



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

## Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

May 2011

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### FROM THE PASTOR



What began almost three years ago as a one year interim has transpired into a three year pastorate that is soon coming to an end. While we have accomplished many things together, having a permanent pastor has always been the goal. To this end, I welcome the appointment of Rev. Dr. Robert Sorozan to be Prospect's next pastor. You can be sure of a smooth transition – Bob and I have known each other for many years and worked together in other settings. I believe he is the right person at the right time for Prospect Church. I am counting on all of you to open wide your hearts and arms and enthusiastically embrace your new pastor and his wife, Terri.

So that there is no misunderstanding, you should hear from me that I will honor our United Methodist code of ministerial ethics. That is, after June 30 I can't perform pastoral services for members or others related to Prospect Church. Our bishop is very serious about this; pastors can be defrocked for violations! To be specific, this means that I will not be able to preside at funerals, weddings or baptisms. If my schedule permits, I can attend such services as a guest but I can't officiate. Having had to honor this dictum in seven previous churches, I assure you it isn't easy from my point of view. Still, it must be so; I can be your friend, but I can't be your pastor. If you would like to discuss this with me before the end of June, I'd be glad to talk with you.

"Retirement" is a word I have had trouble using in the past months. But it is officially what I am doing. I will not, however, be retiring from ministry. I feel the need to say that. Until the day I die or the day I no longer make sense (whichever comes first!), I will serve Christ and Church, paid or unpaid. Retirement for me means, besides having my pension benefits kick in, that I get to decide what God wants me to do. For 41 years I've delegated that decision to a bishop of the church. Now, I sort of get to get it wholesale rather than retail. I am very excited, have many ideas in mind, but also recognize that I need to avoid saying yes to anything too quickly. Likely, I will continue as the bishop's assistant on a very part-time basis. But, for the rest of the time, I get to decide what to do!

My last Sunday in Prospect's pulpit will be June 5 though I will serve pastorally and administratively through June. I will have many words of gratitude to express in the coming weeks, but for now I want to say thank you for the joy of being part of the Prospect family and the high privilege of being your pastor.

Nothing would make me happier than to be able to serve you communion one more time and say good-bye personally. If I've baptized your child, I'd especially love to see him or her again!

*Together in Christ,  
Dennis Winkleblack*

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

Heidi Flower,  
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# TRANSITIONS

## THE NEXT STEP

*You say goodbye and I say hello, hello, hello;  
I don't know why you say goodbye, I say hello*

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Robert Sorozan to Prospect United Methodist Church in July 2011. Pastor Bob is being sent to us with a leadership style comparable to making fishers of men, a worship manner that will feed our souls, and an ease with community outreach— local, district, and greater faith community.

Currently, Bob is the Pastor of the West Granby and Copper Hill United Methodist Church and is Co-Chairperson of the Episcopacy Committee of the New York Conference. Other interesting FYIs...

- Before entering the ministry, he worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension as an agent specializing in fruit crops
- He and his wife Terri have two adult children—Daniel and Tonya
- Certified Motorman with the Connecticut Electric Railway Museum and passionate about model railroading
- Published devotional meditations in The Upper Room; recorded Bread of Life programs for WIHS radio; led the Blessing of the Mounts service for the Granby Horse Council
- Enjoys swimming, playing the guitar, singing, and discovering local history
- Direct experience to share in working with youth groups and confirmation classes

### FAQs around Transitions...

What kinds of events or activities will help bring healthy closure to Pastor Dennis and his wife Jeanne?

- Begin by saving the date for a June 5th celebration of Dennis' pastoral ministry following the 10:00 service. See Joyce Rioux, SPR chair, or Janice Moore, Worship chair, for details or await future notifications.

What needs to be done to assist Pastor Bob and his wife Terri with their move?

- Pray for guidance and grace. Begin praying daily for Pastor Bob and his family, even as you continue to pray for Pastor Dennis and his family.
- Join a work crew to help "Warm the House". The parsonage needs attention and working hands. Give a few hours of your time to help. See Chris Wilson, Trustee chair, for details.
- Write a note of welcome and pass along to Joyce Rioux, SPR chair.

### Create A Welcoming Environment

"Welcoming" is a life-long journey for the whole church community. Creating a welcoming and hospitable climate begins at the curb and continues into the heart of the congregation. The ministry of welcoming is not the responsibility of a few people or a committee. It is the responsibility of the entire church family.

Failing to greet a visitor says a lot about us. First impressions are lasting ones.... People often make up their mind about our church within the first 10 minutes of contact.

Greet anyone, member or guest. Please make a special effort to greet the people you don't already know. How? Engage people you don't know in conversation. It can be as simple as, "Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I don't think we've met. What's your name?"

It takes guests about three minutes to exit the church after worship so it is important to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.

When was the last time you spoke to someone new, or invited them to sit with you at Coffee Hour?

## ■ NEW MEMBERS

**Nicholas Isaac** is originally from India. He was born in Bahrain and lived there with his parents until he was 18. During that time he attended the National Evangelical Church (NEC), English Language Congregation where he had his Baptism and Confirmation.

He came to the US in 2009 and began working on his prerequisites for the dental hygiene program at Tunxis Community College. He attended a few churches in the area before he came to Prospect. Prospect's service was very similar to what he attended back in Bahrain and he felt drawn to continue to worship here.

His parents are both physicians. They work in the American Mission Hospital in Bahrain and are members of the NEC. His father has been on the Church Committee Board for a few years now. He has one brother who is a primary care physician in Auburn, Maine. They are a close family.

"It is obvious to me that God has had his hand in my life through the years past, bringing me to where I am now," says Nicholas. "I pray that He continues to watch over all of us in the years to come," he says.

**Alecia Bohan** is originally from Durham, CT where she was brought up in the Methodist Church in Yalesville. "I attended the University of Connecticut, lived and taught Spanish in North Carolina for a couple of years and now teach at Lewis Mills High School in Burlington. I am a mother to a three-year-old, Cody, and am thrilled to be expecting a second son this summer. My hobbies include reading, bargain shopping, listening to music, and spending time with loved ones," Alecia notes.

Alecia, her husband, Branden, and Cody lived in Hubert, NC, for two years while Branden was stationed at Camp Lejeune. During that time, she became a member of Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Hubert. They moved back to Connecticut about a year ago. Upon buying a home in Burlington, Alecia looked forward to finding a Methodist church to attend. She finds it important to be a voice for those who do not have one, particularly children and animals, and enjoys advocating for their rights.

## ■ Book of Remembrance, Special Gift or Fund?

Upon a loved one's death usually friends and family want to establish some kind of memorial. At Prospect we suggest one of three choices for the surviving family members.



- Suggest, in lieu of flowers, one make a gift to the Prospect United Methodist Church (PUMC) Book of Remembrance (BOR) fund. This money is combined with other memorials. Together, these funds are used for furnishings and capital improvements for the Sanctuary and Chapel (to last at least 10 years). The bereaved family may make recommendations to the BOR committee.
- The bereaved family may make a specific gift to the church. This gift would be submitted to the PUMC Trustees for acceptance. Conditions and restrictions to such gifts, if accepted by Trustees, will remain in effect until such time as the bereaved family makes changes. If no bereaved family members are available, then the Bristol Probate court or its successors would determine changes to the conditions and restrictions.
- Establishment of a Fund is another alternative for those wishing to honor a loved one. Conditions and restrictions for use of the fund would be accepted by the PUMC Trustees. For instance, donors may limit the use to interest and growth from the initial donation.

For significant gifts, consultation with a CPA or Tax Attorney is suggested. PUMC is able to receive Charitable Remainder Trusts, Life Insurance, Stock and other such gifts as the donor may desire as part of one's estate planning. The chairman of the Trustees would meet with your estate planner to accomplish honoring your loved one or to provide a legacy for your family.

**There will not be 8:30 a.m. services during June nor on July 3rd. The 8:30 a.m. services will resume July 10.**

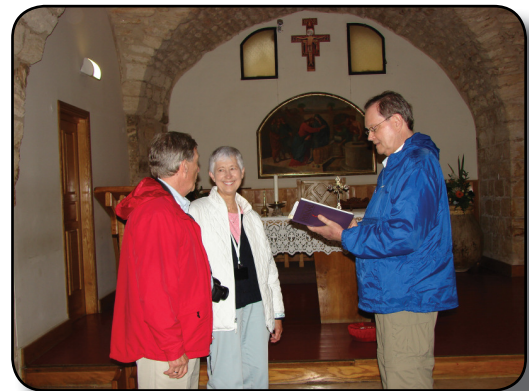
## Fifth Trip To Holy Land For Pastor Dennis

Prospect's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, made his fifth trip to the Holy Land from March 22 to 31. His wife, Jeanne, has been there four times. Pastor Dennis was accompanied by Chris and Jill Wilson and Don and Janne Workman, the smallest group he has escorted. He has previously escorted groups ranging in size from a dozen to 20-plus, "which means I was always counting noses, checking in to see who was feeling well and who wasn't, listening to complaints, etc. This time, therefore, was extra special because I had so few to worry about. I was able to give better attention to guides and have more time for reflection."

The trip was under the auspices of Florida-based Educational Opportunities. Except for the first day, the weather was 60-70 degrees with blue skies, he relates. In the past, "Bad weather had often been a distraction -- rain and cold make one want to get back on the bus more than stand and listen to a guide! Each trip has been special, but this trip was extra special ... also helped by the reality that most likely this was my last trip. We were on a 48-passenger bus with mostly other UM's from around the country and everyone got along very well."

The group took a non-stop flight from JFK Airport to Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv. They stayed in two hotels: one overlooking the Sea of Galilee and the other in downtown Jerusalem. "Security was obvious and heavy. While waiting for luggage screening on our return we were startled by whistles blowing and security people running and then the announcement to clear out of the terminal. Apparently something looked dangerous in the x-ray machines used to screen all baggage. But all was well," Dennis said.

More pictures from the trip and comments from the Wilsons and Workmans can be found on the web at [www.anewprospect.org/holyland.html](http://www.anewprospect.org/holyland.html).



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### Mail Bag

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*Thank you to all who donated 92 Easter baskets for our Covenant to Care drive for children of need (We only had 90 names!). Your generous spirit of giving is moving, and the children will appreciate all that you have done. And a big thank you to Carol Rivard and Jackie Palance for delivering the baskets to the social workers!*

*~Susan Lee*

*To our wonderful friends at PUMC.*

*The family of Lois H. Snyder acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Our family deeply appreciates everything that you did for us during Mom's long illness and upon her death. The church meant so much to her. Thank you for all the love.*

*Sincerely,  
Nancy Slade, Doris Lane and the rest of the family*



# May 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            8:30 a.m. Chapel Service            10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service            10:00 a.m. Church School</p> <p><i>God, Grant me the courage to face my own fears and to follow wherever you ask me to go.</i></p>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rethink 7 pm	Me too. But this is incredible.	Prospect at Zion			Renaissance Dinner	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Finance 7 pm					District Conference
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Council 7 pm					Children's Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						Pops Concert 4 pm
30	31					