



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

May 2015 Newsletter

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Sunday Worship

Sunday, May 3

We will celebrate our annual "Religious Growth and Learning Sunday" by hearing from representatives of many of our classes and groups - for all ages, from the very young to the... well, to the rest of us! During service we will also recognize and honor those Old Ship youth who will soon be graduating from high school.

And there will be plenty of singing - from This Little Light to Country Roads!

We will also have the opportunity this Sunday to meet Janet Newton, who will be our student minister beginning this September!

Sunday, May 10

"Mostly Music Sunday" - held each year at Old Ship on Mother's Day - this year will feature selections from "Come Ye Sons of Art" by Henry Purcell. Not to be missed!

Ken's sermon will be "Spiritual and Religious" - a reflection (inspired in part by the life and work of Huston Smith) on the nature of both spirituality and religion and the relationship between the two.

Sunday, May 17

The service on this, the day of our Old Ship Annual Meeting, will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Ken's sermon will be "First Things First."

Our Annual Meeting will follow the service. All voting members of the Parish are encouraged to attend in order to hear reports and vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July through June). If you are not a member, you will not be able to vote - but you are still warmly invited to attend the meeting and learn more about Old Ship.

Sunday, May 24

Memorial Day has its historical roots in what was originally called Decoration Day - a day to "decorate" the graves of the soldiers who had lost their lives in the Civil War. This spring marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, a war whose consequences for good and ill are still affecting us.

Ken's sermon - "Judgments Inexorable" - reflecting on some of these consequences and reflecting on our nation's history of wars, will draw on the newly re-published edition of Walt Whitman's civil war poems, "Drum-Taps" (from which the sermon title is taken).

Sunday, May 31

"Are You a Buddha without Knowing It?" will be Ken's sermon. This is the time of year that many Buddhists celebrate the birth and enlightenment of the Buddha. Many Unitarian Universalists (and others of course) have been drawn in recent years to the teachings of the

Buddha and Buddhism. What is the enduring appeal, and what is the particular appeal in our time of this ancient teacher and ancient teaching?

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

I'm struck with more than usual force these days, as perhaps you are, with the varieties of human suffering that confront us in the daily headlines. From the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean to the devastating earthquake in Nepal to riots in Baltimore. And meanwhile each one of us is also living through whatever joy or sorrow, pleasant surprise or trial and trouble, the day brings to us personally. What are we to do? How are we to live?

My response echoes what seems to me to be the wisdom of the ages. With gratitude for the gifts of life that are ours, with awareness of our place in the interwoven web of creation, we do what we can where we are with what we have. It is actually not so complicated: the kind word, the helping hand, the meal at Father Bill's, the email to an elected official, the contribution to earthquake relief (www.uusc.org).

All this said, how do we keep our footing, our balance, when the world seems "too much with us" as Wordsworth put it? One of my ways is to take a little time each morning - sometimes only a few minutes, sometimes longer - to read from the world's scriptures or perhaps a poem. This as a way of preparing for the day by first settling into a wisdom deeper than the headlines, of allowing myself to be reminded of more enduring truths than the latest Facebook post or Twitter feed. For example, these few lines from the 13th century Sufi poet Rumi:

All religions, all this singing, one song.
The differences are just illusion and vanity.
Sunlight looks a little different on this wall
than it does on that wall
and a lot different on this other one,
but it is still one light.

*

Peace and blessings,

--Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com

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

Dear Old Ship,

I know it's only April, but I've been starting to think about the winding-up of Sunday school year... sigh...

BUT there are still some very cool things coming up:

May 31st (Sunday) - Children's Chapel - Join us for a special service (before regular service!) for those children normally in the Parish house during the "adult" worship. This service will feature a Story to be brought to life by Beverly Tricco. ~Service will be held in the Nursery at the Parish Hall on Sunday, May 31st, from 9:30-10:00 a.m.

We hope to see you there! And by all means bring your friends; the more, the merrier!

May 31st (Sunday) - Bike Not Bombs - Bike Drive: 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM; donate bikes OR help break bikes down

Donate your used bikes and/or bike parts, tools and cycling accessories (i.e., helmets, lights, pumps, locks) to Bikes not Bombs: a terrific organization located in Boston, MA that will put them all to great use.

"Bikes Not Bombs uses the bicycle as a vehicle for social change. We reclaim thousands of bicycles each year. We create local and global programs that provide skill development, jobs, and sustainable transportation. Our programs mobilize youth and adults to be leaders in community transformation."

Visit their website to learn about the great education programs in Boston & around the world that you can directly support on May 31st with your bike donations. www.bikesnotbombs.org
\$10 Donation for Bike Processing suggested (hoped for, not mandatory) Bike Drive
Sponsored by First Parish/Old Ship Church's Youth Group www.oldshipchurch.org

June 13, 2015 (Saturday) - Boston Pride Day - Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility, and dignity, we educate, communicate, and advocate by building and strengthening community connections.

- 12pm to 6pm - Boston Pride Festival
- 12pm - Boston Pride Parade
- Pack appropriately! The Boston Pride Festival is a rain or shine event, so plan accordingly for the weather conditions. Consider bringing sunscreen, a hat or sunglasses, and an umbrella or raincoat.

June 21, 2015 (Sunday) -Year-end Quidditch- yes, that's right; Quidditch... Bring your broom...

Hugs and blessings,
Beverly Tricco
Director of Religious Education

Music Notes

Have you made Mother's Day plans?

The day will soon be here. We hope you will join us in the meetinghouse for our annual Mostly Music Sunday program. This year we will sing, in its entirety, The Birthday Ode for Queen Mary, otherwise known as Come, Ye Sons of Art by early Baroque composer Henry Purcell. In his 36 short years, Purcell became one of the most popular of English composers, ever. The Episcopal church honors Purcell with a feast day on July 28. His anthem "Thou Knowest, Lord" is performed at every British state funeral. His last and only post was as organist at Westminster where he is buried adjacent to the organ.

His influence continued into the 20th century. A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra by Edward Elgar is based on Purcell's "Rondo" from Abdelazar. Even the 60's rock band, The Who counted him as an influence in their music. Sting recorded "The Cold Song" from King Arthur on his album If on a Winter's Night in 2009. The Pet Shop Boys borrowed one of Purcell's ground basses [find out what that is on Music Sunday] for their 2013 song, "Love is a Bourgeois Construct".

What could possibly be so special about music that is so old, you may wonder. If you do not know the sheer joy of "Sound the Trumpet" or "Strike the Viol", then come find out. If you already do know, then join us anyway and hear it all again. We will end with a special Mother's Day surprise.

Berni Nadeau
musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org

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.

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), or Ralph Brown, committee member (781-925-9197, ralph.e.brown@gmail.com). Please also let them know if you are willing to drive a carpool car.

So You Want to Meditate

- a Saturday workshop with Ken Read-Brown

The third gathering this year for anyone who would like to learn more about meditation will be on Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 to noon. Whether you are a long time meditator or wish to begin, this workshop will offer some basic instruction in mindfulness meditation as well as in Eknath Easwaran's passage meditation. There will be time for questions and conversation, as well as time to meditate.

Led by Ken Read-Brown. You can contact Ken at oldshipkrb@gmail.com or 781-749-1679 with questions about this gathering, or to let him know you'll be there. Or just come! All are welcome.

The Universe Story as Spiritual Epic

three sessions (note change in schedule from original flyer)

Wed., May 27 - June 10, 7:00 - 9:00, led by Ken Read-Brown

What meaning does the scientific story of the universe give to our lives? How does it relate to our spiritual lives? (Or does it?) These are just a few of the questions we'll be exploring together, helped by Michael Dowd's DVD "The Great Story: The marriage of science and religion for personal and planetary well-being." For more information and to sign up contact Ken at oldshipkrb@gmail.com or 781-749-1679.

Ongoing groups and gatherings: Be sure to check our web site, 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.

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 bring them to the Parish House side door on Friday or first thing Saturday.

Don't forget to label the plant with the name and any special growing instructions (sun, shade, wet, dry, etc.) 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 jbbmcpillips@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 and surrounding towns 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 Diane Elliott at dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com

Social Justice Council

Last Social Justice Forum is Sunday, May 3 at noon.

The last forum for this year will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 12 noon in the parlor at the Parish House. We are pleased to have the opportunity to host a presentation by Donna Haig Friedman, Ph.d. Donna is the former Director, and Senior Research Fellow of the Center for Social Policy in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

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.

Links for advocacy news:

Greater Boston Food Bank Advocacy webpage:

<http://gbfb.org/how-to-help/advocate.php>

Mass Coalition for the Homeless:

<http://mahomeless.org/advocacy/present-policy-campaigns>

Partnering with Youth Group

On Saturday 4/11, six Youth Group members with five adult helpers picked up more than 70 pieces of furniture from Old Shippers' homes and brought them to the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore Furniture Bank for re-use by families who have recently been homeless and now need furniture for their new apartments. The Furniture bank was deeply appreciative of the donations. Another Old Shipper had a connection to the Marriott in Cambridge who wanted to donate 300 gently used pillows and those were picked up and delivered to the furniture bank as well as to the family shelter in Norwell. The Youth group received \$770 in donations for their moving efforts, monies which were used to support the Youth Service Trip to Appalachia.

Thank you to all who donated furniture and supported the youth group!

To donate furniture in the future: the South Shore Friends of the Homeless furniture bank is located at 48 Sea Street in North Weymouth (just a block off of 3A) and accepts donations of usable furniture Mon-Fri 8am-4pm and on Saturday mornings. They also can use linens, cookware and dishes. They cannot pick-up furniture but can often help with unloading furniture from your vehicle.

Call (781)-340-1604 or go to their website for what they can accept

<http://www.friendsofhomeless.org/what-we-do-at-friends-of-the-homeless/furniture-bank/>

Hingham Food Pantry

By the end of April, Old Shippers have donated over 850 lbs. of food to the Hingham Food Pantry! The date for the May donation is Sunday, May 24.

Green Sanctuary/350.org South Shore Node

Since last month's report in Old Ship's Newsletter, 350 Mass South Shore has held two meetings having to do with the climate campaigns our state-wide organization currently is waging on several fronts to combat global warming.

Regarding the campaign having to do with the divestment of fossil fuels, members of our node (which our chapters are called) attended Harvard HEAT Week, an event that drew alumni, students, faculty and unaffiliated folks from all over the country to Harvard Square, where they attended sit-ins, forums and rallies, with the main purpose of notifying the world that this wealthy, prestigious and admired university still refuses to remove fossil fuel stocks from its multi-billion-dollar investment funds. Our representatives found the experience both thrilling and educational.

350Mass South Shore co-coordinators Turner Bledsoe and Connie Gorfinkle, along with other node members, attended a forum at MIT, where government officials from British Columbia explained how they created a carbon tax that over the past seven years has been working so well in the Canadian province that B.C. has cut its use of fossil fuels by 16 percent, and people as well as corporations are enjoying the lowest tax rates in Canada. Joining them at MIT was Democratic Sen. Mike Barrett, who has proposed in the state legislature a bill similar to the one in British Columbia, which has been endorsed by 350 Massachusetts.

Our node members, during the month of April, have continued to join folks from other nodes in an ongoing informational action outside the building in Boston where the board of PRIM (Pension Reserves Investment Management) meets regularly to discuss state employees' investment funds. Our action consists of standing below the windows of the room in which they meet - where they have a clear view of us - holding signs and often singing at the top of our lungs, songs with very clever lyrics about how important it is for PRIM to divest the state's investment funds of fossil fuel stocks. I've actually seen one or two of them wave to us every once in a while.

May 19 will be an important date for this action, because, after the PRIM meeting, 350Mass members will go to the State House and distribute to influential members of the legislature, including Senate President Stanley Rosenberg and House Speaker Robert DeLeo, postcards signed by many pensioners, who currently contribute to the state's investment fund and support the divestment of fossil fuel stocks.

All these actions are vital to achieving 350Mass's goal of lowering emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. To do that most effectively we have to get many more people on the front lines with us. One doesn't have to be in a node to take part. Nor do you have to be a Unitarian Universalist (though many of our members are, because the Unitarian Universalist Association has been front and center on this issue).

If anyone reading this article would like to have as much fun as Turner and Connie are having, you only have to contact them at connieg1233@verizon.net or turnerbledsoe@verizon.net, or you can drop into one of our meetings, which are held the first and third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., in Fellowship Hall at the Parish House.

So, come on in, the water's fine, and won't get any higher with your help.

Submitted by Connie Gorfinkle, co-coordinator, 350Mass South Shore.

Old Ship Canvass Update

Thanks to everyone who participated in one of the three Community Canvass gatherings! Keynote speaker Sarah Hurley and a host of other Old Shippers helped us connect with the meaning that the Old Ship community has held in our life - in years past and right now - and helped us envision how Old Ship can grow with us and remain an integral part of our life into the future.

Please consider how you will match your emotional commitment to Old Ship with your pledge of financial support. Three-quarters of our expenses are for compensation for our wonderful staff. Our operating expenses are lean, and we take stewardship very seriously. Three-quarters of our revenue comes from pledges from members and friends - from you.

Please consider making a three-year pledge, and please consider increasing your pledge by at least 20%, or making a pledge of 2-5% of your annual income. Pledge cards are being mailed to our active members and friends this week. You may also find a pledge card on our website, or email Julianna at the office. We need to hear from you by May 10, to create a reasonable budget for approval at Annual Meeting.

Old Ship holds a place in our life that is unique. Each one of us depends on it for different and many reasons. But we all need Old Ship to thrive. Thank you for helping us maintain a solid financial foundation so that the meaningful work of our community can soar.

UUA-UUSC Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund A message from UUSC president, Bill Schulz

After emergency consultations over the weekend, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to launch the Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund. We need your immediate help to raise the \$250,000 required to put our crisis response plans into action immediately, so please be as generous as possible.

We're assembling a crisis response team to conduct an initial assessment of the greatest threats survivors face. As always, our focus will be on those groups most likely to fall through the cracks of traditional rescue and relief efforts:

- Women and girls will be at grave risk of gender-based violence and discrimination, issues that are already prevalent in Nepal.
- The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities will be especially vulnerable to discrimination.

- Dalits and indigenous groups that are traditionally the target of appalling social discrimination are likely to be cast aside as relief supplies and services begin arriving in-country.
- Roughly 4 million people who live in Nepal without recognized citizenship will have difficulty getting the help they desperately need.
- The elderly and people living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS are also likely targets for discrimination and abuse.

[Donate by clicking here](#)

Our deepest thanks,
Bill Schulz
President and CEO
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Annual Meeting set for May 17 after the service in Fellowship Hall.
Annual Reports will be available the first week in May outside the office.

Coffeehouse off the Square presents Monica Rizzio & Old Kings Highway on May 16 at 8pm in Fellowship Hall

We last heard Monica Rizzio as the compelling leading voice in Tripping Lily during a recent season. Now she is with the Old King's Highway and bridges memorable folk, country and bluegrass. She is also song writing leading to "Luckier than You," an infectious love anthem, and "Falling" a young woman 's search for her voice. Monica grew up on a ranch in Texas and has taken root on Cape Cod. The two suggest the range of her singing and song writing and the versatility and depth of the Old Kings Highway. <http://www.MonicaRizzio.com>

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