



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

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January 2009

Vol. 70, No. 1

## **From the Pastor's Pen**

Dear Friends and Members of Prospect:

2008 was quite a year! If anyone last January 1st would have predicted that the economy would nosedive into the worst crisis since the Great Depression; that the Dow Jones average would have a one-day gain of 936 and a one-day loss of 733; that General Motors and Chrysler would essentially be bankrupt; that the US government would take major ownership of some insurance companies and banks – that person would have been laughed out of the room!



What will 2009 be like? Anyone who dares answer must do so knowing that no one with any sense will believe him or her.

Truth be told, life in general is more like 2008 than not. A cynic would say that “Life is what happens while you’re making other plans.” A person of faith would say with the writer of Proverbs, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.” (Proverbs 27:1)

“Be prepared” is not just the motto of the Boy Scouts. It’s also a motto of those who follow the way of Christ knowing that life is uncertain at best. And how do we “be prepared?” By drawing close to God and keeping close to God. If we do this, whatever comes our way will not cause us to lose either faith or hope and enable us to respond in love.

As the new year unfolds, we will be unpacking more of the Natural Church Development suggestions for dealing with our church’s minimum factor, “passionate spirituality.” Since drawing close to God and keeping close to God is at the heart of a passionate spirituality, we plan to provide our members with a variety of means (study groups, prayer groups, outreach opportunities and the like) to help us prepare ourselves for life’s challenges and opportunities so that whatever 2009 and beyond brings, we lose neither faith nor hope and respond to the life God has given us with love.

See you in church,

*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. Albert H. Scholten  
The Rev. George E. Harris  
The Rev. Alan J. Krauss  
Ministers in Residence

Heidi Flower,  
Director of Music & Organist  
Graceann Grindal,  
Assoc. Organist & Director  
Amy Kelley, Chapel Organist

Karen Burke, Secretary  
Earl Struble, Sexton

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Website:

[http://www.gbgm-umc.org/  
prospect-ct/index.htm](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/index.htm)

## ■ STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS ENCOURAGING - *Chris Wilson, Chairman of Stewardship Campaign*

The results of the recently concluded stewardship campaign are quite positive: \$120,000 was

pledged towards the general fund and \$17,500 towards the building fund for 2009. This compares to \$108,000 and \$16,500, respectively, for 2008. Even more encouraging is that 55 families increased their pledges from 2008 to 2009.

We had approximately 20 families pledge in 2009 who did not pledge in 2008. Some families who pledged still have not returned their pledge cards. If those families return them, these results will be much improved over 2008. The Stewardship Committee will send out another appeal in January to those members who have not returned their pledge cards.

The committee will continue to work throughout 2009 to reach the goal of \$150,000. Clearly, Prospect is making progress towards stabilizing our financial situation. You have become part of the sustaining legacy of Prospect United Methodist Church.

**Stewardship  
encompasses all  
that we are and  
all that we do.**

## ■ PARISH CONSULTANTS TO MEET

- *Jill Wilson, Church Council  
Chairperson*

Parish consultants Diane Hornaday and Rev. Eric Fjeldal will meet with interested church members as a follow-up to the Parish Outreach Network Project at the January Church Council meeting on Tuesday, January 20. The discussion, including evaluations and recommendations from the networking project conducted over the summer, will be the highlight of the meeting.

The pair spent much of the summer meeting with church members and perusing surveys submitted by others who could not attend a meeting on a variety of church-related issues, some of which were sensitive in nature. Interpersonal relationships including reconciliation, committee responsibility and interactions, will be part of the discussion. People who are not members of the Church Council are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

## ■ CHURCH CAMP ALUMNI SOUGHT

Jane and Carll Pallokat ask anyone who ever attended any of the three Conference church camps — Quinipet, Epworth or Kingswood — to contact them to share contact information, including

addresses (both postal and internet) and telephone numbers as well as memories of their experiences. The Pallokats can be reached by e-mail at [jpallokat@yahoo.com](mailto:jpallokat@yahoo.com) or by telephone at (860) 485-1501. They want to build a database of former campers, parents of campers, former staff and retreat participants. Please provide maiden names if appropriate. Each of the camps will be profiled in upcoming issues of the Tower.

### HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

*The current economic plight of Prospect Church certainly is a major concern to current church members, but travel back in time to Prospect of 70 years ago and you would realize how a lack of money was a dominant issue in December of 1938. A letter from Edgar French, chairman of the Finance Committee that year, was sent to all church members saying the church was unable to pay the salaries of church staff. [Note: Edgar French was the father of one of Prospect's oldest church members, Virginia French Wall, a long-time member of the History Committee.] The letter stated that the church was in serious financial straits and that if only all church members would give \$1 each, it would go a long way toward alleviating the situation.*

# PROSPECT'S LEADERS FOR 2009

## Submitted by Nominating and Leadership Development

Approved By The Church Conference

December 16, 2008

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*The Nominating Committee would like to thank each of the members of Prospect who volunteered to serve.*

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### **Nominating/Leadership Development Committee**

- Dennis Winkleblack, Chairperson
- Jill Wilson, Vice Chairperson
- A Lay Leader
- 2009: Terry Parker, Jill Wilson, Joyce Rioux
- 2010: Elizabeth Baker, Ron Ciarcia, Louise Schaffrick
- 2011: Jeff Paulette, Chick Blair

### **Board of Trustees**

- 2009: Ron Baker, Chris Wilson, Joyce Rioux
- 2010: Tammy Kelly, Terry Parker, Mike Fasci
- 2011: Sue Powers, John Hickman, Ray Barker

### **Staff Parish Relations Committee**

- Bill Katt, Chairperson
- A Lay Leader
- 2009: Kathy Dube, Rita Farren, Tim Krauss
- 2010: Bill Katt, Richard King, Diane Ashworth
- 2011: Jerry Rivard, Naomi McConnell, Rebecca Gibbs

### **Bargain Center**

- Chairperson: Elaine Myhill
- Frieda Prescott, Stephanie Naumchick, Colleen Shover

### **Finance Team**

- Chairperson: John Hickman
- Treasurer: Tim Krauss, Linda Ice
- Financial Secretary: Jane Pallokat
- Council Chairperson: Jill Wilson
- Trustee Representative: *TBA*
- Staff Parish Representative: *TBA*
- Lay Member to Annual Conference: *TBA*
- Auditor:
- A Lay Leader
- 2009: Flo Alverides, Chick Blair
- 2010: Kim Jobbagy
- 2011: John Hickman, Don Titus

### **Stewardship Team**

- Chairperson: *TBA*
- A Lay Leader
- 2009: Kimberly Jobbagy
- 2010: Laura Taylor
- 2011: Barry Nolan, Tim Wilson

### **Education Team**

- Chairperson: Shirley Paulette
- Barry Nolan, Diane Ashworth, Lang Ashworth,
- Kim Jobbagy, Susie Parker, Eleanor Riker, Callie Riotte
- A Lay Leader
- Librarian: *TBA*
- Music Liaison: Graceann Grindal
- Crib Nursery: Esther Contois
- Scholarship Fund: Barbara Fasci
- Adult Education: *TBA*
- UMYF: Diane Ashworth

## **Church Council**

- Chairperson: Jill Wilson
- Vice Chairperson: Linda Ice
- Lay Leader: Jackie Palance (2009)
- Assoc. Lay Leader: David Kelly (2010)
- Recording Secretary: Jackie Palance
- Membership Secretary: Louise Schaffrick
- Lay Members to Annual Conference: Tim Krauss; Jackie Palance; Terry Parker
- Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference: Janice Moore
- Trustee Chairperson: Sue Powers
- Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson: Bill Katt
- Stewardship Chairperson: *TBA*
- Finance Chairperson: John Hickman
- Treasurers: Tim Krauss, Linda Ice
- Financial Secretary: Jane Pallokat
- Assistant to Financial Secretary: Flo Alverides
- Sunday School Superintendent: Shirley Paulette
- Christian Education Chairperson: Shirley Paulette
- Outreach Chairperson: Bill Myhill
- Worship Chairperson: Carol Rivard
- Roberts Fund Co-Chairpersons: Beth Provost and Mattie Verzino
- Member Nurture Chairpersons: Dori Nolan and Linda Ice
- History Chairperson: Vivian Brackett
- Scholarship Chairperson: Barbara Fasci
- Country Cupboard Fair Chairperson: Karen Rochelle
- Boy Scout Liaison: Jerry Lee
- Safe Sanctuaries Liaison: Jerry Lee
- United Methodist Youth Leader: Diane Ashworth
- Men's Fellowship Chairperson: Bill Thibodeau
- Women's Group Chairperson: Jackie Palance

## **Outreach and Missions Team**

- Chairperson: Bill Myhill
- Covenant to Care Chairperson: Susan Lee
- Cheer: Colleen Shover
- Zion Meals: Bill and Elaine Myhill
- Bargain Center: Elaine Myhill
- Friends of Prospect: Barbara Fasci and Carolyn Koboski
- A Lay Leader

## **Member Nurture Team**

- Co-Chairpersons: Dori Nolan and Linda Ice
- 2009: Kimberly Jobbagy, Dori Nolan
- 2010: Kristina Yard
- 2011: Linda Ice, Diane Ashworth
- A Lay Leader

## Worship Team

- Chairperson: Carol Rivard
- Altar Guild: Janice Moore
- Music Director: Heidi Flower
- Co-Head Ushers: Bill Katt, John Hickman
- Greeters: Carolyn Koboski
- Acolytes: Lisa King
- Communion Stewards: Lori and Chuck Pelkey
- A Lay Leader
- 2010: Tammy Kelly
- 2011: Diane Skelskey, Jeanette Baker, Marion Hickman

## Funeral Reception Team

- Chairperson: Susan Powers
- Flo Alverides, Liz Baker, Marjorie Herold, Janice Moore, Jean Osborne, Jane Pallokat, Louise Schaffrick, Irene Taylor

## College Scholarships

- Chairperson: Barbara Fasci
- Liz Baker, Ray Barker, Barbara Blais, Deborah Fasci, Beverly Lovell, Gail McDonald, Barry Nolan, Don Titus, Terry Parker

## Roberts Fund

- Co-Chairpersons: Beth Provost and Mattie Verzino
- Susan Lee, Bill Myhill, Deborah Fasci

## Church History

- Chairperson: Vivian Brackett
- Ron Baker, Marjorie Herold, Jane Pallokat, Art Peterson, Charles Ricker, Virginia Wall, Kathy Dube

## Membership Records

- Chairperson: Louise Schaffrick
- Lorraine Bulliss, Barbara Blais, Sue Powers, Elizabeth Baker, Jane Pallokat

## Technology

- John Rioux, Bob Rioux, Tim Krauss, Michael Fasci, Tim Wilson
- Web-Master: Jeanette Baker

## Communications (Publicity)

- Kathy Dube

## ■ GIVING THANKS - Susan Lee

*Thank You to all who participated in this year's annual Covenant to Care/ DCF Foster Children's Christmas Party held on Friday evening December 5! Your generous donation of time, talent and goods helped bring a little bit of joy to over 200 children that evening. Your caring contributions are an inspiration to work with.*



*Thank you also to all who donated Christmas gifts and wrappings for the 112 gift tag names we were asked to help with by DCF. As has been noted before, after we loaded the gifts into the DCF van, it was as if the Spirit surrounding that Christmas tree in Sessions Hall had gone with the gifts into the van. The Christmas lights were on the tree, but it was bare below the tree. The Spirit was sent to those children. Your generosity and care in gift selections were evident and moving.*

# JANUARY 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

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| January 13 | Finance, 7 p.m.    |
| January 19 | Staff Parish       |
| January 20 | Church Council     |
| January 27 | Outreach 6:30 p.m. |

## EVENTS

On January 10, 2009 there will be a Women of Prospect meeting at Jackie Palance's house in Plainville at 9:30 a.m. The group will be planning the Chili Cook-off that will take place on Pot Luck Sunday, January 25th. Breakfast will be provided. Please see Jackie for details and directions. All women are invited to attend.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| January 2009  | Outreach      |
| February 2009 | Women's Group |
| March 2009    | History       |

## POTLUCK

The potluck for January will be on the 25th. Bring a favorite dish and join us after service for a potluck lunch. All are welcome even if you can't bring a dish.

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