

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

October 2008

Vol. 69, No. 7

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends:

Prospect Church has suffered some serious blows recently. A decision about a limited access agreement for sexual offenders has cost us several treasured long time members. In addition, there is a significant shortfall in offerings and the realization that we can no longer tap the endowment fund for help in the way we have been. And we have other concerns as well, including the reality of large increases in fuel and utility costs for our church building.



In my sermon September 7th, I noted some of these challenges, informed folks that church leaders are working overtime to address them, and also stated what scripture proclaims and experience confirms: at the core of any successful church are members dedicated to worshipping together regularly.

I closed the sermon by stating that without sacrifices by every person who loves this church there will be no future together as a church in any way close to what we have known. This includes the "sacrifice" of worshipping God as a church family.

Your church needs you now more than ever. Yes, we will ask you for money, for time and for the best of your talents. If you give them we have a chance -- a good chance. If you don't, we don't

Wonderful ministries to all age groups are under way again at Prospect Church. I am confident that your regular attendance will be rewarded immediately, let alone in the long run. Prospect Church is still the best possible place to be on Sunday mornings!

Sometimes life presents us with very simple choices. And the choice before us is as clear as clear can be. For Prospect Church, the decision for the future is really up to you.

See you in Church,
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

Heidi Flower,
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Graceann Grindal,
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Amy Kelley, Chapel Organist

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prospect-ct/index.htm](http://www.gbmg-umc.org/prospect-ct/index.htm)

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

■ UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The women of Prospect are collecting recipes for a new cookbook. Place your favorite recipe in the soup pot found in Sessions Hall. Coming attractions from this group include a “Women Only” Health and Craft Fair; a Christmas Cookie Swap; and “The Great Chilli Challenge” against the Men’s Fellowship.

■ UNITED METHODIST MEN



PUMC Men’s Fellowship is sponsoring a trip to the Yale Bowl in New Haven on Saturday, October 25th. Yale’s football team is playing Penn. Game time is 12:30 p.m. We can car pool from the Church at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults. Children under 14 get in free. This is a great inexpensive deal for families to enjoy a Fall afternoon. If interested, sign up in Sessions Hall. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the game.

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL...A FOUNDATION OF FAITH

“Teach a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

Let us pause for a moment to celebrate and give thanks to those among us who are teachers. This year’s teachers are:

- **Nursery**
Esther Contois
- **PreK, K and 1st Grades**
Lang Ashworth and
Autumn Upham-Roberts
- **2nd-4th Grades**
Susie Parker and Amber Martin
- **5th-7th Grades**
Carla Heister
- **8th-12th Grades**
Diane Ashworth
- **Sr. MYF Leaders**
Diane and Lang Ashworth
- **Jr. MYF Leaders**
Jeff and Shirley Paulette
- **Sunday School
Superintendent**
Shirley Paulette

MYF News In October - Our youth groups will resume our first and third Sunday meetings. Sunday, October 5th and again on Sunday, October 19th from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Church. Hope to see you there! If you need information or transportation call your leaders, Diane and Lang at 860.583.9520 or Jeff and Shirley at 860.585.9859.

Bible Sunday - As part of our Sunday School program, Prospect United Methodist Church will present a Bible to each member of the 2nd Grade Class. This event will take place on October 5th.

**VIBRANT FAITH
BELIEVING, THINKING, ACTING**

Jill Wilson

Recently there have been many opportunities to attend churchwide meetings about a variety of matters. I have been very pleased with the attendance and interest. More sharing of information will be forthcoming. I encourage your continued attendance and attention to each opportunity. Our church is in a new place. We continue to face challenges and change. Becoming a healthy church is vital to our future. Your involvement as we share information, strategize, and make decisions together is crucial. Stay involved!

OUR CHURCH

■ NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT: OUR MINIMUM FACTOR - TIM KRAUSS

In last month's article, an extremely brief explanation of Natural Church Development (NCD) was provided along with a reminder about the survey that was completed in January and some information about how we will proceed with NCD. This month we will describe our minimum factor and introduce your NCD Church Health Team.



What is our minimum factor? The survey results identified “Passionate Spirituality” as the minimum factor for Prospect. This growth characteristic scored lowest on the survey so it is the area of our life that we will work to improve first. Thinking and praying about our minimum factor and working to improve it will help us remove the human interference that blocks the natural God-given ability for growth that exists in our church. Passionate Spirituality includes how we experience God, our passion for Prospect UMC and the greater Christian Church, our passion for devotions, and our spiritual interconnectedness. Put in a different way, our weak point right now is our enthusiasm for our God, our Church, our prayer life, and each other.

What is a Church Health Team? And who are the members of our team? This is a small group of people who act as a steering committee and think tank to coordinate the church's efforts on the NCD process. We work with our pastor and a trained coach provided by the New York Annual Conference. Our coach is Rev. Chuck Naugle, who is the pastor at the UMC in North Canton. The job of the Church Health Team is to identify ways that we can all improve our minimum factor together, work with the Church Council and committees to ensure that the church makes steady progress, and to report on that progress. Our team began last year with Diane Ashworth, Tim Krauss, Jackie Palance, Jane Pallokat, the Church Council Chairperson (Rita Fasci), and the pastor.

With the new year our Church Council Chairperson has changed to Jill Wilson and Pastor Dennis has joined us. Jane has asked to be replaced so that she can focus on other responsibilities. We thank Rita and Jane for their efforts. We are looking for one or two more people with a passion for any of the elements of Passionate Spirituality who would like to help improve this part of our faith life.

How do we find out about NCD?

There is a display in Sessions Hall about our survey results. A presentation about NCD was made after worship on Sept. 21 and our survey results were discussed in detail at the Sept. 23 Church Council meeting. Information from these events will soon be available on the church Website and in the literature racks at the church. You can also visit the “What is NCD?” page of the NCD Website at www.ncd-international.org/public/essence.html or contact any member of the Church Health Team.

What’s next? It is expected that information about NCD and what Passionate Spirituality means to us as a congregation will be woven into our worship on Laity Sunday in October. Also, watch for another NCD article in the November Tower about the next steps in our journey to increase our passionate spirituality together.

■ **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

The financial portfolio, annual budget and spending opportunities come into focus as the season changes to Fall and we look ahead. Prospect is in an extremely challenging financial time. Please attend the next church meeting on October 26 (to be held right after church), to learn more about our current financial situation and how it will affect us next year.

■ **MEMORIALS / HONORARIUMS**

The Flower Chart is found in Sessions Hall. You may sign up for altar flowers in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The Tower Lights are also available to shine in honor or memory of your loved ones. Please call the church office at 582-3443 for further information.

■ **NEW MEMBERS**

If you know of anyone who would like to join Prospect United Methodist Church or learn more about our congregation, please invite them to visit on any Sunday.

OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.	Chapel Service
10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
10:00 a.m.	Church School
10:00 a.m.	Nursery School
11:00 a.m.	Fellowship

MEETING SCHEDULE

October 5	Worship Committee 11:15 a.m. in church parlor
October 5	Scholarship Grinder Sale
October 9	Strategic Planning Task Force 7 p.m.
October 14	Finance Committee 7 p.m.
October 17	Set up for the Prospect Country Cupboard Fair
October 18	Prospect Country Cupboard Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
October 21	Church Council 7 p.m.
October 26	All church meeting after service
October 26	Potluck
October 28	Outreach Committee 6:30 p.m.

EVENTS

October 18	Country Cupboard Fair
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POTLUCK

The potluck for October will be on the 26th. Bring a favorite dish and join us after service for a potluck lunch. All are welcome even if you can't bring a dish. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the clean up. Just stop by the kitchen after the dinner if you'd like to help.



Country Cupboard Fair and Harvest Dinner

**October 18th - Fair
10 a.m. to 4 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.**

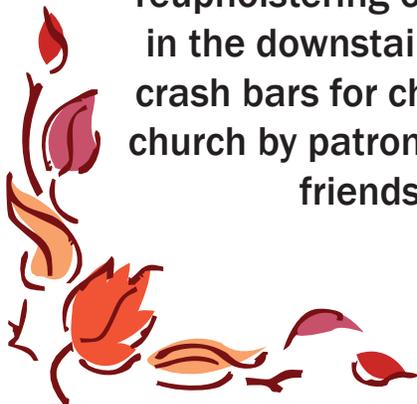
**November 8
Harvest Dinner**

Roast Chicken and all the Fixings

**The tables in the dining hall will be decorated beautifully and the
service will be delightful. Enjoy the fellowship. Serve the Lord. Bring
your friends and family to the Harvest Dinner.**

Did you know?

**Proceeds from the fair and dinner have paid for new
flooring in the upstairs kitchen, new carpeting and
reupholstering of furniture in the parlor, an industrial stove
in the downstairs kitchen, a bathroom in the crib nursery,
crash bars for church doors, and much more. Support your
church by patronizing this year's fair and dinner. Bring your
friends and introduce them to Prospect.**



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99 SUMMER STREET
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