



THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

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Pastor's Page

And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." Job 1:8



The book of Job has always fascinated people. It tells us about the struggle to understand why good people suffer and why God appears to be distant and uncaring. The story of Job is a story about us and our day-to-day experience which is, very unfortunately, often unpleasant. Yet, the message ends with a sense of hope and we are encouraged to reflect on the mystery and wonder of creation.

So where do you start with the Book of Job? First of all you have to recognize yourself in the characters. You have to see that there is a universal quality within the story. The struggles of the main character, the views and arguments offered by the "comforters," and even the answer of the voice of God out of whirlwind, are all part of the drama of life that every generation has faced. We can feel something deep within us as we read the story because we have experienced something like it before in our own lives.

Job has touched many generations of people and its themes of suffering and faith have worked its way into our popular culture. One way is through theater. In 1958, Archibald MacLeish, director of the Library of Congress, completed a play that took him about five years to write and rewrite and refine. It was a play based on the biblical story of Job. The play, *J.B.*, is about a wealthy banker, who has indeed been blessed. Unfortunately, *J.B.* is soon tested; he loses everything and everyone who is important to him. Like Job, he is visited by three "comforters," who are less than comforting. The play ends with a sense of hope and an affirmation of the human spirit. The play won Tony awards for best play and best direction, and it won the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

I would like to try a little experiment, but to do this experiment, we need a few actors. On November 10th and 17th, we will read through the play with different people taking the different parts. In between the acts, we will stop

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and talk about the play and the experiences that are brought to mind as we read the script. It is a very powerful way to enter into the play and into the character of Job.

If you are interested in becoming part of our "cast," please let me know so I can order you a script. No previous acting experience is necessary. The Book of Job touches on our human experience. It asks difficult but important questions — let's search for the answers together.

Grace and peace,
Bob Sorozan

■ Thanksgiving Eve

The annual Thanksgiving Eve service will take place at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, on Federal Hill, on Wednesday November 25th, at 7:30 p.m. This service is open to the entire community.

■ It is PUMC Pie Season!

Apple pies (unbaked/frozen) and pumpkin pies (baked/frozen) are being made as is our tradition. The price per pie is \$10. Please call the church office to place your order. The office volunteers will gladly take your request! The pies will be ready for you to pick up on Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to noon from the downstairs kitchen.



History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Sunday School Outings From The Past By Kathy Dube

The June 2015 Tower included a photograph of a Sunday School outing at Lake Compounce from Prospect Church c. 1910, included in author Lynda J. Russell's newest book on the historic amusement park. It hangs in our History Gallery just off Sessions Hall. Although the book says the outing dates to the 1890s, Vivian Brackett, History Committee chair, said the date was c. 1910 as her mother, Emma Riggs, is the girl in the third row on the left with a large white bow in her hair. One of the adults in the photograph was Carrie Reynolds, one-time Prospect deaconess, easily identified by the "widow's black" she always wore.

Since I'm a collector of vintage postcards of Bristol, a friend who sells antiques and collectibles gave me a box of postcards her husband had purchased for resale of "old Bristol" to browse through. Imagine my surprise when I discovered a postcard of children obviously from Prospect, because of the prominence of Carrie Reynolds.

Since the backdrop is woodsy, it could very well be another outing to Lake Compounce. There is no notation on the back with a date to identify it. It's hard to tell whether it was taken before or after the one in our gallery. We're publishing the image here hoping somebody might recognize an ancestor in this new mystery postcard. Unfortunately, those who were children at the time are long since gone, so there is nobody among our members today we can ask to shed some light on this.



If you can help, please contact me (kathybdube@comcast.net) or Vivian Brackett (vibrackett@gmail.com). Our thanks to Shirley Tulley and her husband, Joe, for donating this mystery postcard to the church.

Mission Notes

■ Susan Lee Chairs CCC Board

Susan Lee, Prospect Church's liaison to Covenant to Care for Children (CCC) for approximately seven years, was elected to chair CCC's Board of Directors in August. As a result, Jeanette Baker, another longtime member of Prospect Church, will take over as Prospect's liaison to CCC.

CCC, based on Park Street in Hartford, is a non-profit organization working to better the lives of children in Connecticut. Its mission is to "channel the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for, and provide direct assistance to Connecticut's children who are neglected, abused and/or impoverished."

Many Prospect Church members have helped further this cause by participating in the Adopt A Social Worker program with special events such as the Christmas Giving Tree and Easter Baskets, and donating clothing and groceries. For approximately 10 years, the church hosted the DCF Foster Children's Party until larger space was needed last year.

Prospect Church first became involved with CCC during the tenure



of Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Bill Barnes, when his wife, Pat Barnes, became our first liaison to the organization. After Pastor Bill retired, Donna Brown took over as liaison. When she moved away, Susan Lee assumed the role.

Susan, a Registered Nurse who investigates health care fraud in the Special Investigations Unit of Aetna in Hartford, got acquainted with CCC when she volunteered for the DCF Foster Children's Party eight years ago. She wanted to serve on a board, and attended classes on board governance at Leadership Greater Hartford for those who had never served on a board. Through LGH she linked up with CCC, and became a board member three years ago.

Susan is married to long-time church member Gerald Lee. She began attending Prospect 18 years ago when their son entered first grade and started Sunday School. CCC has a working board that carries out its Vision Statement of "working to create a future where

Connecticut's children have caring families and safe places to live, and all people of faith demonstrate their own commitment to the welfare of children."

CCC has four programs: **Adopt A Social Worker**, the largest and oldest, in which faith-based or community organizations agree to covenant in which they partner with a social worker to help provide necessary and special items for children in the social worker's caseload; **Critical Goods**, which helps families who are at risk of losing their children or are re-uniting with children by providing needed material goods, such as beds; **Children's Enrichment Fund**, an advocacy program responding to less ordinary requests for special needs to support, care and nurture children and youths in crisis, such as tutoring, camperships, etc.; and **Discovered Spirit Program**, which seeks to give the children CCC serves a voice through art.

Susan especially likes the Discovered Spirit Program, which lets children ages 10-15 create art masks with the help of volunteer professional artists. There are three sessions focusing on the past, present and future. She states, "It's a powerful presentation to see the child's point of view through their artwork. "People relate to it well."

"I've met a lot of great social workers," Susan said. PUMC serves

two adopted social workers, one with a regular caseload and the other serving special needs children.

Prospect will renew its Covenant with CCC, "Helping to give a sense of stability to children so they can continue to a better life. Without CCC, more kids would fall through the cracks," Jeanette observes.

Music

■ Musical Opportunities

Music Director Heidi Flower invites anyone with an interest in music to join the Choir and/or Handbells. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights: Handbells at 6 p.m. and Choir at 7 p.m. Kids Praise God, which welcomes all Sunday School children, began practicing after the October 4th service. Practices last approximately 10 minutes immediately after 10 a.m. services. Heidi's goal is to have Kids Praise God perform the fourth Sunday of the month. Handbells, which performed on Oct. 4th, also will perform once a month.

Small Groups

Middle Ages Upcoming Events

■ Victorian Tea

The Middle Ages Group extends an invitation to its 6th Annual Victorian Holiday Tea with the Ladies Sessions. This reserved event is quickly becoming a family tradition and it will be held on Saturday, December 5th, at 4 p.m.

The Ladies Sessions cordially invite you to the Manor to come and view the general splendor of Sessions Hall decorated for the holiday. Servants will surround you with an array of assorted scones, sweet breads, sandwiches and sweet delectables, as you sip your tea and listen to musical entertainment for the evening.

There will also be a Victorian Gift Shop where you can purchase handcrafted Victorian

ornaments, exquisite jewelry, and other unique items for those on your gift list.

For those of you who wish to be pampered even more, we have private Parlor rooms, set for the holidays. Bone china tea cups, teapots filled with a variety of teas,



and a special dessert buffet will be featured in these rooms.

The Lady Sessions have also requested a special menu for children so that they may enjoy the day as well.

Tickets are now on sale in Sessions Hall after the 10 a.m. service and in the church office. Main seating tickets in Sessions Hall are \$15; White Glove Butler Service Parlor tickets are \$25.

■ Breakfast With Santa

Join us at our 2nd Annual Breakfast with Santa, on Saturday, Dec. 19th, from 9 a.m. to Noon.

This is a reserved event for families and tickets sell out quickly! Enjoy a delicious hot breakfast and when done, families will be divided into groups to rotate through three stations: Story Time, Magic Show and Arts and Crafts. The children also will be able to talk to Santa one-on-one and have their photo taken.

Tickets go on sale November 8th. Prices are Adults \$15, Children 2-12 years old \$10, and Children under 2 years \$5 (the cost of the photo).

To reserve your tickets please call Tammy Kelly at (860) 874-8239 or Diane Ashworth at (860) 583-9520.

Youth

■ Bible Sunday Announced

The Bible is the living word of the living God. Prospect United Methodist Church has a long-standing tradition of giving each third grade Sunday school student a gift of the Holy Bible. (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 22nd. It is essential for families to sign up in advance to reserve their child's Bible. The registration deadline is November 8th. Please contact Christa Zaldivar at (860) 845-2016 or cjw02@hotmail.com to reserve your child's Bible.

■ Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Next Sunday, October 25, during fellowship hour, our Sunday School students will be dressed in their Halloween



costumes and trick-or-treating for UNICEF. UNICEF is an organization that works in cooperation with governments and non-governmental organizations to save and protect the world's most vulnerable children, working to ensure child rights and providing health care, immunizations, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation services, basic education, protection and emergency relief.

We are asking for the congregation's help in collecting loose change. Please bring as much loose change (or dollar bills) as possible, to help our children fundraise! Thank you!!!

■ Family Game Night

Bring your favorite game to share with family and friends on November 13th from 6-7:30 p.m. at Prospect United Methodist Church!

- Light refreshments will be served.
- Look for the sign-up sheet in Sessions Hall.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
99 SUMMER STREET
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