



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church
A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Pastor's Page

Summer is almost here and we will soon be moving off in different directions, to the beach, the mountains or the weeds growing in our backyard lawn. Summer is a time when we break from our usual routines and try to cram in as many new experiences as we can in about 90 days. Our educators recognize that for many students this break presents a problem. It interrupts patterns of learning and makes it challenging for students to “get in the swing of things” in the fall. So many schools present students with a summer reading list.



This got me thinking about a summer reading list for the church and myself. So, I am introducing, “Pastor Bob’s Summer Reading List!” Actually, these are the books I hope to read in the summer weeks ahead. I would like to invite you to read along with me and, in the fall, we’ll get together in the church parlor after church and discuss our reactions to them. You don’t have to be in total agreement with the authors — all you have to do is just reflect on the subjects.

The first book is On God’s Side, by Jim Wallis. The book is published by Brazos Press and is available through Christian Book Distributors for \$13.49. I met Jim Wallis* at a United Methodist meeting in Washington DC. He is the founder of Sojourners, an evangelical community which practices social justice. The book looks at faith — is faith a private thing or is there an important part of faith which is concerned about the common good?

The second book on my list is The Best Spiritual Writing 2013, ed. by Philip Zaleski. This is a new book being published by Penguin Books and may need a special order at a local bookstore. The publisher notes that this is a collection of “personal essays, article and poem by today’s luminaries.” Its focus is on spirituality.

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The third book is The Heart of Christianity, Rediscovering a Life of Faith, by Marcus Borg. The book is published by Harper One, and is available from Christian Book Distributors for \$11.99. I met Marcus Borg* at a workshop at Harvard* a few years ago. While Borg may not come across as very traditional, or even orthodox, he is very interesting.

The final book on my list is a work of fiction, World Without End, by Ken Follet. The book is available at local bookstores. World Without End takes place in fourteenth century England in the fictional Cathedral town of Kingsbridge. The action of the story revolves around four children as they become adults in a world affected by the 100 years' war and the "Black Death." I've wanted to read this book for six years and this will be the summer that I will do it!

Enjoy your summer and your summer reading and I look forward to sharing with you in the fall.

Grace and Peace

Bob Sorozan

**My casually working in the conversation that I met Jim Wallis, Marcus Borg and my attending a workshop at Harvard was my obvious and desperate attempt to shore up a flawed and very weak ego. Sorry!*

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Thoughts On Post World-War II World - Kathy Dube

Last month's historical article related a few amusing anecdotes from the April 1943 Tower, but that same issue included some serious thoughts about the Post-War II world. Here are a few from notable people from the era:

- ▶ Dr. Rufus M. Jones, philosopher and leading world Quaker on the occasion of his 80th birthday: "What concerns me today is the spiritual recovery of the world ... Ideas and ideals with soon be taking the place which battleships and fighting planes and bombs are now holding. We ought this year to discover that we have a rendezvous not with death and destiny, but with the eternal living Spirit."
- ▶ Madame Chiang Kai-Shek while addressing a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden: "All nations, great and small, must have equal opportunity of development. Those who are stronger and more advanced must consider their strength as a trust to be used to help the weaker nations to fit themselves for full self-government and not to exploit them. ... Christ taught us to hate the evil in men, but not men themselves."
- ▶ Walter Russell Bowie, professor, Union Theological Seminary: "Hate is moral poison."
- ▶ Delaware Conference Report: "That means .. to counter-act hate and vengeance as controlling motives in the present crisis."

These same thoughts have resonance today. The Tower at that time was edited by a committee consisting of Pastor Paul DuBois, R.L. Sessions, E. Montgomery, R. E. Rowe and A.H. Grindal, Jr.

■ **Get Your 2013 PUMC Cookbook**

The Women of Prospect will start selling the 2013 PUMC Cookbooks as of May 19th. The cost of the books will be \$8 each. Some of the recipes in the cookbook were taken out of a 1960's PUMC cookbook, submitted by members who have gone before us. The books will be sold in Sessions Hall after the 10 a.m. service starting on that date. If you are interested in purchasing the cookbook you may also contact Jackie Palance at (860) 747-8988 or jampalance@aol.com.



Masks Were Winners At Renaissance Dinners

By Luisa Gladu



The Middle Ages Group's Annual Renaissance Dinners were held on two successive Saturdays, April 27th and May 4th. Both evenings were a tremendous success and a good time was had by all. Along with church members, we welcomed many guests from the surrounding communities. All were enchanted by our church, and we hope that we will see them again.

This year's theme was a Masked Ball, and our guests did not disappoint us. Many came with homemade masks and those that did not were able to purchase stunning hand-crafted masks by our very own Victoria Paulette. The entertainment provided music, laughter, fun and encouraged our guests to dance the night away. With the masked theme we included a "twist" to the royal entourage as there was a mix-up on who was the "real Queen," but at the end of the evening, all was settled and was well within the kingdom.

Each evening, we had a Mask Contest in which the audience made the decision as to who wore the best mask and the winner was rewarded with two tickets to next year's dinners. The winner for April 27th was our very own Melissa Brown, who hand crafted a stunning black lace mask. On May 4th, a lovely young lass by the name of Elizabeth Blanca won with a very colorful feathered mask. Along with their certificates for next year's dinner, both were asked to sit at the Head Table with His Royal Majesty.

The evening's dances included audience participation in 16th century country dances: The Maltese Brawl, All On A Swing and Selinger's Round. The demonstration dance, The May Pole Solstice Dance, by our lovely serving wenches, was amazing. They wound a most beautiful braided weave around the May Pole that was held by a very nervous gentleman trying to steady it for them. We added a more "recent" dance at the

end to the audiences delight, The Macarena was done very well by 16th century participants as well as the “new worlders.”

The food was delicious, the entertainment fun and the fellowship outstanding! Every year we strive for a new and fun theme to keep the dinners fresh. We have already begun planning next year’s theme and we hope that you will join us in 2014 for “A Scottish Fling”! Just think bagpipes, kilts, and more fun twists and surprises.

We were told this year by quite a few people, “You made us forget our problems for one night,” or “My aches and pains went away for a little while,” and “I needed a good laugh”. This is why we do what we do and we look forward to doing it all over again next year.

This event wouldn’t be possible without the many hands and talents that volunteer to help. From decorating the hall and set-up, script writing, rehearsals, dancing practices, food preparation and planning, managing our servers, providing food, snacks and drinks for all the volunteers, running up and down the stairs, serving our guests, making favors and masks, clean-up and breakdown, laundering linens, many countless hours were spent working for one common goal — raising funds for PUMC. We are always asked why we do all this work for only a night or two. The answer is very easy: all the hard work that everyone puts in

is worth it when we see our guests smiling, dancing and enjoying the event as much as we do.

As His Majesty says to all “Merry meet, merry part and may we meet again!”

PUMC’s Middle Ages Group includes Gary Gladu, Chairman, assisted by Diane and Lang Ashworth, Luisa Gladu, Dave and Tammy Kelly, Tim Krauss, Gerry and Susan Lee, Scott and Cheryl McNeal, Shirley and Jeff Paulette, Earl Pelletier, and John and Joyce Rioux.

Melissa Brown with the winning mask at the April 27th dinner.



Elizabeth Bianca, with the winning mask at the May 4th dinner.



RETHINK CHURCH

EVENTS HELP HAITI MISSION PROJECT

Mountains of Hope Mission: *We believe that all people have a God-given right to sufficient water, food, and shelter, and opportunities for education, employment, and medical care. Working with rural communities, our "Hope" is to make this a reality. We invite you to join us in this mission to change the lives of people in Haiti.*

PUMC accepted that invitation and raised \$498 to help change the lives of people in Haiti through the Hen Party for Haiti fundraiser.

On Saturday, April 13th, PUMC invited the community to grab all their scrap booking/crafting supplies and enjoy a full day of quality, uninterrupted scrap booking/crafting fun! The cost was a mere \$10.

Also available that day were some silent auction baskets. These beautiful baskets were created and donated by Prospect members. Among the baskets were an herb basket, a wine lovers basket, scrap booking basket, pet basket, lobster basket and more.

All proceeds of this event go towards Mountains of Hope for Haiti (MOH). MOH is a mission of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church working in partnership with the people of Haiti.

I am grateful for the opportunity to join all of you in helping out with the "Chicks & Hens" party. I had a lot of fun putting the baskets together and just enjoyed so much chatting with the gals as well as creating cards at this event. Thanks to all. ~ Carolyn

And the best part is that there are no administrative costs to Mountains of Hope for Haiti. All money directly affects and improves the lives of PEOPLE in this very remote, impoverished and yet beautiful spot in the world. Thank you. We tell them we do not forget them when we leave, and here is such a perfect example. ~Jill



Sunday School News

■ Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed

Volunteers are needed to teach Summer Sunday School to children from Pre-K to Grade 5 during our 10 a.m. worship service. No experience is necessary, just a love of children and desire to share the love of God with them! All curriculum materials will be provided. Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays starting June 2nd! We need two adults per Sunday throughout the summer. Please contact Christa Zaldivar at (860) 845-2016 or cjw02@hotmail.com to sign up or for more information.

■ Fun Fair

We invite all children to step right up at “Everywhere Fun Fair: Where God’s World Comes Together Vacation Bible School.” Explore and experience God’s welcoming love at VBS! The fun begins Monday, June 24th, and ends Friday, June 28th, from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at Prospect Church. The adventures include interactive Bible fun and great music, super science, cool crafts, global games, and more. To be a part of all the excitement at “Everywhere Fun Fair,” contact Christa Zaldivar at (860) 845-2016 or cjw02@hotmail.com or visit the church’s website at <http://2013.cokesburyvbs.com/prospect>.



Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

A shorter version of the Sunday Service, with Holy Communion, in the Chapel, south side of Sessions Hall.

10 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Traditional service of worship in Sanctuary with hymns, prayers, sermon, children’s and adult choir anthems and solos. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

10 a.m. Church School

Children attend opening portion of service with family, then go to Sunday School classes.

11 a.m. Fellowship

Time of fellowship and friendship with coffee, tea, cookies and conversation in Sessions Hall.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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