



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

December 2015 Newsletter

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December Worship Services

Sunday, December 6

Hanukkah begins this evening with the lighting of the first candle. The increasing number of candles with each night of Hanukkah represents, among other things, what we might call increasing hope in a dark time. As leaders from around the world meet in Paris to strive for a new climate change agreement, we can hope they will succeed. But what grounds do we have for hope? Members of Old Ship's "Green Sanctuary - 350" group will share some of their reflections during the service; Ken's sermon will be "Hope in a Dark Time".



Bell Tower Open House

On Dec. 6, the Hingham Memorial Bell Tower (the tall red brick building at the top of the Old Ship driveway) will be open following our Sunday morning worship service. Hingham Bell Tower Committee members will be ringing and also looking forward to giving tours. The Bell Tower was constructed in 1912 by the church and town, during the ministry of Rev. Louis Cornish (who loved bells!) and was given to the town in the 1970s. It is a memorial to the first settlers of Hingham.

Sunday, December 13

"Singing As If We Believed" will be Ken's sermon. Many of us love singing what we think of as the "traditional" Christmas carols... even though we may not be too sure we "believe" the words we're singing. Are we in denial? Pretending? Or are there ways of understanding the old words and stories that are as "true" as any literal understanding? So that we can sing unapologetically with spirit!

Our monthly outreach offering will be given to The Women's Lunch Place, which offers comfortable daytime shelter, nutritious food, and support services for women experiencing homelessness or poverty.

Sunday, December 20

We are all invited to participate in our Christmas Pageant during our regular morning worship service. For the past few years our pageant has been an all-comers affair - so if you (whatever your age) are feeling like a wise one or a shepherd or perhaps an angel... you will have an opportunity to be part of the story as Ken narrates and the "characters" assemble across the front of our Meeting House. Or just come to watch and to sing familiar carols along the way.

Christmas Eve Service - 5:00

Our annual Christmas Eve service offers a full Meeting House (best to arrive by 4:30!),

familiar carols for all to sing, very special music from the choir loft, along with readings and a Christmas Eve story from Ken Read-Brown. The Christmas Eve offering will, as in past years, be shared with the Father Bill's Place shelter in Quincy, the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Child care activities will once again be offered in our Parish House by our good friends from Congregation Sha'aray Shalom. Though children are of course welcome to the Christmas Eve service, if you think yours would be happier across the street, they will of course be well cared for and entertained.

Sunday, December 27

This will be our annual service of shared readings in the Fellowship Hall of the Parish House. Preceded at 9:30 by a breakfast for all (including Ken's famous granola!), the service will begin at 10:30. All are invited to bring a favorite reading to share as the New Year approaches.

Wednesday evening Vespers in December

As we have for many years during the month of December as the days shorten and the nights darken, we will offer Wednesday evening Vespers Services in the Old Ship Meeting House. Each service in the gently lit Meeting House will include readings, music, and periods of silence. The services (Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23) are coordinated by Ken Read-Brown, but include many other Old Ship participants. If you would like to be one of the readers or musicians, please contact Ken soon: oldshipkreb@gmail.com or 781-749-1679. Vespers begin at 6:30 and last 30-40 minutes. (Then Ken's class on the Gospel of John will begin at 7:30 in the Parish House - see details elsewhere in the newsletter and on our web site.)

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 fourth Sunday of each month.

Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Bodhisattva Study Group or a Sunday early morning 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

(adapted from my "Earth and Spirit" column printed recently in the Hingham Journal.)

The United Nations conference on climate change is taking place in Paris as scheduled, from November 30 through December 11.

Paris.

Right now Paris is a place of heartbreak. For Parisians. For all who love Paris. For all who value human life.

Is this a time and place for such a conference? Well... perhaps more than before

it is precisely the right time and the right place for such a conference. Perhaps it is deeply appropriate that leaders from the global community of nations will in a matter of days be gathering in Paris of all places to consider the future of this earth home we share as it relates to climate change. For our shared hope can be that this gathering of leaders from some two hundred nations will transcend terror and fear, will instead represent the fundamental and essential need for a unity of nations and of peoples, a unity the terrorists don't understand or see and would seek to break. After all, in spite of the reality of borders and conflicts and terror, in spite of the heartbreak from violence not only in Paris, but in Beirut and Baghdad, Ankara and Damascus, Mali and Kabul, and too many other places... when all is said and done we are one humanity, one life, one earth. Perhaps, just perhaps, we are on the cusp of acting a bit more as if we knew it.

A few days before the UN conference begins we in the United States will have celebrated Thanksgiving. In this time of understandable fear and trepidation, yet also of tentative hope, I give thanks: for the beauties of our land and of the earth we share, for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, for the love of family and friends and community, for life. And I pray that from the wellspring of grateful hearts we might together continue the good work of creating a world of greater justice and peace and well-being for all. It is possible. As Gandhi once reminded us, "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed."

I wish you all abundant blessings in the midst of all the holidays of the season.

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

Religious Education Notes and Adult Life Learning

Religious Education Notes

11/25/15

Dear Old Ship,

Sometimes I think, the only thing I have to offer the world is truth... but I have limited access to truth... and limited understanding of it. One thing I do have access to is my self... and while I'm sure my understanding of even that is limited, if I'm as honest as I can be about myself, maybe some truth can be shared. Maybe some good can occasionally come of that. I've seen it happen.

Here's a TED talk about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder... It was my plan that this be my newsletter article topic... in the abstract... because it is a superlative explanation of what it's like to have what's commonly known as, "ADHD"...

ADHD As A Difference In Cognition, Not A Disorder: Stephen Tonti at TEDxCMU

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uU6o2_UFSEY

Here's a real life example from my own truth:

See the date at the top of this page? It's November 25th... The newsletter deadline was November 23rd. I'm late with my article. I'm often late with my newsletter article. Ask Julianna. And she has been patient with me about my proclivity to be late with my newsletter article; probably because I am upfront about my "disorder"... and probably because she is very clear about the #1 principle of Unitarian Universalism...

So... she tries to help me... she sends newsletter deadline reminders ahead of time... It helps a bit... I write the deadline onto my calendar... it's often on a Monday... and Monday is my day off, so I don't look at my calendar.

One could argue that the point of the calendar is to look ahead at what is coming up and do what's needed to be ready for that... One would be right... Still, one might want to watch the above video... So.... Last month, when I was days late again, and full of apologies, I decided to lie to my calendar and tell it that the newsletter deadline is on the FRI-day be-FORE the Monday.... Clever, huh?

This morning, Wednesday morning, Julianna says to me, "I don't think I have a

newsletter article from you yet."I say, "But it's not due until FRI-day!" "LAST Friday," she tells me.

So, yeah... Sometimes, when I'm doing great things, ADHD is indeed a "Difference in Cognition"... But when it comes to newsletter deadline day, it is definitely a disorder...

And sometimes, when I'm saying, "I affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person", I'm hearing Robin Williams say, "You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it."

Beverly Tricco
Director of Religious Education
beverlytmail@gmail.com

Music Notes from Berni Nadeau, Music Director

Three Good Reasons to Join the Choir for Christmas

1. Priority Parking. You know what downtown Hingham looks like on Christmas Eve. Get there first and get a good spot.
2. Best Seat in the House. No begging for admission, no extra fee. You get to sit in the balcony.
3. Hang Out With the Coolest People in the Parish. Yeah, that's the choir!

Contact Berni (musicedirector@oldshipchurch.org) if you have questions or just show up to rehearsal held Sundays after the service and Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Membership Musings

The joy that comes with the festivities during the month of December is upon us! Soon we will all be busy making pies and cookies, making our holiday plans, planning our visits with family and friends and being friendly to all those we meet. It's important we take the time to include our new members and new friends here at Old Ship during this engaging time.

Take time to say hello to a new face. Take time to introduce yourself to someone new. Take time to notice those around you. Take time to think of how good it felt when someone took a moment to invite you into their conversation. I invite you to take the time to help build the Old Ship community. I promise you this will not be time wasted!

Kindly,
Erin Alix
Membership Coordinator
membership@oldshipchurch.org
(413) 512-1407

INVITATION (Where the Sidewalk Ends)
If you are a dreamer, come in,
If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar,
A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer...
If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire
For we have some flax-golden tales to spin.

Come in!
Come in!

-Shel Silverstein

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: According to Old Ship bylaws, to vote at any Old Ship Parish Meeting, a member must be a "voting member". To be a voting member, it is necessary to sign the membership and have made a financial contribution of record during the past year. Feel free to call the office to double check if you are a voting member or have any questions about this. Thank you!

Other Events in December

Date Night! Friday, December 11

The Youth Group will provide babysitting in the Parish House Parlor from 6-11pm. \$10 an hour, up to 3 children. We'll have snacks but serve your kids dinner early. PJ's and blankets are encouraged!! Get your holiday shopping done or catch a movie and enjoy!

Caroling!! on Dec. 12

Our annual Carpool Christmas Caroling to some of our Old Ship members who have been ill or are otherwise limited in getting out, as well as to Harbor House Nursing Home, will be on Saturday, December 12. We will gather at the Parish House at 12:45 in order to leave at 1:00. Come if you've participated for years; come if this would be your first time. Whatever your spirits at 1:00 on December 12, your spirits will be lifted by 3:00 or 4:00. (And then you might wish to join in our annual Gingerbread House Making in the Fellowship Hall - details below...) Songbooks will be provided. All ages are welcome. Spirit way more important than perfect pitch! Questions? Contact Ken Read-Brown at oldshipkbr@gmail.com or 781-749-1679).

Gingerbread House Making Saturday, Dec. 12, 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

(immediately following caroling)

Join us for our annual Gingerbread House Making party in the Fellowship Hall. Chili, corn bread & hot cider will be available for snacking while we build. EVERYONE'S INVITED!! If you've never built a gingerbread house, this is the perfect time to start a new family tradition! Prepare your walls in advance - recipes and templates will be available during coffee hours. Show up at the Parish House on Saturday the 12th at 4:00 with walls, a tray large enough to hold your finished house, and some fun decorations to share. If you don't have the opportunity to bake the walls before the 12th, bring a store-bought kit or a box of graham crackers and an empty milk carton or two and achieve the same magical result! Icing glue, enthusiasm, and construction assistance will be supplied. Please call 781-749-9069 or email: yruumom@gmail.com to let me know if you are coming so we will have enough supplies. -Judi Flaherty

Candlelight Concert on December 13

Old Ship Candlelight Concerts celebrates the season on Sunday, December 13, with a holiday concert by the Madrigal Singers of Lexington High School at 4 PM.

Featured last year on WGBH's Sing that Thing!, the "Mads" are an a cappella student ensemble whose repertoire runs the gamut from Renaissance motets to pop songs of today. According to WGBH's write-up, "They try to immerse themselves into every note and chord, while connecting every aspect to make sure the piece is being performed as one coherent story. Perfecting individual vowel sounds is another common practice of theirs, even when singing in Chinese, Slovak, Latin, Russian, Hebrew, French, Italian, German, Dutch, and English. Their conductor, who goes by Mr. I, pushes them to their limits and beyond -- in the process, the students grow both as musicians and young

adults." Admission is free; your donation is welcome.

Coffeehouse off the Square presents Southern Rail on December 20th

This vibrant, engaging, Boston-based Appalachian-rooted, Bluegrass and Gospel group returns for another concert of glorious Christmas Gospel music. These Boston First Night favorites continue to stir listeners with their musicianship, spirit, energy, humor and goodwill. Come celebrate the season with Southern Rail. Admission is \$15. Concert is in Fellowship Hall.

Winter Solstice Poetry Circle on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7pm, in the Meeting House

This season's Crossing Time is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year which heralds the return of light. Leave the busyness of the holiday rush and come share and replenish creative energy. Bring a poem to read or speak or simply come and listen. The choral quintet Crossroads will perform some winter carols and poetry set to music. Free. Come and bring a friend. All are welcome. For more information contact: Elizabeth Torrey 781-749-0543.

Parish House Update Meeting Dec.13

Lots of progress has been made in the past weeks on the Parish House plans, and in the next two weeks we will know much more about our options. As soon as we have more concrete information, we will print up another info sheet with figures to help us in our thinking. And, please join us for an all-parish discussion on December 13 at noon. This will not be a vote, but we are coming closer to making major decisions. We hope that everyone will take this opportunity to stay informed and express your opinions!

Social Justice Council Newsletter

Hingham Food Pantry

Next food collection is Sunday, December 13.

The annual Stop and Shop food drive for the Hingham food Pantry will be the afternoon of Sunday, January 31. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!! See Belinda, Ginny, or Brenda if you can donate any time

Guests at Your Table

A reminder to you to pick up a box in the foyer of the Meeting House, if you like, and make a donation by check or online. Donations are due by December 20, 2015; boxes and checks will be collected at the service that day. Questions? Ask Davalene Cooper. She will be telling a story about GAYT during upcoming Sunday services.

South Shore Friends of the Homeless Holiday Party on December 10

Thanks to everyone who has so generously volunteered, and we also thank you for your financial contributions! The party will be held on Thursday evening, December 10. We are looking forward to a festive and fun time. A reminder email will be going out to all the volunteers in the next week or so. If you would still like to volunteer, contact Ginny at gperelson@gmail.com.

SAVE the DATE

The annual Social Justice Council potluck dinner will be held on Saturday evening, January 9, 6-9 p.m. "Family Homelessness: Moving Toward Permanent Solutions" will be presented by Libby Hayes, Director of Homes for Families (www.homesforfamilies.org) and Donna Haig Friedman, Senior Research Fellow of the

Center for Social Policy(www.umb.edu/csp). Social Justice Council members will be approaching you during coffee hour to invite you and remind you to bring a dish.

EDUCATING MINDS AND HEARTS

OLD SHIP 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

Gospel of John for Today - three sessions, Wed., Dec. 2 - 16, 7:30

led by Ken Read-Brown

These gatherings for conversation based on the fourth gospel will follow the weekly 6:30 vespers services that are a December tradition at Old Ship. In what ways does the rich symbolism of John's gospel still speak to us? For more information, contact Ken, oldshipkrb@gmail.com or 781-749-1679.

The Quran and Islam - five sessions, Wed. Jan. 6- Feb. 3, 1:00 and 7:00

led by Ken Read-Brown

What could be more important these days than learning more about Islam. We will read portions of the the Quran along with selections from the sayings (Hadith) of Mohammed and other literature of the Islamic world. For more information and to sign up contact Ken, oldshipkrb@gmail.com or 781-749-1679.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Martin Luther King, Jr., Freedom Seder

The Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association is sponsoring this "Freedom Seder" on Sunday, January 17, from 3:00 - 5:00, at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom at 1112 Main Street in south Hingham. All are welcome! If you would like to contribute food for this event, please contact our own Beverly Tricco at beverlytmail@gmail.com or 781-749-1679. Watch for further details in the January newsletter.

NURTURING COMMUNITY

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

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

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

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

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

Abby Diamond-Kissiday, Abby@AbbyCMA.com, (781) 925-1305
Elaine Gomez, eh-gomez@comcast.net, (781) 740-1663
Alicia Harkness, PAJL7@verizon.net, (781) 749-7825
Fan Leonard, (781) 749-2852
Beverly Tricco, oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org, (781)-749-1679
Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkrb@gmail.com, (781-749-1679)

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

Sunday Flower Donor Needed for Dec. 20

We have an upcoming date available to be a Sunday Flowers donor: December 20. 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.

Merrie Market: a Festive Old Ship Tradition SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

For years and years, Old Shippers have caught the spirit of the holidays with Merrie Market - a traditional church fair featuring unique and affordable treasures, hand crafts, gorgeous wreaths, books, baked goods, toys, gift baskets, a silent auction and other fun surprises. The Jingle Bell Café fuels your day of shopping with home-made chili, cornbread and apple cake enjoyed with friends and family from across the South Shore. Fill your day with cheer!

Merrie Market is one of Old Ship's most important fund raisers, but, more than that, it provides the pleasure of finding new friends and enjoying old ones through working together. Please show your support by volunteering to help out, inviting your friends to join us, and SHOPPING!

Please help us fill each table below with great goodies. Bring your contributions to the Parish House before December 4, labeled Merrie Market; we will price them. And each table and the café need volunteers - sign up at Fellowship Hour or call the Chair listed below. Thank you!

TREASURES TABLE: The Treasures Table sparkles with items that you have treasured, but that you're ready to pass on to the next person to enjoy: jewelry, china, crystal, silver, table linens, housewares, decorative objects, small furniture, art work, Christmas items, etc. Fan Leonard, 781-749-2852;
Diane Elliott, 781-749-2248 dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com:

BOOKS & MEDIA: Books (no textbooks), DVDs, CDs, electronic games: All items in good condition. Please deliver after Thanksgiving. Ivy & Rick Butterworth 781-749-3190
ivy_butter@yahoo.com

THE TOY ROOM: Toys, games, children's books, DVDs, music, small furniture, décor, sports... gently used and pleasingly clean, please. Susannah Thomas 781-875-1049,
zanthomas@gmail.com

BAKE TABLE: Featuring homemade delights, sweet & savory: pies, breads, cookies, fudge, jam, preserves and more. What is your "specialty?" Bake it now and freeze it, if you are going to be too busy in the week of Merrie Market. Deliver your goodies to the

Parish House on Friday, Dec. 4 or by 8:30 Saturday AM.
Joan Wilson 781-740-8840 joanielw@verizon.net

CRAFT TABLE: Old Ship elves have been sewing all year, making a range of items perfect for stocking stuffers, teacher & hostess gifts, moms, grandkids... anyone who deserves that something special. Diane Willson, 781-749-3286 nanwillson@gmail.com

OLD SHIP AUTHORS: We have many published authors in our midst! Novelists, poets, essayists, reporters. Publicize & sell your work at the Authors Table.

Florence Noonan flnoonan@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP PROJECT: Raised Beds! Grow your garden in style - with the perfect raised bed built by Old Ship's youth group. Check out the samples on site and place your order for Spring. Sarah Hurley 781-277-1289 hurleystings@yahoo.com

WREATHS AND TEA CUPS: With Pat Bianco's guidance, join the decorating team that creates the prettiest wreaths in town! Gather pine cones, ferns, nuts and greens and leave them in a paper bag in the Parish House. Meet in the Fellowship Hall 9:30 am to 2 pm Sat, Nov. 28 to Thurs, Dec. 3 to make the wreaths and our newest creations: tea cups and mugs filled with long-lasting greens & flowers.

Pat Bianco 617-774-7474 bluesulphur3@yahoo.com

GIFT BASKETS: Themed baskets are fun to put together by your family or your committee! Pick up a basket at the Parish House and get creative: attach a list of your contents and its value (keep it to about \$30), and we will arrange and wrap it for you.

Please return your filled baskets by Monday, Nov. 30.

Sharon Prehn 781-925-0101 prehn@verizon.net

SILENT AUCTION: Find a special experience or a one-of-a-kind item that is worth just that much more. Along with the standards: a reserved pew at the Christmas Eve service, choosing a sermon topic for Ken, and a jar of Ken's home-made granola, bid on art work, tickets to sporting events and concerts, food-of-the-month deliveries, consultations, evaluations and instructions, a family photo-shoot, parties, rides and much more. The success of the auction depends on YOU - what would you like to share?

Please let us know by Dec. 1. Maureen Butler 781-875-1944

Maureen.Butler@neurorestorative.com

JINGLE BELL CAFÉ: Many volunteers help make chili, cornbread and delicious apple cake from time-tested recipes. Can you cook up a batch? Pick up a recipe at Fellowship Hall. During Merrie Market, help serve and bus the tables. Janet Asnes 781-878-9886

asnes@comcast.net or Alicia Harkness 781-749-7825 pajl7@verizon.com

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: Hall Set-Up and Kitchen Prep.
10:00 am - 7:00 pm. Drop in!

SATURDAY: Volunteer at the tables and in the Café

3 SHIFTS: 8:45 to 11:45, 11:30 to 2:30, 2:30 to 4:30 (clean up)

QUESTIONS? READY TO SIGN UP?

Call Merrie Market Chair Diane Elliott, 781-749-2248

or email her at dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com

or sign up at the Merrie Market Table during Fellowship Hour.

May your days be Merrie & Bright!

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