



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

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May 2010

Vol. 71, No. 5

## From the Pastor's Pen

*If we need our members to give more money to the church so we can have a full time pastor and keep our building in good repair, why do we keep asking for more money to give away to others? After all, doesn't charity begins at home?*



It's a fair question, I suppose. The problem with this good question is that it comes from an institutional mind-set rather than a Christian one. And let me be the first to confess that too often I approach churchly things from an institutional mind-set rather than from a Christian one. In the institutional mind-set, nothing is more important than self-preservation.

But self-preservation isn't most important for followers of Jesus. Jesus said, *"Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."* (Matthew 16:25) This is Jesus' approach to life both for individuals and for his body, the church, institutionally. Needless to say, Jesus' way is as hard for churches to follow as it is for individuals.

Prospect Church provides numerous ways for its members to reach out to the world in the tangible love of Christ. In the months ahead you'll be hearing about how our church is plugging in to the worldwide United Methodist Church effort to eradicate malaria. Malaria kills 3,000 people a day, mainly children, and is spread by mosquitoes. In order to attract attention and money, the United Methodist Church partnered with, among others, Sports Illustrated and the National Basketball Association (and a gentleman named Gates) to develop the Nothing But Nets campaign. A \$10 mosquito net treated with insecticide literally has saved millions of lives in the most vulnerable parts of the world, mainly sub-Saharan Africa.

Our denomination's goal is to raise \$75 million by 2015 for the broader program of relief and education called "Imagine No Malaria." Our church's ReThink Team will be working on helping us to do our part as a church. They're even talking about a "sleep out" under nets to call attention to this situation in Bristol and raise money from friends and neighbors!

It is perhaps the irony of ironies. We're most likely to preserve what we all enjoy most about our church if we focus outward than if we focus inward. One can only believe it's really truth if one has – faith.

See you at 99 Summer Street where PUMC gathers to worship the living God!

*Pastor Dennis*

# Prospect United Methodist Church

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Pastor Emeritus

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## ■ MEET NEW PROSPECT MEMBERS

**Stuart and Carolyn Brown** are new first-time parents. Daughter Charlotte Sophia was born April 5, making her almost an Easter baby. The Browns live in Bristol. Carolyn was a member of the United Methodist Church in Walworth, NY. Stuart, son of United Church of Christ pastors, has joined a church for the first time. Carolyn enjoys gardening and Stuart enjoys working around their house.

**Doug and Lynnea Jones** were previously members of Asbury United Methodist Church. They live in Wolcott and are the parents of two children, son Erin, married to Kirsten, and daughter Shannon, married to John Andelin, both of whom are members of Prospect. They also have two grandchildren, Nina, daughter of Erin and Kirsten, and Abigail, daughter of Shannon and John. Lyn is the daughter of a retired Methodist pastor, Rev. Ivan Gossoo of Petersburg, NY. Among his many pastorates was a nine-year tenure at the United Methodist Church of Wethersfield. Lyn is a reader and both Lyn and Doug enjoy working outdoors at their house and spending time with their family.

**Bevin and David Parent** (better known as DJ) grew up in Bristol and make their home here as well. They have two children, Elijah, 6, and Taigan, 4, both of whom were baptized at Prospect. DJ previously belonged

to St. Matthew Church while Bevin has joined a church for the first time. He is vice president of operations for Lawntailors of Farmington and Bevin is a second grade teacher in Bristol. DJ's hobbies are hiking and basketball and Bevin enjoys scrapbooking and exercising. A sports-oriented family, they are long-time Red Sox fans.

**Larry and Meagen Wentz** have been married for almost three years. Larry has lived in Bristol for five years. Originally from Pennsylvania, he is a regional technology manager for H&R Block. Larry was baptized Methodist. Meagen is originally from Rockwell, Iowa. She is the Wellness Programs Administrator in the Counseling and Wellness Center at Central Connecticut State University. Meagen was baptized Roman Catholic. Larry and Meagen have a 19-month-old daughter, Addison, who was baptized at Prospect a year ago in March. Larry's hobbies include bowling, gardening, playing games on the computer and playing with Addison. Meagen's hobbies include sewing, cooking, bargain hunting at tag sales and playing with Addison. As a family, they enjoy going for walks, playing in the back yard and traveling to see family.

**Andy and Misty Mitchell** were born and raised in Bristol. Andy was raised Catholic and was a member of St. Joseph's Church. Misty was baptized Methodist but had not previously joined a church. Misty is a kindergarten teacher and Andy is in retail management. They have one daughter, Sophia Grace, who will turn 3 on May 14. Andy's hobbies include golfing and softball. Misty loves to cook and bake, and both enjoy hiking.

#### ■ HELP WANTED

Remember the covenant you made when you joined the church? Well we are in need of your time, talent and service. The cleaning crew needs a few more people to help with sweeping and washing the upstairs hallway and both stairwells. We also need someone to clean the offices once a week. This is at your own schedule. Contact Carol Rivard at 860-589-3575 or [hail@snet.net](mailto:hail@snet.net) if interested.

Vacation Bible School is in need of a few more adults also. This year it will run August 16th thru the 20th from 6-8 pm. Talk to Eleanor Riker Flower if you would like to lend a hand.

The yard crew is looking for a few more hands. They meet Tuesday evenings from 5-7. See Chris Wilson for more information.

## PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

The previous Prospect In Earlier Days column introduced church members to the late Carrie Reynolds, former deaconess of Prospect



*Carrie Reynolds*

Church upon the occasion of her death on January 23, 1950. Carrie Hutchinson, born in 1874, was raised in Prospect Church. Her marriage on June 14, 1898, to the Rev. Richard H. Reynolds, native of Cornwall, England, took place at this church. He had been admitted as a member of the New York East Conference a short time before. For two years the couple resided in Woodbury, where he was pastor of the North Woodbury Methodist Church. However, he had to resign a short time later as a result of illness. The couple moved to New Mexico hoping he might regain his health, but sadly, he died there on June 4, 1901. He is buried in West Cemetery in Bristol. Thereafter, Carrie Reynolds dedicated herself to a life as a deaconess, feeling compelled to carry on the work of her husband. She entered the Lucy Webb Hayes Training School in Washington D.C. in 1903. Upon completion of the two-year-course, she first served as deaconess at the Stamford Methodist Church followed by a short stint at the New York Avenue Methodist Church in Brooklyn. In May of 1911 her home church under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Ernest G. Richardson (later

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to become a bishop) called her and the conference assigned her to become a deaconess here. She was to serve 26 years in the post. The story of Deaconess Carrie Reynolds will be concluded in the next Tower.

## WHAT IS A DEACONESS?

In the Methodist tradition, women could be set apart for service in and through the church before they were permitted to be ordained which occurred in 1956. Even after they could be ordained, many chose to become a deaconess in order to perform a variety of services in a lay capacity. A deaconess was commissioned, not ordained. The UMC web-site traces the roots of deaconesses to Phoebe in Romans 16:1. The Office of Deaconess was officially recognized by the Methodist Church starting in 1888. Lay men are now accorded an opportunity to serve in a life-long relationship of service when the Office of Home Missioner was established at the 2004 General Conference. The Offices of Deaconess and Home Missioner are currently the only active offices in the United Methodist Church for laity called to full-time vocations in servant ministries. Both offices form a covenant community that is rooted in scripture, informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope and global in outreach. There may be fewer than 2,000 deaconesses serving the church around the globe.

## ■ PARKING LOT MINISTRY

The trustees and Roberts committee will be beginning a new ministry starting in June 2010. This ministry will engage the young people in the community surrounding the church. The concept of this ministry will be one where we partner with the Boys Club to provide youth workers to coordinate crafts and games utilizing our space in the parking lot on Summer Street. The ministry will occur approximately 3 days a week. It will occur from 4-7 or 6-8, depending on the youth workers schedule. A sandwich-board, tent and picnic table will be placed in the parking area to identify the program.

We will close off the parking area during the nights the group is meeting. Street-side parking will be available as well as lower lot parking for those church meetings held during the summer months.

We are excited about the possibilities of this ministry to engage with the young people and families directly surrounding our local community. Any additional details can be obtained by speaking with either Sue Powers or Chris Wilson.



## ORGAN FUND BENEFIT DINNER/ CONCERT

A concert by H. S. Liederkrantz, an award-winning men's chorus from Thomaston, will be presented at Prospect on May 22 to benefit the Organ Restoration Fund. A roast pork loin dinner will start the event at 5:30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained for \$20 each from any member of the Choir or by calling the church office at (860) 582-3443.

H.S. Liederkrantz is a male chorus that originated in 1931. The group has been cited by the State Legislature for its contribution to the musical heritage of the Thomaston area. The H.S.L. won first place in the Men's Division 1 singing competition, Saengerfest, held on June 28, 2009 in Granby. The group also gave a televised performance in November at the Nutmeg Television Studio in Plainville.

## ■ WOMEN OF PROSPECT

The Women of Prospect will be going on their yearly "Women's Retreat" on June 19th to the Mercy Center in Madison. the cost will be \$35. All women are invited to attend. Come relax, meditate, play on the beach and enjoy the beauty God has bestowed on us. Please see Jackie Palance if you are interested in attending.

## ■ CONFERENCE EVENT RE-DIRECTS FOCUS

Seven from Prospect attended a recent Conference event entitled “Turn Aside and See.” According to Jill Wilson, Church Council chair, the workshop was designed to help attendees more closely examine the inner workings of their church and provide guidance on looking outside the walls to adapt to a changing world.

Jill said: “Since we were a table full from our congregation, we could individualize the discussion specifically about our own church. Our table focused on how our congregation tends to focus inward, on our “usual” activities and how happy that makes us. We acknowledged we aren’t very good, as a congregation, looking outside our walls into the world and hearing God’s call. It emphasized to us, once again, that we (our congregation) must change as the world has changed... we cannot be satisfied with the status quo and think this is what God wants. Additionally, every individual in our congregation has a gift and it is a matter of focusing these gifts in one direction that is a priority for our congregation.”

Jeanette Baker, who also attended, adds: “Our traditional church setting is a building where we meet once a week. But is this all that God is asking us to do or do we need to also look outside the building to generate enthusiasm and energy about God and his world around us?”

## ■ THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you for everything you (Prospect) are doing and have done for my families. They are very grateful and my children were very happy when they received their baskets. In many cases it was the only thing they got. By the way I loved my plant.

*Ketsy Ramirez, MS  
Social Worker  
Department of Children and  
Families*

## LIVING GREEN

### ***Energy Note - Carll Pallok***

Make sure your refrigerator stands level so the door seals evenly and tightly. Warm air that seeps in will cause the refrigerator to run longer.



# 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.

# MAY 2010

## Meeting Schedule

May 11      Finance  
May 18      Council

## Events

May 11      Yard Work  
May 15      Playgroup  
May 16      Confirmation  
May 18      Yard Work  
May 22      Organ Fund Concert  
May 25      Yard Work

## The Two Pots - Food for Thought

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, which she hung on the ends of a pole that she carried across her neck. Every day she would make the long walk to a stream to fetch water for her home. One of the pots was in perfect condition, and always delivered a full portion of water. The other pot had a crack in it, from which water leaked. As a result, by the time the woman returned home, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For two years the woman made her daily trek to the stream, each time returning with only one and a half pots of water.

The perfect pot was proud of its condition and of what it could do. The cracked pot, however, was ashamed of its imperfection and of the fact that it could do only half of what it had been made for. One day, the cracked pot, overwhelmed by what it perceived to be its bitter failure, spoke to the woman at the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled at the pot and replied, "Have you noticed that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day, on our walk home, you water them. For two years now I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace our home."

Each of us has our own crack, our own unique flaw. It's these cracks and flaws that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding, and it's often these cracks and flaws that enable us to do good. Accept people for what they are; look for the good in them and the good that they do. And don't miss the flowers on your side of the path.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
99 SUMMER STREET  
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