HAPPY NEW YEAR!! AND REMEMBER THE PRAIRIE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Sunday programs will be conducted ON SCHEDULE!! We will begin promptly at 10:00 A.M. and end promptly at 11:15 (with informal discussion following at coffee). Thank you.

FRIDAY
7 Jan.
Deadline for U.U. Singles Weekend registration. See issue of December 19th for details, or call John Zahn at 274-0183 (evening) or 257-2211 (day).

SATURDAY
8 Jan.
6:30
THE PLAYREADERS will meet at the home of Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place (233-5795) for potluck supper and reading of Butley, by Simon Gray. It is imperative that you call about potluck arrangements, otherwise the potluck will not take place.

SUNDAY
9 Jan.
10 AM
RELIGION AND SOCIAL CLASSES: THE RELEVANCE OF KARL MARX, led by Warren Hagstrom.

MONDAY
10 Jan.
7:30 PM
BOARD MEETING, at Portal Foster. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

SUNDAY
16 Jan.
10 AM

SUNDAY
16 Jan.
10 AM
WHAT DOES RELIGION MEAN TO YOU? DO YOU DEFINE YOURSELF AS RELIGIOUS? Discussion coordinated by Warren Hagstrom. Everyone will have a chance to talk, so come prepared to discuss your ideas of what "religion" means and how "religious" or "non-religious" you would characterize yourself.

SUNDAY
30 Jan.
10 AM

SUNDAY
30 Jan.
10 AM
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY
2 Feb.
7:30 PM
PROGRAM COMMITTEE meets at the home of Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood Place. Phone: 233-5795

SUNDAY
6 Feb.
10 AM
PROGRAM TO BE LED BY JANE FARWELL from Folklore Village. Games, etc. beginning at 10 AM. Potluck dinner at noon. After dinner, games, etc. into the afternoon.

SUNDAY
13 Feb.
10 AM
NATURE AND THE AMERICANS—Lois Hagstrom's Bicentennial Slide Show
You have seen Italian organ-boys holding a dancing-ape by a long cord. Just so, from the ship's steep side, did I hold Queequeg down there in the sea, by what is technically called a monkey-rope, attached to a strong strip of canvas belted round his waist.

It was a perilous business for both of us. For, before we proceed further, it must be said that the monkey-rope was fast at both ends; fast to Queequeg's broad canvas belt, and fast to my narrow leather one. So that for better or for worse, we two were wedded; and should poor Queequeg sink to rise no more... the rope should drag me down in his wake. So, then, an elongated Siamese ligature united us. Queequeg was my own inseparable twin brother; nor could I any way get rid of the dangerous liabilities which the hempen bond entailed.

So strongly and metaphysically did I conceive of my situation, that while earnestly watching his motions, I seemed distinctly to perceive that my own individuality was now merged in a joint stock company of two; that my free will had received a mortal wound; and that another's mistake or misfortune might plunge innocent me into unmerited disaster and death. And yet still further pondering—while I jerked him now and then from between the whale and the ship—still further pondering, I say, I saw that this situation of mine was the precise situation of every mortal that breathes.


The above passage embodies the theme of my lay-ministry, which will be entitled, "The Monkey-Rope Revisited; or, The Belly of the Whale." You will be struck primarily, I feel sure, by the symbiotic relationship described in this passage; but some of you will, no doubt, see even beyond that point. What strikes me is the implication of the dependence upon the unseen, and of man's propensity to trust and take for granted those forces without which we could not well maintain our hold upon life's or society's slippery deck: ergo—the subtitle.

My intention is to explore some of these unseen and undervalued dependencies. Therefore, we will be looking at such worlds "below deck" as homosexuality, Wisconsin migrant workers, the C.C.C. Orchid and Onion Awards, stage lighting, and (related to Mike Briggs' theme of "Roots") a multi-media view of a 19th century Black family—a rather eclectic "bag." If you have an idea for a program which you feel might be subsumed under this theme, and which you might like to present, do get in touch with me or with John Lewis, chairman of the Program Committee.

Your Spring lay-minister,

Pat Watkins
From the Director of Religious Education:

Good Welcome '77!!! This issue would like to give an overview of next semester. Classes begin January 23rd — till then, interim electives.

THE NURSERY (pre-school) remains as is—we like it! Megan Caldwell and helpers, new things to do, always. The Haunting House for K, 1st, 2nd goes into its fourth and final semester (but plans are to re-use in a year or so). It deals with all feeling, growing areas (need to be alone, loved, sex at six) appropriate to this age. Will be taught by Joan Hall, Shirley Lake, Theron Caldwell this term; we will share more specifically what we are dealing with in a later newsletter.

A curriculum out of Boston and new to Prairie will be used with 3rd, 4th, 5th: "Why Do Bad Things Happen?" (pain, death, the dark things of life) and will be taught by David Lisman and Arnie Clay. Much use of old legends from ancient cultures related to present day and scientific attitudes used.

MIDDLE SCHOOL curriculum (comparative religions) and teachers will remain as is until Easter. Group feelings are good (the middle school is the largest we've had in years). Our teachers, Joe Laurence and Barbara Willard are so good with this age group — a huge plus. Joe's music and Barbara's specifically special and rare touch with kids is coupled with a rich Biblical background which she is currently sharing with these kids. A rare thing going on here!

NEWS ABOUT PRAIRIE PEOPLE: Congratulations to MAJA ROSAL MOSER of First Society, who recently signed a contract to dance with the American Ballet Theater. Mother ARCENCIA MOSER journeyed to Washington during the holiday season to see her dance in the Baryshnikov production of Nutcracker Suite at the Kennedy Center. It was a pleasure to welcome VIRGINIA RAEDER to our last Sunday Service. She journeyed down from Stevens Point especially to attend. GEORGE and JOAN HALL have just returned from a holiday visit to California. JOHN LEWIS is leaving town for a couple of weeks of boating around the Florida Keys. And GEORGE and RUTH CALDEN will be in Barbados until the first of February. If you watch the T.V. credits at the end of the Inauguration, you will see LESLIE WATKINS listed as the assistant stage manager for that production.

FOLK DANCE EVENING: At Portal Foster on January 21st, 7:30 (Friday evening). Led by Hermine Davidson. Refreshments will be served, and donations would be appreciated to cover their cost.

WOULD THE PERSON WHO BORROWED THE UNITARIAN HYMNAL FROM PORTAL FOSTER ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd, PLEASE RETURN IT TO OR CONTACT GEORGE OR RUTH CALDEN.
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
Prairie Unitarian Univ. Society
3980 Plymouth Circle
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Roland Parrish
302 Glenway
Madison, WI 53705