



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

April 2011

<http://www.prospectumc-ebonyva.org/>

Reflections From our Pastor:

The season of Lent is a time for us as Christians to reflect upon our lives and our relationship with Jesus Christ. We are called every year to reflect as we wait for the gruesome events of Holy Week, only to come out of the other end as Resurrected children of Christ the King. Our hope and trust are forever entwined in the resurrection of Jesus Christ who for us overcame death, that we too can overcome it!

Lent has long been a time of feeling remorse for our sins and for seeking forgiveness. We know as Christians who have accepted Christ that he has forgiven our sinfulness. I do believe in personal repentance and confession to God. Confession is a cleansing of the soul and can be done as often as needed between you and your Heavenly Father. I want you to focus more on your relationship with Jesus Christ and where you have placed him in your lives this Lenten season. Jesus said " When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who sees in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

As you reflect on where you are in this relationship may you see Jesus in your reflection. Like looking into Lake Gaston as we see ourselves as we really are may we also look past the obvious to see the inner self and our need for the Savior. I pray that you are on a spiritual waltz with Jesus. As your reflection becomes more Christ like may you deepen your faith and love for God and neighbor.

Prospect is going through a time of reflection as well. As we peer over the side of the boat, may the reflection looking back at us be one of Grace and Peace. I am excited about the growth in vitality of our community of faith. May we continue to look beyond the obvious and see Jesus in everything that we do. May we continue to invite, love, and look for opportunities to lift up others whose reflections have faded. Our success will be seen in developing relationships.

Jan and I are committed to this time of reflection with you and savor the opportunity to be in ministry together. As we continue to grow in love we will accomplish our spiritual goals of going on to perfection as well as our building goals. I do urge you to consider your commitment to Kingdom Building as we work to build a building that will support the growth in numbers and community needs. This will insure the future of Christ's work in our community. We are people of Hope, Grace, Prayer, and Love. Continue to look at your reflection as you seek the outline of Jesus' face in yours. We are Resurrection People. Happy Easter. He Is Risen!

God Bless You and Keep You.

Love Ken and Jan Thrasher

Ken Thrasher

The Caring Corner

Our love is sent to Glenda Gibbs and family as we all share the loss of her husband, but celebrate the life of a loyal and faithful friend.

Jim left this earth on March 11th, to be with our Lord.

Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Sunrise Service will be at the home of Bev and Chip Hill, Lakeview Estates, 115 Poplar Drive, Ebony. The time is 6:30 a.m. In case of rain it will be at the church. Please plan to attend and bring some friends.

Faith Renewal

Come join us beginning on Sunday, May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for our spring annual *FAITH RENEWAL*. A delicious supper will be served each evening at 6:00 p.m. Following the supper, enjoy the messages shared by our guest speakers and inspiring gospel music. Invite your friends, family and neighbors for any, or all, of these three evenings as we share Christian fellowship and renew our faith together.

Barbara Gilmartin

Gospel Sing Fest

Be sure to mark your calendars for June 4th. Come and join us as we gather to enjoy an old-fashioned “sing fest” on the Church lawn from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will be treated to the music of several groups and singers as they share their God given talents with us. This is an opportunity for our Church to *reach out* into our community, let’s all do our part by inviting our friends and neighbors to this inspirational event. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets AND your appetite, as Hot Dogs with all the “fixins”, chips, drinks and deserts will all be available to purchase and enjoy as the music lifts your heart and warms your soul. This event is sponsored by both the Evangelism and Fundraising

Committees. There will be an opportunity for a “good will offering” to benefit our Capital Campaigns Building Fund. In the event of rain, we will stay dry inside the Church. Please help make this special day a success as we celebrate Christ’s love for us and raise our voices in praise to Him.

Barbara Gilmartin & Peggy Donochod

Capital Campaign Update

“I BELIEVE” Easter Drive 2011

“All things are possible to him who believes.”
(Mark 9:23)

When we started our 2010 campaign, it was for a 3-year period. The great news is that we are close to 50% of our \$700,000 goal — coming from our current membership, friends, and extended family who already believe and those who believed in years passed.

If we believe in the future of God's work at Prospect, then we must believe in this campaign, our leadership, and our ability to succeed as a Church family — and know that we are all in this together as HIS children taking care of HIS house as HE expects us to do. NOW IS THE TIME.

For all of us, this absolutely means taking a leap of faith and some level of sacrificial giving. For those who are already believers and fully committed, we thank you for your leadership and confidence in this campaign and setting our stage for success. If you are still on the fence or have not fully committed, **NOW IS THE TIME.**

We only need an additional \$75,000 to move full-speed ahead with construction and confidence! Once we start, we want this to move quickly. While we plan to seek a modest loan, the amount that we will be able to borrow will be dependent on cash in hand and pledges.

WE BELIEVE THAT TOGETHER WE CAN RAISE AN ADDITIONAL \$75,000 BY EASTER!

NOW IS THE TIME. Between now and Easter Sunday, **we ask our entire congregation to focus on closing this gap.** Please use the special envelope found in the bulletin and in the Narthex. If you have a bank, please place the special envelope offering in it and place it on the Altar, any time between now and Easter. If you don't have a bank, just place your special offering in the Offering Plate. Please reach out to others you know who may be able to help close the gap.

WE ARE SO CLOSE...PLEASE LET'S MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

Peggy Donochod and Anne Hartley

“Preserving our past while building our future”

Financial

The “Good News” is that as of this writing, we have \$338,303.85 in our Campaign Funds (*this figure includes donations & pledges*). **This is almost half of our 3 year goal of \$700,000!** We are moving forward and now need to close a \$75,000 gap to be able to begin. **We do believe** that this is the direction that GOD intends our Church to go, and a mission HE has given us to make happen. Please be prayerful about your part in HIS plan for our Church.

Peggy Donochod & Anne Hartley

Building Committee

Progress **IS** happening although it may not be as “visible” as we all would like, but that will come! We now have a new well drilled

thanks to Andy Nash, and permits are in place for the well and septic. We have someone interested in our Fellowship Hall who will move it to a new location when we are ready to begin our building process. The funds for this endeavor are coming, but we still have a ways to go! Consequently, we are carefully looking into ways to accomplish our goal in as cost effective manner as possible. We have been very busy: checking into a different types of building structures and building materials; attaining bids from architects; looking into financing options; and getting bids from several contractors (although we feel we are willing to take on the enormous task of being our own General Contractor).

Dan Donochod – Building Chair

Fundraising

We have a “Fundraising Event Planning Team” to help lead us through this ongoing stage of our Campaign. This is a long process and we hope to bring in some new, exciting and profitable ideas over time. We also welcome your suggestions. Please contact any of our members: Dorinda Paxton; Barbara Knox; Jane Stringer; Barbara Burgdoerfer; Ann Hoofnagle; Nancy West and myself (we would appreciate it if you would put your suggestions in writing). Thanks so much.

Planned Events: We need your support!!!

April 16th & 17th – Bake Sale at the Marine Corp Flea Market in South Hill – we need everyone to **BAKE, BAKE, BAKE** and bring the goodies to Church on Friday between 3 pm & 5 pm. We will also need help to man our booth. We also need MEN to help us sell tickets for a gas BBQ give away,

plus we appreciate all the extra “muscles”! Please contact me if you can help in any way.

June 4th 10 a.m –2 p.m. – We are working together with the Evangelism Committee to *reach out* into our community and introduce others to our Church with a “Gospel Sing”. What a wonderful way to spend a beautiful Saturday morning . Join us on our Church lawn to enjoy several groups and individuals who will share God’s Gift of music with us. Lunch will be sold and a “free will offering” taken. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors, the more the merrier! Don’t forget your lawn chairs or blankets .

Ongoing fundraisers

Include the sale of our Historic Church Banks, made from the original rafters in our Church, numbered and complete with the history of Prospect UMC. They are only \$10 and there are just a few left, if you



haven’t already purchased yours, contact Bev Hill 636-5101. (*See the “I BELIEVE” Easter Drive article*).

And also we have the beautiful watercolor numbered prints of William Ward Mosley’s view into Prospect’s future available for only \$20. They are beautifully matted into a 8 x 10 size, perfect for hanging or table display. They would also make a very “special” gift for a fellow Church member. (I keep mine next to the computer, it’s true inspiration as we work to go forward as a Church into our future!)

Apply for your **PROSPECT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** credit card personalized with the image of our



Church. Our Church will automatically receive a % of every purchase PLUS the Church will receive \$50 after your first purchase! Apply today! www.CardLabConnect.com/prospectunitedmethodistchurch or go through our web site.

More to come

Lay Leader Report

I'm sure you're all familiar with the hymn: "I am the Church, YOU are the Church, WE are the Church...TOGETHER"!

"The Church is the PEOPLE"... and I am so excited to see our Church growing in our faith and also in our membership! I understand that part of the reason for this growth is that visitors and friends feel *welcome* here. What a wonderful tribute to our membership! May I encourage each and every one of us to continue this legacy and be sure to "welcome" all that pass through our doors. We also have some opportunities in our worship service that we are inviting the congregation to participate in, and additional new fellowship ideas. We want everyone to know, and feel, that they are an important part of this Church.

It is a pleasure to introduce the *newest* members of our Church family that have joined since last Fall:

Jim, Sharon & Curtis Nold*

Jim & Judy Bartran*

Jean & George Henry Bell*

Gina Pickens*

Gerry Cluett*

Tim & Barbara Know*

Kathy Marles*

Naomi Hammond*

Charlie & Maxine French*

Alene Carroll*

Denise Painter*

Barbara & Jerry Burgdoerfer*

Jane & Lew Stringer*

Herb & Judy Moore

100 Pine Top Drive, Valentines, VA 23887
(434) 577-2001

*These people have been "friends" of our

Church and are already listed in latest version of the 2010 Membership Directory "update" and noted with an * .

A new pictorial directory is being looked into at this time, and hopefully will be coming soon. In the meantime, copies of the 2010 updated version will be available in the Fellowship Hall. If you need one, please let me know.

We also plan on displaying photos of our new members, in their smiling faces, shortly. This is a great way to put names and faces together (and so is your NAME TAG, let's wear them!) Please be sure to seek out these folks and WELCOME them into our Church family .

Peggy Donochod – Lay Leader

Missions

The Petersburg District will be going to Columbia, NC for a mission trip May 1-6 to help with mucking out and rebuilding homes after the flood. Bring your skills and allow God use you to minister to others in need. Jesus said, "go in my name and because you believe, others will know that I live." Contact the preacher for details.

Join a bible study today!

Disciple Class

The Disciples Class, a Bible Study, started March 2nd . There are still openings for anyone wishing to sign up. The time of the class is tentatively scheduled for 2:00 p.m., but if needed, the time can be changed.

Rev. Ken Thrasher

Dining to Meet You Dinner Club

(I love the name, so I “borrowed” it from Lakeside Lutheran)

We’re trying something new at Prospect this year. We hope that you’ll be a part of it! Sharing a meal together is such a wonderful way to get to know each other, and by doing so in each other’s homes is even more personal. Join the new “Dining to meet you Dinner Club”. Look for the sign-up forms in the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex.

I’ve tried to make it very simple and it’s sure to be a lot of fun! The Dinner Groups, of 6-8, will meet on a quarterly basis (April, May, June.... July, Aug, Sept.....Oct, Nov, Dec..... Jan, Feb, Mar). The date and time will be decided within each group so that it will suit everyone. Each group will be picked randomly and will vary with each session. The “host” will be chosen first and then their dinner guests. The host will choose the menu, or theme, and the entire group will divide the responsibilities as they like. If you prefer not to “host” or cannot accommodate a sit-down, just let us know on the sign-up form.

We know how busy everyone is, so we will have a new sign-up form for each quarter, this way you are only obligated for one dinner at a time.

Our Church family is growing and we want to be sure that the “family feeling” continues. Getting to know each other better is the way we learn to care about each other. Come join us for what promises to be “good fun, good fellowship and good food”, it’s a winning combination!

Questions???

Please contact me at (434) 636-2494
or e-mail: pdono@buggs.net

Peggy Donochod

Did you know.....

the “Narthex” is a great source of information & communication:

If you need a name tag. Please print your name on the request form and Jan Thrasher will be glad to make one for you. Let’s all remember to wear our name tags, it makes it easier to get to know each other, and that’s a good thing.

If you need assistance with hearing, there is a basket with hearing devices.

When we have young children attending Church there are “Busy Bags” available if you care to take one for the morning. We ask that you return them after service.

If you would like a visit by the Pastor or know someone that is in need of a visit, please let us know. If you prefer you can place a note into the “Prayer Box” in the Narthex which is checked by Pastor Ken.

Information regarding our Church’s Capital Campaign is readily available in the both the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

“Readers & Greeters”

We would like to thank all the people that have volunteered to be Sunday “Readers & Greeters”. We are trying to combine our First Scripture readers with our Sunday morning greeters. If you would be interested, or would like more information, please contact Peggy Donochod. What a wonderful way it is to start your Sunday! Thank you!

Betty & Hal Keeney and Peggy Donochod

Trustees

The Trustees have just had a short meeting to elect a Chairperson. There will be upcoming meetings to discuss several projects being considered around the Church and parsonage. The Trustees are also pleased to carry on one of the many legacies of our friend, **Jim Gibbs**. We will manage the ‘TRASH TO TREASURES’ effort towards the Building Fund. There are currently two recycle bins for aluminum cans: one by the Ebony Firehouse and one by the Joyceville water tank. For your convenience, there will soon be one behind the Church! Please donate your used aluminum (cans & even old fry pans etc.) to this cause. For more information, see the ‘‘YOUR TRASH CAN BE PROSPECTS TREASURERS’’ information sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you,

Bob Wilson - Chairman

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men are busy preparing for their upcoming ham dinner which will be on May 21, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the meeting hall of the Ebony Volunteer Fire Department.

You may purchase your ticket from any member of the UMM.

The UMM meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. All men of the church are invited to come and join this fellowship. The men make donations to many organizations along with helping with the Fall Festival which will be in September.

Charles Jones President

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women continue to meet on the fourth Monday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. We will not have a meeting in April due to Easter Monday being on the fourth Monday.

The ladies have had several fundraisers and would like to thank all that participated in helping and also those who made purchases.

Several members have attended retreats at VUMAC. Very interesting programs were given and the speakers were great.

On Sunday, April 3, 2011, Betty Keeney and Naomi Hammond were awarded the Special Mission Recognition pin from the Prospect Unit of the United Methodist Women. A donation is made to a special fund at the conference level in recognition of these ladies.

We invite all the ladies of the church to come and join our fellowship to continue learning how we can help children, youth and women in this world.

Annette Jones President

Finance

The budget for 2010 was 98,696

Received	Difference
89,997.22	- 8,698.78

The monthly needed to meet our budget in 2011 is 8,292.

Following are the amounts received for the budget through March 31, 2011..

	Received	Difference
Jan	8,840.10	+ 548.10
Feb	8,577.60	+ 285.60
Mar	<u>7,567.75</u>	<u>- 724.25</u>
Total	24,985.45	+ 109.45

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 (the disciple class is an excellent study) or even start a bible study for yourself and your friends. You will be blessed.

Have joy and share it. Faith is the key.

Do Not Worry!

Read Matthew Chapter 6 verses 24-34!

Thought for a day

- Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift, — a gift from God. Enjoy it!
- God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.

Administrative Council

The Administrative Council Meeting is held the 3rd Monday of every month in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage all Committee Chairs to attend and bring their activity reports for the month. We invite all members of the congregation to attend these meetings.

Jan Tomlinson – Admin Council Chairperson

Next due date for Articles for the PROSPECTOR is JULY 12TH, 2011 by “High Noon”.

Church activities

Apr 2011

- Apr 12 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
Apr 14 UMM meeting 6:30 p.m.
Apr 16-17 Bake Sale at the Marine Corp
Flea Market in South Hill
Apr 18 Administrative council 7:30 p.m.
April 19 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
Apr 21 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
Apr 22 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.
Apr 24 Sunrise Service 6:30a.m.
At Bev and Chip Hill, 115 Poplar
Drive, Lakeview Estates, Ebony
Apr 24 NO Fellowship Supper
Apr 25 NO UMW meeting
Apr 26 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

May 2011

- May 1 Faith Renewal with covered dish
meal at 6:00 p.m.
Service at 7:00 p.m.
May 2 Faith Renewal with soup and salad
6:00 p.m.
Service at 7:00 p.m.
May 3 Faith Renewal with hot dogs and
trimmings 6:00 pm
Service at 7:00 p.m.
May 10 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
May 16 Administrative Council 7:30 p.m.
May 17 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
May 19 UMM meeting 6:30 p.m.

May 21 UMM Ham Dinner
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
May 22 Fellowship Supper 6:00 p.m.
May 23 UMW meeting 7:30 p.m.
May 24 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
May 31 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

June 2011

June 4 Out Reach Gospel Sing and lunch
on the church lawn 10 a.m. –2 p.m.
June 7 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
June 14 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
June 16 UMM meeting 6:30 p.m.
June 20 Administrative Council 7:30 p.m.
June 21 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
June 26 Fellowship Supper 6:00 p.m.
June 27 UMW meeting 7:30 p.m.
June 28 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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 15 Gene Austin
April 17 Hal Paxton
April 19 Joyce Trask
April 20 Matthew Edwards

April Anniversaries

April 11 Tony and Lisa Conner
April 15 Tim and Barbara Knox
April 26 Bill and Ann Hoofnagle
April 29 Hal and Betty Keeney

May Birthdays

May 5 Ken Thrasher
May 14 Betty Hicks
May 20 Barbara Gilmartin
May 21 Larissa Conner
May 23 Linwood Mills
May 25 Josh Thrasher
May 27 Jean Barnette

May Anniversaries

May 16 Howdy and Jan Tomlinson
May 22 Steve and Marilyn **Reed**

June Birthdays

June 6 Tim Knox
June 7 Alyssa Harper
June 9 Lisa Conner
Chip Hill
June 10 Dustin Donati
Joey Barbour
June 15 Barbara Grant
June 23 Dan Thrasher
June 30 Mary Luck

June Anniversaries

June 1 Bill and Linda Faulk
June 24 Chip and Bev Hill

Prospect United Methodist Church
PO Box 25
Ebony, VA 23845