

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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Pastor's Page

"Reformation Sunday"

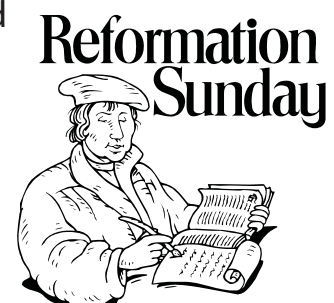


We will soon be celebrating Reformation Sunday in our churches, at least in the Protestant ones — the Roman Catholic Church has a slightly different take on the whole "Reformation" business. Reformation Sunday, October 26th (this year), is a marvelous experience when children dress up in costumes and go door to door asking "trick or treat." I may have gotten a little mixed up on that last point. Actually, Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember the contribution of the reformers and their impact, which is strongly felt even today, on our lives.

The Reformation was responsible for three important concepts. The first is "salvation by faith alone." How do we relate to God? The Reformation reminded us that we relate to God through grace. We do not earn our way to salvation. Instead, we trust in God and in God's love for us. It is still important because our age emphasizes a "pay for service" mentality — you do enough good things to outweigh all the bad things you do and then God will love you. After the Reformation, we are asked to simply trust in God and allow God to transform us into his loving image.

The second great concept is "the priesthood of all believers." I shouldn't tell you about this because it affects my job security. Oh well, here it goes — you don't need to go through me to approach God. You don't need me to pray for you because your prayers would be ineffective otherwise — you don't need me to hear all the mistakes you've made unless you just need to get something off your chest. You can approach God without me and you can know that God will be there for you. Try it! Come to the Lord in prayer and listen for God's reply in your heart. You may be surprised that God has been there for you all along.

The third concept which came out of the Reformation is "the authority of the Bible." This is important for all of us because it reminds us of the great resource of faith we all



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can hold in our hands. I can say to all of you that, "your salvation depends on attending 'Winterfest' on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in December at the Connecticut Trolley Museum." And you can immediately counter, "Now Bob, where does it say that in the Bible?" After the Reformation, everyone was encouraged to study the Bible and to apply it to their day-to-day life, based on their own conscience and interpretation. It makes it a little more challenging for pastors, but it does make the church a little more democratic.

One final word about the Reformation: It was divisive and very traumatic. But now, after five hundred years, perhaps we should look at these concepts, not in divisive terms, but in inclusive terms. Let's not focus on what divides us, but on the things we share. We share many things in common with our sisters and brothers of other faiths. And even if they may not put things in our very "Protestant terminology," the things we share are greater than the things which divide us. And even if the people we encounter are members of the Presbyterian, U.C.C., Assemblies of God or even Roman Catholic churches, we are probably closer in our personal beliefs with each other than you may think.

Grace and Peace

Bob Sorozan

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is now mobile responsive
Check it out.

History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Unusual Setting For 1961 Church Fair - Kathy Dube

On September 16, 1961, a "Fabulous Country Fair" to benefit Prospect Church was held not at the church itself but at the Maple Avenue properties of Mrs. John Sessions 3rd (Doris), and Mrs. Frank Law (Hila). "All roads lead to Maple Avenue, Edgwood," the article said of the all-day event, billed as the "Fascinating and Fantastic Country Fair," sponsored by the Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS).

Different events were planned throughout the day. One of the principle features of the day was an auction featuring donated items such as lamps, antiques, glassware, musical instruments, rugs, etc. The Couple's Club served a home baked bean supper also including ham, brown bread, cole slaw and home made apple pie, all for \$1 per adult and 60 cents for children.

The evening featured square dancing, coinciding with then Gov. John Dempsey's "Learn To Square Dance Week." The governor thought square dancing would be a pleasant and beneficial form of recreation for adults and children.

The Tower article concluded: "All in all it will be a grand day! So 'Hey, Ho, Come to the Fair' and enjoy yourselves and help the ladies in their grand effort."

■ No Fair This Year

Prospect United Methodist Church's Country Cupboard Fair will not be held this year. We are taking a year off from the Fair to come back next year bigger and better than ever!



Our famous apple and pumpkin pies, and delicious fudge, will be available as usual! Pies and fudge can be ordered by calling the church office at (860) 582-3443, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. They will be available for pick up on Saturday, November 22nd, at the lower entrance to the kitchen - (lower parking lot) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pies remain at \$10 each, same price as last year!

In Mission

■ Volunteers On Mission Trip To Ghana

Twelve volunteers, including Jill Wilson from Prospect, left for a 12-day missionary outreach stint in Ghana on October 3rd. The Rev. Woody Eddins, pastor of Simsbury U.M. Church, led the team which flew out of JFK Airport for a direct flight to Accra, Ghana. They returned home on October 15th.

In addition to Wilson and Eddins, the group consisted of four others from the Simsbury U.M. Church, two from Asbury U.M. in Forestville, two not affiliated with a church, another from a Methodist conference in the Midwest, and the Rev. Joseph Ewoodsie, our Conference Mission Coordinator.

“Some of us will be working at a rural clinic, and some will be helping with school construction in the same village. We will be sharing World Communion Sunday with them (on October 5th,) same as the folks at Prospect! I am taking the medications, supplies and some cash collected at Prospect to purchase medicine once there,” Jill said shortly before the team left.

The team was to spend the first week working in the village of Awombrew, in coastal Ghana. After a week of work, the volunteers planned to experience some other parts of Ghana, such as Elmina Castle, a slave trading post, and Kakum Park, a rain forest.

Watch for details on Jill Wilson’s experience in the November Tower.

Jill issued a huge thank you to all who brought in medicine to be taken to Ghana in October. “Your participation means that The Volunteer in Mission Team is able to take lots of valuable treatment to those who have no other source for treatment. Your support and efforts are truly appreciated! You are also a part of the team.”

Mission is everywhere

The word “mission” often implies traveling to another country to teach and work. The work done in foreign missions is important, of course, but we can’t all make the trip. What we can do, however, is be faithful servants where we live. Mission is about putting the face and name of Jesus in front of those who don’t know him. We can do that in many ways — any place and any day.



■ Prospect Team Travels to NY on Hurricane Sandy Mission

A team of PUMC members traveled to Long Island, New York, from October 9th to the 13th to assist with the Hurricane Sandy rebuilding process. The rebuilding continues, including installation of insulation, wallboard, taping, mudding, etc.

As Prospect was responsible for the cost of the construction materials to be used by our team, three fundraisers were held to pay for the materials: a tag sale, themed silent auction and sponsorships, with family and friends contributing to the funding.

A total of \$1,700 was raised reports Susan Powers, the team leader. The team of eight also included Jeanette Baker, Laura Taylor, Joyce Rioux, Carol Rivard (the chef), Susan Thayer, Terri Sorozan, and Pastor Bob Sorozan. The New York Annual Conference (NYAC) will match the funds raised, giving them \$3,400 for the project.

The team worked in the Massapequa, Long Island, area.



■ Prospect One of Three Churches Featured In Historical Society Tour

On September 15th, Prospect was one of three churches on Federal Hill featured in a walking tour sponsored by the Bristol Historical Society. Some 35 people started the tour at First Congregational Church, then proceeded to St. Joseph Church and concluded at Prospect Church.

Walkers first gathered in the Prospect sanctuary to learn about the history of the church as related by Vivian Brackett, who chairs the church History Committee. Other members of the committee were on hand to answer questions and lead the guests into Sessions Hall and the Historical Gallery.

Vivian explained that the new sanctuary, completed in 1894, was funded by John Humphrey Sessions, an early convert to Methodism. The sanctuary served as the city's auditorium for many years. One highlight was a visit by President Taft to boost the Red Cross in 1912.

As quoted in The Bristol Press, Tom Dickau, president of the BHS, said, "When I was young churches were so exclusive of each other. You almost felt like to look in and go inside someone else's church was a sin." Fortunately, that era has passed.

Refreshments were served at the The Historical Society afterwards, which plans to schedule a tour of three other churches next year.

Music Corner

■ Kids Praise God!

The Kids Praise God! choir had its first practice on October 5th and will be meeting every Sunday after Sunday School, in Room 208. The children, directed by Music Director Heidi Flower, will sing one song a month during the 10 a.m. Worship Service. All children from Kindergarten through Grade 5 are welcome to participate.

■ Souper Bell Sundays

Delicious soup luncheons will be served by the Prospect Handbell Choir on October 26th and November 23rd. This will take the place of the former Potluck Sundays. The cost for those partaking in the repast is \$4 a bowl.

■ Upcoming Events Sponsored by Middle Ages Group

2014

- Saturday, December 13th: 5th Annual Victorian Christmas Tea
- Saturday, December 20th: Breakfast With Santa

2015

- May 3rd and May 10th: Annual Renaissance Dinners
- May 16th: Pirate & Princess Breakfast
- December 12th: Annual Victorian Christmas Tea
- December 19th: Breakfast With Santa

■ October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Luisa Gladu, a breast cancer survivor, reminds women of Prospect Church that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Accordingly, "I am reminding all the ladies of my church family to schedule your mammograms this month and remind all the woman in your life to do so as well."

Breast Cancer reportedly is the second most common cancer afflicting women in the United States, after skin cancer. However, millions of women are surviving the disease thanks in part to early detection and improvements in treatment. The American Cancer Society encourages women to get tested to find breast cancer earlier, understand their treatment options and cope with physical and emotional side effects.

"Together We Can Make A Difference!" Luisa adds.

More information on breast cancer is available at www.cancer.org.

SAVE THE DATE:


Prospect Church members and friends will be walking in The Bristol Relay For Life, scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2015. If you would like to join the team please email Team Captain Luisa Gladu at TheGladus@comcast.net








A promise to the earth



After the flood in Genesis, God promised to “never again ... destroy all living creatures” (Genesis 8:21, NIV).


Directions: Using the picture clues below, write each small word in the blanks to complete God’s promise in Genesis 8:22, NIV.



“As long as the  ____ th

 ____ ures,  ____  ____

and har ____ , c ____ 

and h ____ , $1+2=$  ____ mer

and  ____ ter, day and night

w ____  n ____ r  cease.”

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8:22, NIV

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