



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

February 2011

Vol. 72, No. 2

From the Pastor's Pen



Last month we noted with gratitude those who have been serving our church whose terms of office expired or who have sought to serve in new ways. Here are the new officers and leaders elected at the Charge Conference in December:

- **Lay Leaders:** Sue Powers and Stu Brown (joining Jill Wilson)
- **Chair of Church Council:** Sue Powers
- **Recording Secretary:** Janice Moore
- **Board of Trustees:** Jackie Palance, Carol Rivard and those reelected, Tammy Kelly and Mike Fasci
- **Staff-Parish:** Chair is Joyce Rioux. New members: Carla Heister, Tim Krauss, Terry Parker
- **Finance Chair:** John Rioux
- **Financial Secretary:** Naomi McConnell
- **Finance at-large:** John Hickman, Don Titus
- **Church Council at-large:** Bill Katt
- **Co-Head Usher:** Ron Baker (with John Hickman)
- **Member/Nurture Committee:** Chair, Jill Wilson. Members: Jeff Lowd, Samantha Lowd, Valerie Rich, Andy Palaia, Melissa Brown
- **ReThink Church Team:** Misty Palaia
- **Nominating/Lay Leadership:** Marion Hickman, Bill Katt, Sue Powers
- **New United Methodist Lay Speaker:** Jeanette Baker (joining Bill Katt, Tim Krauss, Terry Parker, Sue Powers and Joyce Rioux)

Thanks to you all and those who continue from a most grateful congregation! Apologies to any who have been omitted – please let the pastor know for correction in the next issue.

In the interim, Lang Ashworth has had to resign as Financial Secretary. We are profoundly grateful for his year of service and also thankful for former office holder Jane Pallokat's help in getting our new Financial Secretary, Naomi McConnell, up to speed.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Dennis

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack
Transitional Interim Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes,
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. George E. Harris
Minister in Residence

Heidi Flower,
Director of Music & Organist
Emily Flower,
Associate Music Director
and Chapel Organist.

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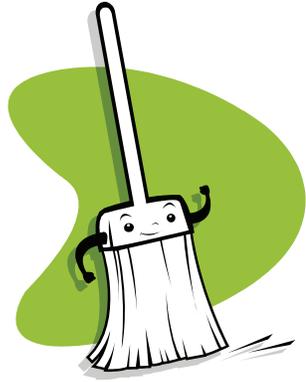
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■ Request For Cleaning Crew - Carol Rivard

As you may have already noticed, our church building is not being kept up the way it was when we started the volunteer program two years ago. Most of the help provided by various people and organizations has been lost. Carol Rivard, volunteer cleaning crew coordinator, approached the Bristol Adult Resource Center (BARC) to do a time study on the various cleaning tasks required. BARC concluded it would take a crew of three to four people four hours each to do all that is needed, at a cost of approximately \$85/week.



The following tasks are needed:

- vacuum the sanctuary;
- sweep and mop and vacuum both stair wells;
- sweep and mop both upper and lower hallways;
- vacuum the meeting room;
- sweep and mop the meeting room down stairs (first one on the left going down the front stairwell);
- sweep Sessions Hall;
- vacuum and sweep the Library area;
- clean the windows in all the doorways;
- and sweep and mop the dining hall.

We do not have the money to fund this, so I hope you can understand why I'm placing this in the Tower. I would ask all of you to think about giving an hour at the most a week to come in and take care of one of these jobs. Everything you need is supplied by the church and I would be happy to go over the routine with you.

Please consider helping. Call (860) 589-3575 or e-mail hail@snet.net.

SAVE THE DATE

Chili Cook-Off

The PUMC Annual Chili Cook-Off will be held on February 27. All chili enthusiasts: Get your recipes tweaked and ready to go. Prizes will be awarded. Come and show off your cooking talents and be prepared to have some fun. For more details see Jackie Palance.



Pancake Supper

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will take place on March 8. Don't forget your fun hats, masks, colorful beads as we enjoy a scrumptious pancake dinner.

Renaissance Dinner

Save the date for the Renaissance Dinner on May 7. This will be a reserved- ticket event, with profits benefitting the Organ Restoration Fund. To reserve tickets or to help in organizing the event, please see Luisa and Gary Gladu.

■ Ushers Needed

The ministry of Ushering is a vital part of Prospect's church ministry. Ushers represent the church in a very visible way, and help with the smooth operation within the service.

Among Usher duties: Escort members to their seats if they need extra assistance; Assist in the offering collection; Provide directions to rest rooms and other facilities as may be needed; Pass out bulletins; Help with attendance counting; and Provide assistance during Communion.

If you are interested in becoming an usher, please see John Hickman.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Meet The Sessions, Part 3

- Kathy Dube

The previous columns in this series introduced William Edwin Sessions, a significant early benefactor of Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church, precursor of our church. W.E., as he was known, saved the E.N. Welch Clock Co. of Forestville when it went into receivership, eventually changing the name to the Sessions Clock Co. He also was president of the Sessions Foundry Co. and Bristol Water Co. and he helped found the Bristol Trust Co., which became Bristol Savings Bank (eventually acquired by Webster Bank).



In 1878 W.E. married Emily Brown. The couple resided on Bellevue Avenue next door to Nathan Birge's house, said to be one of the finest in Bristol. In 1906 he bought the Birge House and its extensive grounds and had the house demolished to make way for the brownstone mansion that came to be known as "Beleden." The name was derived from "Bel," Italian for "beautiful," and "eden," the Hebrew word for "garden." Designed by architect Samuel Brown of Boston, the elegant mansion, made of hard Kibbe brownstone, is on the National Register of Historic Places (source: "Federal Hill," a walking tour guide, written and designed by C. Hourihan).



Beleden took four years to construct and is described as a Second Renaissance Revival house in the Italian manner. The house has Tennessee marble floors, gilded ceilings, and carved wainscoting. The library is constructed of Honduras mahogany with a fireplace of gold and black Egyptian marble. A highlight of the building is the two-story music room with a semi-elliptical balcony, Esty pipe organ and grand piano. Collectors of early postcards of Bristol can find many showing Beleden, and its gardens early in the 20th Century (see attached examples). At the time W.E. and Emily owned it,

18 servants were required to care for the house, formal gardens, English garden, pool, greenhouses, grape arbors and vegetable gardens. Beleden was noteworthy not only for its magnificent architecture, but also for technological advancements that included steel beam construction, concrete floors, water filtration and central vacuuming systems, and telephones in every room.

W.E. and Emily had two sons, Joseph and W. Kenneth. The couple lived at Beleden until his sudden death in 1920. The mansion still stands on Bellevue Avenue, though much of the land that held the many gardens was sold for development years ago. In the next column in this series, learn what W.E. did for Methodists in our church and on Chippens Hill.

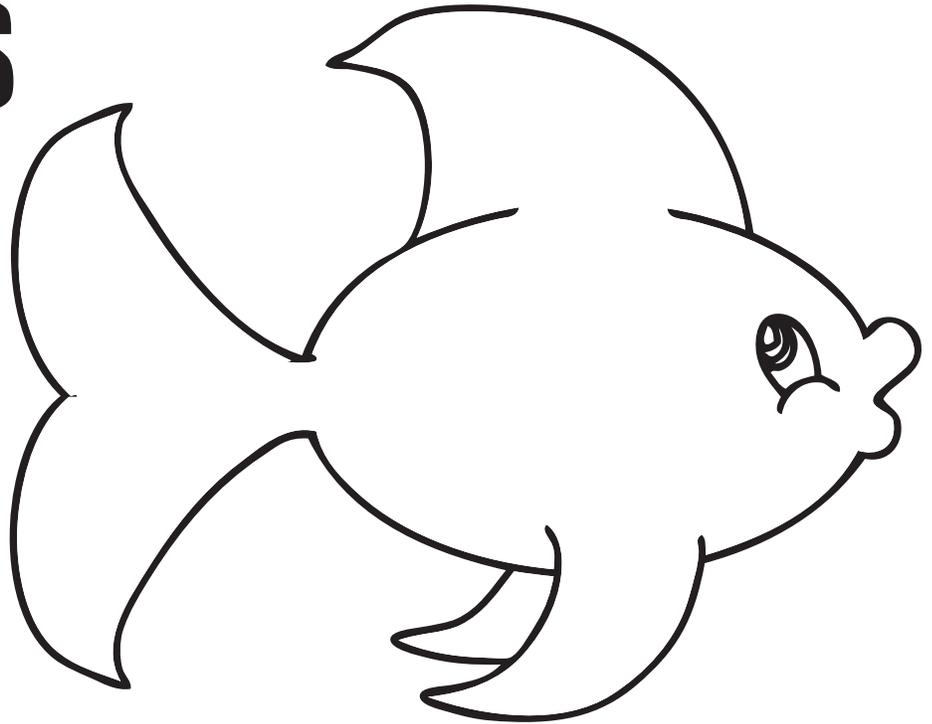
FOR KIDS

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

"Matthew 4:19

Sunday School Name Tag

Color the fish. Cut out the fish (may require adult assistance). Write your name on the fish and pin or tape onto shirts (or punch a hole in the top and thread a string through to wear around their necks).



4

LIVING GREEN

Energy Note: Beware Of Ice Dams **Carll Pallok**

We have had very unusual amounts of snow this winter and as a result, many homeowners don't realize they are heating the outdoors. Heat is escaping into their attic and warming the roof surface, which in turn melts the snow which changes to water. This water moves down the roof and hits the very cold edge of the building where it freezes and forms an ice dam. The water backs up behind the ice dam and finds its way into your home under the shingles. If you do not have a proper sealing material under the shingles, it will melt into your walls or your ceiling, causing water or mold damage. If you can rake the bottom 1' to 2' of snow off the roof you will stop the problem. Another solution is to add insulation in your attic to an amount of R-40 to R-60, which is better. The area above the insulation must be vented. Any questions, call Carll at (860) 307-9648.

■ Free Tax Preparation Services Available

Dial 2-1-1 to Schedule Your Appointment

Free income tax assistance by IRS trained and certified volunteers is available at local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites for people with incomes under \$50,000.

Volunteers will ensure that you are filing for all of the tax credits for which you are eligible, including the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.

Those who take advantage of this service can save up to \$150 in tax preparation services alone. Last year, local VITA sites helped more than 250 people file their taxes. On average, individuals received \$1,898 back.

Simply dial 2-1-1 on your phone (it's a free call) and the caseworker will make an appointment for you at your local VITA location. Volunteers will be available to help you from January 22 - April 12, evenings and Saturdays.

February 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Soup/Bowl of Carling
7 Pettthink 7 pm Staff Parish 7 pm	8 Finance 7pm	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Council 7 pm	16	17	18	19	20
21 Nurture 7 pm	22	23	24	25	26	27 New Members received
28	<p>SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service 10:00 a.m. Church School</p>  <p><i>"To love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." (Mark 12:33)</i></p>					