



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

February 2010

Vol. 71, No. 2

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

We all know how vital each functioning member has been to Prospect Church during the past year and a half of transition. There have been no small parts in our play! Leaders, however, are crucial. Without good leadership we tend to run in circles or let mole hills become mountains. Even as we're grateful for every single contributor to the mission and ministry of Prospect Church, we give an extra thank you to those who carry the mantle of leadership.



At the Church Conference on January 26th, we officially said 'Thanks for a job well done' to the following people: Terry Parker (Nominating and Lay Member of Annual Conference); Joyce Rioux (Nominating and Trustees); Kathy Dube (Staff-Parish Relations Committee); Jackie Palance (Lay Leader); Gerry Lee (Safe Sanctuaries); Kim Jobbagy (Stewardship and Member/Nurture); Chick Blair (Finance); Barbara Blais (College Scholarships).

We also elected a new Financial Secretary, Lang Ashworth, who is replacing Jane Pallokat. Jane, of course, is not easily replaced. She has overseen the transition to full computerization and, with her sharp financial abilities, has been a great asset to the church. Lang has big shoes to fill, but all believe he's most capable.

Some of our leaders left us mid-year. At the risk of omitting some names (and please forgive me for my record-keeping if I do), here are at least some of the folks who left and who, in many cases, found new work elsewhere in the church to do:

Richard King (Staff-Parish); Shirley Paulette (Sunday School Superintendent); the late Bill Myhill had resigned from Outreach leadership a few months ago. He will be sorely missed in all ways! Carol Rivard (Worship Chairperson); and Lisa King (Acolyte Coordinator).

Next month we'll include a list of persons who were newly elected.

See you at 99 Summer Street where the church is a people not just a building!

Pastor Dennis

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack
Transitional Interim Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes,
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. George E. Harris
The Rev. Alan J. Krauss
Ministers in Residence

Heidi Flower,
Director of Music & Organist
Emily Flower,
Associate Music Director
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tion necessary for the Church Secretary.)

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■ CHARGE CONFERENCE HELD

Our Annual Charge Conference was held on January 26, presided over by Rev. Laura Galbraith, pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church. There was time to review the church's celebrations, challenges, review the Annual Report of all active groups within the church, elect laity into new positions, and vote upon the 2010 Budget. The Charge Conference provided an opportunity to both review and to look ahead. You can read the minutes of this meeting on the church website — ANewProspect.org — under the Church Council link. (The website address has recently changed to make it easier to access). The Nominating and Leadership Development Report, listing all the active committee/groups and the leadership involved, also is available on the website. Check it out!

■ OUR CHURCH FAMILY

IN MEMORIAM:

Bill Myhill, January 17
Mary Cole, January 18

■ SAVE THE DATE

H S. Liederkrantz, a prize-winning men's chorus from Thomaston, will give a concert on May 22 to benefit the Prospect Organ Restoration Fund. A dinner will precede the event. Watch for details in future Towers.

■ MORE PLEDGES NEEDED

Purposeful Lord, we praise your wisdom and your insight in providing us the opportunity to give to your ministries through this local church during 2010. Through His birth and deeds, Jesus set us free from earthly limitations. Today, we joyously acknowledge that our spiritual blessings are evidence of your love for your children. May these generous gifts be applied according to your plan as we glorify your Holy Name. Amen. Ephesians 1: 3-14



In a renewed effort to close a budget gap at Prospect, pledge cards were again sent out in mid-January under the auspices of Chris Wilson, Stewardship Chair. For those who already renewed a pledge or made a new one during the Stewardship Campaign in the fall, the Stewardship Committee thanks you. However, a number of people who pledged in the past did not pledge thus far and Prospect really needs your help!

The overall goal to balance the budget, pay the salary of a full-time minister and meet building needs is \$175,000. Thus far, \$105,410 has been pledged to the general fund and \$15,860 to the building fund.

Pledges are vital to give administrative leaders a better picture of church finances both for immediate and long-range planning. "The church's expenses are ongoing whether you are in church or not. ... the legacy which we were given and the legacy we will leave depends on each member fulfilling their Christian discipleship through their prayers, presence, gifts and witness," states Chris Wilson.

You can pledge to the Program Ministry, Building Fund, or to both. If Prospect meant something to you in the past but you are no longer active, please consider pledging even if it's only a one-time gift. If you are active and have not yet made a pledge, please pledge now!

■ HELPING FEED THE HUNGRY

The Outreach Committee is happy to announce that Sue Powers has graciously volunteered to become the chief cook for the PUMC team at Zion Lutheran Church/Meals for the Needy. Sue will begin her duties in March. Thanks to Sue for keeping PUMC involved in the program and many thanks to Elaine and Bill Myhill for more than 10 years of dedicated service with this program.

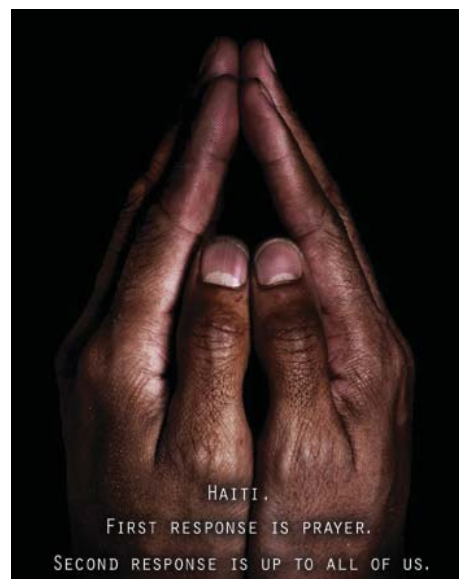
HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS --Kathy Dube

Heeding a direct appeal from New York Annual Conference Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Prospect has been collecting both monetary donations and supplies for relief kits to be distributed in earthquake-devastated Haiti. UMCOR - the United Methodist Committee on Relief — is in charge of Methodist relief efforts. “You will be glad to know that UMCOR has always had a strong presence in Haiti, and is making plans to send teams, material resources and funding to Haiti as soon as possible. When it is advisable, the New York Conference will be organizing teams to send to assist in the rebuilding of Haiti,” Bishop Park states in a letter to all New York Annual Conference churches.

The Revs. Tom and Wendy Vencuss of the New York Conference, who were in the Methodist Guest House in Haiti, are safe, the Bishop reports. The guest house experienced very minor damages with no injuries to the occupants. Many United Methodists from throughout the United States were in Haiti participating as volunteers in mission. However, he continues, the Conference is saddened by news of the death of two UMCOR leaders who were in Port-au-Prince to participate with persons from other agencies towards the improvement of health services in the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wesley Dixon, Jr., top executive officer of UMCOR, died amidst the ruins of the Hotel Montana before he could be rescued; and the Rev. Clint Rabb, director of the Volunteers in Mission office, died in a Florida Hospital after having been airlifted there. Both men were based in UMCOR’s New York office and thus were part of our New York Annual Conference family.

In the meantime, Bishop Park says: “I ask you to pray for the people of Haiti and to give generously to the relief efforts of UMCOR. Every dollar we send goes filled with faith in Jesus Christ to make a radical difference in the lives of these our sisters and brothers whose suffering we can barely imagine. ... With our gifts we can be bearers of the love of Christ bringing healing and hope.”

A bit of history about Haiti from the World Council of Churches: Haiti is situated on the western part of the island of Hispaniola, discovered by Columbus in 1492. The indigenous people were exterminated by the Spanish, who ceded the territory to the French



in 1697. A century later, the slaves imported from Africa to work on sugar plantations rebelled and finally defeated the French army. In 1804 Haiti became the first nation of the world which liberated itself from slavery and colonial power. But the independence resulted in depletion of the economy and natural resources, political instability and social violence. The hopes for change and development raised by the election of Jean Bertrand Aristide in 1990 were crushed after a few years. Lack of political and economic governance, generalized violence, and a devastated environment contribute to make Haiti one of the poorest countries in the world. Civil society groups, churches and political parties are trying to break the spiral of violence and impoverishment. Traditionally Haiti has been Catholic. Voodoo, the Afro-Haitian cult, has a strong hold on the people. Protestant missions started working in the 19th century.

Donate a health kit

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has close ties with the Methodist Church in Haiti and is responding to the devastating earthquake with funding, material resources and prayers.

UMCOR Sager Brown is coordinating a shipment of health kits to provide individuals with basic necessities.

Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster.

What's in a Health Kit

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(NOTE: Toothpaste is purchased in bulk to be added to health kits to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

Can you help with any of these items? If you can, bring them to Sessions Hall.

■ DISTRICT TRAINING DAY

Several members from Prospect attended a District Resource Training Day, entitled "What Is Working?", on January 24 at Golden Hill U.M.C. in Bridgeport. Workshops were offered on Creativity in Worship, Mission Opportunities, Lay Leadership, Technology and Giving, and Care of the Pastor. The event was open to all leaders, laity and clergy. Tom and Wendy Vencuss, pastors from Wethersfield who returned safely from a mission trip to Haiti, spoke before the workshops.

Jill Wilson, Church Council chair, said of the workshops which were led by District leadership: "The Methodist Church is a very organized structure. As a church, we are automatically linked to others who have shared interests and goals. Attending events like the Resource Day allows us direct access to those with expertise in our district and conference, who are working on the same visions and available to help us with ours."

Energy Saving Idea - Carll Pallok

To better illuminate your house without negatively impacting your budget, put lamps in corners of the rooms so light reflects off two walls. Use light colors on walls, ceilings and floors to reflect more light.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

The only pastor of Prospect ever to be elected a Methodist bishop, Rev. Dr. Ernest G. Richardson, returned to the church to dedicate a plaque to benefactor William E. Sessions at a 100th anniversary service on Oct. 28, 1934.

Dr. Richardson served as pastor of Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church, the original name of today's Prospect United Methodist Church, from 1910 through 1912. Dr. Richardson later was elected a bishop, serving Philadelphia at the time of the centennial anniversary. The plaque, located in the back of the sanctuary on the left side of the center entrance, is dedicated to W. E. Sessions ... "Who enriched the church with his life and his many benefactions." W.E. , son of John Humphrey Sessions, the original Sessions benefactor, was born in 1857 and died in 1920. More information about Mr. Sessions and his "benefactions" to the church and its children will be noted in future Towers.

LIVING GREEN

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.

FEBRUARY 2010

Meeting Schedule

February 7	Worship 11:30 a.m.
February 8	Rethink Church 7 p.m.
February 9	Church Council 7 p.m.

Worship

Lent is nearly upon us, with Ash Wednesday coming on February 17. Lent is a season of spiritual preparation for the coming of Easter, a time of personal reflection on our walk with God. There will be two Ash Wednesday services: 12 Noon with soup lunch and 7 p.m.

Events

February 13	Monster Trucks
February 16	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6 p.m.

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99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
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