



# THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

*A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action*

June 2018

Vol. 79, NO. 6

## Pastor's Page

### Against The Flow

I preached about NUTS (Nothing Impossible Under The Spirit) every Sunday in May. I wanted us to be more aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit and what the spirit can do within us. So I said 'We Are NUTS' every Sunday. Recently I could be convinced that we were becoming NUTS. A squirrel came into our sanctuary and went under the altar. It might have smelled a lot of NUTS.



We are the people of God and the people of the spirit. The risen Christ promised that he would ask God to send the spirit of the Lord as the helper and the counsellor. It reminds us of what Jesus taught us, empowers us to keep doing what Jesus did on the earth. So with the spirit of the Lord, we can do anything for the glory of God even if it looks silly, crazy, abnormal, and NUTS.



NUTS disciples say "no" when the world say "yes." We say "no" to hatred, "no" to violence, "no" to disunity, "no" to division. We are touched by God, the love of God. the love makes us be ourselves without fear, without worrying about how they look like or what people think about them. They dare to be face of God / face of Christ. We are NUTS.

Often people give "go with the flow" as advice, and in some situations, this may be truly helpful. For example, while you're driving you definitely want to go with the flow, because if you were driving against the flow you would likely have a head-on collision. Let's look at the phrase "go with the flow" first. People who "go with the flow" do what everyone else is doing, they wear what everyone else is wearing, have what everyone else has, do what everyone else does, eats what everyone else eats, says what everyone else is saying and thinks what everyone else is thinking. Being a Christian is not about being like everyone else, but about being like Jesus, being a face of Christ, and being alive in faith. Being alive in faith often means being against the flow.

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# Prospect United Methodist Church

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When we go against the flow, we are considered as crazy and NUTS.

There is a saying “only dead fish go with the flow.” It does not mean living fish always go against the flow. Living fish and dead fish go with the flow but living fish can go against the flow when it is needed. Are you alive? Is your faith alive? If “yes,” do not be afraid of going against the flow. Do not be afraid of being silly or crazy or NUTS. We are NUTS. But be careful not to be chased by a squirrel.!

We are NUTS,  
Pastor Kim

## ■ This Baptism “Took”

Rev. William Barnes, our pastor emeritus, baptized Pastor Yountae and wife Sophia/Jihye Jang’s daughter, Alisha Sahrang Kim, on Children’s Day, May 20th. But as indicated in the photos, Alisha, born last June 30th, was not thrilled with the experience. Perhaps that’s a good thing, because another former pastor of Prospect, Rev. Dennis Winkleblack, once reportedly said, “When a baby cries while being baptized, it means it took!” Apparently this one really “took.” Pastor Kim says she sometimes cries for him, too.



## ■ Disaster Relief Mission

Prospect's Jill Wilson, who has been on a number of NYAC mission trips, has joined a group of seven people volunteering in Puerto Rico. The Disaster Relief Mission to Puerto Rico runs from June 16th to the 23rd. The team, consisting of five men and two women, is led by Rev. Tom Vencuss, the coordinator of Mission Ministries for NYAC.

Jill, speaking about the trip before she left, said, "We do not have our exact assignment but since it is a trip related to Disaster Relief, we anticipate debris removal, re-roofing, painting, etc. Work is determined based upon the skill set of the volunteers. For me, I am mostly a willing helper! I don't know the make up of our team at this point other than we are five men and two women."

Rev. Tom Vencuss, the Coordinator of Mission Ministries for NYAC, will lead this team. A team from NYAC also went to P.R. in April. This disaster recovery phase in Puerto Rico will take years. Disaster relief groups stay at a Retreat Camp or a local church. Volunteers at Retreat Camps bring their own linens. Those staying at a church sleep in the sanctuary either on pews or on the floor. In this case, they bring a small air mattress or crash pad.

## ■ Service Banner Displayed

To commemorate Memorial Day weekend, Vivian Brackett, who chairs the History Committee, gave a brief talk at the May 27th 10 a.m. service on the military service of the men and women from Prospect Church who served in World War II.

The WW II Service Banner was rescued by the History Committee from the "vault" closet in the basement in 2000, where it had fallen onto the floor and become waterlogged because the foundation was leaking. The late Marge Herold, a member of the committee, and Vivian Brackett worked to restore it as best as possible and identify who the stars represented. Some of the stars, blue for those who served and gold for those who made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned, were missing.

The Service Banner was made by the Mother's Club of the church during the war years, from 1941-45. A pamphlet is available denoting names of those from the war years who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The list of 171 names was researched by copying names from the banner and going through issues of the Tower and the book "Bristol, Connecticut in World War II."

The banner has been called a "National Treasure" by historians. It normally hangs in the hallway off the chapel.

## ■ 50th Anniversary Of UMC Observed

April 23, 1968 was a significant date in the history The United Methodist Church as it marked the creation of a new denomination with the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church that created the new denomination of The United Methodist Church.

With the words “Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church,” the new denomination was birthed at the constituting General Conference held that year in Dallas. The words, said in unison over joined hands, by Bishop Reuben H. Mueller of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of The Methodist Church, signified the formation of one of the largest denominations in the world, representing 53 countries.

As noted in the New York Annual Conference (NYAC) website, “We are celebrating 50 years since a historic coming together among like minded Christians of different regions, languages, cultures and customs because of their common grounding in Wesleyan spirituality and practice,” said the Rev. Fred Day, general secretary of the General Commission of Archives and History. “The historical event also marks the formation of a church free from the institutionalized segregation of the former Central Jurisdiction. Now white and African-American United Methodists joined in a Church sharing annual conferences, same bishops and same appointment systems as never before.

“To observe the anniversary, the General Commission of Archives and History and the General Commission on Religion and Race, born with the merger to insure the inclusivity intended with the 1968 union, are collaborating on producing shared 50th anniversary resources,” Day said.

## ■ Summer Worship

Summer Worship Services will be held in Sessions Hall at 9 a.m. each Sunday starting July 1st. Mary Rogers, Worship Committee chair, says, “We look forward to having some new music during the summer. In addition, Pastor Kim will be taking vacation end of July and beginning of August so we will be led in service by Jeanette Baker one week and Pastor Bill Barnes another. Please join us for summer worship.



## ■ History Corner

### A Treat From Prospect Benefactor

By Kathy Dube

A historic review of Prospect Church Sunday Schools of the past during the Children's Day service on May 20th included a photo that hangs in our Historic Photo Gallery off Sessions Hall. It depicts a gathering of children and teachers at Lake Compounce c. 1910. The girls are wearing white accented with bows and the boys are dressed in their "Sunday best."



One of the girls, third row on the far left, is Emma Riggs, the mother of Vivian Brackett, our History Committee chair, and her brother, Charlie Ricker, also a member of our church. The woman garbed in black was Carrie Reynolds, a one-time deaconess of Prospect who was widowed at a young age.

Many church picnics during this era were held at Lake Compounce courtesy of Prospect benefactor William E. Sessions. The late Clarkson Barnes, father of Pastor Emeritus Bill Barnes and me, had fond memories of these picnics as related to me for a 150th anniversary history I was asked to compile. "On the day of the picnic W.E (Sessions, Sunday School Supt.) would arrange with the Tramway Company to have special trolley cars pick up children at four locations. Although the trolleys were supposedly for Methodists, it seems every youngster in the city knew what was going on and boarded a car. Probably three quarters of the boys and girls who went to Compounce on Methodist picnic day never stepped foot in Prospect M.E. Church, as it was then known. No fares were collected from the children and W.E paid for everyone. He also paid for practically every concession for the children. He would be standing near the merry-go-round with a big roll of tickets. I don't know how many rolls of tickets he had, but he never ran out. The Lake sent him a bill afterwards. To me the memory of those 'good old days' will never fade."

Sadly, W.E. and his wife never had children, but he treated these children as his own.

## ■ Renaissance Dinners Recap ~ Luisa Gladu

Luisa Gladu, who chairs the Middle Ages Group, reports this year's event was an overwhelming success once again "Thank you to all who made the 2018 Renaissance Dinners a huge success. We were blessed to have both evenings sell out and we actually had a waiting list of 32 people in case anyone canceled.



"We also were blessed to have some 'angel' who donated towards the dinner and made it possible for a few people to attend who would not have been able to. Thank you for your kindness.



"Both shows went extremely well and every year everyone just gets better at what they do. When you think about how many people you need to pull the dinners off it's amazing. This year over 60 volunteers made the magic happen. Not only did our church members volunteer but we recruited friends and family as well as volunteers from St. Paul Catholic H.S.

"We entertained guests from our surrounding communities and some friends traveled from New York, Florida and Las Vegas. Quite a few guests came in costume this year ... we had princesses, knights, a butterfly fairy and several courtiers. For a few hours we went back in time to Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, where King James presided over a grand feast. Of course his "twin" sons, Duncan and Angus came to court not only late but with a proposition for the King to develop some land. Of course his majesty would not just give the land away so the competition began. The boys did not disappoint as each one of them tried to win by cheating and as we all know, cheaters never prosper. The land ended up being sold to Sir Ronald of the clan McDonald.

"Thanks to Laura Taylor we have over 400 pictures from the dinners! Our goal is to put together a presentation so we can show it on the 'big screen' on a Sunday. I can't thank everyone enough for what you did to make the dinners a success. We're already thinking of ideas for next year so we hope you'll be ready to help us out again!

"I hope to have a final count of what we raised soon, as I'm still waiting for a receipt or two to come in. Thank you again one and all."



## ■ Church School Year Highlights

"What a wonderful year it's been!" Education Superintendent Christa Zaldivar comments in summarizing the Church School year at Prospect Church: "On Sunday, May 20th, 15 young people led our 10 a.m. Worship Service with a theme of 'Making a Difference.' We were treated to the instrumental talents of Lilah Morehouse on saxophone, Harrison Riker on trumpet, Isaac Morehouse on harmonica, and Nolan Riker on ukelele! Throughout the service, the children's voices reminded us that we ALL can make a difference in God's world.

"The History Committee also contributed a wonderful glimpse into Sunday School of ages past. We concluded the service with a photo slideshow highlighting the many ways that our Sunday School has made a difference in the lives of others by spreading the love of Jesus Christ: Vacation Bible School mission projects; Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF; Turkey Trot canned food collection; the Christmas Pageant; Christmas Caroling to shut-ins; the Souper Bowl of Caring; and Pretzel Sunday."



## ■ Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed

The Education Department is looking for volunteers to teach Summer Sunday School to Pre-K to the 5th grade during our 9 a.m. worship service starting July 1st to Aug. 26th. 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. Two adults are needed per Sunday throughout the summer. Please contact Christa Zaldivar at (917) 386-8599 or [cjw02@hotmail.com](mailto:cjw02@hotmail.com) to sign up or for more information.

## ■ Vacation Bible School

Prospect United Methodist Church invites all pre-k to 5th graders to experience the ride of a lifetime at Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School.

This adventure experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible Fun, super science, hands-on mission work, delicious snacks, great games, and more.

The fun runs from July 9-July 13 from 6-7:45pm.

To be a part of all the fun at Rolling River Rampage, please call Christa Zaldivar at (917) 386-8599 or visit us online at <https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/prospect>

Hope to see you there!

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