

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

May 2016

Vol. 77, No. 5

Pastor's Page

This will be my last article for the Tower. I have been your Pastor for five years. We have been through a lot in our time together. We have faced tragedies and hardships. We have had good times and bad times. We have laughed together and shed more than a few tears. One thing is for certain, Prospect UMC is never dull!



It is hard for me to sum up the friendships I have found in Bristol. Many of you have ministered to me as I ministered to the congregation. Your support while Terri went through chemo was a blessing. Your words of encouragement while I was discouraged helped to carry me through some difficult and dark moments. It is impossible for me to express my gratitude for all the acts of kindness I have received; they are too many to mention. So, I just want to say thank you.



A church is more than a Pastor. It is a body of Christ that depends on the contributions of every single member. Prospect is made up of many talented people. It is my prayer that you will all find what you are all looking for in the days, weeks and years ahead.

Soon, you will welcome Pastor Kim to our community and church. He is a young Pastor with a young family. I believe that this will be his first time as a "Senior Pastor." You will now have the awesome responsibility of shaping a young Pastor's career for years to come. His experience here at Prospect will determine his experience in future congregations in the New York Annual Conference. Please don't take your responsibility lightly. You have within you the capacity to be a blessing to Pastor Kim and in the process, to many other United Methodist congregations.

(Cont. to Page 2)

Prospect United Methodist Church

Founded 1834
99 Summer St., Bristol, CT 06010

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Pastor

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Pastor Emeritus

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Minister in Residence

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As for myself, I am looking forward to new adventures and new opportunities in Pennsylvania. I will always keep you all in my prayers. "And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." First Thessalonians 3:12-13. In my heart I am wishing you all good things.

Grace and Peace,
Bob Sorozan

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

Please join us in celebrating Bob's 34 years of service to God and church.

*Sunday, June 12, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Prospect United Methodist Church*

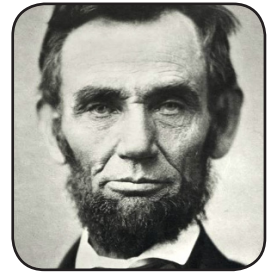
Cost of \$20 includes food,
beverages and gift.
Kids 12 and under are free.

RSVP by May 31st to:
Phone: 860.582.3443
Email: prospectoffice@snet.net

If you would like to share a favorite story or pictures of Bob that will go in a memory album, please submit by May 31st to PUMC.

History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS ~ *Kathy Dube* *Methodist Ties To Growth Of Country/Part 2*



Last month's "Prospect In Earlier Days," taken from the 1938 Mid-February Prospect Tower, highlighted the connection between the growth of Methodism and our new country after the War of Independence. Specifically, two bishops and two ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as our denomination was known then, gave the first blessing to George Washington and officers of the Republic within a month of his inauguration.

The Tower article next related General Conference ties to President Abraham Lincoln. The General Conference of 1864 sent a committee of five to Washington, D.C., to assure support for President Lincoln. Lincoln responded in a letter, in part, that read: "Notably sustained as the government has been by all the churches, I would utter nothing which might, in the least, appear invidious against any. Yet, without this, it may fairly be said that the Methodist Episcopal Church, not less devoted than the best, is, by its greater numbers, the most important of all. It is no fault in others that the Methodist Church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospital, and more prayers to Heaven than any. God bless the Methodist Church -- bless all the churches -- and blessed be God, Who, in this our great trial, giveth us the churches." ~ A. Lincoln, May 18, 1864

■ **2016 Annual Conference**

The New York Annual Conference is slated to take place at Hofstrah University on Long Island from June 8 through 11. Jill Wilson will attend to help process health kits being collected throughout May and Dave Corey will drive the kits to the warehouse in Mechanicsburg, PA. Tim Krauss will attend as a delegate from PUMC .

A number of workshops are scheduled, including Health Care Ministry as Local Church Missions, Asset-Based Community Development in the Local Church, H.O.P.E. Model, Stewardship and more.

More information on the Annual Conference workshops can be obtained at <http://www.nyac.com/2016-ac-workshops>.

Mission Corner

Health



Kits

■ Health Kit Collection Month

Health Kits are collected annually by our New York Annual Conference (NYAC) as a tangible mission outreach program. May is the time to bring your kit to church. Last year, our conference collected 3,500 kits which were taken to Mission Central, in Mechanicsburg PA.

Jill Wilson, who has gone on several mission trips in recent years and now chairs the NYAC's Conference Council on Mission, explains that Mission Central is a mission warehouse that serves as an outreach resource for disaster response, mission outreach and mission education and part of the UMCOR relief network.

"They are in constant need of supplies so our donations are a way to keep them stocked," she adds.

"We will accept Health Kits until June 1. Look for the collection bin in Sessions Hall. They will then be taken to Annual Conference at

Hofstra in June, and taken from there to Mission Central. Mission Central volunteers will process the kits for distribution around the world. Proverbs 3:27 "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act."

Jill is going to be at Conference to process the Health Kits, participate in the Friday night Mission Celebration, and talk to people about Covenant Relationships with our global missionaries. Prospect's Dave Corey is driving the truck from Hofstra, site of the NYAC Annual Conference, to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg with all of the Health Kits collected, as he did last year.

[To see what should be placed in the health kits. go to <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/Health>]

■ Relay for Life - Team PUMC

By Luisa Gladu, Team Captain

Our Relay for Life team is still going strong and we are hoping to add a few more teammates before June 11th. At present we are still #3 out of 31 teams!

Our team had a collection during Coffee Hour for the past few weeks. We collected \$65 in change and currency in the three weeks our jar, "Hope," was left out. Thank you to

all who donated. That amount will be posted towards Team PUMC's count.

For those of you who have never been to a Relay for Life event, it's an awe-inspiring day and night event if you choose to stay overnight. It's a fun day and the organizers have a few theme laps, crazy hats, costumes, etc. There are Survivor Laps, Caregiver Laps, and Silent Luminary laps. The latter is a solemn affair honoring those who lost their battle. After the silent lap, we walk around and look at the many luminaries on the track. The luminaries cost \$5 each and can be decorated with your loved ones' names, a poem, etc.

If you are interested in walking a few laps on Saturday, June 11th, we would love to have you. I'll be posting a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. We would love to have someone from our team walking the track every hour. You can walk one lap or 100 laps, it's all up to you. A few brave souls will be staying overnight and our prayers are for a warmer night.

We also need help to set up our site on Saturday, June 11th, at Noon and to help to break it down Sunday morning, June 12th, at 8 a.m. There will be sign-up sheets for set-up and break-down as well. Please email her at TheGladus@comcast.net

■ PUMC Member Recognized In Press

Marian (Dean) Palmisano, a frequent attendee of our early Chapel services until she stopped driving, was recently recognized in Bob Montgomery's "Bristol Bits" column for her swimming accomplishments. Marian, now 87, reported has swum approximately 27,000 miles since moving to Bristol with her late husband, contractor James Palmisano.

A Vermont native, Marian still belongs to Prospect Church. When she quit smoking 45 years ago, Marion decided to start swimming with the goal of swimming around the world. Over the years Marian swam at the Bristol Girls Club, Cornerstone Pool in West Hartford, Farmington Farms Racquet Club, Cliffside Country Club in Simsbury, and today, the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center. She has competed in many Senior Olympics, setting a number of age records along the way.

She has two daughters and one son, eight grandchildren and one great grandchildren. Great job, Marian!



■ Men's Fellowship Ceases Operation

With much regret, the Mens' Fellowship will cease operation at PUMC according to Chairman Bill Thibodeau, because of a lack of active members. Over the past many years, he notes, "We have organized many events and services to Prospect such as Shrove Tuesday dinners, fund-raising dinners, trips to Hartford Wolf Pack games, Yankee Stadium, bowling in Wolcott, Bristol, Monster Trucks, Ct. Trolley Museum, Rock Cats baseball games, and a shopping trip to NYC.

"A city-wide Health Fair/Forum with a free breakfast was held in Sessions Hall with many health care professionals from the area attending. We have helped other Church groups by cleaning and painting the Parsonage, cooking and selling food for the Organ Fund, cleaning the Church grounds and participating in many coffee hours. Over the years we donated thousands of dollars to many of our Church organizations.

"I want to thank the many members who have served our Fellowship with their time, money and service. Without their dedication, we could have never accomplished all that we have done to help our Church and community. My hope is that in the future, the Mens' Fellowship can start up again and supply a valuable service to our Church and community. I am blessed to serve as the Chairperson for this wonderful organization."

■ Always with us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).



**"I AM GOING TO
THE FATHER."**

JOHN 14:28

■ Camperships Available

Registration is open for the United Methodist camps in our area that offer family camping and overnight camping for children. Olmsted camp is located in the Hudson Valley and offers summer camp for children ages 6-14. The Kingswood camp is located in Hancock, NY, in the Catskills. Kingswood provides family camping and relaxation. Quinipet camp is located on Shelter Island off Long Island. Quinipet offers overnight camping for children and youths ages 7-17 and family camping. The Roberts Fund has money available for full camperships for PUMC children and youths who would like to attend. See Beth Provost or Matti Verzino for more information. Information about the camps can be found at:

- www.campolmsted.org
- www.kingswoodcampsite.org
- www.quinipet.org

■ Church School News

Children's Day Luncheon: In celebration of Children's Day, PUMC will be holding a Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, May 22nd, during the fellowship hour. All are encouraged to contribute a dish to share. Salads, entrees, and side dishes are welcome!

Save the Date: The "Surf Shack" Vacation Bible School will take place from Monday, June 20th, to Friday, the 24th, from 6 to 7:45 p.m. The program is open to children ages 3 through the 5th Grade. Children are invited to participate in Bible storytelling, games, science, snacks, mission and music!

For more information, contact Christa Zaldivar, cjw02@hotmail.com or (860) 845-2016.

SPRING

Make this beautiful craft to remind you of God's gift of new life at springtime.



What you need:

- White 11" x 17" paper
- Acrylic paint (various spring colors, including green)
- Paintbrush
- Empty two-liter plastic bottle
- Paper plates
- Paper towels

What you do:

1. With the paper placed vertically, paint stems and leaves with green paint.
2. Pour a different color of paint onto a paper plate. Then place the bottom of the bottle into the paint.
3. Using the bottle as a stamp, press it onto the paper to create a flower atop a green stem.
4. Repeat with different colors on different plates, cleaning the bottle each time, to create a beautiful spring bouquet.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
BRISTOL, CT 06010**

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