



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

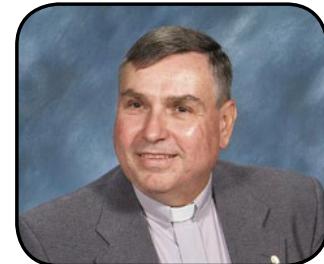
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## Pastor's Page

***"Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." -Matthew 11:28***



Terri and I have had dogs for most of our married life. Our first dog was found at a dog pound in Ithaca, New York.

I was hooked the first moment I saw her—she poked her snout through the chain-link fence at the shelter and looked at me with really sad eyes. "Boot" was one of the sweetest dogs you'd ever meet. And to top it all off, she was already housebroken. We had her for a few days and then we took her out to a local park, when we heard her bark for the first time. I guess her life was hard before we got her and we had to earn her trust before she felt free to act like a dog.

We have been blessed to have had four really sweet dogs in our lives. They all had their own personalities. My Lab, which lived to be almost 17, was headstrong. His nose constantly got him into trouble. And, it seemed to me that in his really big skull, there was a tiny particle of brain which bounced around and occasionally made contact. He could get on my nerves from time to time, but I loved him and I hope I lived up to the trust he placed in me.



Most recently, my wife had a dog named Penny. Penny was a Pekinese and was the sweetest, and was the most gentle, of all the dogs we have had. Terri and Penny had a very special bond. It is amazing to watch the love between two members of very different species. She passed away earlier this year; for the first time in 35 years, the Sorozan household was without a dog.

Dogs are wonderful creatures. God really did a good job when He created them. They are totally devoted to you. They expect nothing from you except rubbing their belly or throwing a ball. They put their complete trust in you. And, by God's grace, maybe we can live up to their trust.

# **Prospect United Methodist Church**

Founded 1834  
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Dr. Bob Sorozan  
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes,  
Pastor Emeritus

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

Heidi Flower,  
Director of Music & Organist

Phone: (860) 582-3443  
Fax: (860) 582-9224

E-Mail Addresses:  
[pastorpumc@snet.net](mailto:pastorpumc@snet.net)  
(information meant only for the pastor)  
[prospectoffice@snet.net](mailto:prospectoffice@snet.net)  
(all general information as well as information necessary for the Church Secretary.)

Website:  
<http://www.anewprospect.org>

Editor: Kathy Dube  
Layout: Jeanette Baker

As I get older, I realize that trust is an important thing. We are constantly buffeted by events which rob us of our ability to trust. Our experience with other people sometimes causes us to look on others with suspicious eyes. The hurts and the disappointments build up and we place ourselves behind emotional fences.

And then God comes along, and God tells us that He loves us, and will be there for us, and will never abandon us. And even though we may have trouble trusting God, if we just trust a little, God will not disappoint us. A battered person might say, "I have seen and experienced so much that I have a hard time trusting anyone — if I open up to you, will you love me?" In my heart, I know that God will answer, "You don't have to fear any more — of course I will always love you."

As for the Sorozan household, we decided to find another dog, but we decided to find a rescue dog. After a long search, Terri and I found a dog named Sarah. In fact, I just found out that we can bring Sarah home. She's had many experiences and is probably very confused at the moment. Now comes the hard work, Terri and I have to earn Sarah's trust. We'll let you know how it works out. And if you would like to meet Sarah, just stop by the Parsonage and we'll introduce you to her.

Grace and Peace,  
*Bob Sorozan*

## **A Few Things to Consider for the New York Annual Conference**

- How many people in a legislative session does it take to change a light bulb? -- Seven. One to change the light bulb, three to speak on why we need to change the light bulb, and three to speak on why the old light bulb needs to remain the same.
- How many members of the Conference from the Connecticut District does it take to change a light bulb? -- Two. One to change the light bulb, and one to carry their breakfast trays as they wander around the Student Center wondering where the Connecticut District breakfast will be held.
- How many members of the Wesleyan Fellowship does it take to change a light bulb? -- One! For there is only One who can bring light into the world!
- How many members of the Methodist Federation for Social Action does it take to change a light bulb? -- 345. One to change the light bulb, and the rest will talk about the implications of changing a light bulb. Would it be proper to just change just one bulb, when there are so many bulbs in the world that need changing? What is the meaning of the light bulb in our society? What does the light bulb mean to you in your own socio-economic setting? Should the United Methodist Church go on the record, at this Annual Conference Session, for changing light bulbs? Should we develop discussion guides for local congregations to discuss changing light bulbs in their communities? Can we develop teams of trained people, who can go to Districts and train other people on how to change a light bulb in a socially acceptable fashion? Are there congregations that are unable to change light bulbs because of the pressing demands of our present recession? How does the clergy look upon the need to change a light bulb and is it different from the laity? Thinking out of the box here, do we really need light bulbs when society is pushing past the light bulb concept?

## **■ Church Honored With Award**

Prospect Church received a "Spirit of Federal Hill" Award on April 23rd at the Federal Hill Association meeting held at the Bristol Clock Museum. The church was chosen for an award, showing the pink dogwoods in bloom in the spring, because our maintenance of church property enhances the Federal Hill neighborhood. The church also received a year's membership in the Federal Hill Association. Accepting the award on behalf of the church were Eleanor Riker and Vivian Brackett. The Federal Hill Association's commemorative pewter ornament for the 2011 Christmas season depicted our church.

## ■ Helping To Change The World

"Change the World" is a global United Methodist event, with people helping people in the name of Christ. Prospect United Methodist Church is putting its faith into action and aiming to make a difference in the fight against hunger.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the number of Americans living in poverty is the highest it has been in 52 years. One in seven households in our nation are food insecure, which affects more than 16 million children. So we asked ourselves, "What can we do to help?"

Prospect started in January by participating in "Souper Bowl of Caring." This was our second year in collecting food for "Souper Bowl of Caring." This year the kids at PUMC put on a skit called The Shuffling Chef that was presented to the congregation on Super Bowl Sunday. The Shuffling Chef was about a host of a cooking show who invites a chef to make his/her delicious soup. The chef adds ingredients until the secret ingredients (hope, compassion, love, cooperation and faith) are discovered for the "Souper Bowl

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### HUNGER RELIEF

of Caring." The congregation was asked to bring cans of soups that day as part of the event. The generous donations of the congregation were delivered to Zion Lutheran Church for their Meals for the Needy program.

We followed that with a team of walkers in Foodshare's "Walk Against Hunger" on May 6, where we raised over \$700 to help in the fight against hunger.

We will continue our "Change the World" Project from last year by providing 20 snack packs each month during the summer months of June, July and August to kids in need. Each food package will contain two single-serving boxes of cereal, two entrees (like canned pasta or macaroni and cheese), two fruit cups, one juice box and a snack.

We are asking gardeners in the congregation to donate part of the fruits of their labor to local soup kitchens so those who otherwise might not have it can enjoy the fresh taste of vegetables.

If you can help with the snack packs or the garden donations, see Sue Powers, Carolyn Koboski, Colleen Shover, Susan Lee, Beth Provost, Matti Verzino, Joyce Rioux, Jill Wilson, Susie Parker or Jeanette Baker.

# PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

*President Taft's Visit To Prospect/Part 1 - By Kathy Dube*



On June 19, 1917, Prospect had the honor of hosting a visit from a former President of the United States, William Howard Taft. To the best of our knowledge, it's the only time a President has visited the church. The reason was to promote the country's entry into World War I and boost the growth of the Red Cross at a huge rally. Taft's remarks will be explored in greater depth in this and future Towers.

[Note: Because of the difficulty reading the copy of The Bristol Press, which was a Weekly at the time, it appeared the headline stated "Because We're Rich" in last month's column as the reason for the rally when it in fact read "Because We're Right," indicating the reason why the country entered the "War To End All Wars."]

"A rousing reception awaited Mr. Taft when he arrived here by auto from New Haven ..." the article states. Long before the time of Taft's arrival, people gathered to await the President. By the time the doors opened at 7 p.m., "Fully a thousand people were lined up on the sidewalks leading to the three main entrances" to the church. By 7:30 the church was packed. Taft's good nature was noted in his special greeting to the many children waiting to see him.

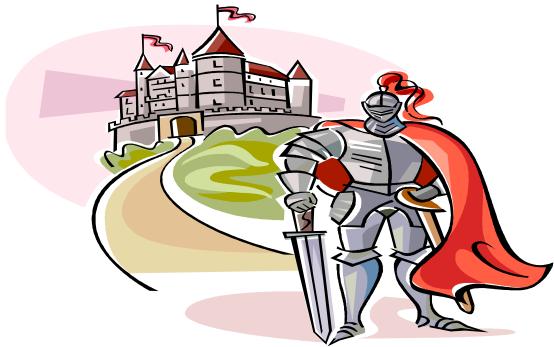
Red Cross Chairman Charles Treadway and Prospect benefactor William E. Sessions greeted the former President upon his arrival. He was seated on the platform along with Mayor Joseph Dutton, Mr. Treadway, Prospect Pastor Dr. L.H. Dorchester, Rev. Ernest Wismer and Rev. Walter Bezanson. The choir sang "Onward Christian Soldiers," after which the audience sang the the "Star Spangled Banner."

Chairman Treadway welcomed the distinguished guest as follows: "Our country is divided by no sect and no creed, neither by poverty nor wealth, before a crisis such as this country has never before seen. We rally around the Red Cross to give notice to our Allied forces across the water that we are more undivided than we have ever been before."

Stay tuned for more remarks from the historic rally when the Tower resumes in September.

## Thanks To All

Thank you to everyone who helped make both Renaissance Dinners a success. All your hard work shone brightly both evenings and you should be proud.



We'd like to thank the Trustees and Church Council for allowing us to "take over" Sessions Hall and transport it into a 16th Century Great Hall.

A special thank you to the congregation for your patience the past few weeks while the decorating and set-up was taking place. We worked hard to make sure everything was back to normal by Sunday, May 13th.

We welcomed 187 people to Prospect. Over 85 percent of our guests were visitors to our church and they were amazed! We added a page in the program welcoming them to check out our website and see what PUMC is all about so we hope they will visit us again.

For those of you who could not attend, we hope you will be able to join us next year. Each year we plan a "different" theme and we strive to bring something new to the Renaissance Dinners. The year 2013 will be no exception so save the dates — Saturday, April 27th, and Saturday, May 4th. The theme will be a Masked Ball to celebrate Spring!

As a result of these dinners a new organization, The Middle Ages Group, has been formed. It is open to adults, men and women, couples and singles. We are hoping it will grow, so should you wish to come aboard, please let us know.

Peace and blessing to you all,  
Gary & Luisa Gladu~ Renaissance Dinner Chairpersons

## ■ Vacation Bible School

Prospect United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School will be held June 25 to June 28 from

6 - 7:15 p.m. so get ready to dive into fun at "Operation Overboard." The kick-off cookout will be Sunday, June 24, from 4 – 5:30 p.m.



In this action-packed underwater adventure kids will explore and experience God's underwater universe.

Call the church office (860 582-3443) to register your kids. For more information visit our website at: <http://overboard.cokesburyvbs.com/prospect>

## ■ Reading To End Poverty

Prospect has chosen to participate in "Read to Feed," a reading incentive program designed by Heifer International, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending world hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth.

"Read to Feed" allows children to help find solutions to global problems like hunger and poverty. Children are asked to find sponsors for each book they read over the summer. Sponsors set a pledge amount for each book read such as a quarter or dollar a book. The

goal is to promote reading and to help Heifer provide livestock for struggling families which have few resources and need an on-going source of income. These gifts help families move out of poverty to self-reliance.

We appreciate your encouragement and support of your child while he or she participates in "Read to Feed." It will not require much time on your part, but will mean less fortunate children will have an ongoing source of food and hope for a better tomorrow.

## ■ Unusual Mission Trip

Take a different kind of mission trip with fellow members of PUMC! On Saturday, September 29, Prospect's Faith in Action and Education Committee is taking a trip to Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA. Overlook Farm is one of Heifer International's Learning Centers. Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun, Overlook Farm is a demonstration farm complete with gardens and animals including water buffalo, yaks and traditional farm animals such as pigs, goats and more. Each education program at the farm introduces visitors to the idea that one person can make a difference. Stay tuned for more details. See Sue Powers or Jeanette Baker for questions. Sign up in Sessions Hall if you are interested.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**99 SUMMER STREET**  
**BRISTOL, CT 06010**  
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