

The Prospector



Prospect United Methodist Church
<http://home.earthlink.net/~prospectumc>

March/April 2007

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

Lent is observed beginning on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Holy Week. This year Ash Wednesday was February 21 and Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 1st. During the season of Lent, which is forty days plus Sundays the Christian Church has historically practice acts of self denial. These acts include such things as fasting food or other activities, giving to God the savings from your fasting, and spending more time in prayer and Bible Study.

Prospect United Methodist Church participates in the season of Lent by offering guidance and opportunities for the church family Church to grow spiritually during these events. I encourage you to fast something as a form of self denial during these days. Some people fast certain foods or beverages during this season. Others fast special things they enjoy doing such as radio/TV shows, special activities, or certain types of shopping. I have tried to be very vague in these descriptions so you can be creative about something you could give up as a reminder of what Christ gave up of us – His very life.

The joy of sacrifice is multiplied when you combine it with the joy of giving. Prospect has two opportunities for self-denial giving during Lent 2007. These giving opportunities include giving to Ministry and Mission. The ministry opportunity is to upgrade the office equipment at Prospect United Methodist Church. The copier and computer have served us well for 15 years but their day of service is almost over. The computer is no longer functioning and parts for the copier are becoming hard to obtain due to its age. Truly it is time to have ministry resources that will serve the church into the years ahead.

The mission opportunity is to give “gently used” luggage to the foster children of UMFS (United Methodist Family Services) in LaCrosse. Your donation would provide children who come to the agency with their meager possessions in grocery sacks with something a little more permanent in their transient life.

Prayer & Bible Study – The education committee is sponsoring two (2) small group Bible studies on the book of Hebrews. The studies convene on Sunday at 8 a.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. You are invited to attend one of these offerings. The health Committee is planning a Prayer Commitment Sunday on March 18th. You are encouraged to develop your spiritual life through prayer and Bible Study during this lenten season.

These are exciting days to be part of Prospect United Methodist Church, It is my prayer that this lenten season will be one of preparation and joy. For you I pray,

God's Richest Blessings,

Pastor Myron

FAITH RENEWAL

For those of us who attended the beautiful services for the Faith Renewal on February 11-13, we would like to thank Rev. Simmons for his work that made them so helpful and meaningful to so many of us. Also, I would like to thank Nancy West for her help in advertising the services, Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, the Methodist Women and Methodist Men for their help with the wonderful meals, Ronnie Wright, the BJs, Carol Carlson, Helen Burtchell and Mary Ann Johnson for their beautiful music that contributed so much to the service. Also, thank you to the Ushers and Hal Keeney who welcomed those attending. Again, thank you to all who helped and to those who attended.

Barbara Gilmartin
Evangelism

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Met 2/14/07 in the home of Pam Pickard with Pastor Simmons, Patricia Conner, Ellie Parrish and Betty Hicks present. Discussed how best to minister to our children and emerging Youth. Also, we discussed securing additional space for meeting with these groups. The two upstairs rooms are currently being used. We plan also to begin work on making the downstairs classroom a multi-purpose room for use as needed by Scout groups, Bible Study groups etc. Vacation Bible School dates will be announced soon and we may engage in a Community VBS.

Please continue to pray for this vital ministry of our Church.

Betty Hicks

NEW ADDITIONS!

We will be including monthly calendars into our Prospect, rather than in the Sunday bulletin. This way we can be sure to reach everyone. We hope this will be a helpful tool for you. Please keep and update them when necessary.

AND we would like to include our

Celebrations

in the newsletter also for your information.

Anniversaries:

March 3rd; Donna & Lee Cunningham

3rd, Susan & Aubrey White

12th, Betty & Buddy Hicks

28th, Louise & Myron Simmons

April 26th, Ann & Bill Hoofnagle

29th, Betty & Hal Keeney

Birthdays:

March 8th Bill Hoofnagle

12th Freida Davis

April 1st Anne Wright

5th Robin Griffin

9th Glenda Gibbs

14th Jo Clark

17th Nancy Cox

18th Donna Cunningham

19th Joyce Trask

22nd Nila Miller

We would appreciate your feedback and suggestions for future newsletters.

Children's Church

and Leaders are grateful for all the supplies shared recently. All items have been received. We thank you all for your support and your gifts of love.

We look forward to the return of our Lucy Gay Nash. The children and leaders miss her very much.

FINANCE

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget is \$8,500.75. Following are the amounts received for the budget in 2007.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Jan	14,991.93	+6,491.18
Feb	9,160.81	+660.06
Total	24,152.74	+7,151.24

These figures include two gifts of stock totaling \$8258.83. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

SCOUTS

Thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of Prospect UMC the Boy Scout Troop 255 is able to order their BSA Troop Flag.

The boys had a very successful camp out the weekend of Jan. 27th. They were able to pass several of their Tenderfoot requirements. The boys participated in the Scout Sunday service Feb. 11th, and did very well.

Feb. 24th the Cub Scouts had their annual Pinewood Derby Race, which was held at the Ebony Fire House. The race was very successful and the boys and families had a great time!

RECYCLE - The Scout troop is collecting aluminum cans. There is a collection bucket in the fellowship hall for your cans; and if you have a quantity on hand that you would like to have them picked up, just give Jim Gibbs a call at 434-636-3007.

The Boy Scouts meet on Monday nights at 7:00 pm, and the Cub Scouts meet Thursday nights at 7:00 pm.

Cub Scouts begin with first grade; and Boy Scouts begin with 11 years of age or in the 6th grade. We invite all boys to join the Scout program. Any adults interested in helping with the Pack or Troop are welcome to join us.

Scouting is **FUN!**

History of the Kitchen Fund

In June, 1971 ground was broken for the construction of a Fellowship Hall which included a kitchen, rest rooms and heating and air conditioning for the entire building. Other projects were also accomplished at this time.

On February 6, 1972, a Service of Consecration was held with Dr. John Davidson,

District Superintendent of the Petersburg District, presiding. The first supper was served in the fellowship hall on this date. From this date money from the monthly suppers' free will offerings have paid for all kitchen and dining needs. The "Kitchen Fund" has also helped with other projects of the church. On November 26, 1972 Dr. Davidson returned for a note burning ceremony.

The "Kitchen Fund" has supported the fellowship hall and kitchen over the years purchasing all the supplies for the kitchen including the china, glasses, silver ware, tea towels, fry pans, griddles as well as other pots and pans and necessities for cooking. This fund also buys the paper products for the kitchen such as paper towels, paper plates, plastic ware, toilet tissue and the cleaning supplies for the entire church. Appliances have also been upgraded.

This article is to let you all know what the "Kitchen Fund" spends its money for and where the money comes from. The coffee and snacks that you all enjoy on Sunday morning are purchased with this money. The UMM and the Missions Committee make annual donations to the "Kitchen Fund".

Next time you see a Fellowship Supper advertised in the bulletin, please come on out and bring food and a donation. You just don't know how much good food you are missing and the fellowship is wonderful. February 25 and March 25 are the dates for the next two gatherings.

Looking forward to seeing each of you,

Annette Jones, Chairperson

A portion of the above information was taken from the book "A History of the Ebony, Virginia area"

SOME PROSPECT TRIVIA!!!! **DID YOU KNOW.....**

The present Prospect Church, a one room building was built in 1887 on land given by W.J. Carroll. Through efforts of the Women's Society and the Ladies Aid Society, the building was repaired and church school rooms added to the back with upstairs rooms. The pulpit was moved from its original place in the back to the South side of the Sanctuary. Stained glass windows were installed.

UMM News

The UMM met in January and February for their regular meeting. All men of the church are welcome to join this fellowship. The dues are \$12 for a year and \$3 for each month's meal. There are lots of opportunities for each member.

*In February it was decided to host a **Ham Dinner on May 5, 2007** at the Ebony Fire Department Community Hall.*

Tickets will go on sale in April so be sure to see one of the members to purchase your ticket. The goal is to sell at least three hundred tickets.

Looking forward to seeing new faces at our next meeting on March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Charles Jones, President

Prospect UMW

The Prospect United Methodist Women meet on the fourth Monday night of each month except July and December. The meeting in May is on the third Monday night due to Memorial Day holiday. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. All ladies are invited to come join our fellowship. Our pledges are \$20 for the year 2007 and we have several fund raisers during the year so that we are able to help our mission projects at home and internationally.

One of the projects the UMW sponsors is the collection of staple foods to share with three food banks in our area. We collect food all year since there are hungry people all year, not just around the holidays. The food banks served by this UMW are The Lawrenceville Food Bank located at the Lawrenceville United Methodist Church, The Bread Box in South Hill and The Good Samaritan in Roanoke Rapids.

This year we would like to try something new. We ask for your help. Beginning the first Sunday in April and each first Sunday thereafter except December, we ask that each person bring an item or several items to place at a spot provided to help fill our box. We would like to say in advance "Thank You" for your donations and we know those that receive this food are grateful.

We look forward to seeing some new faces at our April meeting.

*Joy and Peace to each of you,
Annette Jones, President*

OUR MINISTRY IN PRAYER

Continue to pray for: Our World, Our Nation, Our Homebound Members and those in assisted living and hospitals and our extended Prospect Family of friends, neighbors and relatives.

Please call Pastor Simmons with any additions, updates, corrections or deletions to be listed in "Our Ministry In Prayer" in the Sunday bulletin before Wednesday evening.

DID YOU KNOW?

That Prospect UMC has it's own web site, and if you would like to read your newsletter "on line" rather than wait for the postman, just let us know, and look us up!

<http://home.earthlink.net/~prospectumc>

Join Our

Painless Fund raising

JUST fill out a form with your MVP card number and use the card each time you shop in any Food Lion. They will keep track of how much is spent in the name of Prospect Church and each quarter we will get a share of their money allotted for the community.

Please cut these forms from the newsletter and pass one along to a friend, relative or neighbor. You may return the forms directly to Dede Snead or just place them in the Offering Plate at Church any Sunday. Thanks for your help.

CUSTOMER SIGN UP:

MVP Card # (12 digits) _____

First Name _____ MI _____

Last Name _____

Day phone () _____

List name and address of charity you wish to support

Prospect United Methodist Church

PO Box 25,

Ebony, VA 23845

SPRING CLEAN UP!

Many hand do make light work, and here is the perfect opportunity for everyone to pitch in and make a difference!

Mark you calendar for Saturday, March 31st, 2007, beginning at 9 a.m.

We hope to be working inside and outside, and there's surely something for everyone to do as they'll be tasks both large and small. We hope to be doing some painting, making repairs, perhaps even some planting to brighten our Church home. There are many ways to help! If you're not able to 'physically' help, you might consider making a donation towards materials, supplies, etc.

We'll enjoy a fellowship lunch together as hot dogs, drinks and chips will be provided. (Donations are always welcome!) The three cleaning teams will be putting their heads along with the Trustees and Administrative Board to create and prioritize the list. Watch & listen for more information and sign up sheet to follow. We hope we will have a great turnout to help give "God's house" a little extra "TLC" that it so deserves!

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