



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

April 2016

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Pastor's Page

"During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them." ~ Acts 16:9-10



The passage from the Book of Acts, which follows the Gospel in the New Testament, is very dramatic and powerful. It tells us about the moment the Church burst out of the Middle East into the wider world. Up to this moment, the Church was a local organization. It was, more or less, one big extended family. After Paul and his party crossed over, the Church would become a worldwide organization which would bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

It is important for us to remember this moment from the early Church. We live in a world which is remarkably similar to the first century. Many of the people who live near us have never really heard the Gospel. Perhaps they have seen a Christmas or Easter special on television. They might have occasionally attended a worship service of some kind. But many have never heard the good news that God loves them and sent his Son to die for them. They probably have never been told about God's grace and God's willingness to reach out and heal them.



You see, there is still a Macedonian call. We may not be asked to cross over the Aegean Sea. Instead, we may be asked to do something much more difficult, to cross the street to talk with our neighbor. We live right in the middle of a mission field. Stop for a moment to consider that only 20-30 percent of the people in our community attend church on a "regular" basis. Who will share the Gospel message with them? Who will share Christ with them?

A church is more than a voluntary organization and it is definitely much more than a social group. The church is the principle means by which God reaches out to the world in our age. When we become members of a local congregation, we take on a sacred responsibility to share the Gospel with the people around us. What did the risen Christ say to his followers in Acts 1:8? "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Well, we are all Christ's followers and Connecticut probably qualifies as, at least part of, the "ends of the earth." Are we witnesses for Christ?

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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. Robert E. Rhodes, Jr.
Minister 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 and information
necessary for the Church Secretary.)

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

Editor: Kathy Dube
Layout: Jeanette Baker

Personally, I believe that church growth is a secondary effect of our mission. It would be nice to grow. When we have more members we can do more things. We can develop innovative programs. There are more people to help out in the daily tasks which every church needs to do. Yet church growth is not the principle motivation for our witnessing to the community. Our principle motivation is to share the Gospel. Even if we intend to remain the same size congregation for generations to come, our principle motivation should still be to share the Gospel! It is a question of our very identity as Christians; we must share the good news of new life in Christ.

It is an awesome responsibility and it can be very intimidating to people. It is true that we are not a congregation of Billy Grahams. But, we all know people who have no church family or faith background. Extending a hand in friendship or showing concern can go a long way in leading people into a relationship with Christ. The simple things you do may not seem important, but they are vital to God's realm. It is often through those little things that God can find the opportunity to witness to the faith and use us to build up the Realm of God.

Even after two thousand years, God still challenges his followers with the Macedonian call. The hillsides of Greece and Asia Minor have been changed to the hills and valleys of Connecticut, but the call still goes out to Christ's followers. God is calling to you.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

■ New Prospect Pastor Announced

Jackie Palance, chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPR), reports, "It is my honor to announce that effective July 1, Yountae Kim will be appointed by Bishop Middleton to serve as the pastor in charge of Prospect United Methodist Church. Pastor Kim is looking forward to a new partnership with PUMC. Please join me in giving Pastor Kim and his family a warm welcome on their arrival in July." Pastor Kim's first sermon will be delivered on Sunday, July 3rd.

Meet Our New Pastor

I am Yountae Kim.

Young people used to call me PK, not pastor's kid, but Pastor Kim.

I am a proud husband of an awesome wife, Jihye Jang, and a father of two kids, David (4) and Daniel (2), who are extremely happy most of the time. My kids love a waterpark. It is kind of a relief that they do not know about Disney World yet.

I studied Education in a college and studied Religious Education at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. I got my M.Div. degree from a seminary in Korea. I believe that God crazily loves the world so much that even death cannot stop him.

If you ask me to summarize my theology in a phrase, I would say it is, "Here and Now with God's love."

I was told to be a charismatic leader like Moses who led thousands of people out of Egypt. So I used to be a strong- and results-oriented leader in my 20's. However, later when I deeply



experienced God's love, I found that the scripture says, "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." It totally changed my perspective on leadership.

Whenever I say I'm a shy guy, people laugh hard. I do not know why. I enjoy interacting with people, especially people with different thoughts and perspectives.

I love movies and music. My favorite movie is "Gone With the Wind." I am a fan of baseball and football. I have a Red Sox baseball hat, which has been kept in a closet for the last seven years as I am living in NY.

I learned that Prospect U.M.C. has a unique and inspiring history of people of faith. I am honored to be a part of it."

Mission

■ Raising Funds Through Flowers ~ Jill Wilson

Prospect's Jill Wilson, who has gone on several mission trips over the last few years, is headed to Nicaragua in August. "Yes, continuing my spiritual journey! It is always a meaningful experience for me which keeps me returning!

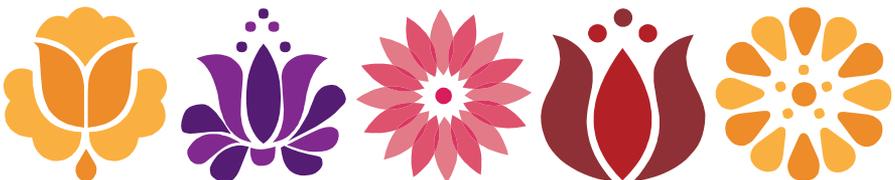
"This mission team is raising funds for the project, which is a bit different than my experience with other teams that I have joined. Our team has committed \$3,600 towards the construction of a suspension foot bridge which will only cover part of the cost of the bridge. I am attaching a complete description of the project. It is actually interesting reading.

"I am not usually inclined to participate in fundraisers, but as a member of this team, it is expected of me. In order to raise our portion, we are using Flower Power. Instead of taking your money and order and delivering the product, you can do it all by yourself on line. Your purchase will be delivered directly to you. In order for our team to get the credit, you must use this link: <http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/it/494206/4G691o3M58en>

"You will see a fish symbol, and 'NYAC' – that is the right page. We earn 50% profit, and the bulbs are 100% guaranteed. (This fundraising ends April 15th. None of the funds raised are towards any personal expenses.)

"If you purchase anything, I thank you in advance, from the bottom of my heart. If you don't, that is okay too. Prayers for a successful journey are gratefully appreciated and more important.

"Feel free to share this with anyone else you know that might be mission minded and/or want some flower bulbs! Thank you for your past support and interest in my trips. And remember, you are always welcome to join me!"



■ Relay For Life: Team PUMC Did It! ~ Luisa Gladu, Team PUMC Captain

We may be a small team, but we're a mighty team. We raised enough money from March 1st to the 17th to win our very own Private Porta Potty! This year our Relay For Life Walk is on Saturday, June 11th, at Bristol Eastern H.S. It will start at 2 p.m. and end at 8 a.m. Sunday morning.

To those of you who participate at outdoor events, you know what it means to have your very own Porta Potty. No

waiting in lines: You can bring your own fancy toilet paper, for you can control who uses the Porta Potty. To have this power is awe-inspiring, I know we have the envy of the other 21 teams who tried to win it.

There are some people who have expressed interest in using the Porta Potty. Of course we are compassionate, caring souls and for a fee they can use it! So there! You have it: We have our own "V.I.P.P.": Very Important Porta Potty. We are hoping that now that we have our own Porta Potty, more individuals will sign up to walk and participate in the Relay.

At present our team is doing very well. We have already exceeded our goal and we are looking forward

to raising more money for the American Cancer Society. I'll be posting a sign-up sheet for those who wish to walk a lap or two. We also need help to set up our site on Saturday and help to break it down Sunday morning.

As far as walking the track, our goal is to have someone from PUMC walking a lap every hour if possible. A few brave souls will be staying overnight and our prayers are for a warm night.

At present we are ranked #3 out of 22 teams.

Beginning this Sunday, we'll be collecting spare change to go towards our team. We have a "PUMC Bear" that we will put out during coffee hour. Cooper pennies are fine, silver is wonderful and green is always divine. Every penny counts!

We Relay as a celebration to those we love who are going through treatment, survivors, and we also celebrate and honor those who have lost their battle. Their courage and dignity help us go forward everyday.

Please consider joining our team, or coming out on Saturday, June 11th and walk a lap or two. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me.

Celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, Remember loved ones lost, and Fight Back against the disease.

History Corner



PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS ~ *Kathy Dube*

Methodist Church Tied to New Nation

Those unfamiliar with the growth of Methodism in the United States, or who simply want a refresher, may find this article from the Mid-February, 1938, *Tower* interesting.

As was the custom with newspapers of the day, there was a series of headlines leading off the article:

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH HAS UNIQUE RELATION TO THE UNITED STATES
New Nation and New Church Began Together
Presidents Have Given Public Recognition To The Methodists**

“The Methodist Episcopal Church (precursor to the United Methodist Church) was organized in the United States on December 25, 1784. This was between the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Adoption of the Constitution in 1787. The new church began with the new nation.

George Washington And the Methodists

“It is an interesting fact that several Presidents of the United States have had occasion to commend the Methodists for their work on behalf of the well being of the nation. George Washington was inaugurated President on the last day of April, 1789. Less than a month later two Methodist bishops and two Methodist ministers waited upon him and read him an exceedingly grave address, to which he replied in similar vein. By this act the Methodist Episcopal Church gave the first churchly recognition and blessing to the officers of the new republic.”

{Next Month: Abraham Lincoln's Letter}

■ **Attention Prospect Tower Readers** ~ Kathy Dube, Editor

The editors of the Tower would like to get the publication into your hands, or email addresses, much earlier in the month than has been the case in recent years. Currently there is no firm deadline which necessitates revising articles at the last minute before publication.

We ask the help of church organizations and church officers who have articles to be published to please make every effort to email the information to my email address, kathybdube@comcast.net, by the end of the month in order to get it into layout editor Jeanette Baker's capable hands for layout during the first week of the month of publication.

We thank you in advance for your understanding of the importance of this deadline goal. If there is an occasion when it is vital to publish an article but you just can't send it to me by the end of the month, please send me an email or call me (860) 585-1373 and I'll see what can be done to accommodate you.

■ **Kudos To Our Choirs!!!**

Following the March 27th Easter services, Music Director Heidi Flower extends "kudos" to our Prospect choirs: "Many thanks for providing wonderful, meaningful and festive music for the Lenten,

Palm Sunday and Easter services. From Kids Praise God, to Handbells and to our Senior Choir, Prospect Church is blessed to have talented and dedicated musicians that help to sing God's praise!"

■ **Easter Egg Fun!**

Church School Superintendent Christa Zaldivar reports, "On Easter Sunday, 18 eager children scrambled across our church grounds in search of their share of Easter eggs to fill their baskets! Many thanks to Texas Roadhouse of Waterbury and to Chris Kingsbury for their generous donations of filled eggs. Also, thanks to all the children and families for helping to make this a fun, new tradition!"



■ **Covenant to Care Adopt A Social Worker Program**

Thank you to all who donated the beautiful Easter baskets. We are always amazed at the generosity and dedication of this congregation. You continue to go above and beyond! ~ Jeanette Baker

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

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