

UNITARIAN CHURCH

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



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

NEWSLETTER September 1977

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sept. 4 & 11 - Dr. Meserve
Sept. 18 - Dr. Foote
Sept. 25 - Louis Collier

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Sept. 14 - Business meeting
Hostess, Louise Ramsdell
Sept. 28 - Parish supper & meeting
Chairmen: Dorothy Berry,
Gail Strout

SEXTON'S DUTIES

Sept. 4 - Jeff & Cathy Jacobs
Sept. 11 & 18 - Ellie Speare, Helen
Boucek
Sept. 25, Oct. 2 - Fred & Gertrude
Mason

AUG. TRUSTEE'S MEETING

It was suggested that singers in the congregation sit near the organ on Sunday mornings, to be "hymn leaders." No rehearsals or special music, but just a chance to combine forces and maybe provide a bit of harmony on the regular hymns. Let's try it and see what happens.

The treasurer explained that Dr. Meserve will not receive his full salary while on leave of absence.

ALLIANCE NEWS

The Women's Alliance officers for the coming year are: Pres. Dorothy L. Berry; V.P. Augusta Bromley; Sec. Joy Mayo; Treas. Louise Ramsdell. The following are committee chairmen: program, Gail Strout & Catherine Skolfield; publicity, Leona Royal; concern, Gertrude Mason and Phyllis Canfield; telephone, Augusta Bromley; trustees, Dorothy Noe, Ruth Royal, and Gail Strout.

* * *

We thank our summer ministers for their services, and enjoyed the special music each week. It was good to see our seasonal friends and visitors again, too. The only trouble is that the summer is too short. See you next year!

AT THE CHURCH

Wed. Sept. 14 - Trustees meeting, 7 pm. Anyone may attend.
Sun. Sept. 18 - Discussion group, after church. The topic, suggested by Adé Conroy: "Is the human race itself a slow moving, ongoing, ineluctable natural disaster?"
Wed. Sept. 28 - Annual fall potluck supper and parish meeting, 6:30 pm.

PROGRESS

On Spruce-up Sunday, a hard working crew applied wood preservative to the entire church exterior, and also cleaned up the shrubs, yard, and windows. Many thanks!

WILL YOU HELP?

Our president, Eric Benedum, would greatly appreciate some members stepping forward to chair the building and grounds committee, and also the membership committee. As both positions are important ones, and since Eric doesn't yet know everyone's skills and strong points, it would help him tremendously to have some volunteers.

PEOPLE

Stanley Silver, who graduated from Ellsworth High School last June, is attending MIT in Cambridge, Mass. as a math and computer science major. He is the son of Helen Silver and Dr. Randall Silver. Congratulations, Stan!

* * *

Dr. & Mrs. Meserve will be in Chicago from Sept. 15 to Dec. 10, where Dr. Meserve will be the Minister in residence at the Meadville Lombard School of the University of Chicago. Their address will be: 5707 Woodlawn, Chicago, Ill. 60637.

Until mid-September, he can be reached at 244-7124, if anyone wishes to see him at their home or the church

Summer Reading

A recent New Yorker cartoon depicts two businessmen, executive types, walking along a sidewalk in front of a bookstore. The window contains ~~a display of current books.~~ "By God," says one of the men, "this year on my vacation I'm going to read a book." This summer I have taken to keeping a list of the books that I read, and looking back over it I find that I have read several books recently that impressed me.

One was a novel by Anthony Trollope, Orley Farm. It is one of those long, rambling Victorian stories that threaten to bore you at first, but end up by capturing your interest in both characters and plot. This one deals with a law case involving perjury and the inheritance of an estate. It mirrors country life in mid-nineteenth century England among the landed gentry. Of the Victorian authors, I find Trollope most satisfying. He really explores the human condition with understanding and humor rather than sentimentality or cynicism.

Then I have read a cluster of books, six in all, about Islam and, in particular, about that strange sect, the Sufis. They are the counterparts in Islam of the Christian mystics, the Hassidic Jews, the Zen Buddhists, and the more spiritual Hindu sects like the Ramakrishna groups. It came to me that my ignorance of Islam is profound and that I have neglected one of the world's great systems of faith and learning. All religions have inward as well as outward sides. The outward sides are apt to be formal, ritualistic, and often quite intolerant. ~~The inward side is where the universal truths lie and where minds from different cultures and traditions can meet.~~

I read John McPhee's book-length articles on Alaska as they were published in the New Yorker under the title, "Coming into the Country." They fascinated me and convinced me that I do not want to live in Alaska. I'm not even sure I want to visit, but maybe, for a little while. It must be a beautiful but terrifying country.

The summer's greatest adventure in reading, however, is a new book that came to me through a friend. It is by Julian Jaynes of Princeton University. The title is appalling: The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind. But it is, I think, a seminal book. It proposes a whole new way of considering the mystery of consciousness. I have not finished it yet but expect to be thinking about it a lot in the months ahead and probably discussing it.

One quality of a good book is that its themes, images, characters, and ideas get planted in your mind, germinate there, and assume a life of their own. You return to them again and again. Familiarity breeds not contempt, but admiration. In this respect, as in others, it has been a good summer. I hope yours has been, too.

H.C.N.