

P. O. Box 4037  
Madison, Wisconsin

Vol. 3, No. 3  
October 7, 1970

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. at the YWCA, 31 N. Pinkney St.

October 11 - "Up Against the Wall, or Where Do We Go From Here?"  
- Dave Meyer

Some personal thoughts and reflections on the current status of social change toward social justice.

October 18 - A celebration of the value of international community: songs, dances, and foods of many lands. This program is the annual UNESCO lunch which we are expanding into a day of joyous celebration and some thoughtful reflection on the U.N. and the state of world government (for want of a better word). Wear your dancing shoes and togs.  
- Coordinated for children and adults by Hermine Davidson and Dave Meyer

#### MINISTER SHARES THOUGHTS ON RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

A religious community such as the Prairie has many common functions for and among its members. The first and most obvious is that it becomes an extended family. Such a family is a place in which we support and care for each other and feel such support and care in return. There are always many ways of showing this concern: we may vigorously defend someone in the public arena who has taken a stand on, for example, free speech in the public schools; we may try to help someone cope with a personal problem such as the failure or disintegration of a marriage; we may even get extremely angry at a person and be honest in our expression of that anger. (such feelings, though often taboo in our society, may well affirm the value of another by letting them know where you stand with each other); we may conflict with someone so strongly that there seems to be no ground to meet on (that we continue to argue with each other is in itself affirmative, in that we still take the other person seriously and think their opinions important enough to try to change). Certainly, a religious community comes together to celebrate some common feelings and values; but in a secular, worldly church such as ours celebrations may take many forms, though all will function to point us along certain directions or toward certain subjects, to pull us together in these thoughtful concerns (if not in the private answers we may evolve to given issues). Thus a religious community as a celebrating family challenges, excites, irritates, goads, supports, cares for, doubts, nurtures, infuriates, etc. its members.

But in order to do all these things and to keep them going, any religious community must come together, must know each other well, must have frequent contact (not just Sundays) among members. And the opportunities for this contact need to be several and varied, so that many interests, talents, and tastes may become involved. To that end I would like to propose (I can hardly believe it has taken me this long to get to these simple suggestions!) three such opportunities: a Prairie play reading group, a Prairie music group (whether your tastes fall towards Bach, Beethoven, or the Beatles, towards hymn singing or folk singing) which might either listen to or perform music for their own delight, and Prairie circle dinners (groups of five to eight adults who rotate being hosts for dinner over a period of months or weeks, each host supplying the main dish and beverage with other people bringing other things according to pre-arranged menu); periodically the groups would shift so that everyone got to be with many other people during the year). The next two Sundays we will have sign-up sheets for these three opportunities to come together; the sheets will be by the membership book. If you are interested but can't come to the meeting, call us at 221-0255. Hoping to see you all grasping chicken legs while singing with histrionic gusto some sentimental lieder!

Dave Meyer

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER? at Upham Woods.

Join us at Upham Woods on the weekend of October 23rd (Friday evening) through October 25th (Sunday noon).

The tentative program is:

Friday evening - fun and games for all ages, shapes and life styles - kids and grownups.

Saturday - during the day - nature hikes, lectures, discussions on ecology as well as informal get togethers of all kinds.

Saturday evening - Prairie square dancing led by Allemande Charlie Davidson and his pardner, Hoe Down Hermine.

Between sets we'll be holding our annual Prairie Dog Talent Show. Any Prairie or First Society member who can juggle, sing, play an instrument or recite The Face on the Barron Floor is urged to put his (or her) best or worst foot forward. (Contact George Calden if you have some ideas or would like to participate).

Sunday, late morning - Prairie service led by Dave Meyer. The service will consist mainly of readings brought in and read by everyone attending. Don't forget to bring your favorite poem, prose, chant or article that has meaning for you - that you wish to share with the group.

Bring musical instruments, canoes, sporting equipment and anything else that will help make our Upham Woods weekend a memorable one.

LAST CHANCE The last day for Upham Woods reservations is Sunday, Oct. 11. Those desiring to come Sunday only may have lunch (let us know by Oct. 18) with us for \$1 per person or bring their own lunch.

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EAT FOR UNICEF

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When: after the Sunday morning meeting on October 18th.

Where: YWCA - religious education rooms

Why: we will eat very simple potluck together and donate the price of a well-balanced lunch to UNICEF.

What to bring: a staple food -- potatoes, rice, bread, beans, corn -- be imaginative. Drink furnished. **YOU MUST SIGN UP AT CHURCH OR CALL KAREN PETERS - 233-7716.**

High School Group: Sunday, Oct. 11, Walk for Development. Call in how far you walked before Saturday, Oct. 17. 222-4280 (Ask for Liese) You are being sponsored by members of the adult group.

The 6th, 7th, & 8th grade class will not meet Sunday, Oct. 11 because of the Walk for Development.

MEADVILLE 125th ANNIVERSARY LECTURES

Lectures and discussions at Meadville Theological School in Chicago will be held Oct. 12, 14, 19, 21 and 22, in a series entitled "Revolutionary Challenges to Religious Liberalism." Call Elinor Loucks at 271-6623 for specific topics and lecture times.