

Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
Madison, Wis.

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Calendar

SUNDAY, DEC. 2

10:00 a.m. -- "Populist Movements: Democracy in Action" I -- Rod Stevenson

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

7:30 p.m. -- The Play Readers will read Dylan Thomas' "Under Milkwood." Benefit for new church fund. Admission \$1.00 (or more). Refreshments for sale. Contributions of refreshments are welcome. At Nettletons, 645 Sheldon. Call 238-6053 for information.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

10:00 a.m. -- "Populist Movements: Democracy in Action" II -- Rod Stevenson.

MONDAY, DEC. 10

7:30 p.m. -- Board Meeting at home of Holly Loring, 108 N. Breese Terrace #3.

TUESDAY, DEC. 11

7:30 p.m. -- Performing Music group: "Bach to Bartok". Practice a piece, come, and play it. Listeners also welcome. Home of Laura & John Smail, 5059 Marathon Dr. Phone 233-2633.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13

7:30 p.m. -- Program Committee, home of Mike Briggs, 2259 West Lawn Ave. All Prairie members & friends are invited to attend and help plan the winter and spring programs in a new building! Bring your ideas or share them in advance with Mike Briggs or Aileen Nettleton.

SUNDAY, DEC. 16

10:00 a.m. -- "Reflections from a Distant Mirror". Rod Stevenson.

Fund raising sale. Time & place to be announced Sunday.

Prairie Approves Building Purchase

After an extensive discussion at its specially called parish meeting Nov. 18 the society unanimously gave its approval to the purchase of the former Baptist church building located at 2010 Whenona Way for the sum of \$60,000. The purchase is still contingent upon the ability of the fellowship to borrow money from a religious foundation, probably the Veach foundation in New York state.

In recent weeks there have been several discussions held to determine whether the society's needs could be better met in a building of its own rather than in rented facilities.

Factors in the decision, in addition to the directly financial ones, were the condition and location of the building, its ability to accommodate the space needs of the adult and R. E. programs, the need for insulation and possibly heating system changes, and the cost of upkeep.

At the meeting additional pledges toward the down payment (\$12,000) brought the sum now pledged to \$9,170. Members also increased their operating expense pledges by \$2,267.

Members who have pledged or will pledge to the building fund should send their pledge to the building fund chairman, Dick Bonser, 5213 Milward Dr., Madison 53711 as soon as possible, and necessarily before Jan. 2. If you would gain a tax advantage by dating your check January 2, it is suggested that you clip a slip of paper to it to alert Dick to that fact, so that he will know it is not to be deposited until then.

R. E. Corner with Holly Loring, Director

The Downstairs Scene, Part III

Having let you in on what the individual groups of young people are doing, I'd like to conclude this series with some notes on the things we've all been doing together. I've started what I call a "Sharing Circle." All the children, from Kindergarten through Middle School, their teachers and myself, gather for 15-20 minutes at the beginning of every Sunday morning. I see this as an opportunity to build a better sense of community among our young people and as a way of providing a larger group experience than most of our small classes can provide. I try to focus on a variety of issues relating to value development that occur in children's lives. Last Sunday, for example, we talked about the word "dilemma" and how peer pressure can affect decision making. We have also used this time for celebration together--cooperative game playing, singing, creating a felt banner with our names on it. I've chosen to use a small amount of ceremony which most of the children seem to enjoy and feel comfortable with. We light a candle (hurricane lamp) to begin our circle, and extinguish it to mark the end. We also sing a kind of chant to end. The words are: "Go now in peace. May the spirit of love surround you everywhere you may go." (This may prove to be a clue to the mystery tune currently floating around your house.)

Refreshments are a regular part of the morning, usually served toward the end of the class sessions. We try to stick with healthful crackers and cookies--not too much salt, sugar or other nasty additives--and fruit juices.

The downstairs scene has proven to be a good one to be involved with this year, for me and, I think, for our young people and their teachers. If you have any questions or comments, I'd be happy to talk with you about them.

o Interim is Coming! Join in the Fun!

I am looking for adults or older teens who would be interested in helping out on a Sunday in January by sharing their talents with the R. E. program. If you can cook, weave, paint, play music, dramatize, etc., we need you! Give Holly a call (231-1977) and we'll set a date.

The Social Action committee wishes to thank everyone who brought canned goods for the Open Cupboard. They are running low on supplies and were very grateful for our contribution.

FUND RAISING SALE

Contributions are needed for a fund raising sale to meet the goal of \$20,000 for the down payment on our church building. Needed are plants, craft items, and baked goods. Art items will be accepted on a commission basis if pre-arranged.

The sale will be held on Dec. 16, 1979, at a time and place to be announced Sunday. Members are asked to plan now on what they can contribute and to notify either Barbara Steinau (635-7519) or Dick Bonser (274-3248). Also, help will be needed in setting up, selling, and cleaning up. Start planning now!

PLAY AS YOU PAY --Dick Bonser

Although I seem to have lost my copy of "1001 Ways To Raise Money Easily," suggestions have been pouring in from Prairie people. One suggestion is that we "pay" for our circle dinners by putting one or two dollars per person in the kitty each month. This is probably affordable for most of us. I think this should be done on a voluntary basis for each circle, though. If you decide to do this, I would like the host for the month to send me a check, made out to Prairie Society Building Fund, for the amount donated each month. This will eliminate any chance of getting these donations confused with any individual pledge payments.

Other suggestions have included a dance party, a Las Vegas night, a ski party, bingo games, and a book re-sale. All of these are good ideas, and I would like to hear even more. If any of these ideas appeals to you, please let me know. If you have another suggestion, I want to know it. I realize that we haven't much time to raise money with these ideas before January 2, when we need to close on the building, but our need for money won't end with that event. All of these ideas will come in handy sooner or later, so tell me about your pet project or activity. My phone number is 274-3248, and my address is 5213 Milward Dr., Madison 53711.

We need members to help plan ways to publicize programs and our move to a new home. Leland Bullen has volunteered to chair a publicity committee, and those interested in helping are asked to contact him. A meeting date and place will be announced Sunday.