Imagine you are peering into a mirror. Do you like the reflection? For most of Prairie, most of the time, we do. How did you get the expressive face you have? I suspect the image of your face reflects limitless sunny mornings, the worrying winds of rising clouds, the hot drama of afternoon thunderstorms, the cool humor of clearing skies, the peace and stillness of the gloaming, and the ironic lunar smile rising in starlit heavens. Did you ever dream you would be so beautiful?

President's Column

* Facing the present and past
Over the years, members have told me they look forward to Sunday morning to see friends and friendly faces, get honest looks and fair critiques, and meet with people who look into their faces. The faces we have are among the most beautiful I know.

Long Range Planning

Our Upham Woods retreat Nov. 10 - 12 will include a 2 hour mini-workshop on Long Range Planning. We would like to have at least 8 people willing to discuss with us what things they like or dislike about Prairie, and what they think are Prairie Society's strengths and weaknesses. The results of this meeting will help us plan a couple of services in early 1996. We will also provide background for an ongoing workshop, probably in late March or early April 1996. See you at Upham Woods!

Anne Urbanski

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
Greeters Info.

Our ardent thanks go to those smiling people who have taken a turn at welcoming visitors to our Sunday morning services. Because each of us can be that person for at least one week, we offer these suggestions to all:

Don't be afraid of offending some long-time member by greeting her or him as a new member. Your warmth and enthusiasm will be appreciated! Visitors and church-shoppers tend to come early, so please be ready by at least 9:45. The materials can be found in the left side upper cupboard just inside our kitchen. There should be recent copies of the Prairie Fire, white folders describing group activities, yellow folders that tell about our religious education classes, and a small clipboard for recording the name and address of a person who wants to receive our newsletter. Offer a nametag. Please cut short your talk with friends; they will understand that you need to be attentive to new faces. P.S. — If you or someone you know would be interested in filling the vacant Membership Chair position, please contact Rick Ruecking.

New Church

The Second Baptist Church of Madison has purchased the building at the corner of Axel Avenue and Britta Parkway. (This was formerly the Knights of Columbus meeting place.) Rev. James A. Ivey is its pastor. The first services were held on November 5th. Second Baptist prepares the food that Prairie members serve at the homeless shelter at Grace Church.

Homeshare

Do you have a spare bedroom? The Homeshare Program matches older adults with students in need of housing. The students provide help around the house and are carefully screened. If you would like to explore Homesharing call Independent Living at 274-7900.

MUM Study Circle

The Madison Urban Ministry sponsors study circles to build communities and resolve local problems. Study circles are organizing to focus on "confronting violence in our community." Call 256-0906 if interested, or see the Prairie Fire Bulletin Board.

The IRS Loves Us

Prairie doesn't have to pay state sales tax. If you plan to buy things for Prairie (coffee, copies, napkins, RE supplies, etc.) call Judy Skog at 273-4813. She can tell you our tax exempt number.

Spiritual Diversity

The Madison Area Interfaith Network is holding its 1st Annual MAIN Conference to maximize dialogue and encourage fellowship among diverse perspectives. The conference will be held November 18 and 19 at the St. Benedict Center. The keynote speaker will be Bill Elliot, author of Tying Rocks to Clouds: Meetings and Conversations with Wise and Spiritual People. See the Prairie Fire Bulletin Board for more details.

SOPHIA

A Journal of Women and Religion is the publication of the CMD Women and Religion Committee. Subscriptions and a sample copy are available on the PF Bulletin Board.

Madison Area Guide

Spiritual and religious resources are available in the new Madison Area Guide. To order see the PF Bulletin Board, or contact RE Director John-Brian Paprock.

Ski UUtah

The South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society is hosting a Unitarian ski vacation in Utah. Festivities are scheduled for January 13-17, 1996. The vacation includes lift tickets to Alta, Park City, and Snowbird. For more details call or write Janis Ries, Ski UUtah Chair, South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 6876 S. Highland Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84121; (801) 943-3676. The PF Bulletin Board also has the brochure that accompanied this letter. It has all the specifics.

Storytellers Needed

Please call Bob Reuschlein, 233-6031, if you are interested in presenting a five-minute child's story at upcoming fall, winter, or spring services.

World Wide Web

Development of Prairie's Web Page is proceeding rapidly. We need artwork (drawings, photos, etc.) to spic up the page. We are looking for images related to Upham Woods, RE activities, circle dinners, and other activities.

Another possibility is a Member Showcase which could include photography, drawings, or other types of art. Joe Rodriguez has suggested we develop a list of Prairie folks who have e-mail addresses and distribute that list among those folks.

If you are interested in contributing, please call me at 258-8269 or e-mail me at: arbana@earth.exeepc.com

---- Anne Urbanski

Building Calendar

Until further notice, follow these steps to reserve the building: 1) Enter the dates, times, and who will be using the building on the desk calendar in the RE Office downstairs. 2) Contact Rick Ruecking at 238-2924 to confirm the date and to make key arrangements. In most cases the first group registering will be honored.

Spiritual Workshops

Four different workshops are being offered by Inroads, a "project of workshops for inner healing and renewal through individual spiritual exploration, encounter, and discovery." These workshops are being led by our RE Director John-Brian Paprock. For more details, call 274-4405, or see the PF Bulletin Board for the brochure.

Volunteers Needed

First Call For Help needs several adult volunteers to answer the 246-HELP phone lines at its Madison office during the day on weekdays. Complete training is provided, and small group sessions are held frequently at regular intervals. For more information, call Denise at 246-4381
World Update

Members should be receiving the bimonthly magazine UU World. Please review and update the UU World Audit Report which will be on the greeter's table for a few weeks to assure your family will continue receiving a copy of this magazine. Sheets for additional names will also be available. If you want this magazine, it is your responsibility to assure the information is correct.

Violence Conference

The Winter Institute, Feb. 15-18 in Madison, will focus on "Turning Back the Tide of Violence." Geoffrey Canada, the featured presenter, is the author of Fist Stick Knife Gun, a book recently released by Beacon Press. See PF Bulletin Board for more information.

WomanSpirit '96

WomanSpirit 1996 will be held January 26-28 at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois. The special speaker is Rev. Shirley Ann Ranch, author of Cakes for the Queen of Heaven. See the PF Bulletin Board for more information.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 26 -- Thanksgiving Intergenerational - "A Time to Share"

On November 26 many of us will gather together for Prairie's Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service. We encourage all who can to come and bring good memories to share of this Thanksgiving and others, and to bring "artifacts" (photos, wishbones, recipes) to go with these memories. We would especially like for children to be prepared to tell us what they enjoy about Thanksgiving.

In addition, we are looking for a few people who know (or would like to learn) how to make cornhusk dolls. Also, a CIDER PRESS and produce for a fall harvest display would be greatly appreciated. (Not to give any of our plans away.) If you would like to help, please contact Paula Pachciarz (273-4806) or Mary Mullen (271-5192). Thanks!

December 10 -- "Let Every Little Light Shine" - George Calden

This morning will be a celebration of the uniqueness and worth of "ordinary" folks like ourselves. George will present the third of his services of readings and dramatizations of reminiscence stories.

The presentations are:
- "Angels in Brooklyn"
- "Goodbye to Uncle Izzy"
- "On Reaching 80"

TODAY'S MISPLACED QUOTES

"In every outthrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is a story of the earth."
—Rachel Carson

"Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another."
—Juvenal

November 19 -- "Discerning a Philosophy of Life" - Rev. Edward H. Lanphier, M.D.

Rev. Lanphier shares his life with us. He will briefly examine factors that influenced him at important "points of decision" in his satisfying career.

Lanphier retired in 1992 as Senior Scientist Emeritus in the Department of Preventive Medicine. Until then, he was also Assistant Director for Biomedical Research at the U.W. Biotron and was involved in research related to deep-sea diving.

After college, medical school, internship, and postdoctoral fellowship, Lanphier became a diving and submarine medical officer in the U. S. Navy. His naval career included being the Diving Medical Officer for the 1958 nuclear weapons tests in Eniwetok and serving as the Medical Officer for a naval frogmen team.

After leaving the navy in 1959, Dr. Lanphier became Assistant Professor of Physiology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was responsible for creating the world's highest pressure chamber for human studies.

After a dozen years in Buffalo, Lanphier was granted leave for a "trial semester" in seminary. With encouragement from the Archbishop of Canterbury and others, he stayed for the full course and was ordained.

—Mike Schimizky

Preschool/Nursery:

The preschoolers continue to enjoy a variety of activities, including art, storytelling, and games.

K-1-2: Holidays and Holy days

Learning about the festival of Halloween. They told scary stories and decorated masks.

3-4-5: Time Travels

Our time travellers started exploring the culture and beliefs of the woodland nations of Native Americans.

6-7-8: The Church Across The Street

Diverse speakers visited Prairie. Baha'i and Native American representatives visited on successive weeks.

PYGs

The next PYGs meeting at Prairie is scheduled for the third Sunday of November (the 19th).

Thank you to RE helpers: Erin Pryor-Ackerman, Tara Converse, Carl Wacker, all RE teachers, Kathy Converse, and the RE Committee.

A very special thanks to our guest speakers: Dale Malher, local Baha'i, and Art Shegonee, local Native American pipe carrier, activist, teacher and traditional dancer.

The Parent-Teacher Coffee for the Sr. High Group is still rescheduled for November 19, after the service.

Due to coordinating the Madison Interfaith Conference, I will not be at Prairie for RE on Nov. 19th. Erin Bosch and Kathy Converse will be covering RE.

Looking ahead, Nifty Gifty is coming....December 10th this year. If you would like to help, please contact John-Brian Paprock or Erin Bosch in the next couple of weeks. Also, remember to save recyclables for the annual Nifty Gifty creations.
IRECTIONS TO UPHAM WOODS

From the NORTH on I 90-94:

Use Exit 85 (US 12/WI 16). Turn East on 12/16. Turn left on County A. A becomes N beyond RR underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

From the SOUTH on I 90-94:

Use Exit 87, Wisconsin Dells (WI 13 North). Turn left at the first stoplight on US 12/ WI 16. Turn right on County A. A becomes N beyond underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

From the EAST on WI 16 or WI 23:

Follow 16/23 through the City of Wisconsin Dells (several stoplights) Cross the Wisconsin River. Turn right on US 12/WI 16 (next stoplight past River). Turn right on County A. A becomes N beyond RR underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

From Baraboo, etc on US 12:

Follow US 12 through the Village of Lake Delton to the intersection with WI 16/23. Continue straight to the top of the hill. Turn right on County A. A becomes N beyond RR underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mi. past underpass.

Note: When coming this way you will pass a road labeled County A while still in Lake Delton. Be sure you pass the intersection of US 12 and WI 16/23/13 before you turn on County A.

Note to TRUCKS:

The RR underpass on County A has a clearance of 12'2". Taller trucks should turn off of US 12/WI 16 on to 60th St. Turn right on County N. Upham Woods is on the left in .8 mi.