

Annual Report

December 31, 2008

Rev. Jeremiah Park, Resident Bishop
New York Annual Conference

Rev. George Englehardt, Superintendent
Connecticut District

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith and Action
99 Summer St. Bristol, Connecticut 06010

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, Transitional Interim Pastor
Linda Yowell Lay Leader
David Kelly, Jackie Palance, Associate Lay Leaders
Susan Powers, Trustee Chair
Jill Wilson, Church Council Chair

Heidi Flower, Director of Music and Organist

GraceAnn Grindal, Associate Organist and Director

Amy Kelley, Chapel Organist

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**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOMINATING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY THE CHURCH CONFERENCE
December 16, 2008**

Nominating/Leadership Development Committee

Dennis Winkleblack, Chairperson
Jill Wilson, Vice Chairperson
A Lay Leader
2009: Terry Parker, Jill Wilson, Joyce Rioux
2010: Elizabeth Baker, Ron Ciarcia, Louise Schaffrick
2011: **Jeff Paulette, Chick Blair,**

Board of Trustees

2009: Ron Baker, Chris Wilson, **Joyce Rioux**
2010: Tammy Kelly, Terry Parker, **Mike Fasci**
2011: **Sue Powers, John Hickman, Ray Barker**

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Bill Katt, Chairperson
A Lay Leader
2009: Kathy Dube, Rita Farren, Tim Krauss
2010: Bill Katt, Richard King, Diane Ashworth
2011: **Jerry Rivard, Naomi McConnell, Rebecca Gibbs**

Church Council

Chairperson: Jill Wilson
Vice Chairperson: Linda Ice
Lay Leader: **Jackie Palance (2009)**
Assoc. Lay Leader: David Kelly (2010)
Recording Secretary: Jackie Palance
Membership Secretary: Louise Schaffrick
Lay Members to Annual Conference: Tim Krauss; Jackie Palance; Terry Parker
Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference: Janice Moore
Trustee Chairperson: Sue Powers
Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson: Bill Katt
Stewardship Chairperson:
Finance Chairperson: John Hickman
Treasurers: Tim Krauss, Linda Ice
Financial Secretary: Jane Palokat
Assistant to Financial Secretary: Flo Alverides
Sunday School Superintendent: Shirley Paulette
Christian Education Chairperson: Shirley Paulette

Outreach Chairperson: Bill Myhill
Worship Chairperson: **Carol Rivard**
Roberts Fund Co-Chairpersons: Beth Provost and Mattie Verzino
Member Nurture Chairpersons: Dori Nolan and **Linda Ice**
History Chairperson: Vivian Brackett
Scholarship Chairperson: Barbara Fasci
Country Cupboard Fair Chairperson: Karen Rochelle
Boy Scout Liaison: Jerry Lee
Safe Sanctuaries Liaison: Jerry Lee
United Methodist Youth Leader: Diane Ashworth
Men's Fellowship Chairperson: Bill Thibodeau
Women's Group Chairperson: **Jackie Palance**

Finance Team

Chairperson: John Hickman
Treasurer: Tim Krauss, Linda Ice
Financial Secretary: Jane Pallokatt
Council Chairperson: Jill Wilson
Trustee Representative:
Staff Parish Representative:
Lay Member to Annual Conference:
Auditor:
A Lay Leader:
2009: Flo Alverides, Chick Blair
2010: Kim Jobbagy
2011: **John Hickman, Don Titus**

Stewardship Team

Chairperson:
A Lay Leader
2009: Kimberly Jobbagy,
2010: **Laura Taylor**
2011: **Barry Nolan, Tim Wilson**

Education Team

Chairperson: Shirley Paulette
Barry Nolan, Diane Ashworth, Lang Ashworth,
Kim Jobbagy, Susie Parker, Eleanor Riker, Callie Riotte
A Lay Leader:
Librarian:
Music Liaison: Graceann Grindal
Crib Nursery: Esther Contois
Scholarship Fund: Barbara Fasci
Adult Education:
UMYF: Diane Ashworth

Outreach and Missions Team

Chairperson: Bill Myhill
Covenant to Care Chairperson: Susan Lee
Cheer: Colleen Shover

Zion Meals: Bill and Elaine Myhill
Bargain Center: Elaine Myhill
Friends of Prospect: Barbara Fasci and Carolyn Koboski
A Lay Leader

Member Nurture Team

Co-Chairpersons: Dori Nolan and **Linda Ice**
2009: Kimberly Jobbagy, Dori Nolan
2010: Kristina Yard
2011: **Linda Ice, Diane Ashworth**
A Lay Leader

Worship Team

Chairperson: **Carol Rivard**
Altar Guild: Janice Moore
Music Director: Heidi Flower
Co-Head Ushers: Bill Katt **John Hickman**
Greeters: Carolyn Koboski
Acolytes: Lisa King
Communion Stewards: Lori and Chuck Pelkey
A Lay Leader
2010: Tammy Kelly
2011: **Diane Skelskey, Jeanette Baker, Marion Hickman**

Funeral Reception Team

Chairperson: Susan Powers
Flo Alverides, Liz Baker, Marjorie Herold, Janice Moore, Jean Osborne, Jane Pallokat,
Louise Schaffrick, Irene Taylor

College Scholarships

Chairperson: Barbara Fasci
Liz Baker, Ray Barker, Barbara Blais, Deborah Fasci, Beverly Lovell, Gail McDonald, Barry
Nolan, Don Titus, Terry Parker

Bargain Center

Chairperson: Elaine Myhill
Frieda Prescott, Stephanie Naumchick, Colleen Shover

Roberts Fund

Co-Chairpersons: Beth Provost and Mattie Verzino
Susan Lee, Bill Myhill, Deborah Fasci

Church History

Chairperson: Vivian Brackett
Ron Baker, Marjorie Herold, Jane Pallokat, Art Peterson, Charles Ricker, Virginia Wall,
Kathy Dube

Technology

John Rioux, Bob Rioux, Tim Krauss, Michael Fasci, Tim Wilson
Web-Master: Jeanette Baker

Communications (Publicity) – Kathy Dube

Membership Records

Chairperson: Louise Schaffrick

Lorraine Bulliss, Barbara Blais, Sue Powers, Elizabeth Baker, Jane Pallokat

Membership Summary for 2007-2008

Total Full Membership, September 30, 2007 785

Received into Full Membership
Confession of Faith 4
Preparatory Membership 4
Other UMC $\frac{1}{9}$

Total Full Membership 794

Received from Full Membership
Other UMC 4
Other Denominations 1
Withdrawals 10
Deaths $\frac{11}{26}$

Total Full Membership December 31, 2008 768

Preparatory Membership 212
Constituency Rolls 121
Baptisms 10
Marriages 3
Funerals 15

Louise Schaffrick
Membership Chair

Membership Report
September 30, 2007 – December 31, 2008

Received by Confession of Faith (4)

Peter Caron
Lisa (Martin) Caron
Samantha Bouffard
Jeffrey Lowd

Received from other UMC (1)

Cliff Kayser

Received by Preparatory Membership (4)

Carly Mattice
Estelle Franck
Brendan Gonsalves
Sarah Hart

Removed to Other UMC (4)

Timothy Rackliffe
Sarah Rackliffe
Sarah Rahmig
Laura Rahmig

Removed to other denomination (1)

Gary Holman

Removed by withdrawal (10)

Lorraine Stanhope	Daniel O'Flaherty
Nancy Peterson	Barbara O'Flaherty
Edwin Peterson	Katherine Phoenix
Nancy Ebner	Patrick Keegan
Denise McCarthy	Tina Keegan

Removed by Death (11)

Willard Dekow	Nancy L. Olson
Evelyn Chase	Richard Grady
Helen Burrill	Marjorie Bunnell
Daniel Harrigan	Harry Herold, Jr.
Otto LaBar	James B. Orr

Conference Action Names January, 2009

Second Year

Artibani, Sarah
Greenburger, Katherine, New Hartford, CT
Holcomb, Kenneth Terryville, CT
Lundgren, Misty, Add. Unk.
Magden, Lizbeth, Add. Unk
Milbury, Kimberly, Add. Unk
Miller, Jerry, Loretta, Shelina, FL
Norton, Kristal, Newington, CT
Petrolito, Lois, Hartford, CT

Swierczynski, Sharon, FL

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

It has been an eventful and heartrending year for this committee. We started with enthusiasm with several new faces, including me. Then issues arose.

First was a controversy over “Sex Offenders” and their acceptance into the congregation – The Church Council asked the Committee to review and update the “Safe Sanctuaries Policy” incorporating a “Limited Access Agreement” . The Committee prepared an updated policy and it was approved at a Special Church Conference in September.

There was a growing concern with Pastor Dee Stevens, partially based on personality conflicts and partially on her administration and carrying out of Church Council actions. This came to a head when several members wrote to the Finance Committee stating that they were with holding their financial contributions. At the April meeting of the Council, this came to the floor and after the meeting – which at least one member left crying – we contacted the District Superintendent and told him that the situation was not good and that it would be best for everyone if there was a pastoral change. In June, Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack was appointed as Transitional Interim Pastor to help us start to resolve our problems and begin the healing process.

Budgetary concerns lead to a special charge conference being in December. Numerous cuts were made to the spending side including the elimination of the Secretary and Sexton positions. The parties whose positions were eliminated were advised the next day of this action. They will continue to work through January 30, 2009 and will receive severance pay through February 15, 2009.

The committee continues to progress and has provided updated information to the District Office on the relationship between the Pastor and Congregation as well as on the health and well being of the Congregation.

William Katt, Sr.
Chair

PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE

One of my favorite hymns begins: "This is a day of new beginning, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone." ["This Is a Day of New Beginnings" No. 383]

The year, 2008, was a year of substantial pain for our church. Decisions were made that satisfied some, disappointed others and hurt several. None of the decisions about a limited access policy for sexual offenders or about changing pastors or about eliminating staff positions for secretary and sexton in light of financial realities resulted in whole church rejoicing. And, since rejoicing is at the heart of Christ's Church, the lack of it has meant that we as a body have suffered terribly.

If the events that have transpired have left us exhausted and tempted to despair, the way this church has responded to these crises is something to celebrate. I'm hard put to recall a church that I've served as pastor (and I've served 8 of them!) that has stepped up to the plate, rolled up their sleeves and dug in (or jumped in) to begin doing what they could to be as faithful a church as they knew how as has Prospect. As the year ends and we are recruiting volunteers to do the tasks formerly done by the secretary and sexton, the phrase "Do one more thing" has often been employed. To say the least, many people are doing one thing more than they had and some more than one! It is an inspiration.

Will it be enough? That, of course, is the question. On the eve of beginning a sermon series designed to advance the conversation about our future, it's too easy to say "Absolutely yes!" or "Absolutely no!" We must temper enthusiasm for the great beginnings with the reality that sustaining such energy will be no easy task. However, perhaps it's never more true than if we apply the old saying to our situation: "Where there's a will there's a way." If we believe God is with us (and we do); if we believe it's God's will that our church continue (and we do); then we must also believe that God has a way for us to go, a way for us to follow that will result in God's will being done.

The hymn concludes: "Then let us with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new."

The new day of Prospect church is indeed beginning. It has been and continues to be my great privilege and joy to share the journey with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Winkleblack

CHURCH COUNCIL

2008 has been an amazing year! Change has been the name of the game.

At the outset we changed the Church Council meeting format. We eliminated the round table discussion by each chairperson, which opened the way for an increased focus of visioning and planning. The world of electronics has greatly assisted in increased communication ahead of meetings.

In addition to the monthly council meetings, 4 different church-wide meetings (usually accompanied by a slide presentation) were held. These were conducted to inform our members about several different important issues. 3 official charge conferences were also held to conduct official business. The District Superintendent, Rev. George Englehardt presided at two of the three. The issues occupying much of our attention in 2008 included establishment of a policy specific to registered sex offenders, a pastoral change, Parish Consultant Network involvement, Natural Church Development and a financial crisis.

September was a turning point for us. Following a charge conference vote regarding our policy for sex offenders, acceptance and resolution by our members began to occur. We had to move on and turn our focus to other matters.

Attendance at the council meetings was excellent all year, even during the dog days of August and the busy days of December! Attendance at the church meetings and charge conferences was equally good.

Church Council did not develop as I would have predicted nor envisioned for 2008. The council faced many challenges. While relationships were sometimes strained and times seemed tumultuous, we still found a way to work together and keep the greater cause in mind. We found the Parish Consultants a helpful strategy in coping with the issues facing us. We found a calming influence with the arrival of our transitional interim pastor Rev. Dennis Winkleblack. We found ways to maintain focus via the Natural Church Development process. Group decision making and transparency about the issues became our strength. The challenges have strengthened our relationships, and our goals and we have become a more cohesive group. Putting away the past with its anxieties, criticisms, and distrust, almost all of us in leadership positions will continue in our roles in 2009 together. We are eagerly looking forward... to a new year of planning and working together to glorify and honor God.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Wilson
Chair

WORK AREA ON EDUCATION

The Education Work Area is committed to the Christian Education of the members of our congregation.

In the 2007- 2008 Sunday School year, the teachers and helpers of our Sunday School program dedicated many hours serving our Church and God. In May of 2008, Nancy Peterson, ended her devoted service as our Adult Education Leader. We thank her for her many years teaching in our Church. Esther Contois became our new Nursery School Teacher. Lang Ashworth teaches our PreK - 1st Graders and is assisted by his helper Jeff Paulette. Susie Parker teaches our 2nd - 4th Graders and is assisted by her helper Amber Martin. Carla Heister is our 5th - 7th Grade teacher and Diane Ashworth teaches our 8th - 12th + Grade children.

Our M.Y.F. groups met throughout the year and enjoyed many fellowship events that included but weren't limited to, apple picking, go-cart racing, bowling, movies and lots of snacks. The leaders, Diane and Lang Ashworth and Jeff Paulette and I all enjoyed serving once again.

Our last Annual report was submitted in October of 2007 and the following events took place as follows:

Our 2007 Advent Workshop and Christmas Pageant were celebrated by our Church family. We thank Grace-Ann Grindal, our Youth and Junior Choir director, for playing the beautiful music during our Christmas Pageant. Her piano accompaniment always makes the pageant a memorable event.

Our Easter Workshop and Pretzel Sunday took place during Lent. We thank Carol Rivard for organizing Pretzel Sunday for our Sunday School children.

Confirmation of our 8th Grade children took place in the Spring of 2008.

In September, we welcomed back or returning students and greeted new students on Rally Day. Unfortunately it was a rainy day, but our wonderful teachers improvised and brought the fun into Sessions Hall. We thank the Men's Group for providing and cooking the food in the rain! We are happy to report that we have approximately 40 students registered for our 2008 - 2009 Sunday School year.

In October 2008, we celebrated our 2nd Graders, presenting them with their Bibles. We also enjoyed UNICEF Sunday, when our Sunday School children dressed in costume and accepted donations for this wonderful cause.

We again have celebrated our 2008 Advent Workshop and are looking forward to a great Christmas Pageant in a few weeks!

Grace-Ann Grindal is again serving as our wonderful Youth and Junior Choir director and is busy recruiting students so that we may all enjoy listening to their beautiful voices praising God in our service.

In coming year, we are excited about the possibility of starting a new adult Bible Study group. We hope to to continue the use our wonderful library.

On behalf of the Education Work Area, we will continue to do our best for Prospect United Methodist Church and continue our service to God.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Paulette,
Education Chair, Sunday School Superintendent and M.Y.F. Leader

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications were ready in February for students. Our topic for the essay this year was "Choose three life goals and explain what effect they will have on your future". May 1, 2008 we received 5 applications. We held a meeting May 6, 2008 to judge and review applications and essays. Present were Elizabeth Baker, Deborah Fasci, Beverly Lovell, Terry Parker, Don Titus, and myself. The Elizabeth Seery Scholarship was given to Ryan Pelletier; The Dolores Barker Scholarship to Mandi Lynn Guertin; the Carl Mason Scholarship to Amanda Parker. The Prospect U. Methodist Church Scholarships went to Tyler Schaffrick and Ellen Heister. Scholarships given out totaled \$5200.00. In February our Super Bowl Grinder Sale and donations netted us \$1,041.04. Our Bakeless Sale in May and June gave us \$198.00. We were presented a check for \$500.00 from the Bargain Center. Also on June 23 the Roberts Fund gave us \$1,000 to be used by high school students only. We were very grateful for both of these donations to us. Our October annual grinder sale netted us a profit of \$1,075.19.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara W. Fasci.

WORK AREA ON WORSHIP

The Work Area on Worship is responsible for many "behind the scenes" aspects of our church life, such as ushers, greeters, acolytes, altar guild, communion preparation, altar arrangements, and the planning and preparation of special services. For the 2007-2008 year, we give special thanks to Marion and John Hickman, who created the beautiful Thanksgiving Cornucopia, and handled the ordering and placement of Easter flowers and poinsettias. Thanks also to Joyce and John Rioux for setting up the Nativity scene on the altar. We gratefully acknowledge the gift of new Communionware, given in memory of Evelyn Chase. Janice Moore aided in the preparation and participation of Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services. Our group is currently looking for a new home for our existing communion set and several hymnals.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Moore, outgoing Chair

REPORT FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

*All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!*

This hymn is in my top ten list of my favorite hymns to sing and play. I am fairly sure that the members of the Senior Choir enjoy it as well. I know that they do enjoy lifting up their voices each week singing for our worship services.

One highlight of this past year was the visit of the Barnstormers Male Chorus. The choir and many other folks from our congregation worked together to host these singers and their spouses, and in turn, we were treated to a magnificent concert! I have extended an invitation for them to return as their schedule allows.

The Senior Choir, with the able accompaniment of Amy Kelley and moving narration by Jim McDonald, presented "Once Upon a Tree" by Pepper Choplin on Palm Sunday morning. Our choir and others from Bristol area churches united our voices on Thanksgiving Eve to fill our sanctuary with songs of praise and thanksgiving.

Sadly, two of our tenors have moved away from Bristol during this past year, and we really do miss them. Reverend Al Scholten and his wife, Nila, have moved to a Methodist assisted living facility and can no longer make the trip from Middletown. Our friend, Ryan Rackliffe, has moved to Tennessee, where I hear that he has joined the choir in a Methodist church there.

Happily, we have welcomed new singers during the year – Jackie Palance, Chuck Pelkey and John Rioux have joined our ranks and we are enjoying their voices and good humor!

It continues to be my pleasure and privilege to serve as Director of Music and Organist at Prospect United Methodist Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Flower
Director of Music and Organist

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Covenant to Care

In February, 2008, the adopted social worker from the Department of Children and Family Services provided names of children less fortunate in the community. The congregation donated Easter Baskets for these children to enjoy on Easter morning.

August, 2008, back packs and supplies were donated by the congregation to be given to the less fortunate children going back to school. These back packs and supplies were then turned over to the Department of Children and Family Services to be distributed.

On December 5, 2008 the yearly Department of Children and Family Services Christmas Party was held at Prospect United Methodist Church. Approximately 250 children were welcomed into our church. Crafts, games, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a pizza dinner were enjoyed by all the children. All went smoothly until the very end when all were the children and families were leaving a curious little boy decided to pull the fire alarm. The alarm was reset, the local fire department stopped by, all was cleared and the crew continued on cleaning up.

Bargain Center

The Bargain Center has been profitable again this year, though the Christmas season was rather slow with sales. Volunteers are still needed to help out in the Bargain Center. At present there are only three volunteers on a regular basis. Also needed are paper grocery bags and used jewelry. The used jewelry seems to sell well.

Meals for the Needy

The Soup Kitchen is now serving nearly twice the number of people served since the beginning of the year. Many different people and families have come in for hot meals since the decline in the economy. Donations are still needed, be it monetary, beef broth, salad dressing or paper bowls. On the average month there are approximately 7 – 8 volunteers from Prospect helping out cooking and serving the hungry.

Sunshine Committee

Colleen Shover has been sending out cards from Prospect to anyone on the Prayer List and Prayer Chain that she can get an address for. Her stamp supply is running low. Anyone wishing to donate a roll of stamps is more than welcome to do so. Graphics Plus Printing from Naugatuck agreed to print up 500 note cards and envelopes. All the printer asked for was the cost of the card stock and the envelopes. The money for this was donated by a congregation member. The printing on the cards and envelopes came out great. We are looking into possibly packaging up bundles of cards to sell.

Outreach Committee

In August, 2008 the Outreach Committee was contacted by St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church and asked to participate in the "Sock It To Me" Campaign. They asked area churches to collect new socks of every size to be donated to the needy in the community. Prospect was more than willing to participate. A total of 1,875 pairs of new socks from seven area churches, including Prospect, were collected for men, women and children. They were distributed to places such as: Prudence Crandall Shelter, Christian Fellowship Center, St. Vincent DePaul, The Elms, Subacute Center of Bristol, Sheriden Woods Health Care Center, Ingraham Manor, The Pines at Bristol, Shady Oaks Retirement Center, and Countryside Manor.

Submitted by
Jackie Palance

ROBERTS FUND ANNUAL REPORT - 2008

The Roberts Fund donated approximately \$11,400 in 2008.

Our fund donated \$4,000 to Covenant to Care for Children, with another \$1,000 in reserve, of which \$450 was spent.

This year in our church we have given \$1,000 to the Scholarship Fund for financially needy high school students. We also gave approximately \$1,000 each to two Prospect families who were having financial difficulties.

In the community, the fund assisted the Bristol Police Explorers with the purchase of safety vests, \$1,000 was given to the Salvation Army for camperships, and we also helped a homeless single mother with 2 children with her rent, making it possible for her family to obtain an apartment. This fall our fund bought a living room set of furniture for the St. Vincent de Paul family room for approximately \$1,000.

We received another donation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Roberts Foundation in September. We will continue to help with our annual support to Covenant to Care for Children and the Salvation Army, and look for additional ways our fund can assist children and families in need.

Submitted by
Beth Provost

HISTORY COMMITTEE - 2008

The History Committee has been organizing the many archives we have found in our church. We have also received many items from families settling estates. Some are in poor condition. We are trying to copy the items whenever we can. Some of the more important items need to be preserved by professionals. This is very expensive. Therefore, the history committee is raising funds by selling early prints copied from the dedication program of 1894. We are also selling gold plated ornaments designed by the late Max Rabin of Michael's Jewelry Store. Both items are sold for \$20.00 each.

The year 2009 brings the 175th anniversary of the forming of the "Methodist Episcopal Society of Bristol". There was no church building until 1837. The Methodist Church was the fourth church in Bristol.

Kathy Dube will be writing articles for the "Tower" referring to our History.

Respectfully,
Vivian Brackett

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Fellowship had a very active year in 2008. We had our monthly meetings on the first Saturday of the month. Meetings were held with breakfast at various members' homes as well as at PUMC dining room. We attempt to plan family activities at low costs to help our congregation share in Christian fellowship. We also plan activities in which we invite other Methodist and/or friends of our congregation to attend in hopes of spreading fellowship to the community. When called upon, our organization helps with many activities organized by other Church groups. Every year, we hold a fund raiser, a lasagna dinner. We take the profits of this dinner and donate monies to our Church. In 2008, we donated \$450 to the Church, \$100 towards the food for our Rally Day celebration. In helping people in our congregation in need, we purchased a get well card and 2 mystery books for Judy Blair who was recovering from surgery and we purchased a gift certificate at Border's book store for Estelle Ashworth who also was recovering from surgery. We always extend an open invitation for anyone to join our organization. We look forward in having another productive year

ACTIVITIES IN 2008

Bowling, once at Wolcott Lanes and once at Spare Time in Bristol.

Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey Family Nights, two different dates.

Shrove Tuesday Dinner at PUMC.

Rally Day, cooking and donating food.

Monster Trucks at the XL Center in Hartford.

Open breakfast and speaker, Bristol Fire Chief, John Posey, topic, "Faith on the Job".

Coffee hour for 2 months.

Bill Thibodeau
President

WOMEN OF PROSPECT

Our group participated in several opportunities for fellowship, including a Valentine's Tea, day trip to Christmas Tree Shops, with lunch afterwards, co-sponsoring Shrove Tuesday supper with the Men's group, several morning get-togethers in Sessions Hall, and our annual Christmas Cookie Swap. We are active in the Prayer Shawl ministry, and create a variety of items for our table at the Country Cupboard Fair each year. In addition, we enjoy a retreat day at Mercy Center every year.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Moore

FRIENDS OF PROSPECT

Our senior group known as "Friends of Prospect" meets every month generally the first Thursday of each month. A list is made up for the entire year and we ask our members, usually 2, to sign up for a month. They are responsible to decide where we go for lunch on that month. We usually call everyone on the Tuesday previous and then call restaurant to give count.

We average 25 – 30 each month. Everyone seems to enjoy this. We have had special Valentine's Day parties, Christmas parties with grab bag and occasional picnics. We also go to Asbury Church once a year and hope to have them here in April 2009 for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara W. Fasci, Chairperson

COUNTRY CUPBOARD FAIR

Prospect's annual Country Cupboard Fair was held Saturday October 18 and the Harvest Dinner was held on November 8th. We had several craft meetings during the spring and summer to make items for the fair. We made photo albums, aprons, placemats, casserole carriers, gift tags and some Christmas ornaments and cards. Thirteen crafters joined us for the day with a wide variety of homemade crafts. A delicious luncheon of homemade soups, sandwiches, and pie was served in the dining room

In September, Louise Schaffrick organized apple pie making and we also made pumpkin pies on Columbus Day. Pies continue to be the best seller at the fair. Apple pies were sold out by early afternoon and the last pumpkin pie was sold the next morning.

Advertising for both events included posters, newspaper ads, and yard signs. Previously, money had been set aside for carpeting that is needed in the parsonage. We decided instead to put the funds in the general fund. During the year we transferred a total of \$9,000 to the general fund. The flooring in the kitchenette was also replaced in June.

This event takes a lot of planning and a lot of help and hard work. Thank you to all who support our fair and make it a success!
Karen Rochelle, Chair

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT: PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY

It is important for all of us to remember that the NCD process is about understanding what is keeping Prospect United Methodist Church from growing. It's about understanding concepts that promote natural growth and about getting out of our own way and letting God guide our growth; it is about the letting our God-given potential loose.) We have learned that our minimum factor is passionate spirituality.

What is Passionate Spirituality? Passionate Spirituality includes how we experience God, our passion for Prospect U.M.C. and the greater Christian Church, our passion for devotions, and our spiritual interconnectedness. Put a different way, our weak point right now is our enthusiasm for practicing our Christian faith. The challenge for each of us as individuals, each committee, the Church Council, and all of us a congregation is to decide what Passionate Spirituality means to us and how change our actions to improve it. Below are some suggestions to help you think about Passionate Spirituality in your daily life and in our lives together at Prospect.

Experiencing God is about how we experience God each day and how we integrate our faith into all areas of our lives. As a church, what are we doing to teach members how to recognize God working in their lives and the lives of others?

Passion for the Church (Prospect U.M.C. and the Christian Church) is about how enthusiastic we are about our church and how we see God working in the church. As a church, how do we share and show how God is working in the life of the church?

Passion for devotions is about how we spend time connecting to God each day and how we see the power of prayer working in our lives individually and together. As a church, what opportunities do we provide for people to learn how to use the Bible?

Spiritual interconnectedness is about how we talk about God's work in our lives and how we pray for each other. As a church, what opportunities do we provide for people to share God's work in their lives?

The Church Health Team's Survey Questions: On four Sundays during October and November there were questions about different aspects of passionate spirituality in the Sunday bulletin. The answers collected from the eight questions were grouped and reviewed by the Church Health Team and the Church Council. At the Church Council meeting in November, time was spent discussing the results and talking about ideas for possible activities that to address weaknesses in each of the four areas of Passionate Spirituality.

Below is a list of ideas for goals and plans generated by the brainstorming session.

- Begin adult Bible study
- Establish study groups; e.g. study of Social Principles
- Organize small home-based groups; e.g. cell groups or classes (the Methodist Church grew around this type of group; class meetings with mutual accountability)
- Create opportunities to gather for fellowship and service
- Begin a book discussion group

- Make one-to-one connections; unearth talents
- Increase spirituality through committee work
- Create informal opportunities to increase Bible knowledge
- Create opportunities for dialogue; e.g. a BLOG

Following the generation of ideas the Council was asked, "Which goals should be the priorities?" and "What objectives can we set to begin progress toward some of these goals?" The objectives below were the initial list.

- Begin adult Bible study (watch for more information in January and February)
- Sunday morning - Diane Ashworth and Shirley Paulette to plan and organize - begin in January 2009
- Weeknight - Tim Krauss and Jan Moore to investigate possibilities and lead (maybe a Disciple study)
- Organize some small home-based cell groups (Diane Ashworth has had experience with this type of group)
- Create opportunities to gather for fellowship and service (e.g. a new infant/toddler group is beginning)
- Create opportunities for dialogue; e.g. a BLOG

This is just a beginning. Watch for more plans and news in the near future and please share any ideas you may have with a member of the Church Health Team, Pastor Dennis, or our Church Council Chair, Jill Wilson.

Submitted by
Tim Krauss

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship activities for 2008 included 5 activities: Power Pennies, Soup to Go, Butter Braids, Jason Castonguay Concert and the Pledge campaign.

The Power Pennies created some competition and camaraderie amongst the church committees and raised \$587; Soup to Go, \$385; Butter Braids, \$663; Concert \$300.

The Stewardship campaign utilized a hybrid approach instead of purchasing a canned approach from a professional church fundraising organization. This was done to save costs. The hybrid approach included sending out 3 letter, emails and phone messages to church members asking the members to support the campaign and the church.

The theme included the message that if we do not all increase our giving we will not continue to exist as a church as we know it. A goal was set to raise \$150,000 for the operational budget. We fell a little short but did increase the pledged amount to \$122,000, an increase of over \$14,000 over the 2007 campaign. Additionally, we had members pledge \$18,000 towards the building fund. 54 people who pledged in 2008 increased their pledge for 2009.

The committee plans to send a follow up letter to those members who did not pledge for 2009 in February of 2009.

Unfortunately, the amount pledged was not sufficient to prevent the Church Secretary and Church Sexton's positions from being eliminated in order to balance the budget. However, for the first time in many, many years the church has a balanced budget. Of course, this is dependent upon the faithful members being able to fulfill their commitment. The committee hopes to build on the foundation accomplished with the pledge campaign of 2008 in 2009 to place the church in better financial standing.

The committee will discuss other means of stewardship, estate planning and other long term gifting programs.

Chris Wilson
Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Year 2008 has been one of great change, particularly in finances, for Prospect:

1. We have lost a number of members, many of who pledged generously.
2. We have received less dividend and interest income from the endowment because the endowment was drawn down to pay for the new roof and to support a large budget shortfall in 2007 and 2008.
3. We are no longer able to withdraw any endowment funds to use in meeting our budget.
4. We have lost one of the AA groups and had the 7th Day Adventists use our facilities less. However, it is my understanding that they will be increasing the use of the building more this year.
5. We have been able to meet our Apportionment responsibilities.

As a result of the above conditions, the Finance Committee attempted to present a balanced budget, but was unable to do so without some major cuts. Per the December Charge conference, the positions of Sexton and Secretary were eliminated.

A break in to the office during the Labor Day Holiday weekend resulted in a loss of our collection from that Sunday. We have made a change to Sunday counting, and I thank Kim Jobbagy for her efforts to schedule our new Counters so quickly. Thanks, also, to the volunteers who have stepped up to count before leaving church to enjoy their Sunday afternoons!

I am confident that the coming year will bring more positive results with all of us working together, through our faith, our service, and our gifts.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hickman
Chair

Prospect United Methodist Church
Finance Secretary 2008 Annual Report

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Number of Pledge units:	119	126
Pledged amount, General Fund:	\$108,293.00	\$123,021.00
Pledged amount, Building Fund:	16,489.00	19,051.00
Average pledge per Unit:	1,048.59	1,127.56

Pledges actually paid: **2006:** 91% **2007:** 93% **2008:** 88%

For **2009:** **30 New** Pledges; **57 Pledges increased;** **7 Pledges decreased;** **23 Pledged the same** amount; **7 renewed** after a year hiatus; **31 have not renewed** their 2008 pledge; **15 have not renewed since 2007.** We have lost **6** pledge units in 2007 and 2008 through **death.** (as of 1.14.2009)

Please see "Report of Income 2008" on additional page!

***The position of Finance Secretary has many parts to it!** I wish to thank those who have made my job easier: **Flo Alverides** posts the Sunday deposit for me, trying to get the computer to agree with the Counters' totals. **Tim Krauss** and **Linda Ice** are always willing to help me problem solve. **John Hickman, Finance Chair,** is extremely supportive whenever I have a concern or new idea. Other church members have been willing to step forward and help when it is time to prepare Contribution Statements.*

2008 Accomplishments:

- 1. Continued to maintain the notebook of monthly bank statements for all 16 accounts held in name of Prospect UMC. Late in the year, I started making sure the deposit receipts for all transfers between accounts were stapled to the bank statements.*
- 2. Continued to reconcile the Women of Prospect/Bargain Center account on Quicken.*
- 3. Stapled each deposit receipt to the corresponding counter form, verifying deposit.*
- 4. Revised Counter sheets and rewrote the Counter Guidelines to (hopefully!) make them clearer.*
- 5. Reviewed weekly postings entered by Flo, or made the postings myself.*
- 6. Made and posted weekly deposits of mail and office receipts.*
- 7. Trained new Counters for the Sunday collection.*
- 8. Recoded in PowerChurch each pledge card as it came in. This will help the next stewardship campaign to develop mailing lists.*
- 9. Took primary responsibility for the corrections & refinements to our PowerChurch member data base.*
- 10. Per one of my goals from last year's report: initiated more coordination with the Membership Committee to improve Prospect's use of the Computer Data base.*
- 11. Worked with the Auditor to explain the flow of accounting for all monies coming to the General Fund.*
- 12. Prepared Contribution Statements in May (120 statements), August, and January 2009 (190).*

Goals still needing attention:

- 1. Better coordination of income report detail with the Co-Treasurers and with the Treasurers of the Committee accounts.*
- 2. Better reporting to committees of Pass Thru receipts deposited into the General Fund.*
- 3. Initiate putting Committee accounts into PowerChurch.*

I welcome any suggestions the Prospect community might have to make my position more responsive to the church's needs.

Jane Pallokat, Finance Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees have completed another busy year. Managing the church physical plant - building, grounds and parsonage - is a major part of the group's responsibility. During the year, several workdays were held. Volunteers worked on the church grounds raking, digging, trimming, sweeping, etc. in a continuing effort to manage the gardens, parking lots and property. Plans are underway for a volunteer sign-up in 2009. Various garden areas will be designated and volunteers will be asked to sign up to maintain that particular area. Budget considerations will cause us to rely on volunteers for lawn service at the church and parsonage during the 2009 growing season.

Our church building continues to be used by various community service groups - AA, NA, CODA and a Wheeler Clinic support group are regulars. The Bristol Women's Club, Weight Watchers and 7th Day Adventists also use the building for their meetings.

The committee is responsible for managing the church's portfolio with the help of our broker, Smith Barney. The current recession has affected the value of the portfolio in negative terms. The value of the restricted fund declined by approximately 50% during 2008. The majority of the unrestricted fund was used in 2008 to meet outstanding bills - including payroll.

Maintenance of our church's building is handled by several area businesses - plumber, electrician and heating contractor. Many building issues are card for by a growing number of dedicated church members. We are blessed by their knowledge and willingness to help maintain our building.

A variety of issues are on the agenda for the committee in 2009. The agenda includes the following (a not all-inclusive list):

- flat roof leaks and resulting water damage primarily in the crib nursery
- counter top repair in the lower level ladies' room
- lower level back hallway cleanup and improvement
- inspection and clean-up of all church closets
- organ restoration

Prospect faces ongoing and new challenges and the trustees will be an integral part of the church's effort to deal with them.

Susan Powers
Chair