



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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### April 2015 Newsletter

Want to print out the newsletter? [Click here.](#)

### Sunday Worship

#### Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday

"An Easter for Our Time" will be Ken's sermon. Easter has its origins in ancient spring religious festivals as well as in the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Does it still have meaning for us... in our personal lives and in our shared life on our small Earth home sailing in the immensity we call the universe?

Choral music for this year's Easter service will include "Calypso Alleluia" by Thomas Benjamin, "Cantique de Jean Racine" by Gabriel Faure, and "How Lovely Are the Messengers" by Felix Mendelssohn.

#### *For Children: Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt details:*

The Old Ship Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt is a very slow hunt. Families will all first come to the worship service and then the children will leave after the traditional "Resurrection Story" to begin the hunt. The Old Ship Easter Egg Hunt is a cooperative adventure using our Unitarian Universalist values of respecting everyone's worth and dignity. This is not a competitive race to be won by the fastest legs. Instead, the hunt is by age group and involves finding written clues, using compasses and eggs cooperatively. All of the candy is pooled and shared among the entire group at the end. The smallest kids will be have their own special area to find eggs. Warm jackets, sturdy shoes and patience are encouraged. *Want even more info on the Easter Egg Hunt?* [Click here.](#)

#### Sunday, April 12

This will be our Coming of Age Sunday, a very special service on our worship calendar. The Coming of Age youth have been meeting with their mentors and other adult leaders all this year. This service will celebrate their completion of the program and will include the sharing of their faith statements - which is always moving and inspiring. *Our monthly Outreach Offering will support our youth group's service and learning trip to Appalachia.*

***At 4:00 the Harvard Glee Club and Radcliffe Choral Society*** will offer a benefit concert at Old Ship. They will be performing works from the Medieval era to the present. Among the treasures of choral repertoire for women's, men's, and mixed voices, the ensembles will present works devoted to Harvard's Civil War Project, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the end of the war and its historical legacy. The concert will feature early American music in Old Ship's historic meeting house, as well as works by Perotin, Du Fay, Tallis, Bach, Chesnokov, and modern works by David Lang, Abbie Betinis, and John Muehleisen.

We missed having these groups at a service this past fall; now we will be able to enjoy a full concert this spring! We are asking for a \$10 donation at the door.

## **Sunday, April 19**

Our Earth Day service this year will feature the musical gifts of UU troubadour Jim Scott: "Gaia, Mother Earth, and the Oneness of Everything". We will celebrate the earth with Jim's original songs and readings along with his personal reflections on the idea of Mother Earth or "Gaia" being one living organism. Our "spiritual response" in word and action is so timely now, as "the spirit of life on earth is in crisis." Jim's uplifting songs, some of which are in our hymnbooks, offer a vision and inspiration to take the healing of the earth into our own hands. From his work with the Paul Winter Consort, where he was co-composer of their celebrated "Missa Gaia / Earth Mass", Jim has long been an activist for peace and the earth with his music. Former Co-Chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program.

Ken Read-Brown will share in leading the service, and our choir will participate in the music. Jim has graced our Meeting House with his music on other occasion. It will be good to have him with us once again.

*And... **bring an outdoor broom to church!** After the service we welcome all sweepers to sweep the accumulated winter sanding from our Parish House driveway. Thank you!*

## **Sunday, April 26**

"Still Here" will be Ken's sermon, a practical and spiritual reflection on the nature of Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. He will be drawing on his experience with parishioners and with his mother's Alzheimer's journey, as well as on his experience raising funds for the Alzheimer's Association during the past three years by running the Boston Marathon.

## **Most Sunday mornings...**

Most Sunday mornings at Old Ship begin with gatherings in small circles in the Parish House parlor for sharing and spiritual enrichment. And we are all invited! Our web site has more detailed information about these opportunities:

- The "Bodhisattva Study Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month, offering time for meditation and then conversation concerning a Buddhist book the group is reading - which this year is "No Time to Lose" by Pema Chodron.
- "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation (and bagels and coffee and tea too).
- "Women's Breakfast and Knitting" meets on the fourth Sunday of each month at 8:30 for... breakfast and knitting... and conversation.

*Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Bodhisattva Study Group or Women's Knitting or a committee meeting on Sunday morning and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.*

## **Musing**

### ***from the Minister's Desk***

It seems to me that if you come away from some experience with a story to tell, not all has been lost.

There are limits to this of course; life can be very hard sometimes. But when it comes to the more or less run of the mill hardships of life, I have found it helpful to remember that whatever happens, a good story may not entirely make up for the hardship or pain or suffering... but it helps.

This is worth remembering, isn't it, as we emerge from this epic winter. For the snow will melt; crocuses and daffodils will appear; grass will be green (remember green?); warm southern breezes will replace arctic wind. And when the now gray/brown piles of snow are just a memory... we'll be left with... stories... some of which will improve with age, as stories often do.

All this said, I know that this winter has caused many a hardship for thousands, including many of you. I don't intend to be dismissive of the hardship, not at all. But as we emerge from the worst and deal with the damage left behind, perhaps we can find some comfort and solace by sharing the stories of this epic winter, just as we find comfort and solace by sharing all the stories of our lives, the good and the bad, the joyful and the sorrowful. For sharing stories at any time of the year and any season of our lives can help us, in the spirit of Easter and spring, rise again from whatever winter of the spirit we may have been living through.

So I wish you all many blessings as the snow melts, the temperature climbs, and together we enjoy the beauties of a New England spring.

Peace and blessings,  
--Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com

p.s. Thanks to everyone who contributed to my Boston Marathon fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association. With your support along with the support of family and friends, I have exceeded my fundraising goal. Thank you!

*My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday beginning about 10:00. Monday is my day off, and Thursday my sermon writing day. My primary phone contact is through the Parish House office - 781-749-1679. The office answering machine includes my cell phone if you need to reach me quickly - since when I am not in the office I am either working in my study at home, or making visits or attending meetings elsewhere. I can also be reached on email.*  
--Ken

## Religious Education Notes

### Old Ship Youth are traveling to Appalachia in April.

For 17 travelers, we need to raise approximately \$15,000. Each traveler is paying as much as their family can manage, and we are fund-raising to make up the difference. Toward that end, the Youth Group has been potato baking, babysitting, grant-writing, flower selling, raffling, and postcard writing... We have even pushed ourselves into the world of internet "crowd-sourcing".

### How can you help?

Donate scholarship money directly; in cash or by check, made out to "Old Ship Youth Group". Beverly Tricco, Maureen Butler or Sarah Hurley will be happy to help you with that. You can visit our flower & postcard table at fellowship hour for a weekly update on our progress.

If you're feeling "modern", please visit the [Faithify.org](http://Faithify.org) website and donate to help provide scholarships to Old Ship Youth. The campaign only lasts 20 more days. And don't be deterred if the "goal has been reached"...

- 1) We only asked for a small amount on that platform, in order not to fail; only if we reach or exceed our goal will Faithify pay us what we have raised.
- 2) There is no problem with "over-funding". How cool would it be to collect \$3000 or \$4000 on our modest low-ball "ask"? [Click here to be directed to Faithify](#)

## **Educating Hearts and Minds**

### **OLD SHIP LIFE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

*A full schedule for 2014-2015 programs - including classes as well as ongoing groups open to all - is posted on our web site; fliers are also available on our literature tables.*

#### **Spring Poetry - five sessions, Wed., April 1 - 27, 1:00 and 7:00**

Our annual spring poetry, held during National Poetry month, will explore the work of two poets, E.E. Cummings and May Sarton, each of whom has some Unitarian Universalist connection or background. They could hardly be more different stylistically, and their poetry will offer interesting contrasts of both style and themes, and of course much food for good conversation. For more info and to sign up, contact class leaders Elizabeth Torrey, 781-749-0543, [elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com) or Ken Read-Brown, 781-749-1679, [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

#### **Field Trip for Adults! Join other Old Shippers on a visit to the new headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and meet UUA President Rev. Peter Morales.**

The Life Learning Committee has arranged a tour of the headquarters building, which in December won the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's platinum certification, the highest level of the designation awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The committee decided to arrange the tour to let members of the Old Ship congregation connect with the larger Unitarian Universalist community.

The visit will take place during the afternoon of Tuesday, May 5. A caravan of carpooling cars will leave Old Ship at 11:30 a.m. The visit will start at 1:00 p.m. and last until 5:00 p.m.

Space for the visit is limited. Please sign up soon with Elizabeth Torrey, committee chair, (781-749-0543, [elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)), or Ralph Brown, committee member (781-925-9197, [ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com)). Please let them know if you are willing to drive a carpool car.

*Ongoing groups and gatherings: Be sure to check our web site, [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org), for a complete list of groups open to all, including: The Way of the Bodhisattva, Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast and Knitting, Monday Meditation, Ceilidh (song circle), Morning Meditation, Upanishads Study Group, and Evensong for Families.*

### **Old Ship Community Canvass Gathering #2**

#### **Perfect Pasta Community Canvass Supper, Friday, April 10 @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**

*Families, Youth, Children and Friends of All Ages:*

Come and be inspired about your families' and your future at Old Ship! Listen to our youth describe what it means to have a spiritual home and why it is important for future generations to keep OS healthy and vibrant!! Please join the Religious Education Committee, the Youth Committee, and the Board of Trustees for a Perfect Pasta Community Canvass Supper - a new, social & inspirational approach to our annual pledge drive! Children and youth and members of all ages are included as full participants in our exciting evening!

As you all know, Old Ship relies on your annual pledge for the funding we need in order to serve as your faith community. Please join other families and people of all ages who love Old Ship for an inspiring, reflective, warm evening of food and fellowship. The RE Committee, Youth Committee and Board of Trustees will serve baked ziti, mac and cheese, salad, and

dessert. Dinner & the program start at 6:30pm. If you are unable to make that date, we will hold another event on Sunday, April 26 at noon (*see below*). We'll show you that funding can be fun!

### **Old Ship Community Canvass Gathering #3**

#### **Sunday, April 26 @ noon in Fellowship Hall**

In the spirit of gathering as a community to celebrate the meaning of Old Ship in our lives, the Board of Trustees invites everyone to join us for a Community Canvass Lunch on Sunday, April 26. With a thoughtfully planned program full of music and conversation, we will inspire each other to make the commitment that reflects the life-long relationship we are building with our Old Ship community.

Please plan to join fellow Old-Shippers for one (or both!) of these very special programs - response to Gathering #1 was overwhelmingly positive. We'll show you that funding can be fun - and fulfilling!!

Please RSVP to Julianna at [office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org) for either event. If you are unable to attend a community gathering, please stop by the Members and Friends table on any Sunday in April to talk with a Board member and pick up a pledge card. Thank you!

### **Membership**

I'm planning a game night for Saturday, April 25 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. The plan is to play Pictionary in teams and have lots of fun doing it! Adults and children alike are encouraged to come. Add us to your calendar for a night of laughter!

Kindly,  
Erin Alix  
email: [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org)  
413-512-1407

### **Nurturing Community Council**

#### **Old Ship Summer Retreat, July 24-26 on beautiful Cape Cod.**

At coffee hour our Retreat Committee we will be offering information on our upcoming summer retreat at Craigville. Last July a group of "retreat pioneers" (seniors, youngsters, families and singles) gathered for the first O.S. retreat in decades. We had such a good time we are doing it again! For those of you who didn't make it last year (but heard all the positive buzz!) now is your chance to join in! Questions? Contact [Trish McAleer Baynes](#). Reserve your spot now.

### **Social Justice Council News**

#### **Mark Your Calendars, Sunday May 3**

Plan to attend a noon forum in the Parish House. The presenter will be Donna Haig Friedman, Ph.D, Former Director and Senior Research Fellow from the Center for

Social Policy in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston. Dr. Friedman will discuss policy issues regarding homelessness. Title: "Solving Family Homelessness in Massachusetts: Every Day Actions and Long-term Strategies"

This interactive conversation will focus on the face and root causes of family homelessness in Massachusetts. This preventable human tragedy impacts more families with children today than has ever been the case in the state's history. We will explore solutions for family homelessness that are achievable in every day interactions, as well as those which require long-term investments and commitments by both the public and private sectors.

**Furniture Collection (April 11th ) to Restock the South Shore Friends of the Homeless Furniture Bank and Support Old Ship Appalachia Social Justice Trip**

Do you have a piece of furniture that you no longer need? Do you have linens or dishes that are going unused?

Old Ship's Youth Group members & adult supporters will pick up your donation from your house and deliver it to the Furniture Bank for you on Saturday 4/11 from 9-1pm.

South Shore Friends of the Homeless maintains a furniture bank for formerly homeless families to use in furnishing their new apartments. With the heavy snows this winter, their furniture bank is empty and they need household items of all sorts to help families get settled into their new homes. All donations should be gently used and in good shape and ready for a formerly homeless family to use in their new apartment (no torn upholstery or broken furniture please).

Needed items include bed frames and mattresses, bureaus, couches, tables, chairs, lamps and linens and dishware.

A minimum donation of \$10 per item is suggested, for small furniture and/or boxed items & \$20 suggested for large furniture items.

Donation will go towards the youth group's April 17-25 Appalachia service trip.

If you are donating linens or cookware and do not want to schedule a pick up, you can leave them in the front hall of the Parish House before 4/11 and the Youth Group will take them to the Furniture Bank.

Contact Scott Pollara to schedule a pickup [blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or 781-664-4704

**Candlelight Concerts presents concert on Sunday, April 26 at 4pm**

Old Ship Candlelight Concerts welcomes Spring and finishes its season on April 26 with Quartet Sensa Misura, four exciting new faces in classical music. Led by Francisco Fullana, winner of the 2012 Atlantic Symphony Concert Competition, Quartet Sensa Misura has taken its "whip-smart" (The New Yorker) performances to Alice Tully Hall of Lincoln Center and The Kennedy Center. The concert takes place at 4 PM in the Meetinghouse. Admission is free; your donations are gratefully accepted at the door.

**May Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale is Saturday May 2**

Show of hands: who is ready for spring? The snow is still holding on, but it is time to think about plants, and warm weather and the May Breakfast Plant Sale! If you have plants that you

can donate to the plant sale this year, please divide them by mid April so they will have time to recover from transplant shock and be in good shape for the plant sale. It would be great to have interesting and different plants to make the sale fun and successful. If you need pots, there will be a stack of them by the Parish House back door beginning in April.

Don't forget to label the plant with the name and any special growing instructions (sun, shade, wet, dry, etc.) You can drop your donations off by the side door of the Parish House any time during the week prior to the plant sale. Also - we need cardboard trays for people to carry their purchases out to their cars. If you can, please stop at a local liquor store and get some "beer flats," the cardboard bottoms of beer cases, which are very handy for this purpose. Please either drop them by the side door (weighed down by a rock so they don't blow away) or leave them in the lobby area outside the office. If you would like to help with the plant sale or need additional pots or any other information, please contact Janice McPhillips at 781-740-8782 or [jbbmcphillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcphillips@gmail.com).

A long-time tradition, May Breakfast, generally held the first Saturday in May, features a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast as well as a vibrant spring plant sale. People from throughout Hingham enjoy a morning of good food and company while welcoming the rites of spring. *If you'd like to volunteer to cook, serve, or help in any way, contact Elaine Gomez [eh-gomez@comcast.com](mailto:eh-gomez@comcast.com).*

### **Green Sanctuary - 350.org Hingham Node News**

On March 22 Unitarian Universalists began a month-long campaign to raise awareness about what is happening to the planet due to the burning of fossil fuels. This action, inspired by last September's Climate March in New York and dubbed "Commit2Respond," has as its goals a low-carbon future, protection of the most vulnerable among us from the extremes of our worsening climate, and the broadening of the climate movement around the world. Members of Old Ship's congregation, who long have been involved in the climate movement through 350Mass.org, heartily support Commit2Respond, and welcome the opportunity to join our efforts with theirs.

Old Shipper's Turner Bledsoe and Connie Gorfinkle are co-coordinators of 350Mass South Shore, one of several chapters of 350Mass.org across the state, which concentrate primarily on climate matters that affect Massachusetts and the rest of the Northeast. Currently that includes a natural gas pipeline being proposed for the Berkshires and the expansion of an existing pipeline that runs through Quincy and Weymouth, as well as a facility - called a compressor station - that controls the flow of gas through the pipeline, and is planned to be built in a park on the Fore River, close by the Procter and Gamble plant.

Most concerning about these pipelines is that the gas they'll be carrying is "fracked" gas, a commodity that can only be obtained by blasting shale rock with water and poisonous chemicals. Those chemicals move with the gas, and when it's necessary for the compressor station to have a "blowdown," a startlingly noisy process by which some of the pressure in the pipe is relieved, toxins, such as butane and methane are released into the air. Compressor stations also are known to have periodic explosions, at which time residents who live within a three-mile radius of the station must be evacuated.

These are urgent matters, as is our effort to get the state to divest its pension plan of fossil fuel stocks; our support of a wind farm in Nantucket Sound; our attempts to convince municipal

light plants to give fair rates to customers who add solar power to their energy mix, and our promotion of a carbon tax that would at last force energy companies to pay for the pollution they cause, the only industry that is given that pass by the Federal government. These are huge undertakings. But the more people who take part the faster we'll be able to reach our vital goal of clean energy.

To get an idea of what 350Mass South Shore is up to, we everyone who is concerned about the most important issue of our lives is invited to attend our next meeting, on April 7, 7 p.m., at Old Ship's Parish House.

For further information you may contact our Green Sanctuary / 350Mass South Shore co-chairs:

Turner Bledsoe [turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net](mailto:turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net)

Connie Gorfinkle. [connieg1233@verizon.net](mailto:connieg1233@verizon.net)

### **Committee Annual Reports are due on Monday, April 27**

Please submit them to the office email. Thanks, Julianna.

### **Old Ship's Fiscal Year ending on June 30, 2015 (FY 2105)**

We are once again closing out another fiscal year at Old Ship (our 334th) and need your help with cash flow. We are in the 4th quarter of FY2015 and need you to complete your FY2015 pledge if you have not done so already. If you need to make an adjustment in your pledge amount, just let us know; we are aware that circumstances sometimes change.

And as you think about your pledge for our upcoming year, FY2016, please consider making a three year pledge. Knowing how much pledge income we will have allows the Board of Trustees to better navigate Old Ship's future by developing operating budgets that are adequately funded.

I thank those that have already fulfilled their FY2015 pledge and who have made their pledge for the coming year (FY2016)!

Through your pledge, you are stepping up to keep Old Ship afloat.

Ron Pollara  
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

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