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# UNITARIAN

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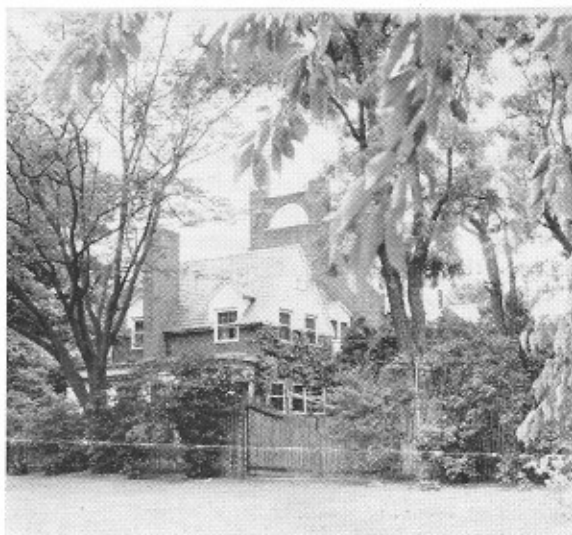
WASHINGTON, D. C.

## *It Started on the Telephone*

It was a rather unusual call! The man at the other end of the wire said he needed a little help. He and some of his friends wanted to start a new Unitarian Church! He didn't know very much about Unitarianism; hadn't attended our services; but anyway, he would like to come over and talk with us about the possibilities. He and a few of his friends did.

That was the beginning early in 1955 of what is now, four years later, the vigorous and growing Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. For more than a year it has had its own Minister, and as of April 15 has acquired the ten-acre central core of the Merle Thorpe estate, about three miles south of Alexandria. The area purchased has five or six buildings, including the manor house which will be used by the Minister and for religious education purposes; a guest house which has a large room seating nearly two hundred, to be used for services; a five-car garage, toolhouse, greenhouse, and so on. Beautifully located and landscaped, on high ground overlooking the Potomac and adjoining Hollin Hills, the unusual development where a large percentage of those interested reside, this fourth Unitarian Church in the Washington area with its own building promises to grow and flourish quite as successfully as have its predecessors.

It has taken a lot of devoted effort. There was the first tentative announcement in the Hollin Hills newsheet; then a Sunday evening meeting in one of the schools, and a Committee and the search for a place of meeting. It did not take



long to prove that Holiday House with its modest little chapel was inadequate to the needs of the group, but it had its charm, too, as well as its problems, and the year there with the service coming over the telephone line from All Souls developed strength and esprit de corps as a firm basis for later advance. Then the year in Hollin Hills School, still with the telephone line, and the search for a full-time minister. When Ernest Sommerfeld came in November 1957, there were 123 members and the School of Religion had 155 children. Little more than a year later, as the change to the new location is made, there are 199 members and 237 in the School of Religion.

Yes, All Souls has helped—a little—and the Greater Washington Committee for Unitarian Advance (now the Greater Washington Association of Uni-

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- Pattersons' (CH 8-7151) for directions.
- Sunday, April 19, 6:00 P.M.  
Wayfarers, monthly dinner meeting. New officers will be elected. Speaker: Dr. Howlett.
- Tuesday, April 21, 8:30 P.M.  
20-30 Club discussion meeting. Speaker: Dr. Howlett, "The Latest on the Dead Sea Scrolls."
- Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 P.M.  
Business and Professional Women's Club, monthly dinner meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Harry Van Cleve, "The Overseas United States."
- Thursday, April 23, 8:00 P.M.  
20-30 Club to D.C. General Hospital for blood donation.
- Friday-Sunday, April 24-26  
Wayfarers, weekend at Champion, Pennsylvania.
- Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25  
Joseph Priestley Conference (Unitarian churches from Philadelphia to Mount Vernon) at the Unitarian Church of Montgomery County.
- Saturday, April 25, 8:00 P.M.  
The Dyad, game night at the Snodeys'.
- Saturday, April 25, 8:30 P.M.  
Pierce Hall Folk Dancers. Springtime Party Night, with special features and refreshments.
- Sunday, April 26, 4:00 P.M.  
20-30 Club picnic for Carrier Boys, Rock Creek Park.
- Sunday, April 26, 7:30 P.M.  
Town and Country Club, monthly dessert meeting. Speaker on the D.C. school situation.

#### IT STARTED ON THE TELEPHONE

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tarian Churches), and with a loan to match All Souls', the Community Church of New York. But the real credit goes to the men and women of the Mount Vernon Church and now also to its Minister. And a special award is due the man who made that first telephone call, Joe Remington! You started something, Joe, and we congratulate all of you as you enter upon this new era in the life of the Mount Vernon Church. We would like to receive a few more such telephone calls!

#### CURRENT PROBLEMS' FORUM

Pierce Hall

##### "A LOOK AT LATIN AMERICA"

Chairmen: Mrs. Lynn E. Eldridge, Mr. Henry H. Smith, Mr. H. K. Bosley

April 5—"Where Is the Good Neighbor Policy?" Dr. Tennyson Chang, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.

April 12—"Latin America's Role in World Affairs." (Speaker to be announced.)

April 19—"The Economic Scene in Latin America," Mr. John Barber, Foreign Service Officer, Department of State.

April 26—"Political Realities in Latin America," Dr. Harold Davis, American University.

A feature of the seventh Annual Banquet of the Greater Washington Association of Unitarian Churches, held in Pierce Hall on February 27, was the presentation of the first Greater Washington Meritorious Layman Service Award to our own Laurence Carlton Staples. The citation, beautifully engrossed, reads as follows: "For outstanding service in the promotion and advancement of the aims and principles of Unitarianism by his contribution to the growth and strength of All Souls Church, to the establishment of new churches, and to the advancement of the Denomination, regionally and nationally, and by a life which exemplifies the ideals of our liberal religious faith." The presentation was made by Everett Roberts of the Fairfax Unitarian Church. Mr. Staples responded in appreciation, citing his association of nearly forty years with the Church, his wide acquaintance in all the churches of the area, and his good fortune in the choice of wife and family as the secret of his success. In fact, perhaps it should have been a Mr. and Mrs. award!

New members numbering 54 were welcomed into the membership of All Souls Church on Palm Sunday, March 22. This group brings the present total to 1370, which is 2.4 percent below the figure last April, but substantially above the membership at the time of Dr. Howlett's coming in December.