



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

September 2017 Newsletter

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Worship

Sunday, September 10 10:25am

Homecoming Service for All Ages

After a summer of Parish House worship, we gather again in our Old Ship Meeting House for our annual Homecoming Service, which will include the traditional Water Communion Ceremony. Each of us are invited to bring a sample of water from some favorite or meaningful summer place - seaside, lake, backyard stream, or refreshing glass from the tap. We will pour our samples into a single bowl, symbolizing our re-gathering in community. (As always there will be extra water for those who don't have samples to bring.) This is a service for all ages, though as usual there will be nursery care in the Parish House.



Sunday, September 17

Reflecting on these recent politically tumultuous weeks and months, Ken's sermon will be "What Do We Do Now?" What can we each do, and what can our congregation do, to work more effectively toward what Dr. King called "the beloved community": a national and global community of greater peace, justice, compassion, and kindness?

Sunday, September 24

Marking the 30th anniversary of Ken's ministry among us, which began in the summer of 1987, his sermon will be "This Journey We Share".

Our Fellowship Hour following the service will celebrate this landmark of 30 years of shared ministry.

Sunday, October 1

Our new intern student minister, Dave Egan, will be preaching this Sunday (Ken will be away to officiate at his nephew's wedding). Dave's sermon will be "Through the Valley," grounded in his recent experience as a student chaplain in a hospital setting.

We are very pleased that Dave will be with us for the coming "church year" as he completes his ministerial studies and training.

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/Meditation Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month. "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation. And the Women's Breakfast meets at 8:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend any early morning gathering or committee meeting and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.

Musing from the Minister's Desk

"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy (or savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

So wrote E.B. White. I expect most of us can relate to the sentiment.

During the summer months, for example, I find time, as I hope you do, to savor and enjoy the beauty of our world - whether as I sit by the sea embraced by wind and wave, or sit in my own backyard embraced by birdsong and breeze. I savor too, always, the love of family and the companionship and support of friends.

Yet in the midst of this savoring of beauty and love is also knowledge of suffering elsewhere in this world of ours - whether close to home among those I know and love, or further away in the shape of injustice, hate, racism, bigotry, violence and war, environmental devastations, flooding in Houston or South Asia, and too much else.

In short, I am led to E.B. White's question of how to plan a day... or a year... or a life - torn between savoring and a desire to save or improve this world we share.

In turn, this leads me to gratitude for the Old Ship community as we learn together that we can at the same time savor and strive to save at least some corner of the world. Indeed, my own experience is that to be fully human we must do both; for as I allow myself to deeply savor the miracle and mystery of the world, I feel all the more moved to do what I can to contribute to the saving work of adding to the world's store of kindness, goodness, justice, peace, and love.

It is in this spirit, having now completed thirty years of ministry among you, that I look forward to continuing our work together.

I hope you have each and all had renewing summers - and if times were hard for you, I hope you had the love and support you needed along the way.

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. You may use 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 of course be reached via email, oldshipkrb@gmail.com. --Ken

Notes from your Student Intern Minister

Hello Dear Ones,

My name is Dave Egan. I am pleased to say that I have the distinct honor of serving as your ministerial intern for this upcoming year. I am thrilled to be learning from such a seasoned pro, your beloved Rev. Ken Read-Brown. I met many of you over the last few months and I look forward to getting to know you all this fall. Please stop by during coffee hour and say hello.

A little about me: I am entering my senior year at Andover Newton Theological School. This past year, I was the ministerial intern at First Parish in Canton with the wonderful Rev. Buffy Boke. I had planned to be there for two years, until Rev. Boke sadly announced her retirement. Therefore I now have the opportunity to intern here at Old Ship, a much larger congregation, giving me a very different vantage point on the ministry. This summer I worked full time at Beverly Hospital doing my Clinical Pastoral Education (a chaplaincy internship). It was a very intense experience where I learned how to better provide pastoral care to those who are struggling with illness,

addiction or homelessness. I live along the shore in Quincy with my wife Karina, and my two daughters Lyla (7) and Maya (12).

I look forward to meeting you all at our homecoming service on September 10. Thanks for the opportunity to worship and learn together, and thanks for inviting me into your beautiful beloved community!

Blessings,

Dave

email: davidegan@comcast.net

Notes from your Membership Coordinator

Welcome back! I hope each and every one of you had a wonderful summer and are as ready as I am for this upcoming year! I will be spending much of my time focusing on increasing awareness of your important role in bringing in new members, helping them find their place in our wonderful community and educating them on the importance of being an active member in order to keep us vibrant and growing. I have a lot of fun events planned: Birthday Days during coffee hour, Community Dinners and some exciting collaborations with Chris, our amazing Music Director! It is my wish that I see many new and familiar faces at each.

September 17th is another chance to celebrate 'Birthday Day' at Old Ship! We will be celebrating all twelve months worth of birthday's--all in one day! During Coffee Hour please find your birthday month, listed on a sign on a table in the Parish Hall, and sit with your fellow members and friends who share it. Everyone is invited! If you'd like to bake a cake (9 X 13 sheet cake) please contact me, Erin Alix at membership@oldshipchurch.org.

I look forward to another wonderful year with you!

Kindly,
Erin



Director of Religious Education

Dear Old Ship,

It's the end of August again... and this year will be my 10th year with you. That feels significant. We've done a lot of great things together and made lots of changes to how we do things here at Old Ship.

But that doesn't mean we're "all set", or all through changing and adapting. As the world changes and our needs change, we can adapt and change too. In fact, this year, we're hoping to have one service per month where children remain in the church for the entire service. Our hope is that this will help teachers and families connect the formal service in the church to the community across the street in the Parish House.

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. To borrow a phrase I've used in a previous August newsletter, "Feel free to talk to me about that... and about anything that would be nourishing for you and your family."



If you can, 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...

Lastly, we will be needing volunteer teachers, parents and non-parents, for every age group. You will be hearing more from me about that. We have a super cooperative Religious Education program and folks come from several surrounding towns to be part of it. Please check in with me or with anyone on the Children's Religious Education Committee or the Youth Committee to find out where your niche might be.

Many hands make light work...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

beverlytricco@gmail.com

p.s. Like last year, our first day of R.E. will be a scavenger hunt of the Parish house... Ground floor to attic... Teams of teachers, children and Youth... Getting to know each other, the building, and where to find stuff, all in one fun, pseudo-competitive swoop...

Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL).

Our Whole Lives will be offered this year. This program is designed to provide comprehensive, faith-based, sexuality education for our 8th and 9th grade youth.

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health, and behavior in the context of their faith. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the social, emotional and spiritual aspects of sexuality. YouTube video by Adeline and Emily: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_0ML0Ntmcc

Quotes from Our Whole Lives Advocates

- If I had this information two years ago, I may not have made some of the choices I've already made. *A fifteen-year old student*
- When I first went to OWL class, I didn't know what to expect. Now I know it has changed my life. Everything I learned will help me. *Middle school student*
- To offer sexuality education in a congregation is to acknowledge that human sexuality is simply too important, too beautiful, and too potentially dangerous to be ignored in a religious community. *Rev. Lena Breen Boston, Massachusetts*
- Don't ever stop offering OWL at church. I took it when I was in high school and I think it saved my life. Every kid should see themselves the way OWL sees them. *College student*
- OWL is quickly becoming the best youth ministry in our church. Our youth group has tripled in size - and some of their parents are now joining the church. *Pastor*

Commitment from Parents and Youth: The curriculum is designed in such a way that each meeting builds on the meeting before, and the lessons and activities depend on a rapport among the Youth, and between the Youth and the teachers. It is important that the Youth make every effort to attend all the sessions, and that the parents encourage and support that commitment.

Program Leaders/Teachers: Rob Baynes, Maureen Butler, and Corey Fitz-Marquez.

The teachers will be meeting to establish the calendar, meeting times, and the date of the mandatory parent orientation.

The cost of this class is \$35 per Youth... If that amount is prohibitive for your family, please speak to your Director of Religious Education or minister and the fee will be adjusted.

Please direct questions to Beverly Tricco at beverlytrmail@gmail.com ...

Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Dear members of the Old Ship community -

I have missed you over the summer! I'm looking forward to returning to our regular worship services and reconnecting with you.

The choir has an exciting year planned. We will begin the year welcoming our new soprano soloist, Evangelia (Evan) Leontis. We will also be trying out a new time for the Choral Vespers services on Saturday evenings in conjunction with community events. Look for more details soon about the first Vespers service coming up in October.



The first choir rehearsal is Thursday, September 7, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to sing in the choir, so please consider joining us.

I would love to include more parish instrumentalists in the regular music offerings at Old Ship services. If you play an instrument and would like to play during a service, either as a solo or as part of a group, please get in touch with me! It could be as a prelude, offertory, or even accompanying a choir anthem. I would be happy to work with musicians of all skill levels to find something that you feel comfortable playing.

Enjoy your remaining days of summer. I will see you all shortly!

Chris
Chris Hossfeld
musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org

Nurturing Community

Women's Breakfast

Happy fall to all! Attending Women's Breakfast is one of the highlights for many women. This group meets the fourth Sunday (the third Sunday in December) of every month at 8:30 in the parlor.

The purpose of this group is to provide women of all ages an opportunity to get to know one another in an informal setting. During the gathering, everyone will have a chance to check in for a few minutes, which will be followed by general conversation. Join the camaraderie! Coffee will be available. If you have any questions, please contact Janice McPhillips (jbbmcpillips@gmail.com) or Ivy Butterworth (ivy_butter@yahoo.com). Hope to see you at one of the meetings or all of them!



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!

Ralph Brown, ralph.e.brown@gmail.com (781-925-9197)
Diane Elliott, dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com (781-749-2248)
Elaine Gomez, eh-gomez@comcast.net (781-740-1663)
Alicia Harkness, PAJL7@verizon.net (781-749-7825)
Fan Leonard, toomuchfun33@hotmail.com (781-749-2852)
Joan Wilson, joanielw@verizon.net (781-740-8840)
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.

Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

For a complete listing of this year's classes and ongoing programs, go to the "learning" page on our web site: www.oldshipchurch.org. Here are the first two classes of our 2017-18 year:

Spring Poetry in the Fall: Poetry of the Earth

four sessions, Wed., Sept. 20 - Oct. 11 1:00 and 7:00

led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown

Postponed from this past spring, we will be exploring poetry that strengthens our love of the natural world and that addresses indirectly or directly environmental issues, including climate change. For more info and to sign up, contact Elizabeth (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com) or Ken (oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

Storytelling

four sessions, Tues. Oct. 3-24 (Fellowship Hall) led by Pat Bianco

Pat, retired Theatre Professor, University of Pittsburgh, studied Moth Radio Hour storytelling and will follow Moth precepts and boundaries. Participants will have fun and learn how to integrate story elements and time limits. Careful, positive feedback will be offered. For further information and to sign up contact Pat (617-774-7474 or bluesulphur3@yahoo.com)

Candlelight Concerts

The Candlelight Concert Committee invites you to join us at any or all of the concerts that are scheduled for this year. More details will soon be available regarding the first concert, which will be held in the Meeting House.

Sunday, October 1, 2017

Chris Hossfeld performing with our tenor and soprano soloists,
Chris Maher and Evangelia Leontis

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Palaver Strings

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Sylvia Berry and the Berry Collective

Other ongoing groups and gatherings....

Link here to the page on our web site that includes descriptions of all these groups: from opportunities to meditate and study spiritual texts ancient and modern as described above, to the Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, Book Group, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

From the Board of Trustees

Welcome back to Old Ship! Although things definitely slow down over the summer, important work continues... even if it is the work of recharging our inner batteries.

The Board of Trustees met for our annual summer retreat, where we take the time to get to know new members, review the past year and look ahead to the new. The upcoming months will be both challenging and exciting. We will start the year with a celebration of Ken's 30th year as our Minister, there will be major decisions to make regarding the Parish House, and we want to build on our strengths to attract new members and be a force for good in our community. We can become a spiritual home for seekers of all kinds, while maintaining the bonds of community that we've developed over the years of worshipping, learning and serving together.

So, the Board of Trustees has set the following goal for 2017/18: To build and strengthen the Old Ship community, by turning our challenges into opportunities, supporting multi-generational efforts, and having more fun! As a Board, we're excited to be working together and with you, and can't wait to get started. See you soon!

Nina Wellford Price, President; Janet Asnes, VP; Joan Wilson, Clerk; Bryan Hurley, Treasurer; Maureen Butler, Auri Fitz-Marquez, Dana Kintigh, Brian McPhillips, Ginny Perelson, Chris Sullivan

From the Office

The hard drive in the office's main computer failed this summer. The good news is that our database is on the cloud, so we have not lost any financial information, names or addresses. But, it does mean that I lost email addresses, which I will regain slowly as people send me email. Going forward, we will be looking at having a technology plan for Old Ship that doesn't include a waiting until something dies event!

Thanks,
Julianna Dunn
Office Administrator

Merrie Market

The Merrie Market is a major FUNd raiser for the Old Ship Community. This year it will take place on Saturday, December 2. There are many things that you all can do to help us prepare for this event.

The Treasure Table needs those special items of yours that you no longer use: nice dishes, platters, bowls, candle sticks. Jewelry is always a hot item! If you are cleaning or clearing things in your house please pass them along to the church. We do not accept computers, clothing or paintings.

In the Service Auction Department we are looking for services you may provide: painting a room for someone, a boat ride, a ride to the airport, a special seat for the Christmas Eve service in the Meeting House. The possibilities are endless. If you have a service you would like to

offer or a piece of valuable art please let us know.

There will be a craft table, baked goods, gift baskets, gently used toys for the Children's Room, books, cd's and dvd's.

Most importantly we could use your help and expertise. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful event and help us sort items and prepare please contact Diane Elliott.

Dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com.

Do you know about Wellspring?

Wellspring Multi-Service Center in Hull has been serving residents of the South Shore since 1985. Support is provided for skills for those in need of assistance with finances, education and counseling. The goal is to offer "a hand up, not a hand out" for those in need to attain independence and self-sufficiency.

Wellspring offers educational programs for a high school diploma, community outreach, job skills, transportation, career services and legal advocacy. Other programs include assistance with applications for food stamps, fuel assistance, housing and Mass Health. Wellspring also supplies guidance through counseling and elder services offerings. There are great bargains in clothing, household items, books and furniture at the thrift shop. Aunt Dot's Kitchen (food pantry) offers basic supplies to Hull residents. A van provides transportation to the food pantry, classes and job training.

Wellspring is located at 814 Nantasket Avenue in Hull and is open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact Wellspring at 781-925-3211 or www.wellspringhull.org.

Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund

On Friday night, August 25, Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 Storm and brought with it deadly winds and rain to an area of the United States millions call home. Much of the Texas Gulf Coast has been impacted and communities in Louisiana and across the state of Texas are still coping with more days of rain. We're holding all of those affected in our hearts and prayers and we are in touch with local Unitarian Universalists so we can meet the needs as they arise. To do this, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on a recovery and relief fund.

Please give as generously as you are able. Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm. Those funds will be administered by a group of leaders in the UUA's Southern Region, which includes the states across the southeast from Texas to South Carolina, and from most of Virginia to Florida. Using their eye-to-eye partnership model, UUSC will work with and support local grassroots community partners on the ground in Texas serving at-risk populations who may not be able to access relief services and who are traditionally left out of mainstream response efforts. UUSC and their partners will work to bolster locally led relief efforts that are serving immigrant families, in particular young mothers and their children. As the storm passes and recovery begins, UUSC will continue to get updates and work with partners to ensure their needs are met.

You can donate by clicking [here](#)

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

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