



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony Virginia

December 2008

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

From our Pastor

Merry Christmas to all,

I would like to remind you of the Advent Wreath and the lighting of each candle that leads us up to the blessed birth of our saviour, Emmanuel, Christ Jesus, God with us. As we go forward during these difficult economic times, with war and rumors of war, threats and violence, unemployment, foreclosures, bailouts, and many other things, the Advent Season depicts for us a time of HOPE, JOY, PEACE, and LOVE.

Throughout history, when human kind strayed away things got bad, really bad, before there was a turning back to God. I just read a report that 4% of Americans were depressed. That equates out to 3.8 million people who struggle daily with depression. History has recorded times such as these. During those times there was a turning back to a faith in God that people sought. Each week as we light another candle and await Christmas and the celebration of Christ's Birth we are to put our Hope, our JOY, our PEACE, and our LOVE onto the events of that day so long ago that took place in a manger in Bethlehem. Remember that God loved us and cared enough for us that He came to dwell among us, as a beautiful baby.

May we focus on the HOPE, JOY, PEACE, and LOVE that is Jesus Christ. May we understand our blessings as well as the opportunity we have to encourage others. May your holiday season be filled with

Jesus. Pray earnestly for a turning back to God for our people, our country, and the world.

Blessings to you.

Love,

Ken Thrasher

Missions:

Your Missions Committee has been busy again. Three families have been made very happy this year thanks to several hard-working men from the Church that have built 3 handicap ramps.

We also have been making (and enjoying) our Mission Breakfasts for the congregation on Communion Sundays. We would welcome any volunteers that would like to prepare a breakfast (we will be glad to assist!). Please let Peggy Donochod know if you would like to help.

And, it's Christmas time again and we have sponsored another "Angel Tree". I'm happy to report that all the "angels" have been sponsored already! We will be the "elves" at Roses Department Store on December 10th at 7 p.m. to help our "angels" shop. If you would like to participate in this wonderful Christmas project please let us know. We will meet us at Roses in South Hill at 7 p.m. If you would like join us for dinner we will be meeting and eating at the Home Town Buffet at 6 p.m.

Your Mission Committee

Committee on Lay Leadership - Officers for 2009

Lay Leader	Peggy Donochod
Administrative Board Chair	Jan Tomlinson
Administrative Board Recording Secretary	Annette Jones
Director of Music	Glenda Gibbs
Assistant Director of Music	Mary Ann Johnson
Youth Coordinator	Pam Pickard
Adult and Family Ministries	Annette and Charles Jones
Church Historian	Annette Jones
United Methodist Men Chair	Charles Jones
United Methodist Women Chair	Annette Jones
Disaster Relief Coordinator	Al Hartley
Institutional Representative for Scouting	Don Broome
Annual Conference Delegate	Betsy Baird
Alternate Annual Conference Delegate	Jan Thrasher
District Conference Delegate	Edith Snead
Alternate District Conference Delegate	

Staff Parrish Relations

(2009)	Lee Cunningham	Marilyn Reed
(2010)	Tony Conner	Ronnie Wright
(2011)	Jean Barnette	Hal Keeney

Committee on Lay Leadership

Lay Leader	Peggy Donochod	
(2009)	Joyce Trask	Nadine Evans
(2010)	Nila Miller	Glenda Gibbs
(2011)	Linwood Mills	Nancy Cox

Missions Committee

Chair:	Lee Cunningham	
Jan Tomlinson	Judy Wise	Hal Keeney
Ethel Jones	Betty Keeney	Peggy Donochod
Dan Donochod	Larry Miller	Nila Miller

Worship Committee

Chair:	Patricia Conner		
Glenda Gibbs	Hal Keeney	Annette Jones	Edith Snead

OFFICERS for 2009 (continued)

Evangelism

Chair:	Barbara Gilmartin	
Jan Thrasher	Ellie Maynard	CiCi Carroll

Memorial Committee	Terry Broome
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Trustees

Chair:	Tony Conner (2010)		
(2009)	Bill Hoofnagle	James Lynch	
(2010)	Larry Miller	Dan Donochod	Tony Barnette
(2011)	CiCi Carroll	Robert Wilson	
Secretary	Patricia Conner		

Finance Committee

Chair	Edith Snead
Treasurer	Don Broome
Financial Secretary	Mary Lynch
Head Teller	Christine Ferguson (2011)
Administrative Board Chair Rep	Jan Tomlinson
Lay Leader	Peggy Donochod
Representative of Trustees:	Bill Hoofnagle
Annual Conference Delegate	Betsy Baird
Pastor	Ken Thrasher

Tellers

Chair	Christine Ferguson (2011)		
(2009)	Terry Broome	Edith Snead	James Lynch
(2010)	Bev Hill	Linda Biggs	Jean Barnette
(2012)	James Gibbs		

Kitchen Committee

Communications	Betsy Baird	Annette Jones	
Email Prayer Chain		Pat Lynch for Va.,	Mert Ross for N.C.
Christian Education		Ellie Maynard	
District Stewards		Pam Pickard	
Advocate Representative		Edith Snead	
United Methodist Family Services		Ellie Maynard	
Hermitage Guild	Harold Heiser	Dot Ford	
Petersburg District Delegate at Large		Ellie Maynard	
		Edith Snead	

Upcoming Events

Dec. 14 Children's Christmas Program and Cantata

Dec. 15 Administrative Council meeting

Dec. 18--No UMM meeting

Dec. 22--No UMW meeting

December 24--Christmas Eve Candlelight Service--8:00 p.m.

Jan. 4, 2009--Bill Lewis will be at Prospect

Jan. 16--UMM meeting 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 19--Administrative Council meeting 7:30

Jan. 26--UMW meeting 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

The Christmas Eve candlelight service will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m. Don't miss this very special service. You will be blessed. Remember why we celebrate this season .

Adult and Family Ministries and Kitchen Committee

The month of December is very busy at Prospect. There will be the children's Christmas Program and the Adult Choir Cantata on December 14 followed by a covered dish lunch. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to share.

There will be no fellowship supper in December but the fourth Sunday night in January, 2009, we will once again fellowship together. Please plan to come, bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Annette Jones

UMYF is coming!!

Fellowship Dinners.

Come One, Come All to Prospect's monthly fellowship dinner. This is a once a month potluck dinner combined with great conversation and fellowship. We can always count on Jean Wilson's tea, Annette's super organizing skills getting all the food out and hot, Hackie's delicious corn and Dede's wonderful anything! Several of the dinners have had entertainment along with eating. One month, Rev. Tim Irving, the pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church, dressed as a disciple and told a first hand account of Jesus fishing with his followers and feeding the thousands. It was the most inspiring message! One dinner had Myron Simmons starting a sing along, with people shouting out hymns to be sung. What a rousing evening that was! If you haven't been to a fellowship dinner, please join the fun! If you have been to one but not in a while, please come back! Bring a dish, a dessert, whatever you feel like making. We love it all!

Prospect's Youth Group

The youth are selling kitchenware as a fundraiser. These include some wonderful knives, well known for their quality. The prices are very reasonable and anything in the catalog would make a great gift! Ask any of the youth group to see the catalog. You'll be happy you did! The youth are raising money to go toward retreats in the near future. This is something new and they are very excited about it. Cold weather came upon us faster than we thought, cramping our efforts to do outside work as a fundraiser, but if you have inside work needing to be done, contact any of the kids!

Children's Corner

December should be a busy and exciting month for the children at Prospect. Approximately fifteen children will be participating in the annual Christmas program, presenting the play "The Night the Angels Sang," on Sunday December 14 at 10 a.m. prior to the adult choir's cantata. They have been practicing for over a month to tell the story of the birth of baby Jesus as foretold by the angels and witnessed by shepherds tending their flocks in the fields nearby. It's a program you will not want to miss!!!

Prospect has also been blessed with little ones in our newly opened nursery. We now offer a safe, loving and nurturing environment for those who are three and under during the first worship service. If you would like to assist in this new ministry, please call Pam Pickard at 434-636-3453 or e-mail her at cbearsgmom@aol.com.

Prospect will be hosting a neighborhood Christmas party for children three years of age and up on Sunday, December 21st from 6 - 8 p.m., offering finger foods and crafts. Each child is asked to bring a \$5 gift appropriate for their age to be swapped. This event is intended to kick-off a United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) group that will meet on a regular basis for fun, food, fellowship and mission work. Ellie Maynard and Jan Thrasher are in charge of this event, so please let them know if you would like to be a part by attending and/or helping. The children of Prospect are looking forward to a fantastic year in 2009. Don't miss out on the fun and growing in faith!!!!

United Methodist Women

UMW Report for 2008

The United Methodist Women have twenty-four members. The unit meets on the fourth Monday of each month except July and December. The members read Response and New World Outlook as well as books from the reading program. Reports from these magazines are made at each meeting. The prayer calendar is used monthly to send cards to the missionaries and to celebrate a mission during the month.

The United Methodist Women serve a meal if the family so desires during the death of a loved one. During 2008 we have served three meals for families. The members along with the help from the church fellowship collect food items for the Holly Haven Home in LaCrosse, Virginia. The residents there are mentally challenged and are ones that have no other place to go. Holly Haven receives very little help from social services and sometimes they just struggle to keep the home open. The UMW members have donated stocking caps and gloves to the residents and plan to furnish pillows for them before Christmas this year.

Bake sales after worship service, a cookie sale during the month of December and a spaghetti supper are fundraisers for the unit. The profit from these sales are used to make donations to Central Rescue Squad, Ebony Volunteer Fire Department, Red Bird Mission, Henry Fork Center, VUMAC, the American Cancer Society and our monthly collection goes to Social Services for them to purchase gifts for Christmas for the seniors. We have met our pledge to missions, had a prayer and self denial program with donations made, held a candle burning program with donations in honor or in memory of a special person, gave two special mission recognition pins, donated to gift to mission, gift in memory, and world thank offering. We also sent four layettes to

kits for conference. We also purchase at least eight books to add to our library each year along with the prayer calendar. This year we also made a donation to a community emergency need.

Our members attend the Lenten Retreat and Advent Training events at VUMAC, Blackstone. One of our members has served on the district mission team for six years. This is her last year as social action coordinator.

The unit members stay busy helping whenever asked, share lots of fellowship time and visit the sick and shut-ins. Our goals for 2009 are to continue to share the good news and help others when needed. We also would like to increase our membership.

Annette Jones, President

Missing Article

This space should contain an article that someone had written to put into the Prospect. It was never received. You can imagine that the person who was to write the article was very busy and decided that it was not important enough to spend the effort.

Who was the person? Was it you?

Could you (Should you) have written an article for the Prospect that would have shared information or given encouragement to others in our church? Help and share!

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.

United Methodist Men

UMM Report for 2008

The Prospect United Methodist Men have twenty-eight members on roll with an average attendance of twelve. The men meet each month except July and December on the third Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. for a meal and meeting.

The men have a ham dinner as a fundraiser to support their donations. This year they sponsored a fish fry for the members of the church for a small donation. The fish were caught in the lake and most other items were donated.

The UMM helped with the annual fall festival, the church's big fundraiser. They help to get the tents in place and with any other project they are requested to help with. The UMM have made donations to the Hospital Hospitality House, Ebony Volunteer Fire Department, Central Rescue Squad, Lake Gaston Volunteer Fire Department, Hunters For The Hungry, Prospect Kitchen Committee, Andy Puttman, a youth with Voices of Youth, gave monetary help to a church member whose wife has been in the hospital and nursing home most of this year and donated to two angels for the prison angel tree.

The officers for 2009 are President, Charles Jones; Vice President, Robert Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer, Ray Sublett and Chaplain, Rev. Ken Thrasher.

The men will continue to encourage other men of the church to join the fellowship in the coming year.

Charles Jones, President

International Missions Trip Fundraiser by Annie Parrish

I am collecting Box Tops for Education to help pay for an international Missions trip in two years. As many of you know, I went to Augusta, Georgia this past summer and helped paint and repair houses in an old section of town. I was there a week and felt very lucky to be able to go on this missions trip. In two years, World Changer's will be going on an international trip. To help pay for the trip, we are collecting Box Tops for Education. I am so excited about being able to go and plan to collect as many Box Tops as I can. I will have a manila envelope placed in the fellowship hall to collect the box tops. If you have some you are not using, I would love to have them! Thank you so much for helping me out.

FINANCE

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

Following are the amounts received for the budget through November 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	6,188.94	- 1,709.06
Aug	7,591.84	- 306.16
Sep	6,694.00	- 1,204.00
Oct	7,142.77	- 755.23
Nov	<u>9,053.56</u>	<u>+ 1,155.56</u>
Total	80,960.63	- 5,917.37

Prospect Friends email list!

Want to be reminded of the Fellowship dinner? Are you looking for some help with your yard? Are you in need of a bike that someone else might have stored away who wants to get rid of? Do you have some items to get rid of? Need help going through your basement for fall festival items? Have a great joke or quote or story? Want to share a picture with your Prospect friends? Add your name to the Prospect Friends email list! This is not the prayer request list, it's a list for posting friendly reminders, information, whatever you want! To join up, send an email to Ellie Maynard Parrish at elliejoey@aol.com and join your friends!

Prospector

The Prospector is being published every other month. All articles need to reach Harold by the deadline at the following e-mail address: prospectnewsletter@embarqmail.com

To receive your Prospector via e-mail contact Harold at the above email address. This is a wonderful way to receive it. It will save the Church a considerable amount of \$ on postage! This and other previous Prospectors will be available on our website

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

There will be a hard deadline for each edition of the Prospector. As such, the PROSPECTOR DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE IS MONDAY JANUARY 26th AT NOON .

Prospect United Methodist Church

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