



THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

May/June 2014

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Pastor's Page



Summer Time

Summer will be quickly upon us. Usually, I would take a few moments to encourage your summer reading and offer you a few choices. Unfortunately (or fortunately) I have enrolled in a summer session intensive class at Hartford Seminary. For one week, I will be immersed in the "Building Abrahamic Partnerships" class and learning how to bridge divisions of the three great Abrahamic traditions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. I will be doing a lot of reading which may, or may not, be of interest for you. So if you are interested in how my class is going, talk to me.

I am, however, interested in the reality that summer is a time to take a break from everything, including God. Now, I know that our sanctuary may be a bit warm during the summer months — which is why you have permission to come to church in your loudest Hawaiian shirt! But can we ever take a break from God? Can we say that God is important 10 months out of the year? Does our faith matter only when the temperature outside is below eighty degrees?

Our faith should impact all of life. It should be with us in our homes and in our churches. It should have meaning when we work and also when we are on vacation. In short, God wants to be with us wherever we go, even if it's out to Cape Cod or the Berkshires. God also enjoys a change of scenery from time to time.

So take a little time to include God in your plans for the summer months. Take time to pray with your family. Visit a church at your vacation destination — believe me, local pastors would love to have visitors during the summer months. And read a good Christian book. I know that a book by James Patterson is a great summer read, but so is Adam Hamilton (and is available from Cokesbury.com or (800) 672-1789). Give it a try as you relax on your favorite beach.

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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Your faith needs to be nurtured throughout the year. Pray, visit and read! And remember, between the end of June and the beginning of September, every Sunday is casual Sunday at Prospect United Methodist Church.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

■ Give Me Oil for My Lamp, Keep it Burning

An old gospel hymn says, "Give me oil for my lamp, keep it burning." Which is a lot easier to sing than, "Give me oil for the furnace." It's warm outside so I am hesitant to talk about the oil bill, but we really need to talk about it. The Trustees of our congregation are helping us out by giving us a loan. And, many of you have helped out by giving buying the equivalent of five gallons of fuel oil — thank you for your support! But we still need your help to close the gap. So if you haven't donated to the oil fund, please prayerfully consider making a donation. And, if you have donated, thank you for your support and could you please prayerfully consider making another donation. We would love to have our fuel bill cleared up before we start the next heating season. Once again, thank you for your support of Prospect UMC!

■ Join Prospect Team In “Relay for Life”

It's official! Prospect United Methodist Church has been entered as a team for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life event scheduled for Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th at Bristol Eastern ... High School. Luisa Gladu, a breast cancer survivor, is our Team Captain. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 as we walk in honor and in memory of our church members, family and friends.



Every Relay For Life event is a time for family and friends to honor cancer survivors, remember those lost to this disease, and raise funds and awareness to help end cancer forever. Participation in, raising funds and walking in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life event, helps save lives from cancer. We want to make noise and help finish the fight! It's overwhelming to think that millions of people will be diagnosed with cancer this year. It might be someone close to us! Last year it was Luisa when on June 4th she was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer.

After a lumpectomy, aggressive chemo, and aggressive radiation, she is on the tail end of her treatment with Herceptin infusions. She can say "I AM A SURVIVOR!"

Help her fight back and make this disease a thing of the past. Luisa says "a Relay For Life event" is not only a way to join my community to fight back against cancer, but it is also a way to inspire hope by raising funds and cancer awareness to help those facing the disease. Relay participants all participate because we've been affected by cancer in some way, and because a Relay For Life event gives us the power to fight back. This is our opportunity to honor cancer survivors, remember people we have lost, and help raise funds for the American Cancer Society. As Team Captain for Prospect United Methodist Church, I want us to make a impact. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 so please go onto our page and register to walk or donate to this cause."

Help us as we walk in memory and in honor of our church members, friends and family. Log onto www.relayforlife.org/bristolct where you will see a tab that says "join a team" and enter Prospect United Methodist Church. We are already ranked #19 out of 42 teams; We are on our way! I hope you will consider joining our team or making a donation in support of our efforts. Together, we can finish the fight!

Renaissance Dinners 2014: A Merry Scottish Fling

~Luisa Gladu

On May 3rd and May 10th, Sessions Hall was transformed into the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle as King James V and Queen Mary of Scotland welcomed HRM King Henry the VIII and his "current" wife, Anne of Cleaves. A lavish feast was prepared for all! The royal court looked splendid in their finery but two things were missing, namely, the "twin" Princeling sons, Haggis and Angus, of King James who entered the Great Hall very late.

When they finally settled in, the "twins" started in on the King about what to do with the land. It seems the older twin, (by five minutes), Haggis, wanted to build a golf course, whilst the younger "twin" Angus wanted a "haggis" farm; it's a long story.....

The King agreed to a competition for the land and that the boys would have to battle it out in three challenges: Golfing, Caber Tossing and Jousting! What ensued was hysterical if not historically correct. The audiences were treated to a tongue-in-cheek "putting" competition, then a caber toss and finally a joust on horses, horses on sticks but horses none-the-less.

Both evenings were filled with delicious food, fun entertainment, music, songs, dances and great fellowship. The most notable dance was the May Pole in which Queen Mary and Princess Eileen joined four

of the serving wenches to dance and weave colorful ribbons around the May Pole while a handsome gentleman was holding the pole ... for support, of course.

King James finally admitted that the competitions were for naught as he already sold the land to Sir Ronald of the clan MacDonald but encouraged the competitions as he wanted some "cheap" entertainment for the guests. The evening ended with a celebratory dance of the "Cupid Shuffle" which was lead by Sir Ronald.

The cast and crew entertained and fed a total of 136 guests this year. Many of the guests were from surrounding communities. We also had a guest from Japan. There also were many repeat guests who have come every year to see what is new. As those guests know, a new script is written and a new show created every year to keep things fresh and to delight us all.

The Middle Ages Group, chaired by Gary Gladu, is always looking for more members to join. It's a great group for fellowship, and they plan some wonderful and different fundraisers. Speak to Gary or Luisa Gladu for more information on the group and upcoming events.

Along with the annual Renaissance Dinners, the Middle Ages Group hosts the "Annual Christmas Victorian Tea,"

to be held this year on Saturday, December 13th . The group is also co-hosting the “Bridal Gowns Through The Ages” event with the History Committee on Saturday, June 21st. In addition, a Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 20th.

For 2015, a “Princess and Pirate Breakfast” will be added on May 16th after the Renaissance Dinners, which will be on May 2nd and 9th.

Gary Gladu, the Middle Ages Group chair, thanks all those individuals who helped make both evenings possible: “We had an amazing cast, crew and show!”



Save the Date

■ Bridal Gowns Of Decades Past To Highlight June Event

On June 21st, Prospect Church celebrates the brides of the past in a bridal fashion show featuring wedding dresses worn by members and friends. The event is co-sponsored by the History Committee of PUMC and The Middle Ages Group.



We invite you to share your wedding dress with us along with anecdotes that make it special. At least 16 bridal gowns have been promised for the event, with more likely to be added. Also, bridal dolls will be exhibited in a curio cabinet.

Tickets are now on sale at \$7 apiece. The 1 p.m. event will also include a reception.

If you have a dress to loan, or have questions about the event, contact Melissa Brown by email with the subject line "Brides": mbrownct@sbcglobal.net or leave a message at (860) 583-4159 with your phone number, or see Melissa before or after services on Sundays.

Stewardship

■ Why Electronic Giving

- *Provides convenience for you*
There is no need to write checks or bring cash to church when contributions are made automatically. Your contributions are transmitted electronically and are deposited directly into the church bank account.
- *Keeps you on track with stewardship commitments*
Scheduled, automated offerings prevent you from falling behind on financial pledges.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY: Rev. Anne Bracket (Yalesville CT UMC) is leading a group of volunteers on a mission trip to Nicaragua in September 2014. Anne and her group are seeking donations of soft toothbrushes and toothpaste to bring to the dental clinic overseen by Dr. Belinda Forbes, a United Methodist missionary serving at Acción Médica Cristiana (Christian Medical Action) in Managua, Nicaragua. Prospect's Church Council approved this mission opportunity. There is a box marked "NICARGUA DONATIONS" on a table in Sessions Hall for your donations. Let's fill the box with those requested items by the end of August!! Please see Sue Powers if you have any questions.

Youth Corner

■ Young Readers' Books For All Ages

Suggestions From Rev. Alan Krauss

The three books noted in my recent sermon were:



1. ***"Penny From Heaven"* by Jennifer L. Holm.** A Newbury Honor Book, the story is about a 12-year-old girl living in New Jersey. Her father's family is Italian and the relationship she develops with her uncles and grandmother teach her the values of family caring for each other.
2. ***"We Are All Welcome Here"* by Elizabeth Berg** is based on the first baby born to a woman in an iron lung. The time is 1964 in Tupelo, MS (Elvis' home town). Everyone is welcome at her home. The story is told by the 13-year-old daughter about her life with her mother.
3. ***"The Giver"* by Lois Lowry** is a Newbury Medal winner. It's the first of four books in "The Giver" series. All of them teach us the values that can easily be taken away if "society" deems that it's better if we don't have them!
4. Jeanette Baker recommends ***"Fly Away Home"* by Eve Bunting**, the story of a homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father. He is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its freedom.
5. Kathy Dube recommends ***"The Book Thief"* by Marcus Zusak**, in some countries marketed to young adults. Now a movie, it takes place in Nazi Germany in 1939, where a foster girl learns to read in a small town outside Munich through books she steals, with the tension of the growing Nazi movement as a backdrop. The author's parents lived near Munich during that period, and told tales of that life to their son after they emigrated to Australia. The narrator is death, who is as afraid of people as people are of "him."
6. You may also enjoy the ***"Anastasia Again"* series by Lois Lowry.** Anastasia moves from the city to the suburbs and discovers a way to link her family to her senior neighbors.

What energy and creativity children have! If you have a favorite, let me know and we'll share it. alanjan@comcast.net

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