

Box 4037
Madison, Wisconsin

221-1065

Vol. 3, No. 18
May 19, 1971

Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. at the YWCA, 101 E. Mifflin St.

May 23 - "New Blossoms in the Prairie" -- this Sunday we celebrate the new faces in our midst. We will try to examine some of what it means to be in Prairie, where we hold deep and meaningful common values and experiences, what makes us a community of faith rather than a social club.

May 30- "The Prairie Blow-up" -- a parish picnic at which we will have a short ceremony for the year's end (with balloons; hence "Blow-up"). Everyone is requested to bring their own utensils and food to the Davidsons', 2210 Waunona Way, around 11:00 a.m. We will have fun at the Lake Monona shore. If the weather is bad, please call Davidsons' at 222-4280, Caldens' at 233-5717, or Meyers' at 221-0255 for further instructions. We will have a rain plan.

As we near the end of our church season at the Prairie we must be looking both forward and backward. The annual meeting this Sunday, May 23, offers us an opportunity for some perspective in both directions, for it is at this time that we will be electing our board for next year and considering some of our future plans. In regard to these plans, the board hopes to be able to make some recommendations for housing the Prairie. During the few days following the annual meeting, Charles Eddis will be here consulting with me and with members of both the new and old boards. Through these consultations we hope to be able to look back on the year we have had, evaluating our successes and failures, in order that we might do better next year.

Perhaps I should fill some of you in on who Charles Eddis is and why he particularly is coming to consult with us. Charles is the minister of the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois. I worked with him last year as a student associate. But our relationship extends back beyond that, for it was in the Evanston church that Pat and I first became Unitarians several years ago. Thus Charles was a major influence in our decision and has been an ongoing point of reference, advice, and conversation as I have moved into the U-U ministry. He was on a six member seminar on professional goals and training with me last year at Meadville and is a continuing consultant with me, particularly concerning my work in the Prairie. It was in this capacity that he offered to come up to Madison, for I had written to him and talked with him at some length regarding Prairie and some of our problems and difficulties.

In the past Charles has worked with two fellowships in which he was the first minister. In both cases his work was very successful (which success in fellowship is quite uncommon among our ministers). As we face our problems of growth, economics, and the maintenance of a still warm, informal, and intimate community, Charles' experience may be invaluable to us. Charles comes as a favor to me, in the hope that he may help me to work more effectively and in the hope that all our Prairie People might help in this increased effectiveness, for this is clearly a venture of the whole community, not just its minister or a few committee chairmen. For this reason, those of us who have organized this visit (mostly the Ministerial Relations committee: John Miller, Ruth Calden, and Bob Koehl) want to encourage anyone to come to the various meetings indicated on the schedule below. If at all possible, we would greatly appreciate it if you would let the contact person know that you plan to attend a given meeting, as the hosts need some estimation of how many to anticipate. We would also like to encourage everyone to attend the social gathering at the Caldens', 4606 Waukesha, on Tuesday, May 25 at 8:00 p.m., as well as the annual meeting at Ted and Rebecca Clark's on Sunday. Both of these times will afford people opportunities

to talk with Charles, to communicate concerns and interests and just to get to know him.

Committee Meetings:

1. 9:30 Monday morning, Ministerial Relations and Long Range Planning, Popover Room, Wisconsin Union. Contact person: John Miller, 257-0966/262-2449
2. 2:00 Monday afternoon (tentative), Membership at Caldens', 4606 Waukesha. Contact person: Ruth Calden, 233-5717.
3. 8:00 Monday evening, Program at Franks', 5609 Kroncke Dr. Contact person: Boris Frank, 271-4557.
4. lunch Tuesday, Finance. Contact person: Bob Siegfried

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On Sunday, May 23, grades Kindergarten through 5 will be going to James Madison Park for group activities. The 6th, 7th & 8th graders will be going on a bike hike.

ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY MAY 23 AT 7:30 P.M. at Ted and Rebecca Clark's, 1134 Waban Hill. All members and friends are encouraged to come. There will be social time after the meeting. The main items of business, as previously announced will be the election of new officers, and consideration of board recommendations concerning housing for Prairie.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: In the previous Newsletter the nominations made by the Committee on Committees were listed. Nominations for any office may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained. Nominations for the Committee on Committees are made from the floor at the Annual Meeting and three persons are elected to this committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Play Reading Group will meet at Parrish's, 302 Glenway, Saturday, May 22 at 8:00 p.m.

The multi-media presentation by Al Nettleton and Dave Meyer will be presented at the Friday Night Service of the First Society at 6:45 p.m. on May 21. They finally came up with a title, "The Garden is Open".

Remember to attend the Spring Folk Festival at the First Society, Saturday, May 22 from 1 to 11:00 p.m. The Arts and Crafts Co-op will have a sale and there will also be a plant sale. You may wear a costume or devise one when you arrive. Bring a musical instrument if you play one. There will be fun, music, and food for all ages.

This Sunday, May 23 will be can and bottle pickup in The Fondue Chalet Parking Lot. Bring your cans and bottles between 10 and 10:30 a.m. Questions call Friedman's; 257-3385

The Evening Alliance will hold a potluck picnic at the home of Dorothy Custer, 5737 Cedar Pl. (Crestwood) at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3.

The newly elected board will meet for the first time on Thursday, June 3, at 8:00 p.m. at the Woerpels', 4833 Holiday Dr.

The deadline for the final Newsletter for this church year is Sunday, May 30.