



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

April 2009

Vol. 70, No. 4

From the Pastor's Pen

Not everyone enjoys the season of Lent. Difficult Bible readings, frequent mentions of death, lots of crosses to pick up and carry. But for those who are willing to traverse this difficult road, the reward of Easter's triumph is matchless for our faith. Because Jesus is risen, all that now suffers is vindicated; all that now stinks of death is made alive; all that is old is made new. It's Easter. Without Easter, we would have no faith. We would be lost -- truly!



I urge you not to give up too soon on Lent's preparation even though it can be tough sledding. Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5, will be a very special worship service in the morning. Then, that afternoon at 4 p.m. our choir will present a moving cantata, "Touched By the Christ." The mystery of Maundy Thursday will unfold in our worship at 7:30 p.m. on April 9. On Good Friday, April 10, we will gather at Noon in the Chapel to remember and give thanks for Christ's sacrificial love.

And then Easter morning! When all the hard moments of Lent make sense. Our sanctuary will resound with triumphant joy. My sermon title will be "Beyond the Fear of Easter." There will be only one service at Prospect on Easter morning at 10 a.m. Early birds will want to attend the sunrise service at Barnes Chapel at 6:30 a.m.

In the meantime, as Spring becomes more and more apparent, let us seek to be in worship as often as we can to, as the hymn puts it, "to see each other's face(s)," and to worship the God who gives us life eternal beginning now!

I hope you have a blessed remainder of Lent and a glorious Easter.

Pastor Dennis

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

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Transitional Interim Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes,
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Albert H. Scholten
The Rev. George E. Harris
The Rev. Alan J. Krauss
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Heidi Flower,
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prospect-ct/index.htm](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/index.htm)

■ PASTOR DENNIS ASKS...

Have you read the book, “The Shack,” by William P. Young? “The Shack” is a Christian novel without religiosity about real life and God’s real love. It is a number one best seller across the country and is being discussed in a growing number of churches. If you read it, you’ll want to talk about it!

Pastor Dennis is interested in hearing what you think about the book. It costs \$14.99 in bookstores and \$8.24 (plus shipping) from Amazon.

If you read it, you’ll never forget it. And you’ll want to talk about it. Talk with Pastor Dennis.

■ BIBLE STUDY GOING HI-TECH

Sometime after Easter, Pastor Dennis will inaugurate a new Bible study via Prospect’s web blog at <http://prospectunitedmethodistchurch.blogspot.com/>. He plans background commentary on a particular passage, some personal commentary and questions to ponder. Watch for more details in the next Tower.

FYI: Sermons, written and audio, are available on the web site <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/>.

RETHINK CHURCH

Our Conference is sponsoring a workshop to help us reach new people for Christ, especially those ages 35 and younger. Pastor Dennis invites anyone interested in learning more to go with him to this workshop. Either speak to him, call him or send him an email (pastorpumc@snet.net). We'll carpool from the church.

■ CALLING ALL GARDENERS AND HELPERS

There are nine garden areas on the church's property. Each of them requires maintenance during the growing season. The Trustees are looking for volunteers willing to claim one garden for the year. You'd be asked to weed and trim the area, dead-head the flowers as are needed and discard the yard waste over the hill off the lower parking lot. You'll need to work with your own garden tools.

There is a diagram of the church property with the gardens highlighted on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall along with a sign-up sheet. Please consider being a part of the team working to maintain our beautiful church's property.

You can also help with the yard maintenance on Tuesdays

*Sunday, May 3 at the Crowne Plaza
100 Berlin Road, Cromwell
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
(Refreshments at 1:30 PM)*



*What if church
wasn't just a
building, but
thousands of doors?*

beginning April 7th. We're designating every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to dusk as our weekly work night in the yard. Mowing, raking, bush trimming, weeding and parking lot sweeping are just a few of the tasks that we'll undertake. Again, come with your own tools. If you can't make it on Tuesdays, you are free to work on the yard at your own convenience.

If you have any questions, please speak with any one of the Trustees: Ron Baker, Ray Barker, Mike Fasci, John Hickman, Tammy Kelley, Joyce Rioux, Terry Parker, Sue Powers and Chris Wilson.

■ "TOUCHED BY THE CHRIST"

The Senior Choir will present a musical performance, "Touched by the Christ" the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 5, at 4 p.m. The musical, composed by Lloyd Larson, recalls the last days of Jesus' earthly life through the eyes of individuals who were directly impacted by His ministry. The blending of personal narratives and music will provide the listener with a fresh look at the Messiah, who came to offer hope for the hurting and broken.



In "Touched by the Christ", the followers of Jesus reflect on His final days. Perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of Jesus Christ's earthy ministry was the impact He had on the lives of individuals. Though we read about occasions where He ministered to large groups of people, many of the most poignant recordings in the gospels are those moments when Jesus was personally engaged in the life experiences of individuals. Persons who experienced Jesus in this manner were dramatically changed. Some were healed. Others changed their lives and career paths. Some instantly turned from their sinful ways, while others rejected His teachings with hardened hearts. No one, though, left such an encounter with Jesus unchanged in some way.

"Touched by the Christ" recalls the last days of Jesus' earthly life through the eyes of individuals who were directly impacted by His ministry. Some of these persons had known Jesus for many years, while others encountered Him for the first time in the final days of His earthly life. Regardless of the context, His influence was significant and life-changing. The beautiful music in this work composed by Lloyd Larson invites us to be changed by God's eternal love and grace. The blending of personal narratives and music will provide the listener with a fresh look at the Messiah, who came to offer hope for the hurting and broken. Touched by the Christ is an invitation to walk the path to the foot of the cross. There we are met by the One who invites us to be changed by His eternal love and grace. It is a reminder that He who changed the lives of individuals in the first century is still in the business of doing so today.

The concert will be held on April 5th at 4 p.m. in our beautiful sanctuary. A free-will offering will be taken.

■ **OPPORTUNITY FOR FUN,
FELLOWSHIP, LEARNING AND
WORSHIP**

*New York Annual Conference
School Of Christian Mission*

*July 23 - 25, 2009
Western Connecticut State University,
Danbury CT*

*Theme: "This is my body,
broken for you" (Luke 22)*

Each year our conference offers an opportunity for study, worship and fellowship at the School of Christian Mission. This year the study choices include "Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival", "Sudan" and "Food and Faith".

The experience of attending a School of Christian Mission is rewarding, exhilarating and worth the investment of time and money. Attendees can choose to stay on campus for the three days or to be commuter students.

Please consider it for yourself and for your journey in faith. If you have questions, please contact Sue Powers (589-6214) or susanlpowers@comcast.net.

Further information is available at the web site: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/nyaccsocm>

A HISTORICAL PRIMER PART 3

The fledgling Methodist Episcopal Society in Bristol, legally established in 1834 as an outgrowth of the Burlington Circuit, soon had 27 members who set about to buy land for a church building. According to historian Milo Norton in the 1871 Bristol Press, utmost caution had to be taken with the land purchase because of "the prejudice against their establishment" (one factor: too many 'amens' and 'hallelujahs' in their services).

Two of the members, Evits Hungerford and Philip Gaylord, got a commitment from Chloe Daniels to sell a parcel on West Street. The Smith History of Bristol notes that they interrupted Esquire Tracy Peck during his dinner to get the deed recorded lest a higher price be offered for the land in the hopes of blocking the church. Rev. Albert Wickware is said to have felled a white oak to initiate the project.

Early meetings were held at a nearby school until the basement of the church was completed in early summer of 1835. It stood roughly across the street from St. Stanislaus Church. The rest of the church was finished and dedicated in July of 1837. The Burlington church was closed soon afterwards because of dwindling attendance.

RENAISSANCE DINNER

On March 21st and 28th, Fellowship Hall was turned into Dover Castle's Great Hall. Lord Ben Dover and Lady Eileen Dover welcomed his Royal Majesty to the hall with a feast fit for the King.

Many loyal subjects attended both evenings to fill the hall. Alas a few subjects had to be turned away as both dinners were sold out, so we hope to welcome those subjects next year.



The evening was filled with food, seven courses of fruits, cheeses, delicious soup, salad, chicken and potatoes and a decadent bread pudding. The courses were served with flourish by young men and ladies of the court. Entertainment was provided by loyal subjects and merriment filled the hall.

His Majesty was pleased with all the festivities and we hope he will visit again next year! We also hope that the photos attached will entice you to come and revel with us next year!

Thank you to all of the people who made both Renaissance Dinners possible. We had so many volunteers from Prospect, as well as outside help, that it is difficult to thank you all.

Gary and I were amazed by the dedication and determination of everyone who helped with these dinners and we wanted to thank our core committee members who, without their help, the evenings would not have been possible: Lang and Diane Ashworth, Jeff and Shirley Paulette, Jackie Palance, Matti Verzino, Dave and Tammy Kelly.

To the Kitchen Crew, John Hickman, Carol and Gerry Rivard, Jeff Laud, Samantha Bouffard, Cella Laud, Richard and Lisa King, Tim Krauss and Barry Nolan, thank you so very much, the food was delicious.

To our dedicated young people who served and entertained, Estelle Frank, Victoria Paulette, Alexandria Paulette, Alisha Yard, Tim and Hayley King, and Sean Rioux. Not only did they help but they recruited friends to help as well, please give them our thanks.



To our entertainers, Chuck Pelkey, Brian Hatch, Eleanor Riker, Emily Flower, Heidi Flower, Alexandria Paulette thank you for performing and sharing your wonderful gifts with us all.

To my family, who helped as though PUMC was their church as well. My brother in law, Gregg Karal who helped cook, my sister Angie Karal, who videotaped and photographed, my nephews, Jarred and Alec Karal, who served and performed, and our nieces and nephew Lea and Frankie Kulak and Nina Strid who served, thank you for being our support and biggest fans.

Our friends, Sara Zytka who helped us perform, sell tickets and publicize the event and Scott and Cheryl McNeal for their help performing and decorating.

As I mentioned we had so many people from outside of PUMC helping us serve, clean and perform, I can't mention all their names but we thank you as well for all you did.

This was a huge undertaking and we opened up our church to many new people, we hope they will come back and visit us again.

And finally to all of you who bought tickets, thank you and we hope you enjoyed the show!



Heartfelt thanks and appreciation,
Gary and Luisa Gladu
a.k.a. Lord and Lady Dover

■ PROSPECT ACTIVITIES

- The Shrove Tuesday dinner, held on February 24, attracted 40 adults and 20 children.
- Name tags for Covenant to Care Easter Baskets were made available on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall. All baskets will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 5th, so they may be delivered to the children in time for Easter.
- A lasagna dinner is planned for May 2 from 5:30 to 7 pm. Ticket costs are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.
- Rita Fasci is heading up the Chamber After Hours event to be held at Prospect on May 20. The History Committee will assist with tours. If you would like to help with the event, contact Rita.

■ MOVIE NIGHT

The Women of Prospect are hosting a family movie night Friday, April 24th. Doors will be open at 6:00 and the movie will begin at 6:45. Movie to be determined closer to the date, depending on what's popular at the time. The featured eats of the night will be baked potatoes with a fixings bar. Bring munchies to share. Bring your favorite blanket, bean bag or chair to sit in and enjoy the movie. Bring a friend to come and join the fun and fellowship.

A sign up sheet will be in Sessions Hall closer to the date to give an idea of how many potatoes will be needed. A Good Faith Offering will be taken just to cover the cost of the potatoes. Any questions please see Jackie Palance.

■ WHEN I DO LESS, CHRIST CAN BE MORE

PUMC Men's fellowship is sponsoring a men's breakfast with speaker Chris Amorosino from Avon's Memorial Methodist Church. Saturday, April 25th at 8:30 am. He will be addressing Men's issues. His talk is entitled, "When I Do Less, Christ Can Be More". This event is open to all men with invitations to many area Churches. Head count needed by April 20th in order to purchase food. Contact Bill Thibodeau at billtee51@comcast.net or 589-0231 for reservations. A faith offering will be held to help pay for expenses.

APRIL AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.	Chapel Service
10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
10:00 a.m.	Church School
10:00 a.m.	Nursery School
11:00 a.m.	Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

April 2009	Trustees
May 2009	Education/Sunday School/Youth
June 2009	Stewardship

MEETING SCHEDULE

April 4	Women of Prospect
April 14	Finance 7 p.m.
April 16	Trustees
April 19	Worship
April 21	Church Council 7 p.m.
April 28	Outreach
May 2	Men's Fellowship

EVENTS

- April 5 - "Touched by the Christ"
- April 24 - Movie Night
- April 25 - Men's Fellowship sponsored breakfast with speaker Chris Amorosino

SAVE THE DATE

Jason Castonguay is returning once again for a special evening of vocal music and piano stylings on Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. For more information please contact Laura Taylor.

■ EDUCATION

Scholarship applications are ready for 2009 and are available in the office. They must be returned by May 1, 2009 with completed essay. School records may be forwarded to the church in care of Barbara Fasci.

Adult Bible Study Group. - Dave Kelly will begin leading our new Adult Bible Study Group beginning on April 26, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in our Church parlor. This group will meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. The 12-week curriculum is entitled "Following Jesus - Steps to a Passionate Faith." For more information contact Dave at 314-1100 or tammy_n_dave@yahoo.com.

■ OUTREACH

How would you feel if you could no longer make it to worship? What would your life be like without the fellowship you find at Bible studies or over coffee during fellowship hour?

Many of our homebound members had attended church all their lives before the circumstance of their health or the health of a loved one made it difficult or impossible to attend services. Many miss church fellowship profoundly.

On March 15, Marion Hickman, Carolyn Koboski, Janice Moore, Dori Nolan, Jackie Palance, Sue Powers, and Matti Verzino were dedicated as Prospect's Eucharistic Ministers. Our Eucharistic Ministers visit our members in nursing homes and at home.

Youth Choir

Dear Sirs:

Please be advised that I am hereby tendering my notice



to retire from my position of Associate Music Director of Prospect United Methodist Church effective June.

After working with the choirs since 1963 I feel the time has come for a change. Throughout the years the choirs were a joy to direct and it is with some sadness that I relinquish my position...but with thankfulness to all those who worked with me.

*Sincerely,
Graceann Grindal*

LIVING GREEN

You can start your day glorifying God by taking care of what He placed in your hands...His planet. How? By making an effort to REDUCE, REUSE, OR RECYCLE. If you have suggestions for topics for Living Green, drop them in the Tower mailbox.



Where do we start? How about starting to reduce the number of catalogs you receive in the mail. By doing this we are saving paper that the unwanted mail is printed on and saving landfill space where it is most likely deposited. Did you know that:

- Each year, 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers.
 - Number of trees used – 53 million
 - Pounds of paper used – 3.6 million tons
 - Energy used to produce this volume of paper – 38 trillion BTUs, enough to power 1.2 million homes per year
 - Contribution to global warming – 5.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equal to the annual emissions of two million cars
 - Waste water discharged from this volume of paper – 53 billion gallons of water, enough to fill 81,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools

There is a free online service called Catalog Choice. Catalog Choice allows you to decide what catalogs you receive. Their mission is “To reduce the number of repeat and unsolicited catalog mailings, and to promote the adoption of sustainable industry best practices. We aim to accomplish this by freely providing the Catalog Choice services to both consumers and businesses. Consumers can indicate which catalogs they no longer wish to receive, and businesses can receive a list of consumers no longer wanting to receive their catalogs.”

All you have to do is go to www.catalogchoice.org and sign up. When you get a catalog you don't wish to receive, search their database for the catalog (they have an extensive list) and enter the name and customer number from your mailing label. It takes about a month for the catalogs to stop, but it works!

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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