

THE PROSPECT TOWER

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

October 2016

Vol. 77, No.8

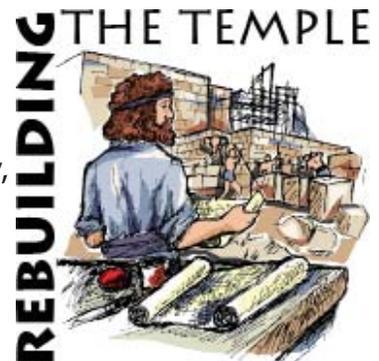
Pastor's Page

Recently, we have heard some heartbreaking news in the U.S. and over the world: multiple bombings in Europe, floods in Louisiana and shootings in Charlotte and Tulsa. I remember pictures of a little child in an ambulance, flooded cars and houses, and protestors with family of the deceased. It tore our hearts apart. We feel deeply concerned about our future and shed tears. Maybe Nehemiah might have felt the same way as we do now when he looked over the broken-down walls of Jerusalem.



Nehemiah heard from the Israelites that the wall of Jerusalem collapsed down. He sat down crying and mourning. He prayed to God. He saw the ruins with his bare eyes. The walls were broken down, and the gates were burned down. He deeply laments. He has an overwhelming feeling of sadness. The place of worship God has chosen has been in disgrace for 90 years. So he wanted to rebuild it. God answered his prayer and the King supported his project.

We hear a lot of news about broken-down walls and burned-down gates around the world and see the ruins in our life; in society, in our community, in our neighborhood, in our schools, in our work place, in our church, in our family, in relationships, in ourselves. At many places in our life, the walls are falling down. The economy is going down hill. The crime rate is increasing. Children suffer school violence. Job market is shrinking. Young people cannot find jobs. Relationships are fractured. The list can go on and on.



We as a church also have broken walls and burned-down gates. We lament it. Actually we should lament like Nehemiah did. We want to rebuild it. We want some changes to revitalize and boost up our church. We should cry over it and ask God for help.

Look at Nehemiah 2:17~18: *"Nehemiah tells the people where they are and what they should do, what God has done for him. Then people replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' They began this good work."*

The Bible does not say Nehemiah did everything by himself or Nehemiah ordered people to do what he planned. Nehemiah first identified with the people of Jerusalem,

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motivated them, then outlined the problem they faced as one people, provided some resources, offered a solution and cheered them up by convincing them that God was on their side. Then people say, "Let us start rebuilding." In one version, it says, "Let's arise and start rebuilding it." They just began work. Nehemiah did not do the work alone. They worked together. Jews who lived near Jerusalem came and joined in the project later.

We need to revitalize our church again. We need to work together to rebuild the broken walls of our lives and our church. The Bible challenges us by asking, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" Prospect UMC has been chosen as the place of worship by God, which means you are chosen by God to be his dwelling place. You are the church and the church is you. Building our lives has something to do with building our church. You are a part of church and at the same time you are the church itself. So as a church we are interwoven. That is the reason we need to work together. There is no such confrontation as Church vs. Me or Me vs. He/She or We vs. They. We are one in Christ. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to arise and rebuild the church all together as one community.

I am not here to achieve my goal or execute my vision. I am here to build up our church. I am here for our goal and the vision God has given to this church, Prospect UMC. I am sure I am here to help us to be healthier and more vital and move forward. But I cannot do this alone. I need you. I need us. Help me to help us to arise and rebuild our church, Prospect UMC!

*Blessings,
Yountae Kim*

Mission Corner

■ Reflections On My Mission Journey To Nicaragua - *Jill Wilson*

A mission journey is about so much more than “What will you be doing?” as so many people ask. First, it takes lots of planning. In this case I attended my first team meeting in December 2015. We flew out on August 4, 2016. Meetings (some via teleconference) included decisions about where in the country we would like to work, what type of work we would like to do, how much we could reasonably afford, when we would go, fund-raising plans, logistical decisions, documentation required and packing supplies. This is one of the early steps in a mission journey.



The first step in creating a team is getting acquainted. Ten days later we know and love each other very much. Our team to Nicaragua, comprised of 14 people ages 16-72, was from six different churches. We travel, eat, sleep, work, worship, and relax together, so getting to know one another happens fairly quickly! This is an integral part of the journey.



Our hosts, the *Acción Medica Cristiana*, planned our schedule based on our preferences. Global Missionary Dr. Belinda Forbes was instrumental in the plans. We had interpreters with us at all times, were transported, fed well and cared for every day. This is a welcome part of the journey.

Our worksite was in the rural mountains of Matagalpa, Nicaragua, a four-hour bus ride from the capital city where we landed. Accommodations were 20 minutes from the work site. We took gravel roads to muddy roads to grass paths through a couple of streams in a four-wheel-drive vehicle to get there. This is an exciting part of the journey!

Within the community of Santa Luz lies a peaceful-looking stream; peaceful until it rains, whereupon it swells, widens, deepens, and flows dangerously fast. People have lost their lives trying to cross the water. The inhabitants have been requesting a foot bridge for two years. Our work activity was literal bridge building. However, the work is all manual labor, so the bridge building was not as glamorous as it sounds. One of our tasks was to collect and pile all sizes of rocks that would be used in the concrete stanchions on both ends of the bridge. We sent the willing teenagers into the stream to pick and pass the rocks along our brigade to pile them as close to the final pile as we could, sometimes reforming the brigade to actually move the whole pile again to

be nearer the work site. Hours later the piles were huge. We were told that what we did in two days would have taken them two weeks. Other tasks included painting railings, mixing concrete and tying rebar. This is the part of the journey most people ask about.

We worked alongside the local indigenous men, women and children. Although our Spanish was poor at best, we could communicate questions, share funny experiences, learn from each other and share the work load with them for a short time. The community was well organized. Each day, a different crew left their home farms and work to work with us. They are an extremely hard-working, cooperative community that values each person. In our short time together, with the help of our interpreters we got to know them a little. This is the fascinating part of a journey I find most meaningful!

Returning home is quite a transition. We call it re-entry. My focus shifts from appreciating the beautiful simple hard-working people and lives in Nicaragua to my life in America which I take for granted. I feel somewhat guilty and embarrassed to be an American with such excessive conveniences and materialism. It seems so out-of-balance. My thoughts return to my team and the people of Nicaragua frequently, and every time I share my experience with others it helps in a small way. It is the lasting part of a mission journey!

Being glocal involves being aware of your surrounding community as well as your larger world, and then entering into it with the love of Jesus. God is already at work out there. Our job is simply to have our eyes open to see him and join in that labor. —Rev. Mike Paulson

■ Cleaning Buckets Needed

In August, more than 20,000 people had to be rescued due to catastrophic flooding in Louisiana. It's the worst natural disaster since



Superstorm Sandy four years ago. Thousands lost everything they own. Our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) sent thousands of cleaning buckets to assist in the clean-up effort. But UMCOR needs more Cleaning Buckets!

During September and October, the New York Annual Conference will be collecting cleaning buckets that will be sent to Mission Central in Pennsylvania for distribution. We at Prospect UMC are putting together 20 buckets. There is a display in Sessions Hall. You may create a complete bucket on your own, or pull a tag from the display. If you wish to bring two items (or more) please take the appropriate number of tags!

Please drop off your items by October 30th. If you have any questions, email Jill Wilson: jillmwilson@comcast.net or call (860) 690-1853.

■ 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.

History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

Former Pastor Paul DuBois Had Longest Tenure - Kathy Dube

A month or so ago, I got a surprise telephone call from Janet (DuBois) Calderaro, granddaughter of the Rev. Paul DuBois, pastor of Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church during the dark days of the Great Depression and World War II. His wife, Virginia (Mounster) DuBois, was very instrumental in guiding the church's music programs during her husband's pastorate at Prospect, the longest in our history.

Janet was going through items passed down to her by her late father, Carl G. DuBois, the only child of Paul and Virginia. Among the materials was a letter from me requesting a photo and other information on her grandfather for our Gallery of Pastors just off Sessions Hall approximately 19 years ago. She wasn't sure whether her dad had ever answered my request.

She since has sent quite a few items pertaining to her grandparents and Prospect Church. Among them are a copy of a young picture of Pastor DuBois, another photo taken in 1955 when he was 65, a photo of Paul and Virginia in 1964, and a mystery picture of choirs marching into Prospect with no date identified. Could it have been a celebration when WWII ended?

Paul DuBois was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on July 1, 1890. He spent 16 years as pastor of Prospect, and the decision by Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam to promote Rev. DuBois to be executive director of the Pension Fund of the New York East Conference took the 1,400 church members by surprise.



A letter dated Dec. 2, 1947 to the Bishop contained five pages of signatures from church members testifying about the "past years of progress for our church. Standards have been raised and innovations promoted in many branches of the work. The debt which the church had at the time ... has been cancelled and more than half of those on the church rolls have been received by Mr. DuBois."

The Tower related that Pastor DuBois came to Prospect on Armistice Day in 1931. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and Union Theological Seminary in NY. He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army during WW I. He also served in the Methodist Church of Italy, and Paul and Virginia took many trips to Italy over the years. They brought the Della Robia plaques above our choir loft back from one of their trips and presented them to the church.

During his years at Prospect Pastor DuBois was known "for his keen interest in social and civic affairs and efforts to

help the underprivileged. His courage in standing for what he believed to be right was outstanding even though some of the causes which he espoused were contrary to popular opinion at the time," according to the December, 1947, Tower.

He was a founder of the Bristol Council of Churches, and local cooperative movements. He held many leadership positions within the Conference. Virginia DuBois was an accomplished musician who had graduated from the Julliard Musical Foundation in New York and studied music at Fontainebleau, France. She was both organist and choir director at Prospect.

Janet remembers her grandfather as a "very sweet man." The couple spent the last 30 years of his retirement in Stamford, where he died on at the age of 90 on July 29, 1980. He was survived by his wife, their son, Carl George DuBois, and two grandchildren, George and Janet.

■ Records Help Genealogist's Research

Susan Powers, membership secretary of Prospect Church, was contacted recently by genealogist Allen Watson of Portland, OR, trying to get information on his ancestors who were members of Prospect Church in the late 1800s. Our records confirmed that his great-grandfather, William Catlin Goodwin, became a member in 1883. Allen has information from a Bristol City Directory that William C. Goodwin was a trustee of the church perhaps from 1891 to 1904, but our records did not indicate that. She shared the information with the History Committee to see if we might shed more light on his record research. Allen's grandmother, Ellen Daisy Goodwin, William's daughter, was a Probationer, also revealed in our records. William C. Goodwin was a traveling salesman for J.H. Sessions selling truck hardware.

■ Grateful And Generous: A Stewardship

Moment -*Carla Heister On behalf of PUMC Stewardship*

I just read an article titled "Live gratefully, live generously," and think it is the perfect statement to guide our lives. God has given so much to each of us; we need to be living and giving gratefully and generously in thanksgiving for all we have.



Part of our grateful and generous life is our support for Prospect United Methodist Church. We are a church of God's people doing God's work. This work includes our attendance in church on Sundays, our volunteering to all the committees and groups in the church, our outreach into our local community, and our outreach into our global community.

Soon, all members of Prospect United Methodist Church will be receiving a letter outlining the major opportunity we all have for supporting our church gratefully and generously throughout the upcoming year. I hope that you will all answer this opportunity positively.

I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Youth Ministry

■ **Sunday School Starts With Adventure Party**



Sunday School is off to a great start, according to Superintendent Christa Zaldivar! Seventeen children registered for Sunday School and participated in fun games and special crafts at our Deep Blue Adventure Party on September 18th.

“We are so grateful to the congregation for providing a potluck luncheon for everyone to enjoy. Also, extra thanks go out to the Education Team for preparing a wonderful experience for us all!”

■ **Trick-Or-Treat For Unicef**

On Sunday, October 30th, during Fellowship Hour, our Sunday School students will be dressed in their Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating for UNICEF in Sessions Hall.

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.

Superintendent Christa Zaldivar and the Sunday School ask the congregation’s help in collecting loose change. Please bring as much loose change (or dollar bills) as possible, to help our children fund raise!

■ **Calling All Elves!** - *Lisa Gladu,, Middle Ages Group Chair*

The Middle Ages Group is recruiting our “elves” for the Breakfast With Santa, which will be held on Saturday, December 17th. This event, hosted by The Middle Ages Group, has sold out the last two years and “hopes to do so again to help raise money for the General Fund, but we need your help!” Luisa states.

“We need volunteers to help decorate, set up the hall, cook, serve, run the Craft Room, Elf Leaders to bring the children from activity to activity, clean up, etc. It’s a lot of work but so worth it when you see the eyes of the children light up when Anna and Elsa enter the room. And of course it gets even better when Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive.

“Please consider volunteering! It would be a wonderful project for us all to be involved in. If you would like to help, please let us know what you can do. We want to continue this event and not disappoint the children.

“We also would like to continue to be able to give each child their photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. If someone has a photo printer and capability to help us do that, it would be such a Godsend.”

Please contact Luisa Gladu at TheGladus@comcast.net for more info.

**PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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