



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

September 2009

Vol. 70, No. 7

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

New beginnings. September is all about new beginnings, isn't it? School begins. Football season begins. The Adult Choir begins to sing for us again; the Handbell Choir practice begins. And Sunday School and Youth Group begins.



If you think about it, September and church life is kind of like January and the making of New Year's resolutions – a chance to begin again, to start over, to do this year what we meant to do last year. For some this will be to be in worship more often. Or to make sure the children get to Sunday School. Or to honor commitments of time and money once made but recently not followed through on. Personally, as my one year pastorate has turned into two, there are a couple of things I couldn't find time to do last year that I vow to do this year.

September is a time of new beginnings for all of us in one way or another. What new resolutions is God nudging you to make in your life in general and/or in your participation in Prospect Church?

If you can't think of anything, I'm fairly certain that it means you haven't been paying attention.

Resolutely yours,

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,
Director of Music & Organist
Graceann Grindal,
Assoc. Organist & Director
Amy Kelley, Chapel Organist

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

CHURCH NOTES

The SPR Committee, chaired by Bill Katt, will be soliciting opinions from the congregation on needs and desires for a pastor to succeed the Dr. Rev. Dennis Winkleblack, who will complete his second year as transitional interim pastor next June. The agreement with the Bishop and Cabinet was that Dennis would only serve Prospect for one more year. By starting the process early, the committee hopes to develop a profile for a pastor more in keeping with our needs. So don't be shy, speak up to Bill Katt or other committee members. Look for a questionnaire from the SPR Committee during September soliciting thoughts from the entire congregation about needs and other considerations in the search for a new pastor.

An Organ Restoration Committee has been formed to work with the Austin Organ Service Company on needed repairs to our sanctuary organ, now more than 50 years old. The immediate need is regluing the reed weights at a cost of just under \$7,000. The committee will approach the Board of Trustees for this expenditure. Less critical but far more costly will be a recommended "windchest action replacement." Austin estimates this will cost close to \$65,000, so a major fundraising project will have to be initiated for this repair. Nevertheless, Austin has written that the thin leather bellows in the organ can wear out after 30 years, so we are fortunate not to have needed this repair previously.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ...CATCH THE EXCITEMENT

■ RALLY DAY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Join us for an exciting Rally Day! After Children's time, our children will be organizing for a spectacular event. We will be having a Balloon Release! After the Service, the congregation will join us in the upper parking lot where hundreds of balloons will be released.

These balloons will have note cards attached. The notes will have messages about Jesus. As a fund-raiser event as well, these note cards can be purchased for \$0.50. You may write your own good-will message or choose a Bible verse for the card. We hope that these messages will spread Jesus' Word to all who find the cards. Imagine who will find them. After the release, our congregation can enjoy some sweet treats. We look forward to welcoming our students back to Sunday School. Your support with the purchase of the cards is appreciated.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

-Matthew 19:14

■ REGISTRATION SUNDAY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Our students will enjoy a fun day in the downstairs kitchen. They will meet their teachers and find out about our exciting 2009-2010 Sunday School Year. Parents should come to the kitchen to pick up their children. Remember to bring your completed registration forms! We look forward to seeing our new and returning students.

- **Superintendent of Sunday School** - Shirley Paulette
- **Adult Bible Study**- Dave Kelly
- **Nursery**- Esther Contois
- **PreK - 1st Grade Teachers** - Lang Ashworth and Jeff Paulette
- **2nd - 4th Grade Teacher** - Susie Parker
- **2nd - 4th Grad Co-Teacher** - Amber Martin
- **4th -5th Grade Teacher** - Carla Heister
- **8th - 12th Grade - Teacher** Diane Ashworth
- **Saturday Morning Angels Teacher** - Eleanor Flower
- **Senior MYF Leaders** - Diane and Lang Ashworth
- **Junior MYF Leaders** - Jeff and Shirley Paulette
- **Helpers** - Elaine Foley and Alexandria Paulette

A HISTORICAL PRIMER - PART 6

Kathy Dube

PROSPECT ROOTS DATE BACK 175 YEARS

(Note: This year marks the 175th anniversary of the formation of the first Methodist Society in Bristol, which eventually became the Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church and today, Prospect United Methodist Church. Watch for information from the History Committee about an observance this fall to celebrate the anniversary.)

Past Towers have related the early history of Prospect Church, from its origins as a class taught by a circuit rider to the incorporation of the first official Methodist Society, construction of the former West Street sanctuary and lastly, relocation to the corner of Center and Summer streets where Sessions Hall is located today.

While the move to the then new part of town was a significant accomplishment, it soon became apparent that the growing congregation once again needed a larger sanctuary. The first reference to the planned larger sanctuary which now houses our church was in the May 18, 1893, Bristol Press:

“J.H. Sessions (benefactor) and William Linstead (construction contractor) went Tuesday to Norfolk to look at granite quarried in that place. Mr. Sessions will decide in a few days as to the kind of stone to be used in building the new church. Plans will be received from Akron, Ohio within a month.”

Plans for an “Akron-styled” church were accepted on June 8, 1893. “Akron” was named for the hometown of architect James Kramer, commonly used in many Methodist churches constructed in that era. J.H. Sessions, a convert to Methodism in the late 1850s, entirely funded the \$75,000 cost of the planned new sanctuary.

The original building on the Sessions Hall site was partially demolished to make way for the new sanctuary, forcing members to meet elsewhere for a year. According to an article in a special historical Bristol Press section denoting the 100th anniversary of the new sanctuary’s dedication, Sessions and Linstead settled on granite from the Mine Hill quarry in Roxbury and brownstone from East Longmeadow, Mass. It is believed that much of the rock was shipped via the Connecticut River on barges.

■ SAM LEE EARNS EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Samuel Lee, son of Susan and Gerald Lee, is one of three young Prospect United Methodist Church members who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the last two years. A Court of Honor was held at Prospect on May 9 for Sam's Eagle Scout award presentation. A June graduate of Bristol Eastern High School, Sam has been a member of Troop 6 at Jennings School and follows in the footsteps of his father, who also is an Eagle Scout. His grandfather, Charles Lee, also is a member of Prospect.



For his Eagle Scout project, Sam, 18, spearheaded a landscaping project at Stafford School the previous summer. He chose Stafford because it was the elementary school he attended and he was a den chief there. Under Sam's supervision, 15 to 20 volunteers pulled out more than a hundred prickly bushes, planted a 30-foot garden, repainted black top, painted the school symbol and a mural on a wall, added several flower pots and painted a 25 x 30-foot map of the United States on the blacktop.

Sam will enter his freshman year at the University of Connecticut this fall, where he plans to major in political science. He received the Carl V. Mason Scholarship, one of several Prospect United Methodist scholarships, at the June 14th church service.

(Note: In addition to Sam Lee, Tyler Schaffrick and Ryan Pelletier became Eagle Scouts within the past two years. See more about them in a future Tower.)

Scouting serves young men and women in every part of the country. To find a group in your area go to <http://www.scouting.org/LocalCouncilLocator.aspx> or <http://www.girlscouts.org/councilfinder/>

■ EMILY FLOWER IS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Prospect Music Program is now graced with not one, but two, Flowers: Emily Flower, daughter of Organist and Choir Director Heidi Flower, is the new Associate Music Director. She succeeds Graceann Grindal, who retired in June after 45 years of service to Prospect's music program.



Emily will be the organist at the 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service and will direct the Children's Choir once it is reorganized in the Fall. Former chapel organist Amy Kelley has left Prospect to join the music staff at St. Joseph Church, but she will continue to be an occasional substitute organist for Heidi during her Sundays off, as she did during Heidi's recent vacation. Emily graduated from Terryville High School and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. She also worked two summers as music director at Camp Quinipet, the New York Annual Conference's church camp on Shelter Island, Long Island.

Emily works full time as a claims adjustor for The Hartford in Farmington. She and her husband, Eric Pomoroy, are looking forward to the birth of their first child in September.

With the retirement of Graceann, Heidi will take over direction of the Handbell Choir as well.

Welcome, Emily! Good luck, Amy! Happy retirement, Graceann!

■ NEW RINGERS NEEDED

The Prospect Tower Bells are looking for new ringers. The first meeting will be on September 13th in room 208 following worship service. Anyone from high school age and older is welcome to join the hand bell group. No auditions or prior experience are required.

■ TOP TEN REASONS TO SING WITH THE SENIOR CHOIR!

10. Special reserved seating
9. Our own private stash of Life Savers
8. Free coffee before service
7. No eye contact necessary with the Pastor
6. Heckling is allowed
5. Side door conveniently located for early departure
4. First dibs on Communion
3. Bird's eye view of the "real nappers" in church
2. Get to wear neat choir robe that can hide pajamas or bluejeans
1. Knee-slapping good time at Wednesday evening rehearsals.

There you have it, folks, the top 10 reasons to sing with the Senior Choir each week! But, the best reason of all is singing a variety of great music with a variety of great people! We welcome singers of all voices and ages, from High School on up. No auditions necessary.

Please join us! Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7 p.m. in Room 208. To kick off our first rehearsal, dinner will be served at 6 p.m. in Sessions Hall! Please let Heidi know if you will be attending the dinner.

Thanks

To all members of Prospect who helped celebrate my retirement as Associate Music Director, I say a heartfelt thank you! The dinner was delicious. The setting so attractive. And those chocolate fountains at the abundant dessert table ...!

Many people put in many hours to make it so successful -- from Diane Ashworth, who oversaw the whole project -- to those who baked and cooked and contributed the food.

The Bell Choir played beautifully. They made me proud. Thanks to Bill Katt for emceeing and Bev Lowrey and Estelle Franck for their kind words. And thanks to the people who took time to write such lovely notes. They touched my heart.

The plaque with its clock was a lovely parting gift. It sits on the bookshelf in my entry way where it tells me the time as I wait for a ride and where everyone can see it and read what it says.

Last of all -- thanks to all who came to share my special time. And thank you for all the wonderful years I spent at Prospect (all 45 of them). They were a true joy!

Love,
Graceann Grindal
Retired Associate Director of Music

NOTES OF INTEREST

■ ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are often a way to memorialize or honor a loved one. But maybe you just like the altar to have flowers! If you would like to put flowers on the Altar, for any reason that pleases you, just notify the church office. It is \$40. Recognition will occur in the Sunday Bulletin.

■ LIGHTING OF THE TOWER

For \$15 the outside of the Church Tower will be illuminated for the week of your choice. It is a very visual way to highlight our church in our community. Recognition will occur in the Sunday Bulletin.

■ GRINDER SALE

The Scholarship Committee will be having their annual fall grinder sale on October 4th. Orders will be taken on September 13, 20 and 27. Cost is \$7 and proceeds go to support the PUMC scholarship program.

■ FRIENDS OF PROSPECT

Join Friends of Prospect for lunch at Carmines on September 10 at 11:30.

■ JEWELRY NEEDED

It is time to clean out your jewelry boxes for the Country Cupboard Fair. You can bring to the office or give to Karen Rochelle all your unused gold, silver or costume jewelry for the Jewelry Booth at the Fair.

■ E-MAILS NEEDED

Volunteers in the church office are trying to expand the list of church members and friends with an e-mail address. If you have one, please consider providing it to the church office (prospectoffice@snet.net). If you think the office already has your e-mail address, send us a message anyway so we are sure that we have your correct address. You can receive the Tower via e-mail (cost effective and timely). Prayer chain requests are also sent out via e-mail by coordinators Charles Ricker and Jill Wilson. Meeting reminders and general items of interest are sent out electronically.

■ FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Please join us in Sessions Hall for Fellowship Hour following the 10 a.m. service.

■ POTLUCK LUNCH

Prospect's potluck lunch will resume in September on the 27th. A slight change in how it will be organized has been put in place. Instead of one group of volunteers doing the setting up and cleaning up for every potluck lunch we will be looking for a group of two or three to sign up by month (sort of like how Fellowship Hour works). Jeanette Baker will coordinate the monthly volunteers and she will be looking for volunteers for each month. See her if you would like to volunteer.



What you would do as a volunteer.

Before the 10 a.m. Service:

- Arrange placemats on each table (which will already be set up).
- Put one set of salt and pepper shakers on each table.
- Place plastic utensils, napkins and plates on the serving table (these are in the closet next to the refrigerator)

About 10 Minutes Before the Service Ends:

- Take donated items brought in by congregation from the refrigerator, counter, stove, and put them on the serving table.
- Put a serving spoon with each dish.

During the Lunch:

- Replenish supplies as needed.

End of Lunch:

- Around 12 noon start cleaning up.
- Wash, dry and put away all church utensils.
- Return leftover plastic utensils, napkins and plates to closet.
- Church members are responsible for cleaning their own serving dishes.
- Throw away any debris left and wipe down tables.

■ BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

The Annual Covenant to Care for Children Back to School Backpack Drive was held in August. If you were in Sessions Hall recently you would have seen backpacks, crayons, calculators, dictionaries, erasers, pencils and sharpeners, staplers and staples, construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, tape, pens, rulers, spiral bound notebooks, loose-leaf paper, and three ring binders all ready to be donated. Thank you for your generosity.



■ THANK YOU

Please accept my sincere thanks for your many cards and words of condolence in the passing of my beloved, Nila, on Easter Sunday and our grandson more recently. Your thoughts are a great comfort to me and my family. -- Al Scholten (*Pastor Al*)

Sue Powers wants to thank everyone who contributed to the nonperishable food donations that were taken to the United Methodist Women's School of Christian Mission recently. The food items were given to the Connecticut Food Bank to be distributed to the area soup kitchens and food banks. Sue's trunk was full of your generous donations! The school was attended by people from throughout the New York Annual Conference. A total of 369 pounds of food was collected at the school - at 1.3 pounds of food per meal, that's a lot of meals!

■ PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS ON FACEBOOK

Facebook is a great way to connect to church members and have church members connect to each other. Facebook is also a great way to distribute church information. Check Prospect's page out by clicking on the link found on the home page of Prospect's web site <http://www.gbkm-umc.org/prospect-ct/>.

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

A shorter version of the Sunday Service, with Holy Communion, in the Chapel, south side of Sessions Hall.

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Traditional service of worship in Sanctuary with hymns, prayers, sermon, children's and adult choir anthems and solos. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

10:00 a.m. Church School

Children attend opening portion of service with family, then go to Sunday School classes.

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

Time of fellowship and friendship with coffee, tea, cookies and conversation in Sessions Hall.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

September 2009 Worship
October 2009 Men's Fellowship
November 2009 Women's Group

MEETING SCHEDULE

September 8 Finance 7 p.m.
September 13 Worship 11:30 a.m.
September 15 Church Council 7 p.m.
September 17 Trustees 7 p.m.
September 21 Rethink Church 7 p.m.

EVENTS

September 10 Friends of Prospect Lunch
September 13 Rally Day
September 20 Registration Sunday
October 17 Country Cupboard Fair
November 7 Harvest Dinner

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99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010
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