



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." (Bond of Union)

April 8, 2005

Prairie Fire is the semi-monthly newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. The two most recent issues may be seen at www.prairie.madison.uua.org

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, April 10

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

*10:00 a.m. "Science, Meditation, and Happiness"
with Dr. Richard J. Davidson.

*12:00 noon. Potluck and Parish Meeting

Wednesday, April 13

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Friday-Sunday, April 15-17

UUA Central Midwest District Assembly, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Saturday, April 16

*7:00 p.m. Community Dance at Prairie (ages 6 and up)

Sunday, April 17

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

*10:00 a.m. "Rehabilitating Democracy in Wisconsin from the Grassroots," with Michael McCabe

*10:00 a.m. Religious Education fundraising walk

*11:45 a.m. Book Club discussion of *The Murder Room*

Wednesday, April 20

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Thursday, April 21

7:00 p.m. Spanish Speakers potluck and meeting at Prairie.

Saturday, April 23

*5:00 p.m. Spring Fling R.E. Event at Prairie (overnight)

*7:30 p.m. Playreaders meet at Susan Hagstrom's, 916 Shorewood Blvd.

Tuesday, April 26

*2:00 p.m. Prairie Elders meet at Oakwood Village West

(* = Details follow in this issue.)

DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, April 10

This morning's service will feature reknowned scientist, Dr. Richard J. Davidson, on "Science, Meditation, and Happiness." Dr. Davidson will present the findings of his research with Buddhist monks and novice meditators and discuss the role that meditation may play in promoting emotional well being.

Dr. Davidson is the William James and Vilas Research Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry and Director of the Waisman Laboratory for Brain Imaging and Behavior at the UW Madison. He received his Ph.D. From Harvard University in Psychology in 1976 and has been at the UW since 1984. Dr. Davidson is internationally known for his research in neural substrates of emotion and emotional disorders. He is the receipt of numerous awards for his research, including the

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: APRIL 17

most prestigious award given by the American Psychological Association for lifetime achievement, the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award. In 2003 he was elected to the Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2004 was inducted into the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

Dr. Davidson's insights will be put into immediate practice as we emulate his esteemed subjects in the conduct of the Spring Business Meeting following the service.

Sunday, April 17

Michael McCabe will be talking about the condition of democracy in Wisconsin and the need for a statewide, grassroots movement to take back our government and rehabilitate our democracy.

Mr. McCabe is executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a nonpartisan political watchdog group that tracks the money in state politics and advocates for campaign finance reform, media reform, and other pro-democracy reforms. Mike is a former newspaper reporter, legislative aide and State Assembly candidate and also was the Madison Metropolitan School District's communications director and legislative lobbyist for six years before joining the Democracy Campaign's staff. He was raised on his family's dairy farm in Clark County and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with degrees in journalism and political science. Mike also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the West African country of Mali.

PRAIRIE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

Mondays 8–10 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.–noon

SHAAREI SHAMAYIM CALENDAR

Saturdays 8:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249-5933

OUR SOCIETY

PARISH MEETING ON SUNDAY, APRIL 10

The Spring Parish Meeting of the Prairie UU Society will be held Sunday, April 10, after the service and will include a potluck lunch. Business will include elections, reports of the committees including the ad hoc ministerial and building committees, and the *congregation will vote on a Board decision to purchase land in Fitchburg.*

PRAIRIE COMMUNITY DANCE APRIL 16

Saturday, April 16, 7-9 p.m., Prairie presents a Community Dance, with live music by Dark of the Moon Contra Band and calling by Reid Miller. In honor of the season, prizes will be awarded for the most floral attire.

Community dancing is fun. Pleasant social recreation is emphasized. Participants dance easy reels and circles. Partners are not required. The program is recommended for ages 6 and up. Teens and college students are especially welcome.

Donation is \$3; under 12 free. For information, call Reid, 576-7529.

When we dance, our hearts take wing.

PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB MEETS APRIL 17

The Prairie Book Club meets at Prairie on April 17, starting about 11:45 a.m. We will discuss *The Murder Room*, by P.D. James. Follow the adventures of Commander Adam Dalgliesh, the detective working on cases of murder done in an art museum in London that seem to parallel crimes featured in a museum gallery called The Murder Room. See reviews at http://www.reviewsofbooks.com/murder_room/

Future books and dates:

May 15, *The Master Butcher's Singing Club* by Louis Eldrich

June 12, *Maybe Baby* by Tenaya Darlington

July ? , *Red Gold* by Allan Furst

Mary Mullen

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS APRIL 23

Prairie Playreaders will meet at 7:30 p.m., April 23, at Susan Hagstrom's, 916 Shorewood Blvd.

Please feel free to come and enjoy a play and treats with the Prairie Playreaders! I am planning to do one of two plays - either a play on *Death and Taxes* by Tony Kushner or a play on *Newton* by Carl Djerassi (you may have seen his play *Oxygen* done by the University Theatre recently). My choice will depend on those coming, so if people could RSVP to 608-238-4970, or SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com, it would be appreciated.

Susan Hagstrom

PRAIRIE ELDERS MEET ON APRIL 26

Prairie Elders meets Tuesday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the second floor activity room of the Oaks Building at Oakwood Village West. We will discuss the pros and cons of discounts for seniors and share information on price reductions. If it is convenient, please bring a few cookies, crackers, fruit, etc. Beverages will be furnished.

Parking spaces may be scarce because of construction. Please consider sharing rides and coming early to wait for an available space near the Oaks. If there is none, return to the entry road and follow that road up the hill until you find a parking lot. Ask a receptionist in one of the buildings for the best way to walk back to the Oaks. People unable to walk indoors the distance of several city blocks should be dropped off at the Oaks.

At the March meeting, sixteen people enjoyed delightful stories of exotic travels. We anticipate a larger group as our snowbirds return and new people join us. Contacts: Donna Murdoch 260-8551, Rosemary Dorney 238-4382, Doleta Chapru 238-4970.

HUMANIST UNION DISCUSSES SKEPTICISM

On Sunday, May 8, the Humanist Union will continue its monthly luncheon meetings with a discussion of skepticism led by Susan Hagstrom. We will look at what sort of issues have been hot topics in two magazines, *Skeptic*, published on the west coast (<http://www.skeptic.com/>), and *Skeptical Inquirer* (<http://www.csicop.org/si/>) published on the east coast, and Susan will tell us about her involvement in the skeptical movement. Once again we will start with a light lunch at noon to which participants are asked to bring a container of finger food that we can pass around the cluster of tables. We aim to start the talk about 12:20 and finish the discussion about 1:30 p.m.

PRAIRIE WEB SITES

Society Home Page: prairie.madison.uua.org

News Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/

Views Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/

Social Action: socialaction.homestead.com

Humanist Union: <http://humanist.madisonwi.us>

Long Range Planning Committee:

www.execpc.com/~prairieu/planning (no space)

ETHICAL CULTURE/ETHICAL HUMANISM PRESENTATION

On April 3 the Humanist Union heard a very informative presentation on Ethical Culture (sometimes also referred to as Ethical Humanism) by Bridget and Thomas Doxtater of Reedsburg. Before moving to Wisconsin last year the Doxtaters were members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Greater Chicago (<http://www.ethicalhuman.org/>), a group similar in size to Prairie but dating back to the 1800s. In their overview they reviewed Ethical Culture history, including the role of Felix Adler (1851-1933), legal recognition of Ethical Culture as a non-theistic religion, the independence of local societies under the American Ethical Union federation, the importance of ethical action and music to the movement and more. For those interested who missed the meeting, a copy of the Doxtaters presentation outline will be available under Past Events at <http://humanist.madisonwi.us/events.htm>. The meeting was attended by members of First Unitarian Society and the Free Congregation of Sauk County as well as by Prairie members.

LIVING WILL AND OTHER FORMS

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is required by State Statutes to make available three advance directive forms, including a living will. The three forms are:

- Declaration to Physicians (Wisconsin Living Will)
- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Power of Attorney for Finance and Property

Copies of the forms may be obtained either by:

- Sending a stamped, self-addressed business sized envelope to Living Will/ Power of Attorney, Division of Public Health, PO Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309; or
- Printing the form from the Internet: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/forms/AdvDirectives/index.htm>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE preschoolers got a special treat on April 3, when they were lucky enough to have some adorable chicks visit their class. The chicks are being raised by the Pachciarz-Wacker family, and the kids were able to hold and feed them as part of their class!

The middle school and high school students voted to support Larry Nahlik in his work rebuilding schools in Thailand for their spring fundraising walk on April 17. Please help them support him with a donation if you are able. 100% will be donated directly to his work, and it is tax deductible.

We are planning for Spring Fling on April 23-24. So far, Robin Carre will be bringing the bouncy house, kids can bring tents to sleep in, and older kids and teens can play Ultimate Frisbee.

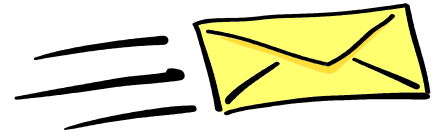
Adult volunteers are still needed for Spring Fling for supervision and staying overnight. We also need adults to help the younger kids' cleanup project on April 17. Please let me know if you can help out! My telephone is 236-0196.

In Peace,

Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky

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*April 14 is a day of special import for Sikhs and is celebrated throughout India. On this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa Panth, the Brotherhood of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh ("lion"), and sisters are named Kaur ("princess").*

## LETTERS



Dear Ones,

We wish to extend our gratitude for the support, friendship and love you provided during Bob's life, during his recent illness, and in the days following his death. We are still stunned by this profound loss. It is difficult for us to accept that Bob is no longer living among us. He was such a wonderful human being. The gifts Bob left behind, along with the love provided by our family and friends has eased the burden of our loss.

Bob carefully nurtured and encouraged each of us. As we grieve his loss we will try to find ways to honor Bob and move forward without his physical presence. Here are some of our plans and dreams. Rasa has returned to Los Angeles to resume his new law practice and work on a variety of cases. Aaron will return to Korea to complete a year of teaching high school students English as a second language. Heather has returned to Uganda to study international development and anthropology at Makerere University in Kampala. Isaac will soon return to Uganda to complete the 10th grade at the Rainbow International School. Cindy is experiencing great challenges without Bob's enduring support. Yet she is grateful that Bob lived such a good life and that he is not suffering from tremendous pain. She plans to return to Uganda to assist training family doctors in East Africa till July. Bob's dear brother Frank has graciously agreed to live in our home and care for our dog Molly until we return from Uganda.

We are grateful that Bob left us with an abundant supply of pesto, jam, salsa and frozen berries to last through the coming months. More importantly, he left us with many gifts that we will cherish throughout our lives and continue to share with others. Please keep in touch. Your friendship is treasured.

Love,

*Cindy Haq, Raza, Aaron, Heather and Isaac*



## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### UU DRE SOUGHT IN ILLINOIS CHURCH

Countryside Church, Unitarian-Universalist in Palatine, Illinois. Our congregation is currently in a search for a full time DRE/MRE. I am emailing the UU churches in Illinois as well as neighboring states. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them go to our website [ccuu.org](http://ccuu.org) and go to the religious education section or click on the link, [Countryside UU Religious Education](#), to view the job description.

### NEW MINISTER TO BE ORDAINED IN FUS CEREMONY APRIL 30

The First Unitarian Society of Madison requests the honor of your presence at the ordination of Joanne "Jody" Dodge Whelden on Saturday, April 30, 2005, at 4 p.m. Childcare will be provided during the ceremony. A reception will follow in the Lower Meeting House.

Jody Whelden is a recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School and an FUS member for many years. FUS would be honored to have Unitarian Universalists from all of the local UU congregations in attendance.

A sermon will be given by the Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen of Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church of Racine; the Story for all Ages will be given by the Rev. Kelly Crocker of FUS. Other participants include the Reverends Michael Schuler and Scott Prinster of FUS and the Rev. Darrell Richey of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

### FRIDAY NOON MUSICALES AT FUS

The following musicales are scheduled in April at First Unitarian Society 12:15 – 1 p.m.:

April 15 – Beethoven, Chopin, Couperin, Ligeti, Liszt by Christina Naughton, piano

April 22 – Tunes from 20's and 40's

April 29 – Handel, Spohr and more....Kay Frazier, Tamara Brognano, Eva Wright and more players.

### FUS LIBRARY AVAILABLE TO AREA UU'S

The FUS Library is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during weekend church services (4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday).

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) NEWS BULLETIN

*The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC): advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and throughout the world.*

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### Action alert: Call-in campaign to STOP torture

The UUSC STOP (Stop Torture Permanently Campaign) has initiated a national call-in session to be held the first Monday of every month, beginning April 4, 2005. We are asking all of our members and supporters to join in this effort by calling your congressional representatives on this date and communicating your strong opposition to U.S.-sponsored torture. For details, visit [www.uusc.org/programs/STOP/call-in040405.html](http://www.uusc.org/programs/STOP/call-in040405.html).

In addition, we ask you to specifically urge your members of Congress to support a bill introduced by Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., that would clearly prohibit the "outsourcing" of torture through "extraordinary rendition." To take action, visit: [www.uusc.org/news/alert030705.html](http://www.uusc.org/news/alert030705.html)

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### Action alert: Support new bill that asserts the human right to water

The Water for the World Resolution was re-introduced into the new Congress on March 18, 2005 states that water is "a public trust and a global good and should not be treated like a private commodity." This significant legislation is supported by hundreds of nongovernmental organization including UUSC, and its passage into law would help protect the human right of all people to clean, affordable water. For more information and to take action, visit [www.uusc.org/news/alert032905.html](http://www.uusc.org/news/alert032905.html).

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### Action alert: U.S. officials must demand strong U.N. action on Darfur genocide

The UN Security Council is still having trouble agreeing on the necessary steps to end the genocide taking place in Darfur. With estimates of 1,000 people dying per day as a result of ethnic violence and displacement in this northwest region of Sudan, these postponements are costing thousands of lives. To learn how you can help motivate strong action by the U.N., visit [www.uusc.org/news/alert032405.html](http://www.uusc.org/news/alert032405.html).

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### Burmese villages gain major victory in U.S. case

In a major victory for social activists, Unocal has agreed to compensate Burmese victims of human rights abuses and provide money for programs that improve the lives of Burmese citizens. Responding in large part to the public attention initiated by UUSC activists and others, the California-based energy company agreed to settle the lawsuits brought by 15 Burmese villagers. For details, visit [www.uusc.org/info/article033005.html](http://www.uusc.org/info/article033005.html).

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**Tsunami relief updates: Firsthand regional reports**

UUSC continues to assess the needs of survivors of the Indian Ocean tsunami and determine how UUSC might be able to further assist in their long-term relief and recovery. During a visit to Indonesia and Sri Lanka, staff members Sofia Romero and Martha Thompson wrote about the devastation wrought by the tsunami and how survivors are struggling to regain their dignity and their livelihoods. Their accounts are recorded in a Web journal, or "blog," at [www.uusc.org/blog/](http://www.uusc.org/blog/).

For other updates on how donations to the UUSC-UUA Tsunami Relief Fund are being used and to read other stories from the region, visit:

[www.uusc.org/tsunami/index.html](http://www.uusc.org/tsunami/index.html).

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**Just Works program announces 2005 workcamp schedule**

UUSC's Just Works program has announced its 2005 schedule of workcamps, designed to provide experiential learning and action opportunities for socially responsible people of all ages. For this year's schedule, including the second annual Civil Rights Journey and a new Native American workcamp in South Dakota, visit:

[www.uusc.org/programs/workcamps/wcsched2005.html](http://www.uusc.org/programs/workcamps/wcsched2005.html).

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**For the love of Pete!: A UUSC special event in NYC**

Join UUSC for a very special event celebrating the Pete Seeger's music, social activism and the re-release of his autobiography, *Where Have All The Flowers Gone?*

This celebration will take place May 21, 2005, 8 p.m., at Community Church, 40 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. The evening will feature musical performances by Work o' the Weavers, Jim Scott and the Community Church Choir with the Rev. Hope Johnson and Stan Strickland. Geoff Kaufman will emcee and Pete Seeger himself will narrate and share the stories and music of his long career. For more information, visit: [www.uusc.org/info/purchase.html](http://www.uusc.org/info/purchase.html).

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**SCNews and Annual Report now available online**

The Winter 2004-2005 edition of the Service Committee News is now available online. Visit:

[www.uusc.org/pdf/scnews2005-03-16.pdf](http://www.uusc.org/pdf/scnews2005-03-16.pdf).

For UUSC's 2004 Annual Report, visit:

[www.uusc.org/pdf/UUSC2004AnnualReport.pdf](http://www.uusc.org/pdf/UUSC2004AnnualReport.pdf).



*Drawing by Valerie*

## SPECIAL NEWS

### PRAIRIE PROGRESS IN ACTIONS TO SUPPORT GROWTH

*(Background information for our April 10, Parish meeting)*

Wow! It's been 3 ½ years since the all-parish workshop in growth in August 2001. Over those years we've had extensive discussions about obtaining a minister and about obtaining a larger space for Prairie as ways of aiding growth for Prairie. Most recently the Parish passed a resolution stating a goal to move to a larger space by April of 2008 (passed April 27, 2003) and passed a resolution to obtain a quarter-time consulting minister for a year (passed November 14, 2004).

This note is primarily about plans to obtain a larger space, but first a note about the minister search. The Minister Search Committee is interviewing candidates and expects to present a candidate to the congregation soon after the Parish meeting. We will have a candidating weekend where we can get to meet and interact with the candidate, hear them speak, and take a vote on accepting them on the Sunday of the candidating weekend.

Our search for a larger building space was set as a goal in the April 2003 resolution, which indicated a larger space was needed to "...provide more and better space to meet our growth needs, because it is not feasible to meet those needs in Prairie's present building."

#### **Progress we have made in plans to obtain a larger space...**

#### **The April 2003 resolution indicated general criteria for a new larger space:**

Requirements for the building:

- Accommodate a congregation large enough to support an adequate and stable RE program;
- Include a main meeting space to accommodate not more than 400 people;
- Be accessible to people of all abilities;
- Be located within the designated urban service area of Madison or an adjoining city;
- Be as energy-efficient as possible;
- Provide attractive space for cultural and community events.
- Employ green techniques and materials so far as is feasible, and not require the construction of a parking lot serving only Prairie's needs.

#### **The April 2003 resolution also set up a "Growth Fund" with \$10,000 to be used to help meet our goal.**

**During 2003 the Long Range Planning Committee identified and evaluated 11 properties/ buildings** to determine if they could meet our goal. Archie Nicoletti from the City of Madison Planning Department made a presentation to Prairie of Madison's long-term plans for

developing areas. The city's plans were not far enough along at a specific site that Prairie could currently or in the near term obtain property. Property in the Fitchburg Center was identified that could be available to possibly meet our needs for a location to build a new building.

**On March 14, 2004 the Parish passed a resolution indicating there was sufficient interest in the Fitchburg Center possibility that we should go ahead and have a committee work with Fitchburg Center and an Architect to prepare concept drawings (requested by Fitchburg Center) and arrange a tentative agreement to purchase land for the Parish to consider.**

The March 14 resolution indicated information on alternate sites could still be considered. Information on the Women's Club building in downtown Madison was collected. It meets some of the criteria from the April 2003 resolution but not others. Specific availability, and ability to modify lower level spaces for RE are not known.

In order to develop concept drawings for a building the Prairie Fitchburg Center Committee interviewed several architectural firms to create concept designs – BWZ Architects was selected as the most innovative. In ongoing discussions with Fitchburg Center, the Prairie Fitchburg Center Committee determined that the original Fitchburg Center property had limitations and another site next to Eagle School could be a better site. The Fitchburg Center Committee solicited design ideas from each Prairie Committee and converted these into a "program statement" (building design features needed to support our program). BWZ Architects provided 3 concept drawings for the site adjacent to Eagle school in late Fall 2004. The Fitchburg Center Committee displayed these drawings for Prairie members and obtained feedback through January.

The "program statement" was refined further and a second round of drawings were presented by Bob Shipley of BWZ Architects to a meeting for all Prairie members on February 20, 2005. Feedback from that meeting can serve as a basis for more detailed "design drawings" needed for final agreement on design with the Fitchburg Center.

**In March of 2005 the Fitchburg Center requested that Prairie make a proposal to purchase the land (1.6 acres) next to Eagle School.** This was prompted by an offer from Eagle School to purchase the land. Fitchburg Center knows of our concept designs and indicated it would like Prairie to make an offer to purchase (which could be contingent on our raising funds and obtaining final approvals for a building design).

At the April 10, 2005 meeting, a resolution will be presented to approve an offer to purchase the land adjacent to Eagle School as a location to build a new Prairie Building.

If the Resolution passes the Fitchburg Center Committee would be charged with working with BWZ and the congregation (via meetings) to develop design drawings

for a building. These drawings would serve to obtain detailed agreement with Fitchburg Center on the design. Also, a Capital Fundraising committee would begin work to raise funds needed for purchasing and developing the Fitchburg site.

For more information on building planning, see <http://my.execpc.com/65/DC/prairieu/planning/>.

Ken Skog, Chair, Long Range Planning Committee

## **DETAILS ON THE FITCHBURG CENTER PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER ON APRIL 10**

As requested by the Parish resolution passed on March 14, 2004, a resolution will be offered at the Prairie April 10 Parish meeting to approve the purchase of a parcel of land at the Fitchburg Center that many members of Prairie have seen, next to the Eagle School on Gunflint Trail.

At its last meeting, Prairie's Board authorized making an offer to buy the land, subject to approval at the parish meeting. Fitchburg Center has responded to the offer to purchase with a price closer to the appraised value and a somewhat tighter schedule. It points out that land values increase as time goes by, so offers a discount for early purchase.

Fitchburg Center asks \$320,000 if Prairie buys the land one year after the Parish Meeting, but offers a discount of \$2000 for each month earlier; so if Prairie were to purchase the land, we would pay

\$318,000 in March 2006  
\$316,000 in February 2006  
\$314,000 in January 2006, and so on.

Next month, if the parish approves the offer, the price would be \$296,000.

Fitchburg Center asks \$5,000 earnest money. If Fitchburg Center holds the land for one year, and Prairie chooses not to close on the purchase, \$2,500 would be returned. If Prairie does purchase, all \$5,000 would be counted as part of the total purchase price. (So, if Prairie were to close in May 2005, it would have paid \$5,000 earnest money and pay at closing an additional \$293,000, for a total purchase price of \$298,000).

Construction of the new Meeting House would have to begin within 2 years of acceptance of the offer (before April 2007). If that does not happen, Fitchburg Center would have the right to buy the land back from Prairie at the original purchase price plus a prorated 3% per annum inflation factor but minus a \$2,500 penalty.

Please evaluate the reasonableness of this counter-offer carefully. Ken Skog and Mike or Norma Briggs are available to answer questions if you have them.

Norma Briggs, for the Fitchburg Center Committee

## **A WAY TO FUND AN EARLY PURCHASE OF THE LAND IN FITCHBURG CENTER**

### **Resolution to buy Fitchburg Center land**

At Prairie's parish meeting on April 10, there will be a resolution proposed to approve an offer to purchase land next to Eagle School owned by the Fitchburg Center.

To facilitate the purchase of the land, if approved by the parish, the Prairie Fundraising Committee has developed the following funding proposal that we ask you to consider.

### **Investors needed**

The Fundraising Committee is looking for investors. If you have money saved that is accessible, please consider putting some of it into Prairie's Land Investment Fund.

This opportunity is not limited to Prairie members. Anyone may invest.

This would not be a gift. The money would be safe and it would grow. You would have a legally enforceable promissory note to protect you.

### **Details**

Interest - 3% for the first two years; 5% compound interest thereafter.

Amount - \$25,000 or more preferred, but lesser amounts by arrangement

Timing - investment before June 10 2005

Withdrawal - on 6 months notice

Anticipated length of investment - 7 years, or longer

Investment Conservator - Ken Skog

### **Background**

Prairie has the opportunity to buy the land next to Eagle School at a deep discount if the purchase is completed soon. The terms of the seller, Fitchburg Center (FC) require that construction of a new Meeting House be begun within 2 years of acceptance of the offer, otherwise FC will repurchase the land at its original price, plus 3%, pro rated, per year.

This provision allows Prairie a risk free two year period during which we can raise funds for the actual construction of the building.

The goal set for Prairie's Land Investment Fund is \$300,000. There have already been commitments of approximately \$100,000.

This is a business opportunity—and a chance to help Prairie with cash flow. Please call Ken Skog, or the Briggses, with questions, comments and commitments.

Norma Briggs, for the Capital Fundraising Committee