

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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November Page

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need."

~ Hebrews 4:15-16



We are in the middle of a very active fall, which will lead to a very active winter, which will lead to a very active spring. I am always amazed by how busy it gets around here when the calendar turns to November. This is particularly true this year. Between "Winter Storms", nor'easters, and all the other things which have hit us recently, there seems to be very little time for the "normal" things which we do. But with all this activity in our lives, I would like to ask one question: "Why do we do the things we do?"

This question has very important implications for members of Prospect United Methodist Church. The gospel lessons for this time of year remind us that God loves us—really loves us! God loves us so much that God sent Jesus to share our human experience and to take upon himself the worst afflictions that our world could conceive. We are reminded that Jesus did this willingly, because of grace, God's spontaneous love poured out for us all.

This message is actually at the heart of the Protestant Reformation and it is the core message of our faith. We don't earn God's love and we don't get points for good behavior. God has not worked out a pay for service program based on our acting in a prescribed set of actions. It simply is grace.

To get to the point, we do not do things to earn our way into God's good graces; the good acts that we do is a response to the love God has already shared. When we realize that, in spite of our imperfections, God loves us with a love too deep for words, we are liberated to reach out and love others as God has loved us. We don't do it to earn anything from God; we are transformed by what God has done for us in Jesus. It is, actually, a rather simple concept that is very difficult for humans to accept.

Prospect United Methodist Church

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During the past few weeks, we have been made aware of people who are in need. Our neighbors along the shoreline, Long Island, New York City and New Jersey, are struggling to put their lives back together. They need our help. And so we can help, not because of the rewards we get, but simply because they are our sisters and brothers. When we help, through donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, or through volunteering on Mission Teams, we become expressions of God's love. In the weeks ahead, we will try to share opportunities with you to share God's love with our neighbors.

Every good thing that we do matters to God and God's Realm. Our acts of love become visible reminders of the love that God has shared with us in Jesus. So, be active and do whatever good you can do. Not out of fear or out of a need to placate God, but out of the love that is already at work in your soul. There is much to be done in our Conference and our world. Yet, the work will be easy when you remember why we do it.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

Baptisms: *Owen Robert Pomeroy,*
October 14

■ **New Members Sought**

The Middle Ages Group is looking for new members. The group was “officially” formed a year ago and it has been responsible for events such as the annual Victorian Tea and the Renaissance Dinner fundraisers.

The mission of the group is to promote awareness of PUMC, help maintain the historical integrity and beautification of the building, and to raise money for the church. The hope is by making these events open to the public, it will bring new visitors to the church. The Victorian Tea and Renaissance Dinners have brought visitors from surrounding communities, including Avon, Colchester, Danbury, Farmington and White Plains, NY.

The group is always looking for new ideas and creative ways to promote Prospect Church and is hoping to encourage more awareness of the group and invite more people to get involved. For more information, contact Luisa Gladu at TheGladus@comcast.net.

■ **Tropical Storm Collection**

Thank you for your help in supporting the victims of Tropical Storm Sandy. On November 4th, we raised \$150 for UMCOR. We will be collecting donations for the rest of this month.

Please make your checks out to the United Methodist Church and write Hurricane on the memo line. Please remember that every dollar you donate to UMCOR goes directly to the relief effort.

■ **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

The Bristol Area Association of Ministers will hold its annual Thanksgiving Eve Service at the Prospect United Methodist



Church this year. The service will begin at 7 p.m. Come and join your neighbors and friends as we lift up our voices in praise and thanksgiving.

■ **Music Notes**

“Kids Praise God!” PUMC’s new children’s musical group, began rehearsing this month. The group meets from 5:15-6 p.m. in the Music Room. Children in 1st grade and up are invited to come join the fun every Thursday! Please contact Heidi Flower for more information.

■ **Charge Conference**

The Prospect United Methodist Church will hold its annual Charge Conference on Thursday, November 29th. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a pot luck supper. Following supper, at 7 p.m., we will hold our business meeting. The election of church trustees will take place during the Charge Conference.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

President Taft's Visit To Prospect/Part 3 - Kathy Dube



This is the final in a 3-part series on the visit of former President William Howard Taft to Prospect Church in June of 1917, to bolster the Red Cross as well as America's entry into WWI. Around 2,000 people packed the church both within and outside, according to The Bristol Press write-up of the event.

President Taft alluded to the sinking of the Lusitania by German U-Boats despite the "Rights of Neutrals" accommodation on the high seas. "Germany brought us to a position where we either had to submit or to stand up and fight and we chose to do the latter. We are now in the war and ... in a position to lose a million men."

Mr. Taft continued, "... the Pacifists have pointed out that it may be possible to lose a million men for the sake of avenging the death of 200 (among the 1,198 lost in when the Lusitania sank). This wasn't the point. It is the moral and political principle that we are defending by our entry into the war. We are in it because ... we were forced into it. There was no other course to take."

He paid tribute to the "self-restraint and tolerance" exhibited

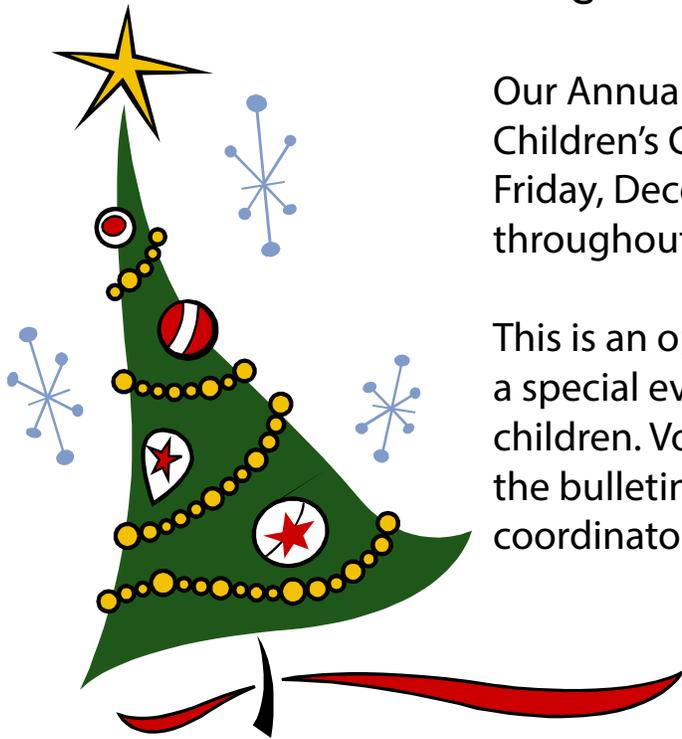
by President Woodrow Wilson the last two years.

"No matter what criticism was hurled at the President during that time, we are all behind him now." This comment brought loud applause. He described at length the system of government which had held sway over the German people in recent years: "The philosophy of the Divine Right of the Emperor and the militarism had been taught from the primary schools through the colleges so that this false idealism had been instilled into the minds of the people making them materialistic and wiping out all of their moral sense."

President Taft was perhaps the most significant guest ever to speak at Prospect Church.

An interesting sidelight: On the jump page to the story, on Page 2 of The Press, a headline noted that a Bristol man had been chosen for the jury in the upcoming trial of Mrs. Amy Archer-Gilligan, whose story inspired the play and movie "Arsenic and Old Lace." Also known as "Sister," Amy Archer-Gilligan of Windsor ran several nursing homes. She was a serial killer who murdered from five to 48 people by poison, including her second husband.

Christmas Party Needs



Our Annual Covenant to Care/DCF Foster Children's Christmas Party will take place on Friday, December 7th, from 3:30 to 9 p.m. throughout the church building.

This is an opportunity to directly help bring a special evening of joy to 200-plus foster children. Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall. Contact coordinator Susan Lee with any questions.

Among the work opportunities available are:

- helping children at craft tables;
- working in the kitchen, serving pizza and juice boxes;
- photo with Santa card table;
- Parent's Room; clean-up (sweeping the floor and rearranging tables); and
- parking lot duty.

Teens must be at least 14 years of age to work at this party. All teens must attend mandatory 20-minute training provided by DCF re: confidentiality, etc.

The following food donations are requested:

- 400 UNFROSTED sugar cookies-(3-4 inch diameter);
- 10 containers of frosting;
- holiday colored sprinkles; and
- 400 individual juice boxes.

Paper goods needed are:

- 30 plastic tablecloths (LONG rectangle white);
- 500 paper plates (grease-resistant); and
- two packages of 250-count napkins.

Victorian Tea Returns

Shopping, planning, cooking, wrapping, decorating, the running around; it's hard to believe that this is what December is all about. During these hectic moments, it's difficult to think of a simpler time, where the season wasn't rushed, but enjoyed. Prospect United Methodist church cordially invites you to come experience such a time.



A "Victorian Holiday Tea with the Ladies Sessions" is such an event, which will be happening on Saturday, December 15th at 4 p.m., offering holiday splendor, entertainment and food ... a quiet moment in a hectic time.

The Ladies Sessions cordially invite you to the Manor to come and view the general splendor of Sessions Hall decorated for the holiday. Servants will surround you with an array of assorted scones, sweet breads, sandwiches and sweet delectables, as you sip your tea, listening to musical entertainment for the evening.

For those of you who wish to be pampered even more, we have "The Parlor" where you will be seated in a private room set for the holidays offering bone china tea cups, teapots filled with a variety of teas, and a special dessert buffet.

Don't be left out in the cold! Tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Come and experience this annual holiday tradition this season at Prospect United Methodist Church!

For tickets please contact the Ladies Sessions secretary Mrs. Hudson at 860 214-4663. We look forward to seeing you.



FOR KIDS
PUZZLE

Be thankful for everything

When we're faithful, we see that God provides all we need.

Use the list of vowels below to complete the words of Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV.
i a a e u i i o u e a o e o a a i a o o e
a e o e e i i e a e o o u o e u i E e i a I

“S__ng __nd m__k__ m__s__c__n
y__r h__rt t__ th__ L__rd,
__lw__ys g__v__ng th__nks t__ G__d
th__ F__th__r f__r __v__ryth__ng,
__n th__ n__m__ __f __r
L__rd J__s__s Chr__st.”
__ph__s__ns 5:19-20, N__V



Answer:
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV)

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
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