



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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PUMC Says Good-bye to Pastor Dennis

Church members, family and friends gathered at Prospect on Sunday, June 5th, to honor our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, who is retiring from pastoral ministry. Pastor Dennis served as interim transitional pastor of the church. He gave his last sermon titled "And in Conclusion—Last Things" in the pulpit that morning.



Pastor Dennis has been in ministry for over 40 years. Before coming to PUMC he served United Methodist churches in Fairfield, Kensington, Hamden, Avon, Stamford, Easton, and Norwalk. Following the service, a luncheon reception was held in Sessions Hall followed by a farewell program in the sanctuary.

While tears were shed, the day was punctuated with moments of laughter and joy. Bishop Jeremiah Park shared a warm and celebratory video message recognizing the many gifts that Pastor Dennis has brought into his ministry. The Rev. Bill Barnes, Rev. Mark Chatterton, and Chris Wilson offered reflections in a traditional roast style—a style that certainly matched the wit and humor that Pastor Dennis possesses. The Senior choir sang Hallelujah. The lyrics were adapted by Janice Moore and included such lines as "Now retirement comes to call. No more late night telephone calls. Now Dennis will be shouting Hallelujah".

We wish Pastor Dennis well and know that we are better because he entered our door. Hallelujah!

Pastor Dennis will continue one day per week as Assistant to the Bishop of the New York Area.

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for a wonderful last Sunday at Prospect June 5th. I've said farewell in 7 other churches, but none was as over the top as your send-off to me. My family and I will never forget the many kindnesses extended, nice words spoken, incredible music, surprises in person or by video, not to mention the scrumptious meal prepared and served with such love and care. Thank you also for the generous gift of money and the book of good wishes. You will forever be in my heart and my prayers.

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
The Rev. Robert E. Rhodes, Jr.
Ministers in Residence

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PLAQUE HONORS SERVICE FLAG

By Vivian Brackett, History Committee Chair

Have you ever wondered about the story behind the Service Flag in Sessions Hall? Thanks to the family of the late Russell Herold, we now have a plaque to accompany the flag, which was on display at the Greater Bristol Historical Society during a recent exhibition of WWII quilts and related textiles.

The story behind the Service Flag follows: After the attack on Pearl Harbor, 12/7/1941, the military draft increased. Many of our young church men were drafted. After the Official Board requested that Prospect's pastor, the Rev. Paul Dubois, have a Service Flag made to honor members and/or contributors serving in the military, the Mothers' Club took on the project. Many members of the club were relatives of those serving, including mothers and grandmothers. They made the Service Flag by sewing a star on it for each person from the church who was serving.

From December 1941 to December 1942, 74 from Prospect were in the military. These 74 were depicted on the Service Flag when it was dedicated on April 11, 1943. The title of the pastor's sermon was "Service Symbols." An impressive candlelight service was held during the service. Candles were illuminated on the altar representing each service man and woman. Representative candles were carried to the altar by a family member or friend. At the same service, an American flag and a Christian flag were presented to the church by Mrs. Snyder, mother of the late Harry Snyder.

Gradually, the numbers serving grew. By the close of the war, a total of 181 men and women from the church had served in the military during the conflict. While the majority of the men were drafted, the 11 women from Prospect who served enlisted because women were not subject to the draft. The women served as WAVES, WACS, or were in the Army, Marines and medical fields. Prospect's assistant pastor, Rev. Donald N. MacKenzie, enlisted as a chaplain in the Navy where he served with distinction. The list of service men and women from the church included several sets of siblings and numerous cousins (there reportedly were 11 cousins from one family serving).

In the year 2000, members of the History Committee found the flag in the vault when they were cleaning. The flag had water damage and was in poor condition. Marge Herold, widow of Russell, took on the restoration project. She had the flag cleaned and framed in memory of her husband, whose name is on the flag. Marge also set about researching names of service men and women

represented with stars on the flag, blue showing those who served and gold those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Marge copied the names on the banner and researched our service men and women via the Tower issues from those years and the book "Bristol, Connecticut, in World War II." Unfortunately, the names of some who served have fallen off their stars. An article by church historian Rolfe E. Rowe in the World War II book states that the majority of members who served were in the Army, followed by the Navy, WAVES, WACS, Marines, and the Maritime Commission.

Recently the church loaned the flag to the Historical Society for a show of WW II quilts and textiles. A visiting curator noted that the flag is an important piece of Bristol's military history. She said that the women who made it were heroes, also. Because of interest in the flag, the Historical Society asked if they could keep it on display longer. Many people came from out-of-town to see the flag and wanted to return so they could bring relatives and friends to see it. In all, the flag was on display there for two months.

Vivian Brackett, who chairs the History Committee, gave a brief talk about the flag and the plaque at the Memorial Day Sunday service as the Service Flag was rededicated. A pamphlet was handed out listing the names that are known of those on the flag as well as those who served in the latter days of the war, after the Service Flag was assembled. The new plaque will be placed beside the Service Flag in Sessions Hall.

Next time you walk by the flag, check out this important historical artifact and pay tribute to the men and women who served our country during this period and the role of the Herold family in helping to preserve and commemorate it.

[If you know of any errors or omissions in the pamphlet or on the Service Flag, please let Marge Herold or Vivian Brackett know to enhance the accuracy of the Service Flag project.]



PASTORAL CARE FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Although Pastor Dennis will not be present for the final three Sundays of June, he will be caring for our pastoral needs during the month of June. Please call his cell at (203) 520-5969.

Our Church Family

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER:



Nancy Rhodes joined Prospect Church May 15, transferring her membership from the United Methodist Church of Waterbury. Nancy joins her husband, Rev. Robert S. Rhodes, Jr., a retired United Methodist minister, who is transferring his Charge Conference membership to Prospect. Welcome to the Prospect Family!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Peyton Monica Kohl, daughter of Shannon Leigh Kohl and Bruce Taber. Peyton was born April 23, 2010 in Meriden. Godparents are Stephanie Hyde, Tiffany Hoxie and Scott Kohl.

Keegan Lee Schonrock, son of Krister and Jessie Schonrock. Keegan was born October 6, 2010 in New Britain. Godparents are Robert and Johanna Rawson.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Pastor Emeritus Bill Barnes, who retired from full-time ministry at Prospect in 2002, will “re-retire” on June 30th after serving as Interim Pastor of the Wethersfield United Methodist Church for the past 14 months. Earlier in retirement, he served on a part-time basis as pastor in Lakeville.

Estelle Franck was elected as the President of the National Honor Society at Bristol Eastern High School.

Naomi McConnell of Wolcott, Prospect’s new Financial Secretary, will play in Slovakia for the USA Women’s Street Hockey team in the World Cup Championships this summer.

Amanda Parker, daughter of Terry and Susi Parker, graduated Cum Laude from Boston University on May 22nd with a Bachelor of Science degree in communications. She is working for Hill Holiday as an associate media planner and will be working on promotions for Dunkin Donuts, Supercuts and four hospitals in the Boston area.

Terry Parker, husband of Susi and father of Amanda, was appointed by Bristol Mayor Art Ward to fill the unexpired City Council term of Kate Matthews, who resigned because of health issues concerning her four-year-old daughter, Anna. Terry will serve as Council Liaison to BCO, Persons with Disabilities, and the Water Board. He also will be a member of the Forestville K-8 Building Committee, Pine Lake Committee and Retirement Board and will serve on the Real Estate and Salary committees of the City Council. The terms ends on November 14.

Ellen Heister of Bristol, a member of Prospect who just finished her junior year at Ohio State University, rows on the school’s women’s rowing team, which was ranked No. 10 in the country and captured the Big 10 Championship in May. Ellen and the rowing team participated in the NCAA National Championship races held in Gold River, Calif., May 27-29. Ellen, whose boat is coached by Diana Albrecht, has rowed all three years at OSU and has gone to the national championships each year as well. She is the daughter of Carla, Prospect’s new Stewardship Chair, and Robert Heister, also members of Prospect.

SESSIONS LODGE REDEDICATED

The former “Staff Lodge” of the Epworth Center of the New York Annual Conference, United Methodist Church, was rededicated on May 21st



as the “Sessions Lodge.” Approximately \$75,000 of the Sessions camp endowment was invested to renovate the building at the camp located in High Falls, NY.

The rededication was part of the Catskill Hudson District Conference Day at Epworth Center, one of three camp and retreat centers the New York Annual Conference owns and operates. About 250 people were in attendance for the event, representing 71 Catskill/Hudson churches.

Materials for Sessions Lodge were paid for out of the Sessions Woods Capital Improvement Fund. The fund was created by the sale of the Sessions Family Camp Property in Burlington many decades ago, today managed by DEP. The legacy of the gift lives on through this building and many other capital improvements, notes Greg Nissen, U.M. Camps Acting Executive Director.

Many volunteers worked on the renovation of Sessions Lodge, including Carll Pallok of Prospect. Epworth consists of 160 acres with river, pond, grassland, deciduous and forest ecosystems some 90 miles from New York City.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Death Of W.E. Sessions Shock To Bristol - Kathy Dube

The Bristol Press headline "Death Summons William E. Sessions This Morning" announced the sad news that one of Bristol's best known industrialists, William Edwin ("W.E.") Sessions, had died of sudden heart failure on Aug. 27, 1920. "End Came Suddenly After Few Hours Illness ... Bristol Plunged In Sorrow by News ... Was A Leading Manufacturer and Banker in the City," the subhead reported. He was 63 years old.



W.E. was stricken at his stately Bellevue Avenue brownstone home, Beleden. The Bristol Press editorial lamented: "The feeling of sorrow and of loss is overwhelming. Words are poor and feeble things with which to express the grief of the people of the City of Bristol, ... Members of Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church no doubt grieved as much if not more than any segment of the community, as the long-time member had been a leading benefactor of the church. According to the news account of his death, "The bell of Prospect M.E. Church was tolled for an hour this morning on the death of Mr. Sessions."

He was described as an "ardent advocate of higher moral and educational development in the community ... all his life a total abstainer and advocate of it ... a human and sympathetic employer ... who did everything possible for his employees' well-being." ... "His outlook on life was generous and as he met success he wished his employees and other deserving people to have a share in prosperity, for his good will was abounding." ... "In his religious activities Mr. Sessions was as sincere, earnest, and consistent as in business circles. He took great pride and pleasure in the Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church, with the affairs of which he was intimately identified in numerous ways."

According to the Bristol Press Builders of Bristol write-up on William E., a large number of women who were wives of his workers could be seen on the outskirts of the crowd outside the church, which was filled to capacity with church members, family, friends, and employees of the foundry and clock company for his funeral. The Board of Directors of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce held an emergency meeting and decided to attend his funeral as a body because of the vital role he played in the Bristol business scene.

Mr. Sessions was survived by his wife, the former Emily Brown, two sons, five grandchildren and a brother.

[This concludes the series on benefactor W.E. Sessions on behalf of the History Committee.]

■ Prospect Notes

The Tailgate Tag Sale raised over \$845 for the Prospect Organ Fund. Heidi and Jeanette would like to thank all those who donated, worked at and visited the event. A special shout out of thanks to Men's Group, Marion Hickman, Nancy Rhodes and Beth Provost.

■ Music Position Opening

Prospect is looking for an Assistant Director of Music. This is a very part-time position. Primary responsibilities include providing music for our Sunday morning Chapel service, as well as planning and leading our children and youth in vocal and instrumental music. Resumes should be sent to Prospect United Methodist Church, attn: Joyce Rioux, 99 Summer Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

SAVE THE DATE



Strawberry Social Picnic

Date: Saturday July 9, 2011
Place: PUMC Lower Parking Lot
Menu: Serving hog dogs, hamburgers, salads and of course strawberry shortcakes.

Free will offering will be taken.

Plan on joining in the festivities and meet incoming Pastor Bob Sorozan and his wife, Terri, in an informal setting.

Sponsored by the Women of Prospect.