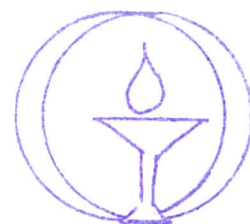


# UNITARIAN CHURCH



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

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

## NEWSLETTER November 1978

Nothing else matters much -  
not wealth, nor learning, nor even health -  
Without this gift: the spiritual capacity  
to keep zest in living.

This is the creed of creeds, the final  
deposit and distillation of all man's  
important faiths:

That he should be able to believe in life.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Nov. 5 - Dr. Foote  
Nov. 12 - Dr. Meserve  
Nov. 19 - Dr. Meserve  
Nov. 26 - Dr. Meserve

### SEXTON'S DUTIES

Nov. 5 - Gordon & Louise Ramsdell  
Nov. 12 & 19 - Chandler and Marion  
Richmond  
Nov. 26 & Dec. 3 - Stan and Joanne  
Richmond

### BENEFIT CONCERT NOVEMBER 19

The third benefit concert for our  
land purchase will be held on Sun-  
day, November 19, at 7:00 pm. The  
artists are Betty Beatty, piano,  
and Betsy Beatty, soprano. Tickets  
and posters will be available at  
the church on November 5, and ev-  
eryone can help by selling and  
posting them.

### WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Nov 1 - Business meeting - bring a  
good joke or a "Believe It  
or Not." Hostesses: Anne  
Black & Alice Mc Carthy  
Nov 8 - Each member bring a friend  
to hear Helen Povich speak.  
Hostesses: Dorothy Noe and  
Gertrude Mason  
Nov 15 - Food sale at the Mall  
Mona Shea & Catherine Skd-  
field  
Nov 22 - Telephone food sale  
Chairmen: Corace and Ruth  
Beal, Eleanor Shea & Sadie  
Smith  
Nov 29 - Christmas Sale (see news  
on page two)

### FAMILY SUPPER MEETING

On Sunday Nov 5, there will be an-  
other young families' group supper  
at 5 pm. Bring food, family, and  
friends. An informal discussion  
will follow.



## ALLIANCE NEWS

The Women's Alliance will be holding their annual Christmas sale at the church, Wednesday, November 29 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The money made at this sale, as well as that from the annual Summer sale determines the Alliance pledge toward the support of the church. Therefore, this Christmas sale should be not only the Women's Alliance sale, but should involve all interested members of this church.

Won't you please contribute toward one or more of the following tables: Apron, Candy, Fancy Work, Food (jellies, relishes, pickles, etc.), Plant and White Elephant table. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated!

## CHURCH SCHOOL

The church's Monday School program has generated considerable enthusiasm during October, and will continue to meet at 2:45 pm each Monday. Deborah Cravey is teaching it, and can provide details for anyone interested (667-9416).

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

This month's Amnesty International newsletter, concerning a student arbitrarily arrested in Chile, can be found on the foyer bookcase.

See Chris Benedum for more details on this worthwhile organization, which protests unjust imprisonments worldwide.

## A NEW SIGN

Thanks to Eddie Kamps, we will soon have a handsome new sign at the end of our driveway, so passers-by will know who we are, when we meet, and who our minister is.

\* \* \*

May you have a Happy Thanksgiving!

## TRUSTEES TO MEET

The trustees will meet on Thursday Nov. 9, at 7 pm. They are preparing a budget for the Jan. 79-80 year, and will have an every-member canvass before January 1.

Meanwhile, the treasurer urges everyone to keep up with their pledging, and to increase, if at all possible, the amount they have been giving. We have several areas of extra expenses with decreasing income, and some major decisions must be made soon.

## UUSC CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee may be ordered through Dorothy Berry. Four designs are available - see the display in the foyer. They are \$3 for 12 cards or 18 postcards, and the UUSC makes about 11 cents per card. Allow two to three weeks for delivery.

## LAY SERVICE A SUCCESS

The Sunday service on October 29, led by Chris Benedum, Jackie Hilton, Audrey Moody, and Helen Silver, was a departure from the usual order of service, and involved the entire congregation in a special activity.

Divided into four groups, those present created symbols to represent various aspects of our church - tangible and abstract, personal, local, and international. Universals, Hopes, Growth, and Roots were all represented, and at the conclusion of the service, the symbols were put onto a banner, which was then displayed up front.

Everyone participated enthusiastically, and cooperated to make a very meaningful program. Special thanks go to those who planned and produced this special lay service, and also to all those who supported it.

## A Religion for All Seasons

Many years ago, when I was just beginning my ministry, the Dean of the Harvard Divinity School, Willard Sperry, used to talk about "the low estate of religion." He meant that at that time, the mid-thirties, religion at least in its established forms was not popular. It was not the first time such a thing had happened, nor would it be the last. It was our task, he would say, to bring to religion as much integrity and enthusiasm as we were capable of, whether the times were bad or good, the popular reception friendly, hostile, or indifferent. If the basic truths with which religion is concerned are true and essential to human well-being, then they must be interpreted in all seasons, whether they are received with joy or with scorn and apathy.

Since those years religion has known a number of ups and downs in terms of public response. Most people were too busy with destruction during the Second World War to pay much attention to religion except as it was judged to be a help to the war effort. But when people began to think about peace, religion seemed important again. The years of the late forties were a time when religion enjoyed widespread attention and popularity. But the Cold War put a stop to that. Peace, it seemed, could not be had merely by wishing, and the price was higher than nations and peoples were ready to pay. The realization that the atom bomb could destroy the whole human enterprise did not scare us into goodness, sanity, and peace. It scared us into trying to get more and more bombs, as if that would make us feel safe. It scared all the other nations in just the same way. The revival of idealistic hopes that followed the war died out in the Cold War and the nuclear arms race.

President Eisenhower revived the idea of religion and churchgoing, and again the churches knew a period of relative prosperity and popularity. But again there was disappointment around the corner, for when religious idealism began to apply itself vigorously during the sixties, first to the civil rights movement and black liberation and then to the ending of the war in Vietnam, religion's fair weather adherents began to fall away again. It seems that while they liked piety on the Potomac, prayer breakfasts, and invocations at public gatherings they did not want religion to get mixed up with such practical affairs as trying to see that blacks got political power, economic opportunity, and social equality. Nor did millions of nominal religionists want their churches and ministers involved in opposing a war, even if the war was by general agreement a tactical mistake and a moral disaster. So the seventies have witnessed a decline in religion of the liberal sort.

Two kinds of churches are growing today: the conservative ones that demand identification of the individual with the group, obedience to charismatic authority, final answers, intolerance of dissent, in short, a new fanaticism; second, the self-help ones that tell the individual to concentrate on himself and his own development to the exclusion of the human community and its claims for justice and love.

I regret that the religious climate is as it is today. It will be hard going for the people of reason and freedom for a while. But seasons change. They have before and will again. The new authoritarianism belongs to the past, while freedom, reason, and love belong to the future. It may be a long cold season, but spring will come.

H.C.M.