Sunday, February 16
10:00 AM
"THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT IN OUR LIVES," featuring Prof. Dave Riley from the UW Dept. of Child and Family Studies. This is the first of Peg Barratt's lay ministry series on the theme of "...let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another."

Tuesday, February 18
4:30 PM
PRAIRIE BAND PRACTICE at the Meetinghouse.
7:30 PM
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All are invited to participate.

Thursday, February 20
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN'S GROUP meets at the meetinghouse.

Friday, February 21
5:30 PM
The Fish Dinner Circle meets at the Holiday Inn, East Towne. Everyone is welcome. (See related story)

Sunday February 23
10:00 AM
"LET US REACH OUT TO TOUCH AND BE ONE WITH ONE ANOTHER" second in Peg Barratt's lay ministry series.

...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
at 5:00–5:15 PM to car pool. Others should meet at Prairie to car pool between 6:00–6:15 PM for the 35
minute drive to Dodgeville. Children are welcome. There is a small cost
(adults $3, children $1). Call Rick
Ruecking at 238-2924 if you have
questions. The Folklore Village Barn is on County BB five miles East of
Dodgeville and ½ mile South of High­way 18/151.

Prairie Playreaders

The Playreaders will meet on Sat­ur­day, February 15, 1992, at 7:30 PM
Pat Caulley’s home, 4806 Regent Street
(West of Midvale Boulevard). We will
read Gore Vidal’s “Weekend,” a play
about a political candidate. Come and
join us—we’re always glad to have new
participants. No experience is required!

Short Lay Ministry

by Peg Barratt

“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.” This will
be the theme of five programs coordi­
nated by Peg Barratt. Peg, then Peg
Stevenson, did a lay ministry ten years
ago, and is looking forward to present­ing
a short series of programs this spring. The first four programs will be
about our ties to one another; the fifth
about our ties to nature.

Dave Riley, Associate Professor of Child
and Family Studies at UW, will lead off
these programs with a presentation
about the role of social supports in our
lives. Peg is looking for your input into
the next three programs:

One will be about the personal ways
that we find support. How do you
organize your life to help build ties to
one another?

The next will be about institutional
ways that we provide support —
programs that have been mentioned
include befrienders programs; Big
Brothers, Big Sisters; cancer support
groups; AA; etc. Please consider
sharing information about a program
that you have ties with.

The third of these will talk about the
ways that Prairie tries to help us
build ties to one another — we will
include time to think about ways that
Prairie might do this better. Please
call Peg Barratt (233-6449) with your
ideas.

Peg and her two boys have attended
Prairie for about 14 years. She says that
her favorite thing about doing services
at Prairie is standing up front and
having everyone sing to her!

The titles of her services will be:
Feb 16
The role of social supports in our lives
Feb 23
Let us reach out to touch and be one
with one another
March 1
Programs that provide personal
support
March 15
Prairie’s ongoing efforts to provide
personal support
March or April —
Let us reach out to touch and be one
with the natural world.

The Memorial weekend canoe, bike and
camping trip will make a fitting end to
this series of programs.

Got a Songbook?

We are running desperately short of
songbooks at Prairie. If you have any
copies at home just lying around, please
return them to Prairie.

-Giorge Calden

Fish Dinner Circle

The Fish Dinner Circle meets again!
Have you eaten at Austin’s, the lovely
restaurant in the Holiday Inn, across
from East Towne Mall? $6.95 buys all
you can eat of fried or baked cod, choice
of potato, coleslaw and an endless salad
bar. Our reservation is for 5:30 PM. At
6:00 PM we will be treated to live jazz
entertainment from the lobby. The date
is Friday, February 21. PLEASE DO
NOT SHOW UP WITHOUT A RESER­
VATION! Call Pat Watkins at work
(262-7960) between 10:30 AM and 6:00
PM no later than 4:30 PM on Wednes­
day, February 19th. After that time, call
the Holiday Inn yourself and add
yourself to the reservation list. (NOTE:
restaurants do NOT like it when you do
this, and we urge you to call Pat before
Wednesday.)

Orientation Series Begins

The membership and Denomina­tional
Affairs Committees will co-sponsor a
series of orientation meetings on three
consecutive Tuesdays—Feb. 25th,
March 3rd and March 10th. The
meetings will be held at Prairie in the
middle school R.E. classroom or, if
there’s a large group, in the main
meeting room and will start at 7:30
PM. New members, prospective
members, frequent visitors, and anyone
else interested are welcome to attend.
Meeting topics will be:

Feb. 25 Our personal religious
journeys toward UU.
Mar. 3 Brief history and philosophy
of Unitarian Universalism.
Mar. 10 History and structure of
Prairie Society.

If you are interested, please call Anne
Urbaniski at 258-8269 by Feb. 22nd.

Chicago Bus Trip

Prairie Society will be sponsoring
another fundraising trip to Chicago on
Saturday, February 29th. We will
leave the Burlington Coat Factory lot in
Madison at 8 AM and return by 7:45
PM, and will also pick up at South
Towne Mall and in Janesville. For $27
(the Alco bus charges $34) we will get
door to door transportation to (1) Water
Tower Place, where the shoppers
amongst us can disembark and shop at
Lord and Taylor, Marshall Field,
Bloomingtons, Nieman Marcus, Saks
Fifth Avenue, Henri Bendel, the new
Crate and Barrel or any of the many
other fine stores. Those who wish to
shop and visit the museum will be
picked up at Water Tower Place at 2:30
PM and driven to the Art
Institute. (2) Those who wish to go directly to the Art
Institute will remain on the bus at
Water Tower Place and be taken to the
Art Institute. Because there is no special
exhibit at the museum requiring
advance tickets and because some
passengers may not wish to visit the
museum, we have decided not to include
admission in the price. The museum
asks for a donation (usually $4, less for
seniors and children) rather than
charging a formal admission. If you are interested in making this trip, contact Pat Cautley. Checks should be made out to Prairie U.U. Society and given or sent to Pat with the notation on the check stating where you wish to board the bus.

**How About... A Pancake Breakfast?**

Prairie member Bob Nelson is interested in organizing a Pancake Breakfast at Prairie one Sunday this winter as a fundraiser. The meal would include pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee between 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM. Anyone who has suggestions or who wants to volunteer to help, please call Bob Nelson at 255-8630.

**Early Warning...**

The Prairie Talespinners is Prairie's storytelling workshop group that meets monthly. Each month we give ourselves a technique to practice and a story theme. Stories can be personal, from a book, or a retelling of a story you've heard. Newcomers are welcome. The next meeting is Thursday, February 27, at 7:30 PM at the meetinghouse. The theme will be "Beginnings." We'll be working on using body language and verbal description to bring place and people alive. Call Mary Mullen, 271-5192, if you have any questions.

**The Search Is On...**

The Committee on Committees wishes to hear from persons interested in being lay ministers next church year. If you are interested, or if you have a suggestion about who else might be interested, contact Andrea Lawrence or other members of the Committee—Dick Bonser, Rosemary Dorney, Warren Hagstrom, or Pat Watkins. There is also a tear-off form at the back of the newsletter which you can use to submit your suggestions for lay minister or any other position.

**Congratulations!**

Born January 18, Simon Elliott Alexander-Adams, weight 8 lbs, to Elizabeth Alexander and Paul Adams. Both mother and son are healthy and doing fine.

**Absent Friends...**

Good News! Pat Meller happened to be in town last week to attend the meeting of the Channing Murray Board of Directors, for which she is the outgoing Treasurer. This enabled us to get her new address, which no one seemed to have. She is slowly, but surely, getting settled in at 21350 Jill Court, Waukesha, WI 53186, and sends her greetings to all. Her phone number is 414/821-2839. Keep in touch, Pat—we all miss you!

**In Our Hands**

In the fall semester, this group of middle school students and their leaders Jim Harvey and Rosemary Dorney explored the UUA curriculum "In Our Hands." The sessions focused on peace and social justice. In this semester, the group, with leaders Bob Nelson and Kate Tucker, will be putting the principles which guide peace and social justice activism into practice. Over the past few weeks they have brainstormed ideas for possible projects which ranged from making bumper stickers to visiting the battered women's shelter to leading outdoor peace games with little children. Their final project choice is environmentally focused: to adopt a whale, an eagle nest, or part of a rain forest. They'll be conducting research into the possibilities, raising money for the project and involving all of Prairie in the process. Keep look out for more information from them.

**Time Travels**

This group of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, led by Aileen Nettleton, has spent the past several weeks in ancient Babylonia. They were introduced to archeology and the role that science plays in understanding ancient societies. They searched for clay artifacts (made by classmates the week before), experimented with cuneiform messages, and tried to interpret the possible significance of the items. They studied horoscopes since astrology had its start in Babylonia. They heard the legend of the hero Gilgamesh and myths of the goddess Ishtar (or Inanna). They role played the different deities in an original play, "The Fate of the World, 1992," in which each made suggestions for the new year's events and consequences and Marduk, the king of the gods, made the final decisions. So watch out—because anyone who pollutes will be struck by lightning by the god of nature this year!

**Caring Hands**

This group of Kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders, led alternately by Metje Butler and Heidi Oliversen, has been focusing on peace and social justice this year, with those concepts adapted to their understanding. They have recently focused on various aspects of the topic, one being how to be friends with people who are different from yourself. This was explored via stories, both from books and from personal experience, discussion and song. Another aspect dealt with cooperation, made tangible through some well enjoyed games and a story. This session was particularly timely as it occurred right around the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. A third aspect was to find out about the peace and social justice work done by local Unitarian Universalists. Betty Jallings and Frank Iltis were guests for this session, each explaining about their work with marches and writing letters about the women's budget, and the homeless shelter and giving blood. All made posters about a concern of their choosing and wore it around their necks.

**Growing Times**

The preschoolers continue to enjoy their time at Prairie, making paper snowflakes, painting at the easel, shaping clay and playing with the puzzles and toys. Emilie Dickson, Lilli Sandler and Nora Bosch continue to provide great care for these littlest Prairie people.

**Secret Friends**

The time for that popular Prairie program, Secret Friends, is approaching. This is when an adult and child are paired, but only the child knows the identity of the partner. The two write
letters to each other, exchanged each Sunday for 4 weeks, and ending with a party where the friends reveal their identity to each other, play games and share food. Sign-up for those who want to be secret friends this year will take place during the next 2 weeks at Prairie.

Conference
On February 29, there will be an all-day conference on religious education with the Central Midwest District’s RE Consultant, Rev. Polly Leland-Mayer. The mission of religious education, the development of a mission statement, RE committee structures and volunteer recruitment and support will be the topics covered. The meeting is in Milwaukee. The cost is $10.00 which includes lunch and child care. If anyone who is involved with religious education here at Prairie would like to attend, please speak with Anne Pryor, 244-7099.

Food Pantry
Doris Brown, who is in charge of the Allied Community food pantry, tells us that the following items are especially needed:

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Corn
- Canned Peas
- Canned Green Beans
- Cereal
- Soap
- Washing Powder
- Sugar

Money, too, is always welcome. We’ll buy food that is needed, such as ground beef, chicken, pork chops and fresh vegetables. Whatever you donate, though, will be appreciated. If you see special buys at your favorite food store, please consider buying an extra amount for the food pantry. Place your donations in the box just outside the men’s bathroom. The food pantry is located in the Allied Community Center and serves those living in the Dunns Marsh/Allied Drive neighborhoods.

Social Action Survey
The environment is our #1 concern according to the results of the Social Action Concerns Survey. Tied for second are poverty concerns and abortion rights. These results are based on 38 replies which represent about ¼ of “on-the-books” Prairie members. It’s hard to know how much to generalize from these results, but at least they probably represent Prairie’s more active members.

The Social Action Committee is now most involved with poverty concerns (the drop-in shelter, food pantry, etc.) and is planning to do more in the other two areas of concern. Judy Skog presented a program on abortion rights and the committee plans to continue doing letter writing and possibly other projects in this area.

We on the committee are interested in taking on an environmental project, probably in the Madison area. If you have any ideas which would be appropriate for Prairie’s size, etc. please call Sharon Scrattish at 233-1118.

Environmental Activism
The Madison Peace CoOp is sponsoring a forum on Environmental Activism with Mary Kay Baum, Spencer Black, Mary Hamel, Bob Kasper and a representative from the Greens party. The forum will be at 7:00 PM on February 20 in the Allison Lounge at 731 State Street.

Racism
The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom is having a forum on Racism with speakers from the Afro-American, Hispanic and Native American communities on February 19 at 7:30 PM in the Allison Lounge at 731 State Street.

Nomination Form 1992-93
Nominations are needed for all officers and standing committee chairs (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, finance chair, religious education chair, program chair, social action chair, housing & property chair, long range planning chair, denominational affairs chair, and membership chair)

Name of Nominee: __________________________

Position: __________________________

Why do you recommend this person? __________________________

________________________________________

Signature: __________________________