

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

March 2009

Vol. 70, No. 3

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Members and Friends of Prospect Church:

The holy season of Lent is upon us. Your church will gather on Sunday mornings with inspiring worship and sermons designed to lead us to a closer walk with our Lord. In addition, we will worship God on Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. A Good Friday service is also scheduled for April 10 at Noon. Also, our choir has been working hard on presenting a Palm Sunday cantata on Palm Sunday, April 5 at 4 p.m. In sum, we want to be ready to celebrate the new life of Easter by giving God a chance to make something new in us.



We will have only one Lenten study this year: on the Sunday afternoons of March from 4 to 5:30 p.m. with some wonderful soup following for those who care to stay. Free childcare will also be offered each week.

The focus of these five Sunday afternoons in March will be the series of sermons, "If We're Really Serious." As with our worship opportunities, I am praying that these hours together will both deepen our faith and help God show us God's vision for our life together as Prospect Church.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Dennis

LENTEN STUDY

Beginning Sunday, March 1 and continuing on all the Sundays in March from 4 to 5:30 p.m. I will lead a discussion of the issues presented in the sermons. I really hope you will be there. A scrumptious (though properly Lenten) Soup dinner will follow if you can stay. Free childcare will be provided.

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

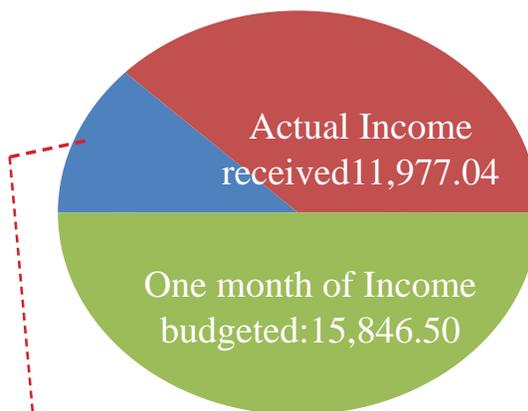
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Website:
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/index.htm>

■ FINANCIAL UPDATE

A month of snowy Sundays in January had an adverse impact on Prospect's finances. Here is an update:



Income shortfall January 09: 3,869.46

If you were unable to keep up with your contributions because of the weather, please help put Prospect's income back on track to meeting the Budget!

Stewardship Chairman Chris Wilson extends thanks to all who made a financial commitment to the Stewardship Campaign. The final tally was \$122,000, up from the \$108,000 pledged for 2008. Sixty-nine families either increased their pledge(s) or are new pledgers to Prospect.

Although this is short of the \$150,000 goal, Chris says, "We made great strides towards becoming more financially stable. It will take the concerted effort of all of us over the next several years to underwrite the expenses and mission of the church."

"As we all work together, Prospect is becoming a vital and important church. Your donation and pledge coupled with those that sit next to you in the pew made it possible that we live our Christian heritage faithfully and with purpose."

■ OUR ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS

Jill Wilson

We are blessed with a very devoted congregation!! Volunteers are staffing the roles of church secretary and sexton. The appeal was made and the response has been wonderful. Everyone heard the appeal as evidenced by their ages, which range between 11 and 88 years old! Everyone is doing something. Volunteers are having fun together, little problems that pop up have been quickly resolved, and tasks are getting accomplished. With the risk of missing someone (inadvertently) the volunteers who have formally taken on tasks (some more than one) to cover the sexton and secretarial roles are:

Heidi Flower, Carla Heister, Susan Lee, Lori Pelkey, Chuck Pelkey, Bill Baker, Ron Baker, Bill Myhill, Dave Cory, Dawn Poirier, Jackie Palance, Dori Nolan, Elaine Foley, Fred Schaffrick, John Hickman, Ray Barker, Carol Rivard, Beth Provost, Sue Powers, Amy Kelley, Marion Hickman, Irene Taylor, Barry Nolan, Jeannette Baker, Marion Palmisano, Vivian Brackett, Louise Schaffrick, Diane Ashworth, Elaine Myhill, Barbara Fasci, Don Titus, Cliff Keyser, and Abby Ledger. Please forgive me if I have missed someone. If your name is not among these but you would like to join us, pitch in and have some fun, let any of us know and we'll happily include you! There is always more to do, and as my grandmother loved to say "many hands make light work". Don't be shy. It is group efforts like this that keep us together and very much alive! Thank you to each of you for your part. It is heartwarming and very much appreciated. See photos above of some of your friendly volunteers!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Pretzel Sunday

Pretzel Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, March 22. Children should meet in the downstairs kitchen at 9:15 a.m. to make the pretzels!

- *Nursery*

Our Nursery has been temporarily relocated and is ready for our young families. Thank you to Eleanor Flower-Riker, Heidi Flower and their families for the preparation of this new room! The ushers can direct you to the new location: Top floor, last classroom on the right side of the hall.

- *PreK - 1st Grade*

The “Rock Solid” curriculum is very effective in keeping this classroom motivated and excited. Our 1st Grade students are busy learning the “Lord’s Prayer”. Preschoolers are settling in and enjoying their teachers. Lang Ashworth and Jeff Paulette are keeping this class hopping!

- *2nd - 4th Grade*

Ms. Susie, Amber Martin and their students are busy from the moment they enter their classroom. If you want to learn

about Jesus, this is the place to be. Susie Parker teaches them about the Bible, how to be good listeners and how to act as Jesus would want us all to behave! From the lesson, to the craft, to the snack, it’s an important experience.

- *5th - 7th Grade*

Carla Heister is teaching this class how to use their Bibles. These students are getting a first-rate education on the finding of scriptures, the reading of the words and the understanding of what they read. The hope is that students will carry these lessons with them forever.

- *8th - 12th Grade+*

Diane Ashworth’s class is learning about the Bible as well. Our children live in our world where internet access is such an important means of communication. In their class, these young adults are being reminded that the written words and lessons in our Bible are so important and should be cherished and appreciated. Nevertheless, the internet also has its purpose. One returning college student asked Diane to email the conclusion to one of her lessons. He was very interested in the ending to a lesson that was cut short when the class was over!



ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP - Dave Kelly will begin leading our new Adult Bible Study Group beginning on Sunday, April 26, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in our Church parlor. This group will meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. The 12-week curriculum is entitled “Following Jesus - Steps to a Passionate Faith. For more information contact Dave at 314-1100 or tammy_n_dave@yahoo.com.

MYF INFORMATION - The Jr. and Sr. MYF meeting is every first and third Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. Join us for fun, fellowship and food! Contact your leaders for information or transportation: The Ashworths at 583-9520 or the Paulettes at 585-9859.

A HISTORICAL PRIMER - PART 2

Kathy Dube

According to a historical sketch from Charles L. Wooding, former church member and the first librarian in Bristol on the occasion of the centennial of Prospect Church, then known as Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church, the first Methodist Society legally established in Connecticut was located in Stratford, in 1789, with exactly three charter members Rev. Jesse Lee, a noted itinerant preacher, was the guiding force. The movement was initially opposed by the well-established Congregational Church.

The first Methodist sermon reportedly was preached in Bristol in a Baptist Church by the Rev. Nathan Bangs, presiding elder and eventual President of Wesleyan University. The sermon was based on Acts 28.22: “But

we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against.” Apparently, the Methodist emphasis on emotionalism was a turn-off to the more staid Congregational church.

Following Rev. Bangs’ provocative sermon, occasional meetings were held by new converts to Methodism in a schoolhouse on West Street or in private homes. Classes were taught by traveling preachers on the Burlington circuit, the first Methodist circuit established in this immediate area.

The next issue will follow the growth of the church on West Street that eventually became Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church.

■ "TOUCHED BY THE CHRIST" SLATED FOR PALM SUNDAY

Mark your calendars: The Senior Choir will present a moving musical performance, "Touched by the Christ" on the afternoon of April 5, Palm Sunday. According to music director Heidi Flower, the musical performance recalls the last days of Jesus' earthly life through the eyes of individuals who were directly impacted by His ministry. The music in this work composed by Lloyd Larson invites us to be changed by God's eternal love and grace. The blending of personal narratives and music will provide the listener with a fresh look at the Messiah, who came to offer hope for the hurting and broken. The concert will begin at 4 p.m. in our sanctuary. A free-will offering will be taken.



■ AN EVENING IN THE RENAISSANCE

Join us as we celebrate the pageantry and elegance of the 16th century! A traditional seven course feast with entertainment throughout the evening will be provided as Fellowship Hall is turned into a 16th century Great Hall! Two Dinner Shows are scheduled for Saturday, March 21st and Saturday, March 28th. Tickets are limited for each performance and seating is reserved; no tickets will be sold at the door. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 10 and under. Please call the church office at 582-3443 to reserve your tickets.

Please call Gary & Luisa Gladu at 582-8383 if you would like to volunteer to cook, serve, entertain, etc.

Altar Flowers:

Altar flowers are often a way to memorialize or honor a loved one. But maybe you just like the altar to have flowers! If you would like to put flowers on the Altar, for any reason that pleases you, just notify the church office. It is \$40.00. Recognition will occur in the Sunday Bulletin.

Lighting of the Church Tower:

Similarly if you give \$15.00, the outside of the Church Tower will be illuminated for the week of your choice. It is a very visual way to highlight our church in our community. Recognition will occur in the Sunday Bulletin.

MARCH 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

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| March 5 | Member/Nurture 7 p.m. |
| March 7 | Men's Group |
| March 7 | Women of Prospect 9:30 a.m. |
| March 8 | Worship 11:30 a.m. |
| March 10 | Finance 7 p.m. |
| March 17 | Church Council 7 p.m. |
| March 24 | Outreach |

EVENTS

March 21 and March 28 - Renaissance Dinner

April 5 - "Touched by the Christ"

April 25 - Men's Fellowship sponsored breakfast with speaker Chris Amorosino who will speak on "How to be a Good Christian, Father, Husband & Person. Chris is a Certified Lay Speaker at Avon's Memorial Methodist Church.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| March 2009 | History |
| April 2009 | Trustees |
| May 2009 | Education/Sunday School/Youth |

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99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
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