

Unitarian Universalist Church
Greater Ellsworth Downeast Area
First Unitarian Society Newsletter

October 1976

Sunday Services
10:30 A.M.
Church Telephone
667-4393

Minister: Dr. Harry C. Meserve
Box 428
Southwest Harbor
Tel. 244-7124

CALENDAR

October Services

Oct. 3	Dr. Meserve	Oct. 17	Dr. Meserve
Oct. 10	Dr. Foote	Oct. 24	Dr. Meserve
		Oct. 31	Dr. Meserve

Women's Alliance

Oct. 6 Business Meeting Hostess: Gertrude Mason
Oct. 13 Mystery Ride Chairmen: Dorothy Noe and Ruth Beal
Oct. 20 Social Hour and Tea Hostesses: Alliance officers
Oct. 27 Birdsacre- Program- Chandler Richmond
Hostess: Marion Richmond

Sexton's Duties

Oct. 3 and 10 Helen and Horace Pease
Oct. 17 and 24 Louise and Gordon Ramsdell
Oct. 31 Nov. 7 Marion and Chandler Richmond

COMING EVENTS

THE R.E. COMMITTEE invites parents and others, interested in the Religious Education of both children and adults, to a series of discussions after church the last three Sundays of October. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and juice provided. Topics to be presented are:

Oct. 17	- Developing your own religion - Dr. Meserve
Oct. 24	- Helping young people find a religion (about R.E. materials) - Helen Silver
Oct. 31	- Unitarian-Universalist values

On FRIDAY OCTOBER 22, Cushman Anthony, a lawyer in Portland and a member of the board of directors of the Maine Memorial Society, will speak at the church at 8 p.m. He will discuss how NOT to bury your money - the public is invited to attend. For further details, see Doris Seal.

NEWS ITEMS

Sincere thanks to Ray Royal and Dorothy Berry for their many hours of work in typing, printing and mailing our newsletter, over these past years. Your new "editor" (Helen Silver) hopes she can do half as well, and asks that news items be left at church (a box is provided) or in her mailbox (40 Union Street) by the third Sunday of each month. Helen Pease will be helping with the mailings, so please give her the names and addresses of people who might like to receive copies.

A warm welcome to Merrill "Tinker" Bunker of Bar Harbor, who is now a member of our church, having signed The Book after the R.E. meeting on September 20th.

Mrs. Elinor Vassey of Charleston, S.C. and the other members of the family of Mrs. Beulah Rollins want to express their deep appreciation to the Church and the Women's Alliance for the beautiful flowers and expressions of sympathy, and to those members of the church who gave donations to the Building Fund in memory of Mrs. Rollins.

We have received the report of the UU_A Annual Program Fund 1975-76. Our church is one of the honor societies, having exceeded our suggested share, in contributions for this period.

Baby-sitting is now provided during the Sunday services, thanks to several volunteers.

From the minister:

Starting next Sunday, October 3, and on the first Sunday of each month thereafter, I plan to present a series of sermons which I shall call "public sermons." Of course, all sermons are public. Anybody is welcome at our church on any Sunday and is free to participate in our service. But what I have in mind in using the word "public" is that the sermon will deal with a public question of general importance, a question that is of concern to the public generally. Some, perhaps all, of these questions will be controversial. They will deal with matters about which thoughtful people disagree. They will present my own opinion as well as other opinions, set forth as fairly as I can. I do not claim that my own opinion on any subject is final or definitive. Certainly it is not "the Unitarian Universalist point of view." On most important issues Unitarian Universalists hold differing points of view, and that is as it should be in a church that believes in intellectual and spiritual freedom.

After the "public sermon" I plan to hold a brief discussion period, during which people can express their opinions, ask questions, and share their feelings with one another and with me. I do not suggest that we then take a vote to decide who is right or wrong, because that is no way to decide who is right or wrong.

But the discussion of an important public question from our pulpit does say something basic about our church's convictions and ways of life. It says that we are free and eager to examine difficult questions, expose ourselves to challenges from our own prejudices, and desirous of applying reason and good will to the effort to think things through on matters that often perplex and sometimes enrage the public generally. Our defenses against bigotry and passion are freedom and reason - excellent defenses if people would only use them.

I am calling the first public sermon "Here Have All the Voters Gone?" It will be an examination of the question of why so many people seem to be dropping out of politics, even in this year of national elections. A discussion will follow the church service. I hope you will plan to come and perhaps bring with you some friends who may be interested.

I am not going to announce subsequent public sermons in advance. I do not want to get caught in a fixed schedule of topics which may be of less interest than something that is more current as the start of each month approaches. I will welcome suggestions from you, too, as to topics that you think interesting for public sermon discussion.

H.C.M.