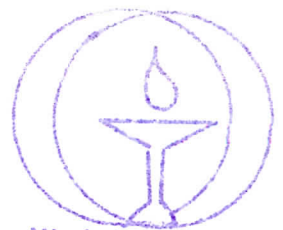


UNITARIAN CHURCH

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



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

NEWSLETTER December 1979

PULPIT SCHEDULE

December 2 Dr. Foote
December 9 Dr. Meserve
December 16 Dr. Meserve

At this service there will be a special Christmas Coffee Hour to honor guests and new members of the Church.

December 23 Dr. Meserve
Special Christmas music will be provided by Masonobu Ikemiya and a chamber music group.

December 30 Dr. Meserve
An informal service to consider ideas and opinions from members of the congregation about our church and its responsibilities.

Dr. Meserve is available at his home in Southwest Harbor, 244-7124. He will be glad to meet with members and friends of the church by appointment at the church or to call at their homes if they wish. Please let Dr. Meserve know of persons who are sick or shut in and would like him to call.

PERIPATETIC MINISTERS

On November 11, Dr. Foote delivered the sermon at the service of installation of the Reverend Charles Reinhardt as minister of Winchester Unitarian Society, Winchester, Massachusetts.

On December 2, Dr. Meserve is guest minister at the Unitarian Church of Germantown, Pennsylvania.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meeting of December 5th, will be held at the home of Lester Wass, 5 Sargent St. Ellsworth, at 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Dec 5 There will be no meeting.
Dec 12 Christmas Party at the home of Eleanor Shea
Hostesses: Eleanor and Mona Shea

At the November 7th meeting it was voted to give the church \$1,000 toward the budget with future financial help if necessary.

Eight shut-ins, members of the church, will be presented with a gift to brighten their Christmas.

SEXTON'S DUTIES

Dec 2 Bob & Jackie Hilton
Dec 9 Lester & Emma Wass
Dec 16 Lester & Emma Wass
Dec 23 Chris & Eric Benedum
Dec 30 Chris & Eric Benedum

CONCERT

Pianist, Baycka Voronietzky, will perform Sunday, December 2, at 3 p.m. at the Hancock County Auditorium, Ellsworth. Suggested donations, \$2.00.



CHRISTMAS PARTY



At the Church, Sunday, December 16 after the service, our Christmas Party will be held for guests, friends, and members of the Church. The little ones from Sunday School will sing songs, accompanied by Helen Silver, followed by carol singing with everyone. Please bring a homemade (if possible) ornament for the tree; after the singing, each will go to the tree for an ornament swap. Fun! Refreshments will be served: sandwiches, cookies, coffee and juice. Yum! A basket on the table in the foyer is for small donations to take care of a few necessary supplies for these refreshments.



TO DECORATE THE CHURCH

Send your season's greetings to all your friends in the church by hanging up your card in the place provided in the church vestibule. This way you can save money and cards, help decorate the church for Christmas, and share your greetings with everyone.

PUBLISHERS AMONG US

If you look on page 24 of the November 1979 Audubon Magazine, you will find an article, "Squire of Birds Acre," with a fine picture of Chandler Richmond.

In the Friday, November 26th issue of Maine Exchange, a bi-weekly newspaper published in Blue Hill, you will find an article, "Surviving the Life," by Nancy Guy...her first publication!

NEWS

Phylis Harris will be leaving Albuquerque, New Mexico, in June to join her husband, Bob, in London, England. The children, Jennifer and Michael, are doing fine. Jennifer is riding a horse on her grandfather's ranch! Their address until June is Mrs. Robert E. Harris, Box 328, LaPlata, New Mexico 87418.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Deborah Cravey reports happily that some of the older church members have stopped in at Sunday School to let the children become acquainted with them, and vice versa. Irma and Eddie Kamps have provided a nice photograph of themselves for the children.

During January, February, and March, Deborah will be available only one Sunday a month for Sunday School. As we did last year, mothers or others in the Church who will volunteer to hold Sunday School, please sign the paper on the kitchen door.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Friends and relatives of Mrs. Fred Beal, (Ruth to her friends), had open house Sunday afternoon October 28th to celebrate her 90th birthday. Well over a hundred town's people came to celebrate the occasion. Ruth Beal was president of the Women's Alliance for many years in the old church situated where Dunkin Donuts now stands. She still is an active and interested member. We wish her good health and happiness in her future years.



MUSIC

Once a month the music committee presents special music for the Sunday morning service. On November 18th, David Mills of Ellsworth on guitar and Georgia Beattie of Blue Hill played folk songs at the service.

A FILM

A film, "War Without Winners," will be shown at the church on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. This film explores the dangers of nuclear war in today's world. It is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and People For Peace.

NEWSLETTER deadline--December 23rd

SEXTON'S DUTIES-1980

We thank all who helped keep the church clean this past year. Here are the new assignments, based on past experience. If the dates are inconvenient, please try to arrange a swap, then notify Dorothy Noe (667-8849). If you cannot participate, or are not scheduled and you can take a turn, also please notify Dorothy, promptly. If Dorothy cannot be reached, Audrey Moody (667-5829) has this list and will try to accommodate you.

The work involves an hour or two a week vacuuming, dusting and tidying up the sanctuary, kitchen and toilets. It should be done at your convenience on either the Friday or Saturday preceeding the Sunday date assigned. If you call Ray Royal, he will leave the key in his mailbox. It should be returned there immediately when the work has been done.

Mark the dates on your calendar. Your participation saves the Church much needed funds that would otherwise be required to hire the work done.

Thank you!

Dec 23 - 30	Chris & Eric Benedum
Jan 6 - 13	Phyllis Canfield & Dorothy Berry
Jan 20 - 27	Augusta & Jack Bromley
Feb 3 - 10	Julie & Bill Bromley
Feb 17 - 24	Eleanor Carlson & Adé Conroy
Mar 2 - 9	Marguerite & Irving Copp
Mar 16 - 23	Audrey Moody & Deborah Cravy
Mar 30 - Apr 6	Ruby & Maurice Crews
Apr 13 - 20	Nancy & Phil Guy
Apr 27 - May 4	Jackie & Bob Hilton
May 11 - 18	Ingrid & Julius Luck
May 25 - June 1	Ann Black & Clover Morrison
June 8 - 15	Joy & Leonard Mayo
June 22 - 29	Dorothy and Bob Noe
July 6 - 13	Joan Collier & Helen Boucek
July 20 - 27	Helen & Horace Pease
Aug 3 - 10	Louise & Gordon Ramsdell
Aug 17 - 24	Marion & Chandler Richmond
Aug 31 - Sept 7	Joanne & Stan Richmond
Sept 14 - 21	Betsy Roy & Ethel Schwalbe
Sept 28 - Oct 5	Ruth & Ray Royal
Oct 12 - 19	Thurly & Bob Royal
Oct 26 - Nov 2	Doris & Phil Seal
Nov 9 - 16	Eleanor & Fred Shea
Nov 23 - 30	Helen Silver & Louise Tweedie
Dec 7 - 14	Emma & Les Wass
Dec 21 - 28	



Dark of the Year

It is that time of year when the sun rises late and sets early. Day is a long time coming, and we have been up a while when the sun first appears. By midafternoon daylight is on its way out again, and the sun is dropping behind the western hills before four o'clock. It is one of nature's more engaging paradoxes that she reserves this dark time of year for some of her more spectacular sunrises and sunsets. We have noticed at this darkening season of the year that the sky takes on a reddish gold color that it achieves at no other time. The light lingers a long time, as if reluctant to let go of what day remains, and there are always a few golden trees still in leaf that glow in the fading of the light. Day does not exactly take Dylan Thomas's advice and "rage against the dying of the light." But it lingers, holds back, and seems to say to night, "What's the hurry? There are fourteen hours of virtual darkness ahead. That should be enough. Let's enjoy the beautiful transitory time when light and darkness meet and mingle."

But the sunrises are best. They happen from our house right in front of us, across the cove and on out across the harbor to the open sea. For a few days the sun comes directly out of the water, and that is a noble and moving sight. We wonder why the water is not boiling and steaming with all that heat and light emerging from it so suddenly. But mostly the sun comes up for us from behind the islands and the wooded points of land that make our cove. First it sends lavender, pink, and gold streamers up as if to let us know that things are about to happen. The dark clouds begin to shine and swimmer in the moving light. The west becomes as bright as the east. Then the sun appears, a great orange ball, sometimes almost red, seldom hazy and yellowish as it is in summer. The water turns from black and gray to green and sometimes blue. The creatures of day, like the ducks, the gulls, the crows, the bluejays, start about their business. We get up, too, glad that that old heater in the sky will help us warm the house today, raise the dough for the bread, dry the wood, and perform a lot of other chores that need doing. One week in November, when the sun was bright but the temperature low, I sat for meditation each morning on the deck for a half hour without feeling cold at all.

There is something nice about the dark itself. Outdoor work has to stop by four o'clock at the latest. The evenings are longer. The darkness wraps itself around the house, a little island of warmth and light. There are books and periodicals to read, letters to write, telephone calls to make, music to listen to and play, the fire to tend, and, best of all, time to talk things over in a leisurely way. Every now and then on cold clear nights I step outside, just to make sure that the customary lights of the neighborhood are at work and doing their special things, and, of course, also to check on those distant lights in the sky, those rays of light that started on their journey toward us millions of years ago and are just now reaching us. If the moon is out, there will be a streak of shining water on the cove. Even if there are clouds, there will be a soft glow of light that seems to touch the clouds and spread out over the land. The dark of the year depresses some people. I can understand that. It does not depress me. It suggests to me what the painter George Fox called "the ocean of light that flows over the ocean of darkness."

H.C.K.