

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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January 2014

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## Pastor's Page

***(The Prospect United Methodist Church recently held its annual "Charge Conference." During the meeting, we reviewed the budget, elected church Trustees and heard a really creative devotion from our District Superintendent, Ken Kieffer, about walking on water. In preparation for the conference, I put together this short report reviewing our ministry during the past year.)***



The year 2013 has been a challenging one in many ways. We have struggled to meet our budget. We said goodbye to many people we love. We had break-ins, freak snow storms and really cold nights which threatened the lives of the homeless in the community. And, if this wasn't enough, our members were just plain tired after working so hard for so many years just to keep our church going. I will be honest; I fantasized many times during the past year about early retirement and working as a conductor on the Strasburg Railroad. But there is one thing that keeps me going: Our work is important and it touches people's lives.

We did say goodbye to many of our friends during the past year, but we also supported one another. We stood by families in their time of need. We lifted people up who were brought low by grief. It is hard to quantify the impact we had on people in our midst, but we made life a little easier — a little more hopeful and a little more loving. That is, after all, what we are supposed to do as a church.

We prayed for each other as we faced health challenges. We laid hands on people in church. We shared one another's burdens as they faced medical news that no one should have to face. Our world does not take prayer seriously — we have been a witness to countless people that prayer is the most important thing we can offer to people and our community.



**UNITED IN  
PRAYER**

*(Cont. to Page 2)*

# Prospect United Methodist Church

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Related to our prayers, our congregation has been training people, along with Asbury United Methodist Church, as Stephen's Ministers. The church will reach out to shut-ins, people going through grief and emotional setbacks. We can only imagine the number of lives which we will touch through this ministry.

And, talking about lives we touch, our Sunday School has continued to prosper. We had game nights, Christmas pageants, outings to the Trolley Museum, "Kids Praise God" musical offerings in church, along with our Sunday morning classes. It has been exciting to look at the faces of our children as they go off to Sunday School. In the spring, we will offer Confirmation classes and a whole host of activities to excite the minds of our children about faith.

Our church touches the hearts and minds of countless people. We open our doors to 12-Step Programs. We provide shelter from the cold for the homeless. We provide the gift of music to the community by supporting the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble and the Bristol Strings. We host Department of Children and Families Christmas parties. We provide food to the Zion Lutheran soup kitchen. We've sent out mission teams to aid victims of natural disasters. We've hired BARC to help us with our grounds keeping and helped provide employment for our developmentally challenged neighbors. We've supported "Food

for the Needy.” We will be supporting “Habitat for Humanity” as they build affordable housing for people in Bristol. What will we be able to do tomorrow?

For the past decade, the Prospect United Methodist Church has struggled to meet its budget. This is a constant struggle which has consumed the energy of many pastors and many of our parishioners. I can understand that many of you are tired and worn down by this struggle because I feel it myself. But we should never overlook the reality that our work is important. This year is the year to leave our budget battle behind. This year we need to move beyond fretting about survival and move on to mission. Our work is too important!

Grace and Peace,  
**Bob Sorozan**

### **The Pastor Will Be Away.**

Pastor Sorozan will be away, attending a train show and visiting his mother in Boston, from January 24 through January 31. While he is away, the Rev. Robert Knebel will be available for emergencies. You may reach Rev. Knebel at (O) 1-203-754-6928 and (H) 1-203-753-3391.

## ■ THE ULTIMATE RESOLUTION

Resolutions are easy to make but oh so hard to keep. In fact, many people refuse to make them for that very reason. After all, by February, most people have broken them, and by March they don't even remember what they were. It's just too hard to change, so why try?

Yet Scripture exhorts us to be more like Christ, to forgive our enemies, to tithe and to be thankful in all situations. Shouldn't we resolve to put some of these into practice, even if ever so imperfectly?

## ■ FILL A JAR

Need a new tradition to begin the new year? One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.



Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member.

Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

# History Corner

## **PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS** - *Kathy Dube*

### *Pithy Paragraphs From December 1940 Tower*

Perusing Prospect Towers of the past is a great way to take the “social temperature” of church members in a given period. Despite the fact that the threat of World War II cast a pall over everyone who attended church in December 1940, a long list of “Pithy Quotes” printed on Page 2 of the Tower shows that not all was serious. Here are a few highlights:

- Politics has been described as the process “by which candidates obtain contributions from the rich and votes from the poor on the pretext of protecting each from the other.”
- “What do they do when they install a minister, Dad? Do they put him in a stall and feed him?” asked the small boy. “Oh, no,” his father replied, “far from it. They hitch him to the church and expect him to pull it.”
- Road sign in Canada — “Take care which rut you choose; you will be in it for the next 25 miles.”
- “Old Chinese proverb: When riding a tiger it is difficult to dismount.”
- “How’s your husband today, Mrs. McGuide?” “Well, I dunno, Mrs. Dennis. Sometimes he’s better and sometimes he’s worse; and when he’s better he swears and curses and carries on so that sometimes I think he’s better when he’s worse.”
- “When a man ceases to worship a God greater than himself, he begins to worship idols less than himself.” T. Z. Zoo
- “The trouble with most of us is that we have not sufficient bees in our bonnet to pollinate the flowers of our mind.” Chinese proverb
- “I think the heart of the problem lies in the balance between the technical skill to produce, and the moral discipline to use, material things.” T. Z. Zoo
- “Look up and not down; look forward and not backward; look out and not in and lend a hand.” Edward Everett Hale

# Stewardship



## ■ REDEEMING AN IMPORTANT WORD

Many churches conduct stewardship campaigns. Sadly, many church members associate the word stewardship only with pledge cards, budget discussions and a challenge to give more generously. Actually, stewardship deals with managing everything God has given to us — our brain, body, talent, time and spiritual life. It's our total response to God's gifts.

Stewardship campaigns give us an opportunity to re-appraise our lives as a whole. Are we glorifying God with our minds, bodies, talents, property, financial resources, etc? Are we using our gifts to spread Christ's gospel? How are we showing our love to God and the church?

Taking inventory of our stewardship is a meaningful experience. Consider God's indescribable goodness toward you, as well as your response to his showers of blessing. That will reveal the quality of your stewardship.

## ■ OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

- *Beth Provost*

As we begin the sixth year of our church office being manned by volunteers, I would like to thank all of the people who have helped out throughout the years. Volunteers have manned the office from 9 a.m. to 12 noon during the week, answering the phone, processing the mail each day, sending out mailings and doing whatever else needs to be done to assist the pastor to keep the office running smoothly.

In additions to manning the office volunteers include Jeanette Baker and Kathy Dube who put together the Tower newsletter each month.

Our newest volunteers joining this year are Lynn Limeburner who along with myself, helps put the bulletin together each week, making sure announcements are included as requested and the bulletin is ready to be copied for Sunday. Susan Thayer has recently joined our volunteers and will be in the office on Tuesday mornings.

I especially want to thank John and Marion Hickman for their work every Friday for almost the entire past five years copying and preparing the bulletin for Sunday morning. As they move to a warmer climate, they will be sorely missed in the office.

Again, my thanks to all who have made the commitment of work in the office. It is a very important part of our church.

# 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.

## ■ SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The spirit of Christmas traveled from members of our Congregation to our Covenant to Care for Children Giving Tree, then out the Church door and into the car of the DCF Social Worker last month. It continued on its journey when the gifts were brought to the children in need. Thank you so much for your generosity and caring for those children who have been through so much in their young lives. You have made a real difference.  
~Susan Lee

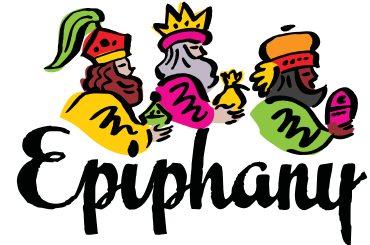
## ■ NO KID HUNGRY

November's Cupcakes for Hunger project raised over \$252 dollars. The money raised will be used to purchase Stop and Shop gift cards which will be distributed to families in need.

# Church 101

## ■ EPIPHANY'S SIGNIFICANCE

The church season of Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. The



name comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning "to appear, to show or to manifest." The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the arrival of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by Gentiles, or non-Jews.

The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus, the light of the world. Symbols for the season include light, a star and the color green, which represents life, growth, hope and eternity.

## ■ BIBLE QUIZ

The book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches. Which city in the United States shares the name of one of those churches?

- A. St. Paul
- B. Philadelphia
- C. Hartford
- D. Orlando

Answer: B (See Revelation 3:7-13.)

# YOUTH CORNER

## Sing with Us: The Christmas Story

The true spirit of Christmas came alive on December 19 at our morning worship service when the PUMC Sunday School presented “The Christmas Story: A Program for Voices Young and Older with Narration from Scripture”. The program was dedicated to Susie Parker, Sunday School teacher extraordinaire. Thank you to all helped with the production. “Everyone’s effort was evident making the Christmas story seem brand new,” said Sue Powers.



**Narrators** - Mason Poirier, Kristen Hart, Luke Ashworth

**Joseph** - Kai Limeburner

**Mary** - Abby Pelletier

**Shepherds** - Zachary Cudjoe, Anthony Fasci, Zachary Foley, Dakota Garcia, Zachary McCarron, Harrison Riker

**Sheep** - Cody Bohan, James Folsom, Danyl Kulak

**Angels** - Olyvia Adams, Aryanna Aldrich, Charlotte Brown, Gladysmarie Budnick, Zola Cudjoe, Angelina Fasci, Makayla Hart, Giavana Hatcher, Jayna Hatcher, Mya Hatcher, Alanna Jefferson, Gianna Zaldivar

**Three Kings** - Malakai Adams, Kamren Budnic, Preston Poirier

