

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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February 2016

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## Pastor's Page

*"Be like newborn babies, always thirsty for the pure spiritual milk, so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved." ~ 1 Peter 2:2 (TEV)*



Winter is still with us all. As I write this newsletter article, the weather outside is clear and very balmy 45 degrees. It is pleasant at the moment, but we know that anything can happen during February and March in New England. We still have a few months to go before the promise of spring.

By the way, Easter is not that far off. We can look forward to celebrating the resurrection of the Lord on March 27th. I'm looking forward to it because Easter is a great time of year in the life of the Church. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Before we celebrate the joy of Easter, we really do need to go through the season of Lent.

And that's the real problem, isn't it? Sometimes I get the feeling that people view Lent like they view winter. It's something we endure before the really good stuff happens. Lent is something that is there, but we really don't talk (and think) about it that much. Easter is much more up-beat.

Actually, Lent is very important for the spiritual life of Christians. It encourages us to look at our lives and see if we should change. It asks us to do the very serious, and very scary, work of growing in the Lord. We are challenged by this season to become the people God believes we could be.

Early Methodists, when they gathered together in their class meetings, would ask each other, "How is your soul?" Admittedly, it is a personal question. It should be remembered that an essential part of the success of the early Methodist societies was the willingness of members to hold each other accountable for spiritual growth. You did not just join a Methodist society, as you would a civic association. When you became a Methodist, you committed yourself to grow into the likeness of our Savior.

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How is your soul? Are you experiencing growth in Christ? Is your devotional life helping you to grow closer to God? When you read the Scriptures, do you experience renewal and a sense of hope? Perhaps the season of Lent, with its emphasis on personal reflection and repentance, is just what we need.

Spend time in prayer and reflection. Even if your prayer life has been strained in the past, Lent may just be the incentive you need to begin again. Take a few minutes each day, during Lent, to lift up your concerns to the Lord. If you really make the effort, by the time Easter rolls around prayer will be a part of your day-to-day life.

Look for opportunities to live out your faith in the world around you. Simple acts of love, whether it is bringing home groceries to a shut-in, or spending a few moments with someone who is lonely, may not seem like much, but it is enormously important to God. When we grow in Christ, we become expressions of God's love for the world.

Lent is not a season to be endured, like a cold hard winter. Sure, it is wonderful to celebrate the resurrection and Easter. But, it will be even more wonderful if we grew in Christ during the season of Lent.

Grace and Peace,  
*Bob Sorozan*

# History Corner

## ■ Prospect In Earlier Days ~ Kathy Dube

Penny postcards give us another glimpse into “yesteryear,” before the advent of telephones, greeting cards, and computer e-cards.

Valentines Day surely must have been a holiday when many penny postcards, usually printed in Germany pre-WWI, were sent to friends or relatives. This one was sent to a Clarence Scharff in New Haven.



There is no postal date stamped, but it had to be sent before the First World War, as they stopped being printed in Germany with the advent of “The Great War.” Sadly, the quality of penny postcards was never as good thereafter.

The message does not say anything about Valentine’s Day, just, “Dear Clarence, How do you do? How do you like your new boarding place? I hope you will like it. With Love, Gertrude.”

These postcards attract collectors of all ages today, and holiday postcards are the specialty of many.

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## ■ Movie Night

Movie Night will be held on March 11. This event is co-sponsored by Women of Prospect and the Education Team. “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is the featured movie, and hotdogs and baked potatoes will be served. All ages are invited to come and watch this classic.

### Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Chapel Service
10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
10:00 a.m.	Church School
10:00 a.m.	Nursery School
11:00 a.m.	Fellowship

# Small Groups

- **Save The Dates: Annual Renaissance Dinners** ~ *Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Chair*

It's that time of year when we start thinking about Spring and warmth and sunshine and our Annual Renaissance Dinners. The dates this year are Saturday, May 7th, and Saturday, May 14th. This year's theme is "The Shire's Got Talent," for the King wants to be entertained! God help us all!

As always should you wish to help out we could use you! We need a clean-up crew, help with laundry after each dinner, kitchen help, and runners. If you know any high school students who need volunteer hours, I'd love to talk to them. This is a great opportunity to help out.

Tickets will go on sale the end of March, but if you want to reserve your table please let me know. Tickets are \$25 for a wonderful feast and entertainment beyond your wildest dreams. Well, at least what we can "dream up"! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to drop me an email at [TheGladus@comcast.net](mailto:TheGladus@comcast.net) or you can call me at (860) 582-8383.

# Mission

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry consists of knitters and crocheters that make Prayer Shawls. Prayer Shawls are blessed by our minister before they are given to those in need of comfort, care, concern, and collective prayer. Prayer Shawl Ministry members work on these projects at home and before Sunday service. Anyone is invited to join in and help.



- **Souper Bowl Of Caring**

Souper Bowl of Caring, in which people are asked to help the Zion Lutheran Church Food Pantry by donating a can of soup, was held on Sunday, February 7th. More than 20 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring began within a single youth group with this prayer before the Souper Bowl game: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Souper Bowl, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

## ■ Sock It To Me Campaign

Do you have a sock drawer at home? The homeless don't! Did you know one of the least donated items to the Homeless are socks? Foot care is very important not only to keep your feet warm, but they protect your feet from blisters and wounds. Please help by donating new socks by February 28th. Socks for children and adults are needed. Leave the socks in Sessions Hall.



**Note:** The ideal socks for the homeless are BLACK cotton crew socks (they don't show the dirt like white socks) with reinforced toe and heel or wool blend men's and women's socks. Children's socks should be "age appropriate." Ask a first grader what kind of socks they like or a fifth grader what kind of socks they like.

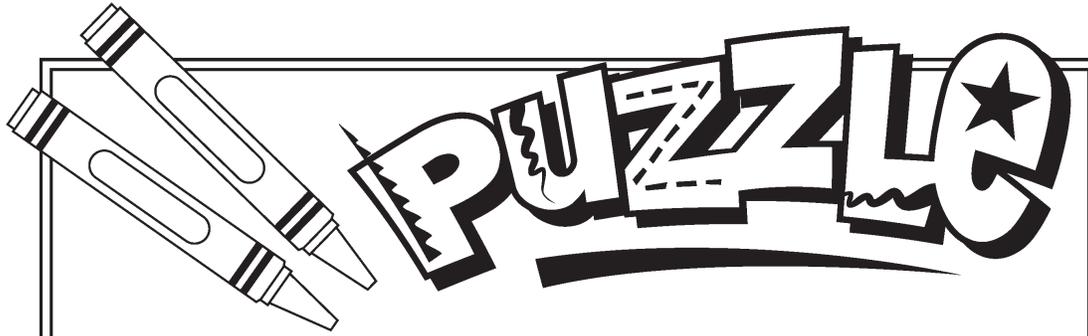
If you have questions, see Alexandria Paulette or Jeanette Baker.

## ■ Water is Life Giving

The 2016 CT District Mission project is "Clean Water for Nicaraguans". Each church in our district is invited to support this project. One Water Filter provides clean water for one family. The costs? One filter is \$50. This provides for: the purchase of the filters, transportation to a Field Office, local distribution to communities, health education talks, and follow up visits (two to each community). It is anticipated that these ceramic filters will not only improve the quality of drinking water for these households but will have a direct impact on the prevention of water and food-borne diseases, improved nutrition and better health for these families.



The Prospect Family, always generous when helping those in need, is participating in this mission project. If you would like to participate as an individual, a family, or a small group, please make your check payable to PUMC (Prospect United Methodist Church) and write Water Filter in the memo line. We will get the money to the District office. Our Deadline for this collection is March 22nd, WORLD WATER DAY! But each day can be a Water Day for families who have clean drinking water.



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

... 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ , 5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_

11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ . *Romans 8:34, NIV*

\_\_\_\_\_

RESURRECTION

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



*Palm Sunday  
March 20*

*Easter Sunday  
March 27*

## Order Your Easter Plants

Memorial Easter Plants will surround the Altar on Easter Sunday, March 27th. Please return this form to the offering plate or church office by Sunday, March 23rd. Cost per plant is \$10. Proceeds will be donated to the Prospect Organ Fund. Payment must accompany order. Feel free to take your plant(s) after the 10 a.m. Easter service.



<b>In Honor of</b>	
<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>Number of Plants</b>	
<b>Given by</b>	
<b>Amount Enclosed</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Leaving Plant or <input type="checkbox"/> Taking Plant	

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

**Return Service Requested**