



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

October 2011

Vol. 72, No. 8

Pastor's Page

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer."

Hebrews 10:25



We are going to have a planning retreat! Yeah!!! I know, that really isn't the most exciting thing to hear. But, it is very important, and it sure beats the Red Sox' 2011 season. Our planning retreat will help to set out the direction of Prospect United Methodist Church for the next five years. It will help us develop programs, focus our resources and point your Pastor's ministry in the right direction. Planning retreats act as a foundation for all that we hope to accomplish in Bristol.

Let's do a little exercise. Imagine it's Christmas time in the year 2015. Imagine what the church would look like. Who will be there at the Christmas Eve service? Are there people filling the pews? Are there new faces and people you do not recognize. What would be raised during the announcements? Now reflect on how we, as a church, got to this point. What did we do to reach out to the community and to new members? Will our vision of our future be filled with lost opportunities or with hopeful expectations?

And now you know why we are having a planning retreat. We are trying to reach a future filled with hope—we would like the Christmas Eve service of 2015 to be a celebration of a bright future and new life. To do this we need your help; we need your suggestions and we need your insights. We need your knowledge of the church and the community. We need you.

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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I will let you in on a little secret: I have no idea what we need to do to reach out the community. And, I'll let you in on another secret—neither does the New York Annual Conference. But do not be afraid because there is good news. God does know what we need. And when we get together, as a community of faith, and we all listen together, we just might be able to hear God's voice. The retreat is to help us discern what direction we need to go.

The retreat will take place on October 22nd, at 9 a.m. We are grateful to the Bakerville United Methodist Church, 141 Litchfield Turnpike (Rt. 202), New Hartford, CT 06057, for the use of their facilities for our retreat. Since this is a United Methodist function, lunch and beverages will be provided.

We really would like to see you there! I cannot overemphasize how important this retreat will be to our church and my ministry. I believe that Prospect United Methodist Church has a wonderful future just waiting for us. With God's direction and your help, we can make that future a reality.

*Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan*

■ Prospect Collecting Supplies For Haiti Trip

Prospect church member Jill Wilson, who formerly chaired the Church Council, will turn her talents in another direction in November: joining the Mountains of Hope mission of the UMC's New York Conference in a medically focus trip to Haiti, slated to run from Nov. 14-21. Jill, who has a nursing background, and the other participants will provide medical support to the doctor who visits the remote village of Furcy once a week. Furcy has no power or running water. The village is located in a mountainous area that can only be reached via jeeps over roads that are barely passable. There is a pharmacy in the village, however.

Volunteer groups can choose what to focus on from projects identified by the Methodist Church in Haiti (MCH) and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) as suitable projects and assignments to aid earthquake recovery in Haiti.

A focus of the November trip is collecting birthing kits and baby supplies, such as blankets and hats. Any knitters at the church are asked to consider making items Jill can take on the trip or donating baby items they already have. Prospect has begun collecting such supplies for the trip.

If people choose to donate money instead, it will be put to good use, according to Jill. Rev. Wendy Vencuss and Haitian Jude Exantus will lead the trip. Volunteers are from throughout the conference.

If you have questions about the mission project, contact Jill Wilson or call up the website www.mountainsofhopeforhaiti.org.

This is PUMC's opportunity to reach out to a very deprived people who need so much, and to support one of our own members going on a NYAC mission trip.

Please drop off your donations in Sessions Hall Sunday mornings or in the church office.

Items sought for the birthing kits include:

- *1 hotel-size bar of soap (1 oz. or up);*
- *1 pair of clean latex gloves;*
- *1 square yard of 4 mil plastic sheeting;*
- *3 pieces of clean string, each 12 inches long;*
- *2 flannelette receiving blankets, each 1 square yard; and*
- *a gallon size Ziploc bag.*

Prospect's 'Meals For The Needy' Role

Many church members are aware of programs that take place at our church, but how many of you know that Prospect has been involved with Bristol's oldest soup kitchen, "Meals for the Needy," since it started in 1982?

"Meals for the Needy," located at Zion Lutheran Church, 27 Judd St., is truly an ecumenical program that brings churches and civic organizations together to serve people in need. The meals are served from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. All participating churches and civic organizations have an assigned night.

Susan Powers, current "Meals for the Needy" coordinator for Prospect, notes that we once served a meal twice month. Currently, the church serves meal the first Wednesday of the month.



Past coordinators from Prospect were: Betty Lowrey, duration unknown; Louise Schaffrick with Tom and Harriet Downs, 14 years; Bill and Elaine Myhill, early 2000's; and Sue Powers since 2010.

Many other volunteers from the church have been essential to the success of Prospect's role over the years. Current volunteers are Jerry Rivard and Bill Baker (both since early 2000's), Lorette Caouette, Luisa and Gary Gladu, John Hickman, Chick Blair, Ray Barker, Tim Hickman, Alan Neils, Chuck Pelkey, Lorna Oakley and Cheryl McNeal. Even the new pastor, Bob Sorozan, helped out soon after coming on board in July to see what the program was all about.



One volunteer wrote: “ For me, it’s a way to serve others. Everyone has certain gifts and I have always felt that serving others by volunteering is one of the best feelings. So it makes me feel good and seeing the expressions of gratitude is very heart warming. In this day and age we are all a few paychecks away from needing help.”

A recent client said that coming to the soup kitchen provides him with a good meal and shelter from the outside (bad weather, heat and cold). Currently, he’s staying with friends because he has no source of income. On the weekends, he eats at the Christian Fellowship Center. His days are very long — he spends most of his time “canning” for money.

PUMC uses funds provided through the church’s Steward’s Fund to help cover the cost of the meal. Sue says, “We use the pantry at Zion to supplement the menu. The clients enjoy Elaine Myhill’s meatball soup. We might serve turkey tetrazzini, mac and cheese or ham and beans. Often, helpers will be asked to bake a dessert for our meal — maybe brownies or cupcakes or cookies. If PUMC has had a dinner (for ex., the Harvest Dinner or the Renaissance Dinner) and leftovers exist, any leftovers will be frozen for use at the next meal we serve.”



“Clients are very grateful for the effort extended — they express their gratitude with a kind word, *thank you* or *God bless you*, she notes. “We welcome them and attempt to bring a smile to their day. Helping people to have a better tomorrow, to be loved and cared for, and to find hope and dignity in the midst of life’s problems is what we do. It is who we are!” Sue adds.

Memorial Brick Garden

Would you like to Honor or Memorialize someone you care about? Place a permanent brick in our upper parking lot Brick Garden. You have the opportunity to add a personalized brick of your choice for \$95. Order forms are now available in Sessions Hall. For information, see Jane Snowdon or Jill Wilson at 860-583-5002.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

“Rally Day Started Sunday School Year” - Kathy Dube

Last month’s Prospect In Earlier Days marked the somber passing of five church members in the Great Hurricane of 1938, as reported in the October 1938 Tower. Other articles in the same Tower noted the start of the new church school-church activity year.



Rally Day Marks New Year In Prospect Church School” highlighted the fact that 32 classes were organized into seven different departments: Cradle Roll; Beginners; Primary; Junior; Intermediate and High School; Adult; and Home.

Another activity of note: “The Scout Master Resigns ...Long Live The Scout Master.” Wilbur Lowrey, the retiring Scout Master of Troop 2, formerly housed at Prospect, resigned to become District Executive in the area that included Troop 2. Taking over as Scout Master was Albert Grindal, Jr.

The Tower previewed Fall activities including the Fall Bazaar and “something new and different ... a Doll Exhibit” (see next issue for more details).

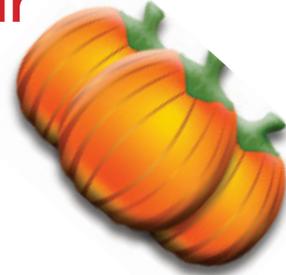
Finally, a short note highlighted the fact that “Methodist Unification Has Taken Place.” The union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church had been legally effective in April, resulting in a new body simply called “The Methodist Church.” The last to approve the Plan of Union was the Methodist Church, South. A Unification Conference was planned for April 26, 1939, in Kansas City to work out details of the reunification and coordination.

So, Prospect would henceforth be called Prospect Methodist Church rather than Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church. Still to come would be another merger that resulted in Prospect United Methodist Church.

Country Cupboard Fair



October 15
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



A wonderful selection of items!!!

Christmas Shop | Cookie Shop | Fudge | Homemade Crafts | Apple and Pumpkin Pies | Other Baked Goods | and more.

A luncheon with homemade soups and sandwiches will be available in the dining room.

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.

■ Tailgate trick or treating in church parking lot

Date: Sunday, Oct. 30.

Time: 1- 3 p.m.

Place: PUMC upper parking lot

A Trunk or Treat is a Halloween event that is often church- or community-sponsored. People gather and park their cars in a large parking lot. They open their trunks, or the backs of their vehicles, and decorate them. Then

they pass out candy from their trunks. The event provides a safe family environment for trick or treaters. Interested in volunteering for this event? See Jeanette Baker.

■ Book Club

Date: Thursday, Oct 27, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: PUMC Parlor

Book: *The Help* - Kathryn Stockett

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold**

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