



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

March 2011

Vol. 72, No. 3

From the Pastor's Pen



The holy season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 9. As in past years, we will gather to worship God and begin the seasonal ritual of self-examination with two services: one at Noon in the Chapel and the other at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Our Lenten studies begin Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m.. Janice Moore will lead an exciting, rewarding five-week study titled, "The Psalms – Grown Ups Letters to God."

The sermon title for the first Sunday in Lent, March 13, is "And After the Flood – a Rainbow." Noah and the ark get their due attention! The sermon on March 20 should be memorable. We're going to use our new video technology in a way we haven't thus far as it supplements my sermon, "Is the Cross Out of Date?" I'm betting you'll leave still talking about it!

In the last analysis, Lent is a gift. It's a time to come clean with God and with ourselves knowing that forgiveness and acceptance are guaranteed in the process. I sincerely hope you'll receive the gift being offered.

In Christ's Hope,
Pastor Dennis

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Transitional Interim Pastor

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ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 9

*The season of Lent begins
on Ash Wednesday.
Come and begin your Lenten
journey to the Easter cross
in a service that includes the
traditional imposition of ashes.*

Our Church Family

OUR NEWEST MEMBER

We welcomed Prospect's newest member, **Alecia Bohan**, on February 27. Alecia lives in Burlington with her husband and son, Cody, and teaches Spanish at Lewis Mills High School. She has already begun involvement with PUMC through the Saturday morning Mothers' Group. Welcome, Alecia!



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Leah Elizabeth Aparo, daughter of Sara and Daniel Aparo, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 30th.

Noah Alan Vargas, son of Amber Martin and Ramon Vargas, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 13th.

■ Wills and Legacies

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life with what we give." ~ Winston Churchill

The Christian concept of stewardship, which John Wesley saw as a vital part of Christian love and discipleship, encourages effective use of all the gifts God has given us—time, talents, and resources, including all types of financial assets. Each of us has a wonderful opportunity to support future missions and work of Prospect United Methodist Church through our planned giving, including wills, bequests and trusts.

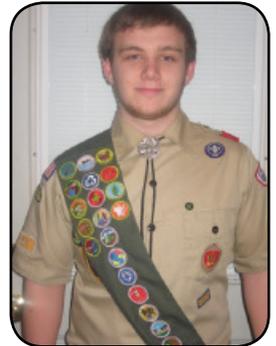
These gifts may be given as either "restricted" or "unrestricted". Restricted gifts may be designated for a special purpose. Money will be withdrawn from earnings only, leaving the original gift intact. Unrestricted gifts will be used at the discretion of the church trustees in support of church programs.

Please consider such gifts for present and future growth of PUMC.

If you need further explanation or assistance please contact Ray Barker or Chris Wilson.

■ Kyle Pelletier Becomes Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Kyle Pelletier, a member of Prospect Church who attained the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor ceremony held at Plainville Middle School on January 6. Prospect is a direct beneficiary of Kyle's Eagle Scout initiative, as he chose to spruce up the Prospect United Methodist Church sign and landscape last summer for his project.



Son of Earl and Tammy Pelletier and a Plainville resident, Kyle is a freshman at Central Connecticut State University. His sister Abby, 10, a Girl Scout, was on hand for the ceremony along with his parents. He was recognized by the Plainville Town Council with a proclamation for the achievement, the highest rank in Boy Scouting, on February 7. Kyle belongs to Troop 66 based at Frank T. Wheeler School in Plainville.



Before Kyle could start the work in June, he had to raise money for supplies. He eventually raised \$265 through a can drive. Despite setbacks caused by weather conditions, including humid, rainy weather and temperatures reaching 100 degrees, Kyle finished the accomplishment by Labor Day, about the time he was starting his first semester in college.

Scouts need at least 21 badges to become an Eagle Scout. One of his favorites was the one for aviation. He plans to continue with Boy Scouts. He was guided by retired Scoutmaster Tom Bartolleta and present Scoutmaster Jeremy Walker.

Visit us on the web at ANewProspect.org

Lent



■ Prayer Ministry

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ~ Philippians 4:6

What is prayer? Prayer is simply communicating with God—listening and talking to him. You can talk to Him about anything that concerns you. Tell Him your dreams. Share your concerns for your loved ones. Talk out your fears with Him. In prayer we also show our gratitude, joys and praise to Him.

In addition to the Sunday Service prayer requests and the prayer chain, Prospect is offering another prayer ministry. Each Sunday in Lent the congregation is invited to write a prayer concern or thanksgiving on a piece of paper and then drop it in the offering plate. After the service there will be a prayer group who will lift up those requests to God in the Chapel. The request can be a chance to seek prayer for a need for yourself, to pray through a concern you have for others, or simply to share in giving thanks for God's blessings.

The purpose of the prayer ministry is to encourage and promote prayer within the life of the church. By being open to prayer, we pray that God's love, guidance and healing power would be released for the benefit of His people and to His glory.

■ Palm Sunday Cantata

The Senior Choir will be presenting "Here is Love" during worship service on Palm Sunday. This cantata from Larry Shackley centers on the events of Holy Week. Well-known contemporary and traditional music as well as original compositions tell the story of Christ's life, death and resurrection. If you are interested in joining us for this special event, please speak with Heidi or any choir member. We rehearse each Wednesday evening from 8 to 9 p.m. in the choir room and welcome all voices!

A Lenten Reflection

*Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
Give up pessimism—become an optimist.
Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.
Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.
Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred—return good for evil.
Give up negativism—be positive.
Give up anger—be more patient.
Give up pettiness—become mature.
Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
Give up sin—turn to virtue.
Give up giving up—hang in there!*

■ Lenten Marriage Workshop

Whether you are just starting out, raising a family, or are empty-nesters, this workshop is for you. It is based on Adam Hamilton's book *Making Love Last a Lifetime*. On March 12 come hear Adam's advice and Biblical perspectives on healthy relationships. Healthy discussion and hilarity is guaranteed. See Eleanor Riker to RSVP. Child care will be available.

■ Bible Study

"The Psalms - Songs and Poetry of the Bible: Grown Ups Letters to God" begins Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. This is a five-week study. The group will investigate different types of writing found in the psalms, and the three types of psalms - wisdom, lament, and joy.

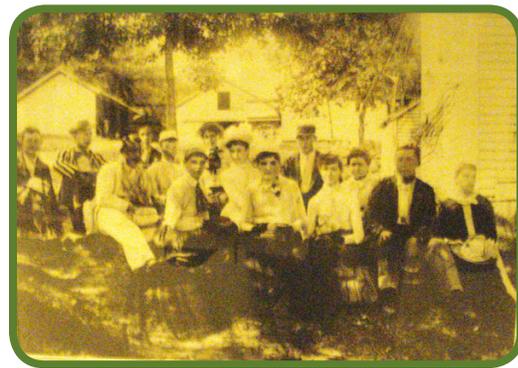
■ An Online Study Opportunity, The Awkward Season: A Lent Retreat

The retreat will begin on Wednesday, March 9, and run through Monday, April 25, as participants in small groups engage in personal daily prayer practice; read and discuss Scripture with retreat participants from near and far; and journey through Lent and to Easter together. Participants should plan to log in approximately three times weekly at a time of day which is convenient to their own schedules. To enroll, go to <http://beadisciple.com/workshops.html#LentRetreat>

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Towering Memories - Kathy Dube

William E. Sessions, whose life has been depicted in the most recent Prospect In Earlier Days columns, was such a towering figure in the history of our church, older church members still had vivid memories of Mr. Sessions and his wife, Emily, decades after they died. Here are some anecdotes related by members at past historical celebrations:



Helen (Wooding) Rowe: "William E. encouraged ministers to sponsor paid quartets. His son, W. Kenneth Sessions, was a tenor soloist. On several occasions he paid for an orchestra. He was quite a portly gentleman, but he was beautifully tailored. He was very kind to the little kids. He called them his "flower garden."

Leslie Wright: "While working as a "water boy" at Beleden, the Sessions mansion on Bellevue Avenue, I remember W.E.'s wife putting her feet into the pool. She was quite a lady." ... "I sure remember the trips to the Lake. I remember W.E. paying for an extra trolley ride. We went to Lake Compounce and Hubbard Park in Meriden and Lake Quassapaug in Middlebury. We went by trolley."

Myrle (French) Mitchell: "I remember a church fair held at Beleden, and Mrs. Sessions running around in a fancy hat."

Leila (Herold) Judd: "Mr. Sessions was the first person to give me a ride in an automobile. I was 12 or so. He'd take four to six kids at a time."

Bob Kirkwood: "He was a very large man, very generous and good-hearted, and one who loved kids. He used to love to sing and play the piano. When I went to work at the Foundry, he had me send two carloads of coal to the Methodist Church and he paid the entire bill. At Christmas parties W.E. gave an orange to each Sunday School child. An orange in those days was quite a thing." Of the trolley rides, he recalled, "Boy, did that trolley go when we went to Hubbard Park."

Clarkson Barnes: "I have a Bible, given to me in the third grade, and the inscription reads, 'from your friend, W.E.' Lake Compounce was the scene of many Sunday School picnics over the years. On the day of the picnic, W.E. would arrange with the Tramway Company to have special trolley cars that went directly to the Lake. ... no fares were collected. Later on, a bill was sent to Mr. Sessions at the Foundry ... These special trolleys started at four locations: the corner of Park and Tulip streets, the North side corner, First Congregational Church and Forestville center. Another thing W.E. did ... was give away tickets for practically every concession."

[The concluding column in this series will focus on Mr. Sessions' role with Mt. Hope Chapel on Chippens Hill.]

LIVING GREEN

WAYS TO HELP THE PLANET

■ RECYCLE GLASS

Recycled glass reduces related air pollution by 20 percent and related water pollution by 50 percent. If it isn't recycled it can take a million years to decompose.

■ HANG DRY

Get a clothesline or rack to dry your clothes by the air. Your wardrobe will maintain color and fit, and you'll save money.

■ USE ONE LESS PAPER NAPKIN

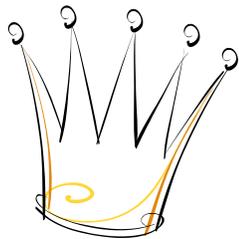
During an average year, an American uses approximately 2,200 napkins—around six each day. If everyone in the U.S. used one less napkin a day, more than a billion pounds of napkins could be saved from landfills each year.

■ **Attention birth to three-year-old child families**

In the foreseeable future, if you plan to have a birth to three-year-old child with you at our Sunday 10 a.m. services, the Nursery Care Focus Group would like you to complete a survey that will help us connect what you feel would be best for your personal situation to the type of Nursery Care we may be able to provide as your Church Family. Please go to our Church website and click on the survey link under what's new to print the survey. Completed surveys should be mailed to Shirley Paulette, 199 Westwood Road, Bristol, CT 06010.

SAVE THE DATE

A Night In The Renaissance
Proceeds to benefit the Organ
Restoration Fund



Let us transport you to a time of romance, adventure and merriment. You will feast on hearty foods and quaff refreshing libations whilst minstrels and merry makers entertain you. Leave the 21st century behind and come raise a glass in a toast to the Royal Family, sing songs of good cheer and enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

When: Saturday, April 30th and Saturday, May 7th

Where: Prospect United Methodist Church, 99 Summer Street, Bristol, CT, 6 p.m.

Tickets ~ Adults \$25.00, Children 10 and under \$15.00

This is a reserved ticket event - No Tickets Will Be Sold At The Door

For tickets and more information call Luisa Gladu at 860-582-8383 or email TheGladus@comcast.net

MAILBAG

Excerpts from a letter received from Shirley Dickau, Associate in Ministry at Zion Lutheran Church:

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the many food items that you collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday" and donated to "Meals for the Needy." All of those items will be served at our evening soup kitchen or made available to our clients at our food pantry. I understand that the young people of Prospect made a wonderful video about the "Souper Bowl" that was shown to the congregation. What a wonderful idea!

The people of Prospect United Methodist Church have a long history of helping the hungry of our community. There have been many caring and dedicated members of Prospect who have helped prepare and serve meals at "Meals for the Needy" for many years. Your congregation has been a blessing to many in our community and this latest donation of food items is just another indication of your commitment to assist those in need.

Thank you and God bless you for your participation in "Souper Bowl Sunday" and for donating the items collected for "Meals for the Needy." And to the young people of Prospect: I understand that your video may be put on your Facebook page - I look forward to seeing it!!

Grinder Sunday - Barbara Fasci, Chairperson
Thanks to all who purchased or made a donation to the scholarship grinder sale. A profit of \$1,270 was made to support the scholarship fund. Three cheers to our wonderful kitchen crew. Scholarship forms are now available for pick up in the church office. Applications must be submitted by May 2, 2011.

Help Received - Carol Rivard, Coordinator
Instead of writing "Help Wanted," I am thrilled to write that help has been received. Eight individuals have stepped up and joined the crew to keep the interior of our building looking ship shape. Fifteen people, each taking a small part of the job, are getting the big job done. Thank you everyone for pitching in! The rest of us really appreciate it!

March 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Rethink 7 pm	8 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6pm	9 Ash Wednesday Service Noon and 7 pm	10	11 Hockey Night 7pm	12 Lenten Marriage Workshop 7 pm	13
14 Member/Nurture 7 pm	15	16	17 Lenten Study 7pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Lenten Study 7pm	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Lenten Study 7pm	SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service 10:00 a.m. Church School		

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)