

The LAST TWO PROGRAMS until September; Portal Foster Center, 10 a.m.:

May 14 - Mothers Against War. Slides from the "Electronic Battlefield" will be shown. Coordinated by Jane Hammatt.

May 21 - "I will arise and go now..." by Dave Meyer. A farewell to Prairie.

SPRING PARISH MEETING SET

All members and friends of the Prairie Society are urged to attend the May 21 parish meeting at 8 p.m. at the Portal Foster Center. Business will include election of officers for 1972-1973, ByLaw changes, election of committee on committees, and approval of the recommendation for three rotating ministers.

DAVIDSONS TO HOST ANNUAL LAKESIDE BASH

Come picnic, swim and boat at the Davidsons' lakeside home, 2210 Waunona Way, on May 29. Bring your food, drink and utensils---outdoor grills will be available. If the weather is good, come at 2 p.m.--if bad weather, plan for a grand evening INSIDE starting at 5 p.m. For more details or directions call the Davidsons at 222-4280.

SAVE ALUMINUM

The Environmental sub-group of the social action committee has been concerned about the loss of the Coca Cola Recyclery and the fact that the city of Madison only recycles steel cans with their magnet. Of all the commonly used metals, aluminum takes the most energy to smelt out of its ore (whopping doses of electricity) and is easy to remelt and reuse. Consequently, it seems to us the one most worth recycling. Besides, we can get (more or less, depends on market) 7¢ a pound for it, just to encourage virtue.

So. We will have a truck at the Davidsons' Monday May 29 to take aluminum to the reclaiming works. Bring your pop cans, baked goods trays, frozen food containers, etc. They must be clean, and it's easier if they're flat. To get aluminum price, the material must ALL be aluminum. (no mixed items, no steel cans)

If you aren't sure about a can, crush it. An aluminum can is soft enough for anyone to crush in one hand. If we get enough response to be worth it, we can make a recurring thing of this.

Barbara Willard.

From time to time we all write cheques for five or ten dollars in support of a worthy cause. How enjoyable it was to spend that much for the Prairie Emergency Fund and have fun doing it. As a result of the auction---fun--and--games evening last Saturday night at Ted and Rebecca Clark's the Prairie Society will add \$120 to the FATHER SHAW EMERGENCY FUND. Many thanks to those who organized the activities, and a special thanks to the Clarks for hosting such a grand party.

The question of whether Prairie is going to have a minister or not, once again confronts the group. I want to say at the outset that I am quite impressed, as an interim solution, with the rotating lay-ministry proposal made by the soul searching committee. The proposal contains an imaginative concept which should give Prairie some time to decide more explicitly what sort of direction it wants to go with its ministry. However, I must emphasize that I think that this proposal is only valid as a temporary one, as a stopgap; if Prairie is to survive as a viable religious community, it must move to full-time ministerial leadership. And let's have no more of this part-time idea; such a job description (part-time) is an illusion, for there is no such thing as part-time ministry unless the minister lives out of town and only comes to the group for weekends and special occasions. "Part-time" is an economic expediency, not a real assessment of the job or the needs of the Prairie community.

But what is "the job?" Perhaps it can be best described as a person who has devoted himself to the religious life, both his own and his community's. Not to religiosity and pietism, not to compulsive rituals and wish fulfilling escapes from reality or the world, but to the religious life: this means, first, devotion to increasing wisdom about and understanding of the basic nature and source of reality and meaning; second, struggle to deepen our subtlety and delicacy in our perceptions of what we need to do in our daily lives (ethics based on the religious insights of the first idea); and third, groping for greater human interaction and awareness (both of self and others) which emerges as an unexpected and unearned gift out of the sincere and diligent pursuit of the first two ideas. Whatever the style of a minister, whatever his particular ways of working, he must constantly be orienting himself toward the religious life or he is not working (at least as a Minister).

I think that one of the central ways this work occurs in a religious community is through the Sunday Meeting. This is the only time which is held in common by the entire community: only here can the community as a whole find the devotion, struggle, and growing necessary for their continued religious life. If the minister is to do his job, he must have continuing, frequent access to the Sunday Meeting. The kind of circumstance under which I have tried to function (with increasing frustration), a situation in which I am contractually agreed to only average one service per month, so obstructs and effectively curtails my ministerial job that I have to assess my work here in the Prairie as quite restricted and marginal in its success. I believe very strongly that the Prairie must actively and rapidly pursue the goal of a full-time minister in order that many of the elements of the religious life about which I write may be facilitated, for the labor required to fulfill these needs in the Prairie cannot be sustained for long by the rotating lay-ministry.

Prairie, as a whole, must come to terms with itself, must face the difficulty of the task (which is also its task); there is a great temptation to assume a death sophistication, and wisdom which are simply not real. Blithe self-congratulation based on either arrogance or insecurity. I believe we in Prairie fail more often than we succeed at the religious work which is our central function. This is not so much a condemnation as a confession, for there is nothing horrifying about such a failure: it is only when we convince ourselves that such a failure is in fact a cussess that we are in deep trouble.

In the long run I think that the Prairie must stick its neck out and call a minister simultaneously with making a firm and irrevocable commitment to getting the money to pay him or her. The Prairie must then risk enough on its own judgment (for only the Prairie decides whom it will call as a minister) to give the woman or man you call, free reign to fulfill the ministerial task as best as and in the manner appropriate to that particular person as minister, including much more frequent access to Sunday Meeting, and with the understanding that the religious life is what you are about.

Dave Meyer

PORTAL-FOSTER BASEMENT SALE SATURDAY MAY 13 FROM 9 TO 3

WANTED: 1. Things To Sell - dishes, kitchen equipment, pots and pans, small, light weight occasional furniture, toys, books, sports equipment, plants, curtains, bedding, gourmet foods (contributions of homemade products for gourmet food counter. NO CLOTHING please but accessories are welcome e.g. purses, belts, jewellery. Please bring all contributions to Portal-Foster Center between 1 and 5 p.m. Friday, May 12.

if you are interested.

3. Items to Borrow - card tables to be used for temporary sales counters. Please label them with your name and call Hermine if you can loan one and are willing to bring it and pick it up.

Any other suggestions: telephone Hermine Davidson at 222-4280 on Thursday (TODAY) afternoon or evening and Friday morning before 10.

2. People To Help - we would like to have salespeople for 2 hour shifts between 9 and 4 on Saturday. Please call Hermine Davidson 222-4280

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The social action committee met with LaVonne Rader, new director of the Portal-Foster Center, to explore ways that the Prairie Society might become more actively involved in the program of the school. The following is a list of areas where LaVonne could use our help: public relations expertise to help spread the word about the program; babysitting to free the families for some time to themselves; landscaping the playground; volunteers to work either in the program or maintenance of the school; families to "adopt" a child to take with them on field trips, outings et

The Community Emergency Fund of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church needs more furniture for low income families---resettling families of the Mexican-American community and some foreign student families. Most needed are bed frames and mattresses. Call Avis Parrish 238-1725 or Syndey Mannering 238-2829 or St. Vincent de Paul for immediate pickup - 257-0672.

The social action committee will meet at 7:30 p.m., May 15 at Sydney Mannering's house, 3202 Bluff St.

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An evening SAUNA, SWIM, and LUNCH is planned for May 19 at 6.p.m. at the Karakjal Inn in Mount Horeb, Wis. There is no kid pool, so only adults and swimmers should plan to attend. You may buy tickets at the desk--we'll meet you in the sauna. For more information call Lilo Koehl, 233-7383.

BOB AND LILO KOEHL ARE GRANDPARENTS with the birth of Rainbow Lisa, April 27 in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. The parents are Jerry and Elli Koehl.

The playreading group will meet at the Nettletons', 1556 Simpson Ct., Apt. 8 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 28.

FOUND: At Ted and Rebecca Clark's after fund-raising party - 3 balls crochet string, 1 small plant, 1 loaf of bread.

Prairie Unitarian Universalist
Society of Madison
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Patricia Goutley,
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Sunday meetings at 10 a.m. Portal-Foster Center, 1806 West Lawn Ave.
David Meyer, minister.....221-1065
