



THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

December 2014

Vol. 75, No. 10

Pastor's Page

"And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another, 'Let us go straight to Bethlehem then and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.'" Luke 2:15



MY CHRISTMAS LIST FOR 2014

What do I want for Christmas?

1. That new record player that can plug directly into my computer.
2. Something train related — obviously!
3. A new electric shaver.
4. To be a better husband and father and grandfather.
5. To stop being judgmental and be more forgiving.
6. To stop being distracted by little, unimportant, things and start focusing on important things like love and faith.
7. To recognize when I am projecting onto God all of the worst of my emotions, fears and prejudices and to humbly repent when I do.
8. To be open to God's gentle guiding Spirit and to finally listen when God responds to my prayers.
9. To see God reflected in the faces of everyone I meet as I go out into the city streets.
10. To know, with every fiber of my being, that God has come into our world and is changing our world for the better.



Merry Christmas,
Bob Sorozan

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 as well as informa-
tion necessary for the Church Secretary.)

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

Editor: Kathy Dube
Layout: Jeanette Baker

■ Question the Sermon ~ Bob Sorozan

Actually, I would spend a little time as we reflect on a scripture passage. The Protestant faith encourages us to wrestle with the Bible and to try to come to terms with their meaning in our world. This isn't just the job of the Minister — we are all encouraged to study and question and find meaning.

So, starting in January, watch the bulletin for the date when we will meet to discuss the scripture lessons of that day. Read the scripture lessons and make a few notes on the things that stood out for you, the problems that they raised and the message you need to hear. Then come to church and listen (and hopefully stay awake) to my sermon.

Finally, join in a discussion in the church parlor about the passage and question the direction I took in the sermon. It is simple. It will be lively. And how many chances do you get in life to be invited to question the Pastor?

What to give as gifts?

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all men, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.

-Oren Arnold

■ Tree Removal Gift

The Trustees would like to thank Tom Angels, of Colonial Tree Service, for donating his services to take down a dead birch tree in our lower parking lot that was dangerously close to the power lines. The concern was that a few good wind gusts would take down the tree and power lines with it.

Mr. Angels graciously offered to do the job gratis. The cost would have been between \$175 and \$200 without his generous donation.

Mr. Angels explained that he has been to our church the past few years attending the Renaissance Dinners and the Victorian Tea. Not only does he think our building and our property are just beautiful, he enjoyed the fellowship at these events and admired what we do and how we welcome the community. He was happy to be a part of helping us maintain our property and we are so grateful.

We would also like to thank the Middle Ages Group for donating three tickets to the Victorian Christmas Tea as a thank you to him so that he and his family can attend.

We can now say we had “Angels” working on our property, but then again all of our incredible church volunteers are “angels” who help keep our church home clean, maintained and running smoothly.

Should you need any tree services, please consider calling Tom Angels at Colonial Tree Service at (860) 314-1936.

■ Christmas Caroling

Music Director Heidi Flower invited all interested people to join PUMC carolers on Dec. 7th.

Carolers met at the church and embarked on a caroling journey



to spread Christmas cheer to homebound friends and family! It's a beautiful thing to see the faces of the elderly light up and sing along to their favorite Christmas hymns and carols. “Silent Night” may put everyone in a reflective mood, but a rollicking rendition of “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” brings out the kid in us all!

■ Victorian Gift Shop

The Victorian gift shop and bakery is open on December 14th and 21st in Sessions Hall. You can shop for hand-crafted Victorian ornaments, unique gifts and order homemade Christmas cookies, ready for gift giving.

■ Charge Conference

Prospect's Annual Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, December 30th. Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Ken Kieffer, will lead the Charge Conference. New members of the Board of Trustees will be elected at the meeting. All are invited to be part of this annual meeting of our congregation.

Volunteer in Mission

~Jill Wilson

When we listen, we hear God. Sometimes it is through people, sometimes through situations, sometimes through prayer. Our spiritual journey is formed by listening and following Him. Being a Mission Volunteer is one step in that faith journey.



I told people I was a volunteer, but I think I should change that to more accurately say that God volunteered me for the journey to Ghana. I believe He did that to all of the team. While we may attribute our participation to a person, I think that we were hearing God, as he knew we would listen, through people! God put us together for a reason!

As humans, we cannot always understand the reasons things happen. We cannot understand why humans still live in impoverished conditions. We cannot understand how our small actions in one week, really make a difference, in the long run. We may not understand why he called us on a mission journey. While we may not understand, we trust God. We trust him in his grace and mercy on all people. I believe God put us together in Ghana for a reason I do not fully understand. But just like we listened to 'people' in order to hear our call, I think the people of Ghana 'listened' to us as we served them. They have seen God's love because of our actions. They know we came to them, sharing ourselves with them, as God has asked, through people! I trust God that they have felt his love through us; and just maybe that is why our team was put in Ghana together!

Our team was somewhat task oriented. We each brought a skill to the people and put our skills to good use. Some of us labored in concrete and paint. We repaired and completed concrete walkways at a school. The complete school was repainted. Some of us provided health care. On the narrow front porch of a clinic building we saw 700 people with various health concerns. We also built desks and chairs at a different school, which currently holds all classes outdoors. One on our team, an engineer, performed assessments for sanitation needs in five different villages.

Our journey was facilitated by Bishop John Kweku Buabeng-Odoom, and the Methodist Church of Ghana, and Rev. Joseph Ewoodsie, our New York Annual Conference Mission Coordinator. Bishop John had prepared for

our visit and was actively involved in our week of service. Our introductory meeting and parting ceremony with him was official, but extremely heartfelt. His gratitude was overwhelming. He looks forward to our return. Worshipping in a Methodist church in Ghana is a joyful, dancing, singing, uplifting experience. Passion for the Lord, and his mercy and grace is unquestionable.

The poverty we witnessed is extraordinary. That which you and I never even think about is their daily struggle. Clean water, sanitation, food and clothing top the list, followed closely by health care, education and a job.

Weeks after our return flight touched down in JFK, we are still processing what the experience meant to us and to those we served. A Mission journey is just that...a journey. It begins with the formation of a team and the relationships therein; continues with the formation of relationships with the local leaders and people; and certainly continues the journey of faith we are all on.

Stewardship Corner

■ Ownership and Stewardship

We get so caught up in acquiring and securing that we may forget the wisdom of the psalmist who wrote: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world, and those who dwell therein ..." (Psalm 24:1). That is as clear as it gets. The bottom line is we do not own a solitary thing. God the Creator who brought everything into being owns it all: the earth and everything on the earth, even "those who dwell therein."



Yes, we, too, are "owned" by God, not as slaves but as children of a loving Creator whose desire is to have a parent/child relationship with us.

Furthermore, God loves and respects us so much that we have been given stewardship over God's beautiful world in its totality. You and I are responsible for the earth and "the fullness thereof." God trusts us to be caretakers of the whole of creation.

Remember, we have final and absolute ownership over nothing. Yet, we have the privilege of stewardship over everything. How thoughtful of God!

Of course such an honor given to us obligates us to manage the time, talent and resources God has given to us in very responsible ways. Think of it as a wonderful privilege!

Youth Corner

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLANNED

All are invited to the Sunday School's Annual Christmas Pageant. In this year's production, ***Listen to the Angels***, the angels at Angel Central in the Heavenly Realms are busy as usual, but this year the new angel on the block wants to hear the full story again of what happened on that first Christmas night. It's up to Lead Angel Gabriel to recount the Greatest Story Ever Told with a little help from his friends. This musical, which contains sparkling songs and delightful dialogue, will be performed on Sunday, December 14th, during the sermon time of the 10 a.m. worship service. We hope to see you there!



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY PLANNED

All are invited to come ring in the New Year - 2015! Bring your family and celebrate the New Year with PUMC!

Date: Wednesday December 31st
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.
Place: Sessions Hall
Cost: Free! **Please bring a dish to share (appetizers/ hors d'oeuvres) **

Party Includes:

- Food, Drinks,
- Make-your-own-ice-cream-sundae,
- Crafts, Games, and More!
- Special "Ball Drop" at 6pm

(Activities are geared towards PreK-5th grade, however, all are welcome!)

If you have any questions or to RSVP by 12/26, please contact Christa Zaldivar cjw02@hotmail.com or 860-845-2016.





Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"

Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

Directions: In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.



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| 3-14-25 | 36-47-58 | 104-105-106 | 38-49-60 | 89-100-111-123 | 107-108-109-120-130 |
| 2-3-4 | 5-16-27 | 19-18-29-30 | 69-79-89 | 80-92-103-104 | 125-135-134-124-123-133-134 |
| 40-51-62-39 | 37-47-59 | 105-95-84-96 | | 124-125-126-127-128 | 69-80-91-102-103 |
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**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010**

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