



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

April 2010

Vol. 71, No. 4

From the Pastor's Pen

Easter has a problem. As with Christmas, where the distinctively Christian meaning is lost amidst the commercialism and sentimentality of the season, so it is with Easter. Easter, however, has the added burden of what would seem to be helpful associations that in the end trivialize Easter's meaning.



One would-be Easter helper, of course, is the Easter bunny peeking around every corner in stores and shopping centers. Don't know why, but this doesn't make me a cranky preacher like it used to. Most thinking folks know that the Easter bunny, like Santa Claus and Jesus' birth, is about something other than Jesus' being raised from the dead. And, besides, there's all that chocolate. How could that be so bad?

Which is why, you'd think, Easter's association with spring would be more helpful than harmful. And, it probably isn't harmful, but Easter is so much more than just warmer weather and budding flowers (though I welcome such seasonal delights heartily!). Still, to be content to think of Easter in weather terms can leave one missing the awe from the stunning act God pulled off.

The same can be said for the butterfly from a caterpillar metaphor. I confess that I've used this "miracle of nature" myself to try to explain Easter's mystery. But a butterfly from a caterpillar isn't really a mystery. It happens all the time. What God did in resurrecting Jesus from the dead doesn't happen all the time. In fact, it hasn't happened since. It's unexplainable.

And that's why Easter needs to stand on its own. Either you get it or you don't. Either Easter points you toward a magnificent God or it doesn't. But, whatever it is, Easter is more than butterflies and Spring and bunnies and new clothes.

To be honest, I dread preaching on Easter Sunday the same as I dread preaching on Christmas. Words are so blasted inadequate for these mysteries. So, thank God for music. Of course, because they pay me to do so, I'll trot out some more words again this year. But don't expect much. Unless, that is, you've come looking to worship a magnificent God. And, if that's the case, preachers always seem better than they are.

Pastor Dennis

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack
Transitional Interim Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes,
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. George E. Harris
The Rev. Alan J. Krauss
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Pastor Dennis

■ PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

The February 1950
Prospect Tower
lamented the loss of
Prospect's beloved
Deaconess Emeritus,
Carrie H. Reynolds.
Her funeral on Jan.
23, 1950, was largely



attended with the Rev. Lewis Davis,
pastor, and the Rev. Paul DuBois,
former pastor, presiding. A testimonial
in the Bristol Press written by the late
Clarkson Barnes editorialized ... "Carrie
Reynolds is gone but her work in this
city will long be remembered, and those
who were privileged to know her will
revere her memory for many years to
come." Who was Carrie H. Reynolds? In
this and future Towers we will explore
the legacy of Mrs. Reynolds and the
considerable work she did for Prospect
and the city at large.

Carrie Reynolds was born Carrie
Hutchinson on Feb. 22, 1874. Her
parents were Henry and Mary
(Wooding) Hutchinson, active
members of this church. She attended
Bristol schools and Prospect's Sunday
School, joining the church as a teenager.
She later graduated from Wilbraham
Academy and the Lucy Webbs
Hayes Deaconess Training School in
Washington, D.C. Nevertheless, she
remained a member of Prospect Church
(then Prospect Methodist Episcopal
Church) until the day she died.

In the next Tower: What is a deaconess
and the tragedy that led Carrie Reynolds
to become one.

Church Family

■ CONGRATULATIONS IRENE AND DIANE

Irene Taylor and Diane Ashworth were honored by their respective service organizations, the Bristol Woman's Club and Bristol Quota Club, respectively, at the Interservice Club Council awards dinner held on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, at Nuchie's Restaurant in Forestville. Irene was named Bristol Woman of the Year for dedicated service to her club while Diane was named Quotarian of the Year for service to her club.

■ NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Prospect welcomed 10 new members at the 10 o'clock service on March 21: Carolyn and Stuart Brown, Lyn and Doug Jones, Misty and Andy Palaia, Bevin and David Parent and Meagen and Larry Wentz. Learn about them in future editions of the Tower.

■ SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Aydan-James Stewart Pangburn, son of Edward Stewart Pangburn and Sharon Marie Eisenberger, born November 11, 2009.

Garrett Douglas Kehoe-Plourde, son of Ericka Lynn Plourde and Timothy Kehoe, born August 16, 2003.

■ THANK YOU

Dear Friends of "Meals for the Needy",

Thank you very much for the generous supply of food that was donated to "Meals for the Needy." We understand that this donation was a result of your youth groups' participation in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Thank you very much to all of you for your care and concern for those in need in our community.



We are delighted that a crew from Prospect United Methodist Church will continue to be involved at "Meals for the Needy." Bill and Elaine Myhill provided such faithful and dedicated leadership and we are grateful for all that they did to provide wonderful meals to those in need.

Thank you and God bless you for such a generous donation of food. We hear in the news reports that the economy is improving but we haven't noticed any significant change in the number of people that we are assisting. Your donation is a blessing to us and those we serve and will be well used. THANK YOU.

Shirley Dickau
Associate in Ministry
Zion Lutheran Church

Organ Fund Benefit Dinner/Concert

May 22, 2010, 5:30 p.m.

Prospect United Methodist Church

99 Summer Street, Bristol, CT



A concert by H. S. Liederkrantz, an award-winning men's chorus from Thomaston, will be presented at Prospect on May 22 to benefit the Organ Restoration Fund. A roast pork loin dinner will start the event at 5:30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained for \$20 each from any member of the Choir or by calling the church office at (860) 582-3443.

H.S. Liederkrantz is a male chorus that originated in 1931. The group has been cited by the State Legislature for its contribution to the musical heritage of the Thomaston area. The H.S.L. won first place in the Men's Division 1 singing competition, Saengerfest, held on June 28, 2009 in Granby. The group also gave a televised performance in November at the Nutmeg Television Studio in Plainville.



■ EASTER CANTATA A MULTI-MEDIA EXPERIENCE

“The Journey to the Cross,” a Lenten Cantata, was presented by the Senior Choir in the Prospect Sanctuary on the afternoon of Palm Sunday. The Multi-Media experience traversed the breadth of human emotion experienced during the events of Holy Week. The Senior Choir was directed by Heidi Flower, who was accompanied by Amy Kelley, former chapel organist.

■ MORE FROM PASTOR DENNIS

In last month's Tower I noted several web-sites that can be helpful in daily devotions and asked for recommendations about other media resources that persons have found helpful in their faith-walk. Kathy Dube would have us know about a public radio program, "Speaking of Faith," hosted by Krista Tippett. It airs on WNPR 90.5 FM Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 7 a.m. Of course, you can go online and listen whenever you want -- <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org>.

■ MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Men's Fellowship is having a Shepards Pie fundraiser dinner on Saturday, April 17th from 5 to 7 p.m. They will have hot dogs for the kids and desert for all. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 6-12 and free for kids 5 and under. Reservations with payment are required by April 13th. Sign up in Sessions Hall or Church office. See Bill or Lang for tickets. All are invited.

■ PROSPECT BABY CLUB

Prospect Baby Club meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. We meet in the nursery at 10 a.m.



CAMP E.D.G.E. IS COMING Prospect United Methodist Church

When: August 16-20
What Time: 6 -8 p.m.
Who: Preschool to Grade 6
Cost: Free

Calling all kids ages Preschool to Grade 6: Get ready to discover God everywhere! Camp E.D.G.E. will be an exciting week filled with friends, fun and faith!

VBS RESERVATION FORM

Child's Name: _____
Entering grade ____ in Fall 2010
Address: _____

City: _____
Home Phone: _____
Parent's Name: _____
Parent's e-mail: _____

Please leave this form in the envelope outside the church office. Registration packet will follow. Please see Eleanor Riker with any questions.

Note: any adults or high school students interested in helping out with the camp should contact Eleanor Riker (wimpress@hotmail.com) for more information.

■ EASTER BASKET THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated Easter baskets for our Covenant to Care drive for children of need. Your generous spirit of giving is inspirational, and the children will appreciate all that you have done.

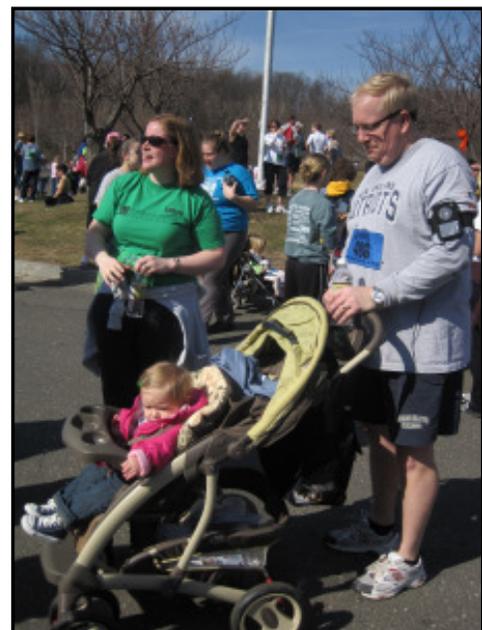
Susan Lee



■ PROSPECT GOT THEIR WALKING/ RUNNING SHOES READY

Thanks to all who helped raise money for the St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol, which operates the Bristol Homeless Shelter. Check out more photos at anewprospect.org.

Thanks also to everyone who cleaned out their closets and donated their gently worn shoes to Soles 4 Souls.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

A shorter version of the Sunday Service, with Holy Communion, in the Chapel, south side of Sessions Hall.

10 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Traditional service of worship in Sanctuary with hymns, prayers, sermon, children's and adult choir anthems and solos. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

10 a.m. Church School

Children attend opening portion of service with family, then go to Sunday School classes.

11 a.m. Fellowship

Time of fellowship and friendship with coffee, tea, cookies and conversation in Sessions Hall.

APRIL 2010

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday

April 1 at 7 p.m. (in our sanctuary joined by Asbury Church)

Good Friday

April 2 at Noon (at Asbury)

Easter, April 4, at 10 a.m. (No 8:30 a.m. Service)

Meeting Schedule

April 11	Worship 11:30 a.m.
April 12	Rethink Committee
April 13	Finance
April 20	Council
April 22	Trustees 7 p.m.



***Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Matthew 21:9***

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010**

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