



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

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February 2017 Newsletter

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

Worship

Sunday, February 5, 10:25am

"The Best Things in Life Are Free... But..." will be Ken's sermon as our season of renewing our commitment to Old Ship through our annual pledges arrives.

We avoid conversations about money at our institutional peril. If we love Old Ship, if we are renewed and inspired by Sunday worship, if we (whatever our age) receive spiritual sustenance from our life learning programs, if we appreciate being in community together, and if we feel we can make a difference in this world by serving others together... then we need to support our Old Ship community as generously as we are each able. Ken writes: "In the midst of my 30th year of the privilege of being your minister, I feel more strongly than ever the critical importance of religious/spiritual communities such as ours. This Sunday I'll tell you why."



Sunday, February 12, 10:25am

"You've Got to be Carefully Taught". You may recall this line from a song in the musical "South Pacific." The sermon is the result of Ken's conversation with this year's Merrie Market sermon topic auction winner, Old Ship member Dana Kintigh. Are we born inherently good? Must hate be taught? And if it is, can it be unlearned?

Sunday, February 19, 10:25am

Our guest preacher will be Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, the Senior Minister and Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, working to strengthen bonds between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She is on the Massachusetts Moral Revival leadership team, which strives to reclaim what it means to be religious in the public square. For decades Old Ship has partnered with UUUM, primarily through our financial contributions, including our annual fundraising for the UUUM Renewal House program.

Rev. Earl's sermon will be "Standing for What We Love." In times when core values are under threat, we must stand for what we love - but also ensure our circle of love is wide and broad enough to include those who are not like us.

Prior to her arrival at the UU Urban Ministry, Rev. Earl spent 10 years at a faith-based nonprofit in RI serving the homeless community. She is past president of the Board of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, recipient of the 2014 Heroes of Faith Award from the Rhode Island State Council of Churches for her interfaith work, and is a longtime vegan committed to standing up for nonhuman animals.

Sunday, February 26, 10:25am

"Traits Not States" is Ken's sermon title. These three words were a sort of mantra for the renowned scholar of religion, Huston Smith, who died on December 30 at the age of 97. Smith considered himself a Methodist from birth to his last days, but at the same time he integrated spiritual practices from all of the world's major religions into his daily routines. Ken's sermon will be a reflection on messages gleaned from the life and work of this remarkable and warm-hearted man.

(See the "Life Learning" section of our newsletter, below, for the opportunity to view the series of Bill Moyer's interviews with Huston Smith, beginning on Wednesday, February 15.)

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 "Way of the Bodhisattva Study/Meditation Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month. "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation. And the Women's Breakfast meets at 8:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend any early morning gathering or committee meeting 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

The other day I took a pair of well-worn shoes to Henry's Shoe Repair on North Street. The uppers are in good shape (though they would look better if I ever polished them), but the soles were decidedly not. The personable young man at the counter assured me that the soles could be replaced, and that as a bonus the uppers could be treated to make the shoes just about like new. As it turns out, this will cost almost as much as the shoes did to begin with; but they are really comfortable (and as I discovered a few months ago, not entirely to my surprise, the company no longer makes this model).

As I handed over the shoes, it occurred to me how fortunate I am to have another pair of shoes (in fact more than just one other pair) to wear while these are being re-soled. Plenty of people in the world have but one pair of shoes... or none at all. There's perspective for you.

And it is of course a perspective that comes with a reminder that from a position of economic privilege - more than one pair of shoes - comes responsibility. Here's one way of putting it: How and in service of what issues and which people will the rubber of my shoes hit the proverbial road?

Another way of putting this: Sole renewal reminding me of the continual need for soul renewal too. More important than ever, is it not: with refugees turned away at American airports, with rhetoric denigrating our Muslim sisters and brothers, with climate change denied at the highest levels of government. Yes, the need for soul renewal along with sturdy soles to march on is more essential now than ever

This said, and at risk of further mixing the metaphor, when at times we at Old Ship find our political opinions and affiliations sending us walking in different directions on our soles (I certainly never assume you agree with me or with each other about one or another social or political issue), may our Old Ship covenant remind us that our souls are still united as we learn from each other, care for each other in bonds of friendship and community, and serve the wider world - both with each other and each of us in our own way.

With ever renewed soles... and souls...

Peace and blessings,
--Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com
cell: 781-635-2060

My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from about 10:00 - 2:00 and by appointment. 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 via email, oldshipkrb@gmail.com. --Ken

Notes from your Membership Coordinator

January was a wonderful month with a truly awesome Birthday Day celebration on the 15th, and an evening full of good conversation and good food at this year's first Community Dinner on the 28th. Thank you to everyone who baked a cake: Ivy Butterworth, Lera Chitwood, Doug Macauley, Janice McPhillips, David and Mary Murphy, Lisa Nakamoto (and her children Ben, Andrew and Ryan!), Ginny Perelson, Sharon Prehn and Joan Wilson. Birthday Day wouldn't have been as sweet without your help! Also, thank you to everyone who attended the Community Dinner! The night wouldn't have been the same without you!

Newcomers Gathering Sunday, February 5 at Noon!

Questions about Unitarian Universalism... about Old Ship history... about what it means to be a member? If you are new to Old Ship and curious about these or other aspects of our church, join us at noon next Sunday, February 5th, in the parlor of the Parish House. Our minister, Ken Read-Brown, and other Old Ship leaders will be there. We all look forward to getting to know you - and to your getting to know us. Please contact Erin Alix, Membership Coordinator, at membership@oldshipchurch.org with any questions.

Finally, now that February is here, and love is officially in the air, we can turn our attention to spreading our love. What better way to spread the love than to look around you and introduce yourself to new faces you see? To give a part of your time to someone standing alone during Fellowship Hour? To invite a friend, coworker, family member or acquaintance to one of Ken's wonderful sermons? There are so many ways we can do this and I'd love to hear how you "spread your love" during this month. If you're willing to do this I'd love to share them with the congregation and you can email me at membership@oldshipchurch.org to tell me all about it.

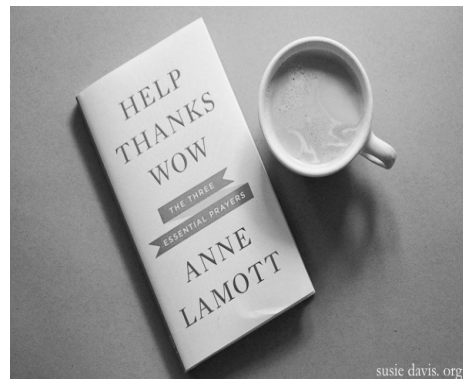
Kindly,
Erin Alix
Membership Coordinator
membership@oldshipchurch.org

Director of Religious Education

On any given Sunday at Old Ship there is a lot of learning going on...and a lot of teaching... Volunteers offer their time and their hearts and do their best... I interrupt when I perceive a "teachable moment"... Our kids are so smart and so "awake" that they end up teaching us as much as we teach them...

BUT you know what we don't teach much about? Prayer... Your kids are NOT learning prayer from us...

"Why?" you might ask, and I'm hoping you will... because I want to tell you why...



I didn't fully realize this until I tried to teach it, or tried to help teachers teach it, but prayer is the most personal thing a person can do... I can imagine the arguments against that statement, but I stand by it anyway.

The moment you open up the prospect of prayer, underlying choices and questions come up and need to be addressed... These questions and choices are a matter of individual choice for adults, but that are a matter of "family identity" for young children... and perhaps even for teenagers.

Some of the many questions and choices are: Why pray at all? Who do we pray to? Is being clear on the "who" essential to getting started with prayer? Those are questions best begun and discussed within the family.

Here's a little graphic to use as a jumping off point:



Then later, we at Sunday school can begin to have discussions about prayer.

Yours in prayer,
Beverly Tricco
Director of Religion Education
beverlytmail@gmail.com

Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Vespers with the Old Ship Choir - Expressions of Love

On Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m., the Old Ship Choir will hold a special Vespers service in the Meeting House. A gently lit Meeting House, music by Vaughan Williams and Bairstow, poetry by E. E. Cummings and Emily Dickinson and others, and plenty of silence for quiet contemplation - all contribute to a peaceful pause in the midst of our busy lives. The readings and music will explore various expressions of love: romance, friendship, community, and charity. All are warmly invited!

Youth Group Update

We are well over half way to our fundraising goal of \$16,000 - thanks in a large part to private donations from YOU!

To date, here is where we stand with fundraising:

Youth Group projects - \$3,700

Congregation Donations - \$6,100

The Youth Group has two more upcoming fundraisers in the works. They are fun and community building so we hope to see you there!

Sunday, February 12 - Warm Hearts Hot Potatoes

Saturday, March 25 - Banding Together

*** Stay tuned for more information about this community wide participatory concert!

Thank you all for your love, good wishes and financial support!

Sarah Hurley

Youth Group Advisor

hurleystings@yahoo.com

Lincoln Day at Old Ship

The annual Lincoln Day celebration will be on Saturday morning, February 11. Hingham's Lincoln Day honors President Lincoln, whose original American ancestors were among Hingham's first settlers, and Hingham's General Benjamin Lincoln, who served directly under General Washington during the Revolution.

The day will begin with the Hingham Militia mustering outside our Meeting House at 10:15 and then proceeding to the cemetery to General Lincoln's grave site. At 11:00 the indoor ceremony will begin in our Meeting House. Patriotic hymns will be led by our own Chris Hossfeld, and Rev. Ken Read-Brown will offer the invocation and benediction. The speaker of the day will be Martha Bewick, reflecting on Hingham's abolitionist gatherings in "tranquility grove".

Following the service, all will process to Fountain Square, for commemorations at President Lincoln's statue.

Grow the Love - Old Ship Pledge Party Feb 11!

It's that time of year... time to think about all the great work that we do here at Old Ship, and what it means to you! To kick it off, the Board of Trustees invites you to join us at a rousing family-friendly party on Saturday February 11 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We promise you a fun evening, filled with music (Chris Hossfeld, our music director, on piano, the Old Ship String Band, and... the Singing Board of Trustees!), daisies of LOVE, not too much talking, delicious food, and the warm company of our Old Ship friends.

In the spirit of a true pot luck, please bring whatever dish you would like to share. The Board will provide wine and soft drinks. To our young families: Between dinner, music and our daisies, there will be plenty to keep little ones entertained, but we are also happy to provide child care. Please let us know asap and RSVP to [Nina Price here](#). We hope that this year's annual pledges sprout like wildflowers! Stay tuned for all the info you need to make a contribution that truly helps us grow the love.

Among Us

Bingo Night! Come one, come all to First Friday Bingo!

Friday, February 3, 7pm.

Families and Friends, come on down and enjoy some bingo in Fellowship Hall.

Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

Book Group to Meeting on February 13 - and it includes dessert!

"The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah is absolutely riveting. The author has captured French life during World War II with wonderful details and drama. Two sisters, separated by principles and temperament, disagree about dangerous actions to be taken under German occupation. The Old Ship Book Group will discuss this novel at its next meeting in the parlor at 7 pm on

Monday, February 13. Brownies and ice cream! RSVP [here](#).

The **Genealogy class** has been cancelled for this year, as Ralph Brown, the leader of the class, recovers from hip replacement surgery.

The Wisdom of Faith

Wednesdays, February 15 - March 8, 7:00 p.m., Parish House Parlor, led by Ken

We will watch and then discuss the series of Bill Moyers' interviews with the warm-hearted religious scholar and mystic Huston Smith, who died at the age of 97 this past December. Smith claimed that at a deep level all the religions are the same. With such diverse practices and sometimes apparently contradictory belief systems, how can this be true? Each program focuses on Smith's journey through one or two of the world's religious traditions. Conversation will be led by Ken Read-Brown. Come to one, two, three, or all four session!

Other ongoing groups and gatherings....

[Link here](#) to the page on our web site that includes descriptions of all these groups: from opportunities to meditate and study spiritual texts ancient and modern as described above, to the Men's Breakfast, Book Group, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

Social Justice Council

Annual Social Justice Dinner

Saturday, February 4

6-8:00 p.m.

- John Lanham Triage Coordinator for Father Bill's /Mainspring will share thoughts, information and some film clips from the movie Time Out of Mind (2015 starring Richard Gere) related to "Experiencing Homelessness". He will be talking with us about challenges faced by those who are homeless, and how we can advocate to support them and reduce homelessness.
- Davalene Cooper will share information for action steps and advocacy.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the food donation table. Sign up during Fellow ship Hour or contact Brenda at blackpollara@verizon.net or Ginny at gperelson@gmail.com.

Thank you!

The Social Justice Council would like to thank the many, many Old Shippers who helped to make the Holiday Party for the families in the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore residences such a success this past December. This was our second year providing the dinner as well as the hall for the party. Without a working stove and ovens at the Parish House, six families took on cooking things at home and another six cooks used hot plates and crockpots to get everything else hot and ready to serve. Fifteen Old Shippers arrived to serve the holiday foods while another eight helped parents get their children's food and beverages to their tables and hold the babies so that parents could eat. Many stayed to help the dozen strong clean-up crew who arrived and make quick work of successfully wrapping up the celebration. Without your time, effort and good cheer, the evening could not have been the wonderful holiday celebration that it was! Many thanks to you all from the families and from the Friends of the Homeless staff.

We also would like to thank all the Old Ship "elves" who purchased and wrapped gifts for 50 foster children living on the South Shore in December. This is a tradition in which Old Shippers have participated for many years. The children, especially the teens and young adults, often have few family members still involved in their lives. The social workers at the Department of Children and Families also thank you for making the holiday happier for so many.

Hingham Food Pantry

Old Ship Church donated 136 pounds of food in the month of December. Current needs include ground coffee, peanut butter, jelly, and canned stews/pasta entrees.

Thank you for your generosity. The February food collection will be Sunday, February 26

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, March 4-the annual Stop and Ship food drive-all ages of volunteers needed!

- Sunday, March 19, CUPCAKES are coming!! A fund-raising event sponsored by the Old Ship Social Justice Council and Nurturing Community Council that involves delicious food and all ages at Old Ship. Funds that are raised from the sale of the cupcakes go to School on Wheels.
- Sunday, April 2 SUNDAY FORUM-an opportunity for Old Ship members to explore and discuss the focus for social justice projects and initiatives during the next two to three years.

Taking Social Action One Step Further....

Many Old Shippers are involved in local social action groups committed to a particular issue, such as 350.org. As the events of the last weeks have made clear, many of us want to take action around issues related to the policies that the new administration is proposing. Old Ship, as a church community dedicated to supporting all of our members regardless of our political views, doesn't sponsor groups that take a specific political stance. Also, our non-profit legal status as a church depends on us following a set of requirements that promote non-partisanship. So, we encourage anyone who wants to take action around current issues to join a new group called South Shore Action, started by women including Old Shippers. You may find them at their Facebook Page, or email Ellen Whalen here to be added to their email newsletter.

Also, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan group that does excellent work on a range of issues. You may contact the Hingham branch through their website www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org.

Old Ship will continue to choose a broad issue that we can all work on, such as our current issue, hunger and homelessness, through the Social Justice Council. This spring we will be choosing our next area of focus. Social justice is love in action!

Candlelight Concert presents Blue Heron On Feb. 19 at 4pm

As part of the ongoing Candlelight Concert series, Blue Heron, a vocal ensemble that presents performances from the Medieval and Renaissance periods, will be appearing in the Meeting House on Sunday, February 19th at 4 p.m.

Their main repertoire interests are fifteenth-century English and Franco-Flemish polyphony, Spanish music between about 1500 and 1575, as well as some early sixteenth-century English music. This group has been acclaimed by The Boston Globe as "one of the Boston music community's indispensables," and hailed by Alex Ross in The New Yorker for the "expressive intensity" of its interpretations. The concert will be presented free of charge; your contribution is welcome. Please join us for this special event.



Old Ship Generosity

Thanks to our generous members and friends, the Christmas Eve offering total was \$4970.01! Father Bill's/Main Spring, UU Urban Ministry and the UU Service Committee each received a check for \$1656.67.

Thanks also to the following donors for their contributions to UU Urban Ministry's Renewal House. Old Ship was able to give this organization over \$1860 to support their work.

Dorothy Anderson
Janet Blampied
Nester & Cindy Camino
Frank Cheney
Davalene Cooper
Donna Ekstrand
Lisa Florenzano
Elaine & Jack Gomez
Connie Gorfinkle
Allan Greenberg
Joan Wilson & Dennis Hogan
John LaPann
Edith & Cal Larson
Sherry Penney & Jim Livingston
Carolyn & Steve Locke
Charles & Jane Malme
John O'Halloran & Denise Marcotte
Phyllis Marglin
Eva Marx
Los Mercurios
Dorothy Palmer
Nancy Perry
Kathleen Philbin
Verginia Pomeroy
Tom & Betty Potter
Ken & Susan Read-Brown
Eliana & Douglas Reffue
Vance Richardson
Bob & Peggy Rizzotto
Susan Rust
Carol Schuler
M. J. Shultz
Elizabeth Torrey
Peggy Ulrich-Nims
May Vuilleumier
Sharon Britton & Keith Washburn
Elizabeth Wilding-Smith
Tom & Diane Willson

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