

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 11

April 26, 1973

Upcoming Events:

- May 6, Sunday 10 a.m.----- "What do we stand for?" led by Bob Koehl. The program involves a panel discussion about group commitment attempting to answer the question, "Do we really stand for anything as a group?"
- May 13, Sunday 8 p.m.----- The annual Prairie Parish Meeting is to be held on Sunday May 13, 8 p.m. at the Portal Foster Center. Election of officers, consideration of Lay Ministers and director of R.E. for next year, amendment of by laws, voting on "Bond of Union," etc. The final agenda will be mailed one week prior to the meeting. If you have items for the agenda give them to Al Nettleton before May 1.
- May 13, Sunday 10 a.m.----- "Feeling and Intelligence" led by Bob Koehl and Vivian Meyer and featuring the Blazing Sun Rock Band. Small group activities and large group activities will be included.
- May 18, Friday 8 p.m.----- First society invites all Prairie members to attend a Folk and song fest at their church.
- May 20, Sunday 10 a.m.----- The last meeting of the year. "Affirmation-Confirmation." The Willards assisted by Bob Koehl will lead a celebration of Prairie renewal on the Prairie site (unless it rains)*

* Meeting at Portal Foster in case of rain.

Directions to the Prairie site:

Take Whitney Way south to Raymond Road. Turn right on Raymond Road, proceeding one mile west to point where Raymond Rd. forks southwest (intersection with Gammon Road.) Turn into farmyard on right before intersection and proceed up the hill to summit.

Applause! Applause! For all the 55 people who made the annual fund-raising affair for the Social Action Committee such a fantastic success. Special thanks to those who brought their genuine treasures to be auctioned off so entertainingly by Ted Clark and George Calden; thanks to Rebecca French for her splendid job of organizing the whole she-bang; and a big gold star for the Willard family in total for the major jobs of bartending, cooking and collecting the auction monies. Would you believe the Prairie Emergency Fund is richer by \$264? More than double last year's effort. Thanks to everyone for making this possible

Rebecca Clark

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What Do We Stand For? by Bob Koehl

Does the ~~Prairie Society~~ have a collective commitment of any kind? Can it be said to have such a commitment, unless it is collectively meaningful in the community? It is obvious that many of us as individuals feel and act committed in the Madison community (and in a state or national context). Yet it is part of our ethical tradition (Unitarian, Protestant, Jewish-Christian...) to stand together publically as a church for the causes the values and people who hold meaning for us. From time to time Prairie programs address themselves to public issues, and our Social Action Committee has regularly sought to involve us in on-going activities, with only minimal results. We have contributed regularly for more than a year to an emergency welfare fund, if modestly. Are we basically satisfied with ourselves as a collective within the wider community? Should we be? Is it realistic to try and become more to Madison than we presently are? Is it honest to call ourselves a concerned community (one definition of a church) on the basis of our present behavior?

Trinity?

Three chairs
that crowd our room
3 x 3 x 3 x 3
are three alone.

Walden Hall
full of warm
connections

Alone apart
in touching
distance

Watch the outdoors in
hear the children
howl like wolves
separate

We sing the same hymn

Ester Hauser Laurence