to others, meditation, yoga, the creation of art, writing, visiting the lonely, picking up trash in a park, so many things, framed by the proper intention, become spiritual practice. (One of my new favorites: when I see someone with a map looking lost in downtown Boston, I stop and ask if they need directions. I do it whether I’m late, grumpy, tired—I do it no matter what. It’s a simple practice that reminds me to hold the posture of service to others.)

Spiritual practice is, in essence, a container with which we hold life—if the liquid that day is particularly hard to swallow, the cup allows us to take slow, slow sips and get it down; if the broth is exquisitely delicious, the vessel helps us make it last longer, and really savor it. Without these containers, life just runs through our fingers, and is gone before we can taste it. These cups of spiritual practice come in all different sizes and shapes, and can be made out of the most unexpected materials. All that matters is that they serve the purpose—to help us hold and take in whatever is happening around us, “no matter what.” Learning this, and learning countless new variations each year during the Spiritual Passions series here, has been one of the richest parts of my time as a member of Arlington Street Church.

# Spiritual Passions

A SERIES OF SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS  
JANUARY – MARCH 2008

Way back in the winter of 2003, I conducted a wedding late one Sunday afternoon and returned to the parish house to find it still buzzing with various conversations, hours after the morning worship service had concluded. In fact, there were still sixty people in the building! Right then and there, *Spiritual Passions* was born: an opportunity for members and friends of the Arlington Street community to offer and enjoy experiential workshops on their spiritual passions. Please plan to join us on Sundays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. (unless noted) for this winter's fantastic lineup! - Rev. Kim

## The Spiritual Practice of Hospitality

Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

While many churches talk about the importance of welcoming everyone, it is often unclear how to go about doing this. The *Spiritual Practice of Hospitality* is a participatory workshop that gives a personal context and specific tools for becoming more inviting and inclusive to newcomers and to long-time members alike.

This workshop approaches hospitality as a practice that can allow us to deepen our relationship with each other, with ourselves, and with our truth. Instead of an obligation for 'their' sake, welcoming is an opportunity to practice what we believe. In this context, hospitality is not an institutional issue for the leadership or a committee to deal with, but a way of being that benefits us all.

The workshop itself will focus on closing the gap between our intentions and our actions. Through discussion, activities, and brief presentations, participants will learn and practice specific skills to increase their capacity and confidence around

welcoming. We will talk about what gets in the way and look at individual strategies to move from fear to connection. Participants will leave with a greater sense of connection to each other and with tools to take back into the community.

David Rynick's article 'The Spiritual Practice of Hospitality' appeared in the June 2007 issue of *UU World* and can be accessed at <http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/23888.shtml>.

David is a life and leadership coach who works with individuals and organizations across the country. A long-time member and lay leader of the First Unitarian Church of Worcester, MA, David has led workshops and retreats for congregations throughout New England and presented at regional and national church gatherings.

## Dancing with your Own Inner Goddess

Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

The dance of the Goddess is passion, love, nature, and connection with life. In this experiential workshop for women, explore how you can become more Conscious as a woman, and how Goddess archetypes, through the myth of the Goddess Persephone, can support your own expression of the Divine. If you wish to bring a small offering for an altar to Persephone, please come a few minutes early.

From seventh through twelfth grades, Sarah Blodgett and Rev. Kim went to the same schools, were members of the same Girl Scout troop, and attended the same Unitarian Universalist church! Sarah's been on an amazing journey since then; Kim is delighted to welcome her old friend to Arlington Street Church.

This workshop is drawn from her work with [unlimitednetwork.com](http://unlimitednetwork.com).

## The Art of Prayer

Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

This experiential workshop is an opportunity to learn and practice the art of prayer: casting intentions from our hearts and minds into words and images, then putting them out into the universe via action, conversation, or even supplication, if we must, in order to bring them to fruition.

Dan is a former lawyer who, by amazing grace, is completing his studies for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. This year, he is serving as Arlington Street's intern minister.

## The Ordination of Lauren A. Smith

January 27<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Lauren was an active member of Arlington Street Church until she left for Starr King School for the Ministry. Lauren has completed her training and is ready to be ordained! Ordination is our sacred privilege and a joyous occasion in the life of our congregation. Please join us for this very special *Spiritual Passion*!

## Inside-Out Concert Experience

Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

By listening to music imaginatively—from the "inside out"—concertgoers can easily tune into thoughtful and emotional levels of musical expression at these free one-hour concerts.

To support community-building and meaningful connections through music, each workshop concludes with an opportunity for audience members to informally share their listening experiences.

Series founder Eli Epstein, a horn player with the Cleveland Orchestra for many years and currently a faculty member at the Boston Conservatory, collaborates with Cynthia Anne Hale, Ph.D., who works with imagination and creativity through psychological dream work, research, teaching, and psychotherapy.

**Happiness is an Inside Job:  
Buddhist Teachings  
for a Modern Life**

MONDAY, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Following her book release from our pulpit on Sunday morning, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sylvia Boorstein, a Vipassana Buddhist Teacher, will be back on Monday evening to engage us in meditation, questions, and maybe even some answers! For a great introduction to Sylvia, you might like to read some of her other books, especially *It's Easier Than You Think: The Buddhist Way to Happiness*.

**Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**  
To Be Announced

**Sharing Great Music**  
Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

Join us for an afternoon of sharing great music! Mark Buckles, our acting music director will bring recordings from a variety of cultures and traditions to hear and discuss. You are invited to bring and share a recording of a song or piece that has particular spiritual significance to you.

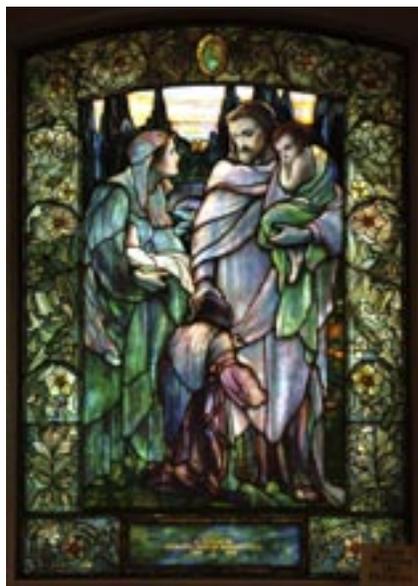
Mark David Buckles is a composer, conductor, singer, and pianist. He is captivated by the spiritual and the emotional and believes music is one of the most positive unifying forces in human relations. Mark holds a M.M. in Choral Conducting from Boston University and a B.M. in Composition from the University of Michigan. In addition to his role as the Acting Director of Music at Arlington Street Church, Mark is the Co-Founder and Music Director of Juventas, a contemporary music ensemble dedicated to the music of today's young composers.

**Introduction to Meditation**  
Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

Don't just do something; sit there! And when you sit, just sit. Very simple directives...simply, but not easy! Join Arlington Street Church's senior minister, Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, and members of Arlington Street Zen Center for Meditation 101, including answers to such burning questions such as, "Where do I put my legs?" and "How do I stop thinking (without going to sleep)?" This ancient spiritual practice will bring profound benefits not just to you, but to all whose life yours touches. Wear comfortable clothing (and yes, you may meditate in a chair!).

**Arlington Street Zen Center  
Retreat**  
Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Periods of sitting, walking, and dharma talks (teachings from the Buddha) will be followed by dinner at a local Japanese restaurant (BYO\$). Come join like-hearted seekers to savor a quiet evening together. This 'passion' is led by Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie and members of Arlington Street Zen Center.



**Sacred Eros:  
Embodying the Divine  
in Our Sexualities, Part I**  
Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

Building from his First Wednesday presentation, ASC member Desmond Ravenstone looks at the ways we can overcome traditional divisions between the spiritual and the sexual. How do we rethink the erotic and the divine, and create a new way of looking at these powerful forces in our lives? Can we create a safe space to talk about sexuality, and from that an ethic and theology/theology of sexual justice? Desmond will draw on his own study and experience of this issue to lead this discussion in two sessions.

Along with being involved with Arlington Street Church worship and the Growth and Transformation Team, Desmond has been involved as an educator, mentor, writer, and organizer around sexuality and sexual ethics. You can find more info at [http://www.myspace.com/desmond\\_ravenstone](http://www.myspace.com/desmond_ravenstone).

**Sacred Eros:  
Embodying the Divine  
in Our Sexualities, Part II**  
Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

Join Desmond Ravenstone as he continues to explore how we can overcome traditional divisions between the spiritual and the sexual.

# Worship Calendar: Winter 2007 – 2008

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,  
Senior Minister

**Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Wednesday Gathering:**

**First Wednesday**

“A Holiday Fruitcake”

Need a break from holiday consumerism? In this contemplative service, music and readings will help us recall us the deep meaning in the four December holidays of Solstice, Hanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,  
Senior Minister

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**11:00 AM**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie,  
Senior Minister

**1:00 PM**

**Carol Sing**

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**

**11:00 AM**

**Lessons and Carols**

‘Twas the week before Christmas! Come join us for some new stories of the season, some old favorites, and lots of carol singing.

**2:45 PM**

**Las Posadas**

Join in this huge interfaith procession around the Boston Common, commemorating the immigrant journey of Mary and Joseph!

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**5:00 PM**

**Christmas Eve by Candlelight:**

Family service with Arlington Street Church’s Choir.

**7:00 and 9:00 PM**

**Christmas Eve by Candlelight:**

Community Service with the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus.

**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Preaching**

Rev. Vera OBrien

**Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**

**Wednesday Gathering:**

**First Wednesday**

“Vigil for Healing”

Begin the new year with a quiet service of meditation and prayer for the healing of each other, our loved ones, and our world.

**Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie

**Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie

**Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Preaching**

Dan Kane, Intern Minister

**Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie

**Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie

**Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Wednesday Gathering:**

**First Wednesday**

“The Power of the Present”

Join Adam Sutton for a gentle yet powerful exploration of the path of the spiritual warrior. Come together in a supportive community of spiritual seekers. Together we will journey a little more deeply into ourselves. Discover what it takes to stay present in the present, experiencing the power and beauty of all we really have, the here and now.

**Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie

**Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Preaching**

Dan Kane, Intern Minister

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Preaching**

Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie

**All Hearts Come Home!**  
**Arlington Street Church: A Spiritual Home for the Holidays**  
**December, 2007**

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**WORSHIP, 11:00 AM**

**JOAN GOODWIN MEMORIAL CONCERT, 1:00 PM**

On the occasion of Joan's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday, Artist in Residence Rodger Vine will play an uplifting nature-themed concert in Joan's memory.

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship, 11:00 AM**

**CAROL SING, 1:00 PM**

Join Arlington Street's musicians for an old fashioned Christmas carol sing! Mark Buckles, acting director of music, and the Arlington Street Church Choir will lead us in seasonal favorites, from *Jingle Bells* to selections from Handel's *Messiah*. Hot chocolate, tea, cookies, and fruit to follow!

**LAS POSADAS, 2:45 PM**

Join in this huge, interfaith processional around the Boston Common, commemorating the immigrant journey of Mary and Joseph! Rev. Kim has been meeting with leaders of downtown Boston's Christian community to plan this wonderful afternoon of music, food, and a unique, firsthand experience of this beautiful advent tradition. Bundle up and come walk for immigrant rights, in solidarity with some of our most marginalized neighbors! We'll leave Arlington Street at 2:45 PM and meet up with the other church communities at the Park Street T. The processional will conclude with a holiday fiesta at SEIU Local 615's union hall on West Street.

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS, 11:00 AM**

'Twas the Week Before Christmas! Come join us for some new stories of the season, some old favorites, and lots of carol singing!

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS EVE! SERVICES AT 5:00, 7:00, AND 9:00 P.M.**

Silent night, holy night... Our choir sings in the holiday at the 5:00 pm family service, followed by a traditional Wassail party (this service is perfect for children, but all are welcome at all three services!). At 7:00 and 9:00 pm, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus incarnates as choir boys! Candlelighting is a highlight of all three services (candles are provided) Please come and bring your loved ones to share in this magical evening.

**Sunday, December 30**

**REV. VERA OBRIEN PREACHING, 11:00 AM**

# Committee Updates

## Jubilee, Arlington Street's Work in the World

MARY ANN HARDENBERGH

Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 was an exciting day for Jubilee and our 2 supported projects. In fact the whole service was “spectacular” with music, and Kim’s amazing sermon focused on the Little Rock Nine and the civil rights work still to be done.

Talia Rivera gave a most inspiring pulpit editorial as the Director of Villages Without Walls (VWW)—the summer program for six at risk/DYS students. These students created study circles and two end of summer events as part of their four hours each afternoon for eight weeks, discussing issues of youth violence. She spoke movingly of her own background as a child of a crack cocaine mother and her drug selling and imprisonment as a teenager. When her daughter rejected her while on a prison visit, she decided to change her life. Her minister at the Bethel Pentecostal Church took her in and helped her to become a street youth counselor and create the concept of Villages without Walls. She said that even the limited success of this brief summer program showed her the importance of in depth dialogues and her vision for bringing about change in these young peoples’ lives, which she could not have done without ASC’s help. She asked for continuing support to do this work in our world.

At the very well attended Congregational Conversations after the service, Laura Pattison, chair

of Social Action, again introduced Talia and asked for specific ways that ASC might help. There was a consensus that we could create a joint Study Circle with our church and Bethel Pentecostal, now based in North Dorchester, to examine issues of similar concern and come up with an action plan.

Susie Nacco told of the recent New Orleans visit to help the UU church there rebuild (as well as helping with rebuilding of peoples’ homes), the fourth trip by Arlington Street Church members, just returning the previous Thursday. Susie asked for support in their upcoming fundraising through fellowship activities.

In a discussion about Jubilee itself, all agree that we are at the beginning of this effort—“taking baby steps with Magdalena, who then stood up!! in the middle of our circle), that this is not a “one hit” support. The real challenge is building/rebuilding support with additional members of the congregation, for both spiritual and financial support. A new request for additional proposals is going out this week and will be decided in early January, with the possibility of continuing our efforts in Voices without Walls and the New Orleans partnership. Sign up sheets were sent around. For further information call the office and or go to jubilee@ascboston.org.

### Social Action Committee

LAURA PATTISON

Social Action continues its’ work with support of Villages with-

out Walls Jubilee project and sponsorship of the Sanctuary initiative. (see articles on our November 4<sup>th</sup> “Congregational conversation” about Jubilee, Arlington Street’s Work in the World, and Peter Lowber’s article about Sanctuary, in this issue).

Villages without Walls (VWW) is a young growing organization which works to deal with the violence in the city of Boston by working with youthful offenders. Our Jubilee initiative is about giving service as well as funds and VWW can use the help of people at Arlington Street Church. For example, if you have skills in book-keeping/accounting, fundraising, law, or financial management, VWW may be able to benefit from your advice or experience. You may also be interested in participating in a study circle with people from Arlington Street and the Bethel Pentecostal Church. If you have a little time to give and or are interested in the study circle, please contact Laura Pattison (SocialAction@ASCBoston.org).

Social Action continues to collaborate with the Green Sanctuary committee to offer films, usually on the third Sunday of the month. The December film will be on December 9th so that we don’t conflict with the La Posadas event on December 16th. Come to see “The Wilderness Journey, The Struggle for Black Empowerment and Racial Justice within the Unitarian Universalist Association, 1967 – 1970” (at 2:00 PM, so Arlington Street Council members can attend) We hope to have some accounts from Arling-

ton Street members who remember the events documented in this film and we will certainly have a discussion. We are starting a DVD library. The Social Action Committee will make available for borrowing some of the films we have shown, this year and last. Come by our table to see if there's something you'd like to borrow. If you have movies you'd like to contribute to the library, just stop by the table and let us know. We hope our library will grow!

The Social Action committee meets the first Sunday of every month in the Clarke Room at 9:30 am. If you'd like more information or to receive e-mails about events in the Boston area, please contact [SocialAction@ascboston.org](mailto:SocialAction@ascboston.org). ☺

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*Attitude from page 1*

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There's no need to travel to the Crescent City to put our sorrows in perspective (though we'd love to have you along on the next trip!); closer to home, supper is served at Arlington Street Church every Friday night to our hungry and homeless neighbors. Also in our parish hall, on the second Saturday of the month, volunteer opportunities abound with Rice Sticks and Tea, the Asian Food Pantry. You want to meet Talia Rivera, founder of Villages Without Walls, one of our two Jubilee-sponsored projects this year. And ¡Sanctuario!, our newest initiative to support immigrants' rights, is underway now. Join us! Speak to me or call the church office to say

yes. Let's make light in this early-winter darkness! There is no better medicine than service. ☺

Faithfully yours, with love,



All jokes in this column are from Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein's *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar: Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes*.



## Looking Backwards and Forward at the Same Time Children's Religious Education at Arlington Street Church

DANIEL KANE, INTERN MINISTER

It has been quite an exciting year for our church school this year, and we're only one-third of the way into it! The departure of our beloved Reverend Vera O'Brien has been difficult, but has also created opportunities for parents, caregivers, and church leadership to be in more open and regular communication. We are also viewing this time of change as a time to step back and assess what it is that we want our church school to be, both for our youth and families and for the congregation as a whole.

We have enlisted the support and involvement of adults throughout the church to participate in our church school – and we're still looking for more. You can sign up at the Welcome Table during coffee hour. To date, over 30 adults have signed up to lead or co-lead a Sunday morning children's religious education class, under the supervision of intern minister, Dan Kane. We have also hired Alex Rodriquez as a classroom assistant to help out with the growing number of youngsters that have been attending the church school on Sunday mornings.

Perhaps the most exciting development in children's religious

education is that we are teaching a Bible-based set of classes, beginning at the very beginning, with the creation story in Genesis. All of our classes are drawn from the Unitarian Universalist Bible study curriculum called Bibleodeon. Our focus is on the universal and



We are also in the very early stages of forming a Children's Religious Education Visioning Team that will create a comprehensive plan for all of our children's religious education over the next several years. This time of change presents us with the perfect opportunity to dream big and to make it happen! Dan Kane welcomes your input, energy and suggestions at [DKane@ASCBoston.org](mailto:DKane@ASCBoston.org).

trans-cultural nature of many Bible stories and the contemporary lessons that can be drawn from them. And speaking of drawing, the youngsters in our Sunday morning class are in the process of creating a 30 foot long mural of the Bible stories they discuss each Sunday in class. Upon completion, it will be prominently displayed for the congregation to see and enjoy.



# The Last Tiffany Window

JIM BUCKLEY, ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH MEMBER

In 1930, Mrs. H. H. Osgood Townsend of Hopedale, Massachusetts decided to memorialize the death in 1929 of both her mother, Mrs. Edward L. Osgood, and her sister, Miss Fanny C. Osgood, in a way that would be remembered for decades to come. Consulting some her friends, Mrs. Townsend chose to commission the internationally renowned Louis Tiffany Studio to create a stained glass window on which the names of her mother and sister would be affixed. Furthermore she decided that the most prominent place to have such a window installed was in the Arlington Street Church which was then (as now) considered the pre-eminent Unitarian Church in New England.

When consulted about these plans in January 1930, the Prudential Committee of Arlington Street Church and its minister, Rev. Samuel Atkins Eliot, gratefully accepted Mrs. Osgood's generous offer and readily agreed to have such a window installed. So it was that in late autumn 1930 a magnificent stained glass window replaced a plain glass window in the balcony of Arlington Street Church, thus becoming the sixteenth Tiffany window to grace the Church.

On Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1930 Mrs. Townsend traveled with many members of her social circle from Hopedale to Boston to attend the dedication ceremony. The ceremony was impressive both because of what was said by Rev. Eliot and because the window itself is exceptionally fine. In his remarks, Rev. Eliot highlighted some of Fanny Osgood's activities that made a difference in the lives of not only those living in the Hopedale area, but

throughout the nation. He referred to her actions in 1918 to single-handedly organize the District Nurses Association in order that there be medical assistance available to those in Milford and Hopedale who had been infected by the influenza epidemic. He also mentioned that she had worked to bring about the passage in 1920 of the constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote.



After the service that November, members of the congregation took turns climbing to the balcony to gaze at the stained glass. They marveled at its composition. The central figure is clad in silver armor and the attendant angels are attired in pale gold with their wings spreading wide. One carries a palm branch, a symbol of victory; the other carries a golden spear and a shield pierced

by an arrow. One of the eight beatitudes, "Blessed are ye when men shall revile and persecute you for my sake," is displayed prominently around these figures.

Ironically, this stained glass window has become the most prominent in the church, despite the fact that it is in the balcony and not on the first level of the church. This is due in part to the fact that when the first such windows were fabricated, beginning in 1899, dark shades of color were used that were not easily penetrated by the sun. To make matters worse, the sun no longer reaches those windows as it did in 1899 due to the nearby windows that overshadow them. In contrast, the so-called Hopedale window has many light colors and is fully illuminated each morning by light that is unobstructed by nearby buildings.

What also makes this window exceptional is that it was the last Tiffany window to be installed at Arlington Street Church. Of course, no one in 1930 realized it would be the last. On the contrary, every effort was made by members of the Church during the first half of the 1930s to have more such windows installed. But by 1937 it became clear to the decision-makers of Arlington Street Church that the financial devastation wrought by the great depression had prevented those associated with the church from expending the large sum of money needed to commission another stained glass window. Also by then Louis Tiffany had died and the tons of Tiffany glass stored in a warehouse in New York City had been destroyed. This made it impossible to create another genuine Tiffany window.

# Santuario Para Tod@s

PETER LOWBER, SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Who are we?

We are all guests of this land (except for native Americans who were here long before any of us). The United States was built on land taken from the native Americans, and then from the Mexicans (as a result of the Mexican American War). And the country was built by the slave labor of African Americans. And the industrial revolution in the nineteenth century could not have happened without the labor of the Chinese immigrants who built the Transcontinental railroad, and of countless immigrants who worked in the mills in New England. Despite the fact that we are a land of immigrants, and despite the contributions of generations of immigrants, our country has had a history of backlash against immigrants. For example, the Chinese laborers who built the Transcontinental railroad suffered a vicious racist assault and were denied citizenship (under the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882).

And here we are today in the aftermath of 9/11—a country in a siege mentality, fearful of a growing population of people who have come here to work because they can't survive in the land where they have come from. And so here we are in another period of racist assault on "illegal" immigrants—undocumented workers who work in our service industries—in our hotels and in our homes—who are family-oriented people who want the best future for their children, who pay taxes and who contribute to our neighborhoods.

Just as there have been move-

ments of hate, division and racism in our country, so there have been movements for justice, peace and equality. The Arlington Street Church has always played an active role in supporting the latter!! We were part of the underground railroad in the days of slavery, we were the site of the first draft card burnings in the protest movement against the war in Vietnam, we provided sanctuary during Reagan's war on Central America in the 1980s, and more recently we have provided leadership for gay rights and marriage equality.

Now is the time for us to join in a new civil rights movement—a movement to support the civil rights of undocumented workers—who are being rounded up in their places of work, their neighborhoods and homes, separated from their families and taken to detention centers, and some even deported without any due process of law. This is in direct violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, passed into law in 1868 after the Civil War to protect the civil rights of African Americans—newly freed slaves. The Fourteenth Amendment says that no "state [shall] deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." We need to have the 14th Amendment enforced today!!

The question of the legal status of immigrants can easily be settled by passing legislation to offer a clear path of citizenship—without penalty and without excessive fees

and fines—to the 12 million undocumented law-abiding workers who have been living in the United States. However, to make this happen requires a change in the current hostile and negative political climate against immigrants.

What is the New Sanctuary Movement?

In May 2007, Bill Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, published a statement endorsing "the New Sanctuary Movement, a movement of prophetic hospitality and public witness to bring about real change in the immigration policy of the United States. The UUA joins other people of faith and conscience in calling for the passage of just and comprehensive immigration reform and an immediate stop to federal raids that separate parents from their children and create a climate of fear and repression." You can read the complete statement at: <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/24051.shtml>

The New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) is a coalition of interfaith religious leaders and participating congregations, called by faith to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters residing in the United States. You can find out more about NSM by going to their web site at: <http://www.newsanctuarymovement.org/>

We are proposing that Arlington Street Church become a New Sanctuary Movement congregation. See the resolution published

here. We will bring this resolution to the congregation for a vote at the January corporation meeting.

What do we mean by Sanctuary? By Sanctuary, or Santuario, we mean the following:

1. Educate ourselves and our communities on the issues facing the immigrant community—to become active advocates for immigrant rights in our communities. We will have educational meetings based on reading materials that we will make available.

2. Be involved in actively supporting immigrant rights. This may mean going to rallies,

events, or bearing witness to raids or deportations. We will work with Centro Presente in Cambridge and other immigrant rights organizations in the Boston area. Please visit the following web sites:

<http://www.cpresente.org>

<http://www.miracoalition.org>

<http://bostonmayday.org>

3. Provide support for immigrants threatened with deportation. This may mean financial or material support. It may mean providing access to a phone line to make phone calls, or it may mean providing meals or shelter.

The benefits in being a Santuario congregation are many. We are doing work that feeds our spiritual well being, and that enriches our experience by teaching us about the lives of those from other cultures and backgrounds. This is truly an opportunity for our own growth.

We need your active participation! Please join us. Please contact Peter Lowber at [SocialAction@ASCBoston.org](mailto:SocialAction@ASCBoston.org) or 617-536-7050.

*This article was written by Peter Lowber from the Santuario para tod@s (Sanctuary for all) Task Force, with the support of the Social Action Committee.*

### **Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist Resolution Supports Sanctuary for Immigrants**

Whereas the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association passed an Action of Immediate Witness to Support Immigrant Justice and, in part, reminded us to “recognize that no one is ‘the stranger,’” and

Whereas the Unitarian Universalist Association signed on to the New Sanctuary Movement in January 2007, the first denomination to do so in a national interfaith movement;

Therefore be it resolved that, on \_\_\_\_\_, Arlington Street Church adopt the New Sanctuary pledge which appears below:

#### **Sanctuary Movement Pledge**

The New Sanctuary Movement is a coalition of interfaith religious leaders and participating congregations, called by our faith to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of immigrant brothers and sisters residing in the United States.

We acknowledge that the large-scale immigration of workers and their families to the United States is a complex historical, global, and economic phenomenon, that has many causes and does not lend itself to simplistic or purely reactive public policy solutions.

We stand together in our faith that everyone, regardless of national origin, has basic common rights, including but not limited to: 1) livelihood; 2) family unity; and 3) physical and emotional safety. We witness the violation of these rights under current immigration policy, particularly in the separation of children from their parents due to unjust deportations, and in the exploitation of immigrant workers. We are deeply grieved by the violence done to families through immigration raids. We cannot in good conscience ignore such suffering and injustice.

Therefore, we covenant to:

- 1) Take a public, moral stand for immigrants’ rights;
- 2) Reveal to our members and the larger community, through education and advocacy, the actual suffering of immigrant workers and families under current and proposed legislation;
- 3) Join other faith communities in campaigns to reduce hate, workplace discrimination, and unjust deportation of immigrants.

# the WINDOW

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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#### **Editorial Staff of THE WINDOW**

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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 Arlington Street Church events or the wider Unitarian Universalist Association community.

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#### **Submissions Deadline and Method**

Entries should be sent as Word® document to [Window@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Window@ASCBoston.org) by 5:00 PM, Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 for inclusion in Vol. 7, No. 3, March –May, 2008.

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#### **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](mailto:Office@ASCBoston.org).

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#### **Disclaimer**

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

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