

Unitarian Universalist Church
Greater Ellsworth Downeast Area
First Unitarian Society Newsletter
December 1975

Sunday services
10:30 A.M.

Minister: Dr. Harry C. Meserve
Box 428
Southwest Harbor

Church telephone
667-4393

244-7124

December services:

December 7	Dr. Foote	December 21	Dr. Meserve
December 14	Dr. Meserve	December 28	Dr. Meserve

Church news items:

Women's Alliance

Dec. 3 Business meeting at the home of Augusta Bromley, 1 Parcher Street.

Dec. 10 Christmas Party at the home of Eleanor Shea, 18 Beals Avenue. Christmas boxes will be filled for the few in Barnard and Collier Nursing Homes who have no loved ones to remember them at the Christmas season, as well as boxes for our Unitarian shut-ins.

The Christmas Sale and supper netted the Alliance well over \$600.

An interested summer church member donated \$500. to the support of our church this past month.

There will be a 30 minute carol sing by the choir and congregation at the end of the service December 14.

Our Building Fund is growing with \$2,176. now in the fund.

From the minister:

As I write these lines, it is not yet Thanksgiving. Hence it is a little hard for me to get into the Christmas mood, the more so since I object to starting the Christmas season too early, whether in shopping, celebrating, or worshipping. Christmas means more, I think, if it is experienced as a brief, fleeting high moment in the year with sentiments and undertones that persist and influence our thoughts and behavior from day to day. Trying to sustain the fragile and tender Christmas spirit for a period of weeks results in what one of our members describes as "structured joy". That kind of joy makes one tired rather than joyful. It is the shivering Santa Claus on the city street waiting for five o'clock to come. It is the stuck record of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" going on and on in the department store as back-ground noise. It is the pious Christmas card with the printed name at the bottom from somebody too busy to write his own initials. It is the President or the Governor lighting up the official Christmas Tree while the Marine Band plays "O Come All Ye Faithful."

I am against structured joy, as you can see, and for those short, often unexpected, precious moments when we know love is real and hope is possible. May some such moments, not too many lest we grow smug, but not too few lest we grow discouraged, come to all of us this Christmas and in the year ahead.

H.C. M.