

# UNITARIAN CHURCH

ELLSWORTH, MAINE  
Sundays 10:30 am  
Phone: 667-4393



DR. HARRY C. MESERVE, Minister  
Box 428, Southwest Harbor, Me.  
Phone: 244-7124

NEWSLETTER  
March 1977

## MUSIC!

Our third and last winter concert is Sunday, March 27, at 3 pm. Toshihiko Kono is coming from New York to join "Mike" Ikemiya in a cello and piano recital. Those of us who heard them last year know we have a treat in store, so come early to be sure of a seat.

While we are on the subject of concerts, may we share one of our problems with you? As you know, we don't charge admission, we don't want to exclude any lovers of music, however tight their budget.

However, we feel our artists must be adequately paid, and with an average donation of one dollar per person this is impossible.

Though our first concert in November was a great success musically, in spite of help from the Commission for the Arts and Humanities we were not able to make ends meet. Therefore, will you help us spread the word that we shall appreciate it if those who can will give as generously as possible, bearing in mind that tickets to most Ellsworth concerts these days cost \$3.50!

The Music Committee

## DISCUSSION GROUP

Eric Benedum and Eleanor Carlson will be co-moderators for the next discussion group meeting, right after church on March 20. Bring your favorite quote (poem, paragraph, etc.) to give us something to think about, whether it's inspirational, humorous, thoughtful, or controversial. Meeting lasts until 1 pm, bring a lunch if desired, and all are welcome!

## SUNDAY SERVICES

March 6	Dr. Meserve
March 13	Dr. Meserve
March 20	Dr. Meserve
March 27	Dr. Foote

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Mar. 2 Business meeting at church,  
Alice McCarthy, hostess

## SEXTON'S DUTIES

Mar. 6 & 13	Emma & Lester Wass
Mar. 20 & 27	Joan & Richard Beal

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## PROGRESS REPORT

Concerning the land for sale across from the church - an informal poll by president Stanley Richmond produced tentative pledges over a one to three year period which totaled only \$4,000, or less than one-third of the amount needed for the purchase. This does not seem enough to justify taking any action now.

If the poll had produced an amount equal to that pledged annually, (\$9,000), it would have been a sign that enough funds would probably have been forthcoming if the church voted to purchase the land.

The church has money in the building fund which cannot be used for any other purpose, and about \$7,000 in unrestricted funds from the sale of the old parsonage. Some members feel these unrestricted funds should also be kept for building an addition, while others think they should be used for buying the land. But at present, it appears that even with the funds, there would not be enough money for the purchase price (\$15,000).

Taking Down the Defenses, a book of meditations by Arthur Foote, has now been published in a new edition by Beacon Press. Copies at \$3.95 each may be ordered by signing the order sheet in the church vestibule

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The minister is available for appointments either at the church office or at your home, if you want him to call. All you have to do is telephone him at 244-7124.

P.S. One of the reassuring events of February is the discovery that people do read the newsletter. We received many concerned inquiries and lots of good advice on what to do about our pipes. So far, they have not frozen again since the last P.S. Thanks for all the suggestions.

H.C.B.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, the minister will be glad to discuss it with you, or you can call Jack or Augusta Bromley, co-chairmen of the Membership committee. We have a new supply of literature about Unitarian Universalist ideas and concerns in the church vestibule rack.

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Philip and Doris Seal will attend a Memorial Society of Maine board of directors' meeting in Lewiston on March 6.

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The trustees meet Monday, March 7, 7:30 pm at Dorothy Berry's. Any constitutional changes to be voted on at the May 4 annual parish meeting should be brought up at this trustees' meeting.

SEXTON'S DUTIES

We thank all of you who have helped keep the church clean during the past year. It is time to make new assignments. Please notify us if you cannot participate, or if you wish to help and are not scheduled. If the dates are inconvenient, try to arrange for a swap and also notify us.

The work involves an hour or two a week vacuuming, dusting and tidying up the sanctuary, toilets, and kitchen. It should be done at your convenience on either the Friday or Saturday preceeding the Sunday date assigned. A key to the church will be available in Ray Royal's mailbox. It should be returned there immediately when the work has been done.

Mark the dates on your calendar. Your participation saves the church much needed funds that would otherwise be required to hire the work done.

Jack and Augusta Bromley

## Looking Ahead

Since I have been in Maine, I have not made it a practice to announce the topics of sermons in advance, though I have always done it in other churches where I have been minister. I have enjoyed the feeling of freedom and openness that goes with letting ideas develop quietly and spontaneously in the mind until they are ready to be expressed publicly. I have not wanted to be committed and structured too far in advance.

At the moment, however, I find there are a few themes I want to discuss rather carefully in the church; and I want people to know about them in advance, in case they are personally interested or know somebody who may be interested whom they can invite to attend church with them. So here are the themes for the sermons and church services for the next few weeks.

Sunday, March 6, will be the customary "public sermon" for the first Sunday of each month. The theme will be Roots. It will be based on Alex Haley's best-selling book, which as a television play drew the largest audience in television history. Why has this story captured the interest and touched the hearts of so many Americans?

March 13 - "Christianity Revisited." Our era has been called the "Post-Christian Age," but Christianity is still alive in a wide variety of forms and expressions, some quite appealing and some quite appalling. We think of ourselves as liberated from Christian dogmatism but in some ways still connected with Christianity, at least historically and culturally. What is the nature of that connection? What should it be? Or should it be at all?

March 20 - "Can Christianity Be Renewed?" Of course it can. Again and again it has been renewed by adjustment to the special needs and situations of succeeding epochs. Will Christianity be renewed? That is another question. What would a renewed and relevant Christianity be like? That is our theme.

March 27 - Dr. Foote will be the preacher. His topic will be "Possessed by Genius," marking the 150th anniversary of the death of Ludwig van Beethoven. On that Sunday I shall be the guest preacher at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville, North Carolina. May and I will be visiting friends nearby.

April 3 - Since this is Palm Sunday and since it is also the Sunday for the public sermon, I shall discuss the theme, "Jesus Goes Public," which, of course, is exactly what he did on Palm Sunday.

H.C.H.