

**First Parish,
Old Ship Church
Unitarian Universalist
Hingham, Mass**



Youth group members on service and learning trip in Appalachia

**Annual Report
2015**

Old Ship Church

2015 Annual Report

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Warrant: May 2015
First Parish in Hingham Old Ship Church Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 17, 2015 at Noon in the Parish House**

No warrant available at the time of printing.

Deacons Annual Report

At a Special Meeting of the Parish in October, 2014, Mike Dwyer was elected to the position of Deacon, due to the resignation of Tino Fernandes, who has moved to New Hampshire. We gratefully thank Tino for his years of dedication to the Deacons, with special appreciation for his many contributions to Old Ship.

In keeping with the Deacons' responsibility to fill the pulpit in the absence of the Minister, Deacons Fan Leonard, Jane Malme and Eva Marx presented our Minister's sermon on Sunday, September 21st so that he could participate in the People's Climate March in New York in advance of the United Nation's Climate Change Summit on September 23, 2014. Deacons also assist in other services, at the Minister's request.

The Deacons meet periodically with the Minister to cooperate with him in contributing discretionary funds to provide relief to parishioners who have a financial need that cannot be met otherwise, and to provide financial assistance to the Parish for purposes deemed necessary to the welfare of the parish. This year the Deacons discussed and adopted guidelines for the disbursement of its limited funds and the retention of a reserve to ensure pulpit supply, if the need arises.

Deacons' funds are managed by the Trustees of Invested Funds, and augmented from time to time by donations. This year donations were received in memory of Janice Mullen who passed away in December.

Turner Bledsoe, Mike Dwyer, Fan Leonard, Jane Malme, Eva Marx

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT SLATE OF NOMINEES for 2015-2016

*Terms specified in Bylaws. New nominees in **bold**.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2015-2016

The Nominating Committee met with the Minister and President of the Board to ask about the needs for governance. We also surveyed members of the Board on their needs. In the coming Old Ship year the Committee will provide orientation for the newly elected members and leadership development.

Janice McPhillips, Davalene Cooper, David O'Malley, Janet Asnes and Scott Pollara.

Board of Trustees

nominees in bold

Officers: One-year term, limited to three consecutive terms

President:	Nina Welford	1 st term
Vice President:	Janet Asnes	1 st term
Treasurer:	Bryan Hurley	1 st term
Clerk:	Diane Morrison	1 st term

Trustees at Large: Three year terms, limited to two consecutive terms

Ginny Perelson	1 st term, 1 st year	
Chris Sullivan	1 st term, 1 st year	
Lauren Petrie	1 st term, 2 nd year	Youth Position
Rob Baynes	1 st term, 2 nd year	
Jeff Lee	1 st term, 2 nd year	
Maureen Butler	1 st term, 3 rd year (completing Bryan Hurley's term)	

Trustees of Invested Funds: Five year term,

Mike Dwyer	5 th year (finishing Kirk Anderson's term)
Sherry Penney Livingston	4 th year
Rick Mattila	3 rd year
Michael Mercurio	2 nd year
Craig Russ	1 st year

Other Elected positions: one year terms, limited to three consecutive terms

Collector:	Rick Butterworth	1 st term, 1 st year
Assistant Collector:	Angela Harvey	1 st term, 1 st year

Nominating Committee: one year term, limited to three consecutive terms

Janice McPhillips(outgoing chair)	3 rd term
Davalene Cooper (incoming chair)	2 nd term
David O'Malley	2 nd term
Lulu Wiley	1 st term Youth Position
Open position - To be named	

We thank members of the board for their years of service to the community. Special thanks to Elaine Gomez who served three one year terms as president and two terms as an at-large member of the board. Thanks as well to other board and elected committee members whose terms have expired include Pam Harty, Craig Russ, Ron Pollara as Treasurer, Chris Sullivan as Clerk, and Ursula Stone as Collector. Of note, a special thanks to Chris for moving from Clerk to fill an at-large seat on the board and to Bryan for moving from an at-large seat to fill the role of Treasurer. Thanks as well to Mike Schleffler who has completed his 5 year term as Trustee of Invested Funds.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

No report available at the time of printing.

STAFF REPORTS

REPORT OF THE MINISTER

Kenneth Howard Read-Brown

I was called as your twentieth settled minister in 1987. I am honored and privileged (and somewhat amazed!) to be with you still, twenty-eight years later. I appreciate and love being your minister! So I thank you deeply for your support of this ministry, and I thank you for your energy and creativity in support of the ministries of Old Ship that we all share.

My report is organized according to our five Old Ship ministries:

Nourishing the Spirit

Worship

For 380 years our congregation has been gathering on Sunday mornings for worship, and for 334 of those years our gathering has been in what we have come to call the Old Ship Meeting House. Sunday morning worship – a time to reflect and renew, a time to replenish our spirits that we might better be able to live lives of meaning and service – is at the heart of our Old Ship life.

Many hands create each worship service – not by any means mine alone. I am grateful to our music director in particular, Berni Nadeau, along with the choir, who offer music each Sunday to enrich our worship. I am grateful to the many volunteer chalice lighters and readers who enhance each service. I am grateful for the Worship and Music Committee, who recruit these volunteers and who with me and our music director reflect upon Old Ship worship to ensure it remains vibrant, inspiring, and indeed nourishing to the spirit. I am grateful to our Nurturing Community Council, who make sure we have ushers and greeters each week, so that everyone who approaches and walks through our Meeting House doors feels welcome and at home. I am grateful to the Flowers Committee for ensuring that beautiful arrangements grace each service. And grateful to the Building Committee for devotedly caring for our house of meeting.

Worship this year since our 2014 Annual Meeting has included most of our usual special services: Religious Education Sunday, New Members Sunday, Flower Sunday, Homecoming, Community Thanksgiving service, Vespers services, Christmas Eve, and Mostly Music Sunday.

Worship did *not*, for the first time in almost thirty years, included a visit from the Harvard Glee Club and Radcliffe Choral Society. They changed their fall retreat plans. Instead, though, they gave us a splendid afternoon concert earlier this April – which we used to benefit the youth service and learning trip to Appalachia and the new keyboard fund.

In September three of our Deacons preached a sermon I prepared on climate change while I joined hundreds of thousands of others, including other Old Shippers and many other UUs, at the People's Climate March in New York City.

I exchanged pulpits in October with Pam Barz, the minister at First Parish in Scituate; in November with Jill Cowie, the minister at First Parish in Cohasset; and in January with Stephanie Shute Kelsch, lay minister at Second Parish in Hingham. Other pulpit guests included Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, director of UU Urban Ministry, and troubadour/preachers Ben Tousley and Jim Scott.

This year the annual UU Union Service (including the Hingham, Cohasset, Norwell, and Scituate congregations) was held in March at First Parish Scituate. The shared leadership and shared music for the service once again created a beautiful Union Service.

Rites of Passage

Since my last annual report, I have officiated at six child dedications, some of them private ceremonies and others as part of a Sunday morning service. During this period I have also officiated at ten weddings, seven at Old Ship, one in Maryland (our son's!), one outdoors on Cape Cod, and one at First Parish in Cohasset.

I have officiated or participated in ten memorial services or funerals for members or friends of Old Ship. The services were in celebration of the lives of (listed chronologically by service date): Albion Drinkwater,

Raymond Walker, Marion Burdett, Joseph Vita, Virginia Davis, Elizabeth (Betty) McMeekin, John Otis, Janice Mullen, Eugene (Pete) Shaw, and Michael Stone.

Educating Mind and Heart

Programs of religious growth and learning for all ages are another essential part of our Old Ship mission and ministry as a Unitarian Universalist religious community. And the teaching and leading of groups that I personally do is a particularly rewarding part of my own ministry.

A complete description of this year's adult "Life Learning" programs can be found in that committee's report; the classes which I've led or co-led this year have included The Aeneid Re-Visited, Our Chosen Faith (with Diane Elliott), The Sermon on the Mount for Today, The Meaning of Life for Stoics, Epicureans, and the Rest of Us, Spring Poetry: E.E. Cummings and May Sarton (with Elizabeth Torrey), and, upcoming, The Universe Story. I also continue to lead our twice a month Bodhisattva Study Group on Sunday mornings and the Upanishads Study Group, which also meets twice a month, late Thursday afternoons. And I will have led three Saturday meditation workshops.

As usual, I maintain regular consultation with Beverly Tricco, our Director of Religious Education. Beverly also serves, as I do, on our Life Learning Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Torrey.

Finally, we can all be grateful to Beverly, to the Religious Education Committee, Youth Committee, and many volunteer teachers and leaders, for ensuring that from the nursery through our Youth Group there are good, inspiring, and enjoyable programs to "educate mind and heart".

Nurturing Community

Repeating some of my thoughts from last year's report: We continue to strive to deepen and broaden the connections within our Old Ship Community. Organizationally this is primarily done through our Nurturing Community Council, with whom I consult regularly, and through our Pastoral Care Leadership Team, which I convene and meet with monthly. More organically, we all share this ministry and can encourage one another to reach out to newcomers and to support one another as we grow together.

Erin Alix is now completing her second year as our Membership Coordinator. She offers her personal warmth and enthusiasm, along with her attention to each and every newcomer, to help us more effectively integrate new people into our congregation. But she is our *coordinator*. We all must share the ministry of welcome and hospitality and nurturing community.

Serving Others

Our Social Justice Council once again has a full and detailed report in this Old Ship Annual Report, so I won't repeat what you will find there. We can be grateful for their leadership!

This year is our first focusing on homelessness and hunger as a congregation. The council has led the way into this focus through a variety of educational programs and opportunities to volunteer.

Another focus for Old Ship has been through the South Shore "node" of 350MA (the Massachusetts affiliate of the climate change organization 350.org) – which overlaps as our Green Sanctuary group. Many thanks to co-chairs Turner Bledsoe and Connie Gorfinkle for their leadership of this effort, as well as to other Old Shippers and members of the wider community who are participating in addressing this most critical issue of our era.

Stewarding Resources

Administration

"Administration" includes my work with our dedicated and creative staff, as well as consultation with Old Ship leaders, committees, councils, and boards.

To begin with, I hope you all know this simple reality: We have a great staff! Continued and many thanks to Beverly Tricco, director of religious education; Julianna Dunn, office administrator; Crissi and Mark Curran, sextons; Bernadette Nadeau, our music director; Erin Alix, our membership coordinator; and JoAnn Sullivan, our accountant, who with her CPA skills keeps close track of our finances.

I've mentioned most of these staff members elsewhere in my report, but I want to highlight here the administrative leadership of Julianna Dunn, who in addition to simply keeping the office going, often sees what needs to be done before any of the rest of us – and either just does it or shares her most recent great idea; and the mostly behind the scenes work of maintenance and cleaning (and this year a great deal of snow removal!!) of Mark and Crissi Curran, who have been our sextons for over twenty years, doing their work with thorough and gracious dedication.

Finally – and by no means least! – I offer continued and enduring thanks to each and every one of you who volunteer your time and your many gifts and skills to serving Old Ship in a wide variety of ways. This report would be far too long if I started to name all of you! Thank you!

I will name one of you, however, for this year it is appropriate to highlight the dedication and insight and love for Old Ship of our president, Elaine Gomez, who at our annual meeting will be completing her maximum of three one year terms in that leadership post – thank you Elaine!

Ministry in the Larger Community and Professional Associations

Here I will simply repeat much of what I write each year, since not much has changed in this area:

Our “resources” include not only our inward resources of time, energy, and financial support; they also include the resources of the larger organizations of which we, and I in particular, are a part. I have continued my active participation in the Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association (HHRLA), as well as in the Ballou Channing Chapter of the UU Ministers Association, this year continuing to serve on our BCD-UUMA Retreat Committee and also serving as convener of the South Shore Cluster of the UUMA. Old Ship hosts meetings of these groups once each year, and we annually host and coordinate the Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the HHRLA.

I continue to lead worship services every month at Hingham's Queen Anne Nursing Home, at the assisted living facility Allerton House at Harbor Park here in Hingham, and at the Bridges by Epoch assisted living for memory care, also in Hingham.

For the fourth year I continue to contribute a monthly column, “Earth and Spirit”, to the Hingham Journal; I frequently hear from Hingham residents who are not Old Ship members that they read and appreciate this column – so it seems to be a worthy form of outreach and ministry to the wider community.

Looking Ahead

Old Ship continues to be a beautiful and strong community. In so many ways we fulfill the commitments outlined in our Old Ship Covenant: *“As a congregation committed to Unitarian Universalist Principles, we join with one another in the spirit of respect, reverence, humility, and love: To seek the truth freely; To nurture spiritual growth and ethical commitment; To care for one another; And, seeking justice, peace, and ecological sustainability, to serve life.”*

But we are not without certain continuing challenges – challenges that I named last year in this report, challenges of which your leaders on the Board of Trustees and Deacons and others, are well aware. These current challenges primarily have to do first with generating an adequate number of volunteers for everything from teaching Sunday School to serving on committees and boards to helping with fundraising events; and second with generating adequate funds through our annual canvass and other means in order to support the programs we believe to be essential to our First Parish Old Ship Unitarian Universalist congregation.

These are challenges that cannot be left only to your elected and appointed leaders. Everyone needs to pitch in – with creativity, with time, and with financial resources in whatever measure each of us is able. If we share the work, we will continue in this generation and for generations to come to be a congregation that helps its members to grow spiritually, that helps us to care for one another in times of trial, that offers opportunities simply to enjoy ourselves together in community, and that offers us opportunities to serve some of the pressing needs of the wider world.

With all this in our minds and in our hearts, I conclude this year's report as I concluded last year's:

May we continue to grow in love and wisdom.

May we continue to take good care of one another with kindness and compassion.

May we continue together to bless the world and serve life with the gifts that are uniquely ours.

*Peace and blessings,
Ken*

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Beverly Tricco



This has been my seventh year as your DRE... It has felt like a very busy year... Very busy... Very busy... I will not be able to include everything we've done together... We've run out of time, and frankly, I'm trying to keep to 3 pages.

For the past year or two, I've been submitting my monthly reports to the Board with the notes grouped under the headings of the "Five Ministries of Old Ship Church".

It continues to help me to understand the ways that seemingly small events and tasks fit into the larger picture, and the church's over-arching mission and its goals. I plan to continue with the format for board reports and for annual reports. I hope it helps you like it helps me.

Educating Hearts and Minds – Goal: To offer a path to fuller understanding of our faith... and to include spiritual and ethical practices and experiences in all we do.

- **We offered a Coming of Age program** that involved sixteen students from Old Ship and one from Second Hingham; as well as 3 teachers and 17 mentors.

- **Spirit Play continues** to be the happiest group in the world, and the gateway in for many new families who are "church shopping". It is a more "high maintenance curriculum" than any of the others, but the CREC continues to think it's worth the extra work.

- **Grades 2&3 and Grades 4&5** did the fall and winter terms in their traditional ways, but in response to the (strongly voiced) complaints from the children who REALLY did not enjoy the "traditional" classroom model, we've re-tooled the spring term to be more hands-on and kinesthetic. It was a big hit last spring and so far, it's a big hit this spring.

- **Neighboring Faiths/Grades 6&7 field trips** – The Islamic Center of New England, Congregation Sha'aray Shalom, St. Paul's, Lutheran church in Scituate.

- **The Youth Group held their third self-organized weekend retreat** at Cedar Hill Retreat Center in Duxbury... The over-arching goal was for the older Youth to develop leadership skills and to bond with, engage, and mentor the younger Youth.

- **Attended a one-night retreat at Cedar Hill in Duxbury** with DREs from BCD and Mass Bay districts...

Nourishing the Spirit –

- **"Evensong for Families"** fell by the wayside... Only one or two families were consistently attending, and sometimes they could not both come on the same night... We sort of lacked critical mass...

- **Researched and presented stories** for Sunday worship in the meetinghouse.

- **Did one 5th Sunday (3/30) Children's Chapel...** by the time it was time for the 2nd and 3rd one, the calendar was two and three events deep per Sunday... Something had to give... It was this...
- **UNION SUNDAY** put together large collaborative (Art from Trash) project to be done during the worship service....
- **New Year kids' tradition** – Jump the fire, Flying wish paper, Good things jars

Nurturing Community - Goal: To offer to all a warm welcome, loving support, and a sense of belonging.

- **Pastoral Care committee's "4th Sunday Women's Knitting Group"** continued this year.
- **Things that have become "traditions"** and built into the church calendar: Pancakes and Pajamas Sunday- a day of rest and recovery after the madness and hard work of Merrie Market... Dias de los Muertos programming, to dovetail with Service of Remembrance... New Year's fire celebrations, Children's Seder for all Sunday school age groups... Easter Egg Hunt for all Sunday school age groups... Warm Hearts Hot Potatoes fundraiser by Youth group... Ken and Bev's breakfast with graduating seniors... Religious Growth & Learning Sunday for all ages...
- **Babysitters for events, meetings** and "before-church" activities.
- **Youth participated in Merrie Market** (as did other, younger Old Shippers)... as sales people at their own and at other tables.
- **DRE shared and posted** hundreds of photos of activities, events and the Appalachia service & learning trip...
- **Received, added and updated content** from/to Facebook pages for: First Parish UU Hingham Old Ship Church, Old Ship Youth Group, BCD Religious Educators, BCD UU Youth Advisors, BCD Con Forward.
- **Helped to edit content** and put photos onto the new Old Ship website... Began a BLOG...
- **Wrote references and recommendations, and Get-Well cards** for Youth and Young adults.
- **Continued correspondence** with Youth and Young Adults who have moved away.
- **Maintain** the R.E. info table.
- **Made chess board, knock-hockey, Duplos and puppets available** to make coffee hour more fun and interactive between generations...
- **Sent "This Coming Sunday" e-mails** to keep folks posted and informed

Serving Others - Goal: To mobilize the Old Ship community to serve others, and to make a better world through unified, focused, and long term congregation-wide commitments.

- **Instituted once-a-month "lunch-making" for Father Bill's**, and built it into our Sunday school program, with a different class/age-group doing the lunch-making. Delivery and tour of Father Bill's in Quincy has been discontinued.
- **Bikes Not Bombs bike drive...**
- **After Merrie Market**, delivered unsold books & toys to charities....
- **Youth Group** has made Kiva loans in 32 countries. We have \$941 currently out there circulating...
- **Youth participated in "Cupcakes for a Cause"**; baking and selling.
- **Youth service and learning trip** to Appalachia ... 16 travelers.

Stewardship of Our Resources - Goal: To strengthen the physical, financial, denominational, and human resources entrusted to us.

- **Prepared and submitted time sheets** to pay Nursery staff.
- **Order brochures pamphlets and bookmarks** for New UU folks.
- **Processed registrations, updated e-mails lists, accumulated allergy information** and researched appropriate snack foods for group events.
- **Organized and worked with volunteers** to improve our outdoor classroom/ natural playground.
- **Maintained the Old Ship Library...**
- **Went on retreat** with BCD DREs at Cedar Hills Retreat Ctr. in Duxbury.
- **Used existing costumes, props and "stuff"** from our well-sorted attic to put on our **Christmas pageant/tableau** without spending a penny.

- Got outside/official training for one new Spirit Play teacher...

SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMMING-

Nursery – Babysitters this year Lulu Wiley and Annie Swett ...

Spirit Play – We are on “Year two” of our three year cycle of curriculum. Most story boxes have been re-assembled... There has been a shift in classroom space and lots of added “in-the-classroom” storage...

This year the subject areas being emphasized are “UU Principles & Promises”, and “Science & Nature/Wonder & Awe”...

Grades 2&3 and Grades 4&5 – This is “Year two” of their three year cycle of curriculum as well.

The first term, the subject area being emphasized will be “UU Principles & Promises”. During the second term, the subject area being emphasized will be “Science & Nature/Wonder & Awe”.

Grades 6&7 – We’ve stopped keeping count of “which year”, as in “which year in the two year cycle” of Neighboring Faiths. Children are in the class for two years and they and the teachers brainstorm and use a curriculum/text to create a yearlong plan, consisting of learning about a wide range of religions, and then exploring them, and visiting their places of worship.

Sr. High Sunday Works – 10:30 – 11:30 – Grades 8-12 – Curriculum comprised of a self-determined variety of activities and experiences, including elements of worship, social outreach, and intellectual and spiritual exploration.

COA Sundays, 4:00 pm - 5:30—at Old Ship

for Gr. 8 & 9, students of Old Ship and 2nd Parish Hingham.

Enrollment: 17 students

REGISTRATION FEES COLLECTED -

Date	Families	\$
3/31/15	25	\$ 1,645.00

REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bernadette Nadeau

While I generally prefer to write prose for these reports, this year was so busy that to fully acknowledge all the work done this year, without going on for several pages, I decided to limit this report to a simple list.

Choral Music Library

1. I have completed filing and cataloguing the church's general anthems. Not including Christmas anthems, we started with 439 anthems. Unfortunately, we only owned adequate copies of 173 of those pieces.
2. I have interfiled the choral octavos Judy Hardy donated to the church adding 130 anthems to the library meaning we have a total of 569 general anthems in the library.
3. I have catalogued the Christmas anthems bringing the total number of anthems to 667.
4. I have added major works and anthem books, donated by Judy, to our collection.
5. Projects yet to be completed:
 - a. Review and catalog the collections of instrumental, organ and original compositions.
 - b. Catalogue the anthems in the anthem books so I know what is there and avoid ordering something we already own.
 - c. Find adequate storage for all of it.
6. Storage Update

The building committee, along with Julianna Dunn, has determined that the porch [outside the main office] can be used to store the music library. Many thanks go to the building committee who will literally take care of the heavy lifting and move this material some time later in the year or perhaps in the summer.

Choral Milestones

1. Thursday evening rehearsals have become a regular feature. Attendance was very consistent until the February snowstorms hit. I and several members were also hit by illnesses this winter. Despite that, we are clawing our way back to regular attendance.
2. Five new people have joined the choir, bringing the total number to 15 regular members.
3. Three others joined just for Christmas and one of those joined us again for Music Sunday.
4. The choir successfully prepared and sang "Jauchzet, Frohlocket" for Christmas Eve. To accomplish this, extra rehearsals were held on Sundays after the service in addition to the regular Thursday evening rehearsals.
5. We are well on our way to presenting "Come, Ye Sons of Art" by Henry Purcell for Music Sunday (May 10), our first major work since I have been here and perhaps the first major work performed here in quite some time.
6. Sadly, we lost Janice Mullin when she died suddenly on Christmas Eve.
7. The choir was invited, after a little prompting by myself, to sing at the annual Lincoln Day service in February. Perhaps this will become a regular event for the choir.
8. We are well on our way to having a list of common repertoire. I define this as music which we can do with limited rehearsal because we know it well. It must also be good quality and it must also be appropriate for UU worship. This is the big benefit of having regular rehearsals. Some of the pieces on that list are:
 - a. Walk Together, Children by Moses Hogan
 - b. The Gift of Love by Hal Hopson
 - c. There is More Love by Clif Hardin
 - d. River in Judea by Jack Feldman

- e. Al Shlosa D'varim by Allan E. Naplan
 - f. I Am Waiting by Jim Scott
- Pieces on the cusp of joining the repertoire list:
- a. How Lovely are the Messengers by Felix Mendelssohn
 - b. The Road Not Taken by Randall Thompson

Personal Milestones

1. I performed a concert here this past August entitled "Brit and Yanks at the Old Ship". I was thrilled with the attendance and the funds we collected which will go into the fund created to purchase a new electronic keyboard.
2. I learned, performed and conducted "Jauchzet, Frohlocket" by J. S. Bach for Christmas Eve.
3. I learned the "Taiwanese Suite" by Chelsea Chen and performed it for the opening service of the season. This is a major work by a young, up and coming performer and composer.
4. I revived several major works this year including: the Wedge Fugue by J. S. Bach, the opening movement of Sonata no. 1 for organ by Felix Mendelssohn, and the Concerto for Organ in C by Antonio Vivaldi, transcribed for organ by J. S. Bach.
5. This Summer, I will attend my first UUMN summer conference. I am looking forward to meeting people with whom I currently communicate regularly over the internet through UUMN. Perhaps I will give a concert as part of that conference.

Thanks

Many thanks to those who sang with the choir this past year:

Ken Asnes, Monica Conyngham, Connie Gorfinkle, Ginny Jensen, Rich Jensen, Ruth Kingsley, Beth Lilly, Chris Maher, Ann McGuire, Janice Mullen, Lucy Osborne, Denise Rachel, Christopher Sullivan, Justine Thurston, Lisa Valdez, Katie Weintraub, Barbara Wells, David White

Thanks for your patience with me, with each other, with the process. Thanks for being there, for your efforts, your help and your enthusiasm. And thank you because without you, there would be no music program.

Many thanks to the Worship and Music Committee:

Pat Bianco, chair, Connie Gorfinkle, Nigel & Angela Harvey, Christopher Sullivan, Robbie Walsh and Ken Read-Brown, minister

Respectfully Submitted,
Bernadette Nadeau

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Erin Alix

No report available at the time of printing.

NOURISHING THE SPIRIT MINISTRY

Candlelight Concert Committee

The Candlelight Concert series continues its tradition of bringing first-rate musicians to Old Ship for public, free-of-admission concerts in the meetinghouse. This season featured performances by Fenway Quintet, one of the Boston area's most esteemed brass quintets, Blue Heron, a Renaissance-era choir hailed in the *Boston Globe* as "one of the Boston music community's indispensables," and an encore performance by the Stardust Duo of the South Shore Conservatory. Attendance remains strong at 75 to a miraculous greater than 100 persons at the snowbound February 22 concert.

This year, the series received \$800.00 in Local Cultural Council funding from Hingham and Weymouth. The series relies on these grants, individual donations at the door, and annual contributions to fund its concerts. Friends of the Candlelight Concerts generously contributed \$1925 through this year's fund drive. To bolster long-term finances, the series filed the paperwork to register as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and the application has been approved. We are excited at the opportunity this will afford us to raise additional funds to support the series.

Performers often thank us for the chance to play in such a unique and historic venue, and it is our pleasure to bring members of the larger community into the meetinghouse. Thanks are due to the Old Ship community for allowing it all to happen, including Connie Gorfinkle for her help with publicity and especially to Committee members Ralph Brown, Ginny Jensen, and Nora Schneider.

Respectfully,
Christopher Sullivan, Chair

Sunday Flower Committee

The Sunday Flowers Committee coordinates the flowers placed in the Meeting House for Sunday services. On most Sundays of the church year, a floral arrangement is placed on the table at the base of the pulpit or occasionally the arrangement is hung from the pulpit.

The Sunday flowers are usually donated by Old Ship members or friends in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The Order of Service carries an announcement of the name of the donor and the name of the person honored or the occasion commemorated.

The Committee Chair keeps a schedule of all the Sundays of the church year, with donors offered the same date from year to year (for example, the third Sunday in March), and notes are kept of the flower types, colors, and design styles preferred by each donor. This schedule also includes the name (sometimes a team) of the Committee members who will arrange each Sunday's flowers.

Donors may use the services of a commercial florist, create their own flower arrangements, or have the Sunday Flowers Committee provide the arrangement for them. A donation of \$50 is requested to cover the cost of flowers and supplies (all purchased at wholesale prices) for arrangements the Committee makes. This year the Committee provided the floral arrangements for 25 Sundays, as well as the Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve arrangements. Donors provided their own arrangements on 13 Sundays.

The Committee has no operating budget and is supported entirely by the donors; however it has its own bank account and its own treasurer. The balance as of April 6, 2014 was \$1055.78. When purchasing flowers, we try not to spend the entire \$50 received from donors, with the leftover money used to buy flowers on the Sundays when there is no donor and to maintain our supplies (Oasis, preservative, and containers).

People who wish to donate flowers may check with the Committee Chair for open dates.

Additional floral arrangers are always welcome.

The members of the Sunday Flowers Committee are:

- Corey Fitz-Marquez
- Sharon Prehn
- Shirley Rydell
- MJ Shultz, Treasurer

Submitted by Sharon Prehn, Chair

Worship and Music Committee

2014–2015 marks the Ninth year of existence for the combined Worship and Music Committee (WAM) at Old Ship. The purpose of this committee is to assist in the creation of meaningful services, events, and worshipful traditions that encourage life-changing challenges, comfort and education. Our work has been vigorous and challenging.

The following list includes some of the jobs and duties accomplished:

- A. Worked with the Search Committee to hire a new Director of Music at Old Ship.
 - a. Helped acquaint the director with policy and procedure
 - B. Sept. - June, We had monthly meetings with the entire WAM Committee and the special budget task force of WAM
 - C. WAM considered space and conditions for the Music Director until these were directed to the Building and Grounds Committee.
 - D. WAM considered the need for a new keyboard, organ needs, our lost organ donation /budget, inviting Hingham High School to sing for a service, moving the choir downstairs for some Sundays, moving the Sunday Service to the Parish House more often.
- II. WAM examined its budget request this year with an eye to what is realistically needed in the church as far as audio-visual equipment, additional hearing devices, musicians and augmentations to the music program, music storage, updating and enhancing musical equipment.
- III. WAM helped take \$\$, give programs, advertise, and host the Harvard Glee Club and Radcliffe Choral Society.
- IV. WAM put together Summer Services and hosting.
- V. WAM procured all of the Chalice Lighters and Readers for this church year, sent thank you letters, and worked with the minister and music director, when called upon, for special events.

We acknowledge with gratitude the continuing contributions of our choir's central quartet of professional voices, as well as the dedicated participation of the volunteer choir members who show up every Sunday to rehearse and perform.

Old Ship has a long and proud tradition of services that move, educate, and guide the congregation. The Sunday Service, the wonder of words augmented by music's power and audience participation, is what makes us a church. More succinctly, the service at Old Ship is that occasion of worship and music which makes Old Ship a Unitarian Universalist Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Bianco Chairperson, Worship and Music Committee: Robbie Walsh, Connie Gorfinkle, Nigel Harvey, Angela Harvey,

Board Liaison: Chris Sullivan

Ex-officio: Ken Read-Brown, Bernie Nadeau

EDUCATING HEARTS AND MINDS MINISTRY

Life Learning (formerly Adult Programs)

Under the rubric of Educating Hearts and Minds, The Life Learning programs this church year have been varied and quite successful.

Ken began in the fall with a class on “the Aeneid Re-Visited” following the previous fall’s class on “The Odyssey Re-Visited”. This class was followed by “A Chosen Faith” co-led with Ken by Diane Elliott. In Dec. after the Vespers Services, Ken led three gatherings called “Sermon on the Mount for Today”. Ken’s winter class was “The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius (along with a few of the Discoveries of Epictetus)”. In Feb. Ralph Brown led a class on “Self-Discovery Through Geneology” for the second year in a row. Ken and Elizabeth Torrey have just completed a five week Spring Poetry Class. This year we read two poets with Unitarian roots: E. E. Cummings and May Sarton. Still to come in May is Ken’s class “The Universe Story as Spiritual Epic”.

Also our committee has arranged a field trip to the UUA Headquarters in Boston on Tue May 5th. The purpose of the trip is to connect with the larger UU Community, which in December won the leadership in Energy and Environmental Design’s platinum certification, the highest level awarded by the U. S. Green Building Council. In addition to all these offerings, there were two Newcomer’s Conversations after Church as well as several forums. One forum brought calligrapher Michael McPherson to show us his wonderful “Cold Mountain” poems translated by poet Gary Snyder, whose poems we had studied last year in our April Poetry Class. On-Going Groups Include: The Way of Bodhisattva, Men’s Breakfast, Women’s Breakfast and Knitting, Monday Meditation, Living By Heart, Ceilidh, Morning Meditation, Upanishads Study Group and Evensong for Families.

Our committee meets several times a year to reflect on current programs, to generate ideas for new programs, and to organize the schedule of classes, groups and workshops. The work of leading the variety of programs is carried out by many members of our community, with occasional outside presenters. As we have stated in the past, our wide and rich array of programs help to fulfill our stated mission to nourish spiritual growth and encourage the free and responsible search for truth and meaning and more ethically grounded living and service. Along the way we foster friendships, good conversations and stronger, deeper bonds of community.

Many thanks to all participants and leaders. As always we welcome suggestions for future classes. What do you see as the legacy of Old Ship in our time, in 50 years, in 100 years, and beyond? Have we spoken directly and deeply to the most important questions of our time?

Feel free to speak to any committee member with ideas for a class or to suggest someone to present one.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Torrey, convener
Ken Read-Brown
Beverly Tricco
Rich Elliott
Ralph Brown
Claire Petrie
Brian Hurley

Youth Committee Report

No report available at the time of printing.

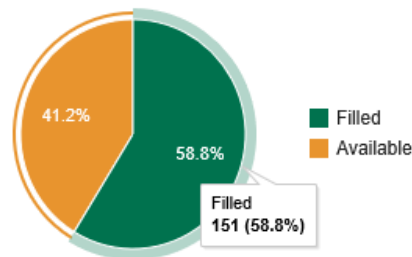
NURTURING COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Nurturing Community Council

Formed in 2011 to lead the work of Old Ship's Nurturing Community Ministry, the Nurturing Community Council (NCC) supports and encourages a warm and welcoming church experience, characterized by deep engagement among all Old Ship Members and Friends. While overseeing the broader nurturing of our community, it also directly coordinates the shared Sunday Caring Tasks.

Two years ago, the Parish voted to approve the hiring of a Membership Coordinator, Erin Alix. Erin has worked hard to ensure that all newcomers to Old Ship find a way to connect with our people and programs. For further details, please refer to the Membership Report. As a Council, we strongly believe that the role of Membership Coordinator has become an invaluable asset to our community and is an important member of our paid staff. This position has become one of the faces of Old Ship both within and to the community at large.

A significant portion of NCC time is spent on coordinating the Sunday Caring Tasks. It has been a struggle to find volunteers to fill these critical Sunday roles. As of the date of this report, 151 of the 257 possible tasks to complete this church year have been filled, a rate of 58.75%. To date this year, 48 participants, not counting 8 committee participants, have committed to Sunday Caring tasks on the 42 Sundays. Over the church year (not including special events such as the Thanksgiving and Christmas services), there are a total of 257 discrete tasks related to helping the service run smoothly, helping welcome newcomers to the service and to Fellowship Hour and to providing food and drink to encourage people to stay and connect with each other. These tasks are: Ushering (2 every Sunday), Greeting, Welcome Table, and Hosting Fellowship Hour (preferably shared by 2 households).



Last spring, NCC asked members of the congregation to participate in a survey about Sunday Morning Caring Tasks. About 66 people responded to the survey. Nearly 57% of the participants did not understand that all members as asked to volunteer for 3 Caring Tasks each year and those responders who did had varied ideas about how they would like to see these tasks, and especially Fellowship Hour, organized. In response, NCC wrote and distributed a "Nurturing News" insert in the order of services last fall. Additionally, a new schedule for Fellowship Hour was initiated, dividing it so that the first week of the month will be hosted by a committee, the 2nd and 3rd weeks will be a pot luck (unless someone signs up) and the 4th week will be coffee only.

Activities and programs hosted and/or supported by NCC in the past year:

Community dinners: NCC members organize these, which offer a warm and intimate setting to get to know other Old Shippers. Dinners occurred in the Fall (3 host homes with over 40 guests) and Spring (2 host homes with over 20 guests) and continued to prove to be a wonderful way to get to connect with one another.

"The New UU": Led by Minister Ken Read Brown, the New UU is a post service parlor discussion, an orientation to both Unitarian Universalism as well as to First Parish, Old Ship Church. Held at least twice per year, it serves to orient newcomers around our faith, this specific congregation, and ways to find connection among us. Please refer to the membership report for details on new members.

First Friday Family Fun nights – several occurred throughout the year, including family bingo night. Well-attended and family friendly, these events are open for anyone to host, and we hope that more people will step up with ideas to host in the coming years.

Sunday Caring tasks:

These tasks to offer a hospitable and warm welcome are the shared responsibility of each and every member and friend who calls Old Ship their spiritual home. The NCC has found that not all members and friends are participating in these tasks, and thus we increasingly have to rely on a small group of volunteers who are “enjoying a disproportionate amount of nurturing functions.”

We invite anyone with a welcoming attitude, a friendly smile and a willingness to put on a nametag to join our committee. We meet monthly, and have a variety of initiatives, and are eager to hear your new ideas!

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Alix
Janet Asnes
Brenda Black
Ivy Butterworth
Elaine Gomez
Alicia Harkness
Pam Harty
Janice McPhillips
Gail Moran Slater

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team is to share the pastoral care of Old Ship members and friends and to encourage everyone in the congregation to share in the care of one another. Each year's report is quite similar to past years' reports – since the ministry of pastoral care, while it changes in the particulars of each pastoral encounter, in general terms remains largely the same – and at the same time is close to the heart of who we are as a spiritual community.

Our Team meets monthly to review some of the pressing pastoral needs in the congregation and to arrange for care as necessary. This may include arranging for rides to church or elsewhere, as well as arranging and planning for visits, calls, and providing meals to parishioners recently returned from the hospital. The group often involves others in these efforts, and so we serve as coordinators of care as much as direct caregivers. A few of our older members who no longer drive continue to be given rides to church by members of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team or other Old Ship volunteers. Finally, the Team maintains a freezer in the basement of the Parish House in which casseroles, desserts, etc., are kept for use when there is a need.

Sometimes our monthly meetings also include time for training and learning, always keeping in mind the spiritual basis for what we do pastorally.

Each Sunday a member of the Pastoral Care Team takes notes during the sharing of joys and sorrows to pass along to Ken, so that he can follow up as necessary and appropriate.

For the twelfth year we led a Service of Remembrance, once again in the Fall close to All Saints and All Souls Days. Following the service this year we hosted a noon forum presentation. This was a repeat of a forum we had led several years ago: “Don’t Drop the Cookies and Run” – a presentation and conversation concerning how we might turn delivery of a casserole into a caring pastoral moment or visit.

As in past years, the Pastoral Care Team helped to coordinate the annual Christmas caroling to some of our parishioners who are not able to get out often any longer.

We always welcome ideas and support from the congregation, and of course we hope that everyone in the congregation feels that they are informal but important members of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team.

As convener, I once again thank all the members of the Team for their dedication to helping to meet the pastoral needs within our community. This year we had to say farewell to Team member Betty Fernandes, when she and Tino move to New Hampshire.

Ken Read-Brown, convener
Abby Diamond-Kissiday,
Elaine Gomez, Alicia Harkness, Fan Leonard,
Bob Shepard, Beverly Tricco

SERVING OTHERS MINISTRY

Social Justice Council
Serving Others Ministry

Council Members: Belinda Arams, Brenda Black, Davalene Cooper (UUSC rep), Abby Diamond-Kissiday, Diane Morrison, Annie McCallum, Florence Noonan, Ginny Perelson, MJ Shulz, Patti Smith, Carol Valentine, Barbara Wells

BOT Liaison: Bryan Hurley

The Social Justice Council has had an active and productive year providing education and support for our beginning year of focusing on the issues of Homelessness and Food Insecurity.

Learning:

- The SJC held its 4th Annual Dinner with two guest speakers: Susan Kiernan, Director of the Hingham Food Pantry; and Cheryl Schondek, Vice-President of Food Acquisition and Supply Chain for the Greater Boston Food Bank. The six teams who prepare food for Father Bill's Shelter in Quincy were recognized.
- Three forums on Homelessness and Food Insecurity were held:
 - Michael Stone, Old Shipper and former UMass professor, presented on the "Right to Housing" and shelter poverty.
 - Joan Bennett, Director of COPE, presented on how COPE works to support homeless individuals who are now living on the streets of Boston since the closing of the Long Island Shelter in Nov 2014.
 - Donna Friedman, Ph.D, Center for Social Policy at U. Mass Boston , Solving Family Homeless in Massachusetts (scheduled for 5/3).
- Two films about Homelessness and Food Insecurity were shown with discussion afterwards. Soup and bread were served.
 - Dark Days (2002) showed the daily lives of a group of homeless people living in an AmTrak tunnel under New York City.
 - A Place at the Table (2012) showed the food insecurity and hunger in families across the US and current policies which maintain these conditions.
- Every week, information about Homelessness or Food Insecurity was printed in the Order of Service.

Action:

- Once a month food collection for the Hingham Food Pantry during Fellowship Hour in lieu of snacks. As of March 30th, the congregation gave 890 pounds of food.
- Special Plate collections were directed to the following groups working to help those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity: Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore, New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Lovin' Spoonfuls, A Bed for Every Child (MA Coalition for the Homeless), Greater Boston Food Bank, Hingham Food Pantry, supporting the Coming of Age group's cooking and serving two meals at Rosie's Place, Friends of the Homeless Furniture Bank, Friends of Holly Hill Farm (scheduled for May.)
- Old Shippers participated on the six Hingham teams who prepare and serve meals at Father Bill's Homeless shelter in Quincy on a quarterly basis and Children's RE prepared lunches once a month for Father Bill's.
- Provided volunteers to help with the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore annual Holiday Party for current and former families from their shelters.
- Donations for Guest at Your Table were given, mostly online.

- Donations of coats, socks, and boots were collected and given to COPE, a Hingham based organization working to respond to the needs of homeless individuals on the streets of Boston after the closing of the Long Island Shelter in November 2014.
- Collected Shaw's stamps to help purchase cookware for the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore family shelters and for families as they move to permanent housing.
- Cupcakes with a Cause, a joint effort of the adult congregation, the Youth Group, and Children's RE, raised \$410. Participants voted to purchase backpacks for students receiving help from School on Wheels (an organization supporting the education of children whose families are homeless through tutoring/mentoring).
- The Old Ship Annual food drive at Stop and Shop collected 1,500 pounds of food and \$155 cash for the Hingham Food Pantry.
- Donations of furniture and other household goods were picked up by the Youth Group and taken to the Furniture Bank of the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore. 70+ pieces of furniture were donated. 300 donated pillows were transported from the Marriot in Cambridge to the Furniture Bank and the family shelter in Norwell.
- After the death of Janice Mullen, a subgroup has helped her son, Matthew Mullen, and his wife, Kelly, find housing. Kelly is now housed. Matthew has been helped to re-contact the Dept. of Mental Health and is considering if he wants to seek housing through them.

Supporting Policies and Legislation:

- We created an e-mail distribution list for those interested in receiving information about "Opportunities to act and to support legislation/policies" to address homelessness and food insecurity/hunger. To sign up, or if you have information about an opportunity to act, please email Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net
- Information about the congregation's efforts was posted on Facebook, hUUnger Campaign.
- An SJC member attended a Legislative Breakfast in Taunton addressing homelessness. Links to the dates for specific state budget votes on homelessness issues were disseminated. A letter writing campaign will be hosted at Fellowship Hour before the end of the year. Two issues will be identified. Consideration will be given for including congregations in the Ballou Channing District in any legislative action.

Planning for 2015-2016

- The SJC plans to continue to provide education to our community about the issues of homelessness and food insecurity through forums and discussions. We especially plan to learn how to track and become involved in supporting legislation to address the needs of those experiencing homelessness and hunger. And we plan to continue to offer opportunities for Old Shippers to act to address the needs of our focus populations.
- Our Board of Trustees has voted to have Old Ship formally play a part in the Friends of the Homeless holiday party by cooking and serving the meal (formerly done by the Crowley family) in our Fellowship Hall. Other groups also participate, Hingham Women's Club, St Paul's Children's Choir and other area churches.

Submitted by: Brenda Black and Ginny Perelson, Co-Chairs

STEWARDED RESOURCES MINISTRY

Building and Grounds Report

The Buildings and Grounds Committee oversees maintenance and improvements to the Meeting House and Parish House, including the grounds of both buildings.

MEETING HOUSE: This year the following projects were completed with costs as noted:

- Starting this year and every year hereafter, the Meeting House is required to have a Building Fire Inspection to confirm all hallways, stairs and passageways are clear and have functioning emergency exits and lighting. Building Fire Inspection fees – Cost \$125
- Installed handrails on outside near the “Necessary” – Cost \$300
- The Meeting House heating system required additional service repairs - Cost: \$388
- Security, Fire Alarm and Pest Management annual service contracts – Cost: \$618
- Privy walkway and stairs completed in the fall
- Ice dam damage occurred during the winter; awaiting repair quotes and insurance settlement.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission selected Meeting House for 2015 Preservation Award for recent restoration and rehabilitation to be presented May 29th at 37th annual ceremony.

PARISH HOUSE: This year the following were accomplished with costs as noted:

- Starting this year and every two years hereafter, the Parish House is required to have a Building Fire Inspection to confirm all hallways, stairs and passageways are clear and have functioning emergency exits and lighting. Per order of the Fire Inspector, the fire doors in the Parish House must be kept closed; please double check that these doors are closed when locking the building.
- During the Parish House Building Fire Inspection a number of violations were noted and have been addressed: adding new emergency exit lights, repairing others and obtaining the required review by a structural engineer of the second floor exterior emergency egress– Cost \$3,521.
- Garage repairs: replacement of roof and doors – Cost: \$8,641
- The Parish House heating system required additional service repairs - Cost: \$1,550
- Fire Alarm and Pest Management annual service contracts – Cost: \$755

GROUND: This year we needed to fix a lawn mower and replace a snow blower - Cost: \$ 1,011

SUMMARY: The ongoing maintenance for both buildings will continue to put a strain on available resources. The yearly budget just covers the buildings annual operating / service costs; we depend on donations for any funds needed for major building maintenance and restorations projects.

The Building and Grounds Committee has developed a master plan for our two historic buildings and grounds based on the following criteria: maximizing safety first, building preservation second, and funding for preventative maintenance and improvement projects whenever finances allow. We estimate the cost for expectable maintenance and repairs each year to be \$80,200 (or \$6,680 per month). We recommend that Old Ship should consider this annual building maintenance cost to be similar to paying rent or a mortgage for two buildings and should be included in the annual budget each year. However, we recognize that this will not be possible in our current financial circumstances.

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, the congregation approved borrowing up to \$100,000 from the endowment to do critical Parish House repairs. Since the FY2015 pledge revenue was much lower than expected and it therefore would not be possible for the endowment loan to be repaid from the annual budget, all non-safety

projects were placed on hold. This included the Parish House repairs and exterior painting (cost approx. \$50,000) and circular drive repaving (cost approx. \$31,000), a total of \$81,000 in immediately needed repairs.

The privy was checked by the installer and found to be in good working order.

GRANT APPLICATION STUDY PROJECT (GASP): If you know of any grant opportunities that Old Ship can apply for, please let a member of the Building Committee know. We are ready to apply for any type of grant that is related to our overall mission.

ARCHIVES/HISTORIC COLLECTION:

The Archives/Historic Collection Unmet Needs are as follows:

- Mass Historical Society (MHS) Cataloging (Pursue possible grant funding)
- Historic Collection Preservation, separating acid-based documents, photos, and other materials.
- Inventory the Old Ship Historic Records and Artifacts
- Expand Preservation to include Paintings, Furniture, and Other Objects of Historic Interest
- Records Management, including what to retain and how to do so

GREEN SANCTUARY ISSUES RELATED TO OUR BUILDINGS: Our building utilities (electric, gas and water) account for over 10% of our annual budget, and it is everyone's responsibility to use less energy and water.

To reduce energy and water use and thereby reduce expenses, we request that everyone please:

- Shut lights when leaving or not needed
- Close windows, if opened
- Reduce the use of window air condition units.
- Lower the heating thermostats especially at night
- Minimize the use of water

Green Sanctuary Unmet Needs are as follows:

- Readjust system controls to increase utility savings
- Investigate Water Source Geothermal Heating / Cooling for the Meeting House and Parish House
- Investigate Solar Panels for the Parish House Fellowship Hall Roof
- Replace / remove the gas stove (currently 12 gas pilots are burning even when stove not in use)
- Continue replacing Parish House lights with energy efficient lamps
- Goal to reduce building utilities use by 10%
- Perform an annual energy / water audit

COMMUNITY WORKDAYS: Community workdays dedicated to the care of our buildings and grounds are central to making Old Ship more welcoming and to reducing maintenance costs.

We need your help - Please join us when you can! Typically the following workdays are scheduled:

- Fall Grounds Day, the Sunday two weeks before first service in September
- Parish House Clean Up, the Sunday two weeks before Merrie Market
- Spring Grounds Day, the Sunday two weeks before May Breakfast
- Meeting House Clean Up, scheduled as needed
- Garage Clean Up, scheduled as needed

Special thanks to those who completed the painting of the privy exterior and the newly installed garage doors.

Submitted by Ron Pollara and Rick Mattila, Co-chairs Buildings and Grounds Committee

Members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Rob Baynes	Peter Lochtefeld	Chuck Malme	Rick Mattila
Richard Murphy	Sharon Prehn	Ron Pollara	Harold Thomas
Tom Willson			

**Friends of the Old Ship Meeting House
(The Friendship Fund)**

No report available at the time of printing.

Memorial Garden Committee

No report available at the time of printing.

Treasurer's Report

No report available at the time of printing.

Trustees of Invested Funds

Overview of Accounts

The Old Ship invested funds consists of two segregated endowments

1. The General Endowment (“The Growth and Income Fund”) valued at \$1,143,173 as of 12/31/2014, is the largest portion of our funds and is managed for both growth and income. There is a small portion of this fund which belongs to the Deacons (5.2%) and is managed as a convenience for this organization. Yearly distributions have been taken by the Parish to supplement the annual budget and are limited to 4% of Assets by Parish bylaw. The General Endowment had an estimated return of 8.7%.
2. Building and Social Outreach Income Fund (“The Income Fund”) valued at \$108,952 as of 12/31/2014 is designed to provide income to the Parish to be used specifically for social outreach programs (70% allocation) and building maintenance (30% allocation). This fund is managed for income production and there is no capital appreciation expected. All Net Income from this fund is distributed to the Parish for these purposes. The Building and Social Outreach Income Fund had a return of 3.3%.

Please see table below for performance and distribution summary.

Update on Activities

The investment manager for both funds is F.L. Putnam and they continue to impress in terms of overall financial performance and service. The Trustees conducted an in person meeting with Putnam in March of this year and will follow up with a conference call or meeting in May. The primary purpose of the collaboration is to implement the move away from fossil fuel investments as directed by the parish.

During this process, we have recognized that Putnam understood our collective intent as a move away from “reserve holdings”, i.e. companies that have ownership of fossil fuel reserves. We have clarified that it is the intent of Old Ship church to move away from related investment sectors such as refineries, drilling / mining service organizations, etc.

Existing “Ethical Screening”

Prior instructions to Putnam include standing guidance concerning “Ethical and Social Justice”:

Sectors (Avoid)

- Adult Media
- Military (Weaponry)
- Gambling
- Tobacco

Governance (Avoid)

- Fossil Fuels
- Poor Human Rights Practices
- Poor Environmental Practices
- Non-compliant animal testing

Composition of Trustees

The following are the 2014-2015 members of the Trustees of Invested Funds.

Mike Dwyer, Rick Mattila, Michael Mercurio, Mike Scheffler (chair), and Susannah Thomas.

Performance Summary			Disbursements Summary - Spring 2015		
Growth and Income Fund (12/31/2013)		\$1,109,092	Endowment value as at 12/31/2014		\$1,143,173
Growth and Income Fund (12/31/2014)		\$1,143,173	Distribution percent		4%
Total return (int/div + change in market) \$ =		\$96,079	Distribution Amount		\$45,727
total return percent =		8.7%	Operations		\$43,349
			Deacons		\$2,378
Income Fund (12/31/2013)		\$109,627	Income Fund Annual Income		\$3,665
Income Fund (12/31/2014)		\$108,952	Social Outreach	0.7	\$2,565
Total return (int/div + change in market) \$ =		\$3,671	Building	0.3	\$1,099
total return percent =		3.3%			
Income produced from int./ div. 2014		\$3,665			

APPENDICES

Appendix I

First Parish Hingham Old Ship Church Minutes of the Annual Meeting May 18, 2014

Present: Elaine Gomez, President; Nina Wellford, Vice President; Ron Pollara, Treasurer; Chris Sullivan, Clerk; Pam Harty, Tom Willson, Lindsey McGinnis, Bryan Hurley, Craig Russ, and Davalene Cooper; Minister Ken Read-Brown; Director of Religious Education Beverly Tricco; Music Director Berni Nadeau; and members of the Parish.

Elaine Gomez called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM, with a quorum present.

Article 1: The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 19, 2013 and the Parish Meetings held September 15, 2013 and February 2, 2014 were approved.

Article 2: Report of the President of the Board of Trustees.

Elaine Gomez discussed the busy year, noting that “every year is a busy year,” and thanked the Board, committee members, volunteers, and staff for their hard work. She also thanked Lindsey McGinnis, Davalene Cooper, and Tom Willson, who are finishing their terms on the Board, for their service.

Nina Wellford read the Parish mission, vision, and strategic goal and objectives, and Elaine Gomez further discussed work towards the year’s objectives, stressing that growing membership is critical and is a job for the whole Parish. She also discussed the new Legacy Giving program (“Bridging Generations”), the proposed budget, and a possible canvass next Fall.

Article 3: Report of the Minister.

Ken Read-Brown noted the continuing challenges of finances and getting things done through volunteerism, and expressed confidence that we will continue to find ways of meeting them. He thanked the Parish for sharing their lives and resources, and their continued support.

Article 4: Report of the Director of Religious Education.

Beverly Tricco presented an outline of the RE program’s goals and talked about the sense of ownership and loyalty that the kids have to the program and the church.

Article 5: Report of the Director of Music.

Berni thanked members of the Parish for welcoming her into her new position and making her feel at home, and thanked the choir for their hard work.

Article 6: Social Outreach Committee Gifts.

Maggie Merrill reported on the grant applications received this year for the Social Outreach Reserve Fund (Saniter Trust). This year, the committee received seven applications, and recommended rewards of \$1000 to the Epiphany School in Dorchester, for psychological outreach to students and families; \$790 to Wellspring in Hull, to purchase iPads for their adult education program; \$251 to the D. J. Dreamfund in Easton, for sports scholarships; and \$450 to the Holly Hill Farm of Cohasset, for the construction of two garden beds at Brockton High School.

The Parish voted to approve these grant recommendations by a unanimous vote.

Article 7: Report of the Nominating Committee.

Joan Bledsoe presented the slate set forth in the 2014 Annual Report, then amended the slate to add Rob Baynes as a Trustee at Large and substitute Susannah Thomas for Sherry Penney Livingston on the Trustees of Invested Funds.

Joan also handed out certificates of appreciation to the following persons leaving the Board or appointed positions: Davalene Cooper, Lindsey McGinnis, Tom Willson, Donna Ekstrand, Jennie McGirr, Michael Mercurio, Liz Maillett, Kirk Anderson, Eva Marx, and Sherry Penney Livingston.

Elaine Gomez solicited additional nominations from the floor. None were received, and the slate, as amended, was approved by the Parish.

Article 8: Social Justice Committee Focus.

Ginny Perelson discussed the proposal of the Social Justice Committee to change its focus from education issues to issues and projects related to homelessness and hunger. The Committee has focused on education for three years, and felt it was “time to turn our attention.” The Parish approved the proposal by a unanimous vote.

Article 9: Strategic Plan Goal.

Elaine Gomez advised that the Board wishes to carry over the Strategic Plan goal of fostering deeper, longer-term engagement among members and friends of the Old Ship community in the following year. The Parish approved the recommendation unanimously.

Article 10: New Bylaws.

Davalene Cooper discussed the proposed new bylaws as set forth and summarized in the 2014 Annual Report, and thanked the members of the task force who drafted them.

The existing bylaws were drafted in 1988 and the task force set out to update them to reflect changes and current practice. Ken Read-Brown thanked the members of the task force for their work, and the new bylaws were approved by unanimous vote.

Article 11: Endowment Borrowing for Repairs.

Rick Mattilla discussed the proposal to borrow \$100,000 from the endowment for repairs to the Parish House, driveway, and garage. He likened it to the occasional need to pay for big home repairs, and noted that the Parish House is not eligible for grants in the way that the Meetinghouse is.

Questions included whether consideration was given to taking the loan from the Parish’s commercial line of credit. Elaine Gomez noted that the Board was concerned at the annual cost of servicing a commercial loan of that size, and that there is greater flexibility to servicing a loan from the endowment.

Ron Pollara noted the risk of increased repair cost due to water or rot damage if the repairs continue to be put off. After some additional discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 12: Treasurer’s Report.

Ron Pollara discussed the treasurer’s report contained in the 2014 Annual Report. Impacts to the Parish budget this year included increased snow removal cost (over \$7000 versus \$3500 budgeted), a 9% increase in health insurance premium for staff, and increased payroll taxes due to expiration of a payroll tax cut.

Article 13: Trustees of Invested Funds Report.

Liz Maillett discussed the Trustees of Invested Funds report contained in the 2014 Annual Report. The General Endowment’s value is about back to where it was at end of 2007 thanks to another year of solid equity returns, but the Parish has to plan for possible down years and losses in value. With about a 5% annualized return under Putnam’s management and 4% annual distributions (not including other distributions), there is a need to be cautious about taking so many distributions that the endowment doesn’t grow. She also discussed the possible impact of fossil fuel divestment on future returns.

Article 14: 2014–2015 Proposed Budget.

The proposed budget was part of the discussion for Article 12. Ron Pollara solicited additional questions. Elaine Gomez noted that the budget includes the first staff increase in several years, and assumes a 4% increase in health insurance premiums. After some additional discussion, the proposed budget was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 15: Authorization to Borrow.

This routine article was approved by unanimous vote.

Article 16: Parish Committee/Council Reports.

Pam Harty thanked members of the Parish for assisting with the various caring tasks that the Nurturing Community Council coordinates.

Carol Schuler suggested that the service for the next year's annual meeting be held at the Parish House again, and that the service run right into the meeting. Bryan Hurley thanked the volunteer RE and Adult Education teachers for their efforts

KRB closed with a reading from Marge Piercy's *To Be of Use*, and the meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christopher Sullivan, Clerk of the Board of Trustees

Appendix II

First Parish Hingham Old Ship Church Minutes of the All-Parish Meeting October 26, 2014

Present: Elaine Gomez, President; Minister Ken Read-Brown; Chris Sullivan, Clerk; Ron Pollara, Treasurer; Nina Wellford-Price; Jeff Lee; Rob Baynes; Laruen Petrie; Craig Russ; Pam Harty; Bryan Hurley, and over 35 members of the Parish.

Elaine Gomez called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM, with a quorum present.

Article 1:

Elaine Gomez provided an overview of the proposal, which is to appoint Mike Dwyer to the deacon position made vacant by the resignation of Tino Fernandes.

Christopher Sullivan read the warrant, to wit: "Will the Parish approve the appointment of Mike Dwyer to the position of Deacon, made vacant by the resignation of Tino Fernandes?"

Elaine Gomez discussed the role and responsibilities of the deacons, as well as Mike's background and qualifications. The deacons support the minister, provide assistance to church members, and arrange for ministrations in the minister's absence or sabbatical.

Mike Dwyer has been a church member for over 25 years and has served on the Board, numerous committees, and in just about every financial capacity, including Treasurer. The deacons nominated him to fill the vacancy.

After discussion, the Meeting voted to approve the appointment by a unanimous vote.

The Meeting thanked Tino for his service to Old Ship as deacon and in many other capacities over the years, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM