

UNITARIAN CHURCH

ELLSWORTH, MAINE
Sundays 10:30 a.m.
Phone: 667-4393



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

NEWSLETTER August 1979

KINDNESS

I shall pass through this world but once;
if therefore there is any kindness I can show
or any good thing I can do
to any fellow-being,
let me do it now;
let me not defer it or neglect it;
for I shall not pass this way again.

--Source unknown

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Aug. 5 The Rev. Robert A. Storer
Unitarian Society (Emeritus)
Winchester, Massachusetts
- Aug. 12 The Rev. Robert Zoerheide
First Unitarian Church
Baltimore, Maryland
- Aug. 19 The Rev. Ralph N. Helverson
First Parish (Emeritus)
Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Aug. 26 The Rev. Irving R. Murray
First Unitarian Church
Toledo, Ohio
- Sept. 2 The Rev. Timothy W. Ashton
The Universalist Unitarian
Church
Brockton, Massachusetts

SEXTONS' DUTIES

- Aug. 5 & 12 Horace and Helen Pease
Aug. 19 & 26 Gordon & Louise Ramsdell

MUSIC PROGRAM

- August 5 Johanna Whitmore will be
doing all the service
while Clover Morrison is
away.
- August 12 Bayka will play the piano.
- August 19 "Mike" Ikemiya, piano
Sarah Smith, violin
- August 26 Kristin Lindley, violin

TRUSTEES

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

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

The Women's Alliance summer sale held Wednesday, July 18th, was very successful both financially and with outside patronage. The Alliance is most appreciative for the help of Raymond and Robert Royal and Fred Shea who set up the four large wooden tables and after the sale putting them away and putting the sanctuary back in its usual order.

The first meeting of the Alliance for 1979-80 will be held September 12, at the church, with Adelle Day and Louise Ramsdell as hostesses.

VACATIONING

Dr. Meserve is on vacation during July and August and will preach next on Sunday, September 9. 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 04679.

LENDING LIBRARY

A lending library is now located in the Northeast District Office. Loans up to three weeks, renewable if there is no waiting list, may be arranged by writing or calling:

Northeast District UUA
10 Congress Square, Room 508
Portland, ME 04101

Phone: 773-2121

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If you'd like to recommend a particular book, outstanding record, or the like, space will be provided in future newsletters for brief write-ups on such topics. Send to Audrey Moody, 26 Beal Avenue, Ellsworth, Maine 04605.

A film processed by one of the pioneers in color motion photography will be shown to the public and members of the Cordelia Stanwood Bird Club when the club meets Aug. 1 at the Unitarian Church at 7:30 p.m. The film, one of a kind was photographed by Margaret Bodine a friend of Ms. Stanwood for many years and a summer resident of Northeast Harbor. The material, now owned by the Stanwood Wildlife Foundation, has been organized into a one-hour program that includes detailing studies of the nestlife of more than a dozen species of birds, feeding station activity, time-lapse photography of flowers and beautiful surf sequences of Ocean Drive at Acadia National Park.

1979 Conference Calendar

STAR ISLAND

- Aug. 4-11 United Church of Christ Conferences. Family and concurrent young adult (post-high school age) conferences.
 - Aug. 11-17 United Church of Christ Conferences. Family and concurrent youth (high school age) conferences.
 - Aug. 17-19 Weekend Conference of the Laity. A United Church of Christ sponsored weekend.
 - Aug. 20-26 Life on a Star Conferences. Two six-day conferences for families, individuals, youth, and children, with theme speakers and full program for all ages.
 - Aug. 26-Sept. 1
- Address: The Star Island Corp.
110 Arlington Street
Boston, Mass. 02116

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Deadline for September newsletter will be Tuesday, August 28.

Lost Moorings

It was bound to happen sooner or later. One night last February, as I reconstruct the event, the wind was blowing 30 to 40 knots out of the northwest, the temperature was about -5 F., wind chill factor about -50 F., the ice in the inner harbor about a foot thick but moving around with the winds and tides, when the light line that held our buoy to the engine head mooring on the bottom was severed by the moving ice. The buoy, caught on the surface, was blown away to heaven knows where, to be picked up by some beachcomber this summer. The rest of the line dropped to the bottom and rests with the mooring and chain somewhere in the mud and kelp down there.

Late in the spring we called the harbormaster and reported our loss. Yes, he knew about it. Any chance of finding it? Might be; he'd give it a try. Where shall we put the family's sailboat? Don't worry. Tie her up to the float, and he'll find a place for her. He was as good as his word, and so far this summer Bullseye number 505 or, as she is sometimes called, Makai V, has been on some mooring. One belonged to a lobsterman, and he needed that for his boat. One belonged to a man who was moving away and taking his mooring with him. One, the present one, belongs to somebody, but we do not know to whom. Never mind, says the harbormaster, we'll find out.

Meanwhile we have spent some time "draggin' for it," and so has the harbormaster, but so far without result. It has been interesting. You go to the harbor at low tide, row back and forth over where you think the mooring might be, and probe around with a long pole with a hook on the end. We have caught quite a few things, mainly kelp, but no mooring as yet. It is remarkable how strange and different the inner harbor appears early in the morning when the water is calm and the tide is at its lowest ebb. You can see the bottom clearly, and you know your mooring is there, but where?

Being an incorrigible maker of analogies and seer of symbolic meanings, I have been reflecting that your mooring is rather like your god. On cold, stormy, fierce nights gods tend to get torn loose. The aftermath is that you look out and see where the god was; you know it is still there somewhere; but you cannot see it or make connection with it. You try other people's moorings, but they are good for only a short time. In the end you must find your own mooring or get yourself a new one.

Some people say that you don't really need a god anyway, but I think that is like saying that a boat does not need a mooring because its business is to sail, not stay at rest. But you can't be sailing all the time any more than you can be a person in motion all the time. Sometimes you have to reach down to some safe and solid foundation that holds you steady. That is what a mooring is all about, and that's what a god's function is: to hold whatever is connected with it steady and headed up into the wind.

One of the best things ever said about moorings is in the Epistle to the Hebrews (6:10). Considering the role of hope in life, the author, believed by some scholars to have been a woman, says: "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." An anchor is a portable mooring that you can carry with you and drop down to make connection with the solid bottom. An anchor is for travel. A mooring is more like home. But I shall stop here before my line of analogy is parted.

I hope your moorings are holding, whether they are temporary or permanent. I hope if you have lost one you find another. Above all, I hope you value and hold fast to whatever moorings you have. Nobody can get along without them.

H.C.M.