

# THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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November 2015

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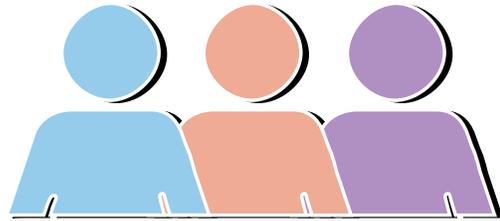
## Pastor's Page

*"When you are angry at a neighbor, walk a mile in his shoes. Then you will be a mile away from him, and you will have his shoes!" -Beliefnet.com*



### Pastor's Page

What is the greatest asset of a church? It's people! What is the greatest problem facing a church? It's people! I am not talking about numbers and attendance. What I am talking about is the way we talk to one another and how we relate to one another. What we say and what we do affects the people around us and determines if people are a blessing or a curse.



So here is an obvious but mostly forgotten truth: most of the hurts we experience from other people are totally unplanned. Other people do not wake up in the morning and say to themselves, "Gee, I'm going to make someone miserable today." Yes, I know that there are people with deep-seated emotional problems. Yes, I know that in any given population there is a percentage of sociopaths. But most people are just like you and me. They have their own hopes and dreams; they have their own pains and sorrows. They have their own quirks and sometimes they can be pretty annoying. Just like we all are.

So, one day, a person might wake up feeling very positive. Then they go down to breakfast and discover the milk for their cereal has gone bad. They take their dog outside to do its business and the dog is distracted by every small sound in the neighborhood. They get in their car and the battery is dead. After getting a jump from AAA (and the incredibly long wait for them to arrive) they drive off, only to be cut off by someone in the world's largest pickup truck. The person arrives late for church, but in time for the offering, and someone is seated in their favorite seat — and believe me, we all have our favorite seats! And at coffee hour you are the one who has to talk to that person about the nominations committee — let's just say, the conversation isn't pleasant!

*(Cont. to Page 2)*

# Prospect United Methodist Church

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People can be difficult, challenging, demanding, ignorant, opinionated, overly flamboyant, insensitive, nasty, bitter, unresponsive, uncaring, obtuse and inconsiderate. I have left out more than a few other more colorful adjectives. But, people can also be supportive and loving and caring. People can surround you with love and concern when you are going through grief. People can lift your spirits when you have faced setbacks. People can embrace you and remind you that you are important, when the world has told you "you are nothing." People will help you to be the person you are meant to be.

And that is the blessing of a church. A church is made up of flawed people, who will say the exact wrong thing at the exact wrong moment. But if you're brave enough and strong enough, you will be blessed. What we need to do is not take things personally, remember other people have problems of their own, and most important of all, forgive!

Grace and peace,  
*Bob Sorozan*

Congratulations to our 50 Year  
Members:

*Charles Brennan  
Elaine Brennan  
Theresa Posadas  
Henry Fitzgerald  
Thomas Downs  
Elizabeth Brophy  
Debora Farley  
Jacquelyn Parsons*

# KUDOS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

At this time in November, when our thoughts turn to thankfulness for family, friends, and the abundance of food in this country, it's appropriate to pause and thank the many volunteers who keep our church functioning, both within and outside the sanctuary.



In this era of difficult financial times, Prospect United Methodist would not be the church it is without the help of so many, many people. [We apologize if we leave anyone out, and will certainly correct the omission(s) in the next issue if you let us know about it.]

- Cleaning: Ron Baker (and a whole lot more); Carol Rivard, coordinates cleaning and much, much, more; Heidi Flower and Tammy Paulette.
- Office Volunteer: Beth Provost, coordinator; Susan Thayer, Don Titus and Matti Verzino.
- Finances: Jackie Palance, Financial Secretary; Tim Krause, Treasurer;
- Counters: Carla Heister, Jeanette Baker, Ray Barker, Dave Corey, Barbara Fasci, Carol and Jerry Rivard, Bob Rioux and Laura Taylor.
- Odd Jobs: Jerry Rivard and Don Titus.
- Clock Maintenance: Dave Corey, also changes numbers on church number board.
- Gardening: Bob Montgomery, maintains flower bed off Sessions Hall; Ashworth Family, sprucing up garden by the sign on the corner of Summer and Center streets.
- Sunday School: Christa Zaldivar, Superintendent; and teachers Carolyn Brown, Jessica Griffin, Victoria Budnick, Terry Sorozan, Laura Taylor, Susan Thayer, Chris Kingsbury and Jeanette Baker.
- Tower: Kathy Dube, editor; and Jeanette Baker, layout.
- E-Mail Blasts: Tim Wilson
- Webmaster: Jeanette Baker
- Facebook: Jeanette Baker, Tim Wilson, Jill Wilson

# Small Groups Corner

## MIDDLE AGES GROUP UPDATE

There are still tickets available for the Annual Christmas Victorian Tea, to be held on Saturday, December 5th. The tickets are for Sessions Hall at \$15 apiece. This event starts at 4 p.m. and is a lovely way to kick off the Holiday Season. Please contact Cheryl McNeal at (860) 214-4663 for tickets.

We have SOLD OUT for the Breakfast with Santa, scheduled for Saturday, December 19th. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. If you still need to pay for your tickets, the money has to be in by Sunday, December 6th!

The Middle Ages Group will be participating in the Children's Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 6th at 1 p.m. The parade starts at the Green on Federal Hill and is a "backwards" parade. The parade participants are stationary and pass out goodies while the children and families march by. We will be located in front of Dupont Funeral Home ... make sure you stop by and say hello to us.

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### Order Your Poinsettias

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



This form must accompany payment. Please submit orders during worship service or to the office no later than December 18. Thank you.

<b>In Honor of</b>	
<b>In Memory of</b>	
<b>Number Requested</b>	
<b>Given by</b>	

# History Corner

## PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

If you were alive 100 years ago, or earlier, not everyone had a telephone and there were no cell phones. This is the type of greeting you might have sent to you relatives or friends. There is no date on the back, but the postcard would have cost 1 cent to mail to the U.S. or Mexico. Mailing to other countries would have cost 2 cents.

The greeting says, "Dear Olive; I received your card and was very glad to hear from you. Hoping you may have a pleasant Thanksgiving day." ~ Grammother



## Save the Date

### ■ Visit with Helen

Helen Camarce, our missionary in Cambodia, will be visiting with us Sunday, December 6th.



During the 10 a.m. service, we will greet her in Cambodia via Skype. Do you want to ask her a questions? Send your questions to Jill Wilson at [jillwilson@comcast.net](mailto:jillwilson@comcast.net) so Helen can be prepared.

### ■ Charge Conference

The annual Charge Conference will be on Sunday, December 6th, at 3 p.m. The election of church Trustees will take place during the Charge Conference. The Rev. Ken Kiefer will preside. All church members are welcome to attend.

### ■ 2016 Events

- Saturday, May 7th: Annual Renaissance Dinner
- Saturday, May 14th: Annual Renaissance Dinner
- Saturday, June 11th: Relay for Life Walk – Bristol Eastern H.S.

# Notes

## ■ Gift Card Fund Raising Program



Have you ever seen the large rack of gift cards at Stop and Shop, CVS and other retailers? Did you know that the seller makes between 2% and 15% on each card sold? We would like to offer you the same service with one exception — the profit will stay right here at Prospect.

One of the reasons the Finance Committee decided to participate in this program is that it allows church members to help their church without spending an additional penny. By simply planning ahead on everyday purchases like gas, groceries, clothing, etc., you can help Prospect.

Ordering is easy. Decide which cards you would like to purchase and how many of each. Add it up and include a check or cash for the total. Completed forms and payments are accepted after church. See Mattie or Beth to purchase cards.

## ■ Update your Information

PLEASE REMEMBER to notify the church office if your address, telephone number and/or e-mail address changes. In addition to the monthly newsletter, the church also sends periodic letters to members. You will be sure to receive that church mail in a timely manner if your contact information is correct.



# Youth Page

## ■ Trick-Or-Treat For UNICEF

On October 25th, during fellowship hour, our Sunday School students dressed up in their Halloween costumes and went table-to-table trick-or-treating for UNICEF. The kids collected \$181 that will go to UNICEF to help save and protect children who struggle to survive and thrive, with programs that provide health care, clean water, education and emergency relief.



“Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF” was born when a family in Pennsylvania started a nationwide movement by collecting change in decorated milk cartons on Halloween to help children left vulnerable by World War II. Since then, children have gone door-to-door with their UNICEF collection boxes on Halloween, calling out “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!” They have raised more than \$175 million for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF over the past 65 years.

## ■ Children Received First Bibles

When you attended church as a child, you may have received your first Bible from your church family. How old were you? Do you still have that Bible? The tradition of United Methodist churches presenting Bibles to children continued on Sunday when Olyvia, Allison, Zachary, Dakota, Anthony and Dylan recived Bibles from their Prospect church family.

## ■ Save The Date!

Two important events will take place on Sunday, December 13th:

- During the 10 a.m. worship service, the Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be presented, directed by Sunday School Superintendent Christa Zaldivar. Please join the children as they present The Nativity Story.
- Following the worship service, the whole family can come along for Caroling to Shut-Ins. Led by Director of Music Heidi Flower, we will sing Christmas carols to members who are home bound or in the hospital.

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

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