

Unitarian Universalist Church
Greater Ellsworth Downeast Area
First Unitarian Society Newsletter

 December 1976

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

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

December Services

December 5 Dr. Meserve
December 12 Dr. Meserve

December 19 Dr. Foote
December 26 Dr. Meserve

Wagon's Alliance

December 1 Business Meeting
December 8 Christmas Eve
Hostess: Annette Bradley, at her home
Refreshments: Eleanor Shea at home of Eleanor Shea

Sexton's Duties

Nov. 28 Dec. 5 Leona Royal and Carrie Dunbar
Dec. 12 and 19 Joan and Lou Collier
Dec. 26 Jan. 2 Thurley and Bob Royal

LOOKING AHEAD

The public sermon on December 5 will deal with the problem of capital punishment and the strange tendency of some states as well as the Supreme Court to revert to a barbarous custom from which many thought we had finally emerged. A discussion will follow the sermon.

There will be special music during the morning service on Dec 19, provided by Elizabeth Beatty and John Moore. We look forward to again hearing both these fine musicians.

Should we add on to our church building NOW ?? Anyone interested in being on the committee to look into the feasibility of doing this should speak to our president, Stan Richmond, soon.

Volunteers are urgently needed to shovel the walks this winter! See Bob Royal and sign up for a two or more week stretch. A good family project, fresh air, togetherness, etc.

There will be a Christmas gathering for all families and friends at the church on Sunday afternoon, December 19, at 4:30 pm. The program will include carol singing, Christmas readings by Dr. Meserve, and a chance for the children and adults to join together in a holiday mood.

Please, would everyone attending bring an ornament for our "sharing tree," preferably one you have made, or one that has special significance. Before leaving, each of us will take a different ornament, to have on our tree at home.

Refreshments will be served; people of all ages are invited.

IDEA: Rather than sending each other numerous Christmas cards this year, why not send or bring just one card to the church, for all? These can be used as festive decoration and can save money, too.

The trustees will meet Mon. Dec. 6, 7:30 AM at the home of Dorothy Berry.

RE. PROGRAM

Child care during the Sunday services has been arranged by Deborah Cravey. Volunteers include Deborah, Audrey Moody, Betsey Roy, and Chris Benedum each month, with Joan Beal and Helen Silver as substitutes. Many thanks!

Periodically, there will be programs or services planned particularly to include the older children, such as the Christmas gathering on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 19 (see details on pg.1). This way, there should be a good-sized group when they do get together.

There is considerable interest in an adult discussion group to start after the holidays, probably during school hours. Unitarianism seems to be a topic of interest, to begin with. Terry Garnett is checking out the interest in this and the children's programs, and would welcome comments (667-5855).

NOTES OF INTEREST

Congratulations to Marjorie and Walter Fuller who celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary Nov. 26!

Gretchen Kamps McKay, daughter of Eddie and Irma Kamps, is now Program Associate with the UUSC in Boston. A special reception was held in her honor at the Quincy, Mass. church where she had been very active in the RE program for several years.

Betsy K. Jaegerman and Russell Worcester were married by Dr. Meserve in the church on November 12.

WREATHS FOR SALE

The residents of the Homestead Project are making wreaths to sell in order to earn Christmas money. Anyone interested in ordering a wreath may call the Homestead Project or see Joan or Richard Beal.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

A vote of appreciation to Eddie Kamps, for his good work as chairman of the building and grounds committee. Distance has forced Eddie to resign, however, and Bob Royal is taking over the position.

Lou Collier reports that the Every Member Canvass is nearly completed. About \$10,000 has been pledged, but that is almost \$2,000 short of the goal set. Cards still out should be given to Ray Royal right away.

A group of members, with the trustees' approval, is financing an experimental weekly classified ad in the Ellsworth American, to inform the general public about Unitarianism. (Phrases to use are welcomed. ed.) We'll see if there is any response.

WE'RE GROWING

With six more new members in November, a total of eleven people were welcomed into the church on Nov. 14. They are Eric and Christina Benedum, Merrill Bunker, Deborah Cravey, Theresa Garnett, Alice McCarthy, Audrey Moody, Clover Morrison, Elizabeth Roy, Charlotte Smith, and Louise Tweedie. They are all interested and active, and we are fortunate to have them join with us.

We hope to get a bulk mailing permit in January. Our mailing list must number 200 for this, so give Helen Pease the names & addresses of family or neighbors who might enjoy receiving our newsletter. The cost will be comparable to sending only 57 copies by first class mail. Now who can help to address them??

Thanks to all who contributed news this month. Remember, the next deadline is Sunday, December 21, 19

Warmest Holiday Wishes to All!

From the ministers:

I wrote these lines on the night of the 11th of the month. They are appropriate for the Christmas season.

Outraged, I will not, I will not,
The better angels of our nature,
Our consciences, our better angels,
Sick beneath the weight of their own
Guilt.

Seeking to be good, to be good,
To be good, to be good,
The good, the good, the good,
The good, the good, the good,

Yes, not only of good,
Wife, not wife,
Call the name and cheer of
Of the fatal human dance.

The child of Bethlehem's house,
All his family and kind
Homeless once again, always,
No rooms in our lives.
Yet still he hammers persistently
Upon the iron door of blunted
—conscience—

The shuttered door where conscience
sleeps
So soundly. Will it ever wake?

Double lock and bar the door;
File furniture against it, anything;
Push with all desperate strength,
And keep it closed.
If he once gets in,
Touches us, even lightly,

Awakes the conscience sleeping there
So that it moves and opens its eyes,
We will awake from troubled slumber,
too,

Throw aside the ugly, hated load
Of blindness, fear, self-love.
The sinister structure will begin
to fall.

... will get down
... the human dance
... and cheer,
... and cheer,
... and cheer,
... and cheer,

... and cheer,
... and cheer,
... and cheer,
... and cheer,

So push with desperate strength
Against the iron door.
If he gets in
To the end
The end of half-life we have known,
The black life we have made.
A new world will emerge,
A new birth will occur,
And that we must prevent
At any cost. So push against the
door.

But what we? Suppose we opened it
instead
And let him in?
What burdens does he bear
Except good news?

H.C.M.