



THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

September 2012

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Pastor's Page

***Say to those of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God." ~ Isaiah 35:4***



Here's the good news: the heat and high humidity of summer is over. Here's the bad news: we know what's coming next. In the meantime, the air is cooling off in the afternoon and evening, and it's wonderful to sleep with the windows open.

This nice turn in the weather got me thinking about one of my favorite books on prayer. It's called, *Refreshing Winds of the Spirit*, by Ruth Duck. The book was a collection of prayers by many different people on a wide range of subjects. What was so remarkable was the way people talked to God in their prayers. God was not some abstract deity who demanded us to use King James English when we were speaking to him. Instead, the prayers were informal, almost casual, in their language and subject matter. The prayers were easily used in worship, but you had a feeling when using them that God was not "up there" in heaven—rather, God was so close that you could touch him.

And that is really why we go to church. We do not go out of a religious duty. We do not go out of a sense of guilt or shame. We go so we can experience God's presence, and to be renewed. Yes, it is true that we probably have made a few mistakes since we last visited church. And yes, there may be some things that we are not very proud of when we walk through the church doors. But, when we come to church, God is in our midst—God's sitting next to you in the pew—God's kneeling next to you at the altar rail. And just as fall brings with it refreshing winds that reinvigorate us, when we return to church God's Spirit can renew and reinvigorate us.

So come back home to church. Your friends are all waiting for you. And, God will be here also. After a long, hot summer, don't we all need to feel the refreshing winds of God's Spirit? Oh, and don't forget to invite a few of your friends.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

Prospect United Methodist Church

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■ Music Notes

Senior Choir rehearsals began on September 5th and will



Choir Resumes

continue Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. in Room 208! All voices and ages (grade 9 and above) are welcome! Please speak to Heidi Flower or any choir member if you are interested.

Handbells will begin rehearsing in September at a date and time to be determined. Please be sure to let Heidi know that you are interested. Heidi notes, "Handbells are a lot of fun to play ... we have a lot of fun at rehearsals and are always looking for some 'helpful hands'!"

■ Thank You

Thank you to all who donated book bags and school supplies for the Covenant to Care program. Your generous donations will help children from this program have a successful start in a new school at a stressful time in their young lives. Your caring is remarkable.



~Susan Lee

■ PUMC Book Group

The PUMC book discussion group is open to anyone interested in discussing books in a casual atmosphere.

Books are chosen by members of the group. There are no special expectations to participate in the group. Please feel free to come whether you've finished the book or not.

The next discussion is on the book *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford on October 11th at 7 p.m. Contact Jeanette Baker for more information.

■ Faith in Action

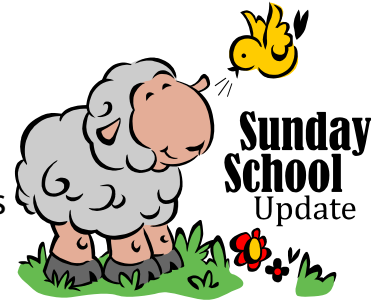
According to the recent Child Food Insecurity Study released by Feeding America, nearly 19 percent of Connecticut children are at risk of hunger.

Prospect United Methodist Church helped in the fight against childhood hunger this summer by providing 60 snack packs (20 for each summer month) to kids in need. Each bag contained two single-serving boxes of cereal, two entrees (like canned pasta or macaroni and cheese), two fruit cups, one juice box and a snack.

Thanks to the Sunday school kids for their help in put the bags together in June. Thanks to Sue Powers for bringing them to Zion Lutheran each month. Thanks to the congregation which donated all the food items.

■ Rally Day

The beginning of the new Sunday School year is nearly here! Next Sunday,



September 16th, is Rally Day! On this date, parents will fill out registration forms and meet the teachers.

During our 10 a.m. worship service, children ages 3 and up are invited to participate in some fun activities and games. Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday September 23rd and will occur during the 10 a.m. worship service. In addition to nursery care for children, ages 6 weeks to 3 years old, there will be four levels of Sunday school classes this year: Pre-K/K, 1st /2nd, 3rd/4th/5th, and 6th-12th. If you have any questions about our programs or would like to serve as a volunteer please contact Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or (860) 845-2016.

■ Potluck

There will be a potluck luncheon in honor of Rally Day on September 16th. We are asking everyone whose last name begins with A through H to bring a salad or side dish. People whose last name begins with I through P bring a main dish. And, people whose last name begins with Q through Z bring a dessert. Join in the fun of Prospect's Sunday School.

Missions Trip Helps New York Town

Three members of Prospect participated in a Youth Mission Trip of the CT District of the New York Annual Conference to the Catskills in July. Kayla Acevedo and Victoria Paulette, both teens, offered to go on the trip to assist Prattsville, NY, which had been devastated by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene the previous August. Jill Wilson went along as an “adult leader” and worked alongside the youths. Many homes and the UMC church and parsonage became uninhabitable as a result of the storm.

Jill offered to accompany any youths from Prospect on the trip since she has an interest in missions. Last year, she went to Haiti on a missions trip with a medical focus. She put out the word of her willingness to take any interested youths on the trip after reading an article about the planned trip in the CT District Newsletter.



left to right: Kayla Acevedo, Victoria Paulette, Jill Wilson

“We went to this scenic location in the Catskills for a week in July, on a mission trip to assist where needed. Participating in their first mission trip, Kayla Acevedo and Victoria Paulette, from PUMC, joined district youth from Watertown and Seymour to work on the needs being addressed that week,” Jill said.

Kayla, Victoria and 23 other youths worked demolition, pulling down walls and ceilings, assisted with yard work, cleaned construction sites, moved materials and helped prepare a community meal. Each evening closed with devotions and games for the youth. A Christian rock band from Ohio, “Fever Fever,” joined in for the week, giving musical inspiration each morning and evening and performing a concert in the church at the end of the week. “It was a very full week of new experiences, teamwork and progress. The people of Prattsville are very grateful for all volunteers who gave their time,” Jill adds.

Kayla said she did many things she had never done before: "I pushed myself to do tasks like demolition when my body was clearly tired. During the first day I was really tired. My body was sore but I kept thinking, 'I have to do this. I have to help these people'. We bunked with four other girls, which was fun. They were really nice and at the end of the day we played games. The place we were staying was nice. It was quiet so I slept well, which was important when you have to get up between 6 and 7 in the morning. The people I worked with were nice. They helped me work better. I talked to other volunteers who came from other states and helped elderly ladies cook. At the end of the week I passed around flyers about a free cook-out, free building materials, and a free concert by 'Fever Fever'. While I was doing that I talked to the locals. They were very nice and almost all of them came. The week went by fast, but it was fun and I would love to do it again."



Victoria recalls, "The people of Prattsville had interesting and moving accounts about the floods. During the week, all the volunteers were working on the demolition of houses that the waters had destroyed. One of the houses we were working on had a story. It was built 160 years ago! The house had two of everything. Two kitchens, two bathrooms, two living rooms, and two dining rooms. The reason for that was because long ago the people that lived there stayed downstairs in the summer to stay cool, and upstairs in the winter to stay warm. The upstairs wasn't touched by the water, and even the wallpaper was beautiful. I especially loved the curved walls. We were all extremely happy that the bottom floor was being repaired and it's going to be sold again. We also worked on the parsonage of the Methodist Church, which was badly damaged, as well as the sanctuary."

Victoria said, "I received a thank-you letter from an elderly man named Kip we helped. The letter expressed his gratitude saying, 'Thank you, for helping me with my farm.' While I was reading it, I realized that I did make a difference in someone's life while I was there. There's a song called, 'How Can We Name A Love,' that we sing in Church, that has words that sum up what a mission trip can do. It goes something like this: 'When people share a task, and strength and skills unite, in projects old and new, Jesus's will is better understood, that all should share, create and care, and know that life is good.' Those words mean a lot to me now, and I hope to go on another mission trip in the future."

VBS A Success

Prospect's Vacation Bible School Committee reports a very successful event, entitled "Operation Overboard," held during the week of June 24-29. Christa Zaldivar, one of the committee members, said VBS started with a kick-off cookout, complete with food, games, T-shirt making, and entertainment.

"Our church library, adjacent to Sessions Hall, was transformed into an underwater cave, and each night of the week, from 6 to 7:45 p.m., we had 21 enthusiastic volunteers and 25 eager children involved in entertaining Bible story puppet shows, ocean-themed crafts, tasty snacks, cooperative games, and interactive songs," Christa reports. "We're already looking forward to next summer's 'Everywhere Fun Fair' Vacation Bible School, so if you're interested in participating, please be sure to contact Heidi Flower!"

This year's production/event was spearheaded by Heidi Flower, music director. She was assisted by Christa and Sue Powers.



— *"The games, puppet show, snack and music were a lot of fun. The kids enjoyed being without mom and dad. Thank you for everything and we look forward to doing this again!" ~Parent*

Comments from parents re-enforce the success of this year's VBS:

— *“Excellent experience all around. We loved how excited and enthusiastic our child was about singing Christian songs, wanting to come to VBS (church) and learning about Jesus. Thank you for enriching our son’s life.”*



— *“I like the time of VBS ... night works really well for us!”*

— *“The children have really enjoyed everything they have learned at VBS. They’ve really enjoyed all the teachers and songs they have learned as well. Overall, a WONDERFUL experience!”*



— *“A wonderful experience, great decorations and activities. So nice that it is free for the children in the community. Hope it will happen again next year.”*

— *“My kids had a lot of fun. They are already talking about next time.”*



— *“Every night both of my children get excited telling the stories of what they learned/did at VBS. Both children said they are upset VBS is over.”*

— *“My daughter had a wonderful time and loved to share what she did each day.”*



— *“I would like to thank everyone who was involved in Operation Overboard. My daughter and son had a wonderful week and didn’t want it to end. Thank You!!!!!!”*

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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