March 2014 Newsletter

Want to download the newsletter to print? [Click here for a pdf of the newsletter.]

A Month of Sundays...

Sunday, March 2
Ken's sermon title is "Courage When We Need It." Examples of courage are all around us - from a neighbor living with cancer to activists seeking peace and justice in the midst of war and oppression. What is courage? How do we find our own courage when we need it?

Our monthly outreach offering will be given to the Malala Fund, named for the Pakistani teenage activist for peace and the right to education, Malala Yousafzai. The Malala Fund invests in local partner organizations around the world that seek to ensure that girls receive an education equal to that of boys, so that we are together "creating world where every girl reaches her true potential."

There will be a gathering in the Parish House parlor following the service for newcomers and others who would like to learn more about what it means to become a member of Old Ship.

Sunday, March 9
Our annual UU Union Service will be held at Old Ship this year - a wonderful opportunity to gather with South Shore UUs and, among other things, raise the old roof with our singing. We will be worshipping with members of Second Parish in Hingham, and First Parish churches in Cohasset, Scituate, and Norwell. The theme of this year's service is "Love Reaches Out," which is also the theme of this year's UU General Assembly to be held at the end of June right nearby: in Providence, Rhode Island.

Ministers, music directors, and choirs from all the churches will lead the service and the music. Children will attend the first part of the service as usual, and then there will be special children's activities in the Parish House. As always, children are also welcome for the entire service in the Meeting House. The annual UU Union offering will be given to North and South Rivers Watershed Association (www.nsrwa.org).

Sunday, March 16
Old Ship's pledge drive begins - all the more reason to come to church! What does Old Ship mean to each of us? Is the importance of Old Ship in our lives reflected in the various ways we share our time, talents, and financial resources? Ken's sermon will be "What a Difference a Pledge Makes."

Sunday, March 23
Ken's sermon: "From Whence Does My Help Come?" It is commonly said that "it is more
blessed to give than to receive" - yet at the same time it is sometimes harder to graciously receive gifts of caring attention than to give those gifts. Ken will reflect on this circle of giving and receiving in which we live every day, and in particular as many experience it when that circle is about adult children tending to the needs of their aging parents.

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team will host a forum conversation at noon in the parlor on caring for our aging parents. What are the challenges and gifts in caring for our parents as they face the infirmities that often come with aging? What questions should be addressed?

**Sunday, March 30**
This being human is sometimes wonderful, sometimes hard, sometimes simply strange. Yet though have no choice as to whether to be a human being or not, we do have a choice as to what sort of human being we are or seek to be. Ken's sermon will be "Learning to Be Who We Are."

---

**from the minister's desk**

**Musing**

"I'm ready for winter to be over!" We've all been hearing this line for awhile now - indeed, I suspect that most of us have spoken the words ourselves as we shovel the driveway or scrape the windshield one more time. I've said the words myself, or, as the snow starts falling yet again, simply "enough already!" For yes, the shoulders and back sometimes ache from the shoveling and the running is sometimes pretty treacherous. Yes, spring: Bring it on!

All understandable. Yet I'm also aware if I get too fixated on wishing for winter to end and spring to begin, I'm reinforcing an unhelpful habit of mind, that habit of putting too much energy and thought into what comes next and not enough presence of mind in the present. We all know that one of the secrets to contentment is to be more fully present to the present; yet we also know how much easier this is said than done.

So I find it helpful to remind myself now and then that I have no choice but to live in the present. As one of the readings in our hymnbook puts it, "yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision." In other words, we (of course!) live only in the present, so the question has to do with how attentive we are to the present in which we live. I find that the trick of it is to notice small things in this moment: The snow shimmering on this particular tree limb outside this particular window, the very specific and somewhat foolish looking turkey calling in the backyard, the utterly foolish looking squirrel doing his damedness to figure out the birdfeeder... the sun rising later this morning than it did yesterday, and setting earlier... and even this: my own yearning for warmer days and spring green to replace winter's white and gray and brown. Yes, that yearning, that desire for the end of winter and the beginning of spring, is part of the present moment too, every bit as much as the "yearning" of the crocus to break ground. So we've come full circle. The yearning is part of this moment too.

Okay then, soon the sidewalks will be clear for more relaxed walking and freer running. Soon we can shed a layer or two of coats and scarves and safely put the shovels away. Soon enough actually. Meanwhile, here and now we are, as winter begins to lose its grip in New England... and the Red Sox are once again running the bases in Fort Meyers.
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 website 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.

"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 Knitting Social Group" meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Bodhisattva Study Group or Women's Knitting Social Group 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.

Music Notes
by Berni Nadeaux, Director of Music

Hymn: In the New Harvard Dictionary of Music, we read, "In Christian churches, a song in praise of God. St. Augustine (353 - 430) stipulates the essential presence of three elements-song, praise and God-and thus distinguishes hymns from psalms or spiritual songs." In modern usage, hymns are generally understood to be the songs intended for congregational singing. Have you ever given much thought to the history or origins of these songs? Like most American hymnals, ours offers examples of songs from almost every period of music history and from many different cultures. Our own church played an important role in the development of American music and much of that story can be traced in our hymnal.

Over the next few months, I would like to highlight some aspects of music history and its interplay with our hymnal. First, though, I would like to give an introduction to hymnology and give us some common terms we can use in further discussion.

A "hymn" is a poem. A "hymn-tune" is the melody to which the poem can be set. Any hymn or poem can be set to any tune assuming the poetic meter and the musical meter match. In fact, if you were to take a survey of hymnals from the churches here in Hingham center, you would find some differences between which text or poem is set to which tune. In our own hymnal, you will find "O Little Town of Bethlehem" set to two different tunes. At #246, is the tune familiar to most Americans. However, #247 is the tune more commonly sung in Great Britain (Last Sunday we sang this tune to the text "All Beautiful the March of Days").

As you can imagine, this poses a problem if we want to discuss these tunes-what
shall we use as a common name? The solution is to name the hymn-tune; to give it a name separate from the poetry. Open to any hymn in the book. Look at the lower right hand side of the page. You will see a word or phrase in capital letters. Underneath it will be a series of numbers, the poetic meter. The word or phrase in caps is the hymn-tune name. For example, turn to hymn #303. In the lower right hand corner you will find the tune name, EIN' FESTE BURG. Most of the Christian world sings this tune to "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", but you will see we are using a different set of words. We need not be confused, though, the tune is the same: EIN' FESTE BURG. You can now go to any Christian church and sing "A Mighty Fortress" with the same gusto as a Lutheran. Pay attention to these tune names. Over time, you will start to remember them and it will help you if you are asked to sing a new set of words to a familiar tune. Forest Green is the tune name mentioned above sung more often 'across the pond' as "O Little Town of Bethlehem". FOREST GREEN (which we sang last Sunday as "All Beautiful the March of Days) appears in our hymnal four times. Now, if you are asked to sing "O Come, You Longing Thirsty Souls" to the tune Forest Green you need not worry if you have never sung those words before because you already know the tune. Maybe next Christmas, we will sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" like the Brits, to the tune FOREST GREEN!

If you turn to page 661 you will find the Alphabetical Index of Tunes. Scan down the list and choose a few at random (numbers refer to the location in the book) to open in the hymnal and see if you recognize the tune. Hymn-tune names are how church musicians refer to the songs in the hymnal. I might tell a friend that I have played NEW BRITAIN more times than I could possibly count, and even though I have played HYFRYDOL about as often, somehow I never tire of it. My favorite hymn is SINE NOMINE but there is a special place in my heart for early American tunes like RESIGNATION. Look these tunes up in the index and see if you recognize any of them.

These hymn-tune names tell us a little about the origins of the tune as well. Generally, if the tune name is English, such as FOREST GREEN, DUKE STREET or resignation, you are fairly safe to assume the tune is of English or American origin. Likewise, tune titles in German or French likely originated in those countries. Latin titles such as ADORO TE DEVOTE or VENI EMMANUEL may be some of the oldest hymn tunes in the book as they may date to the earliest Christian eras. There are also tunes which originated in the Jewish liturgy such as MOOZ TSUR. The composer's name might be preserved in a title such as the TALLIS' CANON or BILLINGS.

Here's a fun little research project you can do on your own: What is the original language of the tune, Jesous Ahatonhia (hymn #257)? What is the origin of this tune? Who composed the tune? Who penned the poem? By what name is this tune more commonly known, at least to English speakers? If you go to YouTube and search under the title Jesous Ahatonhia, you can easily find several performances in the original tongue. This one hymn and tune is a fascinating tale of cultural sensitivity long before anyone cared about such things, and, if you find a video, you can hear a language you might never have known existed. Approach me at coffee hour with your answers. I have sweet treats to give away to anyone with correct answers.

Keep Singing!
Berni
Religious Education NOTES

I wish all of life could be a Youth Con... Or at least, lived by UU Youth culture and Youth covenants...

If you've ever wondered why our Youth fall instantly in love with CONs, I have your answer. It's because Youth Con/culture is kinder... gentler... more inclusive... and by far more tolerant of shortcomings than is the real world... than perhaps are our congregations, even...

At the beginning of every CON is a covenant session... The entire group gathers; at the most recent CON, the group consisted of 80ish Youth and 20ish adults; Youth advisors, ministers and DREs... (that's larger than many of our district's congregations)

And the sole purpose of that gathering is to agree to, and to formalize, how folks treat each other while we're together... Imagine... Veteran CON-goers raise their hands and get the standard stuff onto the sheet early...
No harsh-ing...
- if someone feels they've been "harsh-ed", they are empowered to say, "OUCH"...
The alerted harsh-er then has the opportunity to fix the bruised exchange on-the-spot...
- if the "harsh-ed" person still feels hurt, they have the right to ask for a "two-fer"; that is that other person immediately says two sincere and kind things to them...
Imagine...

Years ago, I would have thought this would be done grudgingly, maybe even resentfully... But not so... UU Youth are so happy to be together, and so proud of their shared culture, that it is obviously a sincere joy for them to exercise it with each other... Imagine...

Another thing about Youth culture that I miss when I return to the real world: Warm and Fuzzies... Again, during the first hour or two of the CON, each person is given a plain brown bag to personalize... Some simply scrawl their name; some use the bag as a canvas and produce wonderful works of art... But the bag is just a means to an end... Warm and Fuzzies are the point... Everyone produces them and everyone gets them; that's the goal... Some are long heartfelt notes about one's lovely traits or experiences shared... Some are little pieces of graffiti... I got a teeny tiny origami elephant in my bag this last time... It made me feel warm and fuzzy...
And wonderfully, there are folks, who by their very nature, worry that some may not be getting as many Warm and Fuzzies as others.... They make it their business to make extras; and at this past CON with over 100 people in attendance, that meant
they sat at a table, long into the night... It was sometimes solitary; sometimes there was a group, but always, it appeared to be done with joy... Imagine...

I only have so much space, so I'll end with this: A friend was driving home after a week at Star Island RE week (a stronghold of Youth culture) with her teenage son... He said something quite snarky to her and she said, "What happened to the kid I saw laughing and being sweet all week out on the island?" He looked her in the eye as though she was crazy, and said, "Mom, this is the mainland."

Imagine if we could really imagine...

Beverly Tricco
Director of Religious Education

Membership

Community; noun. Defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. Used in a sentence one may say: "The sense of community that organized religion can provide."

Our Old Ship community is growing. We are connecting to our new friends and members, and we are reconnecting to friends and members we've known for years. We are learning what makes each of us unique and how our uniqueness benefits our community as a whole. We make a strong community filled with individual talent, love, humor and intelligence.

This bond can be nourished on Sunday's when we worship together as we sit in our seats, surrounding each other with song and meditation--but it also needs time //outside// of Old Ships comforting walls to grow and connect.

I invite you to strengthen your sense of community with your fellow "Old Shippers" at one--or both!--of our upcoming Community Dinners. The first will be on March 15th (we need hosts for that date!!) and the second will follow one week later, on the 22nd. There will be good food, good wine and great conversation. A winning combination, don't you think?!

Please contact Nurturing Community Council members Brenda Black (blackpollara@verizon.net) or Janice McPhillips (jbbmcphillips@gmail.com) for more information on how to sign up. Until then, my friends!

Kindly,
Erin
Membership Coordinator
membership@oldshipchurch.org

Goods and Services Auction set for April 5!

HATS OFF TO YOU!
April 5, 2014
7:00 PM
HATS OFF TO YOU!
Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Hold onto your hats! By popular demand, the Old Ship Goods and Services Auction is back. Mark your calendar for April 5th, and then put on your thinking cap and decide what you can do to help make the return of this fun fundraiser a smashing success.

What it is: This event is a lively evening out where $5 gets you in the door, and where you go from there is up to you! The Parish House doors open at 7:00 PM. There will be drinks available for purchase as well as complimentary hors d'oeuvres. A silent auction of goods and services will get underway at once followed by a live auction at 8:15. Up for bidding will be a dizzying array of unique goods and services offered by our exceptional members and friends as well as local businesses. Some highly sought after experiences from past years would include help with yard work, computer skills, use of a vacation home, being hosted for a sail, foods prepared from a special recipe for any number of occasions to name a few.

What you can do: Decide what hats you would like to wear both literally and figuratively. We need many hands and minds to make this an unforgettable evening.

First and foremost, please think about your talents, abilities and resources and donate a service or goods that someone else would be delighted to purchase. Your creativity and generosity will be most appreciated.

Additionally, we would appreciate it if you could put on your chef’s hat, artist’s beret, accountant’s visor or operator’s headset to help with the food, decorations, bid tracking, phone calls et cetera. We need plenty of volunteers to help plan, set-up, and carry out this fundraiser.

Please contact: Betty Fernandes (781-749-0095/bettyfern@comcast.net), Diane Elliott (781-749-2248/dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com), Diane Willson (781-749-3287), Betty Cossette, Carol Schuler (781-749-3736) or Joan Wilson (joanielw@verizon.net/781-740-8840) to volunteer or to brainstorm auction ideas.

Thank you, and our hats are off to you for helping to make this a success!

Life Learning Programs

For a complete listing of this year’s classes and ongoing programs, go to our website: www.oldshipchurch.org

Forgiveness - six sessions, Wed., March 19 - April 23, 7:00 Rich Elliott

Hurts and disappointments are inevitable trials for all of us, but when we get stuck in resentment we cause ourselves and our relationships enduring harm. Forgiveness
thus becomes a crucial but challenging process. This class will incorporate resources from many sources to help you facilitate that process within yourself. For more information or to sign up contact Rich Elliott.

Nurturing Council News

The Nurturing Community Council is happy to invite all visitors, newcomers, and recent attendees to a discussion with Ken Read-Brown: the New UU, 'Part 2' at 11:45 in the parlor on Sunday, March 2. Last time we discussed the history of our faith and of our congregation, this time we'll continue the discussion and help you explore a path to membership and answer ANY questions you may have!

HURRAY!! Community Dinners are on again in March, please refer to details to attend (or host!) in our Membership section of the newsletter from Erin! Or watch for our Nurturing Council members Brenda Black of Janice McPhillips at coffee hour, ask them about Community Dinners!

CARING TASKS: we have lots of openings in March to take on easy and fun roles in nurturing our community. HERE you can find our guidelines on our Sunday Caring Tasks as well as a link to the schedule to look at openings and sign up (OR CHECK your existing sign ups on SignUpGenius)! We hope all Old Shippers can take on at least 3 different tasks during the year! THANK YOU to all who have helped this year so far!!!

Among Us

Celebrations and Sympathies
We extend our deep sympathy to Dennis Hogan, whose mother, Joan McCarthy Hogan, died this past month at the age of 95. Though she had lived most of her life in New York City, she had lived most recently at Queen Anne Nursing Home here in Hingham.

Sunday Flower Donors Needed for one Sunday
We have one upcoming Sunday available to be a Sunday Flowers donor - March 16. You may provide your own floral arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for you for a $50 charge (covers the cost of the flowers and supplies). Please contact Sharon Prehn (781-925-0101 or prehn@verizon.net) to become a donor.

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.

Social Justice Council

Upcoming SJC Events
Cupcakes with a Cause: Sunday March 2nd
As part of our Access to Education Social Justice work, Old Ship will be selling "Cupcakes with a Cause" on Sunday 3/2 11:30 to 12:30pm during Fellowship Hour to raise funds for public school teachers who are seeking materials to enhance the
quality of the educational experience they can offer to their students. Once again this will be a congregation wide effort with participation from our adult, youth and children's RE groups!

Funds raised will be donated through DonorsChoose.org, a well vetted, interactive and fun way to select and fund specific classrooms in need. We know from the teachers whose projects we funded last year how much they valued the new materials and how they used them in their classrooms! Look on the Social Justice bulletin board for thank you notes from the students who benefited from last year's donations!

You can help by:

- Baking a dozen cupcakes for our fundraiser and dropping them at the Parish House before the Sunday service on 3/2
- Selling cupcakes during the Fellowship hour 11:30am -12:30pm
- Buying cupcakes or donating cash to the fundraiser.
- Help pick the projects and teachers who will receive the funds

Note: Cupcakes will be the snack available for Fellowship hour - so be sure to bring a few dollars with you. Cupcakes can also be packaged to take home with you! If you can help by baking or selling cupcakes, please contact Brenda Black blackpollara@verizon.net or (781) 740-2835

Social Justice Film series "Let's Talk about Education" 7pm in the Parish House. Free and open to all thanks to the generosity of the Williamson-Green family's donation of screening costs.

3/14: The Graduates- PBS documentary (2013) exploring issues in education today through the eyes of Latina and Latino adolescents from across the US offering first hand perspectives on the challenges faced by students, their families, teachers and communities.

Opportunities to Serve Others

Collecting Children's Chapter Books for Mather: Mather needs more donated books for all elementary ages to send a book home with each student to read over the April vacation week. Any donations of new or gently used children's books would be gratefully appreciated, including picture books, easy readers, simple chapter books (similar to the Magic Treehouse series for 2nd-3rd grade) or more complex children's chapter books (similar to the Percy Jackson books for 4th and 5th grade). Please put any books you can donate in the Mather bin, Parish House front hall. Thanks!

Food donations needed for the Hingham Food Pantry

The food pantry needs non-perishable food donations and is especially looking for canned soups and stews for the colder months. Please refer to the list on the Serving Others section of the Old Ship website for suggestions of foods/supplies they need regularly. Our food pantry donation box/basket can be found in the front entry way of the Parish House and the Meeting House vestibule. Thanks!

Support the UUSC through attending Coffeehouse off the Square

March 15th $15

Martin Butler and Katie Mc'D's Irish Cross County Band - Katie Mc'D's group with bodhran player Martin Butler and fiddler/guitarist Dan Keller. Galway born and raised, Katie is an accomplished singer-songwriter-guitarist with her song "Lines" featured in the documentary film "Crossing Arizona." The band features the popular Bodhran player-singer Martin Butler who has been heard at Hingham's Snug, and in concert with the Celtic group Cunla Dear. One reviewer has said that "the ever witty Bodhran player Martin Butler will quench your winter blues while the lilting vocals of Katie McDonnell will while away the evening as you stomp out the beat
Mather School Volunteer Opportunities Still available: Please get in touch with Brenda Black if you have are interested in helping or have questions about any of the opportunities below (blackpollara@verizon.net or (781) 740-2835)
○ Promote literacy and excitement about reading by helping put up bulletin board displays (you are invited to design your own or use materials the librarian will give you) 1-2 hrs per month
○ Help in the Mather Library by checking-in, shelving, cataloging books: whatever hours you can offer per month.
○ Help deliver donations to Mather and see the school: one time, 1-1½ hrs
Note: If you are involved in serving others in other ways and would like to let our Old Ship community know how they too could become involved, please contact Brenda Black, Chair of the Social Justice Council to have such opportunities included in future newsletters. blackpollara@verizon.net or (781) 740-2835.

SJC News
Did you miss the screening of Girl Rising? This film, along with many many others on social justice topics can be borrowed from the Jamie Williamson Memorial Social Justice Collection, located in the 4th drawer of the chest of drawers in the Parish House Parlor. Please remember to sign out the DVD you are taking and return when you have watched it so that films will be available to all who are interested!

SJC recognizes Old Ship Educators
At the 1/11/14 SJC dinner, Old Ship's many educators were recognized for their contributions to educating students of all ages and from all backgrounds. Check out the list of the educators among us. Link can be found under Serving Others on the Old Ship website.

Immigration News
Support for the Mass Trust Act:
Thank you to those at Old Ship who signed cards in support of the Trust Act. The cards were delivered in person to the State House on January 29 and handed over to the staff of representative Garnett Bradley (Hingham and Hull) and followed up with conversations with the staff of representative James Murphy (Hingham) and senator Robert Hedlund. The Trust Act (removing responsibility for immigration enforcement from local police responsibilities - allowing them to concentrate on enforcement involving criminal behaviors) is currently still making its way through the legislative process.

60 Signatures for Milton Guevara On December 15, 2013 the story of Milton Guevara, an undocumented immigrant from Guatemala, was read to the congregation during Sunday Service. After four months of detention at the Plymouth County detention center, Milton was released until his request for a stay of deportation back to Guatemala can be adjudicated. Milton has asked for signatures supporting him and his family in their urgent desire to remain in this country. A total of 60 signatures were collected at Old Ship and at some additional community groups. Milton plans to forward these signatures to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). He remains hopeful that the public support will help his case. Thank you to everyone who signed. Go to the Immigration rights page under Serving Others on the Old Ship website to read Milton Guevara’s story.

Additional signatures have been gathered on a website which has since been opened in support of Milton. If you care to add you signature please go to immigrant issues page under serving others for the link.

Tour of Plymouth County Jail and Detention Center On December 16, 2013 seven people toured the jail and detention center, including one person from Old Ship. This tour was initiated by the Brewster UU Alliance for Immigration Justice and made
possible with the help of Christina Mansfield, a staff and founding member of CIVIC (Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (March 1st info@endisolation.org). We are working to set up an evening at Old Ship to report on this visit to the detention center and to discuss how Old Shippers can learn more about detention center conditions and processes, and how anyone can participate in addressing some of the problems inherent in the current detention system. Phone contact with and regular visitation to detainees are being considered.

Prayer Vigil at Plymouth County Detention Center
On December 15, 2013 a candlelight vigil was held in the late afternoon outside the fence facing the Plymouth Jail and Detention Center. Organized by the Brewster UU Alliance for Immigration Justice, this was the third in a series of vigils planned to take place at regular intervals. (Information re future vigils will be listed here). The group attending was small, about 15 including 2 from Old Ship, considerably smaller than the last vigil in October which had more than 60 folks attending, The reason: it was a bitterly cold day, so it was amazing that anyone showed up. We were rewarded by what happened at the end of the vigil: as we held our candles high and sang as loudly as we could, suddenly the windows on side of the jail where the detainees are kept, started to flash their lights on and off -- three floors of cells, three floors of people sending their greetings back to us. The best of Christmas lights! and a sure way to let all of us know: the vigils matter!

Prayer Vigil in Support of Immigration Detainees
More than 70 people gathered on Sunday, October 20, 2013 outside the Plymouth County House of Correction, a place that houses one of the detention centers for immigrant detainees in Massachusetts. There were people from at least 9 congregations present: Brewster, Duxbury, Kingston, Falmouth, Provincetown, Plymouth, Sharon, Cambridge and Hingham, as well as some unaffiliated folks.

General Assembly in Providence, RI in June!

General Assembly is coming to Providence, RI June 25-29, 2014. The theme of this year's General Assembly is "Love Reaches Out." We hope you are planning to experience GA this year since it is so close to us! Click here for MORE