



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

December 2011

Vol. 72, No. 10

Pastor's Page

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every purpose under heaven." ~Ecclesiastes 3:1



We are quickly coming to the end of the year. In a few short weeks, we will be celebrating Christmas. We will rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior in our Christmas Eve service, and sing our favorite carols during a Christmas Day hymn sing. Even though the days are short and the weather is frightful, this is my favorite time of the year.

But this is also a time to look ahead to our future. A few months ago, a group of people, leaders from our congregation and anyone who wanted to give their opinion, gathered together at the Bakerville United Methodist Church. We met for a "planning retreat." We used a guide, developed by our Council of Bishops, to help us to focus on our goal-setting. It was a day-long process but it was very productive. I would like to share some of our goals with you.

One of the most obvious goals is to see growth in our Sunday morning worship services. Starting out with an average of one hundred people at our present services, we would like to increase our average attendance by fifty people by the year 2015. That is a rather lofty goal, but it is doable. To make it happen, we will all need to engage in ministry. We will all need to see ourselves as missionaries in the mission field of Bristol, Forestville, Burlington and Terryville.

We have already come up with a few ways to make this happen. One suggestion is to have sermons and worship services posted on the internet. We also talked about creating additional/alternative worship services. We believe that we can do this once a month, and would take place outside of our regular Sunday morning worship service. These special services would feature different kinds of music, such as contemporary Christian music, from what we sing in church.

Prospect United Methodist Church

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To help make this possible, we need you. We need people who are more “tech” savvy to help get many of these dreams off the ground. At the present time, we have a Technology Team in our church that could use your help. If you are interested, talk to me following worship, or just drop by my office. If you can help out by volunteering on a Sunday morning or by helping to get our services on the internet, we would really be blessed.

And finally,
a little
admission: I’m
not as young
as I once
was. I need
to hear from
the younger
members of our community. What
kind of music do you want in
worship? What would make worship
exciting to you? I need your help,
because I can guess about music
and worship trends. But my point of
reference is 1982—I may be a few
decades out of date.



Next month, I’ll talk about some of the other goals that were discussed at the planning retreat. This is really an exciting time to be a part of Prospect United Methodist Church.

*Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan*

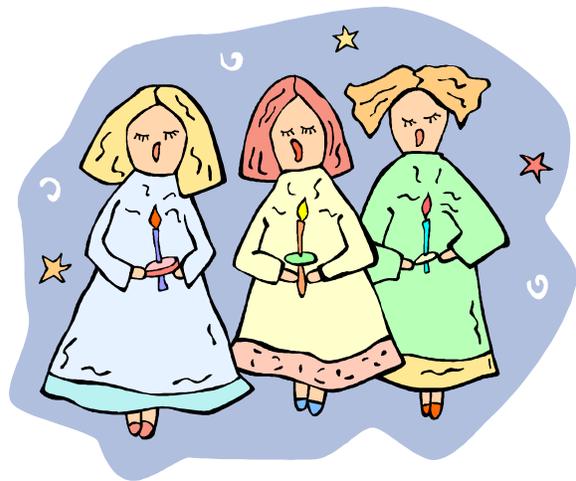
PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

"There's A Song In The Air"- Kathy Dube

Much as it is today, the Advent Season has always played a significant role in Prospect Church's liturgical life, even during the war years. In 1942, the lead story in the December Tower was "'There's A Song In The Air' As Advent Season Begins." Subheads were "Church School Plans Special Activities," "Christmas Offerings To Be Received" and "All Members Asked To Take Part."

The beginning of Advent was marked by hymn singing in both church and Sunday School services. Special Christmas worship services were planned in all departments of the Church School. All choirs spent time preparing special music, letters went out from the Official Board soliciting holiday offerings and sermons focused on the Advent season.

On December 13th, High School Young People and the Older Youth Organization presented a Christmas drama entitled, "Peace I Give Onto You." On December 20th, the entire Sunday School met in the sanctuary for a dramatic morning worship service entitled, "While The Stars of Christmas Shine."



That evening, the Adult Choir presented a musical concert featuring familiar hymn singing along with a musical meditation on the Christmas story told through the compositions of Matthews, Maunder, Handel, Saint-Saens and Praetorius. The service was marked by a candlelight procession in the sanctuary.

Years pass, membership ebbs and flows, new events take the place of former ones, but the Christmas season always plays a major role in the life of our church.

Christmas

■ Christmas Eve

Please come and join us for the celebration of the birth of our Savior on Saturday, December 24th. Candle lighting will take place at the end of both services.

- Family Christmas Eve Service – 4 p.m.
- Lessons and Carols Service – 10 p.m.

There will only be one service, at 10:00 am, on Christmas Day. Join us for an old-fashioned Carol Sing.

■ Christmas Caroling Planned

Music Director Heidi Flower invites members of the congregation to share the joy of the season with Christmas Caroling for shut-in friends on Sunday, December 11, at 2 p.m. Pizza will follow back at the church. All are welcome! Please sign up outside Room 208 so we can plan ahead.

Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Luke 1:47-48, New Living Translation

■ PUMC Ornament Available

The Bristol Federal Hill Association is selling a new pewter ornament depicting Prospect United Methodist Church, the latest in a series of ornaments commemorating buildings significant to the history of Federal Hill and Bristol.

The ornaments sell for \$10 apiece and are available in the church office weekday mornings and also will be available at the Victorian Tea to be held in Sessions Hall on December 10.

The Association sold its first ornament in 1997 -- the DuPont Funeral Home building, also known as the Wedding Cake House. The first series ran until 2006. The BFHA started a new series in 2009. In 2010, the organization sponsored two commemorative ornaments, one of which recognizes the 225th anniversary of the City of Bristol.

Karen Stevens, secretary of the BFHA, relates the following about

the new Prospect Church ornament: "This year we are pleased to honor the Prospect United Methodist Church with our 2011 ornament. The church has stunning architectural features and is a prominent fixture on Federal Hill, visible from all over downtown Bristol. We commissioned a new sketch of the building by Alicia Medaglia, a Simsbury artist who also did the drawing for our Memorial Boulevard ornament. The ornaments are produced by Woodbury Pewter here in Woodbury, Connecticut of solid pewter. The outline of the building is cut out to provide additional dimension and the opposite side is a mirror image of the front. The price is \$10 and the funds raised help support our annual summer concert series on Federal Hill Green."



Anyone wishing to mail an ornament to friends or relatives who live outside the Bristol area should contact Mary Ellen Zoppo by email at zoppome8309@yahoo.com or by calling (860) 589-1527. The mailing cost will add \$3 to the price of each ornament.

Order Your Poinsettias

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

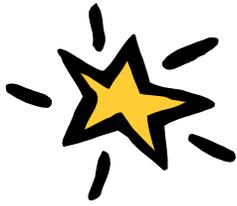


This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than December 18. Thank you.

In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number Requested	
Given by	

FOR KIDS

SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION



PUMC Christmas Pageant "The Little Shepherd" performance will be Sunday, Dec. 11 during our 10 a.m. Service.



PLEASE try to have your child be present for the next few Sundays so we can have a successful pageant.

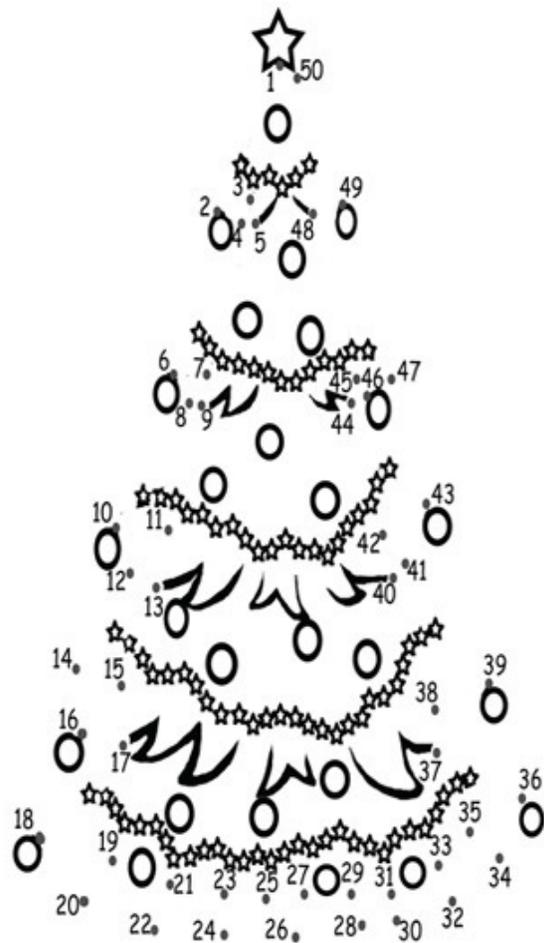
Rehearsal and Pizza Party will be Friday, December 9, from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Kids will have pizza and receive costumes.

Please note: The Victorian Tea event will have Sessions Hall decorated, so our pizza party will be at a different location in the Church. We will let you know that evening where you should park when you return for your kids if you are not staying for the rehearsal.

■ Luminary Bag Sunday School Fundraiser

We will once again be selling luminary bags to light our Christmas Eve church sidewalks. We will be handing out fundraiser envelopes for the children to ask their friends and families. Be sure your supporters fill in the "in honor of" or "in memory of" names on the order forms.

Connect the dots to see the picture.



**WITH YOUR HELP WE WILL
HAVE A GREAT PAGEANT AND BRIGHT SIDEWALKS!**

■ **Covenant to Care Christmas Giving Tree**

Here's an opportunity to make a difference in a child's life. PUMC has received 90 names from DCF of children in need of Christmas gifts. Gift tags with the child's age and suggestions for gifts are on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall. All donated gifts should be UNWRAPPED and brought to Sessions Hall by Sunday December 11, 2011 when they will be picked up by DCF to deliver in time to the children. Please see Susan Lee with any questions.

■ **Job Openings At Prospect**

Prospect UMC is hiring. There are immediate openings for two positions: an Assistant Music Director responsible for developing a dynamic, inviting, weekly children's music ministry; and a Child Care Provider, to provide safe and nurturing care to our children in a clean and secure environment while their parents attend worship services.

Complete job descriptions are available on our website: AnewProspect.org. Please forward these opportunities to anyone you think might be interested. Resumes should be submitted Joyce Rioux via the church office.

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.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold**

Return Service Requested