

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

December 2013

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Pastor's Page

"The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building"
1 Corinthians 3:8-9



We are, very quickly, coming to the end of the year and approaching a new one. Soon, we will be celebrating the good news that God has come into our world in the Christ child and God's Realm is with us. But, do we believe that God's realm is really with us, among us, in us? And if God's realm is truly with us, does this good news impact how we live?

We are part of God's realm and God journeys with us. I know that that seems very obvious, but please indulge me for a few moments. Human beings have a nasty habit of getting very wrapped up in themselves. We become so focused on what we do that we forget about our relationship with others and with God. It is, as if, we've become the center of the universe. You might even be amazed to learn that even pastors struggle with this human dilemma! Shocking, isn't it?

The Scriptures are very clear about what we need to do with our lives. We are called to work together to build up the "Realm of God." We are to struggle, side by side, and share the Good News with the people in our community. We are to cooperate in acts of love and mercy for the world which God loves. When we do this, we can counteract the effects of the human predisposition for self-aggrandizement.

This sounds very difficult on the surface, but it isn't really. Working together, we can support each other. By cooperating with each other in ministry, we can draw our strength from our sisters and brothers. And, even though we may no longer be "the center of the universe," working together to build up God's realm can actually be fun!



(Cont. to Page 2)

Prospect United Methodist Church

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(Cont. from Page 1)

Basically, all I'm suggesting is that we need to look for opportunities to touch lives in our community. There are shut-ins that need to be visited; nursing home residents who could use a little company; there is a Soup Kitchen which could use volunteers. If you are really interested, there are many ways you can make a difference in someone's life.

And do you know the really good news about all this? We don't have to do it alone. In fact, if I read the Scriptures properly, God isn't expecting us to do it all by ourselves. Instead, we are asked to work together. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God can take all our talents and abilities and use them for God's realm.

We have another whole year to be in ministry. May God bless all our intentions and efforts!

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

■ AN INVITATION

You are cordially invited to the Parsonage on December 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. for an afternoon of Christmas fellowship. The Parsonage is located at 50 Oehler Drive. This will be an informal gathering of friends, food and the Pastor's bad jokes. We look forward to seeing you there.

History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS - *Kathy Dube*

Christmas Church Services Drew Crowds In 1940

Singing by three choirs marked the observance of the Christmas holiday at Prospect Church as war dawned in December 1940.

According to the December Prospect Tower, the December 22nd Sunday morning service featured three separate choirs: adult choir, boys' choir, and girls' choir. The adult choir sang three anthems: "There Were Shepherds" from the Christmas oratorio by Saint Saens, "Lo, How a Rose" by Praetorius, and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah."

A special vesper service had already attracted widespread attention the previous Sunday, scheduled to be presented again on the 22nd: "Living Madonnas," with several well-known people posing in the portrayal of masterpieces by noted artists. Alice Hagarty directed the pageant.

A special Christmas program was held for the church school with lessons from the nativity presented. Both the church sanctuary and chapel were appropriately decorated for the Christmas season.

The Tower printed the following poem:

*"A quiet conscience in the breast
Hath only peace, hath only rest.
The music and the mirth of kings
Are out of tune unless she sings"*

*As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee."*

William C. Dix



Thanks To The Hickmans

John and Marion Hickman pose with the last cornucopia they will have prepared to grace Prospect's Thanksgiving altar. John began the tradition during the pastorate of Pastor Emeritus, Rev. William Barnes. He has been doing it ever since. Marion believes "Pastor Bill" may have asked John to prepare a cornucopia for an ecumenical service to be held at Prospect for the Thanksgiving week.



The Hickmans, sadly, will be leaving the Prospect community to retire to Richmond, VA, to live in an addition constructed at the house of their daughter and son-in-law. They joined Prospect in September 1989 after moving to Bristol from Trumbull in June of that year. John hails from Natural Bridge, VA, and Marion from New Lebanon, NY. They met at college — SUNY Cobleskill in New York State. The Hickmans have two sons and a daughter, 13 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

They moved to Bristol from Trumbull, CT, after John had been commuting to Southington for over a year, managing Flower Time Garden Center. Flower Time later became Frank's Nursery & Crafts. He worked for Home Depot for a few years in the Garden Dept., then semi-retired and worked for a wholesale plant grower in Cheshire, Casertano Farms. Marion also worked for Flower Time/Frank's for 34 years, until Frank's went out of business. Since then she has worked in Unionville at New Horizons Village, a residential independent living facility for physically handicapped adults, in the Accounting Dept.

They were very involved in their Trumbull Methodist Church, and Marion recalls, "When we came here we knew we needed to be active to meet new friends." John has been on the Board of Finance since they arrived at Prospect in 1989. He has served on Trustees, decorated the altar for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas for years. He's been in the Men's Club for many years, has been a Head Usher, and also served on the Worship Committee. The couple chaired the Harvest Dinner for several years. He's volunteered at the Soup Kitchen the last three years and worked at the Victorian Teas.

Marion has been serving on Worship since 1989, was a Lay Leader five years, has been a choir member for many years, and also served on the Outreach Committee, Fair Committee, is presently on Staff Parish, and Nominations/ Lay Leadership committees. She has been the Friday PUMC office secretary since we started with a volunteer staff.

Marion adds, "It has been a privilege serving our church. We have made many friends and have considered PUMC our family. Our leaving here will be very bittersweet. We'll greatly miss being a part of our church family, but are very happy that we'll be near our daughter and her family near Richmond, VA."

The Hickmans will be moving to Virginia after they sell their condominium. We shall miss them!

■ CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Charge Conference of the Prospect United Methodist Church will take place on Sunday, January 5th, at 3 p.m. This is an open meeting and all members of the church are invited to attend and to vote. We will discuss the past years programs and look to our future as a congregation. Your voice and your opinions are needed. The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, our District Superintendent, will preside. The election of Trustees will take place during the meeting.

A Talent For Flower Arranging, Including Piece For JFK's Funeral

John Hickman is very talented with floral arranging, and has created many unique floral pieces over the years, according to Marion. In fact, he created a large "UN Seal" ordered by the United Nations for President Kennedy's funeral while the Hickmans were living in the Washington, DC, area. At the time he was managing the garden center at S. Klein's Dept. stores. John only remembers that someone who worked for the UN was sent in to order it, because they had heard he created unusual pieces. Rather than a wreath, it was a circle made to resemble the actual UN seal created with flowers. He once did a horse, the size of a pony (creating the form out of styrofoam) covered in flowers, for a funeral. He also made a standing goose, a flying (life-size) goose, and a hunter (also life-size) holding up a rifle. This arrangement was done for a huge "goose dinner" function.

HOLIDAY SERVICES:

- ★ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22:
10 a.m. Sunday School Pageant within the worship service
- ★ CHRISTMAS EVE:
4 p.m. Family worship with carols and candle-lighting
10 p.m. Service of Lessons, Carols, Candles and Holy Communion with our choir.



Notes of Interest

■ GILDED AGE PROGRAM A HIT

On November 9, Prospect United Methodist Church welcomed Kandie Carle and her one-woman show. A seasoned singer, dancer and actress, Ms. Carle mixed humor, history and interesting facts into an interactive performance that educated her audience about how women dressed, how they behaved, and how they lived their daily lives during the Gilded Age of the 1890s.



Photo by Abby Pelletier

Attendees learned the difference between “drawers” (an undergarment) and “bloomers” (an outer garment worn when riding a bicycle or for sporting events). She also made it abundantly clear that when it comes to dress, grooming and household chores, today’s modern women have it a lot easier than women of the 1890s. Thanks to Prospect’s History Committee for putting the program together.

Outreach

■ COORDINATOR NEEDED

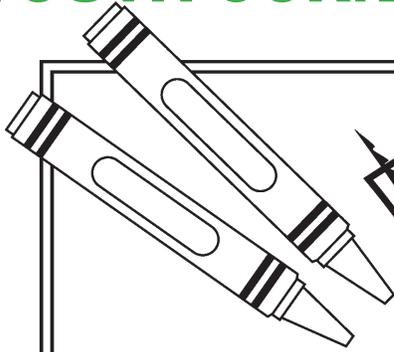
Our church has prepared and served a meal once a month at Zion Lutheran Church’s Meals for the Needy site for many years. As of January 2014, a new coordinator for that meal is needed. The task involves deciding on the menu, shopping and working with our church volunteers on the first Wednesday of each month to prepare and serve the meal. Please prayerfully consider this ministry. If you are interested in this position, please notify Pastor Bob.

Stewardship

■ TO BE A SERVANT~Max Anders in 21 Unbreakable Laws of Life

To be a servant, we must give up our agenda to gain personal success and advancement at the expense of others. Instead, we must commit ourselves to the welfare of others and ask God to lead us as we give what we can to meet their needs.

It’s a cold, lonely world when everyone looks out for himself. It is a warmer and friendlier one when we look out for each other - at home, at work, in our communities and in our churches.



PUZZLE

A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY NAME IS
 gyhMti

 dGo

MY NAME IS
 lerWnofud

 esnrUooCl

MY NAME IS
 vreIEnsItga

 eahFrt

MY NAME IS
 niPcre _____ of
 aPcee



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

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

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