



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

December 2008

Vol. 69, No. 9

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends and Members of Prospect:

A visited planet. We live on a planet that has been visited by God, the creator of the cosmos, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. This God was born a helpless infant, drew sustenance from his mother Mary's milk, was likely taught the craft of a carpenter by Joseph. And, all the while, he was growing in understanding of just what God expected of him. When it was time, he declared himself, and acted as the Son of God he was born to be.



A visited planet. Now, everything ordinary isn't. The lawn out front. The street, busy with cars. The person next to me waiting in line. Everything is ordinary; nothing is ordinary.



The God known in Jesus Christ is a down-to-earth God. A personal God who is interested infinitely in the good of all that God has created. Including you and me.

We worship this God, offering our praise, listening intently to God's word for us and our time. And know ourselves being transformed into Christ's likeness, however slowly.

There are many opportunities to encounter this God of Christmas in the weeks ahead as noted in this newsletter – personally I can't wait to experience a Prospect Advent and Christmas. I sincerely hope that you will join your brothers and sisters in faith as we celebrate this God who makes wonder out of what some call ordinary.

Pastor Dennis

Prospect United Methodist Church

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■ PARISH CONSULTANT NETWORK REVIEW - *Jill Wilson, Church Council Chairperson*

Many of you took time and effort to meet with the Parish Consultants, Diane Hornaday and Rev. Eric Fjeldal, during the summer. As you know, we were trying to process through some sensitive issues. I was pleased with the depth of participation. We received their evaluation and recommendations at the end of the summer.

The Church Council has met and discussed the recommendations, which include a Training Day for everyone. Training will include, but is not limited to: a focus on interpersonal skills; reconciliation; and training of committees related to responsibility, authority, and interaction between groups. Your Church Council plans to take their advice.

Recognizing that other issues have taken priority this fall, we plan to hold the training day in January. The process included everyone in our church and this Training Day will be for everyone as well. This is an opportunity for continued healing and growth. We anticipate an evening or two with our consultants. Watch for details as to the date and time.

■ CRUCIAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY - *Kathy Dube*

Prospect Church's 2008 stewardship campaign, spearheaded by Chris Wilson, is a multi-media effort aimed at overcoming substantial financial difficulties. In years past, trustees were able to tap into Unrestricted Funds to make up a shortfall in the amount pledged and budgetary needs. The Fund has been exhausted, however, attributed in part to the financial downturn of 2007-2008 and major capital projects.

The goal of the campaign is raising \$150,000 so that staff and services will not have to be reduced. The campaign has included: three e-mails for those with computers, three automated telephone messages, three postcards, and a letter.

Pledge cards were turned in on Consecration Sunday. Results will be reported in the next issue of the Tower, but suffice it to say this campaign is one of the most critical in the recent history of PUMC.

It's not too late to make a pledge as they will be welcomed and accepted no matter when they are made.


■ CHARGE CONFERENCE WRAP-UP


-Jill Wilson


On November 6, The Rev. George Englehardt presided over Prospect's Annual Charge Conference. The Charge Conference was a bit different this year in that the majority of time was spent on reflection and information-sharing, as opposed to conducting business. He asked us questions about how we are doing as a congregation, how we are a "connected" church, and what information we want him to pass along about Prospect to the next District Superintendent. The meeting was well attended with excellent participation. There will be a Church Conference in the early part of 2009 where the annual business such as reports, budget and nomination of new committee responsibilities will be discussed.


**"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work."
2 Corinthians 9: 2-8**


ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT PROSPECT

 Sunday, November 30
First Sunday in Advent
Sermon: "More Than Aspirin"

 Sunday, December 7
Second Sunday in Advent
Sermon: "The Joy of Judgment"

 Sunday, December 14
Third Sunday in Advent
Sermon: "Dive for the Couch!
Hide in the Pillows!"

 Sunday, December 21
Christmas Sunday
Sunday School Pageant

 Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve
5 p.m. Candlelight Family
Focused Service
Sermon: "The Miracle of Gifts"
11 p.m. Candlelight Service of
Lessons and Carols and Holy
Communion

Advent Workshop-December 7
Come make some holiday crafts! Join in the fun after the 10:00 service. Lunch will be served to the children and their families around 12:30 p.m. in the downstairs kitchen.

Fun Time for Family & Friends
PUMC Men's Fellowship is sponsoring a night of bowling, December 6th, at Bristol Bowl on Farmington Avenue at 5:30 p.m. One lane costs \$40.73 and up to 6 people can be on a lane. The cost covers two hours of bowling, shoe rental, a 16-inch, 8-slice pizza and a pitcher of soda. If you have four people in your group that would only be \$10.17 per person. Any questions talk to Bill Thibodeau or Lang Ashworth. Bumper pads are available for those who cannot deal with gutter balls. This is a great family activity at a great price. Any friends who are not members of our Church are also welcome to attend.

Holiday Lunch - December 10
Friends of Prospect are having their lunch on December 10th at Carmine's (not December 3rd). Attendees are asked to bring a \$5.00 grab bag.

Cookie Swap - December 13
The Women of Prospect's Annual Cookie Swap is Saturday, December 13, at 1 p.m. in Sessions Hall. Bring 3 dozen of one kind of cookie, go home with a great assortment! Bring the recipe to share, if you wish! Let Jan Moore know if you plan to attend. The event is open to all!

H.A.L.O. ... On The Air

It's Christmas! Don't Touch That Dial!



PUMC Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 21
During the 10 a.m. Service



This pageant is sprinkled with humor and inspiration. Our children will tell the Bethlehem story featuring a heavenly radio station. In the mix is "Breaking News," Commercials, Interviews and many Surprises! Come see the Baby Jesus story unfold "On The Air."



THANK YOU - Karen Rochelle, chairperson

Once again the Country Cupboard Fair and Harvest Dinner were a success. The fair committee is a small committee and it takes a lot of work to plan and present these events. Someone mentioned that a lot of volunteers worked on the fair and dinner this year and as I looked around I realized there probably wasn't one group or committee who wasn't represented. It really takes a whole church! My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped: the fair committee, the people who made pies and baked and worked those days cooking, serving, helping on booths, moving furniture and all those who donated items or money to make our fair successful. Also thanks to those who visited us.

P.S. We sold all apple pies before 1:00. I think that is a new record!

DECEMBER 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

MEETING SCHEDULE

December 7	MYF 4-6 p.m.
December 9	Education Committee 7 p.m.
December 16	Charge Conference 7 p.m.
December 21	MYF 4-6 p.m.

EVENTS

December 5	DCF Christmas party
December 6	Men's fellowship bowling
December 6	Saturday Morning Angels 10-11:30 a.m.
December 7	Advent craft workshop and lunch until 12:30
December 7	Bristol Brass & Wind Concert, 2:30 p.m. snow date December 14
December 10	Friends of Prospect Lunch
December 13	Cookie Swap, 1:00 p.m.
December 14	New Church Member Service
December 19	Christmas pageant rehearsal, 6:30
December 21	Christmas Pageant

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

December 2008	Nurture
January 2009	Outreach
February 2009	Women's Group

■ CHURCH FAMILY

New Members:

New members will join on December 14. We'd love to have you become a member of Prospect Church. Whether you're transferring your membership or joining a church for the first time, we would be pleased and honored to have you among us "officially." Please speak with Pastor Dennis or e-mail (pastorpumc@snet.net) if you would like to join or if you have questions.

Kids in College:

Do you have a child in college? The Church Office wants to know. Please call (582-3443) or email (prospectoffice@snet.net).

Scholarship Committee:

The committee would like to thank everyone for purchasing grinders and making donations for the sale. It netted a total profit of \$1,075.

Church School:

Congratulations to our second grade students, Morgan Emond, Anthony Jobbagy and Emily Riotte, who received Bibles.

■ CHURCH COMMUNITY

The Soup Kitchen at Zion Luthern Church, where the Myhills volunteer, is in great need of donations of food or money. Please

see Bill or Elaine Myhill if you can help out with a contribution. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

■ NEW MONTHLY PROGRAM

Calling all infant to 3-year-old children with an adult to join the "Saturday Morning Angels" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The First Class will be on December 6 in in the Pre-K Classroom at PUMC. The group will enjoy a variety of music, movement, story and play time, snack and fellowship. For more information call Eleanor at 860-584-9890 or Shirley at 860-585-9859.

A PROSPECT MEMORY

The first issue of the Tower, Prospect's newspaper, was published in February 1936 under the heading "The Prospect Tower Rings Its Bell." The yearly subscription price was 25 cents. The purpose was reporting on the faith and works of the church. The church tower was used as the inspiration because, it was written, the Tower's head is in the clouds while its feet remains on the ground.... "the pinnacle reminds us of the past, the clock of the present, and the dedication to the worship and service of God bids us think of the future."

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