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Prairie Fire

Newsletter of the
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
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Calendar

SUNDAY, FEB. 24

10:00 a.m.--Death & Dying--Part II Group discussion--religious approaches, the Kubler-Ross hypothesis

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

10:00 a,m.--Songbook Sunday. Bring your favorite song! Tell us what you don't want in the book. Hear and sing some of the new songs! Mike Briggs, Holly Loring, Dodie Chapru

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

10:00 a.m.--The Dane County Hospice

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

10:00 a.m.--"Clara & Robert Schumann: Music and Madness in the Family" with music by members of the congregation. If you wish to play music by the Schumanns or their friends, contact Dodie Chapru.

BARRY COMMONER TO SPEAK IN MADISON

The Madison chapter of the Citizen's Party announces the coming appearance of Barry Commoner, on Sunday, March 2. Mr. Commoner will speak and answer questions, followed by a reception. The event will be held in Great Hall, on the U.W. campus, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the Citizen's Party may contact Megan Kroeger at 271-9486, for more information.

NEXT ISSUE OF PRAIRIE FIRE, March 5. Please bring announcements to meeting March 2.

R.E. Corner Holly Loring, Director

- I've just emerged from a three-day conference on families sponsored by the Meadville-Lombard Theological School. About 80 Unitarian-Universalists--ministers, students, R.E. directors and lay people--converged at Lowell Hall here at UW for an opportunity to reflect on the changing nature of families and how our churches and fellowships can respond to their needs. Each of us had an opportunity to also reflect on our family of origin and how that family influenced and shaped us, and how it continues to do so. I hope that I will have an opportunity to share my experiences and enthusiasm about them with you all during the spring.
- Thank you, thank you to people who helped out with the January-February Interim projects in R.E.--Al Nettleton, April Hoffman, Alice Bullen, Bob Park, Mike Lyman, Susan Hagstrom, and Metje Butler. Your flexibility with scheduling due to moving was much appreciated, and the children (and I) enjoyed the break from our regular group meetings.
- And thank you, thank you, thank you! to the teachers who are continuing from last semester--Joan Hall, Bob Dopp, Linda Nelson (Haunting House-K-2), Pat Cautley, Mary Sarko (Images for our Lives -3-5), and Lola Gregg (How Can I Know what to believe?-Middle School). Your commitment is impressive and I know both the children and I welcome your interest and concern.
- YOU CAN HELP R.E.! by helping us acquire the furniture we need. Still on our needs list are:
  5 shelving units for classrooms
  1 9 x 12 rug for the middle school room

(Continued)

 R.E. CORNER, continued

1 (comfy) rocking chair for pre-school bulletin boards

If you can loan or donate any of the above, please get in touch with Holly or Shirley Lake. Also badly needed are storage shelf builders, table sanders and leg attachers and bulletin board hangers. We'd like to have many of our supplies out in plain view so they will get used! So get into the act! And thank you to those who have donated furniture already.

• Save Sunday evening, March 2, for a Youth-Adult committee meeting at the Prairie building at 7 p.m. (if enough interest, we can swing an earlier potluck). I'm operating under the notion that late is better than never and that if we start to get a youth group off the ground now, it might even continue next year, and the next year, and on into the future. And we now have our own home base to start from. So let's see what we can do (this is a challenge!) All interested people, high school youth, parents, and others with ideas for what you'd like to see happen, join in.

• Book borrowers--if you have any materials from Prairie library that you are not currently using, we'd like them back so that others can use them. Thank you.

• Did someone send you a valentine? For fun, we talked about hearts in R.E. on Sunday--big, little, empty, black, gold, yellow; and Great Hearts such as Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, and Albert Einstain. What kind of heart do you have? Pre-schoolers had fun making trucks and busses with Marian and Helen, and watching their visitors, twins Laura and Linda, the Nettletons' cousins. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Marian Briggs who'll be 15 on Tuesday (Feb. 19). Anyone else have a birthday coming up soon? Haunting House people talked about animal homes and animal bodies and imagined, in song, what they would do if they were rabbits or snails or turtles or... Three-5 hung their giant pictures of David and Goliath in their room and reviewed some of the Bible stories from last semester. Middle School was treated to a tour of the TV station where Lola Gregg works and then headed out for the usual, or should I say, unusual snack and rap session. And I am beginning to feel at home in the new building and I hope you are, too.

BOARD REVIEWS EXPENSES TO DATE, REVISES BUDGET TO PROVIDE FOR ADDED COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASE OF CHURCH

At the Feb. 11 board meeting, held in our new building, Rod Stevenson summarized current expenditures compared with the budget adopted at the beginning of the fellowship's year. The summary follows:

Operational Expenses:	Budget	To Date
I. Lay Ministry		
a. Leader compensation	900	300
b. Leader expense	300	36.80
II. R.E.		
a. Director salary	1708	571
b. Nursery help	342	108
c. Supplies & expenses	440	81.83
III. Program		
a. Program Committee	100	18.50
b. Membership	100	--
c. Hospitality	--	--
d. Publicity	250	24.32
IV. Denominational Affairs	400	--
V. Upham Woods Scholarship	100	70
VI. Housing		
a. Rent	2025	900
b. Property & maint.	100	440.61
c. Insurance	150	451
(approx. $40 to be refunded)		
VII. Office		
a. P.O. Box	30	40
b. Telephone	290	78.90
c. Contingencies	100	13.15
d. Minutes, Repro & Mail.	40	--
VIII. Prairie Fire	735	217.27
	8110	3351.38

Income (Pledges & Prairie Fire) 3191

Capital Fund Expenditure (to date)

Chairs	$1060
Fuel	228.38
Burner	150

Current Assets

United Bank--checking		270.73
	savings	10.00
Anchor--	CD	2646.00
	savings	1338.22
Affiliated-- checking (capital fund)		561.62
	savings (capital fund)	3727.66
Other		502.66
Sub Total		9056.89
To come from First UU Society		8000.00
Total		17056.89

(Continued on Page Three)

The necessary revisions to the budget are listed as follows:

Capital

Furniture--Chairs, adult	1060
children's	800
Insulation--walls	8000
(Roof to be estimated later)	
Storm windows	410
(option to add shutters later)	
Drainage	500
Furnace conversion	800
Real estate tax*	1000

*Because the property was still under private ownership on January 1, 1980 it is subject to real estate tax for the 1980 year, payable in 1981. An attempt to obtain an exception to this rule has not been successful.

Operational

Mortgage	2848*
Maintenance	500
Insurance	---*
Heat & electricity	1325

*Rent and insurance were included in original budget

The board voted to carry $1000 of the operational budget over into next year since the cost of heat should be considerably less and other expenses this year will be one-time costs

The revisions to the operational budget bring the total to $11,758. Current pledges amount to $9,768. If you did not increase your pledge at the time of the November parish meeting, please consider doing so. Contact Norma Briggs or Julie Bonser of the Finance committee. Fundraising projects are also continuing. We should be able to make it!
P.S. Checks should be sent to Rod Stevenson, treasuruer, 628 Sheldon St. 53711.

In other business, the board decided to develop a policy on rental to other groups before making rental commitments. Members should give their ideas and opinions on the subject to Fran Remeika, building use coordinator.

A discussion of policy regarding smoking in the building showed both smokers and non-smokers willing to be considerate of the comfort of each other. Rather than establish smoking areas, it was decided that smokers should be asked to show discretion so that there would not be a concentration of smoke in any place where it would cause annoyance or discomfort to others, and to be aware that there are members who are allergic to smoke. It was agreed that there should not be smoking in the main meeting room.

A guest at the meeting was Emil Gudmunson, Central Midwest district representative, who was thanked for his assistance in arranging the loan which made our purchase of the building possible.

LETTER FROM DAVID CARSON, OUR TEXAS CONTACT

"Dear Aileen and Al,

Enclosed is a clipping from an Austin newspaper with a letter from our church's social action committee. You will see how much we copied from the open letter which you wrote.

Both the downtown papers and the student papers used the letter as it was submitted to them. It needed saying. Please tell the Madison people involved in your letter that it was distributed in a slightly altered form down here. Thanks.

Cordially,
David

EDGEWOOD COLLEGE WILL HOST SYMPOSIUM ON "QUEST FOR MEANING IN A TECHNOCENTRIC ERA"

A symposium, funded in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Committee, will be held May 2 and 3 (Saturday) at Edgewood College. Dr. Jacob Needleman, humanist-professor, San Francisco, and Dr. Robert Coles, humanist-physician, Boston, will hold a conversation with a group of Madison humanists in the college gymnasium. The symposium will be free and open to the public. Reservations are required for attendance and may be made by calling 257-4861, ext. 288 by March 1.

The next visit of Folklore Village to Madison will be on Feb. 29. The group of folk dancers will lead and instruct in the dances at Bethany Methodist church, 3910 Mineral Point road. A donation of $2.00 per person is asked.

BUILDING USE COMMITTEE

Now is the time for input on Prairie's future building use policies. The Building committee meets after services on Sunday. Get your coffee and join us--ask me where.

--Fran Remeika