



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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ENOUGH *Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*



From the Pastor's Pen

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."¹

***Command them not...to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God.
~1 Timothy 6:17***

I hope you will join us in worship October 24 – November 21 for a sermon series entitled ***Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity***. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why I want us to focus on ***Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity***. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship. I'll share with you expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we'll provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

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At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on November 21.

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Pastor Dennis

1 "Eight Out of Ten Americans Stressed Because of Economy," by Madison Park, from CNN.com, October 7, 2008; <http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/10/07/economic.stress/index.html>.

NOT YET A MEMBER OF PROSPECT? _____

To imitate a credit card commercial, membership in Prospect Church has its privileges. Like what? To find out you'll need to come to a new member orientation Sunday, October 24 at 9 a.m. in the parlor. For those who decide to join we'll welcome new members during worship Sunday, October 31 (the best Halloween ever!). For more information, please speak with Pastor Dennis (or e-mail: pastorpumc@snet.net). In a nutshell, a desire to live Jesus' way and a willingness to help our church do its best are the requirements. Former Catholic? Former other church member? Never a member anywhere? Lifetime Methodist? We welcome all with open arms. If you can, let Pastor Dennis know of your interest before the 24th.

Our Church Family

IN MEMORIAM

David Davis - September 3

George Kingham - September 7

Frederick Clarke - September 8 (our longest term member)



TRAVELING WITH PUMC

WANT TO GO TO THE HOLY LAND NEXT YEAR?



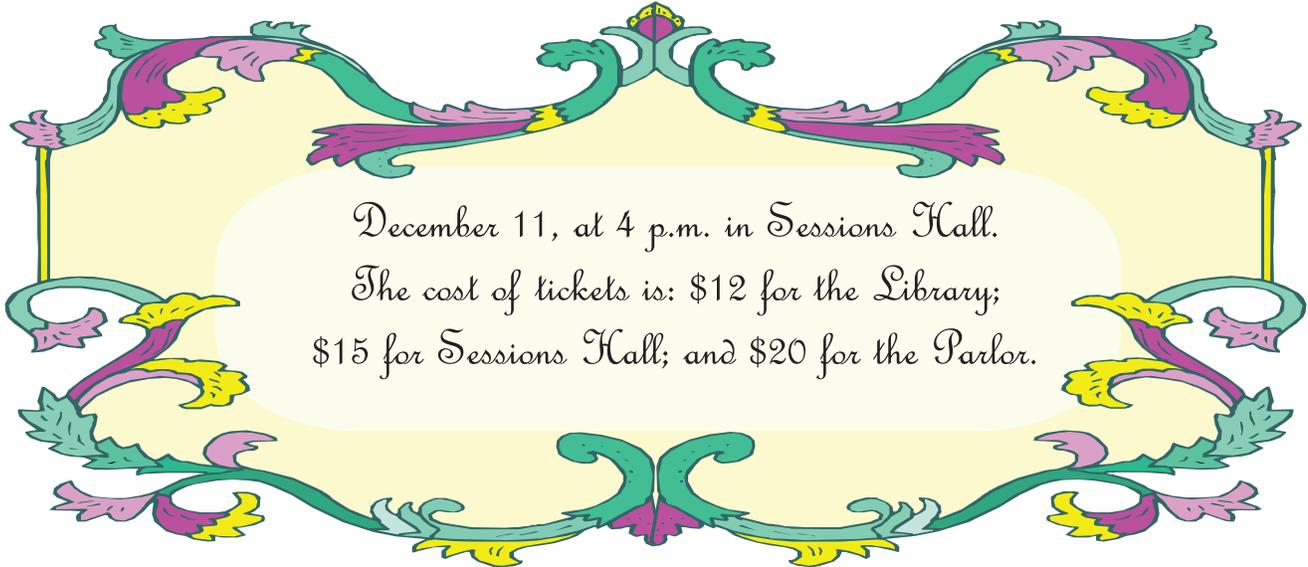
Pastor Dennis intends to lead a 10-day pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine next February or March. If you are interested in knowing details about this once in a lifetime journey, you are invited to an informational meeting, Thursday, October 7 at 7 p.m. in the parlor. The cost will be around \$2,100 for air and ground transportation, first class hotels, tour leadership, admission to holy sites and two meals a day. Pastor Dennis has led four pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and is very excited about leading Prospect members and friends on yet another one.

BUS TRIP TO NYC

A bus trip from Prospect is planned to New York City on Oct. 23rd. The cost is \$31 per person, which includes a tip. The bus will depart from the church parking lot at 8 a.m. sharp. The expected return is 6 p.m. Travelers will be dropped off in Times Square to spend the day as you please. Among suggestions are the King Tut exhibit, Christmas shopping, or the theater. Visit New York City tours on line to check out options or purchase tickets. The bus can hold 28 people. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis. To make a reservation contact Bill Thibodeau at (860) 589-0231. Make checks out to Rita Farren, the trip's organizer, and mail them to Bill Thibodeau at 280 Witches Rock Road, Bristol, CT 06010. The deadline for reservations is Sunday, Oct. 3rd.



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. Mrs. W.E. Sessions was known for the teas and special events she hosted at Beleden, the brownstone Sessions "manor house" on Bellevue Avenue.

The benefit to help restore the church organ (see a brief history of the organ in "Prospect in Earlier Days" column) 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.

Youth

Coloring Page "Let's Thank God"



Country Cupboard Fair

Saturday, October 16, 2009
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We are asking for your help to make this year's fair a success.

- Perhaps a donation -- Mail it to the church with a 'Fair' notation.
- Perhaps a baked good -- Bring it to the church the day of the fair between 9 a.m. and noon
- Perhaps a craft item -- Bring it to the Church before the day of the fair.

Don't forget to put the date on your calendar and bring a friend to the Fair.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Did you know that PUMC has a handbell choir? They would love and welcome new ringers! They have wonderful, patient teachers who can teach you what to do! They meet on Sundays after the Worship Service. Questions? See Heidi Flower.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

Each month, PUMC hosts a gathering of all sorts of crafters: scrapbookers, knitters, seamstresses, quilters, - whatever your craft, for an informal evening of working on our hobbies!

Come, exchange tips and tricks with others, and enjoy an evening of fellowship and crafts. Bring your friends. Arrive any time after 6 p.m.

Our Next Scheduled Craft Night is Friday, October 29. See Janice Moore or Jeanette Baker for additional info.

RE-THINK CHURCH BACK IN GEAR

The Re-Think Church Committee is back up and running after the summer hiatus. The Re-Think Church Campaign of the United Methodist Church (UMW) envisions church as a movement of people engaging the spiritual and physical needs of the world, rather than as a static institution focused only on Sunday morning services. Among the ideas under discussion are:

- Organize a small group of interested participants to read and discuss Adam Hamilton's book "When Christians Get It Wrong."
- Hold a worship experience outside the church's building -- on the lawn, in the parking lot, etc.
- As a follow up to the parking lot ministry have a trick or treating event in church parking lot.
- Develop a year-round calendar of events. Everyone at Prospect is encouraged to submit ideas for the calendar, which might include participation in the Shamrock Run, SouperBowl of Caring, etc. Please submit your ideas to Jeanette Baker, Joyce Rioux or Erika Plourde.

INTERFAITH SERVICE

Vivian Brackett, who chairs the Prospect History Committee, will represent the church at an interfaith service for Bristol's 225th Anniversary planned for the First Congregational Church at 3 p.m. on October. 3. She will be among representatives to relate the early history of their churches. All are welcome. The Bristol Historical Society is coordinating the anniversary celebration.

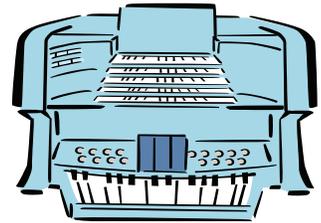
BLOOMING CONNECTICUT KIDS

Covenant to Care for Children needs your help. For every purchase made at www.flowerpowerfundraising.com Flower Power Fundraising will give 50% back to Covenant to Care for Children. The children of Connecticut need your support! Through Covenant to Care for Children you can provide for their very basic needs, reduce the stressors that impede their positive development and make the difference that may change their future for the better. Please help our children bloom while building your own garden of blooms, order today. Thank you.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Brief History of the Austin Organ

Prospect's Austin Organ, Opus 2279, was installed shortly after completion of the new education wing in the mid-1950s. The Organ Committee settled on the Austin Organ Opus 2279 model to replace the failing original pipe organ (also manufactured by Austin) in 1956, but installation was delayed until construction of the new education wing was completed.



The Organ Committee agreed the Austin proposal would best serve needs of the growing church. The \$35,000 quoted contract price provided for installation of the modern Austin electro-pneumatic action organ with a detached console, new blower, powerstat, wiring and removal of the original organ. In addition, the decision was made to house the new instrument inside the case of the old one. The organ project was temporarily put off, though, because construction costs for the education wing were higher than anticipated. As a result of the delay and rising building costs, the final cost of the project was \$44,250. The new Austin Organ was dedicated on Nov. 9, 1958, with a recital by Albert Russell, M.S.M., who was then organist of the Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

On Nov. 13, 1988, Robert Wilson, director of music at the Parkchester Baptist Church, Scarsdale, NY, gave a recital to celebrate the 30th anniversary of installation of the Austin Organ. It was said at that time that "the Austin Organ, Opus 2279, has served the Prospect Congregation faithfully and with dignity," but the organ has aged and is in need of serious repairs — hence, the need for benefit events such as the upcoming Victorian Tea planned for December 11 and last May's choral concert by H S. Liederkranz to help underwrite costs of future repairs.