



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

January 2012

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Pastor's Page

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19



Happy New Year! And now, with the beginning of a new year, we have new opportunities to make disciples of Jesus. I know that that is probably not on your list of New Year's resolutions—but we are in the business of discipleship. As a church, and as individuals, we are called to witness to our world about the Gospel message of grace and new life in Jesus Christ.

Last month, I shared with you about one of our goals for the next four years. These goals were drawn up during a planning retreat which was held a few months ago. We used a resource from the United Methodist Council of Bishops as our guide. We had a very open discussion about our church, about the direction it was going and our hopes for the future. Out of this came a consensus on our goals—one of these goals focused on evangelism.

Now, when we talk about evangelism, mainline Protestants usually pull themselves back. I'm not sure why. It could be because people have visions of huge evangelistic crusades, with charismatic leaders preaching to thousands and thousands of people. It could be because, we're from New England and we just don't do that sort of thing. Or, related to this, we were taught that polite people never talk about politics or religion.



But, evangelism is a part of the Christian experience—it is a part of who we are as God's people. Evangelism comes in many forms. It could be as simple as a word of encouragement or an invitation to a church supper. It could involve leading a Bible Study or holding a special worship service. Evangelism could involve simply offering a kind word to someone you've just met, or it could involve sharing the reason why you are feeling joyful.

Prospect United Methodist Church

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Evangelism comes in many forms and reflects the diversity of our experience as a congregation.

So, one of our goals is to simply talk about evangelism (It is a Methodist tradition to study a subject, make it our own and then go out and do it!) and its implication for our lives. We will be talking about evangelism in our worship services, and hopefully we will come to see it as a natural extension of ourselves and our personalities. Instead of something that we "must do" on a long list of things we need to do, evangelism should flow freely from us all. And, in addition to worship, look for Bible and book studies that will focus on evangelism later this year.

And, related to this, we will start having "low pressure" alter calls periodically during worship. If you would like to commit or recommit your life to Christ, you can do it in a safe, non-judgmental, environment. Or, if you would like to have me pray with you over something which is important to you, the alter rail is good safe place to have it happen.

Evangelism is an important part of our Christian experience. We need to move beyond the stereotypes to find the authentic heart of sharing our faith.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

■ Two Hired With Grant

The Staff Parish Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of two child-care providers for our Nursery. Fay Ann Tolassi and Alexandria Paulette will staff the Nursery every Sunday starting January 8 and continuing through June. They are excited to be in the Nursery and look forward to meeting you.

A special grant was received from the Roberts Fund to fund these positions as we pilot this ministry. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to use this resource for all young children and we hope you will spread the word. If you prefer to remain with your child, know that two adults will be there to greet you and assist you with any of your child care needs.

■ Signs Point The Way

Have you ever tried to find your way in a non-familiar place? You don't know where to park, what room the event takes place in, where the bathrooms are, etc. It can be frustrating! Now think if you were new to PUMC: Would you know how to get around? Well now, you can, thanks to the work of the Member Nurture Committee, which has installed signs throughout the church

building. With Prospect home to such a large building, Member Nurture felt we need a lot of signs to help put people at ease when they come to worship or just to visit. These clear, readable signs are found at every major intersection inside of the Church, directing visitors where to go. This is yet another way that Prospect welcomes newcomers!

■ Martin Luther King

On Feb. 4, 1968, two months before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered his last sermon at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. In it, he described his preferences for his own funeral. He didn't want people to mention his Nobel Peace Prize, his other awards or where he went to school; none of that was important, he said. Instead, he wanted his eulogist to say King "tried to give his life serving others" and "tried to love somebody."



In that sermon, King also said "everybody can serve," regardless of background or educational level. The only requirements, he said, were "a heart full of grace" and "a soul generated by love."

MISSION TRIP ENRICHING FOR JILL WILSON

Jill Wilson of Prospect Church recently participated in a Mountains of Hope mission project of the New York Conference, UMC, to Furcy, a remote village in the mountains of Haiti. Jill, who has a nursing background, joined other Conference Methodists in a medical mission to assist the doctor who visits the village once a week. She took along supplies for birthing kits donated by Prospect Church members.



Here are Jill's observations on the trip: "Furcy, Haiti, is a very remote village area in the mountains at 5,000 feet above sea level. It is a place where families live without electricity and running water.

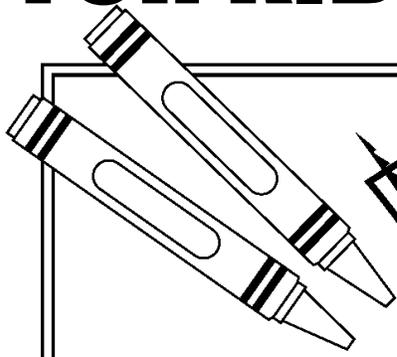
The people work hard physically every day just to live. I was able to step into their lives briefly with some others from our New York Annual Conference on a "Volunteers in Mission" trip.

"People ask me, 'How was it?' I cannot answer this in 10 words or less, but I can say it was enriching, emotional, enlightening, and impressive. Donations from you, the people of Prospect, allowed me to bring 29 birthing kits, many knit hats, and blankets. I also brought enough cash to provide two hot meals to the children (approximately 200) in the Methodist school.

"I will be sharing more details of my trip with some photos during the worship service on January 29. The Haitians in Furcy have established a wonderful relationship with the teams of volunteers who have steadily streamed there over the last eight years. Progress has occurred and hope lives in their hearts. They look forward to future teams, and have a trusting relationship with the Methodists."

Join Jill on the 29th to see first-hand what Furcy is like. If you want to know more about Mountains of Hope, the website is **www.mountainsofhopeforhaiti.org**.

FOR KIDS

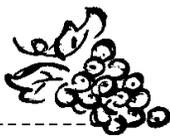


PUZZLE

A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

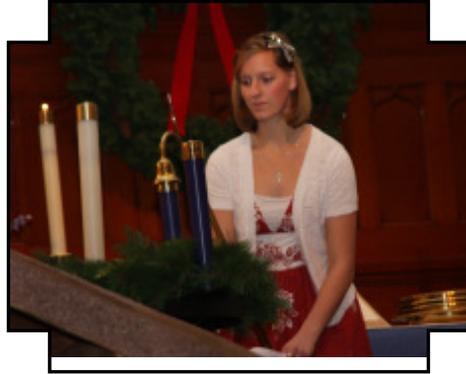
Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			

Her name in Greek

___ pdeesh		
___ dchilnero		
___ drove		
___ acehtr		
___ sarcos		
___ nusoa tinm		

PUMC Christmas Pageant *"The Little Shepherd"*

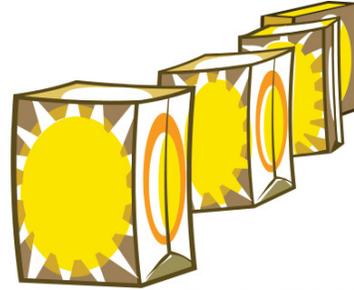


■ Spirit of Christmas

The spirit of Christmas traveled from members of our Congregation to our Covenant to Care for Children Giving Tree, then out the Church door and into the car of the DCF Social Workers last week. It will continue on its journey when the gifts are brought to the children in need. Thank you so much for your generosity and caring for those children who have been through so much in their young lives. You made a real difference.

Susan Lee

■ Lights of Love



LUMINARIA

The Education Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of the Christmas Eve Luminary Bags Sunday School Fundraiser. The luminary bags lit our sidewalks on Christmas Eve for both services. Thank you for helping us welcome the Christ Child with lights of love.

A New Year's Blessing

*May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.*

—Author unknown



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

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

Return Service Requested