



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

September 2015 Newsletter

Want to print out the newsletter? [Click here.](#)

Sunday Worship

Sunday, September 6

This will be our final "summer service" of the year held in the Parish House, beginning as with all the summer services, at 10:00. All are welcome!

Sunday, September 13

We resume worship in the Old Ship Meeting House, at 10:25 as always! Our annual Homecoming Service will include our water communion ceremony; we are all invited to bring a small sample of water from some special summer place, near or far - we will gather the water in a single bowl, symbolizing our returning together in community. Ken's brief message will be "Kinds of Love" (which will also serve as a bit of introduction to his class on Dante's Inferno and Divine Comedy).

Sunday, September 20

In the midst of the High Holy Days on the Jewish calendar, a time for reflection on how we have lived our lives, individually and collectively, during the year passed, Ken's sermon will be "Naming the Lives that Matter."

At noon in the Parish House parlor Old Shipper Joan Drescher will speak about the new edition of her book, *Moon Balloon*. This edition includes stories of the lives of children and their families who have been helped and healed through the original *Moon Balloon*, a beautiful book, filled with Joan's wonderful illustrations, that gently encourages children who are ill or who have been through trauma of one sort or another to give voice to their many and varied feelings.

Sunday, September 27

"Who Are You Really?" will be Ken's sermon. Ram Dass, echoing ancient wisdom from many traditions, affirms that whether we are aware of it or not, each of us lives on the level of ego, the level of soul, and the level of oneness. Is this true? Does it matter?

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 or Women's Knitting 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

Each summer I create a stack of books I intend to read.

Each summer I read a few of them.

And each summer I find myself led one way or another - a review, a personal recommendation, or just a book that catches my eye on a bookstore shelf - to books I hadn't planned on reading. Interestingly, these are sometimes the books I enjoy the most and/or find most illuminating.

This was true again this summer. Without going into my entire list:

I had indeed intended to re-read Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the belated "sequel" *Go Set a Watchman*; then at about the same time I was reading those two books, I saw an interview with Ta-Nehisi Coates, the author of *The World and Me*, a searing memoir of growing up black in America, written as a letter to his 15-year-old son - and perhaps needless to say a sort of indirect commentary on issues of race raised in Harper Lee's books.

Another quite different serendipitous read: I was in a health food store on the Cape and happened to see the most recent book by the spiritual teacher Ram Dass, *Polishing the Mirror*. There was much in this book I'd read before, but it is a beautiful compilation of his life's teachings, worth a slow, contemplative read.

In yet another vein: I had planned to finally read a novel that had been by my bedside for years, *Sea of Poppies*, by Amitav Gosh. But I hadn't fully realized it was the first of a trilogy of 500 page books, or that I would find it gripping enough to want to go right out and get part two of this fascinating saga set in South Asia and China during the period just preceding the Opium Wars... with echoes into our own time.

Well, there's more. But you get the idea.

And then, in the midst of all this, as I expect most of you have heard by now through Old Ship's "Constant Contact" email, our daughter Sandra gave birth to our first grandchild, Lowell Brooks Begley, a most beautiful baby boy. During our time in New York visiting and helping out, the book of life, so to speak, became my primary reading - and quite joyfully so.

John Lennon famously said (most likely quoting someone else) that life is what happens when you're busy making other plans... or, in this case, when I was reading other books.

I hope you are all well no matter what the summer has brought your way; and if the summer has been difficult for you, I hope you have received the support and love you've needed.

In any case, I look forward to seeing you soon as we re-gather in our Meeting House and for many other shared Old Ship activities, all in the service of the book of life and love.

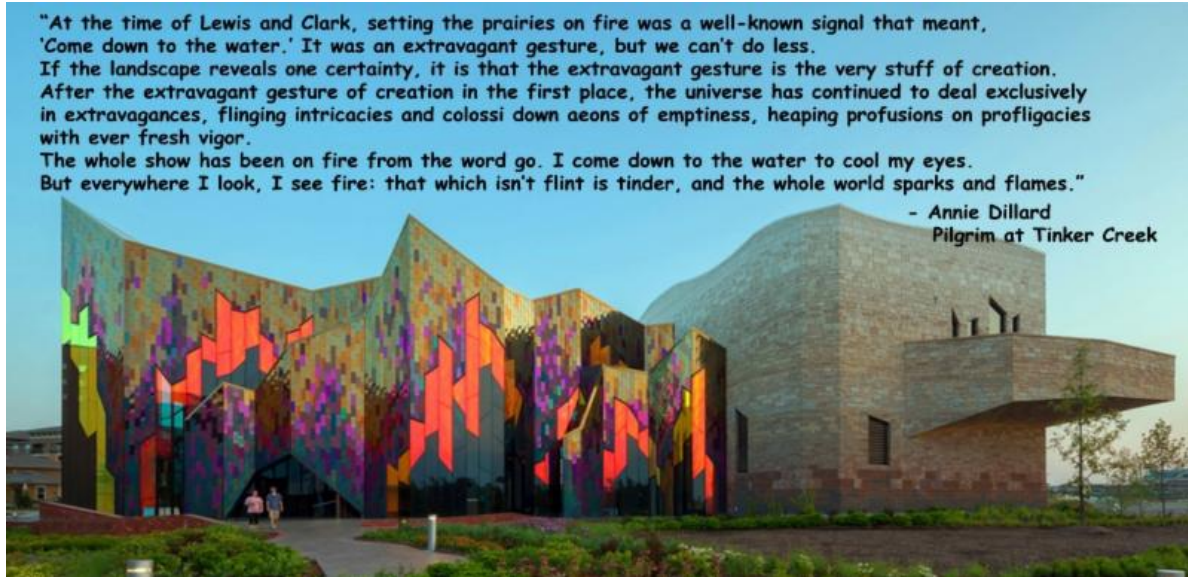
Peace and blessings,
--Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com

My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday beginning about 10:00. Monday is my day off, and Thursday my sermon writing day. My primary phone contact is through the Parish House office - 781-749-1679. The office answering machine includes my cell phone if you need to reach me quickly - since when I am not in the office I am either

working in my study at home, or making visits or attending meetings elsewhere. I can also be reached on email.

--Ken

Religious Education Notes



The world gives us lots of messages about being careful, and polite, and using our inside voices... but Annie Dillard reminds us that sometimes, what's called for is "the extravagant gesture".

I like to think this is something that a Unitarian Universalist religious education can provide... an opportunity for the extravagant gesture... and a place to experience it... together.

What we offer is as needed now, as it ever has been... and the Religious Education committees, for children and for Youth, have already begun dreaming grand dreams and planning big plans.

I'm including an R.E. calendar in this newsletter with the things we've come up with so far. Things will be added as we go along... and no doubt some plans will be discarded. That's how we stay responsive to the needs and enthusiasms of our children and Youth, and their families.

Feel free to talk to me about the calendar, about your extravagant ideas, and about what would be most nourishing for you and your family.

Call, e-mail or visit me during the week, because as always, I like to dedicate my brief, precious, Sunday morning time to being 100% present and available to children and Youth, who don't have the power or the executive skills to call, e-mail, or visit me during the week...

"Flinging intricacies and colossi"...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

beverlytmail@gmail.com

p.s.

1- I can't wait to see you all for our Homecoming Service and Water Communion, Sunday, Sept. 13, in the Meeting House.

2- Like last year, our first day of R.E. (September 20) will be a scavenger hunt of the Parish

house... Ground floor to attic... Teams of teachers, children and Youth... Getting to know each other, getting to know the building, and getting to know where to find stuff... all in one fun, pseudo-competitive swoop.

[Religious Education Calendar click here.](#)

Music Notes

Black Composers Matter

Perhaps you, like me, have wondered what music by black composers sounded like. Everyone knows about Ragtime, Jazz, Gospel and Spirituals. The importance of the creation of these styles cannot be understated: they changed the musical landscape throughout the world. During the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century, traditional American composers fretted about what an "American Music" might sound like. At the same time, however, black composers were busily creating that "American Music." European composers heard it. Witness Antonin Dvorak's "New World Symphony" and Igor Stravinsky's "Ragtime for Eleven Instruments."

As important as Ragtime, Jazz, Gospel and Spirituals are, surely this is not the only sphere of musical influence by black composers. Fortunately, Dr. Mickey Thomas Terry, a professor at Howard University has done significant research in this area and has been publishing previously unpublished music in the "African American Organ Anthology" which now counts seven volumes. He has also published a number of articles on the subject.

Thank you, Dr. Terry, for doing the research which will inform my personal goal this year: to increase my repertoire of music composed by African American composers. Along the way, we will hear music composed by African composers, learn about some 19th century composers and find out what was happening in the 20th century. Hopefully, I will even discover some 21st century compositions. Expect that it is best to not have expectations. I hope you will enjoy listening as much as I am having getting this ready to roll out.

Berni
Music Director

Membership Musings

Hello, again! Hasn't this summer flown by?? I can't be the only one who feels like Fall is just around the corner but summer has just started...Well, I suppose this means the cold weather is coming again--but, more importantly, I'll see all of you again very soon! Now *that* is something to look forward to!

This year I will again be focusing my efforts on increasing membership and ensuring those individuals new to us feel welcomed and nurtured. This is something I hope we will all participate in doing; people have found their way to Old Ship in a variety of ways, and referral from current Old Shippers is often one of them.

Bring-A-Friend Sunday should be *every* Sunday. Invitations to join the Men's Breakfast, Women's Sewing Group, attend an RE class and one or more of Ken's Adult Life Learning classes are all wonderful ways to invite someone we know who may be interested in learning more about Old Ship. It's such a warm, happy feeling to know that you've helped people find

that Old Ship is *their* spiritual home.

As always, I'm available to talk about your ideas regarding anything membership related. I can be reached via email or cell phone, info you'll see listed below. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and I truly look forward to seeing your smiling faces very soon!

Erin Alix
Membership Coordinator
Old Ship Church
Hingham, Massachusetts
membership@oldshipchurch.org
cell: 413-512-1407

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

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Bob Shepard, cheney777@verizon.net, (781) 878-2766

Beverly Tricco, oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org, (781)-749-1679

Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkrb@gmail.com, (781-749-1679)

Notes from the Office

How to Get Information about Events at Old Ship

There are many ways that information about services, classes and other important information is sent out. Below is a list of the main ways that we disseminate information:

- website www.oldshipchurch.org. Our website has the worship services right on the front page, with other upcoming events on the right column. There is also an

online directory with people's names/address in the password protect member section. The password to enter that section is 1681Hobart. Board members and some committee chairs all know how to add information to the website to keep it current.

- Newsletter. Once a month, an electronic newsletter is sent out.
- Weekly emails. Each Wednesday, or there about, a weekly email is sent highlighting the Sunday service and other events happening that week.
- Order of service. Each week, the Sunday order of service is packed full of announcements. Much of this info has already been printed in the newsletter and weekly email, but it's another place to find information.
- Facebook. We have an active Facebook page. Something new is posted there almost daily. "First Parish UU Hingham" There are sometimes funny pictures - what shoes to not wear to an Easter Egg hunt - or occasionally Ken will write a short squib as well. You do not have to be on Facebook to look at the page.
- Twitter. Our handle is "Old Ship Church." We use twitter to highlight an upcoming service or event.

Our new fiscal year started on July 1. If you have not begun to contribute towards your Fiscal 2016 pledge, please consider this your reminder! One easy way to contribute is by using a credit or debit card. There is a one page form that you can fill out which will allow the contributions to be automated. You can print out that form by [clicking here](#) and sending it to the office. Thank you!

Julianna Dunn
office administrator

Nurturing Community Council

Welcome Back! For those of you not familiar with the Nurturing Community Council (NCC), we support Old Ship's commitment to always offer a warm welcome, loving support and a sense of belonging to all members, friends and visitors. Sometimes we are known as the Coffee Hour - Usher people J It's true that those roles are very visible on Sunday mornings, especially if they are unfilled. However, our goal is to make sure our community feels nourished and nurtured every day of the week.

The Old Ship community is very special. We are a group of open-minded and kind hearted people who choose to worship and spend time with one another. We may have taken many different paths to arrive here and we may not always agree on issues. But, we strive to recognize the similarities amongst us while honoring the differences in respectful, tolerant and loving ways. I cannot imagine anything more nurturing than that.

If you are interested in being part of the Nurturing Community Council, or are looking for an opportunity to volunteer in any manner, please feel free to contact me. For those of you anxious to sign up to usher or host fellowship hour, you may sign up at [click here to go to sign up genius](#) or on the poster board in the Fellowship Hall.

~ Janet Asnes, NCC Chair, 781-878-9886

Coffee House Off the Square begins new season

The first coffee house of the season will be on Saturday evening, September 17, at 8:00. The featured performers will be The Kennedys. "Their latest album finds The Kennedys making music in peak form...The sound here is classic folk rock with hints of 60's west coast of USA...The closing track could well sum up the album overall. Good, Better, Best might suggest their musical development and this album could easily be argued to fit that latter word." (Stephen Rapid, *Lonesome Highway*)

The Coffee House will begin with an open mic. Proceeds after expenses are contributed to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Candlelight Concerts schedule for 2015-2016

With the return of Fall comes another season of Candlelight Concerts at Old Ship. Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

November 8, 2015

Strange Interlude

Cello and Harp chamber ensemble

December 13, 2015

Lexington High School Madrigal Singers

A cappella singers

May 15, 2016

Claremont Trio

All concerts take place at 4 PM in the meetinghouse. Admission is free; your donation is welcome. Please contact candlelightconcertsoldship@gmail.com for questions or encouragement.

Educating Hearts and Minds

This year's full schedule of classes will soon be posted on the web site (www.oldshipchurch.org), and a new brochure will be available early in September. Watch for details of upcoming classes this year including: the Power of Myth, Spiritual Autobiography, Gospel of John, Islam, poetry, Our Chosen Faith, and more.

Ongoing groups and gatherings: Be sure to check our web site for a complete list of groups open to all, including: The Way of the Bodhisattva, Men's Breakfast, Monday Meditation, Ceilidh (song circle), Morning Meditation, and the Upanishads Study Group.

- **The Inferno and Divine Comedy** - five sessions, Wed., September 16 - October 14, 7:00, led by Ken Read-Brown. We continue our exploration of the western tradition of epic poetry with the Inferno, the first of the three books of Dante's Divine Comedy - and portions of the

Purgatorio and Paradiso as well. What does Dante's work teach us about the human condition? About sin and salvation? There are many good translations, including Robert Pinsky's of *Inferno*, or Robin Kirkpatrick's or John Ciardi's of the entire *Comedy*. For more information and to sign up contact Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkrb@gmail.com.

Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco at Old Ship!

A very special event! Richard Blanco, President Obama's 2013 inauguration poet, is coming to Old Ship. He will be reading his poetry at the Meetinghouse on Thursday, **September 10, at 7 p.m.** Afterwards there will be a book signing and refreshments at the Parish House. Get that right down on your calendar before summer oblivion sets in. This event is sponsored by the Hingham Poetry Group. Suggested donation is \$10.

Blanco was born in Madrid and immigrated to the United States as an infant with his Cuban-exile family; he was raised in Miami. In 2013, he was chosen to serve as the fifth inaugural poet of the United States. Blanco performed "One Today," an original poem he wrote for the occasion, becoming the youngest, first Latino, immigrant, and openly gay writer to hold the honor. In May of the same year, Blanco wrote "Boston Strong," which he performed at the TD Boston Garden Benefit Concert and at a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, then releasing a limited edition Boston Strong chapbook, with all proceeds going to those most affected by the Boston Marathon bombings of 2013. Blanco has received numerous honors for his writings and performances for audiences around the world. He is currently working on a memoir and is collaborating with renowned illustrator Dav Pilkey on a children's book. He currently lives in Bethel, Maine.

[Poster for Richard Blanco event click here.](#)

Music and Worship Workshop - Sept. 26

Finding Ourselves in the Rhythm is an interactive training and workshop designed for ministers, musicians, lay worship leaders, choir members, worship committee members, and anyone looking to explore ways of working together and using music to create more engaging worship. It includes tools for working as a worship team, integrating music into worship, elements of song-leading, and also conversations about culture, race, and inclusiveness that are involved in planning worship.

Music has the ability to engage our hearts and bodies together in an integrated and transformative worship experience. Join us for a day of exploring the theory and specific tools of worship planning, including experiential worship, discussions, small-group activities, and take-home resources. The workshop is co-sponsored by several South Shore UU congregations, and will be held at First Parish in Cohasset, 23 N. Main Street, Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9:30 - 12:30. The workshop leader will be Matt Meyer, an artist of percussion, who is knowledgeable and experienced in a variety of styles, including Latin-jazz, Brazilian, folk, funk, Hip-hop and pop. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and has studied in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. An active Unitarian Universalist and experienced worship leader, some of you will recall that Matt led evening worship at Old Ship a couple of years ago.

Contact Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up to attend.

Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will continue to focus on the issues of hunger and

homelessness this year. The food pantry collections last year were successful and will continue. We will be collecting non-perishable food for the Hingham Food Pantry. Items can be placed in the box in the front entrance of the Parish House. The FIRST MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION will be on Sunday, September 27.

- A reminder that these collections are in place of the food that we enjoy during fellowship hour on designated Sundays each month.

Volunteer Opportunities

Horizons for Homeless Children needs volunteers to play with children from homeless families in the Playspaces located at the shelters in Norwell and Weymouth. Give homeless children a better tomorrow by playing with them and supporting their learning.

Commitment is 2 hours each week to play with young homeless children in one of our shelter-based Playspaces in Weymouth & Norwell? Help a homeless child learn, play, and thrive. Upcoming volunteer training 9/12/15, 9:30a -1p in W. Bridgewater. For more info visit www.horizonschildren.org or call 508 510-3250. School on Wheels needs tutors to help students from homeless families who are living in shelters in Norwell and Weymouth. Tutors needed on these days/times:

Norwell	Shelter	Friends of the Homeless 405 Washington St.	Monday	5:15pm to 6:30
			Wednesday	5:15pm to 6:30
Weymouth Hotel	Super 8 655 Washington St.		Tuesday	4:45pm to 6:00
			Tuesday	6:15pm to 7:30
			Thursday	4:45pm to 6:00
			Thursday	6:15 pm to

If interested in tutoring, you will need to attend one three hour training session before Sept 23rd. For the schedule and location of training sessions go to this link:

<http://www.sowma.org/get-involved/tutor-mentor/new-tutor-training>

Friends of the Homeless Holiday Dinner at Old Ship - volunteers needed

For twenty-five years or so Old Ship has hosted this dinner in our Fellowship Hall, which each year has filled to capacity with the families served by Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore as well as volunteers. For all those years a south shore family has with remarkable generosity prepared and served the dinner... but this year they can no longer do so...

So this year we will cook and serve!

If you'd like to help in any way with this very special event - by cooking, serving, holding babies, welcoming, cleaning up... - mark your calendar for the evening of Thursday, December 10. More information will follow in upcoming newsletters and on Sunday mornings as the date approaches. Thanks very much!

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