



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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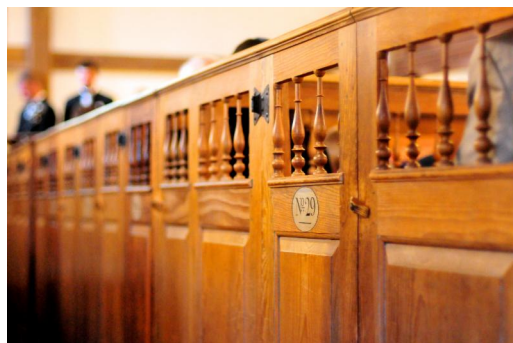
November 2014 Newsletter

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A Month of Sundays...

Sunday, November 2

This will be our annual Remembrance Service. We will name and honor loved ones and friends who have died; and we are invited to bring a small memento or photo of a loved one to contribute to an Altar of Memories (all of course to be returned after the service). Ken's sermon will be "Aged to Perfection".



At noon, the Pastoral Care Leadership Team will host a forum in the Parish House parlor: "Don't Drop the Cookies and Run" - reflecting together on pastoral visiting.

Sunday, November 9

"Post Election Reflections" will be Ken's sermon. How are we to understand the election results? More broadly, how are we called to live and act in these times not only of political gridlock and dysfunction in Washington, but of a wide variety of uncertainties and challenges, local, national, and global?

The Social Justice Council will host a forum - soup and bread included - at noon, a viewing of the film "Dark Days" about a group of people living under the Amtrak tracks in New York City.

Sunday, November 16

"House on a Rock" will be Ken's sermon - reflections on Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount": Did Jesus really mean all that he said? *(Ken will be teaching a class on the Sermon on the Mount on three Wednesday evenings in December.)*

A meeting of committee chairs and the Board of Trustees will be held at noon in the Parish House parlor.

In place of Fellowship Hour snacks this Sunday, we are each invited to bring something to donate to the Hingham Food Pantry (see a list of items most needed in the Social Justice Council section of this newsletter).

Sunday, November 23

As Thanksgiving approaches, Ken's sermon will be "Why Say Thank You?"

Guest at Your Table materials will be handed out as part of the service, in support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's human rights programs. *(Details elsewhere in the newsletter.)*

And this will be our annual Community Day! Following a tradition of many years, our service will be followed by a free (yes FREE) pizza lunch, courtesy of a generous anonymous donor. Then, if you are able to stay awhile longer there will be tasks for the doing: Raking and yard clean-up, garage clean-out, and preparing our annual fundraising mailing to support the Renewal House program of the UU Urban Ministry. Come for as long as you can for good food, good work, and good community spirit.

Wednesday, November 26

The annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by the Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association, will as always be held in our Old Ship Meeting House. In these times when religious discord may seem to far outweigh religious harmony, this service is a powerful reminder of all that we share as faith communities. Participants include clergy and lay leaders from most of the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish congregations in Hingham and Hull. An interfaith choir will be led by our own Berni Nadeau. The offering will be given to the Wellspring Multi-Service Center in Hull.

Sunday, November 30

This will be the annual pulpit exchange between Old Ship and First Parish in Cohasset. Rev. Jill Cowie will be preaching here at Old Ship, while Ken journeys to Cohasset to preach there. Jill's sermon will be "Coming Back to Life" an exploration into the spiritual practice of forgiveness.

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.
- "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.

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

Maybe you've had the experience I've had on occasion and had again recently, which is to come away from a talk or lecture with not much more than one phrase - but it is a phrase which somehow manages to capture the whole meaning of the presentation.

The phrase that has stayed with me this time was shared during a breakfast gathering of clergy at Father Bill's Place, the shelter in Quincy where Old Shippers often help out by cooking and

serving meals. One of the speakers was a woman who had lived in the shelter for fourteen months and was now on her own and doing very well. In telling her story, she made a point of saying "No one chooses to be homeless." Well, I suppose that should be obvious! And it is, once we give it a moment's thought. Yet, obvious it may be, but so much is wrapped up in this simple reminder. Homelessness is not a lifestyle choice, as another speaker put it, and is almost all the time not the fault of the person without a home - who is, after all, a person very much like every one of us. "There but for the grace of God," as the saying goes. So, then comes a question: Can we not only help those in need of shelter and home, but also work to change the conditions and policies that lead all too many into life without a home in the first place? This is the question at the heart of our new congregation wide social justice issue - and we are all invited to the conversation and to the good work.

*

On another note: I'm writing this in the midst of the first northeast storm of the season. The lyrics to two of the verses from Gordon Bok's beautifully poignant song "Turning Toward the Morning" come to mind as I hold each of you in my thoughts and prayers, this season and always:

Now October's growing thin
And November's coming home;
You'll be thinking of the season
And the sad things that you've seen,
And you hear that old wind walking,
Hear him singing high and thin,
You could swear he's out there singing
Of your sorrow.

When the darkness falls around you
And the Northwind comes to blow,
And you hear him call your name out
As he walks the brittle snow:
That old wind don't mean you trouble,
He don't care or even know,
He's just walking down the darkness
Toward the morning.

Whatever this season brings to you, may you remember that, also in Gordon Bok's words, "the world is always turning toward the morning."

Peace and blessings,
--Ken
oldshipkrb@gmail.com

Please note my new email address. It looks the same as the old one... until you get to the server, which is now Gmail. Thanks! I look forward to hearing from you at any time about whatever is on your mind and in your heart.

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

Educating Hearts and Minds

OLD SHIP LIFE LEARNING PROGRAMS

A full schedule for 2014-2015 programs is posted on our web site; fliers are also available on our literature tables.

Leadership as a Spiritual Practice Workshop-

Saturday, November 15, from 9-12 noon in the parlor. To quote Dorothy Bass, leadership as a spiritual practice refers to those shared activities that address fundamental human needs and that, woven together, form a way of life." This workshop will assist each of us in assessing our leadership styles and ideas about what it means to be a leader. We will then focus on how leadership can be a form of spiritual practice - and a means for service in many aspects of our lives. This workshop is open to everyone - especially those who might think they are not leaders, or not able to be leaders, or for those leaders who would like to bring a spiritual dimension to their leadership role and work. If you have questions or to reserve your space (although last minute drop-ins are welcome), please contact Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790.



Sermon on the Mount for Today

three sessions, Wed., Dec. 3 - 17, 7:30, Ken Read-Brown

These gatherings for conversation based on Jesus' well-known words from the Gospel of Matthew will follow the weekly 6:30 vespers services that are a December tradition at Old Ship. Are Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount more relevant today than ever? For more information or to sign up, contact Ken at oldshipkbr@gmail.com or by phone at the office, 781-749-1679.

Among Us

Hats Off to You!

On October 25th the Mad Hatter Auction took place. This was a huge undertaking that started in September and ended Saturday night after a whirlwind six weeks! From start to finish there were many incredible volunteers, and because of your dedication and hard work, the auction was a great success. We hesitate to mention you all by name for fear of missing someone but you know who you are. The committee thanks you so much for your commitment of time, energy, donations, and bids to this important project. The grand total for the night

**WE are A
COMMUNITY**

was \$7,710. This included admission at the door, bids on items, and some generous monetary donations. All in all a HATS OFF NIGHT!

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.

Nurturing Council News

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our recent Fellowship Hour Potlucks, as well as the Fellowship Hour where we collected food for the Food pantry in lieu of feeding ourselves. If you are ever in doubt about what's coming in the following week, you can look for your weekly email from Old Ship, or watch the Sunday Order of Service.

Beyond hosting Fellowship Hour (where you get to serve coffee and chitchat with other parishioners in the heart of the Parish House, the kitchen!!) we are counting on everyone to assist in Sunday Caring Tasks at least three times per year, so that we may share in the task of providing a warm welcome to one another and newcomers. You can always stop by the Welcome table, but it's easiest with this link to oldshipchurch.org!!

Watch the Order of Service and the December Newsletter for news of community potluck dinners later this winter. A cherished tradition of low-key, social gatherings in the home of an Old Shipper (could be YOU!!). Interested in hosting or attending? See Pam Harty or email pamharty@comcast.net.

New Member Biography:

Lera Chitwood's origins begin in the Southern Baptist Church in South Georgia. The social upheaval of the late 1960s led her to find the UU faith in Atlanta, and she has identified with Unitarian Universalism ever since. Her son Jonathan Trejo-Mathys is a philosophy Professor at Boston College and is married with 2 young children. A desire to be with her young grandchildren and to assist Jonathan and his family with Jonathan's cancer diagnosis led her to a permanent relocation to the South Shore.

Lera is 72 and retired from a variety of different occupations including---teaching, librarian, intelligence specialist, professor, bed & breakfast owner and foster mom. Lera has an MBA and an MLS. She also adds: "I am trying to develop my quilting skills beyond the "crude craft" of my more recent creations, but I still prefer to try my hand at creativity rather than following a "recipe"...

Lera has whole-heartedly embraced Old Ship since joining in spring 2014, and the feeling is mutual! Please be sure to introduce yourself at church or Fellowship Hour to Lera!!

Religious Education Notes

Dear Old Ship,

Coffee hour... Second hour... That "hour" by any other name, will still cause controversies... and anxieties... and perhaps even a few resentments...

But I'm here to tell you that Coffee Hour is the most important forty minutes (or so) of my ministry week...



I know that there are those adults who I may have cut off or cut short during a coffee hour (for which I apologize)... But let me tell you a story about this past Sunday, that may justify my determination to be wholly available primarily to children and youth on Sunday mornings...

So, this Sunday one of our young people (and his mother) grabbed me and made it clear that they had something to DISCUSS... I stopped my buzzing around and became present... rooted... It seems that The Doctor had told someone that there is no heaven... that it is/was just a product of human superstition...

Now... because I am a Whovian, (a deeply devoted fan of the BBC TV series, Doctor Who) I knew that this was a serious question being brought to me... A moment fraught with import... Perhaps a crisis of faith... At the very least, an excuse to dismiss and bail out of our Neighboring Faiths class... We talked, this boy and me, for a good fifteen minutes... Comparing our most favorite incarnations of the Doctor... and our least favorite companions... He urged me to give the newest Doctor a fair try... (I've been grudging) He told me that Clara is not as chilly as she used to be...

And I told him that it's very likely that many of our concepts of god and the afterlife are indeed products of our very human hopes and fears... but that doesn't mean we don't need them... And I encouraged him to read Joseph Campbell's "Myths To Live By"... that it changed my life... I went home and watched the first episode of the new Doctor Who... He was much cooler than I expected... and Clara was much warmer... And I heard the exchange our young man was referring to... It turns out The Doctor said, "There is no promised land... etc etc..." I think there's a big difference between "Heaven" and "The promised land"... But that discussion can wait 'til next Sunday's coffee hour...

Bright blessings and warm trust in one another...
Beverly Tricco,
Director of Religious Education

Spiritual / Inspirational things said on "Doctor Who" :

Miracles - "The universe is big. It's vast and complicated and ridiculous. And sometimes, very rarely, impossible things just happen and we call them miracles." - The Doctor, Season 5, Episode 12

Books are the Best Weapons - "You want weapons? We're in a library! Books! The best weapons in the world!" - The Doctor, Season 2, Episode 2

Better Than You Think - "When you're a kid, they tell you it's all... Grow up, get a job, get married, get a house, have a kid, and that's it. But the truth is, the world is so much stranger than that. It's so much darker. And so much madder. And so much better." - Elton Pope, Season 2, Episode 10.

Good and Bad - "The way I see it, every life is a pile of good things and bad things. The good things don't always soften the bad things, but vice versa, the bad things don't always spoil the good things and make them unimportant." - The Doctor, Season 5, Episode 10

Important - "In 900 years of time and space, I've never met anyone who wasn't important" - The Doctor, Season 6, Christmas Special

A Hand to Hold - "There's a lot of things you need to get across this universe. Warp drive... wormhole refractors... You know the thing you need most of all? You need a hand to hold." - The Doctor, Season 6, Episode 6

Optimist - "I am and always will be the optimist. The hoper of far-flung hopes and the dreamer of improbable dreams." - The Doctor, Season 6, Episode 6

Some Days Are Special - "Everybody knows that everybody dies. But not every day. Not today. Some days are special. Some days are so, so blessed. Some days, nobody dies at all. Now and then, every once in a very long while, every day in a million days, when the wind stands fair and the Doctor comes to call, everybody lives." - River Song, Season 6, Episode 13

We're All Stories - "We're all stories, in the end. Just make it a good one, eh?" - The Doctor, Season 5, Episode 13

Be Alive - "Letting it get to you. You know what that's called? Being alive. Best thing there is. Being alive right now is all that counts." - The Doctor, Season 6, Episode 4

Don't Give Up - "You don't just give up. You don't just let things happen. You make a stand! You say no! You have the guts to do what's right, even when everyone else just runs away." - Rose Tyler, Season 1, Episode 13

Membership

It's that time of year again when we contemplate the things for which we are grateful; I have so many things that that in itself is a gift. Last Sunday's Hingham Arts Walk was such a lovely, successful event that I feel gratitude towards all those who helped me plan and execute it: tours were given by Ivy and Rick Butterworth, Connie Gorfinkle and Fan Leonard. There were delightful conversations and pie sharing by Elaine Gomez and me. Let's not forget the beautiful day, either!



I believe that Old Ship can strengthen its community by being generous to its members, friends and newcomers. There are so many opportunities to build relationships--for which people are always grateful--that now is the perfect time to try them out! If you see a chance to meet someone new and welcome please do!

Let me know of the things that make you feel grateful and I'll be happy to share more of mine! I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving full with happy times and good food. Gobble, Gobble!

Kindly,
Erin

membership@oldshipchurch.org

Social Justice Council

Collections for the Food Pantry

Sunday, October 19, the congregation brought food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry instead of bringing food for the weekly fellowship hour. We received a hearty thank you from the food pantry:

Belinda,

I want to extend the thanks and gratitude of the food pantry to all at Old Ship who continue to support our efforts with their generous donations. Your help and theirs goes a long way to help those in need in our community. As the colder weather approaches, more clients come our way - as they struggle to meet their daily living needs. The generosity of churches like yours goes a long way in helping them.

Sincerely,

Pauline Munroe for the Hingham Food Pantry

Thanks to all and a reminder that these coffee hour collections are being done on a trial basis until January 2015. We will then determine whether or not to continue the effort. Meanwhile, mark your calendars for the Sunday in November, which is Sunday, November 16.

Lunch and Movie "Dark Places" - Sunday, November 9 at 12 p.m. the Social Justice Council will be showing a film which addresses the issue of homelessness. A lunch of soup and bread will be provided by the SJC, with discussion to follow the film.

Supporting South Shore Friends of the Homeless

Many thanks to all who contributed to our outreach offering for Friends of the Homeless on October 26 - we raised over \$1000!

Here is another way we can support their good work:

South Shore Friends of the Homeless is dedicated to helping homeless families by providing food, clothing, furniture, shelter, and advocacy. They address a whole range of needs, from physical to emotional, from personal to social, and from psychological to spiritual. Their goal is to build stronger parents, children and families; to secure education and employment opportunities; and to find safe and affordable permanent housing.

Promise Church is a newly forming church of the United Church of Christ. They gather for worship and fellowship in homes around the Weymouth and Quincy area on Sunday evenings. Promise Church is collecting stamps from Shaw's Supermarket for free cookware to give to the South Shore Friends of the Homeless. These pans sets will be used in the shelters and given to families leaving shelter for their own apartments. IF you shop at Shaws, and IF you are not collecting the stamps for yourself, and IF you are willing to help... just take the stamps when they are offered - you don't need to stick them in the little book, we'll take care of that. Shaws will be giving out stamps now through Dec. 24th, and they can be redeemed until January 6. There will be a collection basket for the stamps placed next to the food pantry boxes.

Next meeting of the Social Justice Council will be Saturday, November 22 at 9 a.m. in the Parish House.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is no state in the U.S. where a 40-hour minimum wage work week is enough to afford a

two-bedroom apartment. Source: national Low Income Housing Coalition

Green Sanctuary and 350 Mass

If you'd like to be part of Old Ship's Green Sanctuary partnership with 350 Mass to help meet the challenge of climate change and other environmental issues, meetings are generally held in our Fellowship Hall on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month at 7:00. Contact Tuner Bledsoe to learn more: turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net.

PFLAG at the UU Church in Duxbury

The first support group meeting of the South Shore - Duxbury Chapter of Greater Boston PFLAG will be held on Monday, October 27th at 7:30pm at First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist, 842 Tremont Street, (Rt. 3A, Next to the Duxbury Town Hall,) Duxbury. The entrance is at the back of the church. Chapter Meetings will continue on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm at First Parish Church.

A PFLAG Chapter is a support group for families and friends of Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Queer, Asexual and Gender Questioning people. It is a great place to get to know other people with LGBTQ family members and friends, and to receive information and support. Meetings are relaxed and informal, and everyone is welcome. Discussions are completely confidential.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee News--It's Time to Welcome a Guest at Your Table!

On November 23, Old Ship will begin our annual Guest at Your Table program to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Please pick up your Guest at Your Table materials and place them prominently where you and your family regularly gather, so you all will have the chance to learn about real people who are succeeding with UUSC in their struggles for justice.

Stories of Hope will help adults, children, and youth learn more about how UUSC partners with human rights leaders in the United States and around the world to advance justice. Consider learning about each of these partners as part of a weekly practice. Read through one of the stories, discuss its meaning and how we each can help, and use the information at the end of each story to learn more. Let's share our blessings with our "guests" to ensure that UUSC can continue their important work. As we contribute each week during Guest at Your Table, we can become members and strengthen UUSC.

And, thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of our support!

If you miss picking up your Guest at Your Table donation envelope and Stories of Hope booklet during the November 23rd service, you can find additional materials on the table inside the Parish House, or contact Davalene Cooper, 781-749-0790, our UUSC local representative.

Merrie Market Opportunities!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Books & Media: Please donate items in good condition. Books, DVD's, CD's. No textbooks...Ivy & Rick Butterworth ivy_butter@yahoo.com , 781-749-3190

Toys: Please donate toys, games in good condition as well as children's books, dvd's. Label items as Merrie Market and place in Parish House vestibule before 12/6. Thanks! ..Susannah Thomas, zanthomas@gmail.com, 781-875-1049

Treasures: We are famous for this! We try to have everything priced before Thanksgiving, so your treasures need to be in before that. Thanks!...Fan Leonard, 781-749-2852, and Diane Elliott 781-749-2248, dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com

Gift Baskets: Create a themed gift basket. Very popular items! Various sizes of baskets available. These baskets sell like hotcakes, and are fun to put together by your family or your committee! Please bring basket-by Tuesday, 12/3-to the Parish Hall and we'll wrap in cellophane and price. Thanks!...Sharon Prehn, prehn@verizon.net, 781-925-0101, Mary Sofis 781-749-3830, maksofis@gmail.com

Bake & Craft Tables: We are looking for a variety of homemade culinary items: pies, breads, cookies, fudge, baked beans, jam or whatever your specialty may be. Please deliver your goodies to the Parish Hall on Friday, Dec 6 (up until 7PM) or by 8:30AM Saturday. Craft Table: Unique offerings and an opportunity to make a Christmas Stocking at MMJoan Wilson, joanielw@verizon.net, 781-740-8840 Place your order for Gourmet Cookies, at MM!

Silent Auction: .Merrie Market's Silent Auction is coming! Did you miss the Mad Hatter Auction in October? Did you want to donate a unique item or service? You have another chance at our silent auction at Merrie Market! Please contact Pam Harty pamharty@comcast.net or 781-749-7729 by November 25 with your description and photo if applicable. Thank you!

Decorated Wreaths: Join the decorators-prettiest wreaths in town! Beginners welcome! 9:30AM to 2PM: Saturday, Nov 29 to Thurs, Dec 4, Tues night 6-9PM (cider, soup, fun!) in Fellowship Hall. Decorating is relaxing and the fellowship is great! Thanks!...Pat Bianco, bluesulphur3@yahoo.com, 617-774-7474

Pledges

As noted in last year's Annual Report, Old Ship experienced a budget deficit the last two years. At this time cash flow is very tight and we are reaching out to ask you to complete at least the first half of your pledge for this year (we are currently in the 2nd quarter of our church budget year 2015). Thank you for all that you give to our community.

Sincerely,

Ron Pollara, Treasurer, Board of Trustees



New Alcohol Policy

The Old Ship board has written a new set out guidelines regarding alcohol at events. [Click here](#) is the new policy.

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