CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 19
7:00 p.m.--R.E. Committee Meeting at Prairie
All interested people welcome

SUNDAY, MAY 22
10:00 a.m.--ReCOGNITION DAY - Prairie pats
itself on the back
10:00 a.m.--Child care available
11:30 a.m.--Prairie Business Meeting - to
vote on Sanctuary Resolution.
Potluck after business meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 28
7:30 p.m.--Solo Discovery at First Society

SUNDAY, MAY 29
10:00 a.m.--MAKING A LIVABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT. John Proctor, Capital Community Citizens. See story.
10:00 a.m.--Child care available

MAKING A LIVABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT
John Proctor of Capital Community Citizens,
will present the 1982 CCC Orchids and Onions
Awards program. Orchids are awarded to people
and organizations whose actions have pre-
served or enhanced the urban environment
while onions spotlight those whose actions
have harmed the environment.

KEEPING THE WORLD SAFE FOR PREDATORS
Jan Petrie of the Eagle Valley Environmentalists
will show the movie "Eagle Country" and be available to answer questions
about the goals and programs of EVE, and
Conrad Liegel of the International Crane
Foundation will show slides and talk about
the relevance of crane survival to human
welfare.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5
10:00 a.m.--KEEPING THE WORLD SAFE FOR PREDATORS AND BRINGING THE CRANES BACK, Jan Petrie of the Eagle Valley Environmentalists. See story.
10:00 a.m.--Child care available

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 11 & 12
CANOE TRIP - See story in May 3 Prairie Fire

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
10:00 a.m.--Program at Prairie to be announced
10:00 a.m.--Child care available

TUESDAY, JUNE 14
7:30 p.m.--Meeting of old and new Executive Boards

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: MAY 29, 1983

1983 UUWF ALLERTON CONFERENCE: CHANGING LIFE STYLES FOR WOMEN - JUNE 7, 8, & 9

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Lonnie Meyers, M.D. The topic will be "Chronological Changes Vs. 'Becoming' Changes".
The registration form, with the $10 registration fee must be returned to the registrar
by May 27. More information at Prairie.

WOMEN'S EXERCISE GROUP

As an offshoot of the "Wellness After 35" series, an informal exercise and outing group will begin meeting Tuesdays and Thurs-
days at 5 P.M. at Prairie. For more information, call Dorothy Lee Wetherby at 271-2173.
R.E. Corner

Annual Prairie Academy Awards:

On Sunday, May 22, let's congratulate ourselves! You are invited to invent an award to present to any of Prairie's "Unsung Heroes." Share your ideas with Marty Drapkin at 238-6493 or Dayle Haglund at 837-9044 who will coordinate the service.

The basement looks very different after the workday. The classrooms have been rearranged and a new door will be added from the hallway to the new middle school classroom. Peg Stevenson created four bright yellow coat racks and Al Nettleton hung them. Aileen Nettleton, Peg and Dayle supervised the furniture rearrangement. Anna, Christine, and Claire helped make their new room ready. Daniel and Greg moved the toys. A job well done!

For our new baby room we could use a comfortable chair or a rocker as well as some baby toys. Play dishes and pots and pans would make our preschool kitchen more appealing.

On Wednesday, May 18, the people who are interested in our middle school class will meet to plan for next year. We'll hope to see parents and others who are interested in these children. No pressure will be applied to teach - we do need your ideas and concerns!

Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 at Prairie the R.E. Committee will meet to plan for our part of the Recognition Sunday, May 22. Some other agenda items will include the summer program and the calendar for next year.

Dayle Haglund

FOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY:
THANKS to those who teach and to those who learn, for knowledge is the essence of being
THANKS to those who play and to those who sing, for without music our lives would be barren.
THANKS to those who make coffee and prepare dinners, because the way to a parishioner's heart is through the stomach
THANKS to those who plan parties and entertain for they promote friendship, and we all know the value of a friend.
THANKS to those who spend hours in seemingly endless committee meetings, for they are the lifeblood of the parish
THANKS to those who greet strangers and newcomers, for they give an aura of warmth to the parish.
THANKS to those who provide leadership, for they lead us toward distant horizons.
THANKS to those who follow, for they are the backbone of the parish.

(Excerpted from the Fairfax Unitarian Church newsletter and offered by Dorothy Wetherby.)

A dedication program for older children will be planned for next September. If you are interested in participating in the dedication with your children, please contact Barbara Park (635-7519).

I'm looking for someone to share my house. Prefer non-smoking, ecology minded, peace-loving, religious liberal.

Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT SANCTUARY
In preparation for the meeting to vote on the Sanctuary Resolution (11:30 a.m., May 22):

1) Why should Prairie endorse the St. Francis Episcopal Sanctuary Project?
   If not us, who? The U.S. Government is acting illegally in denying asylum, so sanctuary is a project against injustice. People are suffering and need our help. We can make a real difference in peoples' lives. Jim Corbett, an Arizona rancher, said, "When the government itself sponsors the torture of entire peoples and then makes it a felony to shelter those seeking refuge, law-abiding protest merely trains us to live with atrocity."
   2) Why involve the whole society? Can't the Social Action Committee do it?
   Ordinary social action statements are appropriate for the Social Action Committee. But because this could be perceived as civil disobedience, it is important for us all to take the responsibility and share the risk.
   3) Aside from endorsing, how can we help?
   St. Francis House will need moral and material support. These include:
   a) Representatives at the public announcement on Sanctuary.
   b) Money
   c) Clothing and other material supplies.
   d) Meals (for example, inviting them to our pot lucks.)
   e) English tutors
   (Continued on next page)
(SANCTUARY, CONTINUED)

4) What are the legal risks?

These people are considered "illegal aliens" by our government. It is a felony to harbor, conspire to harbor, or smuggle illegal aliens, and is punishable by fines, and/or imprisonment plus forfeiture of your vehicle for transporting illegal aliens.

However, the government has not arrested any parties involved in providing sanctuary.

So far, over 50 churches and more than 25,000 people from many denominations, including our own, have been involved in the movement to provide sanctuary.

5) What legal status is being sought for the refugees?

Attempts are being made to have the U.S. Government grant Extended Voluntary Departure Status to the refugees. This means that they would receive haven in this country until it is safe for them to return to their homes in Central America. This differs from people who are seeking to settle in this country for economic reasons.

Les Lyons
Barb Park
Ailene Nettleton

RESULTS OF PRAIRIE QUESTIONAIRRE

If the 45 responses that came in are representative of attitudes in general, the results of the Questionaire can best be summarized by a high level of satisfaction with our style of "Back Porch Religion," as one person characterized Prairie. We like what we're doing and want more of everything, except for Sunday morning services dealing with social/political issues, which we want slightly less of.

In terms of what we most want more of, aesthetic satisfaction (80%) and beauty (70%) head the list. Programs on "The Human Condition" were listed first as a preference for more Sunday services with "Personal Moral Issues" second, and "Social/Political Issues" third. This contrasted somewhat with the response that currently social/political issues get the most emphasis. 64% of the respondents indicated a preference for more services on The Arts.

Friendliness and participation were listed first and second both as the qualities currently most present in Sunday services as well as those preferred. In response to the item on the current rewards of participating in Prairie, "Community of Shared Belief" was ranked first, with "Intellectual Stimulation" second and those items simply changed places as the top two in the preferred rewards category. (Respectability ranked 17th in both categories.)

In terms of activities other than Sunday services, the annual Upham Woods Retreat was at the top both in terms of current emphasis, and preferred emphasis. Circle dinners and the R.E. program were ranked 2 and 3 for estimation of current emphasis and that order was reversed, with an indication that the R.E. program should be second in emphasis.

64% of the respondents said they'd like to have a choir (though there was less agreement about budgeting to pay a choir director). In terms of new budget items, there was the most agreement about NOT hiring kitchen clean up.

Because we asked so many questions, merely tabulating and summarizing the responses was a rather staggering task. Les Lyons has done this by hand and Dick Bonser will be doing a more complicated analysis on his computer. In the meantime, the completed questionaire with their many comments, as well as Les's summaries will be in a loose-leaf binder on the side table.

In addition to these questionairees, the committee got 66 Wish Lists for Prairie, as another means of soliciting preferences and new ideas. When people simply were asked to write down the five things they'd most like to change about Prairie, the subject that was listed far more often than any other was the redecoration of our upstairs meeting room.

Other frequently listed wishes were for: better R.E. facilities, more music and dancing more services on artistic, philosophical, ethical and spiritual themes, a good program for our high school people, more interaction between adults and kids, more respect for divergent views, a winter or spring retreat, paid janitorial service, a Sunday vespers service, and better attention to continuity.

Idle curiosity was not the main reason for asking you to complete questionairees and/or create wish lists. With our current total of 105 members, we need to pay conscious attention to giving every member chances to express priorities and contribute new ideas. As we become larger in number, we need to be clear about the qualities of Prairie that we collectively value most highly, in order to preserve and cherish those attributes.

Thank you all for your contributions, which will be passed on to the new Long-Range Planning Committee.

Dorothy Lee Wetherby