

Unitarian Universalist Church
Greater Ellsworth Downeast Area
First Unitarian Society Newsletter

January 1977



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

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

January Services

January 2 Dr. Meserve
January 9 Dr. Meserve

January 16 Dr. Foote
January 23 Dr. Meserve
January 30 Dr. Meserve

Women's Alliance

January 5 Business Meeting Hostess: Gail Street,
at the church

Sexton's Duties

Dec. 26 Jan. 2 Thurley and Bob Royal
Jan. 9 and 16 Doris and Philip Seal
Jan. 23 and 30 Eleanor and Fred Shea

LOOKING AHEAD

The topic for the public sermon on January 2 will be "Oil and the Souls of Men." Discussion will follow the church service.

Walter Nowick will be the artist at our second winter concert on Sunday, January 23, 3 pm. This should be a wonderful afternoon for all his many friends and admirers, lovers of music in general and piano students in particular, and we expect a capacity audience. As usual, children, accompanied by adults, are welcome.

Have you signed up recently to make coffee after church? The list is in the kitchen.

LOOKING BACK

The Women's Alliance reports that the Christmas sale and supper last November 10 netted \$630.94! Sincere thanks to all who helped to make this such a success.

About forty people, young and old, attended the church Christmas gathering on Dec. 19. They sang carols, enjoyed readings, met new friends, and shared through an ornament swap. Delicious holiday treats completed the day.

Those helping were: Clover Morrison, music; Eric Benedum, tree; Helen Silver and Dr. Meserve, program; Louise Ramsdell, games; and Ingrid Luck, refreshments.

Mrs. Ethel Cary recently celebrated her 90th birthday - congratulations !!

TRUSTEE NOTES

The lot of land east of us (across the gravel road) is for sale, and we've been asked to change the deed to allow 1 or 2 apartments to be built there. Much research is being done by your trustees, and it will be discussed at their next meeting, which is January 3, 7:30 pm, at Dorothy Berry's home.

A committee has been set up to look into the feasibility of adding on to our church building. Lester Wass is chairman, with members Jack Bromley, Deborah Cravey, Ray Royal, and Louise Tweedie.

The trustees appreciate the help of all who provide child care Sunday mornings, an important aspect of the church program.



NEWSLETTER

Our next issue should be mailed under bulk rates, and we must have the 200 names ready by early Jan. So if everyone adds one name to the list, we will easily make it, and will increase our publicity, too. PLEASE - give names to Helen Pease right away.

If anyone has items of general interest, we'll try to include them here. Leave them at the church or with Helen Silver, 40 Union Street, Ellsworth (667-2027). The deadline is the third Sunday of each month, the next one is January 16.

As Gently As Doves

"Great ideas," wrote Albert Camus, "come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear amid the uproar of empires and nations the gentle stirrings of life and hope."

It has seemed to me in recent years that the news is almost always bad. Inflation gets worse. The environment deteriorates. Pollution increases. Crime flourishes. Armaments pile up. Everybody gets older. We can all add our special items to the list of depressing events. We have even reached the point where it is good news if the bad news is not quite so bad as it was last time. Hence, we rush to congratulate the Saudi Arabia oil minister for not wanting to raise the price of oil as much as his colleagues. It is rather like thanking the mugger because he stops hitting us on the head and tries the body instead. If we let ourselves become the victims of the media, the news is indeed almost always bad.

But fortunately there are other kinds of news; and if, as Camus suggests, we learn to listen, we can hear "the gentle stirrings of life and hope." One of the things we can learn to hear is the simple but important truth that most of the people we meet every day, the ones we live with, work with, and touch casually in the occasions of daily life, really want to be friendly and helpful, or, at least, not harmful. Even when they seem annoying, they are seeking understanding and love, just as we, when we are most annoying to others, are convinced that we have their best interests at heart. Some of the quiet good news that is not published abroad is that the world is held together by our small personal loves and loyalties, such patience, understanding, and forbearance as we can express from day to day. People are better as individuals than they are in the mass.

Also there is a great resilience in human beings. We come back from all kinds of disasters, disappointments, and frustrations ready to try again. Each year begins with the feeling that things can be better. Hope assuages our suffering, and rest restores our strength.

My daily reading for the last few weeks has been the Tao Teh Ching in Witter Bynner's poetic rendering. Its ideas are quiet and cheerful. Unassuming, they come into the world "as gently as doves" if we will pause to listen:

The breath of life moves through a deathless valley
Of mysterious motherhood
Which conceives and bears the universal seed.
The seeming of a world never to end,
Breath for men to draw from as they will:
And the more they take of it, the more remains.

There is a clear spring of wisdom available to all, waiting to be discovered and used.

H.C. M.