



# The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony Virginia

August 2009

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

## From our Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters of Prospect United Methodist Church,

I write this message to you with great love and care. It is never easy or comfortable talking about tithing or your finances. As I prepared this message I looked back at the Laws God gave to Israel about tithing. Leviticus 27: 32 says, "All the tithe of herd or flock, everything that passes under the rod, the tenth one will be made holy to the Lord." There are several scriptures that refer to God's command for one tenth of what we harvest. 2 Chronicles 31: 4-6 are instructions given the priests and the Levites, "so that they might be obedient to the law of The Lord."

I know how difficult it would be to withdraw one tenth of your salary and give it to the church. Tithing is a process. I urge you to raise your percentage slowly until you get to one tenth. I promise, when you do you will not believe how easy it becomes. I will also promise you that the money you give to God, given in the right spirit and as the first thing you take out, not the last, will be blessed and you will be rewarded. Jan and I tithe and have been for some time now. We understand how difficult it can be and also know how easy it will become. We have reaped the blessings of faithful giving many times and continue to be blessed. God's blessing come in Big Bunches.

As you know, we have developed a Building Committee for the sake of adding class rooms, more seating in the Sanctuary, a Nursery, better handicap facilities, and adequate room for meals and functions. We need your help. You will be asked to make a commitment for a period of years to pay the note that this building requires. As much as we need this building project, I urge you to keep your "Gifts or Offerings" separate from your tithe. I also ask you not to lower your tithe to make a gift to the building fund. Our tithe allows the work of Jesus Christ to go on throughout the world.

I love you all and look forward to watching the church grow and spread the love of Jesus out into our community and far beyond. I really enjoy looking out at your faces as we worship together and as The Holy Spirit moves in and through our congregation. As we discover more and deeper God's Word, He will open up that panoramic view and share glimpses of heaven with us. We are one body with Jesus as our head, the bride of Christ. Christ is counting on you.

God Bless You and keep you.

Love

Ken

*Ken Thrasher*

## **Our New Building**

The Building Committee that was appointed at a Charge Conference on June 21, 2009 has been hard at work. We have reviewed past history and the recommendations and correspondence from Don A. Swofford, Architects and Chenault Associates, Architects. We have reviewed all available information from the Trustees and past planning and study groups within Prospect UMC.

As a result of this review process the Building Committee has developed a plan that will encompass most areas of the physical property of our church. The seating in the sanctuary will be re-oriented to face end to end with an enlarged pulpit and choir area. The existing pews will be replaced and we anticipate very comfortable seating for 150 individuals. The underpinning and electrical system will need to be addressed and probably updated. The second floor housing the current nursery, office and library will be removed.

The existing fellowship hall will be evaluated for possible renovation and enlargement. If this is not feasible it will be replaced with consideration for a basement or second floor. The fellowship hall will include an enlarged and more modern kitchen with more adequate storage. Restroom facilities will be designed to meet building code requirements. A stage with possible storage below and also additional storage areas for all sorts of stuff is planned. Seating for 175 in a dining room setting is our target.

Office space will be developed for work areas and a Pastor's Office. Classrooms will be provided for nursery, youth and adults. A choir room for storage and practice is planned.

A new well and septic system will be needed since our seating is being increased.

Finally we plan to replace the aluminum siding on the sanctuary to compliment the exterior finish of the fellowship hall.

We are beginning to make contacts with architects and builders and as soon as we have outlines developed, we will make them available.

This is a big undertaking and we all need to begin to think about our individual financial support of this project. Various groups and individuals within Prospect will begin to solicit gifts and pledges so that we can fund this project successfully. Cici Carroll is planning some interesting and unique fund raising projects.

I ask for your prayers, suggestions and positive comments as we go about building and developing God's church

The members of the Building Committed are: Don Beazley Chairman, Barney Watson, Dede Snead, Susan White, Kirk Reilly, Cici Carroll, Lisa Conner, Aubrey Baird, James Lynch, Dan Donochod and Ken Thrasher

*Don Beazley, Chairman*

## **Let Your Light Shine**

Let your light shine, speak a word of cheer, do a deed of helpfulness, lend encouragement to one with a heavy load,. Fanny Crosby was blind from infancy . She wrote hymns which Bless us, even today. Remember:"Close to Thee", "To God Be the Glory". and "Blessed Assurance". Her light will shine on us for ever and ever.

## Fall Festival

Fall Festival time is fast approaching!! September 26, 2009 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 has been purchased 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 2009, 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. Mary Luck is helping Joyce with this project. If you have new items that you would like to donate for the chests, please see Joyce or leave them in the box in the fellowship hall marked "Mystery Chest". Joyce has made

arrangement for someone to pick up the items while she is away. 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 Treasures, which will again be tended by Linwood and Clara Dell Mills. George Ferguson with his good help will be serving up good food at the Snack Shack. Rudy Conner is the "stew man". The stew will be cooked on September 19. 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 25<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. Alternatively, call either Charles Jones, 434-636-2297 or Bev Hill 434-636-5101.

Looking forward the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<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*

## FINANCE

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget is \$8,133.00.

Following are the amounts received for the budget through July 26, 2009.

	<b>Received</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Jan</b>	<b>7,275.36</b>	<b>- 857.64</b>
<b>Feb</b>	<b>7,078.03</b>	<b>-1,054.97</b>
<b>Mar</b>	<b>8,805.65</b>	<b>+ 672.65</b>
<b>Apr</b>	<b>8,549.55</b>	<b>+ 416.55</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>8,476.59</b>	<b>+ 343.59</b>
<b>Jun</b>	<b>7,031.00</b>	<b>-1,102.00</b>
<b>Jul</b>	<b><u>6,392.50</u></b>	<b><u>-1,740.50</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,608.68</b>	<b>-3,322.32</b>

## Virginia Annual Conference

The Virginia Annual Conference was held in Norfolk June 14-17. Buildings were coming down, new ones were being built, and roads were torn up. I parked my car in the hotel garage after the Sunday night session and used the city's free shuttle bus.

Sunday evening there was the traditional Service of Remembrance and Communion honoring the memory of clergy and clergy spouses who had died during the last year. Among those on the list was Dr. George Lightner who died in March, nine months short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. For many years he opened the business session with a prayer as the oldest attendee. In 2008 he was attending his 74<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual conference.

Our daily schedule was full with reports, bible study, singing, worship, and voting on 32 amendments to the constitution which had been proposed by the General Conference in 2008.

Tuesday afternoon there was a service of recognition of retirees. Bob Hauck was a member of that group.

The total number of World Service Kits received at conference was 38,081 and monetary donations for toothpaste and shipping of \$84,144.46. As of June 30 \$239,362.28 has been received for the Annual Conference Offering. Prospect contributed \$250.00 for the offering and 32 kits – 4 layette kits, 16 school kits, 4 health kits, 8 sewing kits and \$45.00 cash. Early Tuesday morning (5:30am) 162 volunteers bagged 171/2 tons of sweet potatoes to help feed the hungry.

Conference concluded Wednesday with a worship service and the fixing of appointments. Attendance at conference may be tiring, but it is an uplifting and inspiring experience.

*Dede Snead*

## Faith for the Struggle

*Life seems to be a struggle,  
Continually full of strife  
Are we strong enough to fight it ,  
From birth to end of life?*

*It is faith that keeps us strong ,  
Amid joy and even sorrow,  
We are pioneers in life,  
And live for each tomorro.*

*It `s faith in God`s guidance  
That helps us struggle through,  
Although we fail and make mistakes,  
He forgives when we ask Him to.*

*There `s birth and death and hope of  
Heaven,*

*The evidence of things unseen,  
It `s faith in God that makes life  
good,  
And gives substance to our  
dreams*

*Alene L. Carroll*

## Recycling for the Scouts

**Anything that is aluminum can be recycled.** We have a collection bin in Ebony across the road from the Ebony Post Office adjacent to the big oak tree.

If you have any questions about recycling aluminum; or need to have the aluminum you have on hand picked up please give Jim Gibbs a call at (434) 636-3007.

## **Missions**

The Missions Committee will be having a meeting Sunday, August 9th immediately following Church (and coffee) at 10:45. We encourage all Mission members to attend and welcome anyone that might be interested in participating with this Committee.

The Mission "Communion Breakfasts" will resume on September 6th. Once again, we would love to have more help. If you're not comfortable cooking for a crowd.....we sure would appreciate your help to clean up. Many hands DO make light work!

Nila and Larry Miller are once again coordinating our Ministry to the Military. More information will be forthcoming shortly about our next mailing. Thank you for all your past donations, it's truly the least we can do. Don't forget to keep all those special men and women in your prayers. AND ..... Missions has a new project under consideration for our Church. Come join us and find out what the "buzz" is about.

*Lee Cunningham*  
*Mission Committee Chair*

## **United Methodist Men**

The United Methodist Men will be meeting on August 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. The guest speaker will be the President of the Petersburg District. The men have invited other churches to join them for their meal and special guest.

All men of the church are invited to come join the fellowship of the United Methodist Men.

The next UMM meeting will be on September 17 and October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The men will help with the fall festival. They will be helping to move auction items and putting up the tents.

They will also help on Festival Day.

Come and join our group.

*Charles Jones, President*

## **Kitchen Committee**

On August 9 at 4:30 p.m. there will be a dedication of the piano donated to the church by the family of the late Elfreda Barker Johnson. There will be a concert by guest musicians and the Prospect choir will participate. Following the event, there will be a covered dish dinner.

Please plan to attend this event and bring a dish to share.

August 23 will be the regular fellowship supper at 6:00 p.m. This is a covered dish supper. Come and bring your favorite dish to share and join in the fellowship. This is wonderful time to get to know church members.

On September 27, Prospect will host the charge conference for our cluster at 3:00 p.m. There will be no fellowship supper but there will be refreshments after the conference. Please plan to attend.

October 25 will be the Family Fun Night. The event will start at 5:00 p.m. with judging the costumes and carved pumpkins. Covered dish supper will follow as well as cake walks and other fun games. Come and join the fall fun!

*Annette Jones*

## **United Methodist Women**

The United Methodist Women will be quite busy this fall. On Sunday, August 9, following the worship service, there will be a bake sale and spaghetti sauce sale. Profits from this sale will be used to purchase the materials to make pillows for oncology patients at Community Memorial Healthcenter, Southern Virginia Regional Medical Center and Halifax Memorial Hospital.

Our next meetings will be on August 24, September 28 and October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Prospect United Methodist Church. We invite all women of the church to come and join us. We have a great time of fellowship and we learn about the missions around the world as well as here in our country and state.

The ministers and mates of the Petersburg District will have their monthly meeting at Prospect on September 15.

The UMW ladies will be hosting their lunch. We look forward to seeing our friends again on this occasion.

*Annette Jones, President*

## **Quote from Ken**

“Live your life as it was the most precious gift ever given you and celebrate every moment of it.”

## **Prayer**

Communicate with God regularly! And thank him for the gift above. Remember to pray for the requests you hear at church on Sunday and others you know should be included.

Have joy and share it. Faith is the key.

## **An Equal Opportunity!!**

We would welcome everyone, including men, to come out and join in with our monthly "Cleaning Teams". ( I must admit that we have some wonderful and helpful guys... occasionally!)

We clean "GOD'S House" the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.. It only takes about one hour .....if we have a good turnout. OR.....Perhaps you would like to organize a "men's macho month"? I'm sure we ladies would be more than happy to give one up and include you in our “cycle”!!!! We rotate cleaning teams monthly. If you have any questions, or if you're up to the "challenge" contact Dede Snead, Peggy Donochod or Betty Hicks.

## **Prospector**

The Prospector schedule has been changed to a quarterly document. Issues are published around the first of the month for the following months: February, May, August, and November. All articles need to reach Harold by the deadline at the following e-mail address: [prospectnewsletter@embarqmail.com](mailto: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 money on postage! 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 AUGUST ISSUE IS NOON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27th.

## Church activities

Aug 2 Youth Group 6:00 p.m.  
Aug 3 Crafts 9:30 a.m.  
Aug 4 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Aug 9 Missions meeting 10:45 a.m.  
Aug 9 Dedication of piano and concert  
followed by a covered dish meal 4:30 pm  
Aug 10 Crafts 9:30 a.m.  
Aug 11 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.  
Aug 16 Youth Group 6:00 p.m.  
Aug 17 Crafts 9:30 a.m.  
Aug 17 Council meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Aug 18 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Aug 20 UMM dinner and meeting with special  
guest 6:30 p.m.  
Aug 23 Fellowship Supper 6:00 p.m.  
Aug 24 Crafts 9:30 a.m.  
Aug 24 UMW meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Aug 31 Crafts 9:30 a.m.

Sept 1 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Sept 6 Youth Group 6:00 p.m.  
Sept 7 Crafts 9:30 a.m.  
Sept 8 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Sept 13 Crafts 9:30 a.m.  
Sept 15 Ministers and Mates Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
Sept 15 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Sept 17 UMM meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Sept 20 Youth meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Sept 21 Crafts 9:30 a.m.  
Sept 21 Council meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Sept 22 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
**Sept 26 FALL FESTIVAL 8:00 A.M.**  
Sept 27 Charge Conference 3:00 p.m.  
Sept 28 UMM 7:30 p.m.  
Sept 29 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.

Oct 4 Youth group 6:00 p.m.  
Oct 6 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Oct 13 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Oct 15 UMM 6:30 p.m.  
Oct 18 Youth group 6:00 p.m.  
Oct 19 Council meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Oct 20 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Oct 25 Family Fun Night 5:00 p.m.  
Oct 26 UMW 7:30 p.m.  
Oct 27 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.

Nov 1 Youth group 6:00 p.m.

Nov 3 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Nov 10 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Nov 14 UMW Spaghetti Supper 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Nov 15 Youth group 6:00 p.m.  
Nov 16 Council meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Nov 17 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Nov 19 UMM 6:30 p.m.  
Nov 23 UMW 7:30 p.m.  
Nov 24 Choir practice 7:00 p.m.  
Nov 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 8:00 p.m.

## Birthdays

Aug 2 Patricia Conner  
Harold Heiser  
Aug 3 Don Beazley  
Aug 17 Nancy Cox  
Aug 20 Susan White  
Aug 22 Nila Miller  
Aug 29 Bill Faulk

Sept 10 Jim Bartran  
Sept 14 Jan Tomlinson  
Sept 17 Judy Bartran  
Sept 21 Terry Broome  
Sept 24 Steve Reed  
Sept 29 Linda Faulk  
Sept 30 Peggy Donochod

Oct 5 CiCi Carroll  
Oct 7 Casin Whitehead  
Oct 9 Dot Ford  
Jeremy Thrasher  
Oct 11 Ann Hoofnagle  
Oct 12 Tony Conner  
Bobby Conner  
Oct 13 Tony Barnette  
Oct 14 Jim Gibbs  
Oct 21 Annie and Bryson Parrish  
Oct 22 Betsy Baird  
Oct 29 Hal Keeney

## Anniversaries

Aug 5 Christine and George Ferguson  
Aug 23 Carol and Keith Carlson  
Aug 25 Jean and Robert Wilson

Sept 1 Nancy and John Cox

Oct 5 Dorinda and Hal Paxton  
Oct 21 Annette and Charles Jones

**Prospect United Methodist Church**

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