



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Pastor's Page



“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.” ~First Corinthians 12:13-14

June is almost here! So you all know what that means; it's time for the 213th session of the New York Annual Conference. Yea!!! This is the time when clergy and lay members gather at Hofstra University, on Long Island, to worship, conduct church business and have fellowship with each other.

Admittedly, it isn't easy to get excited about a four-day business meeting. But it is important to look beyond the "business" portion of the Conference to see what it represents. When we gather, we have fellowship with other congregations, we share our struggles, and we share our blessings. We have an opportunity to learn from each other and we focus on the things that truly matter. What it represents, to me, is an organization in mission.

Mission is an important word to remember. A few years ago, one would find it hard to apply that word to our Conference; we were not really considered a "mission-oriented" Conference. So at a previous session of the New York Annual Conference, we voted to make missions a top priority. Since then we have raised over \$ 2,000,000 for the victims of hurricanes, we have sent mission teams to Haiti and Africa, the Gulf Coast and to churches in our Conference struggling to recover from the effects of flooding last fall. We have worked with Conference youth to understand different cultures and we have worked hard at developing ministries in fast growing populations in Connecticut and New York. The New York Annual Conference is involved in mission.



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Prospect United Methodist Church has experienced this renewed emphasis on mission. There has been a dramatic rise in mission projects sponsored by our Conference. One of our members, Jill Wilson, participated in a Conference-sponsored mission to Haiti this past year. We were all thrilled to hear her story when she returned. (We also learned that there are about a hundred ways to prepare beans and rice at a church dinner.) We are now planning to send a group of youth, this summer, to the Catskills to help in the recovery efforts from last fall's floods.

It is true that the New York Annual Conference is an organization made up of flawed human beings. Could the Conference be more efficient? Probably. Could the Conference be more focused? Yes, with God's help. Could it be more effective in our world? It is a struggle! Remember we are in mission as a Conference and as a local church, and even though we're not perfect, I believe that God is present in our church, our Conference and our denomination. Somehow, even though we may not see how at the moment, when we focus on our mission, we will bring forth a harvest.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

No Dabbling - By Kathy Dube on behalf of the History Committee



Former President Visits Prospect The June 18th, 1917 issue of the The Bristol Press heralded the visit of former President William Howard Taft to Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church the night before. The long story began, "Bristol has had many distinguished visitors and listened to many distinguished speakers but to none more famous than William Howard Taft; to none has she accorded a more hearty welcome, and to none has she listened with a keener or more appreciative interest or greater satisfaction."

Since it's the one and only time a former President has visited the church, it seems appropriate to explore aspects of the visit and talk in several Prospect In Earlier Days columns, but it is not easy to do because the photo copy of The Press page is of poor quality. the purpose of the visit was a big rally to promote the Red Cross.

Taft, a Republican who hailed from Ohio and was the heaviest to serve as Chief Executive in terms of stature, served as President from 1909 through 1913. He also had many other claims to fame: Chief Justice of the United States from 1921 through 1930 (the only President to become Chief Justice following the Presidency); Provisional Governor Cuba, 1906; U.S. Secretary of War, 1904-1908; Governor-General of the Phillipines, 1901-1903; U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 1892-1892; and U.S. Solicitor General, 1890-1892 during the term of President Benjamin Harrison.

The headline the day after the visit read "Because We're Rich," followed by the subhead "Justified Position of United States Entry Into the War at Big Red Cross Rally at Prospect M. E. Church Last Evening — Heartily Greeted by the 2,000 Present."

Future Towers will elaborate on the visit, and local reaction to it.

■ Easter Flowers Find Homes

Have you ever wondered what happens to the flowers left behind after Easter Sunday services? For three years now, they have found welcomed homes with shut-ins thanks to the efforts of Prospect church member Colleen Shover.



Colleen said she got the idea three years ago. She took the 10 to 12 plants left behind this year to homebound members, using the list the choir used for Christmas caroling. Recipients included George Beyers, Norma Miles, Alice Melnick, Virginia Wall, Jean Osborn and Ann Reynolds.

Colleen is reluctant to claim credit, but she notes, "The smiles that come to their faces was unbelievable." The fact that the flowers are accompanied by a personal visit from someone who is connected to Prospect is a bonus to the home-bound recipients. She completed the task within a few days after Easter.

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As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. ~1 Peter 4:10

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■ Time To Go Camping

Did you know we still have three active Methodist Camps in our Conference? They are located at



three spectacular locations with programs that welcome second through 12th graders. Camp Quinipet is located on Shelter Island, Long Island; Kingwood is at Hancock, NY; and Epworth is in High Falls, NY.

You may swim, hike, star gaze, cook out, sail, make crafts, play games, and have campfires. Prospect UMC wants to encourage participation, and has the funds to provide tuition for any student wishing to attend. Camperships are available to any student from the church.

For tuition assistance, contact Beth Provost at the church office or at (860) 675-3031.

Below are the three websites for you to review. Experience the fun!

- <http://www.quinipet.org/>
- <http://www.kingswoodcampsite.org/>
- <http://www.epworthcenter.com/>

■ Tailgate Tag Sale

Treasure accumulating in your basement or garage? Prospect Church will hold a Tailgate Tag Sale on Saturday, June 2nd, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cost for a space is \$25. You can 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. For more information, email prospectoffice@snet.net or call (860) 582-3443. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund.

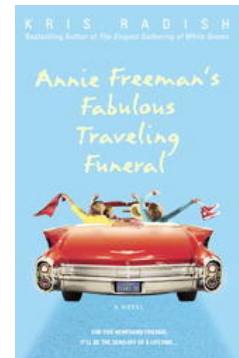
■ PUMC Cookbook Project

It's been 10 years since the Women of Prospect's last PUMC cookbook project, and the organization has decided it's time to put another one together. Recipes may be placed in a decorated soup pot in Sessions Hall or emailed to Jackie Palance at jampalance@aol.com by the end of June.

When bringing in or sending recipes, please be sure to count your ingredients and make sure they are all listed. Make sure the recipes are legible and your name is on the recipe, in case there are questions and so everyone who contributes can be credited. If you have a story to go with the recipe, that would be great, too.

■ PUMC Book Club

The next PUMC book club will meet on Tuesday, May 29, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. The topic of discussion will be "Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral," by Kris Radish.



Summary: For Katherine Givens and the four women about to become her best friends, the adventure begins with a UPS package. Inside is a pair of red sneakers filled with ashes and a note that will forever change their lives. Katherine's oldest and dearest friend, the irrepressible Annie Freeman, left one final request — a traveling funeral — and she wants the most important women in her life as "pallbearers."

All are welcome. See Jeanette Baker with any questions.

■ Youth in Mission

Jill Wilson is putting together a District Youth Mission trip to Prattsville, NY, where there was extensive flooding last fall. The trip is scheduled for the week of July 22-28. She would like to take a youth group from our church. If you are interested see Jill.

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ~ Philippians 4:8

Dear Bill (Baker) and Ron (Baker),

Thank you so much for the many loads of food from Discount Food Outlet that you picked up, delivered, and carried down into our Parish Hall. What an effort both you and Ron gave to this project. We are delighted to receive the many cases of canned goods as well as th fresh produce.

The people of Prospect United Methodist Church have been so supportive of “Meals for the Needy” and you certainly reflect the caring spirit that is so typical of your congregation.

Thank you and God bless you for all you did. We certainly appreciate the time, energy and effort that you gave.

*Together in service,
Shirley Dickau
Associate in Ministry
Zion Lutheran Church*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Prospect United Methodist Church is embarking on “Operation Overboard” Vacation Bible

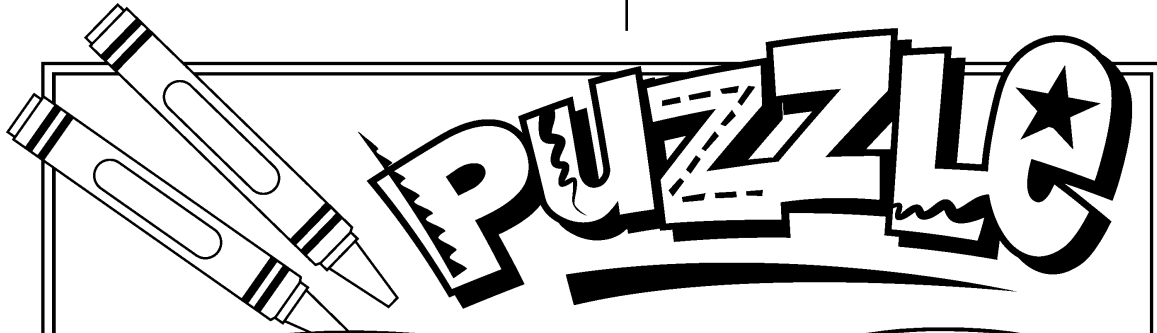


School this summer. It will be held June 25 to June 28 from 6 - 7:15 p.m. so get ready to dive into fun at “Operation Overboard.” The kick-off cookout will be Sunday, June 24, from 4 – 5:30 p.m.

In this action-packed underwater adventure kids will explore and experience God’s underwater universe. They will explore Bible stories of people who revealed deep faith by knowing how to: Depend on God; Dare to care; Claim Jesus; Choose to follow; and Change the world.

Music Director Heidi Flower will lead the program and can always use more teen and adult volunteers. So if you’re interested in helping with crafts, music, storytelling and more, contact Heidi. Call the church office (860 582-3443) to register your kids. For more information visit our website at: <http://overboard.cokesburyvbs.com/prospect>.

FOR KIDS



Worthy of honor

What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

E	S	T	E	E	M	U	H	A	L	G	Z
F	K	M	R	Q	E	X	H	P	C	C	I
N	O	L	D	U	Y	S	S	P	R	N	E
I	P	J	L	J	I	R	T	R	M	Y	R
D	X	A	S	R	K	E	J	E	Z	K	O
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V	C	V	A	Q	N	E	Y	A	P	M	G
Q	D	I	E	P	F	C	M	T	Y	I	Z
Z	S	X	C	R	X	T	P	E	N	R	G
E	O	X	U	Y	E	U	A	Y	O	E	H
B	R	E	O	T	P	U	K	O	O	L	Q

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