

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

April 2015

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Pastor's Page

"What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it; you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on." – "Pass it On" by Kurt Kaiser



Can it be? The long, cold winter is finally past us? After months of wearing heavy coats and gloves, we've finally come to warm weather. Finally, I can go out and do some yard work. Spring has finally arrived and we can savor the warm air and bright sunshine. Praise God for the rebirth of our world. After last winter, it seems almost miraculous!

But then again, we are supposed to notice the many miracles in our lives. We are supposed to notice the many blessings we receive every day. When we see something beautiful, like a green field which has returned to life in the spring, shouldn't we praise God? When we hear the laughter of children, shouldn't we thank God for that blessing? When someone unexpectedly does something kind to us, shouldn't we be grateful to the person who did the kind deed and to God who sent the person to us?



In theory, Christians should constantly notice the blessings they receive from God, and they should constantly praise God. In practice, well, that's another story. We get distracted. We focus on little, trivial, things. We take things for granted, "Hold that thought, a new NCIS episode is on!" I am just as guilty of this as everyone else. Miracles and blessings happen all around us, but we ignore them, to our great loss.

So today, I am asking you all to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Notice the things which bring joy into your life. Remember the moments that filled you with a sense of awe. Treasure the blessings that brought a smile to your face.

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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And when you do, take a moment to offer a prayer of thanks to God for all that God has given to you. I know that this may seem to be a small thing, yet it can have an enormous impact on your life. When you notice the small blessings that God has given you, eventually you will come to see that life itself is a blessing.

Grace and peace,
Bob Sorozan
Bob Sorozan

Notes

■ Summer Camp Registration

Camp registration for our youth and families is open at Kingswood and Quinipet Camps. Camps run Sunday to Saturday. Camp scholarships are available through the Roberts Fund. Please see Beth Provost or Matti Verzino for details.

■ Help Wanted

There is an opening for a care giver in our Nursery for Sunday morning services. Please send all resumes to PUMC, 99 Summer Street, Bristol, CT 06010, Attn: Terry Parker. Successful applicants will have to submit to a background check.

anewprospect.org
is now mobile responsive
Check it out.

Mission Notes

■ Mission Opportunities Expanded

Our NYAC continues its efforts, partnering with UMCOR, to provide volunteers willing to work helping homeowners rebuild their homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy in October, 2012. THAT'S RIGHT! The job is not done! Volunteers continue to be needed. Prospect has had three teams travel to Long Island and a fourth team is being organized for a mission journey in October 2015. Watch for more news in upcoming editions of The Tower.



A new, short-term volunteer effort — DONE IN A DAY (DIAD) — has been developed by Conference lending itself to a group working on a particular project for a day! Volunteer opportunities are now available in Connecticut communities. Prospect is organizing a team to volunteer for the DIAD program on Saturday, May 30th.

Prospect's team needs you! Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. No experience is needed. The only requirement is a willing heart — willing to help a neighbor, willing to stretch beyond your comfort zone, willing to be part of a hands-on mission reaching those who need us most.

We hope you hear the call to join the team. Sue Powers is waiting to hear from you — yes, YOU!



Thanks to all who participated in the Easter Basket program.

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." ~ Mother Teresa

■ Power Penny Sundays to Benefit Mission Work

~Laura Taylor

Ready for a little competition among our work areas/committees? Would you like to have your group win a pizza party? Each of our work areas will compete as a team: Trustees, Fair Committee, Lay Leadership, Sunday School/Education, Choir/Music, Worship, Stewardship/Finance, Staff Parish Relations, Outreach, Scholarship/Roberts' Fund, Men's Fellowship, History Committee, Member Nurture, Women of Prospect, Friends of Prospect. (Please let us know if we have missed any!)

Beginning Sunday, April 19, and ending Sunday, May 17, we will display jars for each of the work areas above during the fellowship/coffee hour. To help a work area compete, deposit pennies in their jar. Pennies count as "positive" money in each jar. Want to set another group back? Sabotage their efforts by depositing silver coins, dollars or checks into their jar. Silver and paper count as "negative" money.

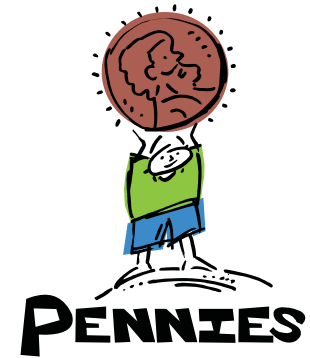
For example, you deposit 75 pennies in the Fair Committee jar. Pastor Sorazan walks over and deposits silver coins adding up to \$1.50. The Fair Committee jar now has a negative balance of 75 cents!

The goal of each group is to have the jar with the largest "positive" balance. We will post the results of monies collected the following Sunday. That Sunday, you will be able to see who is leading the race, and who is lagging. (Don't forget to sabotage those that are leading!).

It will be a lot of fun! Plus, we can unload those containers of coins at home that are collecting dust! The group that wins gets a pizza party and chooses the date! If you're not on a committee (what???), you can help along a group of your choosing — perhaps the choir that brightens up each church service? Or the adorable children who also brighten the service?

Come join in the fun. Bring your coins! P.S. Committee chairpersons — please provide a large jar or container for your group, and be encouraged to label and decorate it prior to April 19th.

The proceeds of this fund raiser will be used to provide funds toward the construction materials needed for our fall Volunteer in Mission trip.



History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

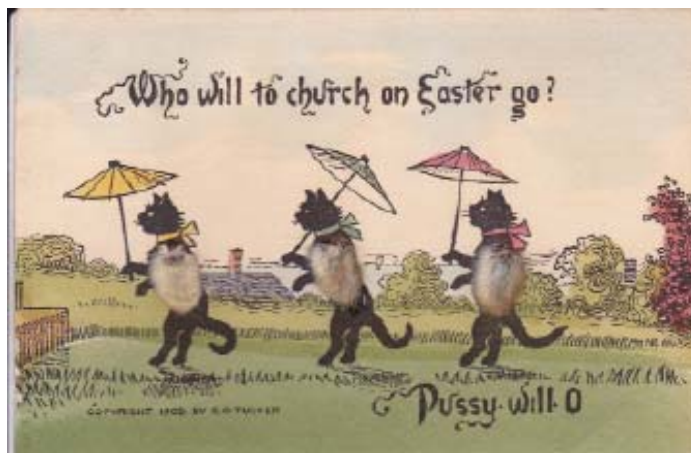
Easter Memories

This memory of the Easter Season, contributed by Tower Editor Kathy Dube, was included in the booklet "Our Memories And Dreams Of Prospect Church," printed during the tenure of Rev. Bob MacDonald, for a historic service held in Sessions Hall.

"Of all the memories of Prospect Church over the years, one Easter seems especially memorable. The Rev. Arthur Tedcastle (a native of Bristol, England), was pastor, and it was the heyday of the post-war baby boom.

"There were so many people attending the Easter service, filling both the sanctuary and the balcony, that the doors of Sessions Hall had to be opened for the overflow crowd."

Another Easter memory: "The beautiful hats, especially at Easter, worn by the women in the 1950s, and I recall many women wearing gloves, too."



Historic 1908 Penny Postcard by C.O. Tucker of Boston

Do you have a special memory you would like to share of an experience at Prospect Church? If so, please email it to kathybdube@comcast.net, or place it in her folder in the hallway.

It's Renaissance Dinner Time

Tickets are now on sale for Prospect United Methodist Church's annual Renaissance Dinners, slated for May 2nd and May 9th, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$25 apiece, and for children, \$15 each.

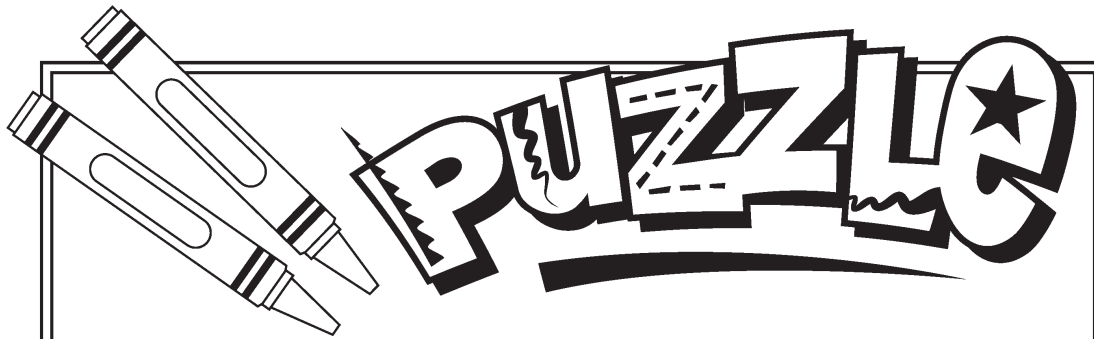
Each year, Luisa and Gary Gladu, fellow Middle Ages entertainers, family and friends bring a new twist to the dinners. Sessions Hall will be decorated in all its finery and transported to replicate the 16th Century Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle.



Their royal majesties and their court are ready to entertain and bring a smile to your face while you enjoy a sumptuous dinner. "This year's theme is full of excitement and surprises and we hope you will be able to join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and fun!" Luisa said.

The group has been staging the dinner for the past eight years. Money raised goes into the General Fund for use where needed, such as the Organ Restoration Fund, plus electric bills and fuel oil costs. Middle Agers is helped by church members who are not part of the group as well as friends and family outside of PUMC. Local businesses have donated to the cause, including Price Chopper, Harvest Bakery and Sir Speedy Printing.

The dinners are a reserved ticket event. For food purposes, no tickets will be sold at the door. For tickets call Luisa Gladu @ (860) 582-8383 or email her at TheGladus@comcast.net.



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 5 who was R aised | : | 8 R ight hand | : | 6 T o life |
| 3 d iEd | : | 4 m o R e than that | : | 7 I s at the |
| 2 J e S us who | : | 11 i nt E rceding | : | 9 O f God |
| 12 for U s | : | 1 C hrist | : | 10 a Nd is also |

... 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____, 5 _____

_____ 6 _____ 7 _____

_____ 8 _____

6 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____ . *Romans 8:34, NIV*

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

RESURRECTION

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
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