



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church
A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

April 2013

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Pastor's Page

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalm 23:1



What do we want in a church? If we ask different people, we would get many different answers. For some, it would be a safe place where we would feel welcomed. For others, it would be a place where their children could learn about God. For still others, it may be a place where we can meet up with our friends and chat after a long hard week. And for many, it is a place where they can make a difference in the world. All of these, and many other reasons, are perfectly valid.

And this leads me to the Gospel—what is the “Good News” we share? I have been thinking about this for some time. (Come to think of it, wouldn't you expect a Pastor to be thinking about this?) For me, the core reason for the existence of the church is to share the good news that God, for some really mysterious reason, really likes people.

I use the term “really likes” because we have heard the term love so much, especially when it is connected to the name “God,” that it sometimes goes completely over our heads. I once attended a workshop where a speaker, facing the same dilemma about God's love, described it as, “Head-over-heels, crazy-infatuated, all-consuming love.”

So when we come to church, we may be battered by the world we come from. We may have had setbacks or personal crises. We may wonder how we will get by during the week ahead. We may have run out of personal options and our future looks bleak. But for one hour, we are reminded that in this very impersonal universe, there is someone who cares. “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.”

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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I think the theologian, Paul Tillich, said it best: "You are accepted, accepted by that which is greater than you, and the name of which you do not know. Do not ask for the name now; perhaps you will find it later. Do not try to do anything now; perhaps later you will do much. Do not seek for anything; do not perform anything; do not intend anything. Simply accept the fact that you are accepted."

"Accepted," "Head-over-heels, crazy-infatuated, all-consuming love," "really-liked," they all point to the same reality. When we come into church, bruised and battered, we find a God who welcomes us with open arms. Hopefully, when we leave, the knowledge of that love will go with us, and give us the strength and courage we need to face another day. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long."

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

P.S. I just want to thank you all for the kind words and encouragement that I received following the burglary. It meant a lot to me. We really do have a very special church!

■ STEPHEN MINISTRIES COMES TO PROSPECT

Church member Diane Ashworth recently took part in a training course for the Stephen Ministry based in Orlando, Fla. Diane returned with positive thoughts about this ministry:

“An exciting new ministry has come to Prospect! In January of this year I went for a week-long Leaders’ Training Course for Stephen Ministry in Orlando, Florida. There were 377 leaders to be trained representing 286 different congregations. The course was very intense with 12-hour-long days, but very rewarding as I got to meet, worship, and learn with so many different people. Imagine my surprise to be linked up with a Catholic nun as my prayer partner! At the end of the week, I returned home with a heavier suitcase filled with 30 lbs. worth of study and teaching material ready to bring the ministry to our congregation. What a blessing!”

The following Q and A gives more details on the Stephen Ministry:



Q: Why is it called Stephen Ministry?

A: Stephen Ministry is named after Stephen, one of the first lay people commissioned in the Bible by the Apostles to provide caring ministry (Acts 6).

Q: How many congregations are using Stephen Ministry?

A: Stephen Ministry was founded in 1975, and has provided high quality, Christ-centered training, and resources to more than 11,000 congregations from more than 150 denominations.

Q: What are Stephen Ministers?

A: Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have been trained, who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care given is confidential, free, and very helpful.

Q: What types of care-giving situations are Stephen Ministers used in?

A: Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, confidential one-to-one Christian care to individuals who are facing a variety of crises or life challenges — people who are experiencing grief, divorce, cancer, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disabilities, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. In addition to caring for members of the congregation, Stephen Ministers can provide care to non-members, reaching out to unchurched people in crisis.

“Our goal at Prospect is to now train a team of Stephen Ministers. During the month of April, there will be an informational table for anyone who is interested or has questions. I can also be reached through email at diash@comcast.net or by phone at (860) 583-9520.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

The April 1943 edition of the Prospect Tower had a few amusing anecdotes despite the seriousness of the WWII era. One such notation was “Cars For Wine, Not For Oil,” which tells the story of three boys, ages 12 to 15, who crawled inside a railroad tank car in northeast Minneapolis and “got ingloriously drunk.”

People didn’t typically get drunk in a tank car, which was normally filled with fuel oil for homes. But it seems the tank car was being used to transport wine instead of fuel oil, because of a wartime rationing system “dictating a temperature of 65 degrees this winter in homes heated by oil burners.”

The bureaucrats who contributed to the fiasco admitted they overlooked the tank car requirements of certain “vegetable products,” and said, sorry, but they’d have to cut the 30 rationed states from the earlier prospective ration estimate of three-fourths of their fuel oil requirements to about two-thirds otherwise. It ends with, “Is wine one of these ‘vegetable products?’”

Another amusing anecdote was entitled “Thankful For Food.” The story related: “Last Sunday in the Nursery Class, the teacher made ready for the devotional period by asking the boys and girls, ‘What would you like to thank God for?’ Several answers were given. When one boy was asked, he thought a minute, then quite seriously said, ‘Is it almost lunch time?’ The Editor’s Note added explained, ‘We happened to know that this boy has been in the weekday Nursery where he has been saying ‘grace’ each morning before eating his orange juice and cracker. Therefore, we insist that his Sunday morning question had a deeper meaning than the popular saying, ‘When do we eat?’”

In the next Tower, read about more serious items concerning the War and the Post-War World.

Come celebrate our connection!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Sunday, April 28, 2-4
Middletown UMC
24 Old Church Street



Special message from the Newtown UMC Ministry Team
Musical offerings from: Simsbury UMC Children’s Choir, Golden Hill UMC
Steel Drum Band, Yalesville UMC’s Raise the Praise, and Middletown UMC Choir

Masked Balls Scheduled At Prospect

Prospect Church will be holding two fund-raising dinners, on Saturday, April 27th, and Saturday, May 4th, entitled "A Renaissance Masked Ball" sponsored by the Middle Ages Group.

Both are reserved ticket events: \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 10 and under. No tickets will be sold at the door. The dinners have been held for a number of years, under the guidance of Luisa and Gary Gladu, and their committee. They explain:



"Let us transport you to the 16th Century and raise a glass in a toast to His Majesty, his Queen and Royal Court. Feast on hearty foods, quaff refreshing libations whilst minstrels and merry makers entertain you.

"His Royal Majesty has requested that a 'Masked Ball' be thrown in honor of the Spring Season. He looks forward to seeing you in all your best finery and to see the masks you will wear. His Majesty has proclaimed that a 'Mask Contest' will be held, and the one with the best mask will be awarded a most-deserving prize.

"So, leave the 21st Century behind, sing songs of good cheer, dance the royal and country dances and enjoy food, fun and fellowship in a time of romance, adventure and merriment."

Tickets are available for both dinners, which will begin at 6 p.m. in Sessions Hall. For tickets and information, please call Diane Ashworth at (860) 583-9520, Luisa Gladu at (860) 582-8383, or Tammy Kelly at (860) 874-8239.



■ Tailgate Tag Sale

Treasure accumulating in your basement or garage? Prospect Church will hold a Tailgate Tag Sale on Saturday, June 1st (Rain date June 15th) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost for a space is \$25. You can sell items from your car's tailgate or set up a table in the parking lot.



You set the prices for all your items, and at the end of the day carry away whatever is left unsold. Please contact Heidi Flower or Jeanette Baker for more information. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Restoration Fund.

If donating items for church table, please leave donations in the old Bargain Center Room during church office hours, or bring to service on Sunday. (Please, no exercise equipment, clothing or luggage. All leftover items will be donated to local thrift stores.)

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the members of our choirs for the wonderfully inspiring music that they provided during the Lenten season and of course, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday! These dedicated members come to rehearsals every week, some as early as 6 p.m. (after working all day!) and staying as late as 9 p.m. (and off to work the next morning!). Even though the work is enjoyable, it is work, nonetheless, to provide musical selections each and every Sunday throughout the year. Please take a moment to express your appreciation for their efforts!

*If I can do some good today,
If I can serve along life's way,
If I can something helpful say
- Lord, show me how.*

THANK YOU POEM

Sue Powers and Jeanette Baker joined a team from Asbury United Methodist Church on a mission trip to Brooklyn NY. The following was a thank you poem from coordinator Stacey Rich.

*Nine Connecticut missionaries set
out on Friday, at 7 a.m, indeed!
To Brooklyn, a place unknown, but
filled with need.
Not knowing what God had put us
there for,
But ready for whatever He told us,
and more!
We worked hard, made new friends,
and prayed, with parishioners at St.
Paul's, and enjoyed the breakfast
they made.
God brought us home safely, our
souls have been fed,
Thank you all special angels.*

■ PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION

April 25th is World Malaria Day. Every 60 seconds, a child in Africa dies from a malaria infection. The New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has committed to raise \$1.2 million by 2015 for Imagine No Malaria. Pledged to date: \$500,000!

Each NYAC church is encouraged to plan and sponsor an Imagine no Malaria event this spring to help meet the NYAC commitment of \$1.2 million. Donations will be received during Annual Conference in June at Hofstra University.



Deaths

Mel Hatfield – 2-18-2013

Estella Dyer – 3-2-2013

Elizabeth Hill – 3-20-13

Joseph Petrosky – 3-25-13

New Members:

Lynn DeSorbo – 3-10-2013

Jessica Griffin – 3-10-2013

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

A shorter version of the Sunday Service, with Holy Communion, in the Chapel, south side of Sessions Hall.

10 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Traditional service of worship in Sanctuary with hymns, prayers, sermon, children's and adult choir anthems and solos. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

10 a.m. Church School

Children attend opening portion of service with family, then go to Sunday School classes.

11 a.m. Fellowship

Time of fellowship and friendship with coffee, tea, cookies and conversation in Sessions Hall.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold**

Return Service Requested