Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Drive
Madison WI 53711-4843
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Barbara & Bob Park
5610 Hammersley Rd
Madison, WI 53711

PRAIRIE FIRE
... 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.

Sunday, September 15, 1996 http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu/
To change address or cancel, call Arleigh at (608)273-9811, or the Prairie Meeting House at (608)271-8218

President’s Column

We have been fortunate to have welcomed many new friends to Prairie Society recently. Several have mentioned to me that members have reached out to make them feel at home. Thanks for making Prairie an open experience for newcomers.

The Membership Committee will offer 3 week-night evenings of orientation to Unitarian-Universalism and Prairie Society in November. They will cover our religious histories, the UUA, and the workings of this Society. Please call Marilyn Peters at 838-8540 to indicate your interests and to have input in the scheduling. All are welcome; you do not have to be new to Prairie to find these three nights worthwhile.

The Upham Woods Fall Retreat is coming soon. Make plans to attend; it is very affordable and comes during the premier leaf weekend this year — October 11-13. We are planning a full program for both adults and children. Remember to plan a family skit for the variety show. There is a registration deadline as we must report our numbers well in advance of attendance.

Prairie bids good-bye to Alice and Lee Bullen. We will miss their good works and wish them love and farewell.

—Rick Ruecking
Leland & Alice Bullen, Tel Hai Retirement Community
Box 190, Hillcrest Apt. 508, Beaver Dam Rd.,
Honey Brook, PA 19344

UPHARM WOODS PROGRAM
October 11-13

* Blackhawk Island Nature Walk
* Guided photographic walk
* Peanut-Butter Mountain Obstacle Course
* Affinity Groups workshops
* Dave Johnson workshop on the birdlife of Paraguay or the war on drugs in the USA.
* Funniest Family videos

* Family variety show Saturday night
* The Welcoming Congregation — Introduction and Expectations
* Prairie Playreaders — Aristophanes, THE FROGS
* AND the activities you want to lead.
* We need several people to lead craft workshops for kids.
the number of us presently attending Prairie regularly. This number
within our group, can be more welcoming.

actions to become more welcoming in the past few years.

doors with lesbian minister Jonalu Johnstone and many gay and
lesbian members and since First Unitarian began to take specific
actions, and generally thinks of itself as the ultimate friend to a
diverse population, Prairie is not officially a Welcoming Congregation;
has drastically declined since the James Reeb Church opened its
coordinated by Lay Minister Al
Nettleton ..

co-corrections.

program is the first in a series on
informational technology
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on correctional problems before the
legislature, and has also appeared on a number of talk shows dealing
with correctional issues.

In Wisconsin, Heffernan has
served as a member of the
Legislative Council Committee
examining the criminal code and
other correctional issues, testified
on correctional problems before the
legislature, and has also appeared on a number of talk shows dealing
with correctional issues.

September 29
"Virtual Chicken Soup"
Bob Dopp

Bob will share with us his personal journey through the
Internet in search of cures for
cancer, on-line chatting with widows
and widowers, and using electronic
mail as a form of therapy. This
program is the first in a series on
informational technology
coordinated by Lay Minister Al
Nettleton.

October 6
"Virtual Medical Records"
Judy Faulkner, president of
EPIC Data Systems

Ms. Faulkner will talk about
electronic medical records for
managed care and integrated
community health networks. Epic is
a supplier of systems to some of
the largest health care providers,
and Judy has some unique insights
on the role of automation in health
care and the impact on the quality
of medical care. She will also
address issues of privacy and
confidentiality related to electronic
records. (Program two in the series
on information technology.)

Saturday, October 12
(at Camp Upham Wood)
"Introduction and Expectations"
Mary Mullen

How have you felt excluded in
your life? How did you learn about
sexual orientation? What do you
fear about participating in this
series of services? What do you
think you or your congregation can
gain through this lay ministry?
(Reading material for the next week
is "Twenty Questions About
Homosexuality," available at the
end of this service.)

The Welcoming Congregation lay ministry will offer every participant -
- straight, gay, or bisexual - opportunities to:

• learn more about homosexuality and homosexuals,
• examine the roots of Homophobia in society and in ourselves,
• become familiar with what the Bible says about this topic, and,
  most of all,
• find ways to combat Homophobia at Prairie and wherever it
  raises its threatening head.

The lay ministry will be conducted in a workshop-like atmosphere
during regular Sunday morning services. Reading materials and
"assignments" will be available prior to many services to help
participants prepare for or experience the topic of the day. Some
services will be very appropriate for middle and high school students
who will be especially invited to at least one service.

The opening workshop/service will be held at Prairie’s annual Upham
Woods retreat on Saturday, October 12. The lay ministry will
continue at Prairie the two following Sundays. Other dates are yet to
be scheduled.

Lay minister for the 8-service series is lesbian Mary Mullen who will be
assisted by several other leaders. Leaders will be of various
sexual orientations so that all those who attend services will feel
validated in their own personal persuasion.

See you there!
Religious Education

We began the R.E. year with a somewhat subdued start. Lots of great “acts of kindness,” and some special “little lights.” Some of them are hanging on the R.E. bulletin board waiting for accompanying photos (once again by Ken Skog).

Thank you to the members of the building and R.E. committees for their hard work getting the R.E. area ready, especially Rick O., Carl, Paula, Barbara and others I’m sure I forgot. It looked so nice that everyone pitched in to clean up afterwards. There were lots of compliments to pass on.

Also thanks to Arleigh for printing the labels for the R.E. Library books, the beginning of an effective library.

Choir Rehearsal Begins!
The first rehearsal of the season will be held on Sunday, September 22 at 9 AM. This is a good time for new folk to join us as well as previous singers to begin again. You don’t have to have a lot of singing experience to come. There is NO AUDITION! If you have always wanted to participate in music, this is your chance. Call me with any questions.
—Barb Parks 273-8775

Small Society Workshop
Prairie has organized and will be hosting the district-wide workshop on Small Societies. Topics of discussion will range from a vision of finance to assimilating new members. Lunch is included in the registration cost of $8.00. This is a great opportunity to join in discussion with folks from other congregations without having to travel far to do it!

Registration forms will be on the bulletin board at the back of the meeting room. We also need volunteers for home hospitality as that is Homecoming week-end and Hotel Space will be very tight.
—Barb Parks 273-8775

Garage Sale a Success
Thanks to all who helped on the garage sale last week-end at the Parks. We made almost $300.

Women’s Group
We will meet on September 22 after morning service. All women are invited to share their thoughts and bring something for a light lunch. This is a good time to get to know other members and discover common interests.
—Marilyn Peters 838-8540

Gardening Party
Come to the meeting house on Saturday, October 5, 10 AM to 1 PM. Help trim, dig, pull, and mulch. We will finish with a pot-luck lunch.

Roommate Wanted
My space is on the east side and will be available October 15, or so. Please give me a call at 246-4304 if you are interested in further information.
—Jennifer Parker

Help Wanted
Channing-Murray is a Unitarian Universalist young adults group on the UW campus. We are in need of a group coordinator. This is a paid ¼ time position with a commitment of at least one year.
—Neil Frey 274-1855

Help Wanted
Prairie is in need of a ¼ time administrator. This position will involve working at the meeting house ten hours a week. Help the officers and board members with administrative tasks.
—Rick Reasching 271-8215

Welcoming Congregation
Committee meeting at Prairie Wednesday, September 26, at 7 PM. Still especially needed on this committee to help plan 8 services related to gay-lesbian-bisexual issues are people who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and are willing to be out publicly, and men. People of any sexual orientation are welcome. If you are interested and haven’t already spoken to Mary Mullen, please call her at 271-5192. Services begin in mid-October.

Congratulations...
... to Prairie friend and former member John Hoffman, one of whose photographs was published in the Sept/Oct issue of ZOOM. John’s photographs will be exhibited at Canterbury Booksellers beginning at the opening at 4 PM on Sunday, September 29.
Saturday, September 21
10 AM -- Noon
MSN Intergroup ACA
John-Brian Paprock -- 274-4405
7:30 PM
Prairie Playreaders
Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast
238-4382

**Sunday, September 22
9 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10 AM
Crime
Esther Heffernan
5:30 -- 10 PM
Yom Kippur
Shaarei Shamayim

Monday, September 23
8 AM -- 10 PM
Yom Kippur
Shaarei Shamayim
7:45 -- 11:30 PM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church

Tuesday, September 24
5 -- 8 AM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church
7 PM
Social Action Committee

Wednesday, September 25
7 PM
MSN Area Interfaith Network
John-Brian Paprock -- 274-4405
7 PM
Spanish Speakers' Potluck
Kate T. Tucker -- 221-2168

Thursday, September 26
7 PM
Program Committee

Friday, September 27
Week of Sukkot begins
Joint observance
Prairie & Shaarei Shamayim

Saturday, September 28
9 AM -- 3:30 PM
The Great Goddess Around the World
First Unitarian Society

**Sunday, September 29
9 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10 AM
Virtual Chicken Soup
Bob Dopp
after program
Pledge Drive Kick-Off Lunch

Saturday, October 5
10 AM -- 1 PM
Prairie Gardening Party

**Sunday, October 6
9 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10 AM
Virtual Medical Records
Judy Faulkner

Friday, October 11 -- Sunday, October 13
Upham Woods!

**Saturday, October 12
Welcoming Congregation
Introductions and Expectations
Mary Mullen

Wednesday, October 16
7 PM
Dunn's Marsh Association

Saturday, October 19
9 AM -- 4PM
NCAC/CMD
Small Societies Workshop
At Prairie

**Sunday, October 20
9 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10 AM
Welcoming Congregation
What We Know and How We Learned It
Mary Mullen
after program
Women's Discussion Group

Saturday, October 23
7 AM -- 7 PM
The Chicago Art Institute
DEGAS: Beyond Impressionism
Pat Watkins & Pat Cautley

Saturday, October 26 -- Sunday, October 27
Premier Performance:
The Simple Gravity of Stars
Elizabeth Alexander
Stephen's Point

**Sunday, October 27
9 AM
Choir Rehearsal
10 AM
Gender Socialization and Homophobia
Mary Mullen

Prairie Playreaders

The Prairie Playreaders is one of several social groups available to Prairie friends and members. Participation requires no commitment and neither expertise nor experience in theater.

We meet once a month at the home of a volunteer Prairie host, who chooses the play, assigns the parts, and provides refreshments. We read and discuss the play, and have a lovely social evening. We also have theater parties, and end the year with a fish-dinner.

Please join us this month on Saturday 21 at the home of Rosemary Dorney and Tim Fast.

September 21
Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast
238-4382

October 12
Upham Woods

November 2
Susan Hagstrom
238-4970

January 11
Rachel Siegfried & Mona Birong
271-2173

February 8
Aileen & Al Nettleton
238-6053

March 8
Paula Pachciarz & Carl Wacker
273-4806

April 12
Guys & Dolls
University Theatre

May 17
Pat Watkins
233-5795

June 13
Hagstrom or Prests
Fish Dinner