



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

### June 2016 Newsletter

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### Worship Services

#### Sunday, June 5

For our annual New Members Sunday, Ken's sermon will be "Come as You Are," honoring our UU Principle affirming the "inherent worth and dignity of every person" in general terms and more specifically in the context of the current controversies regarding full acceptance of our transgender sisters and brothers.

If you've been thinking of joining Old Ship by signing our Membership Book, now might be a good time! If you have questions about the meaning of membership or you would like to arrange for signing the Book, you may contact our minister, Rev. Ken Read-Brown at [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com) or our Membership Coordinator, Erin Alix, at [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org).



#### Sunday, June 12

##### ***Shared service with Hingham Congregational Church***

An occasion not to be missed: This may be the first time our two congregations have worshiped together since the founding of Hingham Congregational Church in the 19th century. (Our own First Parish was gathered in 1635.)

Our Rev. Ken Read-Brown and Rev. Pete Allen will share the leadership of and the preaching for this joint service; our music directors and choirs will together offer the music; and we will sing hymns that we hold in common. There will be shared religious education activities for children of both congregations.

The theme of the service, "Common Roots, Common Ground," invites us to reflect that while acknowledging our theological differences, we share a great deal, both historically and in our own time.

Our friends at Hingham Congregational Church will be without their worship space this summer, because of construction. Beginning June 26 their summer worship services will be held in our Old Ship Meeting House at 9:00 each Sunday; and as usual, our summer services will be held in the Parish House Fellowship Hall at 10:00 each Sunday. We are of course pleased to be able to help our friends up the street in this way.

#### Sunday, June 19

This will be our final service in the Meeting House until the Sunday after Labor Day in September. The service will include our annual Flower Communion Ceremony, celebrated by many Unitarian Universalist congregations. We are each invited to bring a flower to share.

Created by Unitarian minister Rev. Norbert Capek, who died in a Nazi concentration camp, the Flower Communion was brought to our country after the war by his wife, Rev. Maya Capek. The Flower Communion bouquet symbolizes our coming together in community, each of us bringing our unique gifts just as each of us bring a flower for the bouquet; and each of us learning from one another, just as each of us leave with a flower

brought by someone else.

Ken's sermon will be "Healing and the Meaning of Life."

### **Following worship, please plan to attend the Annual All Church Picnic!**

The Salad Contest is back by popular demand. Please join in the fun and bring your favorite salad to share - green salads, pasta salads, fruit salads, chicken salads, rice salads... Your favorite salad! We ask that you bring your Labeled Salad to the kitchen the day of the picnic, preferably before church. Enter your name on a sign up list and become an official participant in the contest. At the end of the Picnic everyone will vote for their favorite salad. Amazing Prizes will be awarded to the winner. Last year we served about 75 people, so please plan accordingly. Strawberry Shortcake and Beverages will be provided. Donations to help cover cost will be appreciated.

### **Sunday, June 26**

*Summer Services begin: 10:00, Fellowship Hall*

We begin our summer worship services in the Fellowship Hall of our Parish House. Each service will be led by an Old Ship member or friend.

If you might like to lead one of our summer services, there are details elsewhere in the newsletter. You will get plenty of support and help.

### **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 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. "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation (and bagels and coffee too). And the Knitting Group meets at 8:30 on the final 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.*

### **from the minister's desk**

As I write, sitting in the back porch room of our home, I hear not one but two chipmunks chirping away, I hear birds singing, and I hear the distant roar of what sounds like a wood chipper; and as I look out the windows I see that I'm surrounded by a sea of seemingly infinite shades of green.

And from irritating wood chipper to pleasing birdsong and soothing leafy green, I know that I am kin with it all, since all of us, whether animate or inanimate, are descended from the stardust of a supernovae several billions of years ago.

Does it matter that I know this? Well, it certainly is different from the notion that humans are somehow separate from the rest of creation, mere observers of everything else. But it is not only different; feeling kinship with, well, everything might actually lead to a transformed and transformative way of living with each other and with all the creation on this quite extraordinary planet in this expanding universe. And we could surely use a different way of living right about now, couldn't we? Different from the consumerist, competitive culture that has been infecting the planet?

What would this different way of living look like? Well, it would begin with fuller presence and care in the midst of our most intimate relationships of family and friends, would circle out to our respectful conversations at Old Ship and among neighbors and in all our seemingly trivial (but never trivial) daily interactions with everyone we encounter,

would circle out to how we perceive and talk with people of differing political or religious views from our own, and would circle out to influence the choices we make that impact the health of the earth.

Nothing trivial in any of this! Quite the contrary.

In this spirit then: This summer (and always) may we nurture a feeling of kinship with each and every part of creation. It just might make a big difference.

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

### **Director of Religious Education**

This has been my eighth year as your DRE... I thought last year was busy busy busy; and it was... with R.E. things. This year has been busy busy busy in the larger church community, and we (the R.E. community) have had to be flexible in our space requirements, our storage, and the budgeting of our time and energy.

The highlight, in a year full of good things, had to be our recent Youth-led worship service on the theme of fear... and specific fears... and young heroes, doing good work and overcoming their fears. They worked in collaboration with Sarah Hurley, their youth advisor (and our Youth Chair), and with Ken, and the result was a mature, full, worship service that had power and meaning for everyone in the pews.

At the end of the gorgeous, moving, well-crafted Youth-led service, I was exiting up the middle aisle, teary and raw, and I bumped into Diane Elliott coming out of her pew. Sarah Hurley had been in her youth group when she was DRE here... as was Sarah's late brother, Nathaniel. DRE to DRE we fell into each other's arms, crying...

On the flip-side, this year it was more work than glory, recruiting enough teachers to staff the robust program that we are so proud of, with the critical mass that brings church-shopping parents to us from several towns in each direction.

There have been Sundays when I have come to work with only one other adult committed to teach with me.

Folks who did step up and commit, lovingly and with enthusiasm, deserve our sincerest thanks. What they are getting, is an exclusive invitation to the third annual Teachers' Appreciation Cookout at Sarah and Bryan's house. They are:

Nursery - Nina Swett, lulu Wiley, Lauren Petrie, and Julie Hong.

Spirit play - Anna DeCarli-Durkan, Rebecca Nidositko, Kate Doyle, Cai Vail, and Anne Kerrebrock.

Grades 2&3 - Carlos Zalduondo, Rob Baynes, Mimi Tabela, Sarah Hildred, Eric Cornetta, and Maureen Butler.

Grades 4&5 - Susan Carrillo, Trish Baynes, Amanda Sutton, Rebecca Nidositko, and Chris Sullivan.

Grades 6&7 - Jeff lee, Ivy Butterworth, Jean McGeary, Susan Carrillo, and Diane Jordan.

OWL - Judi Flaherty, John McKendry, and Deb Squires-Lee.

Sr. High Youth - Sarah Hurley, Corey Fitz-Marquez, and Rob Baynes.

Children's Religious Education Committee: Trish Baynes - Chair, Susan Carrillo, Alicia Harkness, Diane Jordan, Anne Kerrebrock, Kathleen Whooley, John McKendry.

Youth Committee: Sarah Hurley - Chair, Deb Squires-Lee, Maureen Butler.

It's been a good year to be alive... on planet Earth... and at Old Ship...

Bright blessings, fellow earthlings...  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education

### **Want to be More Youthful? How about being a youth adviser?**

The Youth Group is looking for advisers for next year and they would like to share their time with adults who are not their parents! If you have younger children, this would be a great opportunity to learn what the youth group will be like for your children when they grow to be teens. It would also be great "on the job training" for being with teenagers! OR if you have grown children and miss being around youth, you can get your fix with us! OR if you don't have any children, here's an opportunity to take some youth under your wing and offer up your nurturing spirit.



Below are qualities our youth are looking for in an adviser.

- Patient
- Nonjudgmental
- Good with people
- Listens well to others
- Creative
- Can think outside of the box
- Blunt
- Has a great sense of humor

If you think you qualify and are interested, please contact Sarah Hurley.  
Email: [hurleystings@yahoo.com](mailto:hurleystings@yahoo.com) or call 781-277-1289

### **Notes from your Membership Coordinator**

Summer is finally approaching and, with it, the end of the church year. Before we break for the summer there are two community events worth attending:

On June 4th at 6:30 p.m. an adult-only party with live music, courtesy of Carlos Zalduondo and Sarah Hurley, appetizer and dessert pot luck and bourbon tasting will be held at Bryan and Sarah Hurley's house, 20 Brewer Rd, Hingham. Join us for an evening of music, mirth, and multi-merriment!

June 18th will be the last Community Dinner until the Fall, and hosts and guests are needed. These pot-luck style dinners are always full of good conversation, good food and great company! Please contact me at [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org) for further details regarding either event and/or to RSVP.

Additionally, please look for any new faces you may see during Coffee Hour and



introduce yourselves. The community events are wonderful ways to get to know people better, but there are always opportunities every Sunday to do the same. Your smiles and kindness will go a long way with those who are new or visiting us!

Kindly,  
Erin Alix

Membership Coordinator  
membership@oldshipchurch.org

### **From the Board of Trustees: Annual Meeting**

Thanks to everyone who attended Old Ship's Annual Meeting on May 15. Per our by-laws, it's where we discuss and vote on the annual operating budget, vote in the Board of Trustees and officers, and hear the reports of our staff and major committees. It's a snapshot of the year in review, which is always insightful. This year's meeting was as full as ever, with healthy discussion on the budget in particular. Treasurer Bryan Hurley presented a balanced budget that includes cost of living raises for our staff, but significantly cuts Old Ship's contribution to the UUA, our denomination's umbrella organization. We expect this cut to be temporary, and feel that having a financially stable congregation enables us to do the work of UUism through our strong RE and social justice programs. The budget was approved, but we all know that we need to find more sources of income to support our work here at Old Ship and in the larger community.

The entire Annual Report is posted on the Old Ship web site [here](#), and there are several printed copies outside the office. Please read about all that was accomplished this year, by all of us!! And mostly, the Board sends heartfelt thanks to every one of you, for helping to make Old Ship a thriving, caring community. We're in this together, and it's exciting!

- Nina Wellford Price, president

### **Pastoral Care Leadership Team**

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team meets monthly with Ken and often coordinates meals and other forms of caring for Old Ship individuals and families in the midst of illness or crisis. If you have a need or are aware of a need that the PCLT might be able to help meet, you may be in touch with Ken or any member of the group. At Old Ship we all share in our mutual caring and helping one another; the Pastoral Care Leadership Team simply helps to identify needs and coordinate responses.

There are specifically three ways Old Ship members might want to help out:

- Rides: Would you be able to give an Old Ship parishioner a ride to church, either regularly or from time to time?
- Food: Would you be willing to prepare a casserole to be given to someone who could use a little extra help following a hospitalization or in the midst of illness or treatments?
- Companionship: Would you be willing to spend a few hours now and then with an Old Ship member when the primary caregiver in their household needs to be away from the home for a short while?

If you might be able to help in any of these ways, please be in touch with a member of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team. Thanks very much!

Ralph Brown, [ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) (781-925-9197)  
Abby Diamond-Kissiday, [Abby@AbbyCMA.com](mailto:Abby@AbbyCMA.com) (781-925-1305)  
Diane Elliott, [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com) (781-749-2248)  
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Beverly Tricco, oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org (781-749-1679)  
Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkreb@gmail.com (781-749-1679)

Please send any items for "Among Us" either to Julianna Dunn in the Parish House office (office@oldshipchurch.org). Like our Candles of Joy and Sorrow on Sunday mornings, this page helps us to knit the fabric of community.

## **Educating Hearts and Minds**

### **Life Learning Programs**

*For a complete listing of this year's classes and ongoing programs, go to the "learning" page on our web site: [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)*

### **Old Ship Book Group meets the Notorious RBG!**

After a good start, with heartfelt discussion at our first session last month, the Old Ship Book Group meets next on Monday, June 13 at 1:00 and 7:00 pm in the parlor. We'll discuss *Notorious RBG*, by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik, two law students who find modern day inspiration in the life path of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Equal rights, women's rights, bipartisan friendship, work-life balance and a long happy marriage - it's all here and more, embodied by an octogenarian superhero. Please let Nina or Florence know if you are coming or have questions (we hope to entice a few more people to join the 1:00), and feel free to bring a friend from outside of Old Ship! We won't be meeting over the summer.

### **Help us create next year's Life Learning Programs!**

Do you have an idea for a workshop, forum, or class? Is there something you would like to lead? Or is there someone at Old Ship you would like to learn from? Please share your wonderful and interesting ideas with any member of the Life Learning Committee: Ralph Brown, Rich Elliott, Bryan Hurley, Claire Petrie, Elizabeth Torrey, Ken Read-Brown, Beverly Tricco.

## **Social Justice Council**

Thanks to all at Old Ship who participated in events this year which addressed homelessness and food insecurity. The Social Justice Council will continue the focus for Old Ship on homelessness and food insecurity for the next year. Planning will begin over the summer to offer educational events and opportunities for donating, volunteering and advocating.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Social Justice Council, please contact either Brenda Black-Pollara: [blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or Ginny Perelson: [gperelson@gmail.com](mailto:gperelson@gmail.com). You do not need to be a member of the Council to attend a monthly meeting. A calendar of those meetings will be made available in September.

## **Hingham Food Pantry**

The last food collection during Fellowship Hour for this year will be on Sunday, June 12th. Donations for the Hingham Food Pantry can continue to be dropped off at the Stop and Shop on Rt 3A in Hingham or at Alpaca Suri on South Street. We will resume the food collections again in the fall.

## **Book Group**

There will be an Old Ship Book Group gathering on October 3 at both 1 and 7 p.m. to discuss "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond. All are invited to participate.

## **Legislative Advocacy**

Libby Hayes from Homes for Families sent us this opportunity for advocacy:

Year after year, families tell us that the #1 resource they need to overcome homelessness is HOUSING SUBSIDIES.

A study commissioned by HUD shows that HOUSING SUBSIDIES are the most effective intervention to assure housing stability for families experiencing homelessness.

Recent articles have suggested that HOUSING SUBSIDIES should be administered like the SNAP program, in that everyone who is eligible should be able to get assistance. In the early 1990's Massachusetts spent \$120 Million on the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program - the state's HOUSING SUBSIDY program. At that time, less than \$50 Million was spent on family shelter. The program was decimated and family homelessness skyrocketed, only compounded by the Great Recession. We are making progress in reducing the reliance on motels, but we must continue to work towards housing solutions to homelessness and have tools to combat the high cost of rent in the Commonwealth. Right now, we have the opportunity to fully restore funding the MRVP Program.

Please contact your State Senator and say,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am from \_\_\_\_\_. I am contacting your office to ask that you please co-sponsor Senator Linda Dorcea Forry's amendment to increase funding to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, line item 7004-9024. The amendment will increase funding from \$100 Million to \$120 Million and allow for better data tracking and increase the rent cap to better match the high cost of rent in Massachusetts. This amendment will help address homelessness. Thank you.

For more information log onto: [www.homesforfamilies.org](http://www.homesforfamilies.org)

## **Do You Have a Used Computer for World Computer Exchange**

Are you replacing your computer? If so, you can give your old one a useful retirement by donating it to World Computer Exchange to refurbish and send to a school in a developing country. To do so, please email [TAnderson@WorldComputerExchange.org](mailto:TAnderson@WorldComputerExchange.org)

World Computer Exchange is a 16-year-old global education non-profit, based in Hull, that refurbishes working computers, webcams and digital projectors, and loads content with a special emphasis on empowering girls to go into STEM. World Computer Exchange has provided computers to schools in 43 developing countries. Questions? Call Kitty Ward, 781.749.3108

## **A Night of Music and Merriment**

Please join us for a night of live music and merriment on June 4th at 6:30 p.m. at Bryan and Sarah Hurley's house. There will be live music by Carlos Zalduondo and Sarah Hurley and a bourbon tasting as well. Please bring an appetizer or dessert with you to share! For further details and directions please contact Erin Alix, Membership Coordinator, at [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org).

## **Heavenly Hosts - a call for Summer Tour Guides**

Like a person, Old Ship has layers of personality. Being a tour guide means getting to know the meetinghouse like an old friend to be shared with visitors. They come during the summer, sometimes thousands of miles away, to experience this famous old structure.

If you like the idea of knowing more about Old Ship, if you enjoy meeting people, this is meant for you. You can get the training and help you need, and so it is not intimidating. You can sign for whatever days fits your schedule.

The meeting house will be open for tours July 3 - August. Call or email Fan Leonard to find out more or to volunteer. Telephone 781-749-2852 or email: [oldship1927@gmail.com](mailto:oldship1927@gmail.com).

### **Summer Services**

With summer soon to be upon us, the Worship and Music Committee is inviting members of Old Ship to present a summer service. These services take place each Sunday in the Parish House from late June to early September. Those of us who have presented a service in past summers have found it to be an intensely rewarding experience. If you would like to present a service, you will have plenty of support and help from the members of the Worship and Music Committee in the preparation and presentation of your service. For more information please get in touch with Pat Bianco (617-774-7474) or Nigel Harvey (781-556-5771).

### **Among Us**

#### **May Breakfast A Community Event**

Each year our annual fund raising event takes place. We convert the Fellowship Hall into a beautiful dining hall with tablecloths and elegance. A delicious Breakfast of eggs, sausage pancakes and fruit is served. We have tables with a wide variety of Plants from the gardens of many Old Ship Members and friends. This year we also had Baked Goods and Crafts made by members of the crafty sewing circle. And most importantly we had members of the community who volunteered to make this the special event that it has been for over 100 years. There were also those from outside our Old Ship Community who are annual attendees and who benefited from all our hard work.

Thanks to everyone who participated and took part in this special day.  
We earned a grand total of \$3,820.00: \$894.00 on the breakfasts  
\$2,398.00 selling plants, the bake table brought in \$177.00 and crafts \$351.00.  
Our Old Ship Community offers us so much and I am truly grateful.

Thank you, Diane Elliott

#### **Memorial for Kenneth LaFleur, Old Ship minister emeritus**

Helen LaFleur cordially invites their friends to a gathering on Saturday, June 18 at 2pm, for a service of remembrance in East Vallabro, Maine, where Ken live as a boy and with Helen in his retirement.

#### **Fellowship Hall rented to South Shore Support Services' Launch Program during the week**

First Parish has signed a lease to rent our Fellowship Hall to South Shore Support Services (SSSS) during the week. South Shore Support Services has a program that provides job training and life skills for teenagers 18-22 with intellectual disabilities. This successful program called "Launch" currently has a downtown Cohasset location and they are expanding to Hingham. Launch will start soon, pending permits from the Town of Hingham.

The Launch program dovetails nicely into Old Ship's schedule because Fellowship Hall will still be available weekday nights. Launch also understands that there are times



during the year that Fellowship Hall will be unavailable, such as the week prior to Merrie Market. The rental income will provide a much needed boost to Old Ship's budget. If we move to a new Parish House, we anticipate this group coming with us as well.

First Parish, Old Ship Church, 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043

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