

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

November 2009

Vol. 70, No. 9

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

I know it's true that the older one gets the faster that time seems to fly, but give me a break: Advent is around the corner! This can't be! I'm not even ready to go "back to school" yet!



Yet, you can look it up: the First Sunday in Advent is November 29. Actually, as astonished as I am at time's fast passing, the thought of Advent and Christmas warms my heart (a good thing on this bitter cold day in October as I write, but I digress). But, first, an exciting November at Prospect Church.

- November 1: All Saints' Sunday. We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and remember with thanksgiving the lives of members and friends who have died in the year past. My sermon's title is: "In Their Steps."
- November 7: Country Cupboard Fair Harvest Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. (See Page 6)
- November 8: Celebration of 175 years as Methodist Society/Church in Bristol. (See page 4) Rev. Bill Barnes will preach.
- November 15: Laity Sunday
- November 22: Sunday before Thanksgiving, always a special time. Sermon: "A Gift of the Heart."
- November 25: Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Joseph's Church. 7:30 p.m.
- November 29: First Sunday in Advent. Sermon title: "Remember, Repent, Rehearse"

See you at 99 Summer Street.

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. Albert H. Scholten
The Rev. George E. Harris
The Rev. Alan J. Krauss
Ministers in Residence

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Graceann Grindal,
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prospect-ct/index.htm](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/index.htm)

■ PLEASE RETURN SPR SURVEY

By now, members and friends of Prospect should have received a letter and survey from the Staff Parish Relations Committee soliciting input about desired attributes of a spiritual and administrative leader to succeed our transitional interim pastor, the Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack. Pastor Dennis' appointment runs through June, 2010.

The SPR wants to be in the forefront of deliberations of the Bishop and Cabinet in reviewing potential pastoral candidates who might be a good fit for our church. In order to do this, your feedback is desired and will be valued.

Please respond to the survey as soon as possible to enable the committee to fulfill its goal.

If you have not received the mailing and would like to participate in the survey, please leave a message in the church office. A survey form will be mailed to you promptly.

Dear God, we thank you. We thank you for means to give to those in need; for faith to walk, our hands in yours; for strength to work with voice and pen; for love to serve others; for light to see the goal ahead; for life to use alone for you, we thank you.

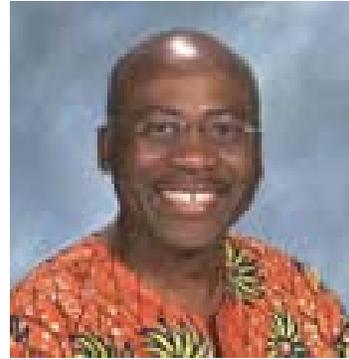
Grenville Kleiser

■ PROSPECT VISITORS - *Kathy Dube*

Prospect had two visitors of note from the New York Annual Conference recently: our new D.S., Rev. Ken Kieffer (top photo) and Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie (bottom photo), a NYAC staff member with the Volunteers in Missions program.



Rev. Kieffer attended the October Church Council meeting. He shared his personal journey prior to his present assignment while the Council, chaired by Jill Wilson, shared information about Prospect church history and our current status. Jill describes him as “very friendly and good natured.” In addition, he welcomes contact with Pastor Dennis Winkleblack any time since they are both strong Yankee fans, enduring the presence of many Red Sox fans at the gathering.



Rev. Ewoodzie sermonized about the inspirational Volunteers in Missions program on October 18. He is headed to Cambodia and Costa Rica soon and would welcome anyone from Prospect who wants to volunteer for a future Volunteers in Missions trip. The Church Council intends to follow up on this invitation and explore the possibility of supporting a church member who wishes to go along on a possible life-changing experience.

■ PROSPECT TOWER BELLS NEEDS YOU!

Our bell choir is up and running now. We rehearse most Sundays following worship service. We really can use one or two more players to round out the group. NO music reading skills are necessary. Please see Heidi or any other bell member if you are interested.



■ OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Memorium

- *Robert Dyer Oct. 8, 2009*
- *Daisy Stone Oct. 12, 2009*

Baptisms

- *Isabella Katherine Cutter (daughter of Jake and Amy and great granddaughter of Pauline Delano) on Oct. 11, 2009*

Weddings

- *Samantha Bouffard and Jeffrey Lowd Sept. 26, 2009*

175TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE PLANNED

--Kathy Dube



Early postcard of Prospect

Prospect United Methodist Church will celebrate a milestone anniversary on Sunday, November 8, with a special service commemorating the church's 175th anniversary. Our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. William Barnes, will assist with the service and preach the sermon. Our Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Dennis Winkleblack, will conduct the service and introduce some Wesley hymns that were commonly sung during the early years of the church.

To call attention to the anniversary, members of the History Committee have been giving the children's sermons at Sunday morning services during October. Members and friends will be invited to share an anniversary cake during a reception following the service.

Past Towers have detailed the history of the church back to the days when the first Methodist class was taught to local converts out of the former Burlington circuit. That history is available on Prospect's website: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospect-ct/>.

Prospect United Methodist Church, once known as Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church, was incorporated in October of 1834. The first formal church building was constructed on the northern portion of West Street,

since the North Side was the most populous area of Bristol at the time. With the growth of the church after the conversion of industrialist John Humphrey Sessions, the church relocated to its present site in 1880, into a sanctuary built where Sessions Hall is situated today. Further growth necessitated the addition of the larger present sanctuary which was dedicated in 1894.

Much of the early history of the church can be found in an address by Bristol's first librarian, Charles L. Wooding, on the occasion of Prospect's centennial. Anniversary celebrations lasted several days and included numerous events at that time. For instance, the Opening Services of the 1894 expanded sanctuary took place on June 4, 5, 6 and 7. The celebration included an organ recital, Tuesday dedication services during both morning and evening, Wednesday evening service and Thursday evening service.

The church observed the sesquicentennial of the Methodist Episcopal Church and centennial of Prospect M.E. Church over a week-long period during Oct. 21-Oct. 28, 1934. The celebration included services on both Sundays and other historical programs and suppers during the week. In addition to the talk by Charles Wooding, a long-time member of the church, Arthur S. Barnes, long-time publisher of the Bristol Press and grandfather of Rev. William Barnes, recalled his boyhood days at the North Side, including his recollections of the M.E. Church. A special guest during the centennial week was Bishop Ernest G. Richardson, who served as Prospect's pastor from 1910-1912. Dr. Richardson is the only pastor of Prospect ever to be elected a bishop.

The History Committee hopes this celebration will spur the compilation of a historical booklet about Prospect at some point in the future. As 2010 will mark the 225th anniversary of the city of Bristol, Prospect plans to offer the use of the church for an event during the year.

175 YEARS

to God be the Glory

*You are cordially invited to
a special service
commemorating Prospect's
175th anniversary*

November 8

10:00 service

■ COUNTRY CUPBOARD FAIR

--Karen Rochelle

The first part of the Country Cupboard Fair was held Saturday, October 17. We had a great day and many people stopped by to visit us. We have people who wait for our fair each year. One person told me that was when she always started her Christmas shopping.

There was a unique selection of craft items for sale this year. Did you see the night lights, or the lazy susan for puzzles? Our used jewelry booth always does a good business and it was busy most of the day.

It was a chilly day and the soup and sandwich luncheon was a great hit as usual. There are only a few pies left and I am sure they will be gone before long!

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare, cook, set up, who worked that day and helped with tear down. Also thanks to all who contributed to the fair to make it successful.

The second part comes with the Harvest Dinner on November 7 in the church dining room. It will be a half roasted chicken again this year, with potato, vegetables and homemade desserts. Hope to see you there!

■ SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, November 21, at 8 a.m. the Men's Fellowship at Prospect United Methodist Church will sponsor a free health forum entitled, "Strong Mind, Strong Body, Pure Heart." The event will include interactive stations where health professionals from the community will have stations set up for health analysis including pain assessments, strength conditioning, exercise programs and healthy eating. A free breakfast will be provided.



OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

November 2009 Women's Group
December 2009 History

MEETING SCHEDULE

November 8 Worship
November 9 Rethink Church 7 p.m.
November 10 Finance 7 p.m.
November 17 Council
November 19 Trustees 7 p.m.
November 24 Outreach 6:30 p.m.

EVENTS

November 1 Potluck
November 7 Harvest Dinner
December 4 DCF Christmas Party
December 6 Bristol Brass Band Concert 5 p.m.

Order Your Poinsettias

Orders are currently being taken for poinsettias. These flowers will adorn our altar on Christmas Eve. The cost is \$10 each. For those wishing to take the plants home, they will be available Christmas Eve.



This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than Thursday, 12/17/2009. Thank you.

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