



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

February 2010

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

From our Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters of Prospect United Methodist Church,

I bid you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Winter is waning away and we need to be preparing ourselves for a beautiful spring. Spring is such an exciting time and probably my favorite time of year. The ground begins to sprout new life and everything turns green again. The birds that have migrated further south return, we get our hummingbird feeders out and prepare them, and we look for new life to form.

Our church needs to look at spring as a time of new life as well. We must prepare our hearts and minds to reawaken from their winter slumber. Jesus waits to reveal in us his truths as a bulb sprouts new growth, a little at a time until his Word produces and flowers in us. Please consider joining us in our Wednesday Bible Study. We have seen some early growth and are having a wonderful time learning from one another.

The building is getting some internal work done to make improvements and the newly formed Building Committee has been very busy setting plans in motion for our updates. We will be looking for opportunities to raise capital to fund the building as a gathering

place for God's community of faith.

Lent is almost upon us as well. Lent is the time of preparation, the spring that leads us into Easter. Lent is the 40 days, minus Sundays that start on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th and ends on Holy Saturday, April 3. Lent started as a season of fasting and preparing oneself for baptism. It is still considered a time of fasting and penance that is set to remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. Lent has historically been a time in which we give something up, something we commit to for those 40 days. I would like to ask you to consider an offering that has long been a practice here at Prospect, one in which we have not done in some years. It was originally called "Dime a Day" in which each person was asked to set aside the same amount each day during Lent. The participant would then lay their offering on the Alter Table on Easter Sunday. The amount you choose should be one in which you have prayerfully considered. Every day you would simply put that amount into your jar as you pray. It could jingle or rustle, depending upon what your prayer revealed to you. The money would be used as the cornerstone for our building project.

I look forward to a great spring and new life in our congregation. This is also a time when sheep have their young and new sheep come

into the flock. We are developing a Vision and Mission Statement as a part of the Building Committee that will allow us to look to the future and see growth and new life. I have set as a goal for our church to invite into fellowship 20 new members per year. I believe a 10 percent growth rate is attainable. You and I are called as disciples of Jesus Christ to go out into all the world and make disciples. If each one of us invited one person we could easily attain our goal.

May the Resurrected Christ breathe new life into you this spring season and may he flourish throughout the earth. Thank You for the opportunity to be in ministry with you all.

May God richly bless you.

Love

Ken Thrasher

PPR Committee:

On 11/23/09 Jean Barnette, Chair of PPR and Tony Barnette, Chair of Trustees performed an inspection of the Parsonage. We were very pleased with the condition of the Parsonage. We did however find necessary repairs on the exterior and Bob Wilson's crew and Dan Donochod will take care of these repairs promptly.

On 12/6/09 the PPR Committee met and unanimously voted to re-appoint Ken as our Pastor for another year. Many folks came to PPR members with a "yes, we definitely want to keep Ken".

Jean Barnette, PPR Chairperson

VOLUNTEERS

*Thank God for volunteers,
Who extend talent and time,
Thank God for those who work,
And never ask a dime.*

*They teach in the Sunday School
Practice and sing in the choir,
Act on Church committees,
Cook dinners to the hearts desire.*

*They serve on the alter guild,
And other jobs that they find,
They are much too busy
To have an axe to grind.*

*Don't sit back and criticize,
If you can't find the time,
Commend those who work,
And never ask a dime.*

Aleno Laura Carroll

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met on January 25. The spaghetti supper in November and the cookie sale in December were a great success. We thank all who ate with us and those who purchased cookies. All profits from our fundraisers go to our mission projects. We have been making pillows for cancer patients who are treated at Community Memorial Healthcenter, Halifax Regional Medical Center and Southern Virginia Regional Medical Center. These pillows will be completed in February and delivered to the Oncology Departments in February. Our unit made donations to the Henry Fork Center, Jacksonville Home for Girls, VUMAC in Blackstone, Ebony Volunteer Fire Department, Central Rescue Squad, American Cancer Society and more. In the month of January,

the unit members have worked at the Clothes Closet in Lawrenceville on Saturday. People make donations there and items sold are no more than \$1.00.

The officers for 2010 are President, Annette Jones; Vice President, Jan Tomlinson; Secretary, Glenda Gibbs; Treasurer, Dede Snead. We have lots of committee chairpersons. We all have a loving heart and work together to help women, children and youth as much as we can.

We thank you all for your help with our projects. We invite all the women of the church to come and join us. Our meetings are the fourth Monday night of each month except July and December at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Blessings to you all,

Annette Jones, President

Building Committee is Moving Full Speed Ahead

On January 10, a group of 16 church members (plus 2 in absentia) met in response to an invitation from Tony Barnette, Trustee Chair, to regroup and restart the Building Committee. Those in attendance represented several trustees, members of the church who had been part of the former Building Committee, and some new faces who felt the time was right to get involved.

The meeting resulted in confirming that all those present were enthusiastic and ready to roll. In addition to Reverend Ken, four positions were defined and filled as the core team for preliminary organizational purposes, leadership and direction for the larger Building Committee:

- Tony Barnette, Chair
- Dan Donochod, Vice-Chair
- Anne Hartley, Communications Coordinator
- Al Hartley, Contractor Coordinator

Jean Barnette is serving as acting Secretary pending election at the next full committee meeting on 1/31. Additional founding members of the new committee are: Bill Hoofnagle, Bob Wilson, Peggy Donochod, Dede Snead, Charles and Annette Jones, James Lynch, Bev Hill, Jan and Howdy Tomlinson, George Ferguson, CiCi Carroll and Susan White-Cunningham. (If your name is not listed here, we will be reaching out for help on the various sub-committees or other roles to ensure we are appropriately engaging the talents and interests of our membership.)

Our first three tasks already underway are:

- Prepare and communicate the Vision and Mission statement for Prospect along with a Scope statement for the building initiative that clarifies what will and will not be included (based on requests that had already been collected in addition to financial parameters).
- Define the necessary sub-committees and fill those positions with members of the Building Committee and church membership at large.
- Kick off our "Lent Fundraiser"! (Please see details from Reverend Ken elsewhere in this newsletter.)

This Building Committee is energized and excited! We are also counting on your support and involvement, as well, to complete this important initiative together.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 7. We will be providing our first update to the congregation. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Anne Hartley at ahartley@nc.rr.com, 434-636-2664 (weekends), and 919-489-7149 (nights) or Tony Barnette at tony.jean@verizon.net and 804-266-9121 (nights) and 252-586-3699 (weekends).

Anne Hartley

Building Committee Communications
Coordinator

Kitchen News

Our fellowship suppers are planned for February 28, March 28 and April 25 at 6:00 p.m. Come and bring a dish to share. At times there will be special programs before the supper and these will be announced during worship service. We have lots of good food and good fellowship. Come join us and get to know your neighbor.

Annette Jones
Kitchen Chairperson

Prayer and Bible Study

Communicate with God regularly! Thank him for the many gifts in your life. Remember to pray for the requests you hear while at church on Sunday and others you know which should be included.

Read and study your bible on a regular basis. If you are not in a regular bible study, join one here at the church or even start one for yourself and your friends. You will be blessed.

Have joy and share it. Faith is the key.

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.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met on January 21, 2010. Officers for 2010 were elected at the meeting. The new officers are President, Charles Jones; Vice President, James Lynch; Secretary/Treasurer, Ray Sublett and Chaplain, Jim Gibbs.

The men made a donation to UMCOR for the Haiti earthquake fund. They are making plans for projects for the coming year and programs for their meetings.

If you are not a member, please come and join us. We have lots of good food, fun and fellowship along with some work for the Glory of God. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. except for July and December.

Charles Jones, President

Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts of America celebrated 100 Years Feb. 8, 2010. It was founded in 1908 in Great Britain by Sir Robert Baden-Powell. In the US, one of the principal founders was Daniel Carter Beard, known as Uncle Dan to boys of America.

Prospector

The Prospector is scheduled as 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: heisers@earthlink.net

To receive your Prospector via e-mail contact Harold at the above email address. There will be a hard deadline for each edition of the Prospector. As such, the PROSPECTOR DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS NOON TUESDAY, APRIL 27th.

Church activities

February, 2010

Feb 2	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Feb 9	Peggy's Cleaning Team	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Feb 15	Administrative Council	7:30 p.m.
Feb 16	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 p.m.
Feb 18	UMM	6:30 p.m.
Feb 22	UMW	7:30 p.m.
Feb 23	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Feb 28	Fellowship Supper	6:00 p.m.

March, 2010

Mar 2	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Mar 9	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Mar 15	Administrative Council	7:30 p.m.
Mar 16	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Mar 18	UMM	6:30 p.m.
Mar 22	UMW	7:30 p.m.
Mar 23	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Mar 28	Fellowship Supper	6:00 p.m.
Mar 30	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

April 2010

Apr 1	Maundy (Holy) Thursday Service	7:00 p.m.
Apr 2	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
Apr 4	Easter Sunrise Service With Breakfast at the Home of Bev and Chip Hill Lakeview Estates	6:30 a.m.
	Easter Worship Service	9:15 a.m.
Apr 6	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Apr 13	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Apr 15	UMM	6:30 p.m.
Apr 19	Administrative Council	7:30 p.m.
Apr 20	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Apr 25	Fellowship Supper	6:00 p.m.
Apr 26	UMW	7:30 p.m.
Apr 27	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February Birthdays

February 1	Ellie Maynard
February 2	Jean Sherman
February 3	Barbara Sublett
February 5	John Cox
February 6	Ronnie Wright
February 11	Jean Wilson
February 14	Aubrey Baird
February 18	George Ferguson
February 20	Naomi Hammond
February 21	Dan Donochod

February Anniversaries

February 4	Kirk&Mary Margaret Reilly
February 15	Tony and Jean Barnette
February 23	Linwood & Clara Dell Mills

March Birthdays

March 8	Bill Hoofnagle Judy Carroll Ruth Moseley
March 9	Robby Carroll
March 12	Freida Davis
March 15	Nadine Evans
March 26	Keenen Broom

March Anniversaries

March 9	Robby and CiCi Carroll
March 12	Buddy and Betty Hicks
March 27	Ray and Barbara Sublett

April Birthdays

April 1	Mary Morris
April 4	Linda Marrone
April 5	Robin Griffin
April 9	Glenda Gibbs
April 10	Lorraine Beaulieu
April 14	Ray Sublett
April 17	Hal Paxton
April 20	Matthew Edwards

April Anniversaries

April 11	Tony and Lisa Conner
April 26	Bill and Ann Hoofnagle
April 29	Hal and Betty Keeney

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