

UNITARIAN CHURCH

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



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Phone: 244-7124

NEWSLETTER August 1977

WORK BEE

A church spruce-up day is planned for Sunday, Aug. 21, after church. Bring a lunch, wear old clothes, and plan to spend the afternoon applying wood preservative and paint, clipping and weeding shrubbery, and otherwise caring for our building and grounds. Horace Pease and Ed Kamps will coordinate the activity. Rain date is Aug. 28.

TRUSTEES

The trustees met July 13. It was reported that the antique chairs at the front of the church will be reupholstered. However, there are no plans to sell any of the church furnishings.

A policy statement concerning changes in the church setting will soon be written.

The trustees meet again at the church on Wed., August 10, 7 pm. As usual, any interested persons may attend.

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The discussion group will join with the spruce-up activities on August 21, and will not hold a formal discussion this month.

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Carol Solenberger, who will provide special piano music on August 7, was the organist and choir director of the Cross Pointe Unitarian Church (Mich.) while Dr. Meserve was minister there.



SUNDAY MINISTERS & MUSIC

- Aug. 7 Dr. Harry C. Meserve
Carol Solenberger, Piano
Aug 14 Dr. Wallace W. Robbins
John Moore, Tenor
Aug 21 Rev. William C. Saunders
Betsy Beatty, Soprano
Lute accompaniment
Aug 28 Rev. Scott W. Alexander
Mike Ikemiya, Flute

SEXTON'S DUTIES

- Aug 7 Ade Conroy & Betsey Roy
Aug 14 & 21 Deborah Cravey and
Theresa Garnett
Aug 28 Jeff & Cathy Jacobs

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The ladies of the Alliance made a about \$500 on their summer sale, held at the church last month. No activities are planned for August.

WELCOME

We welcome our summer guests—both the first- or one-time visitors, and the "regulars" who have returned to us year after year. Any of you wishing to join our church as an associate member (which does not conflict with regular membership elsewhere) should let us know.

Also, we would be delighted to add new names to our newsletter mailing list. A signup sheet is on the table in the foyer.

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Dr. Meserve can be reached during August in case of need at his home in Southwest Harbor.

MOVED

Homer and Sharon Booher, and son Ricky, of Surry, have moved permanently to Sarasota, Florida. Homer accepted a position there last April, and they went down until the school year was over, then returned to Surry to sell their house, etc. in July. Our best wishes for a successful future go with them. Their address is 2236 School Circle, Sarasota, Fla. 33579.

TO THE EDITOR

The following has been received in reply to Dr. Meserve's "Whose Victory, Anita?" in last month's news letter:

..The people of Dade County opted for their right to deny rents to homosexuals- it did not affect any of their civil rights under the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. Homosexuals have the same basic rights as any other group, minority or otherwise. They simply cannot force landlords to rent to them - and is this really an inalienable right?

"Landlords always are 'discriminating.' They choose one person over another for a tenant on the basis of ability to pay, ..absence of children, ..neatness, .. etc. If you were a landlord, would you not want some rights, too, as to who your tenants would be?..."

..To those of us who believe that homosexuality is an abnormal condition, whether caused by hormone, ~~psychological~~, or other problems, there are dangers involved. Of course, there is that argument that sex is just a 'preference'... Carrying that reasoning to its logical conclusion, rape and murder might be a hobby 'preference' for some... So should we not be forced to extend 'equal rights' to these 'people who are different' as well? Homosexuals, hopefully, will be judged on an individual basis - as all people should be. No one should deny them their basic rights, but neither should the normal majority be denied theirs. Rights - yes, privileges - no!"

Theresa Garnett

INTEREST CORNER

One of our few "born-and-bred" Unitarians, STAN RICHMOND, lists his interests as history, especially pertaining to American Indians, and the Civil War. He also enjoys the outdoors, farming, and wood carving. And Stan has recently become increasingly concerned about property tax injustices - does this strike a responsive note? He's at 667-8932, or RFD #3, Ellsworth.

Religious Consumers' Research

In the fall I shall be conducting a seminar on the liberal ministry for students at our Leaville/Lombard Theological School at the University of Chicago. Naturally, during these summer months, I am giving some thought to what I want to convey to these future leaders of Unitarian Universalist churches. I have been around Unitarian Universalist churches for nearly forty years in rural, town, big city, and suburban settings. Presumably, as a visiting minister in residence, I should have some practical wisdom that may be helpful to add to the mass of scholarly knowledge the students are gathering at the school and the surrounding university. My first thought was ~~"what a chance to tell these young people what they need to know."~~ But then, mercifully for them and me, I thought, "That's the way to become an old bore." The first necessity for the enterprise is to make it interesting to the students or consumers. So I shall start by trying to find out what their image of the liberal ministry is, how they see themselves, what they want to be and become as persons and as ministers of religion. Conceivably it may be quite different from my own image of the liberal ministry - as different, perhaps, as my present image is from the one I had when I was ordained in 1938.

Then, being an advocate of consumer rights and education, I thought about the potential consumers these students will encounter when they become ministers in liberal churches. Members of congregations probably do not think of themselves as religious consumers. They are more likely to think of ministers that way, since the minister consumes a substantial part of the church budget. But that is money, and we are talking about religion. In this respect a congregation asks a minister to produce, or point to, or help them discover the deepest and best religious and ethical values.

So it seemed that I might approach my teaching problem this fall by asking members and friends of our church to tell me what they think I should emphasize in my seminar. What would they want young ministers to learn about the religious quest in a liberal church? What are the most important ~~concerns as the religious consumer sees them?~~ What are the dangers, the needs, the opportunities, the marks of doing well or badly? If you have some ideas on any of these questions, let me know, preferably in writing, and thus you can exert some influence on some minister of the future. Who knows? The minister you influence this fall may be your own a few years from now. Also you will help me present a better product to the student-consumers I shall be dealing with. One thing I am sure of: A vital religious community is one where people know they are both producers and consumers, givers and receivers, teachers and learners.

H.C.N.