

The Prospectus

JUNE 2009



CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Phyllis A. Norman, Pastor
The Rev. Doreen Horstman, Minister of Visitation
Stewart W. Crouse, Director Of Music Ministry
Mark Wilson, Sunday School Administrator
Tina Soderberg, Office Administrator

Prospect Congregational Church
25 Center Street,
Prospect, CT 06712-0040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Prospectus Editors, Rick and Liz Normand

Articles can be left in the mailbox in the coatroom or e-mailed to rickliz@aol.com or pccucc@snet.net. Deadline for the newsletter is the third Wednesday of the month.

Prospect Congregational Church
Office Phone: 203-758-4872 Fax#: 203-758-6316
Pastor's Home 203-758-7818
Church e-mail pccucc@snet.net
Pastor's e-mail revnorman@snet.net
Church Website www.prospectctucc.org
Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30-1:30

The Pastor's Page

June 17 I leave for New York, my time away, my Sabbatical. I hoped to preach one final sermon to tie together all we have done concerning discipleship, relationship, and covenant. There are not enough Sundays left for me to do this: first, Confirmation Sunday; then the picnic at Volmar's Grove; and finally Music Appreciation Sunday. Our Confirmands will enter into a covenant with God and this church. At Volmar's Grove, our children and youth will give us a peek into the relationship the disciples had with Jesus. And the music, God's gift to us through Stewart Crouse and our choir members, will fill the sanctuary with tempo and notes and sacred words. So, what to do with the sermon? We can look forward to that in October when I am back, fully rested, with my D.Min. project completed in written form and approved by Hartford Seminary!

In the meanwhile remember we are all one, the body of Christ. There is no one of us more important to this one body than another. That includes me. I am not this church—we all are. Some of you have recently said, "What will we do without you? What will the church do?" The church will do what God calls you to do, even in my absence. This will be a great opportunity to experience your God-given gifts: many of you have indicated a willingness to share God's words on a Sunday morning. Come and listen! The Board of Deacons will share in visitation with Rev. Doreen Horstman. If you would like a visit, please let the office know. The carnival will happen once again in September—share the fellowship and fun, and get to know one another even better than you do now. Welcome the strangers—invite them into our fellowship.

Rev. Doreen will cover for me in my absence. She will lead worship when you are not. She will be at the hospital when you need her. She will maintain office hours in case you have a need to discuss something with her. If there is a death, Rev. Doreen will be there for you. Baptisms and weddings will also be part of her responsibilities. Of course, the healing services will continue.

This is a time, your time, to experience God in different ways. While I am gone you will always be in my prayers. See you in October!

In Christ,

Phyllis

Congregational Questionnaire Part II

Do you remember back to last fall when I asked you to take some time to answer a questionnaire about stewardship? It was designed to be a measurement tool for me when I complete and write my Doctor of Ministry project. Some of you responded with rich material and I am grateful for the time you took to share your thoughts and feelings. The project is coming to a close this month and I need to follow through with this same questionnaire.

For those of you who completed it last fall, would you please do it once more, noting any changes you might have experienced within yourself through sermons, Scripture, offering your time, talent and treasure, etc?

If you did not complete it last fall, would you please consider doing it now, noting your thoughts and feelings as we worked through stewardship/discipling and covenant?

1. What does the term "faithful steward" mean to me now?

1. Do the following three points describe the person I am or would like to be: a) a member of this body of Christ experiencing and living gratitude for God's creation; b) a member of this body of Christ knowing/understanding how God works in my life; and c) a member of this body of Christ who trusts in God?

1. How does this church address issues related to money and Christian living? What do I find helpful? What do I wish could be done differently? Does the church find it awkward when money is talked about in the church? Why do I think the church responds this way?

1. Today, how do I understand the place of offering in the service? How do I respond as I prepare to support the church this year, as an act of sacrifice, or an act of praise to God, and/or as part of my covenantal relationship with God, this church, and its members?

Please return this questionnaire to Rev. Phyllis before she begins her sabbatical June 17. Thank you for being a part of this awesome experience.

Disciples During Pentecost Season

Worship

June 7, 9:00 AM Worship and Communion in the Sanctuary
11:00 AM Children's Day & Communion at Volmar's Grove--Picnic
NO 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
June 14, 10:00 AM Music Appreciation and Scholarship Sunday
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion
June 21, 10:00 AM Worship
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion
June 28, 10:00 AM Worship
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship and Communion

Fellowship and Celebration

Antique Appraisal and Strawberry Festival Friday, June 19, 7:00 PM
Evening Women's Assoc., Picnic, 6:30 PM June 24

Spiritual Enrichment During Pentecost Season

Music Appreciation Sunday June 14 during Worship

Mission Opportunities

Casserole Sunday June 14 during Coffee Hour

Christian Education

New Confirmation Class Info Meeting Wed., June 3, 7:00 PM

Discipleship

EVERYDAY!

Lectionary Readings for June, 2009

June 7 Psalm 29
Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17
Theme: Mysterious Encounter

June 21 Psalm 107
Job 38:1-11
2 Cor. 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41
Theme: In the Boat Together

June 14 Psalm 20
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
2 Cor. 5:6-10
Mark 4:35-41
Theme: Flourishing

June 28 Psalm 130
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
2 Cor. 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43
Theme: Healing Powers

What's Going on at GWIM?

(Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries)
From the Annual Report, May, 2009

“The homeless count, unfortunately, continues to rise. The numbers of hungry continue to grow. The people coming into our programs used to be some of our donors. There, for the very first time, they are suffering the hit of the economy with no where else to go except a familiar place, one where they found giving to a good cause is now actually what they are indeed turning to for support, help and, last but not least, love. It takes only one late car payment, one late rent payment, and one family member to lose a job, and the inevitable happens...CHOICES!!!!!! Do I pay my CL&P bill, my Yankee Gas bill, do I purchase oil for my home so my children can stay warm? Or...do I buy food to feed my family????? Here is where GWIM reaches out!”

"Called to Care" Chronicles

Health Concerns

Gloria Benson
Louise Beach
Carmen Cavallaro
Jane Chatfield
Ruby DeCosta
Helen Donovan
Shoshe Drapin
Brad Fischer
Gayle Gourley
Ruth Hansen
Arlene Hughes
Joyce Kathan
Ann Raven
Tina Sierra
Joan Slapikas
Dave Stewart
Linda Stewart
Andrew Vilaro

Kim Wadhams
Bernice Wilson
Margaret Worden

Prayers for our Military, including

Gerard Boulay, England
A1C Joshua Campbell, Nebraska
Christopher Chucta, Biloxi, Mississippi
A1C Johnny De, Germany
Darren Hale, Jr., Korea
Edward Hall, Iraq
Robert Holley, Iran
Jim Jackson, Marines
PFC James Kabusk, Cherry Point, NC
Lcpl Alex Theil, Ft. Leonardwood, MO
Robert Tuohy, Bagdad

The Village at East Farms

Roy Schellhardt
Myrtle Hintz

Highlands Healthcare Center

Nancy Robinson

Glendale

Jo Collins

Elim Park

Arrol Drew

Prayers of Concern for our Extended Family

Kevin (Donna Dzubak's son)
Yves Allard (Erik Soderberg's Uncle)
Frank Anderson (Babette Strumpf's brother)
Norman Anderson (Babette Strumpf's brother)
Edna Beach (Tim Beach's mother)
The Bielek family (friends of the Vitkos)
Harriet Blakeslee (Charlie Blakeslee's sister-in-law)

Susan Boyle (Pete Creasey's sister)
Joe Cavallaro (father of Carmen Cavallaro)
Alyssa Casson (young Prospect girl)
June Chucta (Tom Chucta's Mom)
Arthur Compton (Alice Palen's brother)
Beth Creasey (Peter Creasey's sister)
John Curtis (Dave Curtis' brother)
Arlene DeCosta (Ruby DeCosta's daughter-in-law)
Harry Gamradt (Arlene Hughes' brother-in-law)
Lloyd Hannula (Diana Trumbley's father)
Betty Hotaling (Linda Theriault's mother)
Robert Kathan (son of Joyce and Barney Kathan)
Irene Kamila (Diana Trumbley's grandmother)
Benjamin LeBlanc (Edna Talmadge's grandson and Gwenn Fischer's nephew)
Jeff Malm (Sue Wilson's brother)
Benny Mazzucco (Kelly Shaffer's dad)
Hank Pavlowski (Sandi Pavolwski's Dad)
Dorothy Plankey (mother of Paul Plankey)
Jared Price (Pete and Chris Creasey's nephew)
Hulda Risdon (mother of Marge Biercevicz)
Sally Dunnigan Scott (Joan Slapikas' sister-in-law)
Grace Sederquest (mother of Barbara Rowe)
Yvonne Theriault (Linda Theriault's father-in-law)
Arthur Wood (Christine Creasey's Dad)
Betsey Wypychuski (Mary Ellen Pearce's cousin)

Church Repair Fund

The church repair fund was established in 2006 to pay for repairs and improvements to our church building. The repair fund draws from a line of credit from the Naugatuck Savings Bank. On a monthly basis, the church is billed an interest charge for the outstanding balance. Donations are made by various groups and church members and applied to the principal of the loan. As of 5/15/09, the outstanding balance of the loan was \$13,216.80.

At the last congregational meeting, a vote was taken to upgrade the fire alarm system in the church. The cost for this work is approximately \$12,000 and it was agreed that the money would come from the repair fund. This action will result in a future loan balance of approximately \$20,000

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Ken

Mann, Asst. Treasurer

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Lou Zhitomi	18	Kelly Harkins
5	Kenneth Jeannin	19	Christopher Jeannin
8	Helen Donovan	23	Carmen Cavallaro, Sr.
	Sue Loud	25	Ruby DeCosta
9	Tyler Wellington	27	Jennifer Koehler
12	Kris Melnikaitis	30	Danny Beach
	Erin Wester		

Anniversaries

2	Roger & Virginia Allen
8	Bob & Wendy Wellington

Hospitality and Fellowship Committee Notes



PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC - The Annual Church Picnic is Sunday, June 7, at VOLMARS GROVE, Don't Miss it! 11 AM Service.

It's sure to be a great time, like usual. You are sure to get your money's worth as well, since the tickets this year are Free! Donations will gladly be accepted and be put toward hosting the event free again next year. Besides a possible donation you would like to make, we would love everyone to bring some dish to share.

In the past we have tried to organize who's bringing what, but that would take the luck out of Pot-Luck, so just make your specialty. Tracey, you know we like! As mentioned, the beautiful outdoor service, including our Children's Day celebration, baptisms and communion along with lovely music will begin at 11 AM. Then lunch, compliments of everyone's great dishes or desserts and the Men's Club's cooking, will start around 12:15 PM. Then, if they haven't already started, let the games begin!

Of course, there will be the usual volleyball, horseshoes and bocce and maybe croquet will be back again. The picnic wouldn't be the same without some highly competitive egg tosses and the 3-Legged Races. The Grapefruit game is planned again too. That dizzy bat game may make it too.

If you could let me or anyone on the H & F Committee know if you are planning to come and how many will be joining you, it would be greatly appreciated for our food planning purposes. If anyone needs a ride, just let us know, we'll arrange to get you there.



Chairman, Tim Beach

Our church's picture narrative, covenant letter and covenant of generosity have been mailed. Please return your covenants asap. The Finance Committee has developed a budget - we need to know your commitment so the work of the church can proceed. To date we have received 42 covenants for a total of \$56,936.00.

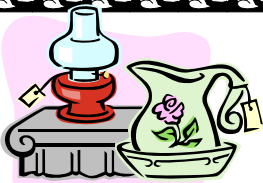
Our Fiscal Year ends June 30; and the new one begins on July 1. Covenant envelopes have been purchased for **all** members and friends of the church, whether or not you covenant. Inez Bramhall will have the envelopes available in the parlor for pick-up mid-June. Watch for further announcements.

Music Celebration Sunday:

On Sunday, June 14th, the Music Committee will sponsor the Annual Music Celebration Service. Stewart Crouse, the Senior Choir, and members of the Music Committee will perform special music throughout the service. All are welcome to experience and share the love of music with all the talented musicians in the congregation.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the service, or would like more info, please contact Erik Soderberg at (203)525-7190, or leave a message with the Church Office at (203)758-4872).

Antique Appraisal Show - On Friday, June 19, 2009 at 7 pm. in Fellowship Hall we will hold our Original Antique Appraisal Show with Wayne Mattox and Carl Hotkowski doing the appraisals. Clean out your attics, closets, basements, etc and bring it all down to be appraised. 1 item appraised - \$3.00; 2 items appraised - \$5.00. Homemade Strawberry Short cake is available for \$4.00/serving. Come and Enjoy!





Sing for Your Supper

(with our Praise Band)

Friday, June 26th

from 11a – 1p

Help Feed the Hungry

with song, canned goods and

Donations from your Heart.

Join in and help our

Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries

at St. John's Episcopal Church.

For more information please call

Sandra Plankey 203-597-0618.



Habitat for Humanity Coffee House:

On Saturday, May 9th, The Music Committee held a Coffee House in Fellowship Hall in order to raise money for the Waterbury Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The event turned out to be a success with many musical acts, as well as some comedy skits mixed in. By the end of the evening the event raised \$865 in donations.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to support the event. Special thanks goes out to those who gave generously to the Habitat for Humanity (you know who you are). Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Music Committee, the Normand Family, Lori Stenson, and the countless others who helped me put this special evening together.

Stay tuned for the next Coffee House, coming soon.

Erik Soderberg

Historian's Corner

PROSPECT CHURCH HAD A BRANCH OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATION

(This is the third in a series of articles by the Church Historian in order to expand on or, in some cases, to correct narratives in the 200-year history of the Prospect Congregational Church, *A Church Set Upon a Hill*.)

Last December the daughter of Don and Nancy Robinson brought to the church office a box of materials for the church archives, which had originally been collected and preserved by Nellie Cowdell. Most surprising and puzzling in the collection was a book of minutes and lists of officers and members of two organizations in the Prospect Congregational Church in the 1880s. One was the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, from Sept. 29, 1885 to Dec. 11, 1888, and this organization is well known. (See pages 70, 95 in my 200-year history of the church.) The other organization I had never heard of Thistle-down Temple, which preceded the Christian Endeavor and lasted from March 25, 1882 to Jan. 8, 1885. Contacts with the Congregational Christian Historical Society and Congregational Library in Boston yielded nothing. The key to the puzzle was the reference to it being a "Juvenile Temple," with members called "templars," and with a General Superintendent of the State coming to Prospect to help them get organized and install officers.

In effect, the Prospect Congregational Church had a youth group that was a part of an international temperance organization called the International Order of Good Templars, with a four-fold program of total abstinence against liquor, tobacco, profanity and gambling. At the time of their 50th anniversary with an assembly in 1901 in Utica, NY they reported that they had enrolled 5 million members in countries all over the world. At the time a book was published with the title, *The Good Templars: A History of the Rise and Progress of the International Order of Good Templars*, written by William W. Turnbull. The organization was first started in Utica in 1851 and was called the Knights of Jericho, but the name was changed to the Independent Order of Good Templars and then again to International Order. Each local branch was called a Lodge, and every Lodge was encouraged to organize a youth group or Juvenile Temple (similar to the Juvenile Grange, the DeMolay in the Masons, and the Youth Temperance Council of the WCTU). It was believed that "what the Sunday-school is to the church, the Temple is to the Lodge - a training school." However, it was recognized that many Temples were independent of an adult organization or were connected to churches, schools, etc. This was the case in Prospect.

In Prospect the name, "Thistledown Temple," was a localized designation of a district or region in the state. It was organized in Prospect in part because of the strong temperance views of the community and in part because of the leadership of the new pastor, the Rev. William Phipps and his wife. The group met at the parsonage and at several homes, but most often convened in the vestry of the church building. The minutes of the three years of existence reveal little of its purpose, except for one piece that was read at an April 1884 meeting, "Who will be the drunkards of today?" and at the termination of the group in 1885 when the remaining funds were disbursed for temperance work and temperance books for the Sunday School library. In addition to several visits by the General Superintendent of the State, there was a lecture in 1883 by the Rev. O.J. Range of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Guilford. In addition to its "literary exercises," the group seemed occupied with helping toward the expenses of oil and curtains for the church and in providing "entertainment" for events of the Ladies Society.

Members and officers were from leading families in the town of Prospect: in addition to Phipps, Hine, Fenn, Strong, Root, Clark (relatives of Josephine Collins and Gertrude Pierpont), Hotchkiss, Platt, Tyler, Bottomley, Zeller (relatives of Inez Bramhall), Davis, Berkley, Beers, Matthews, Blackman, Nettleton, Talmadge (relatives of Gwenn Fischer), Hitchcock, French, Payne, Taylor, Fuller, Parsons, Brown, Sprague.

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Deacon On Call: Joe Masulli</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>7p Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6p VITAS Memorial Service on the Green</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30a Memorial Service-Marathon Health Cntr</p> <p>7p Confirmation Class of 2010 Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 <i>Children's Sunday</i> 9a Worship—here 11a Worship— Vol- mar's Grove 12:30 Annual Pic- nic No Contemporary Service</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7p Finance Committee Mtg 7p Committee Night</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7p Healing Service 7p BOT Mtg</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9-2 <i>Bottle & Can Drive</i></p>
<p>14 <i>Music Appreciation/ Scholarship Sun- day</i> 10 a Worship 11a Coffee Hour/ Casserole Sunday 5p Contemporary Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11a Worship— Village at East Farms 7p Council Mtg</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Rev. Phyllis' last day before sabbatical</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30a Wor- ship — Marathon Health Cntr</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7p <i>Antique Appraisal Show/ Strawberry Festival</i></p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 5p Contemporary Service</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Evening Women's Picnic</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 5p Contemporary Service</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>				