

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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Pastor Transition Meeting Held

By Kathy Dube, Tower Editor

The first of three Pastor Transition Meetings took place on Saturday, May 28th, in the Chapel of Prospect Church. It was the first opportunity for many to meet our incoming pastor, the Rev. Yountae Kim, or "P.K.," (for "Pastor Kim,") as he puts it. Pastor Kim succeeds outgoing pastor Rev. Dr. Robert Sorozon, who is retiring as of June 30th.

Pastor Kim assumes the mantle of Prospect's pastorate on July 1st. He will conduct the July 3rd Sunday service, Communion Sunday, and preach his first sermon that day. This will be his first full-time senior pastorate. [Note: There will be one service at Prospect during July and August, at 9 a.m.]

The second Pastor Transition Meeting, open to any PUMC member or friend, is scheduled for July 30th from 10:30 to approximately Noon. The third meeting, solely for the SPR Committee and Pastor Kim, will be led by District Superintendent Ken Keiffer in the Fall.

Rev. Albert Hahn facilitated the May 28th meeting and said the idea for Pastor Transition Meetings arose two bishops ago for varying reasons. In this case it's because this will be a cross-cultural transition, since Pastor Kim is a native of South Korea. In other instances, the process has been used when a congregation gets a woman pastor for the first time, or the new pastor may be succeeding a long-time beloved pastor.

Of his first senior pastorate, Pastor Kim said, "I am honored and blessed" to be coming to PUMC, but at the same time, admitted he is "happily nervous and scared." Originally a Presbyterian during his formative years, he said he became fascinated by John Wesley's theology, and finally loved the mission statement of the Methodist Church, founded by Wesley.



Pictured l. to r. at the Pastor Transition Meeting held May 28th in our Chapel are Rev. Albert Hahn, facilitator, Rev. Yountae Kim, incoming pastor, and Jackie Palance, chair of the Prospect SPR Committee.

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

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Pastor Emeritus

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Pastor Transition Meetings are intended to be a time of celebration and reflection. Pastor Hahn led those in attendance through an exercise of reflecting on recent pastorates, reviewing both successes and perceived problems, to help give our new pastor guidance as he prepares to become our senior pastor. "I am open to suggestions and to listen to you," he stressed.

Pastor Kim said he is grateful to his wife, Jihye Jang, and is already well schooled in anger management because his two sons, David (4) and Daniel (2), are "active and wild kids," who sometimes fight over the same toy. On a serious note, P.K. asked that our congregation "help me to know our church, and the area. Pastors have a history, too. I will miss the relationships ... but where God is, is my home. I'm coming to another home."

He joked that his Red Sox cap has been hidden in his closet during his years in New York City, but added that now will be the time to bring it out of the closet ... cheered by Sox fans but not by New York fans, especially those who root for the Yankees.

Before closing, Pastor Hahn reviewed protocols relating to Transitions in Clergy Leadership.

Please take advantage of the July 30th meeting to meet and get to know our new pastor, Rev. Yountae Kim, "P.K." If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jackie Palance at (860) 747-8988 or jampalance@aol.com.

■ Prospect's Pastoral History In Brief

When Rev. Youngtae Kim joins Prospect as our pastor July 1st, he will become the 46th pastor dating back to Rev. Albert Wickware, who "felled the first oak" to help build the first Methodist Society in Bristol on West Street.

Pastors served for only a few years in the early days, often for no more than a year or two in the 1800s, but one, Rev. Arza Hill, served twice, and the Rev. Charles Buck had three tenures spanning three decades.

Our church has been known by three different names because our parent church has changed its name: Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church from 1834-1839; Prospect Methodist Church from 1839-1968; and Prospect United Methodist Church from 1968 to the present.

No photographs have been located for the first 13 pastors, because they died before photographs came to be printed in Conference Journal Memoirs. If you glance at the Gallery of Pastors in our Historical Photo Gallery, you will see that the 10 pictured at the bottom, five in each frame, came from Conference Memoirs.

Reportedly, the only pastor to become a Bishop was Rev. Dr. Ernest G. Richardson, who served the church from 1910-1912. He later became resident bishop of the Philadelphia-area Methodist churches.

A document from July 1960 notes that seven members of our church entered the ministry, starting with Rev. Edward S. Belden, ordained in 1903. The last, the Rev. William S. Barnes, ordained in June 1960, became our 41st pastor in 1991.

■ 30 Health Kits Donated

You have heard and answered the call! The words in this week's hymn *When We Are Living* appropriately say, "When we are giving or when receiving we belong to God." According to Jill Wilson, "The givers and receivers of these kits belong to God!" The kits will be taken to Annual Conference at Hofstra University this week. She adds, "Thank you for your loving action!"



■ Letter From Council Of Bishops

Reviving a tradition that is more than a century old, the United Methodist Council of Bishops sent a letter to the people of The United Methodist Church following the 2016 General Conference. The UMC's top legislative body met at the Oregon Convention Center from May 10th to May 20th. The top policy-making body of The UMC convenes once every four years to revise church law, and adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

The Council of Bishops letter, dated May 23, reads as follows:

"To the people of The United Methodist Church:

The Council of Bishops brings you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has called us to be servant leaders of the church. In 1812, Bishop Francis Asbury, Bishop William McKendree and General Conference Secretary Daniel Hitt sent the first letter to churches following General Conference. This letter seeks to revive that tradition. Many bishops will also be communicating individually with their own areas.

Hundreds of lay and clergy delegates from around the world gathered in Portland, Oregon, along with bishops and pastors, church members and staff, volunteers and visitors, to engage in Christian conferencing, to make decisions for our church's future, to affirm our global connection, to worship and to celebrate God's faithfulness.

"We celebrated the success of our Imagine No Malaria initiative, which seeks to raise \$75 million in the fight against malaria, a disease that takes the life of a child in Africa every two minutes. We celebrated our ecumenical partnerships as we move into full Communion with the Uniting Church in Sweden and toward full Communion with the Moravian church. We celebrated our heritage: the 250th anniversary of our oldest church, John Street United Methodist Church, the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the 150th anniversary of United Methodist women, the 25th anniversary of Africa University and others.

"We continued in our acts of repentance with a presentation from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes about the Methodist involvement in the 1864 Sand Creek massacre. We shared in the consecration of deaconesses and home missionaries and the commissioning of missionaries. We moved toward a global Book of Discipline and global Social Principles. We voted to add five new bishops in Africa after 2020, and approved a church-wide study on our ecclesiology.

"The Episcopal address set the tone for the event, focusing on humility and lifting up our accomplishments. We heard from our laity an invitation to members to be more involved in making disciples and getting involved in ministries to bring the love of Christ to others. We heard

our young people say they “are engaged in Christ’s journey with energy and love.” We also heard them say clearly that they do not want a divided church and urged us to “be in unity even if we do not have unanimity.” They give us hope for our future.

“The body had difficult and challenging work before it as we acknowledged our differences over human sexuality. Amidst those differences, the delegates affirmed they want their bishops to lead and we found ourselves with an opportunity for a holy moment. We spoke candidly about what divides us and what our church might look like in the future if we dared to consider new possibilities. We offered a way forward, postponing decisions about sexuality matters and committing to having a different kind of global conversation that allows all voices to be heard.

“Our differences do not keep us from being the body of Christ. They do not keep us from doing good in the world. They do not keep us from making a difference – and so we set forth bold new goals: to make a million new disciples of Jesus Christ; to engage 3 million new people to make a difference in the world; to transform 400 communities for vital abundant living; to reach a million children with lifesaving health interventions; and to double the number of vital congregations.

“Most importantly, we affirmed our commitment to stay united. We proved that we are more than debates and divisions, more than rules and resolutions. We stood together as the body of Christ. As we reflect on our time in Portland, our prayer is for unity in the church for the advancement of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

As John Wesley reminded us, “Best of all, God is with us.”

Signed on behalf of the Council of Bishops,
Bishop Bruce R. Ough
President of the Council

Retirement party in honor of Rev. Dr. Robert E. Sorozan

Pastor Bob’s 34 years of service to God and church were celebrated this month with a special retirement lunch. Best wishes to Bob and Teri in their new journey.



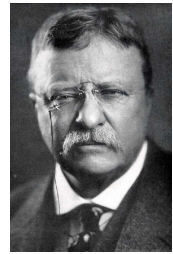
History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS ~ Kathy Dube *More Ties Between Church And Presidents*

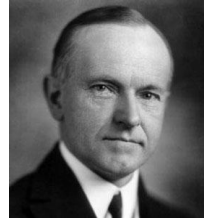
This final article in a series detailing connections between the Methodist Church and U.S. Presidents, from the Mid-February 1938 Prospect Tower, concludes with Presidents T. Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge and F.D. Roosevelt.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt



President Theodore Roosevelt,



President Calvin Coolidge

"President Theodore Roosevelt, in his book, 'the Winning of the West,' took occasion to pay high tribute to the work of the Methodist Church Circuit Riders in the life of the pioneer and frontier society."

"At the dedication of the statue to Francis Asbury, the 'Prophet of the Long Road,' in Washington, D.C., President Calvin Coolidge made a notable statement in honor of the Methodist Church."

"The United Methodist Council was greeted last week by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who wrote in part as follows: 'I congratulate the Methodist Council upon its thoughtful and reverent approach to the momentous questions which are to command its attention during the forthcoming meetings in Chicago.

"In a world perplexed by doubt and fear and uncertainty there is need for a return to religion as exemplified in the Sermon on the Mount ... In that faith I wish you and your co-workers godspeed, you are sowers of the seed. May God bless the harvest."

"A Church that has had a vital part in the development of our country will not fail the nation in this hour of need."

■ Musicians On Hiatus

As the summer approaches, the Senior Choir and Handbell Choir are looking forward to some well-deserved time off, notes Music Director Heidi Flower: "I am very grateful and impressed with their efforts to attend rehearsals and Sunday services each week."

If anyone would like to share a musical offering during the summer months, please let me know!

Youth News

■ Children's Day Success

A wonderful Children's Day service was celebrated on May 22nd at PUMC! It was festive and happy! The children led the entire service, playing piano, cello and violin, singing, reading and filling the sanctuary with excitement and enthusiasm.

Thanks to all of our Sunday School volunteers for their dedication and commitment to Christian Education, love of our children and willingness to give time and talent for our Sunday School.

■ Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to teach Summer Sunday School to Pre-K-5th grade during our 10 a.m. worship service. Sunday School Superintendent Christa Zaldivar says no experience is necessary, just a love of children and desire to share the love of God with them! All curriculum materials will be provided. Please consider signing up for one or more Sundays starting June 5th! We need two adults per Sunday throughout the summer. Please contact Christa Zaldivar at (860) 845-2016 or cjw02@hotmail.com to sign up or for more information.

■ "Ride The Waves" at VBS

Vacation Bible School is returning and we're riding the waves!

All children Pre-K to Grade 5 are invited to Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love. Discover how to surf through life with God and others! The fun begins June 20th and ends June 24th. Each program starts at 6 and ends at 7:45 p.m. at Prospect United Methodist Church.



The adventure includes energizing music, interactive Bible fun, super science, hands-on mission work, delicious snacks, great games, and more.

To be a part of all the excitement at Surf Shack, call Christa Zaldivar at (860) 845-2016 or visit <http://cokesburyvbs.com/prospect>.

Nehemiah 4:14b: Remember that the LORD is great and awesome!

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