



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

March 2010

Vol. 71, No. 3

From the Pastor's Pen

By the time you read this Lent will be well under way. You are either doing well with your self-imposed Lenten discipline, not doing so well or completely forgot to do the traditional Lenten practice: taking on an extra good habit or giving up a bad habit for Lent.



Following is a meditation from Jeanne Schuler of the Philosophy Department of Creighton University written for "Daily Reflections," the online ministry of Creighton University, a Jesuit school in Nebraska. Turn to page three for a brief article about using the internet to assist in your devotional life.

Ms. Schuler writes about thinking. What she says could apply to the way America does politics in recent years as well as they way we do Christian faith. She begins by quoting Jesus' words to his disciples in Mark 8: 21: "Do you still not understand?" taken from the larger account in Mark 8: 14-21.

She goes on: "In the gospel, Jesus scolds his disciples. They are with him every day. So much has happened to them already and still they still do not understand. We are like that. Things happen all around us that we look past. We see in the same old ways; what is closest must struggle to dislodge our wooden habits of perception and awaken our hearts. Skipping over what is truly present, we ogle the spectacle. Without understanding, our lives slip away and what matters is forgotten.

At times thinking gets a bad rap. "Keep it simple. Trust your gut. Tell your story. Follow tradition. Ask a question and you ask for trouble. What's real is the mystery, not the analysis." When people of good will leave the field, the Pharisees take charge. Understanding is abandoned for winning the debate, scoring points, and arguments that snap shut like a trap.

"True knowledge is sustaining. It does not chill. Through understanding, love grows deeper. All that we love, we seek to know."

Through understanding, love grows deeper. If I love God, I want to know God. Which means thinking, learning, understanding. A thought-filled Lent to you all!

See you at 99 Summer Street where Prospect Church gathers,

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
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PASTOR WINKLEBLACK RE-APPOINTED TO PROSPECT

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park has announced to the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) that Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, our transitional interim pastor, will be re-appointed to serve Prospect an additional year, beginning July 1, 2010. William Katt, who chairs the SPRC, made the announcement at Sunday morning services on Feb. 28. He comments, "During the past two years with Pastor Winkleblack's guidance and help, we have begun moving in a positive direction, putting behind us the troubles of the past. We have had to make some difficult decisions and make adjustments but we are going forward." This will be Pastor Dennis' third year as transitional interim pastor. He states, "I'm delighted to return as interim pastor and look forward to solidifying the gains we've made and working with some terrific people for a blessed future for Prospect Church." The SPRC undertook a survey in November soliciting the congregation's beliefs on the gifts and attributes our pastor should have. The spiritual well-being of the congregation was ranked highest of 12 possible attributes (*see related story on survey results, Page 6*).

■ USING YOUR COMPUTER TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

Nothing enhances one's walk with God like a daily routine of prayer. There are many printed aids like The Upper Room (available from the church office). Increasingly, folks are turning to the internet for their daily devotions. In fact, you can read the Upper Room on the web also: www.upperroom.org/devotional or from our church's web-site front page: www.anewprospect.org.



Others that Pastor Dennis likes are:

- <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>
- <http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>
- <http://sacredspace.ie>
- <http://forwardmovement.org>

Do you have a favorite? Let Pastor Dennis know and we'll share it next month.

■ WELCOME NEW OFFICERS AND LEADERS

Last month we noted with gratitude those who have been serving our church whose terms have expired or who have sought to serve in new ways. Here are the new officers and leaders elected at the Charge Conference in January:

- **Lay Leaders:** Barry Nolan and Jill Wilson (joining Dave Kelly)
- **Lay Members of Annual Conference:** Sue Powers and Jill Wilson (joining Jackie Palance)
- **Trustees:** Bud Funk and those re-elected: Chris Wilson and Ron Baker
- **Staff-Parish:** Joyce Rioux, Rita Fasci and Rita Farren (re-elected)
- **Financial Secretary:** Lang Ashworth
- **Finance Vice-Chair:** John Rioux
- **Safe Sanctuaries Chair:** Earl Pelletier
- **At-Large to Church Council:** Terry Parker, Tom Riordan, Cliff Keysor
- **Worship Committee:** Melissa Brown and Bob Rioux
- **Safe Sanctuaries Team:** Bill Thibodeau
- **Zion Meals Coordinator:** Sue Powers

Thanks to all of you and those who continue from a most grateful congregation! Apologies to anyone who has been omitted – please let the pastor know for correction in the next issue.

■ DISCIPLESHIP WORKSHOP PLANNED

Turn Aside and See: A day of transformational study and reflection

The New York Annual Conference (NYAC) will be offering a one-day intensive workshop called *Turn Aside and See*, designed for pastors and church leaders, on March 27 at the Renaissance Hotel Westchester, West Harrison, NY (just outside of White Plains). The workshop is designed to be a one-day transformational study inviting individuals and teams to: identify God's call through scripture; identify excuses that hold congregations back from answering God's call; determine assets for responding to God's call; and commit to disciple-making within congregations.

Rev. Dr. Kwasi Kena, director of Evangelism Ministries, and Rev. Betsey Heavner, director of Congregational Leader Formation at the General Board of Discipleship, will be the presenters. Registration and refreshments will start at 8:30 a.m. The formal program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person, but Prospect is exploring a way to underwrite the cost for interested parties. If you are interested in attending, contact Jill Wilson, Church Council chair.



***God, sometimes we are like Moses,
hiding out with a bunch of sheep.***

***Sometimes we are like Peter,
working long and hard with
nothing to show for it!***

***But Moses had a staff!
Peter had a boat!***

***And, we too have assets that can help
us hear and respond to your call.
Help us turn aside and see where
you're already working.***

***Help us put out into deep
water and keep fishing.
Most of all, help us follow
your Son, Jesus Christ.***

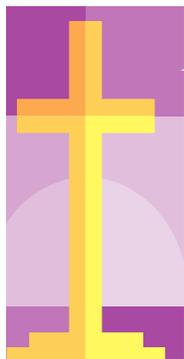
***As we move through the rest of this
day together, build us into your body.
Set our hearts on fire!***

***Forgive us for our excessive devotion
to the excuses we make so readily!
And, keep reminding us to follow you.***

Amen.

■ PALM SUNDAY CANTATA

The Easter message is a living testament to the hundreds of first century eye witnesses who saw Jesus during his life's journey and to the hundreds of thousands of believers who, down through the centuries, have perpetuated the message of the risen Christ..



“The Journey to the Cross” traverses the breadth of human emotion found in the passion story of our Lord. From joyous hosannas, to hours of solitude, to the cries of the angry mob, to our solid affirmation of belief, this story will be presented with resounding voices, along with visual accompaniment. Join us in our beautiful sanctuary on Sunday, March 28th at 4 p.m., to witness “The Journey to the Cross.”

■ LUCK OF THE IRISH

“Luck of the Irish,” a St. Patrick’s Day celebration concert, will be held at Prospect on Sunday March 14 at 7 p.m. The concert will headline Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Richard Theriault. The celebration will include concert band music with an Irish theme, dancers from the Coogan School of Irish Dance in West Hartford and bagpipers from the Manchester Regional Police and Fire Pipers.

Assistant conductor, David Jackman, will conduct Danny Boy with vocal soloist Ken Ferris leading an audience sing along and there will be selections from the Bristol Choral Society Singers. This concert is free and open to the public. A goodwill donation will be accepted helping to defray the expenses of the ensemble. For more information please call Jayne Marra at 860-584-5112, or visit our web site at <http://bristolbrassandwindensemble.club.officelive.com>

After listening to the ‘witness’ theme sermon PUMC member Leo Loren was inspired to write this poem.

IT’S NOT ME

By Leo W. Loren

You think it’s me
you’re looking at.
I’m not the one
that’s looking back.
It’s the light of God
inside of me,
that guides my thoughts
and words and deeds.
He taught me what to say
and do,
and also how to pray
for you.
Yes,
what you think you see
is me,
but I’m not looking back.
It’s the light of Christ
That shines in me-
and that my friend is fact!

SPIRITUAL WELL BEING RANKED HIGH

--Kathy Dube

The results of the questionnaire undertaken by the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) last fall as a Guide for Setting Pastoral Priorities ranked the spiritual well being of the congregation as the highest of 12 possible priorities. The questionnaire was sent out in an effort to find out what the congregation felt were the important attributes and gifts a pastor selected to serve this church should have.”

There were 70 responses to the approximately 300 letters mailed out. “There were no surprises. We want our pastor to be primarily concerned with the spiritual well being of this congregation. He or she must have some administrative capability, but that takes a back seat to the spiritual needs,” said William Katt, SPRC chair. “While many of the respondents expressed a desire to extend Pastor Winkleblack’s appointment ... other concerns expressed included making an emphasis on homebound visitation and a need for an evangelistic personality. But all expressed the need that our next pastor ‘provide the spiritual leadership and guidance’ to the congregation.”

(see related story on the re-appointment of Pastor Dennis, Page 2).

The SPRC felt it was important to undertake the survey to be in the forefront with the Conference. The survey rankings of desired Ministerial Functions, with 1 being the most desirable function and 12 being the least desirable, were as follows:

- 1. Worship and Preaching:** planning and conducting worship services, including sermon preparation and working with others who will participate in leading worship;
- 2. Leadership:** working with church leaders to live out the church’s vision and mission;
- 3. Disciple Formation:** (Stage 2 teaching) — leading adult study and spiritual growth groups, teaching confirmation classes, leading youth groups, overseeing the church’s educational/formational ministries;
- 4. Visitation of Hospitalized Members:** providing pastoral care to hospitalized members;
- 5. Disciple Formation:** (Stage 1 hospitality) — overseeing or consulting with leaders to enhance the church’s ministry to non-members, meeting with potential new members, teaching new members classes;

6. **Counseling:** to couples, including pre-marital, and to individuals;
7. **Self-Care:** setting aside times for prayer, study, family, recreation;
8. **Visitation of Homebound Members:** calling on members who can't come to church or who are in nursing care facilities;
9. **Administration:** working with committees, helping to plan and coordinate the church's program, ordering supplies and resources, supervision of paid staff;
10. **Community Involvement:** serving as a volunteer or board member for community organizations, public affairs, social service agencies, civic and educational groups, etc.;
11. **Denominational and Ecumenical Responsibilities:** carrying a fair share of the denominational and ecumenical responsibilities; and
12. **Visitation of Inactive Members:** calling on inactive members in their homes.

A PRAYER FOR PASTORS

Pray for your pastor. Pray for your church. Pray for the community that your church and pastor has been called to transform. Pray for the world God has entrusted to us to serve.

UNITED METHODISTS IN MISSION -- *An Update from the Prospect ReThink Team*

Haiti

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) opened a field office in Port-au-Prince and is working on a five-year plan to help rebuild Haiti after the January earthquake. The UMCOR plan includes emergency, recovery and rehabilitation work. The emergency phase addresses the immediate needs of access to food, clean water and sanitation, temporary shelter, and emotional and spiritual support. During the recovery phase, UMCOR will respond to needs for increasingly permanent homes, schools, clinics and churches, along with jobs and other concerns. The third phase, rehabilitation, will offer assistance for physical reconstruction and economic development as well as rebuilding health, education and other systems.

Imagine No Malaria

Imagine No Malaria is an effort of the people of The United Methodist Church to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. Just as the cross is a sign to us of God's love, we are called to be a sign of God's love and commitment to the world.

■ NEW MEMBERS TO BE ACCEPTED

Prospect will “accept” new members in March, tentatively planned for the March 21st service. Anyone interested in joining our Prospect family should speak with Lay Leaders Barry Nolan or Dave Kelly, Church Council Chair Jill Wilson, or Pastor Dennis.

■ PROSPECT PLAYGROUP

The Prospect Playgroup meets the first and third Saturday mornings of each month at 10 a.m. in the church nursery. All parents and children from birth to age three are welcome. Any questions, e-mail Eleanor Riker at wimpress@hotmail.com.

■ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship committee would like to thank everyone who purchased grinders or gave donations to make the sale successful. Many thanks to the crew who worked in the kitchen. A profit of \$1,337 was made to help kids further their education.

Scholarship forms are now available for pick up at the church office. Applications need to be submitted by May 3.

■ LENTEN STUDY

Pastor Dennis will lead a study, “24 Hours That Changed the World,” beginning Tuesday, February 23 at 7 p.m. and continuing for the next five Tuesday evenings.

LIVING GREEN

Energy Note - Carll Pallokat

Question: Why are the ceiling fans running in Session’s Hall in the winter time?



Answer: Very good question with a real simple answer. Heat from the heating system rises to the ceiling. Why not bring that heat back down so the heating system need not run longer than it has to. The cost to run the ceiling fans is about 20 percent of what it costs to heat the room for the same amount of time. The fans do not need to be running fast, as then people feel cold.

Prospect in Earlier Days

In the heyday of the post-World War II baby boom, Easter and Christmas services were so well attended at Prospect that the doors to Sessions Hall had to be opened to accommodate all of the attendees. This primarily occurred during the pastorates of Rev. Arthur Tedcastle and Rev. Eugene Fowler, during the 1950s and early 1960s. Few women would think of attending church without a hat and gloves, and children were often attired in brand new patent leather shoes.

■ TAI-CHI PROGRAM OFFERED

Walter Bruce, who has been attending Prospect since the fall, is offering to teach a class in



Tai-Chi if there is enough interest among church members and friends. Walter, U.S. Navy retired, explains that Tai-Chi Ch'uan provides a gentle stretching and strengthening of the joints, muscles, and tendons of the body. Tai-Chi, as practiced in the west today, can best be thought of as a moving form of yoga and meditation combined.

When taught correctly, Tai-Chi can provide protection to the joints, improve mobility, help with balance and improve cardiovascular fitness. Tai-Chi can also foster a calm and tranquil mood. Although Tai-Chi has its origins in martial arts, it is primarily designed to promote health and well-being.

Anyone who would like to know more information about Tai-Chi, including the cost, is asked to contact Walter Bruce at (860) 314-0058, home, or (203) 560-0571, cell. If there is enough interest, the program would be open to anyone who wants a healthier lifestyle.

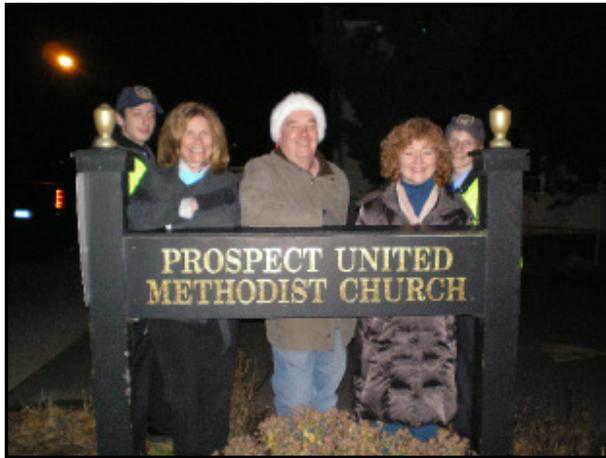
Order Your Easter Plants

Memorial Easter Plants will surround the Altar on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Please return this form to the offering plate or church office by Thursday, March 25th. Donation per plant is \$10 each. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund. Payment must accompany order. Feel free to take your plant(s) after the April 4th 10 a.m. service. Thank you.



Given By	
In Honor of	
In Memory of	
Number of Plants	
Amount Enclosed	
Leaving/Taking Plant	

DCF CHRISTMAS PARTY 2009



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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.

MARCH 2010

Holy Week Services

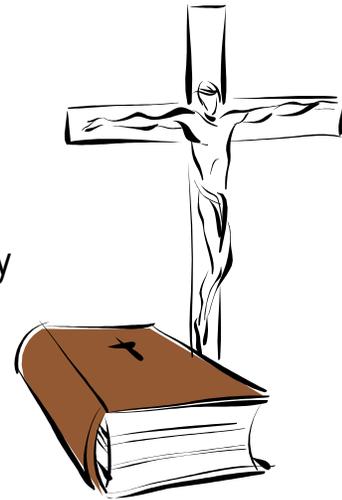
Maundy Thursday

April 1 at 7 p.m. (in our sanctuary joined by Asbury Church)

Good Friday

April 2 at Noon (at Asbury)

Easter, April 4, at 10 a.m. (No 8:30 a.m. Service)



Lenten Study

"24 Hours that Changed the World:

February 23, March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29

Fellowship Hour

March Staff Parish

April Trustees

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

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