

PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

1806 West Lawn Avenue

Volume 14, No. 5
November 29, 1977

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CALENDAR

- SUNDAY 10 AM Idealists Confront Authority: A few members of Prairie
4 Dec. will speak of their own experiences. After the panel,
others are invited to share their experiences. David
Carson, Lay Minister.
- 12 Noon Bach Chorale practice at the Nettletons', 645 Sheldon
- 7 PM Special Parish Meeting at Portal Foster. Desert and
coffee will be served.
- SUNDAY 10 AM J. S. Bach. Warren Hagstrom will be leading this festival
11 Dec. of music service, based on the life and works of Johann
Sebastian Bach.
- 12 Noon Deadline for entries into newsletter.
- 7:30 PM Program Committee meeting at Galen and Rose Smith's
house, vicinity of 224 Du Rose Terrace, 233-0854.
- SUNDAY 10 AM Some Personal Philosophies. David Lisman, Lay Minister.
18 Dec.
- SUNDAY Not set Christmas Candlelight Service. Late afternoon. See
25 Dec. next newsletter for details, and below for hints.

On the Parish Meeting

This is to remind you that the agenda for the parish meeting on Sunday, December 4th, will be (1) election of a president; (2) a vote on the issue of Prairie ads in the Wisconsin State Journal and the Capital Times; (3) a straw vote on Prairie goals in view of a possible revision of the bylaws.

The Committee on Committees has selected Henry Pratt as the nominee for president of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. Members of Prairie may make additional nominations from the floor provided the nominee has agreed to serve and is a member of Prairie.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline has wavered badly for the past month or two but it is now firmly in place, noon on Sunday, every other week. Since the editor is often not home on weekends this means that if you are phoning in an entry you should do so on Friday or early Saturday. Written entries can be mailed or dropped in the mailbox.

Tuning up for Bach

Many people are practising for the Bach program. Linda Pluim and Susan Hagstrom will play the piano; the Recorder Group is meeting weekly to practise a fugue; Karen Childs, Dodie Chaprue, and Linda Pluim are working up an aria from one of the cantatas; and George Calden is adapting a part of the Suite for Orchestra, Number 2, for his mandolin.

An ad hoc group of singers plans to sing four chorales from the St. Matthew Passion. They are relatively simple, involving four-part harmony. Two of them, using the "Oh, Sacred Head Now Wounded" theme, will be very familiar. The group needs voices (except altos), especially soprano and bass, who can rehearse at the Nettletons' (Aileen is the accompanist) at 645 Sheldon, on Sunday, December 4th, promptly at 12 noon. It shouldn't take more than an hour, but it's important to be there as that may be the only time the group can all rehearse together. The entire performance on December 11th should take under fifteen minutes. This is very beautiful and significant music, with words that are highly revealing of the times and faith for which they were written. For further information, or to borrow a score for practicing, please call Rosemary Dorney, 238-4382.

Warren Hagstrom, 238-4970, would be glad to hear from you if you would like to perform a Bach number.

December 25th

The Program Committee decided that a 10 o'clock service on Christmas Day probably wouldn't be very popular. Instead, plans are underway for a late Sunday afternoon candlelight service. By that time on Christmas day, most of us may welcome a chance to get out and gather with fellow Prairie members. It has become a custom for individuals or families to bring some meaningful object to hang on a symbolic tree. We plan to carry on this custom at the candlelight service. So plan to come with family, relatives, and friends. More details in the next newsletter.

News from the Underworld

The Religious Education Committee--that is, Veda Nomura, Shirley Lake, Joan Hall, Galen Smith, Kristin Slabaugh, Pete Huth, and Bob Michler--met November 13th to consider the consequences of our new and reduced budget (\$60 was cut from our 1977-78 request). The prime question on the agenda was whether we ought to charge a fee for registration, and thus participation, in the Sunday school program. After discussion of relatively few pros and numerous cons (including, especially, the feeling that to do so would be counter to the spirit of Prairie and counterproductive in terms of recruiting people to teach), it was decided to recommend to the Board that we continue offering the child care and teaching programs at no charge. Instead, corners were cut from the parts of the budget where they will be felt, we hope, the least.

(cont.)

Plans were made for a breakfast on December 4th honoring the fall semester's teachers; we have also planned an open house for December 11th, when everyone is invited to come downstairs to see what the younger people have been doing and to see our little-known but surprisingly good library, recently organized by Rose Smith. To entice you to come, coffee and a treat will be served downstairs that day.

Veda and high-school age people are making plans to get a Prairie LRY group started, and will soon be looking for an advisor. Also needed are volunteers to teach the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade group in the spring. Help of another sort would also be greatly appreciated--for instance, would any of you woodworkers be willing to try to duplicate a few missing pieces from our wooden puzzles? It seems that every puzzle is minus one piece, making them just about worthless to the nursery school kids. They and their teachers would be delighted if someone could rescue these toys.

Religious Education Committee

Open Letter to Prairie from Barb Dykert

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is not without sadness that I leave you. I am in the midst of a tremendous transition: new city, new job, new apartment, new friends, and new life. My experience of Prairie over these last three and a half years has been one of the highest of my life. I hope I have been able to contribute a portion of what you all have contributed to me. Please do not let the repetition of our Bond of Union fog the meaning.

Best wishes and love,

November 18, 1977

Barb Dykert
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We would like to join in the community's tribute to Max Gaebler for his twenty-five years of service to the First Unitarian Society, and to Madison. We are particularly sensitive, just now, to the dilemmas of church leadership.

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