

UNITARIAN CHURCH

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



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NEWSLETTER
December 1977

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Dec 4 John Bromley
- Dec 11 Dr. Arthur Foote
- Dec 18 Dr. Harry Meserve
- Dec 25 Dr. Harry Meserve

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

- Dec 7 Business meeting; hostess Augusta Bromley, her house.
- Dec 14 Christmas party; hostesses Eleanor Shea and Mona Shea, at home of Eleanor Shea.

SEXTON'S DUTIES

- Dec 4 & 11 Gordon & Louise Ramsdell
- Dec 18 & 25 Chandler and Marion Richmond.

HELP! HELP!

The snow is arriving, and we need volunteers to shovel our walks (the driveway gets plowed). Will you sign up for a week or two, between now and spring? There is a schedule in the foyer.

MEETINGS

The discussion group is changing its meeting time to the fourth Thursday evening of each month, and may also meet in members' homes occasionally, too.

There will be NO meeting in December, however.

For January 26, John Bromley will be presenting "The Case for Atomic Energy," at the church, 7:30 pm.

The trustees will meet on Wednesday December 14, at the church.

WELCOME!

We welcome the Meserves back from their three month stay in Chicago!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

R. E. Chairman Deborah Cravey is planning an informal church Christmas gathering, similar to the one held last year. The tentative date is December 15, 7 pm.

This will be for young and old alike, with readings, carols, games, fellowship, and refreshments.

Everyone is asked to bring an ornament for the ornament swap.

Also, anyone willing to help with the program, or by bringing a tree, or refreshments, should call Deborah by December 10 (667-9416).

PLEDGE DRIVE

Jack Bromley reports that there are only about half a dozen members he has not yet heard from, and if they respond as expected, we should just about meet our goal for the 1977-78 operating budget.

HISTORY BOOKLETS

There are booklets being typed of the History of the Ellsworth Unitarian Church, as presented by the Women's Alliance at the church service, Sunday, October 30, 1977.

The price is one dollar, the money to go toward the church budget for 1978-79. Those desiring a copy may inform Mrs. Dorothy Berry or Mrs. Phyllis Canfield.

THANK YOU!

The antique chairs at the front of the church have been reupholstered in a handsome off-white fabric, which matches the walls. Our thanks to Eleanor Carlson for making this possible.



MAY YOU ALL HAVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Excerpts from a Chicago Diary, October and November, 1977:

October 14-17 - To DeKalb, Illinois, where my son Peter and his wife Jan and their seven-month-old baby Jeffrey David are now living. Peter teaches in Northern Illinois University. His field is zoology. Thence to Horicon, Wisconsin, where in a vast marsh some 30 miles long and 10 miles wide gather at this time of year huge numbers of Canada geese in their annual southward migration. We watched great clouds of them cross the sky in their characteristic V formation. We heard and saw some at close hand. There are so many now that the local farmers are protesting that the geese ruin their corn fields and litter the marsh. Back to Chicago via a Franciscan monastery, where our Unitarian Universalist faculty was holding an all-day retreat to discuss future plans and curriculums.

October 21-23 - To Grosse Pointe, Michigan, to visit some old friends there. It was good to see them and interesting to visit the suburban mecca where we spent nine years of life and ministry. We felt no nostalgia, no hunger to return.

October 29-30 - To Milwaukee to visit an old friend of Kay's, who entertained us in her lovely apartment on the shores of Lake Michigan and introduced us to some interesting people from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee where the old friend is Director of Development.

November 5-6 - To Grand Rapids, Michigan, to preach at the Fountain Street Church. It is an interesting institution. Until 25 years ago it was a Baptist church. But then its minister, Duncan Littlefair, became a Unitarian and led the church out of the Baptist fold, but not into the Unitarian one. Hence, the minister, now planning to retire in a year or two, is a Unitarian; the church is independent. The Sunday congregation was about 1,100. That is a lot of people for us Unitarians. We enjoyed meeting Dr. Littlefair and Verdi Reusser, who had invited us there and has served as an associate with Dr. Littlefair and occasionally attends the Ellsworth church in the summer.

November 11-13 - Somebody at Meadville/Lombard said, "Are you people always away on weekends?" No, not always. We went to downtown Chicago and to the top of the Sears Tower, the highest building in the world, maybe the universe for all I know. The view is magnificent, and we had a clear day, about as clear as it gets around here. The pollution of Gary, Indiana, and South Chicago was clearly visible in a great cloud, hiding everything else in that direction. Otherwise, we saw a lot of lake, city, and prairie stretching endlessly to the north, east, and west. Pretty impressive. Sunday we were taken on a trip around Chicago by my old friend Charles Livermore, who is Deputy Commissioner of Planning for the city of Chicago and a fount of wisdom on the history, development, and urban problems of the city. We saw a lot and learned a lot.

In between weekends we meet with our seminar and preaching workshops, have individual conferences with students, and improve our minds and spirits as well as we can. Meadville/Lombard is a place where many visiting Unitarian Universalists come by. Among these was Emil Gudmundson, a former minister of the Ellsworth church, whom some of you will remember. He sent best wishes.

Peter and Jan will be with us on Thanksgiving, and Jeffrey David will be properly dedicated at the font of the First Unitarian Church. Our friends the Solenbergers (Carol played the piano in Ellsworth one Sunday last summer) will be with us over the weekend in the school's soi-disant guest room. They say they are used to pensions in Europe. We'll see about that.

After the Thanksgiving weekend it will be December, and we hope to be on our way home about December 8. We look forward to Christmas in Maine.

H.C.M.