



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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### May 2016 Newsletter

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#### Worship Services

##### **Sunday, May 1**

"Naming Fears.... Naming Heroes...."

Our high school youth will be leading our May 1 service. Their theme will move from exploring fears they have growing up in the world as it is... to lifting up heroes of their generation who have transcended and overcome their fears, and who offer hope to us all.

This youth service is all the more reason to come to Old Ship this Sunday! Ken Read-Brown will be present and assisting, but in the background as our youth lead, share, and invite our participation in this exploration.

At noon in the Fellowship Hall our Special Parish Meeting will convene to vote on the Warrant article concerning the possible sale of our Parish House and Parish House property. Voting members of Old Ship must be present or electronically connected to the meeting in order to vote. For kids: there will be board games, a family friendly movie "Milo & Otis" and regular Nursery care will be available. Beverly and non-voting youth will be hosting.

*Last names beginning with I-P are asked to bring a snack Fellowship Hour.*

##### **Sunday, May 8**

On this Mother's Day we continue our tradition of a "Mostly Music Sunday".

Ken's sermon (inspired in part by a dramatic reading that will be shared by Pat Bianco and Debbie Squires-Lee) will be "Quilting a Life". How have our mothers and grandmothers pieced together their lives? What might we all learn from their examples?

*Last names beginning with Q-Z are asked to bring a snack for Fellowship Hour .*

##### **Sunday, May 15**

"Can We Awaken Too?" May's full moon is the traditional time to celebrate the Buddha's birthday and his time of enlightenment - or awakening. Maybe it is a good time also to celebrate our own potential to awaken to greater serenity and happiness. What's the secret?

The service will be held in the Fellowship Hall to precede the Annual Meeting of our First Parish Old Ship Church.

*Last names beginning with A-H are asked to bring a snack for Fellowship Hour.*

##### **Sunday, May 22**

"The Religious Way is the Deep Way" affirmed Unitarian religious educator Sophia Fahs many years (decades actually) ago. It is still true, and will be the theme of this service. Songs and stories and reflections for all ages from Ken Read-Brown and Beverly Tricco will

help us celebrate growth and learning across the lifespan - the deep way over a lifetime.

The service will include a child dedication for one of our newest Old Shippers, and also our annual recognition of Old Ship high school graduates.

Our monthly outreach offering will be given to the community service garden program at Holly Hill Farm. This special garden bed at Holly Hill farm in Cohasset is planted, tended, and harvested to provide fresh vegetables for Father Bill's shelter for homeless adults in Quincy. Old Shippers can also help with the garden by volunteering to work to prepare the garden bed for planting, from 1-3pm. Carpools will leave Old Ship at 12:45pm.

*Last names beginning with I-P are asked to bring a snack for Fellowship Hour.*

### **Sunday, May 29**

On this Memorial Day Sunday, Ken's sermon title is derived from a Coleman Barks' poem, which in turn cites a line from Aeschylus' "Agamemnon": "Ox on Our Tongues?" Do we too easily accept endless war, escalating arms sales, and the potential for a resumed nuclear arms race as the fate of our times?

*Last names beginning with Q-Z are asked to bring a snack for Fellowship Hour.*

### **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** **Musings**

I've been running long distances for almost fifty years. (Think where I'd be now if I hadn't been running in circles...)

All this running, whether on suburban sidewalks, rural back roads, busy city streets, or through the woods, has given me plenty of time to think. And sometimes that thinking turns to the question of what it takes to sustain a long run, not to mention to sustain running over the course of decades.

Distance runner and environmentalist Ed Ayers, now in his seventies and still running "ultras" (races of well over marathon distances), has reflected on this too. In his book *The Longest Race*, he writes that the wisdom required to run fifty miles is not unlike the wisdom we collectively need to sustain a flourishing community of life on the planet over the course of generations. In this regard, he notes that for too long we've been living like sprinters instead of like marathoners. Sprinters can afford to use up all their resources of oxygen within ten or twenty seconds, but marathoners need to pace themselves - in it for the long haul. The larger lesson? On the planet we cannot afford to live like sprinters anymore.

When I ponder the future of our Old Ship congregation as we face momentous decisions concerning the future of our Parish House, I try to put this, too, into the marathon (indeed ultra-marathon) not sprint perspective.

To begin with, our vote this Sunday, May 1, is part of a process of careful thought that began well over a year ago and that will continue after the vote, whichever way the vote goes. We have been and must continue to be patient with this process and with one another.

Even so, these months of shared conversation, reflection, and decision-making, are in service of the spiritual and financial health and well-being of our congregations not just for this year or next, but for this generation and the next... and the one after that. It is, I believe, critical that we keep this long-term marathoner's perspective in mind and heart as we debate together. We will naturally enough have different opinions and ideas as we move ahead - but we can be one in our shared concern to create a sustainable future for Old Ship: not for this or that building, but for our congregation, our community of life and love, over the long term.

May it be so.

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

Dear Old Ship,

What a day we had today! Sunday, April 24th... Earth Day, 2016... It was the kind of day you want to save in a scrap book... to buoy your spirits on those days when life feels extra difficult... and there are no friends around... and inspiration is hard to come by...

So here's your scrapbook entry:

The Story for all ages was wonderful today. It was about a boy who could make wonderful clothing from clouds.

But this boy was very wise and never made more than he absolutely needed. Berni and the choir composed a tune to go with the story, and by the end, we all knew it! Enough is enough; not one... stitch... more....

Ken probably told a wonderful sermon, I wasn't there... I never am. (frowny face emoji) Over in the Parish House, things were hopping... We had eight babies and toddlers in the Nursery... Blessings to Lulu and Jessica for bringing the love, and to Corey F-M for staying and being the third care-giver; keeping it safe and legal.

The Youth Group worked upstairs, putting the finishing touches on their worship service in the Meetinghouse next week. It's going to be powerful.

The rest of us did what we do in the spring. We broke into two groups, circled up and learned each-others' names, and then went outside... One group figured out how to make a sundial. The other found chives in the back woods and transplanted them into the playground garden.

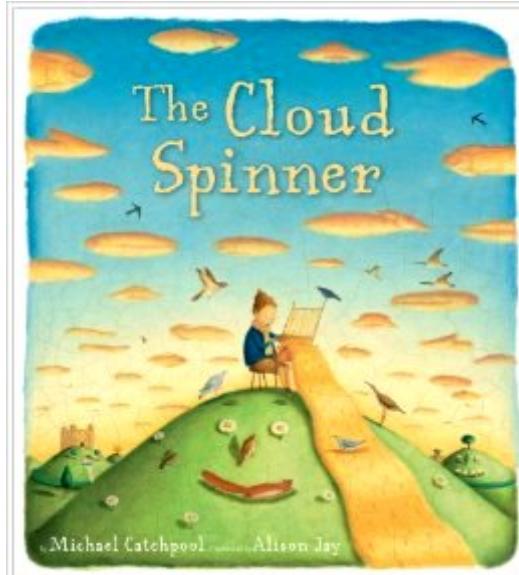
THEN:

We had a giant birthday party... with cake... for EVERYBODY! It was so much fun. And the excitement was SO disproportionate; wild and wiggly... for everyone!!

Everyone born in a month, sat at that month together; no matter what age. And they had conversation starters on the table, to help them get to know each other. SO much fun. SO much talking.

It was a good day to be alive... on planet Earth... and at Old Ship... (smiley face emoji)

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



## Board of Trustees

May brings two important Parish Meetings that serve to remind us that we are the stewards of our own path as a congregation. The first, on May 1, will help us determine the next steps for the Parish House, which, as the place that contains our administrative offices, classrooms, meeting and event spaces, serves as the home for the "work" of our community. The next, on May 15, is the First Parish Annual Meeting, where we hear annual reports from the staff, Board and committees, and approve our budget for next year.

As we gather to learn, discuss, and decide, I'll once again be reminded of the loving care that abounds in this community. We'll use our UU and democratic principles in service of the long-term health of Old Ship, yet tend to it one day at a time, knowing that our church is the people who thrive within it. That is the most valuable legacy we can carry.

Looking forward to working together, into whatever the future brings!  
Nina Wellford Price, President

## May Breakfast and Plant Sale May 7, 7:30am-1pm

May Breakfast is a fund raising event and a community event that many of us look forward to. It is a long time tradition. Traditions unite us as a community, and May Breakfast is just such a tradition. The first May

Breakfast began in the early 1900's and here we are over 100 years later still going strong. Of course ways of doing the traditions do change, but the things that hold the tradition in place: Plants, Breakfast, and People... have not changed.

The Breakfast portion of the Tradition includes: pancakes, eggs and sausage, coffee cakes and coffee, tea and juices. The plant portion includes plants from your garden or a friend's garden that can be potted and brought to the Parish House where they will be sold.

***Please come and bring some neighbors to enjoy this rite of Spring!***



## 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)*

### **An Evening with Jay O'Callahan - and Emily Dickinson!**

Story teller Jay O'Callahan, renowned locally and national for his stories for children and for adults, has recently created a new adult story: "Falling for Emily Dickinson". Jay writes: My story tells of being drawn to her work, life and times. Dickinson was a great poet who struggled with her emotions and yet "found ecstasy in living". In my story Dickinson challenges my perspective on art and life.

Jay creates all of his own stories. He was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and has performed extensively here and abroad including with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, Lincoln Center, New Zealand and in theatres throughout the United States.

Jay will present "Falling for Emily Dickinson" to us in the Parish House Fellowship Hall on the last day of National Poetry Month, Saturday, April 30, at 7:00. There is no charge for this very special event.

### **New: Old Ship Book Group! First Meeting is May 9**

Lots of Old Shippers like to read: for a glimpse into another part of the world, another time, imagined futures, issues of the day... Join the Old Ship book group to talk about it! We'll begin on May 9 in the nursery of the parish house at 1pm and the parlor at 7pm. It is open to all teenagers and adults, and you can move between the two times if necessary. The group will meet on the second Monday of each month, so the next date will be Monday, June 13.

For the first book we'll read a powerful 2015 National Book Award Winner, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, in which the author writes a letter to his teen-aged son about the feelings, symbolism and realities associated with being black in the U.S.. We will also discuss the types of books people want to discuss, and the process for choosing the next book as a group, so bring some titles to suggest. At the June meeting the group will choose the title for the next meeting which follows the summer on the second Monday in October. Let Erin Alix ([erinalix1212@gmail.com](mailto:erinalix1212@gmail.com)), Nina Price ([nina@steelepress.com](mailto:nina@steelepress.com)) or Florence Noonan ([floonanan@gmail.com](mailto:floonanan@gmail.com)) know if you would like to join in on May 9. Occasionally, we will open the book group up to people in the wider community. Please invite your friends to join us this time, to discuss this thought-provoking book.

### **The Universe Story as Spiritual Epic... Continued**

Two sessions, Wednesdays May 25 and June 1, 7:00; 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 once again this year, through fresh readings and videos. Everyone is welcome! For more information and to sign up contact Ken: [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

### **So You Want to Meditate**

Saturday, May 21, 3:00-5:00; led by Ken Read-Brown  
Whether you are a long time meditator or wish to begin, and whether or not you've attended a previous "So You Want to Meditate" workshop, this gathering will offer some basic instruction in mindfulness meditation and in Eknath Easwaran's passage meditation. There will be time for questions and conversation, and plenty of time to meditate. For more information and to sign up contact Ken: [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

### **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 Committee**

### Hingham Food Pantry

Thanks for continuing to support the Hingham food pantry through your donations on Sundays instead of snacks. Since the food pantry is closed during May, there will be no food donations during May. Our next food donation Sunday is June 12.

### Special Plate Collection

Our monthly outreach offering will take place on May 22 and will be given to the community service garden program at Holly Hill Farm. This special garden bed at Holly Hill farm in Cohasset is planted, tended, and harvested to provide fresh vegetables for Father Bill's shelter for homeless adults in Quincy. Also on May 22, Old Shippers can also help with the garden by volunteering to work to prepare the garden bed for planting, from 1-3pm. Carpools will leave Old Ship at 12:45pm.

### Mark your Calendars

The book *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond has been selected by the Social Justice Committee to be read for the group discussion at the new Old Ship Book Group on October 3. There will be two opportunities to discuss: 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Social Justice Council will not be meeting again until August. There will be a review of this year's activities and planning for next year. The SCJ is strongly recommending

that the focus continue to be on homelessness and food insecurity for next year.

#### Serving Others

Thank You from the Ad Hoc Committee for Refugees. 73 bags of clothing, bed linens, towels, etc. were collected during the month of April and given to The Greater Boston Refugee Ministry. Anyone who would like to volunteer can reach Torli Krua at harlankrue@gmail.com

#### **Candlelight & Coffeehouse Concerts in May**

Old Ship Candlelight Concerts concludes its 2015-'16 season on Sunday, May 15, with an encore performance from New York City's Claremont Trio at 4 PM in the Meetinghouse. Founded at Juilliard in 1999 and lauded as "one of America's finest young chamber groups" (Strad Magazine), the Claremont Trio is sought after for their thrillingly virtuosic and richly communicative performances. First winners of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award and the only piano trio ever to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, the Claremonts are consistently lauded for their "aesthetic maturity, interpretive depth, and exuberance" (Palm Beach Daily News). The trio opened the Isabella Steward Gardner Museum's concert hall and performed here previously, in 2014. Admission is free; your donation is welcome.

Coffeehouse off the Square presents Kristen Graves on Saturday, May 21 at 8pm. A compelling singer/songwriter, humanitarian and Connecticut's 15th State Troubadour, Kristen is a stirring combination of music and justice. With catchy songs, a penchant for story telling and inspiring lyrics she delights audiences and was listed as part of the "new generation of folk music" in the New York Times. Admission is \$15 and benefits the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's human rights programs.

#### **What's up with the Parish House Driveway Wall and Weathervane?**

A car ran into our wall at the end of the Parish House driveway. The driver's insurance will be covering the cost of repairs to the wall. This will hopefully be completed in the coming months.

The Old Ship weathervane was taken down last month. It was removed when it was noticed to be tilting in the wind. A quick survey determined that the base of the pole in the steeple had rotted. Both the weathervane and pole were removed. A temporary cap has been placed over the tip of the steeple to prevent further damage. The Friends of the Meeting House will begin fundraising this fall for the repairs.

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