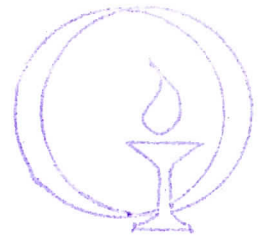


UNITARIAN CHURCH

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



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

NEWSLETTER October 1978

A haze on the far horizon,
The infinite, tender sky,
The ripe, rich tint of the cornfields
And the wild geese sailing high;
And all over upland and lowland
The charm of the goldenrod -
Some of us call it Autumn,
And others call it God.

William Herbert Carruth

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Oct 1 Dr. Meserve (see below)
- Oct 8 Dr. Meserve
- Oct 15 Dr. Meserve
- Oct 22 Dr. Meserve
- Oct 29 Lay Service (see below)

Dr. Foote will be in Greece this month, but will return to speak on Nov. 5. The Meserves leave the end of October for two weeks of visiting family and friends, with Dr. Meserve preaching in San Francisco on Oct. 29.

The Oct. 1 service will be more experimental in format than our usual services, and Dr. Meserve will welcome comments on this afterward. The young families' group, formed last month (story on page 2), will conduct the Laymen's Sunday service on Oct. 29.

Another benefit concert is planned for the land fund, by Betsy Beatty, soprano and Betty Beatty, pianist, in November. Details next month.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

- Oct 4 - Business meeting; Phyllis Canfield will talk about her week at Star Island, in June 1978.
- Oct 11 - Mystery Ride - Ruth Beal and Dorothy Berry
- Oct 18 - Birdsacre - Hostesses Gertrude Mason & Louise Ramsdell
- Oct 25 - Progressive Dinner - Corace Beal & Ruth Beal

SEXTONS' DUTIES

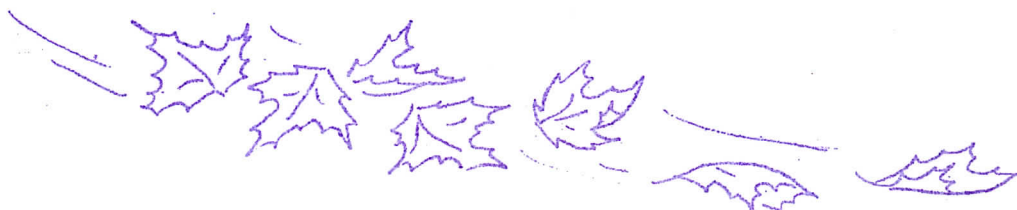
- Oct 1 & 8 Horace & Helen Pease
- Oct 15 & 22 Lester & Emma Wass
- Oct 29 & Nov 5 Gordon & Louise Ramsdell

* * *

Our thanks to those who helped clean, wash windows, and cut dead trees, on the church clean-up day last month.

* * *

Do sign up to serve coffee soon!



R. E. REPORT

At a religious education meeting in mid-September, three programs were decided upon.

First, there will continue to be child care during the Sunday morning services. If eight people sign up, that means helping only once every two months. Volunteers should bring a snack or drink for the children.

The second plan is for classes to be held at the church, on Monday afternoons 2:45 to 4:00, for children 5 to 9 years old. Deborah Cravey will teach, using UUA materials. Call her for more details, at 667-9416. This starts Oct. 16.

New Group to Meet Oct. 15

A third idea was the creation of a group including, but not limited to, young families, which will meet monthly for a Sunday night potluck family supper, informal discussions, and church related activities. The focus will be on the family. Various topics have been suggested - Unitarianism, environmental issues, celebrations, family life, and projects such as contacting similar groups in other UU churches, and fixing a picnic area on the church land.

The first meeting was held Sept. 24, with an enthusiastic turnout, and the next one is 5 pm. Sunday, Oct. 15. All are welcome - bring food, children, and ideas to share about the Laymen's Sunday service for Oct. 29.

DISTRICT MEETING

The Northeast District UUA fall conference and annual meeting will be held at the UU church in Waterville on Friday and Saturday Oct. 13 and 14. Details are posted in the foyer.

We are entitled to send two lay delegates, so anyone interested in going should contact Eric, or Helen Silver right away. Registrations must be in by Tuesday, Oct. 10.

CONCERT OCT. 22

Our winter concert series will begin with Dorothy Rice, harpsichordist, and Nicholas Humez, tenor, performing on Sunday, October 22, at 3 pm. (Posters will be available for distribution on Oct. 8). Other concerts planned are by Walter Nowick with Deborah Moskowitz in January; Mike Ikemiya and possibly Barbara Mallow in March; and the Bangor String Quartet on April 29. As usual, donations will be requested at each of the above concerts, instead of a fixed admission charge for it is felt that in this way, more people are able to enjoy them. However, it is hoped that all who do come will give a reasonable amount, if possible, to keep the program out of the red.

T V SERIES

Public TV is showing a 13 part series on some of the world's great religions, titled "The Long Search." It is on at 6 pm Sundays, repeated at 6 on Thursdays, and is presented in a very interesting manner.

GOOD

Congratulations to Gertrude and Fred Mason, who celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on Sept. 27!

NEWS

John and Debbie Moore, and son Adam, were moving to near Clearwater, Florida, the end of September. We wish them lots of good luck, in their new location.

AND BAD

Ray Royal slipped from a ladder and broke six ribs, recently! He will be home soon, and we hope he has a speedy recovery.

Sadie Smith was again hospitalized at the Bar Harbor Hospital, and then Lewis joined her there when the dog bit his hand, and it would not heal. May both of you be better, and home soon!

Forty Years

On October 5 I shall celebrate forty years in the Unitarian ministry. I was ordained and installed as minister of the First Parish of Cohasset, Massachusetts, on that date in 1938. It was a foggy evening, and three principal participants in the service - Frederick May Eliot, President of the American Unitarian Association; Charles E. Park, Minister of the First Church in Boston; and Palfrey Perkins, Minister of King's Chapel, were driving down from Boston together. As the hour of the service approached and they had not yet arrived, I turned to the fourth principal participant, Vivian Pomeroy, Minister of the nearby First Parish in Milton, who happened to be there. "Don't worry," he said. "They will arrive. Any two of them might get lost, but not all three at once. Let's start the service." So we did.

In those days services of ordination and installation were good for an hour and a half to two hours. There were greetings and advice from many different quarters: the town fathers, the community leaders, the ministers of other local churches, plus notables like the principal participants who gave the prayer, sermon, charge to the minister, and welcome to the denomination. By 8:25 there was still no sign of our VIP's, and we were rolling along through the greetings. I was beginning to get nervous, when the church door was flung open and down the aisle came the missing three, putting on their robes as they came and smiling cheerfully. They took over like the real pros they were, and the service proceeded without a hitch. Park likened the church to the old oaken bucket, the original of which still hung in its well not far from Cohasset. The bucket was a lot of wooden slats bound together by iron bands of faith, hope, and love. It may sound corny now, but it did not at the time. Eliot welcomed me to the "company of the preachers," extolling its breadth, variety, and mighty task. Perkins asked the deity to be tender and helpful to me. Pomeroy told a story about seeing the stars through the clouds and mists of a tragic world. The chairman of the Parish Committee remarked that we were both recent arrivals in places of responsibility in an old church and had therefore better keep our hearts sensitive, our wills humble, and our courage high. He also suggested we might need a sense of humor. It all sounds very quaint and old-fashioned at the distance of forty years. Yet I recall moments of real exaltation during that service.

Looking back, I can see that I made a lot of promises I have not fulfilled as well as I and others might have hoped. Many of my ideas have changed over the years. Many hopes have not been fulfilled. But some ideas and hopes remain. Churches are here to stay. There will be ministers and devoted lay people to work in them. Things can be made a little better by human efforts. People in a religious community can strengthen, comfort, and uphold one another. The intuition that the church stands for something more than itself, more than any person, more than we as yet comprehend, persists. I am grateful for those people who had enough faith in me over the years to help me be a minister. They ministered to me more than I did to them. An old friend said something about the ministry that every minister should remember: "It is a great compliment to a man when a group of people ask him to talk with them regularly about the most important issues of life." If I were to preach at a service of ordination and installation today, that would be my text. Keep it in mind, and you keep both your humility and your courage.

H.C.M.