



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

September 2011

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Dear Members of the Prospect Community,

Hi! I am Bob Sorozan, and I have been appointed by Bishop Jeremiah Park to serve as the Pastor of the Prospect United Methodist Church. Since we are going to spend a lot of time together, I thought that I should tell you a little bit about myself.



Terri and I have been married for a little over thirty-five years. Terri works for Stop n' Shop and has recently transferred to the Bristol store. We have two children. Our son, Daniel, lives in Buffalo, New York. He works for A.T.&T. Our daughter, Tonya is married and lives in Manchester, Connecticut. Recently, my son informed us that we will soon become grandparents. If Terri and I seem a bit distracted in September, it is because of imminent arrival of our granddaughter.

I am interested in many different things. Terri and I love baseball (Let's Go Rock Cats!) and we attend local games whenever our schedules allow it. When we watch baseball on television we usually root for the Red Sox — I realize that this may not be good news for about half the members of our congregation, but I promise that I will not be obnoxious about it, no matter how well the "Sox" are playing. I am also interested in electric trains. I have an HO scale train layout in the parsonage and, on my day off, I run full-size trolley cars at the Connecticut Electric Railway Museum.

It is hard for me to grasp that I have been a Pastor in the United Methodist Church for 29 years. Most of my appointments have been in the Hudson Valley. Most recently, I served a two-point charge in Granby, Conn. I was not always a Pastor. I've been an assistant swimming instructor, a stock-boy, a lab assistant, a farm worker and a Cooperative Extension agent. I didn't plan on going into the ministry; in fact most people who knew me when I was much younger would never have guessed that I would become a Pastor.

When I was in college, I began looking for something that gave meaning to my life. After stumbling around for a long time, I started to read the New Testament. As I read through the Gospels, I suddenly realized that I had fallen in love with Jesus. I asked him to come into my life and everything changed. The source of all meaning had found me.

Many things have changed since then. My understanding of God's love has changed and grown. The way I express my love for God has, hopefully, matured. I now realize that God's love has always been there and will always be there for those who trust in him.

I am honored to be appointed to Prospect United Methodist Church. I realize that I am following a really good Pastor, Dennis Winkleblack. And, even though I am not Dennis, I hope to build upon the work he started. I know that working together, and with the presence of God's Spirit, we can share the Good News of new life in Christ with our community, our nation and our world. I look forward to meeting with all of you, and working with you, in the weeks to come.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
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Pastor Emeritus

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■ Change the World Project Thanks

Dear Friends,

The many bags of snacks that you donated to "Meals for the Needy" have been very well received by many families in our community. As we approach the summer months we know that many of the people who come to our food pantry are looking for snacks for their children. During the school year most children are part of a school lunch program but that is not the case when school is not in session. What a wonderful idea to put together these snack bags with such a great variety of food items. On behalf of the families that will receive these snack bags - THANK YOU!!!!

This summer "Meals for the Needy" will observe its 29th anniversary of service to the people of greater Bristol. The people of PUMC have been such a blessing to this ministry throughout its history. Whenever it was necessary to find new leadership for your team of volunteers a new coordinator surfaced from among your ranks. Please know how much we appreciate your commitment and faithfulness to this ministry that assists the neediest residents in our community.

Thank you and God bless you for the many snack bags that you will be providing over the summer months which is certainly a reflection of the caring congregation that you are.

*Together in service,
Shirley Dickau, Zion Lutheran Church*

■ 'Middle Ages' Group Formed

For the past year a group of individuals has been meeting informally to organize fundraisers such as the Renaissance Dinner and the Victorian Tea. During those days and evenings, according to Gary and Luisa Gladu, an interest was expressed in forming a new fellowship group at PUMC, as it was noted that there was a Men's Group, Woman's Group, Youth Group, etc., but nothing for couples to attend together.

The Mission:

Fellowship among adults with a focus on church growth through new ideas, activities, fundraising, preserving our beautiful church and building/visual aesthetics, and ultimately, building relationships with each other through prayer, support, fellowship and good will.

The consensus was that possibly others would like this idea and if it was opened to men and woman, it may encourage couples as well as singles to attend. The Gladus said they have informally called the group the Middle Ages Group, originally targeting the 35-and-older age groups. But ultimately they decided to welcome all ages!

With the support of Pastor Sorozan and the Church Council, the organization is now formally recognized as a PUMC group.

Monthly Meetings:

Focus on new ideas to raise funds and bring new members into the church through personal invitations of Middle Ages-sponsored activities and special events such as the Renaissance Dinner and the Victorian Holiday Tea.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Gary Gladu @ TheGladus@comcast.net or 860-582-8383.

Look for our first meeting date to be posted in the church bulletin soon!

■ Memorial Brick Garden

Ten years have passed since we established the Memorial Brick Garden in the upper parking area. Have you looked at the bricks lately? Take a moment and look! Would you like to Honor or Memorialize someone you care about? This fall

you will have the opportunity to add a personalized brick of your choice. Brochures and order forms will be available in September. For information, see or call Jill Wilson at 860-583-5002.



Prospect In Earlier Days - 1938 Hurricane Claimed Five From Prospect *by Kathy Dube on behalf of the History Committee*

Members of Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church (today, Prospect U.M. Church), were deeply saddened 73 years ago at the deaths of five church members in the Hurricane of 1938, which struck without warning on Sept. 21. The five were staying at a cottage on Jepson's Island in the Thimble Islands, off Stony Creek.

Weather forecasting was a primitive science in 1938, and the hurricane struck without warning. The island and cottage were owned by Arthur Jepson and his wife, Adelaide, both members of the church since 1907. Visiting them that fateful day were fellow church members Myra Miller Spicer (widow of Walter Spicer), a member since 1899, Mrs. Harry White, a member since 1897, and Mrs. Nellie Perkins Wright, a member since 1883. Mrs. Spicer had moved to Nova Scotia but was visiting Mrs. White that summer while recuperating from surgery at Hartford Hospital.

Although Jepson's Island is quite close to the shore, the water rose so high so fast they had no way to get to the mainland. The foundation of the cottage gave way due to the incessant pounding of the sea, and the cottage and its occupants were washed away. The Jepsons, Mrs. Spicer and Mrs. White apparently drowned instantly. The women's bodies were recovered after they washed ashore, although they were not immediately identified. Mr. Jepson's body was never found. Nellie Wright miraculously was rescued after hours in the water, but developed pneumonia and died on Sept. 25. They were among seven Bristol residents who died in the hurricane.

The Bristol Press of 9/22/1938 states: "Such a tragedy comes as a terrific blow to this

community in which all of these people lived and were so much respected and so much loved." A triple funeral service for the three women who were immediately identified combined with a memorial service for Mr. Jepson was held at Prospect Church on the 25th of September. The funeral for Mrs. Wright was held on the 27th.

The Press on the 26th published the following under the heading "Three Firm Friends":

"Sad indeed was the gathering on Sunday afternoon. Three firm friends were there at the altar rail where many times in previous years each knelt to partake of Holy Communion but this time there were three gray caskets and in each casket lay one of these three members of the local church."

"The church was filled with people paying their final tribute and everyone could not help but think of the fact that if the sea had given up another of its dead there would have been a fourth casket at the altar rail. Mrs. W.E. Spicer, Mrs. Harry G. White and Mrs. Arthur W. Jepson were in the gray caskets. Mr. Jepson, also drowned, was still missing."

"The afternoon was beautiful, the shining sun was so calm and so bright it hardly seemed possible that only four days ago nature was in such a tumult that the terrible catastrophe could happen. These devoted Christian women who had in previous years given so freely of their time and thought for the work of the church go out of this life together to carry on."

"Lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided."

■ Job Openings At Prospect

Prospect is still searching for an Assistant Director of Music. In addition, there are two openings for Child Care Providers to be funded by a grant to serve anticipated needs of the church.



According to Joyce Rioux, who chairs the Staff Parish Relations Committee, the church is seeking an enthusiastic assistant director of music who will work under the direction of Director of Music Heidi Flower. The ideal candidate will create and provide leadership in the church's youth ministry, be an accompanist for music programs as assigned by the music director and pastor, fill in for the music director during select Sundays in the summer and provide the musical accompaniment for 8:30 a.m. Sunday chapel services.

Re the Child Care Provider openings, two responsible adults with prior child care experience are sought to oversee children from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday mornings in the PUMC Nursery/Toddler room. Child Care Providers must ensure a safe, clean and nurturing environment for the Nursery/Toddler room and make sure children are safely returned to their parents after worship. Staff Parish Relations will oversee these positions. The grant will pay the providers \$30 a Sunday.

For detailed job descriptions, contact the church office or go to **www.anewprospect.org**. Resumes should be mailed or dropped off in the church office, attn. Joyce Rioux.

■ Mum Festival Booth

Prospect will have a booth at the Mum Festival on Sept. 24 and 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. At least two people are needed at the booth for each hour the booth will be open. Church volunteers are needed to help out at the booth for at least an hour at a time. Nothing hard is involved. Information about Prospect will be handed out. This is a great opportunity for use to brag about all the great things offered at Prospect from our music to our outreach to our education programs. If you can help, please contact Jeanette Baker at 860-584-5725. A signup sheet will be in Sessions Hall. Let's all help spread the word about PUMC.

■ Children's Corner

Susie Parker will not be returning this fall as a teacher in our Sunday School. The Education Committee would like to thank Susie for her 30 years of devoted service to our congregation. Susie has worn many hats over these past years. Susie has been an active member in the education of our congregation serving as a Sunday School teacher, Superintendent of Sunday School, Education Chair, Nursery Care teacher, spiritual leader and friend! We will truly miss her in our Sunday School classes. Susie's Bible lessons, dedicated presence and leadership will last forever.

If you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher, contact Shirley Paulette.



The Education Committee will be kicking off the school year with Registration Sunday on September 11 and Rally Day on September 18.

The Prospect Playgroup will begin meeting on the first and third Saturdays of the month after Labor Day. The first playgroup will be on September 17 at 10 a.m. If you have any questions contact Eleanor Riker at wimpress@hotmail.com.

Matthew 18: 4 reads:

Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

■ Pianist To Perform for "Imagine No Malaria Benefit Concert"

Jason Castonguay, an accomplished pianist and vocalist, will perform at Prospect United



Methodist Church in Bristol on Saturday, September 24, at 7:30 p.m.

A graduate of Central Connecticut State University, and Bristol Eastern High School, Castonguay performs classical, popular, and jazz music, with the occasional show tune and original composition thrown in.

Castonguay, a Bristol native and currently a Hebron resident, has been thrilling music lovers for many years with his piano stylings and unique vocal talents. He was the 2004 winner of the Connecticut Idol competition sponsored by FOX61-TV and has played in various Connecticut restaurants and lounges, as well as with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra at the Bushnell.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Tickets are now available at the church, 99 Summer St., or may be purchased at the door. For additional information, please contact Prospect United Methodist Church at 582-3443.

■ Let the Music Ring

Music in worship has the ability to enrich our worship experience. Choir rehearsals will begin on September 7 at 7 p.m. There is always room for new voices in the choir loft so come one and all and bring a friend. Please see Heidi Flower with any questions.

■ Meeting Schedule

September 12 - Rethink
September 13 - Finance
September 15 - Trustees
September 18 - Worship
September 20 - Church Council
September 27 - Outreach

■ Prayer Chain

If you are in need of prayer for yourself, a family member or a friend, you are invited to contact the prayer chain at jampalance@aol.com.

Our Church Family



BAPTISMS

- **Austin Saluski** – son of Michelle Rogers and Joseph Saluski
- **Jazzmin Mudge** – daughter of Linsey Cross and George Mudge
- **Penelope Zytka** – daughter of Sara and Jason Zytka

MARRIAGES

- **Kristin Lyn Rioux** (Joyce and John) and Geoffrey Charles Manzi were married June 26.

DEATHS

- Arthur Peterson
- Lillian Lozefski

LIVING GREEN

Energy Notes - Carll Pallok

To maximize light output, use lighting directly over desks, tables and workbenches rather than trying to illuminate the whole area. Take advantage of natural light whenever possible, and keep windows clean and unobstructed. Use a timer to turn house lights off and on automatically. Use an electronic dimmer to turn lights lower when needed, such as in a bathroom when you come in from sleeping in a dark bedroom or washing early in the morning should you not want bright light. Clean bulbs and fixtures regularly for brighter illumination.

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

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