

# Annual Report

## December 31, 2009

Rev. Jeremiah Park, Resident Bishop  
New York Annual Conference

Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, 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  
Jackie Palance, Lay Leader  
David Kelly, Associate Lay Leader  
Susan Powers, Trustee Chair  
Jill Wilson, Church Council Chair

Heidi Flower, Director of Music and Organist

Emily Flower, Associate Organist and Director

Telephone: 860-582-3443

Fax: 860-582-9224

Office Email: [prospectoffice@snet.net](mailto:prospectoffice@snet.net) Pastor's email: [pastorpumc@snet.net](mailto:pastorpumc@snet.net)

Website: [www.anewprospect.org](http://www.anewprospect.org)

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**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOMINATING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
2010**

**Nominating/Leadership Development Committee**

Dennis Winkleblack, Chairperson  
Jill Wilson, Vice Chairperson  
2010: Elizabeth Baker, Louise Schaffrick, Jill Wilson  
2011: Jeff Paulette, Chick Blair  
2012: **Linda Ice, Jackie Palance, Ray Barker**

**Board of Trustees**

2010: Tammy Kelly, Terry Parker, Mike Fasci  
2011: Sue Powers, John Hickman, Ray Barker  
2012: **Ron Baker, Chris Wilson, Bud Funk**

**Staff Parish Relations Committe**

Bill Katt, Chairperson  
A Lay Leader and a Lay Member of Annual Conference  
2010: Bill Katt, Diane Ashworth, **Tim Krauss**  
2011: Jerry Rivard, Naomi McConnell, Rebecca Gibbs  
2012: **Rita Fasci, Joyce Rioux, Rita Farren**

**Church Council**

Chairperson: Jill Wilson  
Vice Chairperson: Linda Ice  
Lay Leaders: David Kelly (2010), **Barry Nolan (2013), Jill Wilson (2013)**  
Recording Secretary: Jackie Palance  
Membership Secretary: Louise Schaffrick  
Lay Members to Annual Conference: Jackie Palance; **Sue Powers; Jill Wilson**  
Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference: Janice Moore  
Trustee Chairperson: Sue Powers  
Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson: Bill Katt  
Stewardship Chairperson: Chris Wilson  
Finance Chairperson: John Hickman  
Finance Vice-Chairperson: **John Rioux**  
Treasurers: Tim Krauss, Linda Ice  
Financial Secretary: **Lang Ashworth**  
Assistant to Financial Secretary: Flo Alverides  
Sunday School Superintendent: Diane Ashworth  
Communications Coordinator: Kathy Dube  
Christian Education Chairperson: Shirley Paulette  
Outreach Chairperson: Jackie Palance  
Worship Chairperson: Janice Moore  
ReThink Church Chairperson: Jeanette Baker  
Roberts Fund Co-Chairpersons: Beth Provost and Mattie Verzino  
Member Nurture Chairpersons: Dori Posadas and Linda Ice  
History Chairperson: Vivian Brackett  
Scholarship Chairperson: Barbara Fasci  
Country Cupboard Fair Chairperson: Karen Rochelle

Boy Scout Liaison: Gerry Lee  
Safe Sanctuaries Liaison: **Earl Pelletier**  
United Methodist Youth Leader: Diane Ashworth  
Men's Fellowship Chairperson: Bill Thibodeau  
Women of Prospect Chairperson: Jackie Palance  
At-Large: **Terry Parker, Tom Riordan, Cliff Keysor**

### **Finance Team**

Chairperson: John Hickman  
**Vice-Chairperson: John Rioux**  
Treasurer: Tim Krauss, Linda Ice  
Financial Secretary: **Lang Ashworth**  
Assistant Financial Secretary: Flo Alverides  
Council Chairperson: Jill Wilson  
Stewardship Chairperson: Chris Wilson  
Trustee Representative:  
Staff Parish Representative:  
Lay Member to Annual Conference:  
Auditor:  
A Lay Leader:  
2010: Kim Jobbagy; **Jane Pallokat**  
2011: John Hickman, Don Titus  
2012: **John Rioux**

### **Stewardship Team**

Chairperson: Chris Wilson  
A Lay Leader  
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, Dave Kelly  
Sunday School Superintendent: Diane Ashworth  
Librarian:  
Music Liaison: Emily Flower  
Crib Nursery: Esther Contois  
Scholarship Fund: Barbara Fasci  
Adult Education:  
UMYF: Diane Ashworth

### **Outreach and Missions Team**

Chairperson: Jackie Palance  
Covenant to Care Chairperson: Susan Lee  
Cheer: Colleen Shover  
Zion Meals: **Sue Powers**  
Bargain Center: Elaine Myhill  
Friends of Prospect: Barbara Fasci and Carolyn Koboski  
A Lay Leader

### **Member Nurture Team**

Co-Chairpersons: Dori Posadas and Linda Ice  
2011: Linda Ice, Diane Ashworth  
2012: Dori Posadas  
Greeters Coordinator: Carolyn Koboski  
Membership Committee Chair: Louise Schaffrick  
Communications: Kathy Dube  
A Lay Leader

### **Worship Team**

Chairperson: Janice Moore  
Altar Guild: Janice Moore  
Music Director: Heidi Flower  
Co-Head Ushers: Bill Katt John Hickman  
Greeters: Carolyn Koboski  
Acolytes: Jeff Paulette  
Communion Stewards: Lori and Chuck Pelkey  
A Lay Leader  
2011: Diane Skelskey, Jeanette Baker, Marion Hickman  
2012: **Bob Rioux, Melissa Brown**

### **Natural Church Development Team**

Chairperson: Tim Krauss  
Diane Ashworth, Jill Wilson, Janice Moore

### **ReThink Church Team**

Chairperson: Jeanette Baker  
Jill Wilson, Barry Nolan, Joyce Rioux, Linda Ice, Chris Wilson, Ericka Plourde

### **Safe Sanctuaries Team**

Chairperson: **Earl Pelletier**  
**Bill Thibodeau**

### **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, 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



## **Membership Report**

Received by Confession of Faith (3)

Melissa Brown  
Greg Jefferson  
Lisa Branca

Received from other UMC (2)

Donald Workman  
Janne Workman

Received by Preparatory Membership (0)

Removed by Withdrawal 7)

Darcy Raymond  
Liza Bocchichio  
Dorman Gallagher  
James Lee  
Kimberly Wonov  
Cheryl Zeigler  
Melissa Blais

Removed to other UMC (3)

Ryan Rackliffe  
Cheryl Archer  
Victoria Rackliffe

Removed by Charge Conference Action (0)

Removed by Death (11)

Ruth Gallop  
Carolyn Morgan  
Donald Grandbois  
Nickolas Senzer  
Richard Moris  
Ruth Duchaine  
Marsha Forrest  
John Tynan, Jr.  
Daisy Stone  
Georgine Cawley  
Theodore Beers

Conference Action Names January 26, 2010

### First Year

Brennan, Scott, Waterbury CT  
Brennan, Steven, Wolcott CT  
Brown, Donna, E. Hartford CT  
Frojen, Lisa (Kuntz), Danbury CT  
Kingsbury, Christopher, Durham CT

O'Flaherty, Ryan, Pasco WA  
Rackliffe, Justin, Windsor Locks CT  
Reichler, Marguerite (Chadbourne)  
Wilson, Alison, Canton CT

### Second Year

Alverides, Carter, Simsbury CT  
Artibani, Sarah, Plainville CT  
Bennett, Garry, Katherine, Scott, Avon CT  
Bradley, Jason, Joanne, St. Lucie FL  
Bunnell, Phillip, Mary , New Hartford CT  
Cassile, Cynthia, New Britain CT  
Gerrick, Jennifer, Machester CT  
Greenburger, Katherine (Bugbee)  
Hershey, Daniel, New York  
Holcomb, Kenneth, Terryville CT  
Kaczypenski, Annie, Burlington CT  
Lee, Charles, Eastford CT  
Miller, Jerry, Loretta & Shelina, Groveland FL  
Mills, Viola (Chadbourne)  
Norton, Kristal, Newington CT  
Petrolito, Lois (Lowrey)  
Swierczynski, Sharon, North Port FL

## Addresses Unknown

Karen (McGarry) Ciemniecki  
Tracey (Cruz) Dagata  
Stephen & Dora Damiano  
Joan (Fawcett) Genova  
Renee (Appleton) Joy Hart  
Sharon (Eisenberg) Hatak  
Kim (Werner) Heninger  
Meghan Kasper  
Wendy Kirschner  
Christine Larranaga  
Lizbeth Magden  
Michael McCarron  
Melissa McGarry  
Kimberly (Briercheck) Milbury  
Dorothy Murphy  
Charles & Lisa (Brown) Perri  
Colleen Reid  
Cynthia Schilling  
Wendy Thaxter  
Ronald & Nikki (Getchell) Therriault  
Raymond Tie  
Fabio Vargas  
Christopher Webb  
Jennifer Norton  
Debi Connelly

# STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The SPR has been well occupied this year with several ongoing projects and assignments:

1. The Charge Conference in January voted to eliminate the Secretary and Sexton positions. The Committee was responsible for the termination of the people in those positions.
2. Several changes took place in the Music Department. Grace Ann Grindal retired as Assistant Music Director and Amy Kelley resigned as Chapel Organist to take another position. The Committee took this opportunity to revise and combine the job descriptions of Assistant Music Director and Chapel Organist. Emily Flower was hired to fill the combined position.
3. The Committee requested and the Bishop and Cabinet agreed to reappoint the Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Winkleblack on a less than full time basis as Transitional Interim Pastor.
4. The intent of the Transitional Interim Pastor program is that the appointee is with the church for a limited time. The committee has begun, using the responses to a questionnaire sent to church members, to develop data to be forwarded to the Bishop and Cabinet for use in their review and selection of Pastoral candidates.
5. The Committee in concert with the Pastor has prepared and submitted the Pastor / Staff Parish Relations Appointment Review Form, Church Profile and Pastor's Compensation Report to the District Office.

William Katt, Sr.  
Chair

## PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE

Probably everyone who writes one of these annual reports to the Charge Conference wonders who will read it. Personally, when I'm tempted to despair at the few who will read my take on the state of the church I think of some reader in the future, maybe a new pastor, who will be glad I took a few minutes to note what things were like in a given year. So, for that future reader and for the few who will read it this year, here goes.

The year 2009 was an incredible year. The rest of the reports in this booklet will tell about the parts that have made the whole "incredible." If say, in 1999, someone would have said the following: "In 2009 Prospect Church will have a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time pastor, two very part-time music staff, but no paid sexton or secretary," all would have agreed that the state of the church in 2009 would be awful. But, it doesn't feel awful, does it? And, why? Because of the way Prospect members have risen to the occasion. Not just the leaders who have, indeed, been extraordinary, but the oodles of others who have volunteered to sit in the office or care for the grounds or clean the bathrooms, etc., etc. Some have said it's been fun. Many others wouldn't go that far, but they've answered the call nonetheless. And then there are all the folks who have continued to do what they've been doing without whose faithfulness in jobs small and large our church would soon grind to a halt. It's been an incredible year. I wish I

could list the names of everyone who has contributed but I can't. And, since I can't, I'm going to have to choose to not list any names. You know who you are. And, more importantly, so does God!

I would, however, like to lift up our choir and its regular 20 plus voices. The hours these folks give to share the love of Christ in music gladdens the heart of God and literally saves our lives. Equally treasured are the leaders and teachers of our church school. We entrust these saints of God with our most precious ones and they return them enthused and equipped to serve God and the world. Leaders, teachers: we love you and thank you!

New this year has been an emphasis on re-thinking church. One of the things I really appreciate about the few folks who've been meeting to re-think church is that they "get it!" They get it that if the church doesn't change radically in how it tries to carry out its mission it will become irrelevant if not extinct. They get it that the church exists to praise God and serve God's people with the extravagant love of Jesus Christ. They, we, don't know just yet how we're going to do this better than we are, but it's been exciting to dream dreams with them and try a few things. It's also been a joy to see their "rethinking" attitude affect others (for example, the Trustees are discussing how we might minister to our nearest neighbors in ways that haven't been thought about before!). May their kinds increase!

One of the new things in the past year has been a return to Sunday morning Adult Bible study and short-term study groups that meet at other times. A serving church must also be a learning church. We learn in order to serve more faithfully and effectively. Such intentional formation/learning/education groups need to be an on-going priority for our church leaders.

To be very sure, the future will be nothing if not challenging. For one, it's unrealistic, I believe, to count long on volunteers to continue to substitute for office and custodial personnel. In fact, I'm not even certain it's wise to do so for more than this interim period of getting our feet back on the ground. We should be teaching our members (ourselves) that we are called together as church to serve the world not to serve ourselves. While we can justify some folks devoting themselves to serving the world by serving our building or our grounds or our administrative functions, we need to keep this number as low as possible so the rest can devote themselves to reaching out to the world in one way or another which is not only our mission but our only reason for being.

Stewardship, in general, will also be an ongoing challenge. We have been blessed by good leadership in financial stewardship and blessed by so many members stepping up to offer increased financial support. Nevertheless, it is, sad to say, not enough presently. It's expensive to run a church with staff and benefits and buildings with utilities and maintenance and insurance costs.

We must continually ask ourselves questions such as, "Are we being good stewards of our property?" "Are we being good stewards of our resources by owning property?"

Such questions as the latter one which now seem almost absurd will need to be faced squarely, particularly if financial giving doesn't increase dramatically in the years to come.

Personally, I've been blessed to be with you for a year and a half now. (At the time of this writing, I do not know my fate regarding my future here!) I continue to be inspired by the way you love God and neighbor and your life together as Prospect Church. That said, I must also

say that as blessed as I feel I have been, I have also been frustrated. The way I have led as your pastor is not the way I'm most comfortable being a pastor. It feels often as if I have one hand tied behind me and I'm trying to do what needs to be done with only one hand. Part of this is intentional as interim pastors are trained not to enmesh themselves too much into the life of a congregation lest the people become too dependent on them (and like them too much!). The other part is the time factor and the aging brain factor: it's very hard for me to keep my mind on both church and conference work. There are so many people I'm involved with at both levels so that I feel every day as if I'm forgetting something (and of course I usually am!). Our bishop has been very understanding of my human limitations, but no one could be more understanding than the people of Prospect Church. You have allowed me to work without strict guidelines and always held a protective net under me when I've fallen. So, in conclusion I want to thank you for making this dual arrangement not only possible but do-able. And one of the biggest blessings of my life.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Winkleblack

## CHURCH COUNCIL

**“The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church”**, that is our charge. The Council has tried to take this assignment seriously. We have been looking at ourselves and how we need to change in order to serve God in a way that will include generation Y in the process. Several council members attended the District training day in January. The establishment of the ReThink Church group followed shortly. We are looking outside our walls for opportunity and inclusion of all. Establishment of new adult study groups also began. The church has joined the internet social network Facebook and kept our website current.

We had the opportunity to welcome Rev. Ken Kieffer, our new District Superintendent. He encouraged our efforts and reminded us that continuous small steps will pay off. Changing direction takes time. So we are working hard to change gears, and change ourselves. We have an attentive devoted, group of leaders on the council. We have been blessed with Rev. Winkleblack's experience and leadership. We pray that we listen carefully for God's plan for our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Wilson  
Chair

## WORK AREA ON EDUCATION

In the last year, the Education Work Area continued to be committed to the Christian education for all members of our congregation. Our successful work area is comprised of both committee members and all the dedicated teachers and helpers that make Christian education a reality in our Church.

We have an outstanding Sunday School filled with happy children and a great team of teachers and helpers. Our newly renovated Nursery, decorated and organized by Eleanor Riker, is utilized every Sunday and is a warm and comforting place to care for our infants. Our Pre-K through 1st Graders and their teachers, Lang Ashworth and Jeff Paulette, finished out the 2008-2009 Sunday School year with our 1st Graders learning the Lord's Prayer and singing "Jesus Loves Me". Now they are very busy with their new curriculum and weekly craft projects. Our 2nd through 4th Graders and their teachers, Susie Parker and Amber Martin completed the 2008-2009 Sunday School year with their important presentation about the building blocks of our Church. This Sunday School year the 2nd Grade children were presented with their Bibles. Our 5th through 7th Graders and their teacher Carla Heister continue their Christian education and prepare for their future Confirmations. Our 8th through 12th Graders and their teacher Diane Ashworth learn about life lessons and how their Christian Education can help them in their adult lives. We are blessed to have Emily Flower, our new Associate Music Director, teaching our children to sing each week.

Many events made Sunday School memorable. We thank Carol Rivard for organizing Pretzel Sunday. At the end of the Sunday School year, we had our classroom presentations and our students performed their musical instruments. We presented our acolytes and our usher with recognition necklaces and pin. We took an exciting Bus Trip to the Zoo. To start our 2009-2010 Sunday School year, we had an exciting Balloon Release and sent our Bible verses and good will messages into the air! We welcomed our new and returning students with our Rally Day picnic. Our children put on a great Christmas Pageant, "Not The Last Straw".

Our new Confirmation class will begin in early 2010.

Adult Bible Study Groups are continuing to grow. We thank Dave Kelly for leading his group study. Sunday morning 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study led by Barry Nolan and Linda Ice and Thursday evening Adult Bible Study led by Tim Krauss and Janice Moore provide a place for our adult members to grow as Christians.

Fellowship in our Church is strong. Our Saturday Morning Angel Group encourages fellowship for infants and their parents. We are excited about the new MYF project. We will hold our meetings with the MYF of Asbury Church. We hope to have family game nights and a teen sleepover at the Church. This summer, we will continue to encourage more children to participate in youth camps.

This summer we hope to implement a Vacation Bible School.

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 and M.Y.F. Leader

## SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications were available in February for students. Our topic this year was "I wish to further my education because...."

On May 1, we received 5 applications. We held a meeting on May 4, 2009 to judge and review applications and essays. The Elizabeth Seery Scholarship is to be given to Mandy Lynn Guertin; The Carl Mason Scholarship to Sam Lee. The Prospect United Methodist Scholarships to Ryan Pelletier, Tyler Schaffrick and Katheryn Marois. The total of the scholarships was \$5300.00. Seven committee members were present at this meeting.

Our Super Bowl Sunday Grinder Sale and donations netted us \$1219.24. Our Bakeless Bake Sale in June and July netted us \$660.00 Our annual October Grinder Sale gave us our best sale with a profit of \$1266.00 We have the approximately \$30,000 in the Elizabeth Seery accounts, \$17,000 in the Carl Mason accounts, and \$2000 in the Bunnell account.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara W. Fasci, Chairperson

## WORK AREA ON WORSHIP

Worship had a very busy year. We started the year with purchasing two new communion trays to help make communion flow easier. We started the process of recycling old hymnals from storage. The History committee took on this project. The History committee also did children's message for the month of October in preparation of our 175<sup>th</sup> year as a church in Bristol. Worship has a new Acolyte leader; Jeff Paulette.

Pastor reported that after thirty years in the making, we are now in full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was hosted by the men's and women's group. The children did a reverse parade around Sessions Hall. All had a wonderful time.

Ash Wednesday had two services, noon and seven pm.

A five week Lenten program began on March 1<sup>st</sup> with a light soup dinner that followed.

Palm Sunday had a regular morning service. The choir did a beautiful cantata at 4:00 that afternoon.

Maunday Thursday we did a 7:00 service.

Good Friday we held a noon time service. There wasn't an ecumenical service offered in town.

Once again the Hickman's created a beautiful cornucopia for the altar during the month of November. They also purchased the beautiful poinsettias for the altar at Christmas.

The 5:00 service on Christmas Eve was a DVD. The story was told by a puppet. Joyce Riox was our master puppeteer. All enjoyed. The 11:00 service was a communion and candle light.

Worship committee was in charge of the Sunday after Christmas service. As is our tradition to give pastor a Sunday off.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Rivard  
Worship Chairman

## REPORT FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;  
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,  
And with my song I will praise Him.

Prospect United Methodist Church was saddened to accept the resignation of two long-serving music personnel. Graceann Grindal , who served as Asst. Music Director for many years, announced her retirement in June. Amy Kelley, who served as Chapel Organist for more than 10 years, accepted a position of organist at St. Joseph's RCC, effective also in June. Best wishes to them both and our thanks for their many years of loyal service!

Emily Flower has now assumed the duties of Asst. Music Director. She will play for Chapel services and work with the children's choirs. She began her duties in July.

The Senior Choir, along with members of the congregation, presented a very moving Cantata on Palm Sunday, "Touched by the Christ". This was performed as an afternoon concert, with a free-will offering taken to benefit the music program at PUMC. This was very well received and will probably continue in a separate concert setting, instead of during the Palm Sunday service. This Sr. Choir continues to grow and strengthen, meeting every challenge that is put before them. Their devotion and dedication is to be commended.

The Organ Restoration Committee was reformed during this year. The Austen Organ Company has given an estimate of repair work to be done on our exceptional organ, to the tune of \$64,000.00. The committee has begun to put together fund raisers to make these repairs possible. During the summer of 2009 the organ did have some repair work started – reed weight re-gluing. This was paid for with money already accrued in the Organ Restoration Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Flower  
Music Director

## MEMBER NURTURE

The Member Nurture Committee has had an interesting year, working on the membership rolls and trying to remind our regular church attendees to pay attention to those sitting in the pews around them.

It is important to know that just saying "Good Morning" to a stranger, will make that stranger feel more welcome and more willing to come back. We have a good strong core group of people that make every effort to introduce themselves, learning more about the people that are entering our sanctuary. This is an effort that needs to be met by all members of our congregation, not just a core group. Remember -most new comers decide within the first 10 minutes of being in a new church whether or not they will return. Our goal is to become a more welcoming congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Ice

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

## Covenant to Care

In March, 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.

In August, 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 4<sup>th</sup> the yearly Department of Children and Family Services Christmas Party was held at Prospect United Methodist Church. Once again foster and adopted children were welcomed into our church. Crafts, games, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a pizza dinner were enjoyed by all. Attendance was lower this year than in passed years. This year all went well without any hitches.

## Bargain Center

The Bargain Center profits this year have been a bit lower than last year. It is felt some of this is due to the hour changes in the office with the laying off of the church secretary. The hours were changed from 10 – 1 to 9 – 12. The one hour change has made a difference. There were also times when there was no volunteer in the office. If the office is not staffed the bargain center cannot open. The Bargain Center volunteer is not to be in the building alone. This is a safety issue. At present there are only three volunteers on a regular basis. Additional volunteers are always welcome to join the team.

## Meals for the Needy

There has been a change of command at the Zion Soup Kitchen. December 2<sup>nd</sup> was Elaine & Bill Myhill's last of the "wearing of the apron." After over 10 years of dedicated service Elaine Myhill has handed the wooden spoon over to Susan Powers. Susan Powers has graciously taken over the Chef Cook position to lead our team at Zion. Susan will begin her tenure at Zion as of March 2010. All the usual monthly volunteers from PUMC will stay on to support Sue.

## Sunshine Committee

Colleen Shover continues to send PUMC note cards with well wishes to those on the Prayer lists and Prayer Chain.

Submitted by  
Jackie Palance

## ROBERTS FUND ANNUAL REPORT – 2008

This year the Roberts Fund donated \$4,000 to Covenant to Care for Children, with another \$1,000 in reserve. Our Fund also assisted in the annual Easter Basket and Christmas gift collections.

In the community, the fund assisted the Bristol Police Explorers with the purchase of batteries for their 2-way radios in the amount of approximately \$360. A donation was given to the Salvation Army for \$2,000 for camperships, and we also assisted one of Prospect's youth to attend a Methodist camp.

The Roberts Fund also paid the cost of the new carpet in our church nursery. In addition we bought gifts for children who were spending their Christmas at St. Vincent de Paul women and children's shelter.

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 – 2009

The year 2009 marked 175 years of Methodism in Bristol. In 1834 four Methodists formed the "Methodist Episcopal Society of Bristol." They grew in number until 1837 when they were able to build a small church on West St.

The History Committee has been trying to make our members aware of the rich heritage. We are trying to reach the children with historical stories during the Sunday morning services.

On November 8, 2009, History Sunday, we reviewed our rich history with our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Barnes, who brought our attention to the beautiful stained glass windows and the meaning of the symbolism they display. Kathy Dube brought us up to date from West St. to Summer St. The growth of our memberships was phenomenal. Vivian Brackett expressed gratitude we should feel toward John Humphrey Sessions, our benefactor. He built our beautiful sanctuary. The Sessions family continued the work of John H. Sessions for many years after John passed away. William E. Sessions took over the Sunday School. Many fond memories are being recorded in a booklet of book depending how much we are able to compile.

Rev. Dennis Winkleblack has managed to fit us in whenever he could to show our congregation the ongoing projects of the History Committee. Thanks for your interest.

Vivian Brackett  
History Committee

# MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Members: Lang Ashworth, Ray Barker, Ron Baker, Chic Blair, Stuart Brown, Dave Corey, Brian Hatch, John Hickman, Cliff Kayser, Dave Kelley, Rich King, Jeff Lowd, Art Neils, Barry Nolan, Art Oslander, Chuck Pelkey, Bill Thibodeau

Our Men's fellowship enjoyed an active 2009 with many activities serving our Church. We held monthly meetings on the first Saturday morning of the month. We met our goal of obtaining more male members to serve Prospect. We received 6 new members in 2009. Our other goals were to raise money for the Church and to offer money to pay for activities of some of our financially challenged members. We were able to provide members with free tickets to attend many of our events. We also spent a lot of time in our planning to gear our events for families and young children. We were able to donate a total of \$450 to 4 different Church related funds from our monies earned from our Lasagna Dinner.

We also reached out to the community to attend many of our events. A total of 10 area Churches were invited to many of our activities. We invited the public to all of our activities.

## Activities in 2009

January 20th- bowling in Bristol

January 25th- John Hickman and Chuck Pelkey, Chili Cook Off

February 7th- Monster Trucks at Hartford XL Center

February 13<sup>th</sup>- Wolf Pack Hockey. XL Center

February 24th- Shrove Tuesday Dinner

April 25th- Breakfast with speaker, Chris Amorosino, "When I Do Less, Christ Can Be More".

May 2nd- Fund Raiser, Lasagna Diner

May 30th- Men's fellowship Family Picnic at Bill Thibodeau's House

October 30th- Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey, XL Center

November 21<sup>st</sup>- Breakfast & Health Forum with 10 Health Professionals from the Bristol area.

December 9th- Advent Service Dinner.

Our members pitched in and helped out with many other Church activities, some of which were helping with the 2 Renaissance Dinners and cleaning up of the Church grounds.

I am blessed with the Christian support and the hard work and effort all the members of Prospect's Men's Fellowship performed in 2009.

Bill Thibodeau

PUMC Men's Fellowship Chair

# WOMEN OF PROSPECT

The Women of Prospect had an active year in 2009. Outside of our usual meetings on the first Saturday of each month we have been trying to plan more family oriented activities. In 2009 we hosted three family participating events.

February 7, 2009 – hosted “An Evening With Ole Blue Eyes.” This was a pasta dinner with Gary Gladu singing Frank Sinatra. Frankie’s “mom” came by for a brief visit.

February 24, 2009 – Shrove Tuesday was a fun night had by all. There was a magician, reverse parade and games for the children. There was the traditional meal of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and ham, provided by the Men’s Fellowship, and desserts and decorations to bring in the Mardi Gras feel.

April 24, 2009 – hosted a “Family Movie Night.” The feature film was “Wal E.” There were baked potatoes and all the fixings along with the usual movie snacks. There more than 30 people that attended. Everyone had a great time.

May 2009 brought the first “Pirate Picnic.” There was the usual picnic menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni & potato salads, cole slaw and chips. The children were offered “Treasure Chest Lunches” consisting of the boxed lunch and prize. PUMC’s knock-off of the “Happy Meal.” The highlights consisted of face painting, games, the pirate ship and the auctioning of the chance to cut Captain Gladu’s pony tail. The pony tail was donated to “Locks of Love.”

June was the Mercy Center Retreat. Jan Moore, as usual, provided an enjoyable program at the Mercy Center in Madison.

In August instead of the usual meeting we held a family picnic to celebrate the fellowship of our committee. Fun was had by all.

Women of Prospect participated in the Country Cupboard Fair in October. There was a table of assorted items such as “Gifts in a Jar” to crocheted goods.

In December W.O.P. created Christmas gift baskets to sell at Coffee Hour. There was a very nice assortment presented for sale.

Jackie Palance

## FRIENDS OF PROSPECT

We are made up primarily of seniors or anyone who would like to attend. We meet the first Thursday of each month at 11:30am at local restaurants that are picked out by our group signing up for a month during the year. We sometimes have special parties such as Valentine's Day, Picnics, Christmas Party, sharing a meal with the Asbury Seniors Pot luck, etc.

We have a average of 25-32 members attending each month and it is my impression that everyone is enjoying themselves and look forward to this. I believe this is good fellowship for our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara W. Fasci, Chairperson

## COUNTRY CUPBOARD FAIR

Prospect's Country Cupboard Fair was held on Saturday October 17 and The Harvest Dinner was held on November 7. Again this year we held craft sessions during the summer and fall to learn and make crafts for the fair.

Apple pies, under the direction of Louise Schaffrick were made in Sept. and Oct. Pumpkin pies and cookies were also made in Oct. This year 14 area crafters joined us to add a lot of variety to our fair. We have some crafters that have returned to our church for several years. The soup and sandwich luncheon is always a highlight of our fair.

The Harvest Dinner again this year was a roast chicken dinner prepared with the help of our guest chef, John Yalanis. A special thanks to him for all his help! Thanks to everyone that helped plan and work on both the fair and the dinner.

Advertising for both of these events included posters, newspapers, and yard signs. We helped with the purchase of the new refrigerator for the kitchenette and will meet soon to decide on a project to focus on.

Karen Rochelle  
Chair

# RETHINK CHURCH

*Help us, dear God, to be an answer to another's prayer so that we may be one of your signs of hope in the world you love. Amen.*

*Members: Jeanette Baker, Linda Ice, Barry Nolan, Ericka Plourde, Joyce Rioux, Jill Wilson, Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack*

## **Background**

Rethink Church is a major campaign of the United Methodist Church that was launched in May of 2009. The goal of the campaign is to redefine the church experience beyond the church doors and invite people to become engaged in the world.

Our Conference sponsored a workshop to help us become involved with Rethink Church in May and Pastor Dennis invited anyone interested in learning more to go with him to this workshop. Several members went and from this beginning the Rethink Church Committee was formed.

United Methodists have believed, from the beginning, that each of us is called to participate in the outreaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley described this work in simple, practical terms: "Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can." With that in mind, the committee began to redefine the church experience beyond the church doors.

## **Projects:**

### *St. Vincent de Paul "Rockwell and Ride*

Several members of Prospect took part in a benefit for the homeless on August 30th — the St. Vincent de Paul "Rockwell and Ride" event, co-sponsored by Biker's Edge. Prospect's participation was spurred by a recognition that families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population.

"The church had wonderful representation at the event," said Church Council Chair Jill Wilson. The riders were Joyce Rioux, Barry Nolan, and Jill and Chris Wilson, all of whom finished the 25-mile course. Other volunteers in different capacities were Sue Powers, Rita Fasci, Marion and John Hickman, Jeanette Baker, Linda Ice, Karen and Stacey Rochelle, Laura Taylor, Cliff and Jane Kayser, and Susan Lee. Money was collected during Coffee Hours following Sunday morning church services on behalf of the riders. Total raised was \$285.

### *Crop Walk*

Ten walkers from Prospect participated in the Southington Crop Walk on October 25, raising more than \$650 toward the fight against hunger with walker donations and money placed in the soup pot in Sessions Hall.

The ReThink Church Committee continued the fight against hunger with a food drive to collect non-perishable items in Sessions Hall following Sunday services on November 15, 22 and 29. The food was donated to the soup kitchen at Zion Lutheran Church.

Jeannette Baker  
Chairperson

## STEWARDSHIP

For the second year in a row the stewardship campaign was conducted by Chris Wilson using a hybrid system of sending letters, posting on web site and sending emails to inform the congregation of the upcoming campaign. This choice of methods was used to minimize cost. Additionally, it was felt the canned programs do not generate any additional pledges. For the year 2010, the campaign generated \$105,410 for the general fund and \$15,410. There still appear to be many pledges outstanding so a final letter will be sent to attempt to increase the amount pledged.

Chris Wilson  
Chair

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

In the year 2009, the Finance Committee saw some great changes in our church. Because of some major cuts in the budget, we came up with a budget of \$184,439. We have collected \$190,158, exceeding the budget by \$5,719. This amount will be carried over toward the 2010 budget, or be transferred to the Organ Restoration Fund. This is the first time we have made the budget without having to ask Trustees for money to balance it.

We have a proposed Prospect Church 2010 budget of \$175,452. So far, there are 82 general fund pledges totaling \$107,630. Income from building use groups and investments is anticipated to be \$23,016, so we have a total of \$130,646 towards the \$175,452 budget. Hopefully more pledges will come in soon!

To date there are 41 Building Fund pledges totaling \$17,640, and a pledge toward the Organ Restoration Fund of \$200.

The Finance Committee also worked on making sure that our contribution acknowledgements comply with the IRS requirements.

Many thanks go out to the Finance Committee members, to the Counters who work diligently after church every Sunday, counting the money and making the deposits, to the office volunteers who handle the mail coming through the office, and especially Tim Krauss and Linda Ice, co-Treasurers, all putting in a lot of hard work and hours.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Jane Pallokat, who put in innumerable hours over the years, as our Financial Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hickman  
Chair





Prospect United Methodist Church  
**Finance Secretary 2009 Annual Report**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Number of Pledge units:	119	126	90
Pledged amount, General Fund:	\$108,293.00	\$123,021.00	\$107,630.00
Pledged amount, Building Fund:	16,489.00	19,051.00	17,640.00
Pledged amount, Organ Fund:	0.00	0.00	200.00
<i>Average pledge per Unit:</i>	<i>1,048.59</i>	<i>1,127.56</i>	<i>1,394.11</i>
 Pledges actually paid:	 <b>2006:</b> 91%	<b>2007:</b> 93%	<b>2008:</b> 89% <b>2009:</b> 92%

<b>Please see "report of income" on additional page!</b>
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***The position of Finance Secretary is multi faceted!** I wish to thank those who have made my job easier: **Flo Alverides** posts the Sunday deposit for me, **Marion Hickman, Sue Powers, and Luisa Gladu** for help with clerical duties; **Tim Krauss, Linda Ice** and our faithful **Counters** are always supportive. Most especially, **John Hickman, Finance Chair!!!***

**2009 Accomplishments:**

1. Prepared monthly reports of income on the CASH Basis, using a simple Quicken report.
2. Continued to maintain the notebook of monthly bank statements for all 16 accounts held in name of Prospect UMC.
3. Verified each deposit and transfer slip.
4. Reviewed weekly PowerChurch postings entered by Flo, or made the postings myself.
5. Made and posted weekly deposits of mail and office receipts.
6. Trained a church member to enter the membership changes in PowerChurch.
7. Had the pledge card family info checked against PowerChurch to update the church membership information.
8. Ordered pledge envelopes in January to save 10%: \$23.73.
9. Reorganized envelope numbers to eliminate envelopes for those who have not given for over one year. This will save on ordering of 20 wasted envelopes!  
Note: every donor has a "computer envelope#". The lowest #'s receive envelopes; weekly #1-120, monthly #170-219. All other donors have #'s starting @ #800. Donors are never deleted from the computer.
10. Prepared Contribution Statements in May, August, and January 2010 (199 statements).
11. Redesigned the pew envelopes with a sketch of Prospect Church.
12. Maintained Pew Envelope supply in Sanctuary.
13. Prepared a written list of Finance Secretary responsibilities and procedures for my successor.

**Goals 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. Review Finance Secretary workload, with reassignment of some clerical duties to others.

*I have appreciated all the support Prospect Church members have given me in performing the duties of this position. Please give Lang Ashworth the same support and understanding as he learns the details of a "detail" specific office.*

*Jane Pallokot  
 Finance Secretary*

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Challenging seems an appropriate adjective to describe the past year for Prospect's Trustees. The board began 2009 with the failure of the roof over the crib nursery caused by heavy rain during the last week of 2008. The work of a roofing contractor, carpet installer and several hard-working church volunteers (love those sheep!) restored the room and the crib nursery reopened in June.

Budget constraints caused the Trustees to rely on volunteers for the yard work at the church and parsonage. A small but dedicated army led by Chris Wilson and Ron Baker mowed, raked, trimmed, swept and weeded at both properties. The work will be done by volunteers again in 2010. The hope is for more volunteers to join the 'army'.

The organ committee has been revived under the leadership of Heidi Flower. The Austin Organ Service Co revisited and explained the restorative work needed on Prospect's Austin organ. The funds were available to accomplish the smaller project (regluing the reed weights) so that work was done in September. The committee will renew it's fund-raising efforts starting with a concert in May 2010. The goal being the windchest action replacement (replacement of the 574 leather bellows) - a major project with an estimated cost of \$65,000.00.

The church's investment portfolio is closely monitored by the Trustees. Ray Barker and Chris Wilson meet periodically with our broker, David Ellovich of UBS reviewing the church's holdings and Mr. Ellovich met with the board in November.

Our building continues to be used by various groups - AA, NA, Weight Watchers, Bristol Women's Club and a small congregation of the Hispanic 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist church. Church members regularly use the facility for functions. The Bristol Brass & Wind Ensemble will be performing a concert of Irish music and dance in March.

The challenges are great - yet the spirit is ever-present. Many hands make the burden easier and that has been evident during the past year. Numerous church members and friends have stepped up to help with various needs. Their unselfish willingness to care for the physical plant is appreciated. Guided by our Lord's spirit, Prospect begins 2010 with enthusiasm and purpose to carry out His work in this place.

Susan Powers  
President, Trustees