



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

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## Pastor's Page



*"Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver." ~ Second Corinthians 9:7*

One thing that I really hate to do is to talk about giving. The reason why I feel this way is a matter of perception. The church is all about sharing the gospel of Christ—it is about reaching out into the world with a message of hope and love. The church is about supporting one another, in Christ's name, as we go through life. We are not a profit-making business, but if we are doing our work well, we are making prophets for our world.

Last fall, our church leaders talked about the goals for our congregation for the next five years. One of the goals involves stewardship. Specifically it states, ***"Disciples Give to Mission: create an awareness of all aspects of stewardship in the church, in appropriate ways for all age levels."*** It is very important that we focus on this as we look into the future of our congregation.

I have been very impressed with the lay participation of our congregation. People volunteer for everything in this church. We have volunteers who help out in our office; we have volunteers who take care of the church grounds; we even have volunteers—and I find this truly remarkable—who clean the bathrooms. God bless them all! They saw a need and they filled it.

We all know why we needed committed volunteers. Our church has, in the recent past, struggled financially. People questioned whether we will be able to survive. Faced with rising expenses and decreasing numbers of people in the pews, our prospects did not look good. And, it really doesn't help to know that many other mainline Protestant churches shared our situation. We were in a battle to survive.

# Prospect United Methodist Church

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Now I am asking all of you to move beyond a survival frame of mind. I am asking all of you to focus on our mission. Thank you all for keeping the doors open. Now, I am asking you to go out through those doors into the mission field that is Bristol, Terryville and Farmington.

I tithe. I share this with you, not because I want a pat on the back or the admiration of my friends, I share this because I truly believe in the mission of the church. I don't do it out of a sense of guilt or because of pressure placed upon me by the Bishop. I do it because Christ has touched my life and when I give my heart is filled with joy.

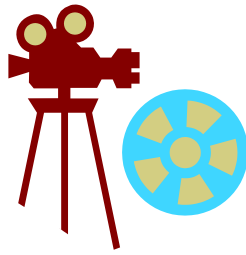
Sometimes, it is a good and noble thing for a church to "survive." It is wonderful for committed lay people to come together to keep the doors open. I believe that Christ is now calling us out into the mission field. He is calling us to share the good news. He is calling us to reach out to the lonely and isolated. He is calling us to lift up people who are struggling under the weight of our modern world. Our giving makes it all possible. And when we give, we just may be surprised by the joy we feel in our hearts.

Grace and Peace,  
*Bob Sorozan*

## ■ Movie Night A Success

The Women of Prospect's Baked Potato Movie Night was a hit! According to organizer Jackie Palance, the March 23rd event drew 65 children and adults aged three weeks into their 80s to see "The Muppets." Baked potatoes were served with many different toppings, including sour cream, bacon bits, broccoli, chili, butter, shredded cheese, salsa and more. The menu also included hot dogs with fixings, a variety of other snacks and desserts such as cream puffs and cupcakes.

"We debuted our new tabletop popcorn machine. A great time was had by all," Jackie notes. She explained, "Our annual Baked Potato Movie Night is usually held in the early spring because of the sun setting earlier. We are entertaining the thought of having one in the fall after the time changes." Only movies that are family friendly, for ages one to 100, are shown. The organization is open to suggestions for suitable movies. If you have movie ideas, contact Jackie in person, by email at [jampalance@aol.com](mailto:jampalance@aol.com) or by calling (860) 747-8988.



## ■ PUMC Cookbook Project

It's been 10 years since the Women of Prospect's last PUMC cookbook project, and the organization has decided it's time to put another one together. Recipes may be placed in a decorated soup pot in Sessions Hall or emailed to Jackie Palance at [jampalance@aol.com](mailto:jampalance@aol.com) by the end of June.

When bringing in or sending recipes, please be sure to count your ingredients and make sure they are all listed. Make sure the recipes are legible and your name is on the recipe, in case there are questions and so everyone who contributes can be credited. If you have a story to go with the recipe, that would be great, too.

### **THANK YOU**

*Covenant to Care for Children/DCF  
Easter baskets: Thank you to everyone who donated the 97 Easter baskets, gift cards and cute stuffed animals (two even hand crocheted) on Palm Sunday for children in need. We only had 90 names but many of you in brought extra baskets. Your thoughtful and generous gifts will bring joy into many children's lives this Easter. Thank you.*

*Susan Lee*

# Renaissance Returns To Prospect

"A Night in the Renaissance," entitled "The Untold Chapter," will take place on Saturday, April 28, and Saturday, May 5, starting at 6 p.m. each night in Sessions Hall. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 10 and under.

The event is sponsored by the Middle Ages Group at Prospect Church, to benefit the General Fund. Tickets may be obtained by calling Dianne Ashworth at (860) 583-9520 or Tammy Kelly at (860) 874-8239.



*2011 Photo by Tammy Pelletier*

Souvenir photographs with cast members will be available for a \$5 donation.

The idea for the Renaissance dinner originated in 2006, with new church members Gary and Luisa Gladu. They explain: "Once upon a time, in 2006, new members to PUMC, Gary and Luisa Gladu, brought an idea to the Church Council. They wanted to organize a fundraiser for the church that was different than other fundraisers in the church but they would need help as it would take quite a few people to pull it off. The idea was to put on a Renaissance Dinner: turn Sessions Hall into Hampton Court and bring in the pageantry of 16th Century England."

The Gladus presented the idea and said they would donate their time, props, decorations, costumes and talents to organize the event in the hopes it would spark some interest in the period as well as raise money for the church and in time become an annual event. At that time the oil and heating budget needed some help so the funds raised from that first dinner helped with that.

Gary and Luisa then started recruiting and pulling from the talents of those in the church to help with this event. The Men's Group cooked, children from the Youth Group served and played musical instruments, choir members sang, Bell Choir played a song, the ladies of PUMC

baked and helped serve, clean and sew some costumes. The Gladus also recruited their friends and families to volunteer and support the dinner.

The dinner was a huge success, selling out and with a waiting list of 32 people and so the Renaissance began for PUMC. Since 2006, the idea has blossomed and PUMC has hosted six of these dinners. In 2011 and this year, the dinner has grown to two evenings of fun, fellowship and merriment.

A new organization, The Middle Ages Group, has “spun-off” from this event and now there are 13 people on board who head different sub-committees to make this event happen and run smoothly and seamlessly. All involved in the production, including script writers, actors, entertainers, servers, cooks, back stage crew, runners, decorators, set up and breakdown and cleaning crews are all members of PUMC. The teams also recruit friends and family to help them complete their tasks. It’s a wonderful way to work with others and bring new people into PUMC to see what we do as a church community.

With that being said, we welcome 100 guests to our dinners and

85 percent of those guests are visitors to our church. The dinner program includes our church worship times as well as upcoming events open to the public that happen at PUMC.

“The past dinners have proved very successful and we hope for the same this year. The funds raised are donated to PUMC for various causes, in the past to help offset the costs for oil and heat and contribute to the Organ Restoration Fund and the General Fund. Raising funds to help maintain our church and history while working together is the main focus of the dinner,” the Gladus said.

The story line for the dinners this year is the “Untold Chapter,” a comedic venture into the life of Henry the XVIII as he introduces yet “another” fiance to his loyal subjects. The script writers have taken a bit of “poetic license” to come up with an entertaining story line for the dinner guests. The entertainment will include singing, dancing and a few surprises for the guests while they feast on a sumptuous multi-course meal.

Both dinners are a reserved ticket event. We hope to see you there!

# PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

*No Dabbling - By Kathy Dube on behalf of the History Committee*

The February 1940 Prospect Tower had an interesting editorial column that could have as much meaning today, in this highly charged political climate, as it did that year. The column starts by emphatically telling preachers not to dabble in politics, referring to an "old saw" that had been in one of the newspapers commonly read by church members: "We thought the teeth of the old saw were so dull that it could not be used any more, but out of the tool chest it came again last week. ... Right you are, brother editor. Let us say, 'Amen,' for that is a word to which we are accustomed. It means, 'so be it'"

But if you think you know the meaning of this editorial comment, you may be entirely wrong, for the column continues: "Ministers should not dabble in politics, neither should surgeons dabble in surgery. The situation is too serious. ... Ministers should be thorough in all their dealing with politics. Politics has to do with government, government has to do with democracy. ... How we can have true democracy without the teachings of religion we do not see.

"The early American patriots did not dabble about the relation of religion to democracy. ... It was the kind of liberty men may have in religion. It is the kind that regards human personality as sacred. Religion must

be related to all of life. The minister's dealing with life must be so thorough that no phase is excluded. ... Every man is of worth in the sight of God. That is the foundation of democracy. That is the teaching of religion. Without that democracy will fail. It is the business, the duty, of ministers to proclaim this truth without fear or favor. They should not dabble around in it. They should be thorough about it. It will go far to relieve the ills of mankind."

This column was most likely a response by Prospect's then pastor, the Rev. Paul DuBois, who was often accused of "preaching socialism" (by my grandfather, former Press owner/publisher Arthur S. Barnes, among others, despite the good he did in the community). We will never know for sure, but reading between the lines it seems likely, for the column early on states: "How newspaper editors became the special custodians of democracy to the exclusion of ministers of the Gospel, they have not made clear."

My grandfather, in fact, a life-long Methodist, eventually left Prospect Church because of DuBois' progressive preaching. He returned one last time, however: for his funeral after his death on Christmas night, 1956.

# FOR KIDS

## ■ Believing is seeing

When the disciples saw Jesus after his resurrection, they believed. But Thomas, who was absent, doubted until he, too, got to see and even touch Jesus. For him, as the others, seeing was believing.

But what of us who don't get to see Jesus in the flesh? If "seeing is believing," are we out of luck? No. In fact, sometimes it works the opposite way; sometimes "believing is seeing."

Try this: Despite any doubts, choose to believe, trusting the witness of someone who's seen God at work — a biblical figure or present-day Christian. You'll be amazed at the love, healing, peace and new life that spring out of troubles. "With the eyes of your heart" (Ephesians 1:18, NRSV), you will see your Lord and your God.

## SAVE THE DATE

Prospect UMC will hold its second annual Tailgate Tag Sale Saturday, June 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, at the church.

# Resurrection COUNTDOWN

Make this interactive craft to use as Easter approaches.

## What you need:

- An empty egg carton
- Scissors
- Tissue paper (a dark color)
- Pencil
- Bible
- 12 slips of white paper
- Glue
- Marker



## What you do:

1. Cut the lid and side flaps off the egg carton.
2. Lay the carton open-side down on tissue paper. Trace and cut out the rectangular shape.
3. On the paper slips, write 12 verses from John 12 about Holy Week (including one about Easter).
4. Place each slip in an egg cup, in order, starting at the top left and ending (with the Easter verse) at the bottom right.
5. Put glue around cups and carton edges. Lay the tissue paper on top.
6. Gently mark numbers 1-6 on the tissue paper along the top row and 7-12 along the bottom.
7. Before Easter, punch through one cup each day and read the verse.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold**

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