



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

## Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

April 2011

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Founded 1834  
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

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## Lent

is an excellent time to reflect on your own personal faith life. During the season of Lent, you may be asking yourself what you can do that will be meaningful, something more than giving up candy. Here are some suggestions that may help you journey through Lent.



**Alleluia!**  
**He is alive!**

- Ask, "How can I help?"
- Have a no-technology day
- Discover what you can do without and then give those things away to someone who needs them
- Prepare food and serve at the food kitchen
- Talk to God
- Read Scripture
- Be quiet
- Be aware of your surroundings and offer prayers of gratitude
- Listen more
- Visit a shut-in
- Reestablish contact with someone you have lost touch with
- Be aware of the needs of others
- Learn something about your faith
- Share your faith with someone

Know Yourself  
prepare  
Dust  
Ashes  
Read Scripture  
Reconcile  
Listen  
MERCY  
Mortality  
Prayer  
Silence  
Repent  
Deny Yourself  
Fasting  
KNEEL... NOW

■ **The Ministry of Welcoming**



“Welcoming” is a lifelong journey for the whole church community. The United Methodist Church offers the invitation: “Our hearts, our minds and our doors are always open.” It is an invitation to discover that United Methodists are an open, hospitable community of people. Welcoming has everything to do with how we make people feel.

When someone new walks through the doors of our church, the first question is cultural: “Is there anyone here like me?” The answer of a welcoming congregation is: “There are many like you. We welcome you no matter what.” The second question is more personal: “Is there anyone here who is interested in me?” If the answer is no, because the congregation is not prepared to receive the guest hospitably, then the newcomer will look elsewhere -- or may not look again. When a congregation is involved in a welcoming ministry the answer is “Yes, We are interested in you. Our hearts, our minds, and our doors are always open to you.” The message is clear.

The pitfall for many churches is that we think we are friendly because we are friendly to each other. The Nurture team is examining how welcoming we are as a congregation; how actively each of us takes this opportunity. So what does this mean to you?..... Recall a time when you were a stranger and what made you feel cared for and accepted.

This is the first in a series of articles that hopes to raise your awareness as a member of the “Ministry of Welcoming” at Prospect.

**CLEAR THE CLUTTER  
A TAILGATE TAG SALE**

Treasure accumulating in your basement or garage? Prospect UMC will hold a Tailgate Tag Sale Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., rain or shine, at the church. Cost for a space is \$20. Sell items from your car’s tailgate or set up a table in the parking lot. You set the prices for all your items, and at the end of the day carry away whatever is left unsold. We will also be collecting items for a church table. For more information or if you are interested in helping with this event, see Jeanette Baker or Heidi Flower.

Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund.

**Order Your Easter Plants**

Memorial Easter Plants will surround the Altar on Easter Sunday, April 24th. Please return this form to the offering plate or church office by Thursday, April 14th. Donation is \$10 for each plant. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund. Payment must accompany order. Feel free to take your plant(s) after the April 24th 10 a.m. service. Thank you.



Given By	
In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number of Plants	
Amount Enclosed	
Leaving/Taking Plant	

## PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

*W.E. Sessions and Mt. Hope Chapel - Kathy Dube*

The past several historical columns have elaborated on the major role William E. Sessions and his family played in the development of Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church. A Bristol Press Builders of Bristol article also noted his connection with Mt. Hope Chapel on Chippens Hill.

A Sunday School had been started at the old North Chippens Hill schoolhouse in 1884 by Hattie Utter. Chippens Hill was a fair distance from Prospect and other churches in the days before automobiles. The hills especially hindered travel during the winter.

After Hattie Utter left, W.E. wanted to keep the Sunday School going. He asked his father, John Humphrey, for money to build a new chapel, but John Humphrey was initially reluctant to cover the costs. W.E. eventually overcame his father's reluctance. Sessions' funding provided for the construction of the new Mt. Hope Chapel, complete with a steeple and bell and a new reed pump organ. [Note: The pump organ is in our parlor today, restored by the History Committee.]

W.E. drove to Mt. Hope to teach Sunday School each Sunday afternoon, scarcely missing a Sunday in 30 years. He initially drove a horse-drawn wagon to pick up children along the way. After the dawn of the automobile era, a bus picked children up, driven by Henry Coe, a Seventh Day Adventist.

Members of the church voiced memories of Mt. Hope for the 150th anniversary of the founding of Prospect Church. Les Wright said he occasionally got rides back home from Mr. Sessions. Bob Kirkwood, a resident of East Church in Plymouth, recalled Mr. Sessions giving a lecture to Bob Callahan, the only Catholic who ever went there, "Because he was cutting up real good." But Myrle (French) Mitchell, a sister of Virginia (French) Wall, recalled W.E. stopping his horse and carriage by the French homestead on Chippens Hill to ask if they wanted a ride to Mt. Hope Chapel. At least once, she recalled, "I didn't go because I was half afraid of him."

**Next month:** Shock at the sudden death of William E. Sessions in 1920.

### ■ Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care

Donations of Easter baskets for children of need are requested by our adopted Social Workers from DCF. There are 87 name tags with a child's first name, gender and age on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall. Please make sure items in the baskets are age appropriate. Please bring your baskets to Sessions Hall by Palm Sunday, April 17 when they will be picked up at 11 a.m, by the Social Workers for delivery to the children in time for Easter. See Susan Lee with questions. On behalf of the kids, thank You!

### ■ Palm Sunday Cantata

The Senior Choir will be presenting "Here is Love" during worship service on Palm Sunday. This cantata from Larry Shackley centers on the events of Holy Week. Well-known contemporary and traditional music as well as original compositions tell the story of Christ's life, death and resurrection. Please plan to be in church for a very special beginning to Holy Week.



## Our Church Family

### IN MEMORIUM

**Mildred Kucharski**, mother of Sue Thayer and mother-in-law of Chick Blair, who died March 9.



**Lois Snyder**, who died March 17.

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

**Alanna Marianne Jefferson**, daughter of Lisa and Greg Jefferson, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on March 20.

# TRANSITIONS

This year, during the months of June and July, we will say goodbye to Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack as he transitions to retirement and hello to Rev. New Pastor. This transition will certainly elicit a mix of emotions in each of us—joy for the spiritual gifts and leadership of Pastor Dennis, grief in saying goodbye, fear of the unknown, and, quite possibly, excitement for new things to come. Transitions are often a confusing time; therefore, the Staff Parish Relations Committee will be providing routine educational moments and highlights of where we are in the process of saying good goodbyes and healthy hellos. This is the first of the series focusing on the pastoral appointment process in the United Methodist church (UMC).

## BACKGROUND OF PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Every local church needs a pastor. The United Methodist Church has a unique way of matching pastors and congregations. Rather than local churches hiring and firing their own pastors—as in some denominations—United Methodist bishops appoint pastors to serve in local churches and other ministry settings.

The primary goal of the appointment system is to match the gifts and graces of a particular pastor to the ministry needs of a particular congregation at a particular time.

This itinerant system, where pastors move from one appointment to another, dates back to American frontier days when circuit riding preachers traveled on horseback from town to town. At that time, bishops matched preachers to circuits four times a year. Now bishops typically fix appointments once a year.

For more info go to [http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.2250395/k.3B2F/Pastoral\\_Appointments\\_Resources.htm](http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.2250395/k.3B2F/Pastoral_Appointments_Resources.htm)

## HOW PASTORS ARE APPOINTED

- 1 Every spring, members of the clergy are appointed to local churches by the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, the pastor, and the local church's Staff Parish Relations Committee.
- 2 The District Superintendent (a member of the cabinet) confers with the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the pastor. During this consultation, the Staff Parish Relations Committee communicates the parish concerns and needs relative to appointment making—those concerns and needs identified by you from surveys, questionnaires, and communications during the past year.
- 3 The District Superintendent shares this information with the Bishop and other members of the Cabinet. They collaborate to determine the best use of a pastor's gifts and graces and the needs of the local church. And they pray.
- 4 When they have determined the intended appointee, the District Superintendent meets with the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the intended appointee for an introduction.
- 5 If significant missional concerns are raised by the pastor, District Superintendent, or the Staff Parish Relations Committee during the introduction, the party raising the significant missional concern--the pastor or the committee--must communicate the concern to the Bishop in writing within 24 hours.
- 6 The Cabinet may choose to review the appointment. The final decision regarding appointments rests with the Bishop.

To date, the Staff Parish Relations (SPR) Committee along with your input has completed #2. We are currently awaiting #4. In the meantime, we are preparing a Welcome Kit for Rev. New Pastor. So far, the kit contains our Church Directory, sample bulletins, The Tower, our year-end report, and a brochure. We would love to hear your ideas of what to include in this kit. If you have an idea for the Welcome Kit see a member of the SPR Committee.

# April 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service 10:00 a.m. Church School						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rethink 7	Finance 7	Choir Prospect at Zion	Psalms Bible Study			
11	12	13	14	15	16	
	Council 7	Choir	Psalms Bible Study			
18	19	20	21	22		
		Choir	Psalms Bible Study			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Choir	Psalms Bible Study		Renaissance Dinner	