



# The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony Virginia

August 2008

<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/prospectatebony/index.html>

## From our Pastor

As many of you know, I love golf. I love to watch the professionals who make it look so easy. Yet, I know it is not that easy. So how do they do it?? Practice, practice, practice and more practice.

Do you know what Theology means? Theology is nothing more than the study of God. Professional theologians are people who study God's Word, history, and cultures. You and I are theologians, but maybe not professionals - yet.

I am asking you to give up your amateur theologian status and to make a commitment to become a professional. What will it take? Commitment, practice, practice, practice!! If you commit to this with your whole heart, you will find that it gets easier and easier.

Don't go out and buy a bunch of books. I will gladly loan you some of mine. I will help you to head in a direction that will be rewarding.

Anything that you set your mind to do and commit your heart to, you can do with God's help. God's word is full of adventure, intrigue, suspense, and is the greatest love story ever told.

Commit today and I am sure that you will be amazed at what happens!

Love,

*Ken Thrasher*

## Vacation Bible School—VBS

**August 11 –15**

**SURF'S UP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Get ready for a fun-filled week "surfin' through the scriptures" at Vacation Bible School with lots of fun in store for kids of all ages!!!! Grab your surfboard and your Bible and c'mon to VBS. We will be learning how to live and love by learning the BE-Attitudes that Jesus taught and are still honored and used today - the way God intends for us to BE toward one another!!!! As we surf through the scriptures we are going to take all that we have learned about God's love out into our community.

Prospect will host VBS this summer **August 11 through August 15 from 6:30 to 8:30.** Invite not only kids who currently attend Prospect, but all friends, neighbors, relatives and grandchildren of those who do - even those you do not know. You may pick up registration forms in the Fellowship Hall or from Pam Pickard. Alternatively, call 434-636-2809 or 434-636-3453.

There will be a kick-off picnic lunch at the church on Sunday, August 10th following the 9:15 a.m. service. Please join us and help us make a difference in someone's life!!

We will need, of course, lots of volunteers to pull this off. The children will be moving to a different area for each activity -

- welcome,
- scripture story-telling,
- snack,
- games/recreation,
- music and
- closing.

Prayerfully consider helping, and listen carefully for God's leading and nudging - there will be something for everyone who would like to be a part of this ministry. Volunteer forms are available in the Fellowship Hall or from Pam Pickard. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Pam at 434-636-3453. Thank you all for listening to God's call to be a part of this exciting time at Prospect!!!!!!!!!!

## **Fall Festival Time!**

Fall Festival time is fast approaching!! September 27, 2008 on the front lawn of Prospect United Methodist Church will be the hustle and bustle of our church members and friends getting ready to have fun and offer exciting bargains to all.

The festival committee is co-chaired by Charles Jones and Bev Hill. A container was purchased last year by the church to store items for the festival. The container is located on property owned by Corey Lett across the road from the church. If you have items to store or know of someone who would like to donate items, please call Charles Jones, Bev Hill, Corey Lett, Rudy Conner or James Lynch. We have lots of room!!

For 2008, Nancy West will be handling the advertising. Auction chairperson is James Lynch who will be assisted on the festival day by Bev Hill, Nancy West and Jan Tomlinson. Pam Pickard will be offering books, CD's, DVD's and

more at her booth. The morning will start off with a great county breakfast co-chaired by Bob and Jean Wilson. Peggy Donochod will be out and about canvassing for support from individuals and businesses. Annette Jones, Don Broome, and Howdy Tomlinson will be cashiers again this year. Cici Carroll has so graciously said she would take care of children's games. Christine Ferguson will be asking for donations of all the good home baked goodies and all the items we find in the country store. Dot Ford, Mert Ross, Marilyn Reed and Dede Snead along with all the help they can get are busy working on crafts. If you can stuff cotton, they need your help!! Joyce Trask will have tickets for the mystery chest drawing. Joyce is new at this for this year so she needs all the help she can get. If you have new items that you would like to donate for the chests, please see Joyce. Mert Ross has tickets for the beautiful queen size quilt that has been pieced by the piece makers of Prospect UMC. We all love Ruby's Treasurers which will again be tended by Linwood and Clara Dell Mills. George Ferguson with his good help will be serving up great food at the Snack Shack. Rudy Conner is the "stew man". The stew will be cooked on September 13. Please see Rudy for more information. And last but not least the UMM and any men of the church will be helping to set up the tents and whatever needs to be done on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

We know all the committee people have already starting lining up their help for the day but if you have not been asked and would like to help, please, please get in touch with any of the committee persons listed or Charles Jones, 434-636-2297 or Bev Hill 434-636-5101.

Looking forward to the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September. It takes ALL of us to have a successful day. God has blessed us in the past with beautiful weather and we pray that HE will again this year.

*Charles Jones and Bev Hill  
Co-chairperson*

## Treasure Chest

We need a few good articles for three (3) TREASURE CHESTS, that we are filling for the Fall Festival. Items that you would like are most welcome and ideal.

A box will be in the luncheon room at the church, as of August 3, 2008, so you can place articles. Thank you.

Contact Joyce Trask, Bev Hill or Jo Clarke.

*Joyce Trask*

## Website Update

The church website is at <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospectatebony> .

Send comments and suggestions to [prospectumc@embarqmail.com](mailto:prospectumc@embarqmail.com) .

## Prospector

The Prospector is being published every other month. We try to get it out for the first Sunday of the month. The next one will be published in early October followed by December, February, and April. All articles need to reach Harold by the deadline at the following e-mail address: [prospectnewsletter@embarqmail.com](mailto:prospectnewsletter@embarqmail.com)

More exciting news.... If you would like to receive your Prospector via e-mail contact Harold at the above email address. This is a wonderful way to receive it. Not only will you be "the first to know" but it will save the Church a considerable amount of \$ on postage! If you live near a Church member who cannot attend, let us know if you could bring them their copy of the Prospector .. A wonderful outreach opportunity

This and other previous Prospectors will be available on our website

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/prospectatebony>

There will be a hard deadline for each edition of the Prospector. As such, the PROSPECTOR DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30th AT NOON

## Invite a Friend

Prospect has added a weekly Contemporary Worship Service to our Sunday morning schedule. It starts at 11:15 a.m. Traditional worship and Children's Church is held at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome so invite someone to go to church with you.

## Missions

The MISSIONS COMMITTEE just want to remind you that Communion Breakfasts will be back in September!

We welcome all that would like to help us! If you would like to prepare a menu and cook a breakfast for the congregation, please let a Committee member know so that we can sign you up!!!! If you're not a "cook" but would be willing to stay a little while after breakfast and roll-up your sleeves to help clean up, we would surely welcome you too! Many hands do make light work, and we do have fun too!

Unfortunately, as the cost of "everything" has gone up we will be asking for a \$3.50 donation, The money collected is always put to a very good use. In addition to local ministries it helps cover our "Christmas Angel" tree project and more.

Thank you so much for supporting your Breakfasts and your Missions Committee.

## **Fellowship!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

The August Fellowship supper will be the fourth Sunday evening at 5:00 pm. We will have a special program with guest speaker, Rev. Tim Irving. The supper will begin around 6:00 PM.

The September fellowship supper on the fourth Sunday night of September (9-28-2008 right after our fall festival) will bring another guest, a magician! The program will start at 5:00 pm and we will eat around 6:00 pm.

In October, the fourth Sunday brings our Family Fun Night. There will be games, costume contests, cake walks, and a pumpkin carving contest! Bring a dish and enjoy the fun which starts at 5:30 pm.

For all fellowship suppers please bring a dish to share. Bring a friend and get to know someone you may not know now. It is also a great time to chat with old friends.

*Annette Jones, Chariperson*

## **UMW News**

The UMW members will host a bake sale after worship on Sunday, August 17, 2008. Proceeds will go to our mission giving. The next meeting will be the fourth Monday of August (8-25-2008) at 7:30 pm at the church. All ladies are invited to join us.

*Annette Jones, President*

## **UMM News**

The August UMM meeting will be the third Thursday (8-21-2008) at 6:30 pm.

Watch for news about our Fish Supper in October.

All men are invited and encouraged to join our fellowship.

*Charles Jones, President*

## **Virginia Annual Conference**

The Virginia Annual Conference was held in Roanoke June 15-18. Those who attended from Prospect were Ken and Jan Thrasher, Betsy Baird and Dede Snead.

Sunday evening there was a Service of Remembrance and Communion honoring the memory of clergy and clergy spouses who had died during the last year.

Monday morning the business meeting opened with a prayer by Dr. George S. Lightner, a retired pastor who will be 100 in December, who was attending his 74th consecutive annual conference.

Our schedule was full every day from 8:00am to 9:00 or 10:00pm with breaks for meals. There were reports, bible study, singing, and worship.

We saw Kathy Gochenour, Mike and Susan Reaves, and had lunch with Bob and Charlene Hauck.

The total number of World Service Kits received at conference was 38,291 and monetary donations of \$78,609. Prospect's contribution was 41kits – 4 layette kits, 17 school kits, 14 health kits and 6 sewing kits and \$55.00 for postage and toothpaste. Conference offering was \$253,679 with promises of more to come. Our part was \$155.00.

Conference concluded Wednesday with a worship service and the fixing of appointments. Attendance at conference is an uplifting and inspiring experience.

*Dede Snead*

## Cleaning Teams

HELP.....WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

The Cleaning teams alternate every third month, the first Tuesday after Communion Sunday at 9 a.m. and we can finish in about an hour if we have help. We really need additional help NOW. Most of it is not hard work, and if you are able to help at all, please contact one of our team leaders:

Dede Snead (Sept, Dec, Mar, June)

Betty Hicks (Oct, Jan, April, July)

Peggy Donochod (Aug, Nov, Feb, May)

It is a very special gift to clean "God's House", please join us!

## United Methodist Communications

The **Interpreter**, the ministry magazine for lay and clergy leaders in local United Methodist churches, is available online.

Check it out at

<http://www.interpretermagazine.org/> .

## Upcoming online courses

- "Exploring General Conference" begins in September.
- "Turning Connectional Living into Connectional Giving" runs Sept 3—Oct 15.
- "United Methodism 101" runs Aug 6 – Sept 19, 2008
- "Igniting Ministry Open Hearts Welcoming" runs Oct 8—Nov 26.
- "Web Ministry 101" is open all the time.

To see more courses or to learn more about those listed, go to [training.umcom.org](http://training.umcom.org). All these online courses are free.

## FINANCE

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget is \$7,898.00.

Following are the amounts received for the budget through July 2008.

	Received	Difference
Jan	9,025.58	+ 1,127.58
Feb	7,305.50	- 592.50
Mar	7,921.65	+ 23.65
Apr	6,006.04	- 1,891.96
May	6,997.75	- 900.25
Jun	7,033.00	- 865.00
Jul	<u>6,188.94</u>	<u>- 1,709.06</u>
Total	50,478.46	- 4,807.54

## Youth in Action

Our young people and young people from other churches have been leading the way in local missions. They have actively pursued opportunities to assist members of the community and church members with needs. Their energy and enthusiasm are an encouragement and a model for all of us.

Thanks, also, to the youth of our church for their wonderful skit on prayer. Beautifully performed and skillfully staged, it was truly a gift of love and talent to our church. More please!!!

## Something New for You!!

It's called "**DINING TO KNOW YOU**" and it's a great opportunity for all of us to get to know each other better. These will be small dinner groups that gets together quarterly at each others homes. Each quarter you'll dine with basically a different group. Here's how it will work:

1. I will compile a list of those interested in participating, and I will, literally, "draw" a name for a "Host/Hostess" then I'll "draw" names for their group. The number of guests will depend on how many that person has indicated he/she can comfortably host (example:4 to 6, or 6 to 8). I'll repeat this process until everyone has a dinner group. (If hosting is not a possibility for you at all, that's not a problem, just let me know).

2. I will then contact each Host/Hostess and give them the names and phone numbers for their group. It is their responsibility to contact these people and come up with a mutually agreeable date to get together for dinner, sometime within that quarter.(Oct, Nov, Dec) (Jan, Feb, Mar)(Apr, May, June)(July, Aug, Sept).

3.. The food responsibilities are shared within the group. It also can be even more interesting to have a "Theme" dinner such as "Hawaiian", "Italian", "New Orleans", "Southwest", "Greek" etc. if you would like to plan it as such! It could also be a luncheon! ***Whatever works for your group is FINE, the entire point is to "get to know each other better"!***

4. If you are not comfortable driving at night and you would like to be "paired" with someone else for these dinners, just let me know and I'll make sure that you always are together.

5. After you have been a Host, your name will go in another "bag" so that you are not "drawn" again right away.

**If you are interested in participating, and I hope you are, please return the form at the bottom of this page to me before Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them for you.

**PEGGY DONOCHOD (434) 636-2494**

E-MAIL: [pdono@buggs.net](mailto:pdono@buggs.net)

59 Lakeview Drive, Bracey, VA 23919

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### **" DINING TO KNOW YOU" DINNER GROUP**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

WILLING TO HOST A DINNER? \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN YOU COMFORTABLY SEAT? \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL "NEEDS"? \_\_\_\_\_

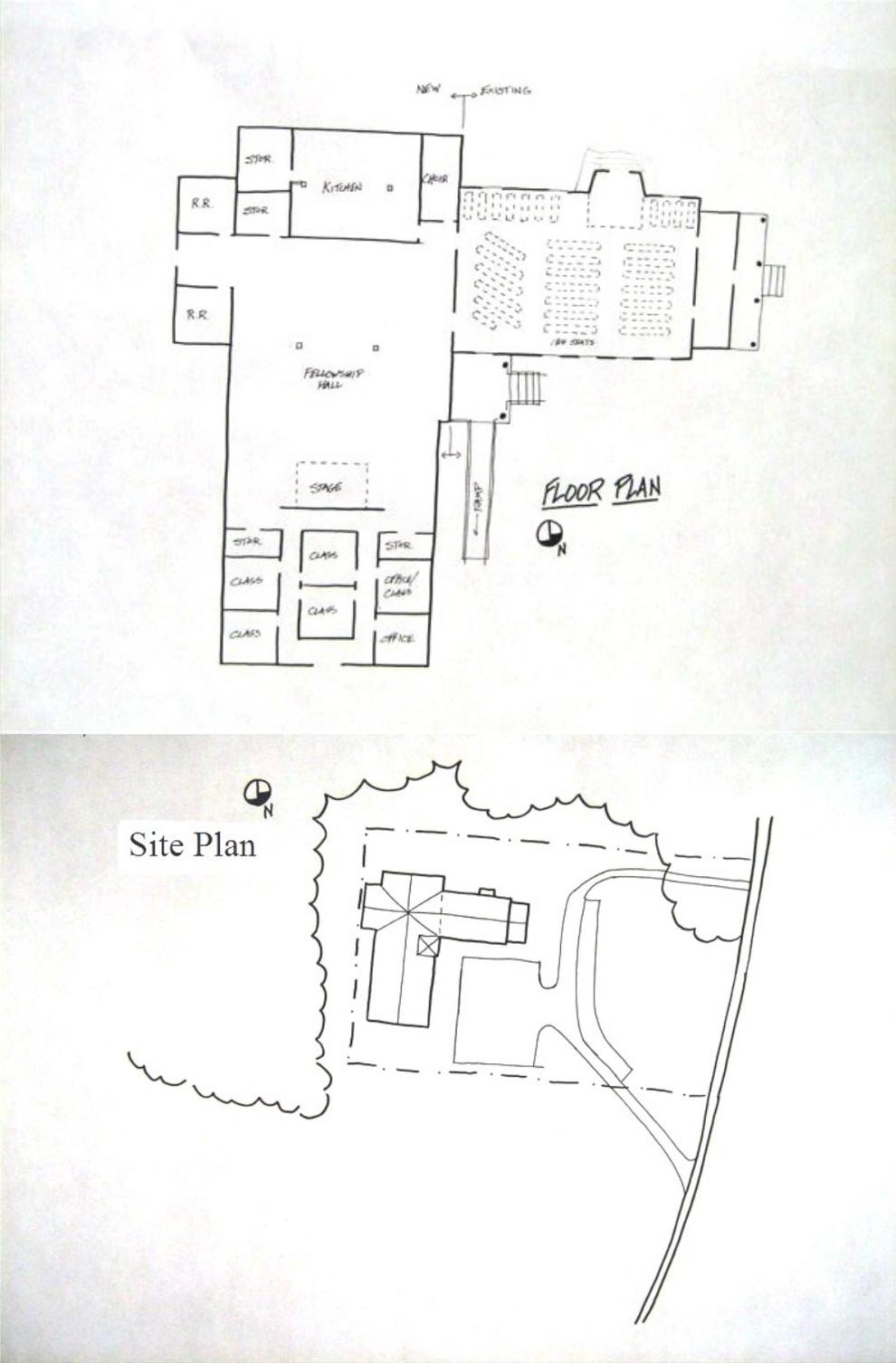
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## **Building Plans**

The Trustees (and all of us) are looking at plans for expanding our current facility. The initial preliminary drawings are included on the next page. This will be a big project which will need to involve all of us. Please make sure that you help provide input and support as we prayerfully go forward with this endeavour.

**Please Note: The drawings below are as originally presented in the spring. Thus these drawings do not represent the most current thinking or plans.**



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**Prospect United Methodist Church**

**PO Box 25**

**Ebony, VA 23845**