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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.

PRAIRIE'S BOND OF UNION

Friday, January 17, 1997

e-mail version available

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President's Column

If you read this column in the last Prairie Fire, you already know that Rick Ruecking has resigned as President of Prairie and is preparing to leave for an extended stay in Hawaii. I personally wish to thank him for his hard work, both during his current round as President as well as during his previous turn at the job. We met during the past week and he passed along information to me, both written and verbal, as well as general good words of wisdom about the job. It turns out (just as I had suspected) that he has done an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to keep the organization and the building functioning. In addition, he has spent countless hours in outreach to our members at times of need. These will be hard shoes to fill! As he pointed out to me, we each bring our own skills and personality to the job. I can not be Rick, but perhaps, with all of your help, I will muddling through the job without too many disasters.

As some of you may know, we had a bit of a mystery to solve last month. The notes from the Spring Parish meeting were missing and no one could remember who had been elected to the Committee-on-committees. For those of you who are uninitiated in the ways of the Prairie By-laws, the Committee-on-committees is essentially

Prairie's nominating committee. They recruit a slate of officers to bring to the Spring Parish meeting for election plus recruit lay ministers for the coming year (this with the Board's approval). The committee is made up of one person selected by the Board, one from the out-going committee, and three members selected by the Parish at large. Now the solution to the mystery: The good news is that the minutes from the Parish meeting are found. Rosemary Dorney filled in as secretary that day and has them all typed and ready to go.

The bad news is that the three members of the committee were NOT selected. This function can only be done by the entire Parish. Therefore, we will need to have a special, very brief, Parish meeting on January 26, 1997, with the sole purpose of selecting three members for the Committee-on-committees. We will have a potluck that day and meet directly following the potluck at about 12:45. I hope you will think about who would be good candidates for this critical job and spend the extra 20 minutes or so that it will take on that day to nominate and elect them.

Thanks for your support as we launch into a new year.

—Barbara Park

Service Auction Fundraiser

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Service Auction Fundraiser. On Sunday, February 16, at Noon. Come participate by offering a service for the auction and being ready to bid on some super services. Among services auctioned in the past have been a Japanese dinner for six, Glenn's famous pound cake, a botanical tour and window washing. Special items of interest may

also be donated to be auctioned off. Lunch, muchies, and sodas will be for sale.

The Service Auction is entertaining and brings together Prairie members and friends in unusual ways as services are delivered later during the year. Don't miss it!

—Finance Committee

Calendar

Wednesday, January 22

7:00 PM

At James Reeb Society
Sexual Orientation
Religious Teaching

Friday, January 24

5:30 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, January 26

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

UUA Resolution
Earth, Air, Water, and Fire
Brent Haglund

after program

PYGs Bake Sale
Pot luck
Prairie Prayer Group
organizational meeting

12:45 PM

Brief Parish Meeting
Selecting
Committee-on-committees

Wednesday, January 29

7:00 PM

At James Reeb Society
Sexual Orientation
The Sex Act: Is it Central?

Saturday, February 1

9:30 AM

Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, February 2

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

Seasonal Celebration
Nancy Vedder-Shults

Wednesday, February 5

7:00 PM

At James Reeb Society
Sexual Orientation
Private Beliefs and
Public Policy

Saturday, February 8

7:30 PM

Prairie Playreaders
Aileen & Al Nettleton

**Sunday, February 9

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

UUA Resolution
Toxic Threats to Children

after program

PYGs Bake Sale

1:30 PM--5:00 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

Monday, February 10

7:30 PM

Board Meeting

Friday, February 14

7:15 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, February 16

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

Valentine's Day Intergenerational
John-Brian Paprock

Noon

Annual Service Auction

after program

Women's Discussion Group

Friday, February 21

7:15 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

Saturday, February 22

9:30 AM

Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, February 23

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

Gold Keys & Blue Ribbons:
Internet Security & Censorship
Al Nettleton

after program

PYGs Bake Sale

Saturday, March 1

7:30 PM

"Cabin Fever" Musicales
at Prairie

**Sunday, March 2

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

Jeopardies to Civil Liberty
From New Technologies
Al Nettleton

Saturday, March 8

7:30 PM

Prairie Playreaders
Paula Pachciarz &
Carl Wacker
273-4806

**Sunday, March 9

9:00 AM

Choir Practice

10:00 AM

Welcoming Community
Mary Mullen

after program

PYGs Bake Sale

Friday, March 14

7:15 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

Denominational Affairs

The Central Midwest District is seeking individuals willing to serve on the CMD Board or a CMD committee. In April, there will be an opening for CMD Treasurer and the trustee who

handles the CMD office and personnel, and the trustee who handles public relations and congregational issues. If interested, contact Barb Park.