



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679
office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

January 2022 Newsletter

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Deadline for February newsletter: Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022

**Worship: 10:30 a.m.
On Zoom
...and we hope resuming in person in the
Old Ship Meeting House sometime this month.**

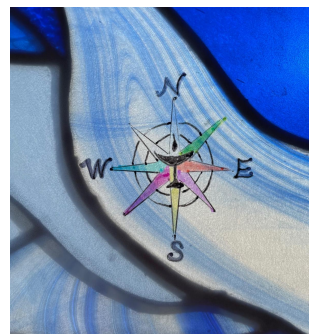
Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

[Click here to join Sunday Worship!](#)

**WITH RENEWED COVID CONCERNS, PLEASE
WATCH OLD SHIP WEEKLY UPDATES TO LEARN
WHETHER THE UPCOMING SERVICE THAT WEEK
IS ZOOM ONLY OR HYBRID.**

Sunday, January 2 - [Zoom only this week](#)

"The Truth of the Matter... Life, that is" will be Ken's sermon as the new year begins. This sermon will also serve as an introduction to Ken's winter class "The Bhagavad Gita and the Meaning of Our Lives," which will begin on Wednesday, January 5 (*see the "Life Learning" section of our newsletter for details about the class and signing up*).



Sunday, January 9

"New Horizons" is the theme of this year's Old Ship pledge campaign. In his sermon Ken will explore the opportunities wrapped within whatever challenges and changes we face as individuals, as a congregation... as well as more broadly.

Sunday, January 16

On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, Ken's sermon will be "Who Made America?" – coming to terms with our American history of slavery, Jim Crow,

and continuing racism. What do we learn from the “1619 Project” that we should have already known?

Sunday, January 23

This will be our annual pulpit exchange with Second Parish in Hingham, which means that Rev. Stephanie Shute Kelsch (descendant of the first minister of Second Parish) will preach for us at Old Ship, and Rev. Ken Read-Brown (descendant of the first minister of our First Parish, Old Ship Church) will be preaching at Second Parish.

In this month during which many pursue a 21st century version of hibernation, Stephanie will speak about “Facing Winter” - the gifts and the challenges of doing so in a meaningful way. Stephanie came to the ministry after a long teaching career and is delighted to serve at Second Parish in Hingham where her ancestor was the first minister. Since 2013, she has treasured these pulpit exchanges with Ken – “an exceptional colleague and friend.”

Sunday, January 30

Ken Read-Brown and Deb Weiner, our Interim Religious Education Consultant, will be sharing the service and the sermon: “Beneath the Deep Piled Snow”

Deb writes: “Hard to believe, but the ancient Celtic calendar tells us that spring is on the horizon! February 1 is the feast of Imbolc, the time of milk, of lambs being born, when the early spring begins. And so it is at Old Ship. What lessons can we take from this time of rest, knowing that at our church, in its religious education and community programs AND beneath the ground, roots are about to take hold?”

Following the service, in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom, everyone in the congregation is invited to a conversation with Deb. This community conversation will be an important part of her and our shared Interim Religious Education process.

Donors For Sunday Flowers

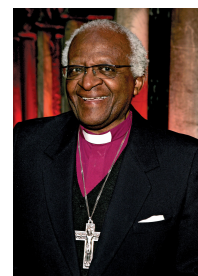
Interested in being a Sunday flowers donor? **January 23 is available!** You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact [Sharon Prehn](#) by email or 781-925-0101).



from the minister's desk

Musing

We have lost one of the towering figures of our era, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, whose influence and inspiration of course began in his native South Africa but spread as far and wide as his infectious smile and laugh. We are all the better for his having been among us on the planet for his ninety years. Yet in his spirit we are called to remember that we all have parts to play, however modest, in



continuing the work of justice and reconciliation. As he wrote:

We must remember that liberation is costly. It needs unity. We must hold hands and refuse to be divided. We must be ready. Some of us will not see the day of our liberation physically. But those people will have contributed to the struggle. Let us be united, let us be filled with hope, let us be those who respect one another.

Archbishop Tutu did not use the word “respect” casually. He lived it. Whether through his work as founder of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, or through his friendships with religious leaders of other faiths (notably including His Holiness the Dalai Lama) Archbishop Tutu showed us what “respect” looks like.

It is understandably tempting to despair over the state of the world. But if the human race can produce the likes of Desmond Tutu, all is not lost. Far from it.

Peace and Blessings,
Ken (*he, him, his*)
cell: 781-635-2060
oldshipkrb@gmail.com



Christmas Pageant!

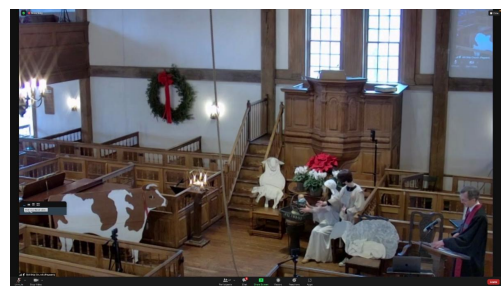


Our hybrid Christmas Pageant was a beautiful success!

As Ken shared the Nativity story, participants in the Meeting House and on Zoom created our annual "tableau" of Mary and Joseph, stars, angels, shepherds, wise ones, and animals in the stable.



Thanks to everyone who made it all possible, many of whom you see in these photos - with thanks to our Old Ship photographer Ralph Brown.



Board of Trustees January Newsletter

Greetings and Happy New Year!

We know you have many questions for the Board since receiving the news from Ken that he will be leaving as the minister of Old Ship at the end of July 2022. My message this month is about the process for filling the position of the interim minister for Old Ship. There will be updates each month from the Board in the newsletter, and occasional Constant Contact messages, to keep everyone informed and up to date regarding the hiring process.



This new year will be a year of transitions, and also of new horizons, for Old Ship. We have been blessed to have had Ken as our minister for many years. The changes we anticipate will be challenging—but will also bring new opportunities. The Board is committed to working closely with staff, and the interim minister, to continue to fulfill the mission of Old Ship, while renewing our vision.

The full-time interim minister will begin on August 1, 2022. Interim ministry is considered transitional. The interim minister cannot become the settled minister. Typically, an interim minister serves a congregation for two years. Occasionally, it can be one year, or longer than two years. The time frame is necessary for the interim minister to assist us to move beyond Ken's ministry and become equipped for a new settled minister. The interim minister can help us to look at practices that may or may not be serving us well, assisting through the emotional process of transition, and connecting us to needed resources.

The Board has reached out to the Unitarian Universalist Association transitions manager who is assigned to work with Old Ship. She will assist us to hire both the interim minister and to call the permanent settled minister. In order to fulfill the responsibility of hiring the interim minister, the Board is referencing the UUA Transitional Ministry Handbook and all of us are reading a book recommended by the UUA on transitional ministry.

The UUA recommends, and we will be following, this hiring process:

- The interim minister will be hired by the Board of Trustees. A search committee will be selected by the Board in January 2022. The committee will be 3-4 members of the Board. The Board is charged with leadership of this process which needs to move quickly. We will seek input from the congregation throughout the process.
- The search committee will complete the required application and profile to submit to the UUA. The application will become available to the Board on February 1 and is due in April. We will schedule conversations with the congregation in January, February and March to gather input and answer any questions regarding the hiring process.
- The UUA will send a list of qualified, interested candidates to the search committee by May 2022.

- During May, the committee will be very busy. We will screen the resumes, conduct interviews either on the phone or on video, and will check references.
- The search committee will present the chosen candidate to the Board of Trustees for approval before the end of May.
- The search committee will forward the name of the candidate selected to the UUA Transitions office prior to making an offer to the candidate.

We welcome, and invite you, to contact any one of the members of the Board of Trustees with questions or concerns that you have:

Board of Trustees

Ginny Perelson

Roy Harris

Jack Gomez

Diane Jordan

Diane Morrison

Maureen Butler

Joan Wilson

Dave Petrie

Piper Carillo

Dana Kintigh

We are looking forward to a healthy and prosperous new year for Old Ship in 2022.

All the best,
Ginny Perelson
President, Board of Trustees
she/her/hers

Martin Luther King Day Contributing and volunteering to end hunger

Once again this year the Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association is sponsoring a meal packing day through the End Hunger New England organization.



We can contribute to the cause at www.endhungerne/#donate – indicating MLK Day in the notes/memo when we do.

To sign up to volunteer at the Pembroke Warehouse go to:

signupgenius.com/go/10c0945aca828a1fb6-endhunger

You will see that most volunteer slots for MLK Day are already taken, but there are other opportunities on other days as well.

--Ken Read-Brown



Nurturing Community

Among Us

We offer our thoughts and prayers to our music director, Christopher Nickelson-Mann; as we shared in our Sunday afternoon special email, Christopher tested positive for Covid with symptoms (he was not in church on Sunday). We wish for Christopher a quick and full recovery.

We offer continued sympathy to Jack Gomez and all his family, including his sister-in-law Judy. As we shared in last week's Weekly Update, Jack's older brother Pete Gomez, Judy's husband, died on Sunday, December 19, at the age of 68. He was a Hingham native and most recently resided at The Residences at Penniman Hill in Hingham. A service in celebration of Pete's life will be held at Old Ship, in-person and on Zoom, on Friday, January 7, at 11:00 a.m.. [Here is the Zoom link.](#)

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

We are all on the pastoral care team, but our "Pastoral Care Leadership Team" meets each month to share any concerns about parishioners who are ill, in the hospital, or facing other significant challenges, and to coordinate responses. If you have a pastoral concern to share with our Team, please feel free to contact any member of the group:



[Ralph Brown](#)

[Liz Flint](#)

[Elaine Gomez](#)

[Alicia Harkness](#)

[Fan Leonard](#)

[Catherine Mayes](#)

[Carol Valentine](#)

[Joan Wilson](#)

[Ken Read-Brown](#)

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

I want to say thank you to everyone who helped make the 2021 Christmas Eve service a memorable one. Though we were not able to all gather together physically, we were close in spirit and in heart. It's hard to fathom that the choir returned only a few short weeks ago, yet were able to sing such intricate and beautiful music together. I appreciate their hard work and dedication in bringing this music to life! To our vocal soloists, thank you for sharing your voices with us -- I cannot express how much joy you bring to the Old Ship congregation! And to all the members for your support of the music at



Old Ship -- a big 'thanks' to you, too! Your continued support and love do not go unnoticed.

I wish you the very best for 2022 as we continue to make great music together.

Musically Yours,
Christopher

Donors For Sunday Flowers

Interested in being a Sunday flowers donor?
January 23 is available! You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact [Sharon Prehn](#) (781-925-0101).



WISDOM OF THE POETS

"And now let us welcome the New Year,
full of things that have never been."
Rainer Maria Rilke



"There are moments when the heart
is generous and then it knows that
for better or worse our lives are woven together here."
Wendell Berry

Children's Religious Education

Nursery care for the very young is provided each week in the Parish House nursery.



Sunday morning programs:

The week of January 2nd, all Religious Education classes will be by **ZOOM ONLY!** Please [click here for the Zoom link](#) or email [Maureen Butler](#) and/or [Kate Doyle](#).

WITH RENEWED COVID CONCERNS, PLEASE WATCH OLD SHIP WEEKLY UPDATES TO LEARN WHETHER THE UPCOMING CLASSES THAT WEEK ARE MEETING BY ZOOM OR IN PERSON!

All programs are in person, and will begin with attendance for the first part of the worship service at 10:25 am in the Meeting House:

- Faithful Journeys (Kindergarten - Grade 5)
- Neighboring Faiths / Building Bridges (Grades 6-7)

- Youth Group (Grades 8-12)
- Father Bill's Lunch Making - 4th Sunday of each month (all ages)
- Celebrations (all ages)

Other programs

- Coming of Age (Grades 8-10) - This is a family favorite and important class for this age group.
- Interim Work with Deb Weiner, Transitional Religious Education Consultant

Please [register for the 2021-2022 year at oldshipchurch.org](https://oldshipchurch.org)

Religious Education Coordinator

We are intending to hire a 10 hour per week religious education coordinator for the year. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please let us know!

For more information

Please see Breeze (oldshipchurch.breezechms.com), oldshipchurch.org, upcoming emails or email dre@oldshipchurch.org. Thank you!



Religious Education: Conversation with the Community!

Sunday, January 30 11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Our interim religious education consultant, Deb Weiner, will be sharing the worship service with Ken on the 30th, speaking and preaching about the significance of religious education ministry, future visions, and the like.

After the service that day we will hold a combination in person and zoom congregation wide discussion and visioning / dreaming exercise around religious education ministry.

Please join us for this very important congregation-wide conversation. Deb Weiner will facilitate a meaningful conversation for us about the significance of religious education, including a little bit of history, for Old Ship church, in the context of Unitarian Universalism.

This is an invitation and opportunity for all Old Ship members to offer insight and input on the meaning of religious education for them, and their families, in the past, present, and future.

We will join together in the spirit and practice of visioning for the future. Bring your compassion, your dreams, and your ideas, bring yourself, to help design what children's and youth education, family ministry, and/ or life long religious education can be!!

If you have any questions about this please contact [Maureen Butler](#) and/or [Kate Doyle](#).

Life Learning Offerings

click here to see our [2021-2022 Life](#)

Ongoing groups and gatherings
[click here to see our 2021-2022 Life Learning brochure](#)



The Bhagavad Gita and the Meaning of Our Lives

six sessions, Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 5 **on Zoom only for now**
1:00 and 7:00
led by Ken Read-Brown

The classic Hindu text the *Bhagavad Gita* has influenced and inspired millions – including our minister! The many layers of meaning include resources that can help us plumb the meanings of our lives and plot the directions of our lives. A companion book for the class will be *The Great Work of Your Life: A Guide for The Journey to Your True Calling*, by Stephen Cope. For more information, including recommendations of *Gita* translations, to sign up and for the Zoom link contact [Ken](#), 781-635-2060.

So You Want to Meditate

Saturday, January 8, 3:00 – 5:00 [Zoom](#)
led by Ken Read-Brown

Whether you are a long-time meditator or wish to begin, this gathering will offer some basic instruction in mindfulness meditation and in Eknath Easwaran's passage meditation. There will be time for questions and conversation, and time to meditate. We are living in tumultuous times – all the more reason to live from a deeper place. In person and on Zoom. For further information and for the Zoom link contact [Ken](#).

Ongoing groups and gatherings

[click here to see our 2021-2022 Life Learning brochure](#)

Bodhisattva Study Group – Continues to gather each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. On the first and third Sundays of each month, Ken Read-Brown leads the group, returning to Zoom only for now, through meditation and conversation as we continue to read from Pema Chodron's book "Welcoming the Unwelcome." On alternate Sundays members of the group lead the conversation on Zoom based a different reading each week. All are welcome. For questions and for the Zoom links, email [Ken](#).

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – our next gathering will be January 9 – in the Parish House parlor and on Zoom. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and, for the Zoom link.

Women's Breakfast and Conversation – This month will meet on Sunday, January 30th. Ordinarily meets on the *fourth Sunday* morning of each month from 8:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. Open to all the women of the church. If you would like to attend, you may [click here](#) for the Zoom link or send an email to [Janice McPhillips](#)- all are also welcome to gather in the Parish House parlor. We gather in the parlor to share our lives and enjoy one another's company. Conversations are confidential and, again, all are welcome!

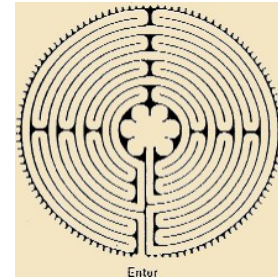
Sacred Texts Meditation Group – Ordinarily meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 4:00 p.m. for meditation and conversation based on a shared text we are reading together, this year mostly from the Taoist tradition. Email [Ken Read-Brown](#) for information and to be added to the email list and to receive the Zoom link for our gatherings.

Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. So our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, January 4, at 7:00 p.m. Given the particular danger of virus spread through singing, we will once again gather on Zoom. Email [Ken](#) with any questions about ceilidh or for the Zoom link to attend.

Other January Events:

Candlelight Sound Meditations at the Labyrinth

Has been postponed, due to Covid concerns. Watch future newsletters and updates for rescheduling information.



The Labyrinth committee and the Bodysong musicians will offer Candlelight Sound Meditations at the Labyrinth this winter. The first one on Saturday January 1 from 5:00-6:30, to celebrate New Beginnings and walk together into the New Year, has been postponed - we hope to reschedule before too long. For more information please email or call [Santjes Oomen](#) at 508-228-9939

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC) *Our next meeting is Saturday, January 8, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Contact [Davalene Cooper](#), if you need the Zoom link.*



January's Special Plate Collection is for Renewal House — Old Ship has supported Renewal House, one of the programs of the UU Urban Ministry for many years. As a reminder, here is the description of Renewal House from the UUUM website:

Renewal House is a domestic violence shelter for individuals and families who are fleeing violence or abuse. Since 1980, Renewal House has provided temporary emergency shelter and advocacy services to more than 1,000 individuals and families escaping domestic violence. Renewal House was one of the first domestic violence shelters in the state to provide shelter for male survivors as well as female, and is sought out by other agencies for its expertise in attending to the spiritual needs of survivors. Renewal House works closely with other programs that serve the LGBTQ communities, as well as those that serve elders and individuals with disabilities to provide the best support we can to these underserved populations

This is important work, which we are honored to support. You may make your donation [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to Renewal House or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with Renewal House designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Hingham Food Pantry — From the Hingham Food Pantry to its supporters: "HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! Thank you all for your extremely generous contributions this holiday season! HFP is now in the extremely fortunate position of being fully stocked in non-perishables which will last well beyond our December Holiday Distribution. Thanks to you all we do NOT currently need additional non-perishables through the end of January. Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday season." As a result, we will begin collecting non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food for the Hingham Food Pantry as part of our Sunday morning worship service later in January. We will update this information through the weekly Constant Contact. We thank all of you for being part of filling up the shelves of the food pantry!

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will next meet on Sunday, January 16, on Zoom, at 7 p.m. We will be discussing Nicole Chung's memoir, "All You Can Ever Know" (2018). Patti Smith will be leading our discussion. For more information or if you have questions, contact [Davalene Cooper](#). This group is open to all who are interested in learning more about racism and its impact on our nation, past and present. It is a drop-in group so members may attend whatever book discussions they are most interested in. Here is the [Zoom link](#) for the January meeting.

Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network — Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, and participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.

Old Ship Elves -- Thank You!

This year, for the first time, Old Ship adopted for Christmas ten families being served by the Friends of the Homeless on the South Shore. Those ten families included 36 men, women, and children. The hope was that each adoptee would receive three gifts--and we accomplished that task and then some! We delivered more than 108 gifts to the Friends, who then delivered the gifts to our ten families, as well as to all the others they serve. Some of these families are currently living in shelters and others have just moved into more permanent housing. The Friends were grateful for our contributions and thank all of you who participated. Thanks so much for making the holidays for these families brighter and merrier! On a more personal note, I was so moved by the phone and email conversations I had with many of you as you were deciding what gifts to buy, based on the list each of them had submitted. The thoughtfulness each of you brought to this selection process was inspiring--and the joy you expressed at being able to help someone else during the holidays was overwhelming! Thank you all.

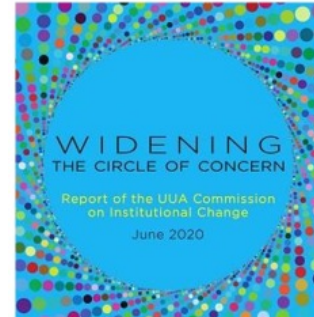


We hope next year the Friends will be able to have the holiday dinner that we at Old Ship have been a part of for years. And if the dinner can happen, we will support it. BUT we are planning to again adopt ten families next year as well. We just want to repeat all the joy we gave and received through our work as elves! Again, thanks to all of you! And a special thanks to Carol Valentine and Louise Smith who helped me organize and deliver the gifts!

--Davalene Cooper

New Old Ship Task Force on Widening the Circle—Would you like to join us in this work?

Imagine an Old Ship community where all who come here feel fully welcomed and free to join in all our activities and programs. What would that Old Ship community look like? How would we create such diversity? How would this atmosphere of radical welcome change us as a community? What hidden obstacles, or perhaps overt obstacles, get in the way of someone feeling truly welcomed here?



These are some of the questions this new task force will consider as it reviews “Widening the Circle of Concern,” a report issued in June 2020 from the UUA Commission of Institutional Change. This Commission was charged “to conduct an audit of the power structures and analyze systemic racism and white supremacy within the Unitarian Universalist Association.” The report makes findings and recommendations regarding the problems of racism and white supremacy within Unitarian Universalism. The report itself is grounded in the premise that our faith is calling us “into living the fullness of the theology we inherit and proclaim.”

Last spring at our annual meeting, we unanimously affirmed that “the major focus of the social justice effort at Old Ship for the next three years will be centered around issues of racism, white supremacy, and climate change. This task force is a crucial step in dismantling white supremacy and any other obstacles that get in the way of welcoming everyone to Old Ship. Our work is to study the report, ask questions about our Old Ship community, and then make recommendations as to how we might create a more beloved community at Old Ship—a community grounded in our theology of love and acceptance. The Task Force is open to any person in our community who would like to be like to be a part of this work. To join us, or if you have questions about this effort, contact Davalene Cooper, Chair of the Task Force, at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790.

The Old Ship Calendar

The Old Ship Church calendar is available on our website by clicking [here](#).

If you have an upcoming event or meeting and you want to see it on the calendar, please email [Lisa](#) in the office.

Additionally, if you contact information has

changed, please email [Lisa](#) so she can update the Old Ship database.



Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, January 4, 7:00 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. Zoom
- **Welcoming Congregation Committee for the 21st Century** - Thursday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.

The Welcoming Congregation Committee Meeting Thur. Jan. 13, 7pm (Nursery & Zoom)

Gender in the 21st Century

Did you miss the class earlier this year? Would you like a recap of the class?

Discussing what gender is, (it's way more than male and female). Why are pronouns so important?

Sunday Service in March

If you have questions, please call 781-706-6316 or email [Abby](#).

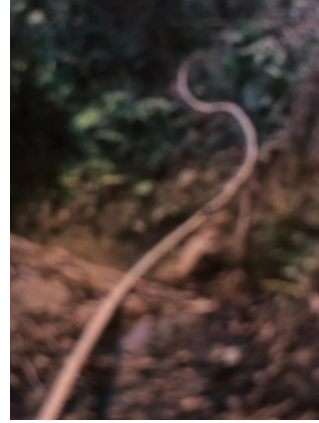
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



Honduras Hope

With the generous donations from the members of our Old Ship Church, a new cistern and water pipes were built in Plan Grande. This important water system was destroyed by hurricanes. Over twenty-five men worked together to build something for their community.





Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2019 we were able to convert used cartridges into almost \$500 of office supplies! Drop off your cartridges in the cabinet right outside the office door. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!



Shopping and Amazon Smile:

Are you shopping on Amazon? Please shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization: The Old Ship Church! —no fees, no extra cost. Simply start your shopping at smile.amazon.com to support your favorite charity.



from your friends at
Old Ship Church!