



The Prospector

Prospect United Methodist Church

Ebony, Virginia

November 2013

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

Reflections from our Pastor:

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is with great joy I celebrate the events that close out our year and propel us into 2014.

We have celebrated a great year for the Lord. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways. We have had a very successful Fall Festival and Homecoming, creation and dedication of our Wall of Crosses, welcoming visitors, many who have become members of our faith community.

Our Bible Studies, and Sunday School have had a big impact, and our UMW, UMM, Mission Team, Fellowship, Prayer and Worship times have been a blessing to us all. We have even had the opportunity to adopt a highway around our community. We have also gotten involved in the history of Methodism by working with the Old Brunswick Circuit.

I would like to see us develop more small groups next year. We will explore a Young Adults Program as well. We will look at life issues, such as saving money, insurance, raising children, citizenship, and spiritual issues.

I cannot help but celebrate the ministries of this church with other churches and pastors, giving them a glimpse into the life of our church. During some of the district events and meetings here at Prospect, I have been able to highlight some of the work you have done for the kingdom. The real joy is that YOU have been so involved in every aspect of our growth and vitality. I also praise you for the love and

compassion you have sent out to those who have had surgeries and sicknesses during this year. It is so great to be a part of a family of faith that truly loves one another. I read a saying that if you want to leave footprints in the sand of this world that you'd better be wearing work boots! I am proud of the work you have done and the loving care in which you have done it.

Our Spiritual Goals are being realized as well as our building goals. We received 5 into membership in September and have 5 more to receive in November. God's vision of 200 in worship will one day become a reality for this church. I know the Lord is not done with us and there are many that we are going to have the opportunity to reach in the coming years.

During this time of Thanksgiving and Advent, please remember the reason we celebrate these events is because we have been loved, blessed, and forgiven. We are the heirs of glory with Jesus, through his sacrifice for us. Let every day that you have be filled with the love and grace of Almighty God. May the splendor of the life you have been graciously given bring peace and joy to you and be a reflection of the Holy Child of Israel, our Messiah, Jesus.

May God shower you and yours with His loving Grace.

Love,
Ken Thrasher



God again gave us a bright, beautiful fall day on September 26 for our festival, and it was a huge success. The total money collected on the day of the festival was \$11,292.58. Monies continue to be received as additional items are sold, such as the crafts in the fellowship hall. We give God the Glory for such a successful day.
Charles Jones and Bev Hill, co-chairs

READERS & GREETERS

It's that time of year again when we will be compiling our schedule of Readers & Greeters for 2014. We hope our current Readers will continue next year, if not please let us know as soon as possible. Most Readers enjoy being Greeters, unless they have other commitments, in which case we will find replacements. What a great way to begin your Sunday morning! With enough volunteers we may read only once or twice a year.

Peggy Donochod & Judy Moore



On September 29, Prospect was blessed to receive into membership five new members:

Betsy Ford

Will and Catherine Ford

E. B. and Norma Jean Matthews.

We welcome them to our Prospect family.

Annette Jones, Membership Secretary

EVANGELISM

What a wonderful day was had by all on November 3 at our Prospect Homecoming! The attendance of extra family and friends was so exciting.

The Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone who helped us with the preparation and serving of the delicious food. We certainly have some outstanding cooks at Prospect! We also appreciated Roger Wright's gift of music to the service. He was willing to step in when Ronnie was unable to come because of illness. Roger's special music added much to the service.....Thanks, Roger!!

The Evangelism Committee decided at our last meeting that instead of a fall date for our faith renewal services we would propose a winter date. With Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas quickly approaching it was decided winter would be a perfect time after the busy holidays to turn our thoughts and minds to renewing our faith and rededicating our lives in the New Year. Please be listening for the date of this very special event.

As you approach the holidays, remember to make Jesus your focal point each day. Just as a spinning ballerina must keep returning her eyes to a given point to maintain her balance, so we must keep returning our focus to Jesus. With our busy activities and changing circumstances, our world at times seems to be whirling around us. Fix your eyes on Jesus, look to him, he will refresh you and make sure your steps are steady and sure.

Elaine Chipley

*The **HOMECOMING**, Nov 3rd, was just that..... a true “**HOME**” **COMING**.*

What a heart-warming sight to see our Sanctuary filled to the brim with the families of our Church, old and new! Many pews held three generations that came together for this special Sunday in the life of Prospect. It was a wonderful service with special music by Roger Wright. Worship was followed by a delicious covered-dish luncheon.



A great big
THANK
YOU for all
the helpers
that made it
look so



beautiful, and made it look so easy. We even enjoyed a lovely cake covered in crosses! A special **THANK YOU** to our Evangelism Committee! While enjoying lunch we were treated to a slide show of past events here at Prospect.



Truly great things are happening here as we worship, work, and play together. May we be excited and open to the plans God has for our future!

OUR WALL OF CROSSES



As we celebrated Homecoming we also celebrated those near and dear to our hearts. Some are still with us and some have gone on to be with the Lord. The “**Wall of Crosses**” was “Dedicated” to our Church and to the Glory of God this “All Saints Sunday”. Please come by and visit this beautiful memorial in the narthex.

We gladly welcome additional crosses. If you would like to know how you can participate in this tribute to those you love, there is additional information on page 5 of this newsletter.

Peggy Donochod & Anne Hartley

Adult and Family Ministries And Worship Events

A trip to Beville's Hardware and The Herb Garden in Blackstone will be scheduled for a weekday in December. Watch for the announcement in the bulletin. Please sign up when the sheet is available since reservations need to be made for lunch. This will be a fun time. The train display at Beville's is awesome and the food at the Herb Garden is tasty.

The **Christmas music** for Prospect will be on December 8 at 9:15 a.m. Please bring a dish to pass for lunch. We are expecting a visit from Santa. The **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service**, with communion, will be on December 24th at 8:00 p.m. On February 16, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., The Carroll Ministry and Puppets will visit. All young and old are encouraged to come enjoy the puppets, music and message.

Have a joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas Season keeping the real reason for the time of year in your mind...that is thanking God for all HE has given us and accepting our Baby Jesus into our hearts with joy and thanksgiving.

Charles and Annette Jones, co-chairs

United Methodist Women

The UMW members meet the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We welcome all ladies of the church to come and join us.

Our next project is a cookie sale on December 15th after worship. Signup sheets are in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Each tin contains a dozen and a half cookies for \$6. We will also have winter garden and house flags on sale.

At our November meeting we will make our annual donations to our mission projects. Profits received from any of our fundraising

projects go toward our pledge to mission and our mission recipients. The recipients are usually organizations who help women, youth and children. Also we remember our deaconesses who provide their services in the US and abroad. So many places are in need ... the United Methodist Family Services, Agape Ministries on the Eastern Shore, Red Bird Mission and Henry Fork Center to mention a few. Questions? Ask any UMW member.

Election of officers was held at our October meeting. Officers for 2014 are: Elaine Chipley, President; Jan Tomlinson, Vice President; Dorinda Paxton, Secretary; DeDe Snead, Treasurer; and Marilyn Reed, Secretary of Program Resources. I wish the incoming officers a successful year. Annette Jones, President

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. They enjoy a time of fellowship, a meal and meeting. All men are invited to join the group.

The men have made their yearly donations and included a donation to the renovation process of the Drumgoole House located in Valentines, Virginia. This is part of the Old Brunswick Circuit of which the Brunswick Charge is the oldest continuing charge. Volunteer fire departments, rescue squad, Hunters for the Hungry, Society of St. Andrew, veteran's organization and Hospice units also received donations.

In January, 2014 the men plan will hold a Brunswick stew fundraiser and will cook breakfast at church. Watch your bulletin for the announcements. Charles Jones, President

“CLOSING THE GAP” ON OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



The response to the Wall of Crosses has been extremely positive. If you would like to participate in this tribute to those you love, contact Peggy Donochod, 434-636-2494. A \$5 fee is needed to engrave the plaque that will be placed by your cross. The Wall is also a fundraising opportunity to make an additional contribution to our Church's Building Fund/Capital Campaign. It is proving to be a great success by raising \$13,740 so far!

We are still working hard to reach our Capital Campaign goal. **You may make a donation to the Capital Campaign at any time.** Please be sure to write “Wall of Crosses” or “Capital Campaign” in the memo line of your check.

FUNDRAISING efforts must continue even though our building is here. Some fundraisers are large and some are small, **but they all add up.** We welcome new suggestions!

EVERY PENNY COUNTS.....so remember our “**Change Jar**” on the Fundraising Table in the Fellowship Hall. Stop by and donate your pocket change (we welcome paper too!) Thanks to your contributions, we collected \$79 in coins our very first time!

RECYCLING helps our world as well as our Church. Drop off your bagged aluminum cans

in the bin on the side of the Church. We also are looking for metal and motors. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Wilson.

Sign up for a **CAPITAL ONE CREDIT CARD.** The Church receives a percentage of your purchases! See Jan Thrasher for more information. (Unfortunately, **Food Lion** has changed their program and we are no longer eligible for benefits.)

The Holidays are fast approaching! If you need to **do some Christmas shopping without the crowds, shop at church!** We have many gifts items available and all proceeds support our Capital Campaign.

A great gift idea, especially for your dear Church friends and family, is a beautiful **watercolor print** of an image of our Church with the new addition. This was created for us by **William Ward Moseley** as we first began our building project. They are matted, signed, numbered and cost only \$20.

Or consider one of the “**HISTORIC GLASS CROSSES**” hand-crafted by Bill & Ann Hoofnagle and Hal Keeney. These lovely crosses are made from the original glass windows of the church removed during the building project. A sign- up sheet is on the Fundraising Table. The cost is \$20 and over \$2,100 has been raised so far through the hard work of Bill, Ann, and Hal. If you have been on the waiting list, crosses are now available. Contact Bill or Ann at church or at 252 -586-4663.

We still have some **Happy Home flavorings** for sale for only \$3. And there are **crafts** available to give as gifts or stocking stuffers. We truly appreciate your continued support and encouragement! Peggy Donochod

Mission Committee Activities

At this time of the year, we have several special opportunities for you to get involved in helping others.

Chip Hill is spearheading an effort to collect items for care packages to ship overseas to our military men and women for Christmas. Please bring your items and drop them off at church in the box in fellowship hall.



Suggested items: tooth brushes, tooth paste, razors, deodorant, snack crackers, socks (long boot socks), gloves, watches, nuts, candy (in tins), combs, eyeglass cleaner, shampoo (small), soap (small), dark colored stocking caps, snacks with pull top cans (Vienna sausages, etc.), crossword puzzle books, pencils with erasers and sharpeners, paperback books, AA batteries, hand warmers (chemical). You can also donate money to be used to send these packages. And home baked cookies made just prior to mailing.

Another idea that the Mission team is working on is **sending Christmas cards to a unit of soldiers** that is currently deployed. Church members will take as many names from the list as they desire and send each one a Christmas card.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

We will help several families by providing them with a meal for Thanksgiving. (More info to follow.)

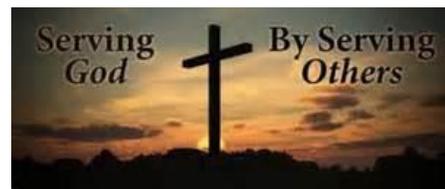


ANGEL TREE FOR HOLLY HAVEN



The Angel Tree and sign-up sheet for the residents and staff of Holly Haven are located in the narthex. The angels are \$25 each. Write your name on the list next to an angel's name. Give your cash or check to Annette Jones by Sunday, December 1st. Checks should be made payable to PUMC. Write *Holly Haven Angel Tree* in the memo line. We will also be planning a Christmas party at Holly Haven, so watch for an announcement in the near future. All are welcome.

Mission has set Wednesday, January 29th for a road cleanup day. We will meet at the church at 9 AM. Twelve volunteers are needed to pick up trash along our 3 mile adopted highway. Please contact Chris or Valerie Ruch to sign up.



We are always available for local mission needs. We do yard work, power washing, provide meals, help with transportation needs, and more. If you or someone you know has a need, please contact us.

In His Name,
Chris & Valerie Ruch



Prospect UMC got a little “facelift” before Homecoming Sunday: additional new gravel for the driveway; a sanding and fresh coat of paint on the front doors; new paint in the narthex; power washing of the exterior; installation of new exterior lighting; and replacing several ceiling tiles in the Sanctuary. These are no small tasks and we want to thank everyone that helped to give Prospect a fresh look for this special day!

FINANCE

Dede Snead

The monthly amount needed to meet our budget in 2013 is \$9,294.08. Following are the amounts received through October 31, 2013.

	Received	Difference
Jan	7,101.63	- 2,192.45
Feb	8,354.72	- 939.36
Mar	11,525.00	+ 2,230.92
Apr	8,921.50	- 372.58
May	8,532.00	- 762.08
Jun	10,535.00	+ 1,240.92
July	8,835.00	- 459.08
Aug	9,432.62	+ 138.54
Sept	10,980.10	+1,686.02
Oct	<u>8,817.56</u>	<u>- 476.52</u>
Total	93,035.13	+ 94.33



Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 -

Deadline to adopt a Holly Haven Angel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 at 9:15 am

Christmas Music

Visit from Santa

Covered Dish Luncheon

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 at 8 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 1



SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2014

UMM BREAKFAST

All are welcome! Donations accepted but not necessary to enjoy breakfast

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014 at 9 am

Adopt-a-highway Clean-up Day

12 volunteers needed

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2014 at 6 pm

Carroll Ministries & Puppets

All young and old are encouraged to come enjoy the puppets, music and message.

Prospect United Methodist Church
PO Box 25
Ebony, VA 23845