

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

February 2017

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Pastor's Page

Don't Hide From God's Shining Light

We started off 2017 with divine and shining light. God has poured the light into our lives. It has driven out our darkness. We do not have to hide or flee in the darkness. Now January has already passed. We are into the second month of this year. During the short period of time, we heard that many got sick, fell down, and lost their loved ones. It is quite different from a shining light. Everything already seems to be a little bit dim and routine.



There is always a portion of shadow in the other side from the light, because we are likely not to put the light at the center of life or right above our head. Especially when we walk exactly in the opposite direction to the light, we feel we are walking in the darkness while we are actually walking in our shadow. Maybe we just like being in the darkness.

Look at the creation story in Genesis. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and assumed God would be mad and killed them because God said anyone who disobeyed his order would be dead. So they tried to run away from and hid themselves from God, which is the light. Whenever we run away from God, the darkness takes place. Then God showed up and called them, "Adam! Eve! Where are you?" God asked where they were. I wonder if God did not really know where they were. I think God knew where they were. God must have had CCTV all over Eden.

Nevertheless, God called the question. I believe God is not asking their physical location, but God is asking where they belong now and where God and they are in relationship to each other. Are you away from me in your heart? Or are you still in love with me? I believe it was not just a question but also a reminder of the relationship with God. "Where are you? I am here for

**GOD
IS LIGHT;**



**IN HIM
THERE IS NO
DARKNESS
AT ALL.**

1 JOHN 1:5

(Cont. to Page 2)

Prospect United Methodist Church

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you. Come out without fear. Do not hide from me." So when they came out from their hiding place which must have been in darkness, God gave them leather clothes to cover their shame. Isn't it cool? God gave them leather jeans and jackets. It used to remind me of the stone age people.

But after I came to Bristol, it reminds me of bikers. Anyway, God had been looking for them. Actually God had been looking for the intimate relationship they used to have with each other. God wanted them to come out naked without shame or fear. God wanted them to come into the light again. That is the reason God called, "Where are you?" But sometimes the question sounds to us like He is mad. That might be why we do not want to come to God. However, that is not the case. It is safe to come to God whoever, whenever, and wherever. So please keep coming to God even though we feel like we don't want to. God will give you new things like leather jeans.

God is calling for us: "Where are you?"

*Safe in Leather Jacket,
Pastor Kim*

**GOD IS
CALLING FOR
US: "WHERE
ARE YOU?"**

■ Wills, Gifts And Legacies

By Chris Wilson, Chair, Board of Trustees

“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel”: Socrates

One of the responsibilities of the Prospect United Methodist Church Trustees is to accept Gifts and Legacies from its members. Many members of our church have remembered their church family in their financial planning; giving generously so that we might have a place to come worship and to go forth to serve God.

We have a strong legacy of church members doing this through Book of Remembrance donations and Direct Gifts. Book of Remembrance donations are segregated and accounted for separately. These donations are joined together with others' donations to purchase items for the church that are projected to last 10 years or more. Book of Remembrance donations have been used for new draperies above the choir loft, altar chairs, votive stands and Paraments (liturgical hangings as well as the cloths hanging from the altar, pulpit and lectern).

Direct gifts are typically a little more sizable and have been used in numerous ways by the church on behalf of those generous donors. Examples include: student scholarships; stained glass windows that adorn our Sanctuary; and, of course, the building of our Fellowship Hall by the Sessions Family, to name just a few.

Often these larger gifts are given to the church with the restriction that only the growth and interest can be used. In this way the gift lives on in perpetuity of the donor. These gifts sustain our ministry

and mission of the church today. In fact, many of these gifts support our budget. Another way a member may give a gift to their church is through life insurance. Some donors make their church a partial or full beneficiary of a life insurance policy. All of these strategies should be discussed with the donor's attorney and financial planner. In a confidential meeting with the Pastor and/or Trustees you can discuss any ideas you might have in developing such a plan.

As God's stewards we have three responsibilities:

- **Receiving:** We receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God showers upon us — time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us.
- **Managing:** We take good care of what we have received, managing these resources wisely — for our own good and the good of others.
- **Giving:** Out of our gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we want to share with others.

Gifts to Prospect United Methodist Church are an investment in our future. All gifts are gratefully received and managed carefully.



■ Remembering “Pastor Al” Scholten

Rev. Albert Henry Scholten, 93, of Middletown, who was Prospect’s Minister of Visitation for 12 years, died at home on Sunday, January 22nd. His funeral took place at the South Congregational Church of Middletown with Rev. Barbara Marks, pastor of Middletown United Methodist Church, officiating on Sunday, January 29th.

“Pastor Al” was a much beloved figure during his tenure at Prospect, amusing us with his homespun midwestern sense of humor. From a few who remembered him well:

Heidi Flower, current organist and music director: *“Pastor Al was definitely one of a kind and a great singer!”*

Pastor Emeritus Rev. William Barnes: *“His sense of humor and one sermon he gave about a pastor offered a significant amount of money for his church if he would say something positive about a fairly reprehensible man, one of a pair of brothers similarly described. The tag line: ‘He was better than his brother.’”*

Jackie Palance, SPR chair: *“My memories of Pastor Al are seeing him singing away in the choir loft and his awesome sermons after which you walked away with a feeling of being uplifted. My mom still talks about one of his sermons about a potato.”*

Kathy Dube, Tower editor: *His sense of humor and one sermon he gave about a pastor offered a significant amount of money for his church if he would say something positive about a fairly reprehensible man, one of a pair of brothers similarly described. The tag line: “He was better than his brother.”*

Born on Dec. 7, 1923 in Minneapolis, MN, he was the son of the late Albert Sr. and Agnes (Hedlund) Scholten. He graduated from Pine City High School in 1941 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1944 to 1946. He earned the rank of corporal and participated in action

against the enemy at Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands and the occupation of China. In 1946 he married Nila Clark and went on to graduate from the University of Minnesota in 1950 and from Drew Theological Seminary in 1954.



He began his ministry in the New York East Conference in 1954 at the Westhampton Methodist Church in NY. He later served Simpson Methodist Church in Amityville, NY, and First UMC in Middletown, CT, from 1964 until his retirement in 1994. He was program director at Camp Quinipet in Shelter Island, NY, for one week per summer for 17 years, and served on various New York Conference committees, including the Board of Ordained Ministry, Town and Country Committee, Central District Nominating Committee and District Committee on the Superintendency. He came to PUMC as minister of visitation after his retirement. He also was treasurer of the Interchurch Chaplaincy Program of Connecticut and was a co-chair and member of the Hark L. Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Rev. Scholten’s wife Nila predeceased him in 2009. He is survived by two sons and two daughters and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rev. Scholten’s memory may be made to First UMC Building Fund, 221 Ridge Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

■ **New District Superintendent**

Rev. Alpher Sylvester has been selected as our new District Superintendent, effective July 1, 2017. Currently pastor of Grace U.M. Church of St. Alban's, NY, Rev. Sylvester was born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago, to Elon and Elsie Sylvester. His father is a retired Baptist bishop. He is the seventh of 10 children.

According to the District Newsletter, Rev. Sylvester accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior at an early age. He is an avid worshiper who brings passion and excellence to bear on all that he does. He and his wife, Carlene, have three children: sons Nicholas and Simon Sylvester and daughter Vanessa.

Rev. Sylvester will succeed District Superintendent Ken Kieffer, who is stepping down after eight years in the position. He holds a Master of Public Administration, Magna Cum Laude - CUNY and a Masters of Divinity, Cum Laude - Drew University. He is currently in the writing phase of his doctoral degree at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

Prospect Briefs

■ **Potluck Schedule**

The Potluck Luncheon schedule for the next few months is as follows:

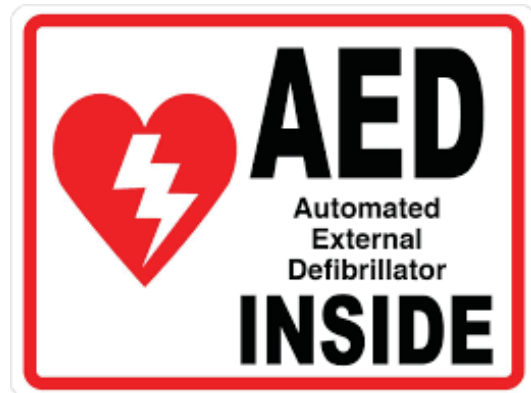
- February 26 - Make Your Own Pizza
- March 26 - Italian Pasta
- April 30 - International

■ **ARF Collection**

The Youth Team is collecting blankets, toys, old towels and animal beds to benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation in Terryville. Please leave donations in Sessions Hall. No food, please.

■ **Soup-To-Go**

The Scholarship Committee will be selling soup-to-go in pint jars on February 12th in Sessions Hall after the service. The cost is \$5/jar.



■ **Christian Rock Concert**

"Kickstart My Heart," a Christian Rock Concert, will take place on February 19th from 3 to 5 p.m at Prospect Church. The event is a fundraiser to help purchase an automated aortic defibrillator (AED) for the church. For information call (203) 494-5194.

If you are unable to attend, but wish to contribute to this worthy cause, please indicate that your donation is for the AED fundraiser.

■ District Resource Day At Prospect

Carla Heister, Chair, Church Council

On January 29th Prospect Church hosted one of two of the 2017 Connecticut District Resource Days. One hundred ten people from 34 of the 74 churches in our district came together to learn about various programs in the United Methodist Church and about what we as a Christian community can do to understand others and help people locally and globally through 12 workshops given that day.

I attended two workshops, the first on Stewardship (which you will be hearing more from me as the year progresses) and, the second entitled Conversations with Our Muslim Neighbors. This workshop was led by Aida Mansoor, a Muslim chaplain, from Berlin. I learned that 62 percent of Americans have never met a Muslim even though there are about 1.7 billion Muslims in the world (about 22 percent of the world population). Ms. Mansoor is an excellent personal ambassador and if more people were to meet her, we would all have a better understanding of shared values across religions.

The event was organized by Maggie Carr, Chair, District Council on Ministries and locally coordinated by Mary Rogers. Maggie, in an e-mail, said this to PUMC: "I want to say to everyone at Prospect THANK YOU. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who prepared workshop rooms, provided refreshments, and directed participants to various locations within your beautiful building. You devoted a lot of time and thought to creating a welcoming environment for everyone who attended, and I am sure I speak for all the members of the District Council on Ministries when I say we are grateful beyond words.

"It was such a blessing to witness how beautifully you all worked together to prepare workshop rooms, design particularly helpful signs, offer a bountiful table of beautifully-presented and delicious refreshments, respond to our unexpected last-minute requests, and welcome our many participants and presenters. A huge portion of the credit for the success of the day belongs to the congregation of Prospect United Methodist Church."



Small Group Leadership Workshop led by Pastor Peter Brown

Days for Girls: What Your Church Can Do Workshop led by Jan Baker



Middle Ages Group Update

■ Return Of Anna And Elsa

On Saturday January 21st Anna and Elsa returned to Prospect United Methodist Church for a Meet and Greet! They apologized to the children for missing the Breakfast With Santa on December 17th as they were "Frozen" in.



Anna and Elsa enjoyed spending time with the children, singing, dancing and coloring and they even made it snow in Sessions Hall. A good time was had by all and Anna and Elsa said they would love to visit us again in the future.

■ Save The Date For Renaissance Dinners

Spring will be here soon and that means our Annual Renaissance Dinners will take place. The dates are Saturday, April 29th and Saturday, May 6th. If you are interested in attending either one please email Luisa Gladu at TheGladus@comcast.net to get your name on the list and reserve your tickets. Please note both evenings are a Reserved Ticket Event. No tickets will be sold at the door. Ticket prices are Adults, \$25, and Children 10 and under, \$15.

For parents who may want to enjoy the evening as a "date night," we are hoping to be able to offer baby-sitting service. More details to follow in the March Tower!

Also, if you would like to join the Middle Ages Group, we are always looking for new members. Please see Luisa Gladu for more information.

BUILDING USAGE

Do you need a hall for an upcoming birthday or anniversary party, baby or bridal shower? Did you know that as a church member you can "rent" the use of Sessions Hall or the downstairs hall and kitchen and as a member, your cost is a donation that goes towards the General Fund.

We also can let outside groups or individuals use the rooms. Those fees are based on what the needs are, time, building usage etc.

If you know of a group or someone who may be in need of a meeting room or the hall for an event, please let Luisa Gladu know. For more information on renting the rooms, there is a form in the office that needs to be filled out for each event and the rules and fees are attached to that form.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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BRISTOL, CT 06010**

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