



# Prairie Fire

Newsletter of

## Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another. *Prairie's Bond of Union*

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### CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. WHY A WOMAN MINISTER? A panel of 54 clergywomen from various denominations discuss their experiences and what this means about religion (see story)

10:00 a.m. R.E. Classes, baby and child care

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:30 p.m.--Program Committee Meeting at 4337 Milford Road (½ block from Prairie). We'll start discussing the programming goal developed by Prairie members at the growth workshop. Ideas for the Dec. 23 service are also welcome. Or call Mary Mullen, 271-5192 with your ideas.

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:30 p.m.--Youth group meeting

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

10:00 a.m.--THE YEAR 2025, PEACE ON EARTH:

THE FIRST 10 YEARS by Les Lyons

10:00 a.m.--R.E. Classes, baby and child care

### R.E. TOY BENEFIT

Congratulations and thank you to Vicki Swetz and all the wonderful people who bought worthwhile toys. We can now purchase \$83.17 of toys for the R.E. program, especially educational toys for the babies and nursery. Thanks on behalf of all the little ones.

Mary Beth O'Halloran

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: DECEMBER 2

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
Return to:  
Prairie U U Society  
5313 Main St  
McFarland WI 53558

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Madison, Wis.  
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TO CHANGE ADDRESS OR STOP PRAIRIE FIRE,  
PLEASE CALL 838-8055

### R.E. CORNER

Preschool - The little ones will be making and decorating clay, working with rhythm and learning to play creatively together in small groups.

K-1-2 - On Dec. 2 and Dec. 16 these youngsters will return to heroes from the bible by hearing the story of Joseph and Mary and how they lived their religious beliefs.

3-4-5 - These children continue their study of holidays by creating their own celebration on Dec. 2 and studying Channukah on Dec. 16.

6-7-8 - The middle schoolers continue their study of the U.U. Service Committee and world problems. Their current topic is hunger. Please donate canned or dried food items to their collections for Madison's hungry; a collection box is just inside the door in the upstairs meeting room.

Youth Group - The first meeting of the middle and high school youth groups was a rousing success. They want to use their new organization for many social activities - bowling, skating, skiing, etc. Sixteen attended last week, and 12 of them plan to organize a bowling activity for December. They expect to meet every other Tuesday evening plus special activities. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m. at Prairie; friends are welcome too. Activities will include detailed planning for activities and organized games.

Guest at your table boxes - Remember to feed your guest so the 6-7-8 graders can send a generous donation to the UU Service committee. Boxes may be returned at the intergenerational service on Dec. 23.

(More R.E. news on page 4)

#### THE "MALE EXPERIENCE"

Rick Ruecking, Geoff Bonser and David McKee will begin their Lay Ministry on December 9. The theme of the Ministry is the "male experience." The content of the services will range from a panel of Prairie men describing their own "male experiences" to presentations by experts on violent behavior to a program of readings from plays and poems.

As well as having a Lay Ministry on the subject of men, there has also been some interest in forming a Prairie men's group. If you are interested, contact Rick Ruecking or David McKee.

#### UNICEF

Congratulations to the Prairie kids! You raised \$115 for UNICEF at Halloween with your Trick or Treat for UNICEF! You will help feed and give medicine for children around the world who need help.

Thanks to the middle schoolers for presenting the program to all the children.  
Lance and Aileen

#### ROBOT RAFFLE TIME

The Madison Children's Museum is hoping to open its doors to Madison area children early in 1985. The museum will provide a participative experience for kids ages 3-13. We need your help to raise enough funds to bring our downtown site up to code. You can help by buying Robot Raffle tickets at Orange Tree Imports or Ella's Deli East (1st prize is a \$300 Omni Bot by Tony), or by sending a tax deductible contribution to the Madison Children's Museum, 1 N. Bedford St. Madison 53703.

Orange Schroeder  
Childrens Museum Board

#### OPEN DATE

Looking for a pleasant way to spend Sunday, Dec. 2nd? Looking for someone to spend it with? Call Pat Watkins (262-7960) if you'd like to do any or all of the following: 1) Sunday brunch (11:30 a.m.) at Harpers (a great brunch - all you can eat - \$6.95), 2) attend the 1:30 free concert by the Pro Arte String Quartet at the Elvehjem Museum, 3) view the John Wilde (or other) exhibit at the Elvehjem Museum after the concert, about 3:30 p.m.

Pat Watkins

#### WHY A DISCUSSION OF "WHY A WOMAN MINISTER?"

Prairie doesn't have a minister let alone a woman minister. So why invite 5 women ministers to talk about "Why a Woman Minister?" on November 25th?

Several reasons:

1. Prairie promotes equality between men and women not only in our Society but in society at large. Women in a profession dominated by men may have something to tell us on how far we have to go yet.

2. Most Prairie members and friends grew up in religious communities where ministers or rabbis were unheard of. Would our religious experiences have been any different with women in top positions? Perhaps we'll be able to judge for ourselves after the panel discussions.

3. At Prairie's growth workshop a few weeks ago, participants reached consensus that our programs should more clearly meet both the spiritual and nonspiritual needs of the Society. Five ministers may contribute to our spiritual needs on this Sunday.

Here is a brief preview of the planned discussion.

Panelists are Rev. Jan Sollom of Lakeview American Lutheran Church, Rev. Carol Taylor of First Unitarian Society, Rev. Ann Philbrick, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Rev. Chris Bethke of the Methodist Retirement Center and Rev. Bettylu Anderson (United Methodist - retired).

They will discuss three major topics - their own career histories, responses of congregations and male colleagues and the more complicated question of what women ministers mean for the religious life of the community. The panel will also talk about the history of women clergy in their denominations and answer questions.

The service is planned for Sunday, Nov. 25.  
Mary Mullen

#### SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

**MANY THANKS!** Prairie donations totalling \$143.25 were sent to the U.U. Service Committee for relief of starving people in Ethiopia.

**FOOD** can be donated directly to the hungry of Madison. Please bring canned and dried foods of all kinds to Prairie for the next 3 weeks. This will be added to city-wide donations for the annual Christmas giveaway.

**MEET THE SOVIETS!** A dinner and dance to welcome 28 Soviet citizens will be held Tuesday, Dec. 4, starting 6 p.m. at the Heritage House, 3855 E. Washington Ave. Make RESERVATIONS BY Nov. 28 by calling 231-3227, 256-2810 or 255-6109. Cost is \$12.50 per person. Sponsored by the Madison Society for American-Soviet Friendship.

Lance Green

Following is a summary of the budget as accepted with notes about changes that were made at the Parish Meeting on November 18, 1984.

	<u>1985</u>
Program Expenses	\$ 1,850
Religious Education	\$ 5,375
*     \$700 Social Security	
Denominational Affairs	\$ 1,830
Membership	\$ 115
Office	\$ 585
Housing and Property	\$ 7,511
**     \$590 Janitorial	
*** Finance	\$ 100
Ceremonies	\$ 60
Upham Woods Scholarship	\$ 150
Prairie Fire	\$ 1,280
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TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$ 18,856
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\* An additional \$700 for Social Security for our R.E. employees was added for 1984 and 1985 salaries.

\*\* An additional \$200 was added to the requested \$390 for Janitorial services. The \$590 amount was based on 3 hrs/wk for 36 weeks at \$5/hr plus fringes. The Housing and Property Committee will determine the disposition of this fund.

\*\*\* The Finance committee received a \$100 budget for possible fundraising costs in 1985.

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Our approved 1985 budget is considerably higher than the proposed budget submitted by the board. Our pledged total to date is \$16,454. This is far below the approved budget and we must ask for additional support. It is strongly recommended that all members reconsider their original pledge and increase that amount by a minimum of 10 percent. If you have not submitted a pledge and would like to help support our budget, please send your pledge to Carol Dopp, 5010 Marathon Drive, Madison, WI 53705 or call 238-7419.

Thanks to all who attended the Parish Meeting and voiced their concerns about spending priorities. This is a sound budget that deserves support from all of us.

## CAPITAL FUND

A Capital Fund was established to consist of income from Proceeds, specified fundraisers, interest from all accounts, gifts or endowments and additional monies as directed by the board. The total amount of \$3600 from an existing investment account was added to the fund.

Proceeds:	\$ 232
Service Auction	703
Garage sale	806
Contribution	59
Investment account	3600
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TOTAL CAPITAL FUND	\$5400

### 1985 CAPITAL BUDGET

Sidewalk repair	200
Sound Insulation	1,400
Building improvements w/o windows	600
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TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$2,200

The submitted 1985 Capital budget was approved with the addition of \$200 for sidewalk repair.

#### ALL PRAIRIE KIDS!

Mark your calendars for Nifty Gifty!

SUNDAY, DEC. 9th  
9 to 11 o'clock, a.m.

Come to Prairie an hour earlier than usual to make six or seven gifts for the people you love. Please bring a school photo of yourself, and 50 cents, to help pay for supplies.

#### MORE SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING - The Wisconsin Community Fund sponsors a brunch forum providing firsthand information on balancing investment objectives with concerns for environmental quality, renewable energy, affirmative action and community development. Sunday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Marc Plaza Hotel, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee. \$35 registration fee includes copy of Directory of Socially Responsible Investments. Call the WCF to register before Dec. 1: 251-6834. (Please call me if you plan to go - Lance G. 249-5979).

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**PRAIRIE RECYCLERS!**

Please save these items for the Nifty Gifty:  
1) Plastic 35 millimeter film cases, 2) canning lids and rings, 3) colored comics from Sunday papers, 4) old Xmas cards, 5) large grocery bags, 6) interesting cancelled stamps. Bring to Prairie R.E. office in bags marked NIFTY GIFTY.

Gayle Haglund  
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