

UNITARIAN CHURCH

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



DR. HARRY C. MESERVE, Minister
Box 1066, Southwest Harbor, Me.
Phone: 244-7124

NEWSLETTER January 1978

SUNDAY SERVICES

January 1 Dr. Meserve
January 8 Dr. Meserve
January 15 Dr. Foote
January 22 Dr. Meserve
January 29 Dr. Meserve

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Jan. 4 Business meeting at church
Hostess, Gail Strout

SEXTON'S DUTIES

Jan 1 & 8 Stan & Joanne Richmond
Jan 15 & 22 Ray & Ruth Royal
Jan 22 Feb 5 Bob & Thurley Royal

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The Christmas gathering on December 15 was enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks go to Deborah Cravey for organizing the evening! Also to Ingrid Luck for donating the beautiful tree; to Eric Benedum for getting it to the church; to all who brought the tasty refreshments; to Eleanor Carlson for playing the piano for caroling; to Mary Ellen Bromley, Elizabeth Cravey, Stewart Silver, and Helen Silver for their parts in the program; and to all who came, to make it a success!

NEW MEMBERS

Harold and Marjorie Tweedy, of Deer Isle, signed our membership book last month. They have recently moved to Maine from Pittsburg, and we warmly welcome them as the newest members of our church.

NUMBERS

Eric and Chris Benedum have a new phone number - 667-5010.

The Meserves have a new P.O. box number: 1066 (Southwest Harbor).

CONCERT

The second concert of our winter series comes on Sunday Jan. 22, at 3 pm. Walter Nowick will play the piano, possibly with Deborah Moskowitz and/or Mike Ikemiya. As we all know, these superb artists are a delight to hear, and we urge you to come early to get a seat. Generous donations are asked, to enable us to continue with quality concerts such as this.

Next year, the music committee has decided to approach businesses and individuals, asking them to support the series with contributions. If you can suggest names of any potential patrons, please tell Gertrude Mason (667-8931).

DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, Jan. 26, 7:30 pm, the discussion group will hold its first evening meeting. Jack Bromley will present "the case for atomic energy," and discussion will follow. All are welcome.

TRUSTEES' MEETING

The December trustees' meeting was cancelled because of the weather. The January meeting will be at 7 pm Wed. Jan. 11, at the church.

SHOVELERS NEEDED

There are still a few winter weeks needing volunteer snow shovelers. Check the list on the foyer bulletin board. (And many thanks to those who have already signed up.)



The holidays are over. The family visitors and guests have gone back to their own lives. The last Christmas carols have been sung, the last gifts opened. Winter has begun, and the days are getting longer while the cold, following the old saying, grows stronger. An old year has ended, and a new one is beginning. Here we are supposedly sealed away by ice and snow in our remote and frozen portion of the world, which to those who do not know it is somewhere north of the Arctic Circle. It is a time for thinking things over, a time not to hurry, as the earth does not hurry under her covering of frost and snow. Her time to be busy will come, but it is not yet. It is a time to be thankful for simple, useful things: warmth, light, fresh water in unfrozen pipes, a car that starts, gloves and a wool sweater, strong boots and a comfortable jacket. It is a time to enjoy the winter's specialties: the clarity of the stars at night, the sparkling blue of the ocean, the way the mountains look in their snowy scarves, the silence of the world when snow is falling.

It is also a time for tidying up the mind. There are the books one meant to read. There are the letters one meant to write. There is the music one intended to listen to or play when there was leisure. There are the friendly visits. There is the old year to be remembered, its accounts added up, and its joys and sorrows accepted and if possible comprehended. I usually find the best way to start tidying up my mind is to start tidying up my desk, which is always piled with things that have come in that I want to tend to, things I have tended to, more or less, that should go out, and, largest pile of all, "not quite in and not quite out."

The acceptance and at length the love of winter I have found to be acquired tastes. I used to think of winter as my personal enemy. It existed to make me chilly and uncomfortable, to cost me more money, and to prevent me from doing a lot of things I like to do. It has taken me far too many years to find any joys in the cold season. But they are there. The secret is in accepting winter as bigger and stronger than you are. When the northwest wind blows at 30 mph and the temperature falls to zero Fahrenheit, you had better go indoors. When the snow is piled high in your driveway and the man with the plow is at the other end of town, you are not going to that meeting. Forget it. Winter has spoken. I used to think this was an outrage. Now I think it may be a blessing. A lot of meetings have been held without changing the world much for the better; it is also true that a lot of meetings can be cancelled without changing it much for the worse. The way to live with winter is to accept it and do what you can within the limits it sets. There are plenty of things you can do that you may not get around to when spring comes. The other day, while I was buying some winter work gloves, the woman who ran the store said, "Be sure to come in next month. We'll have some lovely rose bushes."

The old cycle is so familiar, so beautiful, so necessary to a sane pattern of life. Let those who want it have Florida. I like it the way it is here. No doubt sometime in February I shall want to take all this back. But never mind. As Emerson said, "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds."

H.C.M.