

#### **November 2015 Newsletter**

Want to print out the newsletter? Click here.

**November Worship Services** 

Sunday, November 1 - Remembrance Service

(Note: Daylight savings ends turn your clock back 1 hour Saturday, 10/31.)

A tradition of many years at Old Ship, during the service we will invite the naming of loved ones who have died during the past year as well as in years past; we are each also invited to bring to the service, if we like, a photo or memento of a dear one in our lives who has died; together we will create an altar of memory. (All items may of course be retrieved following the service.) Ken's sermon: "Why I Love Cemeteries"



#### Sunday, November 8

The 19th century Hindu teacher Swami Paramananda once wrote: "We have to meditate on something. Our mind must dwell on some object." Further, as the teacher Eknath Easwaran reminds us in his writings, "We become what we meditate on." If all this is true, "a penny for your thoughts" seriously undervalues those thoughts. Ken's sermon: "Mindful of What?"

At noon there will be a forum conversation on addictions, a follow-up on last spring's similar forum sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team. This time we will focus on the crisis of opioid addiction. All are welcome to the conversation.

#### Sunday, November 15

"Why We Ring the Bell" will be Ken's sermon. For centuries the Old Ship bell has rung to call us to worship - a common practice across many traditions. More recently we have been sounding a chime at the beginning of each Sunday service, just as we often also do at the outset of many classes and meetings in the Parish House. To call us to... what? Ourselves? Each other? God by whatever name? All of the above?

At noon there will be a forum conversation on "Black Lives Matter." The Black Lives Matter banner that hung at the Parish House for several weeks has engendered conversation among Old Shippers and in the community. All are welcome to explore together the meanings of the Black Lives Matter movement and our own thoughts and feelings about the issues it raises.

#### Sunday, November 22

"Gratitude Matters" will be Ken's sermon.

At the service the "Guest at Your Table" boxes will be handed out in support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's domestic and global human rights programs. See details of this year's Guest at Your Table program elsewhere in the newsletter.

And... the Sunday before Thanksgiving has for many years been our "Community Day". Following the service, we gather for a pizza and salad lunch and then those who are able to stay

help with a grounds clean-up (bring your rakes and dress appropriately!) or preparing fundraising mailings for the UU Urban Ministry's Renewal House shelter program and for our Candlelight Concerts. Often other projects emerge too - if you have the time, we have the work! Community Day is a great day to get to know one another better over pizza and shared good work.

## Wednesday, November 25 at 7pm

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 29

The Sunday following Thanksgiving marks the annual pulpit exchange between our minister and the minister of First Parish in Cohasset. It is a tradition of many years (actually decades). A daughter church of our First Parish Hingham, First Parish Cohasset was formed in the 18th century at a time when Cohasset was still part of Hingham - but residents out that way back in the day were finding what we now call Hingham Square to be a long way to go to church.

So... Ken will be preaching in Cohasset, and Rev. Jill Cowie will be preaching here at Old Ship - her sermon will be "The Spiritual Practice of Laughter."

## 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 and tea too).

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

Of course "all lives matter" - this should pretty much go without saying in company that passes for civilized. Why then bother with "Black Lives Matter"? Aren't black lives included in "all lives"?

Of course they are. But when some lives (in this case "black lives") are threatened or oppressed simply because of the color of their skin or their ethnic background or origin, we need to name those lives in order to remind ourselves and everyone that their lives do indeed matter as much as other lives. Not more than, but as much.

For the reality is that in many ways the lives of African Americans in our nation certainly appear to be undervalued. Three examples among all too many: 60% of those in our prisons and jails are either African American or Latino; median income for African American families is \$20,000 less than the median for the entire country; black unemployment is twice the national average. I could go on.

Something is going on here that must be addressed. Our American ideals call us to this work; our religious and moral grounding calls us to this work. For though much has undeniably changed for the better as a result of the civil rights movement, for which we can be grateful, much remains to be done. Isn't it well past time to ensure that ours is a nation in which all lives are treated as if they mattered equally (because they do) by naming lives that matter, yet for too long have been treated as mattering less?

With all this in mind, our Old Ship Board of Trustees voted last spring to acquire and hang a "Black Lives Matter" banner, and rotate it with a "Standing on the Side of Love" banner. We've been doing this for the past two months; and the "Black Lives Matter" banner has evoked important and heartfelt conversation - within our congregation and in the larger community. It is good honest conversation, conversation that will continue specifically at a November 15 forum at noon after our worship service that day, and with a forum open to the larger community in January or February.

Meanwhile, please feel free to be in direct communication with your thoughts and feelings to me, to our Board president Nina Wellford Price (nina@steelepress.com), or to other members of the Board (contact information on our web site; see the "staff and board" page under the pull down "About Us" menu).

Conversation can change hearts, and changed hearts can change lives. We are invited to this conversation.

Peace and blessings, --Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com cell: 781-635-2060

p.s. Our Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association will be sponsoring an interfaith Freedom Seder in January to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.. Each congregation needs one person to coordinate food donations for the event. If you would like to be that person, please let me know as soon as you can. Thanks for considering this!

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

# Musing from the Minister's Desk

Of course "all lives matter" - this should pretty much go without saying in company that passes for civilized. Why then bother with "Black Lives Matter"? Aren't black lives included in "all lives"?

Of course they are. But when some lives (in this case "black lives") are threatened or oppressed simply because of the color of their skin or their ethnic background or origin, we need to name those lives in order to remind ourselves and everyone that their lives do indeed matter as much as other lives. Not more than, but as much.

For the reality is that in many ways the lives of African Americans in our nation certainly appear to be undervalued. Three examples among all too many: 60% of those in our prisons and jails are either African American or Latino; median income for African American families is \$20,000 less than the median for the entire country; black unemployment is twice the national average. I could go on.

Something is going on here that must be addressed. Our American ideals call us to this work; our religious and moral grounding calls us to this work. For though much has undeniably changed for the better as a result of the civil rights movement, for which we can be grateful, much remains to be done. Isn't it well past time to ensure that ours is a nation in which all lives are treated as if they mattered equally (because they do) by naming lives that matter, yet for too long have been treated as mattering less?

With all this in mind, our Old Ship Board of Trustees voted last spring to acquire and hang a "Black Lives Matter" banner, and rotate it with a "Standing on the Side of Love" banner. We've been doing this for the past two months; and the "Black Lives Matter" banner has evoked important and heartfelt conversation - within our congregation and in the larger community. It is good honest conversation, conversation that will continue specifically at a November 15 forum at noon after our worship service that day, and with a forum open to the larger community in January or February.

Meanwhile, please feel free to be in direct communication with your thoughts and feelings to me, to our Board president Nina Wellford Price (nina@steelepress.com), or to other members of the Board (contact information on our web site; see the "staff and board" page under the pull down "About Us" menu).

Conversation can change hearts, and changed hearts can change lives. We are invited to this conversation.

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

## **Continuing the Conversation: Black Lives Matter**

A Ken mentioned in his musing, the Black Lives Matter movement has sparked complex conversation at Old Ship. You might even have spoken with the protester, a neighbor, who held an All Lives Matter banner during two church services, and who eventually joined us at fellowship hour.

As we delve more deeply into this important issue facing our nation, there are many resources to help inform our thinking. We will post a list of them on the web site under the Community tab. Please come to the discussion on November 15 at noon.

And we invite you to join several Old Shippers who will be attending a free forum at the UU Urban Ministry on Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 pm at First Church in Roxbury. Called "Tell Me the Truth: Exploring the Heart of Cross-Racial Conversations," it features Shay Stewart-Bouley, the first African American Executive Director of Community Change, Inc. a Boston-based anti-racist organization, and Debby Irving, author of "Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race." Carpools will leave Old Ship at 1:45. Let Nina Price know if you'll be joining us! Email Nina by clicking here.

## **Religious Education Notes and Adult Life Learning**

Dear Old Ship,

Once again this Sunday, at the "new-folks gathering", I heard myself say:

"Even if a child attended church and Sunday school every single Sunday, September through June, that would still only add up to less than 40 hours of religious education a year... And in practice, no one gets to church every single Sunday. That means that no matter now how fabulous our religious education program is, the family is still the primary religious educators."

Does that sound intimidating? Oops... I didn't mean it to sound intimidating... Well, don't worry...Here's a treasure trove of fun ideas and sometimes complete "how-to's" to make anyone a confident part-time religious educator...

https://www.pinterest.com/beverlytmail/religious-education/

https://www.pinterest.com/beverlytmail/religious-education-art-projects/

https://www.pinterest.com/beverlytmail/religious-education-coloring/

https://www.pinterest.com/beverlytmail/religious-education-field-trips/

https://www.pinterest.com/beverlytmail/religious-education-stories/

https://www.pinterest.com/beverlytmail/religious-education-youth/

https://www.pinterest.com/beverlytmail/religious-education-youth/

When you have a little time to be your family's religious educator, you can just dig through my cache of "other people's great ideas"...

Follow the links... Follow your nose... Follow your bliss... and have fun...

Inspired adventures and bright blessings... Beverly Tricco Director of Religious Education beverlytmail@gmail.com

p.s. here is the link to our R.E. Brochure on the Old Ship Church website RE Brochure click here

### Life Learning - Adult programs

**Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography** - Saturday, November 14, 2:00-5:00 led by Ken Read-Brown and Dave Petrie

Where have you come from spiritually, and where are you going? What do you believe, and have your beliefs evolved over time? What values have guided you over time? This workshop (including follow-up session in Decemeber or early January) will help participants begin to respond to these and other questions concerning our "spiritual autobiographies". Info? Sign-up? Contact Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkrb@gmail.com.

## Ongoing life learning groups and gatherings

Be sure to check the "learning" page on our web site, www.oldshipchurch.org, for a complete list of upcoming classes, including the Gospel of John, the Quran, and much more, as well as ongoing groups open to all, including: The Way of the Bodhisattva, Men's Breakfast, Monday Meditation, Ceilidh (song circle), Morning Meditation, Old Ship Sewing Circle, and the Upanishads Study Group.

## Music Notes from Berni Nadeau, Music Director

#### What Concerts Will You Attend This Month?

It's not even December yet and the local concert schedule is already heating up. Attending these events is a great way to support local musicians. Consider stepping out of your comfort zone and attend something different. This list is incomplete, so please let us know when you find other local concerts worth attending. Unless otherwise noted, concerts are free-will donation, but please be generous.

November 1: 3:30 pm at St. Thomas Church, 111 High Street, Taunton, MA. Matthew Dion will perform an Organ Recital of works of Bach, Boellmann, and others followed at 4:00 p.m. by Choral Evensong at St. Thomas Church, 111 High Street, Taunton.

November 8: 3:00 pm at First Parish, Scituate 330 First Parish Rd, Scituate. Beth Dubuisson (1st Parish, Scituate) Mark Slawson (2nd Parish, Hingham) and myself will join together to celebrate the recent refurbishment of the Scituate Parish's organ. Expect light and joyous fare.

November 8: 4:00 pm right here at the Old Ship Church. Lily Press, harp and Simon Linn-Gerstein, cello will present a salon-style performance.

November 15: 3:00 pm at the First Universalist Church of Assinippi on Route 53 near the Hanover/Norwell line. I will join several of my local colleagues in a recital featuring music specifically designed for the small two-manual organ.

November 21: 8:00 pm right here at the Old Ship. Coffeehouse off the Square presents Bow Thayer & friends. Read more about this performer on our website: http://www.oldshipchurch.org/coffeehouse-off-the-square.html. Admission is \$15 at the door.

November 22: 2:00 pm at Old South Union Church, 25 Columbian St, South Weymouth. The Fine Arts Chorale will present the Messe de Minuit by Marc-Antoine Charpentier and Ottorino Respighi's Lauda per la Natività del Signore. Tickets are \$20/\$15 and can be obtained at http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2413821 or by calling 1-800-230-7555.

## **Membership Musings**

Did you know that the word thanksgiving is a synonym for gratitude? Well, it is! This

Thanksgiving holiday is right around the corner, too; soon it will be time to think about the things for which we are grateful. I'm sure the Old Ship community will be on your list, as it is on mine. From the service to the coffee hour; from Adult Life Learning classes and Religious Education classes; from all the committees and food drives--and everything in between, it's easy to feel gratitude toward Old Ship.

What better way, then, to spread your feelings of requital than to share your experiences with a family member, a friend or an acquaintance? You never know who will feel gratitude toward YOU for it. One of the best ways to show your gratitude for Old Ship is to bring people with you!

Please continue to include newcomers in your Coffee Hour conversations. We have many new faces among us and I cannot always talk to all of them, so I need your help in ensuring they feel like a valued part of the Old Ship community.

Thank you all for your help in sharing the wonderful things we offer!

Kindly, Erin Alix membership@oldshipchurch.org cell: 413-512-1407

## **Candlelight Concert on November 8**

"Pardon me while I have a strange interlude..." -Groucho Marx Old Ship Candlelight Concerts opens its 2015-'16 season on Sunday, November 8, with the locally acclaimed duo "Strange Interlude" at 4 PM.

Based in the Boston area, Strange Interlude was founded by harpist Lily Press and cellist Simon Linn-Gerstein, who have been performing as a harp and cello duo since 2007. As both a duo and larger ensemble, Press and Linn-Gerstein design intimate salon-style concerts with programs that are carefully curated to include seldom-performed works, pieces by contemporary composers and transcriptions and arrangements for their unique instrumentation.

Admission is free; your donation is welcome.

#### Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service

On Wednesday, November 25th, Old Ship will host clergy and lay leaders from over a dozen local faith traditions for our shared annual Thanksgiving Service. This decades old tradition is a wonderful expression of religious and community unity and has become at Thanksgiving tradition for many families.

We expect a full house and need ushers to help us better welcome our friends and family. Service begings at 7 pm and ushers are needed at 6:15. If you are able to usher, please sign up on the Old Ship webpage at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a5a822a75-oldship1 or contact Janet Asnes at 781-878-9886, asnes@comcast.net. Thank you."

## Merrie Market Opportunities! SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 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, <a href="mailto:ivy\_butter@yahoo.com">ivy\_butter@yahoo.com</a>, butterworth@comcast.net ,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 12/2. Thanks! ...Susannah Thomas, <u>zanthomas@gmail.com</u>, 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, <a href="mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com">dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com</a>

**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, 12/1-to the Parish Hall and we'll wrap in cellophane and price. Thanks!...Sharon Prehn, <a href="mailto:prehn@verizon.net">prehn@verizon.net</a>, 781-925-0101

**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 4 (up until 7PM) or by 8:30AM Saturday.....Joan Wilson, joanielw@verizon.net, 781-740-8840. Crafts...Diane Elliott.

**Silent Auction:** Bid on selecting a sermon topic for Ken, reserving a pew for the Christmas Eve Service, a promise to help you wrap presents for 2 hours, gift certificates of all kinds, handcrafted jewelry...We have some folks willing to work on this but need a chair/contact person...please contact Maureen Butler at 781-875-1944 (h) cell 617-877-5204 (c) or email her at butlermcginnis18@gmail.com.

**Decorated Wreaths:** Join the decorators-prettiest wreaths in town! Beginners welcome! 9:30AM to 2PM: Saturday, Nov 28 to Thurs, Dec 3 in Fellowship Hall. Decorating is relaxing and the fellowship is great! Thanks!...Pat Bianco, <a href="mailto:bluesulphur3@yahoo.com">bluesulphur3@yahoo.com</a>, 617-774-7474

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY:** Kitchen Prep and Hall Set-Up: All Welcome to help! We need volunteers to help make chili, cornbread, and delicious apple cake. Recipes available! Thanks!...Alicia Harkness, 781-749-7825, pajl7@verizon.com, Janet Asnes 781-878-9886, asnes@comcast.net

**3 SATURDAY SHIFTS**: 8:45 to 11:45AM, 11:30AM to 2:30PM, 2:30PM to 4:30ish (clean up and run stuff to attic)

It's a great day-Shop for unique presents! Eat and Chat!

Questions/Sign Up...Diane Elliott, <u>dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com</u>, 781-749-2248, or Elaine Gomez, <u>eh-gomez@comcast.net</u>, 781-740-1663

#### Gather pine cones and other dried stuff on those fall walks.

Fall is rapidly coming it will be beautiful. As you roam and wander, please look for ferns, nuts and pine cones. We need them for our holiday wreaths and surprises. Put any collected materials in a paper bag with "Bianco" clearly written on the bag into the coat closet near the back entrance to Fellowship Hall. Thanks! -- Pat Bianco

#### **DIGGING FOR TREASURE**

Merrie Market will be upon us suddenly, as it always is, (December 5th this year), and the Treasures table will have to sparkle with wonderful gifts. It isn't like a rummage sale featuring mended aprons; we're looking for things that you can just barely bear to part with, that are still beautiful or useful or just unusual. Small furniture, linens, silver, china, decorative items: bring them to the parish house, labeled "Merrie Market." Thank you!

## Stewardship and the Canvass

Thanks to all who have kept pace with your giving during this fiscal year (FY2016). We mailed a one-page synopsis on what it takes (financially) to run Old Ship Church entitled "Old Ship: Our financial Challenege"; it is available at the Welcome table at Fellowship Hour, and on our website in the password protected area under Parish House Plans.

The coming year's (FY2017) canvass will revisit a tradition of "The Visiting Steward." Simply put, instead of a mail campaign, we'll once again hope to conduct personal, informal and joyful visits with each member household (in your home, or a coffee shop, wherever suits you and your visiting steward) to share stories about Old Ship and what it means to each of you, and finally to collect your pledge envelope for FY2017 (if you didn't opt for a three year pledge is the last campaign). Past and current pledge amounts are kept confidential, even the visiting stewards will not know past or current pledge levels. If you consider Old Ship your spiritual home, please make sure to read "Our Fiscal Challenge" and be ready to 'visit' in late winter! As you might expect, we'll need volunteers to visit. What a FUN way to get to know folks' stories! If you're interested in being a visiting steward, please contact Pam Harty pamharty@comcast.net.

#### **Nurturing Community**

#### WHO WILL COOK FOR FATHER BILL'S?

MJ Shultz, who has been a longtime member of one of the teams that cooks and serves supper at Father Bill's Place in Quincy, has had to give that up, and so we are looking for someone who can step into her shoes (if such a thing is possible) for four Thursdays a year. If you are interested, call Fan Leonard (781-749-2852) or Jane Tremblay, who is head of that group (781-749-8414). It's a congenial group and the diners are appreciative.

## 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.

# Support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee through the Guest at Your Table Boxes coming in November.

UUSC Guest at Your Table Program Coming November 22nd-and the boxes are back! The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee(UUSC) is guided by the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of Unitarian Universalism, which uphold the inherent worth and dignity of all people. UUSC champions human rights on many fronts: economic, environmental, political, and social.

Over the past 40 years, UUSC's Guest at Your Table program has become a cherished tradition that celebrates how we can be partners in advancing human rights. Through this annual multigenerational program, we learn about inspiring global examples of local people making a big difference in their communities. We join together in solidarity, offer our support, and take action. Placing your box on the table is both a way to make donations at each meal and an important physical reminder of the work UUSC and our partners are doing to defend human rights around the world. We ask that you return the box to Old Ship on December 20, and it is most helpful if you replace the cash with a check made payable to UUSC.

Your generous participation in Guest at Your Table makes you part of the change that UUSC works toward throughout the world. UUSC's work is made possible by the activism and enerosity of more than 42,000 supporters. UUSCmembership benefits begin at \$40 or above, and gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. Visit uusc.org for more information aboutcurrent campaigns and partnerships. UUSC is an independent human rights organization and receives no financial support from the Unitarian Universalist Association or the federal government. Questions? Contact Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790.

#### **Nurturing Community Council**

The way our work at Old Ship is "organized" not by our tasks but around our five ministries is special. In the Nurturing Community Council we love the word "community". The dictionary definition of community begins with a group of people in a specific area. Community may mean different things to different people but I wonder if it is not so much a difference in scale but rather in purpose. We may all come here from different places geographically, demographically or spiritually, but we do all come here willingly. We don't have a creed or a

dogma that requires us to attend. We may bring guilt with us, but it did not originate here. We come together as a community because we want to be here. How wonderful!

Once here, that are many ways for us to join in community with one another. There are committees and projects and events and classes, all of which need people. It may seem as if the concept of community has us tied to how we can feed it. As we look at all the spots to be filled with all the tasks that must be done, it is tempting to feel overwhelmed and to wonder how does this work that I am being asked to do fulfill me. But it is not just what we can contribute to, or be part of or participate in that makes our community. It is not just the to -do list. It is the doing.

From pouring and serving coffee on my first Sunday here, I was immediately made to feel comfortable and welcomed. When I taught my first term in Sunday school, feeling insecure because I was so knew to Unitarian Universalism, I gained knowledge and insight into our faith tradition and had a chance to get to know adults and children (some of whom are now adults) more quickly and intimately than I had expected. My first committee work was with Religious Education and from this experience I learned how Unitarian Universalist churches were organized and structured while feeling blessed to participate in the spiritual nature of working with a group of people committed to valuable goals.

Community, like Radical Hospitality, "is not about what you do; it is about who you are becoming". (Radical Hospitality, Lonni Collins Pratt, 2011) There have been many cups of coffee, classes and committee meetings over the years. I can say with complete honesty that every time I have left Old Ship after attending worship or "working" across the street, I have left more joyful than when I arrived. That is what this community has given to me. I am looking forward to the many more joyful opportunities to come in the next few months and in the years ahead.

- Janet Asnes

#### **Social Justice Council**

Food Pantry Donations

Thanks to everyone who remembered to bring a donation in September and October! Upcoming dates for food pantry donations are:

• Sunday, November 18

If you do not remember to bring food on Sunday, November 18, you can choose to make a financial contribution towards purchasing the food for the South Shore Friends of the Homeless Holiday Party. There will be a basket on the table in Fellowship Hall.

• Sunday, December 13

#### Sunday Forum

Hope you can make it! Lovin' Spoonfuls will be in the parlor on Sunday, November 1 12-1 p.m.to discuss their mission of food rescue and recovery.

## Guests at Your Table

The collection boxes are back and will be distributed on Sunday, November 22. This year there will be presentations during the Sunday service to share more information about the purpose and focus of the donations.

South Shore Friends of the Homeless Annual Holiday Party Thursday, December 10, 6-9 p.m. Still looking for volunteers!!We need:

- Drivers to pick up and deliver from the shelter in Norwell
- Meal planners and shoppers
- Food preparers
- Servers
- Clean-up crew
- Volunteers to hold babies during the meal

Please contact Ginny: <u>gperelson@gmail.com</u> or Brenda: <u>blackpollara@verizon.net</u> to sign up.

Support the Hingham Food Pantry by Shopping at Talbots Talbots, 164 North Street, Hingham is holding a Shopping Party to benefit the Food Pantry on Thursday 11/5 from 3-7pm. 10% of all sales will go to the Hingham Food Pantry.

## Green Sanctuary/ 350.org MASS update

The climate forum we held in the Meeting House on Oct. 15 was a well-attended and engaging event, as evidenced by the enthusiastic discussion that followed presentations delivered by an outstanding panel of environmentalists on the subject of carbon pricing, a proven method of fighting global warming. Experts on this subject, they were able to explain simply and clearly how adding a small fee to the price of fossil fuels would provide incentive to cut down on dirty fuels, encourage the use of clean energy and, in the end, actually enrich rate-payers.

Interest overall in climate change has grown, with more and more people becoming involved in actions that are taking place all over Massachusetts regarding proposed expansion of the pipeline network that already criss-crosses the state, and a proliferation of compressor stations, the dangerous facilities required to move fracked gas - along with the poisonous chemicals used to blast so-called natural gas out of shale rock.

Members of 350Mass South Shore joined two important events the last week of October, one was a protest against energy companies, whose top executives met in Boston for the purpose of pushing their pipeline agenda. The other was an important hearing at the State House on a carbon-pricing bill proposed by Sen. Michael Barrett of Lexington.

Future events include large demonstrations calling attention to climate meetings among world leaders that are planned for December in Paris. The demonstrations are being organized by climate coalitions which believe that these meetings will have little effect, since many early suggestions for fighting global warming have been watered down to the point they will be ineffective. The demonstrations will be held in many countries, and will take place on Dec. 12, the last day of the climate summit.

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

#### Forward this email

SafeUnsubscribe



First Parish, Old Ship Church | 107 Main Street | Hingham | MA | 02043