

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

November 2016

Vol. 77, No.9

Pastor's Page

You've Got Options

*\$0 initiation fee
and only
\$34.99 per month*



Last month I got this offer from L.A. fitness to become a member of its club in Bristol. It is very tempting. If I want to be a member of this fitness club, I should just pay about \$35 per month without an initiation fee. They will give me a membership card. Then I can use basketball court, indoor pool, racquetball court, and even whirlpool spa and sauna. Not to mention work out. I can join whatever classes I want to from yoga to Zumba. I can even watch TV while running on a treadmill. There is also a kid's club. So I can bring my kids with me.

What a great facility! Pay \$35 per month, you can be a member and get all these features. You do not have to go to a gym every day. You can go whenever you want. You can skip a month. If you tell them in advance, they are not going to charge you for a month. If you suddenly do not like the service, you can make a complaint about it and if the issue cannot be resolved you can cancel the membership. Canceling is not always smooth. But you can cancel it any way. Then you can look for any other club with better service.

Most of you have been members of this church, Prospect UMC, for many, many years. Some of you got a membership even before I was born. We are extremely proud of having a membership in this church (I hope I am right). But I challenge us to ponder whether we think of our membership in church as one in a fitness club or not. We pay our membership fee and enjoy the service our church can offer. We sometimes complain about the service and think of canceling the membership. We are looking for any other church which can offer better services. I am not judging our searching for a better service which can give us more helps to grow in faith. I am just reminding ourselves of where we are in relationship with our church.

When a fitness club business is going down, what can members do for the club? They just should leave. Have you ever heard of any person who sacrificed himself or herself to revive his or her fitness club? The relationship between a fitness club and a member is not that binding. All its members can do is to pay monthly dues without being late. Last month, I told you it was time to arise and rebuild our church. If we

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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think of our church as a fitness club, we cannot rebuild our church. I believe and know you have never thought like that. But I still want a substitute for the word "member," which can show our commitment to our church.

So I would like to use "partner" and "partnership" rather than "member" and "membership." Please do not be panicked when I mention you as a partner in mail or text. We work together. We help and support each other. We are partners. We cover each other's back. We will rebuild our church in partnership. Without your taking part in this, we cannot survive and thrive. We are all parts of our church. We are partners in God's ministry. We need thoughts, ideas, opinions, participation and energy from each one of you to rebuild, revitalize, and renew our church again. You will be receiving a questionnaire for a survey. Please give your thought to them, fill in the blanks, and send it back to me. You can bring it to the church or send it by mail. I want to know what you expect from me and what you think we should do to improve our church.

I pray that we can see the day when we say to each other, "I've got your back covered, Partners."

Blessing to you, Partners!

Yountae Kim

■ Charge Conference Scheduled

Mark your calendars: Prospect's Charge Conference will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 8th! If you are a committee leader, please consider preparing your annual report well in advance of the Charge Conference. Information on the deadline will be forthcoming.

■ Prestigious Award Recipient

Manuel “Manny” Zaldivar, husband of Education Superintendent Christa Zaldivar, was given a \$25,000 Milken Award at a surprise ceremony earlier this month at Smalley Academy in New Britain, where he teaches. Only 35 teachers and principals in the nation will receive a Milken Award this year, and Manny is the only one from Connecticut.

Ninety percent of the Academy’s students live in poverty and come from homes where English is not primarily spoken. Manny received the award from the Milken Family Foundation because of his classroom work with more than 30 English language development students at the school. On hand for the surprise announcement were State Education Commissioner Dianna Wentzell and Jane Foley, vice president of the Milken Educator Awards.

Manny, born in Honduras, and Christa have three children who are active in our church school programs: Gianna, 7; Victoria, 5; and Justin, 1. They are residents of Bristol. Christa is the daughter of Jill and Chris Wilson.

■ Bargain Center Opens

The PUMC Bargain Center is now open for the season. The days of operation are Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to Noon. There is an on-going \$5 Bag Special. In that bag you can put pocketbooks, shoes and clothing, unless any of these



items are marked otherwise. There are many different items in the Bargain Center. Come on down, browse and shop.

All proceeds go back into the church. Some of the areas that are supported by donations from the Bargain Center are the General Fund, and DCF programs such as the backpacks for the beginning of school, the Christmas Giving Tree and Easter baskets. The Scholarship Fund also receives a donation from the Bargain Center.

Elaine Myhill chairs the Bargain Center. Assisting are Fred Singleton, Colleen Shover and Susan Thayer. The Bargain Center has been in existence for many years. At one time, the late Ann Reynolds was in charge, and countless others have helped along the way.

Items may be donated to the Bargain Center either by bringing them to the Bargain Center during the hours of operation or bringing them to the church office. Please note: The Bargain Center cannot accept donations of furniture, exercise equipment, computers or large electronics.

History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Musical Legacy of Virginia DuBois - Kathy Dube

The October issue of the Tower related the storied history of our longest-serving pastor, the Rev. Paul DuBois, who shepherded the church through the dark days of the Depression and World War II. He had served Prospect for 16 years, from 1931 until called to become executive director of pensions for the then New York East Annual Conference in 1947.



But his wife was significant to our church history in a musical sense. Virginia (Mountser) DuBois ... (correcting the misspelling of her name from the October article) ... was church organist and director of the children's choir at Prospect. Known as a skilled organist, Virginia taught piano and organ to many students in Bristol. Born in Pennsylvania, she attended a private school and Wellesley College, where she majored in music. She also graduated from the prestigious Juilliard Musical Foundation in New York and studied music at Fountainbleau, France.

The couple made many trips to Italy during and after their tenure in Bristol, and were involved with the Methodist Church in Italy. Take a look above the Choir Loft and you will see a legacy of Italy they donated to the church: five plaques in a row representing the "Cantoria," or the choral/musical body of the church. Attached are photos of the plaques and a close-up of one of them.



The unidentified photo of the church choirs marching triumphantly into the entrance of the church, along with other historic articles about the couple, was given to the History Committee by Janet (DuBois) Calderaro, granddaughter of Rev. Paul and Virginia. Does anyone know the occasion? It could have been a celebration of the end of WW II. Please let us know if anyone can identify the history of the celebration.



Many thanks to Janet Calderaro, daughter of their only child, Carl George DuBois, for the donation of these items shoring up more of our religious, social and musical heritage. Carl George and his wife also had a son, George.

Mission Corner

■ U.M. Student Day Collection Planned

United Methodist Student Day is November 27th, and a special offering will be taken on this Sunday to water a dream God has planted. U.M. Student Day calls on the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants. Today's students make tomorrow's world better. Nothing outlasts a generous heart.

Together, our church and other United Methodist churches around the world work together to give money so students will have the opportunity to go to college and to take classes that will help them grow in their hearts and their minds. Then they will be ready to tell other people about following Jesus.

■ We DID it!

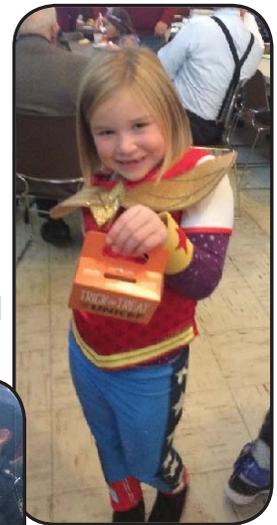
We DID it! 15 Cleaning Buckets are completely full. These were taken to our District HUB at Seymour UMC. The Conference office of Disaster Recovery will coordinate collection from all churches in our Conference, and get them to Mission Central in PA. Thank you all for your contributions! We estimate it is \$1,000 of products were contributed. 1 John 3:18 says "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth". You have put your faith into action!



■ PUMC, you contributed \$279.74 to UNICEF!!!

Thanks to all of you, children around the world will have better access to clean water, nutritious food, and life-saving vaccines!

PUMC Sunday School -Kids helping Kids!-



■ Always Thankful

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" in 1636. At the time, the Thirty Years' War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including "Now Thank We All Our God." Originally intended as a table prayer, it's now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God's "countless gifts of love" — even during hardships.

■ Save The Date For Breakfast With Santa

"Breakfast With Santa," sponsored by the Middle Ages Group, will take place on Saturday, December 17th, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Group chair, reports, "We have wonderful plans for a fun morning and a tasty breakfast. Anna and Elsa will be coming and we will have Arts and Crafts, a Magic Show, Story Time, and of course you will get to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. And we cannot forget Elf Mart which will be open throughout the morning, enabling children to shop for Christmas presents for their families."



To reserve tickets please call Tammy Kelly at (860) 874-8239 or the church office at (860) 582-3443. Tickets need to be paid in full within one week of the reservation date. This will allow us to be fair to everyone as we usually have a waiting list. Checks can be made payable to Prospect UMC and in the memo section please put Breakfast w/Santa.

Tickets will go on sale on November 27th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, at a cost of \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3 to 12, and \$5 for under 3 years of age (the cost of a picture with Santa).

Middle Ages Group still has "Elf" positions open. If you would like to help out, please contact Luisa Gladu: TheGladus@comcast.net.



Youth Corner

■ Bible Sunday Scheduled

Prospect Church has a long-standing tradition of giving each third grade Sunday School student a gift of the Holy Bible, the living word of God. If there are any children above 3rd grade who have not yet received a Bible from us, we would certainly like to include them too! We will mark this faith milestone by presenting Bibles during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 20th.

It is essential for families to sign up in advance to reserve their child's Bible. The registration deadline is November 6th. Please contact Sunday School Superintendent Christa Zaldivar at (860) 845-2016 or cjw02@hotmail.com to reserve your child's Bible.

■ Turkey Trot Can Collection

The PUMC Sunday School children will have a "Turkey Trot Can Collection" on Sunday, November 20th. They will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Zion Ecumenical Food Pantry during coffee hour. Please consider contributing to help end hunger in our local community! Especially needed: peanut butter, jelly, tuna, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, and pasta.

Food insecurity is harmful to all people, but it is particularly devastating to children. Proper nutrition is critical to a child's development.

Seniors face a number of unique medical and mobility challenges that amplify the effects of hunger and put them at a greater risk of food insecurity.



Blessings from the Lord

Throughout the Bible, God blesses his chosen people. How can we receive these gifts?

Directions: In the word search, find all the words in the box. Then write the words in the correct order on the blanks below to complete the verse.

come you these LORD if blessings you the accompany
Deuteronomy All on your obey will God you and

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

“ All _____
_____ ”

_____ 28:2, NIV

Answer: “All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 28:2, NIV

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