



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

March 2012

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Pastor's Page

"And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." Acts 13:2-3



This passage from Acts comes at an important moment in the life of the church — it is the very beginning of the missionary church. Before this, the book of Acts presents the Apostles reaching out into the world. But to be honest, God really has to pull them out of their "safety zone." They have heard the great commission in Matthew 28 and Luke 24. And, they know that they should be carrying the Gospel into faraway lands, but for some reason they are all rather shy.

And here, in one rather remarkable moment of insight, they recognize that God has set aside Barnabas and Saul (aka, Paul) for mission work and they send them out. It is the beginning of the great evangelism movement that would go into Europe, Asia, Africa and ultimately America. The Church discovered that they were called to mission.

For the past three months, we have been talking about the goals for our church for the next four years. This month, I would like to talk about our fourth goal: Disciples engage in mission. We are going to commit ourselves to a more "hands-on" understanding of mission.

We were all pleased when Jill Wilson went off to Haiti to participate in a United Methodist short-term mission project. Like the early church, we all laid hands on Jill before she left and prayed that she would be blessed in her mission trip and that she would, in turn, become a blessing to the people she would meet. In a sense, we all participated in her mission trip.

It is important, however, to remember that the opportunity for missions is not restricted to a select few. The United Methodist Church, and the New York Annual Conference, have mission trips happening all the time. Groups of United Methodists are leaving for mission trips to Haiti, Central

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and South America, Africa and Asia. We also have mission trips to help people affected by natural disasters in the United States including some areas within the borders of the New York Annual Conference.

If you would like to remain local, there are projects that affect the lives of people within a few miles of our church. Habitat for Humanity has on-going projects in Hartford. You don't even have to be an expert — if all you know is how to hold a hammer or use a paint brush, there is a project waiting for you! Oh, and let's not forget that members of our church help out at a local soup kitchen on the first Wednesday of the month.

The little things we do can touch people's lives in unexpected ways. A few months ago, a group of people from Prospect UMC sang Christmas carols for shut-ins and residents of adult facilities. I am still hearing from "staff" people at those facilities how much they were touched by our singing. I believe that every one of us can enrich the lives of our neighbors. Are you interested?

Mission is all about sharing God's love — we are all called by God to mission!

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

■ “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life”

You are invited to participate in a low-key book study during the season of Lent. We will be reading “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life,” by Richard Rohr. Richard Rohr is a Franciscan Priest and a Spiritual Director. His book deals with spirituality as people grow older (and let’s be honest, most people eventually grow older), and how our life experience can inform and become a part of our expression of faith. You may not agree with everything he shares with his readers, but he will certainly get you thinking about your spirituality.

The book is available from Amazon.com, Christian Book Distributors and at local book stores. If you have trouble finding the book, please speak with Pastor Sorozan and he can order it for you through Cokesbury.

The Study Group will begin on March 6 at 7 p.m. Coffee will be provided. We will continue to meet on March 20 and 27, and on April 3. If you would like to attend but need nursery care, please contact Pastor Sorozan.

Order Your Easter Plants

Memorial Easter Plants will surround the Altar on Easter Sunday, April 8th. Please return this form to the offering plate or church office by Wednesday, March 28th. Cost per plant is \$10 for each plant. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund. Payment must accompany order. Feel free to take your plant(s) after the April 8th, 10 a.m. service.



| | |
|---|--|
| In Honor of | |
| In Memory of | |
| Number of Plants | |
| Given by | |
| Amount Enclosed | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaving Plant or <input type="checkbox"/> Taking Plant | |

■ Prayer Ministry

"But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. O my Strength, I sing praise to you; you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God. "
~(Psalm 59:16-17)

What is prayer? Prayer is simply communicating with God—listening and talking to him. You can talk to Him about anything that concerns you. Tell Him your dreams. Share your concerns for your loved ones. Talk out your fears with Him. In prayer we also show our gratitude, joys and praise to Him.

In addition to the Sunday Service prayer requests and the prayer chain, Prospect will again be offering the Lenten prayer ministry. Each Sunday in Lent the congregation is invited to write a prayer concern or thanksgiving on a piece of paper and then drop it in the offering plate. After the service there will be a prayer group who will lift up those requests to God in the Chapel. The request can be a chance to seek prayer for a need for yourself, to pray through a concern you have for others, or simply to share in giving thanks for God's blessings.

■ Sunday Greeters

Do you like to smile and say "hi" to people? Are you enthusiastic



about our church? If so, please consider becoming one of the Sunday morning greeters. Greeters provide a welcoming smile to people walking in the door for our Sunday worship services. They encourage newcomers and visitors to sign the visitor log. They also direct people to the coat racks, the restrooms, and the nursery as necessary.

If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please see Melissa Brown or call the church office.

■ Scholarship Applications

Applications for the 2012 Prospect Church Scholarships are ready and available in the church office. They must be returned with a completed essay on "What I want to do with my life ..." and "What part does Education have in that..." by May 1. If school records are not ready to include with the application and essay, they may be forwarded to the church in care of Barbara Fasci when they are available. The Scholarship Super Bowl Grinder Sale netted \$1,371 last month.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

World-Wide Lenten Observance - Kathy Dube



As war dawned in February of 1940, Prospect joined with other Christians across the world to mark the start of the Lenten season. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 7, church members sought to "be a part of a world-wide endeavor to live in the Christian spirit," according to the Tower.

Special services were planned for Sunday morning and evening, Thursday evening, and Holy Week, which ran from March 17 to 24. The pastor's membership classes met on Thursday evening at 7, and Friday afternoons at 4. Committees of the Official Board assisted with mid-week services and church societies planned to take part in the Every Member Canvass. Sermon titles were announced well in advance for the entire Lenten and Holy Week season.

Under a separate heading of "Thursdays Will Be Different," a plan was elaborated to "bring to the attention of our people the purpose and program of our several committees." For instance, on February 8, the first Thursday of Lent, the evening program was a Symposium run by the pastor, Rev. Paul DuBois, entitled "A Good Book To Read During Lent." Symbolically, 40 people were asked to take part. Other topics of Thursday evening services were Social Services, Membership Goals and Cultivation, the Church and World Peace, Growing in Religion, and Music in Christian Life and Worship.

Chili Contest Winners: 1st place Kayla Rozanski and Victoria Paulette; 2nd place Charles Gibbs; 3rd place Jackie Palance.



CLEAR THE CLUTTER: A TAILGATE TAG SALE

Treasure accumulating in your basement or garage? Prospect UMC will hold its second annual Tailgate Tag Sale Saturday, June 2, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., rain or shine, at the church. Cost for a space is \$20. 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. We will also be collecting items for a church table. For more information or if you are interested in helping with this event, see Jeanette Baker or Heidi Flower.

Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund.

SAVE THE DATE

March 3 - Women's Group

March 3 - Prospect Playgroup

March 6 - Lenten Book Study

March 13 - Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble Concert

March 17 - Prospect Playgroup

March 23 - Movie Night

■ **Roberts Fund Update**

The Roberts Fund, endowed by the late Clinton S. Roberts, a former member of Prospect, enables our church to fund a number of worthwhile causes. Here is a rundown of donations slated for the current year:

- \$1,000 to provide camperships for our children and youths who want to attend a Methodist camp this summer;
- \$1,000 to be donated to the Salvation Army for children and youths who cannot afford to pay the fees of summer camps; and
- \$4,000 to be donated to Covenant to Care for children, plus another \$1,000 in reserve for emergencies.

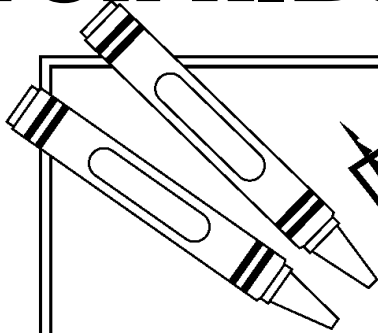
If you have questions about the Roberts Fund, contact Beth Provost, co-chair of the fund. Her email is provost@snet.net.

■ **Pretzel Sunday**

Pretzel Sunday will be March 25th. The children should come directly to the downstairs kitchen at 9:30 to make the pretzels.

So...come join the fun of Pretzel Sunday.

FOR KIDS



PUZZLE

SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

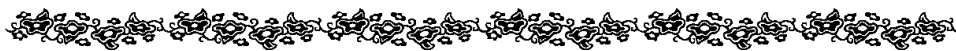
Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom $6+1=$ ___ blossom $2 \times 2=$ ___ rejoice $4 \times 2=$ ___

burst $3+3=$ ___ wilderness $2+1=$ ___ joy $5+5=$ ___

crocus $3+2=$ ___ desert $1 \times 0=$ ___ parched $0+1=$ ___

glad $2 \times 1=$ ___ shout $10-1=$ ___



“The _____ and the _____ land will
be _____ ; the _____ will rejoice
and _____. Like the _____,
it will _____ into _____ ; it
will _____ greatly and _____ for _____.”

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers:
“The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.”

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold**

Return Service Requested