



THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

September 2015

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Pastor's Page

Welcome Back!

It is hard to believe that summer flown by and we are getting ready for fall and, dare I say it, winter. I hope that you all had a refreshing and renewing summer. As we prepare for the fall, there are a few things I would like to share with you.



Confirmation: We will be holding a confirmation class organizational meeting following our worship service on Sunday, September 20th. Confirmation is an important part of the spiritual formation of our youths. In the United Methodist Church, parents, and the entire church, make a pledge to support the children who are being baptized and teach them about God and faith. At a certain age, usually around Jr. High School, the children are asked to decide for themselves about their commitment to Christ.



I always enjoy the confirmation process. It is an opportunity for me to get to know the young people of our church and to engage in some thoughtful, and sometimes humorous, conversations about life, the universe and God. If you know a young person who may be ready for a confirmation experience, please come to the organizational meeting.

A Dramatic Reading of J.B.: I am looking for a few good people who would be interested in reading the play J.B., by Archibald MacLeish. The play retells the biblical story of Job and sets it in New England. We would get together and read the play, with each one of us taking a part. Between the acts, we would discuss the normal human things that Job, and the play, may bring up: why do good people suffer, is there

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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something within us that helps us to rise above our suffering, where do we find God in the midst of pain? It will be a very moving, and hopefully healing, experience for everyone who participates.

Church Finances: One last thought about the church finances. As many of you know, we began the year with a deficit in our budget. Through the year, your faithfulness has helped us to meet our bills, pay for our oil and send in our apportionments. Normally, we can expect a drop in our donations as people go away on vacations. Now that your back, could you prayerfully consider your pledge. Exciting things are going to happen in our church during the next few weeks. Your support makes all these exciting things possible. Thank you!

Grace and Peace

Bob Sorozan

Save The Dates

- December 5th: Annual Christmas Victorian Tea at 4 p.m.
- December 6th & 13th: Victorian Bakery In Sessions Hall, featuring homemade sconces, cookies, biscotti, etc.,
- December 19th: Annual Breakfast With Santa at 9 a.m.

■ Annual Mini-Golf Outing ~ Luisa Gladu

Sunday, August 9th was a glorious day, the sun was shining, the birds chirping, a lovely breeze and the sound of agonized players missing holes in one ... we won't mention any names now. That was the setting for the annual Mini-Golf Tournament held at Hidden Valley Miniature Golf in Southington, after church services of course.

Sixteen players in teams of four were eager to start the round of 18 holes trying to psych out each other at the practice hole. It was a sad, I mean a glorious site to behold; some of us have not played miniature golf in over 20 years. It became evident when we finally got the ball in the hole and then had to bend down to retrieve it.

Our spiritual and mini-golf leader, Pastor Bob, was very confident that with his "pull" he would take the tournament. He did give out special dispensations, "a hole in one, would get your sins absolved." Suffice it to say many of us got a hole in one, some players even had two, but it pains me to report that the only individual who did not get a hole in one was Gary Gladu, so any prayers would be appreciated to help save his soul. His "colorful" comments throughout the course when he missed were thankfully appreciated by us all, for some reason they kept us all together away from others playing.

At the end of this wonderful day the numbers came in and the winners were: 1st Place - Jackie Palance, 2nd Place - Bob Sorozan, 3rd Place Tie - Laura Taylor and Jerry Rivard

Coming in at last place with a score of 51 was me, for some reason I thought the one with the highest score won! I was wrong, last place, but I got a hole in one!

We were going to award Jackie the "Green Jacket" but she was all in orange so it just wouldn't go.

There are some incriminating pictures that were taken by Laura Taylor to validate this truly amazing event. I think we need a bulletin board update.

History Corner

PROSPECT IN EARLIER DAYS

A Walk Down Memory Lane At Plainville Campgrounds

By Kathy Dube

On July 11, the Plainville Campgrounds, just over the Plainville line along Camp Street before the intersection with Northwest Drive, held an open house to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the place that once played such a vital role in area Methodist Churches. It was a hot day, and it would have been easy to just get off my feet and stay inside, but I talked myself into this journey down Memory Lane — and I was so glad I did!

As the booklet given to tourists related, the camp grounds were an outgrowth of 19th century religious evangelism. Each summer, from 1865 until 1957, Methodists gathered for “camp meetings,” originally in tents, and later in the cottages that replaced them. In the early decades, camp meetings were considered to be a “morally acceptable form of recreation.”

“... the Plainville Campgrounds derives its primary significance as a substantially intact, architecturally complex of summer cottages, grouped in a circular fashion unique to religious campgrounds.”

The earlier tents were grouped around a central preaching platform, albeit somewhat crudely constructed. The Auditorium, built in 1902, replaced the preaching platform. [Note: My brother, Rev. Bill Barnes, our retired pastor, preached his first sermon ever in that auditorium]. It's surrounded by 19 large, two-story cottages built by the New Haven District to house its member churches, Prospect and Asbury among them. The construction of cottages began in the 1880s. Four “avenues” with smaller cottages reach out from the center like the spokes of a wheel around a hub.

The cottages all have gable roofs and single- or double-story porches. They were never meant to be year-round cottages, and were not constructed to a high standard. After 1957, the Methodist Church

sold the campgrounds. The cottages, 87 in all, are privately owned and managed by the non-denominational Plainville Campground Association. At the time of the tour, 11 were for sale.

There is an amazing diversity of sizes, from 400 square feet for the smallest to 3,000 for the largest. The smallest, with no second story, only has a pullout trundle bed. The largest, the former Administration Building for the district, has a second floor with 11 bedrooms. As a young girl growing up in Bristol, the “Bristol House” was the home base for Prospect Church. Photo on rights shows the “Bristol House” from the outside as it looks today. The



Bristol House is located at 21 Circle Avenue, and looks nothing like I remembered it. I still remember the steep stairs to the second floor.

Most of the cottages are owned by Floridians who want to get away from the hot, humid weather in the summer. One woman in a cottage I toured lives in San Diego, and visits her cottage three or four times a season, which begins in late May and ends in late October. In addition to the daytime open house, the Association held an “illumination” starting at dusk, and visitors were invited back to photograph the cottages illuminated with colorful lanterns.

On such a hot day, I couldn't help but wonder how the people stood the heat in the old days, before electricity, indoor plumbing, air conditioning easily washable clothing. But to them, this was a great escape to the country.



Mission Corner

■ Greetings from Cambodia ~ Helen L. Camarce



The Susannah Wesley Women Centre, will soon rise on our newly purchased property in Mondulkiri , where lush green forests, fruit bearing trees and natural formations like lakes and falls abound. It is just in front of the UMC Retreat Camp where a social Hall will be built. A pastor and his family will be assigned in Mondulkiri this year and will temporarily stay in a villa in the Retreat Camp to start the ministry there.

We are still designing the Centre. We plan to build nature-inspired guests cottages, dormitories and of course the livelihood training centre. This centre will be a training ground for alternative livelihoods like hair, cosmetology and reflexology skills. And can also serve as a venue for skilled local women to share their craft in basket weaving, cloth weaving, sewing, fruit preserving, honey making, medicinal herbs propagation, soap making. The Centre will put up a shop and boutique to sell their crafts.

And the centre can also provide a temporary shelter for women who are abused or victim of abuse before referring them to the proper agency.

Note: PUMC is in a Covenant Relationship in support of Helen's Missionary's journey. To read Helen's newsblog at UMC Cambodia site go to <http://gbgmumccambodia.blogspot.com/2015/06/susannah-wesley-women-center-answered.html>.



Yard Sale

PUMC will be having a yard sale September 19. We will also need many hands to get ready for the yard sale. Please consider volunteering an hour or so -- it will be much appreciated. See Jeanette Baker for information.

Youth Corner

■ Deep Blue Adventure Party Kicks Off Sunday School

The beginning of the new Sunday School year is nearly here! Sunday, September 13, is our Deep Blue Adventure Party (formerly known as Rally Day)! On this date, parents will fill out registration forms and meet the teachers.



During our 10 a.m. worship service, children ages 3 and up are invited to participate in some fun activities and games. Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 20, and will take place during the 10 a.m. worship service. In addition to nursery care for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years old, there will be two levels of Sunday School classes this year: PreK to Grade 1 and 2nd to Grade 6.

During the September 13 Worship Service, children ages 3 and up are invited to participate in some fun activities and games in the side portion of the lower parking lot, so please refrain from parking there!

Following worship, children will join their families and the congregation for a potluck luncheon according to the following assignments:

- Last Names A-H: Main Dish;
- I-P: Dessert; and
- Q-Z: Side Dish/Salad.

If you have any questions about our programs or would like to serve as a volunteer, please contact Christa Zaldivar at cjw02@hotmail.com or (860) 845-2016.

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