

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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Pastor's Page

Cling To The Fruitful Vine

My father was a banker for 30 years. After retirement, he started a peach farm. For your information, I am allergic to peaches. You might be able to feel my pain. Anyway, he loved plants and animals. The house I grew up in was full of trees and flowers. Sometimes I felt as if I were in a jungle. I spent my youth there. I remember the first day I moved in. My father was digging in the dirt and planting something. Later, I learned that was a vine tree. It looked like a little stick. I did not pay much attention to it. But months later, I noticed the vine clung to and climbed the wall. It did not take long before the vine covered all the house. Vines cling, but they cling in order to climb, to climb up and over whatever gets in their way.



Joseph's father, Jacob, the great patriarch of Israel, was preparing his death. He had all his children gather around him and named and described the chief characteristics of each one in the order of their birth. In Genesis 49, Jacob pictures Joseph as a fruitful vine. In Joseph's case, the vine climbed over walls of every imaginable kind.

He had a dysfunctional family: Three different mothers, grandparents and half-grandparents, siblings and half-siblings from them. As we read the details of the family, we are confronted by selfishness, conflict, favoritism, jealousy, hatred, revenge, lust, rape, incest, deceit, and even murder. Joseph's brothers tried to kill him and sell him to Egypt.

In Egypt, he was faithful to his master Potiphar taking care of everything in his master's house. But he was wrongly accused of sexual harassment by Potiphar's wife. Then he was arrested and thrown into a prison.

In prison, he helped the king's cupbearer to get out of the prison and ask him a little favor. But he forgot Joseph for over two years before the king had weird dreams.

In these series of events, he was not only an innocent victim and a righteous victim; now he was a forgotten victim. This was the third time around; surely Joseph would now become bitter and start to blame. Not once did he ever look back and ask, "What if..?" in order to excuse himself from surmounting the wall. Joseph never played the blame game, though he certainly had reason to do so. Joseph



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would cling in order to believe, to “trust and obey.” And because he did this he always managed to climb over the walls around him. He was an over-comer, or perhaps it’s better to say, an over-climber. Now let’s look at the many walls of victimization that Joseph climbed over.

Joseph never looked back with blame or bitterness, but kept looking up with belief in the mighty one of Israel. He kept not only his faith but also his self-identity, his self-respect, his self-confidence, and his true selfhood. Though he was repeatedly a victim, he never claimed victimization as an excuse and therefore, never assumed victim identity. He was truly a fruitful vine whose branches climb over a wall. His identity became that of an over-climber, an overcomer, a victor.

When a vine finally makes it to the top of the wall, it is amazing how totally different everything looks. Now Joseph had a God’s eye view of his life and all that he has been through. A vantage is a position that affords a broad overall view or perspective of a place or of a situation. Even a victim sees differently when viewing from the vantage of the top of the wall. From there Joseph can now understand “that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Now we can all see that even in the most victimizing incidents of Joseph’s life God was at work. So he told his brothers, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

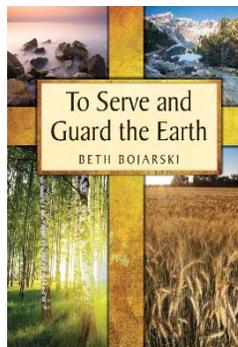
We have a lot of walls around us that get in our way. Sometimes we just get frustrated standing and crying before the walls. Sometimes we do not even have much energy to turn around and find another way. We learn from Joseph, a fruitful vine. We need to cling on the wall to climb over. We are fruitful vines and over-climbers. God is our root and source of life. So we can cling and climb over! Let’s cling!!

Clinging on the walls
Pastor Kim

■ Lenten Study Starts

A 2017 Lenten Study started March 5th on the book "To Serve and Guard the Earth" by Beth Boiarski. "To Serve and Guard the Earth" is a small-group study that connects the growing Christian environmental concerns with the theology of creation in Genesis. It not only provides the participants with a greater understanding of the scriptural accounts of creation and the environmental problems facing us today, but also encourages the participants to make practical applications to change their every-day lives and enhance important environmental values.

The study is divided into six sessions related to the seven days of creation and environmental concerns related to the days. The sessions are:



- **Session 1:** Day 1—Light / energy consumption, outdoor light pollution;
- **Session 2:** Days 2/4—Sea & Sky / potable water, air pollution, climate change;
- **Session 3:** Day 3—Land & Plants / deforestation, industrialization, waste management;
- **Session 4:** Day 5—Birds & Fish/ habitat destruction, species extinction;
- **Session 5:** Day 6—Land Creatures / consumption & greed, human disparity, overpopulation; and
- **Session 6:** Day 7—Rest & Reflection / being content with life, the importance of rest.

The discussions take place following the 10 a.m. worship service. If you are interested, contact Pastor Kim.



■ Join Our Pilgrimage

All are invited to join us in a new endeavor...a Lenten Community Pilgrimage!

Education Superintendent Christa Zaldivar explains, "We're not asking you to give up candy or chocolate, but to dedicate an hour of your time on Sunday, March 19th, after the 10 a.m. worship service. We are going to drive down to North Main Street in Bristol and then we are going to set out on foot to stop at six pre-determined locations (businesses).

At each location, we are going to stop to share a brief prayer that expresses God's love for each person within the community. We are also going to hand out note cards expressing God's Love or a Bible verse, with information about our Holy Week and Easter Services. We are holding this event in conjunction with Pretzel Sunday, so we will be sharing our delicious pretzels with the community!"

Please consider joining in this outreach, during this season that we are asked to focus on how we are living our lives for Jesus!

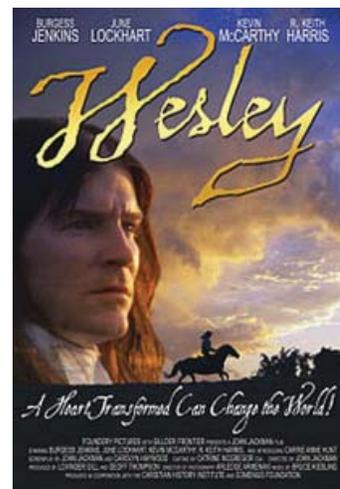
If you have any questions, please contact Christa Zaldivar: (cjh02@hotmail.com).

History Corner

Did You Know?

Kathy Dube

... that there is a biopic movie released in 2009 about John Wesley and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement? The movie, simply entitled “Wesley,” is based largely on the Wesley brothers’ own journals, including John’s private journal which was kept in a shorthand-like code that was not translated until the 1980s by Dr. Richard Heitzenrater at Duke Divinity School, according to Wikipedia.



The movie covers the critical period of John Wesley’s life as he struggles with his own doubts and insecurities, leading up to his life-changing Aldersgate experience and the early development of the Methodist movement. The movie was filmed in a number of authentic 18th century locations in and around Winston-Salem, North Carolina, including St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

“Unusual for a lower-budget independent film, the movie features an original orchestral score recorded by a full orchestra. The score, composed by Bruce Kiesling, uses snippets of Wesley hymns and portions composed to echo authentic 18th-century style. Kiesling, who has composed scores for a number of other films, is currently conductor of the Tulare County Orchestra in California. Funded in part by the Christian History Institute and Comenius Foundation, the movie was directed by John Jackman.

The film won several awards, including: 2010 Platinum FEXY Award (motion graphics/CGI special FX); 2010 Silver Telly Award (Religion & Spirituality); 2010 Bronze Telly Awards for History and Biography, Lighting, and CGI/Special Effects. Also, it won a SILVER AWARD for “Best Drama over \$250,000,” 2010 International Christian Visual Media Association, a BRONZE AWARD for “Best Picture,” 2010 International Christian Visual Media Association CROWN AWARDS.

{Editor’s Note: When I was much younger, maybe a young teen, I remember viewing the 1955-movie “A Man Called Peter” in the sanctuary. Does anyone else remember this? I was mesmerized by the story of the Scottish-born Peter Marshall, who was called to the Presbyterian ministry. He eventually became chaplain of the U.S. Senate. When he died in the film, I believe because of a heart ailment, I was devastated, but the fact that he was played by the very-handsome Richard Todd (think “Robin Hood”) certainly was a contributing factor to my reaction. His widow, Catherine Marshall, became a noteworthy author. Among her works are edited collections of Peter Marshall’s sermons and prayers, her own inspirational writings, the book “A Man Called Peter” (1951) and her novel, “Christy” (1967), which was inspired by the story of her mother’s time in the mountains teaching the impoverished children of Appalachia. “Christy” was adapted as a CBS television series, starring Kellie Martin, beginning in 1994.}

■ Annual Renaissance Dinners Return

Luisa Gladu of the Middle Ages Group encourages Prospect Church members and friends to Save the Dates for the scheduled return of the Annual Renaissance Dinners this spring.

“We hope you will be able to join us for an evening of good food, fellowship and fun. You will be transported back in time to a 16th-century castle Great Hall. The King will be feasting with his royal subjects and hopes you will attend. You will be entertained and fed a seven-course feast.”



- The dates are two Saturday evenings: April 29th and May 6th.
- Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 10.
- This is a reserved ticket event. No tickets will be sold at the door.
- Festivities Start @ 6 p.m. in the Great Hall (Sessions Hall).

For tickets and to reserve a table call Luisa Gladu @ (860) 582-8383 or email her at TheGladus@comcast.net.

“We look forward to seeing you at the dinners. Costumes are encouraged but not required,” Luisa adds.

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS

Orders are currently being taken for Easter flowers. These flowers will adorn our altar Easter morning. The cost is \$10 each. For those wishing to take the plants home, they will be available after the worship service on Easter Sunday.

This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than April 9th. Thank you.



In Honor of

In Memory of

Number Requested

Given by

■ Rock Concert Success

The Christian rock concert held at Prospect Church on February 19th was a big hit! Through the generous donations of those who attended the concert and some who could not make it, the event raised enough money to purchase an AED (automatic external heart defibrillator) for our church AND also provide a Red Cross Lifesaver course (CPR and AED) FREE to 12 interested church members. You have the opportunity to learn skills to save a life! Please sign up for the course in Sessions Hall.



■ Movie Night Held

The Women of Prospect hosted its annual Baked Potato Movie Night on Friday, March 10th. The movie was "Chicken Run." The menu included baked potatoes with all the fixings, hot dogs, fresh popped popcorn, snacks and desserts.

■ Potluck Lunch Schedule

- March 26 - Italian Pasta
- April 30 – International

■ Easter Baskets

Donations of Easter baskets for children of need are requested by our Adopted Social Workers from DCF. Name tags will be placed on the bulletin board in Sessions Hall. Please make sure items in the baskets are age appropriate. Please bring your baskets to Sessions Hall by Palm Sunday, April 9th for delivery to the children in time for Easter. See Jeanette Baker with questions. On behalf of the kids, thank You!

THANK YOU

*For it is in giving that we receive.
~Francis of Assisi*

Every month PUMC donates 20 individual lunch bags with food to Zion Lutheran that are passed out to children. Recently we also reached out to a community in Hartford with 20 bags.

Dear PUMC,

Wow is ALL I can say!!!! We are so thankful for ALL the donations!!! One parent cried in my Parent Educator's arms.

We appreciate and love you all very much!!!

You all have made our MONTH OUTSTANDING!!!!

*Martin Luther King Jr.
Family Resource Center*



PUZZLE

The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

*Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.
Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.*

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z	___
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z	___

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

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

Return Service Requested