

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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November 2013

Vol. 74, No. 9

## Pastor's Page

***"Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight." Isaiah 65:18***



I am a bit conservative in many things and I really don't like change. I don't like getting a new cell phone every two years — my family had the same black rotary dial phone for two decades! I thought the best car style of all time was the 1972 Dodge Challenger — car designers should have stopped designing cars after 1972! And, to be completely honest, I actually liked my lime green leisure suit in the late 1970's. For the life of me, I cannot understand why people sleep outside an Apple store for days just to get the latest I-phone.

The problem with all this is that change is part of being human. We can't avoid it. Change happens all around us. Phones, cars, fashion and people change all the time. How can we cope with it all?

Of course, I think I'm starting to sound like my relatives who used to visit my parents' house on summer days. We lived in the country, so our city relatives would come and experience the fresh country air. They would sit outside in those old aluminum folding chairs and talk about politics, raising children and their latest health problems. And, inevitably, they would talk about changes taking place all around them, and they didn't like it! Well, it was the 1960's after all.

This past week, I visited my son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. They just moved into their "new" home overlooking the Hudson River. I remember when my son built houses with Lego blocks. We went out to dinner at a local restaurant. I was feeling a bit nostalgic about my son — he has definitely grown up. But the really touching moment for me happened when I got up to tell the waitress to hold the croutons on my wife's salad. When I got back to the table, my family told me that my granddaughter said "Pop-pop" and pointed to me as I left the table. I've changed — I'm now a "Pop-pop." It actually felt great.

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# Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834  
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

The Rev. Dr. Bob Sorozan  
Pastor

Rev. William S. Barnes  
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. George E. Harris  
The Rev. Robert E. Rhodes, Jr.  
Ministers in Residence

Heidi Flower  
Director of Music & Organist

Phone: (860) 582-3443  
Fax: (860) 582-9224

E-Mail Addresses:  
pastorpumc@snet.net  
(information meant only for the pastor)  
prospectoffice@snet.net  
(all general information as well as information necessary for the Church Secretary.)

Website:  
<http://www.anewprospect.org>

Editor: Kathy Dube  
Layout: Jeanette Baker

The Bible is a very honest book. It reminds us that change will come to us in life. Sometimes, those changes will be unwanted. Many of the changes might even be traumatic. Sometimes, we will try to fight the changes we experience with every fiber of our being. But, in the end, children will grow up, and we will grow old, and the people we care about will go home to be with the Lord.

But, with change comes a promise. God cares about us so much that after all the changes we experience in our world, God will make one final change: "For I am about to create new heaven and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind." (Isaiah 65:17) Not all the changes we experience in life will be bad. In fact, we are promised something which will be very, very, good.

So, I am slowly morphing into my relatives of blessed memory. So, I'm driving a car which doesn't look like a Dodge Challenger. So, my son is all grown up and is tech savvy! But I will cherish each moment I spend with the people I love. And, I will hope for that new heaven and new earth where I can join all my relatives in folding aluminum chairs and talk about how good God has been.

Grace and Peace,  
**Bob Sorozan**

# Education Corner

## ■ INSIGHTS FROM OUR SUMMER READING - *Joyce Rioux*

Here are some books that members of PUMC read this summer that varied from Pastor Bob's reading list:

- "On God's Side" by Jim Wallis;
- "The Best Spiritual Writing 2013" edited by Philip Zaleski;
- "The Heart of Christianity, Rediscovering a Life of Faith" by Marcus Borg;
- "Killing Jesus: A History" by Bill O'Reilly;
- "To Sell is Human: The Surprising Truth About Moving Others" by Daniel Pink; and
- "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney.

The consensus: While the contextual demands of everyday life may be overwhelming, we make choices. We can choose to face the world with positivity, put our faith in action, and move our thinking into doing.

Ultimately, to who we are, we should contemplate, "Am I an admirer or a follower of Jesus Christ?"

*Books are the quietest and most constant of friends, they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.*  
Charles W. Eliot

## ■ ELECTRONIC-FREE FUN

The Education Committee and Women of Prospect sponsored a "Going Dark to Let in the Light" afternoon of activities and fun on Sunday, October 26th. Attendees were encouraged to leave their electronic devices at the door and focus on fellowship and fun, centered on the Bible!

People of all ages were invited to participate in the fun in Sessions Hall, including Bible trivia, a Bible Scavenger Hunt, Bible Character Dress-up, and more!

# Stewardship Corner

## ■ BE A GOOD STEWARD

Various committees are writing the church budget for the coming year. They're placing their trust in God and believing in our members and friends to support the church's ministry. Let us all show our faithfulness with good stewardship through our time, talents and treasures.



# Outreach Corner

## ■ COVENANT TO CARE/DCF CHILDREN'S PARTY

Our Annual Covenant to Care/ DCF Foster Children's Christmas Party will take place on Friday, December 6, from 3:30 to 9 p.m. in almost all areas of the church building.

Susan Lee, DCF coordinator, says, "This is an opportunity to directly help bring a special evening of joy to 200-plus foster children." Volunteer sign-up sheets are on bulletin board in Sessions Hall.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping children at craft tables;
- Serving pizza and juice boxes in the kitchen;
- Helping at the Photo with Santa table;
- Assisting in the Parent's Room;
- Clean-up (sweeping the floor, rearranging tables, etc.)
- Directing traffic in the parking lot.

All volunteers must be 14 years of age to work at the party. All teens must attend a mandatory 20-minute training session provided by DCF, re confidentiality, etc.



Food donations are also sought for the following items: paper goods, including 30 long rectangular tablecloths, 500 paper plates, and two packages of 250-count napkins; and 300 juice boxes.

All questions should be directed to Susan Lee, who thanks everyone who is able to contribute time or products to make the party a success.

## ■ SWEET ENDINGS

Sunday morning church services have sweet endings in the form of cupcakes this month to benefit the hungry.

The Lay Leadership and Education Committee sought permission to initiate the Cupcakes for Hunger project, which will benefit a program for children and/or families in need. The recipient will be the Zion Lutheran Church Soup Kitchen.



# History Corner

## **PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS** - *Kathy Dube* *Highlights From November 1960 Tower*

### **Mission Festival Of New Haven District**

Some 800 people were expected to attend a Missions Festival of the former New Haven District, to which Prospect belonged, to hear newly appointed Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke on November 6th. Prospect, in fact, hosted the gathering.



### **“Last Supper” Painting Copy Dedicated**

Following acceptance of the Board of Trustees, a copy of Leonardo DaVinci’s famous painting of the The Last Supper was dedicated as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gould, in memory of Mrs. Gould’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stotz. The copy was painted by modern painter J. Poulin. Mr. Stotz was an active member of Prospect after he joined the church in 1910, serving as a trustee, communion steward, usher, Sunday School teacher, and member of the Welcoming Committee.

### **Church Fair Scheduled For Nov. 17th**

The annual Christmas Fair, sponsored by the Woman’s Society of Christian Service (WSCS), was scheduled for November 17 featuring a snack bar, cafeteria supper, and booths from nearly every unit of the church. “This is the one time of the year that all members work together, play together, and live together as the symbol of one of God’s families trying hard to promote his kingdom on earth,” the Tower stated.

### **Farmington Valley Choral Society Concert**

On Wednesday, November 2, the Farmington Valley Choral Society performed under auspices of the Wesleyan Service Guild. The program included both sacred and classical numbers.

### **Clarkson Barnes Addressed Men’s Club**

Clarkson Barnes, then co-publisher of the Bristol Press, spoke on November 9 about his trip to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, along with Mayor Walter J. Murphy Jr., touring missile sites. They also toured missile bases in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado.

# Victorian Tea Returns

Sessions Hall is named for the early benefactors of our church, John Humphrey and William E. Sessions. Emily Sessions, wife of W.E., was known for the teas and special events she hosted at Beleden, the brownstone Sessions "manor house" on Bellevue Avenue owned by the couple.



Join us for our annual holiday tea as Sessions Hall is transformed into an English Manor on December 14th at 4:00 p.m. Servants will surround you with an array of assorted delectables as you sip your tea and are transported to a time of elegance. The event is open to all ages and both women and men. Proper attire and tea hats are encouraged. For reservations call Mrs. Hudson at (860) 214-4663. The cost of tickets is: \$15 for Sessions Hall; and \$25 for the Parlor..



*Poinsettias*

## Order Your Poinsettias

Orders are currently being taken for poinsettias. These flowers will adorn our altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. The cost is \$10 each. For those wishing to take the plants home, they will be available after the worship service on Christmas Day.

This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than December 15. Thank you.

<b>In Honor of</b>	
<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>Number Requested</b>	
<b>Given by</b>	

# PUZZLE

## Why we're thankful

Leaves falling from trees are a sign of autumn's arrival. Giving thanks to God is a sign of our gratitude for his many blessings.

Directions: Using the words in the leaves, discover why it's good for us to thank God. (Hint: Use word length to help you.)

love  
forever."  
for  
he  
Chronicles  
his

LORD  
thanks  
endures  
is  
"G  
"

"Give  
to  
good  
the

1

16:34, NIV

Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV

# Christian Education Connection

Prospect United Methodist Church

Joining together to  
grow in our  
understanding of the  
gospel and become  
better equipped for  
daily living as faithful  
disciples.



## Kids Praise God

Sundays 11:15 am Choir Room

Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students join in weekly song, voice, and praise.

## Methodist Youth Fellowship

2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays 4-6 pm Youth Room

Sixth graders and up, bring a friend and become involved in many activities in the church and community.

## Child Care

Sundays 8:45-11:30 am Nursery

Staffed nursery for infants to toddlers.

## Children's Sunday School

Sundays 10:00 -11:15 am  
Sanctuary then Classroom

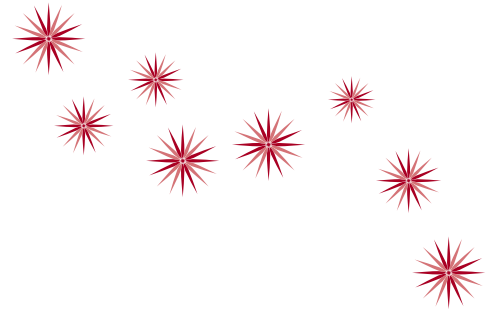
Children 3 years of age and up can join our church school program. Visiting children welcome.

## Recommended Reading

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton (2011)



Prospect United Methodist Church  
99 Summer Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
Ph 860.582.3443  
Email [prospectoffice@snet.net](mailto:prospectoffice@snet.net)  
Web [www.answprospect.org](http://www.answprospect.org)



## Adult Sunday School ~ December Sundays 9:30-10:00 am ~ Parlor

Come study the poetry and mystery of the Psalms. We will reflect and contemplate the meaning of the Psalms in our daily lives & in the world.

## The Nativity Story ~ December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 12:00 noon ~ Sanctuary

Pizza & Movie... Watch the most magnificent portrayal of the nativity ever! Witness the struggles & joys of the Holy birth at the turning point of history.

## Caroling ~ December 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday 12:00 noon ~ Car pool upper lot

Help spread holiday joy as we visit cherished members, join in song, and recall the meaning of Christmas.

## Christmas Pageant ~ December 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10:00 am ~ Sanctuary

Our children will bring you a superb Christmas program inspired by the joy of the season... Sing with Us the Christmas Story.

## Foods of the Bible Trivia ~ January 26<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am ~ Session's Hall

Enjoy potluck and join in trivia fun. We will split into teams (or tables) to take our best guess at the different trivia rounds... question round, picture round, and maybe a taste round.

## Storytime with Christa ~ Last Sundays 11:30 am ~ Library

All ages invited to hear childhood stories from the Bible. Little ones can gather near and enjoy a follow-up craft, game, song, or fun.

## Confirmation Class Starting ~ Contact Pastor Bob for details

Eighth graders and up will learn about the meaning of the Christian faith, the history and teachings of The United Methodist Church, and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will be professing.





**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
99 SUMMER STREET  
BRISTOL, CT 06010**

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