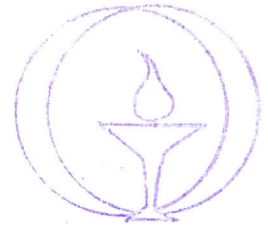


UNITARIAN CHURCH

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



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

NEWSLETTER December 1978

On this blessed day, let us worship at the altar of joy;
for to miss the JOY of Christmas is to miss
its holiest secret.

Let us enter into the spiritual delights which are the
natural heritage of childlike hearts.

Let us withdraw from the cold and barren world of prosaic fact,
if only for a season;
that we may warm ourselves by the fireside of fancy,
and take counsel of the wisdom of poetry and legend.

David Rhys Williams

SUNDAY SERVICES

Dec. 3 Dr. Meserve
Dec. 10 Dr. Meserve
Dec. 17 Dr. Foote
Dec. 24 Dr. Meserve
Dec. 31 Dr. Meserve

SEXTON'S DUTIES

Dec. 3 Stan & Joanne Richmond
Dec. 10 & 17 Helen Silver & Louise
Tweedie
Dec. 24 & 31 Ray & Ruth Royal

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Dec. 6 Business meeting, home of
Augusta Bromley. Hostesses
Catherine Skolfield & Au-
gusta Bromley
Dec. 13 Christmas Party, at home of
Eleanor Shea. Hostesses are
Mona Shea and Eleanor Shea

* * *

The trustees will meet Wed. Dec. 13
7 pm at the church. This and all
trustees' meetings are open to all.

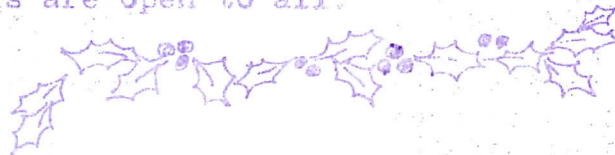
FAIR ON SAT. 9TH

The recently formed young families' group is holding a Christmas Fair at the church on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 am to 8 pm. Several special attractions will be featured, such as a miniature Christmas village, loaned by Joanne Richmond. Her father made it for her when she was a child.

At 11:30 am, a real live MAGICIAN will perform spectacular feats, and later there will be musical entertainment.

The sale tables will be white elephant, flowers, handwork, food, books, and kiddy table. Donors are asked to please put prices on their merchandise.

Anyone willing to help by donating items, time, or talent, should contact Joanne (667-8932), or Chris Benedum (288-4348). Proceeds from this fair will go to help the church's current operating budget.



CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC. 17

On Sunday, Dec. 17, there will be a family potluck supper at 5 pm, followed by an informal Christmas party starting about six. Everyone is invited to come, and to bring a tree ornament to swap.

There will also be carol singing, and those playing musical instruments are encouraged to bring them, too. This is a chance to enjoy some fun and relaxation in the midst of a hectic season!

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The trustees have finally straightened out a bit of confusion about the names on the Memorial Plaque in the foyer. The top group of names (alphabetical) represents those in whose memory money was given to the original building fund drive.

Below this, in chronological order, are names of deceased members and friends in whose memory a total of \$100 or more was donated to the church.

Now, donors may designate for what purpose such contributions may be used, rather than having them restricted to any one project.

THANK YOU!

Betty Beatty, soprano, and Elizabeth Beatty, pianist, presented a delightful concert at the church on Nov. 19. Proceeds go toward the land purchase fund. We extend our sincere thanks to the artists, and to Eleanor Carlson for arranging this and other concerts for us.

* * *

Ray Royal would like to thank those members of the church who remembered him with cards while he was a patient at the hospital, and also those who visited him, both at the hospital and at his home.

HELP!

Snowshovelers are needed to volunteer to keep our walks clear this winter. The driveway gets plowed. Will you sign up for a week or two? The schedule is in the foyer.



GIVE NOW FOR 1979

It has been an interesting and eventful year for our church. We acquired the land adjoining our present lot, thus protecting access to our building and adequate parking space, as well as insuring that no high-density developments will be built in our immediate vicinity.

We have held religious services every Sunday of the year. The Music Committee has presented a number of fine concerts to the community. The Religious Education Committee has initiated a class for children on Monday afternoons.

A group of young adults concerned with family life has been organized and is meeting regularly during the fall season. The Alliance continues its useful and interesting programs and its generous support of the church.

A number of community groups make use of our facilities for a modest rental.

We have lost some friends and gained some new ones. Our newsletter goes out to nearly 200 people in Maine and across the country.

The church depends for its life and growth on the support of all its members and friends. A campaign for our 1979 program is going on now. Everyone is urged to give in the degree of his interest and the measure of his ability.

Each gift is urgently needed and will be deeply appreciated.

NEWS

~~Eric and Chris Benedum~~ are now the proud owners of a genuine HOUSE - at 1 Wescott Avenue, Bar Harbor, 04609. They even have a telephone, too - 288-4348. Congratulations!!

PREPLANNING

Doris Seal reminds everyone that she can provide information about the Memorial Society of Maine, a group which aids members in preplanning funeral arrangements. Contact her at 963-7061 for further details.

Christmas List

Here we are on the far side of Thanksgiving, and Christmas is only a month away. It will be here before we know it, and then gone before we realize. The principal thing about preparation for Christmas is to make a list. Here is mine:

1) I must get ready three recognizable Christmas sermons for use on December 3, 10, and 24. We will have our Christmas service at the regular hour on Sunday, December 24. It may be hard to get special music then, but let's make our own. Arthur will preach on December 17.

2) In pursuance of 1) above, I must pick out nine or more Christmas hymns and carols that people like and that are in the book. Any suggestions?

3) I must learn the music for the Verdi Pater Noster, the Robert Shaw Christmas carol arrangements, and the Christmas portion of The Messiah for the choral concert to be held on December 15 at St. Saviour's Church in Bar Harbor and December 16 at the Hancock County Auditorium in Ellsworth. Not that I am so essential to the chorus. But if I am to be there, I ought to know what I am trying to sing.

4) I must choose some gifts for a very few special people. I am fortunate to have an inventive and imaginative wife to do most of the choosing for or with me, but what about her gift?

5) I must communicate Christmas greetings to many people: letters and phone calls to loved ones in far places, visits to some nearby. Christmas is a happy time, but I know it is also a sad time for many - the sick, the lonely, the troubled. Being a New Englander myself, I hesitate to press my calls on anybody, but if a visit from me would help, I hope that person will let me know. Real caring is available without being intrusive, present but not fussy.

6) I must send checks to a number of institutions and causes to which I have given over the years, modestly but regularly. I must not forget the church. Nor must you.

7) I must count up the many blessings which have been given me, past deserving or even desiring. I find a lot of things in the world I might fuss about. But on the whole life has treated me well so far, and I am luckier than most men, if not richer, wiser, or better. Christmas, after all, celebrates a gift, and we have all received so many.

8) I must not let myself get hurried, tired out, worn down by the various holiday activities of a social, convivial, gustatorial, or even ceremonial nature. As Susej said, "Too much merrymaking maketh the heart weary and the belly sick."

9) I must read over the early chapters of the gospels of Matthew and Luke with some care and slowly. I know they are more part of the Christian myth than of history. But myth is the essence of life itself. Our myths bind us into the long human past that was there before our specific cults emerged. The sooner we realize that, the sooner we shall realize human unity and peace among peoples and nations.

10) No matter how busy I may be, no matter what unexpected demands, opportunities, pleasures, or disasters may befall me, I must try to keep my heart and mind open daily to the truth beyond all speech, the beauty beyond all sight, the music beyond all hearing, and the wisdom beyond all explanation, the treasures we can touch only when we are quiet enough to be open and receptive. They are the gifts of the Magi.

Fra Giovanni said it well to his friend in Florence at Christmas time in 1513: "At Christmas I greet you . . . with profound esteem, and with the prayer that for you, now and ever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away."

May that day break for all the human family. May and I send our greetings.

H.C.M.