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

March 11 - Peaks and Pitfalls -- The Search is the Thing
- John Hampstead

March 21 - A program on religious art and social change presented by Dave Meyer

March 28 - Neil Shadle, Asst. Prof. of Public Ministry at Meadville will speak on some of his social concerns in political actions

April 4 - A Freedom Seder

April 11 - Family Easter Service

BASIC ELEMENTS OF A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

In attempting to find some criteria with which to maintain a continuing evaluation of my ministry in the Prairie, those of us on the Ministerial Relations committee have come up with four aspects of a religious community with which I should involve myself. The committee felt that the Prairie as a whole might benefit from not only knowing these, but being able to think of them in the light of their own activities, concerns, and involvement. Here they are:

1. The sense of community: This feeling carries with it a kind of emotional comfort, a knowledge that you're at home, that the people in your religious group are your people. I like to use the metaphor of the extended family, for it allows not only for a kind of warmth, identification, and frequent association, but also for the fact that some members of an extended family don't get along with each other and avoid each other like major pollutants. We can't all get along, but we can still all be together enough to be home.

2. The concern for fundamental issues: Nowhere else in our culture do we have places where we ask and are asked questions at the bedrock of life. Sometimes the university or the political party will relate to these questions in one area or another, but never to the whole, never to the faith ecosystem if you will. Whether the question is What is real? or What must I do? or Is there something of basic value in a particular situation? or What do we mean by beauty? or Who am I?, all of these questions are appropriate and important in a religious group. I often call this second function the Place for Theology, because all questions at such a fundamental level are theological questions.

3. The stage for celebration: Most of us certainly understand the celebrative and ceremonial functions when they are focused on rites of passage (birth, death, marriage, etc.). Holidays also serve such a function, not only in relating us symbolically to a tradition and to each other, but also to certain values and feelings which are fundamental. Such celebrating of the foundations of life, thought, faith, etc. (sometimes as the hoped for and believed in, sometimes as the real) lies at the heart of the celebrative function in religion, whether rites of passage, holidays, or our regular meetings.

4. The reach into the world: Social action, community concern, whatever you call it, this is the way we relate ourselves actively to the rest of the world in attempts to make the hoped for and believed in of our values the real. In a sense
we might talk of this social concern and action as the practical counterpart to our
symbolic celebration.

But I think that all of us—find our involvement and our needs somewhere in these
four areas; perhaps only one, perhaps all of them are important to any individual.
But we as a group must have all four in order to be a whole community.

Dave Meyer

PARISH MEETING - MARCH 14; 8:00 P.M.: WCA:

The Prairie Society board is going to have to make some decisions and formulate some
recommendations for your consideration concerning the future of the Society. We
cannot accomplish this without knowing how all of you, who are members and friends of
the Society, feel about certain matters regarding our future. Please help us in two
ways. First: fill out the questionnaire that was in the last newsletter concerning
location of the Society, and return it to one of the board members. Second: attend
the parish meeting on March 14 and express your opinions and concerns about Prairie's
future. We could well be at a turning point in our development which may influence
the character as well as the size of the Society. You don't have to be a member to
express your feelings, so friends of the Society should be encouraged to participate
in the parish meeting. Attendance at parish meetings gives new persons an insight
into the nature of the Society that can never be obtained on Sunday mornings.

Joan Burns

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There has been a change made in the spring class for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades begin-
ing March 14. There will be one combined class taught by Leslie Miller and Karen
Peters on the "Language of Religion" covering a variety of religious expressions
such as music, art, symbolism, architecture, and ritual. There will be trips offered
on several Saturdays with Lilé Koehl and Dave Meyer to explore such places as a Zen
garden and a Roman Catholic church in Sauk City and a Greek Orthodox church in
Milwaukee. Interested adults will be welcome on these trips.

Sex Education for 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders Parents of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will
meet with Mark and Nancy McElreath at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, March 14 at the Y. Parents
will be familiarized with sex information material which will be used in Sunday
School starting March 14th and parents will be urged to share their concerns about their
child's sex information.

High School Group -- meet at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, March 14; at the Y. Planning will
begin for AV project. Bring pictures and ideas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Music Group will meet at the Goldens', 1606 Waukesha St., Friday,
March 19 at 8:00 p.m. Bring songs, voices, instruments; anything else of musical interest.

The Play Reading Group will meet at Cox's, Saturday, March 27 at 8:00 p.m. Take the
beltline west to Old Sauk Rd., turn left and drive about 3/4 mile. They live in a
yellow brick farmhouse at the end of a very long lane on the right as you head away
from the beltline. If you come to the corner with the church, you've come a bit too far.

CAN AND BOTTLE PICKUP: This Sunday, March 14 will be can and bottle pickup at church.
Like the last time it will be at the Fondue Chalet parking lot across the street from
the Y. People will be there with containers to put your bottles and cans into between
10 and 10:30 a.m. Separate cans and bottles, and separate bottles into clear, green
and brown colors, and remove the metal caps from the bottles.

Questions call Ellie Friedman 257-3385 or Rosemary Drewry 258-4382.