

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 July 1979

SUNDAY, JULY 1

On Sunday, July 1, the service will be led by Arthur and Marjorie Dole of Wynnwood, Pennsylvania. Professor and Mrs. Dole are concerned about the impact of cult religions on our society with particular emphasis on the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon. Their experience of the teachings and methods of this group is expressed because their daughter has been a member of the Unification Church for nearly four years. They will discuss some of the issues involved in discriminating against brainwashing and the practice of religious liberty. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

PRELUDE: FRANKIE

- July 8 Alice Phinney, violin
Linda Nease, voice
- July 15 Carol Leighton, piano
- July 22 D. De Berry, recorder
Betty Berry, organist
- July 29 Annie Hilder, guitar

SEATONS: MURIEL

- July 8 Carol Collier, soloist
- July 15 Gillian, organist
- July 22 ...

SUNDAY SERVICES

- July 1 Arthur and Marjorie Dole
Wynnwood, Pennsylvania
A special presentation on
the cult phenomenon
- July 8 The Rev. Malcolm R. Sutherland, Jr., The Unitarian
Church, Harvard, Mass.
- July 15 The Rev. Roy's Williams
First and Second Church
Boston, Massachusetts
- July 22 The Rev. Eibridge F. Stone-
ton, First Unitarian
Church (Emeritus), Exeter,
New Hampshire
- July 29 The Rev. Jack B. Corbridge
Unitarian Society
Warehaster, Massachusetts

VACATIONING

Dr. Meserve is on vacation during July, August and will preach again in Sunday, September 2. The Meserves will be at home in Southwest Harbor most of the summer. Dr. Meserve can be reached in case of need at 244-7124. The mail address is Box 1066 Southwest Harbor, Maine 04863.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The Women's Alliance annual summer sale will be held at the Church Wednesday, July 18, from 8:30 to 5:00 pm. Your donations toward our sale will be on the tables will be and come from Candy, Fancy Foods, Maple, Plants and White Elephant. Your patronage too will be appreciated. Money made at this sale and our Christmas sale determines our pledge to the church budget.

TRUSTEES

At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to Eleanor Carlson expressing our deep appreciation of her long and devoted service as Chairman of the Music Committee and our expectation of having the benefit of her help and guidance in the future.

A committee is being formed for the purpose of assembling a panel of ushers to include both men and women. Volunteers will be sought beginning in July.

On Sunday, November 11, at 7:30 pm Midge Rowbotham will present a slide show and lecture on her recent visits to China. This will be a church benefit occasion and open to the public.

All members of the congregation, and especially members of committees, are welcome to attend Board meetings. The next meeting will be held at the church at 7:30 p.m. on August 1.

FLOWERS

Joanne Richmond, flower committee, has listed the following contributors of our May-June flowers:

May 6, 13, 20 John Raymond's plant was brought to the church by Thurley Royal.

May 27 Mrs. Carlson's Arrangement
June 3 Mum Plant in memory of the respective parents of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mason.

June 10 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Mason

June 17 Irises by Mrs. Dorothy Noe

June 24 Wedding Arrangement from Silver, Everett Wedding

Those who wish to contribute flowers for future services, should call Joanne at 667-8932.

NEWS

Stephanie Martha Silver and Richard Kevin Everett were married by Dr. Meserve in the church on Saturday, June 23. Stephanie is the daughter of Mrs. Helen Silver of our church and of Dr. Randall Silver of Ellsworth. Stephanie and Richard will make their home in Washington, D. C.

Our best wishes go to Stephanie and Richard. Also best wishes to her brothers. Stewart graduated from Ellsworth High School as Salutatorian and will enter the University of Maine this fall. Stanley will be a junior at M.I.T. and is studying in the area of avionics.

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Ethel Cary is in Collier's Manor and we wish her well.

THANKS, AUGUSTA!

Dot Noe, who has become a new member of the Building and Grounds Committee, has taken over the assignment of Sextons' Duties. Any and all questions should be directed to her at 31 Elm Street, telephone 667-8849 or when Dot is on vacation, to Bob Royal, telephone 667-8228. Augusta Bromley has been doing this chore since she volunteered several years ago. She deserves much credit for such a long term of voluntary service. Thanks from all of us, AUGUSTA.

MORE THANK YOU'S

To Stanley Richmond for setting up our new amplification system.

To Leonard May for his renovation and improvement of the pulpit.

To the Women's Alliance for \$250 toward the Public Address System.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Deadline for August newsletter will be Friday, July 27.

"Not Past Our Understanding . . ."

For the time being my favorite hymn is a poem by the Unitarian poet John Holmes. It is called "The People's Peace," and it is from a collection of Holmes's poetry, Map of My Country. In our hymn book it is number 179. It seems to be the popular favorite in our church, based on the number of people who have spoken to me about liking particular hymns. Nobody has yet been recorded as not liking it.

What I like about the poem is its simplicity and modesty. When I was a boy, I used to go to church with my parents, and I suffered many things from many preachers then and later on in the course of my education. One thing I suffered was hearing a lot of sermons about "the peace of God which passeth all understanding." The preachers used to extol this spiritual treasure as something we could not earn or deserve but might receive through grace. Hence, I was impressed and refreshed when I saw Holmes's line: "The peace not past our understanding . . . a thing too simple to be tried as truth." I suppose that the peace that passeth understanding might be what religions have meant by such phrases as "union with God," "the soul on fire," or in eastern terms nirvana, satori, ecstasy, the annihilation of the self. For ordinary people, and that includes me, this is pretty heady stuff. We shall have to wait a long time for any of these "peak experiences," as Abraham Maslow called them. In fact, there just may not be time enough for us to find out what the profoundest insights and revelations are all about. We may have to make do, in short, with "the peace not past our understanding."

Such a peace may not be the ultimate peace, but it can still be pretty good, and a lot better than some of the things we have known. For example, I am persuaded that almost any peace in the world of human relations and on the international scene is better than none. Whatever imperfections an existing peace may have, as long as it exists, it contains the possibility for improvement, because it makes room for communication to continue. Once communication is abandoned between people, groups, or nations, things can only get worse. In fact, on the large historical scene we must fear most those leaders and prophets who claim to have discovered a kind of peace or truth or righteousness that we ordinary people cannot understand. So in social, political, and international matters I am for as much peace as we can get, imperfect as it may be. We can call it "the peace not past our understanding," remembering that if we can understand something, we may eventually understand more.

In more personal terms, if people would settle for things they can understand and live with rather than chasing rainbows in the form of impossible dreams, they might be both happier and more humane. The world is full of modest treasures and of the peace not past our understanding: a beautiful view, a garden that produces tolerably well, a small boat, a night's sleep, a good dinner, a moment of love or laughter or memory or shared appreciation, a quiet walk, a good book, the sound of music, and hundreds of other special things. These are all present for us to enjoy and understand.

I wish everybody a good summer, whatever trials may be ahead, and sense enough to recognize and enjoy the peace not past our understanding.

H.C.M.