The deadline for the next issue of Prairie Fire will be Sunday, November 21. Submit items for November 25—December 9, 1993.

**Calendar**

**Thursday, November 11**
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN’S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All men are invited to attend.

**Sunday, November 14**
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal.
10:00 AM

**Friday, November 19**
6:00 PM
THE FISH DINNER CIRCLE MEETS at the Avenue Bar, 1128 E. Washington Avenue. Everyone is welcome, but MUST phone Pat Watkins at for reservations by Wednesday, November 17 at 4:30 PM. (See related story)

**Saturday, November 20**
7:30 PM
PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS MEET at the home of Karen Gross, 843 Williamson Street, #7. The play will be either "Birth and After Birth" by Tina Howe or "The Abdication" by Ruth Wolf. Please call Karen to let her know you’re coming.

**Sunday, November 21**
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal.
10:00 AM

**Thursday, November 25**
THANKSGIVING DAY—No men’s group meeting.
4:00—8:00 PM
OPEN HOUSE at Rachel Siegfried’s, 5209 Tolman Terrace, to celebrate her recovery. She will provide turkey, dessert, and cider—visitors may wish to bring something to munch or drink. Children are welcome! Call her at 271-2173 if you will be coming.

**Sunday, November 28**
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal.
10:00 AM
"RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS: Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service" led by Anne Pryor.
11:30 AM
POTLUCK LUNCH. Please bring a dish to share!

**Sunday, December 5**
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal.
10:00 AM

**Thursday, December 9**
7:00 PM
PRAIRIE MEN’S GROUP MEETS at the Meetinghouse. All men are invited to attend.

**Saturday, December 11**
7:00 PM
CAROL SINGING at the home of Norma and Mike Briggs, 2404 Fox Ave. (See related story)

**Sunday, December 12**
9:00 AM
Choir Rehearsal.
10:00 AM
"PRECIOUS MEMORIES" presented by George Calden.

**Today’s Quote**
“Americans say they need oil, but every time it washes up on shore they complain.” -GEORGE CARLIN

Come Early!

Coffee and music are beginning about 5 minutes before the service. Our musicians are enjoying the piano so much, they have spontaneously begun a new feature for Prairie—a prelude! We encourage you to come 5 to 10 minutes before 10:00, get your coffee, and sit down and enjoy the wonderful music. (This will also help us begin on time, of course...) Thanks to our musicians: Mike

...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
Thank You!

Thanks to all the Prairie Folk who helped make the Potluck Workday on Saturday, November 6 a success! Workers included Barbara Rames, Al Nettleton, Paula Pachciarz, Carl Wacker, Larry Murdock and Diane Derouen. In spite of the flurries snowflakes prairie seeds were planted, windows repaired, the building made ready for the Fire Inspector, drain grates cleaned, lawn raked, drain tile cleaned and much more.

-Karen Gross
Building/Property Chair

Prairie Patter

Each week during the Sunday service we have an opportunity to share our joys and concerns with one another. We have placed this time during the opening of the service so our children can participate in the sharing of our community. This time is not for adults only—we welcome hearing from Prairie youth about the joys and concerns in their lives.

A sincere and hearty thank you to all the members of Prairie who attended the Annual Fall Parish meeting this past Sunday. We completed the business in less than two hours. The congregation helped steer the course for the next year. We passed the proposed budget that was in the Prairie Fire four weeks ago. We separated it into an operating budget and a capital budget. The window expense will be considered a capital expenditure.

Many of us spent six hours at Prairie Meeting house on Sunday. The Board met at nine to get and up to the minute report on the pledge drive. The choir met to practice. Coffee was started so we would be able to have coffee during the service. We had an enjoyable potluck with new and old friends. We had an amazing array of main dishes, jello salads, and desserts. Next we set up for the business meeting. Thanks to all the volunteers the day went very smoothly.

We initiated a new generation of child care providers yesterday; Erik and Katrina Schroeder looked after the children during the Fall meeting. Thank you both for your work.

I heard from two people Sunday that the series on Unplugging the Christmas Machine drew them to the service. I learned how plugged in I still am to making that time of year a merry and perfect time for all. I have to remind myself that I’m not responsible for how everyone feels.

Blessed be-
-Julie Bonser
President

Fish/Ethnic Dinner Circle

The Fish/Ethnic Dinner Circle started off with a bang at the Imperial Garden Chinese Restaurant in Middleton. Seventeen people made reservations and we had good food and a good time. As we alternate between the fish dinner and the ethnic dinner, the November dinner will be the great fish dinner at the Avenue Bar. A few rules of the game, though: 1) PLEASE DO NOT SHOW UP WITHOUT A RESERVATION! 2) Call Pat Watkins at work between 10:30 and 6:00 (262-7960) but no later than 4:30 on Wednesday, November 17th (she phones in the reservation on Wednesday evening). Don’t phone after the deadline and ask her to add you to the reservation. If you’re late, call the restaurant yourself and ask to be added to the Prairie reservation (but be aware that the restaurants don’t like that!).

Piano Party

Piano-playing Prairie people of all ages: come try out our new piano on November 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Beginners, happy stumblers, serious amateurs and performance pros are all welcome, Mistake-tolerant families and friends are also welcome. Allotted playing time will be determined by the size of the group. Younger children will play first. The building is reserved until 10:00 PM if the muse still hangs on 9:00 PM. Please bring a no-fuss, no-clean-up snack or beverage. Paper cups and plates will be furnished.

Carol Sing

A singing get-together is planned for 7:00 PM on Saturday, December 11, at the home of Norma and Mike Briggs, 2404 Fox Avenue, Madison. Bring finger foods to share. We will use the Prairie Song Book and the new UU Hymnal. Bring your new Hymnal if you have one. If you have a favorite carol which is not in one of these books, please bring along multiple copies. Also, if you have a copy of the Oxford Book of Christmas Carols, bring that, too.

UNICEF

Lots of folks brought in the UNICEF boxes and money they collected on Halloween; THANK YOU! If you still have a UNICEF box at home, please bring it in as soon as possible!
Preschool/Nursery
This coming Sunday, Nov. 14, the children in this group are going to paint the walls in their rooms with hand prints. Metje Butler is going to lead this activity, along with the regular leaders Emilie Dickson, Lili Sandler and Nora Bosch. We especially invite all the children who are a part of this group to be here to be part of this fun event. The clothing worn should obviously not be “Sunday best!”

Treasure Hunting (K-1-2)
The theme of this past week’s session was “Worry.” The group talked about how they really don’t need to worry about most things. Then they took inspiration from Central American peoples who make worry dolls to take away their worries. The bulk of the time was spent making very, very wonderful worry dolls out of pipe cleaners, emory boards and cloth. The children really enjoyed this activity. Shirley Grinrod and Larry Murdock led this group.

The Stepping Stone Year (3-4-5)
This week’s focus was on the Mayan creation story. After reading and listening to the story, the children could compare it to others that they’ve investigated so far this year. The group then made a frieze depicting the story, with lots of fun and good discussion during the making of the different frieze sections. This group was led by Jan Howe and Paula Pachciarz.

We Believe (6-7-8)
“Who Owns the Earth/Life’s Interconnectedness” was the theme for this past week’s session. Bob Purvis and Randy Converse led the group in a game of animal charades to start them thinking of Noah as a conservationist. They then began work on a play based on a West African story that will use hand held puppets they’ve created. The key question of the play is, Who owns the earth? The details of the play center on the idea that if a woman has a banana tree in her garden, only the hole belongs to her; the water belongs to all creatures.

YRUU Notes
YRUU will meet regularly from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Society and at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Society. Prairie youth are welcome to attend either group, but are requested to choose one and stick with it thereafter.

Food Pantry:
KEEP UP THE FOOD PANTRY GIFTS, AND THANKS TO ALL YOU GIVERS! It’s the end of the month that is a time when our neighbors on Allied Drive need help. The food pantry in the community center is open second and fourth Fridays, so it would be GREAT if Prairie people brought food to help them.

“One-A-Week Club...
...of Blood Donors. That quota would not be a possible goal for our Prairie UU Society alone, but by combining with First Unitarian Society we have contributed a part of the total. Linda Sheehy gave a pint in mid-October, Geoff Bonser and his dad Richard gave a pint each in mid September, Barbara Rames also donated a pint in September, completing her 15th GALLON! A member of the new UU Society on the east side of Madison singed the book “James Reeb”! But several of our donors are unable to give because of health problems—won’t you be a new addition to our corps of generous “from the heart” givers? Donor center hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9 AM to 1 PM; Tuesday and Thursday: Noon to 6 PM; Saturday: 9 AM To Noon.

Homeless Shelter
Frank Ilits continues to coordinate our staffing of the Homeless Men’s Shelter under Grace Episcopal Church on each fourth Monday night and Tuesday morning. The number of men served there continues to grow—from the “overflow” shelter (and elsewhere?) extra people appear for breakfast. A few women come also. Though our Society does not furnish food, each of our volunteers brings milk. When supplies are low, the also bring cereal, fruit juice, and other items.

Social Action

S O C I A L  A C T I O N

MISCELLANY

Coffee Service Volunteers
The following persons have volunteered to set up the coffee service on Sunday mornings.

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YRUU will meet regularly from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at First Unitarian Society and at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Society. Prairie youth are welcome to attend either group, but are requested to choose one and stick with it thereafter.

Contra-Dance!
McDuff’s Ceilidh Band plays for New England Contra Dancing at the Dunn Town Hall on November 19th and at Prairie on December 17th. The dances start at 7:30 PM. Admission is $4.00. Call 258-1227 for more information.

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