

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church
A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Pastor's Page

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."
Second Corinthians 4:7



I am still thinking about the wonderful time we had at the "Heifer Project" farm in Massachusetts. As many of you may know, a group of Sunday School children, and some not so young children, made a trip to the farm to understand the issue of hunger and what we can do about it. We all had a great time and all of us learned something on this visit.

The Heifer Project is an amazingly simple concept. Instead of simply sending money or food to people living in the third world, Heifer International sends livestock and knowledge. Its mission is to help third world farmers and villagers become self-sustaining. So, instead of the farmers getting a package of de-hydrated food, they get a cow to provide milk, or sheep for wool, or rabbits for ... I think you get the picture. If the animals breed, the first offspring goes to another farmer so he/she can become self-sustaining. The money we donate goes directly into livestock for small local farmers.



We all were impressed with the animals at the farm. I mean, how can you not smile at a baby goat? The children had a great time petting all the animals. There were volunteers who were able to share stories about the animal's background and their uses on the farm. I was very impressed with some buildings which represented third world living conditions.

The trip to the farm was fun and it served as a reminder of our shared humanity. The farm tells the story of people, like us, who are struggling to get by. Their struggle is not about preparing for retirement or sending their children to the right school. Their struggle is just to make it to another day. They may live in far off distant lands, but the farm brings home the truth that they are still our brothers and sisters.

Prospect United Methodist Church

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Later this month, our congregation will have the honor of sending three of our members to Haiti on a mission trip. They will be leaving our blessed state of Connecticut to go to one of the poorest countries in the world. It is always an honor for a congregation to send out a mission team. They represent us. They represent what the Christian faith is all about.

We can all participate in this mission trip. We can purchase supplies which will be carried down to Haiti. We can make donations to UMCOR. Most important of all, we can pray for their mission. And we can also make donations to the Heifer Project, which is also in mission in Haiti.

Our faith is a marvelous thing. If our faith is alive, it will draw us out of our comfort zones and get us to do things that we would never have expected. It brings us to strange new places. It introduces us to new people and helps us to understand that we have many more sisters and brothers than we thought possible. We may be fragile earthen vessels but God has offered us un-imaginable treasures.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

P.S. I think I left my back out on the road on our return trip from the farm. If any of you should come upon it in your travels, could you return it to the church office?

■ **Small Group Survey**

Fifty-one people submitted responses to the Small Group Survey undertaken by the Church Council this summer. The Council thanks all who completed the survey. Council members are looking at the results for discussion and evaluation at the October meeting, scheduled for October 23. All Council meetings are open to all members of the Congregation, so if you didn't respond or want to discuss the results, you are welcome to attend.

■ **Music Notes**

"Kids Praise God!", PUMC's new children's musical group began rehearsing this month. The group meets from 5:15-6 p.m. in the Music Room. Children in 1st grade and up are invited to come join the fun every Thursday!

Please contact Heidi Flower for more information: heidirewolf@gmail.com

Marriages: *Alex Tie and Alicia Marinoccio – September 22*

Deaths: *Virginia Wall – July 30*

Baptisms: *Anayah Marie Bentley – October 7*

■ **A Special Thank You**

Thank you for your support of our sister congregation in Prattsville. The special offering which we took on Sunday, September 23, raised enough money to purchase three chairs for the Prattsville UMC sanctuary. Your generosity has helped our sister congregation recover from a devastating flood and will be a lasting witness to the faith which we share. Well done! If you missed the opportunity to share in this important work, or if you would like to make an additional donation, we will still be collecting gifts for the next few weeks. Make your checks out to the Prospect United Methodist Church and write on the memo line Prattsville Flood. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

■ **Missions Trip to Haiti**

Joyce Rioux, Lisa Limeburner and Jill Wilson will go on a Missions trip to Haiti from November 10-17. The New York Annual Conference (NYAC) has been supporting the Furcy area of Haiti since 2008, sending more than 30 teams to work with and alongside the local Methodist church in the area. Furcy is located in a mountainous area that can only be reached via jeeps over roads that are barely passable. The area has no electricity or running water, but the village has a clinic with a small pharmacy.

“Friends of Furcy” was started in 2004 with the purpose of encouraging, supporting and assisting the local church and community leaders in their efforts and to empower the community in improving the quality of life in the area. Mountains of Hope sponsors such projects as the Furcy Clinic, the Methodist School of Furcy, Farmers Association, Holy Angels Orphanage and Good Samaritan Senior Home.

This will be the second Missions trip for Jill, who first went to Furcy on a medically focused trip the previous November. It will be the first for Joyce and Lisa. This trip will be led by two individuals from the Wethersfield U.M. Church, one of whom is from Haiti.

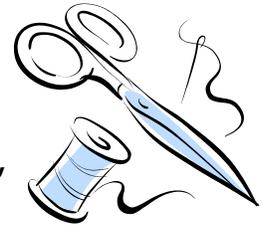
A seamstress will be going on the trip to teach local women to sew with new treadle sewing machines. To support this focus, the Prospect volunteers are seeking donations of sewing kits. A suitcase that will take supplies to Haiti has been set up in Sessions Hall to receive your donation. Each will be taking a personal suitcase plus a supply suitcase. “We can always use more suitcases, if not for us, then one for someone on a future team,” Jill said.

Monetary donations are also more than welcome, which will be used for more sewing kits, or for a hot meal for the children in the area.

Prospect’s Faith in Action committee will hold a “Hen Party” for Haiti on November 3, with the goal of raising money for hot meals for the children.

The list of desired sewing donations follows:

- 3 continuous yards of fabric cotton or cotton blend only (no heavy duty, corduroy, knit, etc., please ...also, no patriotic, religious, holiday, camouflage, or military patterned fabric)
- 1 pair scissors designed for fabric
- 1 package hand needles in the original packaging
- 1 spool of thread (medium to large spool ... no travel kit thread)
- 5 to 8 buttons in original packaging, fastened together (no loose buttons)
- 1 plastic bag (1-gallon size sealable bags only)



Directions for assembling is as follows: Wrap sewing notions in fabric. Place kit in the plastic bag and seal.

Please note that all all items must be new. Do not wash the fabric as it will then be considered used.

If you can donate a large rolling suitcase, please contact one of the three PUMC volunteers.

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

President Taft's Visit To Prospect/Part 2 - Kathy Dube



In Part 1, before the Tower's summer hiatus, we began a short series on a singular event in Prospect's history: The visit to the church by a former President, William Howard Taft, in June of 1917. The visit was designed to help bolster the country's entry into WW I and the American Red Cross. The rally drew some 2,000 people both inside and outside the church.

After a two-minute standing ovation, President Taft was said to be "in his usual happy frame of mind (Taft was notable for being the largest of all of our Presidents) and performed his remarks with a few good stories which caused considerable merriment throughout the audience," the front page Bristol Press article states. He complimented the church for the comfortable surroundings, noting it is more difficult to speak in the opposite.

On a more serious note, Taft said, "The entire world was surprised at the ruthless and cruel manner in which the Central Powers carried on its warfare, startling the world." He specifically noted the 1,198 lives lost when the "Lusitania" was sunk by a torpedo off the coast of Ireland in 1915 despite the "Rights of Neutrals" accommodation on the high seas. He praised the self-restraint and tolerance of President Woodrow Wilson the two prior years, but said, "It is the moral and political principle that we are defending by our entry into the war."

The Press deemed President Taft's visit to Bristol a worthy one, referring to the war effort and its support of the Red Cross: "His mission here is a worthy one. Great Harvester that he is, he will find the seed well sown. A city is known by the deeds of its people. And Bristol has already gained renown as a doer of things worth while in affairs both civic and militant. ... Bristol has more enlisted men, in the service of the government, in proportion to its size, than any other city in the state. Our Home Guard companies in addition to furnishing splendid training facilities for those of the members who may be called to the colors, are rapidly approaching a state of high emergency, ready for any call or emergency."

[More on the visit will follow in the next Prospect In Earlier Days]

Kudos To Karen Rochelle

Karen Rochelle, who chaired the Prospect Church Fair — now called the Country Cupboard Fair — for more than three decades, is turning the project over to others. This is the transition year for this hard-working church member, who chaired the project for 31 years through 2011.



She first got into the Fair organization after being recruited by late Prospect church member Dot Warfield. She had already helped out at the former Mother's Club booth. "There wasn't a lot of instruction in the beginning, and I didn't have a real successful first year," Karen recalled.

The Fair has gone through several evolutions over the years. In the beginning, each participating group from the church made its own money and there were no outside vendors. For a few years, it was held at the former Bristol Centre Mall when it was a going concern.

When it returned to the church, the late Doris Taylor named the fair and Doris Katt researched how to bring in vendors. Crafters were sought who would pay a fee to set up a booth at the church. Some crafters return to the same spot year after year. They have to have a tax number to rent space and anything sold has to be self made.

Country Cupboard Fair

October 20
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.

- Donation - Mail it to the church with a 'Fair' notation.
- Baked good - Bring it to the church the day of the fair between 9 .a.m. and noon
- 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.

Karen notes, "A lot of my family have been recruited over the years to help set up, tear down, run for pies in the downstairs freezer, or help out at a booth. My mother, Irene Taylor, organized the sewing and crafts area and sent out crafter invitations and my sister Laura has been the treasurer for many years."

She stressed, "Many people have been on the fair committee and helped us over the years. I couldn't do this job alone. Thanks to everyone who made the fair a success each year." Among them are:

- Sue Powers, who was in charge of the downstairs luncheon for 18 years before passing the duties on;
- Liz Baker, who organizes the bake sale;
- Jeanette Baker, in charge of the Christmas Shop;
- Louise Schaffrick, in charge of the apple pies for 28 years (in recent years, Laura added pumpkin pies);
- and the Snowdens, who originally served as treasurers.

Fair proceeds enabled the committee to buy a big freezer in which to store the pies. The Fair Committee holds crafts nights at various times during the year to make items to be sold at the fair. The Harvest Dinner, planned by John and Marion Hickman for many years, used to be held the same night as the fair, but it became too hard to run both on the same day. Originally, the luncheon was served upstairs in the parlor. Now, the luncheon is served downstairs, chiefly under the supervision of Jan Moore and the Women's Group.

If a church group wants to set up its own booth, the proceeds can be kept by the group. Otherwise, sales on behalf of the church are used for a specific project. Some examples have been: helping to buy a new stove for the kitchen; upkeep in the parlor; curtains in the sanctuary; outfitting the upstairs nursery with a bathroom; and helping with kitchen renovations, fuel, or to bolster the General Fund.

Karen worked as a paraprofessional for the Board of Education for 24 years before her retirement. She has also done tax returns for H&R Block for 21 years. Karen and her husband, Wesley Rochelle, have two children, a son, Kyle, and a daughter, Stacey.

Even though she won't be chairing the Fair any longer, she will continue to give her guidance if it is needed to ensure a successful transition.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
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