



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

December 2010

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From the Pastor's Pen



Come home for Christmas. I once preached a sermon with that title, but darned if I can find it. I remember it being a very good sermon. In truth, it probably wasn't as special as I remember it – most of mine aren't. But at least the title is good.

Come home for Christmas. Whatever I meant years ago by "home," this year I mean to say: come home to Prospect Church for Christmas. Wait, don't turn the page....

Your Prospect Church is still on the tipping point. A little either way will make all the difference in the world. Almost every month I meet someone, often in the hospital, who loves Prospect Church but hasn't been around in ages. Others have been around, but not much or not lately. To all: Please come home for Christmas. No one will say, "Where have you been?" Instead, they'll say "It wouldn't be Christmas without you."

It sounds selfish, institution-centered to ask people to come to church. And, there's truth to this. The greater reason, however, and few would deny it, is that we need to be home for Christmas because we need each other to be Prospect Church for us and with us. And we all need God's Christ in our heart of hearts – this Christ who became flesh and dwelt among us that we might share eternal life with him as part of the Church Universal he founded.

Come home for Christmas. We'll leave the lights on for you.

Your pastor,
Dennis Winkleblack

*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given; and
the government shall be
upon his shoulder, and
his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace."
~Isaiah 9:6*

Founded 1834

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THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

HOLIDAY SERVICES:

- ★ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5
Rev. Ken Kieffer, District Superintendent, preaching
- ★ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
Pastor Dennis' sermon: "As If We Were All Family"
- ★ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
10 a.m. Sunday School Pageant within the worship service
- ★ CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m. Family worship with carols and candle-lighting
11 p.m. Service of Lessons, Carols, Candles and Holy Communion with our choir.

■ Charge Conference Set

Prospect's annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, December 5, after the Pot Luck Lunch. Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Ken Kieffer, will preach at both services and lead the Charge Conference. New members of the Board of Trustees will be elected at the meeting. Carol Rivard is nominated for a one-year term and Jackie Palance, Tammy Kelly and Mike Fasci for three-year terms.

All are invited to come to meet our district superintendent, and to be part of this annual meeting of our congregation.

■ Victorian Tea

A limited number of tickets are available for the Victorian Tea planned for Saturday, December 11, to benefit the Organ Restoration Fund. Help is needed with food preparation, serving, decorating and post-tea breakdown. Contact Cheryl McNeal at (860) 214-4663 if you want tickets or can help.

Caroling, Caroling

By Wihla Hutson

*Caroling, caroling, now we go
Christmas bells are ringing
Caroling, caroling thru the snow
Christmas bells are ringing!*

*Joyous voices sweet and clear
Sing the sad of heart to cheer
Ding dong, ding dong
Christmas bells are ringing!*

*Caroling, caroling thru the town
Christmas bells are ringing
Caroling, caroling up and down
Christmas bells are ringing!*

*Mark ye well the song we sing
Gladsome tidings now we bring
Ding dong, ding dong
Christmas bells are ringing!*

*Caroling, caroling, near and far
Christmas bells are ringing
Following, following yonder star
Christmas bells are ringing!*

*Sing we all this happy morn
"Lo, the King of heav'n is born!"
Ding dong, ding dong
Christmas bells are ringing!*

This song pretty much sums up what caroling is all about! Music Director Heidi Flower invites all interested people to join PUMC carolers on Dec. 12th at 2:30 p.m. Carolers will meet at church and embark on a caroling journey to spread Christmas cheer to homebound friends and family! All ages are welcome. There even will be jingle bells! Afterwards, carolers will return to church for pizza and hot chocolate! The suggested donation is \$5 per family. Please sign up in Sessions Hall so Heidi has an idea of how many carolers we will have.



Jesus is the Light of the World !

Luminary Bag Sunday School Fundraiser

Education Committee members will be placing luminary bags on the sidewalks leading to our church for both Christmas Eve services. Sunday School children are selling luminary bags for \$1 apiece. Every bag purchased will be illuminated for both services. Shirley Paulette, Sunday School superintendent, says, "The more we sell, the brighter our sidewalks will be! Look for our table in Sessions Hall after our 8:30 service and during Fellowship Hour. Thank you for your support!"

Important Sunday School dates ahead:

- Pageant Rehearsal and Pizza Party - Friday, December 17, 6 p.m. in Sessions Hall;
- Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 19, during our 10 a.m. service.

Shirley notes: "Regular Sunday School attendance is so important in December as we prepare for our Christmas Pageant, 'Christmas Presence.' Our play challenges the audience to be aware of the Presence of Christ at Christmas and throughout the year!"

■ Christmas Giving Tree

Help a child in need by taking a name tag from the Christmas Giving Tree, sponsored by Covenant to Care and the Outreach Committee. Prospect has received the names of 85 children who need Christmas gifts. All donated gifts must be brought to Sessions Hall, unwrapped, by Sunday, Dec. 12. If you have questions, talk to Susan Lee.



And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

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Order Your Poinsettias

Orders are currently being taken for poinsettias. These flowers will adorn our altar on Christmas Eve. The cost is \$10 each. For those wishing to take the plants home, they will be available Christmas Eve.



This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than Thursday, December 16. Thank you.

In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number Requested	
Given by	

*Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself...
~Norman Wesley Brooks, "Let Every Day Be Christmas," 1976*

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Meet The Sessions, Part 2

Last month's "Prospect In Earlier Days" introduced present-day members to William Edwin (W.E.) Sessions, an important benefactor of Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church, precursor of Prospect United Methodist Church. The December 11 Victorian Tea, in part, harkens back to the spirit of the many social functions held by W.E. Sessions and his wife, Emily, at their manor house.



William Sessions

As related in a January 1986 Bristol Press Builders of Bristol series, W.E. Sessions stepped in when the large E.N. Welch Clock Company of Forestville was about to go into receivership in 1902. W.E. bolstered the company's finances and saved it from bankruptcy. He eventually became president of the firm, whose name was changed to the Sessions Clock Co. At the same time, he remained president and treasurer of the Sessions Foundry Co., was president of the Bristol Water Company and a director of Bristol National Bank.

He was a life-long Republican, but declined to run for public office except for the office of Burgess in the first borough elections held in 1903. Although he never attended college, he was said to have been highly cultured. He traveled a lot, was a reader of good literature, a student of the arts and an accomplished organist. He also started the Forestville Reading Room, which later became a branch of the Bristol Public Library.

In 1906 Sessions bought the Nathan L. Birge house and extensive grounds on Bellevue Avenue, built in 1874. Although the house was one of the most expensive ever built in Bristol, W.E. proceeded to tear it down to make way for construction of his own brownstone manor house. The next "Prospect In Earlier Days" will explore construction of "Beleden," which still graces the property on Bellevue Avenue today.

■ Notice of Change

If you receive this newsletter, The Tower, in the paper form, and we have an e-mail address for you in the church office, you will receive The Tower electronically effective with the February 2011 edition of the Tower. In our continuous endeavor to watch what is spent, this change will save postage considerably. If you have trouble opening the Tower in your email you can always go to our website: anewprospect.org for your viewing anytime. If you change your email address at anytime, please notify the church office to stay current! The church email is prospectoffice@snet.net.



■ Ecumenical Service

Prospect U.M. Church hosted the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 24. Many Bristol churches and clergy and choirs participated. Those who attended were encouraged to bring a non-perishable item. Refreshments followed in Sessions Hall.


■ Holy Land Tour

Join Pastor Dennis, church members and friends for a trip to the Holy Land from March 22-31. The cost is around \$3,000. For a brochure, contact Pastor Dennis at pastorpumc@snet.net.

■ Technical Help Needed

If you have expertise with photography, videography, graphic design, Powerpoint presentation design, audio or computer skills, please consider lending a hand to John Rioux or Jeanette Baker to enhance technical aspects of our worship services.

December 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service 10:00 a.m. Church School			1 7 pm Senior Choir 2:30 – 6 p.m. Prospect serves at Zion Soup Kitchen	2 Beginnings Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	3 DCF Christmas Party	4
5 12 pm Charge Conference Bristol Brass Concert	6 7 pm Rethink	7	8 7 pm Senior Choir	9	10	11 Victorian Tea
12	13	14 7 pm Finance	15 7 pm Senior Choir	16	17	18
19 Sunday School Pageant	20	21	22 7 pm Senior Choir	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 7 pm Senior Choir	30	31	