

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

## Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

November 2010

Vol. 71, No. 9

### ENOUGH *Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*



#### **From Gratitude to Generosity. Hold that Thought.**

With Halloween finally over (when did it become such a big day anyway?), we anxiously wait for Thanksgiving and the annual feast of gratitude. If I had my way, Thanksgiving would be an official day in the Christian calendar, at the least right up there with Transfiguration which hardly anyone understands including most preachers.

Thanksgiving is what faith is all about. Our central act of worship, what most of us call Holy Communion, is about giving thanks to God. It is more properly known as "Eucharist" which is from the Greek word "eucharistia" which means – thanksgiving.

God has blessed us. We thank God for all good gifts around us. In doing so, we acknowledge a thousand points of all the creeds and doctrines. It really is that simple.

Having given God thanks, however, we will want to decide just how to put our words sincerely spoken into action. If we believe God has blessed us much we will act lovingly in a like matter -- much. If we don't believe so, we won't. That's pretty simple, too.

Generosity (here's what you've been waiting for) is what follows when we acknowledge how great our indebtedness is to God for life and all its many experiences. We might not have been, you know. But, we are. Wow.

Our Fall focus of five sermons is titled "*Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity.*" It will lead us on November 21 to deciding how much of our generosity we will extend to the work of Prospect Church. Although some might see this stewardship effort simply as whether or not, or to what degree Prospect Church will have a good future, it's really much simpler (and more profound) than that: If Prospect Church has grateful members who believe in its mission, it will have an incredible future. If it doesn't, it won't.

How much are you grateful to God? How much do you believe in Prospect?

Your pastor,  
*Dennis Winkleblack*

Founded 1834

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Transitional Interim Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes,  
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. George E. Harris  
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## ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT PROSPECT

The annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be at our church this year, Wednesday, November 24th at 7:30 p.m. Many Bristol churches and clergy and their choirs will be present with us. Please bring a non-perishable canned good. Refreshments will follow in Sessions Hall.



### PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER (author unknown)

*Let us pray for our own needs and for the needs of others,  
following the pattern which Jesus gave  
when he taught us to pray to God our Father.*

*Through our love of the countryside,  
through our care for animals,  
through our respect for property and tools,  
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

*On our farms and in our homes,  
in our colleges and schools,  
where machinery is made, and where policy is planned,  
Father, your kingdom come.*

*By our seeking your guidance,  
by our keeping your commandments,  
by our living true to our consciences,  
Father, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*For the millions who live in poverty and hunger,  
for our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbors,  
by co-operation, sympathy, and generosity,  
Give us today our daily bread.*

*Because we have broken your commandments,  
doing what we ought not to do,  
and neglecting what we ought to do,  
Forgive us our sins.*

*If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing or exploitation,  
We forgive those who sin against us.*

*When prosperity lulls us to false security,  
or adversity prompts us to despair,  
when success makes us boastful,  
or failure makes us bitter,  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.*

*In the assurance of faith,  
in the confidence of hope,  
in the will to serve,  
help us to love Christ as Lord,  
and our neighbor as ourselves.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.*

### Our Church Family

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

On October 10th, Brooke Shea Martineau received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Born Sept. 18, 2008, she is the daughter of Katie and Chad Martineau and granddaughter of new member, Valerie Rich.

#### IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks to God for the life of Normand Duchaine, who passed away October 22nd. A memorial service was held at Prospect on October 27th.



## ■ Worship Committee Update

The Worship Committee is always ready to welcome new members. Janice Moore, Worship Chair, said the committee currently needs more ushers. The committee also takes care of Communion, altar linens, hospitality, special services, and more. The next meeting is Sunday, November 14, in the parlor, during Fellowship Hour. Come and join us!

## ■ Covenant to Care/DCF Foster Children's Christmas Party

This is an opportunity to directly help bring a special evening of joy to 200+ foster children. Volunteer Sign Up Sheets are on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall. Contact Susan Lee with any questions.



**Date:** Friday, Dec. 3, 2010

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**Location:** The entire Church building

### Opportunities Available:

(Must be at least 14 yrs old to work this party. All teens must attend a mandatory 20 minute training provided by DCF re: confidentiality, etc.)

- Your presence to help children at craft tables
- Kitchen (serve pizza & juice boxes)
- Photo w/ Santa cards table
- Parent's Room
- Clean Up (sweep floor, rearrange tables)
- Parking Lot

### Food Donations:

- 400 individual juice boxes
- 200 UNFROSTED cupcakes

### Paper Goods Donations:

- 30 Plastic Tablecloths (LONG rectangular; white, baby blue, navy, silver)
- 300 Plastic Spoons
- 500 napkins (2 pkgs of 250 each)

## ■ Education Happenings

The Church School Christmas pageant, "Christmas Presence," will take place on Sunday, December 19, at the 10 a.m. service. "Christmas Presence" challenges the audience to be aware of the Presence of Christ at Christmas and throughout the year. As parts are about to be assigned, regular attendance at Church School is very important.

Watch for an Education fundraiser starting in November that will help to make our Christmas Eve Services very special. Students will be selling Luminary Bags. "The more we sell, the brighter our sidewalks will be!" says Shirley Paulette, who chairs the Education Committee.

## ■ Tail Gate Trick or Treat Event

In the spirit of Halloween, Prospect hosted a Tail Gate Trick or Treat event from 3 to 4 p.m. on Halloween Sunday, October 31. The event was opened to our church family and the community free of charge. Little ghosts and goblins were able to go from one trunk to the next, gathering up treats. The upper parking lot was closed to traffic so that the trick or treaters could go safely from car to car. Stay tuned for photos.

## ■ Bargain Center

The Bargain Center is in need of volunteers. If you can spare a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., call Elaine Myhill at 860-582-0575. Even if it is only once a month, your help would be appreciated.

## ■ Be a Greeter on Sunday Mornings

It is a long-standing tradition and a most welcoming one to be greeted with a smile on Sunday morning. Requiring less than 30 minutes before the 10 a.m. service, being a greeter is a great opportunity. See Melissa Brown after services or call her at 860-583-4159.

## PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

### *Meet Mr. and Mrs. Sessions, Part 1*

The Victorian Tea planned for December 11 at Prospect pays tribute to early benefactors William E. and his wife, Emily (Brown) Sessions. In this and several future Towers, get acquainted with these Sessions benefactors who played such a vital role in the growth of Prospect Church, then known as Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church (source: the "Builders of Bristol" series by the Bristol Press).



William Edwin Sessions was born on Feb. 18, 1857, younger son of John Humphrey Sessions who was converted to Methodism after hearing a sermon in Polkville, the Edgewood section of Bristol. William, better known as W.E., spent his youth in Polkville and first attended the local district school. He later attended Hartford High School, becoming one of three from Bristol to graduate from the school.

Preferring a business career to college, he was taken into his father's trunk hardware firm in 1878. A year later W.E. and his father took over the Bristol Foundry Company plant on Laurel Street, reorganizing it as the Sessions Foundry Company. The firm prospered to the point where a larger plant was needed some 16 years later. In 1895 a 30-acre tract of land was purchased on Farmington Avenue and a large modern factory was constructed near the site of the Hub-6 Plaza today. At the time, it was said to be one of the finest foundry plants east of Chicago.

In the next Tower, learn about Mr. Sessions' purchase of a major Bristol clock manufacturing company in 1902.

## *Make Plans For Victorian Tea*

December 11, at 4 p.m. in Sessions Hall.

The cost of tickets is: \$12 for the Library; \$15 for Sessions Hall; and \$20 for the Parlor.

*Shopping, planning, cooking, wrapping, decorating, the running around; this is what December is all about. During these hectic moments, it's difficult to think of a simpler time, where the season wasn't rushed, but enjoyed. The Prospect Organ Restoration Committee cordially invites you to escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and experience such a time.*

*A "Victorian Holiday Tea with the Ladies Sessions" is planned for Saturday, December 11, at 4 p.m. in Sessions Hall. Sessions Hall is named for the early benefactors of our church, John Humphrey and William E. Sessions. Emily Sessions, wife of W.E., was known for the teas and special events she hosted at Beleden, the brownstone Sessions "manor house" on Bellevue Avenue owned by the couple.*

*The benefit to help restore the church organ will provide holiday splendor, entertainment, food and a quiet respite during this hectic time. This pretend scenario with an English setting will recreate holiday social events that were common when Mrs. Sessions entertained at her manor house.*

*Come and visit the Manor — a transformed Sessions Hall — decorated for the holiday. Servants will surround you with an array of assorted scones, sweet breads, sandwiches and sweet treats as you sip your tea and listen to musical entertainment for the evening. Those who really wish to be pampered can purchase tickets to "The Parlor," where you will be seated in a private room set for the holidays. Bone china tea cups, teapots filled with a variety of teas, and a special dessert buffet will be provided in the parlor.*

*The event is open to all ages and both women and men. Proper attire and tea hats are encouraged. Don't be left out in the cold as tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Come and experience this new holiday tradition. For reservations call (860) 214-4663.*

## PROSPECT'S STEINWAY

There are certain facts relating to Prospect's Steinway that we are sure of:

- The ebony grand piano model C was manufactured in 1893.
- The piano's original owner was Ethel Gardner at Sweet Briar College.

One fact about the piano is not certain—How did the Steinway come to Prospect? Was it a gift? If so, from whom? If anyone reading this article knows the answer or knows someone who would know the answer, please contact the church office by phone or mail with a message for the Trustees. The History Committee has researched their many records and no answer can be found.

In 1998, the church received a gift from Arthur and Dorothy Funk, a Kawai grand piano, that is in the sanctuary.

In 2000, restoration work was completed on the Steinway using memorial funds designated by the Betty Lowrey family. Since then, the Steinway has been played but more recently, it is being used less frequently. Currently it is in need of rebuilding.

The financial position of the church and the need to restore the Austin organ are causing the Trustees to consider selling the Steinway. We have paid for an 'as is' market appraisal of the piano. If it is sold, the proceeds would go into the organ restoration fund.

If you have any information about the Steinway or questions about the Trustees' consideration, please speak to one of the Trustees, call the church office or write a letter to the church.



## NO CONFLICT LEFT UNHONORED



Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Richard Theriault, will present a concert honoring American veterans and troops who have served in all U.S. conflicts at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, in the Prospect sanctuary. The Brass and Wind Ensemble, which rehearses at Prospect, will present music from the Civil War to the present day. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Veterans Council, which is raising funds to build a new monument for Memorial Boulevard to honor all Bristol veterans who have served and have not yet been recognized. For more information contact Jayne Marra at (860) 584-5122. The Veterans Council asks that checks be made out to BBWE.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Charge Conference Set

- Prospect's annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, December 5, after the Pot Luck Lunch. Our

District Superintendent, the Rev. Ken Kieffer, will lead us. All are encouraged to attend this annual meeting of our congregation.



**Holy Land Tour March 22-31, 2011** - Join Pastor Dennis and other members and friends for a trip of a lifetime. All inclusive cost is around \$3,000. For a brochure or more information speak to Pastor Dennis or send an email ([pastorpumc@snet.net](mailto:pastorpumc@snet.net)).

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## NEW ELECTRONIC SYSTEM GIFTED

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Prospect is the beneficiary of a gift in memory of long-time head usher, James Orr, helping the Technology Committee install a new projection system in the sanctuary. Peter Scandone of Pascom Sound generously provided funding for a wireless audio adapter that will allow not only the church laptop, but other audio devices such as portable CD players and IPODs to transmit audio into the sanctuary sound system.

Mr. Scandone, an audio systems engineer, worked with Jim Orr in past installations of our state-of-the-art sound system. Pastor Dennis Winkleblack notes, "I knew Jim briefly and, of course, did his funeral. He was an extraordinary gentleman, truly a gentle man who was also very smart. He was apparently also a consummate head usher whom everyone loved. Mr. Scandone apparently really appreciated and enjoyed working with Jim in the big project of installing our sound system which, of course, now is being integrated with the new video technology."

John Rioux, who chairs the Technology Committee, said the wireless audio system is comprised of a transmitter with 1/8" stereo jack that is connected to the audio device or computer and a receiver that is installed into the sound system as an additional audio channel such as one of our wireless microphones. Peter provided all materials, installation and calibration services at no cost.

The Jim Orr memorial gift saved the project \$548, which will cost approximately \$10,000 in its entirety. Roger Sonstroem donated \$5,000 towards the purchase of the system in memory of his parents, Wally and Janet. The balance is from the Book of Remembrance. This device was first used during the children's message presented by Associate Music Director Emily Flower on Sunday, October 24. Our Music Director, Heidi Flower, expressed her excitement about the capabilities of this new gizmo.

The projection system consists of an Epson PowerLite Pro G5350NL projector including long throw lens with complete wireless video capabilities which will project images to a 12' x 9' electric screen with wireless remote screen up/down operation. The existing church laptop will be utilized to run this new projection system with wireless computer network access provided through a new access point installed in Sessions Hall. This will allow for complete wireless computer network access in the sanctuary and Sessions Hall. The projection system can be driven from any computer connected to the internal church network.

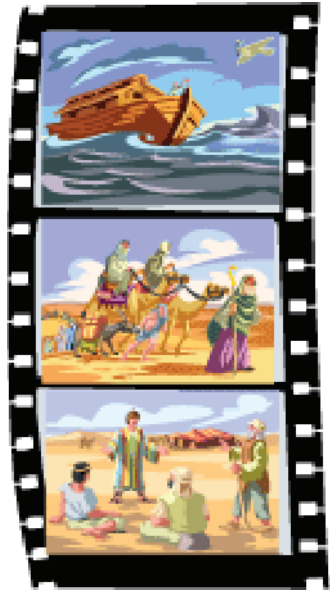
### LIVING GREEN

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

Before real cold weather sets in, check all of your house windows and make sure they are shut. Any window left open even 1/8" of an inch, whether it's a double hung or a casement window, will bring in cold air. This air requires heating and will draw down any fuel you use. Especially check any windows by or near your thermostat. A small air leak will cause the heating unit to run and may over heat some other parts of your home.

Major milestones completed to date include: purchase and delivery of all system components; wiring, installation and checkout of wireless network access point in Sessions Hall; electrical AC power outlet wiring of under balcony projector location and screen power planning; and all screen hardware acquisition and planning. John Rioux, Chuck Pelky and other helpers plan to undertake the major task of hanging the screen on Halloween evening. This will require some ingenuity in order to raise the 100 lb. screen to the desired height of 19' 9" from the floor. Lastly, the projector needs to be hung under the balcony with complete calibration by vendor Eric Hauch.

Complete system installation is expected by mid-November, barring any unforeseen tricks caused by Halloween gremlins.



# November 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Fellowship Hour this month is staffed by Worship</b>	1	2	3 7 pm Senior Choir  2:30 – 6 p.m. Prospect serves at Zion Soup Kitchen	4  Beginnings Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	5	6  Women of Prospect 9 a.m.
7	8  Rethink 7 p.m.	9  Bristol Brass Concert  Finance 7:30 p.m.	10  7 pm Senior Choir	11  Beginnings Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	12  Hockey Night Men's Group	13
14	15	16	17  7 pm Senior Choir	18  Beginnings Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	19	20
21	22	23	24  Ecumenical Service 7:30 p.m.		26	27
28	29	30  Finance 7 p.m.	<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service 10:00 a.m. Church School		<b>"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High"</b>  <b>Psalms 92:1-</b>	